

Community Board 1
January 15, 2013

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

Mr. Donato opened by introducing Barry Grodenchik, Deputy Borough President, came by to update the Board on a few items. He noted that the last couple of months have been difficult especially in the Rockaways due to hurricane Sandy. The State of the Borough will be next all were invited to attend it. It will be held at Colden Center at Queens College. He also noted that to renew your application for Board membership it must be returned to Borough Hall. He stated that at the last meeting he attended he failed to recognize one of our Board members who served 15 years on CB1. He apologized and presented Mr. George Alexiou with a certificate of service.

Mr. Donato noted Mr. Salvatore Gagliardo, a Board member, celebrated his 98th Birthday in November.

Mr. Donato went on to the first public hearing item from the Department of City Planning (DCP), Mr. John Carusone, Chair of the Zoning and Variance Committee, read item #N 130134 ZRQ – A proposed zoning text amendment to permit Sidewalk Cafes along existing and emerging retail streets in the Dutch Kills and Hunter's Point area. Ms. Penny Lee, City Planning, stated that she brought color copies of the map for the Board which indicates what streets are involved in the text amendment to allow sidewalk cafes in the special LIC mixed used district. The portions that affect CB1 are the streets on Queens Plaza North and up to 36th Avenue. The reason that this is being proposed is because the only way you can have a sidewalk café in a special zoning district is if it listed on the list indicating sidewalk cafes are allowed. This amendment will permit the cafes when a license is issued by Department of Consumer Affairs. This zoning change came about because there are a few businesses that can't apply or have illegal unenclosed sidewalk café because of the special zoning district. This will legalize existing sidewalk cafes in the Hunters Point area and permit them throughout the special zoning district on specific blocks. Mr. Carusone asked if this included enclosed cafés as well. Ms. Lee replied "No". Mr. Carusone had concern regarding café's under the elevated trains and asked if this would be an exception. Ms. Lee replied the unenclosed would be permitted on the east/west and north/south streets. Mr. Carusone asked her to clarify the frontage on a corner lot. Ms. Lee stated that if a business is on a corner they would be able to wrap around to the end of their lot. Ms. McDonald stated that she understood that you are not supposed to have an outdoor café under the elevated trains. She also asked if this text amendment applied to allow unenclosed sidewalk cafés only. Ms. Lee stated that zoning text specifies unenclosed. Mr. George Stamatiades asked why they would not permit enclosed sidewalk cafes. Ms. Lee stated that enclosed cafes are permanent structures and they generally take up a lot more sidewalk as an unenclosed sidewalk café. The Department of City Planning (DCP) has had a policy of not allowing enclosed sidewalk cafes for quite some time. Mr. Stamatiades stated that Astoria has many enclosed sidewalk cafes and why not in the Dutch Kills area. Ms. Lee stated that Astoria has both enclosed and unenclosed cafes, but generally when DCP has included only unenclosed sidewalk cafes. Ms. McDonald asked if they reached out to people in that area. Ms. Lee stated that they met with the Dutch Kills Civic Association (DKCA) and spoke at two or three of their meetings. There was further discussion on the impact of the text amendment in DKCA. Mr. Risi asked if the current standards required by DCA would still be applicable. Ms. Lee replied "Yes". Mr. Caliendo asked if the text amendment applies to Northern Blvd. Ms. Lee stated that the proposal does not allow café's along Northern Blvd. It was not considered a potential for outdoor cafes due to traffic. There was further discussion about Northern Blvd. Mr. Risi recommended that they should reconsider any unenclosed cafes beneath elevated trains. Ms. Lee said that she will look into that issue. Mr. Donato asked if there was any one in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this application. Mr. Dominic Stiller, President of DKCA, stated that they voted for this and would prefer the café noise not stretch down the street and they asked that they included in the Text Amendment be limited to the frontage on the avenues. They were also concerned with closing time, noise, and as a community they voted for the application. Ms. Stiller stated that the changes will bring people in to their neighborhood with new outdoor cafes and they (DKCA) are for the application. Mr. Richard Madrid, resident, stated that he has lived in the area for 6 years and has voted on the Text Amendment. He is for the application and looks forward to having cafes in the area with the positive changes. Ms. Mary Cavallo, resident, stated that there have been too many changes in the neighborhood and she was against the application. No further discussion. Item closed.

