

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11 REGULAR
MEETING

DATE: February 6, 2012

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

ATTENDANCE:

Jerry Iannece, Chair	Present	Gordon Keit	Present
Edith Basom	Present	Eileen Kenny	Absent
Steven Behar	Present	Incha Kim	Present
Daniel Berrios	Present	Robert Liatto	Absent
Lana Bind	Present	Susan Macinick	Present
Robert Caloras	Present	Janet McEaney	Present
Susan Cerezo	Present	Thomas Meara	Present
Ocelia Claro	Absent	Melvyn Meer	Present
Paul DiBenedetto	Present	Eileen Miller	Present
Edward Doster	Present	Steven Newman	Present
Henry Euler	Present	Dennis Novick	Present
Mario Ferazzoli	Present	Allan Palzer	Present
JoAnn Ferrari	Present	Chris Petallides	Present
Sonya Fierro-Gladwin	Present	Stephen Pivawer	Absent
Lee Fiorino	Present	Andrew Rothman	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	Absent	Robert Speranza	Absent
Laura James	Present	Teddy Teng	Present
Mohan Jethwani	Present	Alex Yagudaev	Present
George Karahalidis	Absent		

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Christina Coutinho	Community Assistant, Community Board 11
Deputy Inspector Ronald Leyson	110 th Precinct
Captain Jason Huerta	111 th Precinct, Commanding Officer
P.O. William Conway	111 th Precinct, Community Affairs
Mark Scott	Representing Queens Borough President Helen Marshall
Claudio Filomena	Representing the Office of the Mayor
Britney Mendoza	Representing Assemblymember Edward Braunstein
Steven Masillo	Representing Assemblymember Edward Braunstein
Anthony Lemma	Representing Assemblymember David Weprin
Paige Waranis	Representing Councilmember Dan Halloran
Cathy Chambers	GrowNY
Xavier San Miguel	Representing Senator Tony Avella
Alen Beerman	Representing Councilmember Mark Weprin
Dominic Panakal	Representing Assemblymember Rory Lancman

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chairman, Jerry Iannece.

Mr. Iannece announced that our Commanding Officer from the 111th Precinct was promoted to Deputy Inspector and will be working at the 110th Precinct. Mr. Iannece thanked Deputy Inspector Leyson for his outstanding service to the community and wished him the best in his new position.

Mr. Iannece introduced Deputy Inspector Leyson who said that he wanted to personally thank everyone for their support while he was Commanding Officer at the 111th Precinct. He introduced newly appointed Commanding Officer, Captain Jason Huerta. Captain Huerta stated that he has been with the NYPD for 21 years and has served as a Captain for 3 years. He said that prior to being appointed to the 111th Precinct, he was the Commanding Officer for the 110th and 115th Precincts Impact Zones. Captain Huerta gave the current crime statistics for January and February.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Joyce Shepard spoke about how she reached out to Congressman Gary Ackerman for support with various issues with prescription drug manufacturers. Ms. Shepard stated that she was dissatisfied with the support from the office of Congressman Gary Ackerman on this matter.

Suzanne Isabelle with the American Cancer Society spoke about Relay for Life and how it raises money to support the programs and services of the American Cancer Society.

Jack Oshier spoke about violations and damages caused by a contractor doing work at 42-27 213 St.

Tim Vance, Vice President of the Weeks Woodland Association, gave an update regarding the lawsuit against the DOB, DOH, and St. Mary's Hospital for Children.

Mandingo Tshaka spoke about the Dodge/Chrysler Jeep Auto Dealership at 212-19 Northern Blvd and how they are not in compliance with the Zoning Resolution. He stated that vehicles are parked on the sidewalks which block pedestrians. Mr. Tshaka asked if a representative from Dept. of Buildings could be invited to a general meeting to answer questions in regard to this matter.

PRESENTATION

Susan Shafer, Director, Bayside Senior Center, spoke about different programs that are offered at the Bayside Senior Center.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Jerry Iannece asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the January 3rd meeting. It was requested that the last name of a speaker under Public Participation be added and the word "and" between safety rights on the 4th page, first paragraph be added. The minutes were accepted with addition and corrections.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jerry Iannece made the following announcements and follow-ups:

Congratulations were given to the NY Giants for their Super Bowl win.

