Attendance of Community Board 11’s General Meeting and Public Hearing

Held on Thursday, October 10, 2013 at

Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,

1740 84th Street

Present: Bart Allegretti, Ross Brady, Matt Bromme, Rocco Buonpane, Maria Campanella, Dr. Joseph Caruana, Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Steve Chung, Sal D’Alessio, Claudio DeMeo, Mafalda DiMango, Marc D’Ottavio, Shirley Fineman, Yonah Glatzer, Ligia Guallapa, William Guarinello, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Vito Marangelli, Albert Milone, Nicholas Miraglia, Raymond Mollica, James Orlando, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Laurie Windsor, Victor Wong

Absent: Gerald Bertuna, Albert Campanelli, Warren Chan, Donald Clark, Yoketing Eng, Charles Farrauto, John Garvey, Michael Marks, Vincent Nativo, Barbara Parisi

Excused: Jerry Chiapetta, Vincent Chirico, Louis Crispiano, Eric DiNapoli, Paul DisPirito, Anthony Grigos, Eileen LaRuffa, Vito Marinelli, Sal Rao, Stanley Roher, Robert Yee

Guests: Lynda M. Thompson, Ari Kagan – Comptroller’s Office, Lily Wong – Brooklyn Borough President, Richard Burbridge, John Petito, Josephine Fevola, Cathie Gagliotto, Olga Fiore – State Sen. Diane Savino, Stephanie Wen, Brendan Flynn – Nextdoor.com, Denise Romano – Brooklyn Spectator, Liam McCabe – Rep. Grimm, Al Fazio – Assemblyman Abbate, Lt. Vincent Saimato – FDNY, Alona Abdullaiera, Andrew and Lucille Santano, Captain Taylor – 62nd Precinct

Minutes of Community Board 11’s General Meeting and Public Hearing

Held on Thursday, October 10, 2013 at

Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,

1740 84th Street

Public Hearing

1. Draft of Community Board 11’s Capital and Expense Budget Recommendations for fiscal year 2015.

The Chairman inquired if anyone from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Tony Troia to close the public hearing. Seconded by Sal D’Alessio. Unanimously adopted.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was opened with Captain William Taylor, the Commanding Officer of the 62nd Precinct, having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Cathie, representing neighbors in the vicinity of 86th Street and 24th Avenue, spoke regarding issues associated with the Living Room Steak House and other bars in the immediate area. She stated that there has been issues with noise, drunken patrons coming onto neighboring properties.

Lynda Thompson invited the community to a special Veteran’s Day Mass, which will be held at St. Athansius, on November 10th at 11:30 AM.

Lt. Saimato, FDNY, reminded residents to change the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms when they change their clocks for the end of Daylight Saving Time on Sun., November 3rd. Free batteries are available this evening.

Brendan Flynn, representing Nextdoor.com, spoke regarding their new private social network for communities. Communities are using Nextdoor to organize, discuss neighborhood issues, for emergency alerts. Nextdoor believes that technology is a powerful tool for making neighborhoods stronger, safer places  
to call home.

Mr. Burbridge addressed the board regarding the Affordable Care Act and insurance options that are available to residents.

The Chairman inquired if anyone else from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Bart Allegretti to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Laurie Windsor. Unanimously adopted.

Comptroller John Liu

The Comptroller thanked the board for the work they do on behalf of the community. He further stated that he is honored to be the first Asian American to hold citywide office and although, due to term limits, he will no longer serve as Controller, he will still be involved.

He further spoke about the shutdown of the federal government and his concerns that if Congress does not raise the debt ceiling the effect it will have on New York City.

Councilman Vincent Gentile

The Councilman spoke about local community and legislative issues that he is working on. He further advised that 69th Street pier Eco Dock will be opening on October 17th. Residents can take advantage of educational programs, kayaking, waterway stewardship and special events.

Councilman Gentile advised that the Bay Ridge/Sunset Park ferry service has been extended to January 31, 2014. Residents can commute to Manhattan via the waterway from the Brooklyn Army Terminal, which has free parking. Fare is $2.

Assemblyman Peter Abbate

Assemblyman Abbate stated that during recess in Albany he has been in the community discussing issues with residents. He reminded everyone that Election Day is November 5th and to get out and vote.

Chairman’s Report

Mr. Guarinello announced that Deputy Inspector James Rooney had been transferred to the 60th Precinct. He thanked the Deputy Inspector for his service to the community and welcomed Captain William Taylor, the new Commanding Officer of the 62nd Precinct.

The Chairman advised that in observance of Columbus Day, there will be no refuse or recycling collection, or street cleaning on Monday, October 14th.

Captain William Taylor

The Captain thanked the Chairman for the warm welcome. He advised that he began his career in the financial industry. He graduated with an MBA from St. John University’s School of Accounting and worked at Price, Waterhouse and Cooper. He joined the Police Department in 1995, serving as a Housing Authority officer in Coney Island. He served as executive officer for the 60th Precinct and the 70th Precinct before becoming CO at the Brooklyn South Task Force.

