



Dominic Castore
Chairman

COMMUNITY BOARD 11, BRONX
1741 COLDEN AVENUE
BRONX, NY 10462
www.nyc.gov/bxcb11
(718) 892-6262; FAX: (718) 892-1861

Ruben Diaz Jr.
Borough President



Jeremy Warneke
District Manager

MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY,
SEMPTEMBER 20, 2012 IN LUBIN HALL OF THE MAZER BUILDING, 1200
VAN NEST AVENUE

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Tony Vitaliano, First Vice Chair.

I. Guests

a. Senator Jeffrey Klein

Senator Klein thanked the Board for letting him speak tonight. He stated that he had been a member of Community Board 11 for 12 years, and served as Chair of the Youth Services Committee as did Linda White.

Senator Klein reported he attended a rally today along with Jeremy, Bernadette and others on a matter that Vinny Prezioso had brought to his attention. He stated that the stables on Pelham Parkway had become blight on the community. He stated that he was working with the Building Department to have them condemn the property. Senator Klein stated that Buildings condemned the property. He stated that even though the property was condemned a horse remained on the property. Senator Klein stated that animal control center has gone to the stables and checked it out. He stated that even though the stable has been condemned that is not enough to mean it is a danger to the animal. Senator Klein stated that it can collapse at any time. He stated that he has introduced legislation that since it is unsafe for humans it should be unsafe for animals. Senator Klein stated that a big rally was held which had a great turn out. He stated that we need to reach the owner of the horse to get the horse into safe hands. Senator Klein thanked the community for coming out to the rally.

Graffiti Program – Senator Klein reported that there was a funding problem for this year. He stated that as of last month we will be doing it again.

Call Watcher Program – Senator Klein that since this program began graffiti has gone down. He stated that anyone seeing any graffiti should notify the precinct so that they check the tags and make arrests.

Senator Klein reported that he is working with the DA's office dealing with boarding houses. He stated that he's working on to have a law passed that would allow landlords the right to evict a tenant after he/she has been arrested 3 times.

Senator Klein reported that every ten years the district lines are changed. He stated that with the new lines he will again be representing Pelham Parkway as well as Van Nest. He stated that was looking forward to working with the community.

Edith asked about the Ready, Willing and Able program and Senator Klein stated that it was in existence since 2009. He stated that he tried to get them to take capital money.

Sal thanked Senator Klein for his help with regards to the removal of graffiti in our community. He asked that the 911 mural on Sackett Avenue be taken care of as someone scratched out America.

Senator Klein stated that along with the Morris Park Association; the merchants and Mark Gjonaj we were able to have a mural on Pelham Parkway.

Frano asked if money was available for not-for-profit and Senator Klein said not at this time.

b. Senator Gustavo Rivera

Senator Rivera stated that his new district has been extended from 195th Street and University to Community Board 11. He stated that he had not previously represented Community Board 11. Senator Rivera introduced Katrina Assante as his Community Affairs Representative.

Senator Rivera reported that he has been working on legislation to ban smoking outside of schools to protect our children.

Senator Rivera spoke about the Bronx Freedom Fund which helps post bail for indigent persons. He stated that a judge made them stop this. Senator stated that legislation was passed to allow this, but the governor vetoed it. He stated that has now been passed.

Senator Rivera stated that his district included the 43rd, 44th, 48th, 49th and 52nd precincts. He stated that he is working with the precincts to help get a central data base for cameras. He stated that this will make it easier for the precinct to find out who owns what camera and contact them. This legislation has not passed yet.

Senator Rivera stated that he looks forward to working with Community Board 11.

Senator Rivera stated that At Your Service cards were being distributed and public safety forum brochures. He stated that last year he held 4 forums and wants to have one in Community Board 11.

Tony Vitaliano introduced new Board member Arlene Drayton.

Tony introduced D.I. Nicholson who had been the commanding officer of the 49th Precinct until his recent promotion.

c. D.I. Kevin Nicholson

D.I. Nicholson reported that he was transferred this summer. He stated that when he began as commanding officer he was glad to see how well he fit with the community. D.I. Nicholson stated that he stills come to the precinct twice a week. He stated that people often say to him “I though you left.” D.I. Nicholson stated that he has fond memories of the 49th Precinct officers and the members of Community Board 11.

D.I. Nicholson stated that he has not heard anything negative about the new commanding officer Captain Johnson. He stated that he loves the community and is glad someone who cares as much as he is at the head of the precinct.

d. Captain Lorenzo Johnson

Captain reported that became the commanding officer of the 49th Precinct 2 months ago. He stated that he had attended the 49th Precinct Community Council meeting and learned that “he had big shoes to fill.” Captain Johnson reported that Chief Gomez made D.I. Nicholson his mentor. He stated that D.I. Nicholson calls him 2 to 3 times a day.

