

Community Board 1
Minutes
April 21, 2015

Mr. Vinicio Donato, Chairperson of Community Board 1, commenced meeting at 7:00 pm by introducing Mr. John Carusone, Chair of Zoning and Variance who read public hearing item from the Board of Standard and Appeals (BSA) Cal. #45-15-BZ – Premises 23-10 41 Avenue. An application for a special permit to permit a physical culture or health establishment in an M1-5/R7-3/LIC zoning district. Mr. Chris Wright, Simons & Wright, LLC, and the applicant came up on behalf of the application. He stated that the application is for a Physical culture or Health Establishment (PCE). This particular PCE is a rock climbing facility. He then proceeded to read two sections of their fact finding brief to the Board, which was in the Board's folders. The physical location of the PCE will be at 23-10 41st Avenue within a 17 story residential building and will be occupying 20,900 square feet of the entire cellar and sub-cellar with an entrance on the 1st floor. The applicant is requesting a 10 year term. He continued to read the findings and the PCE occupational plan of the report to the Board. In brief, the facility will be on three floors with the entrance on 41st Avenue and go downstairs to the cellar and it is about a 15-20 foot height area which is all dedicated to rock climbing. The sub-cellar will be lockers and showers for customers. Mr. Carusone asked if the facility will have other activities other than rock climbing and yoga. Mr. Wright stated that the facility is mainly for rock climbing but there are other exercise facilities in the room (weight lifting and yoga). Mr. Carusone stated that special district require certain occupancies on the 1st floor/grade level. He asked if they are part of an as of right or are they in compliance with the Long Island City Special Zoning District. Mr. Wright stated that they are in an existing building that has been built and are fully in compliance as far as they know. Their first floor use will be strictly walking downstairs and he is unsure of what else is in the building. The Certificate of Occupancy issued by the City of New York for the existing building is given for each of the floors. The PCE is never an as of right anywhere. They must always go through the BSA and the Long Island District allows PCE applications to be filed. PCE's are not an FAR generator or a community facility. PCE's are always a special use facility and will have to go through the BSA. This applicant will be using the cellar and sub cellar. Mr. Carusone asked if they have any other zoning issues or compliance issues. Mr. Wright stated they have no other issues except for the special use. Mr. Carusone asked what will the height of the facility be based on the sections of the building from floor to floor current height. Mr. Wright stated that the 1st floor is strictly an entrance and the cellar and sub cellar are where the rock climbing facility will be. He did not know but will have the person running the rock climbing facility describe the facility. The owner stated that the facility is on a split level with one side having 19' deep to about 30' deep on the other side for rock climbing. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Ms. Frances McDonald asked if the residential building contained apartments. Mr. Wright stated that the C of O shows residential use on the upper floors. Ms. McDonald asked if the building is occupied. Mr. Wright stated that they believe that it is occupied but this is an application is only for the cellar and the sub cellar. Ms. McDonald asked if the residential building is a co-op, condo, or rental units and who they will be renting the space from. The owner stated that there are 108 units above, of which are 9 condos and some affordable apartments. They are a recipient of the HARP FUND that guarantees the loan for the building to be built. Ms. McDonald asked if she came to their facility where would she park and what kind of signage do they have letting people know where they are. The owner stated that there is parking two blocks away, street parking and paid parking nearby. They will have 2 signs on the corner of the building. Mr. Daniel Aliberti asked if they will have bouldering and other climbing like the facility in Brooklyn. The owner replied yes and stated that bouldering is free climbing. Ms. Norma Nieves-Blas asked how many people can use the facility at any given time. The owner stated that there isn't any given number but the projected number may be 69 people in the facility and could probably hold 200 people in the giant facility. Mr. Kevin Mullarkey asked what type of safety they would be providing. The owner stated that safety is there number one priority and in rock climbing they have two types of climbs one with ropes one without. There is a 2 foot mat all along the bottom of the wall. The facility in Brooklyn they have an automatic locking mechanism on the ropes to make sure that your partner does not fall. Rock climbing is very risky and everyone who comes in signs a waiver. Mr. Mullarkey asked if they have an age limit for climbers. The owner stated that you can come on your own if you are over 14 years of age with a parent's signature. Ms. Rosemarie Poveromo asked if there is staff on top of the wall. The owner replied "No". Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. Item closed.

