



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, NOVEMBER 16, 1995

COMMITTEES

- 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

IN THE AUDITORIUM OF BETH ABRAHAM HOSPITAL

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 P.M. by Dominic Castore, Chairman.

I. Guest Speaker - Ms. Maryann Gallagher, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Ms. Gallagher stated that she was the Associate Director of Nursing of the Weiler Einstein Hospital which is affiliated with the Einstein College of Medicine. She stated that they are trying to identify the top 10 customer needs for community outreach by the hospital. Ms. Gallagher stated that in order to achieve this goal they are trying to identify community groups that would be interested in meeting with them. She said that they are setting up 3 focus groups with 10-12 members of the community into 3 age groups; teenage group, adult group and senior citizens group. Ms. Gallagher said that surveys will be sent out so they can validate the information they receive from the focus groups. After the survey is complete she will come back and identify the top 10 needs and share this information. She asked the community to share this information with other community members and to participate in the focus groups. Ms. Gallagher stated that it will take a couple of months to compile the information received. Ms. Gallagher stated that she can be reached at 904-2949. She also stated that on November 30th there will be an adult group meeting at the hospital. Ms. Gallagher distributed flyers.

II. Gallery Session

a. Sal Castorina

Mr. Castorina stated that he had attended the October board meeting and discussed the problems with widening the sidewalks on Bronx Park East from Arnow Avenue to Pelham Parkway. Mr. Castorina stated that we will lose half of the present parking spaces which are difficult to find now, in order to save trees. Mr. Castorina stated that he was not against trees. He also stated that the cost of this project could be less by placing barriers near the trees and putting something around the trees.

b. Andrew Laiosa - N.I.D.C.

Mr. Laiosa read from a letter he submitted to the board against the current proposed construction plans for Bronx Park East. (Letter in file)

c. Lou Avitable - President Bronx Park East Neighborhood Association

Mr. Avitable stated that he wants to protect the trees if they are viable. He stated that the dead trees should be removed and replaced, and that the uneven sidewalk needs to be repaired. Mr. Avitable spoke about the cobblestones being stolen. He stated that they should be removed from the front. Mr. Avitable stated that the community needs parking spaces. He stated that BPENA is willing to meet with Community Board #11, and that they hope to be included in the discussions.

D. Mary Healy

Ms. Healy stated that the Bronx Park East Neighborhood Association was involved with the Bronx Park East reconstruction project since its proposal 5 to 6 years ago. She stated that when the project was first proposed BPENA asked Parks what they were going to do to protect the trees. She stated that they never received an answer. Ms. Healy stated that some of the trees were damaged 20 to 30 years ago. Ms. Healy proposed that the Parks Department and the community board continue to have a dialogue with individuals from the community such as BPENA, and talk about what can be done and what is reasonable. To spend money just because it is there makes no sense.

Questions were asked about what could be done to protect the trees besides the barriers.

Dom stated that he had met with Parks Commissioner Castro, and that he is willing to listen to the board.

E. Sharita Mason

Ms. Mason stated that she was a resident of Bronx Park East. She also stated that she work at the Botanical Garden. Ms. Mason stated that the trees are 60 years old, and she gave the background on how long the trees live. She asked that the dead trees be removed and replaced a few at a time. Ms. Mason asked to be part of the meetings with the Commissioner as well as the Botanical Garden on this. She stated that she can be reached at 817-8054.

Dom asked if a tree surgeon had looked at the trees?

F. Nicholas Galiela

Mr. Galiela stated that he was a tenant on Bronx Park East. He stated that he felt that the parking should be increased. He spoke about an area on the corner of Pelham Parkway North and Bronx Park East that could be used for parking. Mr. Galiela stated that the money should be used for fixing the potholes. He stated we need

parking not trees. If you want trees you should go to the country.

H. Ron Cruz

Mr. Cruz stated that he was a resident on Bronx Park East. Mr. Cruz stated that he is pro trees and want to preserve the trees without taking away parking. Mr. Cruz stated that parking is a problem, he stated that it takes 15-20 minutes for him to find a parking place, and that he has to park 5 blocks from his home. Mr. Cruz stated that he is worried about the safety of women parking after 6:00 P.M.

I. Diane Robertson

Ms. Robertson stated that she was almost hit by a tree. She stated that the Botanical Garden should be part of the project.