The next item from the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) #317-12-A – Premises 40-40 27th Street. The applicant seeks a determination that the Owner of the premise has completed substantial construction and incurred considerable financial expenditures prior to the effective date of rezoning and therefore can continue construction prior to the M1-3D new zoning designation. There was no one present to speak on the item. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this application. A resident stated that she lives in the community where the property is being built and she has great concerns since it is being designated as a transient hotel and 10 stories. The transient hotel in itself denotes negative things for the community. There are people in expensive condominiums a half a block away. She asked that this application be denied. 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). The next item #1451917 – An application for a proposed Newsstand on 31st Street off N/E/C Ditmars Blvd. Mr. Steven Connelly spoke on behalf of the applicant with Ms. Mily and her husband (the applicants). He stated that they have dreamed of owning a newsstand and have done extensive planning towards the newsstand. There would be enough sidewalk space for pedestrians and the newsstand. Mr. Risi asked if they currently have any newsstands. Mr. Connelly replied "No". The Board has received several objections to this application, stating that the location is a very busy corner, dangerous obstruction to pedestrians, the sidewalks are narrow, and aesthetically it may not be in the best interest for the community. He asked them why the Board should consider this application. Mr. Connelly stated the newsstand is 10' by 5' and the sidewalk is over 20' wide. The location has great business potential due to the flow of pedestrians and good for the community as well. Mr. Risi asked if they knew how many establishments are within 2 block of the proposed location sell the same items. Mr.

Connelly stated that his friend took that into consideration while doing his research before choosing the proposed location. Mr. Risi stated that there are 10 within a block and a half and one of the reasons for objecting was that business owners have to pay high rents, overhead, and taxes which will be an unfair competition to established business in the area. Mr. Connelly stated that is a legitimate concern and his friend have taken everything into consideration and doing everything by the book. Ms. McDonald asked if the applicant applied before for a newsstand. He responded "No". Ms. Poveromo stated that the CVS is near the proposed newsstand. CVS is open 24 hours a day and the flow of customers seems to be a problem and she is opposed. The applicant stated that the newsstand would be about 100' away from the store entrance. Mr. Prentzas asked what they could provide that CVS does not provide. Mr. Connelly

State that the newsstand will offer a variety of items that will not compete with large businesses such as CVS. Mr. Kevin Mullarkey asked what they will do with their trash. Mr. Connelly stated that they will take their trash with them. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Mr. Jack Brucculeri, managing agent, for the building directly in front of the stand stated that he has managed the property for over 35 years and is against having the proposed structure built in front of the building. They pay over \$300,000 per year in real estate taxes. A structure in front of them would obstruct the view of their property and hurts the businesses in their building. They are currently looking to have attorneys submit something in writing opposing this proposal. Mr. S. Patel an owner of an establishment stated that he is against this application. He stated that his family has owned a convenience store down the block from the proposed newsstand for 20 years and pays \$8,000 in rent and \$1,000 in property taxes. This is not fair for other businesses. These newsstands are all over and sell various magazines and children walk by. He is against the application. Mr. Jack Brucculeri added that the proposed newsstand will be an obstruction to his tenants who come in and out of the building. He asked that the Board look at this very carefully. No further discussion. Item closed.

