

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

*March 1, 2021*

*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:*

David Fischer

Representing Assembly Member Braunstein

Susan Seinfeld

Representing Council Member Grodenchik

Jon Gallo

Representing State Senator Liu

Katherina Thompson

Representing Queens Borough President Richards

Daniel Brown

Representing Queens District Attorney Katz

Raida Hossain

Representing Assembly Member Weprin

Casey Lajszky

Representing Congress Member Suozzi

*111<sup>th</sup> Precinct*

Captain Portalatin – Commanding Officer

Police Officer Galano – Community Affairs Unit

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by the Chair, Michael Budabin.

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Captain Portalatin spoke regarding the crime statistics for the month. Captain Portalatin said that the Precinct has received several calls regarding the proposed homeless shelter on Northern Blvd. He said the area will be patrolled by officers from the 111<sup>th</sup> Precinct. He announced that during a search warrant, an Officer recovered five loaded firearms. A question and answer period followed with many questions regarding the current rise in anti-Asian hate crimes. The Captain can be reached at 718.279.5200.

Jon Gallo, representing State Senator Liu, spoke regarding upcoming events. He stated that the Attorney General's Hate Crime Hotline is 800.771.7755.

Daniel Brown, representing Queens District Attorney Katz, spoke regarding upcoming events.

Susan Seinfeld, representing Council Member Grodenchik, spoke regarding upcoming events.

Raida Hossain, representing Assembly Member Weprin, spoke regarding upcoming events.

Katherina Thompson, representing Queens Borough President Richards, stated that she is our liaison and can help with any questions pertaining to the office. She can be reached at 718.286.2620.

Casey Lajszky, representing Congress Member Suozzi, stated that the office is open.

Mary Bandziukas spoke in support of the street study for the redesign of Utopia Parkway. She stated that biking is a way to get people out of their cars. This helps with traffic build up and air pollution. She requested that the bike path continue to Hillside Ave. because there are local shops, a subway and a Queens Library.

Laura Shepard spoke in support of the street study for the redesign of Utopia Parkway. She stated the study will help with safer crossings, protected bike lanes, bus shelters and other upgrades. She urged to Board to vote in favor.

Rita Barravecchio spoke in support of the street study for the redesign of Utopia Parkway. She said that her niece was killed at the 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. intersection. She explained how safety measures are needed on this roadway.

Sarah Jordan spoke in support of the street study for the redesign of Utopia Parkway. She stated that with the massive increase in population, congestion and parking issues, the redesign of Utopia Parkway has an enormous potential to increase the quality of life.

Joby Jacobs spoke in support of the street study on Utopia Parkway. He stated that he grew up in the vicinity of Utopia Parkway and talked about an incident in 2014 that he witnessed involving a SUV that did not stop at a red light.

That was the conclusion of public participation. Mr. Budabin said that there will be further discussion regarding the street study proposal during the committee report session of tonight's meeting.

## **ROLL CALL**

### *Members Present*

Sila Asa, Adriana Aviles, Carin Bail, Lana Bind, Lander Bravo, Michael Budabin, Susan Cerezo, Sharon Chin, Ocelia Claro, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Lourdes December, Paul DiBenedetto, Mary Donahue, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Elias Fillas, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Barbara Gillespie, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, Bernard Haber, Christine Haider, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, John Kelly, Linda Lee, Yosef 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*

Justin Chew, Stanley Jin

## **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the February 1, 2021 meeting by Christine Haider. The motion was seconded by Douglas Montgomery. The minutes were approved as written.

(In-favor- Sila Asa, Adriana Aviles, Carin Bail, Lana Bind, Lander Bravo, Michael Budabin, Susan Cerezo, Sharon Chin, Ocelia Claro, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Lourdes December, Paul DiBenedetto, Mary Donahue, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Elias Fillas, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Barbara Gillespie, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, Bernard Haber, Christine Haider, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, John Kelly, Linda Lee, Yosef 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)

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Pertaining to the proposed homeless shelter on Northern Blvd., Mr. Budabin said he followed up with Dept. of Homeless Services (DHS) requesting that the Community Advisory Board (CAB) be established. Board Members will receive updates.

There is a continuous push to get a vaccination site in northeast Queens.

Mr. Budabin announced that Board Member, Ocelia Claro, will be leaving the Board this April. Mrs. Claro has served on the Executive Committee and as the North Bayside Zoning Committee Chair. He stated that Mrs. Claro has been an extremely valuable member of our CB11 team and will be greatly missed. On behalf of the Board and himself, he wished Mrs. Claro the very best and thanked her for many years of community service.

Mr. Budabin announced the committee meetings of the month; Capital and Expense, North Bayside Zoning, South/Central Bayside Zoning, Parks, and Public Safety and Licensing. He said at the Public Safety and Licensing Committee meeting there will be discussion on how the Board will assist with the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes.

