

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

*September 12, 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

Katherina Thompson	Representing Queens Borough President Richards
Christian McNally	Representing Queens Borough President Richards
Amanda Vazquez	Representing Council Member Linda Lee
Sila Asa	Representing Council Member Linda Lee
Lei Zhu	Representing Council Member Ung
Macayle Fuchs	Representing Council Member Paladino
David Troise	Representing State Senator Stavisky
Evelyn Li	Representing Congress Member Meng
Amber Yoon	Representing Assembly Member Braunstein

111th Precinct:

Captain Portalatin – Commanding Officer 111th

NYC Dept. of Transportation

Albert Silvestri – Deputy Queens Borough Commissioner
Gretha Suarez
Craig Chin

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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Captain Portalatin spoke regarding monthly crime patterns. He also said that PO Galano is no longer with the Community Affairs Unit.

Katherina Thompson announced she will no longer be attending our monthly meetings because she is now Director of Constituent Affairs. She introduced her replacement, Christian McNally.

Queens DA Katz joined the meeting and spoke regarding issues her office is working on.

Amanda Vazquez introduced herself as Council Member Lee's Chief of Staff.

Sila Asa gave the upcoming events hosted by Council Member Lee.

Lei Zhu gave the upcoming events hosted by Council Member Ung.

Macayle Fuchs gave the upcoming events hosted by Council Member Paladino.

David Troise gave the upcoming events hosted by Senator Stavisky.

Evelyn Li, representing Congress Member Meng, stated that September is passport awareness month.

Amber Yoon, representing Assembly Member Braunstein, said any community problems can be directed to the AM's office.

Cynthia Kong, representing DSNY, spoke regarding curbside composting. She said that leaf and food waste pickup will resume. An organic DSNY bucket can be requested through October 1, 2022. There will be a pause of organic pickup from December through March because there is no yard waste.

Sean Lally and Vito Tautonico, representing St. Mary's Hospital for Children, gave a presentation on the hospital's mission. Mr. Tautonico spoke regarding an event that is open to the public on October 23, 2022. He encouraged the community to attend. St. Mary's Hospital's vision started in 1870. Now it is New York's largest provider of long-term care for children with medically complex conditions.

Mike Feiner, President Bayside Hills Civic Association, was opposed to the Bicycle Lane Network Development (BLD) proposal on 56 Avenue. This is a heavily traffic street due to PS 203, Cardozo HS, and Queensborough Community College. He read a statement from Phil Konigsberg.

Tom Louizou was opposed to the BLD proposal on 56 Avenue between 217th Street and the Clearview Expressway. This roadway has truck traffic.

Laura Shepard, Queens Organizer, Transportation Alternatives, was in favor of the BLD proposal. She stated that this proposal connects greenways and schools.

Janet McEneaney was opposed to the BLD proposal on 33rd Avenue. She said that there is a lack of outreach to the community.

Lindsey Mayer, CB11 non-voting committee member, was in favor of the BLD proposal. She said a calm corridor and protected bike lanes are needed to connect the community.

Chris Efthimou was in favor of the BLD proposal.

Audrey Shepard was in favor of the BLD proposal. Safety is the main concern.

Scott Carpman echoed support for the BLD proposal. He asked for management of Douglaston shopping center to monitor the activity of vehicle misconduct within the parking lot. He also

asked that with the cold months approaching, if the LIRR could open the waiting room at the Douglaston station.

Sara Jordan was in support of the BLD proposal. She said that this may not be the perfect proposal, but it's better than nothing.

Randi Weiner was opposed to the BLD proposal. She said that even with bike lanes, cyclists still ride on the sidewalk. Trucks double park in the bike lanes.

