

Community Board 1
OCTOBER 16, 2012

Mr. Donato opened the meeting at 7p.m. by introducing the Queens Deputy Borough President Barry Grodenchik. Mr. Grodenchik thanked the Board for having him and presented service awards to Board members who were unable to attend the Borough President's presentation. They were Rosemarie Poveromo and Anthony Gigantiello for 10 years, Ann Bruno and Jean Marie D'Alleva for 15 Years, Norma Nieves-Blas for 25 Years, George Stamatiades for 30 years, Linda Perno, Mr. Jerry Caliendo and Ms. Elizabeth Erion for 35 years. He ended by noting the important role of the Community Boards.

Mr. Donato called on Ms. Frances Luhmann McDonald who wanted to bring to the attention of the Board the decision made by the Circuit Court of lower part of NY and how it will effect the voting locations regarding handicapped accessibility. She used as an example, PS2. This school will no longer be used because it is not handicapped accessible. All those that voted at PS2 will now have to go to PS84. PS84 will be overcrowded so a certain percentage of those voters will be sent to PS 85 etc... She gave further example of the confusion. She spoke to the Board of Elections to assist in straightening out the confusion for many. The Board of Elections has agreed that they will re-notify everyone of their voting location for Election Day. Ms. McDonald cautioned all.

Mr. Joseph Risi, Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee, read item #1445109 – Premises 21-29 Steinway Street (Victory Sweet Shop). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 18 seats. Mr. Jaiyoo, representing the owners, came up on behalf of the applicant. Mr. Jaiyoo stated that Victory Sweet Shop has been open for 25 years and recently it was renovated and enlarged. Mr. Risi asked what the hours of operation are and if they have a liquor license. Mr. Jaiyoo stated that they are open from 10am to 2am Sunday through Saturday and they have a full liquor license. Mr. Risi asked how long they had the liquor license. Mr. Jaiyoo stated they received it 5 months ago. He then asked if they will have waiter service outside and if they were aware of the restricted hours of an outdoor café and the restrictions of enclosing an outdoor café and the prohibition of smoking outside. Mr. Jaiyoo stated yes and he has informed the owners and will insure they comply. Mr. Risi asked if there were any apartments above the restaurant. Mr. Jaiyoo stated that there are 2 apartments. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had any questions for the applicant. Mr. Kevin Mullarkey asked if they have music. Mr. Jaiyoo stated that they have background music inside the restaurant. Ms. McDonald asked if they own the building. Mr. Jaiyoo replied "Yes." Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this application. Ms. Carol Anderson, resident next door, stated that the owner has expanded the café and she objects to the outdoor café due to the noise that will be coming into her apartment from the outdoor cafe. You can see people standing outside the building near the garbage in the small alley smoking. The café's garbage is pick-up in the early morning hours now takes longer since they have expanded it and it creates more noise. She wishes them well but does not need more tables outside the café. Ms. Elizabeth Gavro, adjacent resident, stated that the café owners are good neighbors and does not object to the outdoor café but, since the seating will be outside she is concerned with the noise that will come from it. She stated that she is a nurse and gets up at 5am for a 7am shift. She stressed that she needs to be on top of her game to perform her job. She stated that the garbage is near the front of the building and she has found cigarette butts and is concerned about a fire. Mr. Miguel Nunez, adjacent resident, stated that the owners of the café are great people and they do a tremendous job, but the liquor and smoking can cause people to be careless and can easily become an issue. The noise until 12 am or 1am does bother him and would like the owner to address those issues. No further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #1160619 – Premises 35-25 Steinway Street (Steinway Billiards & Café). An application to renew the permit to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 10 tables and 20 seats. Mr. Robert Callaghan, expediter, stated that they are present to renew their license and there have been no changes in

the hours, no outdoor music, no apartments above and no changes in management. Mr. Risi asked if they have a liquor license and do they serve food. Mr. Callaghan stated that they have a liquor license and serve sandwiches and burgers like a diner. Mr. Risi asked if they have any violations in the last 2 years and what were the hours of operation. Mr. Callaghan stated that there were no violations that he is aware of and they close at 12am Sunday to Thursday and close 1am Friday and Saturday. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. There was no one. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. Item closed.

