

Community Board 1
May 19, 2015

Mr. Vinicio Donato, Chairperson of Community Board 1, commenced the meeting at 7:00 pm by introducing Mr. John Carusone, Chair of Zoning and Variance who read the public hearing item from the Department of City Planning (DCP) Cal. #N150141 ZRQ – A proposed zoning text amendment to modify Sec. 117-03, Appx. C of the Queens Plaza Subdistrict of the Special LIC Mixed Use District to allow community facility uses on the ground floor of buildings located at the intersection of Queens Plaza So., Jackson Ave., and Queens Blvd. Mr. Frederick Becker came up on behalf of the applicant; he stated that the applicant is asking for a zoning text amendment regarding the ground floor use restriction in the Queens Plaza district. There are 55 block fronts with restrictions on ground floor use in the Queens Plaza district, 52 of them allow anything but residential. There are 3 block fronts in that district 1 which is in CB1 and 2 in CB2 which do not allow community facility use. The applicant is renting the storefront/ground floor use in the building on Queens Plaza South, the large glass building. They are allowed, as of right, a portion of it but not the entire portion. They are before the Board to change the zoning for the block front that is located in CB1 from Jackson Avenue and the Queens Blvd overpass (formerly a gas station). Mr. Carusone asked if the zoning change that is being proposed is only for that particular building or for the entire 3 blocks. Mr. Becker stated that it is a text amendment will affect the 2 blocks on the south side and 1 block on the north side. The text change will permit a daycare center in an area that is changing and will need the services. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. There was no one. Item closed.

Mr. Joseph Risi, Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee, read the public hearing item from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) #5531-2015-ASWC – Premises 32-07 30 Ave. (Burnside Biscuits). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with **29 tables & 74 seats**. Mr. George Delis, owner, stated that they are a new restaurant and they are asking for 29 tables and 74 seats. Mr. Risi asked if the restaurant was currently open, the type of cuisine, hours of operation, if they already had a liquor license, if there were tenants above and if there was sufficient room for an 8 ft. clearance. Mr. Delis replied – they are not currently open, the cuisine will be southern style/organic, 11 am to midnight, they are in the process of obtaining a beer and wine license and there are no residents above but an accountant's office that is open 2 days a week. Mr. Risi then asked if the applicant proposed to install stanchions or a railing around the outdoor seating and if he was aware of the smoking regulations. Mr. Delis replied yes to all. Mr. Khuzami asked if they were taking over the former Athens Café location and if so, how will the seating compare to the former layout. Mr. Delis replied yes and they are requesting 40% less seating. Ms Nieves-Blas asked if they will be placing tables on 32nd Street. Mr. Delis replied yes. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. There was no one. Item closed.

The next item #4096-2015-ASWC – Premises 27-02 Astoria Blvd. (BZ Grill). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with **6 tables & 14 seats**. The applicant's attorney and the owner Mr. Videckis came up on behalf of the application. Mr. Risi asked if they could give a little information about the establishment. The applicant's attorney stated that the application is asking for 6 tables and 14 seats in front of the establishment with stanchions in front of the sidewalk café. There are about 25 seats inside and there is no liquor license. They have been open for 10 years. Mr. Risi stated that they have been open for 10 years. Mr. Videckis replied "Yes". Mr. Risi asked what the hours of operation will be. Mr. Videckis stated that they will be open from 11 am to 11 pm. Mr. Risi asked if they have an on premise liquor license. Mr. Videckis stated that they have wine and beer inside. Mr. Risi asked if they will be serving wine, beer and food in the sidewalk café. The applicant's attorney stated that if he has waiter service he can serve wine and beer. Mr. Risi stated that if he has waiter service he assumes that they will be serving food as well. The applicant's attorney replied "Yes". 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 #1327665-DCA – Premises 33-21 31 Ave. (Bareburger). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with **17 tables & 34 seats**. Jim Pelekanos, owner, stated that he is present for the renewal of his sidewalk café of 17 tables and 34 seats. He stated that they currently use less than that, about 10 tables and 30 seats. Mr. Risi asked him to tell them a little about Bareburger, their hours of operation, and whether they have a liquor license. Mr. Pelekanos stated that they are an organic and all natural restaurant and have been in operation since 2009. They have a full liquor license and are open from 11:30 am to 10:30 pm weekday and 11:30 am to 11 pm on the weekend. Mr. Risi asked how long they had the unenclosed sidewalk café license. Mr. Pelekanos stated that they had the unenclosed sidewalk café since 2010. Mr. Risi asked if they received any summonses or violations of the unenclosed sidewalk café. Jim stated not that he was aware of. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Ms. Nancy Silverman asked where the tables were going to be placed since she did not see it on the application. Jim stated that 5 tables will be on 34th Street and the remaining will be on 31st Avenue. Ms. McDonald stated that they are using 10 tables and 30 seats, so why is their application for 17 tables and 34 seats and how can they approve the application if there isn't a diagram of where the tables are. Jim stated that nothing has changed. He is just using less than his approved application. Mr. Risi stated that renewals are no longer required to

provide a photograph or the plans. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. There was no one. Item closed.

