

COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD #11, THE BRONX

2280 WALLACE AVENUE - ROOM 2

BRONX, NEW YORK 10467

(212) 653-0936



DOMINIC CASTORE,
CHAIRMAN

THOMAS J. BROWN,
DISTRICT MANAGER

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 15, 1983 IN THE
MARY QUEEN OF PEACE HALL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 P.M. by Dom Castore, Chairman.

Dom welcomed everyone back, and said that he hoped they had had a nice summer and were healthy.

I. Gallery Session

a. Otilie Fiealt

Ms. Fiealt spoke about needed improvements for the Pelham Parkway area. She said that traffic improvements were needed in the area from White Plains Road to the Zoo, covering the entry ramps and exits to the Bronx River Parkway. Ms. Fiealt said that hazardous conditions exist there, and she explained them in detail.

b. Ron Seaborn - Bronx Truth & Trust Action Committee

Mr. Seaborn spoke about Zimmerman Playground. He stated that it is in need of repairs. Mr. Seaborn stated that the Parks Department had removed the swings at the beginning of the summer because they were in need of repair, but that they were never replaced. He stated that the monkey bars were dismantled, water does not work in the playground, and that the paddle ball courts flood when it rains.

Mr. Seaborn stated that a Stop sign was needed for the children going to P.S. 96 across Allerton Avenue. He said that the present signs were directed on the wrong street. Mr. Seaborn said that the signs are on Barker Avenue.

Mr. Seaborn reported that there is a spot on Allerton and Olinville Avenues where the curb is sunken in and stagnant water remains after a rain.

Mr. Seaborn spoke about the fish market near the northeast corner of Allerton and Olinville Avenues who dumps water from his ice into the street, and the vegetable market who throws his garbage into the street.

Tom asked for exact times so that he could request enforcement, and Mr. Seaborn said that it occurs in the early morning.

Mr. Seaborn also spoke about police congregating on White Plains Road and giving out tickets instead of walking around the area to deal with other problems in the area.

Elizabeth Brown asked that Mr. Seaborn submit his complaints regarding Zimmerman Playground in writing to the Board.

Mr. Seaborn stated that he had sent a petition to the Board.

Tom explained that Elizabeth wanted this information because the budget consultations were coming up, and this would be helpful. He also stated that Zimmerman Playground is scheduled for rehabilitation this coming year.

Tom spoke about the Stop sign Mr. Seaborn requested. He explained that the Traffic Department places Stop signs on the minor street of an intersection. Tom also stated that several residents were trying to get a Crossing Guard for the area.

Tom said that he would try to get the depression filled in. He also said that he would try and get an inspector to check the fish and vegetable stores for dumping.

Tom explained that the police Mr. Seaborn sees are special officers that are assigned to a specific post and cannot leave that assigned spot.

c. William H. Taylor - Allerton Coops Tenants Association, Acting President

Mr. Taylor stated that he is the Acting President of the Allerton Coops Tenants Association. He said that for the last few years the Allerton Coops, which covers two blocks has been declining. Mr. Taylor said that they are in a shambles. He stated that the owner has applied for a rehabilitation loan, which has not been approved yet. He said that the owner is being investigated before the loan is approved. Mr Taylor discussed the day to day repairs that are necessary, and have not been taken care of as yet.

Mr. Taylor spoke about the area along Allerton Avenue where the shop owners sell beer in paper bags from 8:00 A.M. to closing. He also stated that there were some gambling places located in that area.

d. Angelo Campanaro - Chester Civic Association

Mr. Campanaro reported that the proposed MTA garage is still being appealed through the courts. He stated that strong support has been received from Congressman Weiss and Senator D'Amato. Angelo stated that the State and Federal Environmental Protection agencies are looking into the studies. He stated that they hoped for a victory.

e. Compton Wilson - 2754 Bronx Park East

Mr. Wilson stated that the court yard of the building floods when it rains and the tenants can't get in or out of the court yard.