Mr. Donato introduced AssemblyMember Aravella Simotas. Assemblywoman Simotas wished everyone a Happy New Year. She just arrived from Albany and reported the state passed a very comprehensive bill on gun control in New York. It is the first bill of its kind and will ban assault rifles and high capacity magazine clip. It increases penalties for those who use illegal guns and requires more comprehensive licensing throughout the state. Hopefully, it will help to prevent the tragic deaths that we have been seeing occurring throughout the country. Another bill that passed was the independent redistricting bill. The outcry last year was when the legislature decided to cut up Astoria's Senate district in half and put half in Senator Gianaris district and the other half in Senator Crowley's district. Many of you attended hearings against that but, unfortunately it passed. This year, the independent redistricting bill will create a condition where people outside the political process can decide what political districts should look like. Since this measure has passed for the second time in a row, it will now go on a referendum and you the people will decide whether or not you want independent redistricting in your states. She also noted that there was confusion for many of us dealing with the changes to polling sites and getting to the poll this past election. Many people gave their time to assist getting people to the correct poll locations to vote. This year the legislature is proposing an early voting bill which will allow people to vote 2 week in advance for an election at 5 locations that will be open 7 days a week. This will allow many people to find the time to be able to vote. She went on to a community based issue that she has great concern about, liquor license. The State Liquor Authority issues the license. The community boards' must be notified by the applicant of their intent to apply or reapply for a license and wait 30 days before submitting the application to the SLA. The community board can make a recommendation to the SLA within the 30 days. When she sat on Community Board 1, as a member for nine years, she remembers the Board used to do a thorough job reviewing the applications with the information that was provided. What has been happening lately in the community is that certain locations allow (zoned) for what she calls adult entertainments. However other types of adult entertainment are permitted regardless of the zoning and that is not clear on the application and she considers any type of activity that she would not be comfortable to be around with a child. She is drafting a bill that would mandate the SLA to require more information on applications. So members on the Board can know exactly what type of activity is occurring in an establishment before making a decision. She went on to give examples of things that are taken into consideration when making a decision. She will be submitting the bill and hopes that the Board will support it. Mr. Thomas Ryan stated that he has the list but does not recall discussing requests. Ms. Simotas stated that when renewals come up the Board reviews the list and if there was a reason to oppose a request the Board would discuss it. Mr. Donato stated that Board has been reviewing them for several years. Applications are sent to the Police for their comments and when required committee meetings are held and the applicant is required to attend. Ms. McDonald asked if the gun bill that passed contained the same rules about confiscating larger weapons that had been purchase. Assemblywoman Simotas replied No, they just have to register the weapon. Mr. Richard Khuzami asked what the SLA considers adult entertainment. Assemblywoman Simotas stated that is topless entertainment but is not sure if a bikini bar or an establishment where people are dancing with the use of a pole is in their definition. This is why the applications need to provide more information about the establishments. Mr. Kevin Mullarkey stated that these types of establishment should not be allowed to post photographs on outside their establishment or advertise that they dance totally nude because there are children that pass them. AssemblyMember Simotas stated that we should know what their operation is before we grant them a license. Mr. Donato stated that in the past the SLA would send the applications after they already granted the license to the establishment. This would be an improvement if they could spell out what they do in their establishment.

Mr. Donato asked Ms. McDonald to speak about absentee ballots. How do people find out and how much time do you need to get the absentee ballot. Ms. McDonald stated that people should call the Board of Elections. Now you can go online to request them.

The next item Premises 31-06 31st Street (Mermaids). An application to establish a Cabaret. The owner stated that he has owned the Bikini Bar for 18 years and there is no lap dancing. Mr. Risi asked if they have a Certificate of Occupancy for the premises. The owner replied yes and had a copy with him. Mr. Risi asked if they had a cabaret license in the past. The owner replied yes and it was under a different operation when his father was alive, he passed away and now it's a brand new application. Mr. Risi asked if he could explain what they do at the establishment. The owner stated that it is a bikini bar, woman dance on stage in a bikini. There is no lap dancing, no

backroom, no champagne, and no physical contact. Mr. Risi asked what the hours of operation are and if there were any residential apartments above the establishment. The owner stated that they operate from 8pm to 4am and there are no apartments above. Next door there is a 3-story apartment building and the DJ Plumbing Supply company. Mr. Risi asked why they are applying for a cabaret license now. The owner stated that a cabaret license will allow him to have more options such as private parties. The business has been in operation for 18 years and will stay as it is but occasionally they may want to have a party. He did not have a specific reason for applying for a cabaret license. He did agree to sign a stipulation that he would not change the way he operates his business. He like the way the business is and get along with his neighbors and the police department. Mr. Khuzami asked if they had any violations. The owner replied “No”. There was no further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #1451850 -- Premises 28-55 36th Street (CRAVE). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 5 tables & 10 seats. Mr. Pappas came up on behalf of the applicant. Mr. Risi asked how long they have been business and hour of operation. Mr. Pappas stated that they have been in operation for about 3 years and open from 11am to 1am Sunday to Wednesday, Thursdays until 4am and Friday and Saturday until 5am. Mr. Risi asked if he knew the hours of an unenclosed sidewalk café and if there were apartments above them. Mr. Pappas replied “No”. Mr. Risi asked if they have a liquor license. Mr. Pappas replied “Yes”. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had any questions for the applicant. Ms. McDonald asked if they own the building. Mr. Pappas replied “No”. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this item. There was no further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #1221132 – Premises 42-21 Broadway (Bandana). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 14 tables & 30 seats. Mr. Asser came up on behalf of the application. Mr. Risi asked how long he had an unenclosed café license. Mr. Asser replied “8 years”. Mr. Risi asked if they received any violations since their last renewal and are there any changes in the operation. Mr. Asser replied no to the questions. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had any questions for the applicant. There were none. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the applicant. There was no further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #1350797 – Premises 32-25 Steinway St. (La Fonda Antioquia). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 4 tables and 16 seats. Mr. Sam Valencia and Mr. Diego Gomez, owner, came up on behalf of the application. Mr. Gomez stated that the hours of operation are 10am to 11pm Sunday through Thursdays and Friday to Sunday 10am to 12am. Mr. Risi asked how long they had the unenclosed sidewalk café. Mr. Valencia replied “2 years”. Mr. Risi asked if they received any violations. Mr. Valencia replied “No”. Mr. Risi asked if they have a full service liquor license. Mr. Valencia replied “Yes”. Mr. Risi asked if there are any apartments above the premises. Mr. Risi replied “No”. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had any questions for the applicant. Ms. McDonald asked how many table and seats are inside the establishment. Mr. Valencia stated that there are 20 tables with 2 to 3 seats per table. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the applicant. There was no further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #1285652 – Premises 33-07 Ditmars Blvd. (Taverna Klyclades). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 14 tables and 22 seats. Mr. Aradism Skenderi came up on behalf of the application. Mr. Risi asked how long he had an unenclosed sidewalk café license and if he has received any violations. Mr. Skenderi replied 6 years and they have had no violations. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for applicant. There was none. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this application. There was no further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #1133602 – Premises 35-27 30th Avenue. (Avenue Café). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 31 tables and 62 seats. Mr. Robert Callaghan, expediter, stated that they are an unenclosed sidewalk café with 9 table and 18 seats on the 30th Avenue side and 22 tables and 44 seats on the 36th Street side. The café has been there for 11 years and has not received any violations in the last 2 years. They are aware of the restriction of the hours and have a full liquor license. There are no changes to the operation. Mr. Risi asked if they have found any trouble with the amount of tables and seats that are on the side street/. The owner came up and stated that they actually put fewer tables on 31st Avenue. They are requesting the maximum tables and seats they can have but they have been operating with 26 or 27 tables. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Ms. McDonald asked if they own the building and how many tables and seats are inside. Mr. Callaghan stated that they do not own the building and there are 24 tables inside with 70 seats. Mr. Risi asked if they would have any object if it becomes an issue to reduce the number of tables to 26 and seat to 52. The owner stated that they want to stay with the same number of table and seats so they will have to go through the process again, they have had the outdoor café for 7 years with 31 tables and 62 seats. 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 this application. There was no further discussion. Item closed.