The Captain stated that he has a great team at the 62nd Precinct and looks forward to working with the community.

Disposition of Public Hearing

The Chairman advised that Coney Island Hospital submitted a request for support for three (3) capital budget items following the printing of the draft recommendations. They are for the replacement of the magnetic door system, control panel and wiring; Purchase Echo Ultrasound machine for cardiac cath lab and purchase DXH analyzer for IV chemotherapy clinic.

Mr. Guarinello inquired if there were any other additions or changes to the capital and expense budget recommendations for fiscal year 2015.

Hearing none, a motion was made by Tony Troia to approve the draft of Community Board 11’s capital and expense budget recommendations for fiscal year 2015 as amended. Seconded by Sal D’Alessio. Unanimously adopted.

Transportation Committee

Laurie Windsor, Chairperson of the Transportation Committee, reported that NYC Transit made a joint presentation to Community Boards 10, 11 and 13 regarding their plans for a nine (9) station renewal project along the Sea Beach N line as part of the MTA’s 2010-2014 Capital project. The project is currently in design with construction award planned for the end of 2014.

Within Community Board 11 the following stations are included in this project: New Utrecht Avenue, 18th Avenue, 20th Avenue, Bay Parkway, Kings Highway, and Avenue U.

Work will include repair of the street-level station houses and support structures, replacement of the concrete and metal canopy passageway enclosure between platform stairs, replacement of the mezzanine to platform stairs and canopies, and repair of platforms including canopy structure. In addition, station aesthetics will be remedied and artwork will be installed. The track walls will be waterproofed and grouted to prevent future water damage. Damaged parapet walls will also be repaired or replaced.

In addition, New Utrecht Avenue will be made accessible and will get four elevators which will bring customers from street level to both the N and D platform areas.

All platform work will be performed from the track side. However, depending on condition of parapet walls, it may be necessary for the contractor to access private property. MTA Real Estate along with the design team will be surveying the track wall work. If it is deemed necessary to gain access to private property, MTA Real Estate will make timely notification to the property owners.

Because this project is still in design, they estimate that the construction duration will be 48 months from time of award.

NYCT is proposing the following service plan:

Temporary platforms will be built at Bay Parkway Stations for 13 months Coney Island-bound trains will only stop at Bay Parkway bypassing Ft. Hamilton, New Utrecht, 18th Ave, and 20th Ave. Customers wishing to use those stations will be required to back ride on Manhattan-bound trains. Once the Coney Island-bound work is complete, the service plan will flip to the Manhattan-bound side for another 13 months.

There was discussion regarding flood proofing at station entrances and wifi capability and the consensus of the board supported these recommendations.

Ms. Windsor further advised that the Department of Transportation has presented the preliminary design of the 17th Avenue pedestrian bridge over the Belt Parkway. This project involves the replacement of the existing non-compliant bridge with a new safer, handicapped-accessible bridge including amenities for public use.

There will be an overlook at the waterfront, new benches, new site paving and new lighting.

Being that this structure is located in an area where there is spill over from the bay there was discussion regarding the use of native plantings in the project area to harden the area naturally in an effort to mitigate flooding.

The consensus of the board was to support the use of native plantings in the project area.

District Manager’s Report

The District Manager advised that the Parks Department made a presentation on the preliminary design of Seth Low Playground.

The site plan calls for the area to be made ADA compliant with the replacement of the stairs with a ramp at the Avenue P entrance. The concrete play area will be transformed into 2 turf fields; one a youth soccer field and the second a multi-purpose turf field. Around the outside of the fields there would be a 4 foot wide rubber track path; a fitness area with fitness equipment.

The plan also includes the installation of bleachers, benches, a mist post, 2 drinking fountains and plantings.

A motion was made by Bart Allegretti to approve the plan with addition of an additional drinking fountain and lighting. Seconded by Antonio Troia. Motion carried with Man Wai Lau opposed.

Man Wai Lau requested to be recognized. He stated that he was opposed to the plan for a few reasons, one being that the funds could be used to address much needed repairs to the bathroom. He further stated that the split field design does not make good use of the space.

After lengthy discussion, the motion was revisited and the plan as presented was opposed by a majority.

The District Manager advised that the Department of Transportation has advised that they are seeking input in the Safe Street for Seniors Program. The program is a safety initiative for older residents. They have identified a new Senior Pedestrian Focus Area in Bath Beach. The approximate area is bounded by Cropsey Avenue – 86 Street, 20 Avenue – 26th Avenue. As part of the program, DOT is working to upgrade broken or missing pedestrian ramps. If anyone has locations that are in need of repairs within this area, please submit them to the district office.

A motion was made by Cluadio DeMeo to adjourn. Seconded by Laurie Windsor. Unanimously adopted.