The next item #1219506 – Premises 29-20 30th Avenue (Plaza Patisserie). An application to renew the permit to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 14 tables and 37 seats. Mr. Antonios Mamiuanis, came on behalf of the applicant. Mr. Risi asked what type of food they served, hours of operation, and if they had a liquor license. Mr. Mamiuanis stated that they serve salads, sandwiches, wraps, and they have a full liquor license and are open from 9am to 12am Sunday to Thursday and 9am to 1am on Friday and Saturday. Mr. Risi asked if they had any violation since their last renewal. Mr. Mamiuanis replied “No.” Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. There was no one. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. Item closed.

The next item #1238509 – Premises 34-01 30th Avenue (Ovelia Restaurant). An application to renew the permit to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 20 tables and 40 seats. Mr. Robert Callaghan represented the owner. The café is a full service restaurant with a full liquor license. There is background music inside. There is a dentist office above which is closed in the evening and an apartment on the second floor. They close at 12am from Sunday to Thursday and 1am on Friday and Saturday. Mr. Risi asked how long they have been in operation, how long they had their outdoor café and if they had any violations. Mr. Callaghan stated that they have been in operation for approximately 8 years, this is their 3 application for an outdoor café and there are no violations. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had any questions for the applicant. There was no one. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. Item closed.

The next item #1299566 – Premises 38-01 31st Avenue (Point Brazil). An application to renew the permit to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 8 tables and 32 seats. Mr. Michael Kay came up on behalf of the application and stated that they have been in operation for 4 years with no changes, no outdoor music, no liquor license and they close at 12am on weekdays and close at 1am on the weekends, no violations, and no changes since the last renewal. Mr. Risi asked what they serve at their restaurant. Mr. Kay stated that they have a full service Brazilian food. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had any questions for the applicant. Ms. Linda Perno asked if it was a place where you bring your own liquor. Mr. Kay replied “No.” Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. Item closed.

The next item #1103683 – Premises 30-95 33rd Street (Brick Café). An application to renew the permit to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 12 tables and 30 seats. Mr. Steve Wygoda, architect, stated that there has been no changes and no violations since their last renewal. This is their 12th year of having an outdoor café. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Seeing no one. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. There was no one. Item closed.

The next item #1169199 – Premises 29-05 23rd Avenue (Zorba’s). An application to renew the permit to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 18 seats. Mr. Spiro Deftereos, owner’s son, stated they have no violations and there have been no changes since their last renewal. Mr. Risi asked how long have they been in operation. Mr. Deftereos replied “8 Years.” Mr. Risi asked if they had any violations

since their last renewal. Mr. Deftereos replied “No.”. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Seeing no one. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. There was no one. Item closed.

VOTING SESSION:

Mr. Risi reiterated public hearing item from the Board of Standards #1445109 – Premises 21-29 Steinway Street (Victory Sweet Shop). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 18 seats. Mr. Risi stated the committee recommends approval of the application subject to the restriction of closing hours to 11pm and the prohibition of outdoor music and smoking, seconded by Ms. Linda Perno. Mr. Risi stated that the applicant has agreed to the stipulation and will sign an agreement. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 6 Against.

The next item #1160619 – Premises 35-25 Steinway Street (Steinway Billiards & Café). An application to renew the permit to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 10 tables and 20 seats. Mr. Risi stated the committee recommends approval of the application, seconded by Ms. Norma Nieves-Blas. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #1219506 – Premises 29-20 30th Avenue (Plaza Patisserie). An application to renew the permit to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 14 tables and 37 seats. Mr. Risi stated the committee recommends approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Peter Pallos. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #1238509 – Premises 34-01 30th Avenue (Ovelia Restaurant). An application to renew the permit to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 20 tables and 40 seats. Mr. Risi stated the committee recommends approval of the application, seconded by Mr. George Alexiou. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #1299566 – Premises 38-01 31th Avenue (Point Brazil). An application to renew the permit to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 8 tables and 32 seats. Mr. Risi stated the committee recommends approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Peter Pallos. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #1103683 – Premises 30-95 33rd Street (Brick Café). An application to renew the permit to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 12 tables and 30 seats. Mr. Risi stated the committee recommends approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Peter Pallos. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

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GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Ms. Shawn Slevin, Swim Strong Foundation, Inc., stated that they are a 501c3 non-profit in 2 locations one in Queens and one in Brooklyn providing swimming lessons. The foundation was formed 7 years ago to make it affordable for people of all ages to learn how to swim. Ms. Slevin gave several examples of adults and children who drown each year. Swim Strong Foundation offers a scholarship program. Their program has 55 competitive swimmers who give swimming lessons. They have taught approximately 2,000 people the youngest has been 3 years of age. They have had 18 competitive swimmers who have pursued swimming on their HS and college swim teams, a few have gone on to join the Coast Guard, Navy, Commercial Diving and the US Diving Team. Additional information can be

obtained on their website www.theswimstrongfoundation.org. Ms. Antonella DiSaverino asked if they would bring the program to LIC. Ms. Slevin stated that they have worked with the Boys and Girls Club previously and the pool rental was extremely expensive. They currently use the Flushing Meadow Pool, Far Rockaway HS, and Brooklyn Sports Club.

Ms Martha Lopez-Gilpin, Co-Chair of the Astoria Park Alliance (APA) stated she was representing the suggestions of APA and Greenshore NYC regarding a proposed Ski Program in Astoria Park. The proposal is to provide ski instructions for youth 8 to 10 years, Saturdays and Sundays, from January 26th through March 3rd. Non-participants will have use of the man-made beginner slopes Monday through Friday when the program is not in session. On behalf of both APA and Greenshore they are recommending that working parents, and the children they supervise, will not have week day access during primetime hours. They propose that the program temporarily fence off a section of the hill on weekends dedicated to ski instruction as stated in the proposal. This will allow non-participating community families access to a portion of the lawn and create a lot of terrific buzz for the program from onlookers. Other options that were discussed were to shorten the hours and limit it to either Saturday or Sunday. Participant would be transported up and down the hill on a custom made sled attached to a snowmobile. If the snowmobile starts to dig into the lawn, they ask that an alternative be provided. They are also requesting an EIS to be done and any environmental damage that is created be immediately remedied. Also that multi-language efforts of outreach are used to promote the program, as well as, the local library branches and the schools to register children who might not have access to computers at home. They feel that this program is a good pilot project.

Mr. Joe Ferrante stated that the electric bikes that are being seen all around town are illegal and not recognized by the DMV. Every restaurant has them as modes of delivery service. He is not sure what has to happen to give businesses that used them violations and get them off the street. They are driven at night on the roads without light and can cause an accident. He stated that the Queens Kickshaw restaurant on Broadway wants to have a bike corral in front of their premise. He is against it; there is a tremendous space at the library across the street on the southwest corner of 41st St/Broadway outside the library that would fit bike racks. He also had a petition with over 500 signatures which came from the crossing guard at 43rd Street and 31st Avenue and Newtown Avenue regarding the 5 way intersection. It is very dangerous and the traffic lights are not in sync with the crosswalk signals. He has requested that the signals be check and corrected around that intersection. In the petition there is a request for turning signals as well. Mr. Donato asked that the petition be submitted to the Board.

Ms. Palma (Illegible) stated that she has obtained 200 plus signatures regarding the lack of Sanitation Enforcement on Ditmars Blvd. The store keepers over the last few months have not been keeping the place clean. She and other resident feel that the businesses need to keep Ditmars Blvd clean. Mr. Donato asked her to give him the information and the Board will look into it.

BUSINESS SESSION:

Mr. Donato motioned to accept the minutes of September's Board meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Khuzami. Motion called and carried unanimously.

Mr. Donato then welcomed back Ann Bruno and Jean Marie D'Alleva after their recent illness.

Ms. Lucille Hartmann, District Manager, reported that QPTV has an internship Program which Provides College Students with the opportunity to earn credit towards their degree while getting real world experience in both the technical and administrative aspect of TV. If anyone is interested in the program they should give the Board a call. She went on to say that she is please to report that the CB1 has a website that can be accessed by going to nyc.gov and then community boards.

Ms. Elizabeth Erion, Chair of the Capital and Expense Committee, referred all members to a copy of the Capital and Expense Budget Committee's priority recommendations for the Capital and Expense Budget for 2014. Ms. Erion noted the Expense Budget covers administrative budget for the City's agencies and stated the committee is recommending the priorities as submitted last year. Mr. Stamatiades motioned to accept the proposed Expense Budget items as submitted, seconded by Mr. Babor. Motion called and carried. Ms. Erion then went on to the Capital Budget and asked if there was anyone who had questions. There were two new items on the budget list number 2 and number 23. Ms. Erion stated that the number 2 proposal is to resolve the problem of handicapped accessible at PS 2. The other is number 23, Real Time Traffic boards on the approach to the Queensborough /Koch Bridge into Manhattan. The third issue she brought up was the # 1 priority chosen by the committee. The Board has in the past listed this item as a parking lot over the Grand Central Parkway (GCP). There is now a possibility of some Federal funding , to assist with City and State funding to develop , the GCP overpass as a Community enhancement project with amenities, e.g. green spaces, gathering space and including parking. Ms. Erion also noted that there are items on the list that have been funded but should remain to their conclusions. Mr. Khuzami suggested #23 should read partial funding and given a higher priority. Mr. Donato suggested moving it to 6A(7). Mr. Stamatiades motioned to accept the budget with the changes, seconded by Mr. Babor. Motion called and carried.

Mr. Richard Khuzami, Chair of Parks & Recreation/Cultural Affairs/OTB Committee, reported that he attended that Park Consultation with Ms. Hartmann and it showed that the Capitol/Expense Budget does work and gave examples such as the sea wall at Queensbridge which did receive funding and work will be starting shortly. The fences around the Athens Square Park have been completed however, the paving and handicapped ramp will be installed in the Spring. He reviewed several other items that were on the list and their status. He then went on to the Parks Committee recommendation for the Astoria Park Pilot Snow Skiing Program motioned that Community Board 1 supports the City Park Foundation's Pilot Snow Skiing program in Astoria Park with the additional stipulations 1) the placement of the storage and shop containers in the area that minimize the visual impact on the surrounding homes, 2) should the project have any detrimental impact a commitment is made to replace and repair damages, and 3) priority is to be given to the children within District 1, motioned seconded by Ms. Nieves. There will be a nurse on site during the events. Mr. Donato called for a vote to accept the motion as recommended. Motion called and carried. Mr. Khuzami added that October 20th will be Its My Park Day at Astoria Park from 10am to 1pm, all are welcomed. Supplies and refreshments will be supplied by volunteers.

Mr. Antonio Meloni, Chair of Public Safety Committee, reported that Astoria Park Alliance and Green Shores NYC have done a great job all summer. He also reported next week here will be a meeting at Ricarrdos to address the new regulations governing restaurants.

Mr. John Carusone, Chair of Zoning & Variance Committee, reported that there was a meeting last week regarding Hallet's Point rezoning project. The project has been scaled down from the previous proposed. Certification is expected in December.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Ed Babor stated that the Taminent Regular Democratic Annual Dinner Dance will be held at Riccardos on November 3rd. Ms. Marie Torniali is one of this year's honorees.

Mr. George Stamatiades stated that the Community Celebration for Central Astoria Local Development Coalition will take place on Thursday, November 29th at the Astoria Manor.

There was no further business before the Board; Mr. Mularkey motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Prentzas. Motion called and carried unanimously