



**COMMUNITY BOARD #11, BRONX
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**Dominic Castore
Chairman**

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COMMUNITY BOARD WEBSITE
www.bronxmall.com/commboards/cd11.html**

**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, JUNE 26, 2008 IN
LUBIN HALL**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:23 PM by Dom
Castore, Chairman.**

I. Gallery Session

a. Adam Bermudez – Bronx Times Reporter

Mr. Bermudez stated that this would be his last meeting as a reporter for the Bronx Times. He stated that he lives in the area, and that it has been a pleasure working with the Board.

b. Hazel Miura

Hazel reported that she recently had hip surgery. She stated that while she was recovering at Beth Abraham she had to use a wheel chair to get around. Hazel reported that it was very hard getting around Allerton Avenue due to cracked sidewalks and other problems. She said that would take pictures and send them to the Board.

c. Michael Nixon – Bronx Business Solutions Center

Mr. Nixon stated that his office is located at 358 East 149th Street. He stated that he is responsible for Community Board 11. Mr. Nixon stated that he would be attending the District Cabinet and Board meetings. Mr. Nixon stated that could help businesses in getting loans, staffing and training for the staff.

d. Margaret Avellino

Ms. Avellino stated that she was here with a neighbor from Morris Park to talk about Club Karma. She stated that there loud music and gun shots. Ms. Avellino stated that is becoming a strip joint, and the police are doing nothing.

Dom stated that the owners came before the Board and they lied to us about the type of establishment they would be opening.

John reported that Senator Klein is taking the lead with the State Liquor Authority. He stated that Alexis from Senator Klein's office will be reporting on this.

Alexis reported that she has been working on this for four months. She stated that yesterday the owner entered a plea of not guilty to the charges. Alexis stated that she has gotten a lawyer. She stated that the SLA will be holding a closed hearing. Alexis stated that she spoke with the attorney for the SLA and told him that we have testimony. She asked anyone who has testimony to call her.

Alexis stated that the U2 video was sent to the SLA.

Al D'Angelo spoke about a person who called 911 to complain about what was going on at Karma and was told a car would be sent. Al said what that the caller said that a car was there and they were doing nothing. Al asked if we could get the SLA to come to a meeting.

Joe Thompson reported that the Bronx Muslim Center has signed petitions to close the place. He asked everyone to sign them.

e. Brian Adams

Mr. Adams spoke about a house on the northwest corner of Allerton and Lurting Avenues. He said that the house was barricaded and asked that the land Use Committee look into to see if they could build a 1 or 2 family house there.

II. Minutes

A Motion was made by Vincent Prezioso, Seconded by Al D'Angelo and Michael Carriere – That the Minutes be accepted as received. **PASSED**

III. Chairman's Report – Dominic Castore

Dom introduced the new Board members:

Joe Bombace

Jessica Dewberry – not here

Oral Selkridge – not here

Anthony Vitaliano – not here

IV. Presentation of Proclamations to Rev. Leslie McHenry

Councilman James Vacca stated that he has known Leslie since 1979. He stated that she has contributed greatly to the community and the Board. Councilman Vacca stated that he hoped that she would continue to serve the community with her vast knowledge. He presented her with a proclamation from the City of New York for her years of service.

Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera stated that she has known and worked with Leslie for many years. She presented Leslie with a proclamation from the Assembly for her service to the community.

Tom Lucania stated that he has known Leslie since he first began working with the Board. He presented her with a proclamation on behalf of Borough President Adolfo Carrion and Deputy Borough President Earl Brown.

Alexis presented Leslie with a Certificate from Senator Jeffrey Klein.

Dom presented Leslie with flowers, a card signed by the Board and the staff and a gift certificate for dinner at one of the fine restaurants in our community. He thanked her for her years of dedication to the Board and the community.

John spoke about the service that Leslie has given to the community. He stated that he hoped she would continue to serve the community.

Leslie thanked the Board members and the staff for their kind wishes. She stated that she has been on the Board since February 1979. Leslie stated that she feels it is time to give someone else a chance. She spoke about the tragedy that struck her in 2003 and how her “family” rallied around her. Leslie stated that she wants to share her knowledge with others, and would continue to work as a non Board member and advocate.

V. District manager’s Report – John A. Fratta

John reported that the major storms that we had did extensive damage to our trees. He stated that trees came down along with large branches. John said that he spoke with parks and they are working to remove the trees. He also stated that Sanitation is working to remove the branches. John thanked the Parks and Sanitation Department for their efforts.

John reported that we have had a number of shootings within the last two weeks. Three people were killed, and one is likely to die. John said that he will be meeting with Dom and the 49th: Precinct to see what we can do.

