

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11
GENERAL BOARD MEETING

DATE: October 7, 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	Present
Ocelia Claro	Present	Melvyn Meer	Present
Paul DiBenedetto	Present	George Mihaltses	Present
Henry Euler	Present	Eileen Miller	Present
Mario Ferazzoli	Present	Douglas Montgomery	Present
JoAnn Ferrari	Absent	Steven Newman	Present
Sonya Fierro-Gladwin	Absent	Dennis Novick	Present
Lee Fiorino	Present	Allan Palzer	Present
Jack Fried	Present	Chris Petallides	Present
Alim Gafar	Present	Stephen Pivawer	Present
Joan Garippa	Present	Elizabeth Renner	Present
Roy Giusetti	Present	Andrew Rothman	Present
Bernard Haber	Present	Christina Scherer	Present
Christine Haider	Present	Gary Sekdorian	Present
Zion Halili	Absent	Frank Skala	Present
Laura James	Present	Mamie Smith	Present
Mohan Jethwani	Present	Joseph Sollano	Present
George Karahalis	Absent	Jyothi Sriram	Present
Gordon Keit	Present	Teddy Teng	Present
Incha Kim	Absent	Alex Yagudaev	Present

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan Seinfeld	District Manager, Community Board 11
Christina Coutinho	Community Assistant, Community Board 11
Deputy Inspector Jason Huerta	111 th Precinct, Commanding Officer
P.O. Gary Poggiali	111 th Precinct, Community Affairs Unit
Barry Grodenchik	Deputy Borough President
Kieran Mahoney	Representing Senator Tony Avella
Colin No	Representing Assembly Member Ed Braunstein
Anthony Lemma	Representing Assembly Member David Weprin
Nily Rozic	Assembly Member
Megan Keane	Representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic
Irene Cheung	Representing Council Member Mark Weprin
Joanne Choi	Representing Congress Member Grace Meng
Michael Stinson	Representing Congress Member Steve Israel

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

Mr. Iannece welcomed District Manager, Susan Seinfeld, back from medical leave.

Mr. Iannece introduced Deputy Inspector Huerta and Assembly Member Nily Rozic.

Deputy Inspector Huerta stated there is an increase in robberies and auto break-ins in the district. There has been a rash of iPhone thefts where the victims have been assaulted. Deputy Inspector Huerta advised everyone to hide their devices when walking in public.

Assembly Member Nily Rozic stated that her district office will be hosting a STAR Exemption Workshop and Registration Drive with representatives from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance and the New York City Department of Finance on Sunday, October 27 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. Ms. Rozic said that new state legislation requires all homeowners receiving a Basic STAR Exemption to register with the NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance in order to receive the exemption in subsequent years. Mr. Iannece stated that homeowners who have the Enhanced STAR do not have to register.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Queensborough Community College Continuing Education Coordinator, Jacqueline Montgomery, stated that QCC is conducting a workshop for parents, caregivers and siblings who have questions about caring for a person with special needs or a disability on October 19. Further information can be obtained by emailing jmontgomery@qcc.cuny.edu.

Woosung Park stated that many students visit Alley Pond Environmental Center and school buses enter and exit from the APEC parking lot onto Northern Blvd. He said that Northern Blvd. is very congested and requested a traffic light at APEC.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Jerry Iannece asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the September 9th meeting. The minutes were approved with changes and corrections.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jerry Iannece made the following announcements:

Congress Member Grace Meng will be speaking at the November public meeting.

Congratulations were given to Susan Seinfeld on the birth of her first granddaughter.

Last month, some of our board members attended a rally with Congress Members Grace Meng and Steve Israel at Little Bay Park to protest the FAA's proposed legislation to exempt airports from conducting environmental impact studies. A letter of objection composed by Andy Rothman and Joan Garippa was forwarded to the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Nancy Sutley, and was copied to several other government officials. Mr. Iannece thanked Andy and Joan for their efforts in regard to this matter.

The Capital and Expense Committee will be conducting a committee meeting to discuss the Fiscal Year 2015 NYC Capital and Expense Budget Priorities on October 24th in the district office. Mr. Iannece stated that all board members are welcome to attend.

Council Member Mark Weprin is conducting Participatory Budgeting Neighborhood Assemblies and invites residents to share their ideas for community proposals.

The District Office received a letter from the School Construction Authority stating that there will be construction at Bayside High School. The construction will consist of exterior masonry, roof parapets and repair of paved areas of the school and pool. Work will continue through March 2016.

