



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: Fleur Martino, Public Relations Committee Chair

Date: May 30, 2023

Re: Community Relations

On Wednesday, May 24, 2023, the CB11 Public Relations Committee met to discuss the matters related to community involvement.

Present

Fleur Martino, Committee Chair

Henry Euler, 3rd Vice Chair

Rosemarie Guidice – Committee Member

Ralph Ruiz – Committee Member

Fern Zimbalist – Board Member

David White – Board Member

George Hadjiconstantinou -Committee Member

Daphne Halkias – representing CM Paladino

Alexis Winter – representing CB Paladino

CB11 Staff

Christina Coutinho, Community Associate

Jane Bentivenga, Community Coordinator

Ms. Martino welcomed the Committee members and started the meeting with an update on Community Gardens. There is one community garden in our district, Pembroke Garden. This is an undeveloped garden. Ms. Martino has met with the public relation manager of NYC Restoration Project and lead caretaker of the garden. They discussed ways to promote improvement and sustainable maintenance of the garden since the membership is limited. The Public Relations committee has been developing events activities since late 2022 and will share the Committee's vision to foster community engagement and support the garden and nearby schools synchronously.

Mr. Hadjiconstantinou stated, that in his opinion, there needs to be younger-aged representation on the Board. Ms. Martino said that it is important to hold events so that the community is aware of the Community Board. She stated that the age of a member was not a concern. Mr. Ruiz said age does not matter; it is the enthusiasm of the person wanting to help the community. The Community Board application process goes through the Borough President's and City Council offices. Mr. Hadjiconstantinou suggested events involving high school students to get them involved.

Returning to our topic of discussion, Ms. Martino asked Mr. Hadjiconstantinou to forward his ideas to her, and she will discuss with the Board Chairperson. Discussion ensued regarding a Board Member attending Career Day at the local schools to inform students of the Board's role in the community.

Ms. Martino discussed having a Board Member meet-and-greet event for the end-of-season get together of 2023. She asked the Committee for their input regarding a venue to hold the event. Mr. Euler suggested setting up a CB11 table at the fireworks event sponsored by CM Paladino. This would have to be discussed with the District Manager. In addition to the Holiday Fireworks at Fort Totten, two get together evenings will be scheduled for June 10th and another in late June, upon approval by the Chair.

Mrs. Guidice spoke regarding the homeless shelter that will be opening in August of 2023. She asked for the 111th Precinct to patrol the area during school lunchtime and dismissal. Discussion ensued regarding the safety of the community once the shelter opens. It was stated that this topic should be discussed at a CB11 Public Safety Committee meeting; the Committee Chair will be notified to schedule a meeting prior to the shelter opening.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM.