

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING

DATE: November 4, 2013

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	Present	Robert Liatto	Present
Steven Behar	Present	Susan Macinick	Absent
Lana Bind	Absent	Janet McEneaney	Absent
Susan Cerezo	Present	Thomas Meara	Absent
Ocelia Claro	Present	Melvyn Meer	Absent
Paul DiBenedetto	Present	George Mihaltses	Absent
Henry Euler	Present	Eileen Miller	Present
Mario Ferazzoli	Present	Douglas Montgomery	Present
JoAnn Ferrari	Present	Steven Newman	Present
Sonya Fierro-Gladwin	Present	Dennis Novick	Present
Lee Fiorino	Present	Allan Palzer	Present
Jack Fried	Absent	Chris Petallides	Present
Alim Gafar	Present	Stephen Pivawer	Present
Joan Garippa	Present	Elizabeth Renner	Present
Roy Giusetti	Present	Andrew Rothman	Absent
Bernard Haber	Present	Christina Scherer	Present
Christine Haider	Present	Gary Sekdorian	Absent
Zion Halili	Present	Frank Skala	Present
Laura James	Absent	Mamie Smith	Present
Mohan Jethwani	Present	Joseph Sollano	Present
George Karahalidis	Absent	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
Deputy Inspector Jason Huerta	111 <sup>th</sup> Precinct Commanding Officer
P.O. Gary Poggiali	111 <sup>th</sup> Precinct, Community Affairs Unit
Mark Scott	Representing Queens Borough President Helen Marshall
Anthony Lemma, Sr.	Representing Assembly Member David Weprin
Steven Masillo	Representing Assembly Member Ed Braunstein
Victor Mimoni	Representing Council Member Dan Halloran
Megan Keane	Assembly Member Nily Rozic
Joanne Choi	Representing Congress Grace Meng
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 introduced Deputy Inspector Huerta.

Deputy Inspector Huerta gave a general update regarding the crime statistics of the 111<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no registered speakers.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Jerry Iannece asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Jerry Iannece made the following announcements:

Mr. Iannece stated that despite the large area that the Precinct covers, the number of Police Officers has decreased over time and is at dangerously low levels. Mr. Iannece expressed concern and displeasure over the low staff number. He has been fighting to maintain adequate staffing levels for many years.

Well wishes were given to Andy Rothman and Bob Nobile for speedy recoveries.

Condolences were given to the family of John Bisbano.

Condolences were given to Incha Kim for the passing of her brother.

Congress Member Grace Meng is holding a meet and greet at the Bayside Library on Thursday, November 7 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Ms. Meng is also hosting, in conjunction with Flushing Hospital Medical Center and other Elected Officials, an information seminar regarding the “Affordable Care Act” on Wednesday, November 6 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

The 111<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council meeting is Tuesday, November 12 at 7:30 pm.

Congratulations were given to P.O. Gary Poggiali’s on the birth of his first son.

The Department of Sanitation will have its “Snow Plan” available to view on-line after November 15.

All homeowners who have the Basic STAR benefit with the NYS Dept. of Taxation need to re-register.

Senator Tony Avella is holding a Street Tree Forum at the Senate office at 250 Broadway on Wednesday, November 13 starting at 10:00 am to discuss the City’s tree pruning and planting policy.

SNAP Senior Center is now offering a new transportation program that includes an escort to accompany an individual to medical appointments or where independent travel is difficult. If you know someone who has visual or mobility difficulties, you can contact CB11 for additional information.

The Community Church of Little Neck is hosting a holiday food drive for City Harvest. Items can be dropped off until November 14.

There will be three CB11 Committee meetings: November 14 – North Bayside/East Flushing; November 18 Government Affairs/Legal and; November 19 – Senior Citizen.

Mr. Iannece discussed the Alley Creek Ravine Project and the improvements made around Oakland Lake. The Borough President has funded a project to improve the walkway around the lake due to flooding from natural springs. This project has been in design for two years and now the expected project start date is in the Fall of 2014.

A major sewer project is planned for the Bayside Hills area, affecting Springfield Blvd. to 56 Avenue and Luke Place to 48 Avenue between Bell Blvd. and Springfield Blvd. and 216 Street to 38 Avenue. A start date has not been confirmed.

Tomorrow is Election Day and Mr. Iannece asked everyone to exercise their right to vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Frank Skala stated that there is a problem with how the City issues permits in Bayside for film shooting. He stated that film shooting is an inconvenience to the neighborhood. He requested that this topic be added to the next CB11's meeting agenda for discussion and a vote be taken opposing the approval of issuing film permits in the future.

Henry Euler stated that he and Edith Basom attended the APEC annual meeting. At the meeting, there was a presentation regarding the design of the new APEC building. Mr. Euler spoke in regard to three questions that were asked at the meeting; why aren't solar panels being used, will there be the use of Polyvinyl Chloride material and the installation of a traffic signal at the entrance of the center. In regard to the traffic light, Mr. Euler stated that the traffic signal would be installed when the construction is completed. The construction will start in approximately one year and continue for approximately two. He said a traffic light must be installed sooner.

Paul DiBenedetto gave the dates for upcoming events hosted by the Bayside Historical Society.

### **Public Hearings**

**BSA Cal No. 528-64 BZ – 240-02 Northern Blvd. – East Hills Chevrolet** - An application to amend the previously-granted variance for the enlargement of the existing showroom and addition of the parking deck and canopy in the rear. The applicant's representatives, Gerald Caliendo and Sandy Anagnostou, gave a presentation regarding the proposed application. Ms. Anagnostou stated that this application seeks to amend the current variance in order to enlarge the existing auto showroom in the front of the building and add a parking deck in the rear of the building for customer and employee parking. The proposal for a rear canopy has been eliminated from the original plans. Mr. Caliendo stated that at the committee meeting, a resident had a concern in regard to honking of horns by the maintenance crew in order for the rear garage door to be opened. The applicant agreed to install a motion detector to open the rear garage door. There were no registered speakers. A question and answer period followed. There was a concern about the effect the construction will have on the traffic on Northern Blvd. The Committee Chair, Joe Sollano, reviewed the committee report of October 25. He stated that there are no violations or complaints against the applicant. A motion was made at the committee meeting to approve the application with two conditions; that a motion sensor be installed on the rear garage door and that additional parking not be used for new inventory but only for customers and employees. The motion was passed by the committee unanimously. Christina Scherer stated that she was at the site during a rain storm and observed severe flooding in the rear parking lot. Mr. Caliendo stated that whenever a building in NYC applies to be enlarged the applicant has to file with DEP and the proposed renovation will have to address any issues on the property. A motion was made to approve the application with the two conditions. Discussion ensued and a request was made to add a third condition to address the flooding issue. Mr. Iannece stated that the following condition be added: that the owner address and remedy all drainage problems on the property. There was some opposition to the application stating that the property is in close proximity to the wetlands and a residential neighborhood. The motion was seconded by Mario Ferazzoli. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 35 in favor and 3 opposed. (In-favor- Baek, Basom, Behar, Cerezo, Claro, DiBenedetto, Ferazzoli, Ferrari, Fierro-Gladwin, Fiorino, Gafar, Garippa, Giusetti, Haber, Haider, Halili, Iannece, Jethwani, Keit, Kim, Koutsouradis, Lee, Liatto, Miller, Montgomery, Newman, Novick, Palzer,

Petallides, Pivawer, Scherer, Sollano, Sriram, Teng, Yagudaev – Opposed – Euler, Renner, Smith)  
The motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **FY2015 Capital & Expense Budget Submissions, Joan Garippa and Steve Newman, Co-Chairs.**

