Attendance of Community Board 11’s General Meeting

Held on Thursday, September 10, 2015 at

The Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,

1740 84th Street

Present: Ross Brady, Matthew Bromme, Rocco Buonpane, Albert Campanelli, Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Jin Wing Chiu, Ruben Colon, Sal D’Alessio, Mafalda DiMango, Eric DiNapoli, Marc D’Ottavio, Charles Farrauto, Shirley Fineman, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Albert Milone, Nicholas Miraglia, James Orlando, Caleb Pan, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Robert Yee, Sai Chuen Yeung

Excused: Bart Allegretti, Vincent Chirico, Steve Chung, Priscilla Consolo, Linda Dalton, John Garvey, Yonah Glatzer, Ligia Guallpa, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Nicholas Zimmitti

Absent: Thomas Andros, Sofia Annunziata, Karina Cardozo, Warren Chan, Wai Cheung, Claudio DeMeo, Paul DiSpirito, Anthony Grigos, Salvatore Rao, Barry Sanchez, Nayeem Siddique

Guests: P.O. Tran – NYPD Patrol Borough Brooklyn South, Mary Placanica – Assemblyman Colton, Susan Grossman – CB11, Tammy Lee, Al Fazio – Assemblyman Abbate, Fran Vella-Maronne – Rep. Donovan, Michael Marquez – Bensonhurst Ambulance, Laurel Girvan – Seth Low/IS 96, Mary Quinones – NYU/Lutheran, Wendy Goldstein – NYU/Lutheran, Philip Smallman – Senator Golden, Angel Fung – Council Member Treyer

Minutes of Community Board 11’s General Meeting

Held on Thursday, September 10, 2015 at

The Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,

1740 84th Street

The general meeting of Community Board 11 opened with Councilman Vincent Gentile having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Fran Vella Marrone, representing Congressman Donovan, announced that he would be holding a Military Academy Night, on October 13th, for high school students interested in applying to a service academy. Additionally, October is Passport Awareness Month. Informational fliers are available.

She further advised that Congressman Donovan has penned a letter, co-signed by Assemblyman Colton and Councilman Treyger, to the Environmental Protection Agency calling upon them to declare the site of the Marine Transfer Station a Superfund site.

Michael Marquez, representing Bensonhurst Volunteer Ambulance Corp., advised that they would be holding a fundraiser on September 15, 2015, on West 10 Street and Avenue U from 6 PM – 10 PM. Funds raised will be used for free CPR courses.

Mary Placanica, representing Assemblyman Colton, advised that the Assemblyman is hosting an AARP Defensive Driving course on Sunday, November 8th.

She further announced that in conjunction with Coney Island Hospital, free flu shots will be available on October 23rd. The New York Legal Assistance Group will be offering free legal services on October 21st, for civil issues. Anyone interested in participating in any of the events must call Assemblyman Colton’s office at 718-236-1598 to register.

In closing, Ms. Placanica advised that a press conference was held on September 2nd regarding the conditions at the site of the Southwest Brooklyn Marine Transfer Station and calling for it to be declared a superfund site.

Andrew Gounardes, representing Borough President Adams, announced upcoming events that will take place during the month of September. Informational flyers are available for those interested.

Philip Smallman, representing State Senator Golden, advised that he would be working with constituents on issues that they may have. He is available on Fridays at 718-238-6044.

Alyssa Fagano, a student of CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, will be covering the Bensonhurst area this semester. She will be available following the meeting for anyone interested in speaking.

 Angel Fung, representing Council Member Treyger, announced that this Friday, the parachute jump in Coney Island will “Go Gold” to raise awareness for childhood cancer. All are invited to attend.

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

Moment of Silence

Mr. Guarinello requested a moment of silence in commemoration for the lives lost on September 11, 2001.

 Minutes

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to adopt the minutes of the June 11, 2015 meeting. Seconded by Robert Whittaker. Unanimously adopted.

Elected Officials

Councilman Gentile thanked everyone for their concern following his double knee replacement surgery. He stated that while he was recuperating, his office was very active organizing community clean-ups, the most recent on Shore Parkway from 17th to 27th Avenues.

The Councilman further discussed the site of the Marine Transfer Station declaring it a Superfund site. Information and a petition will be circulated explaining the process of requesting a site to be declared a superfund.

Assemblyman Abbate spoke regarding the education investment tax credit that provides $250 million dollars to private parochial schools for New York State mandates. He further discussed his concern regarding the funding for struggling schools and the need to invest in our schools so that we make them stronger.

Presentation – NYU Lutheran

Wendy Goldstein, CEO of Lutheran Hospital, made a presentation regarding the merger of Lutheran Medical Center and NYU. The November 1, 2016 merger follows an affiliation between the two hospitals, which created a clinically integrated healthcare network that increases local access to high-level quality care. Lutheran Medical Center will be the Brooklyn campus for NYU and they are very interested in initiating a dialogue with the community to hear what services are important to the residents.

62nd Precinct

Mr. Guarinello introduced and welcomed Captain Anthony Sanseverino, the new Commanding Officer of the 62nd Precinct.

Captain Sanseverino spoke regarding crime reductions and the excellent work of the men and women of the 62nd Precinct in getting guns off our streets. Over the summer, three search warrants were executed resulting in the apprehension of five firearms each.

