

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING**

*April 3, 2023*

*Paul DiBenedetto – Chair*

**PRESENT AT MEETING**

*CB 11 Staff:*

Joseph Marziliano – District Manager

Christina Coutinho – Community Associate

Jane Bentivenga – Community Coordinator

*Elected Officials and/or Representatives Present*

Maria Di Leone

Representing Congress Member Meng

Jon Gallo

Representing State Senator Liu

Jess Mueller

Representing Assembly Member Braunstein

Alie Ziraschi

Representing Council Member Paladino

Susannah Go

Representing Assembly Member Rozic

Kate Boehme

Representing Queens DA Katz

Sila Asa

Representing Council Member Lee

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chair, Paul DiBenedetto.

Mr. DiBenedetto led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Vito Tautonico, representing St. Mary’s Hospital for Children, stated that they will be conducting their annual Big Hearts Walk for St. Mary’s Kids at Crocheron Park on May 21, 2023. He asked the community to join at 9:00 am. Information can be found at [www.stmaryskids.org/walk2023](http://www.stmaryskids.org/walk2023). Mr. Tautonico can be reached at 718-281-8817.

Susannah Go, representing Assembly Member Rozic, spoke regarding events sponsored by the Assembly Member.

Jon Gallo, representing State Senator Liu, spoke regarding upcoming events.

Alie Ziraschi, representing Council Member Paladino, spoke regarding upcoming events.

Sila Asa, representing Council Member Lee, spoke regarding upcoming events.

Jess Mueller, representing Assembly Member Braunstein, stated that budget information will be posted within the next two weeks.

Kate Boehme, representing DA Katz, spoke regarding the latest arrests involving gang members.

George Hadjiconstantinou, representing Queens Chamber of Commerce, stated that they are conducting a Business Resource Fair on April 20, 2023.

Mr. DiBenedetto stated that there are nine new Board Members. He called on each Member to introduce themselves: Ralph Ruiz, Megan Rha, David White, Matthew Mamak, Ann Puckett, Fern Zimbalist, Seihee Ryu was not present, Tim Hao, Travis Kessel.

### ROLL CALL

#### *Members Present*

Dawn Anatra, Adriana Aviles, Michael Budabin, Jessica Burke, Susan Cerezo, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, Omarr C. Evans, Mario Ferazzoli, Michelle Fields, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Roy Giusetti, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, George Hadjiconstantinou, Tim Hao, Mohan Jethwani, Travis Kessel, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Matthew Mamak, Fleur Martino, Eileen Miller, Douglas Montgomery, Akshar Patel, Wendy Pelle-Beer, Stephen Pivawer, Ann Puckett, Gunjan Rastogi, Megan Rha, Ralph Ruiz, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, Benjamin Turner, David White, Sam Wong, Fern Zimbalist

#### *Members Absent*

Lana Bind, Lourdes December, Elias Fillas, Christopher Fuentes-Padilla, Laura James, Karen Mazza, George Mihaltses, Seihee Ryu

### ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the March 6, 2023, meeting by Mr. Montgomery. The motion was seconded by Ms. Martino. There were no additions or corrections. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 34 in favor and 8 abstentions. The minutes were approved as written.

*(In favor - Adriana Aviles, Michael Budabin, Susan Cerezo, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, Omarr C. Evans, Mario Ferazzoli, Michelle Fields, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Roy Giusetti, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, George Hadjiconstantinou, Tim Hao, Mohan Jethwani, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Fleur Martino, Eileen Miller, Douglas Montgomery, Akshar Patel, Wendy Pelle-Beer, Stephen Pivawer, Gunjan Rastogi, Ralph Ruiz, Christina Scherer, Benjamin Turner, Sam Wong, Fern Zimbalist – Abstained - Dawn Anatra, Jessica Burke, Travis Kessel, Matthew Mamak, Ann Puckett, Megan Rha, Jyothi Sriram, David White)*

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. DiBenedetto thanked Mr. Budabin for his service as Chair. Mr. DiBenedetto introduced Mr. Dadras as First Vice Chair, Mr. Euler as Second Vice Chair and Ms. Martino as Third Vice Chair. Mr. DiBenedetto spoke regarding his goals as Board Chair. There were two committee meetings and there will be a CB11 Budget Committee meeting this month.

### BOARD MEMBER NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Euler gave an update on open cases with the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA). The application to convert the bays of a Mobil gas station into a fast-food express establishment was discussed. The Principal of Francis Lewis High spoke at the BSA public hearing with concerns that students would leave the school to race across the boulevard to order food at the new proposed establishment. CB11 voted in favor of the application. Mr. Euler asked if there was something that could be done.

Mr. Galatan spoke regarding the construction of the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway. He discussed the possibility of conducting a run through the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway. Mr. Galatan suggested a Government Affairs Committee meeting to discuss Local Law 97.

Ms. Collado spoke regarding the LIRR and the recent changes. She made a second request for a meeting to discuss this problem. Mr. Dadras said this will be discussed at the next Transportation Committee meeting. The March meeting had a full agenda.

Mr. Montgomery said that the Osprey landing has been installed behind the end of 233<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Ms. Burke said New Yorkers for Parks has released a 1% for Parks Impact Report which can be obtained at [www.ny4p.com](http://www.ny4p.com). She discussed how Crochran Park has a view of the bay and once the trees fully bloom the view of no longer be visible.

Mr. Hadjiconstantinou said that the LIRR will be changing their timetable in May.

Ms. Sriram asked for the provider of the shelter on Northern Blvd. Mr. Marziliano said Good Samaritan is the provider.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Transportation – Mr. Dadras, Committee Chair, said that each Board Member received a five-page report outlining everything that was discussed at the March 23, 2023, Committee meeting. Mr. Dadras reviewed nine items listed in the report. The issue regarding the LIRR will be discussed at the next meeting. Discussion ensued regarding tow operations. Members also discussed safety measures at local schools regarding parents double and triple parking at drop off and pick up. Mr. Fried, Community Police Council President, said that the 111<sup>th</sup> precinct is working on this matter. Ms. Asa said that CM Lee is working with the local Principals and the Dept. of Transportation (DOT). P.S. 203 will be excluded because it is located on an evacuation route. Ms. Ziraschi stated that she just received notice from the DOT that they will be adding street lighting at LIRR to Northern Blvd.

Joint Parks and Public Relations – Mr. DiBenedetto, Parks Committee Chair, and Ms. Martino, Public Relations Committee Chair, discussed the joint committee meeting of March 20, 2023. Mr. DiBenedetto reviewed the Committee report of March 20, 2023, by discussing Community Gardens. There is one within the boundaries of CB11, Pembroke Garden. The Committee was hoping to establish additional gardens. Ms. Martino asked for ideas to engage the community. She was thinking of doing another meet and greet for Board Members.

Mr. DiBenedetto spoke regarding Mr. Euler's request to support the BSA application for the Mobil Station. Mr. Marziliano said the Board approved the application and there is no official way to reopen the recommendation. Discussion ensued on how to reopen the application process. Mr. DiBenedetto requested the principal register to speak at next month's meeting. The request to rescind the approval, if it could be done, must go to committee and then the full Board. It is, at least, a two-week process. Mr. Marziliano will look further into this matter.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.