

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11 REGULAR  
MEETING

DATE: November 7, 2011

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

ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Christina Coutinho	Community Assistant, Community Board 11
Mark Scott	Representing Queens Borough President Helen Marshall
Capt. Ronald Leyson	111 <sup>th</sup> Precinct, Commanding Officer
P.O. William Conway	111 <sup>th</sup> Precinct, Community Affairs
Meagan Chen	Representing Assemblymember Edward Braunstein
Xavier San Miguel	Representing Senator Tony Avella
Anthony Lemma	Representing Assemblymember David Weprin
Paige Waranis	Representing Councilmember Dan Halloran
Alen Beerman	Representing Councilmember Mark Weprin

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm by Jerry Iannece, Chair.

Mr. Iannece introduced Captain Leyson, who stated that the holiday shopping season is approaching and wanted to remind everybody not to leave packages in their vehicles. He said that when walking outside to be aware of your surroundings. Capt. Leyson stated that on the first Tuesday of each month, except July and August, the 111<sup>th</sup> Precinct conducts the Community Council meeting at 7:30 pm. Capt. Leyson said that this meeting is open to the public and everyone is welcome.

Mr. Iannece introduced Congressman Gary Ackerman, who discussed the political differences in Congress. Congressman Ackerman answered questions from the audience on various issues.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mandingo Tshaka requested an “All-Way Stop” Sign at 45 Drive and 211 Street. Mr. Tshaka requested that the Dept. of Parks change the sign that is posted at the playground entrance behind M.S. 158 to read Playground instead of Park. Mr. Iannece stated that the Dept. of Parks was present and asked if they could review Mr. Tshaka’s request.

Rev. Phillip Kim from the Korean Presbyterian Church of Bayside also made a request for an “All-Way Stop” Sign at 45 Drive and 211 Street. Rev. Phillip also made a request for the playground sign behind M.S. 158 be changed from Park to Playground. He said that the rules and regulations are stricter for a playground, therefore, for the safety of the children, is requesting the Park be renamed Playground. Rev. Kim presented two petitions with signatures supporting his requests.

Brenda Harper, a resident of Bayside, stated she is concerned about the water table in her area. She stated that homes located at 45 Road between 202 and 204 Street are having a problem with water in their basements. Ms. Harper asked what could be done to prevent the water from coming into their homes.

Kathleen M. McGrath requested that the bus stop at Northern Blvd. and Douglaston Parkway be reinstated. Ms. McGrath stated that the bus stops on Northern Blvd. and 244 Street and Northern Blvd. and Alameda Avenue are unsafe. She presented a petition with signatures from residents and local store owners supporting the reinstatement of the bus stop at Northern Blvd. and Douglaston Parkway.

### **PRESENTATION**

Linda Leest, CEO, and Cathy Cahn representing Services Now for Adult Persons (SNAP) stated that they have received the approval to provide transportation for Community Board 11 residents to attend senior centers. The transportation service will start January 3, 2012 for seniors 60 years young. SNAP has been funded under the new innovative senior center grant to provide extensive services. Ms. Cahn stated that they are located at the Creedmoor Campus on Winchester Blvd and Hillside Avenue. Their website address is [snapqueens.org](http://snapqueens.org) and is updated monthly.

Ellen Lehman, membership coordinator for TimeBanksNYC gave a presentation regarding volunteering a service. For your service you will receive a time credit to receive a service in return. Individuals and organizations can join by fulfilling five easy steps. For more information Ms. Lehman can be reached at 212-442-3113.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Jerry Iannece asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Minutes were accepted with a correction to the result of a roll call vote from a “no” to “yes” vote on the Capital & Expense Budget motion.

Mel Meer questioned the procedures for the proposal of bleachers in Crocheron Park stating that according to our by-laws, there was insufficient notice to conduct a public hearing. Mr. Iannece stated that is not an official public hearing but the public will be allowed to speak on the issue as if it was an official public hearing.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Jerry Iannece made the following announcements and follow-ups:

Networking NYC Job Fair will be held at Francis Lewis High School on November 19 from 10 am until 4 pm. For more information call the CB11 office.

Two food carts have now parked on 73 Avenue at Bell Blvd. and Springfield Blvd at Horace Harding Expressway. Councilmember Mark Weprin is seeking to sponsor legislation that would require food carts to be inspected for cleanliness and food safety.

Councilmember Dan Halloran is trying to get Star Nissan to comply with variance laws at their Station Road service garage.

The variance was granted by the BSA for 6-11BZ for 50-20 216 Street. The Community Board and the Borough President voted against the variance, but BSA voted unanimously in favor. Mr. Iannece stated that on several occasions CB11 discussed the need for stricter rules regarding BSA decisions and that there should be an option of a higher appeal. Councilmember Dan Halloran is sponsoring legislation which was introduced requesting an appeal process beyond the BSA. Mike Feiner, President of Bayside Hills Civic Association, stated that they have a meeting with the BSA on Nov 21 to discuss BSA 6-11BZ.

Congratulations to the Bayside BID for conducting a very successful Bayside Arts Fair. Mr. Iannece stated that Paul DiBenedetto and his band played at the Fair and they were very impressive.

CB11 and St. Mary's conducted the annual Flu Vaccine Clinic which was successful, but not as heavily attended as in the past. Next year will determine if CB11 and St. Mary's will continue with the Flu Vaccine Clinic.

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Fairway Market is being held on Wednesday, November 16.

The Bayside Hills Civic Association is conducting their Holiday Lighting Ceremony on December 18 at 5:00 pm.

CB11 was approached with the idea of a bus shelter at the bus stop on the northeast corner of Northern Blvd. and Douglaston Parkway. The store owners were against it. CB11 was communicating with the MTA about conducting a site visit to move the bus stop to the northwest corner of Northern Blvd and Douglaston Parkway. In the meantime, the MTA removed the bus stop with no notice to CB11. Mr. Iannece stated that Susan Seinfeld has reached out to the MTA for a meeting to reinstate the bus stop.

The Center for the Women of New York, is conducting a job fair on Friday, Nov. 11th from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm at the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel.

Councilmember Mark Weprin is sponsoring Councilmember for a Day Essay Contest for grammar school students. The winner travels to City Hall and becomes Councilmember for a day.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Henry Euler said that Councilmember Dan Halloran is sponsoring two pieces of legislations in regard to the Board of Standards and Appeals application process. First is the requirement of a renewal notice to businesses when their variance is expiring and penalties applied if they do not comply. Second is when the Community Board and the Borough President disapprove a variance and the BSA then approves the variance, there should be an appeals process. Example would be the Bayside Hills house on 216<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Euler made a motion that CB11 supports both parts of this legislation sponsored by Councilmember Dan Halloran and Councilmember Mark Weprin. Mel Meer seconded the motion. Andy Rothman stated that in 10 years there were 125 cases in the CB11 boundaries presented to BSA. The results of these cases were 109 granted, 3 denied, 12 withdrawn and 1 dismissed, therefore, Mr. Rothman stated he supports the proposed legislation. A roll call vote was taken, resulting in 29 in favor and 2 opposed. (In-favor - Basom, Behar, Bind, Cerezo, DiBenedetto, Euler, Fiorino, Fried, Garrappa, Giusetti, Haber, Haider, Halili, Iannece, James, Jethwani, Keit, Liatto, Macinick, Meer, Miller, Novick, Palzer, Pivawer, Rothman, Scherer, Skala, Teng, Yagudaev – Opposed – Ferazzoli, Newman) Steven Newman stated that he voted no because he was in favor of the first piece of legislation but opposed to the second piece of legislation. The motion carried.

Gordon Keit asked if the 111<sup>th</sup> Precinct is affected by patrols going to help with the protestors in NYC. Capt. Leyson stated that manpower is being pulled from every Precinct and the 111<sup>th</sup> Precinct has the manpower to cover short staffing.

