

**Community Board 1**  
**November 20, 2012**

Mr. Vinicio Donato, Chairperson of Community Board 1, commenced at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Donato then went on to the public hearing item from the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA). Mr. Jerry Caliendo, representing the Zoning Chair read item #297-12-A – Premises 28-18/20 Astoria Blvd. An application to allow the continued construction of a 7 story mixed use commercial & residential building in an R6A (C1-1) zone formerly zoned R6 (C1-2). The applicant's representative explained that the project was started prior to the rezoning and that there was a delay in the completion. A variance is required to complete. No public comments.

Mr. Joseph Risi read the next item from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) #1414518 – Premises 38-01 Broadway (Las Margaritas). An application to modify an existing Unenclosed Sidewalk Café from 8 tables & 32 seats to 11 tables and 44 seats. The owner of the establishment stated she was requesting the additional seating to accommodate patrons. Two letters of opposition received via e-mail were noted. No public comments.

He went to the next item #1375729 – Premises 40-11 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue. (CANZ). An application to renew the license to operate and Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 8 tables & 16 seats. No one came on behalf of the application. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this application. There was no one. Item closed.

Mr. Donato called to the next item was from the Department of City Planning (DCP). Cornell NY Tech on Roosevelt Island. Roosevelt Island is officially covered by Board 8M. An informational meeting was presented to CB1Q since land access is through CB1. Ms. Cathy Dove, V.P. Cornell University, thanked the Board for having the opportunity to address them. Cornell was selected almost a year ago by the City to build this campus. The City had a vision several years ago in regards to how and what they need to do to diversify the economy. Construction will start in 2014 and will be fully built out in 25 years. The campus will be available to graduate students only. The project will create thousands of private sectors jobs in addition to the tech job. Ms. Dove noted many students when they graduate will be budding entrepreneurs looking to create their own companies and noted that neighborhoods in Queens are the perfect landing zones for some of this activity. In addition, many existing companies will be looking to work with the new campus. The campus will start in 2017 on Roosevelt Island, but they have currently occupying space donated by Google in the old Port Authority Building in Chelsea which will house them for the next 5 years. Innovators can learn how to patent and commercialize new initiatives and many other programs with added benefits for NYC. She reviewed what the physical campus would look like when it is completed in 2037. She went on to illustrate that there are various kinds of buildings on the campus in order to make the campus work. The architect, Thomas Mayne has created several buildings the flagship will be the academic building for teaching and research, there will be residential apartments for faculty, students and staff, corporate co-location building for businesses to work on the campus and with the campus, and the executive education center which is a magnet for the tech sector people to come and hold workshops. Their vision right now is these 4 buildings to be built in phase 1. They also looked into significant open space for the NYC community to come in and enjoy the site. Over time they will be building additional buildings for residential, academic, and corporation co-location space. As part of the ULURP action they are asking to create a special district with 4 actions. She went on to the draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS), they have spent several months putting together the DEIS which is about 1,000 pages and brought a copy for the Board to review. She added that they are still in the process of working through it and are still working through their analysis as well as working with DOT for the building phase. It is a work in progress and they will continue to share as they go forward. Alison from the Consulting Firm for the DEIS, stated that in April 2012 the Office of Environmental Coordination issued a positive declaration and a draft scope of work for this project signaling that an EIS is needed. The draft scope of work was done in May, comments were made on that document and a final scope of work was published in October along with a DEIS signaling the start of public review. The final EIS is expect spring of 2013. She gave an overview of their analysis and methodology for the EIS. She reviewed and illustrated possible impacts at the different phases of construction. The slides illustrated traffic flow outcome during the three phases of construction. She noted that they have been working closely with DOT to address the impact for the intersection involved. She stated that 42% of the workers are expecting to take public transportation to and from work on the construction site during the three phases and are working with DOT to identify and address the intersections that will be most affected. Mr. Andrew Winters, Director of Capital Projects and Planning, stated that they are still working very hard on the project and part of the process is coming out to communities to talk to people about it. But, also working very closely with some of the City agencies on some of the technical issues and are continuing to work with DOT to identify calming mitigation methods for many of the intersections that will be impacted and have found solution which DOT has agreed to and to continue to find solutions for the ones they have not. They have additional analysis that they have been working on and will be presenting it to DOT in December. They will also continue to work with the Mayor's office and all of the City's agencies to address any of the outstanding questions and issues that pertains to the

DEIS. One of the details that they have been focused on is the delivery of the construction materials to the site on Roosevelt Island. They are seriously looking at all different methods of transporting construction materials, other than trucking, such as water barges. In the next couple of weeks they will be reporting back as the analysis continues. The DEIS is available online and you can find a link at <http://www.nyc.gov>. Mr. Donato asked if the buildings will be hurricane proof. Mr. Winters stated that they took that issue on long before storm Sandy. The southern part of the island, where the campus will be, is one of the higher points on the island. They will be raising the site by 7' and the current site is roughly about 14' above sea level which will bring the site up to 21' above sea level. The mechanical systems will not be in the basement and will have some sort of energy system on the campus to allow the campus to continue operation should there be a power outage. Mr. Richard Khuzami asked when employment opportunities start will they look towards District 1. Also if barging materials for construction is used, would the facility built be considered permanent to allow for waterfront access after construction. Mr. Winters stated that they agree that a permanent waterfront access is needed and they are currently looking into it. Mr. Tony Meloni stated that if they do truck in materials they should stick with Vernon Blvd. Mr. Bob Piazza stated that he agrees that they should look into alternative methods of bringing materials for construction. Mr. George Stamatiades expressed concern regarding the reality of barging construction materials. His skepticism, he stated is based on past experience with developers. Mr. George Alexiou asked how many students they expect to have. Ms. Dove stated that when they are fully built there will 2,500 students. In the beginning there will be a few hundred along with faculty and staff. Mr. Rudolfo Sarchese asked if there will be parking spaces. Mr. Winter stated that the project allows 500 parking spaces on campus. Mr. Donato stated that a major concern of CB1 is the traffic impact. No further discussion

