

COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD #11, THE BRONX
BRONX MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL CENTER
NURSES RESIDENCE - ROOM 11N22
PELHAM PARKWAY SOUTH & EASTCHESTER ROAD
BRONX, NEW YORK 10461
(212) 892-6262



LEE MAGER,
CHAIRMAN

STANLEY SIMON,
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

THOMAS J. BROWN,
DISTRICT MANAGER

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JANUARY 17, 1985 IN THE NURSES

RESIDENCE OF BRONX MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL CENTER

As the Board Secretary was not present Lee Mager, Chairman designated Harriet Lasky as Secretary Pro Temp.

The meeting was called to order at 8:23 P.M. by Chairman Lee Mager.

I. Gallery Session

a. Mr. Bill Farrell - Van Nest Block Association

Mr. Farrell spoke about 1753 Melville Street. He stated that this house has been a blight on the Van Nest community for many years. Mr. Farrell said that the Van Nest community has been after the City to rehabilitate the house and make it a useful structure for community use. He stated that they have also tried to get private people interested in buying the property. Mr. Farrell said that the community feels that the house is a danger to the community. He stated that it has been boarded up several times, but that the boards are quickly removed by persons unknown. He stated that small children have been seen entering it. Mr. Farrell said that large pieces of the house have fallen off. He asked that this house be removed from the community.

b. Mr. Frank Saraco

Mr. Saraco spoke about a problem that has developed between Morris Park, Sackett, Bronxdale Avenues and Williamsbridge Road. He said that these streets were recently made one way. Mr. Saraco said that the other side of Morris Park Avenue is all two way streets. He stated that forty-four foot trailers are coming down Paulding Avenue and will break the sewers. Mr. Saraco stated that Sackett Avenue has already cracked four inches thick. He stated that this street was just paved four years ago. Mr. Saraco stated that while he agreed that Sackett Avenue should be one way for ambulances, he saw no reason for the other streets to be one way. He stated that this area has become a raceway. Mr. Saraco spoke about the trailers that are coming up the wrong way because they don't know which way to go. He said that they are then coming down Paulding Avenue. Mr. Saraco suggested that Sackett Avenue be left one way and that a light be placed on Williamsbridge Road and Sackett Avenue. He asked the Board to look into this.

c. Mr. Anres Mercado

Mr. Mercado stated that for the last seven years he has operated an auto body shop in the area that Mr. Saaco spoke about. He said that before Sackett Avenue became one way he had access to his shop from both sides. Mr. Mercado stated that Mr. Santos (who was also present but did not speak) also operates an auto body shop in the same area. He stated that Mr. Santos has lost a lot of business due to Sackett Avenue being made one way. Mr. Mercado said that people wanting to enter Mr. Santos's shop have to go to Pierce Avenue and come down Sackett Avenue. He asked the Board to look into this.

Several Board members asked questions of Mr. Saraco and Mr. Mercado about the area.

Chairman Mager stated that the Board would look into this.

II. Minutes

Discussion took place on the fact that this was the third time that the Minutes have not been sent out with the Agenda.

Chairman Mager stated that the Board members were mailed the Minutes of the November 1984 Board meeting. He stated that as a Point of Personal Privilege he would like to amend the Minutes to indicate that he not only disqualified himself on the Application for a Variance at 2460 Williamsbridge Road, but that he had also disqualified himself from participating in the discussion and the vote.

A vote was made by Mr. Lee Mager, seconded by Mr. Robert Black and passed with one abstention, that the Minutes be amended to reflect the fact that Mr. Mager had disqualified himself from all discussion and the vote on the Variance for 2460 Williamsbridge Road.

District Manager Tom Brown stated that for the record the report that was sent to the Board of Standards and Appeals reflected that Mr. Mager had disqualified himself on 2460 Williamsbridge Road.

Chairman Mager asked for a Motion on the November Minutes.

Discussion took place on the fact that since the November Minutes were not received until after the December meeting remembering what occurred at that time was impossible and a vote could not therefore be taken to approve the Minutes. The Minutes were not approved.

Chairman Mager stated that the Board Secretary has requested that the Minutes not be sent out until she has signed them. He said that the Minutes would be discussed at the next Executive Board meeting.

III. Chairman's Report - Mr. Lee Mager, Chairman

Chairman Mager reported that four or five days ago the Community Board had learned that the Genesis Methadone Clinic was closing down. He stated that this clinic is not in Community District #11 but in the South Bronx. Chairman Mager said that while the shut down of this clinic may not have any effect on facilities operating in this area, the reason why the clinic may be closing may have an effect on this area. He stated that the New York State Department of Health has not been increasing the rate structure for reimbursement to that type of facility.

Chairman Mager explained that if this type of facility is forced to close it would effect areas such as ours which have publicly funded facilities such as Van Etten Hospital. He said that he had asked the Board Office to send out a letter from him as Chairman of the Board to Commissioner David Axelrod, Commissioner of the State of New York Department of Health. Chairman Mager stated that he felt that a statement on this should be made, and that he did not want to wait until the Board meeting to let the State Department of Health know what his feelings were on this matter. He further stated that he felt that it might be appropriate for the Board to take a position with regard to this.

