



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, and Elmhurst

46-11 104th Street

Corona, New York 11368-2882

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Helen Marshall
Borough President

Anthony R. Moreno
Chairperson

Barry Grodenchik
Deputy Borough President
Director of Community Boards

Richard Italiano
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010

TIME: 7:50 P.M.

PLACE: FLANDERS FIELD VFW POST #150
51-11 108TH STREET
CORONA, NEW YORK 11368

I. First Vice Chairperson Louis Walker called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. District Manager Richard Italiano took the attendance. Before the roll call was taken, the District Manager reported the following Board members were removed:

Sheikh Javed
Luis Enrique Lugo
Jackie Williams
Carmen Enrique Luciano

The following did not respond to the Borough President's request to fill out the application for re-appointment. Technically, they are not members of the Board. If no response, they will be removed from the Board.

Kenneth Nugai
Emma Hernandez

Next, new Board members were introduced:

Veronica Piedra who stated she is happy to be a member and looks forward to working with the Board in making Community Board 4 a better place for community residents.

George Onuorah who stated it is both an honor and a privilege to serve on the Board and will do his best to justify the confidence bestowed on him.

The Borough President's Office will hold training sessions for new Board members some time in May.

At this point, the District Manager took the roll call. Presently, the Board is comprised of 42 members, which may change. A quorum was present.

IV. Vote on the Minutes (March 2, 2010)

Ms. Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nick Pennachio, to **accept** the minutes. By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

First Vice Chairperson Louis Walker reported on Saturday, April 24, at 9:00 a.m., the electrical industry is hosting its 62nd Annual Scholarship Award Breakfast. Invitations were on the head table.

From former Council Member Helen Sears, dated December 1, 2009 on behalf of the New York City Council, a Certificate of Recognition and Gratitude was presented to Community Board 4.

Chairperson of the Board Anthony Moreno announced as a result of the untiring efforts of the District Manager, Queens Blvd. from Grand Avenue to Broadway was marked and completely repaved. Completion was last week.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Adding to the Chairperson's report, the District Manager explained all pedestrian walkways were refurbished. The milling and paving had started on the LIE westbound service road from Junction Blvd. to 108th Street. Work will be done at night.

The presentation from the Queens Library listed on tonight's agenda had been cancelled. The update will be presented at the May 4 Board meeting by Ms. Jen Manley who will present information on the Elmhurst Library Reconstruction.

Adding a short overview about the reconstruction of the Elmhurst Library, the District Manager reported bidding documents were sent out August 2009, and construction is anticipated to start Spring 2010 with completion anticipated in Spring, 2012.

Next, the Newtown Historical Society, in conjunction with Forgotten-NY.com will host a walking tour of Elmhurst, Sunday, April 18, at 2:00 p.m. Meet at the token booth of the Grand Avenue Newtown station on the R Line at Broadway and Queens Blvd. Cost is \$20 for non-members and \$5 for members. RSVP to newtownhistory@gmail.com or call 718-366-3715.

Mr. Tom McKenzie commented on the naming of the Newtown Historical Society. For years, this name was held by the Newtown Civic Association. In fact, the Newtown Civic Association came out of the Newtown Historical Society. Those people took the name. Although Mr. McKenzie had notified the State, the State expressed its regrets, but gave the name away anyway. Most of the people on the Board of Directors of this new Historical Society all live in Manhattan. Those individuals do not come from Queens.

Next, the District Manager reported the Queens Zoo will host its yearly Community Board Breakfast June 5. More details will follow.

After that, New York State Senator Joseph Addabbo is sponsoring a Job Fair on Friday, April 9, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Aqueduct Racetrack, 110-00 Rockaway Blvd., South Ozone Park, Queens. Flyers were on the back table.

Subsequently, the Davey Tree Expert Company will be treating host trees with insecticide for the Asian Long horned Beetle with the Queens Community Board 4 district. Tree treatments will begin on April 5, 2010 and will continue through June 19, 2010. A very small part of the Board area is involved from Queens Blvd. to Broadway and around the Elmhurst Hospital area.

