

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11 REGULAR MEETING

DATE: December 3, 2007

PLACE: MS 158
(MARIE CURIE)
46-35 OCEANIA STREET
BAYSIDE

ATTENDANCE:

Steven Newman, Chair	Present	Mohan Jethwani	Present
Sidney Abelson	Absent	George Karahalidis	Present
Edith Basom	Present	Gordon Keit	Present
Daniel Berrios	Absent	Eileen Kenny	Absent
Lana Bind	Absent	Incha Kim	Present
Rose Bruno	Present	David Kramer	Absent
Robert Caloras	Absent	Franklin Lloyd	Absent
Ocelia Claro	Present	Melvyn Meer	Absent
James Colasante	Present	Eileen Miller	Present
Joan Corn	Present	David Millet	Absent
Oswaldo Cruz	Absent	Victor Mimoni	Absent
Paul DiBenedetto	Absent	Dennis Novick	Present
Edward Doster	Present	Allan Palzer	Present
Henry Euler	Present	Stephen Pivawer	Present
Mario Ferazzoli	Present	James Rodgers	Absent
JoAnn Ferrari	Present	John Rosse	Present
Jack Fried	Present	Christina Scherer	Present
Joan Garippa	Present	Gary Sekdorian	Present
Roy Giusetti	Present	Frank Skala	Present
Bernard Haber	Present	Mamie Smith	Present
Christine Haider	Present	Joseph Sollano	Present
Zion Halili	Present	Robert Speranza	Absent
Joseph Hellmann	Absent	Ryan Walsh	Absent
Jerry Iannece	Present		
Laura James	Present		

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Linda Vallerugo	Assistant District Manager, Community Board 11
Mark Scott	Representing Borough President Helen Marshall
Marva Kalish	Representing Assemblyman Mark Weprin
Bruce Eiber	Representing Councilman David Weprin
Peter Flintoft	Representing Assemblyman Rory Lancman
Mike Agnello	Department of Parks and Recreation
D.I. Scott Hanover	111 th Precinct
P.O. Bill Conway	111 th Precinct

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Steven Newman, Chair.

Jerry Iannece welcomed the Boy Scouts of America Troop 142 to officially open our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Boy Scout Pledge.

PRESENTATIONS

Steve Newman reported that the first presentation on the agenda for this evening regarding the NYPD Community Partnership Program was cancelled this afternoon.

Steve Newman explained that the National Children’s Study will be studying health issues that impact children nationwide. One of the top pilot areas to be studied is Queens County and within Queens, one of the selected communities will be in Bayside. Since there will be a significant amount of interviewing of the residents of that area in Bayside, he thought it would be beneficial to have a presentation made to our Board. Steve Newman also pointed out that they have formed an Advisory Board and Eileen Miller, CB11 Health Committee Co-Chair, will be our representative.

Suzette Vanderbeek, Queens Vanguard Study Project Coordinator, Dr. Leo Trasande, Queens Location Director for the Study, both of Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, and Tammy Lee, Community Relations Dept. of Health, gave a presentation on the National Children’s Study. Dr. Trasande explained that the study will involve 100,000 children across the U.S. from before birth to age 21 to determine the link between the environment in which children are raised and their physical and emotional health and development. This National Children’s Study is the largest long-term study of children’s health ever conducted. He pointed out that the rate of chronic diseases in children is on the rise in epidemic proportions. The goal of this study is to examine how environmental factors early in life may predispose individuals to certain chronic diseases such as asthma, obesity and diabetes. There will be 105 study locations throughout the nation, and Queens was selected through a series of lotteries as one of the two locations where the study will actually start in July 2008. The goal is to recruit 1,000 children in Queens, which when merged with the children from the other locations will represent the health of all the children in the nation. When completed, the study will be the richest information resource for questions related to children’s health in the country. The data from this study will help researchers and health care providers to develop prevention strategies, health and safety guidelines, possible new treatments and cures for health conditions. Dr. Trasande stated that in July they will actually begin knocking

on about 13,000 doors in 18 various neighborhoods in Queens, recruiting women of child bearing age interested in participating in the study. One of these neighborhoods will be in Bayside. It is very important for us to get the word out about the study so that people will be aware of the program and willing to participate. Dr. Trasande said that they look forward to working with the community on this project and in obtaining additional input from the community. A question and answer period followed.

Steve Newman thanked them for their presentation and suggested that the local press cover this issue to help inform the public about the program. He also thanked Eileen Miller for representing CB11 at the Advisory Board.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Bernard Haber stated that under the discussion on congestion pricing on page six, in the second paragraph on line 7, the statement is incomplete and should be corrected to read there are 14 entry points southbound at 86th Street, including 4 bridges and 4 tunnels. It should also be corrected to state that the savings would be tremendous provided the residents below 86th Street are excluded from the charge. The minutes of November 5, 2007 were accepted with the above corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joseph Hellmann slipped on the ice yesterday and broke his hip. He is in the hospital for surgery. Susan Seinfeld stated that we have left a message for his wife asking what hospital he is in, but we do not have any further information as of yet.

Steve Newman announced that Frank Skala has scheduled the holiday party for Sunday, January 13th. Frank Skala stated that information will be going out to the Board members in the mail right after Christmas. As in the past years, it will be at Bourbon Street in the afternoon on a pay as you go basis.

Everyone should have received the schedule for the 2008 Community Board 11 meetings. They are the first Monday of every month with two exceptions for the months of June and September. In June, the meeting will be on June 16th because the school was not available for the first Monday of June. Steve Newman also explained that he preferred to have the meeting later in the month so that we would be less likely to have to schedule an emergency summer meeting. In September, we will hold the meeting on September 8th, the Monday after Labor Day, instead of the day immediately following Labor Day.

Mamie Smith suggested holding the meeting later in the month on Monday, June 23rd because in the middle of June there are many graduations and events. Steve Newman stated he had no objection, we will check with the school regarding that date.

NEW BUSINESS

Henry Euler stated that the AIA has proposed a zoning text amendment regarding bulk modifications. It was certified by City Planning on October 29th and seems to be moving forward very quickly. January 8th is the last date that Community Boards can comment on this

amendment.

One part of the amendment does affect R3-1, R3-2, R4 and R5 zoning designations. He suggested that a meeting be convened with the Zoning Chairs in December to review this issue so that the full Board can address it at our January meeting. This would be in time for us to submit our comments to City Planning before the January 8th deadline. Perhaps a representative from the AIA could attend the meeting. Henry Euler also stated that he spoke with Paul Graziano, an urban specialist, who said he would be willing to attend the meeting as a guest. He also reported that Councilman Avella has asked AIA to withdraw the proposal for now until the community has had time to thoroughly review the text amendment and its impact.

Steve Newman stated that he has asked John Young, Director of City Planning, about this issue. John Young explained that their certification in no way means that they support the proposal. Certification is just a technical term for accepting the proposal and beginning the process. We have reached out to the AIA for further clarification on the proposal from their standpoint.

Bernard Haber reported that the Queens Zoning Task Force will be meeting on Wednesday, January 19th, at 5 PM, at the Borough Hall Conference Room. Discussion will cover the yard zoning and tree planting zoning text amendments as well as an update on all the zoning changes in Queens County that have been applied for and where they stand in the pipeline. There are currently somewhere between 20 to 25 zoning changes throughout Queens County in the pipeline. All are welcome to attend the meeting. (After the meeting, Bernard Haber made a correction that the date of the Zoning Task Force meeting will be December 19th not January 19th).

Rose Bruno asked Henry Euler what the answer was to the letter which he sent to Amanda Burden, of City Planning, regarding Auburndale rezoning. Henry Euler replied that to date there has not been a response.

Laura James questioned if the Board knew anything about the plans for the property at Bay Chevrolet on Northern Blvd. which has closed down. Susan Seinfeld stated that when they were vacating they informed us that they still own the property. They were reorganizing and have not yet decided what they will do with the property.

Jerry Iannece gave a follow-up on the LIE sound barrier #5A, which was the one problematic barrier located near Douglaston Pkwy. and 234 Street. He explained that CB11 worked very hard and fought to have this barrier installed for the residents. NYSDOT did not want to install the barrier because of a steep slope in the grade of the property, it involved Parks property, City property and homeowner easement rights. Jerry Iannece was pleased to report now that they have started construction of the wall. It is not a complete wall, but it does offer relief for the residents and this is a very big win for the community.

