



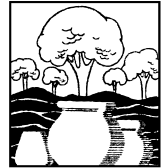
COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

104-01 METROPOLITAN AVENUE · FOREST HILLS, NY 11375-4136

TEL: (718) 263-9250 · FAX: (718) 263-2211

QN06@CB.NYC.GOV

WWW.NYC.GOV/CB6Q



Whitepot Settled 1653

HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS
CHAIR

DONOVAN RICHARDS
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

FRANK P. GULLUSCIO
DISTRICT MANAGER

CB 6 MEETING MINUTES APRIL 4, 2023

PRESENT

H. BEERS-DIMITRIADIS, CHAIR P. BEADLE, 1ST VICE CHAIR
K. ENGEL, 2ND VICE CHAIR M. LASTER, 3RD VICE CHAIR
T. PADGETT, SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION
L. CIACCIO, SECRETARY OF FINANCE
J. DERESZEWSKI, PARLIAMENTARIAN

D. ARONOV	K. IMAS	G. SANDOVAL
A. AYON	S. JAIN	D. SCHANTZ
S. BAIDA	M. LASHLEY-KABORE	P. SCHNEIDERMAN
K. BATRA	J. LI	J. SILVA
H. BIRNBAUM	K. LY	M. TUCKER
D. BOWENS	R. MEHRRA	B. WINSTEAD
H. CHAIN	S. METZ	T. YASUKAWA
G. CHEN	P. MORGAN	E. ZAKRY
K. CLARK	E. NEWTON	K. ZAPATA
L. DAVIS	D. RACHNAEV	
V. ELLISON	S. ROLNICK	
B. GROSSBERG	M. SALTON	

ABSENT

M. ARCATI	J. MEDINA
M. BERFAS	J. MILNER
G. GIOIA	H. POLLACK
M. FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG	H. SCHONHAUT
B. LEONG	E. WONG

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

FRANK GULLUSCIO	CB6 DISTRICT MANAGER
LYNN SCHULMAN	NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
JOHN D'ANGELO	OFFICE OF SENATOR JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.
JAVIER FIGARO	OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ
JORDAN GOLDES	OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG
KEVIN MCALEER	OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN
ARI INNISS	OFFICE OF SENATOR LEROY COMRIE
IRENE STATHATOS	OFFICE OF SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS
SAMANTHA SAAVENDRA	OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER CATALINA CRUZ
AMPARITO ROSERO	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 Members joined the meeting via WebEx: Vallon Ellison, Dr. Renee Mehrtra and Petrina Schneiderman.

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.

Leslie Brown, Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce

I put out an update regarding what the Chamber has been doing in response to the resolution that was put forward on February 23rd regarding the small businesses in Forest Hills. There was a meeting at Bareburger. The Community Board Resolution was distributed to business owners prior to the meeting, and it was e-mailed to 300 businesses. The resolution was discussed at the meeting and a unanimous decision was made that the resolution was ill-advised for Austin Street. The majority of safety issues were not truthful, and a committee was formed to do an independent study. Studies in the past haven't been unbiased and the business owners are in agreement for an independent study. An issue of safety that was brought up is scooters. They have injured people on Austin Street and business owners would like to see a study regarding scooters.

I would like to read a statement from a business owner. "My name is Dmitry and I am the proud owner of Dmitry Ties Boutique located on Austin Street, Forest Hills. We have been in business in Forest Hills since 2006 and have seen many changes in the past seventeen years. The latest topic, removal of cars and making Austin Street pedestrian has all businesses extremely worried. We greatly depend on our clients who drive to our businesses from other neighborhoods. As it is, the implementation of bike lanes and removable parking spaces for cars has already caused a huge decline of people wanting to come to the neighborhood to shop and dine simply because parking is a problem. Removing cars in total will negatively impact our community because businesses will not survive. For the past seventeen years, I have worked seven days a week to make my American Dream come true. I fear now that in an instant it could all collapse with a wrong decision such as this one. Yes, there is a bit of congestion usually on Friday and Saturday, but it is still manageable. The only help we need is implementing rules and regulations for all the scooter drivers, if anything they cause a lot of congestion by driving in wrong directions, not observing traffic lights, riding on sidewalks and parking wherever and however, taking up space making it more challenging for cars to drive. Again, the removal of cars will hurt all commercial spaces and ultimately will have a tremendously negatively impact of all Forest Hills Community. I hope you understand the true effects this campaign and will rethink how we can better this commercial street."

I also want to say in closing, we have 1,200 signatures in support of the chambers stance on this resolution.

Marla Cornejo

Good evening, I appreciate you granting me permission to speak this evening. My name is Marla Cornejo. I lived in Forest Hills Gardens for 21 years and I am the owner of 5 Burro Café located at 7205 Austin Street. We have been doing business at that location since 1989. In addition, I am an active board member of the Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce. I am proud to say that we support all the chamber events, the Holiday Lights Program, every school and religious institution event as well as every season of FHYAA. We don't pay for advertising. We invest in our community! I am only one of many business owners that contribute to the community day after day, year in and year out.

It is because of a thriving downtown business area that many of the events and charities can be sustained. Unfortunately, in recent years, Covid notwithstanding, it has become increasing more difficult to dig into our pockets to support these meaningful events. (As there are many!)

We all know that we were asked for our input when there was discussion about bike lanes. Our cries fell on deaf ears. Our is a unique community. Where other shopping districts have neighborhood parking, Austin Street backs on to FHG. There is no public parking behind Austin Street. Taking away 300+ spaces for an overwhelmingly under-used bike lane came as a great detriment to many businesses.

Not only is the bike lane under used it is also a traffic hazard as trucks park and cars go into the bike lane to pass the parked vehicles. In addition, the moped and motor scooter drivers drive in the wrong direction on the bike lanes. Are they for bike or motorized vehicles??

After the bike lanes the effort to limit cars started on Austin Street.

First truck loading zone signs were installed along the street. Signs that a person needed a PhD to decipher.

Morning after morning while enjoying my eggs over easy, starting out the Austin Diner window, I would have to jump out of my seat to warn the unaware drivers not to park their car in the zone in front of my store or receive a \$150 fine. There were always cars and continue to be cars in those zones every day.

After loading zones, spots were eliminated to make the crosswalks ridiculously wide at corners and mid-street. Not only once did they change those zones, but I think they changed them twice.

With Covid, we lost spots for outdoor dining, which we have and use at 5 Burro Café. We have considered removing it however, it is very popular in good weather, and we would have to compete with other restaurants for customers that prefer to sit outdoors. When the city says they have to come down, we will happily comply.

Austin Street is a destination. People come from all over Queens, the other boroughs and even from Long Island to enjoy our movie theater, restaurants, salons, and shopping. And of course, the wonderful summer concerts at the Forest Hills Stadium. A great addition to our small town.

Your proposed plan is another nail in the coffin to the thriving businesses on Austin Street and its side street. I know the space in front of our store is sometimes crowded and I monitor via cameras that point to our sidewalk and outdoor eating area.

People are always courteous; they stand close to the storefront and always move if need be. Strollers and dog walkers pass by all day long. What I see as a danger to pedestrians are the delivery men on scooters that think it's the wild west. They don't abide by traffic laws and are potential hazard. I want you to do a study. Laws need to be enforced regulating where they drive, proper gear, registered vehicles, and insurances.

Widened streets may benefit a few. Very few. It will impact ALL!! Lessening roadway will cause more traffic jams and make it more dangerous for pedestrians. How will businesses get deliveries? How will FDNY reach buildings in emergencies. How will ambulances navigate a smaller roadway? So many things to consider.

Property values remain high in Forest Hills and much of that is due to the fact that we have a thriving business community. You destroy that and there will be a lot of angry property owners whose homes will lose value. Austin Street will become deserted and rundown if business owners are forced to close their doors.

You want to fix the problem of congestion? How about eliminating the buses that turn onto Austin Street? How about considering making Austin Street a one-way street from Ascan Avenue to Yellowstone Avenue. It would eliminate the need to do a U-turn for parking. Cars could pass trucks that are stopped for deliveries. Traffic would flow using two lanes being able to pass with caution and use both side of the street for parking.

Eliminating parking and cars will be the end of a vibrant community. My business is my legacy. I hope that there will be something left to pass to my sons when your plans that benefit a few and hurt so many more.

Thank you.

Very Rev. Francis Passenant – Our Lady Queen of Martyrs

I am the administrator of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church on Ascan Avenue and Queens Boulevard, we have been terribly affected by the Bike Lanes and this is going to kill our entrance and exit to the church, school and church activities, which we have every Sunday. We have two Sundays of the year where Austin Street is closed due to the Street Fair. We lose 25% of our congregation on that day because they know it is coming. We report it in our church bulletin, they know it is coming and go to another church. There is no parking the traffic is horrible; the bike lanes have made it worse. I read the comments that were made on change.org. I don't think these people live in the neighborhood. It's interesting to see that they're not familiar with the area or not familiar with the street. Austin Street businesses back up onto the railroad tracks, not only to the FH Gardens. There is no way to egress behind it for deliveries, etc. It all sounds good on paper "let's have a pedestrian walk like 5th Avenue". It is something that will be detrimental to our church which exits onto 72nd Road and must make a left onto Austin Street to get out. It is impossibly now, and it will hurt us in the future. Bishop Sanchez sent a statement as this is a very busy week for the church as well as for those that celebrate Passover and Ramadan. I am missing a very important facet of our services this week by coming here because I felt the future of our Parish determined this event.

