



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: Henry Euler, Environmental Committee Chair and Laura James, Parks Committee Chair

Date: November 13, 2025

Re: John Golden Pond

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On November 5, 2025, the CB11 Environmental and Parks Committees met to discuss issues with John Golden Pond.

### **Committee Members**

Paul DiBenedetto – Board Chair

Henry Euler, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair and Environmental Committee Chair

Laura James, Parks Committee Chair

Steve Pivawer

Jena Lanzetta

Joan Garippa

David Ro

Jessica Burke (also Friends of Crocheron Park)

Matthew Mamak

Christina Scherer

Melanie Harster

Karen Mazza

### **CB11 Staff**

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager

Christina Coutinho, Community Associate

### **Elected Officials**

Alle Ziraschi, NYC Council Staff

### **Guests**

Emi McKinney

Dana Gumb – Friends of Crocheron Park

Luigi Almanzar – NYC Dept. of Parks

Melissa Goldberg – NYC Dept. of Parks

Andrew Coppola – NYC Dept. of Parks

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Mr. DiBenedetto introduced Girl Scout and Bronx Science High School student, Emi, who gave a presentation on John Golden Pond. Ms. McKinney's presentation is attached to this report. She conducted a bathymetry survey, taking over 100 data points, and compared them to records from 1969, finding a 94% reduction in certain areas. There is a problem with the retaining walls along 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue. In the past few weeks, there has been heavy rain and the water flowing down the cliff on 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue is problematic. Mr. Gumb stated that the problem has intensified since Hurricane Ida. Mr. Gumb also stated that he believes the retaining walls along 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue are maintained by the homeowners. Ms. McKinney continued with her presentation discussing the condition of the pond with changes in depth and sediment accumulation over 56 years. In conclusion she suggested the following: removal of debris along the retaining walls, the slope along the retaining walls be stabilized to prevent mudslides into the pond, and a deep environmental review to help improve the pond. A question and answer period followed. Due to the decrease in depth of the pond, there are high levels of algae blooms which are harmful.

The Committee praised Ms. McKinney's work on this project.

Mr. Marziliano spoke regarding a recent DEP meeting regarding flooding in the Clearview Expressway, Cross Island Parkway, Bell Blvd., and Little Neck Parkway. This was an intergovernmental meeting, and it was discussed how DEP is two years into a mitigation project that is being held up by State and City permits. Mr. Marziliano wanted this meeting scheduled prior to the CB11 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities deadline of November 3, 2025, but DEP could only meet on November 5, 2025. The Committee discussed adding pressure to DEP regarding the flooding in the district.

Mr. DiBenedetto discussed having the homeowners stabilize the area near the retaining walls to help with mudslides. Mr. Gumb stated that the climate is changing and with continued cloud bursts, additional catch basins need to be added. He asked for a meeting with elected officials. CM Paladino has toured the area. Mr. DiBenedetto suggested a meeting with local elected officials to discuss funding. The danger of the pond flooding onto the Cross Island Expressway was also discussed.

The next topic added to tonight's meeting, Notice of Solicitation (RFB) for the Sale of food from mobile food units. This 45-day notice was issued on October 10, 2025, making the deadline November 19, 2025. This proposal is for the renovation of an indoor tennis facility with a 20-year term at Crocheron Park. This would consist of installing a bubble over the 10 existing courts from Columbus Day through April. The outdoor tennis courts would be open during the open season. Christina Scherer said that this would change the ambience of the park and players still play in November. There was a concern for the pickleball players. The Committee asked for additional time to respond. There will be a fee to the vendor to enter the tennis bubble. Ms. Goldberg said the CB can share suggestions and preferences for consideration. Ms. Burke asked how day camps would be affected by this proposal. Day Camps take over the park during the summer. Bathrooms are not working, and this creates a problem. There are no designs yet for this project. Mr. Gumb said that the MFB should have guidelines regarding who is responsible for bathrooms, offices and operation of the park. Mr. Almanzar said this is the beginning of the proposal and input from the community is important. Mr. Mamak said the adjacent residents may have a problem with a bubble in the park. Mr. Almanzar said there are other types of structures that could be used. Ms. Mazza asked for a description of the courts and clubhouse. Having the vendor could help with maintaining the bathrooms. The City is not paying for repairs or improvements to parks Citywide.

The Committee remained on Zoom and spoke regarding the next step. Mr. DiBenedetto asked for an extension until January 2026. A standard notice was sent to the CB with no formal plan for Crocheron Park. Mr. Ro said that a bubble is a very popular option. Mr. DiBenedetto said that he is not ready for the park to be changed from its original state. Some of the facilities are from the 1930's. This is a small area to install a bubble. Ms. Garippa suggested another park. Mr. DiBenedetto said Alley Pond Park. There was concern regarding the charge to enter the tennis bubble. Ms. Mazza said the Committee should make a list of what the community would want. Ms. James asked for examples of what could be built. It was stated how the equipment to run the bubble is loud. The Committee agreed on no bubble, a shorter indoor season (standard time), no food, improvements to be made in brick, and vending machines. Mr. Marziliano said he would apply for an extension tomorrow and a letter would be drafted.

The meeting was adjourned.

