Attendance of Community Board 11’s General Meeting and

Public Hearings held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at

Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare

 1740 84th Street, Brooklyn, New York

Present: Gerald Bertuna, Ross Brady, Matthew Bromme, Rocco Buonpane, Albert Campanelli, Msgr. David Cassato, Warren Chan, Vincent Chirico, Sal D’Alessio, Claudio DeMeo, Mafalda DiMango, Eric DiNapoli, Paul DiSpirito, Marc D’Ottavio, Charles Farrauto, John Garvey, Yonah Glatzer, Anthony Grigos, William Guarinello, Man Wai Lau, Eileen LaRuffa, Vito Marinelli, Albert Milone, Nick Miraglia, Raymond Mollica, Vincent Nativo, Sonia Valentin, Laurie Windsor, Victor Wong

Absent: Bart Allegretti, Maria Campanella, Dr. Joseph Caruana, Jerry Chiapetta, Donald Clark, Yoketing Eng, Vito Marangelli, Michael Marks, James Orlando, Barbara Parisi, Salvatore Rao, Stan Roher, Antonio Troia, Robert Yee

Excused: Rosa Casella, Steve Chung, Louis Crispiano, Shirley Fineman, Dr. Tim Law, Rabbi Gary Pollack,

Guests: P.O. LaRose – NYPD Recruitment, P.O. Miller – NYPD Recruitment, Andrew Santano, Lucille Santano, Elizabeth Bennett, Joshua Rinesmith, Julia Galuboch – FDNY CAU, Danielle Shapiro – Brooklyn Public Library, Lynda Thomson, Angela Valentin, Joe Torre, Sara Steinweiss – Councilman Gentile, Workers Justice Project, Denise Virga – State Senator Golden, Alex – Councilman Greenfield, Det. Stephen Agosta – 62nd Precinct CAU

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

Held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at

Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,

 1740 84th Street

Pledge

The meeting was opened with Matthew Bromme having the honor of the Pledge.

Public Hearings

1. BSA Calendar # 292-96-BZ

1832-48 86th Street

The applicant seeks to amend the existing variance to remove the 25-year term limitation at the above location.

The Chairman inquired if anyone from the public sought recognition on the matter. Hearing none, a motion was made by Man Wai Lau to close the public hearing. Seconded by Matthew Bromme. Unanimously adopted.

1. BSA Calendar No. 331-13-BZ

2005 86th Street

The applicant seeks a special permit to allow the operation of a physical culture establishment (fitness center) at the above location.

Cathy Krueger, speaking for the residents of 85th Street, requested that the rear gate on the 85th Street side of the property be kept closed. She stated that people enter the alley area in the evening, which abuts her property and there are security concerns.

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

1. Agency Responses to the FY 2015 Preliminary Capital and Expense Budget Submissions.

The Chairman inquired if anyone from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Laurie Windsor to close the public hearing. Seconded by Vincent Nativo. Unanimously adopted.

Public Portion

Lynda Thomson advised that a special mass will be held on May 25, 2014 for “Gold Star Families”, which are families who lost a son or daughter while in active duty, and Wounded Warriors on May 25th at St. Athanasius Church. All are invited to attend.

She further announced that in conjunction with World War II Ex-POWs and the American Legion, Amity Post, donations of pajamas are needed to bring to Bethesda Naval Hospital. If anyone is interested, please bring a new pair of pajamas to the next meeting.

Denise Virga, representing State Senator Golden, advised that the Senator and Assemblywoman Malliotakis, has called upon the MTA to authorize a multi-trip discount plan for Brooklyn residents traveling via the Verrazano Bridge. A petition drive has been launched and may be accessed at [www.thetollsaretoodamnhigh.com](http://www.thetollsaretoodamnhigh.com)

A member of the Worker’s Justice Project, Bay Parkway Community Job Center, spoke regarding the services that are offered. Fliers are available.

Javier Gallardo, representing the Worker’s Justice Project, announced that April 11th is their 12th Anniversary and there will be a community celebration.

Sara Steinweiss, representing Councilman Gentile, advised that a property tax seminar was held on February 25th. She reminded property owners that if they feel their property was assessed improperly they may file an appeal. The deadline for appeal is March 15th, and for those interested, applications are available this evening.

She further announced that graffiti removal is ongoing and can be reported to the Councilman’s District Office at 718-748-5200 ext 201. Although not in his district, the Councilman funded the recently installed police camera on 85th Street and 20th Avenue.

In closing, she advised that Councilman Gentile attended the Seth Low rally opposing the colocation of a charter school within the building. The Councilman has signed-on to a lawsuit, brought forth by Public Advocate Tish James, which challenges colocations.

A representative from Brooklyn Public Library announced that they are seeking support for the Bike the Branches event. Bike the Branches is part of the annual [Support the Branches](https://apps.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/stb/) spring campaign. All proceeds from Support the Branches and Bike the Branches help fund Brooklyn Public Library’s work to bring vital services, resources and programs to every neighborhood in Brooklyn.

Sonia Valentin, representing the Benson Avenue Block Association, announced that Citizens Committee for New York City has awarded them a $1000 grant for a beautification project.

Police Officer LaRose, of the NYPD Recruitment Unit, advised that a Career Day would be held on May 3rd, at Lafayette High School. She advised that there are over 300 specialized units within the Police Department. There will be food and music. Fliers are available.

Alex, representing Councilman Greenfield, advised that Participatory Budgeting is ongoing in the 44th Council District. Residents have been working on project proposals and voting will take place on March 30 through April 6.

She further advised that Councilman Greenfield is opposed to the Charter School co-location at Seth Low, and will continue to fight with his colleagues.

