

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

December 7, 2020

Via Zoom Telephone Conference

Michael Budabin – Chair

PRESENT AT MEETING

CB 11 Staff:

Joseph Marziliano – District Manager

Christina Coutinho – Community Associate

Jane Bentivenga – Community Coordinator

Elected Officials and/or Representatives Present:

Donovan Richards

Queens Borough President

David Weprin

Assembly Member

Anne Marie Boranian

Representing Queens Borough President Richards

Dave Fischer

Representing Assembly Member Edward Braunstein

Susan Seinfeld

Representing Council Member Barry Grodenchik

Kevin Kiprovski

Representing Council Member Paul Vallone

Jon Gallo

Representing State Senator John Liu

Isabel Pulgarin

Representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic

Casey Lazcesky

Representing Congress Member Tom Suozzi

Maria Di Leone

Representing Congress Member Grace Meng

Anthony Lemma, Sr.

Representing Assembly Member David Weprin

Elaine Fan

Representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

Dan Brown

Representing Queens DA Melinda Katz

Edward Lee

Representing Queens DA Melinda Katz

New York City Police Department

Police Officer Galano – 111th Precinct Community Affairs Unit.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by the Chair, Michael Budabin.

Mr. Budabin led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Officer Galano gave the monthly and year-to-date crime statistics within the district. He stressed the importance of locking vehicle doors and removing keys when not in use. Mrs. Haider discussed a matter regarding an illegal business taking place in the street and another issue of trucks parked overnight. Mr. Liatto spoke regarding drag racing in the vicinity of 73rd and Springfield Blvd.

Mr. Budabin welcomed newly elected Queens Borough President Richards. Borough President Richards spoke regarding the pandemic and briefly on the COVID19 vaccination. He asked for any suggestions on how to improve the Board offices.

Assembly Member Weprin stated that in January 2021, his office will be open to the public by appointment only. Currently they are working remotely. He spoke regarding police reform and a positive relationship between the police and the community.

CUNY graduate student, Lauren da Fonte spoke regarding food insecurity in NYC, especially amongst children. She stated that NYC Public Advocate Williams introduced File #: Int 2057-2020 establishing an emergency student food plan. She asked the Board for their support in passing this proposed legislation.

Steven Williams, Community Outreach Coordinator, spoke regarding Accessible Dispatch, a program that connects the community to wheelchair accessible taxis. Mr. Williams was sending additional information to the CB11 Office.

Joan Jaworski, a resident of the Auburndale area, made a proposal to have local two-way streets and avenues converted into one-ways for safety reasons. Mr. Budabin advised Ms. Jaworski to forward the locations to the CB11 office.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Sila Asa, Adriana Aviles, Carin Bail, Lana Bind, Lander Bravo, Michael Budabin, Susan Cerezo, Justin Chew, Sharon Chin, Ocelia Claro, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Lourdes December, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Michael Golia, Bernard Haber, Christine Haider, Mohan Jethwani, Stanley Jin, John Kelly, Linda Lee, Robert Liatto, Fleur Martino, George Mihaltses, Eileen Miller, Douglas Montgomery, Allan Palzer, Akshar Patel, Wendy Pelle-Beer, Stephen Pivawer, Stephan Popa, Gunjan Rastogi, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, Benjamin Turner, Sam Wong

Members Absent

Mary Donahue, Elias Fillas, Rosemarie Guidice, Laura James, Yosef Lee

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the November 2, 2020 meeting by Mr. Wong. The motion was seconded by Mr. Popa. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 38 in favor, 1 abstention and 3 present. The minutes were approved as written.

(In-Favor - Sila Asa, Adriana Aviles, Carin Bail, Lana Bind, Lander Bravo, Michael Budabin, Susan Cerezo, Justin Chew, Sharon Chin, Ocelia Claro, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Michael Golia, Bernard Haber, Stanley Jin, John Kelly, Linda Lee, Robert Liatto, Fleur Martino, George Mihaltses, Eileen Miller, Douglas Montgomery, Allan Palzer, Akshar Patel, Wendy Pelle-Beer, Stephen Pivawer, Stephan Popa, Gunjan Rastogi, Christina Scherer, Benjamin Turner, Sam Wong
– *Abstain* – Lourdes December – *Present* – Christine Haider, Mohan Jethwani, Jyothi Sriram)

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

There was a moment of silence in memory of former Board Member, Alex Yagudaev.

