

Community Board 1, Queens – Board Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2019

Meeting opens with Chairperson, Marie Torniali at 6:30 p.m. – Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Chair, Marie Torniali greets all and announces first item.

Department of City Planning

C 190124 ZMQ/C 190125 ZRO 44-01 Northern Boulevard

Richard Bass, Akerman LLC – Mr. Bass said he is with the architect, Steve Killian and MIH administrator. He also said they have an agreement with 32BJ, that this will be a union building. Mr. Bass announced that they have handouts of the building. Mr. Bass said zoning is on Northern Boulevard, the north side of Northern Boulevard is residential and the south side is more commercial. Currently, it is a one story open parking lot auto dealership, Major Auto World is the owner they intend to develop the site and come back into the site and run their dealership out of the showroom. Right now there are 19 curb cuts on this block, the proposal will create approximately 335 units of which 100 units will be affordable 36,000 square feet of retail and approximately 156 parking spaces. Mr. Bass said the two actions they are seeking are a map change from M1-1 to R7X with a commercial overlay C2-4 the back side of the site will be rezoned to R6B. The second action is a text change to make this rezoning to an MIH area. On Northern Boulevard there will be an 8 story building set back, upper 2 floors will be glass and as the building gets higher it will get lighter and the side streets there will be town houses that match the existing built condition. Creating a green space on the roof of the parking. They also suggested an internal loading zone for UPS trucks. This is an overlay of 150 feet deep, and showed a slide of what the Area Median Income (AMI) is, he said it starts with 30% and goes up to 130%. Met with the Council Member who suggested Option 2 which is 30% affordable and 80% AMI. The client is open to either option. He mentioned at the last committee meeting they discussed the unit breakdown 55% studios, in 1 bedrooms, 45% 2 bedrooms and 3s and they were asked to show what a 50-50 would look like. Mr. Bass said their proposal from that previous meeting on the 5th was 335 units making it 50-50 would lose 16 units if the building were lower in height. He said the committee asked them to provide census information and sustainability which they did. He ended by adding that he is available for questions. (PowerPoint Presentation)

Chair, Marie Torniali turned it over to the Board.

Comments/Questions from the Board:

Elizabeth Erion, Co-Chair, Land Use & Zoning Committee – She asked Mr. Bass to address the request of rezoning to an R7D as opposed to an R7X since everything within this building that they are proposing complies.

Richard Bass – He responded, R7D would reduce the building by 1 story 17,000 square feet approximately 20 units of which 5 would be affordable right now. The building is 10 stories so reducing it by 9 stories, he believes, does not make a difference. There are no sound planning principals to take a zoning district and super imposed it on the entire neighborhood, based on this location, ¾ of a block the R7X makes the most sense, no planning benefit to go to an R7D.

Elizabeth Erion – What is the current FAR?

Richard Bass – He stated the current FAR is a 6, and across street is an M1-5, which has a maximum FAR 6.5, so in terms of neighborhood context you can have a 6.5 building across the street which has no height limit. He showed buildings that are built to a 4.6 FAR and are 6 stories. Mr. Bass said building a 10 story on a boulevard that is 150 feet wide makes good planning sense.

George Alexiou – He asked how many parking spaces and how many apartments?

Richard Bass – Responded, 156 parking spaces, 335 apartments.

George Alexiou – Asked what is the income?

Richard Bass – Responded that it depends on size.

Richard Bass discusses income bands from chart provided on screen.

Mitchell Waxman – He asked which subway stops do they anticipate the tenants will be using and how will they be traveling to them? He commented that it would be combination of the 46th Street stop and the Steinway Street stop, but both of them are quite a distance. He also asked which schools they anticipate they will go to.

Richard Bass – Responded that there are two stops in walking distance. He said based on the environmental review, City Planning determined there is no impact. He added, in terms of the schools, he does not have an answer but can get back to him.

Evie Hantzopoulos – She commented that the chart seems incorrect, 90% AMI? She added that it should be 67,618 not 57,618.

Richard Bass – He responded that is correct, the chart came from HPD and would let them know about the typo.

