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**COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q**

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

**46-11 104<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Corona, New York**

**11368-2882**

Telephone: 718-760-3141

Fax: 718-760-5971

e-mail: [qn04@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:qn04@cb.nyc.gov)

**Melinda Katz**  
Borough President

**Louis Walker**  
Chairperson

**Melva Miller**  
Deputy Borough President

**Christian Cassagnol**  
District Manager

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April 14, 2015

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: VFW POST #150  
51-11 108 STREET  
CORONA, NY

I. Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. Executive Secretary Lucy Schilero took the roll call. A quorum was present.

**IV. Vote: Minutes 03-10-2015 Meeting**

As the roll call was being taken, the new Board members were asked to stand. A quorum was present.

At this point, Chairperson Walker asked for a motion to accept the minutes.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna to accept the minutes.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

**V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson Louis Walker reported at last night's Borough Board meeting, it was reported to increase the number of affordable housing units to be built; it is being contemplated removing the parking regulation. The

Chairs of the Community Boards were not in favor of this idea. Department of Housing proponents say people in certain income brackets do not have cars. For example, a family of four that earns \$60,000. This does not necessarily mean those families do not have cars. There will be further discussion on the proposal, but this is the direction the plan is headed.

Before turning the floor over to the District Manager for his report, Chairperson Walker welcomed the new Board members: *Marialena Giampino, Ashley Reed and Cristian Romero*. Chairperson Walker requested they stand up and tell the Board a little about themselves.

## **VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported:

New project: LinkNYC New York City's WiFi Network, which will bring free Wi-Fi to New York City residents via city streets. The City will replace the network of public pay telephones with state-of the-art Links, which will include many key features free of charge, such as 24/7 free Internet access with up to gigabit speeds, free phone calls anywhere within the United States, and free charging stations. Over the next six months, kiosks will be installed across all five boroughs, 77 are slated for Queens. Emphasis was placed on shopping malls, parks, and pedestrian plazas as suggested sites. Also, the Board will be working with the planners and providing a listing on more locations.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol mentioned the upcoming Parks Committee meeting scheduled for April 20, 6:30 p.m. at the Board office. On the agenda is the reconstruction of Louis Simeone/Mac Playground. The design phase for the park will be presented. The District Manager urged all to attend.

Before concluding his report, District Manager Cassagnol noted new Board Member Cristian Romero is a former intern of CB4.

## **VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS**

Emely Paez, representing NYS Senator Jose Peralta's office, reported on the free legal clinics and the Senator's office is working with the Legal Aid Society and Chhaya, which is ongoing every second Wednesday. Flyers were in the back.

Ms. Paez shared she was accepted in the National Urban Fellowship Program and will no longer be on staff at the Senator's office as of April 30. She will be pursuing her Master's degree in Public Administration and urged all to stay in contact with her.

Next, Sebastian MaGuire representing NYC Council Member Daniel Dromm's office reported the IDNYC program has proven to be a huge success. The enrollment process has been retooled to expedite the abundance of appointments that were received in the beginning of the process. With such a backlog of appointments, new measures were put in place. Call 311 or log onto the website to make an appointment. Free admission to cultural institutions is one of the benefits of the card.

Mr. MaGuire said a site to help people sign up is being sought in Elmhurst. Please let him know if you are aware of a site which may be helpful. It must be able to accommodate the large number of people and set-up computers.

Sites open to the public are the Corona Health Center on Junction Blvd., sites in Flushing, and a few sites in Manhattan as well.

To obtain the card, among the documents needed you must prove your identity (either through a driver's license or a passport) and you must prove you live in the City of New York. The IDNYC card includes a free one year membership at many of the City's leading museums, zoos, concert hall, and botanical gardens.

Subsequently, he reported on the very successful Lunar New Year Festival held in February and equally successful Thai New Year event at Elmhurst Hospital on April 12.

Lastly, Mr. McGuire spoke about more funding for CC Moore Park and coordination with the NYC Parks Dept. with many positive ongoing developments.

