



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Melinda Katz
Borough President

Damian Vargas
Chairperson

Melva Miller
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

September 19, 2017

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Damian Vargas
Chaio-Chung Chen
Lynda Coral
Judith D'Andrea
Ingrid Gomez
Jennifer Gutierrez
James Lisa
Salvatore Lombardo
Peter Manganaro
Patricia Martin
Rovenia McGowan
Edgar Moya
Ruby Muhammed
Sandra Munoz
Gurdip Singh Narula
Georgina Oliver

Shwe Zin (Winnie) Oo
Alirio Orduna
Alexa Ponce
Ashley Reed
Oscar Rios
Neil Roman
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Gigi Salvador
A. Redd Sevilla
Lucy Schilero
Malikah Shabazz
Gregory Spock
Marcello Testa
Louis Walker
Rosa Wong
Lester Youngblood

Board Members Absent:

Priscilla Carrow
Giancarlo Castano
Lucy Cerezo-Scully
Safat Chowdhury
Debra Clayton

Erica Cruz
Maria Damico
Marialena Giampino
Al Perna
Alton Derrick Smith
Vivian Tseng
Minwen Yang

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager
Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator
Christina Long, CB4 Community Assistant
Joseph Nocerino, Queens Borough President's Office
Jacqueline Hsieh, Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office
QiBin Ye, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office
Irfan Ahmed, Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City
Lt. Matt LeBlanc, Special Operations Officer, 110 Police Precinct
Bryan McCormick, Senior Director of Adult Workforce, Central Queens YM & YWHA
Dania Taverez, Director of Business Development, Central Queens YM & YWHA
Andy Collado, 102-37 46 Avenue, Corona, NY
Alex Prosser, Queens CUNY College
Ernestine McKayle, 97-28 57 Avenue, Corona, NY
Debra Hargrove, 96-02 57 Avenue, Corona, NY
Destany Batista, Queens College
Mike Liquori, VFW Post #150
Tiffany Azim, Queens College
C. Ramnooth, Queens College
Karin Abreu, Corona Gardens Assoc., 102-36 46 Avenue, Corona, NY
Guadalupe Muller, Queens College
B. Mulzac, Queens College
George Marinia Blocker, 94-41 43 Avenue
A. Yelizurov, Central Queens Y
Elna Tullock
Jimmy Apostolatos, PO Box 73793, Elmhurst, NY
E. Duvrege, Republica, 93-04 Corona Avenue, Elmhurst, NY
Alexander Rodriguez, 81-11 Pettit Avenue, Elmhurst, NY

SPEAKER'S LIST

Elna Tullock

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

I. Chairperson Damian Vargas opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Board Chairperson Damian Vargas announced a sign-in sheet was available at the dais if anyone wished to speak at the Public Forum segment, please sign in. Two minutes per person was allotted for speaking time.

III. District Manager Christian Cassagnol took the roll call. A quorum was present.

IV. VOTE: Minutes June 13, 2017

Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna, to **accept** the minutes.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

Motion passed.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Damian Vargas and the Board welcomed back District Manager Christian Cassagnol after the accident he had during the summer. Chair Damian Vargas said while working from home, the District Manager was actively participating in Board business. He extended a thank you to staff members Margaret and Christina for their help during the District Manager's absence.

A welcome was extended to the Queens Borough President's Community Coordinator Joseph Nocerino, who will be the Board's liaison to the Borough President's Office. Mr. Nocerino made the following announcements:

On behalf of the Borough President in recognition of outstanding dedicated service, a 15 year service award was presented to Board Member Peter Manganaro.

Next, he reported the Queens Borough President has started a program, which will be implemented in every Board, to choose parks in need of sprucing up. The Parks Department will provide volunteers from a local high or middle school to clean the parks. Since this is the time to plant any ideas for the parks, please submit to Chair Damian Vargas or District Manager Cassagnol.

Additionally, the Queens Borough President, along with the Mets, is collecting food and supplies for hurricane relief Wednesday and Thursday at CitiField from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Supplies such as toiletries paper goods, cleaning supplies, diapers, water etc. are appreciated.

Next, Chair Damian Vargas thanked Pat Rosero for all her good work.