Congratulations were given to former Commanding Officer Ronald Leyson on his promotion to Deputy Inspector.

There was a story on NY1 News that featured Jerry Iannece, Susan Seinfeld and Terry Pouymari in regard to the vacant homes on 47 Avenue and 198 Street. These homes have been vacant for many years and a letter has been written to the bank that has obtained control of the homes, due to foreclosure.

A “Notice to Revoke” permits from the Dept. of Buildings was given to homes on 223 Street that were built by contractor Tommy Huang. These homes have not been occupied for over 8 years. It is now understood that possibly the BSA is requiring a variance because the buildings are out of compliance.

Building plans for a Day Care center have been received for Union Turnpike and 213 Street and is a concern to the Hollis Hills residents. Susan Seinfeld is working with Councilman Mark Weprin’s office and the DOB to obtain final plans to determine how it will affect the neighborhood.

The Preliminary Budget was released and the Budget Committee has received the Register with the response to the CB11 budget priorities. The community board will not be cut for the remainder of FY 2012, but cuts for FY 2013 are still a possibility. There is concern that the Beacon programs may be defunded because the Dept. of Youth is not issuing the RFP required for them to obtain the funds. Susan Seinfeld testified this morning for the board at the Borough President’s budget hearing and next month, we will hold the public hearing on the preliminary budget.

The state legislature has released the proposed district lines. Part of the proposal is expanding the district lines for Assemblymembers Braunstein and Lancman. There are several groups that have formed opposing this proposal.

The DSNY will have a hazardous waste disposal event on April 28 at St. John’s University. Additional information can be obtained at the office of CB11 or the DSNY website.

There will be a memorial event for Pat Dolan at the Kew Garden Hills Library on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm.

Condolences were given to the Italiano Family and CB11 Community Associate, Jane Bentivenga, for the passing of District Manager, Richard Italiano, of CB4.

This evening, Mr. Iannece attended Borough Board and one of the items voted on was the “Green Text Amendment”. Mr. Iannece stated that the concerns of our Environmental Committee were brought to the DCP.

This morning, Mr. Iannece attended the Borough President’s budget hearing and was proud to say that Mrs. Seinfeld did a great job advocating the needs of CB11. Also, in attendance, was Paul DiBenedetto who was advocating for the Bayside Historical Society.

Mr. Iannece stated that there has been some difficulty when scheduling committee meetings. When a committee meeting is scheduled, it is expected that members attended or at least RVSP to the CB.

Mr. Iannece said it will not be tolerated when committee members don’t attend meetings and then criticize what was discussed at the meeting.

Over the last month, e-mails have been going back and fourth with personal and derogatory comments. Mr. Iannece asked that everybody refrain from this behavior.

Mr. Iannece stated that next month is Board Elections.

NEW BUSINESS

Henry Euler wanted to echo Mandingo Tshaka sentiments regarding the Dodge/Chrysler Jeep Auto Dealership. Mr. Euler stated that this dealership parks their vehicles on the sidewalks on 212 Street and 213 Street. Mr. Euler said this month is Black History Month and Mr. Mandingo Tshaka was honored at the Bayside Historical Society yesterday for his community activism. Also, Mr. Euler stated that Paul DiBenedetto will be the new President for the Bayside Historical Society. Lastly, Mr. Euler thanked Jerry Iannece and Susan Seinfeld for going to the site of the vacant homes on 47 Avenue and 198 Street when NY1 was there.

Mel Meer stated that committee meeting attendance would be greatly enhanced if there was a uniform start time for each meeting. He said that meetings have been scheduled as early as 6:00 pm and as late as 8:00 pm. He feels 7:30 pm is a good time and it should become a rule of the Board. Also, Mr. Meer stated that Captain Leyson did a great job and thinks it is awful that every two years there is a change in leadership at the 111th Precinct.

Mr. Iannece stated that whether committee meetings are scheduled for 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 7:30 pm or 8:00 pm, the attendance for meetings is still poor. Therefore, there is no merit for the request to have a uniform time for committee meetings. Mr. Iannece asked if committee members could be a little more responsible with their duties and stated if a member is repeatedly absent, they will be removed.

