



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Jerry Iannece Chairperson / **Susan Seinfeld** District Manager

Committee Report

To: Board Members

From: Paul DiBenedetto and Henry Euler, Co-Chairs

Re: Waterfront Revitalization Program

Date: May 7, 2012

On April 30th, the Environment Committee held a meeting to discuss proposed changes to the Waterfront Revitalization Program (WRP) that the Department of City Planning is considering. Present were Chairs Paul DiBenedetto and Henry Euler, committee members JoAnn Ferrari, Incha Kim and Anthony Koutsouradis as well as CB 11 Community Assistant Christina Coutinho. Edgar Bajana, planner from the Queens Office of City Planning was present to give an overview of the proposed changes and concentrated on what we could expect to see happen in waterfront areas bordering Community Board 11. Borders of the Coastal Zone around the city are being adjusted under the revised WRP. For example, in our area, the coastal zone is being extended to include parts of southern Alley Pond Park, which provides run off water toward Little Neck Bay.

New York City's WRP is a regulatory review tool that guides agency review of projects within the city's Coastal Zone to ensure that projects promote the economic, ecological, and recreational resources of New York's waterfront. When projects along the coastline are proposed, they must meet the guidelines and requirements of the WRP. Projects would include development of city owned land, rezonings, pier or bulkhead construction, dredging projects or the use of federal funding.

The WRP is made up of ten policy areas including:

- 1) Residential and commercial redevelopment
- 2) Maritime and industrial development
- 3) Use of waterways
- 4) Ecological resources
- 5) Water quality
- 6) Flooding and erosion
- 7) Hazardous materials
- 8) Public access
- 9) Visual quality
- 10) Historic, archeological and cultural resources.

The WRP was established in 1982, updated in 2002 and is being revised now to align itself with the goals of the Bloomberg administration's Vision 2020 waterfront plan.

The Department of City Planning is proposing a number of revisions to the WRP regulatory policies in order to advance the goals and priorities of Vision 2020. The new WRP will encourage the development of maritime industry while ensuring the protection of the environment, promote recreation both at the shoreline and in the water itself, provide design principles that consider the effects of climate change and sea level rise, and promote the preservation and restoration of ecologically significant sites. It will also encourage public waterfront access where safe and feasible at development on publicly owned land or projects that are publicly funded. The revised WRP will go through a ULURP process, which includes input from the community boards that border the Coastal Zone. Completion of the review process is anticipated in the Fall or Winter of 2012. Community boards & other similar committees have been invited to the May 14th borough board meeting to hear a presentation of the revised WRP. For more information regarding the WRP, go to www.nyc.gov/wrp, or for Vision 2020, go to www.nyc.gov/waterfront.

One aspect of the revision of the WRP brought out by Mr. Bajana during the meeting was the possibility of development of the Bayside Marina as a ferry terminus. There is renewed emphasis on how we can use our waterways for mass-transit to transport people to various parts of the city. The committee pointed out to Mr. Bajana that the water is relatively shallow at the Bayside Marina and if ferry service was established at that site, dredging may be necessary to accommodate ferry vessels. It was also pointed out that since the Bayside Marina is adjacent to the Cross Island Parkway with very limited access and parking, getting riders to the site would be very difficult and would probably negatively impact the adjacent neighborhood which is already being subjected to the rather large expansions of St. Mary's Hospital and the church located at the former site of the Bayside Marina. It was also noted that Bayside has had its "bay" cut-off from public use since the Cross Island Parkway was built in 1939 and that Baysider's would most likely not want to tolerate any more intrusions into their bay. Besides being a beautiful place, Little Neck Bay is an ecologically sensitive area and an integral part of the North Shore environment that extends all the way to Orient Point in the north fork of Long Island.

Mr. Bajana stated that no definite plans were established for a ferry terminus; it was just a possibility. Other than that, it appears that plans for the coastal area bordering Community Board 11 would keep the coastline protected to preserve environmental and passive recreational concerns of Little Neck Bay. All concerned should monitor future waterfront plans in all parts of the city.

Submitted by Paul DiBenedetto and Henry Euler,
Chairs of the Environment Committee, CB 11