Bishop Sanchez sent a statement "I understand that the Department of Transportation is conducting a study for the safety of Austin Street. As member of the Lady Queen of Marytrs Church and Academy located on the corner of

Austin Street and Ascan Avenue and Queens Boulevard and Ascan Avenue, any study which may lead to the recommendation of pedestrianizing Austin Street near Ascan will have a deleterious affect on our church and academy population. A significant portion of our population parents, teachers and children church goers rely on car transportation. Some of our teachers and students don't live in the immediate area and some of our church goers are too elderly to walk. To access our church parking lot which helps to alleviate parking congestion we need to access 72nd Road, Austin Street and Ascan Avenue. We appreciate your attention to this reality and the challenges which would be caused by limiting this access." Thank you very much for your time. It's nice meeting all of you. You know exactly where we are, come and visit.

Diane Elkan, The Women's Club of Forest Hills – This comment was read by Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis
The Women's Club of Forest Hills, with over 325 members who live in Forest Hills, Rego Park and Kew Gardens, stands in solidarity with the Jewish community against hate and anti-Semitism. We agree with our elected officials that hate has no place in our community, city or country.

Heidi Chain – 112th Precinct Community Council

I asked to speak regarding what has been happening in our community with the terrible hate crimes, we have been victimized. We were victimized and it was awful. We were victimized with the Lutheran Church, we have been victimized with anti-Asian hate and now we have been victimized with anti-semantic graffiti. It is something that we really feel a need to do something. Our precinct council is going to try to get into all of the schools and encourage a discussion on anti-hate. To help do this we are sponsoring a poster contest. There will be prizes. Any school in the community, any student who lives in the community and goes to school in another community. We want kids to think about it and learn about it. During the Precinct Council's May meeting, all posters will be displayed, and every kid is a winner. We want everybody to come in and see. Our May meeting is May 17th tentatively at the American Legion Hall. We have to do something, and we have to do it united. Everybody here who has other groups please join us and encourage people to join us. Because this is ridiculous, we live here. This is our community. It is horrible, it is important, and I just wanted to let everybody know and ask everybody for your help. Thank you.

Paul Singh

We have all gathered here tonight to condemn the DOT's decision to eliminate the parking on Austin Street, which is the heart of Forest Hills. As we all are experiencing the huge drop in our sales since COVID had hit. We were recovering then Queens Boulevard parking was taken away. Huge decline in our businesses which is greater than 30%. By eliminating the parking, by opening it up after 8pm, I want to ask you all what kind of crowd are we trying to attract into our neighborhood? We will lose clients and they will go to other parts of Queens like Long Island City or the other side of Astoria. Instead of that, we should all make more parking lots, encourage more people to come into Forest Hills and not to discourage from coming into the neighborhood. I along with other business owners in the neighborhood are not ready for this. I've been living in Forest Hills since 2004. I moved to Long Island in 2009 and I've been coming into Forest Hills every single day of my life. I have two successful businesses in Forest Hills and if this happens, I will certainly lose them in the future. This is my life savings. I strongly disagree and want you to reconsider and make a better decision on it. Reconsider. Thank you very much..

Kaleena Ma

I run a business in Forest Hills, MK Vision Center, for thirteen years and a member of the Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce. I also echo what the other businesses are saying, we are not in favor of taking away the parking. It will drastically affect my business. Ever since I've been in Forest Hills, I love Forest Hills. I've been a resident here; I've had my first baby here and took the stroller to go down on Austin Street all the time when I was a mom. I moved to Long Island and drive everyday to Forest Hills and need to park here. I need to get into Austin Street. I would love to have some reconsideration of the proposal and have an independent study done regarding this. I suggest we can't pedestrianize the streets without a better alternative. I walk Austin Street. I love the restaurant here; I love the climate there. I think of this as a second home. I think that we need to do better than what has been proposed. I strongly recommend we have an independent study other than what the Department of Transportation did. I know that there are some dangers that exist like scooters and busses that may need some additional rules or more police activity to direct cars. These are the first things we have to do before making this drastic change.

Odette Wilkens, Wired Broadband Inc.

I regret to inform you that 5G towers have been allowed to invade our community in a meeting held on Feb. 15, 2023, by the Chair and Executive Committee of Queens Community Board 6 (CB6).

Good evening, I'm Odette Wilkens, 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, 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, or school or medical facility.

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 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.

a. *Article XV – Committees, Sec 1(h) states: “The Board may not delegate any final decision-making authority to a committee.”*

b. *At the Executive Committee meeting, the Chair said that since they were “elected,” they could vote on the issue, apparently, as a final decision.*

c. *If the Board cannot delegate to a committee final decision-making authority, then it would also mean that a committee cannot delegate to itself final decision-making authority. It appears that the Executive Committee was not authorized to take final action without bringing it to the full Board to authorize the action.*

d. *Therefore, the Board not having taken action on this issue should render the Executive Committee's action in lieu of the Board, null and void, as not authorized by the CB6 By-Laws.*

At the March 8, 2023, full Board meeting:

1. *The Chair commented that OTI is transparent because they showed a map. But I filed FOIL requests since 2021 on FCC compliance reports on radio-frequency (RF) radiation and power potential of the antennas. The requests are still outstanding and there are no answers. Therefore, no transparency from OTI. And what is the cumulative effect of all emissions of all antennas going off all at the same time from a 5G tower?*

