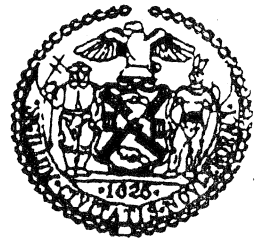


**COMMUNITY BOARD #11, BRONX
1741 COLDEN AVENUE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10462
(718) 892-6262 FAX (718) 892-1861**



**E-Mail: BX11@cb.nyc.gov
COMMUNITY BOARD WEBSITE**

www.bronxmall.com/commboards/cd11.html

**Dominic Castore
Chairman**

**Adolfo Carrion, Jr.
Borough President**

**John A. Fratta
District Manager**

COMMITTEES

- Community Development & Budget priorities
- Economic Development
- Education & Culture
- Health & Social Services
- Highways, Traffic & Transportation
- Housing
- Information & Technology
- Land Use
- Parks & Playgrounds
- Public Safety
- Sanitation & Environmental Protection
- Youth

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2007 IN
LUBIN HALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M by Vincent Prezioso, First Vice Chair.

Vinny announced that Elaine Weisbrot had passed away. He asked for a moment of silence.

Vinny announced that Irene Rukaj is in Westchester Square Hospital.

- I. Gallery Session
 - a. – Joe Bambace

Joe spoke about an absent property owner at 1706 Barnes Avenue. He stated that it is a legal one family house with an illegal basement apartment. Joe stated that the first and second floors are SRO's. He stated that he had spoken to John about this and within 2 days the Department of Buildings was there. fined every day that the condition exists.

- b. Hazel Miura

Hazel spoke about Make Music New York on June 21st in the 5 boroughs. She passed out flyers on this event.

- c. Sandy Henry – Morris Park branch librarian

Ms. Henry spoke about the upcoming programs at the library.

Saturday, March 31st at 2 pm an afternoon of music by Mercy Monet

Thursday, April 12th and 19th at 10:30 am Tales for Toddlers

Tuesday, April 17th and 24th at 4 pm Action Theatre Lab

Saturday, April 21st at 2:30 pm Golden Voices from Abroad

Thursday, April 26th at 3:30 pm Drawing Manga Characters

Ms. Henry reported that she had met with the Education Committee at the library.

Vinny reported that the members of the Gallery cannot speak or ask questions once the Gallery Session is over and the meeting begins. Any Board member who answers the Gallery will be called out of order.

II. Minutes

A Motion was made by Silvio Mazzella, Seconded by John Dennehy – That the Minutes be accepted as received. **PASSED**

III. Chairman's Report – Vincent Prezioso

Vinny reported that elections will take place for the officers of the Board in June. The Nominations Committee includes Gene Tutora, Chair, Diane Norris, Rosemary Durso, John Dennehy and Blanche Rifkin. Anyone interested in running for any office should notify the Committee. Vinny reported that a slate will be presented at the April meeting. Nominations will be taken from the floor and in May nominations will again be taken from the floor. The elections will take place at the June meeting.

Vinny reported that at the end of the meeting the Board will go into Executive Session. This meeting is for Board members only and attendance will be taken.

Vinny reported that the Board received a letter from Councilman Hiram Monserrate. He read from the letter in which Councilman Monserrate asked for the Board's support for \$5,000,000 in the FY'08 budget for Veteran's Resource Centers across the city.

A Motion was made by Vincent Prezioso, Seconded by Silvio Mazzella – That Community Board #11 send a letter of support for \$5,000,000 for the FY'08 budget for the Veteran's Resource Centers Center. **PASSED**

IV. District Manager's Report – John A. Fratta

John reported that our district will be getting an IHOP. He stated that it will be located on Allerton Avenue in the old Gino's site. John stated that the owner of Gino's will be running it. He said that this will bring jobs into the community. John stated that he will be speaking to them about hiring from the community. John stated that the only problem with this location is that they have no parking. John reported that as of now it is not going to be open 24/7. He stated that he will be discussing this with them in the future.

John reported that 2 weeks ago there was a fire on Van Buren Street in which 3 apartments were destroyed. He stated that there has been an increase in the number of fires in our area. John stated that part may be due to the age of the housing and part due to carelessness. This fire was caused by an electric heater. John suggested that the Public Safety Committee have the Fire Department come to their committee meeting and come up with some brochures.

John reported that graffiti is a major problem in our district. He stated that another arrest was made yesterday, and again the person arrested lives within one/two blocks of where the graffiti was done.

John reported that last month we sent a letter to the DA's office and the judges asking that even if it is a first time graffiti offense, that the offender be sentenced to

community service. We also asked that they be sentenced to remove the graffiti in the community where they did the graffiti. John reported that we have not heard from the judges yet, but the DA's office responded immediately. John stated that the DA's office is trying to get the judges to sentence first offenders to community service. The concern they have is that most of the time the graffiti is gang tags and having them have to remove it could put their lives in jeopardy. He stated that we could have them assigned somewhere else.

Street Closing Applications

1. Application from Vivan Bellantese on behalf of the Narragansett Residents to close Narragansett Avenue between Rhinelander and Neill Avenues on August 18th with a rain date of August 19th from 11 AM to 8 PM for a block party

2. Application by Savel Richards on behalf of the Bronx Jewish Community Council/Senior Services of Pelham Parkway to close Waring Avenue between Paulding Avenue and Williamsbridge Road on May 4th, 11th and 18th from 9 AM to 3 PM for Hearing Screening

3. Application by Tarisha Millard on behalf of the Trinity Faith P.C.G. to close Laconia Avenue between Burke Avenue and Boston Road on May 26th with a Rain Date of June 3rd from 9 AM to 3 PM for a Health Fair

A Motion was made by John Dennehy, Seconded by Linda White – That Community Board 11 send a letter to Street Closing stating that we have no objections to the granting of these applications. **PASSED**

John announced that the 49th Precinct has a new graffiti officer. Her name is Mimosa Bakreji and she has already made her first arrest. John stated that she is going around the area and documenting the tags.

John reported that there was graffiti put on one of our synagogues. He stated that P.O. DiPierro went over with the spray gun and painted over it.

Vinny introduced Marina King of Senator Rubin Diaz's office and Michael Rivadenyra of Councilman James Vacca's office.

V. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio report that the Community Board and Friend's of Treasurer's reports.

Gene asked for an explanation on the Christmas Lights expenses. John explained that the Board had collected the money and paid for the lights.

VI. Borough President's Report – Andy Toledo

Andy reported that there will be a New York City Broadband Advisory Committee Town Hall meeting at Bronx Community College on March 30th at 10:30 AM.

VII Committee Reports

A. Housing – Eugene Tutora

Gene reported that he John Fratta, Vinny Prezioso and Rev. Leslie McHenry had met with the developer of the housing going up on Bronxdale and Holland Avenues yesterday. He stated that the building will be 7 ½ stories high. Gene stated that they began work 4 weeks ago and have erected a steel fence around the site. Gene stated that this is Fair Market Housing. A 2 bedroom apartment will be \$1800 a month, and a 1 bedroom apartment will be \$1200 to \$1300. Gene reported that there will be 90 parking spaces.

Hazel Miura and Janice Walcott asked why they were not notified about this meeting. John stated that this was a spur of the moment meeting, and that since most of the Housing Committee members work they were not notified.

Diane Norris asked when the tenants would be moving into the White Plains Road site.

John stated that the lottery has already taken place and that 3100 people applied. He stated that they are screening the applications now. John stated that he believed that tenants would be moving in the late fall or the end of the summer.

B. Health and Social Services – Blanche Rifkin/David Leavitt

Blanche reported that the minutes had been distributed. She stated that they had met in the library and it was very interesting.

David reported that Leake &Watts will be opening a group home at 565 Van Nest Avenue. He stated that there is no need for a public hearing as there will be only 2 residents between the ages of 18-20.

John stated that under 4 residents they do not have to come to the Board.

David asked that they be invited to the next Health Committee meeting.

C. Public Safety – Joseph Reda

Joe reported that the person from Matthews Avenue was arrested. He then read the crime stats and stated that crime is down.