Edith Basom has arranged for herself and Henry Euler to attend an APEC Membership meeting in regard to the design of the new APEC building on October 20.

Every homeowner who has the Basic STAR tax exemption needs to register with the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance in order to continue receiving the STAR exemption.

The Queens Botanical Garden is conducting their 3rd annual Harvest Fest and Pumpkin Patch on October 20.

The City has changed their nyc.gov website. Mr. Iannece stated the CB staff has had some issues navigating through the site and he asked board members for their input.

Mr. Iannece is the Chairman for the Queens County Columbus Day Parade. Every year, the parade marches down Steinway Street starting at the Kaufman Studios and ends at the Christopher Columbus statue on Astoria Blvd. in Astoria. He welcomed everyone to come to the parade.

NEW BUSINESS

Frank Skala asked if there is a provision that states if a topic is referred to a committee chair and the committee chair is not in agreement, can it be switched to another committee? Mr. Iannece stated that the topic to which Mr. Skala is referring to, was assigned to the wrong committee and once Mr. Iannece realized, it was given to the correct committee.

Henry Euler stated that he has received a lot of complaints from people in his civic association about the way Con Edison contractors are trimming trees in their neighborhood. Senator Avella is in the process of arranging a meeting between civic people in the general area, representatives from Con Edison and the Parks Department and a representative from Assembly Member Ed Braunstein. There will be an Environmental Committee meeting on October 28 and this issue will be discussed. Lastly, Mr. Euler commented on public registered speaker, Woosung Park's, traffic light request by stating that APEC has been trying for years to have a traffic light installed with a left turn signal for traffic going westbound on Northern Blvd. to enter the center. APEC is hoping that after the new building is constructed, these requests will be met.

Douglas Montgomery stated that the Douglaston Art Festival will be held on October 20 and the Douglaston Garden Club will be planting over 3000 flower bulbs in the area.

Andy Rothman stated that CB11 passed a resolution asking Governor Cuomo to support and sign the New York State bill which requires the Port Authority of NY/NJ to conduct a Noise and Land Use Compatibility Study and now CB7 and CB13 have joined CB11 to urge the Governor to sign the bill.

Susan Cerezo stated that the American Cancer Society walk, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, of Flushing Meadows-Corona Park is on October 20.

Paul DiBenedetto announced several events hosted by the Bayside Historical Society. He said that on November 2nd and 9th at 216 Street and 42 Avenue, there will be a Lawrence Cemetery Performance

and on November 10th at 2:00 pm at the Fort Totten Castle, there will be an Autumn Wine Tasting event.

Committee Reports

Transportation, Bernard Haber and Chris Petallides, Co-Chairs – Mr. Petallides reviewed the items on the committee report of September 30, 2013. A discussion ensued in regard to items on the report. Mr. Haber stated that a bump could not be placed on 36 Avenue because the street is too wide. George Mihaltses stated that Mr. Haber's statement of the width of the street should have been in the committee report. Paul DiBenedetto made a correction to the report. Steve Newman stated, in regard to the request to remove the advertisement on the bus shelter, the advertisement is part of a City contract and will not be removed. He suggested that a recommendation be made to remove the bus shelter. Eileen Miller was concerned about roadway conditions and how it affects traffic safety. Mr. Iannece suggested that the members review the committee report for other items discussed at the committee meeting.

Government Affairs/Legal, Tom Meara, Co-Chair – Mr. Meara read the committee report of October 7, 2013. Mr. Meara stated that one of the issues discussed was Resolution 1927 which is an amendment to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide cooperative and condominium associations the same federal disaster assistance available to single-family homeowners. This resolution was passed by the City Council. The committee unanimously voted to support the City Council resolution. A motion was made to support the City Council resolution. The motion was second by Lee Fiorino. A vote taken by show of hands, resulted in all in favor with one opposed and one abstention. The motion carried. Steven Newman stated that he supports the motion but he does not support the statement in the committee report that the Community Board should have been contacted before the resolution was adopted. Mr. Meara stated that the second issue discussed at the committee meeting was in regard to City Council Intro. 1004-2013 which proposes the Mayor's office to have the legal authority to create a hostel licensing law. This item was tabled for next month's meeting in order to have the board members review the proposed bill.

Mr. Haber discussed how property assessments for 1- and 4-family homes in the Bayside and Douglaston areas that were affected by Hurricane Sandy will see a much higher percentage increase than areas that were not affected by the storm.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Iannece at 8:31 pm.