

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11
GENERAL BOARD MEETING

DATE: September 8, 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	Present
Daniel Baek	Present	George Karahalis	Absent
Edith Basom	Absent	Anthony Koutsouradis	Present
Steven Behar	Present	Linda Lee	Present
Lana Bind	Present	Robert Liatto	Present
Susan Cerezo	Present	Janet McEneaney	Absent
Ocelia Claro	Absent	Melvyn Meer	Present
Paul DiBenedetto	Present	George Mihaltzes	Present
Mary Donahue	Present	Eileen Miller	Present
Henry Euler	Present	Douglas Montgomery	Present
Mario Ferazzoli	Present	Steven Newman	Present
JoAnn Ferrari	Absent	Allan Palzer	Present
Sonya Fierro-Gladwin	Present	Chris Petallides	Absent
Jack Fried	Present	Stephen Pivawer	Present
Alim Gafar	Absent	Christina Scherer	Absent
Joan Garippa	Present	John Shehas	Present
Roy Giusetti	Present	Jessica Sin	Present
Lawrence Gresser	Absent	Joseph Sollano	Present
Bernard Haber	Present	Jyothi Sriram	Present
Zion Halili	Present	Alex Yagudaev	Present

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Christina Coutinho	Community Associate, Community Board 11
Captain William McBride	111 th Precinct, Commanding Officer
PO Galano	111 th Precinct, Community Affairs Unit
Scott Solomon	Representing the Dept. City Planning
Kevin Cho	Representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic
Casey Lajszky	Representing Assembly Member David Weprin
Anne Marie Boranian	Representing the Office of the Queens Borough President
Mike Yon	Representing Council Member Paul Vallone
Meagan Chen	Representing Assembly Member Ed Braunstein
Elaine Fan	Representing Comptroller Scott M. Stringer
Patrick Jordan	Representing the Office of Public Advocate Letitia James
Kieran Mahoney	Representing Senator Tony Avella
Elaine Fan	Representing the Office of the NYC Comptroller

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chair, Christine Haider.

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

There was a moment of silence in honor of former Board Member, Frank Skala, who passed away.

Mrs. Haider announced that at approximately 4:30 pm today, she received a telephone call from the office of Council Member Paul Vallone stating that the Bayside Jewish Center signed a contract with the School Construction Authority on Sept 1st. She stated that CB11 has not received any information from

the SCA. Mrs. Haider announced that once confirmation is received, there will be a meeting at Council Member Paul Vallone's office.

Captain William McBride gave the year-to-date crime statistics for the 111th Precinct. Capt. McBride stated that there is a spike in burglaries. He said that majority of the burglaries are because doors and windows are left open and unlocked. Capt. McBride discussed various telephone scams.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jack Oshier spoke regarding poor maintenance on the grounds of the U.S. Post Office located at 212 Street and 42 Avenue.

Peg Franco spoke regarding a police matter that is taking place in the neighborhood of Weeks Woodland.

David Solano spoke regarding the negative impact the proposed high school at the Bayside Jewish Center will have on the community and surrounding schools.

Mike Feiner, President, Bayside Hills Civic Association, stated that BHCA will be conducting their annual 9/11 Observance Ceremony at Bell Blvd. and Horace Harding on Sept. 11th at 7:00 pm.

PRESENTATION

Tom Hurtubis, Manager of Education, Queens Zoo spoke in regard to family-friendly events taking place at the Queens Zoo. Mr. Hurtubis stated that there are several new animals and asked everyone to come and visit the zoo.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the June 15th meeting. The motion was seconded by Bernard Haber. The minutes were accepted as written.

CORRESPONDENCE

Christine Haider made the following announcements:

Thanks were given to Jack Fried, PO Erdman and Det. Blainey for a successful National Night Out.

A North Shore/LIJ laboratory, in partnership with Health & Hospitals Corporation, will be built on the grounds of Steel Equities' property. This laboratory will be for processing specimens from NSLIJ and HHC.

City Council will be holding hearings on the following: Int. No. 49 – Notice to Council Members and Community Boards of applications filed with the DOB, Int. No. 280 – Registry of Restricted Covenants and Int. No. 775 – Landmarks Preservation. Mrs. Haider stated that CB11's Landmarks Committee is in the process of finalizing a letter stating their objections.

Sen. Avella has reintroduced legislation for Cease and Desist Listing.

Dept. of Sanitation announced a pilot program for textile recycling in CB11. There will be a presentation at CB11's October 5th meeting by a DSNY representative. This pilot program will be in effect the week of October 19th. Items will include fabric, clothing, towels, sheets, etc... No pillows or mattresses.

Mel Meer has graciously volunteered to serve as our representative on the LaGuardia Roundtable.

Congratulations were given to Douglas Montgomery who is being honored as “King of Queens” on September 17, 2015 by the Queens Courier.

