

Community Board 1
April 17, 2012

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

Mr. Donato opened the meeting with public hearing item from the Board of Standards and Appeals. Mr. John Carusone, Chair of the Zoning and Variance Committee, read item #294-06-BZ -- Premises 31-11 Broadway (Club Fitness). An application to enlarge the Physical Culture Establishment (PCE) by converting the front portion of the cellar to a locker room, accessory offices; accessory mechanical room and additional gym space. The new space would increase the floor area by 4,700 sq. ft. Ms. Vivian Krieger came up on behalf of the applicant and stated that they are seeking to enlarge the PCE by 4,700 sq. ft. on the cellar level. The PCE was originally approved in 2007 and now they are going to convert the portion of the cellar space that was a cabaret. The converted space will maintain the same kind of equipment and rooms as the other floors. Mr. Carusone stated that the BSA established certain conditions for a PCE. He asked if the hours of operation changes for the facility and if there were any changes in ownership. Ms. Krieger stated that the hours of operation are the same and there have been no changes in ownership or floor space since their previous application. Mr. Carusone asked the length of time of the previous application. Ms. Krieger stated that the previous application was approved for 10 years and will expire in 2017. Mr. Carusone asked if the extension of the PCE will abide by the same conditions as the previous application and that the owner is the same. Ms. Krieger replied "Yes". Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Mr. Daniel Aliberti asked if this is going to be a locker room, is there locker rooms on the other floors. Ms. Krieger stated that there will be locker rooms upstairs and additional locker rooms for the extension. Mr. Aliberti asked if there was an elevator that goes to the basement. Ms. Krieger replied "Yes". 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 read the next item from the Department of Consumer Affairs #1422684 – Premises 23-01 31 St. (Bareburger). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 12 tables and 36 seats. Mr. George Dellis, owner, came up on behalf of applicant. Mr. Donato asked if there will be tables under the El train. Mr. Dellis replied "No." Mr. Donato asked if they are aware that the permit must be posted in the front window. Mr. Dellis replied "Yes." Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had any questions for the applicant. Ms. McDonald asked how many seat were inside of the premise and do they own the building. Mr. Dellis stated that there are 36 seats inside and they do not own the building. 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.

The next item #1419088 – Premises 29-19 Broadway (Aliada). An application for a license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 13 tables and 26 seats. Mr. Robert Callaghan, expeditor, came up on behalf of the applicant. He stated that they are seeking a license for an unenclosed sidewalk café with 13 tables and 26 seats. They want to place 4 tables and 8 seats on Broadway and 5 tables and 18 seats on the 30th Avenue. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had any questions for the applicant. Ms. McDonald asked how many tables and seats are inside the building and if they owned the building. Mr. Callaghan stated that there are 10 tables and 40 seats inside the premises and they did not own the building. Ms. Evie Hantzopoulos asked if the additional tables were to be placed on Broadway. The owner came up and stated there will be table on Broadway. Mr. Donato asked if the owner is the same, if there will be music and will they be serving alcohol. Mr. Callaghan stated that the owners are the same but the corporation changed. There will be no music played and they have a full liquor license. Mr. Donato asked why they are insisting that 2 tables are placed on Broadway. Mr. Callaghan stated that is what the owner wants them based on the way it looks. Mr. Donato stated that he was informed that no one has tables on the North side of Broadway itself. Ms. Marie Torniali stated that they do not allow tables on Broadway. Mr. Donato asked if they would sign an agreement to eliminate the tables on Broadway. The owner stated that he will accept what the Board wishes. Mr. Anthony Gigantiello stated that he noticed tables in front of Stone Cold Creamery. Mr. Donato stated that that may not be legal. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this application. A neighborhood resident came up and stated that she would like to see more legal tables out. Mr. Donato added that they received 2 letters in favor of the application. There was no further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #1281431 – Premises 26-19 24 Ave. (Othello Deli). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 4 tables and 12 seats. Mr. Steve Bernardi, owner, came up on behalf of the application that they have had for 7 years, he has 4 tables and 12. Mr. Donato asked if they have music. Mr. Bernardi stated that they do not have music or alcohol. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant.

