

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

*October 7, 2024
Paul DiBenedetto – Chair*

PRESENT AT MEETING

CB 11 Staff:

Joseph Marziliano – District Manager

Elected Officials and/or Representatives:

Lucia Peredos – Representing Council Member Sandra Ung
Patrick Jordan – Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Michael Carlier – Director of Community Boards, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Jamilla Uddin – Representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic
Kate Boehme – Representing District Attorney Melinda Katz
Evelyn Mallo – Representing Council Member Vickie Paladino
Andy Melendez – Representing Council Member Linda Lee
Jess Mueller – Representing Assembly Member Ed Braunstein
Jon Gallo – Representing State Senator John Liu
Anthony Iuliano – Deputy Commissioner, Mayor Eric Adam’s Community Affairs Unit
Megan Yuan – Director, Mayor Eric Adam’s Community Affairs Unit

NYC Agencies

John P. Albert – Propel NY Energy
Jamal Wilkerson – NY Transco
Kicy Motley – NY Power Authority

New York Police Department:

PO Tom Corey – 111th Precinct Community Affairs Unit

Department of Sanitation:

Antonio Whitaker - Assistant Director of Community Affairs

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

Kevin Green spoke regarding the problem with traffic since the opening of a new supermarket on 192nd Street and Northern Blvd. He had requested several one-way street conversions but has not heard back yet from the Board. District Manager Marziliano stated that the street conversions are part of a package that the CB11 Transportation Committee already approved and wrote a letter of request in 2021. The Board is still awaiting a formal response while two of the streets are being examined due to follow up by Council Member Paladino’s office.

Lucia Peredos, representing CM Ung, spoke regarding upcoming events in the hosted by CM Ung

Andy Melendez, representing CM Lee, spoke regarding events hosted by CM Lee.

Patrick Jordan, representing Queens Borough President Richards, spoke regarding events hosted by the QBP.

Michael Carlier, the new Director of Community Boards under Queens Borough President Richards, spoke introducing himself to the Board and the community. Khaleel Bragg is now the Borough President's Deputy Chief of Staff.

Jess Muller, representing AM Braunstein, spoke regarding upcoming events hosted by AM Braunstein.

PO Corey spoke regarding events conducted by the 111th Precinct. PO Corey gave the monthly crime stats. The 111th Precinct is currently working on a citywide street robbery pattern which is impacting the Command.

Jamilla Uddin, representing AM Rozic, spoke regarding upcoming events hosted by AM Rozic.

Evelyn Mallo, representing CM Paladino, spoke regarding upcoming events hosted by CM Paladino.

Kate Boehme, representing District Attorney Katz, spoke regarding current law enforcement initiatives at the DA's office.

Jon Gallo, representing State Senator Liu, spoke regarding upcoming events hosted by Senator Liu. He also thanked everyone who recently attended State Senator Liu's father's celebration of life.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Adriana Aviles, Michael Budabin, Jessica Burke, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Michelle Fields, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Rosemarie Guidice, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Matthew Mamak, Fleur Martino, George Mihaltses, Eileen Miller, Megan Rha, Ralph Ruiz, Amesh Sarecha, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, John Sullivan, Eileen Taylor, Benjamin Turner, Mina Youn

Members Absent

Lana Bind, Susan Cerezo, Omarr Evans, Elias Fillas, Michael Golia, George Hadjiconstantinou, Tim Hao, Travis Kessel, Karen Mazza, Kenneth O'Keefe, Akshar Patel, Stephen Pivawer, Ann Puckett, Gunjan Rastogi, Seihee Ryu, David White, Sam Wong, Athena Wu

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the September 2024 meeting by Mr. Ferazzoli. The motion was seconded by Mr. Liatto. There were no corrections or additions. A voice vote was taken resulting 30 in favor and 1 abstention. The minutes were approved as written.

