



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, Chair / Joseph Marziliano, District Manager**

TO: All Board Members  
FROM: Paul DiBenedetto, Parks Committee Chair  
DATE: September 24, 2020

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On September 21, 2020, the Parks Committee held a Zoom teleconference meeting to discuss various issues related to parks.

### **Present**

Paul DiBenedetto, Committee Chair  
Christine Haider, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Henry Euler, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair  
Ocelia Claro – Committee Member  
Lourdes December, Committee Member  
Robert Liatto, Committee Member  
Eileen Miller, Committee Member  
Christina Scherer, Committee Member

### **CB11 Staff**

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager  
Christina Coutinho, Community Associate

### **NYS Parks Dept.**

Matt Symons  
Justin Argo  
Erik Linsalata  
Aret Akbork

### **Residents**

Joby Jacobs  
Thomas McGlinckey

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The meeting started with Mr. DiBenedetto discussing the possibility of a Farmer's Market in the parking lot of Crocheron Park. Mr. Marziliano stated that the Public Relations Committee suggested supporting the creation of a weekly Farmer's Market in one of the District's Parks. Mr. Marziliano and Mr. Symons both stated that in their opinion, Crocheron Park would be an accommodating location.

Committee Member discussion ensued regarding parking and vendor parking accommodations. Ms. Claro requested the Farmer's Market be set up at the end of 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, near the pond. Mr. Symons agreed with Ms. Claro stating that the portion near the pond is a Park roadway. A motion was made by Ms. Claro to approve the exploration of a Farmer's Market in the vicinity of Crocheron Park. The motion was second by Mr. Euler. The Committee voted unanimously in favor.

The next point of business discussed was a request by Michael Budabin to have a Parks Committee Member pick a park and report back with the status of the condition of the park. Mr. DiBenedetto agreed to Crocheron Park, Ms. Haider agreed to Peck Park, Mr. Liatto agreed to Alley Pond Park, and Ms. Claro agreed to Buz O'Rourke Playground. An email will be forwarded to the Parks Committee for other park suggestions.

The following point of business was Mr. Euler discussing a concern brought up by Board Member, Michael Golia regarding the buildup of growth and brush in the alley area along Doug Bay. Discussion ensued that this a natural habitat. Mr. Marziliano asked if this area is in great danger of brush fire. Mr. Symons said that he will reach out to the Natural Resource Division to seek input regarding the danger near that area.

The Committee also discussed how the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway Capital Reconstruction Project is ready to continue construction. Construction fencing will start to be installed for Phase I which will cover from Winchester Blvd. to Springfield Blvd. . There will be extra signage for pedestrians and cyclist detours routes. Mr. DiBenedetto said that Mr. Jacobs had some requests regarding the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway that he will forward to Mr. Symons.

The next item on the agenda was events that can be held following the social distancing rules. Mr. Marziliano spoke regarding events that can be conducted in a Park with social distance for the Spring of 2021. Discussion ensued regarding possible events. Mr. Symons stated that he is in favor and will gather information.

Mr. DiBenedetto asked Mr. Argo and Mr. Symons for any updates. Ms. Claro stated that activity in Crocheron Park has increased tremendously in the past few months. She thanked Parks for their help. She also discussed an ongoing problem with young adults congregating at the Buz O'Rourke Playground. They are drinking, being loud and smoking pot. She discussed how years ago, the park gates were locked at 9:00 pm. Mr. Symons stated that Parks is aware of this problem and has been working with the 111<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Ms. Claro stated that they leave garbage behind and how the condition is not safe for young kids. Mr. Symons said he will follow-up. Mr. Liatto spoke of a fallen tree that is blocking a pathway in Alley Pond Park. Mr. Symons will investigate this matter. Mrs. Haider also added a tree complaint. Mr. Argo stated that he will inspect the site. Ms. Miller spoke regarding the green film covering Oakland Lake. Mr. Symons explained that currently the lake has duckweed which is not harmful. He stated that he inspects the lake weekly.

Mr. McGlinckey spoke regarding Friends of Crocheron Park and Friends of Alley Pond Park. He said that park maps are available. There are proposals for bike repair stations. There will also be signs regarding the danger of feeding the ducks and birds. A request for different languages was requested.

The final item discussed was the reconstruction of the Bayside Marina. Mr. Linsalata and Mr. Arbork give a full presentation. The presentation will be forwarded to Board Members. The major scope of the project is to repair Sandy-damage and bring the facility up to a state of good repair and repave the parking lot and improve safety for vehicles, bikers and pedestrians. Mr. Arbork also stated that the current gangway will be replaced with an ADA-Compliant aluminum gangway along with several other improvements. He also mentioned how they were working with DOT to help improve the acceleration lane to the Cross Island Parkway but it was difficult due to the placement of barrier timber. They did make the parking lot one way which will allow for safer entering and exiting. Landscaping will be done. Design completion date is set for December 2020 and March 2021 for the Marina with a construction start of December 2021 with a completion time of 18 months from start date. Discussion ensued with questions on the presentation. Mr. DiBenedetto asked for signage to slow bikers and skaters down. Mr. Euler had a concern for walkers traveling north and south, if they had enough space to pass each other. Mr. Arbork stated that the greenway meets the minimum requirements for pedestrian and bikers and on the narrow walkway, bikers are asked to walk. Mr. Linsalata asked for a letter of support for the project. A motion was made by Mrs. Haider to support the reconstruction of the Bayside Marina. The motion was seconded by Ocelia Claro. Ms. Claro stated that this project is needed for several reasons. Mr. Euler asked for a presentation at a full Board meeting. The Committee voted unanimously. Mr. DiBenedetto stated that in order to submit a letter of support, the full Board needs to take a vote. Mr. Linsalata agreed to the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

A motion was made to adjourned.