Evie Hantzopoulos – She commented that he mentioned that he met with Jimmy Van Bramer.

Richard Bass – He responded, it was about 9 months ago and will be meeting with him again in the next couple of weeks.

Evie Hantzopoulos – So you have not met with him since you came to the Community Board and talked about which options they would like and concerns about the building.

Richard Bass – He responded that they met with the Committee about three or four times and spoke with the Council Member after the first time he met with the Committee.

Evie Hantzopoulos – She questioned that he said it was an 8 story building but it is actually a 10 story building.

Richard Bass – It is an 8 story building with a setback, 2 stories.

Evie Hantzopoulos – She said going back to Elizabeth's point about the R7D which allows for that, once it gets rezoned it sets a precedent for the surrounding area as well. She said it could go higher if the developer decided to sell the property or design another building and suggested they could ask for a lesser zoning.

Richard Bass – He said that was not the discussion at the Committee meeting. He added that he urges the Community Board and any Community Board that they look at the specifics of the application and don't take a zoning designation off the shelf and make it cookie cutter. He feels that is not good planning, that is what the City did in 1961, not good Urban Development. He said this site has both corners and has 100% coverage and the way they designed the building, an R7X is the most appropriate. He stated that he has been doing this for 41 years and, taught urban planning for 27 years. He said he does not like cookie cutter approaches to urban planning or urban design and urges the Community Board not to adopt that as the principal. He suggested that they should look at every single site and determine what the best zoning designation for the site is.

Jordan Weiss, Constituent – He announced he works as a doorman in Manhattan and is a member of 32BJ for a bit over 2 years. He said he was there on behalf of the union to express support of 44-01 Northern Boulevard. He said 32BJ is the largest property service union in the country they represent 80,000 members across New York City. Mr. Wise reported that the applicant for this project Bruce Bendel has made an incredible commitment to the members of the union, prevailing wage at this site. He said a prevailing wage job can help working families that live in the city to live with dignity. He said they estimate that this project will generate 6 building service jobs. They believe it will provide an important economic opportunity for all members of this thriving community and ended by saying they urge for the project to be approved.

Chair Torniali thanked Mr. Weiss and also thanked Mr. Bass for his presentation. She introduced the next item.

C 190424 PCQ FDNY/EMS Station 49

David Harney, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Fire Commissioner, Bureau of Support Services, FDNY – Started by urging everyone to get in the habit of changing batteries in smoke detectors.

Mr. Harney started his presentation regarding the application for the privately owned property located at 19-40 42nd Street, Queens. He said presently the station 49 is located at 25-03 Hoyt Avenue South under the Triborough Bridge. He said when EMS first came to the area more than 20 years ago, used to be on site at the hospital, there was no space, it did not work and then they moved to a space that did not work for them and then the Fire Department worked out an agreement with the Parks Department and moved under the Triborough Bridge. Mr. Harney said the trails space is small and the operations are growing and the building is always rumbling as well as serious issues with bird droppings. He said the city gave them approval to work for the new site. Mr. Harney said the parcel is about 12,000 square feet and will provide indoor parking for all the ambulances and they will be running 10 units, working 24 hours a day, the units will be working two, 12 hour shifts here in Astoria, the station has approximately 110 employees. He added they have finally identified the right facility for EMS operations in this community, the right size building for today and moving forward and will be a benefit for the community and for the members of the FDNY. Mr. Harney added that the subcommittee met in May and they respectfully request the Boards support for this project so they can move this along as soon as possible. (PowerPoint Presentation)

Marie Torniali, Chairperson thanked Mr. Harney for the presentation and asked if any Board Members had questions.

Comments/Questions from the Board:

Elizabeth Erion, Co-Chair, Land Use and Zoning Committee – She stated she had no questions and added it was a very comprehensive report.

Tony Meloni – He asked how many employees will be working there.

