

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11
GENERAL BOARD MEETING

DATE: September 08, 2014

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

ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Christina Coutinho	Community Board 11 Associate
Captain Derick Seneus	111 th Precinct Executive Officer
Natalia Kozokowska	Representing Council Member Mark Weprin
Matt Pafindi	Representing Assembly Member Ed Braunstein
Anthony Lemma	Representing Assembly Member David Weprin
Anne Marie Boranian	Representing the Office of the Borough President
Joanne Choi	Representing Congress Member Grace Meng
Jeong-ah Choi	Representing the Office of the Borough President
Michael Stinson	Representing Congress Member Steven Israel
Megan Keane	Representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic

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

Michael Feiner, President, Bayside Hills Civic Association, announced their annual 9/11 Ceremony will be held at 7:00 pm at Bell Blvd. and Horace Harding Expressway.

Mandingo Tshaka stated that vehicles speed on 46th Avenue between Oceania Street and 206 Street. He said that at the end of 206 Street there is a pedestrian ramp and three schools in the vicinity. Mr. Tshaka requested a speed bump. He also discussed how Star Nissan/Star Toyota and other businesses on Northern Blvd. are violating zoning laws and disrupting the residential neighborhood on 45 Road.

Anthony Lemma, representing Assemblyman David Weprin, stated that the Assemblyman is sponsoring a job fair on Thursday, September 18th at the Boys and Girls Club in Richmond Hill.

Jason Antos, local historian, proposed a street co-naming in honor of the Matinecock Native Americans who once lived in the vicinity of Northern Blvd., Jessie Court and Marathon Parkway. Mr. Antos spoke about the history of the Matinecock Native Americans and requested the street co-naming for the intersection of Marathon Parkway and Northern Blvd. Paul DiBenedetto stated the request has to be presented to the Transportation Committee and then the full board.

CORRESPONDENCE

Christine Haider made the following announcements:

Voter Registration Day is Sept. 23 and all community boards must participate in handing out voter registration forms pursuant to the Mayor's Directive. Forms can be obtained at the CB 11 office.

Fines for over \$300,000. have been levied for the arboricide at the former Keil Bros. property on the south side of 48th Avenue.

Partnership for Parks is looking for volunteers to help clean up Crocheron Park. The projects include fence and bench painting, leaf cleanup, weeding and mulching. If you are interested or know of any community groups that are interested, please advise them to contact Partnership for Parks.

Brooklyn Housing Preservation Alliance sent CB 11 links to their website and Susan spoke to a member of CB 10 in Brooklyn. They are interested in expanding their efforts for community preservation and saw CB 11's resolution against the legalization of basement apartments.

A large water main replacement project has started in the Bayside Hills area. Mrs. Haider attended a pre-construction meeting at the DDC. Susan Seinfeld and Eileen Miller attended the on-site meeting. The project covers Springfield Blvd. and 216 Street from the Horace Harding Expressway to 39 Avenue. The project has a two-year completion date. Disruptions will occur near QCC, P.S. 203, Cardozo HS, Springfield Blvd. and Northern Blvd. The schools have been notified of the project.

Assemblymember Braunstein held a press conference on July 11th at the St. Lawrence Cemetery regarding illegal clothing bins placed on City properties. He is introducing legislation to restrict the placement of these bins.

Queens Quiet Skies is holding a rally against airplane noise on September 14th at Cunningham Park.

The Governor passed a law allowing 16-17 year olds to serve as members of community boards.

The Oakland Lake project started last week.

Trees will be planted in the district starting in November under the Million TreesNY program. Locations are designated by a white flag.

Congratulations to 111th Precinct Community Affairs Office and Jack Fried for a successful “National Night Out”.

Ben Fried street co-naming ceremony was held on August 25th.

Assemblymember Rozic is participating in project “Back to School” to collect schools supplies for homeless children through September 16th. Flyers are on the piano.

Jack Fried is excused tonight because he is having dinner with the Police Commissioner.