The next item #0959237-DCA – Premises 32-90 36 St. (Bar Café). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with **11 tables & 26 seats**. The General Manager stated that the establishment has been there for 20 years and they have had the unenclosed sidewalk café license for 19 years. Mr. Risi asked if he could tell the Board a little bit about Bar Café, is it a restaurant or a bar. The General Manager stated that it is a combination of restaurant/bar/lounge and they have a full liquor license. Mr. Risi asked since their last renewal of the unenclosed sidewalk café have they had any summonses or violations in connection with the operation of the unenclosed sidewalk café. The General Manager stated none that he knew of. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Ms. Silverman asked if they were aware of the smoking restrictions for the unenclosed sidewalk café. The General Manager replied “Yes”. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. There was no one. Item closed.

The next item #3788-2015-ASWC – Premises 35-01 36 St. (Tacuba). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with REVISED seating from 48 tables and 100 seats to **36 tables and 76 seats and now further reduced to 27 tables and 57 seats**. Mr. Mike Lueck came up on behalf of the owner. In accordance with the comments received at last month’s meeting the outer tables along the side street have been removed as indicated on the seating plan. There is now a single row of tables against the wall on 36th Street. The 35th Street side is not in use. There are no other changes to the unenclosed sidewalk café application since the last time they were before the Board. Mr. Risi asked if he could tell the Board a little bit about Tacuba, what type of restaurant is it, the hours of operation, and if they have a liquor license. Ms. Stephanie Valencia came up and stated that they are a Mexican restaurant and have been open since September of 2014. They are open every day from 12pm to 11pm on Sunday through Thursday and on 12pm to 12am on Friday and Saturday. They have a liquor license for the establishment. Mr. Risi stated that the previous owner had a sidewalk café and the owner prior to that had a sidewalk café. 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 #2495-2015-ASWC – Premises 36-02 30 Ave. (Piatsa Soulvaki Café). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with REVISED seating from 36 tables & 70 seats to **31 tables & 61 seats**. The applicant’s representative stated that at last month’s Board meeting there was some push back on the number of tables and seat there was also a great deal of community opposition to the café. They left the meeting and the owners had meetings with the local residents. He stated that what he is looking at tonight was the result of those meetings. Mr. Risi stated that the Board received a couple of comments regarding the application. One was the alleyway next to the café leading to the residential backyards and garages. There seems to be delivery mopeds that speed through the alleyway which has raised some concern for the neighbors. The applicant’s representative stated that what he heard from the owner was that the mopeds that are moving around and are chained up to the sidewalk belong to the pizza place next door to their establishment. Mr. Risi read the second complaint that the Board received stating the same concerns about the mopeds and the delivery persons coming out of the back door of the restaurant in front of the active driveway. The applicant’s representative stated that the delivery persons and the mopeds are from the pizza place. This was addressed and discussed in their meeting with the community at the restaurant. Mr. Risi asked what type of restaurant, if they had a liquor license, and the hours of operation. The applicant’s representative replied gyro’s/ greek food, a beer and wine licenses, 11am to midnight and 11am to 2pm weekends. Mr. Risi asked if they have any residents living about the establishment. There are 2 apartments above the establishment. Mr. Risi asked if they were aware of the restrictions on smoking. Mr. Gounaris, the owner, stated that they are aware. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Ms. McDonald asked how many tables and seats were inside of the establishment. Mr. Gounaris stated that there were 40 seats inside and has only been open for 3 months. Most of the orders are to go; customers order and take the food home. Ms. McDonald asked why they were asking for a sidewalk café if customers were not using the seats inside. Mr. Gounaris stated that they would like to offer their customers the option to be able to sit outside in the summer time. Mr. Donato stated that there was a question if they delivered. Mr. Gounaris, stated that they delivery by bicycle and they are stored in front of the establishment. Mr. Stamatiades stated that now there seems to be an issue regarding who is causing the problem with the delivery mopeds, bicycle, etc. Mr. Gounaris stated that they are on 30th Avenue and that is where they park their 2 delivery vehicles to the bicycle posts. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Ms. Courtney Crawford, resident above establishment, came with 7 people who live in the 2 apartments. She stated that they were not made aware of any community meeting. During the construction and the first 3 months of them being open they always keep the area clean outside of their apartment unlike the previous establishment. They have an extreme concern over the number of tables that they are asking for and by diminishing the request by 5 tables and 9 seats does not seem like a compromise. Like other applicant before request 10 tables and 30 seats or 11 tables and 26 seats seem reasonable number given the amount of space on the sidewalk. She stated that she understands that they were going to offer outdoor seating. She wanted to voice her concern as the 4

