

Community Board 1, Queens – Board Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2020

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

The Chair, Marie Torniali introduced the first item on the Agenda

Board of Standards and Appeals

BSA 162-09 BZ Extend term of Physical Cultural Establishment (PCE)

Planet Fitness 30-33 Steinway Street (Block 680, Lot 32) Special Permit to allow continued operation for a ten-year term.

Jaclyn Scarinci, Akerman on behalf of Frank St. Jacques, Akerman for Planet Fitness the Applicant. They have been in business since 2008 and are asking for a renewal for another 10 years to continue to operate the fitness center/gym. If there are any questions, she is able to answer.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson opens floor.

Elizabeth Erion said the Committee did not have much to say because of no complaints. There was one issue regarding Improving the lighting and trash on the Newtown Road façade that is in the rear yard of the building the applicant's attorney said they would work with the owner. There were no objections for this special permit.

The Chair asked if anyone from the Board or the Public have questions on this item. Hearing none, she closed the item.

The Chair introduced the second item.

Department of City Planning

NYC Department of Sanitation Site Selection Application – ULURP Application # C20038 PSQ

Relocation of Queens District 1 Garage and salt pile facility from 34-38 21st Street to a new facility at 31-11 20th Avenue (Block 850, Lot 350).

Stephanie Prince, Assistant Director, Office of Real Estate for Sanitation – She announced there are other representatives there and introduced them. She said they will be showing you what the plans for the garage and shared that the Land Use and Zoning Committee met with them a little over a week before. She said the current garage is located in 34-28 21st Street in Astoria (Block 523, Lot 12) approximately 62,000 square feet single story structure approximately 100 by 370 feet, total 37,000 square foot structure, it is undersized for their current operation many of their trucks have to park on the street the average Sanitation garage is about 80,000 square feet. They are located in an R5 Zone, surrounded by the NYCHA Ravenswood Houses and a park/playground close by. The location is not suitable for the long-term site due to the space constraints and surroundings. In 2014 they had DDC do an inspection of the garage to give them a facility assessment report and it indicated the overall core structural condition of the building with a deficient floor slab, 2 walls that needed major structural repair and the cost to rehabilitate the garage did not justify the short service life on the extension. It did not provide additional capacity due to limitations on the site. Ms. Prince also spoke about their current Q1 Salt site which is located at 43rd Avenue and Vernon Boulevard it is currently in a DOT jurisdiction it is crucial and critical to their salt storage in the Western Queens and due to an upcoming a repair by Silver Cup Studios DSNY has to relocate this site within the next 2 years. They are proposing to acquire approximately 9.8 acres with additional square footage for an access and utility corridor at 31-11 20th Avenue in Astoria. DSNY is committed to only using 19th Avenue, will not be using 20th Avenue for any ingress or egress. They wanted you to be aware of that commitment. The potential Sanitation site will be set back from the roadway and further from the nearest residential use. This is a part of a 2 phase plan the short-term plan is that they have licensed 1-acre property ready on the site ready to house 23 collection trucks to relieve congestion at the existing site and the 2nd phase is to construct brand new district garage and salt shed. (PowerPoint Presentation)

Turned it over to Susanne Baumgartner to introduce the new design of the proposed garage.

Susanne Baumgartner, HDR (Consultant) demonstrated a photo of the site with the 2 access roads one will only be used for utilities to access their site at the rear of the property and all truck circulations will be coming in from 19th Street. The site is laid out there is a Salt Shed about 20,000 square feet, parking for 76 trucks above ground fueling and the garage itself with parking for employees on the site. They will also have a treatment area for storm water run-off, all the water from the site will go to a treatment area using state of the art filtering system called Filtera. The site can be accessed from 19th Street. She discussed the photographs in the presentation. A 3-story area for personnel in the front and the trucks will be stored in the back. At Queens 1 there is a district garage inside the building there will be administrative offices, locker rooms and parking for the winter fleet stored inside, which are sensitive to the environment. One of the components will be sustainability. There will be a system for gray water on the roof. They will try to maximize the use of the property, it is not oversized or taking more than what they need. (PowerPoint Presentation)

Stephanie Prince announced that they filed the ULURP on January 15th of this year, it was certified on the 21st by the City Planning Commission, they met with the Land Use and Zoning Committee on February 5th and are seeking ULURP approval by August of this year. They are continuing to occupy 1 acre for the 23 vehicles on site at Luyster Creek their trucks use clean diesel technology and selective catalytic reduction emissions comparable to natural gas. The current personnel and equipment as well as their current routes from the current garage and the proposed routes from the proposed site. She asked if anyone had questions.

The Chair opens questions to Committee Chairs, Elizabeth Erion and Gerald Caliendo.

Elizabeth Erion Asked the applicant if they can give the community a fuller explanation of how the traffic circulation is going to happen in this area with respect to how the trucks will get from North South and East West the numbers that will be on the roads and the times. All of the traffic information that they submitted that has no significant impact.

Steve Brautigam, Environmental Law - Legal Affairs, DSNY (Director of the Environmental Review for the Project) reported, for this project they conducted a standard seeker traffic analysis looking to see whether or not there would be any significant impacts. He said there would be no change in the current number of trucks that are in CD1 area. It is roughly 388 or so total trips in a day, 24 hours work on a weekday and similar number on a Saturday and in the Peak hour with the most traffic this includes both. NYC DOT truck route to pick up 114 vehicles in the morning on a weekday and 116 vehicles during midday period. In terms of routes DSNY trucks are using DOT truck routes from the current garage to their sections for curbside pick-up that is the same process that was used for the new routes via 19th Avenue out of the site as mentioned and are disbursed via Steinway Street 20th Avenue 21st Street and 19th Avenue to their individual routes. Once they completed the traffic analysis at 3 intersections as per conversations with NYCDOT the study is called Transportation Demand Factors Memo looks at the incremental change in vehicles at various intersections which are, 20th Avenue and Steinway Street, 19th Avenue and Steinway Street and 19th Avenue and Steinway Place/38th Street, those intersections, 2 are unsignalized and 1 is signalized. The traffic in that neighborhood is not particularly high. Generally, about 250 vehicles at any given hour. The traffic conditions now are level service B. At the 3 intersections the level service remains at B overall. At one movement it is level service C, but it was already there. They do not have any level of service D.

Gerry Caliendo asked whether the deal was consummated with the landlord.

DSNY responded they are currently in negotiations.

Gerry Caliendo asked when you expect it to be consummated and is it hopeful or not.

DSNY responded hopeful, hoping we can conclude negotiations with the landlord once the ULURP is completed. All of the ULURP applications state Terms to be determined in the event that they are unable to conclude negotiations then they see alternative mechanisms.

Gerry Caliendo asked if she is suggesting that they will take eminent domain.

DSNY responded they will make every attempt to conclude the negotiations. The City also has an option of purchasing this site, but we believe that this is the best site and the only site that they were able to identify within the 4 years that they have been pursuing this particular site.

George Alexiou asked if they are owned privately or by a corporation

DSNY responded that it is an LLC

Andy Aujla asked if this proposal affects anything that is going to happen at the former site, any new buildings has it been contemplated yet.

DSNY responded that Sanitation would relinquish the current building back to DCAS to be determined what will happen to it

Andy Aujla asked if there would still be more planning, more community input.

DSNY responded, yes.

Andy Aujla asked are there any improvements planned for 19th Avenue because the roads are terrible there.

DSNY responded that she cannot speak to that.

Andy Aujla asked if they can look into that.

DSNY responded that they will look into it.

RoseMarie Poveromo asked what environmental protections Sanitation will take if in fact it becomes necessary to take this property by eminent domain. What environmental protections will be installed to protect the ball field and, for the children. The area is lovely and certainly since there will be trucks and salt storage that something should be done to protect the health of the children who play in that ball field.

Steve Brautigam, Environmental Law - Legal Affairs, DSNY (Director of the Environmental Review for the Project) responded that the environmental impact was considered and with the input from the city DEP that included input air impact noise impact construction period impact such as dust control, hazardous materials impact the findings was that the construction and operation had no adverse impacts.

Sanitation trucks are extremely clean now because they use to have 2000 PPM parts of sulfur in the diesel fuel and it is now 15 PPM it enables the them to use particulate filters for the remaining amount. Which is why you heard that the emissions are comparable to natural gas trucks, you can feel confident.

RoseMarie Poveromo asked will Luyster Creek be sweetened will be cleaned by the City of New York. The reason why asking these questions is because 3 years ago or so she had a private meeting with the Commissioner and a sanitation representative from the Community it was brought up at the time. Peter Vallone Jr. was the Councilman at the time. United Civic Community Association (UCCA) reached out to Peter Vallone, Jr. for the owner to sell it or take it over. This way the area could be used by the public for things like Kayaking. They may have to do that now.

Eddie Cadiz stated that he is an expert of this site at 21st Street because reported 3 spills since 1973. The first spill was oil, the second was gasoline and yet another spill the EPA came in did nothing since they are part of the City. They said the spills reported that they would have to dig 40 feet or more to get all the soil and the gasoline that is under the ground. They would have to clean the site before you make it a public domain. People are already talking about how they want to use it at Ravenswood they were tortured for 35 years with the trucks on the street. He asked are they going to clean the site before they move? He stated the trucks are not clean and said he has photos to contradict that.

Evie Hantzopoulos asked that she would like to get more information about the plant at Luyster Creek that RoseMarie mentioned. She stated that the wastewater treatment incorporated a natural filtering process for the storm water and

also rehabilitating Luyster Creek increasing public access is there potential there for something to happen so the area can be enjoyed by the public.

