

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11
GENERAL BOARD MEETING

DATE: May 5, 2014

PLACE: M.S. 158
46-35 OCEANIA ST.
BAYSIDE, NY 11361

ATTENDANCE:

Christine L. Haider, Chair	Present	George Karahalidis	Present
Sila Asa	Present	Gordon Keit	Present
Daniel Baek	Present	Incha Kim	Present
Edith Basom	Present	Anthony Koutsouradis	Present
Steven Behar	Present	Linda Lee	Present
Lana Bind	Present	Robert Liatto	Present
Susan Cerezo	Present	Janet McEaney	Present
Ocelia Claro	Present	Melvyn Meer	Present
Paul DiBenedetto	Present	George Mihaltses	Present
Henry Euler	Present	Eileen Miller	Present
Mario Ferazzoli	Absent	Douglas Montgomery	Present
JoAnn Ferrari	Present	Steven Newman	Present
Sonya Fierro-Gladwin	Present	Allan Palzer	Present
Lee Fiorino	Present	Chris Petallides	Present
Jack Fried	Present	Stephen Pivawer	Present
Alim Gafar	Present	Andrew Rothman	Present
Joan Garippa	Present	Christina Scherer	Present
Roy Giusetti	Present	Gary Sekdorian	Present
Lawrence Gresser	Present	Frank Skala	Present
Bernard Haber	Present	Mamie Smith	Present
Zion Halili	Present	Joseph Sollano	Present
Jerry Iannece	Present	Jyothi Sriram	Present
Laura James	Present	Teddy Teng	Present
Mohan Jethwani	Present	Alex Yagudaev	Present

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Christina Coutinho	Community Board 11 Associate
Anne Marie Boranian	Representing Queens Borough President
Deputy Inspector Jason Huerta	111 th Precinct Commanding Officer
Det. Neil Blainey	111 th Precinct, Community Affairs
Suzanne Catoggio	NYPD School Safety Division
Gene McSweeney	Representing Assembly Member Ed Braunstein
Helen Ho	Representing the Office of the Mayor
Kieran Mahoney	Representing State Senator Tony Avella
Megan Keane	Representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic
Mike Yon	Representing Council Member Paul Vallone
Irene Cheung	Representing Council Member Mark Weprin
Michael Stinson	Representing Congress Member Steve Israel
Joanne Choi	Representing Congress Member Grace Meng

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by Chair, Christine Haider.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Deputy Inspector Jason Huerta gave an update regarding year-to-date crime statistics. He stated that identify theft has increased over the last month. He stressed that when using an ATM, you should cover the keyboard when entering your PIN number. Mrs. Haider discussed graffiti on residential garages at 58 Avenue. Deputy Inspector Huerta stated that the new Lieutenant of Special Operations, Lt. Catechis, has been working on the issue of graffiti within the district.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Bayside High School PTA representatives, Simone Langhorne, Maria Avila and Bobbi Benson, discussed the issue of overcrowding in Bayside High School. They stated that they have reached out to the new chancellor and asked the Community Board for help in regard to this issue.

Mrs. Haider stated that Mrs. Hamdani had registered to speak but, unfortunately, was unable to attend. Mrs. Hamdani wanted to thank the Community Board for their support in regard to renaming a street in honor of her son, Salman Hamdani.

Ed Mainor, representing Insurance Evolution, gave a presentation regarding life insurance.

Mrs. Haider introduced new Board Member, Lawrence Gresser. Mr. Gresser stated that he has worked in various government positions over the past several years.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Christine Haider asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 7th meeting. Minutes were accepted with corrections. *

CORRESPONDENCE

Christine Haider made the following announcements:

The Queens Borough President is conducting a training session on Thursday, May 8th, from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the Hall of Science for all Board Members who were appointed and reappointed this year. Attendance is required or a written excuse must to be forwarded to the Borough President.

