

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

September 14, 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

City Agencies

Captain John Portalatin, Commanding Officer, 111th Precinct

Elected Officials and/or Representatives Present:

Barry Grodenchik

Council Member

Anne Marie Boranian

Representing Queens Borough President Sharon Lee

Dave Fischer

Representing Assembly Member Edward Braunstein

Susan Seinfeld

Representing Council Member Barry Grodenchik

Isabel Pulgarin

Representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic

John Liu

State Senator

Jonathan Gallo

Representing State Senator John Liu

Daniel Brown

Representing District Attorney Melinda Katz

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

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

Mr. Budabin recognized the passing of Claire Shulman.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PO Briant gave the update on the crime statistics for the 111th Precinct. He spoke regarding crime prevention.

Council Member Barry Grodenchik spoke about the start of construction on the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway. He also stated that a new public school will be opening at the site of the former St. Roberts school. Mr. Grodenchik said that he is concerned with the opening of public schools. He said that there are several red flags that are alarming; shortage of teachers being one.

State Senator Liu spoke regarding the reopening of public schools. He discussed that in-person learning is important but with that said, there are some concerns with opening the school. Senator Liu also addressed the economic crisis that the City could be facing in the upcoming months/years.

Susan Seinfeld stated there will be a scope meeting at Dermody Square tomorrow. She spoke of events that will be taking place.

Gloria Ma spoke regarding the new location for a DMV road test site along 76 Road and Alley Pond Park. She said that this location is very dangerous. Pedestrians and children will be walking to park trails. Ms. Ma stated that this location is congested for a testing site creating a dangerous condition. Mr. Budabin stated that Mr. Marziliano will follow up with the Dept. of Transportation.

Jay Rose, representing the Civil Complaint Review Board, spoke regarding a meeting on Thursday being conducted by the CCRB. There were no questions by Board Members or the public.

Sean Walsh spoke regarding the opposition of a proposal for a community facility on 61st Avenue. He made two comments that the hill east of the location will be in jeopardy of collapsing and the cost of the units will be unaffordable for seniors.

Mike Lyons spoke regarding improving the volunteer ambulance services in northeastern Queens. Mr. Budabin stated that a letter of support was already drafted after a Health Committee meeting with the Glen Oaks Ambulance Corps. Mr. Lyons asked if he could present to the Health Committee, so they could hear their side. Mr. Budabin agreed.

ROLL CALL

Board 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 | Mary Donahue | Henry Euler |
| Mario Ferazzoli | Jack Fried | Albert Galatan | Joan Garippa |
| Barbara Gillespie | Michael Golia | Bernard Haber | Christine Haider |
| Laura James | Mohan Jethwani | 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 | |

Board Members Absent:

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| Elias Fillas | Rosemarie Guidice | Stanley Jin | John Kelly |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the June 1, 2020 meeting by Stephen Popa. The motion was seconded by Christine Haider. A roll call vote was taken resulting unanimously in favor. The minutes were accepted as written.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Budabin stated that it was a busy summer and he gave thanks to the Board Members for all their help.

There were 13 Committee meetings over the break. The Economic Development Committee is working on a commercial business initiative to help with store vacancies in northeast Queens. The Transportation Committee is working with DOT on a bike lane workshop. The Health Committee had a meeting with the Glen Oaks Ambulance Corps to discuss an application to extend into Bayside and approved a letter of support. By-Laws Committee is working on updating the CB11 By-Laws. The Education Committee also met to discuss the reopening of public schools.

Mr. Budabin also thanked the staff for all their efforts during the pandemic.

The Economic Development and Transportation Committees were instrumental in helping Bell Blvd. be the first in Queens join the NYC “Open Street Initiatives”.

There were two CB11 PPE giveaways, Bell Blvd. and Little Neck.

BOARD MEMBER NEW BUSINESS

Henry Euler said that he has submitted a written update for BSA applications due to a full meeting agenda. (Please see the attached.)

Lourdes December spoke regarding Friends of Alley Pond Park. They are seeking community support to install bike repair stations and other projects throughout the Park. Information can be obtained on their Facebook page.

