

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11 REGULAR MEETING

DATE: June 6, 2011

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

ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Christina Coutinho	Community Assistant, Community Board 11
Mark Scott	Representing Queens Borough President Helen Marshall
Claudia Filomena	Representing the Office of the Mayor
Captain Tommy Ng	111 <sup>th</sup> Precinct, Executive Officer
P.O. William Conway	111 <sup>th</sup> Precinct, Community Affairs
Xavier San Miguel	Representing Senator Tony Avella
Paige Waranis	Representing Councilmember Dan Halloran
Alen R. Beerman	Representing Councilmember Mark Weprin
Anthony Lemma	Representing Assemblymember David Weprin
Daniel Rossman	Representing Assemblymember Ed Braunstein
Jordan Goldes	Representing Congressmember Gary Ackerman

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Jerry Iannece, Chair.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Elliot Socci, President of the Douglaston Civic Association, stated that the Douglaston Civic Association supports the proposal to rename the entrance of Old Oak Pond in honor of former Board

Member, Joseph Hellmann. Mr. Socci said that Mr. Hellmann was an avid activist who worked for the best interests of the community. Mr. Hellmann devoted much of his time as Director of the Douglaston Civic Association, CB11 Board Member, Director of the Douglaston-Little Neck Historical Society and founding member of the Four Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance.

Laura Cocchiarella stated that a neighbor allows their dog to run lose with no leash. She said that she and her dog have been attacked by this dog. Ms. Cocchiarella said that she is scared to walk outside her house with the fear that she will be attacked again. She asked the community and 111<sup>th</sup> Precinct for their support in this situation. P.O. Conway asked Ms. Cocchiarella to speak to him on this matter.

Patrick Lyons read a letter that the Weeks Woodland Association has written to the Mayor regarding the closure of Firehouse 306. Mr. Lyons asked if a petition could be passed around for signatures in support of the Firehouse 306.

Jerry Iannece introduced the following:

Councilmember Mark Weprin, who stated that last year the City used some of the stimulus funds for education and other needs. Councilmember Weprin said that this year there are no stimulus funds, therefore, the Mayor has made budget cuts to the DOE and Public Safety. Councilmember Weprin stated that the City has agreed to review how co-ops in Eastern Queens are assessed. He thanked everyone for their efforts on this matter.

Captain Ng, Executive Officer of the 111<sup>th</sup> Precinct, gave an update on crime statistics for CB11. Captain Ng stated that crime is down in the 111<sup>th</sup> Precinct. He stated that in the beginning of the month there was a problem with burglaries around 250 Street, which has been resolved.

### **PRESENTATION**

Andrew Lavallee, representing AECOM, gave a presentation on the Bell Boulevard Streetscape Improvement Project. Mr. Lavallee stated that in 2004, a resolution was approved by CB11 for the improvement project to the sidewalk areas of Bell Blvd. between 35 Avenue and Northern Blvd. He said there were minor changes to the original plans; the decorative stone strip behind existing curb will be 4ft wide, 50 additional trees will be added, benches, trash cans, and bike racks, originally black in color, will be changed to silver. Phase 1 of the project will be on both sides of Bell Blvd. from 41 Avenue to 42 Avenue. A question and answer period followed. Mr. Lavallee stated that existing trees will not be removed. He said that Phase 1 is being funded by an EDC grant and other various sources, totaling an amount of \$420,000. Mr. Lavallee said that there are only enough funds to complete Phase 1. He stated that Phase 1 will take one year to complete. A motion was made to reinstate the resolution for the Bell Blvd. Streetscape Improvement Project. Motion was seconded by Rob Caloras. A vote by show of hands, vote was unanimous in favor. The motion carried.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Jerry Iannece asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Minutes were accepted as written.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Jerry Iannece made the following announcements and follow-ups:

Sincere condolences were given to Board Member Robert Speranza on the passing of his mother.

The Little Neck/Douglaston Memorial Day Parade Committee conducted a very successful Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Iannece congratulated them on their efforts.

Mr. Iannece thanked Bayside Hills Civic Association for conducting a beautiful Memorial Day Ceremony.

Senator Tony Avella and Councilman Daniel Halloran both held demonstrations against the closing of Firehouse 306. Both demonstrations were very well attended and the message was very clear as to why Firehouse 306 should not close.

Andy Rothman, on behalf of Tom Meara, read the resolution on the closing of Firehouse 306. A motion was made to accept the resolution to keep Firehouse 306 open. The motion was seconded by Jack Fried. A question and answer period followed. Frank Skala requested that an additional "Whereas" be added to state that All Saint's Church is a wooden church and is one block away from the firehouse. Susan Seinfeld said that it was mentioned at the rally that there are many wooden structures in the area. Victor Mimoni said that the additional "Whereas" should state that the neighborhood has numerous old wooden structures in the close proximity that would be endangered if the firehouse closed. A vote by show of hands was taken, resulting in 34 in favor and 3 opposed. The motion carried. Mr. Iannece stated that Mr. Meara has organized Help Save Our Firehouses which is a phone banking operation. Mr. Iannece said that Mr. Meara has done an excellent job on the Resolution and thanked him for all his efforts.

The Borough President's Office has scheduled the hearing for BSA Cal No. 713-55BZ - 181-05 Horace Harding Expressway, for June 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. This BSA application is listed on tonight's agenda for Public Hearing.

The BSA has scheduled the hearing for BSA Cal No. 6-11BZ – 50-20 216<sup>th</sup> Street, for June 14 at 1:30 pm. Mr. Iannece stated that Senator Tony Avella has made arrangements for transportation to the BSA for the residents speaking against this application.