Mohan Jethwani asked for an update on the Non-Solicitation Legislation. Mr. Iannece made a request to have elected officials help with the enforcement of the Non-Solicitation Legislation.

Mel Meer spoke at length about the procedures that were followed in regard to the proposal of bleachers in Crocheron Park.

Susan Cerezo stated that someone in her area has contracted Mad Cow Disease. Mr. Iannece requested that she speak to Susan Seinfeld after the meeting.

Andy Rothman asked when the January 2012 meeting will be held. Mr. Iannece asked Susan Seinfeld to contact the school.

Frank Skala asked if a vote would be taken for the proposal of bleachers at Crocheron Park because it was not listed on the Agenda. Mr. Iannece said that a vote would be taken.

Susan Macinick gave the dates for the upcoming meetings and events for CERT.

Steven Newman stated that he was the prior Chair of the Board before Mr. Iannece and frequently committee reports would come before the Board and were voted on. It was never a problem.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bernard Haber, Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee, reviewed the committee report of the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Iannece said that the proposal for bleachers in Crocheron Park was going to be conducted like a Public Hearing. Mr. Iannece introduced Bob Reid, Bayside Little League Commissioner, who gave a presentation as to where the bleachers would be installed. He said that there will be three, three tiered aluminum bleachers that will be maintained by the Bayside Little League. Mr. Reid stated that Bayside Little League will be paying for the bleachers and the company has agreed to install the bleachers for free. He stated that Bayside Little League files for permits to use the baseball fields in Crocheron Park. Mr. Reid stated that although the fields belong to the City, Bayside Little League mows the lawns and maintains the upkeep of the fields.

There were 7 registered speakers, 6 in favor and 1 opposed. A question and answer period followed with concerns of the bleachers being used by youths as a hang out and homeless people as a shelter. Mr. Reid stated that the bleachers will be 3 feet high, 15 feet wide and 6 feet deep. Mike Agnello, Dept. of Parks representative stated that the side view of the bleachers will be facing the street and homes.

Lee Fiorino, Chair of the Parks Committee, reviewed the committee report of the meeting on October 19th. A motion was made to recommend bleachers in Crocheron Park. Motion was seconded by Steve Newman. Mr. Iannece stated that in 1995 the proposal for bleachers and a pee wee field were presented to the Parks Committee. He said in reviewing the minutes, only the proposal for a pee wee field was voted on. Mr. Skala disagreed and a lengthy discussion followed. Discussion ensued as to why the bleachers should not be installed, who was liable if there was an injury from the bleachers and the amount of people who attend the game as spectators. A board member asked what would happen if the bleachers become a problem in the future. Janice Melnick, Northeast Queens Administrator, stated that like every other fixture in a park, the bleachers will be monitored by the Dept. of Parks and if there is a problem, they will be removed. Ms. Melnick stated that the Bayside Little League wanted to install bleachers that were larger in size and the Dept. of Parks refused the larger bleachers. Other concerns raised by Board Members were that the bleachers are not aesthetically pleasing to the residents and people who frequent the park. It was also stated that bleachers are for the children, however, some said that the bleachers are for the parents. A statement was made that the proper notification process to residents on the proposal of bleachers was not adhered to. Mr. Iannece stated that the fields in Crocheron Park are maintained by Bayside Little League and that Bayside Little League does a lot for the community. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 19 in favor, 11 opposed and 1 abstention (Basom, Behar, Bind, Cerezo, DiBenedetto, Ferazzoli, Fiorino, Fried, Halili, Iannece, James, Keit, Liatto, Macinick, Meara, Newman, Novick, Pivawer, Teng – Opposed – Claro, Euler, Garippa, Giusetti, Haider, Jethwani, Meer, Miller, Palzer, Scherer, Skala, Teng – Abstain – Rothman) The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry Iannece at 10:21 pm.