

Community Board 1
April 8, 2014

Mr. Vinicio Donato, Chairperson of Community Board 1, commenced at 7:00 p.m. by introducing public hearing item from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), Mr. Gus Prentzas, read the public hearing item from DCA #2803-2014-ASWC-Premises 35-19 Ditmars Blvd (Milo Café). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 30 tables and 62 seats. Mr. Calihan came up on behalf of the application. Ms. Frances McDonald asked how many seats were inside of the establishment. Mr. Calihan stated that there were about 75 seats inside. Ms. Evie Hantzopoulos asked him to clarify the clearance on the 36th Street sidewalk. Mr. Calihan stated that according to the plans 36th Street sidewalk is 17'6" wide, they will be using 7'2" leaving 10' 4" for pedestrian use. Ms. Hantzopoulos asked if there were any tree pits in the area and asked if they could bring in the second row of tables on their plans. 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.

The next item #3057-2014-ASWC-Premises 29-08 23rd Avenue (NYC Bagels & Coffee). An application to establish an unenclosed sidewalk café with 10 tables and 34 seats. Mr. Sergio Aleef came up on behalf of the application. Mr. Prentzas asked what the type of operation was the establishment and the hours of operation. Mr. Aleef stated that it is a bagel and coffee house and they will be open from 6am to 10pm. Mr. Prentzas asked what is actually being sold. Mr. Aleef stated that they have coffee, bagels, and deli sandwiches. There is no alcohol. Mr. Donato asked if there were any Board members who had 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. There was no one. Mr. Donato stated that the application she is looking at is for item #3. There was no further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #3272-2014-ASWC-Premises 44-17 30th Avenue (Gian Piero Bakery). An application to reestablish an unenclosed sidewalk café with 8 tables and 14 seats. Mr. Michael Dellapolla, owner, stated that they would like to reopen the unenclosed sidewalk café. Mr. Prentzas stated for the record that the Board received two emails in favor of the application. He then asked what their hours of operations are and what they serve. Mr. Dellapolla stated that they are open from 6am to 10pm, 7 days a week. They serve coffee, pastries, cappuccino, and cookies. Mr. Donato asked if there were any Board members who had 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 application. Seeing no one. No further discussion. Item closed.

The next item is an application to obtain a Cabaret license at 37-25 32nd Street (Mist). Mr. Ed Savaros and Mr. Constantino Tzirias came up on behalf of the application. Mr. Prentzas asked how long has the establishment been in operation. Mr. Savaros stated that they have not opened yet; they are waiting for the cabaret license to comply with the rules and regulations. Mr. Prentzas asked if they have ever operated any other establishment similar to this one. Mr. Savaros stated "no" but they have hired management with experience. Mr. Prentzas asked what the hours of operation will be. Mr. Savaros stated that they will be open from 5pm to 2am as a lounge on Monday through Friday and on Friday and Saturday they would be a nightclub/lounge open until 3am. Mr. Prentzas asked what would be different between the regular operations during Monday to Friday and Friday/Saturday and what precautions are they taking to ensure that there are not issues with the neighbors such as what type of security. How