Tom asked Phil Braun of H.P.D. about the building.

A great deal of discussion took place on this building which is part of the Allerton Coops complex.

Rhoda Gogatz suggested that the Housing Committee meeting on this building with H.P.D., the ownership and the leadership of the Coops Tenants Association.

II. Minutes

Motion by Rhoda Gogatz - Second by Blanche Comras Rifkin - That the Minutes be accepted as received.

Unanimously accepted

III. District Manager's Report

Tom reported that he had spent the last month working on aspects of the budget process. He stated that the Board members should have received a great deal of mail in the last few days about the Public Hearing on a proposed shelter which is on tonight's Agenda as a report, and the Budget Public Hearing. Tom said that the June Cabinet Minutes were sent out, and that the July Minutes would go out soon. He stated that there had been no meeting in August. Tom said that Jerry Riconda, the Project Director would be giving a report on the Summer Youth Employment Program.

IV. Borough President's Report

Joan Milone reported the following Board of Estimate actions:

1. Approval of an application for the designation of city-owned properties located on the block bounded by Morris Park Avenue, Amethyst Street, Rhinelander Avenue, and Victor Street as an Urban Action Area Project.

2. Approval as amended of the sale of six city-owned parcels of land (Block 3562, Lots 1,62,64,66,68,59; Block 4320, Lot 41; Block 4388, Lot 1; Block 4338; Lot 39, and Block 4488, Lot 30.

3. Approval of the renewal of a lease for space at 642 Morris Park Avenue for the continued use by the Department of Sanitation as a Satellite Office.

4. Approval of the extra work (without public letting) in connection with lighting work at Christopher Columbus High School, totaling \$10,434.

5. Approval of the extra work (without public letting) in connection with the reconstruction of the Williamsbridge Road Bridge over Amtrak at Sackett Avenue, totaling \$32,829.

V. Chairman's Report

Dom reported that the abandoned car removal process in the last few months has been fantastic. He commended Borough President Stanley Simon for this. Dom asked anyone seeing a cluster of abandoned cars to report it to the District Office.

Rhoda said that a vote of thanks should be given to the Borough President for the cultural programs and the concerts in the Parks at various locations throughout the Bronx. She also stated that she felt that everyone thought these programs should not only be continued next year, but that the program be expanded for more cultural programs to be brought in.

Pat DeMartino thanked the Borough President for giving support to the approval of the P.S. 34 site construction.

Abe Pereira said that he felt that the Board and the community owe thanks to Tom Brown for the job he did on the arcade proposal.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Housing

1. Allerton Coops

Simeon Goldstein stated that since Ted Weinstein of the Neighborhood Preservation Office could not be present tonight to give a report on the Allerton Coops, he sent Phil Braun.

Mr. Braun stated he is the Deputy Director of the Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Preservation Office. He spoke about the Allerton Coops and the project involved; the rehabilitation maintenance and the loan requested. He explained in detail where the money would come from, and why it was taking so long.

Questions were asked of Phil by several Board members.

A great deal of discussion took place on the repairs needed, the screening of tenants and tenant patrols.

Frank Muccioli suggested that a meeting be held with the Housing Committee, the Allerton Coops Tenants Association, and Mr. Traubee, the owner.

2. 1753 Melville Street

Tom reported that at the June meeting the Board had voted to request that H.P.D. demolish 1753 Melville Street. He stated that a letter to that effect was sent to Mr. Weiner and to Ted Weinstein. Tom explained the background on this building, and the \$1 sale program. He said that Ted informed him that this building will be put in again for an R.F.P. in October. As a result there is a hold on this property, as Ted asked that it not be demolished yet. Tom said the main thing the Board had wanted was to have the building put on a list for demolition, so that if no acceptable proposals were received, it could be demolished.

Tom said that if anyone in the Van Nest area is aware of anyone who would be interested in developing this site or applying through the \$1 program, these people should get a proposal.

