



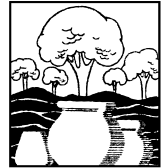
COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

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Whitepot Settled 1653

HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS
CHAIR

DONOVAN RICHARDS
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

FRANK P. GULLUSCIO
DISTRICT MANAGER

CB 6 MEETING MINUTES MAY 10, 2023

PRESENT

H. BEERS-DIMITRIADIS, CHAIR P. BEADLE, 1ST VICE CHAIR
M. LASTER, 3RD VICE CHAIR T. PADGETT, SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION
L. CIACCIO, SECRETARY OF FINANCE J. DERESZEWSKI, PARLIAMENTARIAN

M. ARCATI
D. ARONOV
A. AYON
S. BAIDA
K. BATRA
M. BERFAS
D. BOWENS
H. CHAIN
L. DAVIS
V. ELLISON

G. GIOIA
B. GROSSBERG
K. IMAS
S. JAIN
M. FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG
B. LEONG
S. METZ
J. MILNER
P. MORGAN
H. POLLACK

D. RACHNAEV
M. SALTON
G. SANDOVAL
D. SCHANTZ
H. SCHONHAUT
M. TUCKER
E. WONG
E. ZAKRY
K. ZAPATA

ABSENT

H. BIRNBAUM
G. CHEN
K. CLARK
K. ENGEL
M. LASHLEY-KABORE

J. LI
K. LY
J. MEDINA
R. MEHARRA
E. NEWTON

S. ROLNICK
P. SCHNEIDERMAN
J. SILVA
B. WINSTEAD
T. YASUKAWA

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

FRANK GULLUSCIO
SEAN MCCABE
JORDAN GOLDES
KEVIN MCALEER
GIANNA VALENTE
ARI INNISS
IRENE STATHATOS
SANDRO NAVARRO
AMPARITO ROSERO

CB6 DISTRICT MANAGER
OFFICE OF SENATOR JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.
OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN
OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI
OFFICE OF SENATOR LEROY COMRIE
OFFICE OF SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS
OFFICE OF SENATOR JESSICA RAMOS
OFFICE OF BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

This meeting was held in-person with a limited virtual option via WebEx for individuals with Extraordinary Circumstances. The following CB 6 Member joined the meeting via WebEx: Miriam Berfas.

PUBLIC FORUM

All requests for public comment must be submitted via email to QN06@CB.NYC.GOV by 3pm on the day of the meeting. Public comments submitted by Friday at 5pm will be included in the minutes.

Jack Zatt

I have been a Forest Hills Resident for 22 years. I am on the Board of Directors of my Co-Op, which is two or three blocks from Austin Street. When I first moved to Forest Hills, I could park anywhere. When they created the bike lanes, I now must pay \$400 a month due to no parking. I am speaking against making Austin Street into a pedestrian mall. I like pedestrian malls; I have traveled around Europe and Asia have seen pedestrian malls. They work, where they are intended to work. I think making Austin Street a pedestrian mall will cause a catastrophic unintended situation. I, for one, am oppose to it because right now Forest Hills is one of the difficult places in the city to park the car. Businesses will be severally impacted by trying to make that into a pedestrian mall. I'm sure you all heard about Ben's Deli on Queens Boulevard; he was there for over 50 years. When he went out of business he was interviewed, and he said the reason why I had to go out of business was because people couldn't park anymore and stop and pick up their order. That was one of the unintended severe consequences reducing parking on Queens Boulevard. It will be catastrophic if they put in pedestrian mall on Austin Street. Here is what I did, I get my exercise by taking a walk. I walked from the Police Station to Ascan Avenue, and I counted 300 cars parked along Austin Street. I was sitting with someone at another meeting who is in favor of the pedestrian mall. I said where are you going to put 300 cars? He said, "people adjust". I said you can't adjust if there is no place to park your car. I am unalterably opposed to putting in a pedestrian mall on Austin Street. I'm sure the businesses owners feel the same way because they will be most impacted.

Kathleen Scapp, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Academy

I am representing Our Lady Queens of Martyrs Catholic Academy, 72-55 Austin Street. I am also a Forest Hills resident for 30 years. I have been driving and walking on Austin Street almost every day for the last 30 years. Twenty years ago, I was walking on Austin Street across Ascan in the crosswalk with the light and I was hit by a car. I had a traumatic leg injury. After two surgeries, more than seven months of extensive rehabilitation and physical therapy and a team of doctors, I do stand here before you able to walk in and move freely. Despite all of that, I still believe that the plan to make Austin Street a pedestrian throughfare only is the wrong decision. As the manager of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Academy, I can tell you that one decision will devastate the enrollment of our school. Our 330 students and their families come from not only Forest Hills but Rego Park, Kew Gardens, Briarwood, Jamaica, Long Island and even some from Manhattan and Brooklyn. Without the ability for parents to get their children here in a car; they will choose other school options. Reducing just our parent population from the patrons of stores, shops, and restaurants on Austin Street, it will have a significant impact on the economy of the businesses there. Not only will our school enrollment impact the businesses, but we will also have a reduced number of parishioners at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church. We have parishioners that come from all over as well. Again, those parishioners will not come if they can't drive. They won't be here to have lunch after mass, and they won't stop in at the stores. This scenario is an example of how severely the impact of closing the street will affect only one block of Austin Street. If you multiply that by the entire stretch, out of all the businesses that have access to Austin Street the result will be catastrophic to the survival of Austin Street as we know it. No cars will also attract homelessness on the Street of Forest Hills. They are already drawn here because Forest Hills is a safer neighborhood. Giving them to opportunity to stay and live on the streets unhindered by cars would be a very big problem. Yes, it is noisy, yes, there are too many double parkers and U-turns, yes there is too many pedestrians who jay walk and walk against the light. The solution is not to ban cars from Austin Street. Maybe we all need to be better citizens, better drivers following the rules, better pedestrians walking when it is our

turn. Maybe we need Austin Street to be a one-way street. We definitely need more enforcement, but we do not, cannot have Austin Street as it is now a hub of entertainment, shopping and restaurants without cars. For those of you who are so anxious to ban cars so that you can enjoy the spoils of Austin Street, you are literally losing the forest for the trees because there will be no Austin Street once the cars are removed. Thank you very much for your time.

Howard Feirman

My name is Howard Feirman and I am the co-owner of the property located on the southeast side of Austin Street and 71st Avenue. My partner and I opened a retail pharmacy in that location for eight years. We purchased the property in 1991. Over the past 40 years, I have witnessed the business district go through difficult times. But the arch of change has always respected the needs of the community and business. I decided to enter this discussion around parking on Austin Street in response to the resolution by the Community Board 6 Transportation Committee on February 23, 2023, calling for a Department of Transportation Study on Austin Street citing safety, noise, congestion etc., etc. If you could have witnessed the quality-of-life issues and chaos on Austin Street in 1983, when we bought our Pharmacy from Courtesy Drugs. You would understand how much progress has been made over those 40 years. Go back 100 years, to when the commercial district consisted of warehouses, mercantile exchanges, and revisit the chaos that it existed at that time. Progress is a slow process; meaningful progress is a pragmatic collaborative effort. Serious quality of life issues exist in all business districts. Frankly, I'm disappointed in those individuals on this board who use fear and hyperbole as a means to further their agenda of a car free Austin Street. The anti-car lobby group Transportation Alternatives is the department of transportation most influential advisors. They're currently cited in a Brooklyn lawsuit that issued that site, states closing all streets to cars and parking is illegal discrimination and violates the Americans with Disabilities Act. Those members of the board that have aligned themselves with this group are actively advocated to this anti-car group are naive to think this is unnoticed. During the April 23rd meeting we were constantly reminded that the Transportation Committee only makes recommendations and formulates resolutions. I think you left out advocates. Oh that's OK because you are not legislators. That's what you said multiple times. Have you ever discussed the economic consequences of a car free Austin Street? Who will make that study? Property and business owners have contributed over \$100 million in taxes, helping pay for schools, sanitation, fire, police and all that. Car free Austin Street will destroy a thriving business district; that is not hyperbole. The car free Austin Street agenda convinced DOT that the community over whelming wants a car free Austin Street. DOT has the power to make it happen without input from the business community. Is that wise? To tear down what is thriving for an impractical utopian community? I'm sure everyone has a dream of a grand home and an elaborate lavish lifestyle. Then check our bank accounts to have a reality check.

Gary Salvit

Good evening, everybody, I am Gary Salvit the owner of Chateau Jewelers which is on the corner of Austin Street and 71 Road, owner of the building on that same corner. My family has been in Forest Hills since 1955, when we opened our first location in the middle of the block. We have been in the present location for 54 years. I have watched all the changes in this neighborhood day in and day out happen. I'm here for the second time in all my years to bring my opinion forward. I generally stay low key, but this is one of the biggest possible mistakes that can happen for our community. I can understand the desire, to have people sit and have some enjoyment but we are a retail environment, and somebody must really take note of this. We are here to try to keep our stores running. In the course of the changes that I have watched in the last 15 years that DOT has placed upon Austin Street, we have lost, and I will say specifically my business, has lost 50% of its traffic. We have people that would usually travel from Long Island, from Westchester, from all different parts of the counties. At this point in time, they are limited. I am at a point where I must sometimes go out to a car to deliver a package because a client refuses to spending a half hour to 45 minutes going around in circles to find parking. There are many things I have watched and again I respect the community board and the DOT but at the same time decisions have been made without real concern to the retail business that is existing in Forest Hills. I can only say it most definitively I have watched Austin Street go from one way to two way to one way. I have watched Austin Street become wider, narrower. I would like this to be dropped immediately. I am afraid that the minute it falls into the DOTs hands, a plan will be made, and we will have no voice because that has been my experience in the past with anything that revolves around the DOT. Thank you very much. I hope it's going to be under consideration.

Ann Whyte

My name is Ann Whyte and I am here on behalf of concerned citizens of Forest Hills. I want to discuss the concerts of the Forest Hills Stadium, which start on May 20th. We have advocated for the interest of the community surrounding the Forest Hills Stadium for the past nine years. Last year after the pandemic, this is what happened. Most of the concerts finished at 11pm instead of the agreed time of 10pm. It is very hard for children to get to sleep and people on shift work. For some concerts the sound level was so loud, we want the Department of Environmental to check the decibel reading, especially the bass. We have many traffic jams, and we want a designated area such as Yellowstone Boulevard, especially for Uber and Lyft pickups. They line our streets waiting sometimes until mid-night to pick up concert goers. This year, there are even more concerts. This causes too much disruption. We are trying to work with all the authorities involved, to understand our position since the stadium is in the middle of a residential area. If you or any member of your family or friends are affected, please e-mail us at concernedcitizensofforesthills@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please see me at the end of the meeting. Thank you very much.

Erica Reefer (Via WebEx)

I want to talk about the proposition for Pedestrian Safety on Austin Street. I am a disabled mother who lives in the neighborhood and being able to walk around without the fear of motor vehicles would greatly impact my family's life for the positive. When I walk around with my baby, I am legally blind, every piece of the puzzle of walking down the street that makes it easier for me and my child to get around makes my life a million times easier. I just wanted to throw this in there, as a disabled person, it would be a huge impact on my quality of life.

Odette Wilkens, Wired Broadband Inc.

I'm Odette Wilkens. Many of you have already heard me speak about 5G towers. I am the President and General Counsel of Wired Broadband, Inc., a non-profit in Forest Hills focusing on safe technology for the public. I am also a technology attorney and have been for over 20 years. I am also a long-time resident of Forest Hills, since 1976.

Link5G cell towers are 3 stories' high, with multiple antennas from multiple telecom companies, which can be placed even 5' away from someone's home, business, or school. There is no setback requirement. They are being installed by a site developer, CityBridge, and is being overseen by the Office of Technology and Innovation. CityBridge has been found to have violated federal law when it failed to conduct otherwise required reviews for environmental and historic preservation. The FCC notified CityBridge on April 20, 2023, that reviews were required for each Link5G cell tower prior to construction under two federal laws – the National Historic Preservation Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As to those towers already constructed, post-construction reviews must also be conducted. The FCC in footnote 14 of the notice did not preclude enforcement actions against CityBridge.

As a result, CityBridge is in material breach of its franchise agreement with OTI. CityBridge had made representations that it had the "power and authority" to perform under the agreement, that it would not be in material breach with any "statute [or] regulation," and "no material misrepresentation has been made ... intentionally or negligently." CityBridge had also covenanted that it "shall comply with all laws." Based on the FCC letter, CityBridge breached each of the foregoing provisions.

I would like to call for full board participation on this subject. The Executive Committee on Feb 15, 2023, heard a presentation by the Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI) on 5G towers. The process should have been opened up for full public participation and the full participation of the entire Board.