David Harney – Responded there will be a total of 110 employees, spread over 7 days, 24 hours a day they have in a one day period they can have 42 employees in a 24 hour period. He said an EMS station does not operate like a fire house they have 45 over each day. He also said EMS operations are staggered hours and are dynamically deployed, no lights; no sirens. He added they may not comeback for several hours and they come back for restock, administrative needs and for cleanup. Many hours of the day the station does not have a lot of activity.

Tony Meloni – Asked what is the geographic location?

David Harney – Responded the station covers from Astoria to Sunnyside.

Dominic Stiller – Asked does it cover all the way to the East River?

David Harney - He answered yes and that the next EMS station is at Elmhurst Hospital. He confirmed the easternmost is 82nd to Northern Boulevard the southernmost is a Paramedic Unit at Crescent and 23rd Avenue. They have a unit that covers Roosevelt Island, outside the island also.

Mary O'Hara – How far north?

David Harney – He responded far north to the river, basically the border is the bay where the Con Edison plant is to the East River and Southern border is Sunnyside and the Eastern waters basically 94th Street, East Elmhurst. He said the airport is the cutoff, NE and SE would be 82nd Street and Northern Boulevard the area is not at 90 degree angle. They have dynamic deployment, a high call volume on an average day they respond to over 4,000 calls for service and within the next 3 or 4 weeks because of the heat wave the calls will jump to 4,500 calls a day.

Rod Townsend – Asked him to confirm that the units are not stationed there all the time and they are out.

David Harney – He confirmed.

Richard Khuzami – He said in recent reports, Queens has the worst response times in the city. He asked how this new facility will affect that and how as a community can we help in order to improve with the response time.

David Harney – He said the FDNY evaluates what can be done to reduce times. He also said they are looking for a suburban type vehicle to respond quicker. He shared that they are constantly tweaking the system to make it the best possible. Traffic is an issue they cannot get around, hospital turnaround time is an issue. He said they can't refer to service till out of hospital, it is a daily struggle for the Department. He also shared that he has been doing this for 25 years. Mr. Harney said from where they were, to where they are, there are remarkable differences. He said they have added more than 25 ambulance stations, increasing tour count by over 100 tourists per day continue to expand on programs. Whatever support the Board can give, it would be appreciated. Mr. Harney said the Fire Department wants to work hand in hand with the community.

Andy Aujla – If someone is picked up by an EMS vehicle, who defrays the costs?

David Harney – He responded with all due respect, the issue of billing is not part of the application before the Committee and added if a person calls 911 the Fire Department responds quickly and effectively as possibly.

Andy Aujla – Asked, where does the funding go to with private insurance?

David Harney – Any revenue the Fire Department achieves goes into the City General Fund.

Mitchell Waxman – He asked about operations at the garage, refueling and light maintenance.

David Harney – They will not be refueling at the facility. He said the units will have gas cards and the fire trucks run on diesel and fill up at a firehouse. He added, if it was a brand new building, built from the ground up they would put a fuel station. Mr. Harney shared that they will have the ability to add engine oil, windshield wiper fluid, and change a tire/s. He said every ambulance must go out of service every 45 days, and they go out to a shop for maintenance, the shops are located in Long Island City.

Mitchell Waxman – Questioned, if there was going to be installation of underground tanks, concerns of flooding.

David Harney – He responded, no.

Chairperson, Marie Torniali asked if any Board Member had further questions or if anyone from the public had comments for or against the item. She closed the item.

C 190443 ZSQ Plaza 48 Shopping Center

CPC Special permit application to allow by box store retail establishment greater than 10,000 feet in an M1-1 zoning district with in an existing building located 35-50 48th Street.