VOTING SESSION:

Mr. Carusone reiterated the public hearing item from the BSA. #N 130134 ZRQ – A proposed zoning text amendment to permit Sidewalk Cafes along existing and emerging retail streets in the Dutch Kills and Hunter’s Point area. Mr. Carusone stated that the committee met and recommends approval or the application with the stipulation that they also include enclosed sidewalk cafés, seconded by Ms. Linda Perno. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. Mr. Risi recommended that they not to permit unenclosed sidewalk cafes under the L train. Mr. Carusone stated that as far as he knows unenclosed café are not allowed under elevated trains. The committee will accept the amendment to the stipulation. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 35 Favor, 0 Against, and 0 Abstentions.

The next item from the DCP #317-12-A – Premises 40-40 27th Street. The applicant seeks a determination that the Owner of the premise has completed substantial construction and incurred considerable financial expenditures prior to the effective date of rezoning and therefore can continue construction prior to the M1-3D new zoning designation. Mr. Carusone stated that the committee met and recommends disapproval of the application, seconded by Ms. Mary Demakis. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 35 Favor, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions.

Mr. Risi reiterated the next item from the DCA #1451917 – An application for a proposed Newsstand on 31 St. off N/E/C Ditmars Blvd. Mr. Risi stated that the committee met and recommends disapproval of the application, there is no added benefit for a service which is adequately served in the neighborhood, seconded by Mr. Peter Pallos. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 5 Against and 0 Abstentions.

The next item Premises 31-06 31st Street. (Mermaids). An application to establish a Cabaret. Mr. Risi stated that the committee met and recommends disapproval of the application and is opposed to the consideration of a cabaret, seconded by Mr. Ed Babor. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 3 Against and 0 Abstentions.

The next item #1451850 -- Premises 28-55 36th Street. (CRAVE). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 5 tables & 10 seats. Mr. Risi stated that committee met and recommends approval of application, seconded by Mr. George Alexiou. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 0 Against and 0 Abstentions.

The next item #1221132 – Premises 42-21 Broadway (Dandana). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 14 tables & 30 seats. Mr. Risi stated that the committee met and recommends approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Peter Pallos. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 1 Against and 0 Abstentions.

The next item #1350797 – Premises 32-25 Steinway St. (La Fonda Antioquena). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 4 tables and 16 seats. Mr. Risi stated that the committee met and recommends the approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Peter Pallos. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 1 Against and 0 Abstentions.

The next item #1285652 – Premises 33-07 Ditmars Blvd. (Taverna Klyclades). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 14 tables and 22 seats. Mr. Risi stated that the committee met and recommends approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Ed Babor. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #1133602 – Premises 35-27 30th Avenue. (Avenue Café). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 31 tables and 62 seats. Mr. Risi stated the committee met and recommends approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Ed. Babor. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 1 Against and 0 Abstentions.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Norm Sutana, resident of 32nd Street, state that he was unable to attend CB1 meeting last month and he found some anomalies regarding the medical building that he wanted to alert the Board to. On the set back that will house the machinery it will also include the exhaust for the 134 parking garage which will be adjacent to their homes. He brought pictures for the Board to see and be on record. It will be 10' away and will affect their quality of life. The plans that were submitted were missing the second and third floor diagrams. Mr. Donato thanked him for providing an update and suggested that he go to the BSA hearing and present their findings.

Ms. Ellen Polivy, member of CB8-M, stated she is representing 35 organizations on Roosevelt Island in negotiating with Cornell. She came to update the Board on the ULURP process and where they are right now. She stated that she and her colleague were before the Board in November 2011 and heard the Boards concerns. They submitted all the concerns and wishes ever since to every official, namely barging and that they have under counted all or their metrics. The ULURP passed CB8 with 5 pages of stipulations including a request that Cornell reduce their truck traffic by at least 50%. This would mean that 50% would be done by barging and perhaps onsite cement mixing. Their Coalition Board has been meeting with them to get update and keep the pressure on. Earlier today they spoke with Andrew who is the lead construction person. He seems to be closer to getting the permits for temporary piers, which will have to be renewed every 3 years or construction cycle. Piers may actually be installed, but they are hopeful but they are not guaranteeing it yet. The ULURP is now at the Manhattan borough President and needs to be signed by January 23rd. Then it will go to hearing at City Planning Commission which she would like to invite CB1 to in order to provide input. The meeting will take place on February 6th.