Susan Macinick stated that if anyone was interested in joining CERT, conduct a fundraiser for CERT or have a presentation for a civic association by CERT, they can contact her. Mr. Iannece stated that the City wanted Community Boards to set-up CERT teams with no funding. Mr. Iannece stated that our CERT team is doing a wonderful job and if anyone donates to CERT, it is tax deductible.

Christine Haider thanked Mr. Iannece because he summarized what she was going to say in response to a uniform committee meeting time.

Frank Skala spoke about the practice of the NYPD relocating Captains from one precinct to another.

Steve Newman requested a letter be forwarded to the Police Commissioner in honor of former Commanding Officer Ronald Leyson. Mr. Iannece stated that he already sent a letter to Commissioner Kelly. Also, Mr. Newman stated that when public policy issues are brought before the board, he suggested that before a vote is taken, a representative from each side of the issue should be heard.

Gorden Keit asked for an update on the hotels and townhouses that are being built on 183 Street and the Horace Harding Expressway. Mr. Iannece stated that the townhouses are almost finished and that the hotels may be on hold because of financial difficulty.

Andy Rothman wanted to reiterate what Mr. Iannece stated about the S.A.F.E. program and how NYC residents will have the chance to dispose of their household poisons and pesticides.

Paul DiBenedetto stated that on important issues, whether he is Co-Chair of a committee or not, he will voice his opinion if he feels it will better the community.

Eileen Miller suggested that committee meetings be listed on the CB11 website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gary Sekdorian, Chair of the Public Relations and Consumer Affairs Committee, read the committee report from the January 11, 2012 meeting on the DCA Cabaret license application for Safari Beach Club at 40-05 Bell Blvd. At the committee meeting, it was recommend to approve the application. A question and answer period followed. It was stated that there are no registered complaints about the premises. A motion was made to approve the application. The motion was seconded. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 36 in favor, 1 opposed and 2 abstentions. (In favor – Basom, Behar, Caloras, DiBenedetto, Doster, Ferazzoli, Ferrari, Fierro-Gladwin, Fiorino, Fried, Garippa, Giusetti, Haber, Haider, Iannece, James, Jethwani, Keit, Kim, Macinick, McEneaney, Meara, Meer, Miller, Newman, Novick, Palzer, Petallides, Rothman, Scherer, Sekdorian, Skala, Smith, Sollano, Teng, Yagudaev – Opposed – Cerezo – Abstained – Bind, Euler) The motion carried.

Bernard Haber, P.E., Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee, reviewed the highlights of the committee meeting held on January 23, 2012. Mr. Haber stated that the DOT is taking applications for Neighborhood Slow Zones which means that vehicles have to travel at a limit of 20 mph in designated slow zone areas. He stated that the committee recommended the approval of the Dept. of Transportation decision for the installation of speed humps on 210 Street between 32 Avenue and 35 Avenue and 53 Avenue between 194 Street and 195 Street. Mr. Haber stated that there is an issue with parking regulations around the residential vicinity of Queensborough Community College. A survey from CB11 has been sent to the residents in the vicinity of Queensborough Community College to determine if DOT should remove the “No Parking Signs”. He stated that once the survey is completed, it will be brought before a full board. Mr. Haber stated that a new application for the Douglaston Greenmarket for July 8th to November 18th has to be submitted. Mr. Haber stated that there are no registered complaints from the community on the Greenmarket. By a show of hands, the approval the for Greenmarket application was unanimously approved. A question and answer period followed. Janet McEneaney stated a local school in her community might have requested a Slow Zone and the community residents were opposed. Mr. Iannece stated that before the DOT approves a Slow Zone, they will ask for CB11’s approval and it will brought before a full board for a vote.

Henry Euler and Paul DiBenedetto, Co-Chairs of the Environmental Committee, reviewed the highlights of the committee report from the meeting held on January 19, 2012. Mr. Euler stated that many of the provision have already been spoken about. He said that essentially the Zoning Resolution will be updated in order for Green Technology to be retrofitted to buildings. Mr. Euler reviewed the committee report. A question and answer period followed.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Iannece at 9:03 pm.