DSNY responded the project itself does not include particular cleanup efforts of Luyster Creek itself because the project will be upland, and they do not need the creek as such. They will be elevating the site to 18 feet, raising it 2 to 7 feet at much of the site it is for resiliency purposes and they will be adding a lot of pavement to the site as well. The site will be cleaner. With respect to public access they are not proposing that. In the future along the waterfront for example if the city parcel proposing to lease does not include current access but there is access drive that they have to utilize it will be a shared access drive it does not and again preclude public access

Mitchell Waxman stated he brought this up at the Land Use Committee meeting. The City is obliged to spend 1% of its budget on all new capital construction under the 1% for Art Plan. He stated that he would love to see that take the form of public access given what the budget is likely to be that could mean a walkway that leads 19th Avenue and goes around the Creek to the Filtera. Putting out there not as a question but as a statement to the whole board. They discussed this at the Committee meeting.

DSNY thanked him for bringing that up. She said DSNY is absolutely committed to improving the waterfront preserving the wetlands and open to exploring potential for public access. They are not saying absolutely not, it requires further exploration.

Jeffrey Martin asked about the parcel that they are going to use for the entrance drive. What is it now? What is proposed to be in the future once it is used as an access drive? They also talked about the potential for the City to acquire the land between the park now and the Creek so that where we would gain public access from. They talked about it at the Committee meeting. Was hoping to see a slide on that understanding that is not part of this project now because they spent a lot of time on public access. They have been shut out of Luyster Creek and the area north of Astoria in general they have been shut out of waterfront access. It is a potential opportunity being that it is going to be city land.

DSNY responded that they took the comments back to their Commissioner and to their design team. They need to explore more; it is certainly not an easy question with an easy answer to have readily available to answer 1 ½ weeks later. It is something they can continue to explore and will be in open dialogue. DSNY also responded to Lot 42 access. She said they are currently using it for access to go into a parcel that houses 23 collections trucks in terms of the activity in the access way, they are not utilizing it. There is another tenant that is using the site as well. In terms of future plans aside what they are proposing for permanent access to the site she is not aware what the plans are.

Katie Ellman announced she would like to add to what Jeffrey said on the Committee level both in Land Use and Parks in regards to the street end of Luyster Creek becoming an open space for the community for a pass through for use of recreation it was discussed at the committee level and how it is on their budget to make street end part into a city land they want to implore you to make this happen for them, to work with interagency to make a continuous greenway for the people with access in our community .

RoseMarie Poveromo asked something to be clarified, the site right now is being used by trailer trucks. She stated that it is being leased to a trucking company by the doctor that owns the land. Asked if their intention is to take over the entire site.

DSNY responded no, just 9.8 acres, only the north eastern half, just acquiring that part.

RoseMarie Poveromo asked if they are acquiring Luyster Creek?

DSNY responded yes.

RoseMarie Poveromo stated there is a sunken boat there, it is not huge. If the area will be used for public use it would be practically impossible unless the DeBlasio administration puts a great deal more money in there and does what the community wants done. The administration needs to utilize all kinds of space for public use.

The Chair, Marie Torniali asked if any other Board Members had questions or if anyone from the public had questions and/or comments on this item.

Public Speakers:

Jennifer Forgas stated her concern is around the site on 21st Street and what becomes of the site. Would like to remind all that it is a neighborhood and a community. Taking the trucks out of there is wonderful, 21st Street is a road that people use to get through without tolls, people speed down 21st Street. Remind the Community Board that we are looking at a large site with a lot of potential it will make the community more walkable and is hoping that when the Sanitation Depot is removed that they take into account that humans live there it is not just a thruway and whatever you do next is going to impact a lot of lives would like to see 2 traffic lights along 21st Street would like to see that done now and not wait.

Litza Stark stated that she owns and lives in a house that is very close to the site on a residential block. She said she supports the relocation and it is a much better site than 21st Street. There has been practically no impact for those in the area. She said she also wants to speak as a bird watcher, people go there even in its current decrepit condition and that it is remote. She stated that she goes there to see waterfowl and people have observed 96 species in the last year. It would be a great opportunity to reclaim some of NYC's waterfront for the public.

Jenny Dubnau stated that she wants to speak about the 21st Street site. She said that she works for the Western Queens Community Land Trust and the Justice for All Coalition they are just hoping if there is a large publicly owned site that is vacated right in the middle of the Ravenswood/NYCHA houses that the community be allowed to weigh in very strongly on whatever becomes of that publicly owned site. They are hoping to conduct some visioning sessions and meet with some of the people in Ravenswood and the surrounding area to find out what they would like. Perhaps, affordable housing, perhaps a park or a community center. Whenever the City decides what they want to put there in its place and if anyone does know they would love to know. They want to make sure it will not be luxury towers and they want to make sure whatever goes there especially given that it is publicly owned that it will benefit the people living in the community and that the community weighs in she said she has fact sheets about Community Land Trust if anyone is interested.

Nick Vellaer stated he is a member of the Western Queens Community Land Trust and the Justice for All Coalition he said Jenny is brilliant and he wants to second what she said about using the 21st Street site as a Community Land Trust. He stated it is basic common-sense brilliant idea that is good for everybody the exact opposite of the common sense sounded minded thinking of a Community Land Trust would be handing over publicly owned land to a for profit developer it would be asinine. Keep it owned by the public, Community Land Trust it makes common sense and it is good for everybody.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson asked if anyone else would like to speak, hearing none she closed the hearing and stated they will be voting on it during the Business Session. The Chair then stated they would go on to the Elected Officials/Representatives.

Elected Officials/Representatives:

Joe Nocerino, Community Coordinator, Office of the Queens Borough President, announced with regards to Community Boards, the application deadline has been extended to March 13th. He stated that it must be an original application, notarized and submitted to their office. He mentioned that a few Board Members have not submitted their applications. The Board Members missing forms: Eddie Cadiz, Katerina Duarte, Mackenzi Farquer and Yawne Robinson. Mr. Nocerino announced an event for a Black History Month celebration on February 26th at 6 p.m. at Borough Hall, a Homeowners and Tenants enrollment event to lower Homeowners taxes and for Tenants to apply for Scree on Thursday, February 27th at 10 a.m. in Borough Hall and lastly a Notice of Property Value Sessions to receive one-on-one assistance regarding your Property Taxes on February 27th from 5 p.m. to 7 pm in Borough Hall.

Deborah Tharrington, Jimmy Van Bramer's Office, announced their Black History Month celebration on Thursday, February 27th at Jacob Riis, 10-25 41st Avenue at Queensbridge Houses at 6:30 p.m., there will be refreshments and entertainment.

Aastma Katakya, Assemblyman Brian Barnwell's Office announced that he is in the office and will be going back to Albany soon if you have any issues or problems please feel free to come by the office or give them a call. They are looking for volunteers. Their office number is: 718-651-3185.

Zachariah Boyer, Office of the Public Advocate, Jumaane Williams announced that they have Bail Reform literature available and if there is anything anyone wants to share with their office please ask for his business card.

Taiquan Coleman, Director of Constituent Services, Office of Senator Jessica Ramos' Office announced on the 29th they are having their Black History Month Event at the Queens Museum from 1-4:30 p.m., they will have food, music and a screening of Harriet. The Queens Museum auditorium seating is very limited, they are asking everyone to RSVP and the link is also on the flyer. He said they have sent out an email if you have not received it please let him know. They are also offering free tax preparation and requesting that you please RSVP, until March. They have appointments for March. He reminded everyone please do not hesitate to reach out.

Daniel Bonthius, Operations Coordinator, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez announced their Town Hall on Saturday, February 22nd at 2 p.m. at the Louis Armstrong Middle School in Corona. It will be focused on the Census, there will be appearances from the NYC Census as well as the U.S. Census Bureau going over everything and answering questions, after the presentation there will be a Q&A.

You can RSVP on the website: www.Ocasio-Cortez.house.gov/February2020townhall

Speaking of the Census, their office is trying to do everything that they can in order to get NY14 counted, they will be setting up their office as a site for people who do not have access to computers and also coordinating with the complete count committees that are in the district to help them get the resources that they need from both from the NYC Census or the federal Census. If there is anyone there from the Count Committee, please let him know so that he can connect you with their office. He announced the Legislative update, he said this month the Congresswoman signed Bill HR2456 2002 for authorization use of military force as well as HR3222 the No Public Deportation Act that no federal funds can be used to enforce the administrations public charge rule. She also signed on to the DNL Act which affects Astoria residents, it would lower the threshold for airplane noise calculated by the FAA. Currently, the threshold is 65 DNL which stands for Day Night Average Level at which point if you reach that level the FAA is required to provide noise reducing installation to affected homes. This bill will lower that to 55 DNL. Their office can assist constituents with Federal issues including immigration, social security, veterans' affairs etc. Their case workers are available at their office Monday – Friday in Queens at 74-09 37th Avenue in Jackson Heights their number is 718-662-5970

Victor Montesinos, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney's Office announced that about 3 ½ years ago Ravenswood Tenant leader Carol Wilkins called the Congresswoman to let her know that the NYC Board Elections had moved the polling location for many of the Ravenswood residents to a new location. The new site was several blocks away and required voters to walk along a busy commercial street which has many businesses with high volume of incoming and outgoing cars and trucks. Congresswoman Maloney was very concerned that this new location change would make it harder for the voters to get to the polls and result in a likely unintentional suppression of NYCHA resident voters. The Congresswoman worked with Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan, Eddie Cadiz and Carol Wilkins to fix the situation. They reached out to the Queens Board of Elections and after many phone calls, letters and meetings tonight he is happy to announce that the polling location for Election District 10 has been moved back to the Ravenswood Community Center after nearly 4 years. Anyone who was affected by the change should have received notice by the Board of Elections about the change in the mail.

Nick Roloson Chief of Staff, Councilman Constantinides' Office announced to give an update on what they are doing. Last month they had a hearing on their big project called Renewable Rikers. As you know, Rikers Island is set to close and their office is trying to come up with ways to use that land for public good. There have been a lot of ideas that have been put out there. The idea they are pushing is Renewable Rikers imagine every power plant that is here in Astoria the Councilman likes to say we have an embarrassment of riches we have the highways, the wastewater treatment plant and the power plants. Imagine we could remove all of them, imagine we could move the wastewater treatment plant at Bowery Bay and move it up the river. That is what Renewable Rikers is about, it is about taking the 400 acres of land and have a Renewable Rikers and using it for Renewable sources. We are talking about a 200-acre solar farm talking about a new wastewater treatment plant battery storage can go on all day he said they have a petition on their website and hoping that people who are really into this idea will sign their petition. If you want more information please talk to him during or after the meeting you can also call their office they are trying to get as many

stakeholders in the community as they can to sign on to this pledge so that when the City decides how they want to move forward with this this idea can be pushed forward and no other ideas.

Police Officer Chacon, 114th Precinct announced that there is a new idea that came from the 110th Precinct because of a lack of support from the community. In order to show support from the community to the NYPD, a business, a resident, a commercial establishment or anyone in the community if they would like to show support to the NYPD they can put a blue ribbon around a tree or on a structure near your facility and letting other neighbors know or the area you call home or your business is in support of the Police Department. We are making you aware you have that as an option, and you will be seeing that coming from Corona and start spreading NY1 had a news piece on it. He hopes to see a lot of blue ribbons in the confines of the 114th Precinct in Astoria.

Ann Bruno asked him to tell everyone that this is contest between the precincts.

Police Officer Chacon stated there was a challenge a few years ago on the internet. The 110th Precinct has challenged the 114th Precinct to see who can show the most amount of support of blue ribbons.

Nancy Silverman said she knows he is not a spokesperson for the police but if he can help them understand that there are more Stop and Frisks coming from the 114th Precinct than the rest of the City. She said she is very surprised and asking him to help them understand this report, why that is.

Police Officer Chacon stated that it is a fact, it did occur. He said there is no rhyme or reason. He said when the Police Department sees a crime, sees fit for there to be a stop then, Stop & Frisk occurs. There is no correlation why here and not somewhere else it is just happens to be.

Nancy Silverman said her understanding that the increase in Stop & Frisk did not necessarily lead to arrests.

Police Officer Chacon stated there is no correlation.

P.O. Ferraro announced there is a Police Sector meeting on February 27th at Mount Carmel, in the basement. It is for the community to speak with them about any concerns and questions there will be refreshments. It is posted on Twitter and Facebook, doors open at 4:30 p.m. meeting starts at 5 p.m. the meeting location is at 23-20 Newtown Avenue, the entrance is on Newtown, across from Mt. Carmel Church.

Kathleen Warnock mentioned the concern about the article on the Stop and Frisk at the 114th and thinks it would be a great idea if they can have someone like the Precinct Commander to come and speak to them on the how and why. There are a lot of articles on it and it is of interest to the Community Board.

P.O. Chacon said it is a perfect opportunity to come to the monthly 114th Community Council which is held on the 4th Tuesday of every month, with the exception for December, July and August. The next meeting is next Tuesday, next week at Riccardo's at 7 p.m., the Commander will speak there.

The Chair, Marie Torniali suggested that perhaps he can be invited to a Community Board meeting in the near future.

Stella Nicolaou asked about the blue ribbon, in terms of counting, is there a website to go and log in.

P.O. Chacon said you can take a picture and post on the 114th Precinct Police Twitter account.

Chair Report:

The Chair stated for now, on a trial basis, the Board Members will continue to sign in and there will be a Roll Call for attendance as well. She shared that the MTA had a Presentation on the Bus Route Redesign and we would hear about it later. However, she has asked the MTA to have a workshop which she thinks would be much more productive. The Chair shared there was a Bike Workshop that the Community Board sponsored with elected officials and there was a pretty good turnout. She said she hopes everyone interested attended this for the Protected Bike Lane in Astoria.

Roll Call occurs by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Thomas Ryan.

The Chair asked for a Motion to Adopt the January 2020 Minutes.

Motioned by Ed Babor; Seconded by Rose Anne Alafogiannis

District Manager Report:

The District Manager, Florence Koulouris announced that the Community Board left bags on the table because in March we will not be able to use plastic bags. There are stores like Target that have stopped ordering bags, so be well prepared. She encouraged everyone to start using them and reminded everyone the plastic ban will be going into effect. The Board will be doing a climate workshop it is called a Solar Workshop, in March. The Environmental Committee will be making a report on this. This will take place on March 6th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. The Board Office will also be sponsoring a Narcan and Stop the Bleed Event with Mount Sinai Hospital all the information is on the flyer, the Health Committee will make a report on that. She stated that at the District Service Cabinet and at Borough Hall they had an overview by the NYPD on Hate Crimes Taskforce with the Deputy Inspector, Mark Molinari and Captain Hollywood, Commanding Officer of the NYPD. They stated there are 36,000 officers and there are 2.4 million residents, in our state, half are born abroad, it is a multi-faceted. The Hate Crime Division is the 2nd oldest law enforcement unit in the City of New York. All major full funds are used for this division, they work alongside the Commissioner, the Crime Prevention unit, the District Attorney's Office, the FBI, the Civilian Rights Office, the Department of Justice, Mayor's Office and the Mayor's Office of Hate Crimes for Prevention and they meet with Advocacy groups, over 60 races, sexual orientations and etc. have been handled. The Hate Crimes Unit its use of identity most 8 out of 10 are different people, stats are very large, 20% increase and most of the increase is in Jewish Hate Crimes. There have been a lot of Swastika hate crimes committed and an increase of property crimes, 3 hate crimes in murders happened in Sheepshead Bay. Queens has a 68 for the number and it is a 50% increase from the past. The District Manager thanked everyone.