(*In-favor* — Adriana Aviles, Michael Budabin, Jessica Burke, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Michelle Fields, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Rosemarie Guidice, Mohan Jethwani, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Matthew Mamak, Fleur Martino, George Mihaltzes, Eileen Miller, Megan Rha, Ralph Ruiz, Amesh Sarecha, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, John Sullivan, Eileen Taylor, Benjamin Turner, Mina Youn - *Abstained* – Laura James,)

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Louis Pasteur Middle School 67Q has been named a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education. This prestigious honor recognizes schools across the country for their academic excellence and significant strides in closing achievement gaps. Louis Pasteur Middle School 67Q is one of only 356 schools nationwide and one of only three middle schools across New York City to receive this distinction, and it is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire school community.
- The Destination Greenways project is continuing into its implementation stage. This is a DOT and Parks Dept. project to better connect our parks with one another and to make that connectivity happen through all available transportation means. This Wednesday, I will attend CM Sandra Ung's press conference in Peck Park on behalf of CB11 for her to announce the many excellent, planned improvements to the park. The press conference will be held at Underhill Avenue and 188th Street at 11 a.m.
- City of Yes, Housing Opportunity has now passed into the City Council for review. It will first enter the Zoning & Franchises Committee. If it passes there, it will head to the full City Council for a vote, probably sometime around Thanksgiving. Most importantly, the Council's Zoning & Franchises Committee will have their public hearing on October 22nd. You can attend in person at City Hall or remotely. There is NO sign up yet, but as soon as we have it, the CB11 office will send it out to all Board members.
- If you have yet to write correspondence to all of the NYC Council Members, Speaker, and Mayor to voice your opposition to City of Yes, that moment of responsibility is immediately upon you. CB11 already wrote a letter to the Mayor, Speaker, BP and the entire City Council based on our hearings and motion to reject. But a letter from you as a civic individual to all the above is a very powerful tool that transforms into a chorus of opposition once we all take that step. If anyone needs some talking points, I am glad to provide them. Just email me. But simply put, go to savebayside.com and read up on how City of Yes will dramatically urbanize our low density neighborhoods. All the information you need is on that page. Or write your own letter from what you heard during our hearings. You can connect to all of the Council Members, Mayor and Speaker on the savebayside.com website in one action. There are directions on the site to do so.

BOARD MEMBER NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Lanzetta spoke regarding the Northwest Bayside Civic Association's annual Trunk or Treat for families on October 26th on 206th Street and 29th Avenue from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm.

Mr. Euler spoke regarding an update from the Board of Standards and Appeals. There were no hearings for our District this past month. The City of Yes Economic portion came up for a vote at the City Planning Commission; 10 Commissioners voted in favor and 3 voted against. The Queens Civic Congress wrote a letter to halt the City of Yes Housing Opportunity process due to the ongoing federal investigations at City Hall. Council Member Holden has agreed to this call for a

halt. Election Day is coming up and as of last year, you can now vote early by mail in NYS, so please consider that in your voting plans.

PRESENTATIONS

Antonio Whitaker, Assistant Director of Community Affairs for the Department of Sanitation – Regarding Trash Containerization rules

On November 12th, all residents of single-family homes, two-family homes, and buildings with nine or less units will be required to containerize their trash. Black bags will no longer be allowed on the street or the curb. The bins being required at this time must be 55 gallons or less and have a securable or fitted lid. Fines will begin being issued after November 12th.

Every resident is going to be required to use the NYC official trash bin at www.bins.nyc eventually but will not be required to do so until June 2026. DSNY encourages you to buy them early to avoid a mad dash to purchase them or receive fines.

Fines for commercial properties have increased. These increases are now \$50 for the first violation, \$300 for a second violation, and \$500 for the third and every subsequent commercial violation for that calendar year.

Ms. Lanzetta asked why DSNY is changing requiring certain bins be purchased, is it because the new trucks require them?

Answer: Yes, there will be retrofits on the trucks with mechanical arms that pick up the new bins.

Ms. Garippa asked that with so many single-person households, will they be required to have a 55-gallon container?

Answer: No, there are smaller sized 35-gallon and 45-gallon bins being offered at www.bins.nyc for smaller-sized single families.

Mr. Jethwani asked what the process will be for food waste and yard waste?

Answer: Yard waste and food waste can still be compostable in the brown bins you are already using, separate from trash.

Ms. Garippa asked about the recycling process.