Ms. Mary Cavallo, 39th Avenue Resident, spoke in general against the developers in the community especially the one person she has been dealing with. He has been requesting approval for constant changes from the initial plans such as hotel to residential. The project he is doing consist of 4 properties that run along their property lines (backyard) She has been taken to court by his because he wants to us her backyard to construct his property. She has called the buildings department because now he has taken down the glass blocks that were installed in frames from these windows and replaced them with windows that can open and close. She took picture of them since they can be opened towards her backyard which causes an unsafe condition. She attended other meetings that stated that he was not allowed to install window that could open and close. She hopes that Board and DKCA are aware that some individuals are bad players and need to check how they get these things passed. Mr. Donato asked her to keep the Board updated.

Ms. Melissa Lee, Astoria Resident, stated that she is a concerned parent of School District 30 and a parent of 2 students at PS166 and was here tonight to requesting the support of CB1. There is a lack of seats for gifted and

talented student in the middle school programs. They are very lucky to have these programs and PS122, PS150 and PS166. PS166 is the newest and largest program with 2 kindergartens, 2 first grades, 1 second grade, and 1 third grade. This program was expanded to provide the district the ability to accommodate the growing number of children that are qualified for these programs based on testing. Historically these gifted and talented students automatically matriculated to PS122 academy. This meant that students from PS150 and PS166 automatically had a seat at PS122 without testing. Last Friday, the DOE proposed two new classes to be opened at PS126. However, students from PS166 would need to apply and test into those programs. She stated that 300 parents, teachers and community leaders attended a Town Hall meeting with Chancellor Walcott and spoke out against this proposal stressing the inequity it would create for the children who attend PS166. They feel that all qualified children should have equal access to appropriate middle school gifted and talented education. They, as parents, asked CB1 to write a letter on their behalf to the DOE to requesting equal treatment for all students. Ms. Evie Hantzopoulos motioned that the Board support the parents of PS166 because there has been a situation where there is inequity. The DOE has been so focus on closing schools as opposed to really finding how to provide quality education. The support would be to advocate for middle school articulation automatically for students at PS166 just like the students at PS150 and PS122 who are all in the same program. The DOE promised that they would find a middle school seat for the students for PS166 and PS185. It would be to advocate equity for students at PS166, seconded by Mr. Joe Risi. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried. Mr. Donato requested that they work with Ms. Hartmann for the correct wording.

BUSINESS SESSION:

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

Mr. Donato wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Ms. Lucille Hartmann, District Manager, reported that from January 7 to February 29, 2013 that one or two nights a week the roadway going into Manhattan over the Queensborough Bridge will be closed for construction. SHAREing and CAREing will be holding a forum on new cancer treatments on January 29, 2013 at Riccardos. Please call to pre-register for the forum. In the folders there are the alternate side-parking regulations for 2013. She informed the Board that Ms. Ann Bruno's sister passed and the Norma Nieves-Blas was in the hospital.

Mr. Richard Khuzami, Chair of Parks & Recreation/Cultural Affairs/OTB Committee, reported that there was a Mulchfest this past weekend in Astoria Park which was very successful. They processed 230 trees, 30 wreaths, and also collected 200lbs of food for City Harvest. This coming Thursday at 10am, Bob Piazza, Chair of the Transportation Committee, Ms Hartmann and himself will be joined by people from Astoria Park Alliance, Green Shores, representatives of Parks Department and DOT. They will be doing a site visit of the new greenway that is being constructed through Astoria Park and addressing the problems brought up by the Astoria Park Alliance. Anyone from the Board is welcomed to join them for the site visit at the War Memorial on Shore Blvd at 10 am.

Mr. Donato added at the Borough Board meeting it was reported that the libraries in Queens lost over 100,000 books. Ironically, the same night on the agenda was the representatives of the rasino and how well the rasino is doing. Mr. Donato asked how much are they going to donate to the Queens Library and they stated that they have donated to the Manhattan library.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS:

None

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