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Dominic Castore
Chairman

Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Borough President

John A. Fratta
District Manager

COMMITTEES

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2010 IN LUBIN HALL

Bronx Park
 East/Olinville

Community
 Development and Budget
 Priorities

Education/Youth

Indian
 Village/Westchester Hgts

Land Use

Morris Park/Van Nest/
 Pelham Parkway

Pelham Gardens

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Dom Castore, Chairman.

I. Gallery Session

a. Brian Adams

Brian wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He asked when the new building at Lydig Avenue and Pelham Parkway south will be completed.

John stated that there is no date as yet for completion.

Brian asked if the buses will use the service road during the reconstruction of Pelham Parkway.

John reported that when the project begins there will be no parking on the service area of where they are working and the buses will use the service road.

b. Lisa Fuentes – Christopher Columbus High School

John reported that Columbus High School is being threatened with closure. He stated that the Department of Education is blaming the school for kids not graduating in 4 years. John stated that they are not giving the school enough services to do the job. He stated that Lisa has done a magnificent job.

Ms. Fuentes stated that she has been Principal of Columbus High School for the last seven years. She stated that she was a graduate of Columbus High School. Ms. Fuentes stated that seven years ago Columbus was broken down into small schools. She stated that there are 1,100 students in Columbus High School, and 3,000 in the school. Ms. Fuentes stated that Columbus has the least amount of incidents. She stated that they have the most challenged population. It consists with students who are reading on a second grade level; students who come in mid year and students who don't speak English. Ms. Fuentes stated that the Department of Education expects us to graduate these students in 4 years. She stated that what they want to do is close the big schools and reopen smaller schools. Ms. Fuentes stated that they are trying to convert to a Charter School. She stated that John has seen how the students are affected by closing the school. Ms. Fuentes reported that in September 2 more schools are going to open. This will make a total of 7 schools in Columbus, with a possibility of one more opening. She asked for the community's support. Ms. Fuentes reported that there will be a hearing on January 20th at Columbus High School at 6 PM.

Joe Thompson reported on a situation that occurred a year ago with a mother who came to him because her 16 year old son was asked to leave the school he was in. He stated that he was denied entrance to 2 other schools, but Ms. Fuentes met with him and accepted him into her school.

Rabbi Fuchs asked how the community groups could help them.

John stated that everyone should come to the hearing and send letters to Chancellor Black.

Several Board members spoke about immigrant children needing to learn the language in order to graduate.

Ms. Fuentes stated that students that do not speak English go to SLA classes.

Frano commended Ms. Fuentes on the job she does, and he stated that she should get more assistance for the kids.

John reported that DoE is trying to teach kids how to pass standardized tests. He stated that successful schools train the students how to take these tests. John stated that the schools must accept the kids up to 21. He stated that when DoE created the smaller schools they took the cream of the crop and put them in these smaller schools. He stated that other students in Columbus are not getting the help they need.

c. Lyle Seales

Mr. Seales stated that he was a member of the Van Nest Alliance. He stated that the Bronx Borough President has said that the Bronx has the highest unemployment. Mr. Seales stated he is the owner of an online grocery store. He stated that as families refer other families they get reward program. Mr. Seales discussed the program in length.

d. Victor Santos

Mr. Santos stated that he was the landlord of 1831 Bogart Avenue. He spoke about the problems of people double parking and car honking when the parents of students at the Donald Hertz School are dismissed. Mr. Santos stated that he would like to see ticket agents issuing tickets there. He stated that he went door to door with a petition and no one refused to sign it. He read the petition. Mr. Santos stated that he had 100 signatures as of yesterday. He stated that he is having trouble renting his apartment because people don't want to live near a school with these problems.

Dom stated that he lives on Radcliff Avenue and is aware of this problem. He stated that John has been addressing this problem and trying to get the precinct to issue tickets. He stated that locals are to blame for cars racing, trying to beat the light.

John stated that we will get on it with the precinct and traffic. He stated that we have a zero tolerance for double parking around schools. John stated that the principal is urging us to have tickets given out.

Joe Reda stated that this is going at every school. He stated that at St. Clare's School the street is closed for one hour during opening and one hour at dismissal.

Sandy stated that schools should have a drop off and pick up area.

John stated that we have tried this and it only works for a little while. He stated that we want Traffic Enforcement to take officers off the business areas during school opening and dismissal to issue tickets. John said that a change in legislation is needed so the crossing guards could write summonses to anyone double parking.

e. Mike Heller – A.E.C.O.M.

Mike welcomed everyone to A.E.C.O.M. He stated that they were happy to provide the food for tonight's meeting. Mike reported that Einstein is doing well. He stated that they have \$200,000,000 in grants. Mike thanked CeCe Haas who is not a member of Community Affairs for her help in getting everything together for the meeting.

