



**Anthony Vitaliano**  
Chairman

**COMMUNITY BOARD 11, BRONX**  
**1741 COLDEN AVENUE**  
**BRONX, NY 10462**  
[www.nyc.gov/bxcb11](http://www.nyc.gov/bxcb11)  
**(718) 892-6262; FAX: (718) 892-1861**

**Ruben Diaz Jr.**  
Borough President



**Jeremy Warneke**  
District Manager

**March 21, 2013 Full Board Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 PM by Chairman Tony Vitaliano.

**I. Gallery Session**

**a. Ultra Laundromat –710 Lydig Avenue Block Party**

Mr. Lee spoke about a block party that he would like to have. He stated that he met with Councilman Vacca and Assemblyman Gjonaj on decreasing the level of violence in our community. Mr. Lee stated he was working with the Knicks also. He stated that he thought that a block party with the business and the Knicks participating should help to decrease the violence in our community.

**b. Denise Lyles – Allerton Library**

Ms. Lyles spoke about the Adult Computer Classes available in the Allerton branch on April 9<sup>th</sup>, April 16<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>. She also reported that there would be a program on getting into colleges on April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Allerton branch. Ms. Lyles reported that every Friday from April 5<sup>th</sup> to June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Van Nest branch there will be workshops on sharing your life stories with Stuart Nager

**c. Kay Pinto Cardona**

Ms. Cardona spoke about religious groups distributing literature. She stated that they were putting flyers up and knocking on peoples doors in front of 2160 Holland Avenue. Ms. Cardona stated that this was the eve of a Jewish Holiday. She also stated that there were no trespassing signs at this location.

**d. Dr. David Stevens – Pelham Parkway South**

Dr. Stevens spoke about the work that was done on the Pelham Parkway Reconstruction. He stated that the roadway remains too narrow, adversely affecting FDNY response time and the safety of our citizens. Dr. Stevens stated that the offending sidewalk needs to be removed and that Pelham Parkway South be returned to its original safe width.

**e. Victor Ramirez – Hurricane Sandy Disaster Case Management**

Mr. Ramirez spoke about help that is available for people affected by Hurricane Sandy. He stated that he can be contacted for information at (718) 508-3122 or emailed at vramirez@bronxworks.org.

- f. Captain Andy Johnson from the 49<sup>th</sup> Precinct spoke. He stated that to date we have recovered 5 guns. Captain Johnson spoke about an incident on Bogart Avenue where someone knocked on a tenant's door and when no one answered he tried to get into the apartment through the window. He stated that the tenant called the police department and he was arrested. Captain Johnson stated that if you don't know the person, don't open the door and if you see anything call the police department.

Tony stated that we have had a great response from the police department.

- g. Gene De Francis – Box the Outside Theatre Group

Mr. De Francis stated that they sent out flyers last month and received several calls. He stated that Maria has not spoken to the principals yet. Mr. De Francis reported that this Sunday at 9:30 AM they will be meeting at Peace Plaza and walking to Victory Plaza. Mr. De Francis stated that that he was an actor, but that actors are not role models. He stated that parents need to be the role models not celebrities.

- h. Eliezer Rodrigues – Banquet honoring Dom Castore

Eli spoke about the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet of the Bronx-Manhattan North Association of Realtors which will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup>. He stated that they will be honoring Dom Castore. Eli stated that Dom was never honored by this group while he was alive.

- i. Raphael Schweizer

Mr. Schweizer read a poem and spoke about parks and the need for more staff and monies. He asked the Board to support the resolution.

- j. Brian Adams – Pelham Parkway Houses

Brian asked about Pelham Parkway North rehabilitation. Jeremy stated that it is in the design phase. Brian stated that the buses are back to normal on Pelham Parkway South.

## II. Elected Officials

- a. Andy Toledo, Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. Andy reported that there will be a Health summit on April 6<sup>th</sup> at Fordham University. A flyer was distributed. Andy reported that Dr. Max Gomez the CBS News Medical Reporter will be the key note speaker. He stated that there will be smaller panels on separate topics, combatting obesity, diabetes and other issues.
- b. John Collazzi, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto
- c. William Madonna, Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj

Will reported that the Assembly is working on passing the budget. He stated that they will be working through the holidays. Will stated that they are also working on graffiti issues.

d. Ron Cicatelli, Senator Jeffrey Klein

Ron spoke about the Jobs for Heroes Bill. He stated that this will create more jobs for veterans. Ron stated that there is a \$10,000 credit for any business that hires veterans, and \$15,000 for anyone who hires disabled veterans. Ron stated that anyone who has graffiti locations should call the office. Ron reported that the graffiti program has been delayed due to the weather. He stated that if it is below freezing they cannot use the pressure washer. Ron reported that the Easter Bunny Breakfast will be held on Saturday.

e. Violet Fredericks, State Senator Gustavo Rivera.