2. *The Chair attempted to discredit the people who commented against the 5G towers in that meeting by stating that several of them were involved with posting a flyer about the 5G situation in Forest Hills with typographical errors – specifically naming “Claire Shulman” rather than “Lynn Schulman” and “Alan Hevesi” rather than “Andrew Hevesi.” Having been a long-time resident of Forest Hills, I guess I like my old politicians. Looks like I included them by mistake.*

3. *The Chair said that several people were involved with the posting of the flyer. How does she know that? Can she name the people? No. Those who spoke were brave people who commented on the grave health hazards of 5G and of their own personal experiences having suffered from wireless radiation. They are the canaries in the mine, they were warning us of the impending dangers of these gigantic 5G towers coming into our neighborhood. And what was the Chair concentrating on – typographical errors on a flyer.*

4. *The District Manager said that he notified the Forest Hills Gardens Association of the 5G tower planned in front of a PS 101 in the Gardens. The fact is that I was the first one to notify the Gardens Association. I spoke to the President of the Association. They knew nothing about the tower, and they contacted the District Manager. There are now 12 community boards who have either disapproved or voted for moratoria on 5G towers in their districts. There are more community boards that I am working with who are considering doing the same. The process regarding 5G towers should be opened for full public participation and the full participation of the entire Board at CB6.*

I am here to protect the health and safety of our community. And I will continue to speak out against 5G towers in our community.

Barry Rothenburg

For fifty years, my family has been in the store front business. So, I had a wooden folding ruler, measuring storefronts since I'm a kid. What is my experience, it is a lifetime. They are going to take Austin Street and pipe dream it with some utopian nonsense. You are talking about a guy who came up out of the blue with a utopian hype

is what it is. We developed Sephora, Shake Shack and my new pet store tenant which was needed. I love dogs, they must have a place to eat. We always do the right thing for retail, since I am a kid. There are a bunch of problems, how can the police get up a pedestrianize street if there is a robbery? What are they going to do, jog over with their firearms? How can firemen get there in an emergency? They can't. How can commercial sanitation pick up garbage? If there is no place to get up there. People have to go to doctors and medical appointments, what should these elderly people do? They should take their walkers and walk seven blocks? I would like to see Queens Center Mall without parking. Why don't we make a park out of Queens Center Mall parking lots. We'll make a gathering space there.

You're talking about the absolute destruction of a century old shopping street because some dreamer that never had any skin in the game, never ran a retail business came up with a pipe dream utopian nonsense story. I am asking everyone let's do the right thing, we got through this pandemic, it was tough. Businesses are just crawling out of a hole now.

They put bike lanes in our area, I'd love to see these bicyclists. I sat there for two hours; I saw four bicycles on the most beautiful day today. Ok, use them, it's like a kid that gets a toy that doesn't use it. You got your bike lanes start using them. You have park areas, use the green space we got. This is the most disruptive concept ever, that I've heard about a retail area. Anyone that wants to go to Sephora, will say let's go to Sephora in Manhasset because how are we going to get there? We can't park.

Arthur Miller

My name is Arthur Miller. I've lived and worked in the Forest Hills /Rego Park Community for 40 years. I am very concerned about the Board's resolution to ask the City DOT to study the redesign of Austin Street and I urge the Board to reconsider.

Forest Hills is one of the nation's first planned communities and one of the best known. Living and working in Forest Hills means something.

Austin Street and the surrounding streets are hurting... stores are vacant, the roads seem more congested, not just with cars but with delivery vehicles and outdoor dining sheds; sidewalks are cluttered with ever more food vendors, peddlers and motorized deliveristas. And the filth! The streets seem dirtier and the rats, with new homes under the dining sheds, are more plentiful. There's more chaos. Unlicensed mopeds and e-bikers disregard traffic laws, zipping through or around traffic and on and off the sidewalks. And then there's construction. Construction blocks side streets and sidewalks and creates unhealthy dust.

Many of these problems coincide with and were likely exacerbated by the DOT's efforts to remake Queens Blvd and change New Yorker's driving habits. Hundreds of parking spaces have been removed from Queens Blvd, with no concern for retail and commercial visits and the traffic has diverted to Austin Street and the side streets. Asking the DOT to come back to our neighborhood with yet another study sounds like the classical definition of insanity. And now, it is also a conflict of interest. You see, the DOT has embarked on a mission to close streets throughout the City,

under the Orwellian named "Open Streets Program" and seeks private groups to run them. The DOT turned a deaf ear to public input concerning the Queens Blvd. redesign. The DOT also gives up street space to private companies for the installation of for-profit bike, scooter and car rental operations. Worth noting, the citizens of Paris, France, in a public referendum, just voted overwhelmingly to ban the e-scooter rentals in their city after Parisiennes got fed up with scooter riders ignoring traffic rules and basic safety. At this point, the bias of the DOT in matters of street usage is clear and we entrust that agency with the continued viability of our neighborhood at our peril.