The next public hearing item was from the Department of City Planning (DCP) # N150293 ECQ – Premises 40-19 Broadway (Pollo's Mario). A new application (change of ownership) to operate an Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 10 tables & 30 seats. Mr. Andre Kumargo came up on behalf of the application. He stated that they had to resubmit the application. They have not changed ownership for 19 years and have no changes since the last application. Mr. Kumargo stated that the restaurant is owned by his father. Mr. Carusone asked if there were any changes in the number of tables and seat since the last application. Mr. Kumargo replied "No". Mr. Carusone asked if they had any violations or summonses since the last renewal. Mr. Kumargo replied "No". 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 the application. Seeing no one. Item closed.

The next item # N140418 ECQ – Premises 29-29 Ditmars Blvd. (Pizza Palace). An application to renew the license to operate an Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 14 tables & 30 seats. Mr. Mike Lueck came up on behalf of the application. He stated that this is a renewal application for an existing enclosed sidewalk café located on the corner of Ditmars and 31st Street. The establishment has been at this location for many years, there are no changes to the layout of tables and seats, and there are no violations that they are aware of. Mr. Carusone asked if there was any change in ownership. Mr. Lueck 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, no further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #N130302ECQ – Premises 25-41 Broadway (Sac's Pizza Place). An application to renew the license to operate an Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 15 tables & 35 seats. (Applicant arrived late) The owner apologized for

being late. Mr. Donato permitted him the time to speak but noted it was 8:45, an hour & 45 minutes since the meeting started at 7pm. The owner stated that he is the sole supporter of his family and has to run his restaurant. He tried to be here on time and they have been in the community for 25 years and donated to the community and every organization. It was not his intention to anger anyone. They would like to continue having a café. Mr. Babor asked if the restaurant is strictly a pizza parlor/Italian restaurant. The owner replied "Yes". Mr. Babor asked what the hours of operation were. The owner stated that they are open from 11:30am to 11pm Sunday to Thursday and 11:30am to 12am on Friday and Saturday. Mr. Babor asked if they serve liquor. The owner stated that they serve beer, wine and liquor. Mr. Babor asked if they have music. The owner replied "No". On Monday night's they have Jazz for 3 hour. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Ms. Poveromo stated that they are good to the community and the food is excellent and clean. 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. Ed Babor read the public hearing item from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) #3788-2015-ASWC – Premises 35-01 36 Street (Tacuba). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 48 tables & 100 seats. Mr. Mike Lueck came up on behalf of the application. He stated that the owners are present and that there was a late change in the plan. The tables and seats were reduced to 36 tables and 76 seats respectively. He brought copies of the revised plans for the Board to review. Mr. Babor asked him to describe the type of business. Mr. Sobhan, owner, stated that it is a Mexican restaurant and is looking to bring more business by having an outdoor café. Mr. Babor asked if they have a liquor license and if there were apartments about the establishment. Mr. Sobhan stated that they have a liquor license and there are offices above the establishment. Mr. Babor asked what their hours of operation were. Mr. Sobhan stated that they are open from 12pm to 12am Monday to Thursday and on Friday and Saturday they are open from 12pm to 1am. Mr. Donato stated that he stopped by the area earlier in the day and asked where 36 tables and 76 seats are going to be and how many tables are inside the establishment. Mr. Sobhan stated that inside there are about 50 tables and 100 seats. Mr. Donato stated that it seemed like a lot of seats. Mr. Donato asked if there was any Board member who had a question for the applicant. Ms. Frances McDonald stated that the illustration they provided that she cannot figure out where they are going to put all the tables. She asked if all the tables were going to be in front of the establishment. Mr. Lueck stated that the tables are equally divided to go on 35th Avenue and 36th Street. It is a large place on the corner and 18 tables will go on each side. 36th Street side is a little longer with narrow sidewalks and there will only be 2 seats per table. Ms. Nancy Silverman asked if the previous owner had the same exact configuration and asked if they knew that. Mr. Lueck stated that he did some research and he would have the same configuration. Ms. Linda Perno asked how many people they employ. Luis replied "36". Mr. Dominic Stiller asked how much space they are leaving open on the narrow side of the street. Mr. Lueck stated that they will be 1 ½' from the café and will have to show the distance for the tree. Mr. Stiller asked if there was a railing. Mr. Lueck replied "Yes". Mr. Stiller asked what the distance was from the railing to the tree pit. Mr. Lueck stated that the distance from the tree pit edge would be about 4'. Mr. Stiller asked how wide the tables are. Mr. Lueck stated that the tables are 21"Wx24"L with a 3' waitress aisle between the tables. Mr. Stiller stated that there should be more room for the pedestrians. He asked if there was a 5' rule and if there was any way they could work in a 5' minimum at the tree pits. Mr. Lueck stated that they agreed to provide 5' clearance near the tree pit. Mr. Carusone stated that there seemed to be a discrepancy on the drawing of the seating. Ms. Hartmann stated that the applicant revised their plans and is not sure if they have been submitted to DCA. Mr. Lueck stated that they plans were done earlier in the day and have not been submitted to DCA. Ms. Hartmann stated that she was not sure if that would have an impact on the application and it would be better to postpone this application. Mr. Donato stated that he will place this application on next month's agenda because there seems to be some sort of discrepancy and the Board wants to make sure that everything is kosher. Ms. Hartmann stated that she would look into it and requested a copy of the plans. Mr. Lueck stated that the plans will be submitted on Wednesday, April 22nd. There was no further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #2942-2015-ASWC – Premises 32-16 Steinway St. (Brik Lounge and Kitchen). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 4 tables & 16 seats. There was no one present for the application.

