

Community Board 1
October 15, 2013

Mr. Donato, Chairperson of Community Board 1 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 Mary Demakos, Pauline Jannelli, and Kevin Mullarky for 10 years, Daniel Aliberti for 15 years, John Carusone and Antonio Melonie for 25 years. But, on behalf of himself and the Borough President he thanked the Board members for their service.

Mr. Donato went to the first public hearing item from the Board of Standard and Appeals (BSA), Mr. Jerry Caliendo, Co-Chair of the Zoning and Variance Committee, read item Cal. #230-13-A, 29-19 Newtown Ave. & Cal. #231-13-A, 29-15 Newtown Ave. An application for a waiver to permit construct in the bed of a mapped street. Mr. Nicholas Selis, TT Corp & L & A Group Holdings, stated that they are requesting a waiver to allow for a building permit within a mapped street. The previous structure was built in the bed of a mapped street and new construction to be located as the previous structure requires a waiver. The new developer was informed by DOT that there are no plans to open 29th Street (between Astoria Blvd & Newtown Avenue) which is part of the title. They have currently submitted their application for waiver. He further stated that the difference in elevation from 29th Street and Newtown Avenue is about 15' and there is a daycare center right next to the property. Mr. Caliendo asked if they have a document stating that the City has no plans to improve the street. Mr. Selis stated that it is noted on the title and confirmed by Mr. Bronson of the DOT Planning Commission that they have no plans to acquire and open 29th Street. Mr. Caliendo stated that the proposal states that you are knocking down 2 buildings and putting up 3 buildings and these building will be in the permitted limits of the zoning resolution allowed, and asked if that is what is being you are proposed. Mr. Selis replied "Yes". Ms. Evie Hantzopoulos asked if they could clarify what they are proposing. Mr. Selis stated on the DOT maps it states that 29th Street goes all the way through and it physically does not it is currently a dead end. The 2 properties were never acquired by the city. Now the new owners have acquired the properties and seeking to develop, they had to request a waiver from the BSA to allow building permits to be issued. There was further discussion as to what is currently there as opposed to what is on the City's maps. Ms. Rosemarie Poveromo asked how many units would be in each building. Mr. Selis stated that there will be 2 8-family buildings and 1 10-family building. Mr. Piazza asked if they started construction. Mr. Selis replied "No". Mr. Piazza asked if they removed what was there. Mr. Selis stated that they did demolish and acquired permits to do so. He added that since they submitted an application to BSA the Fire Department came back and stated that they do not have any objections. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this application. Mrs. Riveros, representing the Montessori School, stated that the school is on Newtown Avenue, next door to the proposed site for the road. Newtown Avenue is extremely busy road have safety concerns for the children. They have children from 18 months up to 3rd grade. Safety concerns for parents when dropping off and picking up their children. Putting in another road will create more safety concerns for their school. Mrs. Riveros stated that they are in favor of the application. A resident asked if they will have indoor parking. Mr. Selis stated that they will provide parking as required. No further discussion. Item closed.

Ms. Elizabeth Erion read the next BSA item Cal #611-52BZ – Premises 35-35 24th Street. An application for the extension of term of variance for an existing warehouse building. Michael, Attorney, stated that he is representing the owner and President of HL Dallas. The company itself has been at that location for over 60 years and the business itself has been operating in New York for over 80 years. This application is for a renewal of a variance that expired on May 15, 2013 and they are asking for a 10 year term to expire on May 15, 2023. The property is located at 35-35 24th Street between 35th and 36th Avenues. It is on the east side of the block and is currently manufacturing use. The last time they were before the BSA for the variance, they were granted the ability to extend the building for about 3700 sq. ft., but the owners of the property never carried out that plan and as it stands now there are no proposed changes to the building or the use. The only thing that they are requesting is the Board's approval to grant another 10 year term to continue operating on the premises. Mr. Donato asked what type of business is H. L. Dalis. Michael stated that they supply and distribute electrical equipment, more like electronic equipment such as televisions, radios, parts which are not sold to the general public. Ms. Erion clarified that the application's original variance goes back to 1952 and has been renewed over the years. Over the years there have been requests from the Board to look at things like landscaping, graffiti, and sidewalks and curbs and these things will be included in the variance application. Michael stated that all prior conditions will remain in effect upon approval for the next 10 years. Ms. Erion asked if the expansion that was granted by BSA will that happen. Michael stated that the BSA approved the expansion but the owner never moved forward and does not intent to expand. If he wanted to expand he would have to reapply. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. There was no one. No further discussion. Item closed.