2194 Barnes Avenue – John reported that a large crack was found in the structure of this building. Thirteen apartments had to be evacuated. John reported that as of today twelve families have been able to return to their homes. He stated that the last apartment should be able to be inhabited by today or tomorrow. John reported that the gas was shut off. He stated that the gas and water should be turned on by Monday.

John reported that the Board will be getting a ULURP from City Planning for the Einstein parking garage. He stated that it is likely that we will have to hold a special meeting during the summer as there will be a 60 day clock.

John reported that all parks will be closed on July 4th to prevent vandalism. He also reminded everyone that fireworks are illegal, and this includes sparklers.

Street Closing Applications

1. Application from Domenico Agovino on behalf of La Casa Del Caffe to close Morris park Avenue between Hone and Paulding Avenues on August 1st from 7 AM to 1 PM for a car show.

2. Application from Joseph A. Menta Jr. on behalf of the Allerton Avenue Association to close Hering Avenue between Mace and Waring Avenues on August 9th with a rain date of August 10th from AM to 8 PM for a block party

3. Application from Diana Auletta on behalf of the Allerton Avenue Homeowners Association to close Young Avenue between Astor Avenue and Pelham Parkway North on September 6th with a rain date of September 7th from 11 Am to 8 PM for a block party

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Blanche Rifkin – That Community Board 11 send a letter to SAP stating that we have no objection to the issuing of these applications. PASSED

VI. Treasurer's Report

John reported that a copy of the Treasurer's Report was in the Board member's envelopes.

VII. Borough President's Report – Andy Toledo

Andy gave Certificates of Merit to those who had participated in the Team Up to Clean Up event.

Michael stated that 30 men and 2 contractors donated their time and paint. He thanked the 49th Precinct and the Board for their help.

Andy reported that tomorrow there will be fireworks at Orchard Beach. He submitted the following report:

- 1. Borough President Carrion makes Community Board appointments**
- 2. Borough Presidents, City Council, Community Boards and Civic Associations oppose Community Board budget reductions**
- 3. Bronx students without access to sufficient physical education programs and facilities**
- 4. The Bronx is open for business**
- 5. Bronx Borough President hosted 2nd annual Armed Forces Appreciation Day**

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Highways, Traffic and Transportation – Joseph McManus

Joe reported that the Committee had met with the MTA, DOT and the NYC Transit on the new express bus route from Coop City to Fordham Road. He stated that they discussed the problems they saw with the new system. Riders will have to obtain a proof-of-payment receipt from a machine before boarding the bus at either door. There will be no need to show a receipt to the driver. Joe stated that the Committee was told that inspectors will ride on the bus from time to time and ask to see a receipt. Joe stated that there were many questions that the Committee had, and there were no answers. He stated that the Committee feels that the Board should send a letter to the MTA, NYC Transit and DOT stating that we do not feel this will work.

A Motion was made by Joe McManus, Seconded by Vinny Prezioso – That Committee Board 11 send a letter to the MTA, NYC Transit and DOT expressing our displeasure in this bus. **PASSED**

B. Education and Culture- Ruth Burko

Ruth reported that the Committee did not meet this month. She stated that she was looking forward to working with AI and the Ad Hoc Committee.

C. Housing – Gene Tutora

Gene reported that the Committee had met and they waiting for someone who called to say she was coming to the meeting, but she never showed up.

Hazel reported that she will be working with the residents of 2419 Barnes Avenue to help them organize the building.

D. Economic Development – Joseph Thompson

1. Alcohol Beverage Control License Renewals

a. Portofino – 2008 Williamsbridge Road for on-premises consumption

b. La Casa Del Caffe Ltd. – 1036 Morris Park Avenue for on-premises consumption

c. Patricia's – 1082 Morris Park Avenue for on-premise consumption

d. 2233 Stevens Restaurant Corp. – 2233 Boston Road for on-premises consumption

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Hazel Miura
– That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA that we have no objection to the issuing of these renewal licenses. **PASSED**

e. Caridad & Louie's Restaurant – 1660 East Gun Hill Road for on-premises consumption

Joe reported that he had visited the wrong locations and asked for a vote contingent on his visiting the site and seeing no problems.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Michael Carriere – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this license renewal pending the Committee's visit. **PASSED**

E. Health and Social Services – Blanche Rifkin

Blanche reported that the Committee had not met this month. She stated that due to the storms we have a potential West Nile Virus problem. She asked anyone who sees puddles to take care of them or call them into 311.

Blanche reported that there will be AIDS testing done in the Bronx at 40 locations. She stated that they will be at ERs, community centers and other locations. Call 311 for locations.

Blanche distributed flyers on dealing with depression.

Blanche reported that Sandra Unger became a grandmother. It was a girl. She also reported that Rosemary Durso's granddaughter Michelle is getting married this weekend.

