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Chairman

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**Jeremy Warneke**  
District Manager

**Ruben Diaz Jr.**  
Borough President

MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY,  
APRIL 26, 2012 AT LUBIN HALL, 1200 VAN NEST AVENUE

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by Tony Vitaliano, First Vice Chair.

I. Gallery Session

a. Bob Kappstatter – Bronx Times Reporter

Mr. Kappstatter reported that he had been with the Daily News for over 43 years and was now an editor for the Bronx Times Reporter. He stated that in this new position he will be able to focus more on local news. Mr. Kappstatter stated that he could be reached at 718 490-2960.

b. Ceasar Escobar – FDNY Community CPR

Mr. Escobar introduced Maria Levoche and Hugo Sosa. He stated that what they do is train people in compression CPR. Mr. Escobar stated that you will learn how to use and external defibulator and receive a DVD as well as cards. He stated that they go to private organizations, public schools and other groups to train people in classes of 10 or more. He stated that the website was [www.NYC.GOV/FDNY/CPR](http://www.NYC.GOV/FDNY/CPR).

Questions were asked by Board members.

c. Gloria Finelli

Ms. Finelli stated that she was here tonight to speak about the Matthews/Muliner Park. She stated that Parks used to closed the park at 6 PM, and that this has not been done for some time. Ms. Finelli stated that there are kids in the park drinking, smoking pot etc. She stated that gangs are hanging out there now. Ms. Finelli stated that the Rules are not being enforced. She stated that there are no lights because the bulbs cost \$6,000. Ms. Finelli stated that someone comes to lock up the bathroom at 6:30 PM but not the park. She stated that those in the park are using the bushes and her property as their bathroom.

d. Cathy Rowan – Community Supported Agriculture Programs in the Bronx

Ms. Rowan stated that she was part of CSAP which allows an individual to purchase shares in a farm and receive fresh produce. She stated that there was a CSAP at Locus Point and in Parkchester. Ms. Rowan stated that a CSAP is different that a Farmers Market as you get to know the farmer and make payment

up front. She stated that you receive between 7-10 different vegetables every week. Ms. Rowan left flyers.

g. Rachel Blalock

Ms. Blalock stated that she works at Bronx House with children and family services. Ms. Blalock spoke about an Environmental Fair that will take place on June 9<sup>th</sup>. She stated that Councilman Vacca is involved in this event. Ms. Blalock stated that they will be providing electronic recycling and a stop and swap event. She stated that there will be Olympics education for adults. Ms. Blalock also spoke about a workshop on Compost and tree preservation. She also spoke about the Farmers Market in front of Jacobi Hospital. Her email address is [www.bronxhousd.org](http://www.bronxhousd.org).

h. Kay Pinto Cardona

Ms. Cardona spoke about 619 Reiss Place. She also spoke about the church at 620 Thwaites Place that has very noisy air conditioners. Ms. Cardona stated that there have been up to 300 people there for events. She stated that they plan on having 600-700 people there on Sundays. Ms. Cardona reported that at 620 Reiss Place there are young males hanging out in cars on the corner. Ms. Cardona also spoke about 655 Pelham Parkway North.

i. Raphael Schweizer

Mr. Schweizer spoke about Ms. Laboy who had been the music director at Christopher Columbus High School. He stated that an event is planned for June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Schweizer stated that there are 670 seats. He stated that flyers were distributed.

j. Maggie Greenfield – Bronx River Alliance

Ms. Greenfield spoke about upcoming events. She also spoke about how community residents could adopt a side of the street and help with watering the trees. She stated that there will be an Adopt a Block workshop.

k. Brian Adams

Brian asked about the police cars he had seen two weeks ago on Williamsbridge Road between Waring and Mace Avenues. He was told that it was a fight and that two people were arrested.

