



Dominic Castore
Chairman

COMMUNITY BOARD 11, BRONX
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Ruben Diaz Jr.
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District Manager

MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 29, 2012 IN LUBIN HALL OF THE MAZER BUILDING, 1200
VAN NEST AVENUE

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Tony Vitaliano, First Vice Chair.

- I. Public Hearing on FY 2014 City Capital & Expense Budget
No one spoke during the time allotted for the public hearing.

II. Gallery Session

- a. Adam Bermudez
Mr. Bermudez spoke about the diversity in members on the Board. He stated that he would like to see someone between the ages of 18-30 become a board member.
- b. Gene DeFrancis
Mr. DeFrancis spoke about the horse stable at 1680 Pelham Parkway South. He stated that they wanted the horse stables to be turned into an equestrian museum. He stated it would house the history of horses. He passed out information on the horses and said that anyone who wants more information can see him after the meeting.
- c. Dr. David Stevens – Concerned Citizens of Pelham Parkway South
Dr. Stevens thanked the members of the Board, Jeremy, John Fratta, Senator Klein, Councilman Vacca, John Doyle and Assembly Member-elect Mark Gjonaj for their help. He reported that the lawsuit has been adjourned until January 14, 2013. He stated that there will be a bus available to take those that wish to attend the hearing. A flyer was distributed.
- d. Raphael Schweizer – Bronx Park East Community Association
Mr. Schweitzer reported that Community Board 11 has another community association. He reported that they had their first meeting on November 14th, and 40 people were in attendance. Mr. Schweitzer reported that at the next meeting on December 5th they will have a Holiday Food Drive. He asked that people bring nonperishable can goods that will be distributed to the Jewish Community Council and

St. Lucy's food pantries. He reported that the Van Nest Alliance will be having a party later that day.

Discussion took place on the boundaries for this organization. It was stated that it was north of Pelham Parkway and west of Allerton Avenues. Joe asked who the officers were and Mr. Schweitzer stated that they had not chosen officers yet. He stated that Hazel Miura, Kenny Agosto, Donal Holway, Dennis Corcoran and others are in the organization.

e. Cristiana Pena – Friends of Woodlawn Cemetery

Ms. Pena stated that she was the Director of Programs of the Friends of Woodlawn Cemetery. She stated that this is a national landmark.

Ms. Pena spoke about the 10 great trees, the monuments and the concerts that held there. She also spoke about the Volunteer Recruit Program on December 8th. Ms. Pena stated that on Sunday, December 9th there will be a free classical music concert.

f. Nancy Dawson – M.A.D.D.

Ms. Dawson spoke spending the past holidays alone since the death of her son on September 10, 2005 from a drunk driver. Ms. Dawson asked that a Driving While Intoxicated Checkpoints be set up to see that those driving on the holidays have not been drinking. She also spoke about the accidents that can be cause by people texting while driving.

g. Mike Heller – A.E.C.O.M.

Mr. Heller spoke about Dom Castore. He stated that he knew Dom for many years and he read from an article printed 2 years ago in which Dom spoke about living in Morris Park since 1953. Mr. Heller stated that Dom was one of the founders of the Morris Park Association. He stated that it was through Dom's efforts that Einstein was able to lease space at Jacobi Hospital for research.

h. Albert Vega – Floral Agency, LLC

Mr. Vega reported that he runs a health care service agency. He stated that the agency provides Critical Medical Care and Companion care. He thanked Marcy Gross for inviting him to the board meeting.

i. Brian Adams

Brian reported that there will be a memorial service for Evelyn Shapiro who was killed in the Pelham Parkway Houses.

Brian asked about when the New Haven station will happen and Jeremy told him that we do not have a date for it yet, but it would take a long time.

III. Elected Officials

a. Council Member James Vacca

CM Vacca stated that he has known Dom Castore since 1972. He stated that he was student president of Columbus High School at the time. Vacca reported that Dom was the president of the Morris Park Association. He stated that Dom was a leader and loyal to his friends, but he did what he had to do. Vacca stated that when he became CM, the Morris Park Community was now in his area. He stated that Dom told him that when they yell at you they are yelling at me. Vacca spoke about the school on Bronxdale Avenue. He stated that the parents wanted the school k-8 and it is rated A. He stated that it took months of negotiations to get this done. Dom was a big part of these negotiations, and it could not have been done without him.