many people do they expect on club nights? Mr. Savaros stated that they expect approximately 100 people and they have seating for 75 people with a small dance floor. He added that it is an upscale plush lounge, very elegant and very classy. Mr. Prentzas asked if both gentlemen were the owners of the establishment since the name was an LLC. Mr. Savaros stated that he was the owner. Mr. Prentzas asked what type of security they would be providing for the establishment, especially on club nights. Mr. Savaros stated that he has hired a security team that has maintained and operated many establishments out on Long Island. They are certified and trained in how to handle patrons that are intoxicated and have their certifications as bodyguards and in CPR. Two will be implemented at the front door one will implement the ID scanner and the other one will secure the boundary doors in order to contain the party inside. This way there is no noise that will spill out to the street. Mr. Prentzas asked how many in total security guards will there be on the premises. Mr. Savaros stated that there will be about 6 to 7 security guards on club nights. Mr. Prentzas asked if there would be surveillance camera on the premises. Mr. Savaros stated that there would be 16 channel cameras that will fully record onto a 2 Terabyte approximately 35 day backup. Mr. Prentzas asked if they met with the local precinct. Mr. Savaros stated that they would be meeting with them next week and spoke with Detective Negron and were going to set-up a meeting to discuss possible recommendations. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Mr. Richard Khuzami asked if there were residential buildings around their premises. Mr. Savaros stated that there is a mixed-use building across the street. Mr. Khuzami asked what is above their premises. Mr. Savaros stated there is absolutely nothing above the establishment. There are no tenants, no air rights, and there are factories to the left and right as well as behind the premises. Mr. Khuzami asked if they would be willing to sign a statement saying that they are not going to have any type of adult entertainment. Mr. Savaros stated he has already complied with that request. Mr. Prentzas confirmed that he has. Mr. Rudolpho Sarchese asked what time will they close. Mr. Savaros stated that they would be an evening lounge and would be open from 5pm to 2am and on the weekends they would go until 3am. Mr. Sarchese stated that previously they had a problem with another establishment on 37th Avenue that was closing at 6am. Mr. Savaros stated that he is familiar with that establishment and does not believe in their methods of operation. Mr. Sarchese asked if they are planning to do outside promoting. Mr. Savaros replied "No". Mr. Prentzas asked how they are going to handle parking. Mr. Savaros stated that there are two parking facilities that they have been trying to negotiate a deal with for valet service. This way they would have valet service and be able to transport customers to the establishment. One is on 30th and Northern Blvd and the other is on 40th Avenue and 31st Street. Mr. Prentzas asked if the valet parking will provide off street parking. Mr. Savaros stated that the majority will be off street parking. Mr. Stamatiades stated that he knows where the premise is located and that they will have a maximum capacity of 100 people. He asked what the occupancy is for the premises. Mr. Savaros stated that the legal occupancy for the premises is 150 people. Mr. Stamatiades asked if

they are the same people that were there before. Mr. Savaros stated they are absolutely not. Mr. Stamatiades stated that there were incident at the previous establishments there and the residential occupants across the street will have a lot to say. As a friend of the court he is letting them know that there will be many voices dialing the 114th Pct. if there are problems on that street. Mr. Savaros stated that he understood and he has had conversations with a few of the tenants across the street and provided them with his cell number if there are any questions or concern so they can be addressed. Mr. Prentzas asked if they made any changes regarding the sound proofing of the premises. Mr. Savaros stated that they did make changes in the sound proofing by changing the speakers inside the establishment to a smaller speakers placed strategically throughout the room. They put insulations into the ceiling and a weather stripping across the edge of the doors to prevent sound and air from passing. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this application. Mr. Anthony Pappas, resident came up and stated he wanted to extend his best wishes to the gentleman who are opening the establishment and wish them the best of success. They strike him as very responsible people and we should welcome them into our community with the jobs they will provide. Mr. Prentzas stated for the record that the Board received two letters of concerns from neighbors such as the loud music and the parking. There was no further discussion. Item closed.

Mr. Donato then introduced guest speaker Mr. Shane Ojar, Director of Community Affairs, Department of Environmental Protection, regarding water and sewer service line emergency repair protection plan. Mr. Ojar thanked everyone for the opportunity to address the Board. He went on to say that one of the things that is a major issue of contention is the water main and the sewer line that connect their (City's) system to properties. One of the things is that there is a lot of confusion for the residential homeowners as to who is responsible for that line. What happens if it breaks, the answer is the homeowner is responsible for the water and sewer line if it breaks. Once it breaks then the homeowner is responsible for having it fixed. The sewer line starts from the building to the where it connects to the City's main line. The main line could be in front on your property or on the other side of the street. One of the things to deal with this issue, which started last year, was the sewer and water line protection. This helps homeowners' deal with the high cost of fixing a break when it happens. The brochure that many people received explains what the program is about and how it would benefit you if you joined. The cost associated with fixing the line can range anywhere from \$2,000 to \$15,000. In 2012 and 2013, they were able to put out requests from vendors for proposal to provide these services. There are existing vendors that provides these services now. What they were able to do was obtain a vendor who would be able to repair supply a lower price. The cost is \$4.50 a month for the water main and \$8.00 for the sewer line. Just as you would buy a TV from Bestbuy and somebody would try to sell you a protection plan for the TV in case something happens. The analogy is the same. This protection program allows you, in the event of a break, to call this company American Water Resources, and they would come out, no questions asked, and fix it at no extra charge. If a third party broke your water line they would be responsible to repair the water line and the property owner would be responsible to get the third party to repair the broken line. For the most part, most of your regular day to day wear and tear breaks will be covered. That is pretty much it in a nut shell. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had questions for Mr. Ojar. Ms. Joan Asselin asked if she purchased the service tomorrow how long would she have to pay into that service in order to be covered. Mr. Ojar stated that there is a waiting period of a month before you are covered under the program. Ms. Asselin asked why. Mr. Ojar stated that is the program American Water Resources has. You do not have to put in certain amount money in order to have a water or sewer line repaired. When you call to sign up they verify your property and your information. Mr. Rudolpho Sarchese asked if they would be repairing or replacing the water or sewer line. Mr. Ojar stated that depending on the type of break it is a site specific decision they will come and look and see. If it is a lead pipe, he believes, which is explained in terms and conditions, that they actually remove the lead pipe and replace it with a new one. For the most part they would work in the areas of the break and restore your service to get you back up and running. Mr. Sarchese stated that most of the homes in this area are 60 to 70 years old. If they break it should be replaced, otherwise they will have to come back and fix it. The best course would be to put in new pipes. Mr. Ojar stated that this is not a replacement program if you have a small break. This is a plan if you have a small break. This is really a plan to help you. If you keep paying if you do the math for however long you own the house no matter what happens you will save money. Unless you don't get a break at all for the entire time you own your home. At a certain point it will be cost effective, because it is not cheap to repair these lines. It's not an insurance program where someone would come in a write a check and you get a whole new service plan. It is really to ease the burden on the homeowner to make these repairs and make it manageable for them. If you do not repair your water main DEP will come in and shut your service down. The homeowner is then responsible for the penalty and has to repair the water main. He thinks that it is a good thing and they have had a lot of people sign up for it throughout the City. Very few people have said that this is a bad thing. The only thing that was questioned was that there was a tax on it and just last year the tax was removed by legislature. So now this is a tax free program. This was the big question from home owners. He thinks it is even better now. Mr. Richard Khuzami asked about the ancillary charges when you do excavation, you have damage to the sidewalk, the curb, the asphalt. Friends of his, he did not know the specifics, they had some major issues with having to move trees and some of the fees ranged up to \$15,000 to move the trees 12' from the sewer line that was replaced. New pits had to be dug and this was all done at their own cost. Does this insurance address any of these charges? Mr. Ojar stated that this is not insurance but a protection plan. You do not get a check. Mr. Khuzami stated that it's semantics. Mr. Ojar stated that it is not semantics. The issue here is what is covered under restoration. The company comes in, they are required by the agreement and by the NYC Street Restoration Standard they have to repair the street, curb and sidewalk in like and kind. They have to put it back the way they found it. With your property they had to replace, which they have cold patch to put in, temporary asphalt to put in, but he does not believe that they are required to put in concrete. On the sidewalk they are required to put in what the City regulations require and on private property they would put in and restore it with asphalt. It is up to the homeowner to put in what they would want. As for grass and flowers they do not replace they will put dirt and the homeowner will then go and reseed. Mr. Khuzami asked what about the trees. Mr. Ojar stated that they do not do flowers, bushes, and trees. Mr. Khuzami stated that what he understands is that there have been some changes in the regulations why you may have a