Mr. Joseph Risi, Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee, read the next item from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)#1381569 – Premises 37-11/13 30th Avenue (MEXIBBQ). An application to renew the license for an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 10 tables & 30 seats. Mr. Dimitri Polomus, owner, stated that he is present to renew his unenclosed sidewalk café license. Mr. Risi asked how long they had an unenclosed sidewalk café permit. Mr. Polomus replied "2 years". Mr. Risi asked what their hours of operation were. Mr. Polomus stated that they are open from 5pm to 12 am, they are a family

style restaurant and on the weekends they open at 11am. Mr. Risi asked if they have any violations since their last renewal. Mr. Polomus 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.

The next item #1255149 – Premises 30-50 14 Street. (Brothers Pizza). An application to renew the license for an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables & 12 seats. Mr. Almie Kolonovie, manager, stated that they are present to renew their unenclosed sidewalk café license for 6 tables and 12 seats. Mr. Risi asked how long they had an unenclosed sidewalk café permit. Mr. Kolonovie replied “6 years”. Mr. Risi asked what their hours of operation were. Mr. Kolonovie stated that they are open from 11am to 11pm. Mr. Risi asked if they had any violation since their last renewal. He replied “No”. Mr. Donato stated that they can’t enclose the tables outside. Mr. Kolonovie stated that they were told that they could enclose the tables when it rains. Mr. Donato stated that he has driven past the establishment and the tables have been enclosed and it was not raining. He further informed the owner that if that occurs again it will be reported. 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 #1250759 – Premises 19-33 Ditmars Blvd. (Bistro 33). An application to renew the license for an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 11 tables & 36 seats. Mr. Gary Anza, owner, stated that they have been operating for 9 years with a sidewalk café, no violations since the last renewal, they are open from 5pm to 11pm Monday to Friday and on Saturday and Sunday they are open from 11am to 11pm, and there are no safety or traffic issues. 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 #1462366 – Premises 31-18 Broadway (Mezza Place). An application to renew the license for an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 8 tables & 20 seats. Mr. Steve Wygoda, Architect, stated that the applicant had been in operation for 9 to 10 years with a sidewalk café. Lana, owner stated that they are open from 5pm to 10:30pm Sunday to Thursday and on Friday and Saturday from 5pm to 11pm. Mr. Risi asked if there were any violation since the last renewal. She 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.

The next item #1427814 – Premises 42-02 Broadway (Doyles Corner). An application to modify consent to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 17 tables & 38 seats. Mr. Robert Callaghan, representing the owner, state that they have been in operating for 2 years with a sidewalk café and would like to renew their application with a modification to reduce the tables and seats to 17 tables and 38 seats. There is no outdoor music or violations nor not had any complaints that he is aware of. Mr. Risi asked why they are reducing the number of tables and chairs. Mr. Callaghan stated that the rent is too high for them to warrant having that many tables and seats. Mr. Risi stated previous they were concerned with the noise on 42nd Street. Mr. Callaghan stated that a few of the tables and seats will be removed from 42nd Street. Mr. Risi asked if they are serving different food from what they indicated with their previous sidewalk café. Mr. Callaghan stated that they are now serving typical bar food e.g. hamburger, chicken fingers. 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 # 1472893 – An application for a proposed Newsstand on the N/W/C Steinway Street/Broadway. Mr. Shaheed Albadineser, applicant, stated that the newsstand will be in front of the bank. Mr. Risi asked if he had submitted an application previously. Mr. Abadinesen replied “No”. Risi asked what items would be sold at the newsstand. Mr. Abadinesen stated that he will be selling newspapers, periodicals, books, beverages, etc. Mr. Risi asked how he chose the location. Mr. Abadinesen stated that he has lived in the neighborhood for the last 2 years and thought that would be a good location for a newsstand. Mr. Risi asked if there were any deli’s or stores in the area that would sell similar items. Mr. Abadinesen replied “No”. Ms. Marie Torniali stated that the area is very congested and there is another newsstand diagonally across from the proposed site. Mr. Risi read a letter the Board received from Steinway Astoria Partnership against the application. He then read another letter the Board received from the property owner who is in opposition to the application. 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:

Ms. Elizabeth Erion reiterated public hearing item from BSA Cal # 611-52BZ – Premises 35-35 24 Street. An application for the extension of term of variance for an existing warehouse building. She stated that the committee met and recommends approval of the applications with the existing building maintenance, seconded by Ms. D’Allewa. Mr. Donato asked if anyone had any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 1 Abstention for cause.