Next, Joel Trinidad-Santos, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras' office reported on participatory budgeting. The Council Member sets aside \$1 million for community projects. The program allows those living in the district to propose and then vote on projects paid for with some of the Council Member's discretionary funds. Voting will be held April 11 through the 19. Flyers were in the back with more locations. The Board office is one of the voting sites, as well as the Council Member's office.

Following, Mr. Trinidad-Santos urged all to come to the free Bike Helmet Fitting and Distribution Event, Saturday, April 25, 11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at First Baptist Church, 100-10 Astoria Boulevard, East Elmhurst, NY.

Before concluding, Mr. Trinidad-Santos reminded all of the services offered at the Council Member's office.

## **VIII. REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Board Treasurer Giancarlo Castano reported the Board's internal operating budget is fiscally sound and managed responsibly. The new fiscal year begins July 1. No budget cuts were seen in the Board's budget.

## **IX. PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Mikelle Adgate**

#### ***DEP Green Infrastructure***

#### **--Presentation on upcoming Bioswales planned for CB4**

With the aid of a power point presentation, Ms. Adgate reported DEP not only supplies all drinking water but also treats wastewater and is responsible for air quality and water quality in the New York City harbor. In Community Board 4 it's improving water quality in Flushing Bay, Flushing Creek and the East River. While the agency has spent a lot of money, many investments to improve water quality in the harbor, there is one remaining issue which is combined sewer overflows. Bioswales will capture stormwater runoff before it can enter the sewer system and contribute to combined sewer overflows. One way to keep the water quality unflawed is to reduce Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) that will discharge a mixture of untreated sewage and stormwater runoff into the harbors when it rains too heavily for the system to handle.

Ms. Adgate pointed out and provided detailed information on:

*NYC Sewer System approximately 60% combined which means it is used to convey both sanitary and storm flows*

*When the sewer system is at full capacity, a diluted mixture of rain water and sewage are released in local waterways*

*Green infrastructure products are designed, constructed are maintained to collect stormwater runoff when it rains*

*Green Infrastructure in Streets and Sidewalks.*

*Right of Way Bioswale (ROWB)*

*Green Infrastructure in CB4*

*Constructed (46 Bioswales)*

*Bioswales in Construction (218)*

*Preliminary (100)*

*Stormwater Greenstreets*

*Construction Process – Walkthrough and Markouts*

*Construction Process – Stone and Geotextile Process*

*Construction Process – Engineered Soil*

*Construction Process*

*Construction Process – Tree Guard Installation*

*Construction Process – Planting*

*Maintenance – Green Infrastructure*

*All green infrastructure public right of way maintained by the City.*

*Green Infrastructure On Public Property*

*Partnerships*

*NYC Parks Dept.*

*NYC Housing Authority*

*NYC Dept. of Education*

*Opportunities for Private Property Owners*

*Green Roof Tax Abatement*

At this point, Ms. Adgate took questions from the Board.

Board Member Lucy Schilero inquired about liability. If someone falls or trips as a result of the Bioswale, can the homeowner be sued.

Ms. Adgate replied she may have to follow up on specifics, but the care and maintenance of the Bioswale is the City's responsibility.

Mr. O'Jar, also representing DEP, responded in terms of liability as far as the infrastructure is concerned, the homeowner would not be liable for any trip and fall.

Board Member Schilero asked if this could be put in writing. It is still in the construction phase, but yes you can get it in writing said Mr. Ojar.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea reported her property was designated for a bioswale and she is not very happy with it. Her concern was parking spaces are being lost because if a motorist parks next to the bioswale how can you open the car door. The length of the bioswale is very large, comparing its length to a car and a half.

Ms. Adegate responded the bioswales do not take out parking because the tree bark is only on three sides. There is a strip so that the car door can be opened and step out onto the bioswale. Therefore, it is not removing any parking.

The strip is only about six inches and if you open the car door it will open more than six inches and if there is vegetation there, people exiting their vehicle will step into both the vegetation and the plants. Moreover if a handicapped person is in the vehicle, it is very difficult to navigate and will be a problem, said Board Member D'Andrea.

Additionally, she mentioned several articles she read in the *Queens Courier* about the Forest Hills bioswales becoming garbage dumps. dogs defecating in them, not being maintained, and the residents there are not happy.

Moreover, two years ago she and the people living on her block received summonses for cracked sidewalks. People repaired their sidewalks and spent thousands of dollars for repair, and now the sidewalks will be torn up. Who will reimburse her for the three slabs destroyed?

Ms. Adegate addressed the issues separately brought up by Board Member D'Andrea.

First, exiting the car. DEP had worked very closely with the Department of Transportation on this particular design to ensure those concerns are addressed so that car doors can open. People do park next to the bioswale and are able to exit the cars. Nearly 6,000 bioswales are being built around the city, and it was clear that parking should not be impacted.

Second, she addressed the *Queens Courier* articles. There were some challenges with the particular contractor, dating back to a year and a half ago. Since then, however, DEP has been very diligent not only with the maintenance crews but also with the contractors to address those issues. More specifics were given. Crews will be out there. They work seven days a week visiting the bioswales at least once or twice per week. Bioswales are active pieces of infrastructure and must function. Improvements in water quality must be made at Flushing Creek and Flushing Bay.

Third, Ms. Adegate addressed the cost of the sidewalk. DEP will not reimburse people for the cost of their sidewalks. However, for people receiving new summonses if the bioswale is placed on that homeowner's sidewalk, he/she is not responsible for replacing the sidewalk. There is no retroactivity for people who have already put in new sidewalks.

Board Member James Lisa brought up parking, which is at a premium in this area. He said for someone handicapped or wheelchair bound, the bioswale can be very difficult to maneuver. He also mentioned the high water table. Additionally, seniors should not be at the beck and call of the City of New York to make sacrifices. It's not fair.

Discussion ensued with Ms. Adegate providing added information.

Before concluding, she added with the green infrastructure and the bioswales you will see air quality improvements, cooler temperatures in the summer, plus more benefits to the work being done.

Next, Mr. Adam Chen representing Letitia James, Public Advocate for the City of New York, reported on:

*The Quest For Justice.* In light of the grand jury's decision in the Eric Gardner's case, the Public Advocate stated that she would appeal the decision. She was quoted as saying we, the Public, have the right to know what happened behind closed doors. There was a failure to return an indictment with regard to what millions of Americans saw on the video tape. The reason for the appeal is more accountability and more transparency in situations such as this.

*Fighting for Education.* On March 25, 2015 Public Advocate Letitia James held a rally for more funding for New York City public schools.

*Worst Landlord List.* When Bill de Blasio was Public Advocate he initiated the worst landlord list, which is also called the slumlord list comprised of the top ten slumlords in New York City. It is made up of those who accumulated a tremendous amount of violations and ignored complaints from tenants. The Public Advocate's office handles numerous complaints that come in daily from tenants. If you need help with a landlord, reach out to the Public Advocate's office for help.

Board Member Judy Andrea asked is NYCHA on the worst landlord list because they should be.

Mr. Chen responded there is a department that handles those complaints and was willing to help Board Member July D'Andrea further.

Next, Paul Bonfilio, Architect, reported on BSA Cal. No. 218-A GCL 35 Request 46-03 88<sup>th</sup> Street, Block 1584, Lot 16.

With the aid of a diagram, Mr. Bonfilio explained this is a piece of property in the bed of the mapped 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 88<sup>th</sup> Street (a dead end street; a piece that is not built). General City Law 35 which allows a homeowner to appeal to the BSA to get permission to build in the bed of a street. However, in order to do that, the BSA will hear from three agencies: the Fire Department, DEP, and DOT. Those three agencies must sign off permitting the owner to build. The proposal is a four story, 8-unit building with 100% parking. Letters were received by the appropriate agencies granting permission. The Fire Dept. had no issues because of hydrants protecting the property.

The Department of Environmental Protection had some issues because if the street is ever put through the referenced location calls for a future 15" diameter combined sewer in the bed of 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue. In order to do that, the Plot Plan shows a 20 foot wide sewer corridor in the future for the purpose of installation, maintenance, and/or reconstruction of the 15" diameter combined sewer.

