

AMENDED

Community Board 1, Queens – Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2018

Board Member Attendees: List attached

Opening: 6:30 pm

Chairwoman Marie Torniali opens the meeting; Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Chair Woman Marie Torniali invites Costa Constantinides to say a few words.

The Council Member thanked Chairwoman Marie Torniali and Florence Koulouris. He congratulated new Board Members. He thanked everyone who joined in the Participatory Budget Process and said they had over 3,000 votes this year, looking forward to getting results next week. He went on to say Elmjack Little League has over 300 kids who play there. Robert, the president of Elmjack was present at the meeting. He also added that Gerald Caliendo has been working with Elmjack, pro bono, in building a dome in order to have a public sports facility in bad weather. Council Member Costa Constantinides said that Elmjack is a place for children to learn teamwork, exercise, fair play and competition. The Council Member is always looking for opportunities for places to have indoor facilities for sports. He thanked Skanska Walsh for providing this opportunity for Elmjack field.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEM:

ULURP #N 170470 ECQ/DCA #1275009 – Application from 40-01 Northern Boulevard Corp. d/b/a Tequila Sunrise, to renew a revocable consent to operate an existing enclosed sidewalk café with 30 tables and 60 seats at 40-01 Northern Boulevard, CB1, Queens.

Chair Torniali opens the hearing.

Sebastian Luciza and William Luciza attended the hearing representing Tequila Sunrise. There were no speakers or comments and the hearing was closed.

Elizabeth Erion, Co-Chair of the Land and Zoning Committee stated the applicant was requesting a renewal for an enclosed café that has been operating since 2009. No changes were made to the café since the last renewal, their liquor license was in order and there were no violations, or complaints on file.

Ms. Erion motioned to approve the request to renew an enclosed café for Tequila Sunrise. Motion seconded by Ed Babor. Motion carried 34 in favor, 0 opposed 0 abstentions.

Joe Nocerino, Representative from the Office of the Queens Borough President. He said that the Borough President, Melinda Katz, sends her regards and that she welcomes all the new Members of the Board and would like to thank all returning Members. Mr. Nocerino said that the Community Board is the eyes and ears of our diverse neighborhood. He added that the Board Members' commitment and dedication are commended and that the new members should work together with the older members because they all want the same thing. Mr. Nocerino reminded them that April 26, 2018 is the Mandatory Swearing in Ceremony.

Introduction of New Board Members:

- Katerina Duarte
- Hannah Lupien
- Eric Mouchette
- Kathleen Warnock

Stacey Eliuk from the NYC Public Advocate's Office gave an update that last week was equal pay day (between women and men). She said that woman make 78 cents to every man's dollar. She stated that the numbers are very disappointing and that women make less than men in general. Ms. Eliuk said women's titles, pay and occupy lower paying fields - \$60,000.00 (women) vs. \$90,000 (men). She said women in City Agencies see a lot of challenges, they earn \$5.8 billion less than men in total.

Ms. Eliuk also stated that through the group efforts of State Senator Michael Gianaris, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and Council Member Costa Constantinides, the Sanitation trucks that were formerly parked on the streets of Ravenswood, that created a public hazard, are now stationed at Newtown Creek.

Public Session:

Sharon Pope from Bike New York said that Bike New York teaches people to ride safely and are consistent with New York Laws and Regulations. She said they have taught over 25,000 students this past year. She added that they are willing to come to our community, block associations, meetings and organizations, all classes are free. Ms. Pope gave all board members and the public bike safety lights.

Robert Issah from Skanska Walsh shared that they are expanding programs at Elmjack field. Gerald Caliendo is doing the plans pro bono for the indoor dome.

Chris Villari from Skanska Walsh is the contractor working on Terminal B in LaGuardia. He said Skanska Walsh was given the opportunity to construct Elmjack field. Skanska Walsh will be funding the field a little less than 2 Million Dollars funding over time. Skanska Walsh has already built fences that are 30 feet high, they will have new pitching mounds, new dugouts, leveling the fields and new bathroom facilities. He added that the dome (tennis bubble style) will be inflated year round and will be able to handle large storms.

NYS Senator Peralta's Representative, Stephanie Olcese, said that she is the business service liaison who deals with public issues and that they have immigration lawyers if anyone is in need.

Daniel Mann, a constituent, said that the subway maps and signs are incorrect and shared that he called 311 numerous times and that nothing has been done. He added that the subway train map in Astoria for the N/W lines are incorrect when the W train was resurrected in 2016 and the maps weren't updated.

He also stated there are not enough City Bikes, especially in the mornings.

He also complained about the police from the 114th parking right in below, where there are "No Parking" signs. He said it doesn't create trust.

Robert, from Comptroller of Scott M. Stringer's Office announced that with the partnership of State Senator Michael Gianaris, Council Member Costa Constantinides and Assembly Member Aravella Simotas are hosting a free Greek Community Breakfast on April 27th honoring Rev. George Anastasiou, who suffered a fire at his church and HANAC Inc.

Motion to approve the minutes of March 20, 2018 – Ed Babor made motion, Norma Nieves-Blas seconded.

Chairwoman Marie Torniali reported that the Sanitation trucks on 21st Street are no longer there. She said it is a big win for the community who worked on this project for years.

