



COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD #11, THE BRONX  
JACOBI MEDICAL CENTER  
NURSES RESIDENCE-ROOM 11N22  
(718) 892-6262 FAX (718) 892-1861



Dominic Castore,  
Chairman

Fernando Ferrer,  
Borough President

John Fratta,  
District Manager

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1995

COMMITTEES

IN THE GYMNASIUM OF ST. DOMINIC'S SCHOOL

Community Development &  
Budget Priorities

Economic Development

Education & Culture

Health & Social Services

Highways, Traffic &  
Transportation

Housing

Land Use

Parks & Playgrounds

Public Safety

Sanitation & Environmental  
Protection

Youth Services Planning

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 P.M. by Dominic Castore, Chairman.

I. Gallery Session

a. Sal Castorina, President of the Allerton Avenue Homeowners and Tenants Association.

Mr. Castorina stated that the reason that he was here tonight was that he was informed that on Bronx Park East from Adeo Avenue to Pelham Parkway there is a proposal to widen the street because cars are backing in and hitting or damaging the trees. He stated that he is not against trees. He stated that the trees should be protected. Mr. Castorina stated that felt it would be cheaper to put guard rails or blocks of wood in front of the trees. He said that if the street is widened and parallel parking is removed parking spaces will be lost for Beth Abraham workers and the apartment dwellers. He asked the Parks Committee to look into this.

b. Toni Hayden, Director of new Liberty North High School at Mercy College

Ms. Hayden stated she was here tonight because Ruth Burko and her husband Marvin came to the school in September and asked that she make a presentation to the board. Ms. Hayden distributed information.

Ms. Hayden stated that the school is for students with limited English efficiency. She stated that students come from all over the Bronx. They speak no English. She stated that they are trying outreach to all of the different populations that they can get. She stated that they want to get more students from this area, but the students from this area speak some English. Ms. Hayden stated that the school began in September, 1995 and has 135 students at the moment. She stated that the expect to go to 200 students. Right now they are serving grade 9, and if needed would move it up to grade 12 if they get funding for a city proposal which has been submitted.

Ms. Hayden stated that this is a public high school where the students speak all languages. She stated that the students where uniforms, which she was told was unusual for a public high school. She stated that the

parents wanted it. She introduced Kathy Young, the Assistant Director. She then invited the board members to call and visit the school.

Ms. Young stated that the school is unique in that it is located in a college. She stated that it is very safe. The staff is multi lingual and there is a family atmosphere. Ms. Young stated that more attention is given to the students due to the small size of the school. She said that students who attend have just come from other countries. This is a Board of Education school for newly arrived students who have never lived in this country. Ms. Young stated that this is a 9th grade program for students from 14-19. She explained why they enter at 9th grade. Language is taught in a combination, math, social studies and science are taught in their native language. She also explained that subjects taught in native language are not the same as those in English. She stated that students take regents.

Dom asked Ms. Young and Ms. Hayden if they could return at another meeting.

c. Opal Brown Lindsey

Ms. Lindsey stated that she lives in the Allerton/Woodhull Avenue area. She stated that on Woodhull Avenue from Adee to Allerton Avenues there is a sudden rush of traffic. She stated that this is due to the change in traffic pattern. Ms. Lindsey stated that in the morning it is chaotic. Cars all over the place, kids crossing the street to go to school. She asked that the board look into this.

John stated that DOT is doing new signage now due to the change on Arnow Avenue. He stated that DOT wants to give this change at least a month to see what the status is how it impacts on the community. John said that the board is working on it.

d. Barbara Piccoli

Ms. Piccoli spoke about the inspection of boilers, and explained that she had not gotten the usual notice to have her boiler inspected and received a fine because of this. Ralph Lanzilli spoke about the notices.