Continuing with his report, Chair Damian Vargas announced:

The Public Forum segment will now appear in the beginning of the Board agenda. Generally, it was at the end of the meeting. Speaking with the Executive Committee, the District Manager, and former Chair Louis Walker, it was agreed to have the Public Forum segment earlier in the meeting which would allow the public to speak while the representatives from the elected officials are still in attendance. Right now it is tentative to see if it is successful. However, the one major concern brought up was how long the meeting would run as a result of this change.

If there are any comments or suggestions, please let the Chair know.

Second, the Board Committees were organized. New members were appointed and reappointed members assigned to committees. Two new Committee Chairs were welcomed; Ingrid Gomez-Youth Chair, and Louis Walker-Transportation Chair.

Subsequently, Chairperson Damian Vargas named the CB4Q Committee Chairs for 2017-2018:

Consumer Affairs – Erica Cruz, Chair
Environmental – Giancarlo Castano, Chair
Health – Salvatore Lombardo, Chair
Parks – Al Perna, Chair

Public Safety – Lucy Schilero, Chair
Transportation – Louis Walker, Chair
ULURP/Zoning - Alton Derrick Smith, Chair
Youth – Ingrid Gomez, Chair

Next, Board Chair Damian Vargas addressed the Committee assignments. Board members were given a form to fill out to select the Committee they wished to serve on. Board members were asked to give three choices. If possible, the #1 Committee choice was accommodated. For this year, a majority of Board members chose one particular committee. Obviously, ten people could not be placed on one committee because other committees would not have enough working members. Those who could not be accommodated with their #1 choice, was given the #2 choice. A handful of Board members did not submit a selection of Committee choice. In that case, those Board members were assigned to committees. If there are questions, please see Chair Vargas.

Next, he reported everyone is free to serve on a second committee. If you are not on the committee you are interested in, let him know and he will formally appoint you to your second choice committee, where you can vote. However, you are expected to attend and vote at the Committee meeting you have been assigned to. Board Members are free to attend all Committee meetings.

Pursuant to the Bylaws, Committees will be choosing a vice chair. He explained it is not a co-chair, not two people heading the committee. It is one Committee Chair and one Vice Chair. Whenever the Committee Chair cannot be present, the Vice Chair will chair the committee meeting. Optimistically speaking, the Vice Chair may develop into the next Committee Chairperson.

Lastly, pursuant to the Board's Bylaws, Committees may have Public Members serve on the committees with voting rights. The Board has an application for Public Members to fill out to serve on committees. Two new Public Members were introduced to the Board—Andy Collado serving on the Parks Committee and Kareem Young serving on the Youth Committee. To clarify about voting, Chair Vargas explained both will have voting rights at the Committee level but not at the Board level.

Chair Vargas called on Committee Chairs if they knew of anyone who wished to serve on the Committees as Public Members. The Board is taking Public members, noting two members per committee only. Public Members must never outnumber the Board Members. Public Members can never be Chair or Vice Chair of a committee. In this way, we get more people interested in civics and participation and also to meet more people and audition future Board Members.

Next, a Bylaws Committee meeting was held on September 14. Louis Walker chairs the Bylaws Committee. Currently, there is an opening for one person to serve on the Bylaws Committee. Six Board members currently serve; it should be a committee of seven persons. He called out to the Board if anyone wished to participate on the Bylaws Committee.

Board Member Alexa Ponce volunteered and was chosen to serve. The Bylaws Committee met last week to determine if changes to the Bylaws need to be made and upcoming meetings are planned. All were invited to read the Bylaws and if there are any suggestions or changes please contact Committee Chair Louis Walker so those ideas can be taken into consideration. However, the Bylaws Committee has the ultimate decision making over the changes to the Board's Bylaws. Also, he explained the Board must operate under the NYC Charter and if it is not in Charter the Board cannot implement changes.

Also, Chair Damian Vargas welcomed the new 110 Precinct Commander Capt. Ventry. Since he was not in attendance, Chair Vargas was optimistic the Board would meet the new commander at the October 10 CB meeting.

Before the Board Chair concluded his report, Board Member Al Perna was congratulated as the new President of the 110 Precinct Community Council.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Cassagnol reported on the intern working at the Board office over the summer. He was assigned from the Dept. of Homeless Services. Christian was a great worker but unfortunately the internship ended early. At some point in time, it is hoped he would be able to meet the Board members.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol reported on the CB4 Youth Fair planned for October 7, 2017. Flyers were passed out. The Youth Committee has been working very hard. This year, funding from Queens Borough President Melinda Katz as well as Council Member Daniel Dromm has been acquired. The Queens Center Mall is also helping out.