Vincent Petraro introduced himself as the representative. He mentioned that the zoning map was included. He mentioned that he has met with the Board twice, starting with 1999 when Pergament, they were considered a hardware store and were located in building 1 and Toys R Us was located in building 2. He said at the time, 1961, the zoning resolution allowed quirk in zoning for variety stores, toy stores and carpet stores, etc. Mr. Petraro said CB1, Queens approved the application and the City Council approved it too. In 2003, National Wholesale was approved. He shared that Toys R Us went out of business about a year ago and National Wholesale Liquidator went out in November 2018. The entire lot area is 315,000+ square feet, the existing floor area is 136,000 square feet. He said the special permit is for building 1 and 2 but building 1 has one already, nothing is really changing on site, and they are not expanding it in any way. The owners purchased a lot on the south end of the property. He said there are 386 parking spaces, with the new layouts and new zoning there are 457 spaces and bike parking as well. He added there are other stores at Plaza 48, BJs will go into building 1 where National Wholesale existed. He said there are currently 3 in Queens, this will be #4 in Queens. He added that in building 2 there will be a Burlington Coat Factory and ended by asking for the Board's support. (PowerPoint Presentation)

Chairperson Torniali asked Ms. Elizabeth Erion if the Land Use Committee had questions.

Elizabeth Erion, Co-Chair, Land Use and Zoning Committee – She thanked Mr. Petraro for the presentation. She indicated that she had a few questions regarding Burlington Coat factory and BJs coming to the site and how it will affect the traffic. She said that the environmental review for this project focused on the nature of the use of space. Ms. Erion asked that they would like to know if it can be reopened for traffic studies with the two large uses coming and asked is there a term on the special permit?

Mr. Petraro – Responded, there is no term. He said there were traffic engineers present to discuss it further.

Alfie Young, BHB – Introduced himself and he said in terms of seeker analysis the type of uses, all are considered destination retail. He said they do not expect any significant differences in traffic.

Elizabeth Erion – She said the project has less than its allowable floor area and asked if they can double the sub-floor area. She also asked, they would like to know whether or not they are going back to the Board and if they can they build additional 136,000 square feet as of right?

Mr. Petraro - Responded that they cannot, it already covers the entire square footage. He said if they wanted to, they would have to come back. He shared that parking is maxed out now for what the building is, nothing additional and we would have to come back. He added it has been there for decades and the permit is as stands.

Elizabeth Erion – She reconfirmed that the permit for the buildings as they stand now, at the current floor area, any change would be a modification and would have to come back to the Board.

Mr. Petraro – He agreed.

Gerry Caliendo disclosed that he is the architect for this project.

Chairperson Torniali thanked Mr. Petraro for the presentation and asked if any Board Members had questions.

Comments/Questions from the Board:

Antonella Di Saverio – Mentioned the Costco parking lot being full over the weekends. She asked if they have a contingency plan if the spaces are overrun.

Mr. Petraro – He responded that they added 71 parking spaces from what they had. He said that they were not there back in 2003.

Tom Ryan – A traffic light is necessary.

Vanessa Jones-Hall – Commented because of how the community has grown, the parking will be an issue. She asked when this all will be done.

Mr. Petraro – Responded it will be done in early 2020.

Vanessa Jones-Hall – She asked, what about the parking being added that he mentioned.

Mr. Petraro – Responded, they added the parking when they added the property/lot on the south end. He added since the 2003 application it shows 71 more spots from 15 years ago.

Chairperson Torniali – Said she wanted to clarify, they are not adding more spaces.

Mr. Petraro – Responded they are based on the plan, which does add some parking spaces.

Deborah Tharrington, Representative, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer – Asked where will trucks deliver? She said BJs gets a lot of deliveries and what about the retail distribution, traffic is an issue now. She added that Northern Boulevard and 48th Street are always a problem with traffic and that she does not understand the impact study that was done.

Mr. Petraro – Responded the loading will be done as it is now on 48th Street and down at the other end.

Chairperson Torniali asked if any Board Members or anyone from the public had comments for or against the item. She closed the item.

Board of Standards and Appeals

2019-88 BZ Orangetheory Fitness Gym (Physical Culture) 31-37 31st Street, Astoria

Richard Bass, Akerman LLC – Mr. Bass started by saying this is an application for a special permit to allow a physical cultural establishment also known as a gym. He said legalization of this gym, it is a class based gym at the most there are about 28 people occupying the gym. He shared that physical culture establishments became a special permit back in the 60s and 70s to protect public morals because some gyms were masquerading as dens of inequity. He also said they still have a requirement that they go through the process. Mr. Bass said this application meets the findings for a special permit for a gym, there are no violations, no complaints. He said the gym is operating, most gyms seek legalization because the application can take up to 9-12 months. He added that a small gym like this one can go out of business paying rent, waiting for the public review process. He ended by saying the ceiling is insulated and they use rubber floors.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson thanked Mr. Bass for the presentation and asked if any Board Member or member of the public had questions or comments.