Mr. Meloni stated that the premise is keep very clean. Ms. McDonald asked if someone has liquor they are not allowed to drink alcohol at the outdoor café. Mr. Bernardi stated that you are not allowed to drink alcohol outside of the premises; he only has a carry mead license. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this application. Mr. Costa Constantinides, resident, stated that he is in favor of the application. He added that they have good food and serves the community well. It is a relaxing place and a nice oasis. He asked that the Board please approve the application. There was no further discussion. Item closed.

VOTING SESSION:

Mr. Carusone reiterated public hearing item from BSA #294-06-BZ -- Premises 31-11 Broadway (Club Fitness). An application to enlarge the Physical Culture Establishment by converting the front portion of the cellar to a locker room, accessory offices; accessory mechanical room and additional gym space. The new space would increase the floor area by 4,700 sq. ft. . Mr. Carusone said the committee met and recommended approval the application with the stipulation that it is the same conditions as the original BSA application that was approved, seconded by Mr. Pallos. Mr. Donato asked if there were any further questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 1 against

Ms. Norma Nieves-Blas, 2nd Vice-Chair, reiterated public hearing item from DCA #1422684 – Premises 23-01 31 St. (Bareburger). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 12 tables and 36 seats. Ms. Nieves-Blas said the committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Ms. Alaforgiannis. Donato asked if there were any further questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 1 Against.

The next item #1419088 – Premises 29-19 Broadway (Aliada). An application for a license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 13 tables and 26 seats. Ms. Nieves-Blas said the committee met and recommended disapproval of having tables on Broadway, but the committee recommends approval of the application with no tables on Broadway. The owner agrees to sign a statement indicting no tables on Broadway, seconded by Mr. Pallos. Mr. Donato asked if there were any further questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 2 Against and 1 Abstention for Cause.

The next item #1281431 – Premises 26-19 24 Ave. (Othello Deli). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 4 tables and 12 seats. Ms. Nieves-Blas said the committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Pallos. Mr. Donato asked if there were any further questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Kyle Richard, Partnership for Parks/Greening Western Queens Community Coordinator, stated that Greening Western Queens will be holding Tree Care Training on Saturday, April 28th from 10am to 12pm at the Astoria Historical Society and on Thursday, May 3rd from 6pm to 8pm at Bohemian Hall Meeting Area. They have planted this season along Hoyt Avenue, between 24th Street and 29th Street, and Hoyt Avenue South, between 28th and 25th Street. Greening Western Queens will be providing free training on how to take care of trees and training for Tree Steward Certification. Participants will become part of a group that will care for neighbor trees. Flyers were provided for more information. Ms. Hantzopoulos stated that they need more trees on Broadway. Mr. Richard stated that those who would like to request trees should contact his office. Mr. Stamatiades stated Dutch Kills was rezoned from manufacturing to residential and are in need of trees. Mr. Richard stated that the tree care training participants will also be able to request trees in their neighborhood.

Ms. Chavon Lopez, Western Queens Cancer Services Program, stated they will be providing free breast screenings during the month of May. She brought brochures for those who would like more information. She asked that everyone spread the word of their services. Their program is funded by the state and if people don't come out the state will not fund the screening.

Mr. Arthur Rosenfield, OurLIC.com, stated that the LIC Chamber of commerce will be holding a meeting on April 19th at 12:00pm at the Waterfront Crabhouse. There will be guest speakers Arana Hankin and Captain Powers. In additional, there will be briefings on upcoming events, resolutions for By-Laws and election of officers. On Saturday, April 28, 2012 there will be holding Earth Day LIC from 11am to 3pm. An electronic recycling event hosted by Guardian Data Destruction. For more information you can reach him at Arthur@CityEntree.com.

