



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Paul DiBenedetto Chairperson / **Joseph Marziliano** District Manager

TO: All Board Members

FROM: Paul DiBenedetto, Board Chair & Parks
Committee Chair

DATE: December 21, 2023

Committee Members

Paul DiBenedetto, Committee Chair
Henry Euler, 2nd Vice Chair (via Zoom)
Laura James
Christina Scherer (via Zoom)
Jyothi Sriram (via Zoom)
Ann Puckett

CB11 Staff Present

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager

Guests

Matt Symons, NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation (via Zoom)

On Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 7:30 pm, the CB11 Parks Committee met to discuss the transfer of property at Northern Boulevard and 233 Street (Block, 8165, Lot 25) to the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to prevent unnecessary development and the preservation of green space as well as a request to name Field #3 in Crocheron Park after Bayside Little League President, Bob Reid. A presentation by Advocacy and Programs at New Yorkers for Parks was also scheduled.

Mr. DiBenedetto began the meeting stating that the request to name Field #3 in Crocheron Park after Bob Reid was to be discussed first. This request was made by Mr. Reid's son, Jonathan. Mr. Reid is the president of Bayside Little League. The family would like to see this naming happen while Mr. Reid is alive. However, as per Mr. Symons, DPR rules state that a person needs to be deceased at least three years before parkland can be named in their honor. Mr. DiBenedetto stated that he spoke to Borough President Donovan Richards about this, but he said

the DPR rules must be adhered to. Mr. DiBenedetto stated that he spoke to Mr. Reid's son, Jonathan, and explained the determination. Ms. Puckett asked if this rule was ever suspended before. Mr. Symons was not specifically aware of an instance.

The next item discussed was a request for the transfer of property at Northern Boulevard and 233 Street (Block, 8165, Lot 25) to DPR.

Mr. DiBenedetto first discussed 234 Street which is a very short road, perhaps 100' long, between several car dealerships. He stated that this street abuts the trailhead of Alley Pond Park. This would improve accessibility to the park. Unfortunately, the existing car dealers use this road for storage of vehicles. Mr. Euler added that the dealerships have abused the use of this street for years. Mr. Symons stated that DPR asked NYC Dept. of Transportation (DOT) to install "No Standing" signs to deter blocking of this park entrance. This is a City-owned street. Mr. DiBenedetto said that CB11 will contact DOT regarding the possibility of installing additional signage. Discussion ensued regarding creating parking for park patrons only. Mr. Symons stated there is also a ponding issue at this dead end.

The street being proposed for transfer to the DPR is **233 Street**, which is a mapped street. Mr. DiBenedetto inquired if acquisition of the former Time Church property would be required. Mr. Symons said he is not sure if there is an encroachment issue at this location. He also stated it would be good to have another entrance to the park at this location. Mr. Symons stated that CB11 Board Member, Douglas Montgomery, is very knowledgeable about this issue. Mr. DiBenedetto read two points from Mr. Montgomery: 1) the roadbed of 233 Street should be transferred to DPR and 2) DPR should then lease the property to a non-profit for maintenance. Mr. Symons said DPR does not lease property, but they do enter into license agreements.

At this point, Mr. DiBenedetto opened the meeting to comments and/or questions. Ms. James agreed that there should be additional signage and even a trail map at the 234 Street entrance to the park. She also pointed out that the car dealers do not adhere to the existing enforceable "No Parking 4 p.m. to 7 p.m." on Northern Blvd. for the most part. Ms. Scherer commented that properties on Hanford Street, adjacent to the park, were using parkland as their own property and there was even some dumping taking place. Mr. Symons said the property has been transformed; unfortunately, some construction debris remains. The homeowners are aware that DPR keeps an eye on what is happening in this area. Ms. Scherer also asked if the trail is marked and, if so, is it connected to the new Alley Pond Environmental Center. Mr. Symons said it is; it is known as the Yellow Trail. Mr. Euler commented that when the car dealers west of 234 Street applied for their variances, there were issues with soil contamination, water runoff, trash and broken-down automobiles. He hopes that the remedies for these issues are being adhered to and enforced. Mr. DiBenedetto said a lot has been done; but much more improvement is needed along this corridor. Mr. Symons added that Douglas Montgomery's input is needed for the 233 Street issue.

Representatives from New Yorkers for Parks did not attend the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.