

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

March 4, 2024

Paul DiBenedetto – Chair

PRESENT AT MEETING

CB 11 Staff:

Joseph Marziliano – District Manager

Christina Coutinho – Community Associate

Elected Officials and/or Representatives:

Anthony Iuliano

Deputy Commissioner Mayor's CAU

James Mongeluzo

Representing NYC Comptroller Lander

Ludy Thenor

Representing Queens Borough President Richards

Evelyn Mallo

Representing Council Member Paladino

RuoCheng Chen

Representing Council Member Lee

Jamilla Uddin

Representing Assembly Member Rozic

Jess Muller

Representing Assembly Member Braunstein

Kate Boehme

Representing Queens DA Katz

Maria Deleone

Representing Congress Member Meng

Megan Yuan

Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

Dept. of Sanitation

Michael Colauato – Community Affairs Unit

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

Felicia Reciniello spoke regarding two buildings that are being constructed on 212th and 213th Streets. The community is worried that these properties will not be used as family dwellings. She said she learned tonight, after speaking with the District Manager, that a community facility is legal according to zoning. She also spoke in opposition to the MTA proposed bus route redesign. She urged everyone to go to the MTA website to voice their opinion on this proposal.

Andy Buck spoke regarding the need for lane markings on the eastbound Horace Harding Expressway between Marathon Parkway and Little Neck Parkway. He also discussed the Little Neck Pedestrian Safety Group. Information can be found at <http://littleneckpedestriansafety.com/>.

John Gomez said he handed out photos of two dwellings being constructed on 212th and 213th Streets, the same properties that Ms. Reciniello discussed. He stated that these properties do not belong in the middle of a residential area. He feels they may be used to operate a daycare; they look like commercial buildings. Mr. DiBenedetto said he will investigate this matter and speak with the Dept. of Buildings. He will have more information at the April meeting.

George Hadjiconstantinou, representing the Queens Chamber of Commerce, spoke about three programs being offered; Restaurant 311 to help restaurant owners, Open and Online Program to help small businesses design a website and logo, and legal assistance for small businesses within Congress Member Meng's district.

Helen Ko, representing Korean Community Services, spoke regarding a street fair on June 1, 2024.

Michael Colauato, Community Affairs, Dept. of Sanitation, stated that businesses can no longer use garbage bags to dispose of trash. All garbage must be placed in a trash bin for pick up. Summonses will start being issued on April 1, 2024, for those businesses still using bags.

James Mongeluzo, representing NYC Comptroller Lander, discussed several issues the Comptroller is working on. The Comptroller is working on the City's overspending, focusing on the Dept. of Homeless Services.

Kate Boheme, representing Queens DA Katz, explained how the DA is working with the NYPD to eliminate illegal scooters.

Jamilla Uddin, representing Assembly Member Rozic, spoke regarding upcoming events that the Assembly Member is working on.

Ludy Thenor, representing Queens Borough President Richards, stated that the Queens Community Board application process has closed. She spoke regarding events and programs that the QPB is working on.

Evelyn Mallo, representing Council Member Paladino, spoke regarding the upcoming events that the Council Member is working on.

Anthony Iuliano, Deputy Commissioner, Mayor's CAU, introduced CAU Director, Megan Yuan, who gave an update on upcoming events hosted by the Mayor. Mr. Iuliano continued by stating that every resident, community board or elected official can complete a quality-of-life form on the Mayor's website. Each complaint will be reviewed; 12 complaints will be selected. The Mayor will be scheduling a Town Hall meeting this year in northeast Queens.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Lana Bind, Michael Budabin, Jessica Burke, Susan Cerezo, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, C. Omarr Evans, Mario Ferazzoli, Michelle Fields, Elias Fillas, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, George Hadjiconstantinou, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Matthew Mamak, Fleur Martino, Karen Mazza, Eileen Miller, Stephen Pivawer, Ann Puckett, Gunjan Rastogi, Seihee Ryu, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, Benjamin Turner, David White, Sam Wong

Members Absent

Dawn Anatra, Adriana Aviles, Christopher Fuentes-Padilla, Roy Giusetti, Tim Hao, Travis Kessel, George Mihaltzes, Douglas Montgomery, Akshar Patel, Wendy Pelle-Beer, Megan Ryu

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the February 2024 meeting by Mr. Mamak. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fields. Mr. Mamak added a comment to the 5th paragraph, second page that the Chair made regarding illegal cannabis shops. The contents will be taken from his email. Ms. Burke added the word “believes” to a comment on page 2, under Felix Lam’s comment. Joan Garippa made grammar corrections. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 31 in favor, 2 abstained and 2 present. The minutes were approved with corrections.

(In-favor - Lana Bind, Jessica Burke, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, C. Omarr Evans, Mario Ferazzoli, Michelle Fields, Elias Fillas, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, George Hadjiconstantinou, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Matthew Mamak, Fleur Martino, Karen Mazza, Eileen Miller, Ann Puckett, Seihee Ryu, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, Benjamin Turner, David White, Sam Wong – Abstained – Michael Budabin, Gunjan Rastogi – Present – Susan Cerezo, Stephen Pivawer)

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Mr. DiBenedetto said that Ms. Mazza, Mr. Budabin, and himself will be working together to update the CB11 By-Laws. The By-Laws still have to pass Corporation Council and adhere to the Borough President’s guidelines. Thanks were given to Ms. Martino for a successful blood drive. On February 15th, there was a meeting with the Dept. of Transportation to discuss CB11’s greenway proposal to improve the ongoing traffic problems associated with the bike lane on Northern Blvd. Council Member Paladino and CAU Deputy Commissioner Iuliano attended the meeting. The CB11 Public Safety and Licensing Committee held a meeting to discuss NYS Cannabis Dispensary applications. Mr. DiBenedetto said cannabis is legal in the State of NY. The State-approved dispensaries have strict guidelines to follow, and the products are State regulated. Mr. DiBenedetto once again said how illegal smoke shops are creating a problem by illegally being able to sell unregulated products to minors and others, with NYS law enforcement unable to keep with the proliferation of these shops. He also mentioned that legal dispensaries may push out illegal shops and CB11 puts stipulations into our committee reports to the Office of Cannabis Management that may force dispensaries to adapt to community guidelines we set forth. There was a Landmarks Committee meeting. There was also an Education Committee meeting that will be discussed tonight. He announced the upcoming committee meetings.

BOARD MEMBER NEW BUSINESS

Mr. White said that the City agencies have several resources to help the community. He said, for example, Mr. Iuliano’s discussion tonight regarding the quality-of-life application. An application could be completed for the Northern Blvd. greenway improvement of the bike lane. Mr. DiBenedetto stated that was a great idea and he added how Mr. Iuliano was present at the greenway meeting with DOT.

Ms. Lanzetta stated that the Northwest Bayside Civic Association will be hosting their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30th.

Ms. Mazza said that the Center for the Women of NY is hosting free tax preparation; information and registration can be found on their website. She also said on Thursdays they are conducting their gardening and sustainability program.

Ms. Martino said that the blood drive that took place last Saturday was very successful. She thanked everyone that was in attendance. The Pembroke Community Garden event will take place on April 6th. Ms. Martino was also hoping to plan a movie night in June.

Mr. Euler said that the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) reviewed the case for the service station located at 42-42 Francis Lewis Blvd. This was a continued case and mostly all the conditions were met except the request for permanent bollards. He also said that the City Planning Commission has a proposal called Green Fast Track which will streamline the environmental review process for residential dwellings. This will cut the cost of development and speed up the process to start construction. Mr. Euler felt this proposal was alarming. This proposal does not have to come before the community for recommendation. The housing portion of the Mayor's City of Yes proposal will be voted on in the Spring.

Mr. Galatan said that there will be two pedestrian races that will start in CB13 and run through CB11 on April 13th and April 28th. Information can be obtained through the CB11 office.

Mr. Mamak spoke regarding the two buildings on 212th and 213th streets that tonight's public speakers discussed. He urged the Board to investigate if these properties meet zoning requirements.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Education – Committee Chair, Ms. Lanzetta. Ms. Lanzetta reviewed the last Education Committee report regarding the request for additional school safety agents for Cardozo High School. Currently, Cardozo only has 2-3 agents and there are over 3,000 students. Cardozo High School is supposed to have 12 agents. The principal of Cardozo High School attended the Education Committee meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Lanzetta to write a letter of support requesting to increase the number of safety agents for Cardozo HS (Ms. Lanzetta was waiting to hear back from the other local high school principals) based on the number of students attending, not the number of incidents reported to OORS. The motion was seconded by Mr. Euler. A vote by show of hands was taken and resulted unanimously in favor. The motion carried.

(In-favor - Lana Bind, Michael Budabin, Jessica Burke, Susan Cerezo, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, C. Omarr Evans, Mario Ferazzoli, Michelle Fields, Elias Fillas, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, George Hadjiconstantinou, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Matthew Mamak, Fleur Martino, Karen Mazza, Eileen Miller, Stephen Pivawer, Ann Puckett, Gunjan Rastogi, Seihee Ryu, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, Benjamin Turner, David White, Sam Wong)

Ms. Lanzetta continued by explaining that the Committee had a conference call with the Superintendent for District 26. This call covered several different topics. NYC elementary schools will be equipped with high-tech security systems. Middle and high schools will also receive security systems once elementary schools are completed.

BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

Paul DiBenedetto was nominated for Chair by Mohan Jethwani. The motion was seconded by George Hadjiconstantinou. Mr. DiBenedetto accepted the nomination. One vote was cast, and the consensus was unanimous to elect Paul DiBenedetto as Chair.

Victor Dadras was nominated for 1st Vice Chair by Paul DiBenedetto. The motion was seconded by Rosemarie Guidice. Mr. Dadras accepted the nomination. One vote was cast, and the consensus was unanimous to elect Victor Dadras as 1st Vice Chair.

Henry Euler was nominated for 2nd Vice Chair by Matthew Mamak. The motion was seconded by Fleur Martino. Mr. Euler accepted the nomination. One vote was cast, and the consensus was unanimous to elect Henry Euler as 2nd Vice Chair.

Fleur Martino was nominated for 3rd Vice Chair by Karen Mazza. The motion was seconded by Carmen Collado. Ms. Martino accepted the nomination. One vote was cast, and the consensus was unanimous to elect Fleur Martino as 3rd Vice Chair.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM