Attendance of Community Board 11’s General Meeting

Held on Thursday, April 11, 2013 at

Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,

1740 84th Street

Present: Bart Allegretti, Ross Brady, Matt Bromme, Maria Campanella, Al Campanelli, Dr. Joseph Caruana, Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Vincent Chirico, Steve Chung, Louis Crispiano, Sal D’Alessio, Claudio DeMeo, Eric DiNapoli, Paul DiSpirito, Marc D’Ottavio, Charles Farrauto, Shirley Fineman, William Guarinello, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Tim Law, Vito Marinelli, Albert Milone, Nicholas Miraglia, Vincent Nativo, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Antonio Troia, Laurie Windsor, Victor Wong

Absent: Gerald Bertuna, Warren Chan, Donald Clark, Yoketing Eng, John Garvey, Yonah Glatzer, Anthony Mallozzi, Vito Marangelli, Michael Marks, James Orlando

Excused: Jerry Chiapetta, Thomas Colasanto, Mafalda DiMango, Raymond Mollica, Barbara Parisi, Salvatore Rao, Stan Roher, Sonia Valentin, Robert Yee

Guests: Jo Benfanti, Kristin Saletto, Lynda Thomson, Andrew Olsen – Mayor’s CAU, Al Fazio – Assemblyman Abbate, Michael Gregorio, Sara Steinweiss – Councilman Gentile, Jane Carey – Councilman Greenfield, Ligia Guallpa – Workers Justice Project, John Quaglione – Senator Marty Golden, Liam McCabe – Rep. Grimm

Minutes of Community Board 11’s General Meeting

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1740 84th Street

The general meeting of Community Board 11 was opened with Ligia Guallapa, Workers Justice Project, Bensonhurst Job Center, having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Jane Care, representing Councilman David Greenfield, spoke regarding Participatory Budgeting in the 44th Council District. She advised that this evening, Councilman Greenfield announced the winning projects; with countdown clocks receiving the most votes in Bensonhurst.

Ms. Carey further advised that the Councilman is hosting a free tree giveaway on Sunday, April 28th.

Sara Steinweiss, representing Councilman Gentile, announced that there will be two community clean-up events. They will be held on May 11 and June 1st, further information will be forthcoming.

Ms. Steinweiss urged residents to report incidents of graffiti so that it can be removed through the City’s graffiti removal services. The Forever Graffiti Free forms are available this evening.

Ms. Steinweiss further advised that Councilman Gentile will be holding the Karen Barone Street Renaming Ceremony on June 12th, at PS 204, which is located on 82nd Street and 15th Avenue, at 3:45 PM; and all are invited.

John Quaglione, representing Senator Golden, advised that the Senator for a Day Essay contest, for children in grades 6-8, has been extended to Friday, April 26th. For further information please contact the Senator’s office at 718-238-6044.

He further announced that the Senior Fair is in the process of being scheduled and more information will be forthcoming. There will be an E-Waste recycling event at Poly Prep Ball Field on 92nd Street and 7th Avenue on April 20th from 10AM – 4PM. The Senator is fighting for the restoration of weekend X28 bus service.

A representative of the Workers Justice Project advised that the Bensonhurst Job Center will be holding a free legal clinic and evening English classes, which are open to the community.

The Chairman inquired if anyone else from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Claudio DeMeo to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Ross Brady. Unanimously adopted.

Minutes

A motion was made by Rosa Casella to accept the minutes of the March 14, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Al Milone. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman’s Report

Mr. Guarinello appointed the following members to serve on the 2013-2014 Nominating Committee: Vincent Nativo-Chairman, Bart Allegretti, Al Campanelli, Dr. Joe Caruana and Al Milone.

The Chairman advised that the “Moving” flyers have been illegally posted to public structures in the community. He urged residents to remove them and properly dispose of the paper.

Assemblyman Abbate

The Assemblyman advised that the legislature passed the budget with no new taxes for the residents of our community. However, there are still negotiations regarding New York City’s fair share of education funding.

He further discussed his concerns regarding the proposed closure of Long Island College Hospital and the ripple effect it would have on Brooklyn communities.

In closing, he advised that while the legislature is on recess he is in the community and available.

District Manager’s Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia advised that the Mayor, following Hurricane Sandy, created a Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency, which addresses how New York City rebuilds in order to be more resilient in the wake of Sandy but with a long-term focus.

She advised that she attended the public workshop where small group discussions were facilitated by the SIRR team so that they can better understand each impacted area’s built environment, its buildings and man-made structures and spaces, in order to have a clear sense of its unique strengths, vulnerabilities, and priorities.

SIRR is producing a comprehensive report by the end of May 2013 that will present policy recommendations, infrastructure priorities, and community plans, and identify sources of long-term funding.

The District Manager reported that the Department of Transportation has advised that Bay Parkway and 86th Street intersection has been designated a 2010 High Pedestrian Crash location.

They have advised that there were 17 total pedestrian injuries from 2006 to 2010, 5 of which were severe injuries, making only 1% of all intersections throughout Brooklyn more dangerous than Bay Parkway and 86th St. A majority of pedestrians, 12, were struck while crossing in the crosswalk, either with or against the signal. This indicates a conflict between cars and pedestrians directly in the intersection. Instinctively, since most pedestrians were hit during rush hours, they are most likely rushing to or from the subway or bus and heading right into the street.

They have proposed and are seeking the Board’s support for safety enhancements. The safety treatment calls for the painting of the roadway between the sidewalk and the raised concrete bus stop, the re-painting of the crosswalks and other visual enhancements. There will be no change to parking or traffic flow.

The District Manager conferred with the Chair of the Transportation Committee and it was suggested that as part of our recommendation, the intersection of Bay Parkway and 86th Street be resurfaced due to the poor condition of the roadway before any new crosswalks are painted.

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau supporting the Department of Transportation’s visual safety treatments as presented at the intersection of Bay Parkway and 86th Street, with the condition that the intersection is resurfaced including all crosswalks prior to installing the painted and visual safety treatments. Seconded by Paul DiSpirito. Unanimously adopted.

There was brief discussion regarding the proposal and the condition of the roadway.

Ms Elias-Pavia reported that the Department of Sanitation will be implementing new 6 day per week street cleaning regulations on New Utrecht Avenue from 86th Street – 61 Street. While new signs are being posted, alternate side parking regulations will be suspended until April 20th and will go back into effect on Monday, April 22nd.

The District Manager spoke regarding graffiti. She advised that with the help of a Good Samaritan who witnessed a graffiti vandal in progress the 62nd Precinct was able to make an arrest. She stressed the need for partnership and urged residents who “See Something, Say Something”

She further advised that the 62nd Precinct Community Council will be hosting a Graffiti Clean-Up on Saturday, April 27th at Noon. Volunteers are always needed and are welcome to participate.

In addition, Andrew Olsen, of the Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit, will be arranging to have the Graffiti Free NYC van come to New Utrecht Avenue, to those properties who sign waivers, to remove graffiti.

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to adjourn. Seconded by Bart Allegretti. Unanimously adopted.