The next item #2495-2015-ASWC – Premises 36-02 30 Ave. (Piatsa Soulvaki Café). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 36 tables & 70 seats. Mr. Mike Lueck came up on behalf of the application with Mr. George Sortos, owner. Mr. Babor asked if they could describe the establishment to the Board. Mr. Sortos stated that this will be his first business in New York. He had a similar business in Athens. He stated that he will try to provide good business, service and food. All foods will be from Greece. Mr. Donato asked how many seats are located inside the establishment. Mr. Sortos replied 64 seats and only use 50 seats because they do not have a waiter. The license is for 68 seats. Mr. Babor asked if they have a liquor license. Mr. Sortos replied "Wine and Beer". Mr. Babor asked what the hours of operation were. Mr. Sortos stated they are open from 11am to 11pm Sunday to Thursday and 11am to 1am Friday and Saturday with no music and Greek food. Mr. Babor asked if there are apartments above the establishment. Mr. Sortos replied "Yes". Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Ms. Marie Torniali asked if there was an alleyway on 36th Street followed by a residence. Mr. Sortos replied "Yes". Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this application. Mr. (name illegible), resident, stated that he seen changes over the 59 years and you can't stop change. However, he recently took a walk in his neighborhood and took pictures of how people have been using tree pits as garbage cans, which he gave to the Board to view. As the weather gets warmer this kind of stuff only get worst. He rarely sees 2 to 3 tables occupied inside the restaurant, so why do they need this extension. The application only shows the front view of the establishment not the side view. If there are no waiters how will the outdoor tables be bussd? He believes that the Department of Consumer Affairs states that tables and seats can only occupy no more than 4'6" of public sidewalk. He does not believe another sidewalk café is required on a residential street. Ms. Helen Maloney, resident, stated that she concurred with everything the previous speaker said. This is a residential block and it is encroaching right on the residents. The building itself is 3 stories with apartments above. It is true that 36th Street has become the garbage dump for all the cafes on 30th Avenue. The bottles and garbage in the mornings we spend hours cleaning up. People with a business on the Avenue do not take care of their garbage. Getting back to tables, the street is very narrow and there are trees there. Anyone with a