Comments/Questions from the Board:

Jeffrey Martin – He mentioned that at the Committee meeting a few weeks ago he asked about the impacts to neighboring businesses. He said he followed up with the neighbors who said they had to request that the music be turned down often. He asked what is being done to alternate noise to the sides.

Richard Bass – Responded that the speaker location have to be moved. He also suggested that they direct the neighbors to them.

Jeffrey Martin – He also shared that next door is a pediatrician's office.

Marie Torniali thanked Mr. Bass. She asked if any Board Member or member of the public would like to comment or ask questions on this item. Chair Torniali closed the item.

Department of City Planning

N 190309 ECQ (DCA 508-2019-ASWC) 33-19 Broadway, Amylos Café – 21 Tables and 46 Seats

The owner of Amylos announced that the café has been there for many years.

Elizabeth Erion – Stated that the plans show a minimal distance between the façade on 34th Street and the tree that is growing there. She said the people walk within the tree pit, there are concerns with the cobblestone being leveled and possible twisting ankles etc. She said that is the only concern at this point. She shared that the owner agreed he will keep an eye on this. She also said that the Committee suggested the possibility of changing the cobblestone to something that can be walked on with ease, like a grate.

Gerry Caliendo, Co-Chair, Land Use and Zoning Committee – He disclosed he is the architect of the building and of the original sidewalk café, Uncle George's.

Marie Torniali asked if any Board Member or member of the public would like to comment or ask questions on this item.

Comments/Questions from the Board:

Dominic Stiller – Asked if this is a renewal or a new application.

Elizabeth Erion – She clarified and said it is a modification of an existing facility and they were approved for a sidewalk café but there were modifications to the building itself, one of the sidewalls was not transparent which is a requirement and the other was the fact they added an ADA accessible ramp on 34th Street, and because of these changes it had to come through as a “new” café.

Dominic Stiller – Asked when the original enclosed café was built?

Elizabeth Erion – Responded, it was approved on October 21, 2016 and said it has the same number of tables and chairs, no changes.

Chair Torniali – Announced they will close the item.

Neil Herdan, Constituent/Member of Whitey Ford Field – Commented that they are an outstanding restaurant but he has a reservation about the sidewalk as well as the sidewalk by Bartolino’s. The pavement is very unstable, he added that he walks on that sidewalk a lot.

Breakout Session for 5 minutes for the Land Use and Zoning Committee to Convene

Meeting called back into Session by Chair Torniali

First Item: 44-01 Northern Boulevard

Elizabeth Erion provides a report from the breakout session. She mentioned there is a report that was included in the folders and said she hoped everyone reviewed it as it was very detailed. She said they have opted to recommend approval of the application based on Option 1 not Option 2 as was presented originally. The motion is to approve the application under Option 1, MIH.

The Chair asked for a motion.

Ed Babor Motioned and Seconded by Vanessa Jones-Hall

Roll Call Vote: 23 In Favor; 8 Against; 1 Abstain for Cause

Motion Carries

Second Item: FDNY/EMS Station 49

Elizabeth Erion pointed out that there is a report in the folders and the recommendation is to approve the site selection.

Motion to Approve by Jean Marie D’Alleva; Seconded by George Alexiou

Roll Call Vote: 32 In Favor; 0 Against; 0 Abstentions

Motion Carries

Third Item: Plaza 48 Shopping Center

Elizabeth Erion said the recommendation from the Committee is to conditionally approve the application contingent on a DOT Study of the Traffic and Pedestrian circulation and patterns in the vicinity of 48th Street and Northern Boulevard. The second condition was for the facility to provide traffic personnel during peak hours to move traffic off the side streets.