There is a point of order – the Executive Committee took final action at that meeting that does not appear to be authorized by the CB6 By-Laws. The Executive Committee decided on their own initiative to give themselves final decision-making authority to allow the 5G towers without bringing it to the Board for discussion and a vote. There are now 15 community boards opposed to Link5G and the opposition is growing. We met with the Public Advocate and they stated that it is important for the Community Boards to be together on this issue. As more community boards oppose Link5G, it no longer is advisory, but more of a mandate, if you will, for the Mayor to talk with us.

The matter is not moot, especially since we now have a reprieve with the FCC Letter to CityBridge. Now is the time to finally put Link5G on the agenda for full consideration by the appropriate committee(s), with opportunity for community input, and for full consideration by the full Board.

Leslie Brown, Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce

I am the President of the Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce and I want to thank you for considering what I am about to say. I am here again tonight to ask the Community Board to really hear what the business owners, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church and School, property owners and co-op board owners and members of co-ops are raising their voices for. So much of the Forest Hills Community wants to keep open to cars, open to parking and most importantly open for business. The city has a very strong agenda to have the open streets program, which is really a closed street program. I firmly believe that this is what the CB6 resolution wants to accomplish along with DOT. DOT has already closed streets in other boroughs. I have been in touch with some of the groups that are representing these streets and I have heard how bad this has become for their communities. These communities work hard like I am fighting, and they lost to the special interest groups that disenfranchise our citizens and neighborhoods. Closing Austin Street to parking and cars should be off the table. There have been multiple stop signs recently put up along Austin Street, these signs have been working along with the crosswalks that are on every available corner to slow traffic down. I do not believe there are any serious health or safety issues here otherwise Austin Street would not be the prosperous, well known shopping district that it is. We can work together to remedy any minor safety issues. But shutting down our commercial strip is unnecessary. I also request that the Community Board address its members that have conflict of interest and find a way to remedy this issue. Everyone in Forest Hills has a stake in the game to keep Austin Street open. You all have invested in this community whether you are a resident, co-op owner, homeowner, business owner, property owner, employee, a church, or a school. We need the businesses district to keep us healthy. We need the millions of dollars, the property and sales tax, that is generated by our businesses to keep our Police and Fire Department and our city going. I hope that the members of the community board will consider how life in Forest Hills would be without stores, restaurants, medical offices, accounting offices, churches, schools, and how the decline in the property value will impact you. If you allow the pedestrianizing Austin Street. Please support keeping Austin Street open to cars and to parking. I would also like to call to the board's attention, that a lawsuit has been filed in federal court in Brooklyn, that states closing off the street to cars and parking is illegal discrimination and violates the American With Disabilities Act. The lawsuit was filed in Brooklyn Federal Court in April by twelve plaintiffs who lives in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens that cannot access streets, buildings, businesses, and stores because they must use motor vehicles to do so. The plaintiffs state that the DOT is ignoring the needs more than a half of million New Yorkers. The plaintiff's also say that DOT is beholden to anti-car groups like transportation alternatives, and I quote that. The plaintiffs are seeking the federal injunction against the program to halt and restore roadways. The DOT study requested by Community Board 6, asking for pedestrianizing on Austin Street, potentially effects people with disabilities wanting to come here. Just like this lawsuit states. We cannot let this happen and we cannot let our businesses and stores suffer and their employees lost their jobs due to the lack of parking and access to the streets they are located on. Austin Street. I employ you to stand up for the majority of us that will negatively impacted by street closures and not let this happen in Forest Hills. Thank you so much for your consideration and have a good evening.

Before closing out the Public Forum, Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis made the following remarks: The Transportation Committee made the decision to ask for a study. The study is like a diagnostic tool to find the problems and identify the solutions. This decision wasn't made for just a few incidents, between 2019 and 2020, there were 71 accidents with injuries and 290 accidents without injuries. In addition, this resolution was not just a request to ban cars; we asked for the following to be included in the study: widening of sidewalks, reducing pedestrian hazards by eliminating congestion and honking, creating outdoor seating areas, creating safe crossings for pedestrians, the possibility of pedestrianizing segments of Austin Street, effects of as one way conversion. This is the only request we submitted, and it will take time. She also clarified that the Community Board isn't asking for an Open Street program on Austin Street, it is just a pedestrianization.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis also spoke briefly about the 5G comments. The Executive Committee was within its rights to make a determination about 1 cell tower that was proposed and asked to have it moved to another location. She added that we will be discussing another 5G tower that OTI has asked us to comment on. Since we only have 15 days to comment on it, it is being brought before the board tonight

for comments. Our meetings are very open, and the recordings are posted on YouTube and the minutes are available on our website once they are approved by the board.