single women and the 4 other people below them about the number of tables and seats seems excessive. Ms. Dorothea Lueck, resident, stated that she lives 2 doors down from the restaurant. She stated that she was not present at the meeting with the ownership of the establishment. She understood that there was discussion over the number of tables and seats. She thought that it was going to be half of what they originally proposed and she does not see that. The representation that is being provided is a little bit unclear to where the alley is positioned as well as the size of the sidewalk. It seems unrealistic to have 3 tables facing 30th Avenue. Most restaurants on 30th Avenue have 2 tables of the proposed size in front of the restaurant. She believes that would hinder the passage for pedestrians. On 36th Street there are far more tables than what was proposed at meeting. She understood that the tables were only going to go as far as the first door. There should have been 6 tables on that street instead of the 9 tables that are shown. The scooters are stored in front of the building and she wonders where they will put them when they add the tables and seats. She understands that the ladies living above the establishment would have concern. She stated that there were many things discussion at the meeting with the establishment owner which is not shown in the application. A representative of the Norwood Association stated that he was at the meeting with the restaurant management. Unfortunately, the drawing does not represent the discussion they had that day. They agreed to have no tables beyond the apartment door. The plan they have to 30th Avenue seems unrealistic. We need to go back to the drawing board and have a discussion with the owner again for the next meeting. The number of tables that were agreed upon is not shown here. Mr. Donato asked who they had the agreement with. The Norwood Association representative stated that the person they met with and had an agreement with is not present. There were not supposed to be any tables beyond the apartment door. They also stated that they did not want the tables open passed 12am on Friday and Saturday because they do not want people on the street until 2am. This is a residential street. Mr. Donato asked for the owner to come back to the microphone. Mr. Donato asked the owner if they agreed to certain things. Mr. Gounaris stated that they agreed to bring the tables back off of the driveway not in front of the residence door. Mr. Donato asked if they would be willing to further reduce their tables and seats. Mr. Gounaris stated that they met with the community in good faith to discuss the tables and seats. Mr. Donato stated that the committee will be meeting and will see what they recommend. Ms. McDonald asked if he was at the meeting with the community. Mr. Gounaris stated no and that there must be a misunderstanding as to which door they were discussing. Ms. McDonald asked why they have tables going up to the apartment doors. Mr. Gounaris stated that they are allowed by the city to place tables and seats as legally allowed and they even shortened the tables. Mr. Risi asked where the entrance was for the establishment and where the exit was. Mr. Gounaris stated that the entrance is on 30th Avenue and the exit is on 36th Street. Mr. Risi stated that there are tables immediately to the left of the entrance and the right of the entrance. Mr. Gounaris replied "Yes". Mr. Risi asked if he had any objection to removing 2 tables to the left and the right of the entrance. Mr. Gounaris stated that he could remove 2 tables. Ms. Silverman asked who was at the meeting if he was not at the meeting. Mr. Gounaris stated that there was a different manager at the meeting. Ms. Silverman asked if that manager was able to speak on behalf of the owner. Mr. Gounaris stated yes. Ms. McDonald asked if there was anyone that was at the meeting with the community present. The Norwood Association representative stated that he was at the meeting and that they agreed to something different. Mr. Stiller asked about the circles on the drawing. The applicant's representative stated that the circles are not used for clearance indicators but are used by DCA as requirements for reference points. The clearance on the sidewalk is clear and with the adjustments they just agreed to 2 of the circles will be fully clear. There was no further discussion. Item closed.

VOTING:

Mr. Carusone reiterated public hearing item from DCP Cal. #N150141 ZRQ – A proposed zoning text amendment to modify Sec. 117-03, Appx. C of the Queens Plaza Sub-district of the Special LIC Mixed Use District to allow community facility uses on the ground floor of buildings located at the intersection of Queens Plaza So., Jackson Ave., and Queens Blvd. He stated that the committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Ms. Mary O'Hara. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously with 42 in Favor, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions.