F. Sanitation and Environmental Protection – Michael Carriere

Michael spoke about graffiti removal. He stated that before the Committee can go in and remove any graffiti we need the owner to sign permission. Michael stated that there is a lot of debris in the street due to the storms. He stated that Sanitation is doing a good job on getting it removed.

G. Land Use – Gene Tutora

1. Sal & Dom's – 1108 Allerton Avenue BSA #174-96-BZ

Gene reported that the Committee met tonight on this. He stated that this is a continuation of the variance they have had since 1996.

A Motion was made by Gene Tutora, Seconded by Vinny Prezioso – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the Board of Standards and Appeals stating that we have no objection to the renewal of this variance. **PASSED**

H. Parks and Recreation – Joseph Carfora

Joe reported that the Minutes had been submitted. He also reported that he had received an Email today that work on Campanero Playground is scheduled to begin in September. Joe reported that Parks has not met with the Committee on this as yet. He stated that we will be meeting with them during the summer.

John reported that Parks was supposed to make a presentation tonight. He stated that they have cancelled twice.

A Motion was made by Joe Carfora, Seconded by Michael Carriere – That community Board 11 send a letter to the Parks Department that this project not begin until they meet with the Board in September. **PASSED**

Gene reported that neighbors have told him that children from IS 144 hang out there. He also asked that the benches on Gun Hill Road by Holy Rosary School be removed.

A Motion was made by Joe Carfora, Seconded by Rev. Leslie McHenry - That Community Board 11 send a letter to the Parks Department requesting that they remove the bridle path on Pelham Parkway, and it be replaced by a jogging or walking path as part of the greenways. **PASSED**

John reported that he had received a letter from the Bronx Zoo requesting a letter of support for the Bronx River Restoration. He stated that they never came to the Board. John stated that he was playing phone tag with Maggie Greenfield. He stated that we don't know what they want. John said that they need to come before the Parks Committee before we can take any action.

I. Nominations – Gene Tutora

Gene reported that the following candidates are running unopposed:

Dom Castore – Chairman

Vincent Prezioso – First Vice chair

Joseph Thompson – Second Vice Chair

Silvio Mazzella – Treasurer

Ruth Burko – Secretary

Gene asked the Secretary to cast one vote for the slate and Ruth did so.

VIII. New business

Rev. McHenry spoke about the corruption going on in the Housing Authority. She stated that she will be working as an advocate for the residents in New York City Housing to see that the New York City tax monies are properly spent.

Al spoke about the pool of water that accumulates by the stables when it rains.

Dom introduced John Dennehy a former Board member who moved to Florida.

Irene Rukaj asked for a speed bump on Allerton Avenue near the library where a child was killed. John state that we need a petition from the residents on that block and then we will send it to DOT.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted



**Ruth Burko,
Secretary**

ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETING JUNE 26, 2008

PRESENT

Joseph Bacote	(1)	Dr. Mahendra Patel	(0)
Joseph Bombace	(0)	Vincent Prezioso	(0)
Joseph Carfora	(3)	Pat Quaranta	(1)
Michael Carriere	(5)	Joseph Reda	(4)
Dominic Castore	(4)	Blanche Comras Rifkin	(2)
Albert D'Angelo	(3)	Eliezer Rodriguez	(3)
Patrick Dolan	(1)	Joanne Rubino	(2)
Harain Figueroa	(0)	Irene Rukaj	(4)
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs	(2)	Martin Sacewicz	(0)
Denise Giocondo	(0)	Vincent Taddeo	(2)
David Leavitt	(1)	Joseph Thompson	(1)
Annette Marchitello	(2)	Joseph Thurston	(1)
Rev. Leslie McHenry	(7)	Marisa Totino	(1)
Joseph McManus	(3)	Eugene Tutora	(0)
Hazel Miura	(3)	Janice Walcott	(2)

ABSENT

Junior Campbell	(3)	Diane Norris	(3)
Jessica Dewberry	(1)	Mary Paliotta	(6)
Rosemary Durso	(4)	Robert Potter	(1)
Altagracia Fabal	(5)	Oral Selkridge	(1)
Estella Foley	(4)	Sandra Unger	(3)
Kenneth Gelnick	(2)	Anthony Vitaliano	(1)
Silvio Mazzella	(1)	Linda White	(3)
Elizabeth Nazario	(5)		

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

James Vacca, Councilman

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Alexis Grenell – Representing Senator Jeffrey Klein

Naomi Rivera, Assemblywoman

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

John A. Fratta, District Manager – Community Board 11

Susan Nolan, Community Coordinator – Community Board 11

Harriet Lasky, Secretary – Community Board 11

Andy Toledo – Representing Borough President Adolfo Carrion

Thomas Lucania – Representing Borough President Adolfo Carrion