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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2012 IN
CALVARY HOSPITAL AT 1740 EASTCHESTER ROAD

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

I. Gallery Session

- a. Marcy Gross stated that she works for the Office of Emergency Management. She stated that they will keep a list of peoples e-mail and cell phones to be able to make you aware of where to go in the case of an emergency. They will also provide a map. Marcy stated that there was material available and that she would bring more to the meeting on November 29.
- b. Kay Pinto Cardona asked about the parking lot on Thwaites Place. She stated that there was activity going on in the parking lot. She asked if the board knew what was going on there.
- c. Arianna DeFelice of the American Cancer Society stated that there will be a third national cancer study. She stated that they will be asking for a sample of blood to see what part genetics contributes to cancer. The survey will ask what you eat, if you exercise and it will take your measurements and weight. Ms. DeFelice stated that all information will be kept private. She stated that this is a 20 year study, and that every two years you will be sent a short survey to complete and mail back to them. There are five sites that will be conducting these interviews in December. Juliet Adom a post graduate for mental health stated that they are located at 2330 Bronx Park East
- d. Marie Santillana spoke about 601 Baker Street. She stated that the building is very high and that construction is being done underneath the building. She asked why the Buildings Department has not come out to look at this site.
- e. Irene Estrada-Rukaj spoke about a study for the 80th district that showed that there were not enough programs for youth in our community. She asked that a letter be sent to Commissioner Kelly stating that we request the Youth Police Academy be put into our high

schools. She stated that this will give the youth something to do during the months of July and August. Irene stated that only four sites were chosen in the Bronx. She stated that one of these was in Truman High School, and we were the best in the borough.

- f. Raphael & Violeta of Pelham Parkway Citizen Conservation Corp. spoke about a petition regarding the trees. He stated that he would pass the petition around for the Board members to sign. Raphael stated that we need to bring the issue of trees not being taken care of e.g. pruning every 10 years, not watered etc. He stated that the Parks Department is much underfunded. Silvio suggested that he bring the issue to the Parks Committee.
- g. Dr. David Stevens from Concerned Citizens of Pelham Parkway stated that Pelham Parkway has been made narrower due to the placement of sidewalks on the park side of Pelham Parkway. He stated that the Board, Community Association, elected officials and the newspapers have been championing his cause. Dr. Stevens stated that the roadway has been narrowed to a width that does not meet the New York City Fire Manual codes. He stated that there is a lawsuit pending against the City of New York. Dr. Stevens stated that they will be giving oral arguments on Wednesday. He stated that there will be a bus leaving from in front of the MPCA at 7:30 AM. Dr. Stevens stated that they should be back before noon. He thanked everyone who had attended the rally.
- h. Mark Gjonaj stated that he was nominated for the position of Assemblyman of the 80th Assembly District. He stated that his district is comprised of wonderful compassionate community members and businesses that care about their community. Mark stated that his office is located on Barnes and Lydig Avenues. He stated that he is concerned about the trees and safety issues of Pelham Parkway. Mark stated that the community is composed of many community organizations. He stated that each neighborhood contains families that care and want to give back to their community. Mark stated that he wants to hear the community's concerns. He invited everyone to visit his office and to make sure to vote.

II. Elected Officials

- a. Ritchie Torres representing Council Member Vacca reported that:
 - i. Land owned by the Parks Department and is leased to gas stations must offer competitive prices. Parks does not enforce this.
 - ii. Initiative Aging Improvement District offers computer training. There was a class at Throgs Neck Mental Health.

- b. John Emrick representing Senator Klein spoke about the Veterans Job Fair where there will be representatives of businesses, Bronx County, City, State and Federal agencies. He stated that Senator Klein honored Jeremy as a returning veteran. John also reported on the return of the graffiti program. He said anyone who sees graffiti to call the office. Edith asked John if the graffiti people go out to the commercial strips on a regular basis.
He said that they go out on a regular basis, but it takes 48 hours from when they get the complaint to act on it.
- c. Nivardo Lopez representing Mayor Bloomberg stated that he is the liaison to all Bronx boards and community groups. He is working on quality of issues. He had previously worked for Council Member Vacca.

