



**Dominic Castore
Chairman**

**COMMUNITY BOARD 11, BRONX
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**Ruben Diaz Jr.
Borough President**



**Jeremy Warneke
District Manager**

MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY,
JUNE 21, 2012 IN LUBIN HALL OF THE MAZER BUILDING, 1200 VAN
NEST AVENUE

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM by Tony Vitaliano, First Vice Chair.

I. Guest Speaker

a. Halbert Clark, USPS Area Manager

Mr. Clark thanked the Board for inviting to meet the Community Board 11 members. He stated that he was here to hear the Board's concerns. Mr. Clark gave his business cards out so that he could be reached. Mr. Clark stated that he would look into the questions that were sent to him.

1. What happened to April's mail?

Edith Blitzer reported that mail was not being received by tenants in her building. She stated that many times the mail is just left on the ledge. Edith also stated that mail that was sent was never received by the addressee or returned to the sender.

2. Are apartment numbers required for City, State and Federal mail that is sent out?

Mr. Clark stated that it is important that all mail contains the area and zip codes.

3. Adopt-A-Mail Box

Mr. Clark stated that he would look into this matter.

Edith reported that her association paints the mail boxes.

Bernadette spoke about 715 Morris Park Avenue and 790 Melville Street. She stated that since the post office was removed the box was removed. Bernadette stated that there are other boxes that are not used as much as the one in front of 715 Van Nest Avenue was.

Mr. Clark stated that he would have a density test to determine the use of these boxes, and look into relocating a box.

Joe Bombace stated that the post office at 715 Morris Park Avenue and the box outside were removed in December of 2011. He stated that letters were sent by Congressman Crowley and Our Lady of Solace regarding the removal of the

post office. Joe stated a density study was done and the community was not contacted. He stated that the boxes on Taylor and the one at Muliner and Rhinelander Avenues are not used as much. Joe stated that not having a mail box in this area is a hardship for residents. He suggested that maybe a box be placed in front of Dunkin Donuts.

Mr. Clark stated that residents can give their mail to their post man to bring to the post office. He stated that at home businesses can get their mail picked up at their home.

Mr. Clark reported that the new mail boxes have teeth in them to prevent someone from going into the box and removing mail.

Edith thanked Mr. Clark for coming tonight. She also thanked Tommy Macina from Congressman Crowley's office for keeping in touch with the community.

Edith reported that the mail box at Holland and Lydig avenues has a very high volume. She reported that people sent their tax returns in this box and they never reached their destination or were returned to the sender. Edith reported that we are not getting proper deliveries. People are not getting their checks on the appointed days. Edith also spoke about mail carriers who go to lunch and leave their bags outside.

Andrea reported that when the regular carrier is not there mail is left on the ledge.

Marcy praised the Parkchester Training of the substitute carriers.

Sal spoke about a post office substation be located in True Value. He stated asked when a post office closes a substation in a private location cannot be opened for 2 years.

Mr. Clark reported that studies are being done. He stated that he would look into a CPU alternate site.

Frano stated that apartment buildings must have updated directories.

Linda reported that she lives in Van Nest. She stated that there are 3500 families within a 6-7 block area with the nearest post office being at Parkchester. She stated that many times the carrier says they don't want to take the mail.

Joe Bacote reported that the clerks in the Baychester Post Office are rude and slow. He stated that many times there is only 1 clerk on duty and the line is out the door. Joe stated that the same thing happens at the package window. He stated that when he complained the clerk cursed at him.

Mr. Clark stated that he would look into this. He stated that rudeness is not accessible nor is long lines when there are other clerks on duty.

Diane spoke about a money order that she taken out for her daughter. She stated that someone got it, erased her daughter's name and collected it. Diane stated that she has the receipt. Diane reported that people are getting other peoples mail. Diane reported that the post office at Morris Park Avenue and Williamsbridge Road is filthy and the carrier at the window is rude.

Bob Potter stated that 3 years ago the Board complained and a meeting was held with the post mistress. He stated that the same problems exist. The clerks are rude and the service is poor. Bob stated that the same manager is there and the service is not getting better. He also stated that the post office is not properly cleaned.

Tony Vitaliano stated that Mr. Biaz only gave us lip service.

