

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11
GENERAL BOARD MEETING

DATE: October 5, 2015

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

ATTENDANCE:

Christine L. Haider, Chair	Present	Laura James	Present
Sila Asa	Absent	Mohan Jethwani	Absent
Edith Basom	Present	George Karahalis	Present
Steven Behar	Present	Anthony Koutsouradis	Present
Lana Bind	Absent	Linda Lee	Present
Susan Cerezo	Present	Robert Liatto	Present
Ocelia Claro	Absent	Janet McEneaney	Present
Paul DiBenedetto	Present	Melvyn Meer	Present
Mary Donahue	Present	George Mihaltzes	Present
Henry Euler	Present	Eileen Miller	Present
Mario Ferazzoli	Absent	Douglas Montgomery	Present
Joann Ferrari	Absent	Steven Newman	Present
Sonya Fierro-Gladwin	Present	Allan Palzer	Present
Jack Fried	Absent	Chris Petallides	Present
Alim Gafar	Absent	Stephen Pivawer	Present
Joan Garippa	Present	Christina Scherer	Present
Roy Giusetti	Present	John Shehas	Present
Lawrence Gresser	Present	Jessica Sin	Present
Bernard Haber	Present	Joseph Sollano	Absent
Zion Halili	Absent	Jyothi Sriram	Present
		Alex Yagudaev	Present

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Christina Coutinho	Community Associate, Community Board 11
Grace Meng	Congress Member
Paul Vallone	Council Member
Captain William McBride	111 th Precinct, Commanding Officer
PO Erdman	111 th Precinct, Community Affairs Unit
Steven Everett	Representing the Dept. City Planning
Anthony Lemma	Representing Assembly Member David Weprin
Casey Lajszky	Representing Assembly Member David Weprin
Anne Marie Boranian	Representing the Office of the Queens Borough President
Jason Anthos	Representing Assembly Member Ed Braunstein
Patrick Jordan	Representing the Office of Public Advocate Letitia James
Kieran Mahoney	Representing Senator Tony Avella

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chair, Christine Haider.

The Chair led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two residents of 218 Street spoke regarding noisy neighbors and requested an increase of police presence in this area.

Alfredo Vitolo, who lives behind the site of the proposed high school at the Bayside Jewish Center, stated that he is concerned with the height of the building and how many students will be attending.

Public Participation was interrupted to introduce Captain McBride.

Captain McBride spoke in regard to skimming devices and what precautions can be taken to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft. Mel Meer addressed the Captain regarding the response of the 111th Community Affairs Unit.

Public Participation resumed.

David Solano gave an update regarding the SCA purchasing the property of the Bayside Jewish Center.

Anne Marie Boranian, representing Queens Borough President Katz, stated that the next Parent Advisory Board meeting will be held on Oct. 21st and the BP is hosting a ceremony in honor of Veterans Day on Nov. 6th at Queens Borough Hall.

Mike Feiner, President, Bayside Hills Civic Association, announced that the BHCA will be hosting candidate night and questions can be emailed to the civic.

Mrs. Haider introduced Congress Member Grace Meng and Council Member Paul Vallone.

Council Member Vallone spoke in regard to participatory budgeting and the proposed high school at the Bayside Jewish Center site. He stated that the public review for the proposed high school will start tomorrow, Oct. 6th. CB11 will be conducting a public hearing on Nov. 2nd. A question and answer period followed.

Congress Member Meng spoke in regard to proposed legislation she is working on in Congress, The Flushing Remonstrance Study Act for the National Park Service to recognize the importance of this document and also recognize Queens Parks, VA Regional Office Accountability Act which concerns the accuracy of veterans' claims adjudication, the removal of BPA from certain products, American flags used by the Federal Government be required to be made in the United States and for the Federal Government to put noise mitigation back in the jurisdiction of the EPA. A question and answer period followed.

PRESENTATION

Jessica Schreiber, representing the Dept. of Sanitation, stated that CB11 was selected for a one-time only curbside clothing collection to take place the week of Oct. 19th. We have additional textile bags on the piano.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the Sept. 8th meeting. The motion was seconded by John Shehas. The minutes were accepted as written.

CORRESPONDENCE

Christine Haider made the following announcements:

Today was the renaming ceremony hosted by Council Member Vallone for the Matinecock Native Americans at Marathon Parkway and Northern Blvd. Thanks were given to Paul DiBenedetto for all his efforts with this project.