Edith Basom is back and well, Gorden Keit, Eileen Miller’s husband, Mel Meer and Larry Gresser all had surgery and are resting well.

Congratulations to Linda Lee on the birth of her new son.

PRESENTATIONS

John Cnapich, representing NYS Dept. of Family Assistance/Child Support, gave a presentation regarding services offered. Mr. Cnapich explained the process of family court orders and determining custodial rights. New York State Child Support Customer Service Helpline is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm – (888) 208-4485. Brochures were left describing services that they offer. A question and answer period followed.

Captain Seneus gave an update on the monthly statistics for the district. He stated that there are several scams going around. He said to be aware when a caller is asking for money, it is most likely a scam. Capt. Seneus said personal property should not be left in your car. Theft of catalytic converters is on the rise.

Rebecca Kane, representing the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, gave a presentation on Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes and the research results of her organization. She stated that on October 5th, there will be a 5k walk for Type 1 Diabetes at Flushing Meadows Corona Park. If anyone is interested in a presentation at their local school or civic association, Ms. Kane can be reached at rkane@jdrf.org.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Christine Haider asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the June 16th meeting. The minutes were accepted with corrections after lengthy discussion.

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

In regard to the issues with the public hearing for the Douglaston Station Pedestrian Plaza, Roy Giusetti asked, for future reference, if our Bylaws state that during board member discussion, the Board Chair can override the Committee Chair with regard to the amount of questions asked by the board members. Mrs. Haider stated that in this case, as the Board Chair, she deferred to the Committee Chair.

Andy Rothman gave an update regarding the status of the Port Authority beginning a community roundtable.

Janet McEneaney announced that there will be a rally on September 14th at Cunningham Park at 1:00 pm about the new airplane routes. Ms. McEneaney stated that elected officials, environmental experts,

community leaders and residents will be there to voice concerns. Queens Quiet Skies is beginning an international coalition of community advocacy.

Susan Cerezo stated that the annual “Making Strides against Breast Cancer” is being held at Flushing Meadows Corona Park on October 19th. Ms. Cerezo gave information and statistics regarding breast cancer and cancer screening.

Henry Euler stated that on September 21st, there will be a “People’s Climate March” in New York City. Additional information can be obtained at their website: peoplesclimatemarch.org.

Jyothi Sriram questioned why there was no committee meeting in regard to the Douglaston Station Pedestrian Plaza. She expressed how the committee should have had the opportunity to meet with DOT. Susan Seinfeld stated that DOT wanted to meet with the community and the Transportation Committee together. Discussion ensued regarding the importance of scheduling committee meetings with City Agencies.

Douglas Montgomery stated that on September 26th at 6:00 pm, there will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Douglaston Station Pedestrian Plaza. Secondly, the LDC is working with the MTA for a farmers market on the MTA property at the Douglaston Station for the month of October. Lastly, the Douglaston Garden Club is co-hosting, with APEC, the 2nd free tree giveaway on October. 4.

Paul DiBenedetto stated that on September 26, for members only, the Bayside Historical Society is hosting a cocktail party to celebrate “Bayside Day”. On September 27th between 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm there will be an event to celebrate “Bayside Day” at Fort Totten. Also, on September 13th, there will be a free concert at Crocheron Park from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Anthony Koutsouradis stated that the thermoplastic markings at the crosswalks of P.S. 159 have not been installed and the streets were repaved about 3 months ago. Mr. Koutsouradis also stated that a speed bump was installed without thermoplastic markings. He has made several complaints to 311 and was asking for the CB’s help regarding this matter.

PUBLIC HEARING - BSA Cal. No. 374-71 BZ – Star Toyota – 205-11 Northern Blvd.