Christine Haider asked for an update on the Marriot Hotel and Wyndham Hotels regarding City housing contracts. Mr. Budabin stated that the office has not been informed of any contracts.

Douglas Montgomery thanked Assembly Member Braunstein for donating PPE. He stated that the food pantry in Douglaston is working out well.

Mr. Budabin asked the Board to extend the period of digital mailing to the Board Members with the exceptions of Joan Garippa and Mary Donahue through November 2020. The motion was made by Douglas Montgomery. The motion was seconded by Stephan Popa. Discussion on the motion ensued. Mr. Dadras requested the extension through December 2020. Mr. Montgomery amended the motion. Mr. Popa seconded the amendment. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 41 in favor. The motion carried.

(In-favor- Asa, Aviles, Bail, Bind, Bravo, Budabin, Cerezo, Chin, Claro, Collado, Dadras, December, DiBenedetto, Euler, Ferazzoli, Fried, Galatan, Garippa, Gillespie, Golia, Haber, Haider, James, Jethwani, L. Lee, Y. Lee, Liatto, Martino, Mihaltses, Miller, Montgomery, Palzer, Patel, Pelle-Beer, Pivawer, Popa, Rastogi, Scherer, Sriram, Turner, Wong)

Paul DiBenedetto said there is a sinkhole at 35-26 208th Street. The office will follow up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education – Justin Chew, Committee Chair, reviewed two Education Committee reports and a drafted letter to the Chancellor. Mr. Chew stated there were two Committee meetings and both took place prior to a date of the schools opening. Mr. Chew said that the Committee decided on three goals to accomplish this year with the complications due to Covid; safety, quality education and daycare. Mr. Chew discussed how cases are rising and schools have not yet opened. The schools have not been cleaned and air ventilation systems have not been updated. Mr. Budabin stated that there will be a full Board vote on the letter to the Chancellor. The letter was to explain that the Dept. of Education has not met the three goals discussed by the Committee. A motion was made to accept the letter by Justin Chew. The motion was seconded by Stephen Popa. Discussion on the motion ensued with such comments as the letter was too long and confusing, teachers are disinfecting their classrooms with supplies they have to purchase, time is of the essence because schools are opening in a week, students with special needs have to have in-person learning, District 75 needs to be added. Mohan Jethwani made an amendment to the motion to add remote learning with the exception of students with special needs. Mr. Chew accepted the amendment. The motion was seconded by Stephen Popa. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding how remote learning will work due to the schools not being prepared for in-person learning. It was discussed how remote learning is not simple, but a blended schedule needs to be safe for the students, parents and staff. Joan Garippa made an amendment to the motion to make paragraphs in the letter for an easier read. The amendment was seconded by Mohan Jethwani and accepted by Justin Chew and Stephan Popa. A role call vote was taken resulting in 31 in favor, 6 opposed, 3 abstentions and 2 present. The motion carried.

*(In-favor- Asa, Bind, Budabin, Cerezo, Claro, Collado, Dadras, December, DiBenedetto, Euler, Fried, Galatan, Garippa, Haber, Haider, James, Jethwani, , L. Lee, Y. Lee, Liatto, Martino, Montgomery, Palzer, Pelle-Beer, Pivawer, Popa, Rastogi, Scherer, Sriram, Turner, Wong
Opposed – Aviles, Bravo, Ferazzoli, Gillespie, Golia, Mihaltses – Abstain – Bail, Chew, Patel – Present – Chin, Miller)*

Douglaston Zoning – 242-22 61 Avenue - Douglas Montgomery, Zoning Chair, stated that a letter has been drafted and will be forwarded to Board Members for review and vote at the October 5th meeting. This meeting was regarding the proposed community facility at 61st Avenue. The Committee is opposed to the plans that have been presented. This matter will be discussed in length at the October meeting.

MONTH AHEAD

Mr. Budabin stated that there will be a volunteer event to clean up the medians on Francis Lewis Blvd.

Mr. Budabin reviewed the upcoming Committee meetings.

Mr. Budabin said that this year, Committee Chairs will remain the same. Since this is his first year as Board Chair, he does not feel it is fair to appoint new Committee Chairs. Next year, this will be revisited. There are two new Committees if Members would like to join, Public Relations and Aviation.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 pm.