wheelchair could not get by. There are physician offices on that block and she thinks that it is inappropriate. She thinks they should consider other types of business on the Avenue. Mr. Patrick (illegible), representing Norwood Neighborhood Association, stated that he wished them success in their business, but he is totally opposed to the sidewalk café. He stated that many people from the association are present. He stated that the building is a 4 apartment building and there is no accommodation for trash for the restaurant or the apartment building. He believes that they will have deliveries done by bicycles and where will these bicycles be stored. Bikes and dumpsters cannot be stored in the alleyway. The tables are not up against the building and are encroaching onto the back driveway which is a public access for the residence and the public to get onto the street. Therefore blocking the view and putting drivers in danger of being hit by cars. There were 12 tables on 30th Avenue, coming down the entire side of the restaurant as part of the previous bakery. Now the residents of this block, in their golden years, cannot sleep at night because of noise and people speeding. He asked the Board on behalf of Norwood Neighborhood Association to consider the residents in the area. Ms. Babor stated on the record that the Board has received a number of letters in opposition to this application. Ms. Dorothea Sewack spoke on behalf of her aunt, Dya Henoska a resident. She stated that they wished them much success, but as she looked over the floor plan of the mapped out tables and seats it seems to be a safety concern, as the gentleman previously stated. There is a live driveway/alleyway and the chairs are in the way on the narrow street. There are no bike stations represented on the plan. The sidewalk is already narrow and with tables and seats leaves less space. She found herself standing in a tree pit in order to let a woman go by in a wheelchair because there was insufficient passage already. By adding 36 tables on 36th Street will make much harder. She understands the need to have and outdoor presence especially when the weather is nice since she was in the restaurant business for 22 years in Boston. This is not only uncomfortable to customers it is extremely hazardous for pedestrians. John stated that he agrees with the woman who just spoke and looking at the floor plan there is a big discrepancy in the number of tables and seats from what the drawing shows. There are roughly about 100 seats at tables lining up on the sidewalk. There is no way to get onto the street. The number of seats should reflect what is in the diagram. Ms. McDonald asked the Chairman if anyone had asked if the tables and seats are outside the establishment at the moment. Audience replied no. Ms. Alison Spurlik, resident, stated that she lives 2 houses away from the establishment. It is very exciting to see the avenue changing and becoming absolutely full of restaurants. She loves a lot of the neighborhood places and she thinks the rents are rising. Even though new places are coming in and they happened to be cafes she thinks that the quality of life aspect is very important. They already have a restaurant that is open until 1am. Mr. Donato asked if she was in favor or against the restaurant. Ms. Spurlik stated that she is against the amount of tables. Residents sit on their patios in the evening but the cafes bring noise, screeching cars with young people driving them. The restaurants are opening to make money add alcohol, etc. and the quality of life changes. She likes progress but not on this scale. Ms. Emma Yeargo, resident, stated that 36th Street is very stressful with a lot of problems. Three years ago she used to have to call the police about the issues. She is getting older and doesn't want to go through it again, it is too stressful for a senior citizen. Mr. Donato asked if she was against or for the application. Ms. Yeargo stated that she was against the application. Mr. (illegible), resident, stated that he lives on 37th Street and there is a café under his apartment and stated that he has not seen any garbage or bottles in the mornings when leaves the apartment. He sees a big picture and that more people want to come to Astoria and 30th Avenue. He stated that he knows the applicant and he knows the large investment that he has made. If you go to his restaurant he has an A grade from the Department of Health. He provides the applicant with supplies for his restaurant. Mr. Dion (illegible), resident, stated that he is excited that there is a new restaurant opening up near where he lives. He can't wait for it to open and he feels that it is going to increase the property value and bring more people into the neighborhood. It will probably bring job opportunities. If the tables are lessened there will still be people that are not happy. We live in a world that we can't please everyone. If the restaurant closes earlier there will be other restaurants that will still be open until 3am on 30th Avenue. He can't wait until this business is open to enjoy some good food. Mr. Lueck came up on behalf of the owner and stated that the owner agrees to withdraw the application. He will resubmit the application but prior to doing so he would like to have a meeting with the neighbors to discuss some of the issues that have come up this evening and come up with a solution that will satisfy everyone. Mr. Lueck stated that he had a response to some of the comments that were made. A sidewalk café is limited to 50% of the sidewalk of 8' if the sidewalk is 16' wide. A 4'6" sidewalk café is a small sidewalk café. He then gave examples. He continued to say that DCA rules require that outdoor cafes' are closed at 12am on weeknight and 1am on the weekend regardless of the times the restaurant closes. Mr. Donato asked if the owner would be willing to put it in writing that he is willing to withdraw the application at this time to meet with the neighbors. Mr. Sortos replied "Yes". Mr. Donato stated that the Board would hold off on the application and asked that he try to arrange a meeting with the neighbors.

