

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11 REGULAR
MEETING

DATE: January 3, 2012

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

ATTENDANCE:

Jerry Iannece, Chair	Present	Gordon Keit	Absent
Edith Basom	Absent	Eileen Kenny	Absent
Steven Behar	Present	Incha Kim	Present
Daniel Berrios	Absent	Robert Liatto	Present
Lana Bind	Absent	Susan Macinick	Absent
Robert Caloras	Absent	Janet McEaney	Present
Susan Cerezo	Absent	Thomas Meara	Absent
Ocelia Claro	Present	Melvyn Meer	Absent
Paul DiBenedetto	Present	Eileen Miller	Absent
Edward Doster	Present	Steven Newman	Absent
Henry Euler	Present	Dennis Novick	Present
Mario Ferazzoli	Present	Allan Palzer	Present
JoAnn Ferrari	Absent	Chris Petallides	Present
Sonya Fierro-Gladwin	Present	Stephen Pivawer	Present
Lee Fiorino	Present	Andrew Rothman	Present
Jack Fried	Present	Christina Scherer	Present
Joan Garippa	Present	Gary Sekdorian	Absent
Roy Giusetti	Present	Frank Skala	Present
Bernard Haber	Present	Mamie Smith	Absent
Christine Haider	Present	Joseph Sollano	Present
Zion Halili	Present	Robert Speranza	Present
Laura James	Present	Teddy Teng	Present
Mohan Jethwani	Present	Alex Yagudaev	Present
George Karahalis	Present		

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Christina Coutinho	Community Assistant, Community Board 11
Bob Turner	Congressmember
Rory Lancman	Assemblymember
Capt. Ronald Leyson	111 th Precinct, Commanding Officer
P.O. William Conway	111 th Precinct, Community Affairs
Mark Scott	Representing Queens Borough President Helen Marshall
Josh Spielman	Representing Congressman Bob Turner
Bob Capono	Representing Congressman Bob Turner
Daniel Rossman	Representing Assemblymember Edward Braunstein
Jordan Goldes	Representing Congressman Gary Ackerman
Anthony Lemma	Representing Assemblymember David Weprin
Paige Waranis	Representing Councilmember Dan Halloran
Mary Vaccaro	UFT D26
Xavier San Miguel	Representing Senator Tony Avella
Alen Beerman	Representing Councilmember Mark Weprin

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Jerry Iannece.

Mr. Iannece introduced Congressman Bob Turner, who spoke briefly about his involvement with different committees. A question and answer period followed.

Assemblyman Rory Lancman was introduced and stated that he covers a small portion of District 11. Assemblyman Lancman said that he can be reached at 718-820-0241, if anyone has any issues they would like to discuss.

Captain Leyson was called on to give the year-end crime statistics for the City and CB11. Captain Leyson stated that small electronic theft is on the rise. He gave information about an application for a smart phone that would help track the device if it was lost or stolen.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Anthony Koutsouradis, who spoke on behalf of Ali Fadil, regarding request that the Community Board and community leaders support the extension of the QM20 Clearview Express Bus to Lower Manhattan.

Patrick Bivens spoke about a liquor store opening at 219-07 Northern Blvd. He stated that there are several liquor stores already in the local area. He said that a letter could be sent to the State Liquor Authority to appeal the opening. Mr. Iannece stated that the Board doesn't take action on the opening of a liquor store.

Ms. Lim showed a presentation for the Cultural Chinese Performance at Lincoln Center.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Jerry Iannece asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the December 5th meeting. Minutes were accepted with a correction to a statement made by Andy Rothman. The following was added "Andy Rothman stated that the Whitestone Postal Facility will be closing, along with other locations. Mr. Rothman said that he feels that the US Postal Service is rushing this decision. He asked if, when making this decision, was the impact of the increased traffic on the roads, by the many extra trucks that would now need to travel to, and from, Brooklyn, considered." The minutes were accepted with corrections and additions.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jerry Iannece made the following announcements and follow-ups:

Mr. Iannece thanked Christine Haider for chairing the December meeting in his place.