Susan Seinfeld stated that Jerry Iannece worked very hard and put a lot of effort into having this barrier 5A installed.

A question was asked about sound barriers along the LIE for the Bayside Hills community.

Susan Seinfeld reported that the office received a call late this afternoon that Congressman Weiner is interested and willing to look into possible funding a DOT study.

Jerry Iannece explained that the community of Bayside Hills has requested barriers along the LIE, but since there was no widening or expansion project involved in that area, NYSDOT would not do the work unless funded by a local elected official.

Steve Newman responded to Henry Euler's request for a meeting on the AIA zoning text amendment and stated that we will continue to pursue the AIA and set up a meeting with the Zoning Chairs to review the proposal.

A question was raised regarding a follow-up meeting with the auto dealerships. Susan Seinfeld stated that she has reached out to them three times and each time was told that the President was not in the office. He has not called us back or responded to our e-mails. At the last meeting, he did tell us that he would try to reach out to the dealerships that were giving us the most problems to see if they would agree to meet with us. We presume that these dealerships have not agreed to a meeting.

Steve Newman stated that we will have the Auto Dealership Committee meet again and determine another way to deal with this issue.

Frank Skala questioned if there is anything new to report on Congestion Pricing. He has heard that the Mayor is going to reduce the zone to 60th Street. Steve Newman stated it was the Governor's appointed Commission that made the recommendation and the Mayor has spoken out against the change.

Henry Euler stated that our local elected officials have written to City Planning in support of the Auburndale rezoning, but we are still waiting to hear from City Planning.

Steve Newman stated that a few weeks ago he went to a meeting with Amanda Burden, and she had a map of the issues important to her in terms of rezoning for the rest of her term. Unfortunately, none of the areas on the map were in our district. Steve Newman said he did speak to John Young about this after the meeting. John Young said he would look into it and get back to us. We will follow-up on the rezoning issue again after the first of the year.

COMMITTEE REPORT

N080081ZRY – Street Tree Planting Zoning Text Amendment

N080078ZRY – Yards Zoning Text Amendment

Steve Newman stated that a meeting was held with the Chairs of the Zoning, Parks and Transportation Committees to review the Yards and Street Tree Planting zoning text amendments. Joseph Sollano, Douglaston Zoning Chair, gave a report explaining that we had a deadline to give our recommendation to City Planning and that deadline precluded bringing our recommendation to the full Board for a vote. The recommendations were basically to support the two zoning text amendments with a few minor changes. He pointed out that these amendments only apply to new

construction. On the Yard text amendment, we recommended that this amendment not be used as an excuse not to address the rezoning in the communities that are already in the pipeline. The second recommendation was that the text needs to address the minimum curb cut requirement if it causes disruption of street trees. The third was that the percentage of greenery should be higher on wider lots starting at 60 ft. In the Street Tree Text Amendment, the text needs to include input from the other agencies, such as Parks, regarding the widths of sidewalks and street tree planting, and DOT regarding sidewalks. The Committee also recommended that there be no exemption of street tree planting for any zoning districts including Use Group 16, auto service establishments.

Bernard Haber suggested for the record that the Board take a vote on the recommendations even though it is after the fact to show the Board's support of the Committee recommendations. Motion (07-22) was made to support the recommendations of the Committee regarding the Yard and Street Tree Planting Zoning Text Amendments. Discussion followed and an objection was made that as a policy before any recommendation or decision is made by the Board it should come to full Board for a vote. Roll call vote was taken resulting in 25 in favor (Basom, Bruno, Colasante, Corn, Doster, Ferrari, Fried, Garippa, Haber, Haider, Halili, Iannece, James, Jethwani, Karahalis, Keit, Miller, Newman, Novick, Palzer, Pivawer, Rosse, Scherer, Sekdorian, Sollano), 3 opposed (Ferazzoli, Skala, Smith) and 1 abstention (Euler).

All were wished Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.