## II. Elected Officials

a. Andy Toledo – Representing Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

Andy reported that the reappointment letters would be sent out in mid May. He stated that Bronx Week would be held May 10- May 20<sup>th</sup>.

b. Vicki Javier - Representing Councilman James Vacca

Vicki reported that after receiving the official application for the new school on Rhinelander Avenue off Eastchester Road Councilman Vacca advised the School Construction Authority that he did could not be supportive and asked that the site be withdrawn. Yesterday Councilman Vacca was officially advised by the CEO of the School Construction Authority that they would not be proceeding and will withdraw the site from consideration. Vicki also spoke about a homeowner's

forum and information on property tax as well as a job readiness event that will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup>. She also reported that there will be a youth summer teen's event on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Pat Dolan thanked Mr. Vacca for all his help with youth.

Al D'Angelo asked if the Board had any guarantee that the charter school will not go in that location.

Jeremy stated that he had spoken to Jeff Litt and was told that they want to make it a play area.

Bernadette Ferrara asked if St. Dominick's is still a site that is being considered.

Vicki stated that she would look into it.

Linda White asked if we lost a school and Vicki replied that we need more seats. She stated that Councilman Vacca has given the SCA other sites that were shut down. She stated that she would look into it.

c. John Doyle – Representing Senator Jeffrey Klein

John reported that Senator Klein had written to the head of the CSA in support of the board's position of not putting a school into that location. He stated that Senator Klein has been in communications with Commissioner Kelly who is concerned about the school interfering with their readiness time. John also reported that Senator Klein has been working on the relocating to another board the proposed group home for Yates Avenue. He stated that Senator Klein fully supported the residents of Pelham Parkway concerning the width of the sidewalks. John also reported that the Senator Klein has been working in Albany on the Psychedelic drugs, Synthetic Marijuana and an increase in the minimum wage.

John stated that he would look into the St Dominick's site to see if it was a consideration.

d. Jay Sturdivant – Representing the 49<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct

P.O. Sturdivant reported that D.I. Nicholson could not be here tonight as he had worked a double. He reported that the man accused of rape in the Coops was caught. P.O. Sturdivant reported that in the past 3 weeks the 49<sup>th</sup> precinct has seen a decrease in crime. He stated that burglaries and GLAs have decreased. He spoke about the Matthews/Muliner Park and stated that they are in communication with Parks to close the park at 6 PM. P.O. Sturdivant stated that the more emails that are sent to the Parks Department on this the better it will be to get it resolved. P.O. Sturdivant reported that the 49<sup>th</sup> Precinct has received 8 new officers. He stated that there will be an increase in foot patrols especially at Matthews/Muliner and Loreto Parks. P.O. Sturdivant reported they the precinct is working on getting abandoned vehicles towed.

### III. Minutes

A Motion was made by Blanche Comras Rifkin, Seconded by Sandy Unger  
– That the Minutes be accepted as received. **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

III. Chairman's report – Anthony Vitaliano

Tony reported that Dom is in Florida building himself up in rehab. He stated that he speaks to him often, and Dom is on top of everything.

IV. District Manager's Report – Jeremy Warneke

Jeremy reported that at the end of the Board meeting we will go into Executive Session regarding the hiring of a new employee.

Jeremy reported that the fires that occurred on Van Nest Avenue are still being investigated. He stated that there was a basement apartment at 726 Van Nest Avenue, but according to the DOB, it contributed to the fire in no way.

Jeremy reported that his contact at the MTA told him that the clock and plaque for the 180<sup>th</sup> Street Station has been located and will be restored. The MTA also removed graffiti at the corner of White Plains Road and Pelham Parkway South in front of the Bank of America

No Barbecuing signs were put up in Bronx Park.

2134 Barnes Avenue has a tenant and has been cleaned up finally.

Jeremy spoke about the Citizens Police Academy and asked if anyone is interested in enrolling. Through the CPA, he learned that the Bronx does not have a Child Advocacy Center. He stated that he would bring this up at the next borough budget consultations.