INTRODUCTION OF CAPTAIN DAVID CORDANO, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE 112TH PRECINCT

Captain Cordano introduced himself as the new commanding officer for the 112th Precinct. He started his 18-year career with the NYPD in Brooklyn and then spent the rest of his career in Queens. He previously worked in the 112th Pct as a Sergeant and a Captain. He sat down with Inspector Cappellmann and discussed some concerns that have previously been brought up by CB 6 and he has been working on them.

Some of these issues include:

Neighborhood Loading Zone signs that are too small or poorly posted – They spoke to DOT and were informed that DOT places the signs at pedestrian level. There are 10 zones in the 112th Precinct.

Between 4-10-23 and 5-7-23, Eight “No Parking” Summonses were issued. They asked DOT to make the signs a little higher for better visibility.

Vehicles parked in the loading zone at Netcost Supermarket 97-10 Queens Boulevard – Year to date, there have been 131 parking summonses issued at this location, 87 for truck loading zones.

Double parking and congestion at Costco in Rego Center – Year to Date, there have been 108 parking summonses issued, 36 for double parking.

To address these parking issues, he will team up his officers with Traffic Enforcement Agents at these locations. These agents can issue summonses quicker and the backup from the Police Officers makes for a better response.

Tractor Trailer Parking on the Grand Central Parkway Service Road – They conducted 3 heavy duty tow operations which resulted in 3 tractor trailers being towed, 9 vehicles booted, and 36 summonses issued. Precinct-wide, there were 63 overnight commercial parking summonses issued.

Another issue Captain Cordano has been addressing is ghost vehicles (paper license plates and plastic covers over license plates). Year to date, with respect to paper plates, 23 arrests have been made and 70 summons issued. With respect to plastic covers over plates, 14 arrests have been made, 44 parking summonses issued and 70 moving violations issued.

Captain Cordano is looking forward to working with the Community Board on any other issues that arise.

MINUTES

CB6 Minutes from April 4, 2023, meeting were approved with the following changes:

Good and Welfare:

“Pat Morgan spoke about Transgender Day of Visibility. There are many bills throughout the country right now to try to limit the rights of Transgender individuals. She spoke about an experience she had in our community where a man used a slur against the trans community towards her involving a misgendering on his part not knowing she is a trans masculine lesbian.”

“Steve Metz spoke (with righteous indignation) about 5G and Austin Street, two issues that were addressed during the public forum. He felt that these issues were portrayed in a light that wasn’t accurate. He feels that 5G technology isn’t harmful to individuals’ health. He also feels that the thought that removing cars from Austin Street would be bad for business isn’t true. Austin Street is serviced by the MTA Bus and Subway as well as the LIRR.”

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported the following:

- She and the District Manager attended the CEC District 28 Legislators Breakfast on Friday May 5, 2023. One thing they asked about was safety measures for the students; stop signs and crossing guards. Our board has worked hard to get stop signs around schools in our area. There is a shortage of crossing guards.
- Chair Beers-Dimitriadis attended the Queens North Comp Stat meeting. Each community leader was able to ask a question. Captain Cordano reviewed the responses to our questions during his report. The 112th Precinct was quick to respond to her questions.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reminded the Board Members that they should read the minutes from the previous meeting and the agenda for the meeting prior to coming to the meeting so they are prepared to discuss anything that is on the agenda. If you have any questions, contact the Chair or the District Manager. The more prepared we are, the more efficiently we can run these meetings and the decisions we render, will be much improved.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis told Committee Chairs that if they haven't already scheduled a committee meeting before we break for the summer to discuss budget priorities, they should do so. Contact the office to schedule.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis spoke about extraordinary circumstances. Our board offers hybrid access. We are the only board in Queens that offers this. However, please keep in mind that members that are attending remotely do not count towards a quorum. They can vote, but don't count towards the number of members we need to take a vote. If we don't have a quorum, we can't fulfill our role as mandated by the city charter. Please be mindful of your absences and your requests for remote access for extraordinary circumstances. If we find ourselves unable to meet a quorum, we may have to re-evaluate this option.