J. Janice Ramos

Ms. Ramos spoke about the problems parking, and the need to save the trees that are viable. She also spoke about the need for more lighting.

K. Ariel Antonmarch

Ms. Antonmarch stated that she was speaking for the people who work and go to school and come home late. She stated that widening the sidewalks is not the answer.

L. Jenny Santiago

Ms. Santiago stated that she was a member of BPENA and was in favor of saving the trees and fixing the sidewalks. She stated that we need more lighting. Ms. Santiago stated that many of the trees were damaged in the recent storm.

M. Willie Cortez

Mr. Cortez stated that we need trees. He spoke about how beautiful it is to look at the trees. Mr. Cortez suggested that the committee look into the barriers that are used on the highways to protect the trees.

N. Charles Brown

Mr. Brown stated that he was here to speak about the need for parking in the area.

O. Tom Carra

Mr. Carra spoke about the need for parking. He also spoke about dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs.

P. Mort Twersky

Mort spoke about being absent from the board. He stated that he was going to graduate school. Mort stated that it was a great

turn out tonight. He asked that board meetings be held at Beth Abraham several times a year. Mort said that if that happened the room would be packed.

Mort spoke about the hookers and drug dealers across the street on Bronx Park East. He also spoke about illegal dumpers, dog walkers and livery cab drivers.

Mort proposed that we move 90 parking across the street. He explained in detail how this would work. He also suggested that a dog run be put in the park.

Dom spoke to Mort. He stated that Mort had missed 5 meeting and yet found time to make tonight's meeting. He also commented about the people who had come out tonight to voice their complaints about the parking, but were not staying for the meeting.

III. District Manager's Report - John Fratta

John reported that the City Planning Commission had approved Home Depot. He stated that it now goes to City Council for a vote.

John spoke about the illegal Flea Market on Thwaites Place, on private property. He stated that Consumer Affairs has no jurisdiction on this only the Department of Buildings. John stated that there are only 2 inspectors in Buildings in the Bronx. He further stated that Captain Romaine of the 49th Precinct is upset and wants to get this location closed. John stated that he is putting together a task force comprised of Fire, Consumer Affairs, Police and all city agencies to close this eyesore.

Rhoda stated that the owner of the flea market had his goods confiscated by the police. She said how can he keep coming back and selling at such low prices. Rhoda also stated that he was blocking the sidewalk.

John said that the police have checked for a license and to see that he has a tax ID number. John said that he will be summonsed for any infractions found, and that he was staying on top of this. He also stated that he was trying to reach the owner who lives in Florida.

Joe Thompson spoke about the condition that the lot was in before the flea market came into operation. Several other board members spoke on this issue.

John reported that he attended the ground breaking for the band shell at Comras Mall on November 13th. He stated that it will be completed in June. John stated that Blanche Rifkin was there as well as Rita Kessler from board #7.

John spoke about Bronx Park East, the prostitutes and junkies. He stated that Community Board #11's boundaries end at the sidewalk on Bronx Park East. The Park is actually in Community Board #7 which is the 52nd Precinct. John stated that Captain Romaine has suggested that the board's boundaries be changed so that the 49th Precinct can patrol the park. He stated that he is trying to get

the 52nd precinct to patrol the park.

John spoke about a proposal by the Department of Transportation to install 600+ parking meters around Einstein and Jacobi Hospitals, as well as in residential areas. He stated that a meeting has been set up by the Highways, Traffic and Transportation Committee on Monday, November 27th at Bronx House. John stated that it is a public meeting. Silvio Mazzella stated that the Morris Park Community Association is holding a meeting on this issue at P.S. 108 on November 30th at 7:30 P.M.

Rabbi Fuchs asked to make it one meeting. Dom stated that the board needs to hold its own meeting as it represents the entire community board area and Morris Park represents only a part of this board.

Lisa Winters asked that the hospitals be invited to this meeting.

IV. Borough President's Report - Linda Loeb

As the report was lengthy Ms. Loeb submitted it to the Secretary.

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT HONORED

Borough President Fernando Ferrer received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Manhattan College.

"For someone who has been educated entirely in the New York City school system, this degree really means a lot," said Ferrer, who has funded 62 adult literacy programs in The Bronx over the last four years.