Committee Reports:

RoseMarie Poveromo, Airport Committee – No report.

Rod Townsend, Community and Economic Development Committee – No report.

Andy Aujla, Consumer Affairs Committee, reported that the spreadsheet is in the folders that is now legal size which has the liquor license applications and sidewalk cafes. They had a Committee meeting on January 29th where 3 local businesses appeared before the Committee. They recommended to deny one of the applicants which is Oven Grill Chill, this is the 2nd time they met with the Committee within the last year. The first time was based on over 300 noise complaints, they had some neighbors that came to that meeting as well alternately they provided recommendations on ways to improve their interactions with the Community. They went forward, they are up for renewal now unfortunately instead of noise complaints they came in for complaints of violence. In the last 6 months there were 18 random crimes including assaults. In one case there were intoxicated persons, a person was stabbed on the arm and arm pit. There was a felony assault and 7 robberies that is why the Committee recommended denying that entity. There were 2 other establishments that came in, they were not up for renewal, but they are recommending sending a letter highlighting some of the concerns that the Community has for these 2 establishments. Number 1 is Aloha they are located on Astoria Boulevard in the last 6 months they had 71 – 311 calls; 19 – 911 calls; these included assaults, larcenies and other types of disputes. When it was time to meet with the Committee neither of the owners or anyone employed by the establishment came to the meeting, they sent their Representative, they did not think it was important to discuss this. This is also the second time that Aloha was scheduled to meet with the Committee about concerns. Hangar also came in they are located on Steinway Street the main concern with them is that on January 6th a male that was in the establishment went outside got a gun took 5-6 shots into a group of people on the sidewalk on Steinway. Given that security was uncooperative afterwards, the Committee voted to send a letter indicating our concerns on that one as well. He hopes there is a Motion to approve the Applications except for Oven Grill Chill and to send these 2 letters.

Motioned by Ed Babor; Seconded by Amy Hau

Show of hands to approve, unanimous.

Evie Hantzopoulos asked what the name of the place to deny was.

Andy Aujla responded said the Oven Grill Chill on Broadway and 42nd Street, it was carried over from January.

The Chair asked for a show of hands for approval and if anyone has any other questions. She stated there are No oppositions.

Andy Aujla announced that this is his last Consumer Affairs report and said he is resigning as Chair of Consumer Affairs. He announced that Eric Mouchette will be taking over in his stead and said you will be in very good hands. He said he hopes to continue to work with the Community, just in a different capacity, moving forward. He thanked everyone for a great 3 years and wished all the best of luck.

The Chair thanked him.

Eric Mouchette said he genuinely appreciates the opportunity and looking forward to working with Florence as well as the great team of the Consumer Affairs Committee. He thanked Andy for 3 years of leadership in his position as Chair and thanked him for the guidance that he provided with respects to the roll. He told him he will be missed and wished him nothing but the best.

Judy Trilivas, Health & Human Services Committee reported that Megan McPherson will speak about what Florence mentioned about the March 3rd they will have the Narcan and Stop the Bleed Community Education. They will give more details during the Public Session.

Evie Hantzopoulos reported that the Housing Committee met a couple of weeks ago and they had Carol Wilkins who is the President of the Tenants Association at Ravenswood NYCHA Houses to talk about the current Sanitation Garage site and get a sense for what it is that members of her Community would like to see. They also heard about the history of the site and some of issues and problems they have had but also what they are hoping for the future. Some of the things they discussed is truly 100% affordable housing, also a youth or community center those are some of the ideas that they are interested in seeing. The Housing Committee would like to continue to engage other members of the Community as well, anyone who has thoughts please speak with her. The focus at the Housing Committee is housing they feel that it is public property and this is a great opportunity to build something that is going to benefit people who live in the community and income levels that are more in line than who is there now. She said they briefly discussed the plans for a family homeless shelter that is going to be constructed at 38-78 11th Street. She shared that the next day there will be a joint Committee Meeting with the Health, Housing and Land Use Committees to hear from the non-profit provider as well as the Department of Homeless Services. She stated that the next meeting will be on March 30th.

Elizabeth Erion, Land Use and Zoning Committee reported there are 2 votes, 2 ULURP items. The first, A special permit for a Physical Culture establishment, Planet Fitness located at 30-33 Steinway Street as she mentioned before there were no issues raised no objections raised for renewing the permit, she asked for a Motion to Approve it.