tree on top of a sewer line now and you can't do that anymore and has to be 12' away from a sewer line. If this is the case and you have to move a tree pit to another area with a cost involved will that be covered. Mr. Ojar stated that he is not sure if that is covered. Pre-existing conditions are not covered. If you had a pre-existing condition where there was a sewer line that was broken and there was another time that there were tree root entering the sewer system and that would not be covered. If is not documented as a pre-existing condition then most likely it would be covered. Mr. Prentzas asked about the dollar amount of a minor repair that needs to be done. Mr. Ojar asked him to clarify his question. Mr. Khuzami asked what the average cost of sewer damage was. Mr. Ojar stated that it could be anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000 out of pocket. Mr. Khuzami asked if the homeowner does not have insurance, who would they make check payable to. Mr. Ojar stated that the homeowner would get a private contractor or plumber who would come in and give an estimate, get a permit from DOT and then repair the problem. Mr. Khuzami asked if the process is extensive with street closings and the repair work. Why not just replace the concrete. Mr. Ojar stated that they cannot force a private company to repave the street, the DEP entered into an agreement with them we do not manage them. Mr. Khuzami stated that DEP set the ground of how these contracts are going to be. He added that the DEP is not getting any money from this program. Mr. Khuzami asked what about the hardship on the residents. Mr. Ojar stated that if this did not exist, homeowners would be responsible for fixing it; this program allows you to save \$10,000 plus dollars. You would have the same problems and aggravation whether you have this program or not. He stated that what you are asking are apples and oranges. Mr. Khuzami stated that City agencies should tell their contractors. Mr. Ojar replied "He understands". Mr. Jerry Caliendo stated that a majority of the breaks are from the sewer or water main from the house to the water main in the street are typically by tree roots or something heavy riding over it. Mr. Ojar stated that is not true, but if you want to believe that. Mr. Caliendo then asked if the break is due to a tree, which is City property and homeowners cannot touch them. Whose responsibility would it be if in fact it was tree roots that cause the break? Mr. Ojar stated that the homeowner is responsible for the repair. Mr. Caliendo stated why it is the homeowners' responsibility when it is a City tree. Mr. Ojar stated that he gets yelled at about this, but unfortunately that's the protocol that they have established and can only be changed through City Council. He does not have an answer for anyone tonight that can change that. Mr. Daniel Aliberti asked if there is a limit on how many repair calls that can be made per year. Mr. Ojar replied "Unlimited". Mr. Aliberti asked if they would come every week if there was damage. Mr. Ojar stated yes, theoretically. Ms. McDonald stated that she currently has the insurance, because she thinks that if she has the insurance then it will not happen. She added that she did not like the idea that someone is going to figure out whether the damage was caused by Brooklyn Union or Con Edison, two of her favorite companies. Who is going to find out that information? Mr. Ojar stated typically, what would happen is they would be working in the street, carelessly excavating and they break the pipe. They are responsible because they have to report the break to the DEP. Ms. McDonald stated if they are across the street doing something and her pipes breaks and she is told that the insurance that she has been paying for a long time that the people across the street did it. If this is how it really works, they you should be an insurance company in which you pay the repair man and then you sue Con Edison. Ms. Joan Asselin asked if they don't buy the insurance will they recognize the person hired to do the repair. Mr. Ojar stated that it would have to be a licensed plumber. Ms. Asselin stated that she calls her plumber and he has the right person to do that type of work and it costs \$2,000. She would like to know if they would allow someone to come in and do the work. Mr. Ojar stated they will only allow licensed plumber to do the work on City property. On your property you can hire anyone you would like, if they have to open up the street to connect into the main line they would have to pull a permit they would need to have a license. Ms. Asselin asked if the rates stay the same or do they go up. Mr. Ojar stated that they do go up. It went up 50 cent from last year to this year. What happens is that when more and more people buy into the program the easier it would be to keep the rates low. The rates will not go up until the fiscal year changes and the company takes into consideration many factors. Mr. George Stamatiades stated that he has to take this from a practical point of view. If he were, the so called, insurer. Mr. Ojar stated that it is not insurance but a protection program. Mr. Stamatiades stated that we have to straighten out the name of this program. This protection program, if he is this agency/company there is no way they are paying to take out a permit from DEP, there is no way he is going to excavate at two points, one at the fire hydrant and one at his house. In order to patch a nickel size hole to have it break in two weeks and have to go back and fix it again. So, the definition in the word repair in his language is that they come in and put in an entire new line and then they are done for the rest of their lives and they keep collecting the \$22.00. They are not going to go through the expense of all that trench work and repair of the sidewalk and come back again in 2 week. You have to be practical about this. Mr. Ojar stated the company may very well make that determination when they come to look at your line and look at the age of it and they say you know what maybe we do need to replace the entire line. Mr. Donato stated that everyone is saying the same thing. There will be one more question. If you need to speak with Mr. Ojar take his number and give him a call. Mr. Kevin Mullarkey asked what happens if this company went bankrupt. Mr. Prentzas asked if this company put up a bond with the City. Mr. Ojar stated that they have an agreement with them and he would need to find out and get back to the Board with that information. This company is nationwide and has been around for a long time. If for some reason it does there is a time where they sunset out and at a certain point everyone will stop paying. At that time they would enter into an agreement with someone else that we bid out to. Ms. Tharrington stated that last thing she wanted to say that the very last page of the brochure says that they have an A+ rating accreditation with the Better Business Bureau. She suggests that people should go online; there is a lot of information on their website that can answer a lot of the questions raised tonight. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato thanked him for coming.

