

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11
GENERAL BOARD MEETING

DATE: November 3, 2014

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

ATTENDANCE:

Christine L. Haider, Chair	Present	George Karahalidis	Absent
Sila Asa	Absent	Gordon Keit	Absent
Daniel Baek	Absent	Incha Kim	Absent
Edith Basom	Present	Anthony Koutsouradis	Present
Steven Behar	Present	Linda Lee	Absent
Lana Bind	Present	Robert Liatto	Present
Susan Cerezo	Present	Janet McEneaney	Present
Ocelia Claro	Absent	Melvyn Meer	Present
Paul DiBenedetto	Present	George Mihaltses	Absent
Henry Euler	Present	Eileen Miller	Present
Mario Ferazzoli	Present	Douglas Montgomery	Absent
JoAnn Ferrari	Absent	Steven Newman	Present
Sonya Fierro-Gladwin	Present	Allan Palzer	Present
Lee Fiorino	Present	Chris Petallides	Present
Jack Fried	Absent	Stephen Pivawer	Present
Alim Gafar	Absent	Andrew Rothman	Present
Joan Garippa	Present	Christina Scherer	Absent
Roy Giusetti	Present	Gary Sekdorian	Absent
Lawrence Gresser	Present	Frank Skala	Absent
Bernard Haber	Absent	Joseph Sollano	Present
Zion Halili	Present	Jyothi Sriram	Present
Jerry Iannece	Present	Teddy Teng	Absent
Laura James	Present	Alex Yagudaev	Present
Mohan Jethwani	Present		

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Christina Coutinho	Community Board 11 Associate
Det. Neil Blainey	111 th Precinct Community Affairs Unit
Matt Pafindi	Representing Assembly Member Ed Braunstein
Anne Marie Boranian	Representing the Office of the Borough President
Joanne Choi	Representing Congress Member Grace Meng
Mike Yon	Representing Council Member Paul Vallone
Kieran Mahoney	Representing State Senator Tony Avella

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chair, Christine Haider.

The Chair led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Detective Blainey stated that Captain Seneus has been transferred to the Bronx and the new Executive Officer is Capt. John Hall who will be introduced at the next meeting. Starting November 7, the citywide speed limit will be reduced to 25 mph.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jessica Xu, representing Health Plus, spoke in regard to programs that they offer.

Zara Sheikh, representing Forestdale, a non-profit organization, spoke in regard to their foster parent recruitment program. Orientation meetings will be held on Nov. 10th and Nov. 20th at the Forestdale Campus located at 67-35 112th Street, Forest Hills from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Marlene Medina, representing the American Cancer Society, stated that the Relay for Life of Fort Totten has been changed to the Relay for Life of Bayside. They are looking for community volunteers to help put this event together. Ms. Medina can be reached at 718-261-1092 for additional information.

Mike Yon, representing the Office of Council Member Paul Vallone, stated that the Council Member is hosting an Aging Town Hall meeting on Nov. 17 at 6:30 pm at Holy Cross High School. Also, Mr. Vallone and the Bayside Village BID will be conducting a Holiday Parade and Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 7 from 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm at 36th Avenue and Bell Blvd.

PRESENTATIONS

Open Sewer Atlas NYC Project – Josh Eichen and Korin Tangtrakul representing Pratt Institute’s Environmental Systems Management Program, gave a project description for research into the sewer systems affecting five priority water bodies. The point of this project is to spread awareness about how the sewer system works in the City and how it impacts the community.

Transportation Alternatives (T.A.) - Juliette Dubovsky, T.A. Volunteer, spoke about the Queens Activist Committee. T.A. is non-profit organization that was founded in 1973 with the mission to reclaim the City streets for pedestrians, cyclists and the use of public transit. Every borough has volunteer committees to help with the epidemic of traffic violence. The Queens Committee holds a meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Queens Pride House located at 76-11 37 Avenue, Jackson Heights from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Additional information can be obtained at Transalt.org.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Joan Garippa made a motion to accept the minutes of the Oct. 6 meeting. The motion was seconded by Edith Basom. The minutes were accepted with no corrections.

CORRESPONDENCE

Christine Haider made the following announcements:

Susan Seinfeld and Mrs. Haider attended a meeting on Oct. 30, with the Borough President and the Dept. of Homeless Services (DHS) in regard to homeless shelters in Queens. The Mayor has issued an emergency mandate to find shelters for the homeless. At the meeting, Mrs. Haider said she made reference to the newspaper articles stating that a shelter was opening in Bayside and the DHS answered with, “at this time, there are no plans for a shelter in Bayside”. Mr. Iannece asked if the DHS mentioned other areas like Auburndale, Fresh Meadows and around Bayside. Mrs. Haider said that the DHS said they will be in the area but refused to give a location or information. Mrs. Seinfeld stated that they withdrew the proposal for a shelter in the Rockaways. Mrs. Haider said that she suggested since Cardinal Dolan announced the closing of several schools and parishes, that the convents and rectories would become vacant and be perfect for homeless shelters.

A letter was sent to the Toyota Corporation in regard to the issues with Star Toyota. Henry Euler stated that Toyota Corp. said they received the letter and could not accept comments at this time but did advise that the CB11 letter would be forwarded to the proper channels.

The fine for trees that were cut down by the new owner of 210-12 48 Avenue has been imposed. The owner can pay \$ 343,682. or plant 234 trees.