John asked Ms. Piccoli for more information.

e. Roy Ventula

Mr. Ventula stated that he lives on Tenbroeck Avenue between Van Nest and Pierce Avenues. He stated that 6 months ago Einstein Hospital put up a construction trailer in the middle of the street. He stated that 3 months later they added a dumpster. Three weeks ago they came with metal boxes 30 feet long and 8 feet wide. He stated that he called the hospital and met with Glen and George last week at the sight. Mr. Ventula stated that they told him there is nothing they can do. He asked for the board's help.

f. Vincent Lombardi

Mr. Lombardi stated that he has lived on Van Nest Avenue for 45 years. This is a dead end street. Mr. Lombardi stated that every day 25-30 young people come to football, soccer and hockey by his homes. He stated that he owns 2 houses and has lost 4 tenants because of the noise. Mr. Lombardi stated that he called the police, and the elected officials. He stated that these are adults. Mr. Lombardi stated that there was an accident the other day. He stated that he spoke to the kids, who come from Pelham Parkway, White Plains Road and Williamsbridge Road. He stated that they smoke pot, drink pot and leave a mess which he must clean up.

P.O. Nick Stanich spoke. He said that he would follow up on this. P.O. Stanich said that he would notify the sector sergeant and the beat officers. P.O. Stanich told Mr. Lombardi stated that if he does not get the response he wants to contact him at the precinct and he will follow up.

g. Jennie Cutignola

Ms. Cutignola spoke about the foul odors from the sewers on Van Nest and Hunt Avenues. She also stated that the Don't Walk sign is out as well as the street lights on Williamsbridge Road and Morris Park Avenue.

h. Frank Hernandez

Mr. Hernandez spoke about the rats in the street on Van Nest Avenue. He stated that there is a vaulted tunnel in front of his house for gas. He stated that the rats have their own highway. He also spoke about Con Edison closing their office on Westchester Square as of December. Mr. Hernandez asked if the board could get PAL back in the area so there would be something for the kids to do.

i. Bobby Brown

Mr. Brown also spoke about the vaulted tunnel that is sealed up.

j. Julio Rivera

Mr. Rivera stated that when the water pipes were replace on the 1800 block of Amethyst Street the street was never repaired.

k. Rafaela Franqui

Ms. Franqui stated that she lives on Van Buren Street. She stated that the corner where she lives is closed. She stated that kids throw bottles and garbage. She also stated that the street is over run with rats.

P.O. Stanich told Ms. Franqui that when she calls the police to get the name of the P.O. she speaks to, and that if she gets not satisfaction to call him.

l. Pat Genova

Ms. Genova stated she had her water meter installed in January. She spoke about the problems she has had with the water and sewer bills which she had paid. Harriet told her to call Susan Nolan in the board office as she knows how to handle this.

Dom said to bring the bills to Councilman DeMarco's office, or call the board at 892-6262.

m. Ron Kunik

Mr. Kunik spoke about pot holes in the street on Rhinelander and Amethyst Avenues, and on Unionport Road. He stated that they are due to the construction from the TA bringing in their trailers.

Mr. Kunik also spoke about rats in his area and the problem he has been having with his water pressure.

John spoke on this.

n. Chief Wolfe - Fire Department

Chief Wolfe stated that he was here to talk about the Fire Department's pilot program to deactivate the fire alarm boxes in Community Board #11 and parts of other community boards in the Bronx. Chief Wolfe spoke about the false alarms in Community Board #11. He also stated that the boxes are not being removed, only the heads (pull levers). He stated that there will be a sign stating "No longer in service use 911".

Chief Wolfe spoke about Life Line Phones through NYNEX for people below a certain income. He stated that for a \$1.00 a month they are hooked up to 911.

Chief Wolfe reported that next month the Fire Department will be merging with EMS. EMS will now be part of the Fire Department, and they will be on the scene before EMS.

John spoke about the response time of the Fire Department.

Chief Wolfe stated that if a fire alarm box is in a school, hospital or on a highway they will not be removed.

Linda White spoke about the problems with this pilot program. She stated that out of 255 fire boxes in Community Board #11 228 are being removed. Linda stated that in the area from White Plains Road to 180th Street is considered community development eligible area. This means that there are people living in this area that are below the poverty level. Linda stated that not everyone has access to Life Line. She stated that the Van Nest Community Association will try and get them Life Line. Linda spoke about the problems caused by the box on Unionport Road where there is tremendous traffic from the TA construction. She stated that the nearest phone is on Morris Park and Unionport, which never works as it is not a NYNEX phone.