VOTING:

Mr. Prentzas reiterated the public hearing item from DCA #2803-2014-ASWC-Premises 35-19 Ditmars Blvd (Milo Café). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 30 tables and 62 seats. The Committee met and recommended that they eliminate the 4 last tables and they have agreed to that and the remaining tables, instead of them being doubles with a 3' aisle in between, the middle aisle be eliminated giving an additional 3' with the approval of the application, seconded by Ms. Marie Torniali. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. Ms.

McDonald asked if they could clarify the number of tables. Mr. Prentzas stated that there would now be 26 tables and 56 seats. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 6 Against. The applicant agreed.

The next item #3057-2014-ASWC - Premises 29-08 23rd Avenue (NYC Bagels & Coffee). An application to establish an unenclosed sidewalk café with 10 tables and 34 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Ms. Rose Ann Alaforgiannis. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #3272-2014-ASWC-Premises 44-17 30th Avenue (Gian Piero Bakery). An application to establish an unenclosed sidewalk café with 8 tables and 14 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Ms. Rose Ann Alaforgiannis. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item is an application to obtain a Cabaret license at 37-25 32nd Street (Mist). The Committee met and recommended unanimously the disapproval of the application, seconded by Mr. Kevin Mullarkey. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. Ms. McDonald asked why the committee recommended disapproval of the application. Mr. Prentzas stated that there is concern that the area is saturated with clubs and the concerns is that residents are already complaining about the noise from the existing clubs and people walking the street at night. The committee felt that they do not need another cabaret establishment. Melrose place is there, there is another one around the corner and one on 33rd that go until 3-4am in the morning. Mr. Donato stated that the committee is voting against the application due to all the establishments that are currently there. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 10 in Favor and 16 Against with approval of the application.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Anthony Pappas came up and stated that he handed out information regarding public safety and he has complained to legislators that are in Albany and on the Judiciary committee. He has been unsuccessful in obtaining a reason, from his elected officials, why 3 judges keep saying that he is a terrorist and link him to the corporate massacre. This is a totally irresponsible and our legislators' are not doing their job exercising their checks and balances over the judiciary and should try to remove the insane judges from the bench, because that is what they should be doing. The other idiotic thing the judge did was they get an order from the US District Court and she sends it back to him with a letter basically saying that she does not want this and she did not read it. It's not an order from the US District Court; it is a message or a poem from Anthony Pappas so she is sending back. That is totally insane and our legislators should establish checks and balances over the judiciary and that is a defect in our democracy that needs to be corrected.

Ms. Eugenia (illegible), resident, asked for an update on what is being done about delivery motorbikes on the sidewalks unmarked as well as regular bicycles. She walks her dog every evening and she feels like she is in the street and almost run over. She wants to know what is being done and also about bikes that are not following traffic lights. She walks around 28th Street, 27th Street and 30th Street in the evenings between 6-8pm. She sees a lot of unmarked delivery bikes on the sidewalk. Officer Coleman from 114Pct. Community Affairs stated that he will take her name and number after meeting. This is the first time that he is hearing about the situation but, he will be more than happy to try and resolve the issue. They will take a conditions team or whatever man power that they have to try to get it fixed.

Mr. Eli Rosenberg, Daily News Reporter, stated that he is a new report and brought business cards for everyone. He would like to hear issues that are important to the Board and to all of the communities. You can reach him whenever these things arise. He will be here if anyone would like to speak to him. He wanted to stop by and introduce himself. Added that if anyone would like to reach him they can at 347-470-1576 or erosenberg@nynydailynews.com.

Ms. Elaine Fan, Representative for NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer and she is aware that there is a very large Greek population in Astoria. She wanted to invite Board members who are Greek Americans to the Comptroller's Celebration of Greek Heritage. Anyone who is interested can reach her at efan@comptroller.nyc.gov. The Greek Community event will take place on April 11th from 9am to 10am at the Comptroller's Board Room.

Mr. Tex Crushiak, resident, handed out two different articles. He asked how many people present were aware of the terrorist acts on the electric company in Las Angeles. He read parts of the article dated February 6, 2014 from the Los Angeles Times "Attack on electric Grid Raises Alarm". He asked if a representative from Con Edison come to a meeting and ask them what is being done to protect transformers farms from possible attacks. Mr. Donato said the Board would reach out to Con Edison and get a representative to come to a future meeting.

