

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

*November 6, 2023*

*Paul DiBenedetto – Chair*

**PRESENT AT MEETING**

*CB 11 Staff:*

Joseph Marziliano – District Manager

Christina Coutinho – Community Associate

*Elected Officials and/or Representatives Present:*

Anthony Iuliano

Mayor’s Office of Community Affairs

Jamilla Uddin

Representing Assembly Member Rozic

Lois Marbach

Representing Council Member Lee

Ludy Thenor

Representing Queens Borough President Richards

Jon Gallo

Representing State Senator Liu

Jess Muller

Representing Assembly Member Braunstein

Kate Boehme

Representing Queens DA Katz

Sila Asa

Representing Council Member Lee

Evelyn Mallo

Representing Council Member Paladino

*111<sup>th</sup> Precinct*

P.O. Corey– Community Affairs

*Con Edison*

Daniel Jeong

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**

Daniel Jeong gave a presentation regarding state and federal funding that will help with improvements to make your home more energy efficient. There are several energy efficient programs to help seniors as well. Information can be obtained on the Con Edison website under energy efficiency. A question and answer period followed.

Jordon Fitzgerald, Building Response Team Leader for I.S. 25, spoke regarding the negative traffic conditions with the drop-off and pick-up. They have sent emails to the families that attend the schools. He showed a letter of support from local elected officials. Mr. Dadras said that the Transportation Committee discussed this issue, and the Committee Members were in support of IS25 and the request for an Open Streets Program.

Jonathon Li stated that he was opposed to the bike lanes on Oceania Avenue.

Lois Marbach, representing Council Member Lee, spoke regarding upcoming events.

Jess Muller, representing Assembly Member Braunstein, spoke regarding upcoming events.

Jamilla Uddin, representing Assembly Member Rozic, spoke regarding upcoming events.

Ludy Thenor, representing Borough President Richards, spoke regarding different programs offered to the public through the Borough President's office. Community Board applications will be available on the BP's website.

Kate Boehme, representing District Attorney Katz, spoke regarding issues the District Attorney is working on.

P.O. Corey reviewed the monthly and yearly crime statistics.

## **ROLL CALL**

### *Members Present*

Dawn Anatra, Adriana Aviles, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, C. Omarr Evans, Michelle Fields, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Roy Giusetti, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, George Hadjiconstantinou, Tim Hao, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, Travis Kessel, Jena Lanzetta, Matthew Mamak, Fleur Martino, Karen Mazza, Eileen Miller, Stephen Pivawer, Ann Puckett, Megan Rha, Seihee Ryu, Christina Scherer, David White, Sam Wong

### *Members Absent*

Lina Bind, Michael Budabin, Jessica Burke, Susan Cerezo, Mario Ferazzoli, Elias Fillas, Christopher Fuentes-Padilla, Robert Liatto, George Mihaltses, Douglas Montgomery, Wendy Pelle-Ber, Gunjan Rastogi, Jyothi Sriram, Benjamin Turner

## **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the October meeting by Mr. Hadjiconstantinou. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fields. An addition was made by Ms. Miller to add her statement regarding bike lanes. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 32 in favor and 0 opposed. The minutes were approved with the addition.

*(In favor- Dawn Anatra, Adriana Aviles, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, C. Omarr Evans, Michelle Fields, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Roy Giusetti, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, George Hadjiconstantinou, Tim Hao, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, Travis Kessel, Jena Lanzetta, Mathew Mamak, Fleur Martino, Karen Mazza, Eileen Miller, Stephen Pivawer, Ann Puckett, Megan Rha, Seihee Ryu, Christina Scherer, David White, Sam Wong)*

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The CB11 office will be closed Tuesday in observation of Election Day. The CB11 office will also be closed on Friday in observation of Veteran's Day. On October 10<sup>th</sup>, there was a Transportation Committee meeting. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, there was a Capital and Expense Committee meeting. Today was the ribbon cutting for the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway. A letter was sent to the Dept. of Transportation as a follow up from the October general meeting. On November 11<sup>th</sup>,

the Bayside Historical Society, along with the Bayside Hills Civic Association, is conducting an event to honor Captain Dermody at the Captain Dermody Triangle.