Planned for the Youth Fair are passports, twenty different vendors, tables, and prizes to name a few. Last year, monetary gifts were given out. But this year we reached out to programming such as the Hall of Science contributing a yearly membership, and tickets for the Queens Zoo have been offered to name a few. While the flyers were passed around, District Manager Cassagnol extended a special Thank You to QiBin Ye for her help in translating the wording on the flyer in Chinese in less than a day.

During the summer, District Manager Cassagnol had visited the community gardens, mentioning Sparrows Nest. Earlier in the summer, this community garden had a barbeque. It was unique because the vegetables were picked from the garden and cooked. He urged all to visit the beautiful Sparrows Nest. The Board played a pivotal role in moving a larger garden into a smaller park. A banner is displayed at Sparrows Nest stating *With Help From CB4*.

Next, he spoke about Corona Plaza. While the word, is although unofficial, Corona Plaza will not be completed in 2018, but instead completed by Thanksgiving 2017.

Subsequently, he reported on the 2019 Capital and Expense budget. A meeting was held with the Committee Chairs. As was last year, there are 40 Capital items and 25 Expense items. Committees will choose their priorities and that's how the wish list is compiled. Many of our projects were funded both by the Council and the City of New York. Board Members will be receiving an informational packet with last year's priorities for review. Officially, the Board's priorities were due October 31, as it must be voted on by the Board, meaning at this meeting. However, District Manager Cassagnol requested an extension from City Planning to allow a vote be taken at the November 14 CB meeting. He pointed out agencies will have two less weeks to review our requests. But, it will give the Board an opportunity to submit a solid document.

At this point, Board Member Judy D'Andrea asked, from the Board's top ten priorities on the Capital Expense budget which ones were funded.

District Manager Cassagnol said he would let her know.

The top two Capital requests: the Library and the Precinct have been submitted since 1989 and have not been funded, Board Member Judy D'Andrea pointed out.

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

Elna Tullock suggested to the Board combined efforts by the Police and Fire Departments are urgently needed for seniors who live alone. She suggested family members would fill out a form listing the senior citizen's name, apartment number, address, including disability (such as wheelchair bound or amputee or visually impaired or hearing impaired). The Police Department would fax the form to the Fire Department. In case of fire, the Fire Department would see the information for that location and know there was a disabled senior in the building and the location of the senior (rear of building). This would all be voluntary.

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero responded we do ask senior centers for contact information so that FEMA and the local CERT teams are aware of the building's occupants.

However, when it is a private matter for example seniors do not go to senior centers because they are handicapped, a notice would have to be placed in the press about a disabled family member living in the building that needs added attention. In this way, it can be brought to the attention of Advocacy for Seniors as well as other outreach groups and the Police Department. If it is already mobilized into the computer, it would help a great deal.

Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero brought up many seniors want to be left alone and do not want to leave their apartments. This has been a very serious issue.

Even if the senior wants to be left alone, the family member can initiate the process replied Ms. Tullock.

At this point, Lt. Matt LeBlanc – Special Operations Officer, reported Capt. Ventry took over the command of the 110 Precinct about two weeks ago and D. I. Christopher Manson went to the Borough. D. I. Manson will be missed.

He the 110 Precinct is undergoing a transition where officers will be attending an NCO program. All precincts will be attending. He explained the program is Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCO). The precinct will be broken into four sectors where permanent officers will be assigned to each sector so they get to know the community better. They will be on all tours. The same amount of officers will be out on patrol as there are now. At some point, there will be down time where officers will not answer the radio, but will be addressing community and quality of life issues. The NCO program starts Monday, September 25.

He added the 110 Precinct will have eight NCO officers and one sergeant. There will be a Patrol Sergeant on every tour, a lieutenant etc. For the four sectors, two officers will be assigned to each sector.

Crime-wise down almost 7% for the year. Robberies are down almost 20% from last year.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea reported back in May she had given D. I. Manson a list of vehicles for towing on 50th Avenue between 108 and 111 Streets. Nothing was done about those vehicles. The vehicles are out of town cars, expired registrations, and some vehicles had license plates, others did not.