III. Minutes: A Motion was made by Blanche Rifkin, Seconded by Ruth Burko – That the minutes be accepted as received. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

IV. Chairman's Report – First Vice Chair Tony Vitaliano
Tony reported that the next meeting of the Community Board will be held on November 29th. He stated that the Executive Committee will be meeting on Monday, November 26th.
Tony reported that Dom is in the hospital. He asked everyone to keep him in their prayers.

V. District Manager's Report – Jeremy Warneke
Jeremy reported that the office will be closed due to three holidays in November: Election Day, November 6; Veteran's Day, November 12; and Thanksgiving, November 26.
Jeremy reported that Bob Potter and he had met with the principal of the new middle school at 144. He stated that she will hopefully be coming to a meeting.
Jeremy reported that Tony Vitaliano and he had attended a joint Borough Board and Borough Services Cabinet meeting this morning. He stated that they are usually two separate meetings.
Discussion took place on who should be Cced on emails and forwarded information the Board Office sends on a daily basis. Discussion continued and then moved onto the topic of committee meeting agendas. Tony asked Mary to make a motion.

- a. A Motion was made by Mary Paliotta, Seconded by Joe Thompson – That the agendas for all committee meetings be sent to the Board Members as far in advance as possible. **UNANIMOUSLY**

APPROVED.

Joe Bombace stated that there are 9 Board members who do not have email. Tony stated that all Board members who have email need to clean out their email boxes. He stated that people are not attending meeting because they don't know when the meeting will be because they have not looked at their emails. He asked that the Board members make sure that the Board office has their email address, cell phone and home phones.

Mary stated that when meetings are cancelled we should be notified by phone, not email as not everyone has access to their email when they are working.

VI. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio stated that the Treasurer's Reports will be sent out tomorrow.

VII. Committee Reports

a. By-Laws – Sandy Unger

Sandy reported that the Committee is looking at our present By-Laws. She stated that it will take several months to complete. Sandy reported that the next meeting is scheduled for November 5th at 7 PM in the front office.

b. Economic Development – Joseph A. Thompson

Joe reported that their next meeting is set for Tuesday, November 20th at 7 PM in the Board office.

- i. Smeireles Inc., 1511 Wilkinson Avenue – New Liquor, Wine & Beer License: Joe reported that this is the old Emergency Room bar. He stated that we have had problems with this location in the past. Joe stated that they asked for closing time at 4 AM and we told them that our policy is 2 AM in the beginning. They will be serving finger food. Joe stated that they submitted a completed questionnaire. He stated that there was not a quorum at the meeting.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Joe Bombace - That Community Board 11 have no objection to the issuing of this license. **APPROVED WITH 1 AGAINST FROM SAL CONFORTO.**

- ii. Maestro's, 1703 Bronxdale Avenue – Wine & Beer Renewal License: Joe stated that no one from Maestro's came to the meeting. He stated that we have had no problems with this location. He suggested that the Board have no objections pending receiving a completed questionnaire.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That Community Board 11 have no objection to the

issuing of this license on the condition that the Board receive the establishment's completed questionnaire.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

c. Health & Social Services – Joe Bacote

Joe reported that the Committee will meet next on November 13th at 7:30 PM at the Board Office. He stated that we have learned that Steven M. Saffer is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Einstein Hospital. He stated we hope to have guest speakers from Einstein Hospital.

Joe stated that everyone is invited to come to the Committee meeting. Oral asked why they were invited to speak and Joe Bombace reported that there had been 7 cases of infection at Einstein Hospital earlier this year. He also stated that the College is doing research and we want to know what it is. We also want an answer as to why the waiting time in the emergency room is so long.

Tony reported that Joe Bacote has done a lot of work on this.

d. Highways, Traffic & Transportation – Vincent Prezioso

Vinny reported that the minutes had been submitted. He reported that the next meeting will be on Monday, November 5th at 7 PM in the Board office.