What is needed is a comprehensive, independent study of Austin Street and the side streets. The study should include traffic and pedestrian issues, to be sure, but should also consider economic activity, developmental potential, environmental issues, access to health care, sanitation and law enforcement. The study should be performed by independent trained engineers. It should survey all stakeholders. Our council members have some discretionary funding. There's plenty of money coming in from the speed and red-light cameras on Queens Blvd. The City billed over \$100 million City wide in the first 5 months of 24/7 operation. Not a penny of that is earmarked for "safety improvements". Surely there are resources. We are living in tumultuous times. We're not fully recovered from the pandemic.

The City's budget is tenuous. There are pressures across the City for affordable housing. Our aging population needs more access to health care. People's shopping, dining and entertainment activities have changed. We need to

be the stewards of our neighborhood's future. We must not simply relinquish control over our own destiny to a myopic, agenda-driven agency.

Nazima Khan

My name is Nazima Khan, I'm a Tax accountant and local resident and business owner on Austin St. I'm also a member of the chamber of commerce and have started to manage the social media to help keep Austin street going. I've lived in Forest Hills for the Past 4 years now. Without Parking, it will seem like we survived the pandemic just to be broken down by this. The shopping area on Austin St. is crucial to the survival of both the businesses and residents. I'm a resident but also run two businesses from my home, Dog Sitting for those locally & My Online Knitting Business that employs a staff of 3 and provides internships that offer college credit. The reason I'm able to do this all from my one bedroom is because of the location and convenience of the neighborhood. I'm able to work remotely with my team and have them meet up at a nearby coffee shop if needed or have clients come over for fittings or to pick up orders. Dog parents are able to conveniently park to come up and see where their pup will be staying when they're away on their vacations. (Which is something I would love to open up in the area eventually because there is a need for it.) But again, if there's no parking, what would be the sense of continuing this goal? The parking is ESSENTIAL to keeping the area alive for both the businesses AND residents.

Is there an alternative on where you expect people to park? Why not consider other alternatives to reduce traffic such as a one way street? We already have bike lanes on Queens BLVD not being used, utilizing parking space that could ease the flow of traffic and people circling looking for a parking. Is there any comments on ways to improve this? If you put in bike lanes, has the issue with scooters been addressed and how taking away parking will affect this? What is the plan for current residents who have a car? Are they going to get passes to park in the gardens?

UPDATE FROM NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN

Council Member Lynn Schulman welcomed the new CB 6 Members. She added that Rego Park will no longer be part of her district.

Council Member Schulman recognized Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis and District Manager Frank Gulluscio for their work with the board. In addition, she thanked Leslie Brown from the FH Chamber of Commerce for her work with businesses in the area.

Council Member Schulman announced that the Simon Wiesenthal Center did a Hate Crime Forum. They issued a digital report card to report the hate crimes in different areas. Unfortunately, the day after the event, Swastikas were found in Forest Hills. The person responsible was apprehended. Her office has been working with the Precinct, the DA's Office and the Hate Crimes Unit.

Council Member Schulman reported the following:

- Council asked for funds to be restored in many areas of the budget. However, the Mayor's Office came out with more cuts today. As Chair of the Health Committee, she will be looking at the cuts from the healthcare perspective.
- Passed a bill to create the first Diabetes Reduction Program in NYC. It charges the Health Department with putting together a robust plan around reducing the incidence of diabetes in NYC. This increased after COVID because a lot of people weren't going to the doctor and weren't getting checked. Also, it was an underlying condition that could make COVID more severe.
- Introduced legislation for a portal for free CPR classes.
- Will be introducing legislation to hold commercial landlords liable if they rent to illegal cannabis shops.

MINUTES

CB6 Minutes from March 8, 2023, meeting were approved as written.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis welcomed the 13 new Community Board Members.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported the following:

- Since our last meeting, CB 6 has had 5 committee meetings, participated in 1 intergenerational panel, and co-sponsored a forum on reporting hate crimes.
- We received responses to the questions from the Office of Cannabis Management from our last meeting. Those will be emailed to the Board Members on Friday.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis and District Manager Gulluscio attended a meeting on 3-8-23 with the Chief of Patrol from NYPD. He is looking to partner with community boards on persistent issues within the district. The following issues were provided to his office:

- Overnight tractor trailer parking (along Grand Central Parkway service road and behind Forest Hills High School).
- Challenges due to homelessness in our community.
- Delivery vehicle behavior.

The Chief of Patrol is looking into ways to address these issues.

In response to a complaint about LIRR construction in the vicinity of 71 Avenue and Burns Street, Chair Beers-Dimitriadis and District Manager Gulluscio spoke to the workers and found out they are repairing the bridge that is falling apart. The sidewalk will be closed for safety reasons, but one side will remain open.

Chair Beers Dimitriadis reported that the Street Activity Permit Office determined that bike lanes would be closed during street fairs. The Chair and DM had a meeting with Citywide Event Coordination and Management, and it was determined that a cone protected eastbound bike lane could be created in the express lane of Queens Boulevard. District Manager Gulluscio reached out to the 112th Precinct and they were unable to accommodate the request. We will continue to work on this issue to keep our community safe. The alternate path (by the Post Office) isn't available due to the Farmers Market.