Answer: The recycling process is not changing. Recyclables can be put out in separated (paper, plastic/metal/glass) containers or clear plastic bags. Paper leaf bags will still be acceptable, and so will tying cardboard up with twine.

Mr. DiBenedetto asked if branches/sticks/twigs can still be bundled with twine and put out?

Answer: Yes, on your recycle day. It can also be put into the compost bin (if it fits). However, construction wood from DIY projects is treated and, therefore, not compostable. Construction wood needs to go out on bulk pickup day (which is the non-recycle pickup day).

Mr. Mihaltses ordered his bin online and asked if there have been shipping problems.

Answer: Yes, there have been shipping delays in the bin delivery, and Director Whitaker will follow up on those complaints with their vendor.

Ms. James asked what the plan is with bin placement because many single-family homes have very narrow driveways or lot-lines. Will violations be given if homeowners lack bin space and have to keep them in front?

Answer: The department recommends that they are stored in the backyard, beyond a fence, or elsewhere secured three feet from the property line. This is an ongoing concern.

Jamal Wilkerson and Kicy Motley, NY Transco & NY Power Authority – Regarding Propel NY Energy Project coming through Community Board 11

This is an upcoming infrastructure project through CB 11. It is part of a 90-mile transmission improvement project across parts of Long Island, Queens, the Bronx and Westchester County. This is an 8-mile project through Queens, to help carry electricity long distances, from where it is generated to the distribution lines that bring it to homes and businesses.

This project is being done to alleviate demands on our aging electrical infrastructure system. New York's transmission system requires upgrades and expansion to improve reliability and create the resilient pathways needed to deliver clean energy to local communities in CB 11 and beyond. The project is estimated to begin in 2026 and be in service in 2030.

In CB 11, it will be on Bell Blvd. southbound to 35th Avenue eastbound, to Corbett Road, to 217th Street southbound to Northern Blvd. eastbound. This project will not impact the Bayside Improvement District.

Mr. Liatto asked if this project will be servicing Queens or just bring the power to Long Island?

Answer: This project will be servicing all the areas it goes through, including both Queens and then part of Long Island. The lines are bidirectional and will bring power wherever extra is needed below ground.

Mr. Budabin commented that there was a recent DDC sewer project several years back with very bad community engagement and complaint resolution. What will be done to ensure community engagement and complaint resolution?

Answer: As a resident of southeast Queens where these kinds of projects go on forever and never resolve quality of life complaints, our company is determined to get out to the residents a year before we begin and follow up early and regularly. Please take our contact cards.

Mr. Dadras appreciates the outreach that Propel NY is showing already and hopes to see the disruptions minimized. The route does disrupt the Little Neck commercial corridor. It is a good sign that the organization has come to us this far in advance.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Parks Committee – Reconstruction Plan for Raymond O'Connor Bathrooms and Administrative Office

Mr. DiBenedetto could not attend the committee meeting, and Mr. Hadjiconstantinou chaired the meeting in his place. Mr. Hadjiconstantinou was not in attendance and District Manager Marziliano reviewed the committee report.

The Parks Committee met on September 18, 2024, with representatives of the Parks Department to discuss proposed reconstruction of the bathrooms and new administrative offices at Raymond O'Connor Park. There was not a quorum at the meeting. The budget for the project is \$2 million. The goals include making the bathrooms ADA compliant, to update the aging infrastructure, reconstruct the façade and floors, doors, and windows. The fence will be removed.

The Committee could not take a recommendation vote, but comments and objections included relief that there will be more of a Parks administrative presence at the location, that the water fountain will include a hydration station for bottles, and that temporary facilities be available for the duration of the construction project.

Ms. Scherer made a motion to write a letter of recommendation for the project, given the comments and concerns of the Parks Committee, seconded by Mr. Turner. A hand vote was taken resulting in unanimous consent.

(In-favor — Adriana Aviles, Michael Budabin, Jessica Burke, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Michelle Fields, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Rosemarie Guidice, Mohan Jethwani, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Matthew Mamak, Fleur Martino, George Mihaltzes, Eileen Miller, Megan Rha, Ralph Ruiz, Amesh Sarecha, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, John Sullivan, Eileen Taylor, Benjamin Turner, Mina Youn.)

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM