

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11
GENERAL BOARD MEETING

DATE: June 4, 2012

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

ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Christina Coutinho	Community Assistant, Community Board 11
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
Claudia Filomena	Representing the Office of the Mayor
Alen Beerman	Representing Councilmember Mark Weprin
John Mulvey	Representing Councilmember Dan Halloran
Deanna Bitetti	Chief of Staff, Assemblymember David Weprin
Xavier San Miquel	Representing State Senator Tony Avella
Grace Meng	Assemblymember
Cristina Delise	Representing Assemblymember Edward Braunstein
Anthony Lemma	Representing Assemblymember David Weprin
Elizabeth Crowley	Councilmember

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Chairman, Jerry Iannece.

Mr. Iannece introduced the following:

Assemblymember Grace Meng who gave an update regarding legislation that her office is currently working on.

Councilmember Elizabeth Crowely who gave an update of the proposed budget cuts by the Mayor to FDNY and the Dept. of Education.

John Mulvey, representing Councilmember Dan Halloran, gave an update on the medical status of Councilmember Halloran.

Captain Jason Huerta, Commanding Officer, 111th Precinct, who gave the 28-day and year-to-date crime statistics for CB11. Captain Huerta stated that there has been an increase in identity theft related crimes. He said that there is an upward trend of elderly people hiring unscrupulous home improvement contactors and home care workers who are stealing valuables while working on premises.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Deanna Bitetti, Chief of Staff for Assemblymember David Weprin, introduced herself. She stated that there are three weeks remaining until the end of the Legislative Session. Ms. Bitetti said that if there are any requests from the community, they should contact the Assemblymember's office before June 21st.

Errol Ramsey, Contract Administrator for Local 1199, stated he is representing the workers of St. Mary's Hospital for Children. Mr. Ramsey said that a contract still has not been agreed on.

Elliott Socci, President, Douglaston Civic Association, stated that a developer is proposing to build a six-story apartment building on a piece of property on Douglaston Parkway which is presently zoned as R1-2. Mr. Socci said that the developer stated that the only way he could develop the proposed building, is to pursue rezoning for that area. He stated that the Douglaston Civic Association opposes this rezoning and asked for the support of the Community Board.

Tim Vance, Vice President, Weeks Woodland Association and Karen Pender gave an update regarding the legal suit against St. Mary's Hospital for Children.

Jack Oshier spoke about issues with patriotic flags and advertising signs on Bell Blvd.

PRESENTATION

Buck Moorhead, Co-Founder, NY H2O, gave a presentation regarding their opposition to the construction of the proposed Spectra natural gas pipeline in lower Manhattan. Mr. Moorhead stated that there are many public health issues in regard to the proposed Spectra natural gas pipeline that needed to be addressed prior to approval. Mr. Moorhead is asking for the support of Elected Officials and Community Boards to ask the government to conduct additional studies regarding the public health concerns of the amounts of radon in shale gas and to stop the construction of the Spectra natural gas pipeline until the public health studies are completed. A discussion ensued as to the negative impact the Spectra pipeline could cause the environment.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Jerry Iannece asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the May 7th meeting. Frank Skala stated that "triangle" to be changed to "triangular". The minutes were accepted with correction.

Mr. Iannece asked for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Dee Richards.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jerry Iannece made the following announcements:

There will be no general meeting in July and August. If there are any issues that need to be addressed before September, an emergency meeting will be scheduled. The CB11 office will be open.

On June 14, the Borough President will be hosting the Swearing in Ceremony for new Board Members.

Community Board 8 is sponsoring a Health Fair on June 28th at Cunningham Park.

The Bayside BID is conducting an Art Fair on June 9th on Bell Blvd. at 41 Avenue and LIRR station.

The NYPD Community Council meeting is Tuesday, June 5th at the Adria Hotel on Northern Blvd.

Congratulations were given to Robert Caloras on his nomination for civil court.

The Waldbaums located at 46-40 Francis Lewis Blvd. will be closing at the end of the summer. Susan Seinfeld stated that an HMart may be opening at this location.

There was recently a tour of Udalls Cove that was not well attended. Mr. Iannece said that he would speak to Walter Mudgan about arranging another tour in the Fall but a confirmed tour list will be required.

NEW BUSINESS

Janet McEaney spoke about noise control regulations and how enforcement is needed. Also, how homeowners are helping to maintain a grass strip that the City constructed on 204 Street between 33 and 34 Avenue. Mr. Iannece stated that Bayside Hills Civic Association maintains their malls instead of waiting for a City agency.

Frank Skala suggested that the June 2013 meeting not be held in the cafeteria.

Paul DiBenedetto spoke about how street advertising signs are against the law. Mr. DiBenedetto suggested that a letter be forwarded to the City listing five issues that the CB is having, i.e., noise control regulations, street advertising signs. Susan Seinfeld stated that street advertising signs should not be removed. She advised members to call 3-1-1 or the CB11 Office, so DSNY could be notified. DSNY will remove the signs and issue a violation.

Zion Halili asked about scheduled mosquito straying. Mrs. Seinfeld stated that they will only spray in an area when a mosquito tests positive for West Nile. She stated that marsh areas will also be strayed.

Ms. Smith spoke about the times that carters are allowed to pick-up garbage. She stated that the merchants on 215 Street and 48 Avenue have pick-up at 2:00 am.

Mel Meer stated that he has noticed a disturbing trend in his neighborhood of homeowners increasing the size of their driveways, but not the size of the curb cut. He stated that this could be a potential problem when a vehicle tries to exit the driveway and also, how it encourages the over-paving of front lawns.

Robert Liatto asked if the “No Parking/Street Cleaning” signs on Springfield Blvd. could be removed since there is no longer street cleaning by the DSNY . Mrs. Seinfeld stated that DSNY has a list of locations where signs have to be removed. She said that if this location is not on the list, an official letter has to be submitted and the merchants have to agree to the removal of the signs.

Andy Rothman said that in regard to the comment that Ms. Smith made about over-night garbage pick-up, he thought that the times for early morning pick-up were revised a couple of years ago.

Douglas Montgomery stated that July 8th is the opening of the Greenmarket at the Douglaston LIRR. Also, that there is no crosswalk at the intersection of Douglaston Parkway and 233 and 240 Street. Mr. Montgomery asked for traffic control at this location; there is a “Stop” sign but no crosswalk.

Henry Euler said that Councilmember Halloran and Councilmember Weprin have joined the Participatory Budget Program which is a City Council program, to allow the community to have a voice on how Capital monies are spent. Mr. Euler stated that he has been asked as a Community Member to join the steering committee.

PUBLIC HEARING

QSAC Group Home Proposal – 73-42 Springfield Blvd. Cory Polshansky, Deputy Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer of QSAC, stated that the proposed group home is a single family home that will house eight individuals diagnosed with autism between the ages of 20 and 22. All residents work or attend Adult Day Programs throughout the week. There will be a minimum of four staff members for the morning and early evening hours. There will be two staff members during the late evening hours. The house will be purchased for \$715,000. and QSAC will make renovations costing an estimated \$200,000. All renovations will be to the interior of the house. Zion Halili and Steve Pivawer, Group Home Committee Co-Chairs gave a review of what was discussed at the Committee Meeting of May 8th. There were no registered public speakers. A question and answer period followed. A motion was made to approve the proposal for a group home at 73-42 Springfield Blvd. The motion was seconded by Bernard Haber. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 39 in favor, 0 opposed (In-favor- Behar, Caloras, Cerezo, Claro, DiBenedetto, Doster, Euler, Ferrari, Fried, Garippa, Giusetti, Haber, Haider, Halili, Iannece, James, Jethwani, Karahalil, Keit, Kim, Koutsouradis, Liatto, McEneaney, Meara, Meer, Miller, Montgomery, Newman, Novick, Palzer, Petallides, Pivawer, Rothman, Scherer, Sekdorian, Smith, Sollano, Sriram, Teng) The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee Chair, Laura James, reviewed the Committee report of May 31 regarding school performance for Bayside, Cardozo, Francis Lewis and Van Buren High Schools and how Queens is being underserved in the number of seats for “specialized” high schools.

Environmental Committee Co-Chairs, Henry Euler and Paul DiBenedetto, reviewed the Committee report of May 31 regarding Bird Hazard Reduction Program at JFK Airport and the proposed Spectra Pipeline.

Mr. Iannece asked Board Members to stay for an Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Iannece at 9:45 pm.