Last, Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported that on March 16th, CB 6 put out a statement regarding our request for a study of Austin Street. She stated that as a community, we can disagree on ideas, but there was a lot of un-factual information circulating in the community.

- First, there is no plan. The Transportation Committee requested a study. We presented problems on Austin Street and asked DOT to come up with solutions to rectify the problems.
- Second, CB6 reviews data when we look at different issues within our community. You can get the accident data on Open Data sites. There were over 290 accidents, with injuries, on Austin Street between 2018 and 2022.
- The study will take some time.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis ended her report with a quote from the Television show, After Life, that she feels sums up the work done at the Community Board. "A society grows great when old men plant trees, the shade of which they will never sit in." She continued by saying that good people do things for other people. We are good people that will be advising on matters and projects in our district that will take a

long time to come to fruition, but this is a worthwhile endeavor, nonetheless. Much of our work looks to the future.

There was some discussion regarding committee resolutions vs board resolutions. It was explained that a committee can approve a committee resolution without a Community Board Vote. However, if the resolution is coming from the Community Board, it would be brought to the board for a vote.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager Frank Gulluscio welcomed the new members and welcomed back some members that were part of CB 6 in the past.

District Manager Gulluscio also announced the following:

- The Community Board is a city agency; we suggest and recommend.
- He writes letters every day for various issues. Not every letter / request will be brought to the full board before it goes out.
- He also meets with the heads of all the city agencies once a month in the CB 6 Office
- Met with the Chief of Recreation for Parks today, going through all their great plans for Parks.
- Met with the LIRR today. They spoke about their ADA projects in Queens. There are none in our community board right now.
- The Memorial Day Parade will be taking place next month.

District Manager Gulluscio informed the new members that they will receive a folder in the mail with information about Community Board 6 including: By-Laws, Staff List, Committee List and more.

OVERVIEW OF THE CAPITAL AND EXPENSE BUDGET PROCESS FOR FY2025

Mark Laster, Third Vice Chair of CB 6, explained the process of Budget Requests. He explained that the Community Board doesn't write checks or allocate money; we indicate what the needs are for our community.

These are broken down into 2 categories: capital and expense. Capital items are usually \$35,000 and have a useful life of at least 5 years. An example of a capital expense would be the Rego Park Library construction. Expense items are usually operating expenses or services such as Meals on Wheels.

This will be the process for this year:

1. Committee Review Phase (4-5-23 – 6-30-23)
 - a. Review and Reconsider FY24 committee specific goals
 - b. Consider and create additional priorities
 - c. Rank priorities in order of importance
2. Public Input Phase (7-2023 – 8-20-23)
 - a. Community surveyed as to their top 5 expense and capital priorities
 - b. Results will be presented to the Chairs for consideration prior to Chairs meeting
3. All Chair Evaluation Phase (9-2023)
 - Committee Chairs (or designates) will review and rank compiled FY25 budget priorities
4. Meet to Review, Discuss and Vote on Final Ranking (10-11-23)
 - Community Board will review and vote on final budget priority compilation.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Elizabeth Newton, Co-Chair, reported that CB 6 didn't receive any new applications this month.

CB 6 received the following renewal applications:

1. Theater Café, 106-03 Metropolitan Avenue, FH
2. Nick's Pizza, 108-26 Ascan Avenue, FH
3. Pizza Classica, 89-89 Union Turnpike, Glendale
4. Tropix Bar & Lounge Inc., 95-32 Queens Boulevard, RP
5. Mad For Chicken, 71-37 Austin Street, FH

There were no issues / complaints from the 112th Precinct.

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

PARKS AND RECREATION / BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported that the following resolution supporting One Percent for NYC Parks Funding was approved by the Parks Committee:

WHEREAS, parks and green spaces provide numerous benefits to communities, including promoting physical and mental health, providing spaces for community gatherings and events, improving air quality, climate resiliency and cooling, and enhancing the overall quality of life for residents;

WHEREAS, many parks and green spaces have experienced neglect and underfunding, resulting in deteriorating conditions and limited programming options;

WHEREAS, the One Percent for Parks campaign proposes to dedicate one percent of the City's annual budget towards parks and green spaces, ensuring adequate funding for staffing, maintenance, programming, and improvement projects;

WHEREAS, many large U.S. cities allocate more than one percent of their city budgets to parks, which has resulted in significant improvements to parks and green spaces in those communities. San Francisco spends 1.6 percent of its municipal budget on parks, Los Angeles spends 2.9 percent, Chicago 4.3 percent and Minneapolis 5.3 percent.

WHEREAS, the One Percent for Parks campaign has garnered widespread support from community organizations, advocacy groups, and residents who recognize the importance of parks and green spaces to the health and well-being of our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 6 fully supports the One Percent for Parks campaign and urges our elected officials to adopt this policy in the New York City budget. We believe that investing in parks and green spaces is essential to creating a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable community that benefits all residents. We call on our elected officials to prioritize parks and green spaces in budget decisions and work towards ensuring that all members of our community have access to safe, clean, and well-maintained parks and green spaces.