## **BOARD MEMBER NEW BUSINESS**

Stephen Popa stated that audio files of the CB11 general meetings have now been posted online for a few months. He requested that the process be measured for progress, in order, to possibly add the audio files of committee meetings. Mr. Popa said Board Members would like to hear what took place at a meeting they did not attend. Mr. Budabin asked Mr. Marziliano to add this topic to the April agenda for discussion.

Henry Euler discussed the proposed legislation that is going before State Assembly and State Senate to legalize accessory dwelling units throughout New York State, including the five boroughs. This could possibly allow for garages and basements to be converted into living space or units. He said there are several concerns regarding this proposal. Mr. Euler said the Executive Committee discussed this at their last meeting and it was agreed to have a city representative discuss this proposal at the April meeting. Mr. Budabin and Mr. Euler both spoke at the public hearing for Planning Together.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Central/South Bayside Zoning Committee** – BSA Cal. No. 2021-8-BZ location 79-26 214<sup>th</sup> Street. An application to extend the second floor by closing the first-floor dining room vaulted ceiling. This would create additional bedroom space on the second floor. The request for a special permit seeks to allow approximately 10% additional FAR. Eileen Miller, Zoning Chair, reviewed the committee report of the February 22, 2021 Committee meeting. The Committee voted in favor of the application. There were no registered speakers. A motion was made by Mohan Jethwani to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Christine Haider. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 45 in favor and 0 opposed. The motion carried.

*(In-favor- Sila Asa, Adriana Aviles, Carin Bail, Lana Bind, Lander Bravo, Michael Budabin, Susan Cerezo, Sharon Chin, Ocelia Claro, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Lourdes December, Paul DiBenedetto, Mary Donahue, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Elias Fillas, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Barbara Gillespie, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, Bernard Haber, Christine Haider, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, John Kelly, Linda Lee, Yosef 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)*

**North Bayside Zoning Committee** – BSA Cal. No. 926-86 BZ located at 217-07 Northern Blvd. An application to extend a previously-granted variance for an additional 10-year term. Mrs. Claro, Zoning Chair, stated that there are open violations that the owner is addressing in order to obtain a new C of O. She noticed that there are several cars on the site and has been informed that the granted variance allows for 82 vehicles on site. There is valet service in order to help control street parking. There were no registered speakers. A motion was made to approve the application by Mrs. Claro. The motion was seconded by Carin Bail. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 45 in favor and 0 opposed. The motion carried.

*(In-favor- Sila Asa, Adriana Aviles, Carin Bail, Lana Bind, Lander Bravo, Michael Budabin, Susan Cerezo, Sharon Chin, Ocelia Claro, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Lourdes December, Paul DiBenedetto, Mary Donahue, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Elias Fillas, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Barbara Gillespie, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, Bernard Haber, Christine Haider, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, John Kelly, Linda Lee, Yosef 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)*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Transportation** – Presentation by Benjamin Turner – requesting a street study for Utopia Parkway. Victor Dadras, Committee Chair, spoke regarding a proposal made by Mr. Turner to complete a street study on Utopia Parkway from 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Horace Harding Expressway. This location is in CB11 and CB7. Mr. Dadras stated that this request would promote safety for every user of the roadway. According to data and statistics, this is a very unsafe corridor. A Committee vote was taken and passed in favor of presenting this presentation to the full Board. Mr. Turner said this request is about redesigning a street, to be more inclusive to all road users. Streets can no longer be geared towards automobiles. He stated that Utopia Parkway is one of the major corridors in northeast Queens that connects several neighborhoods. Mr. Turner reviewed incident data that he gathered over the years to display how dangerous and fatal this roadway is. Mr. Turner made a motion to request a complete street study for Utopia Parkway. The motion was seconded by Stephan Popa. An amendment to the motion was accepted to add “safety” to a complete street

study. A lengthy discussion ensued with concerns that sections of the roadway are very narrow and the homeowners on Utopia Parkway should be considered. Also discussed is that this request is for safety. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 44 in favor and 1 present. The motion carried.

*(In-favor-* Sila Asa, Adriana Aviles, Carin Bail, Lana Bind, Lander Bravo, Michael Budabin, Susan Cerezo, Sharon Chin, Ocelia Claro, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Lourdes December, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Elias Fillas, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Barbara Gillespie, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, Bernard Haber, Christine Haider, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, John Kelly, Linda Lee, Yosef 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 – *Present* - Mary Donahue)

### **COMMUNITY BOARD OFFICERS ELECTIONS**

Elections were chaired by George Mihaltses.

Michael Budabin was nominated for Chair by Douglas Montgomery. The motion was seconded by Bernard Haber. Mr. Budabin accepted the nomination. One vote was cast and the consensus was unanimous to elect Michael Budabin as Chair.