Motioned by George Alexiou; Seconded by Dino Panagoulas

Roll Call Vote: 29 In Favor; 2 Against; 1 Abstain for Cause

Motion Carries

Fourth Item: BSA Orangetheory Fitness Gym

Elizabeth Erion said in the report they recommended approval of the application with note to BSA about issues with the acoustics.

Motioned by Ed Babor; Seconded by Tom Ryan

31 In Favor; 0 Against; 1 Abstain for Cause

Motion Carries

Fifth Item: Amylos Café

Elizabeth Erion said the application is for the modifications for the Enclosed Sidewalk Café and the recommendations are to approve it. She said they will note to make sure they make the sidewalk passable in a letter to City Planning.

George Alexiou Motioned; Seconded by Katie Ellman

Show of hands

31 In Favor; 0 Against; 1 Abstain for Cause

Elected Officials/Representatives:

Daniel Banthius, Operations Coordinator, Caseworker and Field Representative for Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez - He shared that he is the main contact for the office. Legislative Update, her first piece of legislation was passed in the house this month, it was an amendment to the appropriations package as part of the waiver and HHS mini bus, and the amendable transfer \$15 million from the general fund to the CBC Opioid Infectious Disease Program. She has also co-sponsored a number of bills including HR3296 to have coverage for over the counter contraceptives, HR257 to open an impeachment inquiry on the President and HR1327 for permanent authorization of the 911 Victim Compensation Fund. Community Update, the noise from the helicopters have been an issue for the Astoria residents. Their office has been handling cases individually at this point. Their Outreach Director is taking steps to send a letter to the FAA. On Friday she was in Astoria to witness the noise as well as to take photos and video footage. If you want updates, their office can provide you with the information. The Congresswoman will be holding a Town Hall on Saturday, June 29th at P.S. 175 on City Island, the event will be focused on health care. The address is 200 City Island Avenue from 2 - 4 p.m. The newsletter sign-up is at the table. Their office helps with federal issues, the caseworkers are available from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. every weekday, they accept walk-ins or you can also submit requests on their website.

Chair Torniali thanked him and introduced the next speaker.

Joe Nocerino, Queens Borough President's Office – He announced that the Borough President has postponed the Service Awards normally held in June to September. There is an event on Sunday in Flushing Meadows Park in Queens from 3 -5 p.m., Family Fun Day, it is kid oriented, they will have bike rodeo, bike safety course, VIN Etching, Scavenger Hunt for kids 6-12 years old by the Unisphere. At 5p.m. a concert will take place with Sheila E. headlining. The Queens Borough President wishes everyone a happy summer.

Deborah Tharrington, Representative, Council Member Van Bramer's Office – On Thursday at 12 p.m. the Dutch Kills Playground will reopen, it has been completed, please come out and join them. On Sunday, June 23 at 12 p.m. the Council Member will be hosting their 9th Annual Pride Lunch at Manducatis Rustica, located at 46-35 Vernon Boulevard. She left fliers for both events on the table, if someone would like to RSVP please call, open to all. Have a great summer.

Steven Raga, Representative to Assembly Member Brian Barnwell – Announced first event on Wednesday, June 19th 12 – 3 p.m., Know Your Rights session at the Woodside Library. The second event is a Rain Barrel distribution on

Saturday, July 20th 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Maspeth Federal Savings parking lot. Any questions or to RSVP to any of the events, please feel free to call the office at: 718-651-3185.

Maria Bartis, Senator Jessica Ramos' Office – Announced that they are doing 13 neighborhood bashes, this Sunday is their first one on Steinway Street between 23rd Avenue and Ditmars. There will be music, food, entertainment and services. She added they will also have a Greek Cultural event from 12 – 4 p.m. and hope to see everyone there.

Juan Gomez, City Parks Foundation – Announced he left fliers on the table for various things. For example, a Free Children's Sports program, for all free City Summer Stage shows in Queens and Family summer race in July at Flushing Meadows Park.

Chair Marie Torniali thanked everyone and motioned to adopt the May 2019 Minutes.