Mr. Budabin said that there will be further discussion regarding the Greenway Project. This is a long-term project and the Committee and Sub-Committee will be working together.

There was a joint committee meeting with Douglaston Zoning and the Environmental regarding the Coastal Flood Text Amendment which will be discussed during the public hearing segment of the meeting.

Congratulations were given to Allan Palzer for 50 years of continued service as a CB11 Board Member. Mr. Budabin stated that Mr. Palzer is the second person to achieve 50 years of service. Last year, Bernard Haber was the first Board Member to achieve 50 years of service. Mr. Budabin presented a plaque to Mr. Palzer for his dedication. Several Member Boards praised Mr. Palzer for this significant accomplishment.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

BSA Cal. No. 227-10 BZ – 204-12 Northern Blvd. an application to the Board of Standards and Appeals for an extension of a 10-year term on an existing variance. Elyse Foladare, representing the applicant, was present. Mrs. Haider, Committee Chair, reviewed the committee report of November 11, 2020. The Committee questioned a car wash on the site and asked for the removal of a cigarette sale sign. Ms. Foladare advised the sign was removed. She said the car wash is allowed as long the BSA approves. Mr. Euler spoke regarding the drainage for the car wash. Ice was building up, therefore, drainage not properly installed. The Committee voted in favor to approve the application. There were no registered speakers. Mr. Euler made a motion to approve the application with all prior conditions. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Haider. Discussion ensued suggesting the removal of the rear right car wash. Mr. Budabin asked if proper drainage or corrected drainage would be an acceptable amendment? Mr. Euler accepted the friendly amendment. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 42 in favor. The motion carried.

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BSA Cal. No 808-55 BZ – 35-04 Bell Blvd. an application to the Board of Standards and Appeals for an extension of a 10-year term on an existing variance. Elsy Foladare, representing the applicant, was present. Mrs. Claro, Committee Chair, discussed the committee report of November 11, 2020 stating that she had visited the site and noticed sidewalks that needed repair. She also noticed there were markings on the sidewalks and there were some improvements needed on the property. This is a BP gas station. Ms. Foladare followed-up that the markings were for sidewalk repairs, weather permitting. The Committee voted in favor of the application. There were no registered speakers. Mrs. Claro made a motion to approve the application with all prior conditions and an additional condition that the sidewalks are repaired, weather permitting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pelle-Beer. There was no discussion on the motion. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 42 in favor. The motion carried.

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BSA Cal. No. 887-54 BZ – 218-01 Northern Blvd. an application to the Board of Standards and Appeals for an extension of a 10-year term on an existing variance. Elyse Foladare, representing the applicant, was present. This is a BP gas station operated under Gasteria. Mrs. Claro, Committee Chair, discussed the committee report of November 11, 2020 stating that she had visited the site and found no concerns. She said the property is very well kept. The Committee voted in favor of the application. There were no registered speakers. Mrs. Claro made a motion to approve the application with a 10-year term. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sriram. There was no discussion on the motion. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 42 in favor. The motion carried.

(In-Favor - Sila Asa, Adriana Aviles, Carin Bail, Lana Bind, Lander Bravo, Michael Budabin, Susan Cerezo, Justin Chew, Sharon Chin, Ocelia Claro, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Lourdes December, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Michael Golia, Bernard Haber, Christine Haider, Mohan Jethwani, Stanley Jin, John Kelly, Linda Lee, Robert Liatto, Fleur Martino, George Mihaltses, Eileen Miller, Douglas Montgomery, Allan Palzer, Akshar Patel. Wendy Pelle-Beer, Stephen Pivawer, Stephan Popa, Gunjan Rastogi, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, Benjamin Turner, Sam Wong)

Coastal Flood Resiliency Non-ULURP Zoning Text Amendment.