Tony reported that on Tuesday there was a great deal of activity on Waring and Westervelt Avenues. He stated that there were a number of police cars. Tony stated that he followed them to Tiemann and _____. He stated that they surrounded a guy in a white shirt people telling people where to go. Tony stated that he later learned that there was a bank robbery at the Chase branch on Gun Hill and _____. Tony stated that in the old days the captain did not come out to the scene of a crime. He welcomed Captain Johnson aboard.

II. Gallery Session

a. Elaine Feder

Elaine asked about a store a 711 store on White Plains Road. She stated that it is in the same building as another restaurant. Elaine asked if this was allowed.

Captain Johnson stated that he will look into it. He stated that Consumer Affairs would make the determination as to whether it is legal.

A great deal of discussion took place on whether if a landlord owns properties near one another if 2 the same kinds of establishments can be there.

Joe Thompson stated that he called small business services. He stated that when he receives an answer he will let Edith know as well as Andrea.

b. Manuella Disla

Ms. Disla stated that she was here tonight to talk about her program “Why so Serious” which works to help prevent suicides. She gave the statistics on suicides every year and stated than more people suffer from depression than any other

illness. Ms. Disla stated that more women than men attempt suicide, but that more men do it. Ms. Disla spoke about an event that will be happening on Sunday. She stated that information was available on her face book page. Ms. Disla told everyone to look for the signs of depression. She spoke about the “Can You Hear Me Day.” Ms. Disla stated that you put masking tape over your mouth. She stated that most people don’t tell anyone when they are sad.

Discussion took place on where people could go for help with depression.

Jeremy asked her to email him the information.

c. Raphael Schweitzer –

Mr. Schweitzer spoke about the new organization the Pelham Parkway Citizens Conservation Core. He stated that this organization will get people involved in beautifying the area by planting trees and cleaning up the area. Mr. Schweitzer stated that he wanted to get youth involved in the neighborhood. He stated that they will be putting up frames around the trees on Lydig Avenue. Mr. Schweitzer distributed flyers. He stated that he will post the information on the Community Board Facebook page and email Jeremy.

Edith thanked Raphael for his help and stated that the Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association is not sponsoring the installation of the tree guards.

d. Meredith Rosenberg

Ms. Rosenberg stated that she was a journalism student from CUNY covering Community Board 11 for one of her classes

e. Bernadette Ferrara

Bernadette spoke about the need for an animal shelter in the Bronx. She stated that she is a certified animal rescuer. Bernadette stated that people can call 311 if they find an injured or unsafe dog, but not a stray/feral cat. She read information on Local Law 59. Bernadette reported that there will be a rally on ___ 8th.

f. Dr. Joseph Vetere

Dr. Vetere stated that he was involved with Community Wellness Conference. He stated that the rate of obesity is higher in the Bronx than in other an county. Dr. Vetere stated that Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson asked him to start an initiative in the north Bronx to get better health practices in the Bronx. Dr. Vetere distributed his cards and stated that everyone who attended the ___ would have free access to go online to do wellness.

g. Brian Adams

Brian asked what happened to the mobile home that was on Paulding Avenue on Astor and Waring Avenues.

Jeremy stated that he was not aware of it.

III. Elected officials

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

Andy reported that on Monday October 22 ___ with the MTA and Metro information

IV. Minutes

A Motion was made by Junior Campbell, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That the minutes be accepted with the corrections. **PASSED(DO YOU WANT TO INCLUDE THE CORRECTION)**

V. Chairman's report – Anthony Vitaliano

Tony reported that he spoken with Dom and he sends his love and good wishes and misses everyone.

Tony reported that the Mayor is proposed budget cuts again due to the fact that the City Council has vetoed. The Medallion _____. He stated that this is in the courts now. The Board would take a cut of \$11,000 in FY 2013 and \$15,000 in FY 2014. Tony stated that he spoke with Silvio and OMB is working with us. He stated that Councilman Vacca has helped in previous years. Tony reported that the Board wants to hire another person to work with the web page.

VI. District Manager's Report – Jeremy Warneke

Jeremy reported that he attended the City Council Hearings on the proposed budget cuts. He stated that a Manhattan Community Board showed how many meeting they held and how many people came into the office. Jeremy stated that anyone coming into the office will have to sign in so that we can show what we are doing.

Jeremy reported that the new website is up and running. He stated that if anyone is having a problem he will come to their house and help them.

Jeremy reported that Chris had sent out an email asking the committees what date of the month they wanted to meet. He stated that this information was either emailed to you or in your envelope.

Jeremy reported that we attended the Public Safety, Education and Land Use Committee meetings. He stated that he was able to attend the _____ meeting as he had to attend a public hearing with the MTA on the Morris Park Metro North station. Jeremy stated that there were more people there from Community Board 10 than Community Board 11.

Jeremy reported that on October 22nd at 7 PM there will be a meeting on the Parkchester/Van Nest station. He stated that the information was emailed to those that have email, and was put in the envelopes of those that do not.

Jeremy reported that the Budget Consultations were group consultations. He reported that Thomas Lucania informed him that the Board may not have a choice on whether there are individual or group consultations. Jeremy stated that there will be consultations in April and he will look into it.

Jeremy reported that Dr. Patel and he are going to attend the NYP consultations. He stated there is room for 2 more people in his car. Jeremy stated that he would email the written _____ from Parks.

Jeremy reported that a cancer prevention study is being conducted. He stated that it is for people 18-65 and is long term. Jeremy stated that they will ask for blood.

Jeremy reported that Chris and an inspector from Buildings did site visits yesterday, and emailed the information. He stated that it was not a big success. Jeremy stated that if the home owner will not open the door there is nothing we can do. Jeremy stated that he would convert the information into a PDF and send it out.

VII. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the Treasurer's Reports had been distributed. He stated that the proposed cut to the board's operating budget is 5.5% in FY2013 and 8% in FY2014. Silvio stated that he spoke with OMB and they are working with us.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Executive – Tony Vitaliano

Tony reported that the Executive Committee met in August. He stated that they had to approve some liquor licenses as the Board does not meet during the summer.

Renewal

1. Caffee Portofino – 2008 Williamsbridge Road for Wine & Beer
2. Coals Restaurant – 1888 Eastchester Road for Wine & Beer
3. PJ Minimarket – 660 Morris Park Avenue for Wine & Beer
4. 679 Allerton Avenue

New

1. Golden Eagle – 975-979 Morris Park Avenue for Wine & Beer

A Motion was made by _____, Seconded by _____ - That Community Board 11 Accept the Executive Committees recommendations on these liquor licenses.
PASSED(Any against or abstaining)

Tony reported that our face book page is being overseen by Joanne Rubino, Silvio and Jeremy.

A Motion was made by Joanne Rubino, Seconded by Silvio Mazzella- That Community Board 11 approve the operation of the Board's face book page.
UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

Tony reported that due to the Jewish holidays the next Executive Committee meeting would be held on September 24th.

B. Economic Development – Joe Thompson

Joe reported that he had visited all of the liquor license sites with Joe Bombace.

Discussion took place on why this did not come before the full Board, and why a phone poll was not taken.

Joe Thompson explained that there was a time factor for the Board's to approve or reject these licenses.

Tony explained that our By Laws prohibit us to do a vote by phone.

Jeremy reported that the Executive Committee is comprised of the Officers; Chairs and Co-Chairs. He stated that the Executive Committee has the authority to act in lieu of the full Board when necessary.

Discussion took place on how having issue oriented committees does not give the people who live in the area where the liquor license is to voice their feelings.

Discussion took place on the 49th Precincts statistic officer being contacted on these locations.

Joe Thompson stated that he, Joe Bombace, Tony Vitaliano and a liaison from the 49th Precinct went to check these locations out.

B. Education and Culture – Tony Vitaliano

Tony reported that we have established a liaison with Councilman Vacca and Senator Klein regarding 144.

Joanne Terrelonge stated that she will have Monica Major come to the October meeting. Joanne spoke about St. Dominic's School. She stated that the city could lease it for Pre k-3. Joanne stated that this would free up seats in the new school on Lydig Avenue. If not they will be bussed out.

Joe Bombace reported that St. Dominic's is owned by the Archdiocese and can only be K-3 since they teach sex education in the 4th grade.

Edith stated that k-5 is going to go in at Lydig Avenue. She asked where the higher grade students are coming from. Is it going to be from School Board 11?

To eliminate the overcrowding from 105.

Tony stated that anyone can attend committee meeting and get information and voice their opinions.

Joe Reda stated that the school on Bronxdale Avenue was supposed to be for us. He stated that the school board does not listen to us.

C. Health & Social Services – Joseph Bacote

Joe reported that the Committee met on September 11th. He stated that only 2 members were present. Joe stated that we had a guest speaker from the food stamp program and a speaker from Genesis Life. Joe reported that the Committee would be meeting on the Second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. We will meet on October 10th. Joe stated that we are asking for a speaker from Einstein's Infectious Control Department.

Jeremy reported that there is someone in the Board office every Monday to help anyone who needs food stamps. He stated that this program is sponsored through Met Council.

Tony told Joe that we will find out who the Executive Director of Einstein Hospital is.

Tony reported that we are going to monitor the committee meetings and see why people are not attending.

D. Highway, Traffic & Transportation – Vincent Prezioso

Vinny reported that the minutes had been distributed.

Gene spoke about legislation to support smoking disclosures when a tenant moves in. He stated that everyone has the right to know who in their building smokes.