The Department of Transportation was opposed to the proposal and had a problem initially because there were plans to build this street thru. Since there are five homes intruding into the mapped street, and for DOT to build that street, those five homes would have to be condemned. Through negotiations, DOT had agreed to keep the existing street which is a 20 ft. wide street with 4-ft. sidewalk to go thru. Now we have both the DEP easement as well as the street going thru. The initial plan had to be modified to meet specifications. Whether DOT builds it is unclear since it depends on DOT's acquisition of funding in 2018.

Chairperson Walker clarified this presentation was informational only. No vote will be taken.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker announced the agenda item by the NYCDOT presentation on the renovation of the 111<sup>th</sup> Street Center Island Malls was cancelled by the agency.

## X. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Vote: SLA Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero provided updates on the CERT Team. The CERT Team actively participated in distributing flyers for Brian Gewirtz a missing person with autism and the tragic ending. His body was found in Marine Park, Brooklyn.

The CERT Team was also active at the East Village gas explosion helping victims.

Sunday, April 19, a blood drive will be held at St. Leo's Church. Anyone who wishes to donate blood can do so between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. It would be very much appreciated.

Before reporting on the liquor licenses, she urged all to call 311 or 911 regarding quality of life complaints as it is a legal documentation of happenings in your neighborhood. Please emphasize this to your neighbors. It is very important.

Next, she spoke about P. S. 7 on Cornish Avenue. Every summer, people enter the handicapped accessible opening. People were observed drinking, fighting, urinating, and skateboarding, which should not be done on school property. This information will be reported to D. I. Christopher Manson, the new Commanding Officer of the 110 Precinct.

Next, she brought up installation of private security cameras. You can mount them facing out into the street as long as they do not face a private homeowner's doorway. As long as they do not face your neighbor's front or back entrance, you can install them.

## NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

April 2015

### NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Arepa Lady Inc. Wine and Beer Only	77-02 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
DK & DS Inc. Wine and Beer Only	49-10 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved
El Aventurero Bar Restaurant Corp. Wine and Beer Only	80-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
Pico de Gallo Inc. Liquor, Wine, and Beer	82-12 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
500 ft. rule: Los Tres Potrillos (82-11 Roosevelt Avenue), Gatos Verde (82-14 Roosevelt Avenue), Castillo Sports Bar (82-18 Roosevelt Avenue) Hornado Ecuatoriano (81-10 Roosevelt Avenue) El Picosito (81-03 Roosevelt Avenue), Hairos Place (81-09 Roosevelt Avenue), El Tucanazo (83-17 Roosevelt Avenue), La Pequena Colombia (83-27 Roosevelt Avenue)		

Since the Committee voted to deny for the full liquor license, they also voted to deny the alteration application, as without a full liquor license, there would be no need for the installation of a bar.