Mr. Tex Crushiak, resident, stated that he had mentioned Occupy Wall Street were planning a few events at last month's meeting. He wanted to remind everyone of their upcoming events and they are listed on their website.

BUSINESS SESSION:

Mr. Mullarkey motioned to accept the minutes of March's Board meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Pallos. Motion called and carried unanimously

Ms. Lucille Hartmann, District Manager, noted that Peter Pallos was asking for your signature on a petition to save the senior center at Bishop Iakovos Senior Housing. This is a unique situation within our community board because it was originally classified as a satellite of HANAC senior Center on 24th Avenue. To apply for the funding necessary to keep it going it has to be reclassified as a standalone center. DFTA has changed the funding stream this year. It is a center that serves over 60 meals a day. It meets all the requirements of a standalone center and would be sorely missed if not funded. There was a petition on the table for anyone in the audience who wanted to sign, as well. She added that Mr. Joseph Risi asked her to inform the Board that there will be a Consumer Affairs Committee meeting on May 9th and on May 2nd representatives of the new Cornell Campus on Roosevelt Island will attend a joint committee meeting, at the Board office.

Ms. Linda Perno, Chair of Education Committee, reported that the committee met earlier in the evening and came up with a Campaign for Children Resolution. Ms. Perno proceeded to read the resolution for the Board. Mr. Pallos motioned to accept, seconded by Mullarkey. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried. Ms. Perno stated that the next item is the closing of Bryant and LIC HS. Ms. Perno stated that the committee feels that they should allow another year for current reforms and transformation to continue before they make a decision to the closing of these schools, seconded by Mr. Pallos. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 2 Against.

Mr. Richard Khuzami, Chair of Parks & Recreation/Cultural Affairs/OTB Committee, reported that he and Ms. Hartmann met with the Parks Department's Queens Borough Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski and Ms. Claudia Cogan, TA President of the Astoria Houses at the playground on 1st Street and Astoria Blvd. An agreement of alienation of sidewalk in front of the playground is going to be done for the development that is going on at Hallets Point. In return, they have agreed to have 2 playgrounds resurfaced and upgraded. Ms. Cogan suggested the fence along the promenade be replaced. It was suggested that the Board send a letter to City Planning reiterating this request regarding the replacement of the fence along the promenade. Mr. Khuzami motioned to have a letter sent to the Department of Parks, seconded by Mr. Stamatiades. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motioned called and carried. Mr. Khuzami stated that the Queens Council for the Arts held a Town Hall meeting on Monday, April 16th to develop the cultural life of Queens. They will be asked the community for input to assist with their cultural strategies initiative. The Parks Committee will be holding a meeting on Monday, April 30, 2012, 6:30pm at the CB1 office. Guest speaker will be Juliana Roberts-Dubovsky, a Pratt Institute Fellow, will be presenting the project she has been working on with the Board. The project incorporates an assessment of the community's arts and cultural organization, and park's assets. Also, Mr. John Hatfield the new Executive Director of Socrates Sculpture Park, will be giving an update on the current and up-coming projects/activities slated for the park.

Mr. Antonio Meloni, Chair of Public Safety Committee, reported that Million Trees NYC will be distribution 200 free trees for planting on private property on May 19th from 10am to 12pm in Astoria Park. It will be on a first come, first served basis. You can reserve your tree at www.nyrp.org/queentrees.

Mr. Robert Piazza, Chair of Transportation Committee, reported that there will be a committee meeting on April 25th at 6:30pm at the Board office. Creation of a plaza program in our district will be discussed.

Mr. Jose Batista, Chair of Youth Committee, reported that the Summer Youth Program sent out employment applications last week and a list of participating employers.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Ann Bruno reported that on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 the 114th Pct. Community Council meeting will be held at Riccardos at 7:00 pm. Guest speakers will be from the K-9 unit. All are welcomed.

Ms. Perno informed the Board that Mr. Michael Seroa had a mini stroke, but he is doing well.

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