

COMMUNITY BOARD 11 QUEENS

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11 REGULAR MEETING

DATE: June 23, 2008

PLACE: MS 158
(MARIE CURIE)
46-35 OCEANIA STREET
BAYSIDE

ATTENDANCE:

Steven Newman, Chair	Present	George Karahalidis	Present
Edith Basom	Present	Gordon Keit	Present
Daniel Berrios	Absent	Eileen Kenny	Absent
Lana Bind	Absent	Incha Kim	Present
Rose Bruno	Present	Franklyn Lloyd	Present
Robert Caloras	Present	Susan Macinick	Present
Ocelia Claro	Absent	Janet McEneaney	Absent
James Colasante	Present	Melvyn Meer	Present
Joan Corn	Present	Eileen Miller	Present
Paul DiBenedetto	Present	David Millet	Present
Edward Doster	Present	Victor Mimoni	Present
Henry Euler	Present	Dennis Novick	Absent
Mario Ferazzoli	Present	Allan Palzer	Present
JoAnn Ferrari	Absent	Stephen Pivawer	Present
Jack Fried	Present	James Rodgers	Absent
Joan Garippa	Present	John Rosse	Present
Roy Giusetti	Present	Andrew Rothman	Present
Bernard Haber	Present	Christina Scherer	Present
Christine Haider	Present	Gary Sekdorian	Present
Zion Halili	Present	Frank Skala	Present
Joseph Hellmann	Present	Mamie Smith	Present
Jerry Iannece	Present	Joseph Sollano	Absent
Laura James	Absent	Robert Speranza	Absent
Mohan Jethwani	Present	Ryan Walsh	Absent
		Alex Yagudaev	Present

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Linda Vallerugo	Assistant District Manager, Community Board 11
Mark Scott	Representing Borough President Helen Marshall
Stanley Frank	Representing Assemblyman Mark Weprin
Steve Behar	Representing Councilman Tony Avella
Eugene McSweeney	Representing Assemblywoman Ann-Margaret Carrozza
Capt. Ronald Leyson	111 th Precinct
P.O. Bill Conway	111 th Precinct
P.O. Gary Poggiali	111 th Precinct

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Steven Newman, Chair

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of May 5, 2008 were accepted as written.

Capt. Ronald Leyson, Acting Commanding Officer of the 111th Precinct, introduced himself to the Board and stated that he is the temporary Commanding Officer for the precinct while D.I. Scott Hanover recovers from surgery. Capt. Leyson reported that the precinct is doing well based on their crime statistics. Burglaries have decreased at the 111th Pct., however, there is a slight problem with robberies and grand larceny. He explained that 41% of the robberies reported are due to unattended property and reminded all not to leave their valuables unattended. Individuals should call 311 if you see any problems in the community and 911 if you witness a crime in progress. A brief question and answer period followed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Newman reminded the Board members, unless an emergency issue arises which we need to deal with, our next Board meeting will not be until September 8th.

The Mayor and Public Advocate are jointly sending out surveys regarding City service delivery. If anyone receives the survey, it is important that you respond.

The Mayor and DOT Commissioner are launching a program to establish public plazas throughout communities in the City. If anyone has a suggestion for a location within CB11, please notify the office.

DOH will begin aerial spraying the Alley Creek area against mosquitoes. As we hear about various spraying, we will notify our members by e-mail.

Mark Scott, of the Borough President's Office, announced that Joseph Sollano received a Community Service Award at the June 12th Member Swearing In Ceremony for 25 years of service. At our meeting, Mark Scott also presented three more Community Service Awards; Joan Corn for 20 years of service, Steven Pivawer and Joseph Hellmann for 10 years of service.

PRESENTATION

William Nieter, of the Alley Pond Environmental Center, gave a presentation on the Alley Creek Project stating that we have all noticed the active construction taking place in our area for the last 3 to 4 years, but it actually began in 1984 when NYC was first mandated to do something about CSO's. They identified the tributary as the primary source of water pollution. The tributary study was called the Long Term CSO Control Planning Project for Alley Creek and Little Neck Bay. There were 3 phases of that project. The first stage began in 2003/2004 at a cost of \$100 million which involved constructing the sewers and sewer lines. Under stage 2, they reconstructed the outfall to contain and service that water at a cost of another \$50 million, which is just now coming to completion. Stage 3 reconstructs the sewer pump station which will make the facility active. The total cost of the project is \$163 million. The last stage involves a \$13 million environmental restoration. Along with the sewage pump station, they are going to restore 22 acres of property including Northern Blvd. to the LIRR and Alley Creek to CIP. APEC has been very supportive of this project since the beginning, but their building sustained severe damage during the extensive pile driving. The floor of the building is settling and the foundation is cracked. Mr. Nieter stated that the existing APEC building is going to be reconstructed with a new addition to accommodate the growth of the APEC organization. The plans will come from the Parks Dept. and as those plans become available, we will share them with the Board. Mr. Nieter explained that every year approximately 517 million gallons of untreated storm water and CSO flow goes into Alley Creek, and then Little Neck Bay. This project will capture half of the water and treat all of the water before it travels to Tallman Island for further secondary treatment. A brief question and answer period followed.

Steve Newman stated that Susan Seinfeld, himself and other members of the community recently attended a meeting on this project. If anyone is interested, a detailed Alley Creek and Little Neck Bay Waterbody/Watershed Facility Plan Report is available in the CB11 office for further review.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. George Perilli requested that "Hidden Driveway" signs be installed at the circular driveway in front of a Flushing multi-tenant building. He explained that motorists traveling on the adjacent street do not anticipate cars exiting the driveway which creates a traffic hazard. (Following the meeting, a letter was written to DOT regarding this matter).
2. Michael Feiner, President of the Bayside Hills Civic Assoc., spoke as a follow-up to last month's Board meeting regarding the topic of the postal service referring to the Bayside Hills community as Oakland Gardens. He pointed out that the Bayside Hills neighborhood should have their own identity. He knows that the Board has written to the Postmaster regarding this issue. Mr. Feiner stated that this topic will be discussed further at the Bayside Hills Civic Assoc. meeting which is scheduled for tomorrow evening.
3. Susan Macinick, CERT leader, stated that the CB11 CERT team began in 2006. Since that time, the team has volunteered many hours of service to the community. Last month alone the team put in 341 hours of public service to help the community be prepared in case of an emergency. Ms. Macinick stressed that they put in the time and service, but OEM does not

provide necessary funding. It was pointed out that the volunteers have to purchase material and supplies themselves. They are reaching out to community and the elected officials for help with the necessary funding.

Steve Newman stated that CB11 will be making recommendations in the fall for the next fiscal budget. He suggested that they submit, in writing, to the Board their actual needs for review by our Budget Committee. He advised that they also pursue their elected officials for additional funding.

Jerry Iannece offered his legal services pro bono to the CERT team for them to be incorporated as a not for profit organization.

Steve Newman explained that we did have a representative from OEM make a presentation to our Board last year, but unfortunately the presentation did not involve our specific area of Queens. We will ask the CERT team to make a presentation at one of our fall meetings to talk about emergency locations in Board 11.

4. George Benedetto, PTA Co-President at MS 158, spoke about problems with traffic conditions in front and in back of the school building. School buses are forced to stop one lane into traffic to let children off because cars are blocking the curb, causing children to run between cars. The second problem he discussed was that they need security outside in the schoolyard to prevent gang crime activity. He suggested that security officers and security cameras are needed outside the school building. Mr. Benedetto asked the Board for their assistance to help make the necessary traffic changes on the streets surrounding the school and for additional traffic enforcement. (Following the meeting, Susan Seinfeld contacted Mr. Benedetto and asked him to send us a specific detailed request. To date, we have not received that information).

5. Joseph Murray, resident of Bayside Hills, spoke about the new lawn litter bill. He believes that the lawn litter signs do not look appropriate on lawns in nice residential communities. Mr. Murray suggested that there are other ways we could have addressed the lawn litter problem. For example, we should have something similar to the Do Not Call Registry for advertising flyers.

6. Abel Pierre, Attorney, spoke about threatening bill collectors. He stated that every contact by bill collectors either by phone or in writing is regulated by Federal Law, and they must comply with the Federal Fair Debt Collectors Act. If they do not comply with the act, it creates a liability on their part whether or not you actually owe the debt. He advised individuals to contact an attorney to determine if a bill collector followed Federal Law.

Steve Newman announced that in the fall the staff will be instructed to inform all those who register to speak that the time will be limited to three minutes, and we will strictly adhere to the three minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Bernard Haber, Transportation Committee Co-Chair, gave a presentation on the proposal to convert 38 Drive between Douglaston Parkway and 234 Street to a one-way traffic pattern westbound. Mr. Haber explained that DOT has looked at this location and suggested that it be converted to one-way westbound. The request was made due to poor visibility when drivers exit 38 Drive because of the curve in West Drive as it turns into Douglaston Parkway. West Drive is actually a continuation of Douglaston Parkway. It was noted that there is a four story apartment house located at the intersection of 38 Drive and West Drive. There is a substantial amount of traffic in the area and it has become a safety concern. Motorists traveling east on 38 Drive cannot see the vehicles going south on West Drive, which creates a dangerous condition. Tom Pinto and Ann Jawin, of the Doug Bay Civic Assoc. stated that their organization has taken a vote on this issue and the general concensus was in favor of converting 38 Drive to a one-way. However, they also pointed out that 38 Drive has never been a completed street. It is very narrow, without sidewalks and a large tree blocks a portion of the street. It was stressed that 38 Drive needs major traffic improvements. Two residents of the apartment building also spoke in favor of the one-way proposal, but objection was raised to street improvements because it might involve taking residential property. Several members from the audience also spoke in favor. One resident of 38 Drive did speak in opposition to the one-way proposal and instead suggested reduced speed limit signage. Discussion followed by the Board members. Motion (08-10) was made to recommend approval of the proposal to convert 38 Drive between Douglaston Parkway and 234 Street to a one-way westbound. Roll call vote was taken resulting in 35 in favor (Basom, Bruno, Caloras, Colasante, Corn, DiBenedetto, Doster, Ferazzoli, Fried, Garippa, Giusetti, Haber, Haider, Halili, Hellmann, Iannece, Jethwani, Karahalis, Keit, Kim, Lloyd, Macinick, Meer, Miller, Millet, Mimoni, Newman, Palzer, Pivawer, Rosse, Rothman, Scherer, Sekdorian, Smith, Yagudaev), 1 opposed (Skala) and 1 abstention (Euler).

COMMITTEE REPORT

Robert Caloras, President of the Community Education District Council 26 (CEDC), gave a presentation on the cell phone ban in schools. Mr. Caloras stated that at the committee meeting, discussion took place regarding the fact that children travel much further distances to schools and that parents want to be able to keep in touch with their children especially in this post 911 era. Also, discussion followed on the various problems relating to cell phones such as health concerns and security issues. A resolution was introduced by CEDC in which Tom Lloyd and the committee made several suggestions to amend that resolution for CB11. Robert Caloras stated that all members have received a copy of the proposed resolution. Lengthy discussion followed. Frank Skala raised objection stating that cell phones do not belong in schools because students can misuse them, as well as concerns regarding health issues. Melvyn Meer requested that an amendment be added to the resolution that we support Assembly Member Nolan's bill A.3525. Robert Caloras was asked to read the resolution in its entirety. In summary, the resolution states that be it resolved that CB11 declares the ban on cell phones to be against the best interest of the children and students of NYC, and do appeal to the Chancellor to repeal this ban and replace it with a policy that allows students to possess cell phones in schools but prohibits their use or display on any school property. Motion (08-11) was made to recommend support of the resolution to appeal to the Chancellor to repeal the ban on cell phones with the amendment. Roll call vote

was taken resulting in 22 in favor (Basom, Caloras, Corn, Euler, Ferazzoli, Garippa, Haber, Haider, Hellmann, Iannece, Jethwani, Karahalis, Keit, Kim, Lloyd, Macinick, Meer, Miller, Rosse, Rothman, Scherer, Sekdorian), 12 opposed (Bruno, Colasante, Doster, Fried, Giusetti, Halili, Millet, Newman, Palzer, Pivawer, Skala, Smith) and 1 abstention (Mimoni).

NEW BUSINESS

Christine Haider stated that at a meeting a few months ago, it was mentioned that advertising signs are being posted throughout the neighborhood. She has noticed that even more signage is being posted and questioned what action should be taken. Susan Seinfeld stated that the signs should not be taken down, but instead call 311 to report the problem. Sanitation Enforcement will issue the appropriate summonses.

Mohan Jethwani questioned who will be enforcing lawn litter signage. Susan Seinfeld stated that the Department of Sanitation will be the responsible agency but the details have not yet been finalized.

Steve Newman wished all a good summer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.