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS**

<b><u>Establishment's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment's Address</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>
Global Entertainment Group LLC "Play" Liquor, Wine and Beer	77-17 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Denied
While the establishment has improved somewhat since the last time they met with the establishment, they are still concerned about the high number of criminal complaints emanating from the establishment. 3/17/13-Grand larceny complaint; 6/22/13-robbery complaint; 7/16/13-grand larceny complaint, 10/22/13-criminal mischief complaint; 11/1/13-assault complaint; 9/27/13-petit larceny complaint; 3/15/14 petit larceny complaint; 3/23/14 assault complaint; 5/10/14-assault complaint; 10/10/14-grand larceny complaint; 11/21/14-assault complaint; 12/6/14-assault complaint.		
El Sardinero Inc. Liquor, Wine and Beer	78-18 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
No show, no paperwork submitted. Refused to meet with the Committee, as the owner stated that he shouldn't have to based on how long they've been operating. 1/16/14-Robbery complaint; 7/5/14-petit larceny complaint, 8/14/14-assault complaint.		
Kido Sushi Queens Inc. Wine and Beer Only	90-15 Queens Blvd., K04 Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Tacos Mexico Corp. Wine and Beer Only	41-10 102 Street Corona NY	Approved
Thai Son Queens Inc. Wine and Beer Only	40-10 74 <sup>th</sup> Street Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
Luz de America Restaurant Inc. Liquor, Wine and Beer	104-30 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Denied
Numerous criminal complaints, including: 1/25/13 Rape, 5/11/13-asault, 8/12/13-petit larceny, 11/19/13-assault, 11/24/13-robbery, 5/24/14-petit larceny, 9/19/14 assault, 12/22/14-assault.		
Ramona C. Sierra "El Caramelo" Wine and Beer Only	99-27 43 Avenue, 1 <sup>st</sup> Fl. Corona, NY	Denied
No show, no paperwork submitted. Criminal complaint and arrest for criminal mischief on 10/13/14.		
Mama Letis Inc. Wine and Beer Only	40-07 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved
El Sancho Restaurant Corp. Wine and Beer Only	71-30 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
2 criminal complaints for assault, 1 criminal mischief complaint, 1 grand larceny complaint, 1 robbery complaint dating from 4/28/13-11/30/14 resulting in 1 arrest 3 C Summonses from 4/9/13-4/30/13, consumption after hours, locked/bolted exit door, sale to minor.		

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont'd)**

<b><u>Establishment's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment's Address</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>
Don Francisco Restaurant Inc. Wine and Beer Only	40-56 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved
P&N Pub Corp. "Paddy G's"	86-34 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
<b><u>ALTERATION</u></b>		
Pico de Gallo Inc. Wine and Beer Only See above explanation for this establishment under New Applicants.	82-12 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied

At this point, Board Member Patricia Terranova made a motion, seconded by Board Member Edgar Moya, to **approve** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

**XI. VOTE AND REPORT: Transportation Committee**  
**--111<sup>th</sup> Street Malls**  
**--SAPO Applications**

Chairperson Louis Walker said the District Manager would report on those agenda items.

*SAPO Application For Review*  
*"Bazaar Colombiano"*  
*Single Block Festival (est. 3000 people)*  
*May 30<sup>th</sup> 12-6 p.m.*  
*80<sup>th</sup> Street Between 41 Avenue & Roosevelt Avenue*

District Manager Cassagnol reported he requested the applicant, Mr. Sanchez, to get as many signatures from the residents residing on block he possibly could. Lines of communication were opened with the NYPD as well. The applicant had requested 81 Street, 80 Street or 79 Street, whichever street was the most feasible. The Precinct did not take an official stance on this event. However, the Precinct's position was that they are not keen on the idea about closing a street off Roosevelt Avenue, but they have done so in the past. But, it is frowned upon.

The issue is that particular block is surrounded by many residential buildings. In this case, the Management office, King Apartments LLC, sent the Board a very strong letter opposing the event. The District Manager said a comparison of the signatures can be made and evaluated with the position of the Management office. A copy of the letter from King Apartments LLC was available tonight. Mr. Sanchez had gathered just 27 signatures on his petition from residents living on 80<sup>th</sup> Street to 79<sup>th</sup> Street.

At this point, the Board asked the applicant questions about the planned event.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow asked the applicant what type of event is it.

The applicant answered it is a multi-purpose event which will offer services to the community. Talent on site and also to promote Colombian crafts with some food.

Board Member Judith D'Andrea asked if they were an organization.

Mr. Sanchez answered yes. It is a Colombian civic center and a non-profit organization operating since 1978.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow asked if the event was held before.

The applicant responded not on this street. Previously, it was held in Flushing Meadow. This is not the same type of event explained the applicant. A health insurance company will be on site as well as other groups to provide community services.

At this point, District Manager read the letter dated March 17, 2015 from the King Apartments LLC opposing the event.

Board Member Lucy Schilero pointed out she had not seen petitions from area residents about this event and this is a huge area with many apartment buildings situated near Elmhurst Hospital. Twenty-seven signatures are not even touching the surface. More signatures are needed in order to close the street.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow agreed since 3,000 people are planned to visit the area for this event, 27 signatures is a very low amount.