Mr. Risi reiterated public hearing item from DCA #5531-2015-ASWC – Premises 32-07 30 Ave. (Burnside Biscuits). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 29 tables & 74 seats. He stated that the Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Gus Prentzas. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously with 2 Against.

The next item #4096-2015-ASWC – Premises 27-02 Astoria Blvd. (BZ Grill). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables & 14 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Ms. Silverman. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously with 1 Against.

The next item #1327665-DCA – Premises 33-21 31 Ave. (Bareburger). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 17 tables & 34 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Ms. Norma Nieves-Blas. Mr. Donato asked if

there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously with 1 Against.

The next item #0959237-DCA – Premises 32-90 36 St. (Bar Café). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 11 tables & 26 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Ms. Mary Demakos. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously with 1 Against.

The next item #3788-2015-ASWC – Premises 35-01 36 St. (Tacuba). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with REVISED seating from 48 tables and 100 seats to 36 tables and 76 seats and now further to 27 tables and 57 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Stamatiades. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously with 4 Against.

The next item #2495-2015-ASWC – Premises 36-02 30 Ave. (Piatsa Soulvaki Café). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with REVISED seating from 36 tables & 70 seats to 31 tables & 61 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application. The applicant agrees to further reduce by 8 tables and 16 seats, bringing the total to 23 tables and 45 seats, seconded by Mr. Gus Prentzas. Mr. Risi stated for the record that the 8 tables and 16 seats which are being removed are on the 36th Street side immediately adjacent to the entrance of the apartment building. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously with 3 Against.

Mr. Risi stated that the Community Board received a 30 Day Notification of the intention of an applicant to submit an on premise liquor license at the premises located at 19-26 Steinway Street. The name of the applicant is 8G Inc. d/b/a RACKS. The application the Board received is for a restaurant/catering facility/cabaret/disc jockey with recorded music. They will have no outdoor seated area. Stipulations for the applicant were prepared which included among other recommendations that at no time, whatsoever, would the premises to be used for topless /adult entertainment. The committee is recommending that the State Liquor Authority (SLA) be advised that the applicant has executed this stipulation with CB1. The executed stipulation will be submitted to the SLA with a cover letter reiterating the Board's position that the premises not to be granted in the future, an adult/topless SLA license, seconded by Ms. Silverman. Mr. John Katsanos stated that he had some questions. The stipulation that was signed stated that they will not operate the establishment as an adult entertainment venue. The stipulation was provided to the Consumer Affairs Committee last night and it was not circulated just mentioned. The stipulation basically was uncirculated but they were told last night the applicant was not going to sign the stipulation. Ok great, no one reviewed the stipulation. Today, he walked in to find out that the applicant is going to sign the stipulation and agree to no adult or topless entertainment. He asked procedurally if we could add to the stipulation stating that they will also not have change in the method of operation in the future to an adult or topless establishment. The reason he suggest this language was because in the future they could come back and change the method of operation and they don't have to come before the Community Board. We will have to have someone constantly monitoring them to see if they are abiding by the stipulation. This leaves a legal backdoor to let them come back and change something that they told the SLA that they would not do, as well as, the Board. Also last night, he heard that they do plan to open a bikini bar, now all of a sudden that fact is not mentioned anywhere. It is a fact, 1) they do not have to come before the Board, to provide notice of change of method now that they have a backdoor, and 2) they have the ability to create what they intended to create. He motioned that the Board add extra language to the stipulation. Mr. Donato stated that he cannot make a motion until the Board goes through the earlier motion. Mr. Katsanos stated that he motioned to deny the previous motion and instead ask the applicant to add that they would not change the method of operation in the future to an adult entertainment establishment. He suggested that the Board not approve sending their application with the recommendation from the Board with that proposed stipulation. Mr. Risi stated that he assumes Mr. Katsanos is making a motion to amend his recommendation. Discussion followed as to the wording of the Board's recommendation. Mr. Katsanos recommended that the language be changed to emphasize our strong opposition to any change in the establishment's method of operation i.e. topless/adult entertainment and we want it to go on record that we are to be notified should they petition to do so. Ms. Nancy Silverman motioned that we call for a vote. Mr. Donato called for a vote on the amendment. Motion called and carried with 9 Against.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Anthony Pappas, resident, stated the United States has a context of clause that goes as follows: no one shall be deprived life, liberty or property without due process of law. He submits that dues process of law does not give mean judges the right to write inappropriate statements against people. Mr. Donato stated that is not the role of the Community Board. Mr. Pappas stated that it is the role of the Board and stated that the Constitution does matter to you. Mr. Donato stated that Mr. Pappas should not put words in his mouth. Mr. Donato asked if he had written proof of something and he will refer it to a committee.

