

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11 REGULAR MEETING

DATE: May 2, 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	Absent	Robert Liatto	Present
Daniel Berrios	Absent	Susan Macinick	Present
Lana Bind	Present	Janet McEneaney	Present
Robert Caloras	Absent	Thomas Meara	Present
Susan Cerezo	Present	Melvyn Meer	Present
Ocelia Claro	Present	Eileen Miller	Present
Paul DiBenedetto	Present	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	Absent	Chris Petallides	Present
Lee Fiorino	Present	Stephen Pivawer	Present
Jack Fried	Absent	Andrew Rothman	Present
Joan Garippa	Present	Christina Scherer	Present
Roy Giusetti	Present	Gary Sekdorian	Present
Bernard Haber	Present	Frank Skala	Present
Christine Haider	Absent	Mamie Smith	Present
Zion Halili	Present	Joseph Sollano	Present
Laura James	Present	Robert Speranza	Absent
Mohan Jethwani	Present	Teddy Teng	Present
George Karahalidis	Present	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 Ronald Leyson	111 th Precinct, Commanding Officer
P.O. William Conway	111 th 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

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Jerry Iannece, Chair.

Jerry Iannece introduced Captain Leyson, Commanding Officer, of the 111th Precinct who gave an update on crime statistics for CB11. He stated that the intersection at Horace Harding and Springfield Blvd. is problematic with youth-on-youth crime. He said that tire and rim theft has decreased but still remains a problem in the community. Captain Leyson stated that everyone should be aware of their surroundings and if you “see something, say something.” He invited all to attend the 111th Precinct Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 7:30 pm at Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament Parish Center.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Andrew Latos spoke about the increased traffic flow on 29 Avenue between Bell Blvd. and 216 Street since construction started at St. Mary's Hospital for Children. Mr. Latos stated that vehicles are speeding on 29 Avenue, causing dangerous conditions for the residents. He is requesting speed humps. Jerry Iannece stated that a petition has to be signed by the residents and should be submitted to CB11.

Mike Abelson spoke about youth crime in his neighborhood and asked the 111th Precinct for support.

Ed Doster, Chair, Library Committee and Leiman Johnson, Friends of the Library, Douglaston/Little Neck Branch, spoke about recent budget cuts to the Queens Library system. Ms. Johnson stated that a fundraiser is being held on Thursday, May 5 at 5:00 pm at the Douglaston/Little Neck branch. She said that any amount raised will be matched by the Queens Library Foundation.

Tim Vance, Vice President of the Weeks Woodland Association, stated that the expansion of St. Mary's Hospital for Children is being challenged by the Weeks Woodland Association.

PRESENTATION

Lee Fiorino, Director, NYC Department of Finance spoke about NYC's Property Tax Lien Sale List. She stated that there are 121 properties eligible for a lien sale in CB11. Ms. Fiorino said that seniors, veterans, people with disabilities or active duty military personnel could be eligible to have their property removed from the sale list. She asked the community to reach out to homeowners that might not be aware of these exemptions.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Jerry Iannece asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 4th meeting. Minutes were accepted as written. Frank Skala made corrections to the Douglaston Zoning/Transportation Committee Report of April 19, 2011.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jerry Iannece made the following announcements and follow-ups:

The 111th Precinct is having a Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 3 at 7:30 pm at Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament, Parish Center.

Councilmember Dan Halloran and the Brain Tumor Foundation will be providing free MRI Brain Scans for the early detection of brain tumors on Sunday, May 15 – Thursday, May 19. The brain scan is free of charge and an appointment has to be made prior. Appointments should be made by calling 877-scan-nyc. For additional information, contact the office of Councilmember Dan Halloran.

Last month, Channel 11 news aired a segment that featured Henry Euler, Christina Scherer, Susan Seinfeld and Jerry Iannece regarding cars parked on the sidewalks of various auto dealerships along Northern Blvd. Mr. Iannece said that the next day cars that were parked on the sidewalks, were towed by the 111th Precinct. He thanked Henry Euler for his vigilance regarding this matter.

The gas station located at 35-04 Bell Blvd. responded to Susan Seinfeld's letter to renew the variance that was expiring and they have hired an attorney to start the renewal process. Mr. Iannece thanked Ms. Seinfeld her diligence regarding this matter.

Rob Caloras is being honored by the UFT at a District 26 dinner on May 19, 2011. Mr. Iannece congratulated Mr. Caloras.

The Bayside BID has installed new colorful banners along Bell Blvd. Mr. Iannece thanked the Bayside BID and the 13 businesses on Bell Blvd. that helped sponsor the new flags.

The Board of Standards and Appeals has forwarded a Notice of Comments to the applicant for Cal. No 6-11BZ - 50-20 216 Street. Mr. Iannece stated that the applicant has 60 days to respond to the BSA.