Mr. Sanchez responded in order to gather the signatures he did visit residents in other buildings, but during the day it was difficult to find people home. The people he had contacted said there was no problem because it was a Saturday event.

Board Member Al Perna brought up during other events held on that street there were problems with the ambulances getting thru, people falling or tripping, garbage and music. Although in the past, it was held in Flushing Meadow Park, the following is still the same. He suggested finding a better venue instead of closing off those streets. The area was too small for an event of this magnitude.

The applicant responded this area was chosen because it is easily accessible. Community services will also be provided by tax people and small businesses.

Board Member Patricia Terranova pointed out:

- Daily, the area is already crowded.
- Since the Police Department is not 100% in favor, they are needed to monitor the event.
- If DOT is not in favor, agency personnel will not be on hand to help with traffic.
- People will be put in danger since this event is not just causing problems to the residents who live there, but also to the people attending.
- Children do not follow the barricades.
- The same following will know your organization is sponsoring this event and will follow you causing the same problems as with Flushing Meadow Park.
- Although it is one block, the street being closed off is in a main area.

Discussion ensued.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker called for a motion from the floor on this event.

Board Member Hector Hernandez made a motion, seconded by Board Member Georgina Oliver, to **deny** the event.

Chairperson Walker clarified if you vote yes on the motion; it is to deny the event.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 29, in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed.

Before proceeding to the next agenda item, Board Member Erica Cruz suggested for the future, a listing of streets be devised which would be ideal to hold street fairs. In this way, when people apply there is a listing of approved streets.

Consequently, District Manager Cassagnol provided a brief description on how the street application process is handled and offered suggestions what should be taken into consideration for future street closings. The Board needs more say into the process.

## **XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Before the report from the Committee Chairs, Board Chairperson Louis Walker noted one Board member had resigned, reducing the total membership to 39 members. Three new members were added, which brought the new total to 42 members now currently serving. However, there are two members of the 42 existing members who probably will not attend any meetings. Since there are nine Board Committees, this means approximately four people to serve on each committee, noting one member is the Chair; and another serving as the Vice Chair leaving only two people to serve on the committee. In view of this situation, Chairperson Louis Walker had decided temporarily, until more participation is achieved, to combine certain committees to address issues jointly. Furthermore, a Chair and Vice Chair will serve on the committees.

At the May 12 Community Board meeting, certain committees will have been combined. However, he noted some committees will remain as they are. Additionally, during the May 12 Board meeting, he may ask each Board member his/her committee preference. Ballots will be sent before the meeting.

Subsequently, Committee Reports were given:

### *Consumer Affairs*

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

### *Health*

Committee Chair Sal Lombardo reported he had made a suggestion to rename the Health Committee to Health & Wellness Committee, emphasis on *Wellness*. Next month, a presentation is scheduled with Vanessa Walker.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker announced the Executive Board will now receive a meeting notice for every Committee meeting scheduled. If the member is available to attend, they are welcomed and can participate in the discussion. But, they may not vote.

### *Parks*

Committee Chair Al Perna did not present a report. However, a Committee meeting is scheduled for April 20, at 6:30 p.m., at the Board office.

### *Youth*

Committee Chair Lucy Cerezo-Scully reported on the pre-K sign-up. If you are interested, see her for contact information. The sign-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 18 in all five boroughs.

### *Environmental*

Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano reported the Committee met March 18 to discuss the Green Team structure, outreach events and parks cleanups.

### *Postal*

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

### *ULURP/Zoning*

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported the Committee met on March 24 on the application presented tonight--46-03 88<sup>th</sup> Street, Elmhurst, NY. The ULURP/Zoning Committee had voted in favor of it.

## **XIII. PUBLIC FORUM**

Miss Cody, a Flushing resident and an environmental studies major working on her senior thesis, addressed the Board. She spoke on water pollution at Flushing Bay + Creek, which are endangered by a mix of raw sewage + industrial waste.