John asked if anyone knew of a 2,000 square foot location for a boxing program that the 49th Precinct runs 4 nights a week. He stated that Chris Trauma is running the program. He stated that it cannot be in a school, and if they do not find a location we will lose the program to another precinct.

II. Elected officials

John Doyle – Representing Senator Jeffrey Klein

John wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

III. Minutes

A Motion was made by Linda White, Seconded by Blanche Rifkin – That the Minutes be accepted as received. PASSED

IV. Chairman's Report – Dominic Castore

Dom thanked Einstein and Mike Heller for providing the food tonight
Dom reported that Joe Thurston's wife is in the hospital with double pneumonia.

At 8:00 Pm the Board went into Executive Session. They returned to business at 8:10 PM.

Dom reported that Board received 31 resumes for the District Manager's position. He stated that the Officers interviewed 11 candidates. Dom reported that the Officers recommended Jeremy Warneke for the position. Hazel Miura recused herself as she had been a candidate for the position of District Manager.

At this point a roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous. The following Board members were absent: Richard Angeletti, Ruth Burko, Al D'Angelo, Jessica Dewberry, Rabbi Moshe Fuchs, David Leavitt, Pat Quaranta, Eliezer Rodriguez, Irene Rukaj, Oral Selkridge, Vinny Taddeo and Joseph Thurston.

Dom reported that he is trying to get John to come in 2 days a week.

Jeremy thanked the Board for giving this opportunity. He thanked John for all his help, and stated that John does a lot for the community.

V. District Manager's Report – John A. Fratta

John stated that he has total faith in Jeremy. He stated that Jeremy knows all the community groups, and they know him.

John reported that the Borough President is hosting a Winter Wonderland on Friday. It is 1 adult for every 3 kids at Yankee Stadium. John reported with help from John Doyle from Senator Klein's office we were able to get Adams Street cleaned up. He stated that he was there and it is spotless. The weeds have been cut.

John Doyle reported that there was a woman living in the apartment with no heat. She was using the stove to heat the apartment. John stated that the realtor will rehab the apartment.

John Fratta reported that it has been a great 15 years working for the Board. He stated that it is easy to do with a supportive board. John wished Jeremy the best of luck.

VI. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the Community Board and Friends of Treasurer's reports had been updated. He stated that he received the reconciliation and it will be reflected in the next report.

VII. Borough President's Report – Andy Toledo

Andy congratulated Jeremy. He stated that he had community board applications for anyone interested. Andy reported that the process for new board members will begin after the first of the year. He thanked the Board members and the staff for a great year.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee – Anthony Vitaliano

Tony stated that as First Vice Chair he looked forward to working with Jeremy.

B. Bronx Park East/Olinville – Joseph Thompson

Joe reported that a map of the beautification of the Botanical Garden had been distributed. He congratulated Jeremy on his appointment as District Manager.

1. Application by David Foster of Emmus Bible Chapel for a street activity permit on Throop Avenue between East Gun Hill Road and Burke Avenue from July 24th to the 31st with the exception of July 30th from 6 PM to 10 PM.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Sandy Unger That Community Board 11 send a letter to SAPO stating that we have do objection to the issuing of this street permit. **PASSED**

2. Application from Arcadio Cabrece of 679 Allerton Avenue for renewal of a beer and wine license

Joe reported that this came into the office in October and was tabled at the last meeting. He stated that Hazel went to interview them and they already had their license.

3. Renovation of Waring Avenue Gate

Joe reported that the gate as well as the Garden will be renovated. He stated that as you enter the Garden on Waring Avenue there is a 12 foot grade which is not accessible to the handicapped and the seniors. He described in detail the work that was going to be done. Joe reported that 12 trees were removed for this project, but they were dead or dying trees. He stated that 20 new saplings will be planted. Joe stated that the project is slated to begin in January. He stated that during the construction the Waring Gate will be closed. Joe stated that the work is scheduled to be completed around the middle of June 2012. He stated that the Gate should be open in June of 2011. Joe reported that the Garden wants to put in a curved bridge which might require extra money. He stated that they are asking for a letter of support.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Mary Paliotta – That Community Board 11 send a letter of support to the Botanical Garden for the extra money. **PASSED**

C. Indian Village/ Westchester Heights – Michael Carriere

Mike reported that the Committee had not met this month. He stated that they have been doing graffiti removal. Mike spoke about the removal of graffiti and restoration of the Sackett Avenue Rifle and Gun Club mural. He reported that it was painted as and American Flag. Mike thanked John, the painter's contractor and Joe McManus for their help in getting this American flag repainted.