Ms. France McDonald, stated that the development known as Hallets Cove has received a green light from the City. The development at Astoria Cove is about to have their plans certified. These two developments will be located within a few blocks of each other and scheduled to be built in phases completing in about 2023. The will consist of high rise building, medium to low rise buildings ranging in height 3-stories to 30-stories. Parts of these plans are for 3,700 apartments as well as supermarkets, restaurants, shops, etc., and project will include about 20% affordable housing. Why is she all bent out of shape about this, think about this, plans are all but in the works and community outreach has been done and an EIS's have chiefly addressed the impact the community due to the spike and upswing in populations in its need for its services, transportation, education, and eta. Her concern is the population that now occupies the general area east and south of the coves. For identification purposes she will call this area old Astoria. These areas include homes that were built many years ago, it includes a NYC Housing development, and it includes part of what we call Dutch Kills, which are also made up of very old homes. So during the construction, 10 years or more, these neighborhood will be impacted by a barrage of trucks, trucks transporting

materials as well as heavy duty construction equipment. They will be subject to the noise and vibrations of the excavation, drilling and earth displacement. This is in no way against the buildings', this is a wake-up call for Con Edison, Elected Officials, and all concerned. She asked the Board to send a copy of the letter to all concerned, because the impact on the infrastructure of Old Astoria is old and has to be looked at before the trucks start to roll, before a shovel goes into the ground.

Ms. Cathy, resident, asked about the four teenagers that were recently killed. She stated that she was never over there or down Steinway that far. She read about a creek and how does something like this happen. Does anyone know what is going on? Mr. Donato stated that there is a police investigation going on.

BUSINESS SESSION:

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

Mr. Donato reported that there is a new Borough President and she is inviting all Board members to a training meeting. Some of you have attended such meetings time and time again. He cannot say if you should or should not attend. He stated that he will not.

Ms. Lucille Hartmann, District Manager, reported the listing of 2014 60 Day Lien Sale list has been published and can be found on www.nyc.gov/liensale. Information can be sorted by community boards. She went on to say that there will be a Town Hall meeting on April 23rd at LaGuardia Community College regarding Vision Zero. Flyers are in their folders. There was also a flyer describing a pedestrian Safety Island currently being installed on Northern Boulevard and 61st Street. These changes are going to be made because of a very, very unfortunate accident that caused a death there and there will be other changes coming. Ms. Hartmann also reported there are changes in planning regarding Astoria Blvd and 31st Street. She does not know what they are but they will be presented at the Transportation Committee. She welcomed all the new Board members.

Ms. Rosemarie Poveromo, Chair of Airport Access Committee, reported that our noisy neighbors LaGuardia Airport, and we who live in North Western Queens, are a heartbeat away from their runways have suffered its ongoing assault on our quality of life for decades, not only from heart pounding, ear splitting noise from the thousands of arriving and departing jetliners but, from jet fumes belched from its thunderous engines. In both of these assaults must be coupled with aggressive airport negatives. Both, if at all possible must be neutralized. We salute those Elected Officials who worked together and made enough noise of their own to be heard in Albany about the unrelenting issue in Queens. Necessitating, Governor Cuomo to direct the Port Authority of NY/NJ and the hard of hearing FAA to conduct comprehensive noise studies at and around Queens Airports to mitigate the noise impact from jet aircraft.

We sincerely hope that their combined shouts of protest accomplish positive changes and that the agreed upon roundtables are not just venting sessions to tranquilize the masses. There is only one noise monitor per Astoria Heights, Jackson Heights, and East Elmhurst. There are three noise monitors and absolutely no air quality monitors. Thankfully the catalytic converters that exist capture the exhaust fumes from cars. Can we not retro fit to capture/cleanse and adapt spewed poisonous gas from jet engines?

Ms. Elizabeth Erion, Chair of Capitol/Expense budget Committee reported that she ran a report on the Capitol Budget and wanted to let everyone know that Mayor is having his preliminary budget. The only thing that she knows is in there from CB1 is in the Parks section regarding Astoria Park. For all CB1's responses from the agencies has basically been saying since last year, make your request through you council representative. So they will be following up on that.

Ms. Joan Asselin, Chair of Environmental Protection Committee, reported that the Environmental Committee covers more than power plants and would like to remind everyone that their committee covers more than that such as home gardens. We have a bee problem. She asked that people try to help by having small gardens. This will hopefully help bring up the bee population. She stated that she has several fruit trees herself.

