Attendance of Community Board 11’s General Meeting

Held on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at

The Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,

1740 84th Street

Present: Bart Allegretti, Ross Brady, Matthew Bromme, Rocco Buonpane, Albert Campanelli, Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Warren Chan, Jin Wing Chiu, Steve Chung, Ruben Colon, Priscilla Consolo, Sal D’Alessio, Linda Dalton, Claudio DeMeo, Eric DiNapoli, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, Shirley Fineman, John Garvey, Anthony Grigos, Ligia Guallapa, William R. Guarinello, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Albert Milone, Nicholas Miraglia, James Orlando, Caleb Pan, Sal Rao, Barry Sanchez, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Robert Yee, Sai Chuen Yeung, Nicholas Zimmitti

Absent: Thomas Andros, Wai Cheung, Nayeem Siddique,

Excused: Sofia Annunziata, Karina Cardozo, Vincent Chirico, Mafalda DiMango, Eileen LaRuffa, James Orlando

Guests: Michael Strasburg – Senator Golden, Franca Bove – NIA, Mark D’Addone, Olga Fiore – Senator Savino, Jeannine Cherichetti – Councilman Treyger, Lisa Garvey, William Vitale – CERT, Janet Perry – Bensonhurst Volunteer Ambulance Service, Michael Marques – Bensonhurst EMS, Al Fazio – Assemblyman Abbate, Hisham Morgan – Muslim American Society

Minutes of Community Board 11’s General Meeting

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The Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,

1740 84th Street

The general meeting of Community Board 11 was opened with Ross Brady having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

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

Presentation

Karen, representing New York City Emergency Management, spoke regarding the importance of emergency preparedness. She further discussed Notify NYC, the City of New York’s official source of information for emergency events and city services and the Know Your Zone website. Know Your Zone provides information on the city’s hurricane evacuation zones, the hazards you may face from a hurricane, and what to do to prepare.

The Ready New York booklet was distributed and discussed. In closing, Karen urged everyone to prepare a Go Bag.

Minutes

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2015 meeting. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

Election of Officer’s

The Nominating Committee, at the May 13, 2015 presented the following slate of Officers for the 2015 – 2016 term:

 William Guarinello – Chairman

 Laurie Windsor – 1st Vice Chair

 Shirley Fineman – 2nd Vice Chair

 Man Wai Lau – Secretary

 Nicholas Miraglia – Treasurer

A motion was made by Ross Brady to accept the slate of Officers as presented. Seconded by Antonio Troia. Unanimously adopted.

Presentations

Chairman Guarinello presented Certificates of Recognition to Police Officer Pierre, 62nd Precinct Explorer Advisor and to the Explorers, for their community service and participation on 18th Avenue planting project.

Mr. Guarinello, in recognition of the New York City’s Fire Department 150th Anniversary, presented plaques to Engine 243/Ladder 168, Engine 253, and Engine 330/Ladder 172, for their dedicated service to the Bensonhurst community.

Councilman Gentile

Councilman Gentile announced that the Bensonhurst Greenmarket located on 18th Avenue and 81st Street is now open every Sunday from 8AM – 4PM until Thanksgiving.

He further announced that he will be hosting a job fair on June 15th, at William McKinley Intermediate School, 7301 Fort Hamilton Parkway, from 3 to 6 PM. Fliers are available.

There will be a Family Fun Night at Bensonhurst Park, on June 24, 2015, from 4PM – 8PM, and at 8PM, there will be a screening of the Lego Movie.

The Councilman in closing announced that the abandoned property located on the corner of Benson Avenue and Bay 8th Street was sold. Additionally, the Council passed his sponsored bill that would require the Department of Consumer Affairs  to issue annual reports on the violations that are dismissed in its tribunal and would require DCA to report to the Council on the steps the agency plans to take to minimize the issuance of violations that are ultimately dismissed, such as retraining inspectors or amending unclear rules.

Chairman’s Report

Mr. Guarinello acknowledged and thanked Paul DiSpirito for donating the food for tonight’s meeting.

The Chairman introduced and welcomed the newly appointed board members: Sofia Annunziata, Ross Brady, Karina Cardozzo, Ruben Colon, Linda Dalton, Barry Sanchez, Nayeem Siddique, Robert Whittaker, and Andrew Windsor.

He further advised that during the summer recess board members would be receiving committee preference questionnaires and other material. He requested that these be completed and returned upon receipt so assignments can be made.

62nd Precinct

Captain William Taylor, Commanding Officer of the 62nd Precinct, announced that crime in the precinct is down 20%. There are ongoing towing operations to address commercial vehicles parked overnight on residential streets

The Chairman acknowledged the excellent work the men and women of the 62nd precinct, under the leadership of Captain Taylor, do in keeping our community safe.

District Manager’s Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia advised that she attended the NY Rising to the Top Reception and Award ceremony held today. She was pleased to announce that the Bensonhurst/Gravesend committee won the Rising to the Top competition for best inclusion of vulnerable communities and was awarded an additional $1 Million in funding.

The District Manager advised that the Department of Transportation is currently resurfacing the following locations in the district: Kings Highway from Bay Parkway to McDonald Avenue was completed. They are working at, and will be moving into the following locations: 19th Avenue from 86th to 65th Street, 71 Street from 14th to 16th Avenues, 80th Street from Bay Parkway to Stillwell Avenue, 25th Avenue from Stillwell Avenue to Bath Avenue, and Cropsey Avenue from Bay Parkway to 26th Avenue.

She further advised that she attended a meeting with the Department of Transportation, Assemblyman Colton and Councilman Treyger to discuss the bus stops under the elevated structure along 86th Street. Two pilot projects, as part of the Safe Routes to Transit were implemented by DOT along 86th Street in 2007. These were the Bay Parkway and 20th Avenue bus islands that were not effective. They are moving forward with capital and in house work to address safety, sanitation and ADA issues. A full presentation will be made to the Transportation Committee once a design is in place.

The District Manager advised that notification was received that on Friday, June 12th and 13th a television series, “Shades of Blue” will be filming on 63rd Street between New Utrecht Avenue and the dead end during the evening hours.

Additionally, the water main project is in its final stages and they are at their final location on 86th Street between 14th Avenue and Bay 10th Street. In responses to concerns from businesses along this area regarding after turnoffs, working with Councilman Gentile we were able to move the work from days to nights to minimize impacts.

In closing, she advised that following the assassination of Police Officers Liu and Ramos, solo patrols were suspended citywide. That order has been lifted and Captain Taylor will once again have an officer assigned to the 86th Street commercial corridor. Ms. Elias-Pavia thanked Captain Taylor.

New Business

Priscilla Consolo addressed the board regarding service issues associated with the B1 bus. In particular, passenger overcrowding, traffic congestion, and delays. Collaborating with a local elected official a petition was created calling upon the MTA to institute B1 limited service.

Sonia Valentin advised that the 62nd Precinct would be holding a blood drive in July. Fliers are available. She also advised that there are 15% Modell coupons available and 5% will be donated to the 62nd Precinct Community Council, which will be used for the Explorers.

Old Business

John Garvey spoke regarding the status illegal curb cuts and parking pads and questioned whether a summons could be issued for blocking an illegal curb cut.

Councilman Gentile advised that he has a bill pending to authorize the city to restore violated illegal curb cuts.

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