Last, Chair Beers-Dimitriadis announced that Sunday May 28, 2023, is the Forest Hills Memorial Day Parade. The ceremony starts at 11:00am at the American Legion Post on Metropolitan Avenue. The parade steps off at 12:00pm. She would like the Community Board to march in the parade. We will email the details and if you are interested in marching, please respond.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager Frank Gulluscio announced the following:

- Mayor Adams was in Forest Hills for Small Business Week at Leslie's Delicious Cupcakes.
- Wished everyone a Happy Teacher Appreciation Month, Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Mother's Day.
- He received calls about LIRR construction in our area. They are working on ADA projects.
- On Friday, students from MELS will be volunteering to clean out the tree pits on Metropolitan Avenue and put out flyers for Primary Day.
- The Community Board is a city agency, not a civic.
- Veterans Affairs gave a presentation to all 14 boards about suicide prevention.
- He attended the State of the Borough with Chair Beers-Dimitriadis and other community board members. It was very informative.
- On June 10, 2023, at 11:30am, there will be a Street Co-Naming in honor of Joseph C. Hennessy at the corner of 108th Street and 62nd Drive.

- He and Chair Beers-Dimitridis attended the CEC District 28 Legislators Breakfast on Friday May 5, 2023. After that he received several calls from different principals in our area.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis went around the room and asked all CB Members to introduce themselves and name their favorite neighborhood business.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Steve Metz, Co-Chair, reported that CB 6 received the following new application:

- BBQ Chicken Don Alex No 6, Llc, 97-05 64th Avenue, RP
This is a Peruvian restaurant that is already open. They would like to add beer and wine to complement their food.

CB 6 received the following renewal applications:

1. Singas Famous Pizza, 63-53 108TH Street, FH
2. Don Pollo Sons II Corp, 100-05 Metropolitan Avenue, FH
3. Chebruechnaya, 92-07/92-09A 63RD Drive, RP
4. Levy Premium Food Service - FH Stadium, 69-50 Burns Street, FH
5. O'Hanlon Brothers, 118-12 Queens Blvd, FH
6. The Tap House, 72-07 Austin Street, FH
7. Queens Bully, 113-30 Queens Boulevard, FH
8. DIRTY PIERRES, 13 Station Square, FH (*One license for 2 bars (one bar in the restaurant and one pop-up seasonal bar selling only beer and wine)*)

There were no major issues / complaints from the 112th Precinct. However, they did note that there have been some noise complaints regarding Queens Bully.

The committee motion was to approve the new and renewal applications. This motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

AGING, SOCIAL SERVICES, DISABILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Anisia Ayon, Co-Chair, reported that the committee met on May 8, 2023, and discussed the following:

- The committee held a voter education webinar with the Campaign Finance Board. They reported that 90% of eligible voters are registered to vote and they have been trying to get more people to come out and vote. If you want to learn more about the June Primary, go to NYC Votes online and it will explain more. People that want to vote by absentee ballot, can request their ballot, and a neighbor can bring it to the poll site on primary day.
- Thursday, May 18, 2023, the committee will be hosting a presentation from the NYS Department of Health regarding recertifying health insurance that people signed up for via the NYS Exchange.
- CB 6 will co-sponsor the next Intergenerational Panel on June 22, 2023, at 7:00pm. The topic will be related to Pride Month.
- Tuesday, June 27, 2023, there will be a presentation from LiveOnNY about Organ Donation.
- The Senior Survey has been closed and the results were discussed. 75% of the seniors surveyed said that this community needs more affordable housing.
- Committee also reviewed budget priorities for FY25.

TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC TRANSIT, STREET SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Peter Beadle, Chair, reported that the committee met on April 27, 2023, and discussed the following:

- Safety improvements proposed by DOT for Union Turnpike and Metropolitan Avenue. This is a very complex intersection and dangerous for motorists and pedestrians. DOT has been working on a plan that will increase pedestrian safety but also improving flow for drivers. Most of the work is planned to be completed this year. The committee was in favor of the proposal.
- DOT Carshare pilot program – provide dedicated parking spots for carshare cars throughout neighborhoods. The following locations will be added: 63rd Drive between Burton Street & Carlton Street, Yellowstone Blvd & 67th Avenue and Selfridge Street & Nansen Street.

The next meeting will be May 22, 2023, at 7:00pm. The agenda will be FY25 Budget Requests.

Mr. Beadle reiterated the fact that the Transportation Committee is made up of board members that have a variety of views with respect to transportation matters in our community.

5G INSTALLATION PROPOSAL

The Community Board was notified on May 8, 2023 about a proposed 5G street pole attachment on Austin Street between 69th Road and 70th Road. The CB has been given 15 days to offer comments on this.