Mr. Jim Lisa asked what chemicals would be used in the spraying because some of those chemicals are hazardous to humans. In the past, people were hospitalized because of exposure to the insecticide spray. The District Manager had on hand information about the chemicals used.

Discussion ensued.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Council Member Julissa Ferraras reported it is a pleasure to represent the district because of its diversity, mentioning she was born and raised on 44th Avenue. Serving on the Council's Finance Committee, all budget cuts will be reviewed. She asked Board members to write letters to the Mayor about the proposed cuts to Community Boards, which will negatively affect all 59 community boards. Since community resources are limited, more is needed.

While on the subject of being heard, Council Member Ferraras pointed out more schools are needed in the district. Proposed schools are usually for elementary schools pointing out the number of seats for high schools and junior high schools do not necessarily match, and noted junior high schools are at peak capacity,

Thursday, April 8, Community Board 3Q will host the Annual Youth Job Fair for the young people of our community. Perhaps, a similar job fair could be offered to the young people in Board 4. Local merchants and corporate entities come out and offer young people jobs for the summer or longer. All were invited to attend the Job Fair at I.S. 227 located on Junction Blvd. from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Next, Council Member Ferraras spoke about Mr. Argento's (the developer of the 94th street/Corona Avenue Rezoning application) investment of time and energy back into the community. So often developers buy a lot at random, but Mr. Argento believes in our community.

At this point, the District Manager said included in the Board member packages was a letter signed by the Board Chairperson and District Manager. Drafts of letters that need signatures in support of Community Boards were also included. If the cuts are implemented, Boards will not be able to function. Please sign and return the letters to the District Manager.

On this note, Ms. Catherine Moore reported on Tuesday, April 13, at 12:00 Noon the Borough President is sponsoring a rally on the steps of Queens Borough Hall. A show of support is needed to get the word out Community Boards cannot absorb any budget cuts. Please come out and spread the word that no one is accepting these budget cuts. Before concluding, she welcomed new board members Veronica Piedra and George Onuorah.

Next, Mr. Yonel Letellier Sosa, Chief of Staff, for newly-elected Senator Jose Peralta addressed the Board. On behalf of the Senator, thanks were extended to all who voted for Mr. Peralta. It was an incredible campaign and a tremendous victory. Individual thanks were given to those instrumental to the campaign: Priscilla Carrow, Stephen Castro, James Lisa, Ann Melchiorre, Barbara Jackson, and Special Thanks was given to Council Member Julissa Ferraras for her support.

Senator Peralta was sworn in March 17 and has been hard at work ever since. He has been meeting with the Democratic Conference to ensure a balanced budget which protects individuals, seniors, while advocating for education for children, working families, health programs and social services.

Expressing confidence the Senator will continue to do the same good work for this community as he did while serving in the Assembly, and continuing to work with the MTA, the Police and Sanitation Departments, the DOE Fund, elected officials, district leaders, and the Community Board.

An invitation was extended to stop by the district office located at 32-37 Junction Blvd. Meanwhile, details are being worked out for a satellite office possibly in the Jackson Heights area to better serve the community, while maintaining the best service possible and to be as accessible as possible.

Next, Mr. Michael Mallon, Special Assistant and Director of Scheduling, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm, addressed the Board. The Council Member has been very busy. The disposition of the Saint John's Queens Hospital property was addressed. The Council Member had met with Guttmann Realty along with the Chief of Staff; however, there is no news at present. Guttmann Realty had expressed an interest for a medical facility at the site, but no promises were made. Follow ups are planned and the Community Board will be kept advised.

VIII. ULURP & Zoning Committee

A. Discussion & Vote: Application #C050522ZMQ 94th Street/Corona Avenue Rezoning

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee voted to approve the redevelopment proposal because it would be better than what is there now with the modification the developer adds more greenery and more parking as the area is very congested.

Mrs. Levenson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tom McKenzie, to **approve** the proposal with the modification more parking and more greenery is provided.