"Currently one-third of all Bronx adults fail to graduate high school," said Ferrer. "So I'm focusing on funding programs outside the traditional classroom setting so that Bronxites can create a better future for themselves and their children."

FERRER ADDS AFTER HOURS TO THE OMBUDSMAN UNIT

As a result of service cuts by city and state agencies, Borough President Fernando Ferrer recently announced that the Ombudsman Unit will extend its hours to help meet the overflow of calls by Bronx residents who feel stranded by the bureaucracy.

From September 13th on, from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at Borough Hall, Room 121, at 161st Street and the Grand Concourse, the Ombudsman Unit will remain open every Wednesday evening to help provide assistance to service stranded residents.

A referral and information service open from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday thru Friday, the Ombudsman Unit is fully equipped to handle complaints from Bronxites regarding anything from heat and hot water, rent regulations and welfare to potholes, cave-ins and street lights.

Bronxites are urged to request an "Ombudsman Theme Night Calendar" listing a different Wednesday night theme each week and the agency participating on that day. Calendars are now available. For more information, please call Rosalina Accordino, Director of the Ombudsman Unit at 718-590-3554.

FERRER TIPOFFS THE "NIGHT LIGHT" SEASON WITH \$240,000

Four years after launching the "Night Light" initiative, Borough President Fernando Ferrer has funded the program to the hilt this year with \$240,000.

"Keeping youth off the streets and getting them in youth based centers is the best productive outlet for at risk youth," Ferrer said. "Under this program, young adults will spend most of their free time learning a job skill, meeting new friends and participating in late night recreational activities." The "Night Light" program runs from November thru June.

BRONX BRANCHES OUT OVERSEAS

The Bronx became the focus of an international business exchange as Borough President Fernando Ferrer met with delegates from the Association of Enterprises and Industries of Spain during a luncheon sponsored by the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (BOEDC).

"Over the past six years more than 500 businesses have moved to The Bronx from surrounding areas," said Ferrer. The meeting was one of several ventures coordinated by BOEDC to help match Bronx business persons with foreign merchants. The Association of Enterprises and Industries of Spain reached out to The Bronx "because of its successful revitalization plan and large Spanish speaking population."

CITY HALL SHORT CHANGES CHILDREN SAYS FERRER

Borough President Fernando Ferrer has charged City Hall with short changing children in The Bronx as the result of a new budget formula that allocates funds to borough youth programs.

The Bronx took a whopping 50% cut in its funding from the Department of Youth Services--a loss of \$372,000 in this fiscal year.

In the past, each Borough President contributed to youth services through discretionary funds based on their borough's needs. In The Bronx, youth have always been a top priority for Ferrer and a major source of his funding. Now, the Borough President's allotments are calculated by a formula created and parceled out by the City, giving each borough a flat \$200,000 then distributing the remainder of money among the five boroughs based on each borough's youth population.

"The City's children would have been served if the decision would have been left up to the Borough Presidents who better know the needs of their communities" said Ferrer.

THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY POLICING: NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY SERVICE COUNCILS

By tightening the relationship among local residents, civic and religious organizations and the police, Borough President Fernando Ferrer said that the four Bronx communities under the Neighborhood Safety Service Council (NSSC) would deal more effectively with quality of life and public safety problems.

Ferrer said "To hear people begin to say, my neighborhood is looking better, we can sense the improvements, is just rewards for the hard work and effect of all the community minded participants. This is what the neighborhood safety service councils are all about: giving people the necessary tools to restore community pride and build stronger, more secure neighborhoods."

ADVISORY: URGENT, URGENT, URGENT

Time is running out for 16 year old Danny Gutierrez, a Hispanic boy afflicted with leukemia who urgently needs a bone marrow transplant.

Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer is calling on all Hispanics to respond to Danny's need. He suffers from a rare type of leukemia which makes finding a donor even more difficult than normal and the best place to find that is among Hispanics.

Ferrer is asking Hispanics to register with the Hispanic American Bone Marrow Donor Association so that no other child will ever have to suffer for lack of a bone donor.

Those interested in answering Danny's pressing need can contact Dr. Luis Andrade at 516-944-6244.