There was a lovely memorial service for Frank Skala on Sunday at the All Saints Episcopal Church. Several Board members attended.

Mel Meer will be representing the CB at the LGA Technical Advisory Committee on Oct. 7th. This group will be looking at the protocol for the Federal Part 150 noise study. Mrs. Haider asked Mr. Meer to give an update during Board member discussion.

The Auburndale Improvement Association will have their 100th year anniversary celebration on Oct. 20th. Congratulations were given to Terry Pouymani, Henry Euler and all the members.

The public hearing for the proposed school will be held at the Nov. 2nd public meeting. The only item on the agenda will be the proposed school, acceptance of minutes and a vote on the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities. Mrs. Haider encouraged residents to sign up to speak in regard to the proposed school. Discussion ensued as to allowing speakers to sign up to speak the night of the meeting. Mrs. Haider wanted to reiterate that the meeting will be conducted in an orderly matter.

Mrs. Haider noted that there is an amended meeting agenda for tonight's meeting.

There will be a Community and Crime Forum at the NY Hall of Science on Oct. 8th.

The proposed landmarking of the Douglaston Historic Extension is on the Landmark Commission agenda for Thursday, Oct. 8th.

If additional textile bags are needed, contact the District office.

There will be an Italian Heritage and Frank Sinatra's 100th Anniversary Celebration at City Hall on Oct. 7th.

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Laura James, Education Co-Chair, reviewed a report from a meeting that she and several Board members attended at Council Member Vallone's office with the DOE and the SCA. Ms. James stated that contracts between the SCA and the Bayside Jewish Center have been signed and the public review will start tomorrow, Oct. 6th. The CB11 public hearing will be on Nov. 2nd and currently, CB11 is working with the SCA to schedule a committee meeting prior to the public hearing. She said the SCA will be scheduling meetings of community engagement involving neighbors, parents and prospective users about what the school needs to be. The SCA will also conduct an environmental review, concurrent with the 45-day public review. This will include counting pedestrians and vehicles, observing the use of public transportation and a report on land use characteristics. Ms. James stated that the process ends with the City Council and the Mayor. The final proposal is submitted to the City Council, which then has 20 days to act. If the site is approved, there is a period of approximately one year in which the architectural plans will be drawn. Steven Newman asked that school principals and the PTAs of middle schools and elementary schools in District 26 be notified of the public hearing. Paul DiBenedetto asked if the Board or an elected official recommended the Bayside Jewish Center to SCA and asked what if the Board votes it down. Mrs. Haider stated that to the best of her knowledge, CB11 did not recommend this site. She also said the Board voted down the proposal for a school at the former Keil's property and a school is being erected at that site. Roy Giusetti asked how many students will be enrolled; Ms. James stated approximately 700. A question was raised regarding how the SCA handled this process. Ms. James addressed the question by reading the following statement from the report: The group expressed their disappointment to the Council Member and the SCA that this process was handled in secrecy and the Community Board was not kept informed, and that this needed to change. Janet McEaney requested an elementary school instead of a high school. Mr. Newman stated that the SCA and DOE hire real estate brokers for the site selection of a school. Mr. Newman also said that although there was a discussion as to whether a specialized high school or standard high school was better, CB11,

for the past decade, has voted for a new high school on capital budget priorities. Mrs. McEneaney addressed Mr. Newman by stating that 60% of high schools students come from outside our district and it was never identified as to why a high school was needed in the district. Mr. Newman addressed Mrs. McEneaney by saying that her statement was untrue. Mel Meer stated that a high school should be built where students need it; our high schools are overcrowded because students come from other areas.

Paul DiBenedetto asked for a letter for support for the proposed landmarking of the Douglaston Historic District Extension and the Ahles House. He also thanked Jason Antos for his efforts with the street renaming at the Marathon Parkway for the Matinecock Native Americans.

Janet McEneaney spoke in regard to standing room only on the LIRR Port Washington line.

Mel Meer stated that Waldbaums is closing in the Bay Terrace Shopping Center and a Stop & Shop will be coming to the location. He also spoke in length regarding airplane noise and recommended the Board encourage federal officials to support an amendment to the FAA Reorganization Bill that would delete Section 213C2. Mrs. Haider asked Joan Garippa to schedule an Aviation Committee meeting to discuss.