#### **VOTING SESSION:**

Mr. Caliendo reiterated the item from the BSA #297-12-A – Premises 28-18/20 Astoria Blvd. An application to allow the continued construction of a 7 story mixed use commercial & residential building in an R6A (C1-1) zone formerly zoned R6 (C1-2). Mr. Caliendo stated that committed met and recommends approval of the application, seconded by Peter Pallos. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

Ms. Bruno read the public hearing item from DCA #1414518 – Premises 38-01 Broadway (Las Margaritas). An application to modify an existing Unenclosed Sidewalk Café from 8 tables & 32 seats to 11 tables and 44 seats. Ms. Bruno stated that the committee met and recommends that the application remain at 8 tables and 32 seats, seconded by Peter Pallos. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 1 against.

She went to the next item #1375729 – Premises 40-11 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue. (CANZ). An application to renew the license to operate and Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 8 tables & 16 seats. Ms. Bruno stated that the committee met and recommends approval of the applicant of 4 tables and 16 seats, seconded by Peter Pallos. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 1 Against.

#### **GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Bill Barish, stated that on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm .at Bohemian Hall there will be Christmas tree lighting all are welcomed.

Mr. Meloni spoke as a member of CERT. He wanted to update the Board on what has been happening since Hurricane Sandy. He feels that the City itself was remised in their actions and Federal Government, especially FEMA. A lot of people that were involve were individuals who have been going out to the Rockaway's to give out meals and people who drove out there to give money on their own. The response from the civilians was a thousand times better than from the Federal Government. He will make a more extensive report as what we can do as individuals to get the City and the State some ideas in the future. He asked that anyone who had questions or suggestion to get the information to the Board so that they can put together a report. Governor Cuomo is going to have a Commission. Mr. Mario Delia, resident, asked what can be done about the damage to his property and who is responsible. Mr. Donato stated that the Board will look into it and see what can be done. Mr. Demetrios Demetrios stated that many have had no power for 11 days. Mr. Alexiou stated that his business had no phone service for 5 days. Mr. Donato acknowledged their frustration with the cable company, Con Ed, and phone service.

Mr. Joshua Rider, resident, stated that on October 22<sup>nd</sup> a 7' scrolling marquee was installed on a business and asked if this is permitted in a R6 zone. He brought photos of the marquee/signage. Mr. Donato asked if he called 311. Mr. Rider replied "Yes". Mr. Donato asked him to provide the reference number 311 gave him.

Mr. Joe Ferrante, resident, stated that he is concerned about the construction for PS70 and the lost of the entire sidewalk to the trailers. Trees have been cut down and if they had permits for this 2 ½ year project. Mr. Donato asked him to give the Board a call.

Ms Sabine Bernards, Citizens Committee for New York City, stated that she brought flyers for grants being offered to groups that do community projects. The Love Your Block Grant offers grants of \$1,000 for block beautification, deadline is November 30th; Community Grants offer \$500 - \$3,000 for community improvement, deadline is January 31, 2013; and Hurricane Relief Grants offer \$5,000 for volunteer-led group providing relief to areas impacted by Hurricane Sandy. For more information you can go to [www.citizensnyc.org/programs/grants](http://www.citizensnyc.org/programs/grants).

**BUSINESS SESSION:**

Mr. Donato motioned to accept the minutes of October's Board meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Nieves Blas. Motion called and carried unanimously

Mr. Donato reported that SHAREing and CAREing will be honoring the members of Community Board 1 tomorrow evening.

Ms. Lucille Hartmann, District Manager, reported that there will be a public scoping meetings regarding Halletts Point Rezoning by the Department of City Planning at the Goodwill Astoria Headquarters on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, in two sessions, first at 3pm and a second starting at 6:30pm. On a sad note, she informed the Board that Kevin Mullarkley's wife passed and mass will be held at Immaculate Conception on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:45pm. Ms. Hartmann noted that Ms. Evie Hantzopoulos has been distributing food in the Rockaway's. Ms. Hantzopoulos stated that they have been serving about 1,200 people and also delivered several meals to people in their homes.

**NEW/OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. George Alexiou reported that the Greek-American Homeowners Association will be holding their 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Lunch on Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 23-49 31<sup>st</sup>, Street, from 12 to 4 pm. All are welcomed. They will serve a full dinner and they will give food to take home. He stated that with the help of Toni Meloni and George Stamatiades they were able to distribute 526 turkeys. Mr. Donato stated that they do a great job for the community and others.

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