

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11
GENERAL BOARD MEETING

DATE: March 3, 2014

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

ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Christina Coutinho	Community Associate, Community Board 11
Hon. Melinda Katz	Queens Borough President
Anne Marie Boranian	Representing Queens Borough President
Jeong-ah Choi	Representing Queens Borough President
Captain Derick Seneus	111 th Precinct Executive Officer
Det. Neil Blainey	111 th Precinct, Community Affairs
Joanne Choi	Representing Congress Member Grace Meng
Gene McSweeney	Representing Assembly Member Ed Braunstein
Kieran Mahoney	Representing State Senator Tony Avella
Anthony Lemma, Sr.	Representing Assembly Member David Weprin
Megan Keane	Representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic
Mike Yon	Representing Council Member Paul Vallone
Irene Cheung	Representing Council Member Mark Weprin
Michael Stinson	Representing Congress Member Steve Israel

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairman, Jerry Iannece. Mr. Iannece stated that due to term-limits, tonight will be his last public meeting as Chair.

Mr. Iannece stated that former Board Member, Jack Como, recently passed away and asked for a moment of silence in his honor.

Captain Derick Seneus, Executive Officer 111th Precinct, gave an update regarding year-to-date crime statistics. Det. Neil Blainey introduced himself as the new Community Affairs Officer and stated that he used to live in Bayside and is very familiar with the area.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Merlin Thompson, Director of Programs, Queens College, spoke about community recreation and summer camp programs offered by Queens College. They are also hosting events commemorating the 50th Anniversary of U.S. Voting Freedom Rights Act and honoring the QC student that was killed in Mississippi in 1964.

Michael Berger, Participatory Budgeting organizer representing the 23rd Council District, spoke in regard to the process for Participatory Budgeting. He stated that voting starts March 29th and will continue through April 5th. For additional information and voting locations, contact Council Member Mark Weprin's Office.

Resident, Richard Weinstein, stated that he has contacted the 111th Precinct and 311 requesting traffic enforcement at the intersection of 61 Avenue and 251 Street. He noted that a school and a park are in close proximity of the intersection and drivers do not honor the "all-way" stop sign. Mr. Iannece stated that the 111th Precinct covers the largest territory in the City and is also one of the least staffed, therefore, officers can't patrol the vicinity of schools on a daily basis. Mr. Iannece has advocated several times for increased staff at the 111th Precinct.

Former resident, Michael Shoule, spoke regarding the late Father Murray of American Martyrs Church and how Father Murray brought the community together and asked the Community Board for support of renaming the northeast corner of Union Turnpike and Bell Blvd. in honor of Father Murray.

PRESENTATION

Robert Miller, representing the USDA, spoke in regard to the Asian Longhorned Beetle. He stated that there will be tree inspections throughout the district.

Francis Asprec, representing the Dept. of Parks and Recreation, spoke regarding Shape-Up NYC programs that are offered throughout the City. For more information contact CB 11 or go online to www.nyc.gov.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Jerry Iannece asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the January 6th meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jerry Iannece made the following announcements:

The 111th Precinct Council meeting will be conducted tomorrow at 7:30 pm at the 111th Precinct.

Mr. Iannece, Susan Seinfeld and Christine Haider recently attended a meeting with NYC Comptroller representative Jason Hillard. Mr. Iannece stated that they spoke about local issues and proposed legislation.

The City Council has proposed legislation that would require community boards to webcast their public meetings.

The City Council conducted hearings today regarding the practices, recruitment and the appointment of community board members. Mr. Iannece stated that over the last 12 years, the appointment of board members was deferred to the Council Members by the Borough President.

Susan Seinfeld recently testified before the Borough President at budget hearings and addressed the needs of the district. Mr. Iannece stated that Lyle Sclair, representing the Bayside BID, also testified and asked for funds for a study to expand the Bayside Municipal Parking Lot.

Bayside Little League will be hosting their annual parade on April 12.

The Bayside BID is targeting graffiti cleanup within their boundaries. They are asking for locations by Wednesday.

This will be Dennis Novick's last meeting as, he is moving to Nassau County. Mr. Iannece thanked him for his incredible job as a board member and 2nd Vice Chair.

Mr. Iannece stated that tonight's meeting will be his last meeting as Chair. He stated that it was a pleasure and honor to serve the community as chair for a combined 10 years.

Christine Haider spoke on behalf of the board members stating that it has been great working with Mr. Iannece. She said that she hoped that he will continue on as a board member. Mrs. Haider stated that Mr. Iannece has blazed a trail that will be hard to follow and he will be missed as Chair.

Council Member Paul Vallone's representative, Mike Yon, presented Mr. Iannece with a Proclamation from City Council Members Mark Weprin, Peter Koo and Paul Vallone for his outstanding community service as CB11 Chair.

NEW BUSINESS

Eileen Miller spoke in regard to other retail stores following suit with CVS regarding the ban of the sale of cigarettes.

Joan Garippa stated that she attended Jack Como's wake and was surprised not to see flowers from Board Members. She requested that a Good and Welfare Fund be organized by the board members.

Frank Skala spoke in regard to the Bayside BID's failure to maintain Bell Blvd. He said on Saturday and Sunday mornings, the streets and sidewalks are filthy. He also spoke regarding film shooting on Bell Blvd. and how it disrupts parking for the residents and business owners. He requested that filming be banned. Lastly, he stated that he had previously announced that he might be resigning from the Board but has decided to continue until his term expires March 31, 2015.

Dennis Novick stated that he will be moving to Nassau County in a couple of weeks. He said that he has served on the board for 15 years and he wanted to say good-bye. He thanked the members of the Board for working so hard to serve the community. He also thanked Bernard Haber, Steve Newman and Jerry Iannece for their great leadership as Chairs.

Douglas Montgomery stated that the Douglaston Club, in conjunction with APEC, will be hosting a Free Tree Give-way on May 17 from 10:00 am to 12 noon at APEC.

Henry Euler stated that the Bayside Historical Society is hosting a civic “meet and greet” on March 11 at 7:30 pm at the Castle at Fort Totten. He also stated that Auburndale is having an issue in regard to banners on Francis Lewis Blvd. advertising Bayside Primary Center. Permits are issued through the Dept. of Transportation and NYC & Company. He has reached out to CB11 and Assembly Member Ed Braunstein for support of the removal of these banners. Lastly, Mr. Euler stated that he was asked to write a resolution in regard to Mayor de Blasio’s and other City officials proposal that illegal conversions of homes be legalized, after being brought up to code as a means of offering more units of affordable housing in the City of New York. This issue will be addressed at the next public meeting.

Mr. Iannece interrupted the new business session to introduce Queens Borough President, Melinda Katz.

Melinda Katz gave an outline of key priorities for her current term. She spoke regarding the importance of restoring the New York State Pavilion. Ms. Katz said that the Governor and Mayor are discussing how to fund to pre-K. She also spoke in regard to the increase in airplane noise over Queens and stated that she is working with the Port Authority and Federal Aviation Administration for a solution. Lastly, Ms. Katz stated that she is working diligently on branding the Borough of Queens to attract people to visit. Gordon Keit asked if Ms. Katz and City Council would look into the salaries of executive directors of nonprofit organizations that receive City money in light of the disclosure that, QBPL CEO, Thomas Galante, earned a salary above that earned by the Mayor and City Commissioners. He also requested that the QBPL trustees be replaced. Ms. Katz responded by saying that the trustees must follow the standard nonprofit law. She also pointed out the QBPL receives 85% of their funds from the City, therefore, there should be more transparency to the library system. Mr. Iannece thanked Ms. Katz and wished her much success as Borough President.

Steven Newman stated that the City Council is reviewing how they are going to distribute member item dollars. He stated that they are looking at different formulas but none are based on population. Mr. Newman proposed that we encourage City Council members to distribute funds based on population. Mr. Iannece asked if any board members were opposed to him drafting a letter of support. There was no opposition.

Andy Rothman spoke in regard to snow removal on Bell Blvd. He stated that bus stops and muni-meters were not cleared. He requested that DSNY be made aware of this to avoid the same problem next year. Anthony Koutsouradis spoke in regard to the same matter.

Public Hearing

North Bayside/East Flushing Zoning Committee, BSA – Cal. No. 11-14 A – 14-14 A – 47-04-06-08-10 198 Street. An application to permit the legalization of homes under common law vested rights. Elizabeth Bennett, representing the applicant, gave a presentation regarding an application requesting the BSA to direct the Dept. of Buildings to renew all building permits relating to the development, which were originally issued in 2005. In 2008, a Yards Text Amendment was enacted and changed the yard and open space requirements pertaining to corner lots. Due to the zoning change, this property is now non-compliant and requires a 30’ rear yard. In order to continue with the development, the owner must obtain common law vested rights to allow the homes to remain as-built or they will have to be demolished. The property has met the requirements to obtain common law vested rights by showing