V. Committee Reports

A. Economic Development - Simeon Goldstein/Emil Eisdorfer

1. Alcohol Beverage Control License

a. Golden Twin Wok Inc d/b/a Empire Seafood Noodle House, 1435 Williamsbridge Road for an on-premises beer license (NEW)

Simeon stated that John had checked on this location and there were no problems.

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

Passed.

B. Parks and Playgrounds - John Cifichiello

John reported that there have been a lot of problems at the Mathews/Muliner Park, kids drinking beer and throwing the cans into

the yards of private homes near the park.

John reported that the Department of Parks will be placing benches inside Zimmerman Park only.

Rehabilitation of Bronx Park East

John gave the background of the this project. He stated that this project goes back to 1988. He spoke about the many meetings that were held on this. John asked his committee to meet and propose resolution based on the public outcry, and present it to the board later this evening.

C. Youth - Linda White

Linda reported that she has not heard back from the Department of Youth Services on any money allocations, nor have any of the groups been awarded any allocations. She stated that the money seems to be frozen. Linda stated that John went to a Borough Board meeting at which there was some discussion on the Borough President's Discretionary Funds.

Linda asked Linda Loeb to speak on this. Ms. Loeb stated that in the adopted budget there was a cut of the Borough President's Discretionary Youth Money. She stated that the total cut city wide was 30%. Ms. Loeb stated that due to the manner in which the cuts were made and the formula used it meant that the Bronx Borough President lost 50%. Other boroughs lost more than 30%, Brooklyn gained money increasing them 79%. Ms. Loeb stated that the Commissioner of the Department of Youth was at this meeting and was informed that this was very unfair and inequitable. She stated that in the past this money was chosen by the Bronx Borough President. Ms. Loeb stated that in the Bronx Youth was a high priority. Ms. Loeb stated that there were 40 programs receiving funds through the Borough President's Discretionary Funds. She stated that the Bronx was only given 20% to equal its youth population. Ms. Loeb stated that Borough President Ferrer has been putting in 28% previously. She stated that Borough President Ferrer has gone on record as strongly opposing the manner in which these restored monies were distributed. She stated that programs took a 50% cut.

Linda White stated that the next meeting of the Youth Committee would be on Monday, November 27th. She stated that it would be the last meeting of the year.

D. Housing - Leslie McHenry

Leslie reported that the Housing Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 21st, and that she will have a report for the board in January.

Leslie reported that NIDC will be holding Housing Court Clinics every Thursday from 2-4 P.M. at 2523 Olinville. She stated that they can be reached at 231-9800.

E. Sanitation and Environmental Protection - Ralph Lanzilli

Ralph reported that Robert Bolstad is the new Sanitation Enforcement Officer for our area. He stated that in the redistricting we lost part of Westchester Square, which will now be in Board #10. Ralph stated that our boundary line is now Blondell Avenue. Ralph reported that Sanitation will now pick up garbage on Wednesdays and Saturdays for this area. He stated that flyers were sent out on this.

Ralph reported that lot cleaning cleaned and billed the owner of 611 Thwaites Place and 2025 Matthews Avenue

Ralph reported that the Department of Sanitation is establishing a list of all Department of Sanitation facilities that have graffiti on them. He stated that anyone that knows of one can give the information to the Sanitation Superintendent.

H. Health and Social Services - Blanche Comras Rifkin

Blanche reported that she had attended a meeting with Vivian Story of the Volunteer Program at Jacobi Medical Center. She stated that they need more volunteers not only for the gift shop, the elderly, babies and AIDS children.

Blanche also reported that there had been a health fair at Bronx House at which several hospitals were present among them was Beth Abraham. She stated that they took blood pressure.

G. Highways, Traffic and Transportation - Rabbi Moshe Fuchs

Rabbi Fuchs spoke about a letter the board received from Mr. William Patterson in regard to placing parking meters around Jacobi and Einstein Hospital. He read from the letter. Rabbi Fuchs also spoke about the fact that the meters around Jacobi Hospital are in effect until 10:00 P.M.

Dom spoke about Community Board #11's meeting on this issue. The Rabbi also spoke about the need for a municipal lot.

Rabbi Fuchs spoke about the escalator on White Plains Road. He stated that there are taxi stands and a flea market.

John stated that the work was supposed to be completed by the first week in December. He stated that Lenard Garret of the MTA stated that he would call him by the third week in November if there was a change in date for completion of this project.

