



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona and Elmhurst

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Helen Marshall
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Anthony R. Moreno
Chairperson

Barry Grodenchik
Deputy Borough President
Director of Community Boards

Richard Italiano
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 07, 2010

TIME: 7:40 P.M.

PLACE: BPO ELKS LODGE #878
82-20 QUEENS BOULEVARD
ELMHURST, NY 11373

I. Chairperson Tony Moreno called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. First Vice Chair Louis Walker took the attendance. A quorum was present.

IV. Vote: Minutes June 1, 2010 CB Meeting

Correction to the Minutes: Mr. Tom McKenzie noted on page 2, third paragraph. The paragraph should have read, "The \$140,000 (*not \$80,000*) funding for the new art exhibit does not mention George Washington."

At this point, Chairperson Moreno called for a vote. Mr. Nick Pennachio made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lucy Schilero, to **accept** the minutes with the noted correction.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 31 in favor, 0 opposed with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

V. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

No Report.

VI. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Moreno said our thoughts and prayers are with the District Manager and many good wishes were extended for his speedy recovery. Chairperson Moreno also addressed Ms. Roseann Geirger, member of the Sunshine Committee, to propose a get-well Basket of Fruit be sent to the District Manager. By a general consensus, Mrs. Geirger as well as the entire Board wholeheartedly agreed.

Taking into account the long, hot summer and the added responsibilities, Chairperson Moreno was very impressed with the work of the Board office staff and commended their performance. A round of applause was

given. Mr. Moreno praised the contributions and dedication of each staff member. Mr. Moreno also expressed heartfelt thoughts the District Manager has a speedy recovery because he is very much missed and needed. Whoever wished to send the District Manager a card, please send it to the Board office where it will be forwarded out.

At this point, Mr. Tom McKenzie requested for upcoming Board meetings, two guest speakers be invited to address the Board. The first speaker to be invited would be from the NYC Commission to Combat Police Corruption, where a million dollars a year is spent. Secondly, invite a representative from the NYC Fire Department; a presentation was made about two years ago, for an update on the special school created for NYC public high school graduates who can't pass the police and firemen's test. What progress was made during that time? Does the money spent benefit those that it is supposed to benefit, Mr. McKenzie inquired.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Mr. Joe Noverino, representing Council Member Karen Koslowitz, said the Council Member sends her regards.

Before proceeding to the next agenda item, Mr. Tom McKenzie reported he had contacted Council Member Daniel Dromm on the vital issue of school closings. The Elmhurst community and the neighboring community of Woodside lost three Catholic schools: St. Bartholomew, Ascension, and St. Mary's, were closed and leased to the city. Mr. McKenzie questioned how much the city is paying St. Bartholomew's parish, and especially how much of that money is coming back to the parish, noting all three parishes are not in the best financial condition.

IX. PRESENTATIONS

A. BPO Elks Lodge #878

Before the first guest speaker began his presentation, the Board Chair said some thought should be given to changing the Board's meeting date from the first Tuesday of the month to perhaps the first Wednesday of the month so that Board meetings can be held at the Elks Lodge. Currently, the Elks Lodge also meets on the first Tuesday of the month, which makes the meeting room unavailable to the Board. The Board Chair praised the wonderful accommodations of the Elks' meeting room. In view of the conflict, the Board Chair announced the October 5 meeting of the Board will be held at the VFW in Corona.

Next, Mr. Thomas Rudzewick, Trustee Chairman, Brooklyn-Queensborough Elks #878 BPO reported the organization's initials B.P.O.E stand for Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks. The Elks handle many different types of community and organizational functions, which support many of the activities that are important to community residents.

The Elks was established in 1887 in New York City and are the second oldest fraternal order in the USA. The principles of the Elks are Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity.

- Programs offered by B.P.O. Elks
- Veterans Services
- Americanism
- Youth Activities
- ---Antlers (Junior Elks)
- Scholarships
- ---ENF – Elks National Foundation

Scholarships are offered for graduating high school seniors. The Elks national foundation ENF gives away almost \$3 million a year throughout the country.

The Elks comprises 1,000,000 members and over 2,000 lodges throughout the United States. Brooklyn-Queensborough was started in 1901 in Long Island City and relocated in 1924 to Elmhurst. In 1947, the Elks donated over \$1 million to New York City Hospitals, including a brand new ambulance and five iron lungs.

In 1955, membership peaked at 7,000 members, the second largest facility in the country. In 2009, the merger of Brooklyn Lodge occurred and now Brooklyn-Queensborough is serving nearly 5 million citizens in New York City.

Mr. Rudzewick updated the Board on events sponsored by B/Q Elks 878 Today such as:

- Renovated Lodge to hold community activities
- Hosts monthly bingo nights & breakfast socials at St. Albans VA Hospital
- Conducted Flag Day ceremony with color presentation by United States Coast Guard
- Established S/E NYS first Antler Lodge enrolling nearly 50 young people.
- 2010 donated \$10,000 to ENF and \$5,000 to UCP
- Served 300 Thanksgiving Day Dinners to needy families

For B/Q Elks 878 Tomorrow, Mr. Rudzewick outlined plans for Tomorrow:

- Offer Veterans Services to Ft. Hamilton VA Hospital
- Continue to honor the Flag of our Country
- Expand Antler Program
- Increase our donations through fundraising
- Establish a Senior Citizen Program

In conclusion, the Elks have a continued cooperative effort to serve the neighborhood represented in Elksdom.

A Thank You was extended to the Board for this presentation opportunity.

At this point, Mr. Rudzewick took questions from the Board. Can anyone join, asked Mr. George Onuorah. Mr. Rudzewick said men, women and children can join if they are an American citizen and believe in God.

Mr. Gurdip Singh Narula asked about hall rentals. Mr. Rudzewick responded hall rentals must come through the House Committee and must be sponsored by one of the Elks members, since the Elks is a private fraternal organization. Ms. Rovenia McGowan asked how the Elks name evolved. Mr. Rudzewick said the Elks are a symbol of strength and power.

A Board member asked about membership fees for the young people. Mr. Rudzewick responded the membership fees for The Antlers is picked up by the Elks members. An application must be filled out and sent in.

Membership to the Elks is \$69.00 a year, which includes the gymnasium facility upstairs with work-out equipment. Expansion plans for some of that space is underway. Membership for the gym is additional or \$200 in total.

Before concluding, Mr. Rudzewick said hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to Midnight, seven days a week. A lounge is situated in the corner of the building and they do hold a liquor license as a fraternal order.

B. Powerhouse Formerly Baby's First Home

Ms. Amanda Roposo, Co-Founder, Co-Director, and Gina Braham, addressed the Board. An update was being presented on the progress and changes that have occurred and also to enlist guidance and advice to help make this program very successful. Powerhouse NYC is a two-year supportive housing program for pregnant and parenting young mothers outside the foster care system.

The floor was turned over to Ms. Braham who reported new changes will be discussed as well as to share future plans for Powerhouse and later on questions will be answered. Suggestions the Board gave at the last presentation (over a year ago) will also be discussed.

Speaking about the program, Ms. Roposo reported Powerhouse is a two year supportive housing program for young mothers ages 17-21. Powerhouse is a place where teen mothers can live with their babies while acquiring skills to sustain independent lives.

At the last presentation, the Board had expressed concern about security at the facility. Ms. Roposo reported the organization has provided supervisors 24 hours/7 days a week.

Another Board concern was preventative services. Not only to run a healthy program for young mothers, but also to educate on health and wellness issues, an eco-friendly community garden is grown in partnership with neighbors and local youth. Health and wellness issues, nutrition and cooking skills and entrepreneurship are taught as produce is used not only to consume but to market and sell for Powerhouse. This project fills a gap and provides an opportunity to educate participants about the importance of proper nutrition and how to eat well on a budget.

Third, the Board had asked priority be given to the young mothers from Elmhurst.

Anyone with a history of drugs or mental illness is not accepted into the program. Supportive services such as mental health are also offered.

Additionally, the Board had asked it to be more of a community based organization. Programs were developed to accommodate this suggestion. Leadership labs also were created to meet this need.

Also, the Board asked after the seniors were transferred out, how they would become financially independent. Consultants were asked to help develop a program. A program has been developed to meet those needs and further guidance is sought. Upon graduating from Powerhouse, residents will be integrated into their communities, having acquired the skills they need to break out of welfare dependency and become financially independent.

Ms. Braham reported last semester students from NYU College of Nursing provided one-on-one motivational interviewing sessions regarding health personal choices, as well as health teaching in group setting on topics such as well and sick baby care, infant and general nutrition, exercise and wellness, to name a few. Workshops were held at the local high school, which were very successful.

To provide the best and most effective services, Powerhouse NYC has partnered with a number of organizations, including the New York University College of Nursing, Community Seeds, Inc. and the Fashion Institute of Technology.

Although Powerhouse NYC has been donated the use of a 6-unit building in Elmhurst and won a seed grant of \$11,000, it currently does not have enough funding to open its residential program. The current budget for Powerhouse is \$200,000 for the first year.

Ms. Braham said a fact sheet entitled, “Our Mission, Your Testimony” was on the back table. Please fill it out and let them know your thoughts. In order to receive the funding to make their mission possible, Powerhouse NYC must show they are important to the community and how their service will benefit the community. Also knowing any health, social services agency that Powerhouse could partner with would be appreciated.

At this point, questions were taken from the Board. Questions ranged from funding to education to child care to job opportunities.

X. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Vote: SLA Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero presented the Committee’s report.

NEW APPLICANTS

| <u>Establishment’s Name</u> | <u>Establishment’s Address</u> | <u>Committee Recommendation</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Los Dos Potrillos dba Los 3 Potrillos Rest. Restaurant Wine | 40-20 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY | Approved |

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

| <u>Establishment’s Name</u> | <u>Establishment’s Address</u> | <u>Committee Recommendation</u> |
|---|--|--|
| BBQ Chicken Don Alex II Inc. Restaurant Wine | 106-24 & 26 Corona Avenue Corona, NY | Approved |
| El Cisne Corp. dba Vinicio’s Rest. On Premises Liquor | 108-10 41 Avenue Corona, NY | Denied. Disorderly conduct. Noisy patrons. Two criminal Court summonses for after hours Sales and consumption. |
| El Nuevo Dorado Restaurant Restaurant Wine | 40-13 82 Street Elmhurst, NY | Approved |
| La Chola Poblana Inc. Eating Place Beer | 101-10 43 Avenue Corona, NY | Approved |
| Mirinea Inc. dba Timmy’s Deli Eating Place Beer | 111-02 Roosevelt Avenue | Approved |
| Paraiso Colombiano Restaurant Corp. Restaurant Wine | 106-20 Corona Avenue Corona, NY | Approved |
| Sun Restaurant NY Inc. Restaurant Wine | 71-26 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY | Approved |
| Talo’s Pizzeria Rest. Inc. Restaurant Wine | 58-28 99 Street Corona, NY | Denied. Failure to file official NYSLA Renewal form, and respond to CB 4’s requests for more information—3 rd attempt |

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| Tashi Delek Inc. dba Wasabi Point Restaurant Wine | 76-18 Woodside Avenue Elmhurst, NY | by the Board. Approved |
| Queens High Pearl Seaford Restaurant Inc. | 82-22 45 th Avenue Elmhurst, NY | Approved |
| Xiotis Restaurant Corp. Dba Silver Spoon Diner | 58-21 Junction Blvd. Elmhurst, NY | Approved |

Mr. James Lisa made a motion, seconded by Ms. Georgina Oliver, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented. By a voice vote, the Board voted 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Before the Transportation Committee Chair presented his report, Mr. Tom McKenzie informed the Board Krystal's Bar is scheduled to re-open. The largest night club is not in the city, but in Elmhurst. It will be three stories high, 100' deep, and 100' wide.

Ms. Schilero reported the Public Safety Committee met in July on this establishment and voted no. More details were given on this business why it should not be placed in our community.

XI. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

- A. Warren Street Traffic Calming**
- B. Lewis Avenue One Way Request**
- C. Street Renaming Guida's Way**

Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported on a letter received at the Board office from an area resident who is requesting Warren Street south of Roosevelt Avenue be converted to a one-way operation in order to improve the quality of life of the community.

The letter cited mobile vending food truck and carts located on Warren Street create much waste. Customers come to buy their food and sit on the porches to eat where they loiter and throw garbage on the sidewalk. Cars park on Warren Street to eat blocking garage pathways. Besides having to clean up after their customers, violations and fines are issued to property owners because of the garbage strewn about.

According to the resident, the one way would help the traffic flow to avoid accidents there especially for the children. This one way street would force the food vendors out of Warren Street, creating a cleaner environment for the community.

Chair Joseph DiMartino introduced to the Board the determination from DOT Queens Borough Commissioner Maura McCarthy's opposing the one-way street conversion, but with the recommendation of daylighting the intersection of Warren Street and Roosevelt Avenue, an opposing statement from the 110th Precinct, and additional correspondence opposing the proposed street conversion.

Furthermore Committee Chair DiMartino read Commissioner McCarthy's recommendation that daylighting the intersection of Warren Street and Roosevelt Avenue would result in the removal of one meter parking space on the east side and two meter parking spaces from the west side of Warren Street in order to give motorists sufficient and safe turning movements and ease the congestion at Warren Street and Roosevelt Avenue caused by the street food vendors.

B. Lewis Avenue One Way Request

Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported on another request to convert Lewis Avenue and 103 Street from a two way operation to a one way.

The area resident wrote the intersection of Lewis Avenue and 103 Street is extremely dangerous, especially when driving on Lewis Avenue toward 103 Street. Every day several drivers are making sharp lefts off 103 Street onto Lewis. Due to cars parked on both Lewis Avenue and 103 Street, visibility is reduced to zero. It's a miracle that no one has been killed up to now. Lewis must be converted to a one way street so all the drivers making left turns from 103 Street onto Lewis will not have to about oncoming traffic approaching the intersection. All drivers will only be allowed to drive one way toward 102 Street.

C. Street Renaming: Guida's Way

Committee Chair DiMartino reported on a letter written by Phyllis Guida, widow of Bobby Guida who passed away on March 11, 2009. Bobby was a funeral director and co-owner of Guida Funeral Home in Corona. According to excerpts from Mrs. Guida's letter, Bobby helped people in their most dire hour of need by treating them as family, not clients. He was someone that members of the community could trust and count on to be there to help out with whatever they needed whether it was a charitable donation, advice and counsel, or just someone who would listen. He treated everyone with whom he came in contact respectably. He had the rare quality of making people feel good just by being in his presence—his smile and personality just made life better!

Accordingly, she requested that the corner of 104 Street and 48 Avenue (across from the funeral home) and adjacent to St. Leo's Church be re-named.

Committee Chair DiMartino said Mr. Guida was very active in the community. He was a terrific gentleman who passed away last year. Active in the church, in senior citizen affairs, and with the youth of the community, as well as his many generous contributions with both time and money, Mr. Guida was well known to the people of Corona.

Committee Chair DiMartino reported the Committee approved this request.

Mr. Tom McKenzie asked would a sign for Mr. Guida be placed under the existing street sign. Chairperson DiMartino said yes. The street name would not actually be changed.

Ms. Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Ms. Priscilla Carrow, to **accept** the Committee's report.

Before the vote was taken, however, Mr. Tom McKenzie recapped the position taken for each proposal presented by the Transportation Committee:

A. Warren Street – The Committee was not in agreement with the resident's request to convert Warren Street between Roosevelt Avenue and 42nd Avenue from two-way operation to a one-way. However, the Committee agreed with the findings of Maura McCarthy, Borough Commissioner, Department of Transportation that the one-way conversion of Warren Street was not recommended. However, daylighting the intersection of Warren Street and Roosevelt Avenue, according to the specifications outlined in the Borough Commissioner's letter was recommended.