### **BOARD MEMBER NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Euler spoke regarding the Mayor's new proposal "The City of Yes". He said that the Dept. of City Planning will be explaining this to the Board.

Ms. Scherer spoke regarding the compost bins provided by DSNY.

Ms. Martino spoke regarding a possible blood drive at KCS. She asked the Board Members if they were interested in volunteering to help to please sign-up.

Mr. Dadras stated that the Douglas LDC is conducting a food drive on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. that will provide a shopping bag of food for those in need of Thanksgivings dinner.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Capital & Expense Budget Committee** – Paul DiBenedetto, Committee Chair, discussed the additions and adjustments to the budget priority list. He spoke regarding the bike lane on Northern Blvd. This stretch needs improvement. The request was made to improve this area making it more a greenway with a bike lane. The barriers are a hazard. Currently, the request is for the bike lane to be moved onto the sidewalk. DOT has stated that this cannot be done. Mr. Galatan was in favor of revising the request. A motion was made by Mr. Mamak to approve the change. The motion was seconded by Ms. James. Mr. Giusetti felt that there should be more community input. Mr. DiBenedetto stated that this is not a new request, it is a revised request. The request will read "Provide a shared pedestrian/bicycle greenway on the north sidewalk of Northern Blvd. between Douglaston Parkway and 223<sup>rd</sup> Street to enhance safety. Between the Cross Island Parkway and Douglaston Parkway, the NYCDOT has a 5-foot-wide sidewalk. The work requires removing 2,500 +/- feet of existing sidewalk and building an 11 +/- foot wide pedestrian/bicycle lane with existing 4 +/- foot curb strip as a traffic buffer. Bridge widening is not recommended. Use cautionary signs at the bridge and all driveways and obstructions. Remove and replace fences, shrubs, scrub trees, fill and grade and relocate two lighting standards. No major trees are affected." A question and answer period followed. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 31 in favor and 1 opposed. The motion carried.

*(In favor-* Dawn Anatra, Adriana Aviles, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, C. Omarr Evans, Michelle Fields, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, George Hadjiconstantinou, Tim Hao, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, Travis Kessel, Jena Lanzetta, Mathew Mamak, Fleur Martino, Karen Mazza, Eileen Miller, Stephen Pivawer, Ann Puckett, Megan Rha, Seihee Ryu, Christina Scherer, David White, Sam Wong – *opposed* – Roy Giusetti)

### **Virtual Meeting Special Allowance – for disabled and caregiver Board Members**

Hybrid meetings for Members only. A member could attend the meeting remotely; there will be very narrow circumstances to allow remote access. The Chair will have to be notified in advance (5:00 PM the Wednesday before the general meeting). General Counsel from the Borough President's office advised that members would be able to vote and count towards a quorum. Half of the Board Members must be present for a quorum. If half is not present, the remote members do not count. The public will also be allowed to join under zoom. A resolution was reviewed, and Ms. Mazza made corrections. A questions and answer period followed. Ms. James asked what happens if there is no quorum and the time of essence will expire before the next general

meeting. Mr. Marziliano stated that a vote would have to be taken. A motion was made to approve the resolution with the corrections by Ms. Mazza. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hadjiconstantinou. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 29 on favor and 3 opposed. The motion carried.

*(In favor - Dawn Anatra, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, C. Omarr Evans, Michelle Fields, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, George Hadjiconstantinou, Tim Hao, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, Travis Kessel, Jena Lanzetta, Fleur Martino, Karen Mazza, Eileen Miller, Stephen Pivawer, Ann Puckett, Megan Rha, Seihee Ryu, Christina Scherer, David White, Sam Wong – opposed – Adriana Aviles, Matthew Mamak, Ann Puckett)*

Mr. DiBenedetto introduced Anthony Iuliano, Associate Commissioner of the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit. Mr. Iuliano spoke regarding building relationships between the Mayor's Office and the Community Boards.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.