Motioned by Dino Panagoulas; Seconded by Andre Stith

Chair Report:

Chairperson Marie Torniali – She announced they have updated committee assignments and a copy is in the folder. She said if they have any questions please call or email her. She made a Public Service Announcement (PSA), "Do not forget to vote in the Democratic Primary next Tuesday, June 25th." Chair Torniali ended by wishing everyone a very nice summer.

District Manager Report:

District Manager, Florence Koulouris – Started by saying it has been a very progressive and wonderful year and thanked everyone for their efforts all year. She wished everyone a wonderful summer. She also reminded the Board Members to please keep Capital and Expense in mind and in September she hopes everyone will have their lists. She said she will email information over the summer and reminded everyone that the office is open all summer. She added, if anyone has any questions or needs anything, please call, we are there to help and do whatever we can to assist you.

Committee Reports:

Rod Townsend, Co-Chair, Community & Economic Development Committee – No report. Wished everyone a wonderful summer.

Andy Aujla, Chair, Consumer Affairs Committee – Reported they had a committee meeting yesterday and invited Melody Café, they carried over from May and presented based on some complaints from the 114th Precinct. They addressed all the complaints with them and approved the application based on stipulations including reducing noise and making sure they have security. Mr. Aujla also reminded everyone of the spreadsheet in the folders, to review and asked to make a Motion to approve the stipulations they agreed with.

Mr. Dino Panagoulas Motioned; Seconded by Hannah Lupien

The Chair asked for a show of hands for approval and asked if anyone opposed, none.

Antonella Di Saverio, Chair, Environmental Protection Committee – Reported, on June 11th they had an amazing presentation by Theodora Scarato, Executive Director of the Environmental Health Trust (EHT) via Skype from Washington, DC who discussed the negative health impacts from the rollout 5G technology. The FCC has on the docket a bill that will allow wireless companies to place 5G cell towers on private property. There are no studies that show that radiation from this technology is safe. There are studies that show it can cause harm, with a high risk of developing Cancer when exposed to radiation. She urged to call your elected officials about your concerns and not allow the passage of the bill and that it will affect your property values as well as your health, also privacy concerns. She said they will do more research on their end and will ask local officials for help on how to minimize the impact or have oversight on what to place in our community. Council Member Constantinides on the 6th had a Renewable Rikers Island Panel, and added what they are proposing, the placement of solar panels in hopes of getting rid of the

power plants in Astoria along with providing jobs for the incarcerated. Ms. Di Saverio wished everyone a happy summer.

Judy Trilivas, Co-Chair, Health & Human Services Committee – Shared that Antonella invited the Health Committee to the 5G meeting and it was very informative.

Evie Hantzopoulos, Chair, Housing Committee – Reported that the Committee met on June 3rd. She said it started with a Q&A by Council Member Costa Constantinides. He talked about the plans for an RFP to be issued and to turn the municipal lot on 31st and Broadway into a 100% affordable housing for lower income seniors. At the same time Perris Straughter, AICP, Director of Queens and Staten Island Planning for NYC Housing Preservation & Development, Neighborhood Strategies (HPD) talked about the process as well. The plans are to issue an RFP in the coming months by selecting a developer who would build the housing which would be heavily subsidized and becoming 100% affordable. They would come before the Board eventually because it would require a zoning change. The plans are to build at least 100 units to be qualified for the federal subsidies that they need. It is something important to look at, given the waiting list of seniors for affordable housing in Astoria. She also talked about the need for Option 1 housing when Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) is being considered. She shared that Jacquelyn Simone, Policy Analyst at the Coalition for the Homeless, spoke about homelessness and how most who are homeless are families, mainly women and children and the need of affordable housing for them. There is legislation in the NYC Council for a certain percentage of units in any MIH text amendment be set aside for the homeless so that they can have permanent housing and do not have to live in shelters or move into a shelter. In September and October they will have other speakers come in and urges others to attend so that they can be an informed Board. Ms. Hantzopoulos wished everyone a great summer.