Hurricane Sandy - Vacca reported that Staten Island, Queens and Manhattan were hit hard. He stated that we were blessed in the Bronx. While we had outages on Morris Park and Pelham Parkway it was not hit as hard as Atlantic City. Vacca reported that some of the outages were due to trees that fell. He stated that on Halloween he told Con Ed that Morris Park could not be dark as the kids would be out trick or treating. Vacca stated that 60% of the power was back on. He spoke about Pelham Gardens which went without power the longest. Vacca spoke about getting power restored on Woodhull Avenue. He stated that he saw a Con Ed truck there and spoke to the driver about the power. He was told that he was there to remove a tree. Vacca told the Con Ed worker that the Mayor was coming at 3:30 PM and it had to be taken care of. He stated that at 2 PM he got a call that the lights were on in Pelham Gardens.

Vacca stated that he was going to introduce legislation that assisted living facilities to have backup generators. He stated that the generators that they had only provided electric to the elevators and public areas, but there was no lights in the rooms. Vacca reported that after 11 days they were running out of gas. He reported that through the help of Crown Towing he was able to get a generator to Amber Court. Vacca spoke about people on City Island who refused to leave their homes.

Vacca reported that he is going to introduce legislation that would require all gas stations to have backup generators. He stated during the storm some stations that had gas had no electricity and therefore could not pump the gas. Vacca reported that he has had 26 bills passed since he became a councilman. He stated that he is working on a bill that would require accessibility for blind and visible impaired people to know what the meter on a cab ride is. Vacca stated that it would be an audible verbal message. He is also working on a bill to protect pregnant women who are in jobs that require them to stay on their feet for long periods of time, and for health reasons cannot do this.

Vacca reported that he had given \$30,000 to IS 144 for computers. He reported that IS 144 has a new principal and that he was very impressed with what he saw in the school.

Vacca stated that he has always been there for the community board with regards to their budget. He stated that he has a good relationship with Boards 11 and 10, and members can come to him when needed.

Vacca wished everyone the Best for the Holidays and stated that he was going to fight against cuts to the board's budget.

Vacca spoke about naming a street for Dominic Castore. He stated that he had spoken to the family.

- b. Andy Toledo – representing Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Andy reported that applications to be a board member are available from the Borough President's office, the Board office and the website. He stated that the applicants will be interviewed by himself or someone from the staff.

- c. Amy Pasciucco – representing Senator Jeffrey Klein
Amy reported that John Doyle has left Senator Klein's office and is now working at Jacobi Hospital. She reported on the following events that had taken place:

Veteran's Job Fair- There were 75-100 veterans there and 30 businesses.

Veteran's Breakfast was held before the parade and a woman was honored.

The annual tree lighting will take place on December 7th at 3:30 PM in Peace Plaza. The choir from P.S. 83 will sing. There will be menorah lighting on December 10th at 3:30 PM at Bronx House

- d. Tommy Messina – representing Congressman Joseph Crowley
Tommy stated that he had known Dom for a long time and he will be missed. Tommy reported that the post office has lost \$19 million in the last 2 years. He reported that there has been a big turn over in the managers of the post office branches. Tommy told a story about a woman whose address was changed by someone coming into the post office and requesting it, and it was not her. He stated that she was never contacted to confirm the change. Tommy stated that Jeremy will give him a list of member's complaints and he will follow up on them.

A great deal of discussion took place on mail being delivered to the right house number but not the right street address. In some cases the mail for one person has been delivered to another person with the same name, but not the same address. Also it was stated that when the regular carrier is off the mail is left on the top of mail boxes. It was also stated that mail placed in the mail box gets delivered late causing late fees to the sender. Another concern was that someone is placing a

sticky substance in the mail boxes and if you put your mail in it does not go into the box and can be retrieved by anyone.

A question was asked by Bernadette as to what was happening with the post office CPO that was supposed to go into the bank. It was stated that the people in Van Nest have been without a post office branch for 2 years. A question was asked if they could put mail received for the wrong name or address back into the postal box and Tommy said that would be okay.

Tommy reported that Congressman Crowley is the Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus. Tony asked that the list of new post office managers be sent to the Board members.

- e. Mark Gjonaj – Assembly Member-elect of the 80th Assembly District
Mark stated that he was looking forward to working with the community and working on projects for them. He stated that the hurricane devastated a good part of the district, but that we fared better than most other neighborhoods in the city. Mark stated that he provided services to the community. He stated that we have to have plan for these things in the future. Mark reported that Lydig Avenue has holiday lights.