Condolences were given to Gordon Keit on the passing of his mother.

The 111th Precinct Council meeting was changed to Wednesday, January 4, at 7:30 pm at the precinct to accommodate the CB11 meeting tonight.

The deadline for applications submitted to the NYC Citizens Committee for grants to help improve your community is January 31, 2012.

The New York Transit Authority will be conducting overnight outages and shut-downs which will cause delays on several transit lines.

Borough President Marshall will be conducting hearings on January 12th at 10:30 am for the BSA applications that are being presented tonight.

Walter Mugdan, President of Udalls Cove Preservation Committee, is willing to conduct a tour of Udalls Cove in the late spring. Mr. Iannece asked, by show of hands, who would be interested in attending. A tour will be set up once the weather gets better.

The Douglaston Community Development Corporation is made up of different civic groups from the Douglaston and Doug-Bay area. They are working together to build up Douglaston Village. They have designed a model to show the future of Douglaston Village which will be presented to us at a future meeting.

Congratulations to the Bayside Hills Civic Association for conducting a very successful Holiday Lighting Ceremony.

NEW BUSINESS

Frank Skala stated that the Board may be receiving an application for a street fair on Bell Blvd. despite having been told three years ago by Judy Limpert, when the BID was formed, that there would be no closing of Bell Blvd for a street fair. He continued to state his objection on this matter. Mr. Iannece stated that a Street Fair application has been received and will be presented to the appropriate committees, followed by a full board meeting. Mr. Iannece stated that the Boards' input on a Street Fair application is advisory and the final decision is made by the City.

Steve Pivawer stated that the DSNY website didn't give the correct information for the holiday recyclable pick-up. Mr. Iannece stated that a message will be forwarded to DSNY to update their website. It was suggested by two Board members to check the 3-1-1 general website for current DSNY removal schedules.

Robert Liatto asked for an update on the replacement of the playground at Alley Pond Park, that was vandalized and when will the bus stop on Northern Blvd. and Douglaston Parkway be reinstated. Susan Seinfeld said the Dept. of Parks has gathered the funds to make repairs to the playground. Mrs. Seinfeld stated that the DOT has the work order to reinstate the bus stop and that she has contacted the Queens Commissioner of DOT to expedite the work.

Janet McEaney stated that recently there had been a problem with the mail delivery in her neighborhood. She said that the mail is not being sorted correctly and asked if the Postmaster in Bayside could be informed. Mr. Iannece stated that is a Federal issue and should be taken up with a Congressman.

Henry Euler stated that he and Paul DiBenedetto are Co-Chairs of the Environmental Committee and are concerned with the use of hydraulic fracturing in the New York State Water Shed areas. Mr. Euler stated that hydraulic fracturing is drilling for natural gas using billions of gallons of water and chemicals. He said that they are concerned that the chemicals will reach into underground aquifers and cause harm to our water supply system. Mr. Euler stated that the DEC conducted a study and January

11th is the deadline for the comment period. He proposed a motion “that Community Board 11 write a letter before the Jan. 11th DEC comment deadline to Governor Cuomo and DEC Commissioner Martens asking that a decision regarding the use of hydraulic fracturing to drill for natural gas in New York be postponed until further studies are done regarding the impact hydro-fracking would have on public health, water and air quality, and the safety and rights of the citizens of this state”. Mr. Euler reviewed a list of questions that should be presented with the letter. Discussion ensued that more information is needed regarding the impact that hydraulic fracturing will have on public health and safety. A motion was made to forward a letter to the Governor and DEC Commissioner. Motion was seconded by Zion Halili. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 31 in favor and 1 opposed. (In favor – Behar, Claro, DiBenedetto, Doster, Euler, Ferazzoli, Fierro-Gladwin, Fiorino, Fried, Garippa, Giusetti, Haber, Haider, Halili, Iannece, James, Jethwani, Kim, Liatto, McEneaney, Novick, Palzer, Petallides, Pivawer, Rothman, Scherer, Skala, Sollano, Speranza, Teng, Yagudaev – Opposed – Karahalis) The motion carried.