Motioned by Nancy Silverman; Seconded by RoseMarie Poveromo

They had a Roll Call Vote by Nancy Silverman.

The Chair announced the Motion Carries: 31 In Favor; 0 Against; 1 Abstention for Cause

Elizabeth Erion reported on the Sanitation Garage she stated that the Committee had an extensive discussion at the Land Use Committee meeting last week. Most of the discussion was centered on bringing some life to Luyster Creek and understanding the litigations that will be happening with respect to the use on the site. They also talked about the traffic circulation patterns and the traffic impacts in the Community. Based on that, there was a consensus in the Committee the siting of the Garage up in the North East section of the Industrial Business Zone (IBZ) was an appropriate place for it to locate. The issues with respect to Luyster Creek and the waterfront they took very seriously though the consensus is to approve this application for a site selection, and that is all it is right now. We do want to impart the issues that they have with respect to reclaiming Luyster Creek and making the waterfront accessible to this Community because we have so little open space and so little connection with the water other than

Astoria Park. There are a number of issues that they would relay to the Commission to the Department Sanitation, she appreciates the fact they are taking these issues under consideration, but they will keep at it. This application goes back 3 years when they met with Commissioner Davis. When the Commissioner first came on to the Department of Sanitation they were going back and forth on this and trying not to drop the ball and they will continue the discussion regarding Luyster Creek revitalization. The issues they would like to impart to them, first, this is a public construction project and it presents a rare opportunity for the city to use. The information Mitch Waxman alerted us to, was the 1% for Art or Education for any public construction project, they will follow up on that. This is something that will come back to us when the facility goes before the public design commission. The Board has to make a comment on that. The Committee talked about open space making a shore walkway there opening it up for educational programs perhaps kayaking, and boat launching or a boathouse. They wanted to incorporate a plan for waterfront access into the design the site plan of this particular site that is something DSNY will ask them to incorporate into their RFP and hopefully it is not sent out yet. Ms. Erion understands it is being reviewed. They would like it to be considered as an important part of the project. The Committee talked about creating 19th Avenue as an access point for residents in the area. Access point to Luyster Creek talked about getting together with the new development that is proposed near Steinway Piano. The new motion picture studio development will be a big development. Ms. Erion understands they are interested in revitalizing the waterfront so it would be both Sanitation, the new developer, perhaps City Planning and other elected officials and the Borough President's Office to try to bring this coalition together to do something to put more pressure on DEP or whoever is going to be involved in testing and revitalizing. Along 19th Avenue, RoseMarie Poveromo brought up the fact is that ICYP Ballfields there. It occurred to her and RoseMarie brought up at the Committee that perhaps we should request that there should be some kind of traffic separation along 19th Avenue that separates ballfield from traffic going back and forth, a physical barrier. It should be heavily landscaped; it would create a safer environment. It would be like a protected bike lane; it would be a protected ballfield. There was also a suggestion from a Committee member to have Sanitation reach out to local school groups to talk about the various resiliency measures they will install. The technology they are using that is cutting down on electricity. Discussion ensued regarding the collection trucks requiring them to remain only on designated truck routes. Those issues and concerns will be sent to the elected officials and go through City Planning and City Council. With that, the consensus is that the proposed site is adequate, provides convenient access to the district sectors, it is far away from residential areas, it is within the district itself. The proposed site will better serve CB1. The proposed site will house both the salt spreaders and collection trucks. We think it is appropriate. Elizabeth Erion put a Motion on the floor.

Amy Hau Motioned to Approve; Ed Babor Seconded

She asked if there was anything to discuss.

Nancy Silverman thanked Elizabeth Erion and the Committee for a great motion and including everything in anticipating the things that Committee members here tonight said.

The Chair announced the Roll Call and stated that they have a Motion on the floor to approve the ULURP application.

The Chair announced the Motion Carries: 31 In Favor; 1 Against; 1 Abstention for Cause

She asked if anyone had any Old or New Business.

Mitchell Waxman, Transportation Committee reported that the MTA came to a Committee Meeting and made a presentation about the Bus Redesign. He said there were a significant number of people from the Community that came to the district offices advocating for the various bus lines. There was a large number of people there for the Q103 and the Q101, the Steinway bus. The people were voicing up to the MTA as well as Committee Members the general consensus at the end was as Marie said earlier is to organize a workshop with MTA where they can sit down with their planner and talk about the bus lines that we are desperate to keep. Ultimately, MTA wants to remove every other bus stop. Right now, bus stops are 850 feet on average from each other MTA wants to make that 1405 feet from each other. There was one woman in the crowd that brought up the increased number of transfers which the MTA bus plan would create. She is disabled she made the point since the subway system is largely not ADA compliant that the elimination of the routes she uses to shop, go to the doctor and go to church would result in a significant hardship for her, other people and people like her that have mobility issues in commuting.