A Motion was made by Gene Tutora– To support this legislation

A Motion was made by Tony Vitaliano, Seconded by Frano Zagreda – To table a vote on this legislation. **PASSED.**

E. Land Use – Gene Tutora

Gene reported that the minutes had been distributed.

1. Request to support the extension of a variance (BSA 84-91 BZ) at 2344 Eastchester Road

Discussion took place on what would happen if they did use the space. Gene stated that we could have the variance revoked.

A Motion was made by Gene Tutora, Seconded by Edith Blitzer – That Community Board 11 support the request for an extension of the variance at 2344 Eastchester Road for ten years with the stipulation that the third floor not be used for office space or storage of anything. **PASSED.**

2. Request for support of Morningside House's proposal to convert 48 rooms to Assisted Living.

A Motion was made by Gene Tutora, - That Community Board 11 supports this proposal.

A Motion was made by Junior Campbell, Seconded by Frano Zagreda – That a vote on this proposal be tabled until a presentation is made before the full board. **PASSED.**

3. A request to put a slaughter house in at 1459 Bassett Avenue

Gene stated that this building is located in an industrial area. He stated that it will have to go to the Board of Health to see if it is doable.

Joanne Rubino stated that she has spoken with John Doyle of Senator Klein's office and this area is not zoned for this.

F. Parks and Recreation – Joanne Rubino

Joanne reported that the minutes had been distributed. She thanked Andrea for taking the minutes. Joanne stated that the Committee will be meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. The Committee is scheduled to meet on October 3rd and on November 7th. Joanne stated that she is going to try and have the head of forestry and tree pruning to come to a meeting to discuss the Pelham Parkway

Reconstruction project and the trees that are going to be planted and those to be removed.

Joanne reported that you can become a citizen pruner at \$100. You can go to www.trees.org for information.

Joanne reported that the Botanical Garden passes are available for \$25.

Joanne reported that on October 27th there will be a tree planting at Pelham Bay Park for the Mayor's 1,000,000 trees planted program.

G. Public Safety – Joseph Reda

Joe reported that the minutes had been distributed. He also reported that in the last 10 days the police recovered 7 guns and arrested 2 guys in the process of committing a robbery near Chris Kirka's house at Mace and Hering Avenues. Joe also reported that arrests had been made at the Pelham Parkway Houses. Joe reported that the police arrested the guy who shot ___ on Williamsbridge Road last Tuesday.

Discussion took place on what date the Committee would meet.

H. Youth Services - Joann Terrelonge

Joann reported that the minutes had been distributed, and she touched on some points from the minutes.

Jeremy stated that she should reach out to Howie Martin from Bronx House.

Joann stated that the Youth Committee will be handling the Yankee Awards.

Joann reported that the Committee will be meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. She stated that Monica Major will be at the October 2nd meeting.

The Columbus Day Parade will be held on Sunday, October 7th. It is the second largest parade in the state. It starts at Williamsbridge Road.

The Columbus Day Dinner dance will be held on Sunday, September 30th at Maestro's from 4-9 PM. The cost is \$85.

IX. Old Business

Vinny spoke about the busses on Pelham Parkway. He stated that we need a representative from the Express buses and the MTA to come to a Highways meeting along with Councilman Vacca who Chairs the City Council's Transportation Committee.

Jeremy stated that the lady who was supposed to get back him about the MTA.

Joe Bombace stated that at the June meeting Mr. Halbert Clark from the post office was in attendance. He stated that the Board had questions for him that he said he would look into, and we never heard from him again.

Gene and Vinny discussed the problems with regard to the light on Stillwell Avenue.

Tony stated that he would try and set up a meeting with Commissioner Moran and Jonathan Conte, the Pelham Parkway Reconstruction Project Manager.

Bernadette spoke about problems with mail boxes where someone puts double tape inside and your mail never gets delivered. She told everyone to check the box before putting mail in it. If there is a problem call Congressman Crowley's office.

Joanne Rubino reported that we have 530 members of our face book page. Joanne spoke about problems with valet parking. She stated that some of the attendants are very inconsiderate and double park or park in people's driveways. She stated that this is an occurrence from 900 Park Avenue 5 days a week.

Joe Thompson reported that the 49th Precinct Community Council will be meeting on October 2nd at 7:30 PM at Maestro's

Jeremy reported that his sister is looking for a job.

X. New Business

Pat Dolan spoke about the high price of gas. He also stated that Chris is doing a great job.

XI. Executive Session

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:17 PM and returned to business at 9:21 PM.

A Motion was made by Tony Vitaliano, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That Community Board 11 hire Bharati Kemraj as a part time Community Assistant.
PASSED WITH 2 ABSTENTIONS FROM EDITH BLITZER AND ANDREA SIEGEL.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Burko,
Secretary