Andy Rothman briefly spoke about the presentation of the QM20 being extended to Manhattan and stated that most of the bus stops are in CB7, therefore, it should be discussed with CB7.

Janet McEneaney said that she agrees that it should be discussed with CB7, but asked for the support of CB11 as well on this matter.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

BSA Cal. No. 611-76 BZ – 43-17/21 214 Place, Capital One Bank accessory parking lot – An application to the Board of Standards and Appeals to renew a previously-granted variance to permit a parking lot in an R4 zoning district. Hiriam Rothkrug, representing the applicant, Capital One Bank, stated that the applicant is requesting to extend the term of the variance for a 20 space accessory parking lot for the Capital One Bank employees which expires on February 13, 2012. Mr. Rothkrug stated the application is to extend for an additional 10-year term with no changes to the lot. He said that he attended the Zoning Committee meeting and the following conditions were agreed to and will be included in application; (1) A sign be installed on the fence that identifies the owner of the lot with an emergency contact number; (2) Landscaping will be maintained; (3) No parking cars on the sidewalk; (4) Premises be kept clean of debris and graffiti; (5) The parking lot is to be locked when the bank closes. There were no public speakers. Christine Haider, Chair of the North Bayside/East Flushing Zoning Committee, read the committee report of the December 7th meeting. A motion was made to approve the application. Motion was seconded by Mohan Jethwani. A roll call vote was taken resulting 30 in favor, 1 opposed. (In favor – Behar, Claro, DiBenedetto, Doster, Euler, Ferazzoli, Fierro-Gladwin, Fiorino, Fried, Garippa, Giusetti, Haider, Halili, Iannece, James, Jethwani, Karahalis, Kim, Liatto, McEneaney, Novick, Palzer, Petallides, Pivawer, Rothman, Scherer, Sollano, Speranza, Teng, Yagudaev – Opposed – Skala) The motion carried.

BSA Cal. No. 764-56 BZ – 200-05 Horace Harding Expressway, Gulf Station – An application to the Board of Standards and Appeals to renew a previously-granted variance for a gasoline service station. Alfonso Duarte, representing the applicant, stated that the variance is expiring in October 2012 and the applicant is asking for an additional 10-year term. There were no public speakers. Christine Haider, Chair of the North Bayside/East Flushing Zoning Committee, read the committee report of the December 7th meeting. Mrs. Haider stated that out of all the service stations in the District that the committee has visited, this station is the cleanest. A motion was made to approve the application for a 10-year term. Motion was seconded by Joe Sollano. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 31 in

favor. (In favor – Behar, Claro, DiBenedetto, Doster, Euler, Ferazzoli, Fierro-Gladwin, Fiorino, Fried, Garippa, Giusetti, Haider, Halili, Iannece, James, Jethwani, Karahalis, Kim, Liatto, Macinick, McEaney, Novick, Palzer, Petallides, Pivawer, Rothman, Scherer, Skala, Sollano, Speranza, Teng, Yagudaev) The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Henry Euler, Co-Chair of the Environmental Committee, gave a review of the meeting on December 13, 2011 regarding “E” Designation Zoning Text Amendment. Mr. Euler stated that at the meeting City Planning sent planner, Edgar Bajana, to explain the text amendment. He said during the meeting, there were several questions that Mr. Bajana was unable to answer. Mr. Euler stated that Mr. Bajana drafted a list of questions and within a week the questions with the answers was received and sent to the Environmental Committee, the Zoning Committees and the Executive Board. He said that no comments were received. The deadline for the comment period ended December 27. Susan Seinfeld stated that the comment period has been extended for two weeks. Mr. Euler asked if anybody had any comments to be forwarded to City Planning. There were no comments. Mr. Euler said that there is going to be a meeting for Zone Green Text Amendment. Mr. Iannece thanked Henry Euler and Paul DiBenedetto for all their efforts.

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry Iannece at 9:02 pm.