John spoke about the livery drivers. He stated that he had spoken to Chris Lynn, Chairman of the TLC who stated that he will send agents out to ticket the drivers. Rabbi Fuchs stated that this was done before and only lasted a week.

Rabbi Fuchs spoke about people receiving tickets for expired meters. He stated that you are supposed to have a 5 minute leave way on the meter. He explained this in depth.

Linda White stated that she would give out flyers notifying Jacobi and Einstein workers of the meeting on the meters.

Much discussion took place on the site for these meters.

Rhoda Gogatz spoke about repaving and stated that when Highways does its repaving, they should do a better job so that there aren't bumps and humps in the street. She stated that Boston Road from Pelham Parkway going North to White Plains Road has holes and cracks that were not there before the repaving was done.

John stated that the project just started in board #11.

Parks and Playgrounds

Mr. Thompson stated that the committee had met and come up with a recommendation on Bronx Park East.

A Motion was made by Joseph Thompson, Seconded by Leslie McHenry - That Community Board #11 table this vote until the next meeting.

Passed.

Mort spoke about the Allerton Avenue exit ramp. He stated that used to be a 2 lane exit, but it is now a one lane exit. Mort sated that lines to exit now get so bad at rush hour that cars exiting are bumping into cars on Kazimiroff Boulevard. He asked if it can be made 2 lanes again.

Mort stated that the buses at Pelham Parkway continue to stop under the trestle, and all the public school children wait in the street and not on the sidewalk. He stated that it creates a hazard.

IX. New Business

Rhoda spoke about the death of Yitzhak Rabin. She stated that there will be a Bronx County wide Memorial Tribute on Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 P.M. at Bronx House. She stated that there will also be a Condolence Book at Bronx House where anyone can enter a message. She stated that this can be done Monday-Friday or on Sunday.

Lisa Winters spoke about the park at Bronx Park between Lydig and Cruger Avenues. She asked John to take a tour with her. She stated that the light are out.

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Burko (NS)

Ruth Burko,
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING OF NOVEMBER 16, 1995

PRESENT

Ruth Burko	(0)(4)	Joseph Milone	(1)(8)
Dominic Castore	(0)(6)	Lori Motta	(3)(7)
John Cifichiello	(0)(0)	Hazel Miura	(0)(1)
Priscilla Crowell	(1)(4)	Seymour Ostroga	(0)(0)
Patrick Dolan	(1)(5)	Dr. Mahendra Patel	(1)(0)
Emilain Eisdorfer	(0)(8)	Robert Potter	(0)(5)
Mauro Fanelli	(1)(4)	Joseph Reda	(3)(6)
Harain Figueroa	(1)(3)	William Ricevuto	(3)(6)
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs	(0)(7)	Blanche Comras Rifkin	(0)(3)
Kenneth Gelnick	(2)(5)	Mary Togan	(3)(6)
Rhoda Gogatz	(1)(0)	Mark Shkreli	(0)(3)
Simeon Goldstein	(0)(1)	Joseph Thompson	(1)(0)
Ralph Lanzilli	(0)(7)	Mordechai Twersky	(3)(4)
David Leavitt	(1)(4)	Elaine Weisbrot	(1)(0)
Silvio Mazzella	(0)(0)	Linda White	(0)(0)
Leslie McHenry	(0)(1)	Lisa Winter	(2)(6)

ABSENT

Dr. Mary Acker	(4)(13)	Gerald Launer	(1)(7)
Lorraine Cortes-Vazquez	(2)(7)	Frank Muccioli	(3)(0)
Anthony DelGaudio	(2)(3)	Pat Quaranta	(3)(4)
Patrick Dolan	(2)(5)	Joseph Reda	(1)(6)
Laura Fischman	(4)(5)	Madeline Saltaformaggio	(1)(2)
Milagros Guzman	(3)(1)	Patric Torney	(4)(7)
Dexter Hendon	(4)(2)		

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Helen Korman - Representing Councilman Michael DeMarco

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

John Fratta, District Manager - Community Board #11
Harriet Lasky, Secretary - Community Board #11
Linda Loeb - Representing Borough President Fernando Ferrer
Connie Reilly - Mayor's Office - Community Assistance Unit

*Numbers in parenthesis denotes absences from August 1995 including public hearings

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