Julia Knobloch, representing the Fire Department Community Affairs Unit, reminded residents to change their batteries in their smoke detectors. Batteries are available, compliments of the Fire Department.

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2014 meeting. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

Disposition of Public Hearings

1. BSA 192-96 BZ

1832/48 86th Street

Ross Brady, Chairperson of the Planning and Zoning Committee advised, the location is zoned for commercial use with multiple establishments. A variance was granted 17 years ago to permit a single commercial entity to occupy the space. The space is currently a “Marshalls” department store. The site was previously empty for a number of years and was previously a movie theater and small stores adjacent thereto. It is recognized that it is difficult to lease commercial property for terms of less than ten to fifteen years. The current lease for the tenant “Marshalls” is up for renewal and recognizing this difficulty and that the current usage is beneficial to the community, absent public objection, the Committee recommends approval.

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to approve the application. Seconded by Sal D’Alessio. Unanimously adopted.

1. BSA Calendar No. 331-13-BZ

2005 86th Street

Mr. Brady reported that the applicant filed for a special permit, which is required to convert the property into a fitness center. The applicant seeks the permit to operate a “Planet Fitness” facility in the property and to expand usage of the mezzanine. The business will be open 24 hours and it is anticipated that customers will come by foot, by subway and bicycle. Approximately 1,000 to 1,300 customers on a weekday would visit the facility, and 135 to 150 may be there at peak hours of 6-10am and 5-9pm.

The Committee recommends approval of the application with the provisions that egress not be permitted from 85th Street and the gate is secured and locked, and the proprietor or lessor provide additional bicycle racks on 86th Street if permissible by law.

A motion was made by John Garvey to approve the special permit as presented. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

1. Agency Responses to the FY 2015 capital and Expense Budget.

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to approve the responses to the FY 2015 Preliminary Capital and Expense Budget submissions as presented. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman’s Report

Mr. Guarinello advised that the Santa Rosalia Society concerns regarding the dates of the feast. The 2014 dates are August 14-24. They will also be stationing one cleaner per block and will have waste containers to store all of the garbage. The length will remain the same. The event will be monitored to determine if future recommendations need to be made.

The Chairman advised that the Community Board has received formal notification of the interest and intent of Modest Community Services Association under the auspices of the New State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities to establish one individual residential alternative for 2 persons with disabilities at 2327 82nd Street.

Mr. Guarinello stated that he is concerned that the property has open violations and we will be requesting a statement from the applicant and an additional month to review the application.

The Chairman advised that Man Wai Lau would be the representative attending the Borough Board meetings.

Transportation Committee

Laurie Windsor, Chairperson of the Transportation Committee, reported that the MTA has submitted a proposal for a new layover for the B6 bus route at the Ulmer Park Depot.

The proposal calls for the B6 layover to be placed in front of the Ulmer Park Depot parking lot on Harway Avenue between Bay 40th Street and 25th Avenue. This would place additional buses on 26th Avenue and Harway Avenue.

The Transportation Committee has reviewed the proposal, and rejects this new layover, and recommends that the MTA use the area directly opposite the Ulmer Park Depot and on Harway Avenue between 25th Avenue and Bay 38th Street. This area is already used for bus parking and would not have an impact on the surrounding area.

A motion was made by Eileen LaRuffa to accept the recommendations of the Transportation Committee as presented. Seconded by Matthew Bromme. Unanimously adopted.

District Manager’s Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia advised that without prior community notification, the Department of Environmental Protection began the process of making sewer repairs on Bath Avenue between 18th Avenue and Bay 14th Street. .

Following a formal request to DEP, a meeting was held where we were advised that this project involves the lining of 520 feet of the 84” brick sewer along Bath Avenue. In order to make repairs they will first have to create a bypass of the sewer line, similar to when they did the Avenue V Force main project. The job is expected to take 3 months, work hours are 7AM-3:30- PM, one travel lane will be maintained in each direction; and there will be no parking lane.

The District Manager requested that DEP issue a sewer repair advisory and distribute within the work area to inform the residents and businesses of the anticipated community impacts. This was done last week and we will meet again in two weeks for a progress report.

The District Manager further advised that beginning on Monday, March 17th, and continuing for approximately 2 weeks, DEP will be performing emergency water main repair and replacement on Bay 10th Street between Bath Avenue and Independence Avenue.

As part of the Mayor’s commitment to improve the safety of our streets, the NYPD has been enforcing double parking violations in our community. Educational fliers have been distributed on the dangers of double parking and enforcement will be ensuing.

Due to the freezing temperatures and snowfall, this winter has taken its toll on our streets. Mother Nature and salt has left many streets with potholes. The Department of Transportation had done strip paving on 86th Street and Bay Parkway and we have requested repairs on 86th Street under the elevated structure.

She reminded residents that if you see a pothole that has not been filled, please report them to 311 or the community board.

The District Manager advised that the Parks Department Concession Division has issued a temporary use authorization for the selling of flowers on Bay Parkway and Shore Parkway at the eastbound exit of the Belt Parkway. The permit covers the holidays of Valentine’s Day, Mother’s Day and Easter.

The Parks Department was contacted to voice the safety and traffic concerns that were previously brought to their attention after the reconstruction of exit ramp at this location.

New Business

Laurie Windsor advised that the Department of Education approved the colocation of a charter school within Seth Low. She further stated that lawsuit brought forward by the Public Advocate includes community input, which Community Board 11’s resolution adopted in September pointed out.

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to adjourn. Seconded by Msgr. Cassato. Unanimously adopted.