

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

*February 7, 2022
Via Zoom Teleconference
Michael Budabin – Chair*

PRESENT AT MEETING

CB 11 Staff:

Joseph Marziliano – District Manager
Jane Bentivenga – Community Coordinator

Christina Coutinho – Community Associate

Elected Officials and/or Representatives Present

Katerina Thompson	Representing Queens Borough President Richards
Maria Di Leone	Representing Congress Member Meng
Sila Asa	Representing Council Member Lee
Kate Boehme	Representing Queens DA Katz
Maroua Righi	Representing CCRB
Jon Gallo	Representing State Senator Liu
Isabel Pulgarin	Representing Assembly Member Rozic

111th Precinct:

Commanding Officer, Captain Portalatin

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chair, Michael Budabin.

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

Mr. Budabin introduced the following:

Captain Portalatin stated that skimming device crimes is on the raise. He suggested that the ATM machine be checked before placing the card into the slot. Captain Portalatin gave an update on current crime patterns.

Victoria Kowanetz, Community Library Manager, North Hills Branch, spoke regarding current programs that the library is offering. There is still no in-person programing. Storytime and toddler-time is virtual. There are other virtual programs such as: tax prep and mental health awareness. There is also tutoring classes. Information for programs can be obtained at the CB11 office.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Sila Asa, representing Council Member Lee, stated that there is a program for seniors and immunocompromised individuals to receive Covid-19 testing in their home. Appointments can be

made by calling 929-298-9400. The mobile Covid-19 testing van has moved to Alley Pond Park at 224-65 76th Avenue.

Maria Di Leone, representing Congress Member Meng, announced current programs sponsored by Congress Member Meng.

Katherina Thompson, representing Queens Borough President Richards, stated that board member new and renewal applications are due by February 16, 2022. She also announced events being held in the month of February.

Jon Gallo, representing State Senator John Liu, stated the upcoming programs. There is a program to help mortgage holders that are struggling to make payments. Information can be obtained at the Senator's office.

Laura Lee, representing the Korean Presbyterian Church, spoke regarding illegally parked cars from the neighboring dealership. Mr. Budabin said this is an ongoing issue and the CB office is in contact with the 111th Precinct.

Michelle Field, Attorney at Law, spoke regarding the process and role of Community Boards in the legalization of marijuana in NY State.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Adriana Aviles, Carin Bail, Lana Bind, Lander Bravo, Michael Budabin, Jessica Burke, Susan Cerezo, Justin Chew, Victor Dadras, Lourdes December, Paul DiBenedetto, Mary Donahue, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Elias Fillas, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, Bernard Haber, Christine Haider, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, John Kelly, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Fleur Martino, George Mihaltzes, Eileen Miller, Douglas Montgomery, Allan Palzer, Akshar Patel, Wendy Pelle-Beer, Stephan Popa, Gunjan Rastogi, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, Benjamin Turner, Sam Wong

Members Absent

Jason Chen, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Stanley Jin, Yosef Lee, Stephan Pivawer

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the January 2022 meeting by Mr. Popa. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fried. A roll call vote was taken resulting 38 in favor, 0 opposed. The minutes were approved as written.

(In-Favor - Adriana Aviles, Carin Bail, Lana Bind, Lander Bravo, Michael Budabin, Jessica Burke, Susan Cerezo, Justin Chew, Victor Dadras, Lourdes December, Paul DiBenedetto, Mary Donahue, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Elias Fillas, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, John Kelly, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Fleur Martino, George Mihaltzes, Eileen Miller, Douglas Montgomery, Allan Palzer, Akshar Patel, Wendy Pelle-Beer, Stephan Popa, Gunjan Rastogi, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, Benjamin Turner, Sam Wong)

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Budabin announced the Committee meetings that were held in the month of January. He said that renewal board member applications are due by February 16, 2022. He thanked Mrs. Miller for the presentation she gave at Borough Board.

BOARD MEMBER NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Popa stated that odd year renewals are due.

Mrs. Donahue and her husband thanked the office staff of State Senator Lui and Assembly Member Braunstein for their help in getting Mr. Donahue his Covid-19 booster vaccine in his home.

Mr. Montgomery spoke regarding the confusion with the new home tax assessments. Once he has more information, he will advise the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Joint Health & Human Services and Education Committee – Eileen Miller, Health & Human Services Committee Chair and Justin Chew, Education Committee Chair