Mr. Richard Khuzami, Chair of Parks & Recreation/Cultural Affairs/OTB Committee, reported that some of his neighbors have been complaining to him about dog leavings. It seems that recently that there has been after many, many years of pretty good cleanliness it seems that it has become an obstacle course. Particularly, around the 18th Street, Astoria Park South into Astoria Park. He just wanted to bring that to everyone's attention. Hopefully some reinforcement can follow. Mr. Sarchese seconded that request for reinforcement it is becoming a big problem.

Mr. Stamatiades reported that the Committee in regard to the HANAC Parking lot on Astoria Blvd met, it was an Ad Hoc Committee organized by the Chairman. The issue was that the parking lot after the Board turned over to them to build that facility is now a private entrepreneurial operation. Their charges before the meeting were a \$4 for 1 hour, \$6 for 2 hours, and \$11 for 3 hours. After discussing it with HANAC and operators of the garage the new rates are now \$2 for 1 hour, \$6 for 2 hours, and \$7 up to 3 hours. In addition, they are providing vouchers for people who go to the Advanced Radiology facility for \$5 if they go above the 1 hour limit. This was an accommodation. He would like the Board to send a letter thanking John Kitaris for his cooperation with the community.

Ms. Elizabeth Erion, spoke on behalf of the Chair of Zoning and Variance Committee, reported that the committee was very active since the last meeting. She thanked all the Board members who participated in the 3 meetings that they had. 2 of them dealt with the proposed Astoria Cove project which Ms. McDonald spoke earlier about. This is a project that has given the Board visitation from the applicant because they expect that this project will be coming to the Board for public hearing review before our summer recess. They expect certification by City Planning by April or early May. She said that they finally got a copy of application. She has already asked some

of the committee members to help review so they can look and see if there is anything that are any issues within this project that the Board would wish to have changed or enhanced. Certainly, the project is going to have a lot of impacts including the infrastructure during the construction phase. They want to make sure that the Board has a say about those issues and are brought to the applicant. Perhaps there can be changes to the project to some extent before it goes to City Planning. We have to make our issues known to City Planning and to City Council before they hold their public hearing. These are critical issues that will have a very big impact with about 4,000 new families in the area and a potential for further development to vacant land underutilized. The committee met subsequent to the presentation by the developer. They did not have any site plan to work with and basically relied on their memory and a compiled list of issues and responses that they had. For those that they could response to is in the folders. It had to do with increasing the number of 2-bedroom apartments so that there are more families in the area and there are 14 issues that were brought up to them. With respect to the infrastructure, they would like to have the applicant make and outreach to Con Edison and their clients before they start construction. We will be having our hearing before the summer session. The 3rd meeting that they had was in regards to the proposed development on Steinway Street and 35th Avenue which is another high rise development. This project is not set, it is a project that the applicant is trying to include affordable housing with no funds from the City in order have affordable housing. In order for them to do this it has to have higher density, etc. There are 4 sites that being talked about on the Northeast corner of Steinway and 35th, the Southside of Steinway and 35th, on 35th Ave between 41st and 42nd Street, and on the Southeast corner of 35th Avenue and 42nd Street. The proposal at this point is not set. He thinks that the community is in support of this. Even though there is a disagreement between the zoning committee, we never told him that he could build an 8.5 FAR, which is what he wants. At this point he is going to prepare a ULURP application which will set down what it is he exactly wants, such as zoning. He never really said what zoning he wanted. He talked about a zoned for affordable housing which does not exist. The committee is waiting to hear back from him with a specific application or with at least a draft application that will ultimately go through ULURP. The concern that the committee members had was that the area schools are already overcrowded and a larger development is going to severely impact those. The projects that were shown provided sufficient parking and also a proposal of another large supermarket in the area that already has 2 or 3. She thanked everyone who has been involved over the past few months. Everyone will be receiving notifications of another meeting that the committee will be setting up for the zoning committee to look at just the Astoria Cove project.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Donato motioned the Board for approval to send a letter to Sal Gagliardo who served on the CB1 for many, many, many year and was not reappointed because he has not been feeling well and unable to attend meetings. The letter would say that the entire Board voted “thank you” for your serve to our community, seconded Mr. Mullarkey. Motion called and carried.

There was no further business before the Board Ms. Erion motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Nieves-Blas. Motion called and carried unanimously.