D. Sanitation and Environmental Protection – Michael Carriere

Michael reported that the Minutes had been distributed. He asked John about the new graffiti law and who would enforce it.

John stated that it was not clear.

E. Parks and Recreation – Dr. Mahendra Patel

Dr. Patel stated that the meeting was not held due to unforeseen circumstances.

F. Highways, Traffic and Transportation – John Dennehy

John spoke about the new Express buses slated to run on Pelham Parkway. He stated that they would begin in Co-op City and end in Manhattan. John reported that there has been a kickoff meeting and 2 more meetings since the. He stated that they will be taking away one lane of traffic and designating it for these buses only during certain times. In our area this will be Pelham Parkway. John stated that he asked how

they would gauge their success on this plan and they had no answer. John stated that they would be working with the Park Department and DOT.

John stated that he needed a motion as to whether the Board wants to endorse this plan or reject it.

Vinny reported that he had been at the meeting. He stated that the buses will be going from Co-op City with the next stop being Eastchester Road, then Williamsbridge Road and then White Plains Road. Local buses will have to go around these buses in order to let riders off or on. A great deal of discussion took place on the traffic issues that will occur.

A Motion was made by John Dennehy, Seconded by Michael Carriere - That Community Board #11 reject the RT transit system as it has been presented. **PASSED**

G. Youth – Linda White

Linda reported that the Minutes had been distributed.

1. Summer Youth Employment Applications

Linda reported that the applications are on-line this year and must be completed on-line. She stated that they are for youth 14 years to 21. Linda stated that the only time that documentation is need is when they receive notice that they have been selected. The process begins on April 1st. Linda reported that the schools and libraries have been requested to allow computer time to youth who want to apply.

Hazel reported that NIDC has access if needed.

2. Beacon Program

Linda reported that on February 22nd DYCD released the RFP for Beacons. She stated that this is not for new Beacon Programs. Linda stated that Community Board 11 has no Beacon programs. She explained that a Beacon program is an all purpose center for after school. This RFP is for new community groups to come and set up new programs in the Beacon schools.

Linda reported that she and John are working on getting a meeting with Commissioner Mulgrave to come up and talk with us about youth funding and Beacon programs. She stated that we have approached Councilman Vacca about funding for a Beacon. Linda stated that the problem we face is finding a school that is willing to accept the Beacon program.

John reported that Community Board 11 has for the last teen years been listing the need for funding of a Beacon Program as one of its priorities. He stated that the response we receive is to wait for the RFP to come out. Now the RFP comes out and we cannot apply for it as it is only in certain geographic areas.

G. Economic Development – Joseph Thompson

1. Alcohol Beverage Control licenses

- a. Zoo Terrace Buffet – Bronx Zoo for on-premises consumption (RENEWAL)
- b. NY Sizzler Restaurant – 2375 East Gun Hill Road for on-premises wine and beer consumption (RENEWAL)
- c. Golden Eagle – 975 Morris Park Avenue for on-premises wine and beer consumption (RENEWAL)

d. Enzo's Restaurant – 1998 Williamsbridge Road for on-premises consumption (RENEWAL)

A Motion was made by Joseph Thompson, Seconded by Silvio Mazzella – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the granting of these liquor license renewals. **PASSED**

e. – E.J. Primos Restaurant – 698 Allerton Avenue for on-premises wine and beer license (NEW)

Joe stated that they were previously located across the street and have the same ownership.

A Motion was made by Joseph Thompson, Seconded by Michael Carriere – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the granting of this new license. **PASSED.**

f. M.P. Pub Inc. – 702 Morris Park Avenue for on-premises wine and beer license (NEW)

A Motion was made by Joseph Thompson, Seconded by Blanche Rifkin – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the granting of this license contingent with speaking with the police. **PASSED**

H. Education and Culture – Ruth Burko

Ruth thanked the Morris Park library for allowing them to use the library for their meeting. She stated that they learned about the use of the computer and how the filters work.

Diane Norris stated that the New York Policy on use on the Internet was distributed with the Minutes.