Tom said demolition would not take place before the end of the winter, if at all.

Pat said he knows of one person who would be interested for commercial occupancy.

Discussion took place on the glass and concrete problems with the building. Tom said he has passed the building and has not seen the glass.

B. Economic Development

1. Request by L.W.P. Intercom Bell & Buzzer Corp. to lease additional commercial property at 1750 Van Buren Street, a City-owned property.

Sal Napolitano stated that Tom would give the report as he had been working with H.P.D. on it.

Tom reported that this building has two addresses: 1750 Van Buren Street and 530 Morris Park Avenue. He stated these are two of the finest managed City-owned buildings. Tom said there are commercial ground floor stores which H.P.D. has asked potential lessees to request the Board for an endorsement, or a statement indicating that the Board has no objection to their being at that location. Tom stated that after this item was placed on the Agenda he received a letter from another prospective lessee, and he read from the letter.

Discussion took place on the two prospective lessees.

Motion by Simeon Goldstein - Second by Lee Mager - That Community Planning Board #11 state that it has no objection, but in no way endorses the delicatessen on Morris Park Avenue.

Dom spoke. He stated he was angry that the Chairmen of Committees are not prepared and that Tom Brown has to give Committee reports.

A great deal of discussion took place on these stores.

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Motion by Elizabeth Brown - Second by Bill Liblick - That this item be tabled until the Economic Development Committee has a chance to look into it.

Passed.

C. Parks and Recreation

Elizabeth Brown reported there were no meetings of the Parks Committee during the summer. She stated she had attended a meeting in July at Van Cortlandt Park in order to meet the new Commissioner of Parks, Mr. Stern. Elizabeth said that Commissioner Stern's interest in meeting with the Chairpersons of each Board and Parks Committee Chairpersons was to find out what are the on-going projects for each community, and the community concerns for these projects. Elizabeth stated that the Commissioner had grown up in the Bronx and knew many of the areas mentioned to him. She said she expected very good support from him for those projects which the Board requests during the Budget Process.

Elizabeth stated that yesterday she had attended a breakfast with Dr. Hester of the Bronx Botanical Garden and his staff. She stated that it was suggested by the staff that the bridge at Waring Avenue going into the Garden be closed for security reasons. Elizabeth said that both she and Tom had looked at the area, and were concerned that this would cut off access from the eastern portion of the Bronx. She asked for Board input on this and stated that if more people used this entrance, perhaps it would not be a security problem.

Discussion took place on the bridge and its use. Several Board members asked questions about why this bridge is to be closed.

Elizabeth stated there has been some vandalism. She stated that there has been some money appropriated for a garden near the entrance for youngsters to be involved in.

Joan Milone stated that the Botanical Garden had announced that the bus stop for the #17 bus would soon be constructed at the entrance to the Botanical Garden.

Elizabeth announced there would be a program to take ill people into the Garden, either carried or wheeled in. She stated that volunteers are needed for this program and she asked that anyone who is available should call the Community Relations Office of the Botanical Garden.

Elizabeth announced that the Board had received a request from Councilman DeMarco that the name of Tan Place be changed to Little League Place. She stated she recommended that it be accepted.

Motion by Elizabeth Brown - Second by Rhoda Gogatz - That Community Planning Board #11 send a letter to Councilman DeMarco stating that it is in favor of the name change of Tan Place to Little League Place.

Passed with 1 against.

Lights at Loretto Park

Joe Milone said that he had heard that Borough Parks Commissioner Santos opposed the high intensity lights at Loretto Playground despite the allocation of funds for this by the Board of Estimate and City Council.

A great deal of discussion took place on this Budget Request item of the Board.

Tom suggested that the Board members attend the Budget Consultations on September 27 and ask the Parks Department about this item.

D. Youth/Youth Services

Lewis Goldstein stated that the Summer Youth Employment Program had been very successful..