II. Gallery Session

a. Mark Gjonaj

Mr. Gjonaj stated that he lives in the community and has his real estate office here. Mr. Gjonaj stated that he was concerned about the tragic death of Mrs. Shapiro. He stated that the 49th Precinct is doing everything to arrest the person who did this. Mr. Gjonaj stated that there is a \$12000.00 reward for information leading to the capture of this person. He stated that he was donating an additional \$5000.00. Mr. Gjonaj stated that he hoped others would do the same. He stated that he was running for the 80th District Assembly Seat. Mr. Gjonaj reported that his campaign office is located at 2164 Barnes Avenue. He stated that the office is open to the community as a cooling center due to the weather.

b. Dr. David Stevens – Concerned Citizens for Pelham Parkway South

Dr. Stevens thanked John and the Board for helping to see that the city corrects the sidewalk area that was installed and makes the roadway too narrow for fire trucks. Dr. Stevens stated that he sent a letter to the Editor of the Bronx Times Reporter that was in the paper today. Dr. Stevens stated that he questioned the Commissioners or their decision.

c. Joel Rivera – BOEDC

Mr. Rivera commended the Board for the work they do. He spoke about the Initiative for Bronx Homeowners which will help them save energy. Mr. Rivera stated that the assessment is free and can pinpoint ways to save energy. He stated that he could be at 718 537-6554 or 646-500-9275.

d. Gloria Lucia Albesi – Fracking in Marcellus Shale, Spretra pipeline

Ms. Albesi thanked the Board for allowing her to speak. She stated that if this pipeline is built there will be an increase of radium coming into our homes. She also stated she was concerned about the chemicals that will be used.

e. Raphael Schweizer

Raphael stated that he was here tonight about Love Your Community block party for Thwaites Place on September 13th. He stated that there will be activities for children, tee shirts, music. Raphael stated that there will also be bike repairs.

Joe Thompson asked how this will be financed. Raphael stated that there will be donations.

Dominick Schiano asked why it was being done on Thwaites Place which is a main road. Raphael stated that they want to make it visible and that it was being done on a Saturday.

f. Rosemarie Fogarty-Census Surveys

Ms. Fogarty stated that the U.S. Census Bureau works every day of the year collecting data. She stated that information that is learned is kept private and confidential. Ms. Fogarty distributed information to the Board. Ms. Fogarty stated that she is willing to come to any group.

g. Kay Pinto Cardona

Ms. Cardona spoke about an office at Lydig and Barnes Avenue where feral animals were being fed. She stated a lady was attacked by the people who rent the space. She asked if there was another location where they can be fed.

Bernadette stated that this is an animal friendly community

h. Brian Adams

Brian asked about when the Pelham Parkway North Reconstruction would begin.

Jeremy reported that we will not know until the project is finished on the south side

P.O. Jay Sturdivant – Representing the 49th Precinct

P.O. Sturdivant reported that D.I. Nicholson was in a meeting regarding the tragic killing of Mrs. Shapiro. He stated that there is a possible suspect, which the Bronx Homicide is working on. P.O. Sturdivant stated that anyone with information should contact Lt. Mitchell at 718 918-2036.

P.O Sturdivant reported that they met with the manager of the Pelham Parkway Houses, Mr. Phillips concerning the undesirables living there and that 90% of them are not on a lease. P.O. Sturdivant stated that the person on the lease can have their lease terminated if it is determined that people who are not on the lease are living in the apartment.

P.O. Sturdivant reported that crime is down except for an increase in felony assaults and domestic assaults.

Bob Potter reported that he had visited the group home at 1268 Adee Avenue. He stated that there was some activity there yesterday. He stated that several police were there and that they took a resident out.

P.O. Sturdivant stated that it was an emotionally disturbed person who needed medical attention. He stated that this individual got into a fight with another resident. P.O. Sturdivant stated that she was taken to Jacobi Hospital to be evaluated.

Al D'Angelo reported that the Morris Park Association is donating \$1,000 for information leading to the capture of Mrs. Shapiro's killer. .

Joe Bombace asked if the 49th Precinct would be posting flyers. Jeremy stated that he has flyers.

Tony Vitaliano stated that certain steps must be taken in order to donate money for information.

h. Diane Cerino

Diane reported that at Barnes and Lydig Avenues where the office is located the area is getting very disheveled. She stated that they are trying to keep the area clean. She stated that the cat food feeding was creating a problem.

III. Elected officials

a. Andy Toledo – Representing Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

Andy reported that the fireworks would be held on June 29th at 6 PM at Orchard Beach.

b. Yasmin Salih – Representing Senator Jeffrey Klein

Yasmin distributed flyers on the fireworks. She told everyone to call the office to enter the raffle: (718) 822-2049.

IV. Minutes

A Motion was made by Frano Zagreda, Seconded by Joe Thurston – That the Minutes be accepted as received. **UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.**

V. Chairman's report – Anthony Vitaliano

Tony introduced new Board Member John Squitieri.

