



*Jerry Iannece
Chair*

COMMUNITY BOARD 11

*Serving Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston,
Hollis Hills, Little Neck & Oakland Gardens*

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*Susan Seinfeld
District Manager*

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

May 24, 2011

Bernard Haber – Chair

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On Tuesday, May 17, 2011, the Transportation Committee held a joint meeting with the Parks Committee. The Parks Committee was included to discuss the renaming of parkland. Present from the Committee were Chair Bernard Haber, Frank Skala, Ocelia Claro, Andy Rothman, Henry Euler, Allan Palzer, Joan Garippa, Joseph Sollano, Mel Meer, Gordon Keit, Chris Petallides, and Susan Seinfeld, District Manager.

1- Community Board 4 in Manhattan asked the Board's consideration of a Resolution to support legislation authorizing the use of cameras to enforce speed limits. Committee members voted not to support said legislation.

2- The Board had received a request to make 214 Place between 34 Avenue and 35 Avenue one way. This was requested by a resident. The reason given was the traffic around the school caused safety issues. Frank Skala, Mel Meer, Andy Rothman and Ocelia Claro are all residents in the area and objected to the conversion. One resident responded to the mailings sent prior to the meeting and he objected. Otherwise, only the school replied in favor. It was pointed out the school buses are an issue with traffic in the area. The committee, therefore, will not recommend the conversion.

3- A request was received through Council Member Halloran's office for an honorary naming of Arleigh Road and West Drive in Douglas Manor for the late Thomas Mackell, who was a District Attorney and State Senator. This request was made by the son, Tom Mackell Jr., who lives on Douglaston Parkway. The committee discussed the request and, according to the Board's guidelines, the Douglas Manor Association will be asked to make a recommendation. (The DMA meeting will be held on June 8th). After the recommendation is received, pursuant to Mel Meer's request, the Zoning Committee should also be consulted.

4- The Chair recommended that the Old Oak Pond entrance on Douglaston Parkway be named the Joseph B. Hellman Park. Former Board Member Joe Hellmann will be deceased one year. Mrs. Hellman attended the meeting along with Elliott Socci, the President of the Douglaston Civic Association, which supports the renaming. Joe was very active in many community groups besides the CB. He worked to preserve parkland and was instrumental in obtaining Old Oak Pond. The District Manager had some discussion with the Parks Dept. and was advised that the Board's recommendation should be sent to them. The committee agreed to bring this to the full Board at the next meeting.

5- A resident who is a community member of the Transportation Committee, requested that the traffic signal on Little Neck Pkwy at West End Drive (the corner of the office) should be green for a longer time because cars back up along Little Neck Pkwy. Member discussion ensued. Little Neck Pkwy at rush hour is just very busy and cars can back up to Bates Road. Susan Seinfeld will contact the DOT's signal manager to see if the timing could be adjusted.

6- Mel Meer requested a left turn signal for Northern Boulevard westbound at Oceania Street southbound. The office will write to DOT.

7- Andy Rothman said that Con Edison removed and replaced poles on 216 Street and in doing so removed “No Parking” signs. There should be better coordination between the utilities and DOT so that signs are replaced expeditiously. A letter should go to the utilities and DOT. The CB office is in contact with the Borough Engineer.

8- The CB office received a letter advising the Board that as part of the renewal process Glen Belle Car Service was relocating their dispatch office and off-street parking space to 231-06 Northern Blvd. The Committee had several questions about this and Susan will reach out to the applicant.

- a- How many cars will be parked at 231-06 NB aka John’s Service Station?
- b- Is Ollie’s still at the LN LIRR station?
- c- Will cars be parked at the LIRR station besides Ollie’s cars?
- d- Do they have an arrangement with the MTA for use of the station?
- e- What are their hours of operation?

9- Gordon Keit discussed the businesses on Northern Blvd. in Douglaston and the desire by the community, for years, for the City to obtain the properties and make everything park land. He suggested that philanthropic organizations could purchase property including the Bloomberg Foundation. This is a Zoning Committee issue also.

Addendum:

Regarding Glen Belle Car Service the following information was obtained by the Chair, Susan Seinfeld and Board Member Susan Cerezo. In reaction to the termination of the Q79, the Glen Belle Car Service wanted to be present in this area. Ollie’s still has the lease for the parking at the LN LIRR station. Glen Belle plans to pick up passengers at the station and bring them to the station on an as needed basis when they are called. The lease expired in Glen Oaks, were they kept their cars, and John’s has offered his lot to them for the off-site parking of 7 cars. They do not expect to operate much after 10 pm. John’s has two lots with plenty of room to keep cars on site when necessary. The Chair and Susan Cerezo also learned that Ollie’s owns Glen Belle and Mid Island Taxi.