An application to extend the term of a previously-granted variance permitting an automobile showroom and parking on a portion of the premises. The applicant’s representative, Todd Dale, stated that the original variance was granted in 1975 and, the most recent grant was in 2006 with a 5-year term which expired in 2011. The application is to extend the term from the expiration date of 2011 with a standard 10-year term and proposes no change to the building or the operation of the business. Mr. Dale stated that this application was brought before the zoning committee in June 2014 and at that time, there were a number of issues. The owner has reviewed the list, and Mr. Dale stated that the bollards were replaced, the chain link fence on the Clearview Expressway Service Road has been repaired and asphalt repair is in progress. The owner is in the process of trying to get a bigger dumpster. There were three registered speakers who all opposed the variance. It was stated that three years ago, the Auburndale Improvement Association contacted the Board the Standards and Appeals regarding several problems with the applicant including that the Certificate of Occupancy expired in 2002. The applicant also continues to operate contrary to the conditions stipulated in the granted variance and has little regard for their surrounding community. One speaker stated that they have been living with the poor conditions of this business for several years. The resident stated that

dealership cars speed and park illegally causing a dangerous condition, employees throw their garbage all over the street and the side lot for parking is used for dealership car storage which is contrary to the variance. The final statement from the public was that this application should be denied because the applicant will not follow any stipulations in the future. Ocelia Claro, Zoning Committee Co-Chair, read the committee report of June 5, 2014. Mrs. Claro stated that a motion was made to recommend approval of the variance with a 5-year term with conditions. The committee voted unanimously to disapprove the application. A motion was made to approve the application with conditions. A question and answer period followed. Board Members asked if the Toyota Corporation has been notified as to how the applicant is a poor example for Toyota, why was only a 5-year term given in 2006, what was the delay for not extending the variance in 2006 and what is the guarantee that the applicant will abide by the conditions of the variance. Mr. Dale stated that there has been a history with conditions not being met but in the last few months, the applicant has been working to address the conditions at the site. He said there were delays with the extension and penalties were paid. Mr. Haber stated that in 1972, this site was one of the first variances to come before the CB. Mr. Haber said the stipulation for the parking area was the same back then as it is today and still presents a problem. The motion was seconded by Steve Behar. Discussion ensued as to how this applicant is one of the worst businesses in CB 11. It was stated that a strong message should be sent to the BSA stating how this applicant shouldn't be doing business in our community. The applicant was given a 5-year term in 2006 because they never abided by the stipulations of the first variance granted. It was suggested that board members, civic associations and residents attend the BSA hearing and show support for the disapproval of this application. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 30 opposed and 1 abstention (opposed – Basom, Behar, Bind, Claro, Cerezo, DiBenedetto, Euler, Ferazzoli, Fierro-Gladwin, Garippa, Giusetti, Haber, Haider, Iannece, James, Jethwani, Karahalis, Koutsouradis, Liatto, McEaney, Miller Montgomery, Newman, Palzer, Pivawer, Rothman, Scherer, Sekdorian, Sollano, Sriram – Abstain – Petallides). The motion was denied. Jeong-ah Choi stated that the Borough President's Public Hearing is on September 18th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation – Bernard Haber, PE and Chris Petallides, PE, Co-Chairs – Mr. Haber spoke in regard to a proposal presented by MoveNY to promote Fair Tolling and Transportation Reinvestment at the committee meeting of July 28th. Mr. Haber stated that this proposal will allow for a toll on the East River bridges with a \$15.00 cash roundtrip and the MTA bridges will be reduced to \$10.00 cash roundtrip. A question that was presented at the committee meeting was, should there be a toll on all the bridges that connect the boroughs? Staten Island does not have a free bridge but the Staten Island Ferry is free. This is a plan to raise money to pay for transportation.

Environmental – Henry Euler and Paul DiBenedetto, Co-Chairs – Paul DiBenedetto read the committee report of August 15th outlining a presentation from Open Sewer Atlas NYC. Mr. Euler stated that the issue of the quality of water in Little Neck Bay, due to the lack of sewers in Douglas Manor, was discussed and the representative stated that they are aware of this situation and it would be discussed with different City agencies.

Mrs. Haider stated that in the Board Member monthly mailing, there was a Capital and Expense Budget form to be completed and return to the office.

Mrs. Haider told everyone to be aware of a telephone scam of a caller stating that there could be something wrong with your computer to retrieve information from you.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.