Linda spoke about a fire in which 4 houses were burned to the ground. She stated that if the boxes on Morris Park and Van Nest Avenue are removed someone needing to call the Fire Department will have to call 911 from their home and hope that they don't get a recording "Please hold on we're busy". She stated that the houses in this area are wood, and if one house goes a whole block can go. She stated that they need ERS boxes in which you talk to a person.

Chief Wolfe said that he will bring these concerns to the fire commissioner.

Linda also spoke about the fact that there are 2 fire drills a day at Jacobi and the Fire trucks show up every time. This takes them off the road.

Chief Wolfe said he will look into this. He stated that he will also look into the amount of false alarms from 911 and get back to board.

A great deal of discussion took place on the removal of call boxes.

o. Lillian Frederickson

Ms. Frederickson spoke about the smells coming from the corner of Morris Park Avenue and Amethyst Street.

p. Seymour Ostroga

Seymour spoke about the trees in his area. He stated that they have not been pruned in 3-4 years and are breaking the sidewalks.

## II. Minutes

A Motion was made by Silvio Mazzella Seconded by Blanche Rifkin  
- That the Minutes be accepted as received.

Unanimously passed.

## III. Chairman's Report - Dominic Castore

Dom reported that Susan Nolan's mother-in-law had passed away. He stated that the board sent a donation to Calvary Hospital. Dom stated that we received a thank you from the Nolan family.

Dom reported that the issue of a liquor license for Bourbon Street had been tabled at last month's meeting. He stated that he and several board members met with the owners and felt that there was no need to deny this license. Dom stated that the Executive approved this license.

## IV. District Manager's Report - John A. Fratta

John reported that the Boston Road Reconstruction Project is scheduled to begin in Board #11 this week. He stated that he had

met with the Project Director, and that the board will be notified before a street is closed. He stated that any water shut off should be from 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

John stated that he is setting up a meeting with Community Board #7 and the 52nd Precinct regarding the problems in Bronx Park East. John stated that the park is in the 52nd Precinct.

V. Borough President's Report - Hermes Caraballo

Mr. Caraballo submitted the following report to Harriet:

THE PROPOSED GUN HILL ROAD HOME DEPOT AND RETAIL DEVELOPMENT

The Borough President has approved the Home Depot and retail development with several conditions in response to concerns the community had.

The applicant (BD Waring Street, Inc.) has made a sincere effort to address all concerns raised by the community. In addition, the Borough President has requested modifications which have been incorporated into the project.

BRONX CENTER PLAN

A proposal has been submitted to the Annenberg Foundation for a New Vision School which will be called A School For Law Government & Social Justice. The grades will be from 7th to 12th and the proposal was put together by a consultant with the participation at every level of the community. This included students, teachers, professionals, public officials and the community at large. The grant for the school will be given out at the beginning of November, 1995.

A committee was formed to assist in the development of the proposal named Bronx Center Education Committee and has continued meeting to develop the school curriculum, the school based management program and the leadership component of the school. It has continued meeting before the grant is received because of the enthusiasm and interest of the community for new school.

SECURING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF URBAN CHILDREN

It was agreed that the New York Department of Health (NYCDOH) would serve as lead agency, with the Bronx Health and Human Services Development Corporation, Inc. (BMHSDC) as co-lead. NYCDOH brings to the collaboration expertise in health status community based disease prevention services, as well as organizational capacity that draws upon a wide array of health professionals and support staff to provide a significant in-kind contribution to the collaboration.

To complement those strengths, the BHSDC brings its own unique strengths, deriving from its link to the Bronx community and its role as vigorous advocate for Bronx residents. BHSDC, a tax exempt organization affiliated with the Bronx Borough President's Office, is charged with assessing the needs of the Community and ensuring that the residents of the Bronx have access to effective health care

systems and that environmental conditions both in the home and community, are safe.

The announcement of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's new initiative has been a catalyst for mobilizing those in the community concerned about the health and safety of children. What has emerged is hope and optimism that we can meet the challenge presented to us, to develop "a shared understanding of the true nature and extent of the health and health related problems facing the city's children and the underlying causes of those problems; a common vision of what needs to be done; and a collective effort to realize that vision."