- i. A Motion was made by Vinny Prezioso, Seconded by Frano Zagreda – That Community Board 11 send a letter of support to the Bronx NYC DOT supporting the Eastchester Gardens Slow Streets proposal. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

e. Housing – Gene Tutora

Gene reported that the Committee did not meet this month. He stated that the next meeting will on Monday, November 19th at 7 PM in the Board Office. Gene stated that we hope to have a representative from Buildings at the meeting.

f. Land Use – Joseph McManus

Joe reported that the minutes have been distributed.

- i. Proposed Assisted Living Program at Morningside House: A Motion was made by Joe McManus, Seconded by Sandy Unger – That Community Board 11 send a letter of support for Morningside Houses' proposal. **APPROVED WITH 1 ABSTENTION FROM LINDA WHITE.**

g. Parks & Recreation – Edith Blitzer

Edith reported that there were no motions from the Committee meeting. She stated that the guest speaker did not show up. Edith stated that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 7th at 7 PM in the Board office.

h. Sanitation & Environmental Protection – Tony Signorile

Tony reported that the Committee met on October 11th. He stated that the minutes had been submitted. Tony reported that Effie Ardizzone from Environmental Protection was our guest speaker. He stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 8th at 7 PM in the Board office. Tony stated that there are sanitation flyers on the Pooper Scooper Law.

i. Youth Services– Joann Terrelonge

Joann reported that the Youth Services Committee will me meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. She stated that we will be meeting on Tuesday, November 13th due to the holiday, in the Board office. She stated that there will be a guest speaker Monica McCarthy of Youth Ministry.

Joann invited everyone to the Life Tree Café on November 1st at 12 noon at 1901 Wallace Avenue. She stated that you do not have to rsvp.

Joann read the requirements for the Yankee Youth Leadership Awards. She stated that applications are due in the Board office by November 9th. Joann stated that the Committee will be making a recommendation based on the applications we receive.

Joe Thompson stated that he felt that Irene’s proposal should go to the Youth Committee.

VIII. Old Business

Bob Potter reported that the Commissioner of DOT has informed us that the traffic lights on Allerton Avenue and Boston Road to Gun Hill Road have been upgraded. He stated that Gun Hill Road will get timers. Mary stated that at the June meeting a representative from the post office was present and took the Board’s complaints. She stated that we still haven’t received from the office a summary of all the postal questions members were asked to submit in advance (along with those asked at the meeting, of the written responses for each complaint from the postal representatives, as members were told. Jeremy stated that he will reach out to him and follow up on it.

- a. A Motion was made by Edith Blitzer, Seconded by Mary Paliotta – That the Board have a representative from the post office at the November meeting. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Sal stated that we did not get any answers from the post office. We need to have Tommy Messina from Congressman Crowley’s office at the meeting. Oral suggested that the Board members send their issues to the Board.

IX. New Business

Gene reported on the light at Stilwell Avenue. He suggested that parking be removed from Lodovick to Gunther Avenue. Gene stated that he had gone

to the homeowners, and they signed a petition that they are in favor of the parking being removed.

A great deal of discussion took place on how many spots were involved. It was also stated that because people are parking in front of these houses traffic is backed up

- a. A Motion was made by Gene Tutora, Seconded by Dom Schiano – That Community Board 11 send a letter to DOT requesting that parking be removed on the north side of Pelham Parkway from Gunther to Lodovick Avenues. **APPROVED WITH ONE AGAINST FROM SHRADHANAND PIRTAM AND ONE ABSTENTION FROM JOSEPH A. THOMPSON.**

Al D'Angelo reported on the fundraiser that the Morris Park Community Association is having for holiday lighting in Morris Park. He stated that it will be held on November 2nd.

Pat Dolan reported that Westchester Square Hospital has been taken over by Einstein Hospital. He stated that we need to know what they are doing there. Tony V. told him to talk to Joe Bacote.

Joe Thompson reported that the 49th Precinct Council will be meeting on October 30th.

Silvio reported that there will be a Veteran's Day ceremony at Peace Plaza at 11AM on November 11th.

A Motion was made by Edith Blitzer, Seconded by Andrea Siegel – That the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.