No. Cal. 201-08BZ – 40-38 216 Street – was calendared for May 3 with the Board of Standards and Appeals but was postponed by the applicant.

APEC has been funded approximately \$8.1 million by the City for the construction of a new building and approximately \$672,000 by City Council for the design of the building and parking lot.

The CB11 Board Meeting for June 6 will be held in the school cafeteria instead of the auditorium.

Jerry Iannece stated that he was proud to attend the 24th Annual Luncheon held by the Center for Women of New York, Inc. Mr. Iannece thanked Ann Jawin and the CWNYS for honoring him with the CWNYS “Good Guy” Award.

Councilmember Mark Weprin is having his Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 from 7:00-9:00 pm at Queens High School for Teaching.

Saturday, May 21 is “EMS Celebration Day” for the Little Neck – Douglaston Community Ambulance. There will be free food, equipment demos, ambulance tours and much more. The celebration will be at 42-18 Marathon Parkway from 11:00 am till 4:00 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Henry Euler, on behalf of the Auburndale Improvement Association, wanted to thank the 111th Precinct for their efforts regarding the matter of auto dealerships’ parking vehicles on the sidewalks.

Susan Macinick said that CERT did a ReadyNYC presentation for the Auburndale Improvement Association. Ms. Macinick stated that any organization that would like to have a ReadyNYC presentation should contact her.

Janet McEaney inquired about bike lanes along Bell Blvd. Mr. Iannece stated that at this time, CB11 is not aware of bike lanes on Bell Blvd. and asked Susan Seinfeld to look into this matter.

Frank Skala stated that bike lanes on Bell Blvd. would be a disaster, especially near the LIRR. He also suggested relocating the venue of the June 6 Board meeting because the cafeteria is not suitable for a meeting. Mr. Iannece stated that changing the location of the meeting couldn’t be done at this time.

Mohan Jethwani asked when Bell Blvd. would be resurfaced. Susan Seinfeld stated that Bell Blvd. is expected to be resurfaced in the Spring of 2011.

Victor Mimoni asked if the narrow trench cuts from 223 Street to Bell Blvd. on Northern Blvd. could be filled. Susan Seinfeld stated that she will follow-up with the DOT.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A proposal by GROWN NYC to operate a Greenmarket at 41 Avenue and 235 Street, requiring 100' of street closure. Michael Hurwitz the Director of GROWN NYC and Cathy Chambers gave a presentation on the proposal for a Greenmarket to operate at 41 Avenue and 235 Street. The Greenmarket would be open from July 10 to November 20, 2011 on Sundays from 10:00 am till 3:00 pm. Set-up for the Greenmarket would start at 6:45 am and clean-up would be finished by 4:00 pm. Mr. Hurwitz stated that currently there are 53 Greenmarkets, 21 of them operate all year round. There are several Greenmarkets in residential areas. Mr. Hurwitz said a GROWN NYC manager will be on duty during market hours. Farmers are responsible for removal of all garbage related to the Greenmarket. The MTA has agreed to offer a reduced flat parking rate of \$5.00 per vehicle for the period 8:00 am till 3:00 pm on Sundays for the Greenmarket. Mr. Hurwitz stated that they are speaking to the MTA for use of the bathroom facilities. The approval of the street closure is for July 10, 2011 to November 20, 2011, next year they would have to apply again. He said that other locations were looked into and this location is the best for many reasons. There were 16 registered speakers, 8 opposed and 8 in favor. The speakers in opposition are concerned with safety and traffic in the community. They asked how emergency vehicles will reach the LIRR station if needed. The people opposed, clarified that they were not against a Greenmarket, just the choice of location. A question and answer period followed. The suggestion was made to relocate to another location or to the MTA parking lot on the south side of the LIRR and the hours of start-up could be pushed forward to 8:00 am instead of 6:45 am. Rev. Dr. Linden Debie, Pastor of the Community Church of Douglaston, offered their parking lot for vehicles. A motion was made to approve the street closure of 41 Avenue and 235 Street for a Greenmarket. The motion was seconded by Paul DiBenedetto. Discussion ensued to the benefits and drawbacks of having a Greenmarket at this location. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 31 in favor, 7 opposed and 1 abstention. (In favor – Basom, Bind, Cerezo, Claro, DiBenedetto, Doster, Ferazzoli, Ferrari, Fiorino, Haber, Halili, Iannece, James, Jethwani, Karahalis, Keit, Liatto, Macinick, Meara, Miller, Mimoni, Newman, Novick, Palzer, Petallides, Pivawer, Scherer, Smith, Sollano, Teng, Yagudaev - Opposed – Euler, Garippa, Giusetti, Kim, McEaney, Rothman, Skala - Abstain – Meer) The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry Iannece at 10:10 pm.