Attendance of Community Board 11’s General Meeting

Held on December 11, 2014 at

The Bensonhurst Center for Nursing, 1740 84th Street

Present: Bart Allegretti, Al Campanelli, Rosa Casella, Vincent Chirico, Sal D’Alessio, Claudio DeMeo, Mafalda DiMango, Eric DiNapoli, Marc D’Ottavio, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, Shirley Fineman, Anthony Grigos, William Guarinello, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Al Milone, Nicholas Miraglia, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Robert Yee

Absent: Thomas Andros, Gerald Bertuna, Rocco Buonpane, Donald Clark, Yonah Glatzer, Ligia Guallpa, Raymond Mollica, Salvatore Rao, Nicholas Zimmitti

Excused: Matthew Bromme, Msgr. David Cassato, Warren Chan, Wei Cheung, Jin Wing Chiu, Steve Chung, Louis Crispiano, Priscilla Consolo, John Garvey, James Orlando, Laurie Windsor, Victor Wong, Sai Chuen Yeung

Guests: Harry Taggart, Elias Suarez, W. Luria, Laura Cheng, Mark D’Addonna, Gabriel Ingrassia, Linda Ingassia, R. Hernandez, Jean Wong, Mirna Umana, Suzy Lee, Jeannine Cherichetti – Councilman Treyger, Connie Fong, Helen Klein – Home Reporter, Patrick Bolton, Jane Carey – Councilman Greenfield, Andrew Gournardes – Borough President Adams, Liam McCabe – Congressman Grimm

Minutes of Community Board 11’s General Meeting

Held on December 11, 2014 at

The Bensonhurst Center for Nursing, 1740 84th Street

The general meeting of Community Board 11 was opened with Antonio Troia having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Harry Taggart, a resident of New Utrecht Avenue, spoke regarding the difficulties that motorists face due to the street cleaning regulations. He stated that many people have 2 or more cars and finding parking is difficult.

Ms. Lee, a community resident, spoke regarding spas on 86th Street. She stated that those spas with unfriendly entranceways and garish lighting might be operating brothels. The locations were submitted to the 62nd Precinct.

She further advised that recently there have been homeless people on 86th Street, especially near 24th Avenue.

Lucille Santano, a resident of 78th Street, spoke regarding a vacant property on 78th Street. She stated that it is unmaintained and dirty.

A resident spoke regarding the Southwest Brooklyn Marine Transfer Station. He stated his concerns that the placement between Bensonhurst Park and Calvert Veux Park would turn the area into an industrial use.

John Quaglione, representing Senator Golden, advised that the Parks Department is recruiting lifeguards for the 2015 season. The qualifying tests will be held at New Utrecht High School on December 12th and 19th, from 3:30 – 5:30 PM and Fort Hamilton High School on January 4th and 11th, from 9 AM to Noon.

He further advised that Senator Golden is now testifying at the MTA public hearing on the proposed fare increases. Those interested can sign the petition opposing fare increases at [www.thetollistoodamnhigh.com](http://www.thetollistoodamnhigh.com)

In closing, he advised that the Senate passed legislation that would provide Brooklyn residents the same discount that Staten Island residents receive to cross the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. Staten Island residents using E-Z Pass, who travel the bridge more than three times in one month pay $5.50 per trip.

Andrew Gounardes, representing Borough President Adams, announced a historic exhibition at Brooklyn Borough Hall of numerous 12th- and 13th-century manuscripts from St. Francis of Assisi, one of the most significant figures in the history of organized religion. This is the first time these artifacts have left Italy in 700 years, and it is currently the only scheduled opportunity for the public to view these documents in the United States. Those interested in viewing the transcripts should check [www.brooklyn-usa.org](http://www.brooklyn-usa.org) for the schedule.

Olga Fiore, representing Senator Savino, wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season. She reminded everyone to check in on a neighbor.

Liam McCabe, representing Congressman Grimm, wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Kenneth, representing Councilman Menchaca, announced several upcoming events including participatory budgeting, free legal clinics and immigration services. Fliers available.

Jeannine Cherichetti, representing Councilman Treyger, advised that they are located at 2015 Stillwell Avenue and are available to assist residents.

Santina Giammona, representing the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, introduced herself and is available to speak with small business owners.

The Chairman inquired if anyone else from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Man Wai Lau to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Mafalda DiMango.

Minutes

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2014 meeting. Seconded by Paul DiSpirito. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman’s Report

Mr. Guarinello recognized the residents from New Utrecht Avenue and 80th Street, who

spoke regarding the 6-day per week street cleaning regulations. He advised that the board

previously supported the reduction of street cleaning to 4 days per week, which was

previously submitted in writing to the Department of Sanitation.

The Chairman thanked Paul DiSpirito of Lioni’s for donating the food for tonight’s collation.

The Chairman requested that the locations of the alleged illegally operating spas be

submitted to the district office.

Mr. Guarinello advised that the January meeting may be moved to January 6th. Notices will

go out in advance.

The Chairman advised that notification was received from the Department of Design and

Construction that they will soon begin construction of the Southwest Brooklyn Marine

Transfer Station. There will be a community liaison assigned to provide information and

answer project related questions. Construction activities will begin this month and

completion is expected in 2017.

Mr. Guarinello advised that this project has been signed into law and is no longer before the

Community Board.

District Manager’s Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia opened her report by commending Mr. Ken Thompson, the Brooklyn

District Attorney and NYPD for the recent closures of massage parlors/spas in the

community.

As previously reported regarding future recommendations of the board on consumer and health issues for bodywork establishments, it was suggested that an interim recommendation for a basic city licensing requirement be considered.

The District Manager stated that the practice of massage is licensed by New York State;

however, the creation of a basic New York City licensing requirement for body rub/spa

establishments would protect both the consumer and the employees.

A motion was made by Nicholas Miraglia to recommend that the City of New York institue a

basic licensing requirement for body rub/spa establishments. Seconded by Eileen LaRuffa.

Unanimously adopted.

The District Manager reported that the Department of Design and Construction is in the

process of upgrading the water mains on 16th Avenue from 83rd to 86th Street. The work is

scheduled through November 19th and then they will move to 84th Street from 16th Avenue

to 15th Avenue. Work hours are from 7AM – 5:30 PM. 24-hour prior notification will be

given to affected properties for confirmed water shut-offs.

Marnee Elias-Pavia thanked the 62nd Precinct for their assistance in maintaining the

traffic on Bay 8th Street between Shore Parkway and Cropsey Avenue due to National

Grid’s weekend work.

She further advised that emergency telephone work is being performed on Bay Parkway and Cropsey Avenue, which will last approximately 1 week. Ms. Elias-Pavia contacted DOT to request a better traffic pattern in the area. She noted that all lanes travelling towards Caesars Bay are merged into one lane.

On Saturday, December 13th, the feature film New York, New York will be filming on 86th Street between Bay Parkway and Bay 31 Street from 2PM – 10 PM. Parking will be eliminated in the area.

The District Manager advised that 86th Street is an embargoed street during the holiday season and has contacted the Mayor’s Office of Film regarding the issuance of this permit on an embargoed street.

New Business

Sonia Valentin announced events taking place at the New Utrecht Library during the month

of December.

She further announced that the 62nd Precinct is conducting a toy drive for Reaching Out

Community Services. Those interested in donating a toy can do so by dropping it off at the

Precinct located at 1925 Bath Avenue.

The Chairman inquired if there was any other new business. Hearing none, a motion was

made by Antonio Troia to adjourn. Seconded by Mafalda DiMango. Unanimously

adopted.