The next item #1433968-DCA – Premises 31-13A Ditmars Blvd. (Bubba's). An application to renew the license to operate an Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 12 seats. Ms. Nellie Triantaphilides, owner, stated that this is a renewal of an unenclosed café for 6 tables and 12 seats on 31-13A Ditmars Blvd. Mr. Babor asked what the hours of operation were and if they would be serving alcohol. Ms. Triantaphilides stated that their hours of operation are 11am to 10pm on the winter hours and 11am to 11pm summer hours and they have a license to serve alcohol. Mr. Babor asked if they would have music. Ms. Triantaphilides replied "No". Mr. Babor asked what type of food. Ms. Triantaphilides stated that they would be serving Southern American food. 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 the application. Seeing no one. Item closed.

The next item an application to establish a Cabaret at 19-44 Steinway St. (Baroque). Mr. Chris Manakis, owner, came up on behalf of the application. He stated that this is his second business in Astoria and has been in Astoria for 17 years and he is applying for a cabaret license. Mr. Babor asked what the hours of operations are and the capacity of the establishment. Mr. Manakis stated that the hours of operation are from 6pm to 4am and have a capacity of 299. Mr. Babor asked if he will have music and serve alcohol and food. Mr. Manakis replied "Yes". Mr. Babor asked how long have they been at the current location. Mr. Manakis stated that they have been there for 6 weeks and has another business called Flo which he has had for 10 years. Mr. Mullarkey asked if there is any adult entertainment taken place in the establishment. Mr. Manakis replied no, he has kids and in his lease it states no adult entertainment allowed. Mr. Mullarkey asked if there will be adult entertainment in the future. Mr. Manakis

replied “No”. Mr. Robert Piazza asked the owner to describe the business. Mr. Manakis stated that the restaurant is a lounge/restaurant bar. Mr. Piazza asked if there was dancing. Mr. Manakis said that there was no dancing that is why they are applying for a cabaret license so that if someone wants to dance they can. Mr. Piazza asked what type of food they serve. Mr. Manakis stated that it is a fusion Mediterranean/Asian and it will be an event space for catering such as weddings, etc. Mr. Carusone asked what age they are expecting. Mr. Manakis stated that the law says 21 but the average age is 30. They do not want the young crowd because they are not very responsible. They have a nice establishment and want to keep it that way. Mr. Carusone asked if they have a Public Assembly Permit and a Certificate of Occupancy (C of O). Mr. Manakis stated that they have a public assembly permit and a C of O. Mr. Carusone asked what the square footage was. Mr. Manakis replied “5,000 sq. ft.”. Ms. Alaforgiannis asked if they have security at the front door. Mr. Manakis replied “Yes”. Ms. Alaforgiannis asked what the ratio was. Mr. Manakis stated that he is required to have 1 security person for every 70 persons. He has more than he is supposed to in order to keep his establishment secure. He currently has 12 people. Ms. Evie Hantzopoulos asked what is in the surrounding area. Mr. Manakis stated that they are surrounded by warehouses. He has ensured that there is no disturbance to the residences and has made every effort by testing sound levels. He is prepared to provide sound proofing if necessary. Ms. Rosemarie Poveromo asked if the inside is as beautiful as the outside hopefully everything will be calm and quiet. Mr. Manakis stated yes, the outside is just brick wall and they just left it and you would not expect what is inside based on the exterior. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Mr. Antonio Maris asked if the age of 23 years will be applied to male and female. Mr. Manakis replied “Yes”. There was no further discussion. Item closed.

VOTING:

Mr. John Carusone reiterated public hearing item from (BSA) Cal. #45-15-BZ – Premises 23-10 41 Avenue. An application for a special permit to permit a physical culture or health establishment in an M1-5/R7-3/LIC zoning district. He stated that the committee met and recommended approval of the application with a reduction to a 5 year term instead of 10, seconded by Mr. Thomas Ryan. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 36 in Favor, 1 Against and 0 Abstentions.

