Attendance of Community Board 11’s General Meeting

Held on Thursday, September 8, 2016 at

The Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,

1740 84th Street

Present: Bart Allegretti, Matthew Bromme, Albert Campanelli, Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Jin Wing Chiu, Iwen Chu, Ruben Colon, Priscilla Consolo, Sal D’Alessio, Linda Dalton, Claudio DeMeo, Paul DiSpirito, Shirley Fineman, John Garvey, William R. Guarinello, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, James Orlando, Caleb Pan, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Robert Yee, Sai Chuen Yeung, Nicholas Zimmitti

Excused: Ross Brady, Vincent Chirico, Mafalda DiMango, Charles Farrauto, Yonah Glatzer, Albert Milone

Absent: Thomas Andros, Sofia Annunziata, Rocco Buonpane, Karina Cardozo, Warren Chan, Wai Cheung, Steve Chung, Claudio DeMeo, Eric DiNapoli, Anthony Grigos, Ligia Guallpa, Nicholas Miraglia, Salvatore Rao, Barry Sanchez, Nayeem Siddique,

Guests: Angelina Dahab – CM Gentile, Fran Vella-Marrone – Rep. Donovan, Franca Bove – Neighborhood Improvement Association, Peter Joseph, Ari Kagan – Comptroller Scott Stringer, Olga Fiore – Senator Savino, Al Fazio – Assemblyman Abbate, Steph Campanha – CM Greenfield, Jeannine Cherichetti – CM Treyger, Bob Quigley, William Vitale – CERT

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 Dr. Tim Law having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Fran Vella-Marrone, representing Congressman Donovan, announced that Passport Day would be held on Saturday, September 10, from 9AM-3PM. She further advised that the Congressman introduced a bill that strengthens transit security by enabling transit agencies to use Transit Security Grant Program monies more effectively.

Ari Kagan, representing Comptroller Stringer, spoke regarding the recent audit of the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption Program. The Department of Finance issued $59.2 million in senior citizen exemptions to those that were not entitled. He further announced Polish Heritage Celebration, on October 7th. Fliers are available.

In closing, the Comptroller has called upon the Department of Education to study the need to serve halal and kosher food in schools where more than 25% of students make requests.

Stephanie Campanha, representing Councilman Greenfield, invited residents to attend a free bike helmet giveaway this Sunday at 11 AM at Gravesend Park.

Daniel Abramson, representing the Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit, introduced himself and offered his contact information.

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 Bart Allegretti. Unanimously adopted.

Minutes

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2016 meeting. Seconded by John Garvey. Unanimously adopted.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Guarinello called for a moment of silence in memory for those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Councilman Gentile

Councilman Gentile welcomed everyone back from the summer recess. He advised that with September 11th approaching, he has brought Brooklyn Remembers posters. The poster includes the names of all the victims of 9/11 who reside in Brooklyn.

Councilman Gentile advised that the Council approved the Zoning for Quality and Affordability and Mandatory Inclusionary Housing. He thanked the board for their recommendations and provided highlights pertaining to Community Board 11. No mandatory inclusionary housing unless there was a zoning change, which would require Uniform Land Use Review Procedure. He stated that he included a provision that mandatory inclusionary housing would include incomes up to $90,000 -$100,000. There would we step-downs between two zonings, fought and won 60’ distance between buildings, and was able to reduce the transit zone by 40 blocks within council district 43.

In closing, the Councilman was pleased to announce the allocation of $6.5 million to renovate Bensonhurst Park. The Councilman allocated $2.9 million of the capital funding with the remainder funded by Speaker Mark-Viverito, Mayor de Blasio and Councilman Treyger.

The Chairman thanked Councilman Gentile for his commitment to the community.

Chairman’s Report

Mr. Guarinello advised that we are beginning the city budget cycle for fiscal year 2018. A public hearing will be scheduled for the October meeting on the board’s capital and expense budget priorities. If there are any requests for capital funding they should contact the District Manager.

The Chairman advised that next month’s meeting will be held on October 20th. There will be a presentation made by Dr. Brett Rudy, Chief Medical Officer of NYU Lutheran.

Mr. Guarinello discussed chronic signal timing issues on 14th Avenue between 86th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway, and the back-ups that occur during the morning and evening rush hour.

The Chairman spoke of legislation introduced last June, by Borough President Adams, Councilmen Gentile and Williams, relating to illegal conversions of three or more dwelling units. The bill includes provisions for Environmental Control Board violations to become tax liens, as well as increased civil fines, and creates a procedure for the Department of Buildings to obtain an access warrant.

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to support the illegal conversion bill. Seconded by Antonio Troia. Unanimously adopted.

62nd Precinct

Captain Sanseverino, the Commanding Officer of the 62nd Precinct, recognized the 62nd Precinct Community Council, for their work in making National Night Out a success. He advised that there are 128 fewer major crimes than the previous year. He congratulated the men and women of the 62nd Precinct for their work in reducing crime.

District Manager’s Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia advised that the design for Lt. Petrosino Park is on display. She advised that this park was included in the Mayor’s Community Park Initiative. As part of this initiative, members of the community were encouraged to participate in the development and care of their parks. A well-attended public scoping meeting was held last April, and many of the suggestions put forward were incorporated into the design. The design includes reconstruction of basketball courts, playground with separated age appropriate play areas, spray shower, adult fitness equipment, and lighting.

A motion was made by Eileen LaRuffa to recommend approval of the design. Seconded by Antonio Troia. Unanimously adopted.

The District Manager advised that Community Board 11 received a request for proposal for the development, operation and maintenance of bicycle rental stations at Bensonhurst Park. Additional information was requested on the exact location.

She further advised that on August 5th, the Department of Design and Construction began an accelerated water main replacement project on Bay 38th Street between Harway Avenue and 86th Street. The scope of the project included the replacement/extension of distribution water mains, replacement/installation of fire hydrants, water main valves and restoration of trenches. She stated that there was poor coordination between the Department of Design and Construction and the Department of Transportation since Bay 38th Street was resurfaced this past June. Following this location they will be moving to 76th Street between 14th and 18th Avenues.

There was brief discussion regarding the poor coordination and the consensus of the board was to condemn the agency for lack of coordination.

Ms. Elias-Pavia advised that the Mayor’s Street Activity Permit Office, over the summer made rule changes pertaining to street activity permits. The changes that affect our community pertain to block party applications. Residents will now have to file 60 days instead of 90 days prior to the event. Notices will be sent to those blocks that hosted block parties advising them of the change.

In closing, the District Manager advised that the Department of Transportation completed resurfacing of Bay Parkway from 72nd Street to 81 Street. This segment was omitted from the Spring resurfacing project that spanned from 61 Street to 71st Street.

New Business

Sonia Valentin advised that the New Utrecht Public Library will be opening mid-October following renovations.

John Garvey spoke regarding sanitation summonses that were issued to his property. He was concerned that one agent was issuing the same summonses.

The District Manager asked that the summonses be forwarded to the office.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned.