

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11 REGULAR
MEETING

DATE: October 3, 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	Present
Daniel Berrios	Present	Robert Liatto	Present
Lana Bind	Present	Susan Macinick	Absent
Robert Caloras	Present	Janet McEaney	Present
Susan Cerezo	Present	Thomas Meara	Present
Ocelia Claro	Present	Melvyn Meer	Present
Paul DiBenedetto	Absent	Eileen Miller	Present
Edward Doster	Present	Steven Newman	Present
Henry Euler	Present	Dennis Novick	Present
Mario Ferazzoli	Present	Allan Palzer	Present
JoAnn Ferrari	Present	Chris Petallides	Absent
Sonya Fierro-Gladwin	Present	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	Absent	Mamie Smith	Absent
Christine Haider	Present	Joseph Sollano	Present
Zion Halili	Present	Robert Speranza	Present
Laura James	Present	Teddy Teng	Present
Mohan Jethwani	Present	Alex Yagudaev	Absent
George Karahalis	Present		

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 th Precinct, Commanding Officer
P.O. William Conway	111 th Precinct, Community Affairs
Claudia Filomena	Representing the Office of the Mayor
Xavier San Miguel	Representing Senator Tony Avella
Anthony Lemma	Representing Assemblymember David Weprin
Paige Waranis	Representing Councilmember Dan Halloran
Alen R. Beerman	Representing Councilmember Mark Weprin
Edward Braunstein	Assemblymember
Gregg Sullivan	Executive Director, Bayside BID
Warren Gardiner	Public Advocate for the City of New York

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Jerry Iannece, Chair.

Mr. Iannece introduced Councilmember Mark Weprin, who stated that last weekend the playground at Alley Pond Park, located at Springfield Blvd. and 73 Avenue, was vandalized by fire. He asked if anyone has any information with regard to this matter, to please contact the appropriate authorities. He said that legislation has been introduced that storage pods in a driveway will be required to have a six month permit with a maximum of one year.

Mr. Iannece introduced Assemblymember Ed Braunstein, who stated that he voted against legislation to allow livery street hail cars in the outer boroughs. He said that he voted against this legislation because additional discussions need to take place on the impact to communities and existing livery car service.

Mr. Iannece introduced Captain Leyson, who stated that the perpetrator who was stealing cell phones around parks is in custody. He stated that there is a new robbery pattern that is taking place in the early morning at various 7-Elevens in CB11. He stated that additional enforcement has been deployed to cover these hours.

Mr. Iannece introduced Assemblymember David Weprin, who stated that he has submitted several letters to the Board of Standards and Appeals for BSA #6-11BZ – 50-20 216 Street, Bayside Hills. Assemblymember Weprin said that he has submitted legislation to continue the procedure of an eye exam to renew a driver's license.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lisa Lempel Sander gave a presentation about improving the Douglaston Village area and asked CB11 to support an acquisition for a vacant lot at the wetland park area.

Boy Scout Thomas Fennell proposed to have a street named in honor of a teacher, Mrs. Cilmi. He stated that Mrs. Cilmi was the greatest science teacher at P.S. 41 and is requesting the street adjacent to the school be renamed in her honor.

Warren Schreiber, President of the Bay Terrace Community Alliance, stated that \$5.42 million has been allocated to improve the area around Little Neck Bay Park, Fort Totten and the overpass at 212 Street. He stated that monies were secured in April 2004 and to date, no work has started. Mr. Schreiber is asking where the funds are.

Mandingo Tshaka requested that 206 Street be renamed Deacon Way. Mr. Tshaka stated the Board of Standards and Appeals should notify applicants when their variance has expired.

Gregg Sullivan, Executive Director of the Bayside BID, stated how they are trying to stimulate business for merchants on Bell Boulevard. Mr. Sullivan stated that there will be several street fairs around the Bell Blvd. vicinity which, they are hoping, will increase business.

Victor Mimoni stated he had to resign as Community Board Member because he accepted a position as the Deputy Director of Communications for the 19th Councilmanic District.

Joe Eastman, representing Citizens NYC, stated that on Tuesday, October 20, 2011 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at Queens Borough Hall, there will be a Love Your Block Grant information session.

PRESENTATION

Donald Ranshte, the Intergovernmental and Community Affairs Liaison for the NYC Dept. of Buildings, stated that the DOB has created a Public Zoning Challenge for any member of the public who feels that a permit was wrongly issued for an Alteration Type-1. Mr. Ranshte said that this process is to correct any errors before the construction starts. He stated that a NYC Dept. of Buildings permit now has a QR code available for smartphone users. Mr. Ranshte stated that this provides immediate access to the DOB website for any information in regard to the permit. He also stated that the DOB has introduced a Homeowner Tool Kit with information explaining various issues. A question and answer period followed with Board Members asking if the DOB could notify

surrounding residents when an application has been submitted. Mr. Ranshte stated that anyone can check on the DOB website for a new application. Janet McEaney stated that the response time for a complaint is too long. Mr. Ranshte said that complaints are put into categories and that determines the response time.

Barry Grodenchik, Deputy Borough President, handed out declarations on behalf of Helen Marshall, Borough President, to honorees Gary Sekdorian for 10 years of community service, Steven Newman for 20 years of community service and Allan Palzer for 40 years of community service. Mr. Grodenchik thanked them for their outstanding service.

Justine Johnson, Dawn Miller and Seth Melnick, with the TLC, gave a presentation on the benefits of having livery street hails in the outer boroughs. Dawn Miller stated that this legislation is awaiting the Governor's signature. She said that the livery street hail cars for the outer boroughs will have similar features as taxis. Ms. Miller stated that they will not be permitted to cruise around residential areas. She said that this will help with the illegal cars that are operating in the outer boroughs.

Guy Palumbo, Executive Director, Livery Roundtable stated that they agree that there should be an improved taxi service in the boroughs, but disagrees with the details that are outlined in the legislation. Mr. Palumbo stated that the legislation does not address important issues that should be included. A question and answer period followed with concerns that livery street hail cars will be driving around residential areas. Ms. Miller stated that the legislation is published, but once it passes, the City Council and the TLC will sit down and review the details. Mr. Iannece stated that he sent a letter to the Governor, signed by him, stating that a position cannot be made until further information was given. A motion was made to ask the Governor not to sign the Livery Hail Legislation, as it presently exists, until the concerns of the Livery Roundtable are included in the current legislation. The motion was seconded by Christine Haider. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 27 in favor and 10 opposed. (In-favor- Basom, Bind, Doster, Euler, Ferazzoli, Ferrari, Fierro-Gladwin, Fiorino, Fried, Garippa, Haider, Halili, Iannece, James, Karahalios, Keit, Kim, Liatto, McEaney, Meara, Miller, Palzer, Pivawer, Rothman, Scherer, Sekdorian, Speranza – Opposed – Behar, Caloras, Cerezo, Claro, Giusetti, Jethwani, Newman, Novick, Sollano, Teng) The motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Jerry Iannece asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the September 12th meeting. Minutes were accepted as written.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jerry Iannece made the following announcements and follow-ups:

Appointments can be made at CB11 for a free flu shot at the Flu Vaccine Clinic at St. Mary's Hospital. The Flu Clinic is sponsored by CB11, St. Mary's and NYC Dept. of Health.
The variance for the Getty Gas Station was approved by the BSA.

Last year, CB11 started a process of sending out notices to owners when their variance has expired. Mr. Iannece stated that City Council is working on passing legislation to have a similar process with the BSA.

Next week, Susan Seinfeld and Zion Halili will be conducting a site visit with the DOT for the re-curbings of Union Turnpike. Mr. Iannece stated that this is a project that has needed repair for several years.

Public Hearings will be held at the Queens Borough President's office on Thursday for BSA 624-68BZ and BSA 252-71BZ at 10:30 am.

Congratulations were given to the Bayside BID, the Douglaston Art Festival and APEC for conducting very successful festivals.

Congratulations were given to Councilmember Dan Halloran for his efforts with the clean-up of the area around the World War I Memorial in Douglaston. Mr. Iannece stated that Councilmember Dan Halloran is hosting his second annual Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, October 25 at 7:30 pm in the auditorium at Holy Cross High School.

Fairway Supermarket is scheduled to open in November. There is a tentative Ribbon Cutting Ceremony scheduled for November 4.

Victor Mimoni and David Millet have resigned as Board Members. Mr. Iannece thanked them for their many years of service on the Board and stated that they will be missed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mohan Jethwani requested that a letter be sent to the Dept. of Buildings to start a process of notifying residents when an application for a construction permit is submitted to the DOB. A vote by show of hands was taken resulting in favor of forwarding a letter to the Dept. of Buildings Commissioner stating that DOB should explore ways to notify residents that a Public Zoning Challenge period has started and that there should be a computer based notification system with residents signing up for notifications of applications subject to the Zoning Challenge in their area.

Henry Euler stated that the Bayside Historical Society is sponsoring their 10th Annual Totten Trot on October 30. Mr. Euler asked if Councilmember Dan Halloran can be invited to the next board meeting to go over proposed legislation to have the BSA notify applicants when their variances have expired.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Capital & Expense Budget Committee Co-Chairs, Steve Newman and Joan Garippa asked if any board members had questions with the FY 2013 Community Board Budget Priorities. Christine Haider stated that under item #12 - New Catch Basins, an address correction was needed. Susan Seinfeld noted the corrected address. Andy Rothman asked if a letter could be forwarded to the DSNY for Hazardous Waste Collection. A motion with made to approve the Capital & Expense Budget Priority List. The motion was seconded by Mario Ferazzoli. Discussion ensued in reference to the priority order of catch basin repair and a fence for the Douglaston Golf Course. A roll call vote was taken resulting 28 in favor and 2 opposed (In-favor – Behar, Cerezo, Claro, Doster, Euler, Ferazzoli, Fiorino, Fried, Garippa, Giusetti, Haider, Iannece, James, Karahalis, Keit, Kim, Liatto, McEaney, Meara, Miller, Newman, Novick, Palzer, Rothman, Scherer, Sollano, Speranza, Teng – Opposed – Halili, Pivawer)

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry Iannece at 9:47 pm.