She was enlisting support on how to get the word out regarding pollution issues, whether it is through public art or signage. She mentioned the human-centered design to develop innovative solutions focusing on empathy and understanding feeling. Learn how to help clean up Flushing Bay and Flushing Creek. Share stories and brainstorm solutions. A design workshop will be held on April 25, 3 -5 p.m. at the Flushing YMCA. Flyers were available.

Next, John Wang representing the Queens International Night Market slated to open April 25 at the NY Hall of Science made a report. Night Markets are a cultural flea market that happens at night, he explained. The focus is to highlight many of the cultures and ethnicities from Queens and New York City. Many food vendors and artists are brought out to represent the tapestry of Queens and New York City. It will occur over 16 Saturdays. Many city agencies are on board with the event.

He urged Corona vendors and small businesses to submit an application. Artists as well were welcomed. However, they need a sales tax ID. Obviously, food vendors will need a host of licenses.

The time slated for this event is Saturday nights, 6 PM to Midnight, from April to October 2015, said Mr. Wang.

Board Member James Lisa brought up the influx of vehicles into the community including vendors and visitors parking on the streets. 3,000 people coming in will not take the subways; they will park on neighborhood streets.

Mr. Wang said the Hall of Science parking lot will be available for visitor parking. He also clarified it is an outdoor event.

Board Member James Lisa continued our community is being inundated with events we do not need. There is no parking as it is in the community. Hosting an event open until Midnight is crazy and makes no sense to the community.

Board Member James Lisa also brought up the last minute notification and stated the community should be notified first, not the Hall of Science or the agencies. Furthermore, he asked why this was not done, reiterating the severe parking problem in the community as a result of the over-population.

Mr. Wang responded emphasis will be to use public transportation, adding vendors will use the south parking lot.

Discussion ensued.

Board Member Patricia Terranova inquired how many vendors will participate, and the cost of admission to the public. Mr. Wang responded about 60 vendors will participate and it's free to the public. Fees to vendors are being subsidized by the organization.

Board Member James Lisa questioned the validity of holding the event at night in the community's backyard.

Next, Club Hive was discussed. Mr. Jadidian the brother of the landlord of Club Hive addressed the Board.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol recapped the conditions at this establishment. This business was approved by the Board for a liquor license. At the Elmhurst location, three people were shot one fatally after an early morning brawl broke out.

Many phone calls were received at the Board office Mr. Jadidian. His brother, the property owner does not live in New York. Club Hive was shut down after the fatal shooting for operating illegally. The District Manager has been in constant talks with the SLA and the NYPD. Currently, the establishment's liquor license was suspended and is not open. The SLA has no intention of allowing this business to open due to the fact the Community Board is opposed to it and because of the 20 year old woman killed. The SLA has scheduled a hearing on this matter for tomorrow. For the record, the District Manager stated the Board does not have to get involved in the matter; our decision is firm—the Board is against the issuance of a license. Because the owner lives in California and does not know what is happening at his nightclub, it is unacceptable.

Mr. Jadidian was present tonight to read a letter he wrote to the Board regarding the premises. The Board has two options said the District Manager.

- Maintain the denial.
- Accept it with stipulations.

The District Manager continued the owners are in court to terminate the lease of the current renters. There is a stalemate because the renters believe the Community Board will accept it.

At this point, Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero explained those owners have had problems with Krystal's, Club Exotics and Club Hive. Someone that does not take charge of his property is not someone you want in your neighborhood. Board Member Schilero described the problems in the past with the other aforementioned clubs. Furthermore, she stated the owners do not deserve to be in this business. As a result of those three major clubs, people have greatly suffered.

Board Member A. Redd Sevilla agreed with her statements.

Board Member Schilero continued as a landlord, the property owners have an obligation to watch what happens to the community.

Elmhurst has been scarred because of this and suggested the property owners to go into a different business such as assisted living for seniors, not this type of business. Furthermore, Board Member Schilero would not agree to any stipulations for Mr. Jadidian or his partners. As a matter of fact, his tenants are suing him.

Board Member A. Redd Sevilla said the Board fought hard when the business was Exotics. Keep in mind:

- These are the same owners
- I.S. 5 is in close proximity and
- P. S. 7 is close by
- In the Pan Am homeless shelter, there are 400 children residing
- Shame on the businesses the property owner has rented to on the premises
- Those businesses brought in are not good for the community and not good for the children of the neighborhood.

Other types of businesses for the site were suggested by the Board members.

Next, the Board heard from a resident of the neighborhood about the establishment. She stated the neighborhood had suffered greatly and had an intolerable existence with Club Hive and the two clubs before it. Loud music is played on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (all day). The vibrations can be felt in your home. When customers exit the premises at 4 a.m., they are yelling, screaming and fighting. Nobody can sleep on the block. The shooting was cited. Can we continue supporting this business, she questioned because the neighborhood cannot tolerate it. Petitions have been signed against it.

Subsequently, Board member Patricia Terranova said if the Police Department had shut down the nightclub, no one in the community will accept it.

Following, Mr. Robert Valdes-Clausell spoke on behalf of the Newtown Civic Association. The Newtown Civic Association is in full support of the Public Safety Committee's decision about that property, which has gone by several names. Because of the complaints echoed by the people in the community, the NCA strongly opposes this landlord being given any opportunity to use that property in any way that would be similar to what they are currently doing. There are other businesses such as Play that do comply with the law; this one does not. With this particular landlord, three strikes and you are out. The damage to our community and property values is irreparable. We do not like the idea of our community having drive-by shootings. Sell the property and move on, he advised.

Discussion ensued.

At this point, a motion was made by Board Member Judy D'Andrea, seconded by Board Member Lucy Schilero to **reject** all applications and/or stipulations for this property.

Before the vote was taken, however, Chairperson Louis Walker said they are property owners. Telling them the Board does not want any more clubs on site is different than saying we don't want anything else there.

The Board discussed the motion further and modified it to mean no clubs, bars, etc.

Subsequently, District Manager Cassagnol reiterated the Board does not want another club on site and the owners have not shown any credibility in choosing their tenants. From this point on, the Board will strictly screen all future tenants for this site.

Next, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla said a business that benefits families is acceptable.

Consequently, Mr. Jadidian responded no one informed them about the incidents at the Club.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker recapped the motion on the floor:

*“To no longer approve on this site any other types of night clubs, bars, restaurants—any establishments serving alcohol.”*

Discussion ensued about putting a church on the property. Mr. Jadidian relayed a conversation he had with a pastor about opening a church on this property. If the Board grants the application, a stipulation will be written that in case of a problem, the owner would personally shut down the place.

The Board said no to this request.

Board Member Sandra Munoz agreed with the aforementioned statements made by the Board and surrounding neighbors of the site but asked for more clarification on the stipulation.

Additionally, Mr. Jadidian asked his letter be read to the Board. The request was denied.

Next, the specifics were explained by Chairperson Louis Walker to mean *any businesses serving alcohol*.

Before the vote was taken, the full motion was again repeated again by Chairperson Louis Walker:

*“To deny any businesses at this particular location serving any type of alcohol/nightclubs, sports bars etc. or whatever else may come.”*

District Manager Cassagnol asked if they switch owners and the new owner applies for a night club then what? The Board emphatically said no. The stipulation is placed on the property, not on the owner. The address of the property is 79-21 Queens Blvd. reported the District Manager.

At this point, Board Member Patricia Terranova made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna, to **deny** any businesses at this particular location serving any type of alcohol/nightclubs, sports bar, restaurants etc. or whatever else may come.

The Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Before, the adjournment, however, Board Member James Lisa asked if the hours of the Queens Night Market at the Hall of Science can be reduced because letting out at 1 a.m. and no parking is detrimental to the community.

Board Chair Louis Walker asked Mr. Wang if the event can end at 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Wang responded the events end at 12 Midnight around the world and they do not want to be an exception.

Board Member Lisa reported this is not around the world; this is Corona. It is a residential community.

There being no further business, Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lucy Schilero, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.