Discussion took place on why at least the officers were not notified of this before any action was taken as well as the Chairman of the Health and Socail Services Committee.

Some discussion took place on the facilities not in Community District #11

Mr. Robert Black suggested that this be turned over to the Health and Social Services Committee.

Chairman Mager introduced the new Board members: Ms. Celcia Lewis, Mr. Fred Pocci and Mr. Arnie Eisen who was not present. He also introduced the elected officals and their representatives: Assesmlyman Eliot Engel, Ms. Peggy Braverman, District Leader, Ms. Ronnie Albert representing Assemblyman John Dearie, and Mr. John Farell representing Councilman Michael DeMarco.

IV. District Manager's Report - Mr. Thomas Brown, District Manager

The District Manager reported that the District Service Cabinet Minutes had been sent out and should have been received by the Board members. He stated that the January meeting would be next Tuesday. For the benefit of the new Board members District Manager explained the purpose of the District Service Cabinet meetings. District Manager reported that a Public Hearing is going to be held by the City Planning Commission on February 13th on the proposed 1986 Capital & Expense Budget CD #11 fund programs. He said that he would be representing the Board at this hearing on the budget priorities that the Board had voted on.

V. Borough President's Report - Ms. Annette Marchitello

Chairman Mager welcomed Ms. Marchitello back as the representative from the Borough President.

Ms. Marchitello stated that the Borough President had lost his father. She thanked all those who had paid their respects. Ms. Marchitello stated that he is still sitting shiva and is expected to return to work on Monday.

Ms. Marchitello stated that she was glad to be back as the representative to Community Board #11. She explained that due to that fact the former executive Larry Kallman left there have been several changes in the Borough President's office and she discussed them.

Ms. Marchitello stated that Community Board Orientation for the new Board members would be on January 29th and 30th from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. She stated that a letter would be going out and that a location was not set at this time.

Ms. Marchitello reported that the 49th Precinct had finally opened on Tuesday with the help of the Borough President and the Community Board.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Land Use - Mr. Kenneth Gelnick, Chairperson

Mr. Gelnick stated that there was no report. He said that his Committee felt that a Public Hearing should be held on the request for an Amendment to a Variance for a Gasoline Station at 610 Pelham Parkway South and a request for a renewal of a Variance for a Gasoline Station at 2100/10 Williamsbridge Road.

A Motion was made by Mr. Kenneth Gelnick, seconded by Mr. Nicholas Cremonese and passed with 2 abstentions, that Community Board #11 hold a Public Hearing on both Variance requests prior to the February meeting.

B. Youth Services Committee - Mr. Raymond Locascio, Chairperson

Mr. Locascio reported that at the last meeting the Board had voted on the Youth Programs to be funded in Community Board #11. He stated that Ms. Lind Loeb had brought them down to the Youth Bureau the next day. Mr. Locascio stated that the next Youth Services Committee meeting would be held on Wednesday at 7:30 P.M.

C. Economic Development - Mr. Salvatore Napolitano, Chairperson

Mr. Napolitano reported that on Monday the Public Development Corporation will be holding a meeting on the commercial revitalization of Allerton Avenue.

Discussion took place on who could attend this meeting. District Manager explained that this is a staff meeting of the Public Development Corporation and explained who was invited.

Chairman Mager introduced Captain DiGregorio of the 49th Precinct, Police Officers James Strafella and Richard DiVico of Community Affairs.

D. Housing

As Mr. Frank Muccioli, Chairman of the Housing Committee was not present District Manager gave the report. He spoke about 1753 Melville Street and the Board's previous request that it be demolished several years ago. District Manager explained what had happened with regard to this property from the time it was sold at a dollar sale.

A Motion was made by Mr. Robert Black, seconded by Mr. Charles Re and carried unanimously, that 1753 Melville Street be demolished and the area blacked topped and fenced.

E. Public Safety - Mr. Abraham Pereira, Co-Chairperson

Mr. Pereira reported that the 49th Precinct had opened on Tuesday.

F. Highways, Traffic and Transportation - Mr. Ernest Odierna, Chairperson

1. Mosholu Parkway Circle

Mr. Odierna reported that he had received a report from the Department of Parks concerning the changes to the Mosholu Parkway exit of the Bronx River Parkway and the elimination of the circle. He stated that the Parks Department acknowledges

that the changes will improve the flow of traffic, but that it would be terribly destructive to the trees and the environment. Mr. Odierna stated that the architects are moving along on this.

Chairman Mager reported that it was put out for specific design.

Express Bus Study

Mr. Odierna stated that a meeting that had been scheduled for this week has been changed to February for Community Board #11 to act as a representative to a City Wide Express Bus Policy Study.

Mr. Odierna asked anyone having any comments to contact him.

Mr. Abraham Pereira asked about an Express Bus to Wall Street.

Discussion took place on this and the District Manager explained that this meeting is a good place to discuss this.