Ms. Nancy Copperman, representing the Queens Smoke-Free Partnership, stated that she was before the Board earlier in the year regarding smoke free housing for the community. She stated that as of today, they have 7 Boards have already passed smoke free housing resolution, CB3, CB4, CB7, Cb8, CB11, CB12, and CB13. CB2 and CB9 will be discussing and conducting their vote resolutions in June 2015. She stopped by to update the Board on the state of smoke free housing and resolution. Smoke free housing and multiple dwelling establishments come before the Board especially with all the developments that have been happening in the area. The Board has influence to provide smoke free and healthy air to residents in their community.

Ms. Cathy Birch, resident, brought the Boards attention to the Bowery Bay Water Treatment Plant on 42nd Street, she lives near the plant it has become unbearable again with the odor. On October 11, 2008, NY1 had come to their neighborhood and had done a story on the situation. They heard that capping and adding additional chemicals would be able to help. Unfortunately, they did not do what they said that they would do and now they are back to square one. She asked who she should talk to about the situation. Mr. Donato asked her to call the Board office and speak to Ms. Hartmann and provide her with all the information. The Board will they refer it to the appropriate agency.

Ms. Elena Tsekamos, resident, stated she also is having the same issue. When it is humid she experiences physical illness such as vomiting. She works from home and cannot open her windows. This is an issue that has been going on since she moved to the neighborhood on 45th Street and 20th Avenue. Since 2002 they have spoken to several City officials and this is a hundred million dollar project and it's only a couple of years. This has been going on since 2002. They see no light at the end of the tunnel. All she gets from the City officials is that they are working on it. The situation is causing her physical illness and distress. Her neighbors are all present and want to stand up to the issue, they have newborns and it is affecting the health of the children. The area is dealing with the treatment plant issue and the area has become a drug dealer zone. She has spoken to the police and everyone but there are too many drug deals that happen every single night and there is no controlling that. They have had so many break-ins, the issues that have to be addressed are their health and safety. They are tired of being told that they are working on it. Ms. McDonald asked if she officially reported this to the 114th Pct. Ms. Tsekamos stated that the homeowners have and she personally had an officer take her report and they were laughing at her. Ms. McDonald asked if she took their names and numbers. Ms. Tsekamos stated that she has done her due diligence and is before the Board to inform them of the situation.

Mr. Orfanakos, resident on 45th Street, stated that he is here about the odor issue and they want the Board's support. The government spends hundreds and millions of dollars. They can spend a few million to take care of its citizens here so we can continue spreading this wonderful democracy around the planet.

Mr. Raul Preciado, New York City of Municipal ID Program (IDNYC), stated he came and will be available after the meeting to answer any questions that anyone may have about the Municipal ID Program. They brought brochures and applications.

Mr. Jahill Lee, resident of Woodside Houses, stated that he is 16 years old and he has been invited and accepted into the Student Ambassador Program. This will be an educational trip to France, Italy, and Spain for 3 weeks. He and 3 other students will be doing community service in these countries. He is before the Board for moral and financial support. There is also a direct website on www.gofundme.com that people can donate funds as well. He has several fundraisers going on at this time.

Mr. Howard Unger, resident, stated that he wanted to bring to the attention of the Board on some issues on 41st Avenue and Crescent Street. The area is bustling with construction projects and traffic resulting from the construction. He and his neighbors have reported the excessive traffic in the area to 311 about construction projects going on without permits and/or doing construction or demolition. Mr. Donato stated that if they do not have a permit they are not supposed to be working. He then asked him if he notified 311 and the Board office. Mr. Unger stated that he has called 311 and did call the Board and spoke to a lovely woman on the phone. There has been all day construction on Sunday without permits and construction beginning at 6am. He asked that the Board be mindful that part of the Community Board is now filled with people instead of industrial. He asked that when Department of Buildings issue permits for weekend and afterhours work they keep in mind that the area is residential as well. Ms. McDonald asked him to call the Board and give them the 311 numbers.