Public Session:

Katie Talay with the Democrats Socialists of America inviting all to their Astoria Public Power Town Hall on Thursday, March 5th at 6:30 p.m. at the HANAC George Douris Tower to promote their Public Power Campaign. The campaign is to move New York's energy system to be 100% renewable publicly owned and democratically controlled. Right now, we get all of our energy from ConEdison who are fighting the transitions to renewables neglecting our infrastructure and making massive profits. They would like to address the climate crisis and the inequality crisis by putting our energy systems into the hands of the people. She stated she has flyers and she can give you more information.

Steve Morena from Dutch Kills was wondering if anyone can advise him on a problem, they have with city bike racks, the bikes take up parking. Who can they talk to relocate them?

The Chair, Marie Torniali suggested that they call DOT or call their Councilmember. She also suggested they put it in writing.

Catherine Goode, U.S. Census Bureau, shared a message that the Census will take place this year, it can be completed by mail, online, by telephone or with a Census Taker. They have language assistance, available in 12 languages. They also are sharing information that it affects \$675 billion of federal funding that can go to the Community for schools, housing assistance, public programs, emergency services and a lot of other programs. She stated she left flyers and said they are hiring part-time and full-time workers. The job of Census Taker which is part-time based is \$28 an hour people go on-line to apply She mentioned there are 4 questions that are not on the Census: They do not ask about citizenship, they do not ask for donations, they do not ask for social security numbers and they do not ask for bank account numbers. There are only 9 questions on the Census this year, you can see them online before you receive it in the mail, if you feel more comfortable. You can go to the website which is: www.2020Census.gov

Megan McPherson, Director of Emergency Management at Mount Sinai Queens and also representing the Borough of Queens Emergency Preparedness Coalition mentioned flyers are on the table. She announced they are doing a pilot program together using coalition funds to do a Stop the Bleed using a Tourniquet if there is a gunshot victim and using Narcan for an overdose it is the same night on March 3rd from 6 to 8 p.m. at Mt. Sinai Queens. It is the first time they are doing these events together. They hope if the pilot goes well, they can do it all around the borough with different hospitals partnerships and other community boards with the Coalition.

Judy Trilivas asked if you are interested to please RSVP because they need to order the kits and Tourniquets.

Donal Cogdell, Director, Hope Astoria and Justice for All located at 35th Street off 36th Avenue they are a new Justice initiative out of Hope Astoria Church. They are currently doing Town Hall session to hear what issues are going on in the Community because they would like to be part of the solution. Next month they are doing a Town Hall with special guests. They will have an expert on poverty also an education policy analyst who is an expert in data. They would like to have Committee members from the Economic Committee as well as the Housing Committee. He said they will have a panel discussion and will have the Community members have dialogue (safe dialogue, not contentious). Mr. Cogdell said he has a signup sheet if anyone is interested as well as flyers with information.

Joe DiPietro stated there is a soccer field/baseball field located at 20th Avenue and 33rd Street. He said they put a bicycle lane which is a great idea but not practical because when the children come out of the field, they cannot see oncoming traffic. Mr. DiPietro said it is very dangerous how can we get a traffic light by the soccer field or at the exit of the baseball field. He said the children can get killed. He suggested he will put together a petition.

Marie Torniali asked him to call the office with the suggestion and they will take it from there.

The Chair, Marie Torniali asked for a Motion to Adjourn.

Motioned by Tom Ryan; Seconded by RoseMarie Poveromo

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY BOARD 1, Queens

DATE 2/18/20

Full Board Meeting

Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.
Rose Anne Alafogiannis	✓			Jerry Kril	✓		
George Alexiou	✓			Hannah Lupien	✓		
Daniel Aliberti	✓		E	Jeffrey Martin	✓		
Loren Amor	✓			Antonio Meloni			E
Avninder Aujla	✓			Eric Mouchette	✓		
Edward Babor	✓			Stella Nicolaou	✓	✓	
Jose Batista		✓		Norma Nieves-Blas	✓	✓	
Ann Bruno	✓			Mary O'Hara	✓	✓	
Edwin Cadiz	✓			Dino Panagoulas		✓	
Gerald Caliendo	✓			Robert Piazza			E
Jean Marie D'Alleva	✓			RoseMarie Poveromo	✓	✓	
Antonella Di Saverio			E	Yawne Robinson		✓	
Katerina Duarte		✓		Thomas Ryan	✓		
Katie Ellman	✓			Rodolfo Sarchese	✓		
Elizabeth Erion	✓			Nancy Silverman	✓	✓	
Mackenzi Farquer	✓			Dominic Stiller		✓	
Dean Feratovic	✓			Andre Stith		✓	
Evie Hantzopoulos	✓			Marie Torniali	✓		
Amy Hau	✓			Rod Townsend	✓		
Helen Ho	✓			Judy Trilivas	✓		
Pauline Jannelli	✓			Kathleen Warnock	✓		
Vanessa Jones-Hall			E	Mitchell Waxman	✓		
George Kalergios	✓	✓					
Richard Khuzami		✓					
Nancy Konipol	✓						
Number Board Members Present <u>34</u>							
Present <u>34</u>				Absent <u>0</u>		Excused <u>5</u>	
May 19							