Elizabeth Erion, Co-Chair, Land Use & Zoning Committee – She said that they will work over the summer on items that do not have deadlines. She thanked all of the Board Members for their time and effort put in over the year, that it is very much appreciated and wished everyone a good summer.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – Announced there are a lot of events going on in the parks this summer.

Katie Ellman, Vice Chair, Parks/Recreation/Cultural Committee – She announced that they are co-hosting an event on Saturday, called Senior Stars from 3-6 p.m., and shared that Florence has the information on Facebook. They are also co-sponsoring a film screening of ET at Raimonda Playground and encouraged that everyone go to the annual fireworks in Astoria Park next week. She said a lot is going on in the community, suggested to check Facebook and Twitter. She ended by sharing that OANA along with the Astoria Park Alliance cohosted the Father's Day Car Classic last Sunday.

Ann Bruno, Co-Chair, Public Safety – No report.

Public Comment:

Neil Herdan, Friends Whitey Ford Field – He shared that they had a very successful Ford Family Day. Whitey Ford's children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren were there. They will be organizing a fundraiser later this summer and doing a field clean up towards the fall. They are looking for dynamic volunteers/leadership in the future. He mentioned that the Steward is the oldest ball field in Astoria (1700's), they honor Whitey Ford who was a six time world champion. The field is situated in the peninsula which is the fastest growing area in Astoria. For more information you can go on their Facebook or you can send them an email to: friendsofwhiteyfordfield@gmail.com

Susan LeMay – Shared that her husband attended an OANA meeting and they discussed the seawall condition at Hallets Cove. She said they went to look at the conditions, and shared that they are horrifying, treacherous and scary. She said the iron on the fence is completely deteriorated and needs to be looked at, something needs to be done about it.

Donal Cogdell, Director of Justice of Outreach and Youth, Hope Church in Astoria – He said they have a diverse community of about 250 people and recently launched a justice initiative. They are really concerned about the community and want to serve where they can. They would like to serve best where needed.

Marie Torniali, Chair said she wanted to reiterate what Florence Koulouris, District Manager said to the Board, when walking around the neighborhood and you think something should be added to the Capital and Expense please send an email, it is important, you are all the eyes and ears of the community. She ended by requesting a Motion to adjourn. The Chair wished everyone a great summer.

Motioned by Ed Babor; Seconded by Vanessa Jones-Hall

Meeting Adjourned: 8:45 p.m.

COMMUNITY BOARD 1, Queens

DATE 6/18/19

Full Board Meeting

Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.
Rose Anne Alafogiannis			E	Jerry Kril	✓		
George Alexiou	✓			Joel Lock			E
Daniel Aliberti		✓		Hannah Lupien	✓		
Loren Amor		✓		Jeffrey Martin	✓		
Avninder Aujla	✓			Antonio Meloni	✓		
Edward Babor	✓			Prabir Mitra	✓		
Jose Batista	✓			Eric Mouchette	✓		
Ann Bruno	✓			Stella Nicolaou	✓		
Edwin Cadiz		✓		Norma Nieves-Blas		✓	
Gerald Caliendo	✓			Mary O'Hara	✓		
Jean Marie D'Alleva	✓			Dino Panagoulas	✓		
Antonella Di Saverio	✓			Robert Piazza		✓	
Katerina Duarte			E	RoseMarie Poveromo			E
Katie Ellman	✓			Yawne Robinson	✓		
Elizabeth Erion	✓			Thomas Ryan	✓		
Mackenzi Farquer		✓		Rodolfo Sarchese			E
Dean Feratovic	✓			Nancy Silverman			E
Evie Hantzopoulos	✓			Dominic Stiller	✓		
Amy Hau			E	Andre Stith	✓		
Helen Ho	✓			Marie Torniali	✓		
Pauline Jannelli	✓			Rod Townsend	✓		
Vanessa Jones-Hall	✓			Judy Trilivas	✓		
George Kalergios	✓			Kathleen Warnock	✓		E
Richard Khuzami	✓			Mitchell Waxman	✓		
Nancy Konipol		✓					
Number Board Members Present <u>34</u>							
Present <u>34</u>				Absent <u>7</u>			
				Excused <u>8</u>			