#### OPERATION RE-ENTRY

Operation Re-entry will provide customized training accompanied by work internships in four major occupational areas; Bilingual Case Management, Computer Network Administrator, Medical Records Technician and Office Administration. All Operation Re-entry participants must be dislocated workers between the ages of 22 and 54 who have a high school diploma. Program participation and selection will be based on employer needs and candidate suitability.

#### VII. Committee Reports

##### A. Community Development and Budget Priorities Silvio Mazzella

###### 1. FE'97 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities

Silvio stated that after evaluating the requests of the agencies and the groups he and John set up the priorities, and they were distributed tonight.

Dom thanked Silvio, John and Harriet for the job they did.

A Motion was made by Joe Reda, Seconded by Linda White - That the priorities be accepted as received.

Passed.

##### B. Economic Development - Simeon Goldstein

###### 1. Alcohol Beverage Control License Renewal

a. Nelson Rosa d/b/a Rosa Company - 735 Mace Avenue for off-premises beer consumption

A Motion was made by Simeon Goldstein, Seconded by Lisa Winters - That Community Board #11 notify the Alcohol Beverage Control License Bureau that it has no objections to the granting of this renewal license.

Passed

##### C. Parks and Playgrounds - John Cifichiello

John congratulated all the people for coming out tonight.

John spoke about the trees on Bronx Park East and changing the lanes from 6 to five.

1. Recommendation by Parks Committee of plans for Zimmerman reconstruction

A Motion was made by Joseph Thompson, Seconded by Blanche Rifkin - That Community Board #11 approve the plans for the Zimmerman reconstruction as proposed by the Parks Committee.

Passed with 1 Abstention with Cause from Hazel Miura.

2. Recommendation on Removal of Trees on Bronx Park East

A Motion was made by Joseph Thompson, Seconded by Blanche Rifkin- That a vote on this item be tabled until further information can be obtained

Passed.

D. Youth - Linda White

Linda reported that the Youth Committee recommendations on the allocation of additional funds have been sent to the Department of Youth Services. She stated that letters of notification on recommendations were sent out from the Department of Youth Services, but have not been received as yet by the groups.

Linda stated that a protest was logged by all community boards in reference to Music Outreach being funded as their program runs during the school day.

Linda stated that these contracts are for three years. She stated that she did not expect the Department of Youth to be around in three years.

Linda stated that the next Youth Services Committee meeting will be on October 30th at 7:30 P.M. in Bronx House.

Linda reported that there will be a Sabbath Rally on Sunday, October 22nd at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. She stated that there will be community groups, board of education people, politicians. She stated that this rally is to do something for kids. It is from 2-4 P.M. Day of Peace. Linda stated that many former youth coordinators will be there.

Linda reported that on October 26th the Bronx Perinatal Consortium will be holding a Community Health Education Day at 685 Morris Park Avenue. It is called Best Investment for parents and children. Linda said that there anyone interested can call Loretta Rodriguez at 792-6551.

Linda reported that the 49th Precinct is sponsoring Operation ID for Bicycles. She stated that helmet will be distributed to the first 30 kids who bring in their bicycles. Linda stated that they



are trying to get more helmets. Anyone interested should bring their bicycles to the Community Affairs office Monday-Friday from 2-5 P.M. This is for children and adult bicycles.

E. Housing - Leslie McHenry

Leslie reported that the Committee did not meet in October. She stated that she had received a letter from NIDC that they are having a meeting on October 25th at 7:30 P.M. in the Park House at 2375 Olinville Avenue. This meeting is to get input from the community on needs assessment on housing as it related to Community Board #11. Leslie stated that anyone interested can attend.

Leslie also reported that there will be a Knowledge is Power Training Session on November 10th at NY Law School.

F. Sanitation and Environmental Protection - Ralph Lanzilli

Ralph reported that street cleaning is at 76-82% in Community Board #11.

Ralph reported that the Department of Sanitation will remove graffiti from Sanitation garages. Call 212 788-3801 to report areas.

Ralph stated that wire baskets are needed on Waring and Allerton Avenues.

