

COMMUNITY BOARD 11 QUEENS

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11 REGULAR MEETING

DATE: October 5, 2009

PLACE: M.S .158 (Marie Curie)
46-35 OCEANIA STREET
BAYSIDE, NY 11361

ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Linda Vallerugo	Assistant District Manager, Community Board 11
Jordan Goldes	Representing Congressman Gary Ackerman
Eugene McSweeney	Representing Assemblywoman Ann Margaret Carrozza
Ali Najmi	Representing Assemblyman Mark Weprin
Bruce Eiber	Representing Councilman David Weprin
Mark Scott	Representing Borough President Helen Marshall
Carol Ricci	Representing Borough President Helen Marshall
Felix Martinez, Jr.	Representing District Attorney Richard Brown
D.I. Scott Hanover	111 th Precinct
Michael Agnello	Dept. of Parks and Recreation

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Jerry Iannece, Chair

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Robert Rappo reported that he has spoken at previous Board meetings regarding a problem with some commercial property owners in the CB11 district blocking the handicapped parking spaces, and the problem still has not been resolved. Mr. Rappo pointed out that this is discrimination and the needs of the disabled are not being met.

D.I. Inspector Hanover addressed the Board and reminded individuals with the colder weather coming not to leave cars running with the keys in the ignition and the doors unlocked.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Frank Skala noted that the minutes should be corrected to read that Frank Skala and Steve Newman objected to Assemblyman Mark Weprin addressing the Board on the night before the primary as a political maneuver and inappropriate. He also requested that the conditions be listed in the minutes to Motion #09-13. Thirdly, regarding the street renaming for Sol Soskin, he believed it to be nepotism on the part of the Board to rename a street after a Board member. Henry Euler stated that under the correspondence section it should be corrected to read that R & S Straus is parking vehicles on the sidewalk, as well as Star Nissan and Star Toyota. The minutes of September 14, 2009 were accepted with the above corrections.

CORRESPONDENCE

The 111th Precinct Council will be meeting tomorrow evening on Tuesday, October 6th.

Assemblywoman Carrozza is collecting gifts for hospitalized veterans until November 9th at her district office at 213-33 39 Ave. or at Dr. Mittman's office at 38-21 Bell Blvd.

The Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption Program (SCRIE) has been transferred from the Dept. of Aging to the Dept. of Finance and the application process should be faster.

The 111th Precinct is offering a free burglary survey of homes. Contact P.O. Faith Carter at the 111th Precinct for an appointment.

The First Douglaston Village Art Festival will be held on Sunday, October 18th, from 11 AM to 5 PM at the LIRR Douglaston Station

Jerry Iannece welcomed all to attend the annual Queens County Columbus Day parade which will be held this Saturday, October 10th in Astoria starting at the Kaufman Studios.

Congratulations to Mario Ferazzoli on the birth of his new daughter.

Center for Women of NY will hold their Annual Anniversary Dinner on October 22nd at 6:30 PM at the Douglaston Manor.

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Frank Skala reported that there will be a film shoot taking place during the day at All Saints Episcopol Church on Wednesday, October 7th. Frank Skala noted that several of the candidates kept their pledge not to post political posters on City property. However, he complained that some candidates, such as David Yassky, had hundreds of posters posted on City trees and lampposts. He asked that the Board take some action, because it is illegal and unsightly.

Christine Haider reported that there has been a rash of graffiti in her community at 58 Ave. by 188 St, 189 St. and 192 St., with four different tags, on private property such as garage doors and fences. The 111th has been informed, but she asked if the Board could help in this situation. Jerry Iannece explained that there is a problem with the lack of prosecution. He noted that there are document consent forms which homeowners can fill out to have NYC clean the property free of charge.

Janet McEneaney asked for an update on the Briarwood Rezoning proposal. Susan Seinfeld reported that the Public Hearing of the Sub-Committee on Zoning at City Council is tomorrow. Jerry Iannece explained that City Planning agreed with us to rezone only 50 ft. but not to downzone to a C1-2. He pointed out that City Planning did not notify us of the Public Hearing, and we sent a letter to City Planning that it should be mandatory to notify the Community Boards of the hearings.

Felix Martinez, of the District Attorney's office, stated that the DA's office takes graffiti problems very seriously. Individuals should take photos of any graffiti vandalism and e-mail them to the DA's office for further investigation.

Robert Speranza stated that he is working with Paul Vallone on a graffiti clean-up program. If anyone has a location that needs to be cleaned of graffiti, you can contact the CB11 office and they will forward the information to him.

Ed Braunstein reported that Bayside H.S. has installed a large electronic message sign in front of the school which is a nuisance for the residents. The sign is on until 8 PM. The neighbors have tried to contact the Principal but with no success. He called Frank Skala and he will be meeting with the Principal in a few days. Ed Braunstein asked for the Board's assistance regarding this matter. Jerry Iannece stated that we will send a letter to the school and try to set up a meeting.

Steve Newman spoke about the Ron Carey street renaming proposal that came before the Board last month. He distributed a copy of a newspaper article which reported that Carey was forced out of office and banned from the union because his campaign for President of the Teamsters illegally used union funds. He believes that any street renaming proposal should only be approved when there is an overwhelming majority vote in favor. Steve Newman requested that the Committee review their policy about street renaming and revisit the Ron Carey proposal. Some discussion followed. Jerry Iannece stated that the Committee reviewed the proposal, we have already had a full public hearing on this issue and we will not be revisiting the Ron Carey street renaming.

Henry Euler announced that Bayside Historical Society is hosting a Preservation Symposium on Thursday, October 22nd at the Officers Club, at Ft. Totten starting at 7 PM. There will be panel of experts discussing preservation and land use issues.

Eileen Miller spoke about the importance of individuals being immunized for the seasonal flu and HINI virus. She noted that CB11 is offering a flu clinic again this year at St. Mary's Hospital for Children, on October 20th and October 22nd, from 7 PM to 9 PM. Eileen Miller reviewed the symptoms of the flu and precautionary measures that people should take regarding the flu. Further information is available regarding vaccines and treatment of the flu on the Health Dept. website nyc.gov/flu or by calling 311. Eileen Miller also raised concerns about the closing of St. John's Hospital, Mary Immaculate and Parkway Hospital and the impact this will have on the residents of Queens. Jerry Iannece reported that everyone was sent a copy of the resolution adopted by the Queens Borough Board and the Queens Borough Cabinet regarding Queens being underserved by the closing of these hospitals. Eileen Miller made a motion that CB11 endorse the resolution. Lengthy discussion followed. Steve Newman spoke against the resolution and stated that these hospitals were closed because they were not working effectively. However, there is a need for more emergency rooms and outpatient clinics. Dennis Novick raised concerns that when taking a vote, people should be versed on the specifics of the resolution. The resolution was read for the record. Motion (09-16) Resolution on shortage of hospital beds and related resources in Queens. Roll call vote was taken resulting in 33 in favor (Berrios, Braunstein, Bruno, Doster, Euler, Ferazzoli, Ferrari, Fiorino, Fried, Garippa, Giusetti, Haber, Haider, Halili, Hellmann, Iannece, James, Jethwani, Keit, Kenny, McEaney, Meer, Miller, Millet, Pivawer, Rothman, Scherer, Sekdorian, Skala, Smith, Sollano, Speranza, Yagudaev), 2 opposed, (Caloras, Newman), and 1 present (Novick).

Andy Rothman reported that he was recently cleaning out his garage and had to dispose of paint thinner and gasoline. He was told that Sanitation will not pick up toxic materials and it has to be picked up by a private contractor. A contractor would charge approximately \$300. He finds it hard to believe that NYC does not provide a program for recycling these types of materials. Jerry

Iannece stated that he agrees that the City should have a program, but it is a money issue however we will raise the issue with Sanitation. In the meantime, we will verify what materials the College Point site accepts and send it out by e-mail.

Frank Skala offered once again to make the arrangements for the CB11 Annual Holiday Party unless someone else would like to handle it.

PUBLIC HEARING

FY2011 Capital and Expense Budget – Joan Garippa and Steve Newman, Capital and Budget Committee Co-Chairs, reported that a Committee meeting has been scheduled for October 28th at the CB11 office to review and prioritize the submissions for FY2011. Everyone was given a copy of last year's adopted budget with updates on the various items. Joan Garippa asked if anyone has any new submissions that they would like to bring before the Board. Walter Mugdan, President of the Udall's Cove Preservation Committee, spoke regarding the need to complete the acquisition of properties in Udall's Cove. He explained that there are about 4 acres that have not yet been acquired. Henry Euler requested that the parcels of commercial property on the southside of Northern Blvd. between Alley Creek and Alameda Ave. should be acquired over time and used as open space to protect the Little Neck Bay estuary. Discussion followed by the Board members. Frank Skala suggested that the number of capital and expense budget items for reality purposes should be limited to no more than 3 or 4 items. Jerry Iannece disagreed and pointed out that over the years our projects have been making their way through and getting done. It was noted that the Borough President plays close attention to the top 10 priorities of the Board. Mamie Smith raised concerns that there is a flooding problem where basins back-up on 206 St. at 47 Rd, 47 Ave. and 48 Rd. The basins need to be checked and the road resurfaced. She has brought this to the attention of the Board for the last several years. Steve Pivawer questioned that Capital Budget item #14 - Construct and Repair Catch Basins - should be a higher priority. He pointed out that the lack of basins create a serious flooding problem with environmental and health issues. Jerry Iannece suggested that he attend the Committee meeting to make certain that his voice his heard. Steve Newman asked that the Education Committee and Community Education Council gather some data on the overcrowding conditions in the High Schools in northeast Queens so that we could include that information as a budget priority request. All were encouraged to submit their requests and to attend the Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.