John thanked Joe McManus for supporting the graffiti program. He stated that at the February meeting he would like to have the head of the Union and the contractor present to present them with a plaque. John stated that without them this would not have been done.

Joe McManus explained how the painter made cardboard stars and used them to paint the mural. Joe wished John well, and Jeremy. He thanked the Committee for their hard work.

D. Youth and Education – Diane Norris

1. Report on the closing of Columbus High School

Diane reported that she had a meeting with the leadership of Columbus High School, and that the Committee was not there. She stated that the minutes had been distributed.

A Motion was made by Diane Norris, Seconded by Sandy Unger – That Community Board 11 support the conversion of Columbus High School to a Charter School. **PASSED WITH 1 ABSTENTION BY KEN GELNICK**

Diane reported that she will miss John, and wished him well. She welcomed Jeremy as new District Manager.

Dom wished Diane a Happy Birthday.

John reported that tomorrow at Peace Place, 3:30 PM there will be a tree lighting. He stated that Santa will be there.

E. Land Use – Gene Tutora

1. Street Co-naming procedures

Gene reported that the Committee had gone over the procedures and voted for the changes. He asked that a vote by the Community Board wait until February.

Joe McManus reported that John has been very supportive of the Land Use Committee. He welcomed Jeremy as District Manager.

Gene stated that he will miss John. He has done a lot for the Board.

F. Morris Park/Van Nest/Pelham Parkway Silvio Mazzella

Silvio welcomed Jeremy as District Manager.

1. Application by Gregory Clark of behalf of Ecclesia Church at 1638 Bronxdale Avenue for a street activity permit (sidewalk only) on Bronxdale Avenue between Van Nest and Pierce Avenues on June 24th to June 26th from 9 AM to 9 PM

A Motion was made by Silvio Mazzella, Seconded by Blanche Rifkin – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SAPO stating that we have no objecting to the issuing of this street permit.

PASSED

2. Application by Wendis Fernandes of CeCe Restaurant at 1000 Morris park Avenue for a beer and wine license

A Motion was made by Silvio Mazzella, Seconded by Mike Carriere – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this beer and wine license.

PASSED

3. Request for transfer of ownership of Sirota Corporation at 1808 Hone Avenue

A Motion was made by Silvio Mazzella, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA that we object to the transfer of this license due to slot machines there.

John reported that we had a problem with the original applicant. He stated that we had them closed down. John reported that the person who bought this location sold it back to the original owner. Joe Bombace stated that this was Bobby's Café. He stated that we gave him a beer and wine license and told him to wait on asking for a full liquor license.

John reported that he was checking with the SLA to see if they are allowed to work under the old license while the license is being transferred. He stated that if they cannot work under the old license he will have them closed down. John reported that they applied for a transfer not a new license.

John Doyle reported that this can be done. He stated that this problem came up in Community Board 10. He stated that there is pending legislation on this.

John Fratta reported that he notified Captain Nicholson of this. He stated that he did not have information about the slot machines tonight.

Discussion took place on the Van Nest Park. Bernadette asked that the name be changed to Van Nest memorable square.

A Motion was made by Bernadette Ferrara, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That Community Board 11 send a letter to Parks requesting that the Memorial be renamed Van Nest Memorial Square.

PASSED

Silvio asked about a having a meeting with DOT on the Bronx River Parkway and White Plains Road.

John stated that he will request a meeting with DOT during the day to discuss the Boston Road entrance to the Zoo. He stated that you can't make a left turn on to the Bronx River Parkway. He also reported that Parks will lock the gate at night so we can get cars off Pelham Parkway.

Discussion took place on the fact that the Van Nest Park has 3 names.

John stated that that the Park be called Van Nest, the playground sign read Van Nest James Romito Triangle, and the Memorial be called Van Nest Memorial. John stated that Parks previously rejected our request to name the park for James Romito.

A request was made that the Park sign be moved to Van Nest Avenue.

Joe Thompson reported that the Botanical Garden was one of five botanical gardens honored by the White House.

IX. New Business

Sal asked if there was going to be reconstruction committee for the Pelham Parkway project.

John reported that there will be a task force comprised of city agencies, vested parties: White Plains Road BID, Pelham Parkway South Neighborhood Association, and any organizations that border the project. He stated that there will be one representative from each organization on the Task Force. John stated that they will start meeting in January.

Pat Dolan stated that there should be a law that anyone who defaces a religious institution spends a year in jail.

Edith thanked John on behalf of the Pelham Parkway South Neighborhood Association for his help. She welcomed Jeremy.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth Burko".

Ruth Burko,
Secretary