Lt. LeBlanc responded someone would look into it.

Board Member Gregory Spock asked about the Elmhurst parks, mentioning Veterans Grove and Moore Homestead Parks, about people congregating/sleeping in the parks.

Lt. Blanc replied these people are being summonsed for drinking in public or urinating in the park etc. When the NCO's come on board, the park in that sector will be assigned to that NCO officer.

Board Member Lynda Coral asked about the stats. for those incidences.

Lt. LeBlanc responded there are park-related stats. and mentioned contacting Community Affairs for more information.

At this point, Board Members asked Lt. LeBlanc about police investigations in the news.

VIII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Jacqueline Hsieh, representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, reported Alex Bennett no longer works for Congresswoman Meng.

She reported since December of 2016, Congresswoman Meng has worked with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to set up office hours in her office to assist veterans. Veterans would not have to travel to the other boroughs for help. For this month, office hours will be on Wednesday, September 27. Scheduling is by appointment only. The last day to make an appointment is Friday, September 22. Representation from the VA is available once a month at the Congresswoman's office.

Every year there is academy nominations for college age, young Americans wishing to serve in the military. Congresswoman Meng has the privilege of nominating a limited number of people to the four service academies. If you know someone who wishes to apply to the Naval Academy, West Point etc. now is the time to fill out an application. Contact your Congressional representative for more information. If you do not know your representative, call Ms. Hsieh and she will assist.

If you have a loved one affected by the recent hurricanes, feel free to reach out to your Congressional representative to ensure Americans are evacuated from hurricane devastated cities.

She mentioned the recent bus accident in Flushing. Congresswoman Meng's office is looking into legislation regarding who gets to drive buses.

Calendars for 2018 are available from the Congresswoman office. Please email her Jacqueline.hsieh@mail.house.gov if you would like one.

Board Member Alirio Orduna asked about DACA.

Congresswoman Meng has been working with local organizations such as Make the Road, New York Immigration Coalition, and on the legislative level she has been working with her colleagues in Congress for young adults to remain in America. As a democratic member she is for DACA for creating permanency for DACA because DACA is temporary. Democratic members are trying to work with Republican members to make this happen.

Board Member Alirio Orduna asked who is representing the veterans at the Congresswoman's office.

Ms. Hsieh responded they work for the Department of VA and are actual employees of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, she clarified.

Next, QiBin Ye, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, reported there will be a hearing tomorrow at City Hall regarding issues that impact senior citizens. Mainly, the legislation is on bed bug issues. This legislation will require the Dept. for the Aging to establish a program for seniors who are experiencing this problem.

It is hoped this legislation will provide relief to the seniors. Call the Council Member's office if you need more information.

Additionally, she mentioned Council Member Dromm's office is looking forward to Community Board 4's upcoming Youth Fair.

IX. SPEAKER:

Bryan McCormick, Senior Director of Adult Workforce

Dania Taverez, Director of Business Development

Central Queens YM & YWHA

Discussion of Workforce Initiatives, Health Families, SNAP benefits and their Food Pantry

Dania Taverez, Director of Business Development, and Bryan McCormick, Senior Director of Adult Workforce introduced themselves to the Board.

Dania Taverez reported her main job is to outreach into the community, network with the businesses and residents and help program graduates connect to employment opportunities and vocational training. Log on to www.cqy.org to see a wide range of services the Central Queens Y offers.

The Central Queens Y is fun and offers services to ages 2 ½-3 years old to 80+ years of age. The main programs are youth and adult programs. Both she and Bryan McCormick work with individual's ranging from 6 years of age to 70 years old. Although those seniors are retired, they are looking to work again and are enrolled through the senior program. The seniors are engaged whether by volunteering part time or can be connected to the Central Y's vocational program. Case management is also performed.

Not all services are free. All the services listed in the folder she distributed to the Board are free. Clients are also connected to services she explained. Clients can be screened for SNAP benefits. If you are having difficulties feeding your family, especially with the holidays coming up, come in and enroll for SNAP benefits.

Also, they assist with connecting clients to health insurance. Additionally, there is a food pantry which has kosher food.

In terms of the youth program for employment purposes, vocational training is available. Some of the vocational training is mainly in the Allied health field. Some medical training programs are: Dialysis Technician, Billing & Coding, and Certified Nurse's Aide. Connecting adults and youth to free home health aide is also offered which is a great way to start working.

If you already have a family member you are a caregiver to, you can get paid for the services you are giving.

When the client comes in, there is an orientation, intake, and assessment of the clients. An individual service plan is completed based on the client's needs and the client is also informed about other services available for their children, spouse, or anyone else they care about in need of services.

Central Queens Y is on Facebook listing services and events offered.

Next, she spoke about free digital literacy classes being offered. Participants can learn computer skills using Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint to edit or draft documents. Also e-mail and how to use the internet safely is taught. The Central Queens Y is here to serve you, she stated.

District Manager Cassagnol added the Central Queens Y is one of the presenters at the Board's Youth Fair.

Before concluding, it was reported free ESL classes are being offered starting October 2, 2017.

At this point, the Board members asked questions about programming and hours.

Board Member Louis Walker asked how many people can be accepted.

Bryan McCormick replied for the youth, it is over 100 per year. If the max is reached, the city will give more slots and additional funding. For the adults, there is no max. at this moment.

X. REPORT AND VOTE: Public Safety Committee

SLA Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero encouraged all to read the Hurricane Preparedness Guides which were on hand at the meeting tonight. She informed the Board there is also a reduced risk for tornadoes. And take home the pocket guide on how to prepare a go bag if you need to leave in a matter of minutes.

The CERT Team is doing its National Preparedness Month Event at Target on Friday, September 22, 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Please come and visit.

In case of a storm, if you want the most accurate evacuation zone call 311 or 212-639-9675. There is also a website for food: www.foodsmart.gov.

Next, she spoke about the new Nightlife legislation. She pointed out there was no one speaking up about the laws. Council Member Lopez said Community Boards should be more involved in laws being passed. As a result of the legislation, there will be two Boards, the Nightlife Advisory Board and the Office of Nightlife. The Nightlife Advisory Board will have 12 members, eight who will be appointed by the City Council.

This bill establishes a Nightlife Advisory Board and an Office of Nightlife. The Board will make recommendations regarding New York City laws, rules, regulations and policies to address common issues and trends in the nightlife industry. The Office of Nightlife will serve as a city liaison for nightlife establishments, conducting outreach and providing assistance with the city's enforcement, licensing, permits or approvals processes. It will also serve as an intermediary between the nightlife industry, residents and city agencies.

Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero is inquiring where the Community Boards stand and for our voice to be heard.

A law was also passed to allow dancing in smaller venues. Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero said the laws are very vague and she is trying to get more information from Council Members Dromm and Ferreras-Copeland. It is very important the Community Board become more involved in those laws.

Board Member Judy D’Andrea brought up it is important these laws are passed, but enforcement is also needed. Checking with 311 or the Police Precinct to find out about a complaint is essential.

Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero added Community Boards were not involved in the decision making process. Most importantly, she pointed out, this legislation will involve ULURP/Zoning, Consumer Affairs, etc. No specifics were given and must be addressed. Only Council Member Lopez made an issue that Community Boards should be part of the process.

Regarding noise complaints over the summer, those complaints were brought to the attention of Lt. LeBlanc. Two officers were trained on how to use the meters. He did not think the noise meters were operational, as yet.

For the fire alarm pull boxes, a petition may need to be done. A pull handle will not only be for the Fire Department but also for the Police Department all in one box. The procedure is still unclear, but she will follow up.

Talking about the Capital budget, Engine Company 289 does not an emergency generator. She is requesting they receive one.

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol brought up the possibility of inviting an OEM active shooting training spokesperson to address the Board. Since the Queens Center Mall, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, and the Hall of Science is located within the Board’s confines, the presentation teaches what to do if someone comes into a public place and starts shooting. He was optimistic a speaker would be at the October CB meeting.

Next, the liquor licenses were discussed:

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment’s Name</u>	<u>Establishment’s Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
El Mordisco Sports Bar Rest.Corp. <i>Restaurante El Mordisco</i> Wine, Beer & Cider	85-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
East 21 Forever Inc. Beer & Cider	71-26 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment’s Name</u>	<u>Establishment’s Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
RJ Macizos Place Inc. Wine, Beer, & Cider	53-09 106 Street Corona, NY	Denied

Applicant failed to respond to our request to meet to discuss their application.

RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont'd)

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Ru Yi Restaurant Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider <i>Fortune Seafood Rest.</i>	83-34 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Forest Hills Spa Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	59-21 Calloway St. Corona, NY	Approved
Paraiso Colombiano Rest. Corp. Applicant failed to respond to our request to meet to discuss their application.	1065-20 Corona Avenue	Denied
Crystal Ball Group Inc. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	52-11 111 Street Corona, NY	Approved
Pollos Y Mas Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider	90-59 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
DOM Music Box Corp. A long history of SLA violations, criminal complaints and noise complaints. Establishment is historically a bad neighbor and blight on the community.	40-08 74 Street	Denied
El Sonador Café Rest. Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider Applicant failed to respond to our request to meet to discuss their application.	93-14 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Denied
La Flaca Coffee Shop Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	42-17 102 Street Corona, NY	Approved

At this point, Board Member Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

**XI. Report and Vote: Youth Committee
Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City**

Plan to bring a synthetic soccer field to PS 19Q as part of the NYC Soccer Initiative to bring 50 soccer field to underserved neighborhoods.

Youth Committee Chair Ingrid Gomez reported on Community Board 4's upcoming Youth Fair. Many organizations will be participating education, health care services and different cultural institutions. Child Center of New York, Pre-K for All, Queens College, U. S. Army, Military Cadets and more will contribute. Youth Fair flyers were distributed to pass out for outreach to organizations. The Youth Fair will serve participants 5 years old to 21 years of age. Face painting, popcorn, cotton candy, Zumba, and meditation, will be on site. Everyone was urged to come out. A list was passed out calling for volunteers to participate.

Next, she explained a vote will be taken on the soccer pitch field at P. S. 19 at 98-02 Roosevelt Avenue. At the May 18 Youth Committee meeting, Irfan Ahmed, Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, Cesaryna Pena and Paul Jeffries from the NYC Football Club, addressed the Youth Committee about the proposal. The Mayor's Office to Advance New York City along with the U. S. Soccer Foundation, the NYC Football Club, 50 soccer pitches will be installed throughout the five boroughs.

At the June 13, this was presented but the Board had some concerns about the proposal. Although the Youth Committee approved the proposal at the May 18 meeting, after more discussion it brought back for review. Issues brought up were safety about the gate. A pitch will be installed in the yard. This area would be open to the public. Not just the children at the school but also the public would have availability to the field. Concerns were the gate would be left open and people could walk in and hang out, especially after 6 p.m. Loitering, littering, and its close proximity to Roosevelt Avenue were key factors.

Youth Committee Chair Ingrid Gomez read in part a letter of support received by the Principal of P. S. 19. *"The schoolyard at PS 19 is designated as a PlaNYC space for the community to enjoy. The playground is opened every day at dawn and is closed at dusk. The school custodial staff is responsible for clearing out the yard prior to locking the gates at dusk. Even though the school is open to the public it is closed when in use by PS 19 or if the local Community Based Organization (CBO) has a permit for its use. Other than that, the yard is open for all to enjoy from dawn to dusk."*

The reason the vote was tabled at the June CB meeting was because there was no community input. A letter was sent to community residents within a 400' radius of the school for their input. They were also invited to attend tonight's Board meeting to express their views. The principal of PS 19 was also called to set up a meeting, to no avail. The Parent Coordinator did not know about the proposed soccer pitch. A letter of support was also sent by the Superintendent, similar to the Principal's letter.

Subsequently, Irfan Ahmed, Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City addressed the Board. Mr. Ahmed explained the Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC, the U. S. Soccer Foundation, the New York City Football Club and Adidas partnered together to build and maintain 50 soccer fields in underserved neighborhoods across the five boroughs over the next five years. Corona is one of the neighborhoods to promote public safety, increase physical opportunities, and increase access to nutrition. P. S. 19 is a PlaNYC site, which means the trust for public land is a separate entity and does not work with the Mayor's Fund, they fund the construction of the yards, and they pay the custodian from day to dusk, including weekends. They do not want to change the access said Mr. Ahmed. A space was identified for tennis, mentioning over 1,000 students are enrolled at P. S. 19. Their mandate is to build 10 fields per year. Almost all community stakeholders have supported the initiative. Eight sites have received full support, this site is number 9 and on October 3, they will move on to #10 for a total of ten sites.