The next public hearing item from DCP # N150293 ECQ – Premises 40-19 Broadway (Pollo’s Mario). An application (change of ownership) to operate an Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 10 tables & 30 seats. He stated that the Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Thomas Ryan. 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 #N140418 ECQ – Premises 29-29 Ditmars Blvd. (Pizza Palace). An application to renew the license to operate an Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 14 tables & 30 seats. He stated that the Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Thomas Ryan. 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 #N130302 ECQ – Premises 25-41 Broadway (Sac’s Pizza Place). An application to renew the license to operate an Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 15 tables & 35 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Babor. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 1 Abstention for Cause.

Mr. Babor reiterated the public hearing item from DCA #3788-2015-ASWC – Premises 35-01 36 Street (Tacuba). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 48 tables & 100 seats.

This application has been postponed until May meeting upon submission of revised documentation. Ms. Hartmann stated that she will see if she gets it postponed. Mr. Khuzami asked if the Board should take a preliminary vote just in case they do not allow the postponement. Mr. Donato stated that they could but they will let the Board postpone it.

The next item #2942-2015-ASWC – Premises 32-16 Steinway St. (Brik Lounge and Kitchen). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 4 tables & 16 seats. The Committee met and recommended postponement of the application to May 2015 since there was no one present on behalf of the application.

The next item #2495-2015-ASWC – Premises 36-02 30 Ave. (Piatsa Soulvaki Café). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 36 tables & 70 seats. Mr. Carusone stated that the applicant is temporarily withdrawing the application.

The next item #1433968-DCA – Premises 31-13A Ditmars Blvd. (Bubba’s). An application to renew the license to operate an Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 12 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Mullarkey. 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 establish a Cabaret at 19-44 Steinway St. (Baroque). The Committee met and recommended approved of the application, seconded by Mr. Khuzami. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 1 Against and 2 Abstentions for Cause.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. John Cartsellos, commercial business owner, stated that he attended the January Board meeting and brought attention of the abandoned cars in a quadrant of Vernon Blvd on the West and to Crescent Street on the East and 36th Avenue on the North and 40th Avenue on the South. The area has become a gasoline alley of sorts. The establishments that repair the cars have been parking them on street without plates. He visited the Board the next day of the January meeting as a follow-up and spoke to someone there. He was informed that Sanitation is the

agency that takes care of issues like this. The individual reached out to the Sanitation Department and was informed that they were a little busy with the snow storm. He waited until April and the snow is gone. There should be some sort of enforcement since these cars clearly obstruct traffic. 10th Street is used as a conduit from parents to walk their children to school. At the time, he asked CB1 to look into installing nighttime regulation signs. People from other boroughs are using that area to store their cars for their business. He received a ticket because he has not been able to clean 18' from the sidewalk since the cars are blocking the street 24 hours a day. There is a 12 story hotel being built and that will add to the congestion to the area. Ms. Hartmann stated that she is the person he spoke to. She reached out to Sanitation and was informed that summonses were issued. She did not hear another word from him again. The Board was under the impression that it was taken care of. She asked if he would call the Board to inform them of what is happening. Mr. Cartellos stated that no enforcement has been taken since January. He even called 311 for assistance. He will give the Board a call to let them know what is going on.

A representative of the Public Advocate's office stated that he has 2 flyers on the back table and a monthly newsletter. He came to update the Board on 3 items. One item was the Public Advocate has immediately appeal the decision in the Eric Garner case. Last month the Public Advocate has had rally at City Hall "Our School, Our Voices", it was a rally to fight for more funding for our schools and our teachers. This was followed by a five borough forum on Mayoral control. Six months ago with several lawsuits after the race for Public Advocate Leticia James worst landlord list, many of the buildings are showing improvements. Several buildings in Harlem last week and a landlord in Brooklyn was arrested for being a slum lord. He further stated that ACS has been receiving an increase of complaints in the foster system. They have created a hotline for calls from children in the foster care system, parents of foster children, and children who have been aged out of the foster system so they can address the matter.

Mr. Mark Gobbos, resident, stated that he has lived in Astoria for the last 7 years. On 12th Street and 31st Avenue there are cars are being abandoned on 12th Street without license plates. He and his fellow neighbors have been calling 311 about the issue. He was informed by 311 that a car parked in the same spot for 8 days the NYC Police Department will tow the car away at the owner's expense, especially if they don't have license plates. There have been new high rise buildings in the area and they are bringing their cars with them. It has been impossible to find parking for him with the additional cars in the neighborhood. There are signs posted that limit parking in the neighborhood, such no parking from 7am to 7pm.

