



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: Adriana Aviles, Public Relations Committee Chair  
DATE: October 27, 2020

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On October 26, 2020, the Public Relations Committee held a Zoom teleconference meeting to discuss various issues related to public relations.

### Present

Adriana Aviles, Committee Chair  
Michael Budabin, Board Chair  
Lourdes December, Committee member  
Henry Euler, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair  
Rosemarie Giudice, Committee member  
John Kelly, Committee member  
Laura James, Committee member  
Robert Liatto, Committee member  
Allan Palzer, Board member  
Stephan Popa, Committee member  
Gunjan Rastogi, Committee member

### CB11 Staff

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager  
Jane Bentivenga, Community Coordinator  
Christina Coutinho, Community Associate

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The meeting began with Ms. Aviles taking roll call. She reviewed the agenda and began with Mr. Kelly's proposal to post CB11 meetings on social media.

At the October 5, 2020 Board meeting, Mr. Kelly made a motion that all recordings from CB11 Queens, going forward, should be uploaded to a public sharing platform such as YouTube the next business day. The motion was tabled for continued committee discussion.

Mr. Kelly stated that there was a Parks Committee meeting that had a presentation regarding a proposal for upgrades at the Bayside Marina. The topic was then brought up at a Transportation Committee meeting and the Committee members had no idea of the proposal because they were not in attendance at the Parks Committee meeting. Mr. Kelly feels more transparency is always better.

Ms. Aviles asked for input from the Committee members. Discussion ensued stating that other CB's adding zoom meetings to public platforms are not consistent. Safety and privacy concerns were discussed since most attendees are sitting in their homes due to the pandemic. In Mr. Kelly's opinion, he felt that privacy is not an issue. There are open meeting laws that require meetings to be published. Mr. Popa proposed a pilot program like what the MTA is using. This would start with general meetings being downloaded into an audio file. He added, this would also give the opportunity to monitor the viewer use and correct any technical issues. In addition, to assure that Members are viewing meetings that they did not attend, he proposed an internal audio database for Members only. Mr. Kelly said our entire purpose is to serve the Community not to make this Board a fun spot or easy spot, it's not really to help each other. He stated that he didn't believe a Board member should get "x" and the community get "y". There should be public access. He discussed Public Law 137, that all our meetings should be streamed live. Mr. Kelly said he did not make this proposal because its mandatory, it is an intent to help the community. In his opinion, having just audio is not helpful, people want to see who is talking. Ms. James stated that audio will not help with presentations. She added, viewers are listening to the discussion, so not seeing faces should not matter. Mr. Budabin stated that there is value to streaming the meeting but there are also concerns. Mr. Budabin said that he reviewed the Local Law and believes that CB's were excluded. He will speak to Borough Hall's Legal Dept. to confirm. Mr. Budabin discussed privacy issues. He stated having the audio posted gives a benefit of having the information viewed by public and Members. When expanded to video, the incremental benefit is very minute and the incremental cost increases. He agreed with the proposal of audio and did not agree with a hard deadline that the meetings need to be posted the following day. Ms. Aviles stated that due to the pandemic, residents can't attend meetings and streaming will help. Ms. James stated that the Landmarks Committee discusses someone's home and the layout. That proposes a safety concern for the homeowner. Ms. Aviles asked Mr. Kelly what a reasonable time for the file to be downloaded is? Mr. Kelly felt that there should not be technical issues. He feels that there are no privacy issues. Someone can close their screen if they do not want their background shown. Ms. Rastogi supported a pilot program using audio and suggested starting with posting the monthly general meetings. Ms. December, Mr. Euler and Mr. Liatto agreed with audio. Mr. Kelly made a motion that the audio from monthly general meetings be uploaded to a public platform in a reasonable time after the meeting. The motion was seconded by Stephan Popa. A Committee vote was taken and passed unanimously in favor.

Discussion ensued that if the pilot program had great success, they would revisit this topic to discuss adding committee meetings.

The next item on the agenda was PPE giveaways. Mr. Budabin spoke about the various PPE giveaway events that CB11 has participated in. He stated that there has been a giveaway in each area of the District except for East Flushing. He would like to have one in that area.

CB11 conducted their first Volunteer Day event. Mr. Budabin stated that there was an event that cleaned up the medians on Francis Lewis Blvd. Discussion ensued for other locations. Ms. James mentioned the Lawrence Cemetery.

Next item discussed was create a civic night to teach students the different levels of government. This would bring students together to conduct an informational meeting in order to educate them on government and civic associations. Local Principals and Student Councils can get involved. Mr. Popa suggested a project-based program. This would engage the students if they could present a policy change that could help the community. Ms. Aviles suggested letters be sent to local schools asking if they would want to be involved. Mr. Budabin liked Mr. Popa's idea and said a letter to the local, elected officials should be sent first to see if they want to participate.

The final item discussed was posting on social media. Mr. Budabin stated that CB11 will be posting informational flyers on Twitter. Posting flyers on Twitter will get information out to the community. Mr. Kelly suggested WordPress.

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Popa. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.