He looks forward to working with the community and continuing a positive relationship.

Chairman’s Report

Mr. Guarinello reported that the Mayor’s Street Activity Office moved the dates of the Santa Rosalia Feast, as recommended by the board, so that it ended one-week before Labor Day weekend. We will continue to work with the organizers to address issues.

The Chairman advised that we are beginning the fiscal year 2017 budget cycle, and will be scheduling a public hearing on the board’s capital and expense budget priorities. Capital budget requests should be submitted to the District Manager.

Mr. Guarinello advised that committee assignments for 2015-2016 term have been made and are available this evening.

Committee Reports

Transportation Committee

Laurie Windsor, Chairperson of the Transportation Committee, advised that the committee met with the Department of Transportation regarding the Safe Routes to Transit program, for the bus stops under the el.

The proposal calls for improvements to 10 bus stops without bus islands on 86th Street at the intersections of 19th Avenue, 21st Avenue, 23rd Avenue, 24th Avenue and 26th Avenues. Additional improvements would be made at 20th Avenue and Bay Parkway consisting of a full neck down, which is extending the sidewalk an additional 16 feet.

The committee is not prepared to make a recommendation pending additional information, which has not yet been received from the Department of Transportation.

Ms. Windsor further advised that MTA NYC Transit has commenced a nine (9)-station renewal project along the Sea Beach N line. The nine stations are 8th Avenue, Fort Hamilton Parkway, New Utrecht Avenue, 18th Avenue, 20th Avenue, Bay Parkway, Kings Highway, Avenue U and 86th Street.

Station Renewal work will include replacing platforms and repairing platform canopy and columns, replacing overpass enclosures between platform stairs, reconstructing stairways and installing new handrails, refurbishing the fare control area and repairing the surrounding control house, installing new PA system, CCTV, Help Points, lighting and signage, repairing arch and parapet wall and repairing the concrete retaining wall between stations along the line.

Additionally, the 8th Avenue and New Utrecht Avenue stations will be made accessible. 8th Avenue will get two ADA ramps and New Utrecht Avenue will get four elevators, which will bring customers from street level to both the N and D platform areas.

In order to perform the necessary work for 14 months, Manhattan-bound platforms at all nine (9) stations will be out of service. To access the Ft. Hamilton, New Utrecht, 18th Ave, 20th Ave, Kings Highway, Avenue U and 86th Street Stations while platforms are under construction, customers will be required to back ride using the temporary platforms at 8th Avenue and Bay Parkway. Once the Manhattan-bound work is complete, the service plan will flip to the Coney Island-bound side for another 14 months. Customers will again use the temporary platforms at 8th Avenue and Bay Parkway to back ride to their respective stations.

Planning and Zoning

Marnee Elias-Pavia, on behalf of Ross Brady, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning committee, reported that the committee met on July 8th with Mr. Jacobs, of the Department of City Planning concerning the Zoning for Quality and Affordabilty text amendment. The proposal affects the community in several ways, allowing for basic residential height changes, and the elimination of off street parking requirements for senior and affordable housing.

The committee agrees that the goals of affordable and senior housing are laudable, but cautions about unchecked, “”one size fits all” neighborhood development. It is unclear what “affordable” housing means and there does not appear to be protections for overdevelopment and congestion, nor does it address the additional tax on infrastructure and city services. Additionally, the proposal does not take into account items of concern to this community, including illegal subdivision of homes, illegal curb cuts and/or parking pads and the undercount of automobiles evidenced by the number of vehicles parked on our streets with license plates from other states.

The Mayor’s proposal requires additional study and input from each community board consistent with its development and needs. The Committee recommends that we send a message expressing concern to eliminating parking restrictions without further study.

The Chairman directed the District Manager to send correspondence reflecting the committee’s concerns.

District Manager’s Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia reported that she attended a presentation by the Department of Environmental Protection on the Long Term Control Plan for managing Combined Sewer Overflows in the Coney Island Watershed area, of which parts of our district are included.

Under a consent order between the city and state, the city must meet certain milestones, which include best management practices plans, pollution prevention plans and studies of the effects of the permitted discharge on the receiving water, as well as public meetings. They are in the process of scheduling a public meeting in the near future.

She was advised that the Department of Environmental Protection does not look at the data for illegal parking pads and the removal of front yards and the effect it has on the lack of absorption and the release of wet weather discharges.

The Chairman directed the District Manager to attend the public hearing and voice the concerns of Community Board 11.

The District Manager reported that the Department of Aging is conducting a Needs Assessment Survey to determine what community based services would best support residents as they age. They have asked that we assist them in distributing surveys to residents 60 and over, who reside in the 11214 zip code. If anyone is interested in participating, the surveys are available.

We have received notification that Community Board 11 has been selected for a one-time only curbside clothing collection by the Department of Sanitation. Each year, New York City residents throw away over 200,000 tons of clothing and textiles. To make it easier to reuse or recycle unwanted clothing, DSNY is testing curbside collection of clothing. On your recycling day during the week of October 26, you can put out unwanted clothing for DSNY pickup. Literature and bags will be mailed out to residents.

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to adjourn. Seconded by Sal D’Alessio. Unanimously adopted.