He also explained there is a free after school program included with the field. Mentoring and support from the U. S. Soccer Foundation or the NYC Football Club will be given. The youth will receive free gear. None of the stakeholders who were presented with the proposal had resisted it. Approval was hoped for in May or June so that construction could start in July and August when school recessed. It is a fast construction process since it is not grass or turf but acrylic and more funding can be dedicated to after school programming.

There is also a maintenance fund to ensure the sustainability of the pitch. Once it is built, if anything happens such as a goal post gets stolen, or vandalism, it will be taken care of for ten years.

Clarifying concerns about the location, he reported the site is not by Roosevelt Avenue it is on 41 Avenue. He pointed out Roosevelt Avenue is under construction therefore it is impossible to construct there.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea inquired the students who will participate will they be the only ones who have access? For example, soccer team from Bayside coming in to use the field.

Mr. Ahmed responded the students who participate will have the pitch for the time they are allotted. Essentially, the program is open to the public. It is a park site shared with a school site and closed to the public. After 4 p.m., you can enter into a park site.

Can a soccer team out of our neighborhood use the field, inquired Board Member Judy D'Andrea? Will a permit be needed she asked.

Mr. Ahmed replied it is public land. Public land you can enter it freely or a league may require a permit. It is the City of New York's land, but it is closed to the public during school hours. After hours, it is open to the public.

Elementary to middle school is the age of the children in response to Board Member James Lisa's question.

Board Member Lucy Schilero inquired about vagrants using the site. When the site is closed on Saturday and Sunday, she asked. Although it was stated the site closes at dusk, is it guaranteed?

Regarding vagrants, by building the pitch the vagrants are forced to leave. Regarding ensuring closure of the site, the site is required to be closed because it is the preference of the school. The custodian is paid to close it, including weekends, by the Trust for Public Land. They are not paid by the Mayor's Fund. The objective is to make school yards into playgrounds.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol asked are there any other schools in Queens that have this initiative.

Other schools have not yet been identified responded Mr. Ahmed.

Continuing with his question District Manager Cassagnol stated he read where several other pitches would be coming to Queens including the one at P. S. 19 to be completed by October. Is that based on the Board's vote? Whether the Board votes or not, will the construction proceed?

Mr. Ahmed said they were sensitive to the needs of the community that's why it was halted.

Board Member Sandra Munoz asked if we are locked into the 5 year commitment specifying if it does not work.

Mr. Ahmed said it is a contract between the City of New York and the contractor. If the City of New York deems it is not working there is a process because there is an agreement. The City of New York acts on behalf of the school.

Youth Committee Chair Ingrid Gomez asked what happens after the five years. Who maintain the pitch, for example, cleaning and painting?

There are executed licensing agreements with the Dept. of Education and have ensured the custodian will sweep leaves and regular custodial maintenance. It is expected the site will last for five years (with warranties), after the warranties expire the maintenance fund takes over.

Before the Board vote Chair Damian Vargas called for the recommendation of the Youth Committee.

Youth Chair Ingrid Gomez responded when the committee met it was before letters of support were received and community outreach. She asked if any community residents were present to speak out on the proposal. None were present.

At this point, Board Member Ingrid Gomez made a motion, seconded by Board Member Sandra Munoz, to **accept** the soccer initiative at P. S. 19Q.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

XII. Committee Reports

Consumer Affairs

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Environmental

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Health

Committee Chair Salvatore Lombardo reported a meeting is planned.

Parks

Although the Committee Chair was not in attendance, District Manager Cassagnol reported a committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27. 6:30 p.m. Agenda Item: Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Parks Without Borders project.

Transportation

Committee Chair Louis Walker a meeting is planned to discuss the safety of 111 Street.

ULURP/Zoning

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Before adjourning, Board Member Alirio Orduna invited all to join him on September 23 New York Military Youth Cadets is having its annual picnic day at St. Albans VA Hospital, located at 179 Street and Linden Boulevard, 10:30 a.m. All food is donated by the parents.

September 30 West Point Military Academy, with 50 cadets, will have the Annual Boot Camp training, and a special ceremony will be held for the fallen officer killed in the line of duty.

Next, Board Member Georgina Oliver reported October 15 is the Breast Cancer Walk in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Support is needed.

Since there was no further business, Board Member Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Board Member Edgar Moya to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.