Mrs. Haider introduced Olivia Jovine, Urban Fellow from Columbia University who stated that she was been assigned by the Community Planning Fellowship Program through the Fund for the City of New York. The Fellows are assigned to community boards to help work on projects throughout the City.

The citywide speed limit is decreasing to 25 mph starting Nov 7th.

The Hollis Hills Civic Association will be honoring former long-time community board member David Millet and his wife, Marion, both of whom have passed away, for their dedication to the community. The ceremony will be on Dec. 7th.

Council Member Paul Vallone will be providing additional trash cans: 10 along Bell Blvd. between 48 Ave. and 35 Avenue and 5 at the Douglaston and Little Neck LIRR stations.

Well wishes to Aline Euler who is currently in the hospital.

Bernard Haber had a mini-stroke and is doing well.

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Susan Cerezo gave an update on board member Incha Kim who had a stroke back in June.

Janet McEneaney discussed the FAA decision that there will be no environmental study on any new flight procedures or changes and how the community can register to comment. She also discussed, in length, how the Borough President has created a new aviation task force. Ms. McEneaney stated that there will be an FAA roundtable meeting on November 20th. She also, said that some of her neighbors were curious if ridership has increased on the LIRR. Lately, the trains have been standing room only. She asked the Board to please look into this matter.

Henry Euler stated that the Auburndale Improvement Association has received several complaints again on how Con Ed is pruning trees in the their area. Mr. Euler stated that a few months ago, CB11 passed a resolution asking for utility companies to use special standards regarding the way they prune a tree. Mr. Euler said he testified at the LPC hearings in regard to the Hawthorne Apartments in Bayside. He also attended the BSA hearings in regard the attached homes in Auburndale. The applicant was very unprepared and the hearing will be continued in November. The case for Genesis Auto was also heard and the conditions that the Board and Civic Association requested were included.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation – Bernard Haber, PE and Chris Petallides PE, Co-Chairs.

Mr. Petallides reviewed the items discussed at the committee meeting of October 22, 2014. He said that the MTA made a presentation and discussed Sen. Tony Avella's grant to the MTA NYCT in the amount of \$500,000. to conduct a Northeast Queens Bus Study for additional bus service. Service changes were made in 2010 when the MTA budget was cut. There will be community workshops

scheduled to solicit information from riders. CB 11 will have more information on the dates of the workshops. The DOT made a request for the feasibility of a speed bump on 46 Avenue between Springfield Blvd. and 220 Street. Mr. Petallides said that CB11 sent letters to the residents and, as usual, the response was low. The committee discussed how responses are low and a motion was made that 50% of residents surveyed must respond and, of that number, 65% must be in favor for the committee to vote in support of the speed bump. The motion carried. The committee reviewed four locations chosen by DOT for City Benches and Mr. Petallides stated that two additional locations were needed. A street co-naming was discussed for the corner of Marathon Parkway and Northern Blvd. in honor of the Matinecock Native Americans who inhabited the area. The committee voted unanimously in favor of the street co-naming. A motion was made by Paul DiBenedetto to approve the street co-naming. Discussion ensued in regard to community support and if any existing family members were aware of the proposal. The motion was seconded by Chris Petallides. Mrs. Haider asked for a roll call vote. Board members suggested a vote by show of hands. Mrs. Haider asked if all agreed. Since all agreed, a vote by show of hands was taken resulting unanimously in favor for the motion. Mrs. Haider stated that she was unable to make the meeting but suggested that in addition to the street co-naming, it would be appropriate to have something in their honor at APEC.

Capital & Expense Budget

Joan Garippa and Steven Newman, Co-Chairs.

Mr. Newman reviewed the order, removal and additions of requests for FY 2016 Capital Budget Priorities. A question and answer period followed. Jyothi Sriram discussed at length how her request to fund flood mitigation in the Doug-Bay neighborhood was ignored and wrongly handled by the committee last year. Ms. Sriram's request is item number 14 on the FY 2016 Capital Budget Priorities. Mrs. Garippa reviewed the FY 2016 Expense Priorities. Discussion ensued as to specific locations for Wi-Fi in City parks. A motion was made to approve the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities. The motion was seconded by Mohan Jethwani. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 23 in favor and 3 opposed (In-favor – Basom, Behar, Bind, Cerezo, Euler, Fierro-Gladwin, Fiorino, Garippa, Gresser, Haider, Halili, Iannece, James, Jethwani, Liatto, Miller, Newman, Palzer, Petallides, Pivawer, Rothman, Sollano, Yagudaev – opposed – Giusetti, McEaney, Sriram) The motion carried.

Health

Eileen Miller and Susan Cerezo, Co-Chairs.

Mrs. Miller said that there was a Health Committee meeting on Oct. 27, 2014. Mrs. Miller discussed the dangers of the flowering plant "Foxglove" from where the heart drug, "Digitalis" is made. This plant is being sold in the garden section at Home Depot. She contacted the Dept. of Health and they advised that there is no concern because large amounts have to be ingested for it to be dangerous. She discussed the problems in West Africa in the regard to Ebola. The committee discussed the proposal for the Smoke-Free Housing Resolution that was presented by Phil Konigsberg. There was discussion to amend the resolution to include wording based on the Smoking Policy Disclosure Law legislation. The committee voted unanimously in favor. A motion was made to approve the resolution as amended and it was seconded by Henry Euler. A vote by show of hands was suggested and agreed by the Board. A vote by show of hands resulted in 24 in favor and 3 opposed. The motion carried.

Mrs. Haider wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded by Joe Sollano. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.