Mr. Henry Yuspeh spoke about the Advisory Committee being formed on the Express Bus Study. He stated that the Pelham Parkway Citizens Council had sent a letter to Commissioner Sturz expressing their displeasure at not being asked to sit in on these discussions.

Mr. Odierna asked for input on the buses as he would be going to the meeting.

District Manager stated that the meeting would be on February 6th.

Sidewalk Improvements

Mr. Odierna stated that the District Manager had sent a letter out with his signature under his direction asking for a recommendation on sidewalk improvements. He stated that a response is needed by January 24th. Mr. Odierna said that they are looking for commercial sidewalks where there are obvious problems.

Mr. Odierna reported that letters were sent to private car services in the community inviting the drivers to let the Board know when they see problems. He stated that these drivers are the eyes and ears of the community and should let the Board know when they see traffic hazards, missing signs, etc. Mr. Odierna stated that he felt that the drivers should be part of a solution rather than part of the problem.

G. Other

1. Community Development and Budget Priorities - Mr. Robert Black, Chairperson

Mr. Black asked all the Board members and all the Chairpersons to start thinking about their budget requests for October.

VII. Old Business

Mr. Henry Yuspeh reported that there is a problem at the new mall on White Plains Road. He stated that the owner of a fruit store there has put up a plastic partition six or seven feet into the street.

A great deal of discussion took place on this and whether or not it was legal to put up this partition. It was also asked if the Board had received any other complaints on this. Chairman Mager explained that when any complaint is received

by the Board it is the job of the Board to check it out and if there is a violation to follow up on it.

District Manager spoke on this and said that he would bring it up with Consumer Affairs.

Mr. Williams Liblick reported that there has been a lot of construction and rehabilitation work at Bronx Municipal Hospital Center. He stated that he had a list of the work if anyone wanted to see it.

Mr. Liblick stated that there is a vacancy on the Board of the group homes. He asked anyone interested in serving to contact him at home.

VIII. New Business

Mr. Raymond Locascio reported that Monsignor Maltese is leaving St. Lucy's on Monday. He suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to him from the Board for his work in the community.

A Motion was made by Mr. Raymond Locascio, seconded by Mr. Henry Yuspeh and carried, that Community Board #11 send a letter to Monsignor Maltese thanking him for the good work he has done in the community.

A Motion was made by Mr. Lewis Goldstein, seconded by Mr. William Liblick and carried, that Community Board #11 send a letter expressing condolences to Borough President Simon on the loss of his father, and that a collection be taken and sent to the Hebrew Home for the Aged in his name.

As Ms. Stella Fernandez, Chairperson of the Sanitation Committee was not present Mr. Ernest Odierna asked the Board members how they felt Sanitation had performed during the snow storm.

Several Board members expressed their dissatisfaction with the job that Sanitation had done.

Mr. Odierna asked the Board members to call the Board office with specific complaints.

Ms. Leslie McHenry asked what was happening with the Allerton Coops.

District Manager stated that to his knowledge there was no closing yet and he explained why. He also stated that due to the efforts of the Neighborhood Preservation Office an inspector had been sent to the Coops, and that the violations found might be causing some of the delay.

Ms. McHenry stated that she had heard that the deal had fallen through.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Submitted by Brenda Petri
Brenda Petri, Secretary

Date Feb. 4, 1985

PRESENT

Renee Biller
Robert Black
John Cifichiello
Nicholas Cremonese
Anthony Del Gaudio
Gloria Di Gianni
Norman Engel
Kenneth Gelnick
Lewis Goldstein
Abraham Kleinman
Celia Lewis
William Liblick
Raymond Locascio
Lee Mager
Leslie McHenry

Joseph Milone
Salvatore Napolitano
Ernest Odierna
Abe Pereira
Fredric Pocci
Michael Prisco
Charles Re
William Ricevuto
Blanche Comras Rifkin
Anthony Rizzo
Madeline Saltaformaggio
Alfred Tartaglia
Henry Yuspeh
Steve Zarkin

ABSENT

Elizabeth Brown
Ruth Burko
Dominic Castore
Thomas Denaro
Arnold Eisen
Stella Fernandez
Anthony Funigiello
Eli Goldsmith
Rabbi Israel Greenberg

Lillian Holtzman
Charles Lefkowitz
Murray Lewinter
Steve Lovitch
Frank Muccioli
Brenda Petri
Joseph Reda
Vincent Zarcone

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

John Farrell - Representative of Hon. Michael DeMarco

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Ronnie Albert - Representative of Assemblyman John Dearie
Assemblyman Eliot Engel, 81st A.D.

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT, AND AGENCY OFFICIALS:

Linda Loeb - Youth Coordinator, Community Board #11
P.O. James Strafella - 49th Police Precinct
P.O. Richard DiVico - 49th Police Precinct
Capt. B. DiGregoric - 49th Police Precinct
John Lavin - Bronx Office of City Planning
Annette Marchitello - Borough President Simon's Office
Harriet Lasky - Secretary, Community Planning Board #11
Tom Brown, District Manager, Community Planning Board #11