Lewis reported that the Board had advertised for the position of Youth Coordinator. He stated that the Selection Committee would be meeting next week to review the resumes the Board had received, and dates would be set for interviews. Lewis said that once a candidate is chosen by the Selection Committee, he/she would be brought before the Youth Services Committee and then the Planning Board for approval.

Lewis stated that the Board had received Omnibus proposals from two groups: Bronx Council on the Arts and the Bronx Organization for Learning Disabilities. Lewis said that to date the Board had not received a copy of P.S. 105's Parent Association proposal or from any community organizations. He said that if they have been submitted to the Youth Board, that a copy be sent to the Planning Board so that the Youth Services Committee could discuss them at its next meeting.

Lewis introduced Jerry Riconda, the S.Y.E.P. Project Director.

Jerry stated he felt that this year the S.Y.E.P. was the most successful program sponsored in years. He said that credit had to go to his excellent staff of crew chiefs. He gave their names: Antoinette Parvis, Jimmy Moirano, Steven Fuller Bay, and Darlene Mary Johnson. Jerry said these four people did such a good job that he felt that if they should apply again, they be hired without an interview.

Jerry stated that the Board's allocation was for 150 participants. He said that 13 were terminated, 4 of which were for problem reasons. Jerry said that 90% of the participants received an excellent evaluation. He said the basic philosophy that was stressed during the entire summer was that the participants be on time, be courteous, have good attendance records and do their assigned tasks effectively and diligently.

Jerry stated there were 13 Work Sponsors: Workmen's Circle Home, Beth Abraham Hospital, Bronx Municipal Hospital Center, N.Y.C. Housing Authority, Police Department, Tenants League of Eastchester Gardens, Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Jewish Community Council of Pelham Parkway. He stated there were many compliments from the Work Sponsors on the quality of the participants' work. Jerry said that on the last day of the program, Lewis, Tom and he had gone on a tour of several of the sites. Jerry said that several participants were hired by the Work Sponsors for part-time work during the year.

Jerry said he had several suggestions for future programs:

1. Try to develop new Work Sponsors, paying particular attention to those that could supply part-time employment during the year.
2. Use the Board itself as a Work Sponsor.
3. Increase the Board's allocation, but only if the staff can be increased.
4. Next year the Project Director be hired only for June, July and August, and that the Youth Coordinator do the initial groundwork for the program. Jerry explained why this should be done.

Jerry stated that he felt that the Board would receive a commendable rating from D.O.E., and he said that he hoped the Board would continue to sponsor this program.

Dom commended Jerry for the job he did.

John Cifichiello said that Jerry should be favorably considered for the position of Youth Coordinator.

E. Health and Social Services

Rhoda Gogatz reported that the Board had received a proposal from the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty. She read the letter sent to Tom. Rhoda stated that the Health and Social Services Committee had met on this, September 6th, and that several organizations were invited to attend along with the Officers of the Planning Board and representatives of the elected officials. Rhoda stated there would be a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 20th, 7:30 P.M. at P.S. 76 on Adee and Bronxwood Avenues. She said the agency was not asked to appear at the Planning Board meeting tonight, but it would be at the Public Hearing. Rhoda said that all the Board members should have received the proposal describing the site. She stated that the Committee had met tonight and came up with two recommendations.

Motion by Rhoda Gogatz - Second by Bill Liblick

1. That the Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 20th be mandated.
2. That a vote on whether or not Community Planning Board #11 sends a letter for or against this site be taken following the Hearing.

Dom stated that he was mandating the Hearing.

A great deal of discussion took place on whether or not the Hearing should be mandated and whether or not the date could be changed.

Discussion took place on when the vote should be taken.

Rhoda read a letter that she had received from the Metropolitan New York Council on Jewish Poverty subsequent to the September 6th meeting. She said that she would not be voting on this issue as she is the President of the Jewish Community Council.