Joe Bombace asked about the Stop Work order of 726 Van Nest Avenue. He stated that work is being done without a permit. He also asked about the bathroom at the 180<sup>th</sup> Street Station.

John stated that at one point the city wanted to put in outdoor public toilets which never materialized.

Jeremy reported that the people on Van Nest Avenue are trying to get their belongings back. He stated that the owner of 730 Van Nest Avenue is bringing in his own architect.

Blanche reported that there were missing street sign on Pelham Parkway from Cruger to Hone Avenues.

Jeremy stated that John will address these in his report.

V. Treasurer's Report – Tony Vitaliano

Tony reported that the Treasurer's Reports had been distributed. Anyone with questions can speak to Harriet.

VI. Assistant District Manager's Report – John A. Fratta

John reported that the work on the Pelham Parkway reconstruction project began smoothly. He stated that an issue regarding the width of the roadway was brought to our attention. He stated that the Board was listening to DOT and DDC on this. John stated that the street is too narrow at 26 feet. He stated that with a 26 foot width road way there could not be parking on both sides of the street. John stated that the Board held an open meeting and there were clear concerns for public

safety. He stated that a test was done with the Fire Department's largest vehicle (bus) and a hook and ladder truck. He stated that they checked out the areas that were marked for day lighting and felt that too much parking was being removed. John stated that we want the parking restored. John stated that the fire truck had no trouble going down Pelham Parkway until they passed Williamsbridge Road. At this point the roadway was so narrow that they could not use the hook and ladder and the stabilization arms. John stated that at the open meeting the Commissioners and Assistant Commissions sat on the side, only Maria sat up front with him to deal with questions from the community. John stated that a letter was sent to Commissioner Burney requesting a copy of the power point presentation. John stated that there is an issue that the Fire Department never signed off on the plans. He stated that the Mayor's office stated that if they did not respond to the request to sign off on the plans it was a tacit approval. John stated that Community Affairs and the Chief of the Fire House stated that the road way was too narrow. John stated that our elected officials Senator Klein and Councilman Vacca are on board with telling the city that they need to correct this. He stated that no one told the Board that new sidewalks would be put in on the grassy area. John stated that our biggest problem at the design phase was the removal of trees. John stated that since the city made the mistake they need to correct it. John stated that the measurements are wrong. He stated that we demand that DDC rip up the sidewalks so that the road way is wide enough for a fire truck. John stated that they checked the regulations/guidelines and putting in a sidewalk is a guideline not a regulation. He stated that the city needs to begin the process to alienate the parks property and put in the sidewalks. John stated that if it had not been for Dr. Stevens we would not have had the information on the guidelines.

Dr. Stevens spoke. He thanked the Board for taking the lead on this. He stated the he was part of the Concerned Citizens for Pelham Parkway. Dr. Stevens stated that 700 people signed the petition. He stated that the width of the roadway goes from 30.7' to 25.10'. He stated he had personally measured the roadway. Dr. Stevens stated that the Fire Department codes calls for the roadway to be at least 30 feet. Dr. Stevens stated that if removing the placement of sidewalks on the park side is necessary it should be done. Dr. Stevens thanked John Doyle from Senator Klein's office and Senator Klein as well as John Fratta for giving the people a voice.

John stated that the according to fire codes the street is too narrow. He reported that the Mayor's office demanded that the Commissioner of the Fire Department do another test.

Edith reported that there is a problem with the sidewalk in front of Bronx House. She stated that the buses cannot let the people out in front of Bronx House as the sidewalk is too high.

Linda spoke about union employees who called her to tell her that they were late getting to work because there are cars parked on the service road and the bus has to get around them.

John told Linda to have these people call him. He stated that today was the first day of the buses going down the service road. John stated that cars that illegally parked there will be towed.

A Motion was made by Tony Vitaliano, Seconded by Al D'Angelo – That Community Board 11 moves that DDC take the corrective steps without removing parking to restore the width of Pelham Parkway South Service Road to 30 feet from Boston Road to Stillwell Avenue. **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

John reported that the contractor has requested that work on Stillwell Avenue be done in the evening from 7 PM-3 AM for installation of water mains from May 6-May 10. John stated that he had met with Councilman Vacca and the contractor.

Frano asked that if they Board approves the 5 nights will the work be completed or will they come back to us for an additional 5 nights?

Vinny stated that they are trying to get past the slip on to Pelham Parkway. He stated that the biggest problem is the noise. He stated that in order to do the job they will have to shut off the water in the area while they are working.

A Motion was made by Tony Vitaliano – Seconded by Sandy Unger – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the contractor allowing night work for 5 nights only from May 6-May 10 from 7 PM-3 AM from Stillwell Avenue to the bridge. **A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. PASSED WITH 5 ABSTENTIONS FROM FRANO ZAGREDA, JOE THURSTON, VINNY PREZIOSO, AL D'ANGELO, AND JOE BACOTE.**

## VII. Committee Reports

### A. Bronx Park East/Olinville – Joe Thompson

Joe reported that the minutes had been distributed.

### B. Education/Youth – Diane Norris

#### 1. Motion to endorse the Campaign for Children partnership.

A Motion was made by Diane Norris – Seconded by Blanche Comras Rifkin – That Community Board 11 endorse the Campaign for Children Partnership and call on the Mayor to restore the ACS and DYCD Executive Budget cuts. **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

### C. Morris Park/Pelham Parkway – Al D'Angelo

#### 1. Liquor license renewals

a. Castle Hill Diner – 1506 Bronxdale Avenue

b. Captain's Pizzeria – 1056 Morris Park Avenue

c. Mr. Q's Chinese & Japanese Restaurant – 2115-2117

Williamsbridge Road

d. Rainbow diner – 2195 White Plains Road

A Motion was made by Al D'Angelo – Seconded by Bob Potter – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the granting of these liquor license renewals. **PASSED.**

2. Matthews/Muliner Park

A Motion was made by Al D' Angelo, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That Community Board 11 send a letter to Commissioner Aponte reiterating that Matthews/Muliner Park be closed by 7 PM.

E. Pelham Gardens East – Frano Zagreda

Frano reported that the minutes had been distributed.

F. Pelham Gardens West Joanne Rubino

Joanne reported that the minutes had been distributed.

1. Block Party application 2400 block of Woodhull Avenue on July 28<sup>th</sup> from 12 PM to 8 PM

A Motion was made by Joanne Rubino – Seconded by Bob Potter - That Community Board 11 send a letter to SAPO stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this street closing. **PASSED.**

VII. New Business

Bernadette reported that in light of the Van Nest fire emails were sent out requesting donations of clothes to be delivered to St. Dominic's on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. All other donations can be brought to Our lady of Solace Rectory at 731 Morris park Avenue. Bernadette stated that they will sort out the donations and the families and take whatever they want. She stated that if there are any money donations checks can be made out to the Van Nest Relief Fund and mailed to 605 Meade Street.

Bernadette reported that on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a march beginning at 7 PM. We will meet at St. Dominic's Square by Van Nest Avenue and Unionport Road. She suggested that everyone bring a flashlight. Bernadette thanked Joe Thompson for helping out with this march.

Bernadette reported that Van Nest park will have its second It's My Park Day on May 19<sup>th</sup>. She stated that everyone is invited to attend.

A Motion was made by Tony Vitaliano, Seconded by Al D' Angelo - That Community Board 11 go into Executive Session. Executive Began at 8:53 PM. That Board returned to regular business at 9:05 PM.

A Motion was made by Frano Zagreda, Seconded by Edith Blitzer – That Community Board 11 hire Chris Kirka as its Community Associate. **PASSED.**

There being no further business before the Board the meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Burko,  
Secretary