Mr. Chew stated that there was a joint meeting to discuss Covid-19 guidelines in public schools. He said present at the meeting were outgoing Principal of Bayside High School, Michael Athy, who introduced the incoming Principal, Tracy Martinez. Ms. Martinez spoke regarding her plans for the incoming months. Also, at the meeting was, Peter Georgatos, Assistant Principal, Benjamin Cardozo High School. Mr. Georgatos spoke about a mural project at Benjamin Cardozo High School. Mr. Chew said that there will be 20 murals that will be painted outside and inside the school. Mrs. Miller spoke regarding Covid-19 related testing and in-home testing. Mr. Chew asked Mr. Galatan to speak on the topic of removal of impartial hearings regarding special needs students who have individual education placement (IEP). Mr. Galatan stated that there were two bills being proposed: Assembly Bill 7943 and Senate Bill 7189. He stated that the process currently in place is if a parent does not agree with the plan for their child, it goes to an impartial hearing and a hearing officer is assigned to the case. There are over 60 hearing officers in New York City and most have over 40 years of experience. The proposed bills recommend this process be executed under the auspices of the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearing (OATH). Mr. Galatan said that the judges are less experienced in this matter. This causes great concern and could be a costly process. If a parent/guardian cannot make payment, they lose by default. Mr. Galatan made a motion to forward a letter to NYC elected officials in opposition to the rule change/executive order transferring special education hearings to OATH and to keep the current process in place. The motion was seconded by Mr. Euler. Mr. Dadras asked why would one vote against these proposed bills? Mr. Galatan said that he feels OATH will vote against parents' requests to save City tax dollars. Mr. Galatan said that parents can represent themselves if they do not have the means to pay for representation at OATH. He added that it is very difficult and stressful to represent your own child for services. Mr. Marziliano stated that he was informed by State Senator Liu's office that these bills were not moving because these they were passed at the local level by an executive order by the Mayor before he left office. Mr. Budabin stated that the CB11 letter should also include that a representative come before the Board. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 35 in favor, 4 abstentions and 1 present. The motion carried.

(In-Favor - Adriana Aviles, Lander Bravo, Michael Budabin, Jessica Burke, Susan Cerezo, Victor Dadras, Lourdes December, Paul DiBenedetto, Mary Donahue, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Elias Fillas, Jack Fried, Joan Garippa, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, John Kelly, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Fleur Martino, George Mihaltses, Eileen Miller, Douglas Montgomery, Allan Palzer, Wendy Pelle-Beer, Stephan Popa, Gunjan Rastogi, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, Benjamin Turner, Sam Wong - Abstain – Carin Bail, Justin Chew, Albert Galatan, Akshar Patel – Present- Lana Bind)

Government Affairs and Legal – Albert Galatan, Committee Chair – Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) Bills at the State Legislature

Mr. Galatan said that the Committee discussed the pending bills regarding ADU's and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD's) as outlined in the committee report of February 2, 2022. Mr. Galatan introduced Paul Graziano, Urban Planner, who gave a presentation at the committee meeting of January 22, 2022. Mr. Graziano gave current updates that have taken place since the last committee meeting. He said that the Governor inserted the ADU bill and the TOC bill into her budget. This means that if the bills are not removed by February 17, 2022, they will remain and be voted up or down with the budget bill. ADU's means all single-family homes can have a minimum of one ADU on their property. TOC's means that any community that is within a half mile radius of a rail station must allow for a 25-unit dwelling minimum, per acre of land. These are two separate bills. Mr. Euler said this is very unfair and goes against home rule. Mr. DiBenedetto said each community should have local control. Mr. Euler made a motion to forward a resolution to remove these two items from the budget bill. The motion was seconded by Mario Ferazzoli. A correction and addition were made to the resolution by Mrs. Garippa and Mr. Graziano. Discussion ensued as to the negative impact this would have on the City and State of NY. Mrs. Miller stated that the Bayside Hills Civic Association is opposed to these two bills. Mr. Turner said that there is a housing shortage, and he understands that this would be market value which does not help. He recognized that something must be done to help the housing shortage. Discussion ensued how this does not help affordable housing, how property values will increase, and basement apartments are not safe. Mr. Budabin said the housing crisis is understated and this will not solve the major problem but may create new problems. Mrs. Garippa said that the Board has been up-zoning areas and that this is how it should be done, not blanket zoning. Mrs. Guidice spoke regarding the stress on communities with the increased population. Mr. Marziliano stated that this concern was addressed in the resolution. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 33 in favor, 3 opposed and 2 abstained, 2 present. The motion carried.

(In-Favor - Adriana Aviles, Carin Bail, Lander Bravo, Michael Budabin, Jessica Burke, Susan Cerezo, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Mary Donahue, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Elias Fillas, Jack Fried, Joan Garippa, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, Bernard Haber, Christine Haider, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Fleur Martino, George Mihaltses, Eileen Miller, Douglas Montgomery, Allan Palzer, Stephan Popa, Gunjan Rastogi, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, Benjamin Turner, Sam Wong- Opposed – John Kelly, Wendy Pele-Beer, Sam Wong - Abstain - Justin Chew, Akshar Patel – Present- Lana Bind, Lourdes December)

MONTH AHEAD

Mr. Budabin reminded Board Members that February 16, 2022, is the deadline for those to renew their membership if appointed in an odd year. Elections for Chair and Vice Chairs will be held at the March 2022 meeting.

The meeting adjourned.