The Colonial Church of Bayside announced their Summer Camp and After School Program. June 11<sup>th</sup> is the open house from 10:00am – 2:00pm.

The owners of 45-64 Francis Lewis Blvd. have taken out a permit for the construction of a new two story retail and office building. In 2004, they came before the Board with the rezoning application, it was voted down by the Board. However, the zoning was approved.

Councilmember Koppell introduced legislation to improve the DOB's procedures to gain access to buildings with complaints. Warrants were not being issued by the courts to gain access to buildings. The Chief Administrative Law judge has agreed to participate in a task force with DOB to determine what constitutional requirements could be met in order to obtain warrants more easily.

National Night Out is being held on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Douglaston Shopping Center from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

If anyone has eyeglasses that they are not using, CB11 is collecting old eyeglasses for the needy.

Bell Blvd. from 35 Avenue to Northern Blvd. is scheduled for nighttime resurfacing be repaved this August. Hopefully, Northern Blvd. from Bell Blvd. to Douglaston Parkway will also be resurfaced.

DEP posted a press release that the Oakland Lake Ravine Project is completed. Mr. Iannece stated that the boardwalk around the perimeter of the lake still has to be completed. The ribbon cutting ceremony is on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am at 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue between QCC's parking lot and the park outside PS 203.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Frank Skala stated that he feels the Oakland Lake Ravine Project is not completed because the Northern Blvd. Corridor still looks like a junk yard. Secondly, he stated several reasons as to why he was against bleachers being installed at Crocheron Park. Mr. Iannece stated that if the topic is presented to CB11, it will come before the Board for a vote.

Dennis Novick said that the Hollis Hills Civic Association is having their annual street fair on Sunday, June 12 at 82 Avenue between 212 Street and 214 Street from 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm.

Joan Garippa and Andy Rothman spoke about the issues with air traffic and how air traffic will increase over the next few years.

Steven Newman stated that CB11 has the least amount of senior citizen facilities.

Steve Pivawer stated that garbage picked up on Mondays that fall on a holiday still remains problematic in his community. Mr. Iannece asked CB11 to generate a letter and to copy other community boards to get information on this matter.

Bernard Haber, Chair of the Transportation Committee proposed that the Old Oak Pond entrance on Douglaston Parkway be renamed the "Joseph B. Hellmann Park." Mr. Haber stated that Mr. Hellmann was a former Board Member and was very active in many community groups. Mr. Hellmann worked diligently to preserve parkland, especially Old Oak Pond. A motion was made for the renaming of Old Oak Pond. The motion was seconded by Joe Sollano. Discussion ensued requesting that renaming be reviewed by the Parks Committee and the designated Zoning Committee. Mr. Iannece stated that the Transportation Committee will still oversee renaming and if, applicable, the Parks and Zoning Committee will be included. A vote by show of hands was unanimous. The motion carried. Mrs. Hellmann thanked everyone for their support.

Steve Newman asked why the Transportation Committee was opposed to the legislation authorizing the use of cameras to enforce speed limits. Mr. Newman stated that it has been proven that speed cameras save lives. Gordon Keit stated that although it prevents accidents, it also causes accidents. Mr. Keit said that drivers speed up or jam on their brakes to avoid a ticket. Mr. Newman asked why this topic was not presented to the full Board. Mr. Iannece stated that this issue will be discussed after the scheduled Public Hearing.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**BSA Cal. No. 713-55BZ – Mobil Gas Station 181-05 Horace Harding Expressway – An** application to the Board of Standards and Appeals to extend the term of a previously granted variance. John Ronan, representing the applicant, Walter Gorman, P.E., stated that the applicant is requesting the term of the variance be extended for a period of ten (10) years. The current variance in place is due to expire in December 2011. Mr. Ronan stated that there are no violations against the property. Mr.

Ronan said that the owner will abide by all the terms of the previous resolution. He stated that at the committee meeting, it was mentioned that there was graffiti on a wall facing Utopia Parkway and the next day it was removed. He stated that there will be no cars parking overnight on property. Christine Haider, Chair of North Bayside/East Flushing Zoning Committee read the report of the May 16th Committee Meeting. Ms. Haider stated that the same conditions on the prior variance should remain and appear on the Certificate of Occupancy. Ms. Haider said that in addition, the committee wanted to add: Graffiti clean-up, only vehicles awaiting service be parked on the site, no commercial vehicles or renting space to vehicles and no selling of beer or alcoholic beverages. A committee vote had been taken resulting unanimously in favor of the application. A motion was made to approve the application. Motion was seconded by Mohan Jethwani. A question and answer period followed. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 36 in favor. (In favor – Basom, Behar, Bind, Caloras, Cerezo, Claro, Doster, Euler, Ferazzoli, Ferrari, Fierro-Gladwin, Fried, Garippa, Giusetti, Haber, Haider, Iannece, James, Jethwani, Keit, Kim, Liatto, McEaney, Meer, Miller, Mimoni, Newman, Novick, Palzer, Petallides, Pivawer, Rothman, Sekdorian, Sollano, Teng, Yagudaev) The motion carried.

Mr. Iannece addressed Mr. Newman's concern regarding the installation of speed cameras. Mr. Iannece asked by a show of hands who was in favor of presenting the legislation authorizing the use of cameras to enforce speed limits to the full Board. By show of hands, only four (4) of 35 Board Members present were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry Iannece at 9:05 pm.