Christine Haider was nominated for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair by Mohan Jethwani. The motion was seconded by Lana Bind. Mrs. Haider accepted the nomination.

Victor Dadras was nominated for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair by John Kelly. The motion was seconded by Mario Ferazzoli. Mr. Dadras accepted the nomination.

Each candidate made a brief statement.

A vote by email and phone contact was conducted resulting in 23 votes for Mr. Dadras and 21 votes for Mrs. Haider. Mr. Dadras will begin his term as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair on April 1, 2021.

*(Victor Dadras* – Adriana Aviles, Albert Galatan, Laura James, Victor Dadras, Carin Bail, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, Fleur Martino, Jyothi Sriram, Jack Fried, Linda Lee, Lourdes December, Barbara Gillespie, Benjamin Turner, Lander Bravo, Stephan Popa, Akshar Patel, Michael Budabin, Sharon Chin, Gunjan Rastogi, John Kelly, Allan Palzer, Sila Asa)

*(Christine Haider* – Susan Cerezo, Paul DiBenedetto, Ocelia Claro, Mario Ferazzoli, Christina Scherer, Lana Bind, Eileen Miller, Sam Wong, Stephen Pivawer, Henry Euler, Wendy Pelle-Beer, George Mihaltses, Douglas Montgomery, Robert Liatto, Christine Haider, Yosef Lee, Joan Garippa, Elias Fillas, Mary Donahue, Mohan Jethwani, Bernard Haber)

Christine Haider was nominated for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair by Laura James. The motion was seconded by Eileen Miller. Mrs. Haider accepted the nomination.

Lander Bravo was nominated for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair by Barbara Gillespie. The motion was seconded by Stephan Popa. Mr. Lander accepted the nomination.

Each candidate made a brief statement.

A vote by email and phone contact was conducted resulting in 25 votes for Mrs. Haider and 16 votes for Mr. Bravo. Mrs. Haider will begin her term as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair on April 1, 2021.

(Christine Haider – Mary Donahue, Paul DiBenedetto, Ocelia Claro, Mario Ferazzoli, Michael Golia, Christina Scherer, Christine Haider, George Mihaltzes, Robert Liatto, Stephen Pivawer, Eileen Miller, Laura James, Joan Garippa, Lourdes December, Elias Fillas, Susan Cerezo, Sharon Chin, Albert Galatan, Yosef Lee, Bernard Haber, Henry Euler, Jack Fried, Sila Asa, Linda Lee, Mohan Jethwani)

(Lander Bravo – Douglas Montgomery, Fleur Martino, Gunjan Rastogi, Victor Dadras, Michael Budabin, Jyothi Sriram, Stephan Popa, John Kelly, Adriana Aviles, Benjamin Turner, Carin Bail, Barbara Gillespie, Wendy Pelle-Beer, Allan Palzer, Akshar Patel, Rosemarie Guidice)

Henry Euler was nominated by Paul DiBenedetto for 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Christine Haider. Mr. Euler accepted the nomination.

Benjamin Turner was nominated by John Kelly for 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Stephan Popa. Mr. Turner accepted the nomination.

Lander Bravo was nominated by Barbara Gillespie for 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Stephan Popa. Mr. Bravo accepted his nomination.

Mr. Euler made a brief statement. Mr. Turner made a brief statement. Mr. Bravo withdrew his nomination.

A vote by email and phone contact was conducted resulting in 27 votes for Mr. Euler and 14 votes for Mr. Turner. Mr. Euler will begin his term as 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair on April 1, 2021.

(Henry Euler – Michael Golia, Douglas Montgomery, Mario Ferazzoli, Christina Scherer, Ocelia Claro, Robert Liatto, Laura James, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, Susan Cerezo, Adriana Aviles, Stephan Pivawer, Michael Budabin, Eileen Miller, Jyothi Sriram, Christine Haider, Fleur Martino, Sila Asa, Carin Bail, Bernard Haber, Linda Lee, Joan Garippa, Elias Fillas, Allan Palzer, Mary Donahue, Mohan Jethwani, Rosemarie Guidice)

(Benjamin Turner – Albert Galatan, Sharon Chin, Lourdes December, John Kelly, Gunjan Rastogi, Benjamin Turner, Lander Bravo, Sam Wong, Wendy Pelle-Beer, Akshar Patel, Victor Dadras, Barbara Gillespie, George Milhaltzes, Stephan Popa)

This concluded the election session.

Susan Seinfeld, as former CB11 District Manager, thanked Mrs. Claro for her service. Mrs. Claro thanked Mr. Budabin and Mrs. Seinfeld for their kind words. Mrs. Claro said she will miss CB11. She stated that enjoyed her time on the Board (minus that one year).

The meeting was adjourned.