Mr. Jerry Caliendo reiterated the next item Cal. #230-13-A, 29-19 Newtown Ave. & Cal. #231-13-A, 29-15 Newtown Ave. An application for a waiver to permit construct in the bed of a mapped street. He stated that the committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Ryan. Mr. Donato asked if anyone had any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

Mr. Joseph Risi reiterated public hearing item from the (DCA) #1381569 – Premises 37-11/13 30th Avenue (MEXIBBQ). An application to renew the license for an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 10 tables & 30 seats. He stated that the committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Khuzami. Mr. Donato asked if anyone had any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #1255149 – Premises 30-50 14 Street. (Brothers Pizza). An application to renew the license for an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables & 12 seats. He stated that the committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Ryan. Mr. Donato asked if anyone had any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously

The next item #1250759 – Premises 19-33 Ditmars Blvd. (Bistro 33). An application to renew the license for an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 11 tables & 36 seats. He stated that the committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Ryan. Mr. Donato asked if anyone had any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #1462366 – Premises 31-18 Broadway (Mezza Place). An application to renew the license for an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 8 tables & 20 seats. He stated that the committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Sarchese. Mr. Donato asked if anyone had any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously .

The next item #1427814 – Premises 42-02 Broadway (Doyles Corner). An application to modify consent to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 17 tables & 38 seats. He stated that the committee met and recommended approval of the application with the following stipulation that the applicant reduce the number of seats to 17 tables and 34 seats, Mr. Callaghan stated he consents to the reduction of the application, seconded by Mr. Ryan. Mr. Donato asked if anyone had any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 1 against.

The next item # 1472893 – An application for a proposed Newsstand on the N/W/C Steinway Street/Broadway. He stated the committee met and recommended denial of the application based on the congestion and pedestrian traffic, seconded by Mr. Ryan. Mr. Donato asked if anyone had any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 2 against.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Tex Crushiak stated that the signed that DOT posted for NO STANDING/PARKING on Shore Blvd is 200' short of the 500' buffer zone to the Triborough Bridge. The additional people coming into the area they need the parking space. He attended a meeting and informed them of the problem and that the placement of the sign needs to be corrected. He asked that the Board reach out to DOT and request them to adjust it. Mr. Khuzami stated that Ms. Hartman has reached out to the DOT regarding the sign and DOT will move the sign further north from Astoria Park South, expect to be done in 2014.

Ms. Fernanda Calderon, Healthfirst, is a non-profit program and she has been reaching out to people to educate them on Obamacare and the application process. She brought flyers for those who have questions about the healthcare plans, need to understand how the exchange works and help keep you informed of the changes. For more information you can reach her at 646-248-3239 or FCalderon@healthfirst.org. Mr. Rosemarie Poveromo invited her to the UCCA Town Hall meeting on November 7, 2013 at the Museum of The Moving Image from 7pm to 10pm.

Mr. Norm Sutevia, stated that he came to update the Board about 32nd street application with the stipulation the owners of the building make the surrounding home whole again on May 25, 2013. Now the homeowners are being sued because the builder wants access to the properties on 32nd Street and they have not complied with the Board's recommendations to make whole the damaged property. He requests that the Board send a letter asking the Pali Realty for the status of the homeowner's homes. Mr. Donato agreed on behalf of the Board.

BUSINESS SESSION:

Mr. Piazza motioned to accept the minutes of September's Board meeting. Motion seconded by MS. Nieves-Blas. Motion called and carried unanimously.

Ms. Lucille Hartmann, District Manager, reported that in the Boards folders there was information regarding the new City's Borough Taxis. Many of you have probably seen the new green taxis on the street. These cabs are affiliated with a taxi service, but unlike the limousine/black care service, the green taxis can be hailed in all the boroughs with the exception of Manhattan from West 110th and East 96th Streets going south. In addition there was a notice for a meet and greet event at the new Boys Town NY

residence on 36th Street. They are establishing an Advisory Board and would like input from the community. Anyone who is interested should contact Ms. Richardson and if possible attend the meet and greet on Thursday, October 17, 2013 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at 32-16 36th Street. This facility will be for girls. She then added