that the buildings were substantially completed prior to the zoning change. The prior property owner filed for bankruptcy in 2011. The current property owner purchased the property through a bank foreclosure in 2013 and is trying to complete construction. Ms. Bennett stated that at the committee meeting, there was a question raised in regard to the Fire Dept. gaining access to the property. She said that there is a curb cut approximately 30' wide on 47 Avenue for access into property. There were three registered speakers. Auburndale Improvement Association President, Terry Pouymari, spoke in opposition to the application stating several issues in regard to the configuration of the buildings and driveways. She requested that the properties be rebuilt with the proper design for the lot. Two residents also spoke in opposition. There was one question from the general public regarding the turnaround space for fire engines. Ms. Bennett explained that at the end of the property, there is 30' which is ample space for a fire engine to turn around. She also added that the FDNY has to respond to the application at BSA. Christine Haider, Committing Zoning Chair, stated that she has visited the property and noticed that the sidewalks and curbs are damaged and several windows are boarded up. Christine Haider read the committee report of February 24. A committee vote was taken to approve the application which resulted in 6 opposed and 3 in favor. The motion was denied. A question and answer period followed concerning the Fire Dept. and what changes were made to obtain approval from the Fire Dept. Christine Haider stated that 8 inches of the south building wall has to be removed in order to create additional required car space. Gordon Keit inquired as to why three members voted to approve the application at the zoning meeting. George Mihaltses stated that pursuant to common vested rights, he voted in favor of the proposed application but raised a question in regard to the FDNY's approval. A motion was made to approve the application. The motion was seconded by George Mihaltses. Mr. Iannece stated that even if the BSA issues common vested rights, the Fire Dept. still has to approve. Discussion ensued as to the negative impact this property has on the community. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 4 in favor, 34 opposed and 2 abstentions (In-favor – Mihaltses, Montgomery, Newman, Petallides – opposed – Baek, Behar, Bind, Cerezo, Claro, Euler, Ferazzoli, Fried, Gafar, Garippa, Giusetti, Haber, Haider, Halili, Iannece, James, Jethwani, Karahalis, Keit, Kim, Koutsouradis, Liatto, Macinick, McEaney, Meer, Miller, Novick, Palzer, Rothman, Scherer, Smith, Sollano, Sriram, Yagudaev – abstain – Lee, Teng)

Response to the Fiscal Year 2015 Preliminary Budget

There were no registered speakers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation Committee – Bernard Haber, P.E. and Chris Petallides, P.E., Co-Chairs

Mr. Haber spoke in regard to Vision Zero, the Mayor's new initiative for eliminating pedestrian traffic fatalities. He reviewed the highlights of Vision Zero that will help improve conditions; i.e. additional traffic lights, speed bump requests, increased enforcement and crossing guards, 200 additional speed-guns and a proposal to change the speed to 25 mph in the City.

Mr. Petallides reviewed the committee report of February 20th. Votes were taken for the following speed bumps: 53 between 193 and 196 Street, 53 between 198 and Hollis Court Blvd. and Oceania between 46 and 47 Avenue. Hollis Hills Terrace between 73 Avenue and Union Turnpike and 46 Avenue between Cloverdale Blvd. and 220 Street were not voted on. Then all speed bump votes were tabled.

Mr. Haber suggested that the DOT make a presentation regarding speed bumps to the Board for a better understanding of the process of their approval for speed bumps. He also stated that in the past, speed bumps were never voted on by the full board and only a committee recommendation was sent to

DOT. Subsequent to the above votes, extensive discussion ensued and the speed bump items were tabled.

There was a request for the honorary naming of the northeast corner of Union Turnpike and Bell Blvd. at American Martyrs Church for the late Father John Murray. A vote, by show of hands, was taken resulting unanimously in favor.

There was a request for the honorary naming of the northeast corner of Bell Blvd. and 43 Avenue for the late Benjamin Fried who owned Benn's Hardware store on Bell Blvd. and who was instrumental in organizing several events improving of the community. A vote, by show of hands, was taken resulting unanimously in favor.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Jack Fried chaired the CB11 election proceedings.

Christine Haider was nominated for office of Chairperson by Chris Petallides and seconded by Andrew Rothman. There were no further nominations. Christine Haider was elected as Chairperson unanimously.

Nomination for the office of First Vice Chairperson – Laura James was nominated by Henry Euler and seconded by Joe Sollano. Henry Euler was nominated by Mario Ferazzoli but declined. Laura James was elected as First Vice Chairperson.

Nomination for the office of Second Vice Chairperson - Henry Euler was nominated by Mario Ferazzoli but declined. Ocelia Claro was nominated by Christina Scherer and seconded by Gordon Keit. Eileen Miller was nominated by Bernard Haber and seconded by Susan Cerezo. Ted Teng was nominated by Linda Lee and seconded by Douglas Montgomery. Ballots were cast resulting in 18 votes for Ocelia Claro, 14 votes for Eileen Miller and 5 votes for Ted Teng. Ocelia Claro was elected as Second Vice Chairperson.

Nomination for the office of Third Vice Chairperson - Eileen Miller was nominated by Gordon Keit and seconded by Steve Behar. Steve Behar was nominated by Alim Gafar but declined. Eileen Miller was elected Third Vice Chairperson.

The meeting ended at 10:07 pm.