Ms. Fredericks stated that she was the new representative from Senator Rivera's office and she would be attending the monthly meetings. She told anyone who had a question to see her after the meeting.

III. February 2013 Full Board Meeting Minutes

A Motion was made by Edith Blitzler, Seconded by Blanche Rifkin– That the minutes be accepted as received. The motion was amended to reflect the statement by Joe Bombace that the street closing on June 30<sup>th</sup> should say sidewalk only. **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

IV. Chairman's Report – Anthony Vitaliano

Tony reported that the Board will be getting 200 Yankee tickets for a night game on Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> which will be Community Board 11 night. He stated that the staff will be given two tickets each and the Board members will be given three tickets. Tony told the Board members to reach out to Harriet if you are interested in tickets. Tony reported that the Leadership Award winners will go on the field. Tony reported that on April 9<sup>th</sup> Mr. Roberto Garcia from Montefiore will be coming to the Health Committee meeting. Tony stated that this meeting is open to anyone. Tony reported that Westchester Square Hospital will be closing as of March 21<sup>st</sup> and that Montefiore will be taking over as of March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tony thanked the By-Laws Committee, Joanne Rubino, David Leavitt and Sandy Unger for the work that they have done on the By-Laws. Tony stated that these are proposed changes. He suggested that everyone read the proposed By-Law changes and notify the Board office of any suggestions prior to the By-Laws Committee meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Tony welcomed Al aboard as the new First Vice Chairman.

V. District Manager's Report – Jeremy Warneke

Jeremy reported that the Board and Committee attendance sheets are in your packet. Jeremy stated that he is working on getting the minutes standardized. He stated that everything will be on letterhead going forward. Jeremy stated that if anyone has a suggestion to let the staff know. He stated that the entire staff proofreads the minutes for errors.

Discussion took place regarding Pathmark on Waters Place. Sandy stated that Montefiore bought the property.

Linda reported that she had spoken with some of the workers who informed her that they were told in January that the store was closing, but they did not have a date. Linda stated that the community is losing another supermarket. Jeremy stated that this was the only supermarket open 24 hours in our district, but when he asked Montefiore about this, he was told that they had not bought the property.

Sandy stated that the Clinical Director told her today that it was bought by Montefiore.

It was also stated that they also purchased the house on the corner of Eastchester Road and Waters Place.

Bernadette asked if the Board could send a letter to keep Pathmark open. Al stated that we need to get the elected officials involved. He stated that they don't talk to the Community Board before they take any action. He also stated that he was not happy about the way Montefiore is treating our community.

Tony Signorile stated that he had heard something about the property being owned by Castle Oil Corporation.

Joe Bombace asked that the Health Committee, Economic Development Committee and the elected officials get together on this.

Tony Vitaliano stated that this is an economic development issue since it involves Pathmark. He asked Joe Thompson if he could coordinate a meeting.

Joe Bombace stated that we could bring this to the Economic Development meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> and Joe Thompson agreed.

Joe Reda stated that there is also a liquor store next to the supermarket.

Tony stated that this was the reason that he felt the Economic Development Committee should be involved.

Joe Reda spoke about Westchester Square Hospital closing. He stated that they will not have inpatient services.

Joe Bacote told everyone that Mr. Garcia of Montefiore will be coming to the Health Committee meeting on April 9 and that anyone with questions should come to the Board Office that evening.

Cece stated that the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of Einstein has 21 beds.

Joanne Russo-Rubino asked what happens if you need emergency treatment.

Tony stated that Mr. Garcia has told him that if someone needs emergency treatment they would keep that person there until they could be safely moved.

Linda reported that Jacobi will have to absorb the beds. She stated that sometimes there are holdover beds in the emergency room for two and three days.

VI. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the Treasurer's Reports have been distributed. Anyone with questions can see Harriet or himself.

VII. Committee Reports

a. By-Laws – Joanne Russo-Rubino

Joanne turned the meeting over to David Leavitt. David stated that the copies of the proposed amendments were distributed. David stated that the proposed changes were submitted to the Executive Committee and discussed at the Executive Committee meeting. David asked the Board members to look at the proposed changes and let us know if you have any suggestions/changes. He stated that he hoped that at the April meeting they could be voted on as a whole. David stated that if there were particular items that needed to be voted on separately that would be done. David thanked the Committee for their work on the By-Laws

b. Executive Committee – Al D'Angelo

Al reported that the Committee has approved the calendar for April which you will find in your packet.