Frank explained why the school was willing to rent part of its space, and who the shelter would be for.

Rhoda stated that the Parents Association of Beth Jacob - Beth Miriam School are in favor of the proposed site.

A great deal of discussion took place on this proposal.

Rabbi Greenberg also stated that he would not be voting on this as he has a vested interest in the site.

It was again stated by Dom that whichever Board members attended the Public Hearing would vote the Board's position following the Public Hearing.

(SEE ATTACHED COMMITTEE REPORT)

F. Community Development and Budget Priorities

As Ruth Bernstein was not present, Tom gave the report. He stated that there would be Budget Consultations on Tuesday, September 27th. Tom said that all Board members should have received a schedule of meeting times. He stated that there would be a Public Hearing on the Budget, and the Committee would have to make a recommendation to the Board on this at its October meeting.

Tom said that the Board members would be receiving copies of Priority Request Forms for Capital and Community Development Budget Requests and Expense Budget items. He said that the community organizations would also be receiving them.

VII Old Business

Leslie McHenry stated that Community Board #11 has again been invited to participate in the Salute to Pelham Parkway Festival on September 25th. She asked for volunteers to man the Board's booth. Simeon Goldstein, Abe Pereira and Bob Black volunteered.

By-Law Resolution

Motion by Frank Muccioli - Second by Rhoda Gogatz - That this item be tabled until the October meeting.

Passed

VII New Business

Membership

Bill Liblick stated that Tom Miller had met Tom Brown and told him that he was moving out of the area. Bill stated that Tom Brown had suggested that Tom Miller submit his resignation to the Board. Bill stated that since the Board has not received a letter to this effect from Tom Miller that it move to have him removed from the Board.

Motion by Bill Liblick - Second by Lee Mager - That the removal of Tom Miller from the Board be placed on the Agenda for the October meeting.

Passed

Bill Ricevuto requested that committee members be polled as to what are the best days for them to meet.

Dom said that this had been done a few years ago, and that it would be done again.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 P.M.

Respectively submitted,



(TB)

Lewis Goldstein,
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 15, 1983

PRESENT

Robert Black	William Liblick
Elizabeth Brown	Lee Mager
Ruth Burko	Leslie McHenry
Dominic Castore	Joseph Milone
John Cifichiello	Frank Muccioli
Arthur DeLuca	Sal Napolitano
Pat DeMartino	Ernest Odierna
Gloria DiGianni	Abe Pereira
Norman Engel	Brenda Petri
Kenneth Fleisser	Michael Prisco
Nora Fox	Charles Re
Anthony Funigiello	Joe Reda
Rhoda Gogatz	William Ricevuto
Lewis Goldstein	Blanche Rifkin
Simeon Goldstein	Madeline Saltaformaggio
Rabbi Israel Greenberg	Henry Yuspeh
Michael LaGuardia	Steve Zarkin

ABSENT

Ruth Bernstein	Abe Kleinman
Nicholas Cremonese	Rabbi Simon Konovitch
Silvana DeBellis	Richard Lipsky
Stella Fernandez	Ray Locascio
Barbara Fried	Steve Lovitch
Eli Goldsmith	Tom Miller
Romolo Imundi	

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

John W. Farrell - Rep. of Hon. Michael DeMarco

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Robert McGuire - Rep. of Assemblyman Vincent Marchiselli
Kenneth Kearns - Rep. of Assemblyman Eliot Engel
John J. DeGaetano - Rep. of Senator Abraham Bernstein

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

Thomas J. Brown - District Manager, Community Planning Board #11
Joan Milone - Rep. Bronx Borough President Stanley Simon
Phil Braun - H.P.D. - Pelham Parkway N.P.O.
Ronnie Albert - Rep. Assemblyman John Dearie
Harriet Lasky - Secretary, Community Planning Board #11

GUESTS

Ron Seaborn
Gerard Riconda
Michael Stambaugh
Sylvia Symons