There was a discussion about this, and some issues raised were:

- CB needs to be given more time to comment
- Our community needs these 5G antennas to continue providing internet
- We should receive them as a bigger picture, not one at a time

Peter Beadle made a motion that CB 6 will reject this and all future requests for applications to install new 5G towers in this community until such time that the FCC has completed the necessary environmental reviews and upon 60 days' written notice to the board for comments.

John Dereszewski seconded this motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote: 27 Yes, 10 No.

GOOD & WELFARE

CB 6 MEMBERS:

Heidi Chain announced that the 112th Precinct Community Council meeting will be on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 7:30pm at the American Legion Hall. The new Captain will be there to answer questions.

Pat Morgan welcomed the new members to the board. She quoted Former Chair Joseph Hennessy in something that he said when she joined the board. You have one responsibility, not to yourself but to the community. When you vote, make sure you vote for your community. It's a commitment you made to the city. We are an active board. We are open to any suggestions people have and are happy to see new blood coming on to the board.

She added that Access A Ride is still an issue. If anyone wants to see what it is like, she will take you on a ride to experience it firsthand.

Pat also pointed out that many of the members of the public that spoke during the public forum left the meeting after they spoke. They don't stay to listen to the rest of the meeting. Sometimes, those things pertain to their comments.

Pat reminded people to use the CB 6 office as a resource.

Mark Laster announced that Central Queens Against Hate Coalition will be sponsoring a "Breaking Bread, Building Bonds" event on Sunday, June 25, 2023, at 1pm. If you are interested in attending, email Mark at Marklstr99@gmail.com.

For the last 10 years, voters have had the option to vote with a hand marked paper ballot or a ballot marking device. The State Legislature is looking to replace the voting machines and some of the options they are considering wouldn't allow for ballots to be completed by hand. There is a bill pending in the Assembly and Senate that the machines that are purchased have that option.

Michael Arcati announced the following about the Forest Hills Memorial Day Parade:

- The parade is on Sunday, May 28, 2023, and kicks off at 12:00pm with a ceremony at the American Legion at 11:00am.
- There will be a parade kickoff event on Friday, May 12, 2023, at the American Legion Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend to meet the Grand Marshalls.
- If you are part of a group in the community and would like to march in the parade, contact the American Legion.
- Donations / Sponsorships can be made online at www.americanlegionpost1424.com

Edwin Wong announced the following:

- Forest Hills Asian Association will be marching in the Memorial Day Parade. He also acknowledged that May is National Military Appreciation Month.
- Healthy Eating and Nutrition Event on May 31, 2023, at 7:00pm at Ridgewood Savings Bank.
- Asian American Family Cultural Festival on June 25, 2023, from 1:30pm – 4:00pm.
- May 20 and May 21 - All Asian Musician Concert at FH Stadium, Head in the clouds.

Steve Metz suggested that CB 6 Good and Welfare be moved to right after the Public Forum on the agenda. This would ensure that people attending the meeting hear what the board members are saying.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPRESENTATIVES:

QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

Amparito Rosero announced the following events that will be held at Queens Borough Hall:

- MWBE Contracting Opportunities Forum - Wednesday, May 17 at 3pm
- AAPI Heritage Month Celebration - Monday, May 22 at 6pm
- Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony - Tuesday, May 23 at 5:30pm
- Africa Day Celebration - Thursday, May 25 at 6pm

She also announced that the Borough President will be hosting a Civic Engagement Resource Fair on Friday, May 26 from 11am to 3pm at the Rockaway YMCA, 207 Beach 73rd Street in Arverne.

COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN

Kevin McAleer announced that Movies in the Park will be starting up on May 28, 2023, at Sobelsohn Playground. The movie will be Top Gun Maverick. There will be more dates announced soon.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI

Gianna Valente announced that the budget passed on May 3, 2023. Since AM Hevesi is the Chair of the Children and Families Committee, he is happy to share the following:

- Led the charge on expanding child tax credit to children under 4. This includes 791,000 children and will save about \$225 million a year.
- \$500 million for childcare recruitment and retention for families seeking care
- Let the fight to increase the child welfare housing subsidy from \$300 a month to \$725 a month. This has not been increased since 1988.

There will be a Spring Cleanup at the Overlook in Forest Park on Saturday, May 13th at 10am.