B. Lewis Avenue – The Committee recommended DOT do a traffic study to determine the feasibility of this request.

C. Street Renaming - The Committee approved renaming 104th Street and 48th Avenue (across from the funeral home) in honor of Bobby Guida.

At this point, Chairperson Moreno read a statement into the record from Police Officer Garland, that the 110 Precinct was opposed to the one way conversion for Warren Street and to keep the existing street a two-way operation.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

ULURP & Zoning

No Report. Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee did not meet.

Consumer Affairs

No Report. Committee Chair Helen Landaverde reported the Committee did not meet.

Health

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

Postal

Committee Chair Stephen Castro reported the mobile van was absent for about three weeks because there are only two drivers--one per van. One driver was on vacation. The van should be back at its post on this upcoming Wednesday.

The next Postal Committee meeting is scheduled for September 15 at 12 Noon at the Post Office located at 59-01 Junction Blvd., Elmhurst. All were invited to attend. Any concerns concerning the mail or packages lost in transit, call the Board office who will relay the information to Mr. Castro.

At this point, Mr. Rovenia McGowan complimented her mail carrier. Please inform the post office of her excellent service.

Next, Mr. Castro reported on the modification of the hours at the post office. This request is still being worked on. Currently, the hours are 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. When implemented, the new hours of operation will be from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Environmental

On behalf of the Committee of one, Committee Chair Tom McKenzie reported the Committee did not meet. Litter baskets on Queens Blvd. are overflowing, Instead, of emptying the baskets, they are removed by the Sanitation Dept.

Also mentioned were the Cable Company's cables hanging down on the street that were disconnected from buildings and just laying there, citing Cornish Avenue.. On September 20, a hearing will be held at a local civic association where the head of the Public Service Committee in New York City will speak and enlist advice of the Newtown Civic Association.

Next, trailer trucks that park overnight and in defiance of the 3-hour traffic rules were reported on.

Furthermore, advertisements hung on the poles with tear off phone numbers advertising rooms for rent was brought up. The lack of ticketing a specific truck was cited.

Moreover, property owners are renting out single rooms, making the property rooming houses. Tear off advertisements with contact phone are placed on street poles. Police and Fire Department are alerted to this practice of over-occupancy.

Parks

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Youth

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported on a Community Education Council meeting held on September 1, 2010. Copies of the minutes of this meeting were distributed and explained to the Board.

Additionally, copies of a new article carried in the Queens Gazette on the drop in State test scores was reported on by the Committee Chair.

Details were provided. The new schools and/or annex in District 24 were mentioned.

A Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for September 21, at 6:30 p.m., at Elmhurst Hospital Conference Room A1-15. Transform America will give a presentation on the NYC initiative to start new youth councils in all NYC Community Boards. All were urged to attend.

PUBLIC FORUM

Board member Alirio Orduna reported on the New York Military Youth Cadets three day trip to Washington D.C. Photographs of the trip were on display at the meeting.

It was an honor to represent the entire Queens community, New York City and New York State, said Mr. Orduna. During the trip to Washington, the Cadets visited the Pentagon, the Marine Corps., Arlington Cemetery, the White House, and the Lincoln Memorial to name a few of the sites. The Cadets were invited on this trip by the United States Army.

Mr. Orduna explained he started the organization with no money and worked very hard to make it what it is today. Today, the organization counts among its membership doctors, nurses, teachers, and officers.

At Arlington Cemetery, the Cadets were asked to place a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldiers, which contained the bodies of the soldiers who fought in World War I and II. Also while in Washington, the cadets spent time on a Navy destroyer ship.

Board Member Orduna relayed it was a remarkable experience and one that will be remembered for a long time. It was both an honor and privilege and he was very happy and proud.

There being no further business, Ms. Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Miriam Levenson, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.