Tony reported that John Fratta had sent out an email about changing the committee formation from geographic back to issue oriented committees. He stated that John had instituted the geographic committee structure, but that attendance at these meetings was not good. Tony stated that the Morris Park/Pelham Parkway/Van Nest Committee had the most issues to discuss and vote on.

A Motion was made by Tony Vitaliano, Seconded by Janice Walcott – That the committee structure go back to issue oriented committees beginning in September.

A great deal of discussion took place on the survey that was compiled to see the Board's opinion on changing the committee structure.

Silvio stated that this should have gone to the Executive Board before coming to the full Board for a vote.

Discussion took place that if the Board goes back to issue committees someone with more than one issue would have to go to more than one committee to get them resolved.

Mary complained that the Board members did not receive agendas that would give them information on whether they wanted to attend a particular geographic committee meeting. She stated that whether we have issue oriented or geographic committee people need to be accountable for their attendance. She stated that we need people with expertise in a particular area to contribute this expertise.

After a lengthy discussion a roll call vote was taken. The vote was 21 for, 14 against and 1 abstention by Tony Signorile.

Those voting for the change were: Anthony Vitaliano, Joseph Thompson, Junior Campbell, Pat Dolan, Harain Figueroa, Rabbi Moshe Fuchs, David Leavitt, Joseph McManus, Diane Norris, Mary Paliotta, Joseph Reda, Eliezer Rodriguez, Joanne Rubino, Dominick Schiano, John Squitieri, Joseph Thurston, Eugene Tutora, Sandra Unger, Janice Walcott, and Frano Zagreda.

Those voting against the change were: Silvio Mazzella, Joseph Bacote, Edith Blitzer, Joe Bombace, Sal Conforto, Al D'Angelo, Bernadette Ferrara, Hazel Miura, Shradhanand Pirtam, Bob Potter, Martin Sacewicz, Andrea Siegel, Joann Terrelonge and Linda White.

Tony named the following Board Members who have been appointed to the newly created By Laws Committee: Joanne Rubino, Director; David Leavitt and Sandra Unger.

Tony reported that the Board has received Yankee tickets for Bronx Community Board 11 Day at Yankee Stadium on September 21. The Yankees will be playing the Oakland A's. Each Board Member can have up to 4 tickets. Tony told members to call the Office for tickets.

Tony reported that we are looking into having a Board picnic. He stated that Tony Signorile will be heading it.

VI. District Manager's Report – Jeremy Warneke

Jeremy reported that Harriet had been out sick for a week so things were a bit backed up. He reported that we received a stop sign request for Lydig and Tenbroeck Avenues.

A Motion was made by Edith Blitzer, Seconded by Frano Zagreda – That Community Board 11 request the DOT do a traffic study for a stop sign at Lydig and Tenbroeck Avenues. **UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.**

Jeremy reported that the Board had received a recommendation from the DOT to install muni meters on Poplar Street between Williamsbridge Road and Blondell Avenue.

A Motion was made by Joe Thurston, Seconded by Edith Blitzer – That Community Board 11 supports the DOT's request to install muni meters on Poplar Street between Williamsbridge Road and Blondell Avenue provided that one muni meter machine per block is installed. **PASSED WITH 2 AGAINST: LINDA WHITE AND SAL CONFORTO; 1 ABSTENTION FROM PIRTAM.**

Jeremy further reported the following:

- The Board's NYC.gov website is up and running. He stated that it is not perfect and needs many corrections. He will email the test site to the entire Board. He asked that anyone who sees a mistake to contact the Office. Bharati Kemraj, who started volunteering at the Office last year, has been helping with it.
- The FDNY is looking into the cause of the Van Nest Avenue fire still.
- He forwarded everyone a Crime Prevention email from DI Nicholson.

- Tony and he are going to attend the fund raiser for the Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance on June 27th at Maestro's.
- The Royal Coach Diner gave a verbal commitment to install cameras in their parking lot. Jeremy is working on getting this in writing.
- The Red Cherokee Jeep on Colden Avenue has finally been towed.
- According to the open meetings law, board meetings can videotaped and photographed without our permission.

Discussion took place on the Royal Coach Diner.

- Harriet and he had visited Planet Fitness on East Gun Hill Road. He stated that this is the biggest Planet Fitness in the Bronx.
- Chase Bank has giveaways for military veterans.

David commented on Luke's Lounge at 1808 Hone Ave. It has tables and chairs out on the sidewalk on the weekend. He asked if they have a sidewalk permit.

Jeremy said that they did not. He stated that he got this place shut down once already for this and he'll do this again, especially because of the shooting and homicide, which took place there.