SENATOR LEROY COMRIE

Ari Inniss announced the following bills that the Senator has been working on:

- S4860a - Requires high schools to provide a course on financial literacy and requires students complete such course as a condition of graduation.
- S793 – Allows CUNY students to transfer all credits to a state university.
- S1216 - Requires that notice be given to the community boards when there is a change in service furnished upon the rapid transit facilities or the omnibus line facilities of the New York City Transit Authority. This gives community boards advance notice when service cuts are made in their districts. This bill would give the affected community boards more time to prepare comments in response to the cuts and inform the community on their impact.

Ms. Inniss also announced the following events:

- May 18, 2023, from 11am – 3pm – Job Fair at Harvest Room
- May 20, 2023, from 9am – 1pm - I.S. 59Q Annual Community Health, Educational, Employment & Entrepreneurial Resources Fair
- June 3, 2023 – Family Block Party
- June 24, 2023 – Health Fair at Baisley Pond Park.

CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes announced:

- There was a complaint at the last meeting about mailbox graffiti in Rego Park. This was referred to the USPS and it was cleaned within a few days.
- Passport Event at FH Post Office in April. It was well attended, and they were able to process 210 passport transactions. There is still a backlog in passport processing. The Congress Member has reached out to the State Department to find out how this issue can be remedied.
- Congress Member Meng held Mobile Office Hours at Forest Hills Library, Rego Park Library and Commonpoint Queens.
- There are still flooding issues in our community. Congress Member Meng is calling on the city and state to use infrastructure funds to remedy this issue.
- Congress Member Meng welcomed the President of South Korea to the Capitol for a joint address to Congress for the first time in 10 years.
- Congress Member Meng reintroduced a bill that would provide caregiving skills to those who care for individuals with autism.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Nolan
Community Coordinator

CB 6 VOTING SHEET 5-10-23	NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS		RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS		RESOLUTION 5G STREET POLE ATTACHMENT AUSTIN ST BT 69 RD & 70 AVE
MICHAEL ARCATI					YES
DAVID ARONOV					YES
ANISIA AYON					YES
SALUA BAIDA					YES
KAVISH BATRA					YES
PETER BEADLE					NO
MIRIAM BERFAS					NO
HOWARD BIRNBAUM	ABSENT		ABSENT		ABSENT
DANNY BOWENS					YES
HEIDI CHAIN					YES
GINA CHEN	ABSENT		ABSENT		ABSENT
L.T. CIACCIO					NO
KANDRA CLARK	ABSENT		ABSENT		ABSENT
LATRICE DAVIS					YES
JOHN DERESZEWSKI		V		V	YES
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS		O		O	NO
VALLON ELLISON		I		I	YES
KEITH ENGEL	ABSENT	C	ABSENT	C	ABSENT
GIOVANNI GIOIA		E		E	YES
BRUCE GROSSBERG		V		V	YES
KAREN IMAS		O		O	YES
SARINA JAIN		T		T	YES
MATT FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG		E		E	NO
MARCELLE LASHLEY-KABORE	ABSENT	A	ABSENT	A	ABSENT
MARK LASTER		L		L	YES
BEATRICE LEONG		L		L	NO
JONATHAN LI	ABSENT	I	ABSENT	I	ABSENT
KEVIN LY	ABSENT	N	ABSENT	N	ABSENT
JACK MEDINA	ABSENT	F	ABSENT	F	ABSENT
DR. RENEE MEHRRA	ABSENT	A	ABSENT	A	YES
STEVEN METZ		V		V	NO
JULIE MILNER		O		O	YES
PAT MORGAN		R		R	YES
ELIZABETH NEWTON	ABSENT		ABSENT		ABSENT
TANIA PADGETT					YES
HOWARD POLLACK					YES
DIANA RACHNAEV					YES
SHARI ROLNICK	ABSENT		ABSENT		NO
MATTHEW SALTON					NO
GLADYS SANDOVAL					YES
DAVID SCHANTZ					YES
PETRINA SCHNEIDERMAN	ABSENT		ABSENT		ABSENT
HERBERT SCHONHAUT					YES
JEAN C. SILVA	ABSENT		ABSENT		ABSENT
MARTHA TUCKER					NO
BRENTLY WINSTEAD	ABSENT		ABSENT		ABSENT
EDWIN WONG					YES
TITILAYO YASUKAWA	ABSENT		ABSENT		ABSENT
EPHRAIM ZAKRY					YES
KATHERINE ZAPATA		↓		↓	YES
TOTALS:					27 YES, 10 NO