Karen Imas made a motion in favor of this resolution. Jean Silva seconded the resolution. This motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

AGING, SOCIAL SERVICES, DISABILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark Laster, Co-Chair, reported the following:

- The mission of the Aging, Social Services, Disabilities Committee is to educate the community about issues pertaining to older people and people with physical challenges.
- The committee recently made a recommendation to try and get more supermarkets in the

community.

- The committee put out a survey to seniors in the community asking their thoughts and needs for this community.
- The committee co-sponsors intergenerational panels with other community groups and older panelists and younger panelists share their experiences on various topics (most recently immigration). The next one is planned for June.
- April 20, 2023: There will be a presentation on Voter Education.
- In May there will be a presentation from the NYS Department of Health regarding their plans to recertify 9 million people on the New York Health Exchange.
- In June, the committee is planning a presentation with LiveOn.
- The Committee meets on the second Monday of every month at 6:30pm. The next meeting is on Monday April 10, 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SANITATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported that the committee met on March 16, 2023, and discussed the following:

- Department of Environmental Protection attended the meeting
- The main takeaway from the meeting was that one way to avoid flooding is to keep the catch basins and rain gardens clean from debris. If they are filled with debris, the water won't drain. If you see a clogged catch basin or rain garden, take a picture of it and submit a complaint to 311. Then send the Service Request # to the CB Office for follow-up.

COMMITTEE FOR THOSE WITHOUT SHELTER COMMITTEE REPORT

Latrice Davis, Chair, reported that the committee met on March 20, 2023:

- Laura Atlas, NY Health and Hospitals, spoke about Housing for Health Initiative.
- Housing for Health provides supportive housing onsite for patients of their facilities.
- Health and Hospitals operated 12 facilities throughout the city but none in CB 6. They operate 2 hospitals in Queens, Queens Hospital and Elmhurst Hospital.
- Queens Hospital has a building with 75 studio units. This allows patients to be close to the hospital for treatments and services but doesn't require them to remain in the hospital.
- Many times, patients stay in the hospital much longer than they need to because they don't have a stable place to live.
- 500 patients have found stable housing through Housing for Health, and they are working with housing organizations and developers on a 5-year expansion plan to finance 650 more apartments.
- The next meeting will be held in June. Date to be determined.

HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Diana Rachnaev, Co-Chair, reported that the committee met on March 22, 2023.

- The mission of the committee is to educate the community about mental health and substance abuse disorders.
- The committee is focusing on more events and awareness about these subjects.
- Met with Northwell Health to discuss the Aging Community. Planning an event to provide information about transition plans, palliative care, hospice, etc.
- The committee is trying to spread the word about Narcan. People in the community should be aware of substance use and how Narcan can help. CB 6 put out a survey to members to see who would be interested in learning more about it, but the response was low. They are hoping to get it out to more people. We can educate people that work in nightlife establishments like bouncers,

bartenders, etc.

- Committee would like to bring in a psychiatrist to talk about what issues people in our community are facing.
- Planning an event about Domestic Violence in October since it is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Many people are struggling in silence and don't know where to turn. Resources can be available at this event.

LIBRARIES, CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Martha Tucker, Chair, reported that the committee met on March 28, 2023, and had a presentation from Queens Library and Department of Design and Construction on the Rego Park Library.

- This is a project that has been in the planning stages since the 1990's.
- Construction is projected to begin in 2024 and an opening date is set for 2026
- It will be fully ADA Accessible.
- There will be 3 different levels (one for children, one for teens and one for adults).
- There will be 2 multipurpose rooms (one with a capacity of about 25 people and the other about 70 people).
- CB 6 asked for a lactation room, but the request was denied.
- CB 6 brought to their attention that the construction at the Shalimar Diner site will coincide. We will monitor this to try to ensure a smooth construction process of both locations.
- Once the contractor is selected, they will come to the full board to give us more concrete information.

GOOD & WELFARE

CB 6 MEMBERS:

Heidi Chain announced that the 112th Precinct Community Council meeting will be on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 7:30pm at the American Legion Hall.

Jean Silva spoke about the proposed Casino on parkland at Flushing Meadows. She encouraged people to use their parks.

Mark Laster announced that Central Queens Against Hate held a forum on March 23, 2023, about reporting Hate Crimes. There were representatives from the NYPD, DA's Office, and local hospital. There will be future events as part of the Mayors Breaking Bread, Building Bonds Initiative, to bring the community together to promote discussion. If you are interested in learning more, email Mark at Marklstr99@gmail.com.

Steve Metz spoke (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.

Kevin Ly asked for a moment to remember Grace Pellicano, a public member of CB 6, that recently passed away.

Keith Engel spoke about the Fair Share Initiative that is proposed in the state budget. This would mandate cities across the state to promote more affordable housing.

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 trans masculine lesbian

ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPRESENTATIVES:

The elected officials' representatives welcomed the newly appointed CB 6 Members.