Ms. Elizabeth Erion, referred all members to a copy of the committee's priorities for the Capital and Expense Budget for 2015. The committee met earlier this month and the priorities of the list were set. They added 6 new items onto the Capital Budget and 1 new item to the Expense Budget. Ms. Erion started with the Expense Budget, asking if there was anyone who wanted to motion to accept the Expense Budget. Mr. Thomas Ryan motioned to move #6 Increase Monitoring of Air and Noise Quality in District 1 to #1, seconded by Norma Nieves-Blas. Motion called and carried. Mr. Joseph Risi motioned to move #10 Increase Uniformed Personnel for 114 Pct. to #1 and #6 Increase Monitoring of Air and Noise Quality in District 1 to #2, seconded by Mr. Ed Babor. Motion called and carried with 3 against. Ms. Erion motioned to accept the amended Expense Budget, seconded by Mr. Babor. Motion called and carried. Ms. Erion went onto the Capital Budget, she motioned to accept the Capital Budget priorities, seconded Mr. Ryan. Mr. Khuzami motioned that #36 be moved to #11. Ms. Erion motioned to move # 36 Renovation of Astoria Pool Terrace Complex, including new concrete surface and electric upgrade to #11 and shift the number down, seconded by Ms. Frances McDonald. Motion called and carried. Ms. Evie Hantzopoulos motioned to switch #9 Handicapped Access to Elevated Train Along 31st Street to #6, seconded by George Alexiou. Motion called and carried with 1 against. Mr. Khuzami motioned to add realigning the track to #14 Astoria Park Reconstruct Track in Field for Sports Use, seconded by Mary DeMakos. Motion called and carried. Ms. Erion motioned to accept the amended Capital Budget, seconded by Jean Marie D'Alleva Motion called and carried.

Ms. Jean Marie D'Alleva, Chair of Health & Social Services/Senior Committee, reported that SHAREing and CAREing will be holding on October 22, 2013 at Riccardo's starting at 6:30pm, New Trends in Breast Cancer Treatment and Prevention: A Multidisciplinary Symposium. Panagiotis Manolas, MD,FACS, Howard Greenberg, MD; Gloria J. Morris, MD,PhD; Craig Youner, MD; Nima Patel,MD; Che-Kaitsao,MD. Registration Required. Refreshments will be served.

Ms. Mary O'Hara, Chair of Housing Committee, reported that it's the commencement of the 2013/2014 heating season. Between the hours of 6am to 10pm, whenever the temperature falls below 55 degrees Fahrenheit, 28 degrees Fahrenheit must be maintained inside the apartment. Between the hours of 10pm and 6am a minimum of 55 degrees Fahrenheit must be maintain inside the apartment.

Mr. Richard Khuzami, Chair of Parks & Recreation/Cultural Affairs/OTB Committee, reported that It's My Park Day! Will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at Astoria Heights Park from 8:30am to 12:30pm. On Friday November 8, 2013 from 6pm to 8pm at The Home of Kim Lancial and George Vafakos they will hosting a Cocktail Party to Benefit Astoria Park, please RSVP if you would care to attend. He then went on to say that he attended the Parks Consultation with Ms. Hartmann and received an up-date on the status of the projects that are currently going on. He gave a brief up date to the stages of each project.

Mr. Robert Piazza, Chair of Transportation Committee, reported that they met with the representatives and Transportation alternatives regarding traffic changes on 21st Street. Mr. Donato noted that the group was asked for more specific recommendations and to bring them back to the Board.

Mr. Jose Batista, Chair of Youth Committee, reported that LaGuardia Community College, Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP) will be having a 14-week internship program for NYC young adults (16-24) not working or in school. Open enrollment is ongoing. For more information call Sindy Rivera 718-609-2131.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Rosemarie Poveromo President of the United Community Civic Association (UCCA), reported that on Thursday, October 31, 2013 they will be holding their Annual Children's Halloween Costume Party at Central Restaurant/Lounge from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. Everyone must come in costume. Adults must be accompanied by a child under the age of 12. On November 7, 2013 they will be hosting a Public Information Meeting from 7pm to 10pm at the Museum of The Moving Image on "Obamacare" Blessing or Curse?. How will the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act affect you and your family's health care decisions? Guest speakers will be Hon. Joseph Crowley, Hon Carolyn Maloney, Caryn Schwab, and Judy Trivials. It is open to all.

Ms. Ann Bruno reported that on Thursday, October 21, 2010 will be the 114th Pct. Community Council meeting will be held at Riccardo's at 7:00 pm. They will be discussing do ID's for senior citizens. Please come and join us.

There was no further business before the Board Mr. Alexiou motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. O'Hara. Motion called and carried unanimously.