IV. Minutes

A Motion was made by Blanche Rifkin, Seconded by Frano Zagreda–
That the Minutes be accepted as last modified.

Mary reported that there were corrections to the minutes and she submitted the corrections. The motion was amended that the Minutes be accepted with the correction made. **PASSED WITH DAVID LEAVITT AGAINST AND VINCENT PREZIOSO ABSTAINING.**

V. Chairman's Report – Anthony Vitaliano

Tony asked for a moment of silence in our Chairman's memory. He also asked if anyone wanted to say a few words about Dom.

Blanche spoke about the "Surprise Birthday Party" that the Board held for him a few years ago. She stated that Dom thought it was for her.

Gene reported that he knew Dom for 72 years. He stated that they grew up together and that Dom was a genuine man who told the truth. Rest in peace.

Joe Bombace stated that Dom was a peacemaker and he will be sorely missed.

Ken Gelnick stated that he knew Dom for 20 years and he was a leader as well as a mentor. God be with him.

Tony asked that the Board support the lawsuit by the Concerned Citizens of Pelham Parkway.

Joe McManus stated that the issue usually goes to a committee first.

- a. A Motion was made by Tony Vitaliano, Seconded by Edith Blitzer – That Community Board 11 join in the lawsuit by the Concerns Citizens for Pelham Parkway. UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

Executive Committee recommendation to change location for the full Board meeting from Lubin Hall 2 to 3 times a year: A great deal of discussion took place on the need for a location to have parking and be accessible by public transportation. It was suggested that the vote be only to look into a location. It was brought out that if we use Center Light on White Plains Road they have a large parking lot and are accessible by train or bus. It was stated by Joe Thompson that the Community Board needs to be visible throughout the community. It was suggested that once a location and date are set the Board should vote on it. Discussion took place on holding the meeting in the Coops or at Holy Rosary School. It was also suggested by Harry Figueroa that the Executive Committee move their meetings throughout the community first as a trial run.

- b. A Motion was made by Tony Vitaliano, Seconded by Joe Thompson - That the full Board meeting change location from Einstein, Lubin Hall 2 to 3 times a year.

Those voting in favor of moving the location of the full Board meeting were: Tony Vitaliano; Joe Thompson; Silvio Mazzella; Joe Bacote; Edith Blitzer; Al D'Angelo; Arlene Drayton; Kenneth Gelnick; David Leavitt; Joe McManus; Robert Potter; Vinny Prezioso; Oral Selkridge; Tony Signorile; Joann Terrelonge; Joe Thurston; Sandy Unger; Janice Walcott; and Frano Zagreda.

Those voting against the motion were: Ruth Burko; Blanche Rifkin; Jessica Dewberry; Bernadette Ferrara; Harain Figueroa; Mary Paliotta; Joe Reda; Eliezer Rodriguez; Joanne Rubino; Marty Sacewicz; Dominick Schiano; Andrea Siegel; and Linda White.

Those abstaining were: Joe Bombace; Pat Dolan; Pat Quaranta; and Gene Tutora.

PASSED WITH 19 FOR, 13 AGAINST AND 4 ABSTENTIONS.

Nominating Committee: Tony reported that the Committee consists of Gene Tutora as Chair and Joanne Russo-Rubino and Joe Thurston.

Tony reported that the next Executive Committee meeting would be held on Monday, December 17th at 7 PM in the Board Office. The full Board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 20th at 7 PM in Lubin Hall. The Board Holiday Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 13th at 7 PM in Fratelli's Restaurant at 2507 Eastchester Road. Tony reported that Friends of CB 11 will be paying for Board Members. Anyone wishing to bring a guest needs to call Harriet and make out a check in the amount of \$30 to the Friends of Community Board 11. Tony stated that anyone wishing to make a donation to defray the cost of the dinner can do so.

Tony stated that it is important that everyone RSVP with the Board Office.

VI. Nominating Committee – Gene Tutora

Gene asked if there were any nominations for Chairperson.

Janice Walcott nominated Tony Vitaliano, Dom Schiano seconded. Tony accepted the nomination.

Silvio nominated Al D'Angelo, Joe Thompson seconded. Al accepted the nomination.

Vinny nominated Joe McManus, Sandy seconded. Joe accepted.

Jeremy reported the following: There are 48 members on the Board, and in order for there to be a quorum, there must be 25 members present.