SENATOR JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.

John D'Angelo announced the following upcoming events:

- Blood Drives at Atlas Park on April 8 and April 29.
- Paper Shredding on April 15 at Atlas Park and April 30 at the Forest Park Bandshell.
- E-Waste Recycling on May 2 at Forest Park.

QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ

Javier Figaroa announced the following:

- Scams and Frauds Webinar – Thursday April 20, 2023, at 6:00pm. You must register at www.queensda.org to attend.
- Javier is the LGBTQ liaison in the Community Partnerships division at DA Katz's office, and if anyone should ever feel like they need someone to reach out to but don't know who to go to.
- There was quite a bit of concern when people began noticing swastikas scrawled on sidewalks in and around Forest Hills, Queens. A 34-year-old resident of the area has been arrested and now faces a hate crime and other charges for allegedly drawing swastikas in three locations last month. The defendant is also accused of harassment for allegedly striking a man in the face following a verbal dispute. One of the places this defendant is accused of targeting is the Reform Temple of Forest Hills, in addition to allegedly drawing this hateful symbol in front of an apartment building in Rego Park and a day care center on Main Street in Flushing. This kind of behavior will not be tolerated in our home. Hate has no place in Queens, the most diverse county in the country. We must do all we can to stomp out those who act on their own prejudices. The defendant will be held to account for his alleged actions.

SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS

Irene Stathatos announced the following:

- Budget will resume after the holidays.
- Bill passed that would require state and local parks to test water fixtures for lead and make repairs to any deemed unsafe.
- Senator worked with DOT to get a traffic light placed in Astoria where a child was killed.
- Passport renewals are delayed. Please get them in early.

SENATOR LEROY COMRIE

Ari Innes announced the following:

- Spring Celebration – Friday April 7, 2023, from 11am – 3pm at Archie Spigner Park
- Empower My Hood Scholarship Application. Deadline is April 5, 2023. Apply at scholarships@emhinc.org

- Department of Veterans Services will have a care coordinator at Senator Comrie's Office on Monday April 17, 2023.
- E-Waste Drop Off and Paper Shredding – Saturday April 29, 2023, from 10am – 2pm at Baisley Pond Park.

COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN

Kevin McAleer announced that the office is looking for High School/College Interns. If anyone is interested in Government, they can email district29@council.nyc.gov.

CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes announced:

- Congress Member Meng condemned the recent hate crimes in this community
- Congress Member took part in a business walk in Forest Hills
- USPS is still experiencing mail theft. There is new legislation that would give the USPS more subpoena power to go after individuals committing these crimes.
- There are passport delays. State Department said it can take up to 10 weeks.
- Passport Event – FH Post Office on Sunday April 23, 2023, from 9am – 3pm.

QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

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

- Swearing in & Orientation for new and renewing Community Board Members will be on April 17, 2023, from 6pm – 9pm.
- Vaisaki Celebration - April 11, 2023, at 6pm.
- EID Celebration - April 24, 2023, at 6pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Nolan
Community Coordinator

CB 6 VOTING SHEET 4-4-23	RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS	ONE PERCENT FOR PARKS RESOLUTION
MICHAEL ARCATI	ABSENT	ABSENT
DAVID ARONOV		
ANISIA AYON		
SALUA BAIDA		
KAVISH BATRA		
PETER BEADLE		
MIRIAM BERFAS	ABSENT	ABSENT
HOWARD BIRNBAUM		
DANNY BOWENS		
HEIDI CHAIN		
GINA CHEN		
L.T. CIACCIO		
KANDRA CLARK		
LATRICE DAVIS		
JOHN DERESZEWSKI		
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS		
VALLON ELLISON		
KEITH ENGEL		
GIOVANNI GIOIA	ABSENT	ABSENT
BRUCE GROSSBERG		
KAREN IMAS		
SARINA JAIN		
MATT FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG	ABSENT	ABSENT
MARCELLE LASHLEY-KABORE		
MARK LASTER		
BEATRICE LEONG	ABSENT	ABSENT
JONATHAN LI		
KEVIN LY		
JACK MEDINA	ABSENT	ABSENT
DR. RENEE MEHRRRA		
STEVEN METZ		
JULIE MILNER	ABSENT	ABSENT
PAT MORGAN		
ELIZABETH NEWTON		
TANIA PADGETT		
HOWARD POLLACK	ABSENT	ABSENT
DIANA RACHNAEV		
SHARI ROLNICK		
MATTHEW SALTON		
GLADYS SANDOVAL		
DAVID SCHANTZ		
PETRINA SCHNEIDERMAN		
HERBERT SCHONHAUT	ABSENT	ABSENT
JEAN C. SILVA		
MARTHA TUCKER		
BRENTLY WINSTEAD		
EDWIN WONG	ABSENT	ABSENT
TITILAYO YASUKAWA		
EPHRAIM ZAKRY		
KATHERINE ZAPATA		
TOTALS:	ALL IN FAVOR	ALL IN FAVOR