Tony stated that it is a one page document. He told everyone to make sure they don't lose it.

A Motion was made by Al D'Angelo, Seconded by Blanche Rifkin – That the calendar be accepted as received. **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

c. Economic Development – Joe Thompson

Joe reported that the minutes have been distributed.

i. Bronx Zoo

Joe reported that the Bronx Zoo has 3 licenses. He stated that they close when the zoo closes.

A Motion was made by Sandy Unger, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That Community Board 11 sends a letter of no objection to the SLA on this liquor license request pending their questionnaire. **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

ii. Rainbow Diner - 2195 White Plains Road – Beer & Wine

Joe reported that they were a 24-hour diner. He stated that they are missing their questionnaire.

A Motion was made by Joe Bombace, Seconded by Edith Blitzer – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA no objection pending the Board receiving their questionnaire.

**PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION WITH CAUSE FROM JOE THOMPSON.**

iii. Van Nest Café & Restaurant, 600 Van Nest Avenue – Beer & Wine

Joe reported that the owner came to the meeting. He stated that there were numerous complaints from the community, the Van Nest Alliance and the Morris Park Association. Joe stated that they are open until 4 AM. They had a band and dancing. Joe stated that they do not have a cabaret license. He stated that in January they were cited for selling alcohol to a minor and to selling alcohol to a person who was drunk. Joe stated that they were also cited for selling alcohol without a license (their license had expired). He stated that an arrest was made for this violation.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA recommending a denial of this license. **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

iv. El Nuevo Imperial Restaurant, 2456 Williamsbridge Road – Beer & Wine

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That Community Board 11 send a letter of no objection to this license renewal. **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

v. Café Pashtriku Tavern – 741 Astor Avenue – Beer & Wine  
NEW

Joe reported that we did not have a completed questionnaire.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Sandy Unger – That a vote on this license be tabled.

**UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

vi. Cham's Jerk Center, 1322 E. Gun Hill Road – Beer & Wine

Joe reported that the owners came to us three months ago. He stated that they were told that they needed to make changes to the exit doors.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That Community Board send a letter of no objection conditional on the Board receiving proof that a licensed contractor has been hired to make the necessary

change. **PASSED WITH ONE AGAINST BY LINDA WHITE.**

vii. Zymi Restaurant, 726 Astor Avenue – Beer & Wine  
Joe reported that there was no representative at the meeting. He stated that there were new owners, but they will keep it the same as it has been. Joe stated that they received the questionnaire documents today.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That Community Board 11 send a letter of no objection to the SLA on this liquor license. **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

d. Highways, Traffic and Transportation – Rabbi Moshe Fuchs

i. Street Activity Permit Applications

a. Haight Avenue between Rhinelander and Neill Avenues on Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup> from 1-8 PM

b. Christian Street Festival Religious Ceremony: Van Nest Avenue between Melville and Van Buren Streets on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11 AM – 3 PM.

A Motion was made by Rabbi Fuchs, Seconded by Sandy Unger – That Community Board 11 approve the aforementioned street closing permit applications.

**UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

Bernadette stated that she thought the Christian Street Festival was a renewal. She was told that it was a renewal.

e. Parks & Recreation – Joanne Russo-Rubino

Joanne reported that the Mayor has put money in the budget for Parks. She stated we want to make sure that Community Board 11 Bronx gets its fair share of PEP officers and other services.

A Motion was made by Joanne Rubino, Seconded by Edith Blitzer – That Community Board send a letter of support for the Parks Department's resolution and that it be sent to the Borough President, the City Council and the other Community Boards for their support. **UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

Tony Vitaliano stated that he had spoken with Larry Scoones about getting more PEP officers. He stated that we want to have these officers devoted to taking care of the illegal barbecuing. Tony reported that there is a new Captain and that he should be invited to our meeting.

Edith reported that on April 9<sup>th</sup> the Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association will be having their meeting at Bronx House. She stated that Nivardo Lopez from the Mayor's office will be at the meeting.

She suggested that people come to the meeting with issues that he can bring back to the Mayor.

Joanne reported on the request to name a green street for Mr. Pacheco's son. She stated that this did not fall under our purview and it does not meet our criteria.

Joanne reported that Jason Rivera had come to the Board requesting a permit for a basketball tournament to be held for four days during the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. She stated that Mr. Rivera met with Detective DiPierro and Chris Kirka. Joanne stated that Mr. Rivera was told that this was not happening.

#### VIII. New Business

Joe Thompson reported that the 49<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 PM at Frankie & Johnny's on Bronxdale Avenue.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.