District Manager Florence Koulouris stated that the office has been getting a lot of calls regarding the closure of the train stations. She said it is a busy season with the Parks Department improvements in our district. District Manager reminded everyone about the swearing in of the new board members on April 26th and added that it is a mandatory meeting and to car pool if needed.

Committee Reports:

RoseMarie Poveromo, Chair of Airports said the Port Authority had FAA mandate. She said 13-31 construction is scheduled for November 2018 for both the runways on 422, closest to the community and East Elmhurst. She added that her meeting with the Airport Committee is scheduled for May 8th, 2018 to meet with the Aviation Group at 6:30 pm and will be discussing the redevelopment and proposed air train. Chair Poveromo Members said a power point presentation is scheduled for the next Board meeting on May 15th. She congratulated Gerry Caliendo for donating his time and Skanska Walsh for giving money for the mixed use bubble.

Richard Khuzami, Chair of Capital & Expense Planning said a memo was given to the Chairpersons concerning the structure of the Capital and Expense and asking each committee to list items. He asked that they think a little bit beyond the box. He announced that there will be a Public Hearing in June, 2018 and will advise the date.

Andy Aujla, Consumer Affairs Committee Chair, went over the Excel Spreadsheet that a few Stipulations were entered into, met with the 114th Precinct and there were no issues. He announced there will be a meeting on May 14, 2017 and invited the new Members to attend.

Motion to approve new and renewal liquor licenses – Unanimous.

Chair Antonella Di Saverio, Chair of Environmental Protection, advised that Saturday, April 28, 2018 the public will be able to dispose of old medicines and electrical appliances in the parking lot of Astoria Park.

Evie Hantzopoulos, Chair of the Housing Committee said they had their first meeting and discussed issues such as long term renters being forced out, senior citizens being forced out and the Committee is prepared to do more research for incentives and more affordable housing. She also advised that Council Member Costa Constantinides is reviewing the parking lot on 31st Street and Broadway to build affordable housing. She shared that Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer will be at the next meeting which is scheduled for May 3rd.

Elizabeth Erion, Co-Chair of Land Use and Zoning Committee stated several ULURP applications are near certification and will have public hearings by June.

- Variety Boys & Girls Club, rezone property to R7X/C2-3 to construct a 14-story, 112-unit residential building and a new club space.
- Application to rezone the block bounded by 38th Street, 35th Avenue, 37th Street and 34th Avenue to R6A and C4-4A to construct two separate developments.
- Application to rezone 12th Street between 35th and 36th Avenues to R6A/C1-3 to construct an eight story, mixed use building with 74 units.
- Zoning text amendment to require a special permit for constructing a hotel in a M1 District.
- A presentation will be made on 11-14 35th Avenue, which is actually 12th Street is also requesting an R6A.

Ms. Erion gave an update on the Ravenswood Survey that can be found on the CB1 website. The Committee is looking for feedback from residents on how they see Ravenswood today and in the future. Board members were asked to help get the word out about the survey. The Committee hopes to get at least several hundred responses and will be at neighborhood meetings and events in Ravenswood to pass out surveys.

Nancy Silverman Chair of the Parks/Recreation/Cultural Committee said she will have a meeting on May 1st. She shared that it will be a very busy meeting discussing Chappetto Square renovation, the proposal for Steinway Playground and the Kayak Launch in Hallet's Cove.

Bob Piazza, Chair of Transportation, advised that Public School 166 is requesting 2 extra days for the children to play and is working with the Dialysis Center located there and that they have agreed to it on a trial basis.

Motion to approve made by Bob Piazza, Nancy Silverman seconded. Unanimous consent by the Board.

He then advised that Florence Koulouris, District Manager of Community Board 1 came up with an idea to put a bus line on 31st Street and 20th Avenue which would go up to Queensboro Plaza. It was confirmed there is an elevator at Queens Plaza. Chair Piazza said it would serve as an overflow for the trains and take pressure off of the merchants. District Manager Koulouris is also requesting the MTA to do a feasibility study to see if this can be done.

Motion to approve made by Bob Piazza, seconded by Dominic Stiller

Chairwoman Marie Torniali said she thinks it is a wonderful idea.

Unanimous vote of hands.

Bob Piazza, Chair of Transportation, stated that the MTA presented their plan for the Astoria Boulevard project; including installing elevators. The plan is extremely complicated. It is one of the worst intersections in Queens. He stated he was shocked at the work they want to do. It includes raising the platform which is very complicated and will require diverting traffic at some point in the project.

Chairwoman Marie Torniali asked, will MTA be presenting this plan to the board?

Bob responded a presentation was not planned.

Old Business/New Business:

Chairperson, Norma Nieves-Blas of the Education/Library Youth Services advised there are a lot of applicant's for the Summer Youth Employment Program, have denied acceptance. Some of them are not accepting the jobs maybe because they are going on vacation. She will have the total number of employees by the 30th of this month. Her committee is meeting the first week of May regarding capital and expense.

Chair Torniali called for motion to adjourn. Motion by Ed Babor; seconded by Jean Marie D'Alleva.

Meeting adjourned: 7:35 pm