Environmental Committee Chair, Henry Euler and Douglaston Zoning Committee Chair, Douglas Montgomery. Mr. Euler reviewed the meeting of November 18, 2020. This text amendment is a citywide zoning change and affects the shorelines within the CB11 District. Scott Solomon was present at the Committee meeting. Mr. Euler stated that this amendment relaxes the zoning regulations in flood plain areas, and therefore, protects developed properties from flooding. Mr. Euler felt that future development was not taken into consideration with the anticipated rising water levels in the next 30 years. He also mentioned that there were several town hall meetings. He suggested a local town hall meeting for residents to ask questions. Mr. Montgomery discussed the proposal for flood gates at the Throgs Neck Bridge which has been withdrawn. He also spoke regarding permits for generators. Mr. Montgomery had questions regarding how the text amendment will impact the Landmark Districts. There was no Committee vote. Discussion ensued on how more information is needed. Mr. Budabin asked if Mr. Solomon followed up with Mr. Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery said that the Board should wait until additional information was obtained. Mr. Marziliano stated that the Board should vote on this matter because the proposal is time-sensitive, and the Board would waive their right to vote if they waited. Mr. Euler made a motion to accept the proposal providing the Dept. of City Planning provide more information on the flood plain development in the future, information on permits for generators and the regulations for Landmark Districts. The motion was seconded by Mr. Montgomery. Discussion ensued on the lack of information provided from City Planning regarding the Landmark Districts. Mrs. Haider asked if a letter will be forwarded to City Planning advising them of the results of the vote. Mrs. Garippa discussed how this could allow construction where it would not be allowed. She felt this was the wrong direction. Mr. Patel said that this proposal is an action on an environmental crisis. He said we can't locally fight climate change but we can protect the homes that are already built. Mr. Patel urged the Board the vote in favor.

Discussion ensued how natural vegetation and marsh lands are very important to help with storm surge. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 38 in favor and 4 opposed.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Relations – Ms. Aviles, Committee Chair, stated that there was a Committee meeting to discuss posting meetings online. The Committee voted in favor of posting the audio portion of CB11 general meetings within a reasonable time. Ms. Aviles made a motion to approve posting the audio portion of the CB11 general meetings in a reasonable time after a meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Popa. Discussion ensued on how this is the first step and the Committee would later revisit the possibility of adding video. Currently, meetings are recorded by Zoom and there is no fiscal cost on posting recordings on YouTube. Further discussion ensued as to why YouTube is the suggested platform. Mr. Budabin explained the meetings are not a discussion on personal matters. Mr. Montgomery suggested if audio is only going to be used maybe people could announce their names so people could identify who is speaking. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding YouTube and posting the audio portion of a meeting. Mr. Bravo asked if audio is posted, is closed captioning required? Mr. Marziliano said he will look into this matter. Mr. Kelly spoke regarding his proposal to the Board three months ago to have meetings posted on a social media platform because there was a Committee meeting that reviewed a presentation. He explained that if the full Board was able to review the presentation from the committee meeting, it would have helped at the general meeting. Mr. Kelly stated that posting the audio only does not correct the problem raised three months ago. In his opinion, there are no security issues; other Boards post video and the audience can video and post. Mr. DiBenedetto said that he agrees with transparency but did not feel YouTube was necessary. He recommended that meetings be posted on the Board server. Mr. Marziliano stated that if the file size is small enough to fit on the CB11 official website that would be ideal. Mr. Marziliano will look into this matter. Mr. Palzer suggested a strategy to get the community involved to watch committee meetings. Mrs. Haider said she feels this is being rushed. Mr. Turner said the motion was made and this topic has been discussed for months. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 39 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 present. The motion carried.

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MONTH AHEAD

Mr. Budabin said there will be a Public Safety and Licensing Committee meeting on December 10, Health Committee meeting on December 16, and a Douglaston Zoning Committee meeting on December 21.

Mr. Budabin thanked everyone and wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.