Ms. Carla Brandeis, resident of 45th Street and 20th Avenue, stated that she wanted to add her voice to what has been addressed this evening regarding the odor from the sewage treatment plant. The second issue is the sound and the roar of the energy plant that is on 19th Avenue and 37th Street. We have to close our windows every night because of the smell of the sewage plant and the noise from the energy plant. Also, they have a truck route sign that is on 20th Avenue and it points both ways and the trucks continue to come up their block. Their pipes are broken and their walls are cracked. Who can or should they speak to regarding these problems. Mr. Donato stated that we have a Board member who is the President of the 114th Pct. Council. She will inform you of when the next meeting will be held so you can attend. Mr. Donato suggested that she should get

the name of the truck company and give it to the Board, who then will give the company a call informing them that the Board will be notifying the police to give the trucks tickets. They will not like that.

BUSINESS SESSION:

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

Mr. Donato introduced a new member to the Board, Melanie LaRocca.

Ms. Lucille Hartmann, District Manager, reported that there are several flyers in the Board's folders for up-coming events. She brought attention to the Queens Zoo, which has invited all CB1 members to its annual Queens Zoo Community Breakfast on Saturday, June 13th at 8:30 am. A continental Breakfast will be provided. The invitation is open to Board members, their children and their friends. She then reported on the following items. A public meeting called by Councilmember Constantinides regarding the creation of a ferry dock in the Hallets Cover area. The meeting will be held on June 4th at the First Reformed Church of Astoria. There will be an International Cultural Fest at Astoria Park on Saturday, May 30th which is sponsored by Central Astoria LDC and Councilmember Constantinides. The next item was the Socrates Sculpture Park Program Guide, which lists the multitude of events planned at the Park. This park is a treasure within our community. The last item was from the UCCA which had several upcoming events such as free shredding on June 13th, Community Health Fair on June 6th, and a Barbecue on June 11th for a \$55 donation. Additional information can be found in the Board's folders.

Ms. Mary O'Hara, Chair of Housing Committee, stated she did not have a report but wanted to thank Florence and Lucille for successfully remedying the improper disposal of 25 bags of refuse at a school and now it is being collected on a regular basis.

Mr. Richard Khuzami, Chair of Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Services Committee, reported that the Parks Department had a meeting where they gave a presentation on their final plans for the Van Alts Playground and the Astoria Heights Playground. He asked the Board to look into their folders there is a Parks Committee recommendation: Community Board 1 support the Department of Parks and Recreations Plan to renovate the Van Alsten Playground located on 21st Street between 29th and 30th Avenue, as presented to the Parks Committee on April 30, 2015, seconded by Ms. Nancy Silverman. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried. As far as the Astoria Heights renovations go there has been some controversy. He received a letter from the Friends of Astoria Park asking the committee to wait a month until their next meeting so they can come up with their plan and recommendations. The controversy has to do with the fact that the Parks and Recreation want to eliminate the pool and put in sprinklers. Some of the citizens are going to come up with some sort of resolution. On May 30th in Astoria Heights Playground they put up a mural and will be having a grand opening from 11am to 2 pm. Starting on May 24th they will be having kayaking at Hallets Cove Beach. For further information you can call 718-228-9214. Their schedule is subject to change. It is a fine tradition at Hallets Cove.

Mr. John Carusone, Chair of Zoning & Variance Committee, reported that he went to a meeting at Borough Hall regarding the proposal for affordable housing. The zoning proposal is looking to make the apartments more affordable by changing some of the regulations. Right now the regulations are optional not mandatory. The Mayor is looking to make it mandatory in areas where there are proposals for new affordable housing. Big changes area coming up. In 1980, they passed the contextual zoning amendment for better quality housing. After 35 years, they realized that the law isn't working. They are looking to change the law by varying the height of the building and reduce construction cost.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Frances McDonald stated that last month the Board was informed that Ms. Hartmann and Mr. Donato will be retiring and time is going very quickly. The District Manager position is appearing in the Gazette, CB1 website and the DCAS. The second is that the bylaws, says when a Chairman retires or resigns there has to be an election for the new Chairman position. She wanted everyone to be aware of these two facts.

Ms. Nancy Silverman noted the issue of a quorum was addressed at a committee meeting.

Mr. George Stamatiades stated that he wanted to remind everyone about a jewel in the Borough of Queens. The Queens Botanical Garden has a weekend program this year and they will have a model railroad display that has been built to scale of the New York Pavilion. If you would like to see a really beautiful exhibit along with all the beautiful roses come on down to the Queens Botanical Gardens

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