The press has been writing about the proposal by Council Member Kallos to reform Community Boards. His proposal includes 10-year term limits and reform regarding the way that the Borough President and Council Members recruit members for the Boards.

NYCDOT has an interactive map on their website which allows residents to input their traffic safety concerns.

Council Member Mark Weprin announced the winners of his participatory budget projects; in our district the winners are: smart boards for Cardozo HS, portable security cameras at locations determined by NYPD and Windsor Park Library security upgrades.

The DEP has proposed a 3.35% increase in the water rate for FY 2015. This is the lowest increase in nine years. Public hearings are being held citywide, the Queens public hearing will be conducted on May 20th in Far Rockaway.

The 111th Precinct Council meeting is tomorrow, May 6th, at 7:30pm at the precinct.

The Little Neck/Douglaston Ambulance Corps is having a blood drive with Boy Scout Troop 153 as an Eagle Leadership Project on Saturday, May 10th. If you are interested in donating, the CB11 office has additional information.

APEC is conducting a Wine Tasting Fundraiser on Monday, May 19th, from 6:30pm to 9:30pm at Papazzio Restaurant.

Borough President, Melinda Katz, is hosting a Memorial Day Ceremony on Thursday, May 22nd at 11:00am at Borough Hall.

There will be a public workshop regarding a proposal for a public plaza at the Douglaston LIRR Station Plaza on Thursday, May 8th, at 7:30pm at the Community Church of Douglaston. Representatives from DOT will be coming before the Transportation Committee and the Board in June with a presentation to explain the proposal.

The PANYNJ is holding a public information session on Thursday, May 8th, about the LaGuardia Central Terminal Redevelopment Program. The information session will take place from 3:00pm to 6:00pm and the public hearing is from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the LaGuardia Marriott Hotel on Ditmars Blvd.

The Mayor released his housing plan. On page 47 of the plan, there is a full report in the bottom paragraph that refers to the legalization of basement units. It only states that the City will work with stakeholders to examine how to bring units into the regulated housing system.

The Department of Education is seeking UPK providers. Bayside and Little Neck are identified as priority neighborhoods where there is a need for additional full-day Pre-K seats.

Assembly Member Nily Rozic and Congressman Steve Israel will have a mobile office on Sunday, May 18th, from 11:30am to 12:30pm in front of Fairway in Douglaston.

Assembly Member Ed Braunstein forwarded a letter to the Mayor supporting CB11's resolution opposing legalization of illegal basement apartments and other units.

Mrs. Haider stated that she attended the Bayside Historical Society's 50th Anniversary Gala. She stated that Board Member, Janet McEneaney, received an award for her efforts and dedication to reducing airplane noise. Mrs. Haider thanked Janet McEneaney. Mrs. Haider stated that, Mandingo Tshaka, was also given an award for Community Advocate as a founding Co-Chair of the Olde Towne of Flushing Burial Ground Conservancy.

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION/NEW BUSINESS

Ocelia Claro stated that on April 22nd, she attended a rally at the former Leviton property owned by Steel Equities and leased to E. Gluck, a watch manufacturer. She stated that Steel Equities presented plans of an expansion similar to the existing structure to the Board and elected officials. Overnight, a 35-ft. dark grey, prefabricated wall was erected and the residents complained to the elected officials. A question and answer period followed. Susan Seinfeld said that the DOB will be meeting with Steel Equities' architect next week.

Eileen Miller stated that she attended a NYC Council Vision Zero Town Hall Meeting. The City Council conducted the meeting to gather community input and explain how implementing “Vision Zero” will help reduce pedestrian accidents. A question and answer period followed with concerns regarding jaywalkers, bicyclists and police enforcement in the vicinity of schools.

Frank Skala stated that he was pleased to be present at the street renaming ceremony in honor of Salman Hamdani.

Andy Rothman attended a Port Authority LaGuardia Roundtable and he stated it was a very progressive meeting. He said that several issues were discussed and there are some questions that still have to be answered. Janet McEaney stated that one of the questions raised was whether there should be one roundtable for both airports or two roundtables. She stated that Queens Quiet Skies wants one roundtable to deal with the integrated problems of both airports.

Frank Skala stated that the School Construction Authority cancelled plans for a proposed high school in Whitestone. Mr. Skala stated that the plans were cancelled due to strong support by Council Member Vallone. He asked for the same support for the proposed elementary school on 48th Avenue.

Henry Euler stated that Auburndale Improvement Association is asking for new zoning for single-family attached and semi-attached homes. He stated that rowhomes are zoned for multi-family and small apartments. Mr. Euler said that the communities of Auburndale and western Bayside have seen an increase in population in these areas, resulting in overcrowding and less parking. He said that this is not a new effort on their part. The AIA had previously discussed the possibility of creating a rowhouse designation with City Planning. He made a motion requesting the Board to write a letter to City Planning Chair, Carl Weisbrod, identifying the need to create a new zoning designation specifically for single-family attached and semi-attached homes in our City. The motion was seconded by Paul DiBenedetto. A short discussion ensued. Steve Behar stated that this is a necessary request because a builder could buy the entire row of homes and build something out of character to the neighborhood. Chris Petallides said that the zoning has to come first, then the construction to avoid devaluing the property. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 38 in favor, 8 opposed and 1 abstention. (In-favor – Asa, Baek, Basom, Behar, Bind, Cerezo, Claro, DiBenedetto, Euler, Ferrari, Fierro-Gladwin, Fried, Gafar, Garippa, Giusetti, Gresser, Haber, Haider, Iannece, James, Jethwani, Karahalidis, Keit, Kim, Koutsouradis, Liatto, McEaney, Meer, Miller, Montgomery, Palzer, Rothman, Scherer, Sekdorian, Smith, Sollano, Sriram, Yagudaev – Opposed – Halili, Lee, Mihaltses, Newman, Petallides, Pivawer, Skala, Teng – Abstained – Fiorino) The motion carried.

Douglas Montgomery stated that APEC still has a few free trees to give away which will be available at APEC on May 17th. He also stated that he is the Co-chair of the Little Neck/Douglaston Memorial Day Parade and is happy to report that since last month’s meeting, they have had two very successful fundraisers. Mr. Montgomery said they raised almost enough money to fund the parade.

Sila Asa spoke in regard to the problem with raccoons in the neighborhood.

Janet McEaney spoke on behalf of her neighbors regarding Con Ed and contractors repairing gas leaks. She said residents are requesting repairs for the damages. She spoke in regard to additional curb cuts that were addressed at the January meeting that should be considered illegal but are in fact legal.

Paul DiBenedetto spoke about the success of the Bayside Historical Society's 50th Anniversary Gala.

Susan Cerezo stated that she is going to Albany tomorrow to attend a meeting for Vision Zero. She said that one of the proposals is to lower the speed limit to 20 mph for densely populated areas.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Haider stated Liquor Licenses will be reviewed by the Consumer Affairs/Public Relations Committee. Andy Rothman suggested that the zoning committee of the affected area be included along with the Consumer Affairs/Public Relations Committee when reviewing a liquor license application.

Consumer Affairs/Public Relations Committee – A State Liquor Authority alteration application of an on-premise liquor license to add a rooftop dining area to Fiamma 41 Restaurant located at 214-26 41 Avenue. Chair, Gary Sekdorian, read the committee report of April 30th. There were no questions from the board members. Mrs. Haider stated that a letter of recommendation will be forwarded to the SLA.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

* Addendum - Discussion ensued in regard to the corrections of the April 2014 minutes under the section of Board Elections which took place in March. The CB11 Staff and Chair listened to the recorded tape of the March meeting and confirmed that Bernard Haber nominated Eileen Miller as 2nd Vice Chair. The March and April minutes have been corrected to reflect what is on the recorded tape and will be posted on the website.