

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11
GENERAL BOARD MEETING

DATE: May 6, 2013

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

ATTENDANCE:

Jerry Iannece, Chair	Present	Anthony Koutsouradis	Absent
Daniel Baek	Present	Linda Lee	Present
Edith Basom	Present	Robert Liatto	Present
Steven Behar	Present	Susan Macinick	Absent
Lana Bind	Absent	Janet McEaney	Absent
Susan Cerezo	Present	Thomas Meara	Absent
Ocelia Claro	Absent	Melvyn Meer	Present
Paul DiBenedetto	Absent	George Mihaltses	Absent
Henry Euler	Present	Eileen Miller	Present
Mario Ferazzoli	Present	Douglas Montgomery	Present
JoAnn Ferrari	Present	Steven Newman	Absent
Sonya Fierro-Gladwin	Present	Dennis Novick	Present
Lee Fiorino	Present	Allan Palzer	Present
Jack Fried	Present	Chris Petallides	Present
Alim Gafar	Present	Stephen Pivawer	Present
Joan Garippa	Present	Elizabeth Renner	Present
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 Assistant, Community Board 11
Captain Jason Huerta	111 th Precinct, Commanding Officer
P.O. Gary Poggiali	111 th Precinct, Community Affairs Unit
Mark Scott	Representing Queens Borough President Helen Marshall
Anthony Lemma	Representing Assembly Member David Weprin
Michael Stinson	Representing Congress Member Steve Israel
Claudia Filomena	Mayor's Community Affairs Unit
Megan Keane	Representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic
Victor Mimoni	Representing Council Member Dan Halloran
Irene Cheung	Representing Council Member Mark Weprin
Steven Masillo	Representing Assembly Member Ed Braunstein
Don Capalbi	Representing Congress Member Grace Meng
Ivan Acosta	Representing Senator Tony Avella

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chairman, Jerry Iannece.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diane DiBlasi spoke about several problems with the new houses being built on 183 Street and Booth Memorial Avenue. She asked CB11 for support because the builder is not complying with the original design plans that were presented to the residents.

Mandingo Tshaka spoke about the Nissan Auto dealership on Northern Blvd. and how they are in violation of the building's Certificate of Occupancy.

Mr. Iannece introduced Captain Jason Huerta who gave the 28-day period crime statistics within the 111th Precinct.

PRESENTATION

Mercedes Hodge and Danzel Turner, representing the Community Environmental Center, gave a presentation regarding services they provide to the community to help make homes more energy efficient. The CEC is a not-for-profit organization.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Jerry Iannece asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 8th meeting. The minutes were approved with corrections.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jerry Iannece made the following announcements:

Special Education students from PS 811 assisted with the CB11's May monthly mailing. The students stuffed and labeled 350 pieces of mail. Mr. Iannece stated that this is a great partnership that we hope to continue every month.

The Borough President appointed a new Board Member last week, George Mihaltses.

The FY2014 Executive Budget was released on Thursday and CB budgets have not been cut this year. All City budget documents are available on-line at the OMB website including the Register of Community Board Requests with agency responses.

Senator Avella is holding a Transit Town Hall meeting at MS 158 on Thursday, May 9th.

Recycling is expanding to include all hard plastic.

The DSNY announced the annual Shred Fest for Sunday, May 19 from 10am – 4pm at the Flushing Meadow Park parking lot at 111th Street or at the Pathmark Shopping Center at Springfield Blvd. and Merrick Blvd.

The DOT is accepting applications from community groups for the Plaza Program. CB11 doesn't fit the guidelines of the Plaza Program because CB11 has a lot of open space.

The Taste of Queens event sponsored by the Queens Economic Development Corp. and several other Sponsors, including Fairway, is being held at Citi Field on May 14th. Tickets are available at the QEDC website.

Congress Member Steve Israel, who now represents parts of Douglaston, Little Neck and Bayside, has opened a local office at 1 Barstow Road in Great Neck.

The 111th Precinct Council meeting is Tuesday, May 7th at 7:30 pm.

Congratulations were given to Ted Teng for being the Star of Queens in the Queens Courier.

Bayside Hills Civic Association is conducting their annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Saturday, May 25th.

The Douglaston/Little Neck Parade Committee is conducting their annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27th.

The DOT has revised the Auburndale Slow Zone and has eliminated the small portion that stretched into Bayside.

NEW BUSINESS

Frank Skala asked if the June meeting will be held in the cafeteria again. He stated it is not suitable.

Henry Euler stated that the Auburndale Improvement Association is distributing a petition to reclaim PS 130, located on Francis Lewis Blvd. and 42 Avenue. PS 130 is located in SD 26 but is being used by SD 25. Mr. Euler stated that if SD 26 children were able to attend PS 130 it would reduce the overcrowding in other schools such as PS 31, PS 159, and PS 162. Also, Mr. Euler wanted to express his disappointment that only two people on the board represent Auburndale.

Christine Haider stated that she supports Mandingo Tshaka's complaint about the Nissan Auto dealership. She stated that cars are parked on the sidewalks. She also stated that it has been brought to her attention that at the overpass of the LIE and Utopia Parkway there is a terrible problem with pigeons. At one time there was netting, but that has been removed. Mrs. Haider stated that it is a health hazard and asked for the support of CB11. She also spoke about several false promises that the builder gave the community in regard to the new houses and hotel being built on 183 Street and Booth Memorial Avenue. Mrs. Haider discussed how the properties are not being maintained and are creating a hazardous condition. Mr. Iannece said that CB11 has made site visits with the DOB and at this time, local elected officials should be contacted. Mr. Iannece stated that in regard to the Nissan Auto dealership, CB11 has contacted the 111th Precinct and vehicles have been towed.

Ted Teng stated that he recently attended PS 41 International Night and offered congratulations on a very successful event.

Andy Rothman gave an update on the upcoming meetings with elected officials in regard to the fight against airplane noise over northeast Queens.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Iannece thanked the Education Committee for tabling their discussion on Teacher Evaluations to dedicate more time to the scheduled public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

NYC School Construction Authority – Site Selection for 416-seat primary school facility for SD 26 on 48 Avenue between 210 and 211 Streets.

Mr. Iannece addressed the assembly and stated that public hearings are conducted in a certain manner and if anyone deviates from parliamentary procedure, they will be asked to leave. Mr. Iannece stated that the School Construction Authority is giving the community and the CB a chance to voice their opinion regarding the proposed site but the CB does not have the final vote.

Chris Persheff and Monica Gutierrez, representing the School Construction Authority (SCA), gave a presentation regarding the proposed site selection. Mr. Persheff stated the site selection process started on April 15, 2013. As part of the SCA outreach, they are here tonight to listen and answer questions as best as they can. He stated that last week he attended a meeting held by the CB Zoning and Education Committees. At the meeting, a couple of questions were asked which he wanted to address. Mr. Persheff answered the questions as follows; PS 130 happened some time ago and the issue we have right now is the overcrowding in this specific area: the height of the building has not been determined yet but in reviewing the design plans for the adjacent school, MS 158, it has been determined that the water table is low enough to build a cellar, which will reduce the overall height of the building. Mr. Persheff explained that the surrounding elementary schools are operating over capacity; PS 162 at 142%, PS 31 at 142% and PS 203 at 125%. He stated that if additions were added to the existing schools, students would have to be removed in order to build. There were 11 registered speakers; six residents were opposed to the site selection. They spoke of the negative impact the proposal will have on the adjacent homeowners and the increase in traffic flow to an already congested area. It was stated that 48 Avenue has two major bus routes as well as two schools nearby that already crowd the residential streets due to faculty parking, buses idling and students being dropped off and picked up from school. Two principals from SD 26, Joan Casala, of PS 162 and Sari Latto, of PS 41, were in favor of the proposed site stating that their schools are severely overcrowded. Phil Koningsburg, Vice President Bay Terrace Community Alliance, Terry Pouymari, President Auburndale Improvement Association and Michael Feiner, Bayside Hills Civic Association were all opposed, stating that other sites should be considered because the proposed site is already a problematic area with heavy traffic congestion. Ms. Pouymari added that PS 130 should be utilized by students of SD 26 not SD 25. A general public question and answer period followed. The majority of questions pertained to environmental concerns; whether students will be bused into SD 26, the recourse if there was to be physical damage to the adjacent homes during construction, the possible decrease in property values around the vicinity of the school and whether parking restrictions would be added to the residential streets. Mr. Iannece gave another reminder to the assembly that there is no yelling out and only questions will be heard. The SCA representatives responded as follows to questions: a traffic study is being conducted within a 400 ft, radius of the proposed site, students are not bused in from other districts in elementary school, every adjacent homeowner will sign a legal agreement with the SCA in the event of damages, soundproof windows and noise barriers could be provided if needed and the traffic study will determine street regulations. Mr. Persheff stated that there are currently no design plans because about ten years ago there was a proposed school site for the property where the former Bayside Hills Jewish Center was located. He said there was very strong opposition and the SCA withdrew the proposal, therefore, SCA wanted to hear the community's input before accruing the design cost. Mr. Persheff stated that any questions and concerns can be addressed to the SCA Executive Vice President and General Counsel. Ms. Gutierrez stated that no matter what, the property is being sold, and another type of community facility could be constructed rather than a school. Throughout the question and answer period Mr. Iannece repeatedly requested and maintained order. Dennis Novick, Zoning Committee Chair, reviewed the committee report of the April 29, 2013 meeting. He stated that the district needs a school and the SCA is stating that there is limited space available and funds are available in the budget for this fiscal year. He asked if this site was denied, what would be the likelihood that SD 26 would lose funding for a new school. Mr. Persheff said that it would depend on the priority list for the new budget. Laura James, Education Committee Chair, stated that at the committee meeting, a motion was made to support the proposed siting of a new 416-seat elementary school and the Committees voted unanimously against the motion with one abstention. She said that the Education Committee then made a motion to reiterate, to the DOE, its support that PS 130 become a SD 26 school serving the children of the surrounding community and maintain the current SD 75-Speical Education program in the school. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion. A Board Member question and answer period followed. Board Members asked if a height

restriction could be considered, if BMW's vacant property on Northern Blvd. was considered, if an addition could be constructed onto PS 31, and how long before the contract would be finalized. Mr. Persheff stated that SCA contacted the owner of the BMW vacant lot and they never received a return call. He said an addition to an existing school is not normally a solution and the estimated time before the contract is finalized depends on the completion of the environmental studies. A motion was made to approve the proposed site. A discussion ensued as to how a school is needed but that the proposed site is not a good location for a school. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 3 in favor, 25 opposed and 9 abstention (In-favor – Fiorino, Haider, Teng – Opposed – Baek, Basom, Behar, Cerezo, Euler, Ferazzoli, Ferrari, Fried, Garippa, Giusetti, Halili, James, Karahalis, Keit, Lee, Liatto, Meer, Montgomery, Palzer, Petallides, Pivawer, Rothman, Scherer, Skala, Sollano – Abstain- Gafar, Iannece, Jethwani, Kim, Miller, Novick, Smith, Sriram, Yagudaev) The motion was denied.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Iannece at 9:30 pm.