Nabil Khatri was in favor of the BLD proposal. This proposal is a great connection for recreational and business use.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Adriana Aviles, Michael Budabin, Jessica Burke, Susan Cerezo, Justin Chew, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Lourdes December, Paul DiBenedetto, Mary Donahue, Henry Euler, C. Omarr Evans, Mario Ferazzoli, Michelle Fields, Elias Fillas, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Roy Giusetti, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, George Hadjiconstantinou, Christine Haider, Mohan Jethwani, John Kelly, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Fleur Martino, Karen Mazza, George Mihaltses, Eileen Miller, Douglas Montgomery, Akshar Patel, Stephen Pivawer, Stephen Popa, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, Seena Sweet, Benjamin Turner, Sam Wong

Members Absent

Dawn Anatra, Lana Bind, Christopher Fuentes-Padilla, Bernard Haber, Laura James, Yosef Lee, *Wendy Pelle-Ber, Gunjan Rastogi

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the June 13, 2022, meeting by Mr. Popa. The motion was seconded by Mr. Montgomery. There were no corrections or additions. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 40 in favor and 1 abstention. The minutes were approved as written.

(In-Favor - Adriana Aviles, Michael Budabin, Jessica Burke, Susan Cerezo, Justin Chew, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Mary Donahue, Henry Euler, C. Omarr Evans, Mario Ferazzoli, Michelle Fields, Elias Fillas, Jack Fried, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Roy Giusetti, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, George Hadjiconstantinou, Christine Haider, Mohan Jethwani, John Kelly, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Fleur Martino, Karen Mazza, George Mihaltses, Eileen Miller, Douglas Montgomery, Akshar Patel, Stephen Pivawer, Stephen Popa, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, Seena Sweet, Benjamin Turner, Sam Wong

Abstention – Lourdes December)

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Budabin spoke regarding Committee meetings that were held over the summer. He thanked the Committee Chairs and those who attended. He said there will be a Capital and Expense Committee meeting in the upcoming month.

BOARD MEMBER NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Euler gave an update for the open Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) cases. He said that the BSA granted two gas stations with variances: 35-04 Bell Blvd. and 204-12 Northern Blvd. Tomorrow there will be a BSA hearing for the cellular monopole case. Mr. Euler said that City Planning approved the rezoning for Mizumi. He added that Council Member Paladino made a modification to approve the rezoning for the Mizumi site but not the lots east of the Mizumi site.

Mrs. Miller thanked the Board for their kind words regarding the passing of her brother.

Mr. DiBenedetto wanted to know why Council Member Paladino changed her position on the rezoning application regarding the Mizumi property. Mr. Budabin said Board Member's should reach out to the CM's office and the Board office will also look into this. There was discussion regarding a letter submitted by Mr. Haber who was not present at tonight's meeting.

Mrs. Haider thanked the Board for their wishes when she fell. Mrs. Haider will forward dates for a committee meeting regarding the monopole.

Ms. Burke discussed Int-0311-2022 – prohibiting certain unsolicited disclosures of intimate images. Mr. Budabin asked Mr. Galatan to schedule a committee meeting on this topic.

Mr. Galatan spoke about the construction fence around the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway. This construction was scheduled for July to July. There is no work being done. Mr. Budabin asked Mr. Marziliano to contact the Dept. of Parks for update.

PUBLIC HEARING

BSA Cal. No. 2017-299 BZ – 242-02 61 Avenue – Douglaston Shopping Center. Douglas Montgomery, Committee Chair, said that there was Committee meeting on August 31, 2022. Jon Popin, representing Ashkenazy Acquisition Corporation (AAC), was present at the Committee meeting. This application is to extend the existing variance four years in order to build and acquire new tenants. The extension is to complete construction, meet the conditions on the 2018 resolution and obtain a certificate of occupancy. Mr. Popin explained that this is two-part process: the first part is to extend the variance and the second is to complete construction that will be needed when there is a new anchor tenant. The new anchor will have to make changes from the setup of the former tenant. He discussed the improvements to the shopping center in the past two years. Lowes will not be coming to the site and AAC is actively looking for tenants. Mr. Montgomery made a motion to approve this application with a condition that security monitors the drag racing and spinning out on all levels. The motion was seconded by Mr. DiBenedetto. A representative from AAC said that they are putting several measures into place to prevent drag racing at the site. Mrs. Guidice said that over the last three weeks, the drag racing has stopped. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 39 in favor and 2 present. The motion carried.