Is there any discussion on the motion? called out the First Vice Chair. The Board responded no. By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

After the vote was taken, Mr. Chester stated as the project moves along if there are any changes requested by the City Planning Commission or the City Council, Mr. Chester will keep the Community Board apprised of those changes.

B. Discussion: HWQ232H – Dongan Avenue

The District Manager explained a brief narrative of this project was included in the April 2010 Newsletter. The project includes new roadway, pavement, curbs, sidewalks, water main, catch basins, sewer work, street lighting, street signage, and private utility work. There is a house on the property owned by the city. The house will have to be demolished. This project is needed because of emergency access.

C. Discussion: BSA #198-96BZ – 85-10/12 Roosevelt Avenue

A brief narrative was also included in the April 2010 Newsletter. The District Manager gave a brief history on this application, and reported this application will be referred to the ULURP Committee for discussion at its Wednesday, April 21 Committee meeting. A guest speaker from the developer on behalf of this business will be invited to attend.

IX. Transportation Committee

Vote: Street Activity Permits

A. Queens Museum of Art

Taste of Corona and Queens Art Express

Event Location: Corona Plaza National Street to 104th Street

Event Date: Saturday, June 12, 2010

Since the Transportation Committee Chair was not in attendance, the District Manager presented the report. The event is scheduled for Saturday, June 12, 2010 at Corona Plaza—National Street to 104th Street. Set up time is set for 8:00 a.m. while the start time is 11:00 a.m. to end at 5:00 p.m.

The Queens Museum conducts an event every year. This year the Queens Museum of Art will hold smaller art events throughout the neighborhoods.

Mr. Stephen Castro made a motion, seconded by Ms. Laraine Donohue, to **approve** the application. By a voice vote the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

B. Applicant: Sheba USA

Event Name: Bangladeshi Summer Street Festival

Event Location: 73 Street Roosevelt Avenue to 41st Avenue

Event Date: Saturday, June 12, 2010

C. Applicant: Sheba USA

Event Name: Bangladeshi Summer Street Festival

Event Location: 73 Street Roosevelt Avenue to 41st Avenue

Event Date: Saturday, July 31, 2010

Mr. Stephen Castro asked if this organization had conducted a street festival in the past. The District Manager responded no.

Discussion ensued and the question arose why are two events are scheduled by this group. Moreover last year on this block, a festival was held there and there were some complaints. This organization is also working with Community Board 3 on some other events. The consensus of the Board was that since this organization does not have an established track record, to look at one event and hold off on the other event.

Mr. Stephen Castro made a motion, seconded by Ms. Laraine Donohue, to **approve** the application for July 31, 2010, and to monitor the event. In the future, more applications from this organization can be considered. By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, the District Manager announced after the mailing was sent out, a representative from P. S. 307 located on Roosevelt Avenue and 99th Street requesting to hold an event on Friday, June 25 to be part of an event occurring in the school. They are requesting to close 100th Street (in front of the school) between Spruce and 40th for the safety of the students, noting the event will actually occur in the school.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Castro asked about the timeframe. The District Manager responded 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea stated the only reason she would have to object would be based on Alternate Side parking because parking in that vicinity is nil.

Mr. Tom McKenzie asked if many people live on that street. The District Manager replied there are only a few houses there.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea noted an MTA substation is also located on the street.

For the safety of the children, Mr. Stephen Castro made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D'Andrea to **approve** the application.

By a voice vote, the Board 33 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

X. Public Safety Committee

Vote: SLA Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero presented the Committee's report. The Committee held a meeting on April 5 on the following applications:

NEW APPLICANTS

| <u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u> |
|---|---|---|
| 86-22 Happy, Inc. On Premises Liquor | 86-22 Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373 | Approved |
| Global Mart, Inc. Beer Only | 77-16 Woodside Ave. Elmhurst, NY 11373 | Approved |
| LaFlaca Coffee Shop Restaurant Wine | 42-17 102 Street Corona, NY 11368 | Approved |
| La Troca Bar Restaurant Corp. On Premesis Liquor | 43-24 91 Street Elmhurst, NY 11373 | Denied. Under 200' Rule. Failure to submit SLA form. |
| San Martin Tex Restaurant Restaurant Wine | 40-32 National St. Corona, NY 11368 | Approved |
| Venecia, LLC Restaurant Wine | 111-36 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY 11368 | Hold. Issues with paperwork. |

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

| <u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u> |
|---|---|--|
| Delicias Cuencanas Bar Restaurant Restaurant Wine | 41-07 99 St. Corona, NY 11368 | Approved |
| Heroico Paysandu Inc. Restaurant Wine | 89-08 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY 11373 | Approved |
| Hornado Ecuatoriano, Corp. On Premises Liquor | 81-10 Roosevelt Ave. Elmhurst, NY 11373 | Approved |
| Mexport International, Corp. DBA El Tenampa Restaurant | 96-14 Roosevelt Ave. Corona, NY 11368 | Denied |
| Midang, Corp. Restaurant Wine | 75-14 Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373 | Approved |
| Rincon Sabroso Inc. Restaurant Wine | 86-28 Roosevelt Ave. Jackson Heights, NY 11372 | Approved |

| | | |
|--|--|----------|
| Terraza Coffee Bar & Art Corp. On Premises Liquor | 40-19 Gleane St. Elmhurst, NY 11373 | Approved |
| Thai Son Queens, Inc. Restaurant Wine | 40-10 74 Street Elmhurst, NY 11373 | Approved |

ALTERATION

| <u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u> |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| WB 44 th Avenue Rest. Corp. | 102-01 44 Avenue Corona, NY 11368 | Hold. Questions On Alteration. |

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

XI. Presentation

National Children's Study Update

Ms. Seneca Williams, Research Coordinator at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine for the National Children's Study, addressed the Board.

Ms. Williams explained the National Children's Study is a long-term project that will examine how the environment affects the health and development of children. Because of rising rates of obesity, cancer, autism and diabetes among children, the Study will examine how the environment is affecting children's health.

For the borough of Queens, the study is trying to enroll 4,000 women in the next five years in three study segments in CB 4. Recruitment last year included women between the ages of 18 -49. Now, all women between the ages of 18 -49 are eligible to participate.

Ms. Williams announced District Manager Richard Italiano and Health Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow serve on the Community Advisory Board.

Recruitment has expanded to pre-natal clinics in Queens Hospitals, and staff is based at Elmhurst Hospital. To raise awareness and stress the importance of the Study, outreach is being done by attending community events and becoming part of block associations' events etc. Also, the study is seeking people who are interested in becoming Champions for the community. These are people who live in the community willing to attend workshops to become advocates for the Study. To be updated on the Study, a Newsletter is now available. Sign up for the Newsletter. Brochures were also available.

Talk to Ms. Williams at the end of the meeting for more information.

XII. Committee Reports:

Consumer Affairs

No Report. Committee Chair not present.

Health Committee.

No Report. Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee did not meet.

Postal

Committee Chair Stephen Castro reported the mobile van is now at the 108 Street & 51 Avenue location three days a week. Encourage your neighbors and merchants to utilize the van. The Postmaster cautioned if it does not generate income, the van will be removed. Ms. Laraine Donohue said more needs to be done to let the public know it is there.

Mr. Nick Pennachio asked about Saturday deliveries. Mr. Castro responded that is still being worked on in Washington. If there is Saturday non-delivery, the local post offices will be open for packages, buying stamps and mailings. It has nothing to do with the operation of the Post Office on that day. Mail carriers would not deliver mail to individual residents on Saturdays.

The Committee Chair announced the next meeting of the Committee is May 19 at 12 Noon.

At this point, the District Manager asked about the change of hours at the Lefrak Post Office. Mr. Castro responded it is on hold due to the Saturday delivery talks.

Environmental

Committee Chair Tom McKenzie reported a meeting was held on March 31 and no one was in attendance except the Committee Chair. Mr. McKenzie requested at the next District Cabinet meeting to ask the Sanitation Department why five litter baskets have disappeared on Queens Blvd. Someone is taking the baskets and putting them in another district.

Mr. Jim Lisa added on 108th Street by Veterans Park, Sanitation threw the baskets in the back of the truck and took them away.

Mr. McKenzie added on Queens Blvd./Dongan, Cornish, Barnwell, and Albion Avenues have all disappeared.

Mr. Pennachio added the baskets on Queens Boulevard opposite Queens Place to the Grand Avenue Station should be removed because they are filled with household garbage.

Ms. Beth Anna Moon Ray Ferguson reported on a \$100 Sanitation summons she had received for garbage. She went to court, fought it, and the summons was dismissed. She had presented photographs before and after of the dumping to the judge. Her recommendation was to fight the ticket because homeowners are being targeted.

Parks

Committee Chair Tony Caminiti reported the Committee met on March 25 at the Board office. At that time, Mr. Italiano distributed a letter that he received from Community Board 5 requesting if the Board would consider a dog run in New Elmhurst Park, the former site of the gas tanks.

Mr. Caminiti read the Board's response to Community Board 5:

“In reply to your letter dated March 16 on behalf of the Dog Run Sub Committee of CB 5 Parks Services Committee, CB4Q's Parks and Recreation Committee met to discuss the request.

At the meeting the Board members stated Elmhurst Park is designed to be passive in nature and 6.2 acres is too small to accommodate a dog run. The Committee stated a dog run would not be appropriate for the intended use of the park. Additionally, Community Board 4 has not received any requests from the residents of Elmhurst regarding a dog run in Elmhurst.

Currently, Community Board 4 has a dog run for the residents of Elmhurst in Veterans Grove Park located at 43 Avenue/Judge Street and Whitney Avenue, which we feel is sufficient for the needs of the community.”

Youth

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported a Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, at Elmhurst Hospital, at 6:30 p.m. Invited guest speaker is Patricia Safina, Administrative Assistant, Community Education Council #24, who will speak about the drastic effects impending budget cuts will have on our schools. School closings are a very real possibility.

Committee Chair Salas also reported on an upcoming community meeting with Chancellor Joel Klein at PS/IS 87, 67-54 80 Street, at 6:00 p.m., on Monday, April 12. Flyers will be available with more information. Teachers’ jobs are at risk.

At this point, the District Manager urged all to return their census forms and gave an update on the census in the Board area. A census worker is based at the Board office every day from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. So far, the response has been dismal. The Census Bureau will have a van stationed at Corona Plaza, Friday, April 9. On Saturday, April 10, the Census Bureau will conduct its “March to the Mailbox” campaign. Volunteers will be on hand urging residents to mail back their completed 2010 census form. Talk to your friends and neighbors to return the census form because we need to get a good count to get our share of services for our community.

XIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. James Lisa brought up the problem of cars parked without license plates and cars parked with out of state license plates. Mr. Lisa asked everyone to call the Community Board office at 718-760-3141 to report any of those cars. Mark down the time, place, make and model of the vehicle. With a for sale car, the same information is needed plus the phone number written on the car. Submit the information to the Community Board 4 office.

A list will be compiled as not only does this practice constitute insurance fraud but also valuable parking spots are used. More details on the ramifications of having those cars in the district were provided.. Everyone of the Community Board was asked to participate in this campaign. Talk to your friends and neighbors and enlist their help.

Preferably, the District Manager asked instead of calling please e-mail him the information at:

cb4q@nyc.rr.com

Next, Ms. Beth Anna Moon Ray Ferguson brought up the fact that new trees are being planted but the city is not taking care of its existing ones. The Parks Department is not pruning trees, and as a result leaves and branches are falling.

Also to make room for the new trees, the Parks Dept had removed parking and school safety signs and left them lying on the sidewalk, which is dangerous for the children.

She questioned, why spend money to plant more trees and not take care of the ones already there?

The District Manager said he would look into the matter.

There being no further business, Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stephen Castro, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.