VII. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the Treasurer's Reports had been distributed. He stated that will have a final report done.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Bronx Park East/Olinville – Joe Thompson

1. Street Activity Permits

a. Young Avenue Block Party – September 8th from 12 PM to 9 PM on Young Avenue between Astor Avenue and Pelham Parkway North

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Sandy Unger – That Community Board 11 send a letter to SAPO that we have no objection to this street closing. **UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.**

b. Pelham Parkway Single Block Festival – September 8th from 10 AM on Thwaites Place between Barker Avenue and Olinville Avenue.

Discussion took place on the fact that Thwaites Place is a through fare. A suggestion was made that it be moved to Barker Avenue between Thwaites Place and Bronx Park East. It was also stated that they did not have petitions.

A Motion was made by Joe MacManus, Seconded by Edith Blitzer – That Community Board 11 send a letter to SAPO stating that we have no objection to this street closing. **PASSED WITH 4 OPPOSED BY DOMINICK SCHIANO, JOE BOMBACE, TONY VITALIANO AND ANDREA SIEGEL.**

1. Liquor Licenses

- a. Ceci Restaurant – 1000 Morris Park Avenue for wine and beer
- b. F & J Pine – 1913 Bronxdale Avenue for liquor, wine and beer

A Motion was made by Al D'Angelo, Seconded by Joe Thurston – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the issuing of these liquor license renewals. **UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.**

c. 2012 Back to School Block party on September 8th from 9 AM to 6 PM on Van Nest Avenue between Garfield Street and Taylor Avenue

A Motion was made by Al D'Angelo, Seconded by Shradhanand Pirtam – That Community Board 11 send a letter to SAPO stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this street closing with the same stipulations as last year. **UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.**

B. Land Use – Joseph McManus

Joe reported that the Land Use meeting minutes had been distributed.

C. Morris Park/Pelham Parkway – Al D'Angelo

1. Liquor license renewals

a. Ceci Restaurant – 1000 Morris Park Avenue for a new wine and beer license

b. F & J Pine – 1913 Bronxdale Avenue for renewal of their liquor, wine and beer license

A Motion was made by Al D'Angelo, Seconded by Linda White – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no object to these liquor licenses. **UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.**

2. Street Activity Permit

a. 2012 Back to School Block Party on August 25th from 10 AM to 4 PM on Van Nest Avenue between Garfield Street and Taylor Avenue

A Motion was made by Al D'Angelo, Seconded by Shradhanand Pirtam – That Community Board 11 send a letter to SAPO stating that we have no objection to this street closing. **UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.**

D. Pelham Gardens West – Joanne Rubino

1. Street Activity Permit

a. BDCC BBQ Block Party on September 8th from 9 AM to 6 PM on Blondell Avenue between Chesbrough Avenue and Eastchester Road

A Motion was made by Joanne Rubino, Seconded by Joe Thurston – That Community Board 11 send a letter to SAPO stating that we have no objection to this street closing. **UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.**

E. Nominating Committee – Gene Tutora

Gene reported that the slate of officers was:

Dominic Castore, Chairman

Anthony Vitaliano, First Vice Chair

Joseph Thompson, Second Vice Chair

Silvio Mazzella, Treasurer

Ruth Burko, Secretary

Gene stated that since the candidates were unopposed the Treasurer would cast one vote for the slate.

Silvio cast one vote for the slate of officers.

IX. Old Business

a. Tree planting on Pelham Parkway

A Motion was made by Joe McManus, Seconded by David Leavitt –

Whereas the trees that were promised to replace the trees to be removed have started to be planted along Pelham Parkway and

Whereas the Department of Design and Construction has promised to plant the rest of the trees allotted to the Pelham Parkway construction project this Spring and

Whereas the community has questioned the placement and selection of species of trees to replicate the tree crown that make Pelham Parkway a unique neighborhood in New York City

Let it be resolved that before any more trees are planted, Community Board 11 in conjunction with the working group, working with the parks Department have input in the selection of trees species and the spacing of trees to restore the beautiful look of the trees that need to be replaced in the reconstruction of Pelham Parkway. **UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.**

X. New Business

Bernadette that the Van Nest fund raiser would be held on June 27th at Maestro's

A Motion was made by Edith Blitzer, Seconded by Sandy Unger – That Community Board 11 request that the DOT do a study regarding the placement of a 4 Way Stop Sign at Wallace and Brady Avenues. **UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.**

Silvio announced that the 49th Precinct Council would be meeting on Monday at the Wallerstein Center.

Joe Bombace reported that 726 Van Nest Avenue, where the fire was has been cleaned up. He thanked Jeremy for his held.

Tony asked anyone who is interested in the Board having a picnic to email the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Burko,
Secretary