

# **COMMUNITY BOARD 11 QUEENS**

## **MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11 REGULAR MEETING**

DATE: November 3, 2008

PLACE: MS 158  
(MARIE CURIE)  
46-35 OCEANIA STREET  
BAYSIDE

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Steven Newman, Chair	Present	George Karahalidis	Absent
Edith Basom	Absent	Gordon Keit	Present
Daniel Berrios	Absent	Eileen Kenny	Absent
Lana Bind	Present	Incha Kim	Present
Rose Bruno	Absent	Fanklyn Lloyd	Present
Robert Caloras	Absent	Susan Macinick	Absent
Ocelia Claro	Present	Janet McEneaney	Present
James Colasante	Present	Melvyn Meer	Present
Joan Corn	Present	Eleen Miller	Present
Paul DiBenedetto	Absent	David Millet	Present
Edward Doster	Present	Victor Mimoni	Present
Henry Euler	Present	Dennis Novick	Present
Mario Ferazzoli	Present	Allan Palzer	Present
JoAnn Ferrari	Absent	Stephen Pivawer	Present
Jack Fried	Absent	James Rodgers	Absent
Joan Garippa	Present	John Rosse	Present
Roy Giusetti	Present	Andrew Rothman	Present
Bernard Haber	Present	Christina Scherer	Present
Christine Haider	Present	Gary Sekdorian	Present
Zion Halili	Present	Frank Skala	Present
Joseph Hellmann	Present	Mamie Smith	Present
Jerry Iannece	Present	Joseph Sollano	Present
Laura James	Present	Robert Speranza	Absent
Mohan Jethwani	Present	Ryan Walsh	Absent
		Alex Yagudaev	Present

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Linda Vallerugo	Assistant District Manager, Community Board 11
Hon. Anthony Weiner	9 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District
Felix Martinez, Jr.	Representing Queens District Attorney Richard Brown
John Dorsa	Representing NYC Comptroller William Thompson, Jr.
Brian Rivera	Representing Assemblyman Mark Weprin
Gene McSweeney	Representing Assemblywoman Ann Margaret Carrozza
Bruce Eiber	Representing Councilman David Weprin
Edgar Bajana	Department of City Planning
Marva Kalish	Chamber of Commerce
D.I. Scott Hanover	111 <sup>th</sup> Precinct
P.O. Gary Poggiali	111 <sup>th</sup> Precinct

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Steven Newman, Chair

Congressman Anthony Weiner addressed the Board and thanked the CB11 members for their service to the community. He expressed his objection to extending term limits without a public referendum and reported on a new stimulus bill for infrastructure programs. A question and answer period followed. Congressman Weiner stated that some type of new legislation is necessary to regulate cell phone towers which would find a balance between the utilities and local municipalities as well as address the health concern issues.

Steve Newman stated that we had a meeting recently with the Dept. of Information Technology and Telecommunications, and the Board is considering a proposal where one firm would have a franchise on the cell phone tower or box and all the other phone companies would have to come through that utility company to operate. Congressman Weiner confirmed that this is how it is done in Western Europe and Israel.

**PRESENTATION**

Dr. Linda Leest, Executive Director, of Services Now for Adult Persons (SNAP) reported on various services and programs for the elderly provided by SNAP. It was also noted that Susan Seinfeld serves on their Board. She also addressed the Case Management Program which coordinates all of the services available to help a person maintain their independence safely at home such as transportation, meals, home care and counseling. CB11 member, Lana Bind, is the Director of this program and they have an excellent trained staff, but they are overburdened. The Request for Proposal (RFP) was for 900 clients, but by the time the program opened in May they had 1500 clients within CB8, CB11 and CB13. Instead of each staff person servicing 65 clients they are now servicing 117 clients, and the program now has a waiting list. Dr. Leest explained that the RFP does not allow them the opportunity to provide extensive care to all the seniors who come to them in need of assistance. She stressed that they need help to get more funding not only for SNAP but for the other Case Management Programs throughout the City. She also reported on a new RFP which came out today for senior centers and explained that there will not be adequate funding provided for all the services which they are mandated to offer. Dr. Leest answered

questions from the audience. Brochures on SNAP were available at the meeting.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Dina Quondamatteo spoke about the need for a Stop sign to be installed at the corner of 45 Avenue and 196 Street. Ms. Quondamatteo explained that motorists speed through this intersection, which is used as an alternate route to Northern Boulevard and there are two schools within the area. She also raised concerns about truck traffic and requested that No Truck signage be installed. Ms. Qondamatteo reported that letters have been written to DOT and our local elected officials regarding this issue and she is now asking for the support of the Board.

2. Carol Marion raised concerns about the RFP for the Bayside Marina which calls for boat repairs in the parking lot, a full liquor license and year round use of the dock. Ms. Marion stated that this RFP will create major safety concerns. The marina is located on Joe Michaels Mile, which is part of the Greenway used for pedestrians and bicyclists, and adjacent to a major highway. She also stated that boat repairs would be extremely dangerous in the limited space of the parking lot as well as the risk of oil spills into the bay.

Susan Seinfeld explained that the boat repairs would not be in the parking lot. The Parks Dept. is open to suggestions of possible boat repairs, but the RFP would have to explain how they would make repairs in the available space or perhaps create additional space. She also made it clear to the Parks Dept. that the Community Board would object to a full liquor license.

It was noted that there will be a walk-through of the site on Wednesday at 11 AM.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Frank Skala objected to the statement that future mailings would be sent out through e-mails. Although this statement was not part of the minutes, discussion followed. Susan Seinfeld clarified that it is by choice, not mandated, if someone wants to receive the information through e-mail.

Steve Newman explained that we could save a few thousand dollars a year by sending out information through e-mails and like other organizations we need to rapidly move in this direction. There are going to be additional budget cuts in June. We are cutting a staff member's hours and the mailing would be an additional way to save money.

The minutes of October 6, 2008 were accepted as written.

### **COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION**

1. Henry Euler gave an update on the North Flushing rezoning plan. He reported that on November 18th, at 7:30 PM, Auburndale Civic Assoc. will be holding their monthly meeting and the Dept. of City Planning will be present to explain the plan. The other local civic associations have been invited. The plan will then go through the ULURP process. John Young, of City Planning, advised Henry Euler that they are currently working on the rezoning of South Auburndale, Hollis Hills and Oakland Gardens.

2. Melvyn Meer raised the issue of school governance and commented that Mr. Newman was supposed to meet with the Education Committee Co-Chairs. The purpose of this meeting was to establish a list of items that the Committee will address in the future. Mr. Meer asked Mr. Newman for an update.

Steve Newman reported that he met only with Laura James because Tom Lloyd was not available due to a serious injury. Several items were discussed, however, before going any further they decided to wait for Mr. Lloyd to be available. Steve Newman pointed out that the State Legislature will not be addressing the issue of school governance until January 2009. The Education Committee will be notified as soon as a meeting is scheduled.

Steve Newman commented that Congressman Weiner called the office on Friday and asked to address our Board. Since the Congressman is running in the election basically unopposed, he agreed. If it had been a contested election, he would have suggested that the Congressman come to our December meeting.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

1. 183-07/15 Horace Harding Expwy. - Christine Haider, East Flushing/North Bayside Zoning Chair, read a detailed Committee report on the meeting held at the Board office with the owner of the property, the engineer of the development and the residents. Ms. Haider explained that a section of the property is contaminated by Tetrachloroethene (PCE) and therefore is undergoing a Brownfield clean-up. She outlined in detail the procedure of the clean-up and the health concerns of the community regarding this site. Residents complained that they have not been notified of the results of testing done on their properties, as well as excessive noise, vibrations and the lack of security at the site. In summary, full reports of the testing should go to the residents immediately. Ms. Haider also gave details on the proposed construction of the two hotels and 18 two-family attached homes at the site. Residents expressed concerns regarding the construction, stating that it will impact on the quality of life in the area, increase traffic congestion and delivery and garbage pick-ups. It was asked that an environmental and traffic feasibility study should be done. Concerns were also raised that the sanitary sewers are already overburdened, there is a dangerous access and egress from the LIE, and the schools in the area are currently overcrowded. In summary, the property owner was asked by the residents to downsize the project, but he declined. Board member discussion followed. Questions were raised regarding the depth and extent of the contamination, the sewer capacity, if the hotel meets the setback requirement under the current zoning and that the foundation was approved before the building design approval. Steve Newman stated this is an as-of-right project. However, as an outcome of the meeting, the owner did agree to keep the residents better informed in the future and to use the CB11 office and the library as a vehicle in getting information out to people. Although he declined to have security guards, he did agree to look into better fencing.

2. Laura James, Environmental Committee Co-Chair, gave a report on the meeting held with the Dept. of Information Technology and Telecommunication (DOITT) regarding cell towers. She explained that there are basically four major telecommunication companies which are installing these larger cell towers. They are Verizon, Sprint, Team Mobile and AT&T. There is a federal law

that the City cannot restrict the placement of these cell towers. The only recourse available regarding the placement of these towers is either through a land use restriction or a zoning restriction. However, there is a law pending to take that recourse away and have everything under total federal control. There is also another smaller type of antenna box being installed on existing utility poles. NextG is a company installing these boxes within our community. These box antennas are much less powerful than the larger antennas and, therefore, we see a lot more of them being installed throughout the area. A representative of the Buildings Dept. was present at the meeting and informed us that Buildings is required to list antenna permits on their website, and the larger free standing towers are controlled by a sky exposure plane. Many times when new antennas are installed the older antennas are not removed. It was noted that in Seattle the community has input on where these towers are installed and they go under a power utility contract. Discussion followed and questions were raised regarding health concerns, utility franchises and zoning regulations. Steve Newman stated that we will be proposing to our elected officials to legislate that these towers be operated by one company franchise and all the various companies would have to go through this one company to operate.

Steve Newman announced that Commissioner Robert LiMandri, of Buildings, is scheduled to attend our December meeting and we will ask him to be prepared to address issues concerning cell towers.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.