Joanne Rubino reported that she had been to the library in Syracuse and they have signs posted that if you go on porn sites your time on the computer will be revoked. She stated that it is against the law to block sites, but that individual libraries can object.

John spoke about the filters on the computers. He stated that if you try to access a porn site you get a message telling you that you are entering an adult site. It then says that this site is for people 18 years and older. It then says if you are 18 or older click here.

John spoke about the complaints we have been getting from people using the library about adults viewing porn.

John reported that we have over 150 registered sex offenders in Community Board 11.

A Motion was made by Diane Norris, Seconded by John Dennehy – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the New York Public Library asking that viewing of porn at the library be blocked. **PASSED with 3 abstention by Harain Figueroa, Eliezer Rodriguez and Joanne Rubino**

Silvio asked that a letter be sent to all the community boards asking for their support.

Vinny reported that the 49th Precinct Community Council will be meeting on March 27th at 7:30 PM in the Sue Ginsberg Center to begin the election process.

VIII. New Business

Gene spoke about the problems with snow removal in February. She stated that this was not discussed at the Sanitation meeting nor was anyone from Sanitation at the meeting.

John explained that he was trying to get someone from Sanitation to come to a night meeting. He stated that it takes a long time to get approval from down town for someone to go to a night meeting. John reported that we lost 2 foremen in our district. One retired, and one is now working for the union. He stated that we have a new foreman, but he has not come in to introduce himself yet.

IX. New Business

Joe McManus asked about the status of rezoning of Pelham Parkway.

John explained that there has been a change in the staff at City Planning. He stated that they are looking into it. John stated that they are not looking to do any more changes in zoning in our area as they did so many. John stated that our representative is looking into it as we promised the community we would do it. He stated that part of the problem is what do we zone this area to.

Marina King asked why the issue of snow removal cannot be discussed with Sanitation at the next District Service Council meeting.

John stated that the Committee wanted to have Sanitation at their meeting. He stated that this is on the Agenda for the next DSC meeting.

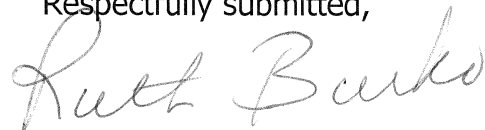
Joe Reda asked about the vacant lot on Williamsbridge Road and Sackett Avenue.

John stated that the owner was going to put a medical building there, but now he is trying to sell the property.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:30 PM and returned to business at 8:56 PM.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth Burko,
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2007

PRESENT

Joseph Bacote	(2)	Dr. Mahendra Patel	(1)
Ruth Burko	(2)	Robert Potter	(0)
Junior Campbell	(1)	Vincent Prezioso	(1)
Michael Carriere	(4)	Joseph Reda	(4)
Diane Cerino	(3)	Eliezer Rodriguez	(4)
John Dennehy	(2)	Blanche Comras Rifkin	(1)
Pat Dolan	(0)	Joanne Rubino	(1)
Altagracia Fabal	(2)	Martin Sacewicz	(0)
Harain Figueroa	(1)	Vincent Taddeo	(2)
Kenneth Gelnick	(4)	Joseph Thompson	(0)
David Leavitt	(0)	Marisa Totino	(1)
Annette Marchitello	(3)	Eugene Tutora	(1)
Silvio Mazzella	(1)	Sandra Unger	(1)
Joseph McManus	(1)	Janice Walcott	(0)
Hazel Miura	(1)	Linda White	(1)
Diane Norris	(2)		

ABSENT

Joseph Carfora	(1)	Lilith Lozano	(4)
Dominic Castore	(2)	Rev. Leslie McHenry	(5)
Alfred D'Angelo	(3)	Mary Paliotta	(1)
Rosemary Durso	(2)	Pat Quaranta	(5)
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs	(3)	Irene Rukaj	(3)
Denise Giocondo	(1)		

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Marina King – representing Senator Rubin Diaz, Sr.

Michael Rivadenyra – representing Councilman James Vacca

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

John A. Fratta, District Manager – Community Board #11

Harriet Lasky, Secretary – Community Board #11

Andy Toledo – representing Borough President Adolfo Carrion Jr.