When members leave before the meeting is over that effects the quorum.

In order for a candidate to win, they must receive 51% of the votes of the members present. If there is no one with 51%, then there will be run off ballot with the two top vote getters competing, assuming there are two top vote getters.

Jessica Dewberry asked about the votes being public. Jeremy reported that at the meeting the tally will only include the totals. The minutes must reflect by law how each Board member voted.

Discussion took place on if a candidate needs to be present for the vote.

a. A Motion was made by Tony Vitaliano, Seconded by Bob Potter –

That a statement by each candidate for Chair (up to 3 minutes speaking time max.) is permitted; questions for candidates are not.

A great deal of discussion took place on this.

Those voting in favor of the motion were: Tony Vitaliano; Silvio Mazzella; Joe Bacote; Blanche Rifkin; Bob Potter; Dominic Schiano; and Linda White.

Those voting against the motion were: Joe Thompson; Ruth Burko; Edith Blitzer; Jessica Dewberry; Bernadette Ferrara; Kenneth Gelnick; David Leavitt; Joe McManus; Mary Paliotta; Vinny Prezioso; Joe Reda; Eliezer Rodriguez; Joanne Rubino; Marty Sacewicz; Oral Selkridge; Andrea Siegel; Joe Thurston; Sandy Unger; Janice Walcott and Frano Zagreda.

Those abstaining were: Joe Bombace; Al D'Angelo; Pat Dolan; Harry Figueroa; Pat Quaranta; and Gene Tutora.

DEFEATED WITH 9 FOR, 20 AGAINST AND 6 ABSTENTIONS.

b. A Motion was made by David Leavitt, Seconded by Oral Selkridge –

That at the December meeting each candidate accept unlimited questions; the answers per candidate be limited however to 1 minute each. **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

VII. District Manager's Report – Jeremy Warneke
Jeremy stated that he would be out of the office from December 5th to December 11th. Jeremy reported that a DOB Inspector went out to 601 Baker Avenue but found no violations. Jeremy reported that the proposed group home that the Board fought against at 2726 Yates Avenue is going in.

VIII. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella
Silvio reported that the Board and Friends of Community Board 11 Treasurer's Reports have been distributed. He stated that it does not include the proposed 4.5% cut that the Mayor wants of \$11,069. This would bring our budget from \$206,891 to \$195,573.

IX. Committee Reports

a. By-Laws – Joanne Rubino

Joanne reported that the Committee had not met. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 3rd at 7 PM in the Board office.

b. Community Development & Budget Priorities – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the Expense and Capital Budget priorities have been distributed and will be sent to O.M.B. tomorrow. He thanked Jeremy, John, Dom and Tony for their help and support.

- i. A Motion was made by Silvio Mazzella, Seconded by Tony Vitaliano – That the FY 2014 Expense & Capital Budget Priorities be accepted as received. **UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.**

c. Economic Development – Joseph Thompson

1. Renewal liquor license: Patricia's – 1082 Morris Park Avenue for liquor, wine & beer.

- i. A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Sandy Unger – That Community Board 11 send an email to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this liquor license renewal. **UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.**

2. New liquor licenses:

i. Nueva Imperial Restaurant – 2456 Williamsbridge Road for wine & beer

- a. A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Mary Paliotta – That Community Board 11 send an email to the SLA requesting that this license be denied. **UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.**

ii. Picollo Café – 1480 Mace Avenue for wine & beer

Joe reported that this is a private club and they have agreed to close at midnight during the weekdays and 2 AM on the

weekends. Joe stated that the Committee had no objection, provided they furnish the Board with a list of their members. Joe reported that the front of the establishment is all glass. He stated that there are homes down the block and that there will be no music.

Discussion took place on whether they have a public assembly permit. It was stated that if there were more than 75 people they need to have a public assembly permit. Joe stated that they have 2 separate egresses.

- a. Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That Community Board 11 send an email to the SLA stated that we have no objection to the issuing of this liquor license contingent with their providing the Board with a list of their members. **PASSED WITH FRANO ZAGREDA, LINDA WHITE, JOE MCMANUS AND PAT DOLAN AGAINST AND SANDY UNGER, VINNY PREZIOSO, DOMINICK SCHIANO, ORAL SELKRIDGE AND RUTH BURKO ABSTAINING.**
- iii. Smoke House BBQ Lounge – 866 Morris Park Avenue for liquor, wine & Beer:
 - a. A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Silvio Mazzella – That Community Board 11 send an email to the SLA stating that we have no objections to the issuing of this liquor license contingent upon the Board receiving their floor plan.

