



The City of New York

## Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills  
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Michael Budabin **Chairperson** / Joseph Marziliano **District Manager**

To: All Board Members

From: Joseph Marziliano

Date: May 21, 2021

Re: CB11 Capital and Expense Priorities

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On Wednesday, May 12, 2021 the CB11 Capital and Expense Committee held a meeting to discuss a plan of action for the priorities list.

*Present*

*Committee Members*

Michael Budabin, Board Chair

Christine Haider, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair

Joan Garippa

Eileen Miller

Allan Palzer

Stephan Popa

Jyothi Sriram

*Board Members, Non-Committee Members*

Jessica Burke

Jason Chen

Jena Lanzetta

*CB11 Staff*

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager

Christina Coutinho, Community Associate

Mr. Budabin opened the meeting by stating that everyone will have an opportunity to speak tonight. He gave his thoughts regarding the duration of the items on the CB11 Budget Priorities list. Mr. Budabin stated that items stay on the list for a long time. The agencies response is either: item will be funded, will not be funded or the City is incapable of funding. A formal policy needs to be put into place. Mr. Budabin suggested three reviews : 1) when an item reaches its third year, it is up for automatic renewal with the benefit of doubt that it will remain on the list unless an agency states no funding, 2) if an item is still on the list entering its sixth year, there will be a review, but the benefit of doubt will be to remove unless information is given that there could be funding in the short order, 3) if a response of no funding is given, item would be removed; every year a letter would be sent to the agency asking for funding for that project.

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Ms. Haider expressed three years is too short. The process is very lengthy, agencies take years to respond, (i.e. Peck Park - over 5 years for funding).

Mr. Chen asked what is the average time for an item to be on the list? Mr. Marziliano said each year an update is given. Items can remain on for years.

Mrs. Miller also felt that three years is too short (i.e. Udall's Cove – items funded every few years). She spoke regarding how community input is important. Mr. Marziliano stated that Parks has a process of individual Budget Consultation meetings for the community boards. With this process, the District Manager can discuss the Parks budget requests.

Mr. Popa suggested that after the first four years of no response in the fifth year, a plan of action would be conducted. Each item would be reviewed, civic and elected officials would be contacted to campaign for a driven interest to coordinate a response from the agencies.

Mrs. Garippa said that an engineering project is a straightforward process. The process for Parks Dept. is more detailed.

Mr. Budabin stated that when he attended last year's CB11 Capital and Expense Committee meeting for the first time as Chair, he noticed little movement of taking items off the list but items were being added to the list. There was no positive response for over 30 items. He said in his opinion, items not being removed may be taking away from other items that could be funded. This creates a circumstance with a list that could only essentially grow. Mr. Budabin stated that he is not proposing to remove an item after three years, there would a first review and three years later, a second review. He said community input is important but it's the Board's responsibility to weigh the importance of an item on the list.

Mr. Palzer suggested setting a priority timeframe by category for each agency.

Mrs. Haider suggested following up with the commissioner of an agency by email. Mr. Marziliano stated that a formal notice must be sent to a commissioner. He said the Parks Dept. has a dedicated staffer for budget consultations items, therefore, Parks will respond directly to the requests on the list. He recommended meeting with each agency.

Mrs. Miller said there will be new councilmembers in the upcoming year. This could possibly open funding for projects.

Ms. Burke said she reviewed the list and asked which item was a request of an individual. Mr. Marziliano said item 14, ADA compliance and upgrades to the staircase at the Douglaston LIRR. He said the response given is that this request it is not City funded, this is MTA property. State officials need to be contacted. Ms. Burke stated that she has seen, when working with Park issues, that having a personal connection with local politicians helps. She suggested a hiatus year where an item is removed then added back the following year. She again stated that local politicians could be helpful.

Mr. Chen asked how items are added to the list. Mr. Marziliano said request forms are sent to the public in September; in October the Committee reviews the new requests; at the November General meeting, the updated list is brought the full Board for approval.

Mrs. Garippa stated that the first 10 items are looked at heavily by the agencies.

Mrs. Haider asked for an update on the request for Peck Park. She agreed with Ms. Burke's suggestion of a hiatus period and then adding the item back on. Mrs. Haider also agreed with meeting with each agency.

Mr. Popa suggested specific protocol in place with a motive of escalation to the agencies and included civics and elected officials.

Discussion ensued regarding the former flood gate shoreline project.

Ms. Sriram discussed item 9; Parks obtaining an HPD property next to St. Sarkis. Mr. Marziliano said there was no action in obtaining this property. The City installed a fence. Ms. Sriram suggested a meeting with the Parks Dept. requesting the purchase of the property to construct a park for the community.

Mr. Budabin said a policy needs to be made for the Committee and Board regarding the life cycle of a request. He will take all the ideas from tonight's meeting and propose a process. Any additional suggestions can be emailed to him directly.

The meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted 5/21/2021*