Mr. Newman asked for any questions or comments from the Board Members. Steve Pivawer made a request to have the Capital Budget submission (CBS) #4 - catch basin and storm sewer installation be moved to #3. Gordon Keit made a request to change CBS #30 – purchase of wetland to the top #10 and add the purchase the wetlands on the south side of Northern Blvd. Bernard Haber stated that Jyothi Sriram circulated a letter requesting funding for regular maintenance, clean-up, flood mitigation and storm-preparedness for Alley Pond Park North and Doug-Bay; he requested that this request be added and should be top priority. Mr. Newman stated that Ms. Sriram was advised to submit a petition from her neighbors to show support. It was discussed that the local civic was opposed to the request. He requested a letter be drafted to request a study to determine what measures can be taken to mitigate flooding. Mr. Iannece stated that a letter will be forwarded to the DEP in regard to this issue. Discussion ensued as to the items listed. A motion was made to accept the CBS with one change. The motion was seconded by Lee Fiorino. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 32 in favor and three opposed (Baek, Basom, Behar, Cerezo, Claro, Euler, Ferazzoli, Ferrari, Fierro-Gladwin, Fiorino, Gafar, Garippa, Haber, Haider, Halili, Iannece, Jethwani, Keit, Kim, Koutsouradis, Lee, Liatto, Miller, Montgomery, Newman, Novick, Palzer, Petallides, Pivawer, Scherer, Smith, Sollano – Opposed – DiBenedetto, Giusetti, Sriram) The motion carried. A motion was made to accept the Expense Budget Submissions. The motion was seconded by Mohan Jethwani. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 34 in favor and one opposed. (Baek, Basom, Behar, Cerezo, Claro, DiBenedetto, Euler, Ferazzoli, Ferrari, Fierro-Gladwin, Fiorino, Garfar, Garippa, Giusetti, Haber, Haider, Halili, Iannece, Jethwani, Keit, Kim, Koutsouradis, Lee, Liatto, Miller, Montgomery, Newman, Novick, Palzer, Petallides, Pivawer, Scherer, Smith, Sollano – Opposed – Sriram) The motion carried.

**Environmental Committee, Henry Euler and Paul DiBenedetto, Co-Chairs** – Mr. Euler read the committee report of October 28 addressing the phase out of PVC in schools, the banning of Styrofoam products and Con Edison tree pruning. Mr. Newman stated that the board has done their due diligence regarding the pruning of trees but in regard to the resolution for PVC in schools, more information should be obtained prior to approving the resolution. It was agreed that more information should be obtained in regard to the phase out of PVC in schools and the ban on Styrofoam. Discussion ensued in regard to the resolution regarding street tree pruning by contractors for utility companies and the Parks Department. Gordon Keit requested the MTA be added to the resolution as well. A motion was made to approve the resolution with adding the MTA. The motion was seconded by Bernard Haber. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 32 in favor, 0 opposed. (In-favor- Baek, Basom, Behar, Cerezo, Claro, DiBenedetto, Euler, Ferazzoli, Fiorino, Gafar, Garippa, Giusetti, Haber, Haider, Halili, Iannece, Jethwani, Keit, Kim, Koutsouradis, Lee, Liatto, Miller, Montgomery, Newman, Novick, Palzer, Petallides, Pivawer, Scherer, Sollano, Sriram) The motion carried.

**Economic Development, Steven Behar, Co-Chair** – Mr. Behar stated the purpose of the meeting was to create a strategy as to how the committee could assist our community in economic development. Mr. Behar reviewed the committee report of October 15. The main focus of the meeting was how to increase foot traffic in the central business districts, Bell Blvd. and the difficult parking situation on and around Bell Blvd., the redevelopment of the Northern Blvd. corridor in Little Neck and the vacant store fronts in Douglaston Village near the LIRR train station. Mr. Behar stated that there will be a second meeting to discuss these issues further.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Iannece at 9:17 pm.