The Graffiti Hot Line is 212 374-5914.

G. Health and Social Services - Blanche Comras Rifkin

Blanche reported that there will be a public hearing at Lincoln Hospital sponsored by the NYC Health & Hospital Corporation. It will be held on November 2nd from 6-8 P.M. Anyone wishing to speak should call 212 788-3354.

Blanche reported that the Director of Bronx Psychiatric has been fired.

H. Education and Culture - Ruth Burko

Ruth reported on Art classes available for children and adults at Schulyer Hill.

I. Public Safety - Joseph Reda

Crime Statistics for September 1995

	1994	1995	Change
Robbery	53	36	Down 32.1
Burglary	96	104	Up 8.3
Grand Larceny Auto	203	130	Down 36
Murder	0	2	Up 200
Rape	6	2	Down 66.7

	YEAR-TO-DATE		
Robbery	570	418	Down 26.7
Burglary	958	699	Down 27
Grand Larceny Auto	1528	1086	Down 28.9
Murder	19	3	Down 84.2
Rape	22	19	Down 13.6

	ARRESTS		
Robbery	31	11	Down 64.5
Burglary	7	11	Up 57.1
Grand Larceny Auto	10	10	Same
Murder	0	1	Up 100
Rape	2	1	Down 50
Total Felonies	460	415	
Total Complaints	1248	1049	

Joe announced that the next 49th Precinct Council meeting will be on November 9th at 8:00 P.M. in the Knights of Columbus.

Linda thanked the board members for coming to St. Dominic's tonight.

Dom thanked St. Dominic's and Father Dicks for letter us use this space tonight.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ruth Burko* (RB)

Ruth Burko,  
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 1995

PRESENT

Ruth Burko	(0)(4)	Silvio Mazzella	(0)(0)
Dominic Castore	(0)(6)	Leslie McHenry	(0)(1)
John Cifichiello	(0)(0)	Joseph Milone	(4)(8)
Lorraine Cortes-Vazquez	(1)(7)	Hazel Miura	(0)(1)
Anthony DelGaudio	(0)(3)	Seymour Ostroga	(0)(0)
Patrick Dolan	(1)(5)	Dr. Mahendra Patel	(1)(0)
Emilian Eisdorfer	(0)(8)	Robert Potter	(0)(5)
Mario Fanelli	(1)(4)	Joseph Reda	(0)(6)
Harain Figueroa	(1)(3)	Blanche Comras Rifkin	(0)(3)
Laura Fischman	(3)(5)	Madeline Saltaformaggio	(0)(2)
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs	(0)(7)	Mark Shkreli	(0)(3)
Simeon Goldstein	(0)(1)	Joseph Thompson	(1)(0)
Ralph Lanzilli	(0)(7)	Elaine Weisbrot	(1)(0)
Gerald Lanuer	(0)(7)	Linda White	(0)(5)
David Leavitt	(1)(0)	Lisa Winters	(2)(6)

ABSENT

Dr. Mary Acker	(3)(13)	Frank Muccioli	(2)(0)
Priscilla Crowell	(1)(4)	Pat Quaranta	(3)(4)
Kenneth Gelnick	(2)(5)	William Ricevuto	(3)(6)
Rhoda Gogatz	(1)(0)	Mary Rogan	(3)(6)
Milagros Guzman	(2)(1)	Patrick Torney	(3)(4)
Dexter Hendon	(3)(2)	Robert Torres	(3)(10)
Lori Motta	(3)(7)	Mordechai Twersky	(3)(4)

OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Helen Korman - Representing Councilman Michael DeMarco

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Linda Cestaro - Representing Senator Joseph Galiber  
Thomas Messina - Representing Congressman Thomas Manton

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

John Fratta, District Manager - Community Board #11  
Harriet Lasky, Secretary - Community Board #11  
- Borough President Fernando Ferrer's Office  
Jerry Maline, Bronx District Attorney's Office

GUESTS

Rosemary DeLuca - New York Botanical Garden

\*Numbers in parenthesis denotes absences from August 1995 including Public Hearings

Number in **BOLD** denotes absences from September 1994-June 1995