Mr. Joel Bhuiyan, Queens Engagement Coordinator for NYC Smoke-Free, stated that he is present with his colleagues Phil Konigsberg and Eileen Miller. They are part of the Tobacco Control Group. He stopped by to introduce himself. They work on the reduction of tobacco marketing and access to youth. They also work on smoke-free outdoor space like sidewalks and entries to building, as well as, smoke free housing buildings (co-ops, condo, etc.).

Mr. Phil Konigsberg, CB7 Board Member, stated that he came before the Board in January about the Smoke Free Resolution for multiple-house and multiple-unit and a smoking policy disclosure that they are asking all of the Boards in Queens to support their resolution. In January, they had 2 Boards in Queens that passed it CB7 and C11. Even in Staten Island, CB3 passed the resolution. Since January they have had an additional 4 Boards to pass the resolution. He has visited all 14 Queens Community Boards and is now making return visits. Those who have taken the resolution are in discussions or further review. He asked that CB1 take action on the resolution that has been presented in January. He had hoped to speak to the Chair of the Health Committee, who was not present. He asked the Board to please consider what they have presented.

Ms. Eileen Miller, Nurse Practitioner, Vice-Chair of CB11Q, stated that everyone has been touched by someone who died from lung cancer or someone who has lung cancer because it is so prevalent. The resolution is about respecting your neighbor. If you are living in buildings, you don't know who is living next door. It could be a mother who just gave birth to a baby. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is cause by second hand smoke; nobody wants to be responsible for that. Asthma attack is caused by second hand smoke. To have someone go outside to smoke is not such a bad thing compared to the possible results. 49,000 deaths are attributed to second hand smoke. It is being said that heart attacks can be caused by second hand smoke. Respect your neighbors that all she is asking for.

Ms. Nancy Silverman asked what she should do if she wants to make a motion on this resolution. Mr. Donato stated that it will be given to the committee on health and they would have to bring a resolution to the Board. Ms. Silverman asked if that is already going to happen. Mr. Donato replied "Yes".

Mr. Taylor, resident of Flatbush Brooklyn, stated that she is present on the behalf of an organization called Commune that is developing a digital directory of all the meeting throughout the 5 Boroughs of NYC. The directory will even include meetings at Community Boards. The goal for the digital directory is to provide more support of the local government. The directory is currently being tested on the iPhone application and she is offering anyone who is interested to work with them on a couple different exercises and give them feedback. They want to hear back from the community to make sure that this is relevant tool.

BUSINESS

Mr. Donato motioned to accept the minutes of March Board meeting. Mr. Babor motioned to accept minutes, seconded by Mr. Khuzami. Motion called and carried unanimously. He then reported that there are four new Board members. He asked the new Board members to stand and introduce themselves, Katie Ellman, Dominic Stiller, and Vanessa Jones Hall. He went on to say he was sorry to say that we are losing our District Manager, Lucille Hartmann. She is retiring at the end of July 2015. The Board will be in the process of advertising. Mr. Donato also reported that he will be leaving the Board at the end of August. He has been on the Board for 44 years and has been the Chair of many other big boards. He is 80 years old and he is tired. He will remain until the end of August until the Board has a new District Manager and that everything is going right and then the Board has to decide who they

would like to be Chair in September. Mr. Stamatiadis is the next in line and will be acting Chair until there is a vote. He then gave a brief history of the Board since he was Chair. Ms. Norma Nieves-Blas asked if the Board would play a role in establishing a committee to find the new District Manager. Mr. Donato stated that they have a personnel committee and they will meet first after applications are submitted. Then it will be brought to the Board. He stated that he does not make the decision. Mr. Aliberti asked if the Personnel Committee is made up of people from CB1. Mr. Donato replied "Yes".

Ms. Lucille Hartmann, District Manager, stated that she has been serving with the Board since 1978 except for when she left to work at the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit for 5 years. Then she was fortunate enough to be appointed as Board member. She came back in 1989 and she could not believe that this much time has passed. She stated that she has been blessed and thanked everyone for the opportunity. She then reported that earlier in the day she and Ms. Bruno attended a meeting at the D.A.'s office. Judge Brown spoke of the creation of a new Office of Immigration Affairs. There was a press release in the Board member's folders. The new office has been set-up to address members of new immigrant communities who have been victimized either by a violent crime or by financial exploitation. Also discussed was the DA Youth Diversion Program which has been created as an alternative to incarceration for qualifying youth 14-19 who are charged with a felony. Certain criteria must be met but the goal of the program is to redirect their lives and for them to become a productive citizen. The DA's office stressed that they would like to reach out to the community. If there is anyone who would like a speaker to come and address any of their groups they are available to come out and speak. She suggested that our local organizations take advantage of this opportunity. In addition, she mentioned two upcoming events. One was a Town Hall meeting that is sponsored by UCCA and Assembly Member Simotas on May 14th at the Museum of the Moving Image and the other meeting by the Astoria Homeowner s, Tenants & Business Civic Association that is scheduled for April 29th at St. Francis of Assisi School's Basement. Flyer's for both meetings were in the Board's folders and on the table in the back of the room.

Mr. Daniel Aliberti, Chair of Access and Disability Concerns, reported that the NYS Treasury issued devices for the visually impaired or blind person to distinguish money. The device will tell them what amount a bill is by placing it in the machine. It is free of charge from the Department of the Treasury.

Ms. Joan Asselin, Chair of Environmental Protection Committee, reported that Water Board is going to hold a public meeting in Queens. The meeting will be on April 30th at 7pm, doors will open at 6:30pm at LaGuardia Community College. She will attend. If you are senior citizen there is an opportunity to get a little rebate, not a lot. You can only have one or the other. You can have SCRIE or DRIE. She will obtain more information.

Mr. Richard Khuzami, Chair of Parks & Recreation/Cultural Affairs Committee, reported that there were several events that would be taking place. Earth Day would be held on Wednesday, April 22nd and anyone who would like to participate can go to earthday.ny.org. The Committee would like to thank NY Cares which was Uber employees and they were very active on the 18th at Astoria Park mulching and raking. He saw them out there and they were great. He found out about the landmark status for the Clock Tower, it looks like it would be approved. It will be surrounded by the new 70 story tower that is going to be built. The Board wrote a letter in support of landmarking the Clock Tower. The Parks Committee will be holding a meeting April 30th and the Parks Department will present the plans for the renovation of the Astoria Heights and Van Alts playgrounds. The Astoria Park Alliance will present a visioning for the expansion and renovation for the playground at Astoria Park. It will take place on site at the playground on May 16th from 10am to noon. If you need further information you can email getinvolved@astoriaparkalliance.org.

Mr. Antonio Meloni, Chair of Public Safety Committee, stated congratulation to Mr. Donato and Ms. Hartmann on their service to the community. He reported that he would like to have a meeting with the Transportation Committee because although the parking situation does not seem like a safety committee issue, this winter he noticed that mother's with kids trying to get out of their cars and pay a meter that was 12 cars away or even to the next block only to pick up their children through ice and snow. Mr. Donato asked him to give Ms. Hartmann a call to arrange a meeting.

Mr. Robert Piazza, Chair of Transportation Committee, reported that he attended a meeting at which it was confirmed that Astoria will be getting a ferry and 5 million dollars has been appropriated to the project. He also stated that he attended another meeting regarding air pollution which was also in the paper recently. It stated that Astoria is number 1 in all of Queens that has the worst air. He added that the Board should not look away and look into this matter. We cannot just sit around and think its ok.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Ann Bruno announced that the Commander of the 114th Pct., Deputy Inspector Kevin Maloney, has been promoted and has been reassigned. We have not received a new Commander as of yet. Mr. Donato asked how many Commanders has she seen since she Chair's 114th Pct. Council. Ms. Bruno stated she has seen 14 come and go.

Ms. Nancy Silverman stated that she asked Ms. Hartmann about bringing up some new business but, in light of the announcements of new leadership she will wait until the Board has the new leadership. She had done some research on policy and procedures of the community board which she wanted to share with the Board. She thinks it would make sense to discuss in the Fall. So she took the opportunity to welcome the new Board members and to thank Mr. Donato and Ms. Hartmann for their service to the Board.

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