Dr. Simpson of St. Mary’s Children Hospital has informed the Board that they have filed a “Certificate of Need” for additional beds to care for severely ill children in their currently, vacant area.

Primary Day is Thursday, September 10th.

Christina Scherer is not present tonight because her brother passed away.

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Henry Euler stated that in September 2014, Star Toyota came before the Board with an application to the Board of Standards and Appeals for the renewal of an expired variance. The Board denied the application. Mr. Euler said that Star Toyota has not gone before the BSA and is operating with an expired variance. The Auburndale Improvement Association has written letters to the BSA Executive Director. Mr. Euler also asked everyone to feel how hot it is the auditorium tonight and said to imagine the students sitting in classrooms trying to learn. He said that it is the 21st Century; all schools should be better equipped.

On behalf of Janet McEaney, Mr. Euler stated that increased traffic on the LIRR has become problematic, there are no seats and many riders are standing. Susan Seinfeld has been informed that the LIRR is experiencing record ridership. It was stated that no additional trains have been added. Mrs. McEaney asked for CB11 to look further into this situation.

Zion Halili stated that he has received several complaints from residents in regard to vehicles speeding on 210 Street between Union Turnpike and 82 Avenue. He requested a speed bump as traffic control for this location.

Douglas Montgomery stated that there will be an electronic waste event at Zion Episcopal Church on October 10th.

Paul DiBenedetto announced the upcoming events being hosted by the Bayside Historical Society. All events can be viewed on their website. Mr. DiBenedetto also spoke in regard to making Broadway-Flushing a historical district.

Anthony Koutsourdis addressed Council Member Vallone’s representative, Mike Yon, stating that the Board would like to be kept informed and included in any meetings regarding the proposed school at the Bayside Jewish Center.

Susan Cerezo spoke in regard to “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” at Flushing Corona Park. She also spoke in regard to St. Anastasia’s celebrating their 100th year anniversary.

John Shehas stated that there are several sidewalk locations in Hollis Hills that still have not been repaired since Super Storm Sandy. He said that 311 complaints have been generated. Susan Seinfeld requested the locations or service request numbers in order for the CB to follow up.

Steven Newman asked the Board’s position on Int. No. 775. Susan reviewed a drafted letter by the Landmarks Committee. The Board agreed to forward the letter in opposition to Int. No. 775.

Mrs. Haider asked the Board for their input on Int. No. 49 and Int. No. 280. Mr. Euler made a motion supporting both pieces of legislation. The motion was seconded. A discussion ensued. A vote by show of hands was taken for Int. No. 49 resulting in 31 in favor and 1 opposed. Discussion ensued for Int. No. 280 and a vote by show of hands was taken resulting in 28 in favor, 2 opposed and 1 abstention. Mrs. Haider stated that letters will be forwarded in support of Int. No. 280 and Int. No. 49.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation – Co-Chair, Bernard Haber stated a speed bump on 73 Avenue between Springfield and Bell Blvd. was approved by the committee. Mr. Haber said that the Bayside Village BID is sponsoring a plan to build a parking garage on the MTA property. He said an independent consulting firm conducted a parking study and found that 1000 additional parking spaces are needed.

Capital & Expense – Co-Chair, Joan Garippa stated that budget request forms have been distributed. Completed forms should be forwarded to CB11. Co-Chair, Steve Newman stated that the Capital and Expense Committee and the Education Committee felt it was their obligation to recommend other sites for a proposed high school in the District; a vacant property on Northern Blvd. in Douglaston or Creedmoor property in CB13. Discussion ensued.

Education Committee – Co-Chair, Laura James stated that a letter was forwarded to the SCA providing two alternate sites for a high school. Ms. James recapped meetings with Council Member Vallone in regard to the proposed school at the BJC. Ms. James urged the Board members to read the notice circulated by Steven Newman in regard to City spending per student. She stated that the DOE allows City students to apply to any high school outside their District. Mel Meer stated that student caps are too high in our local high school. There was a lengthy discussion how the problem is that the DOE allows local high school's to become overcrowded; opening an additional high school in District 26 will not help. Mr. Athy, Principal, Bayside High School expressed his concerns in regard to the proposed school. Roy Giusetti asked if petitions were being circulated by the neighbors in opposition to the proposed high school; a resident stated no. Board members asked for a copy of the signed contract; Susan Seinfeld stated that the SCA will supply the contract when they come before the Board. Joe Sollano said that before the Committee forwarded alternate sites to the SCA, the Douglaston Zoning Committee should have been notified.

Health Committee – Co-Chair Eileen Miller spoke in regard to topics discussed at a June 2015 Health Committee meeting. Mrs. Miller discussed the smoke-free housing resolution and reported that most of the community boards in Queens have already signed a resolution. She also stated that an addition to the NYC website has been developed in order to observe the new changes in our laws and rules.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded by Joe Sollano. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.