Joe reported that they have an exhaust system on the roof. He reported that they will change the name from Lounge to Restaurant. Joe stated that they are located close to Con Ed and the hospital and will be doing a lot of takeout.

Discussion took place on the fact that the public assembly requirements for a lounge are different than a restaurant. It was stated that this location was previously a restaurant. It was also stated that the Board needs to see the C of O as it will determine if it is a lounge or restaurant. If it is listed as a lounge the occupancy limits are different from a restaurant. It was stated that this location is near a house of worship, and that was a reason that it was felt that it would be better if it was a restaurant rather than a club. It was also stated that the SLA does the measurements to see that it meets the requirements of being a specific distance from a house of worship. It was

also stated that if the C of O says a lounge they would need to get an architect to change the C of O.

Motion was made by Sandy Unger, Seconded by Mary Paliotta - That a vote on this liquor license request be tabled. **UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.**

d. Education and Culture – Al D’Angelo

Al reported that the meeting had been cancelled. He stated that the next meeting will be held on Monday, December 3rd at 7 PM in the Board office.

e. Health, Youth & Social Services – Joe Bacote

Joe expressed his thanks to Mike Heller in getting 5 top people to come and speak at the meeting. He stated that they answered all the questions and is willing to provide additional information. Joe stated that he was sorry that Cece’s name was not included in the minutes. Joe reported that the reason the wait in the ER at Einstein is so long is that they do not have enough beds to move the patients to once they are seen. He stated that they will be adding 2 new beds, but that is not enough.

Joe reported that the minutes had been distributed. He stated that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, December 11th at 7 PM in the Board office. Our guest will be Juan Rivera.

Joe Reda reported that Nadine Katz is the Executive Director on Einstein Hospital. He reported that Montefiore Hospital is not part of Westchester Square.

Pat Dolan reported that Montefiore Hospital is taking over Westchester Square as of today.

Ceci reported that Montefiore is building a new building which will house its ambulatory care unit. She stated that she was not aware of Montefiore taking over Westchester Square.

f. Highways, Traffic & Transportation – Vinny Prezioso

Vinny reported that there had not been a committee meeting. He stated that the next meeting will be held on Monday, December 3rd at 7 PM in the Board office.

g. Housing – Gene Tutora

Gene reported that the next meeting will be held on Monday, December 10th at 7 PM in the Board office. Our guest speaker will be Michael Grubiak from Senator Klein’s office.

h. Parks & Recreation – Joanne Russo-Rubino

Joanne reported that the Committee had not met this month. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 5th at 7 PM in the Board office. Our guest speaker will be James LeMyre from the Parks Department. Anyone with questions should submit them to the Board office.

- i. Public Safety – Joe Reda
Joe reported that the Committee had not met. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 12th at 7 PM in the Board office.
- j. Sanitation & Environmental Protection – Tony Signorile
Tony reported that the Committee had not met, and that they would not be meeting in December.
- k. Youth Services – Bernadette Ferrara
Bernadette reported that the Committee had met and that the minutes had been distributed. She reported that the following youth will be receiving the New York Yankee Leadership Awards: James Kenneth Cahill; Ryan Pirtam; Ayodele Aruleba; Manuela Disla; and Reme Terrelonge.
Bernadette spoke about the Life Tree Café. She stated that it is model of the youth community and is presently located in a private home. Bernadette reported that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 4th at 7 PM in the Board office. The guest speaker will be police officer Chris Traumer. Bernadette reported that there will be PAL basketball game at St. Dominic's for youth of Van Nest and Morris Park.

X. New Business

Bernadette reported that the Van Nest Alliance will be meeting on Wednesday, December 5th and after the meeting there will be a party. Jeremy reported that there are four C of Os on file for 866 Morris Park Avenue. According to the most recent one, the first floor is for an eating and drinking establishment (maximum persons allowed: 70); second and third floors are for one-family residences. Kamis Laria, Director of the Community Cornerstone Programs at the Eastchester Gardens Community Center at 3016 Yates Avenue reports that there will be a Bazaar on Saturday. Ms. Laria also spoke about an AIDS awareness event that will take place on December 1st.

Motion was made by Frano Zagreda, Seconded by Edith Blitzer – That the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.