Anthony Koutsouradis spoke in regard to additional carriers being installed on the existing cell phone towers at 35 Avenue and the Clearview Expressway.

Douglas Montgomery stated that on Oct. 10th, there will be another Electronic Waste Event at the Zion Church.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Zoning for Quality and Affordability Text Amendment – N160049 ZRY and Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Text Amendment – N160051 ZRY

Steven Everett, representing the Dept. of City Planning, gave a presentation on proposed Text Amendments N160049 ZRY and N160051 ZRY. Mr. Everett stated that there is a huge housing crisis and the Mayor has a five-borough, 10-year plan to help fill the gap. The proposed program requires units to be new and permanently affordable and applies to developments, enlargements or conversions that are greater than 10 units. Parking will be eliminated for new units. There are three proposed types of locations; same building, separate building and a different zoning lot in the same community district. Mr. Everett stated that a contractor constructing a building with 11-25 units can consider paying a fee instead of building affordable units. Another consideration for a contractor is to apply to the BSA to have requirements reduced or waived to make development feasible. The Zoning for Quality and Affordability Text Amendment goal is to create more affordable housing for a wider range of New Yorkers and encourage better buildings that contribute to attractive and livable neighborhoods. Mr. Everett stated that the proposal will create affordable senior housing and will eliminate or reduce parking for senior housing developments. Paul Graziano spoke in regard to the areas in the District that would be affected and the different zoning changes with the proposed amendments. A motion was made to approve the amendments. The motion was seconded by Joan Garippa. A lengthy discussion ensued on the proposed changes to building height and parking restrictions. A roll call vote was taken for Zoning for Quality and Affordability, N160049ZRY resulting in 24 opposed, 1 abstention and 2 present. (Opposed Basom, Behar, Cerezo, DiBenedetto, Donahue, Euler, Giusetti, Haider, James, Karahalidis, Koutsouradis, Liatto, McEneaney, Meer, Miller, Montgomery, Newman, Palzer, Petallides, Pivawer, Scherer, Shehas, Sin, Sriram – Abstain – Lee – Present – Garippa, Mihaltses) The motion was denied. A roll call vote was taken for Mandatory Inclusionary Housing, N160051 ZRY resulting in 24 opposed, 1 abstention and 2 present. (Opposed Basom, Behar, Cerezo, DiBenedetto, Donahue, Euler, Giusetti, Haider, James, Karahalidis, Koutsouradis, Liatto, McEneaney, Meer, Miller, Montgomery, Newman,

Palzer, Petallides, Pivawer, Scherer, Shehas, Sin, Sriram – Abstain – Lee – Present – Garippa, Mihaltses) The motion was denied.

CB11 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities – Co-Chair, Steven Newman stated that there will be a committee meeting on Oct. 22th. Mr. Newman stated new capital and expense submission will be reviewed at this meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental Committee Co-Chairs, Henry Euler and Paul DiBenedetto, reviewed the committee report of Sept. 25, in regard to two pieces of legislation being sponsored by Council Member Danny Dromm in regard to lawn care devices. First, Intro. 853 deals with a ban on the sale or distribution of diesel-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers in the City of New York effective 9/17/17. Second, Intro. 59 deals with a ban on the sale or distribution of gas-powered leaf blowers in the City of New York rated to produce a maximum sound level in excess of 65 decibels. Mr. Euler stated that there was committee discussion and it was mentioned that gas-powered leaf blowers not only pose a noise issue, but also a health issue because of the dust generated and spread by the power of the machine. The committee agreed on drafting a resolution of support. A discussion ensued regarding the health hazard associated with lawn care devices and the start time of use. A request to make changes to the resolution was made. Mr. DiBenedetto stated that the resolution supports the proposed legislation. If items are added to the resolution that are not listed in the legislation, then the resolution is not supporting the legislation. A motion was made to approve the resolution as written and, at a later date, additions will be discussed. The motion was seconded by Paul DiBenedetto. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 23 in favor and 3 opposed (In-favor- Basom, Behar, Cerezo, DiBenedetto, Euler, Garippa, Giusetti, Haider, James, Karahalis, Koutsouradis, Lee, Liatto, McEaney, Meer, Mihaltses, Miller, Montgomery, Palzer, Petallides, Scherer, Shehas, Sriram – Opposed – Donahue, Newman, Pivawer) The motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded by Melvyn Meer. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.