(In-favor- Adriana Aviles, Michael Budabin, Jessica Burke, Susan Cerezo, Justin Chew, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Lourdes December, Paul DiBenedetto, Mary Donahue, Henry Euler, C. Omarr Evans, Mario Ferazzoli, Elias Fillas, Albert Galatan, Joan Garippa, Roy Giusetti, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, George Hadjiconstantinou, Christine Haider, Mohan Jethwani, John Kelly, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Fleur Martino, Karen Mazza, George Mihaltses, Eileen Miller, Douglas Montgomery. Akshar Patel, Stephen Pivawer, Stephen Popa, Christina Scherer, Jyothi Sriram, Seena Sweet, Benjamin Turner, Sam Wong – Present- Michelle Fields, Jack Fried)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee – this report will be discussed at the October 2022 meeting.

*Board Member, Wendy Pelle-Beer, entered the meeting.

Board Member, Justin Chew, notified Mr. Marziliano that he was retiring from the meeting.

Transportation Committee – Victor Dadras, Committee Chair, said that there was a Committee meeting on July 13, 2022, and August 31, 2022, to discuss a proposal by the NYC Dept. of Transportation (DOT) regarding a Bicycle Lane Network Development (BLD) throughout CB11. The meetings were to recommend any changes and improvements to the BLD. At the August 30th, meeting the Committee voted against the proposal. Ms. Suarez screen-shared the current BLD proposal – please view at provided link: <https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/qn-cb11-bike-network-sept2022.pdf>. The DOT has been working with CB11 for over two years regarding this proposal. This proposal is an extension and upgrade to the existing lanes that further connect schools, parks, and greenways. The DOT is looking to implement this program by 2023. A question-and-answer period followed. This proposal offers two scenarios for 46th Avenue: scenario A is to maintain the existing two-way traffic between Oceania Street and Springfield Blvd. and remove parking for the protected bike lane – scenario B is to convert the two-way to a one-way, making all of 46th Avenue a one-way eastbound. Impact studies will be done; the data will be collected and reviewed prior to any change. The BLD proposal consists of 16 miles of bike lanes, and of the 16, eight miles are protected. Oceania Street will have bike lanes on both sides of the street. Engineers will review the BLD proposal. On 56th Avenue between 211th and 217th Street, the treatment for the bike lane will be green paint. There is no legal parking on 56th Avenue in the vicinity of the malls. When designing protected bike lanes loading zones for businesses will remain. During the winter months bike lanes will be cleared of snow. The DOT is considering safety measures for 33rd Avenue. This proposal is still in the design phase. A motion was made to accept the proposal by Stephan Popa. The motion was seconded by Karen Mazza. A lengthy discussion ensued. The Board Members had concerns with 56th Avenue, stating it is unsafe and painted bike lanes will not provide safety. The residents of the effected streets should be spoken to by DOT. No Parking signs were requested for 56th Avenue. There was a statement regarding the concern for improved safety for the children riding their bikes with one complete path for use. There was a statement regarding the concerns that drivers of vehicles are not paying attention to the laws of the road especially around schools. Several Board Members expressed that they were in favor of the proposal with the mention that it may not be perfect, but it is something. Mr. Dadras said that DOT is willing to work with the Board before the plan is finalized. Two Board Members felt that in the end DOT will do what they want. Mr. Marziliano read a letter from the Principal of Bayside HS in support of the BLD proposal in front of the school. A Board Member felt that drivers are being told not to drive their cars, use a bike. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 18 in favor, 17 opposed, 5 abstentions and 2 present. The motion was denied.

(In favor - Adriana Aviles, Michael Budabin, Jessica Burke, Susan Cerezo, Sharon Chin, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Albert Galatan, Rosemarie Guidice, George Hadjiconstantinou, Mohan Jethwani, John Kelly, Robert Liatto, Karen Mazza, Wendy Pelle-Ber, Stephen Popa, Benjamin Turner, Sam Wong – *Opposed* – Carmen Collado, Mary Donahue, Henry Euler, C. Omarr Evans, Mario Ferazzoli, Jack Fried, Joan Garippa, Roy Giusetti, Michael Golia, Christine Haider, Jena Lanzetta, Fleur Martino, George Mihaltzes, Eileen Miller, Stephen Pivawer, Christina Scherer, Seena Sweet – *Abstentions* - Lourdes December, Michelle Fields, Elias Fillas, Jyothi Sriram – *Present* – Douglas Montgomery, Akshar Patel)

Discussion ensued regarding present and abstention votes.

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 pm.