

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at
The Bensonhurst Center for Healthcare

Present: Bart Allegretti, Ross Brady, Matthew Bromme, Albert Campanelli, Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Irene Chu, Ruben Colon, Salvatore D'Alessio, Mafalda DiMango, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, Shirley Fineman, John Garvey, William Guarinello, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Albert Milone, Nicholas Miraglia, James Orlando, Caleb Pan, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung, Nicholas Zimmitti

Absent: Thomas Andros, Sofia Annunziata, Rocco Buonpane, Karina Cardozo, Warren Chan, Wai Cheung, Steve Chung, Claudio DeMeo, Yonah Glatzer, Anthony Grigos, Ligia Guallpa, Salvatore Rao, Barry Sanchez, Nayeem Siddique, Robert Yee

Excused: Vincent Chirico, Priscilla Consolo, Linda Dalton, Eric DiNapoli, Eileen LaRuffa, Laurie Windsor

Guests: Robert Lorca, Juanita James – Brooklyn Public Library, Mark Rybhkov – Independence Care System, Jeannine Cherichetti – Council Member Treyger, Toby Romano, Lisa Garvey, Carla Ilma, Nadia Castillo, Fabrice Armand – NYC Department of Corrections, Al Fazio – Assembly Member Abbate, Omar Sharif – Muslim American Society, Lisamarie Maniaci – Muslim American Society, Noor Rowi – Muslim American Society, Michael Marquez – Bensonhurst Ambulance, Elie Peltz – Congressman Nadler, Angelina Dahab – Council Member Gentile, Michael Bove – Neighborhood Improvement Association, Mike Kasper

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at
The Bensonhurst Center for Healthcare

The meeting was opened with Bart Allegretti having the honor of the pledge.

Mr. Guarinello, Chairman of Community Board 11, advised that the public hearing that was scheduled for this evening, in the matter of BSA Calendar No. 279-01-BZ, 2130 McDonald Avenue, was cancelled at the applicant's request. The applicant sought to remove a condition in a previously approved variance that would permit the use of the Lake Street side of the school as an exit/entrance.

Community Board 11 was notified late Tuesday afternoon, that in light of recent ongoing conversations with the surrounding community, the applicant Magen David Yeshiva is exploring alternative solutions and requested that the application be put on hold.

The Chairman stated that he was pleased to hear that the applicant is exploring alternatives to the use of Lake Street. The original application was submitted in 2004. Community Board 11, in response to community objections, made a recommendation objecting to the use of Lake Street as an entrance/exit.

Public Portion

Fabrice Armand, representing the NYC Department of Corrections, announced that the agency is hiring. In addition to uniformed positions there are many non-uniform career opportunities available. Fliers with information on open positions and information on how to apply are available.

Toby Romano, the concessionaire of Adventurers Amusement Park, spoke regarding traffic issues caused by BJ's and Mercedes' delivery trucks. He is concerned that once camp season begins the school buses will not be able to travel down Shore Parkway.

Juanita James, representing Brooklyn Public Library Highlawn Branch, provided an update on happenings that included an updated website, the Summer Reading Program, and the Bike the Branches event. Fliers are available for those interested.

Robert Lorca, representing the Knights of Columbus, advised that there were upcoming events. The Squires will be holding a Car Wash Fundraiser for cancer research on June 25, July 9 and August 26th

Michael Marquez, representing Bensonhurst Volunteer Ambulance, announced a family community fair, on Sunday, May 21st, at St. Finbar's Confraternity Center.

Hisham Morgan, the Executive Director of the Muslim American Society of Brooklyn, advised that there would be a street festival on Saturday, May 20th on Bath Avenue between Bay 19 and 20th Streets. All are invited to attend.

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 Bart Allegretti. Unanimously adopted.

Minutes

A motion was made by Antonio Troia to accept the minutes of the April 5, 2017 meeting. Seconded by John Garvey. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello advised that we can hold expeditious meetings because of the work of the committees. He further spoke regarding the importance of committee participation and attendance.

The Chairman advised that the Department of Sanitation responded to the board's resolution opposing the implementation of the organics program in our district. He stated that currently, without the organics program our recycling diversion rate is about 17.9%. He was very concerned that they are introducing new programs without additional education and outreach to increase compliance within the existing recycling program.

James Orlando stated that if materials are mixed the Department of Sanitation leaves everything.

Mr. Guarinello instructed the District Manager to send a letter to the Mayor advising him of this board's concerns.

Nominating Committee Report

Antonio Troia, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of Officers for the 2017-2018 term: William Guarinello- Chairman, Laurie Windsor – 1st Vice Chairperson, Shirley Fineman – 2nd Vice Chairperson, Man Wai Lau – Secretary, and Nicholas Miraglia – Treasurer.

Transportation Committee

In the absence of Laurie Windsor, Chairperson of the Transportation Committee, the District Manager presented their report.

On April 26, 2017, the Department of Transportation made two presentations to Community Board 11's Transportation Committee.

The first presentation was on proposed corridor safety improvements on Cropsey Avenue from Bay Parkway to 26th Avenue.

The project was initiated by community requests for safety improvements at the senior area outreach presentation, held in December 2015. There were 2 pedestrian fatalities and a high rate of senior crashes.

The existing conditions on the corridor include lack of clear lane designations, long crossing distances, minimal pedestrian refuges and a lack of markings clarifying the roadway. The existing median tips do not protect crosswalks and do not provide adequate refuge.

DOT is proposing to install two pedestrian refuge islands, ten expanded median tips, a bus-boarding island between 24th Ave and Bay 37th St, a bus layover, painted pedestrian space on Harway Ave between Bay 37th St, and Bay 38th St, wide parking lane stripes, and channelization along the existing median. The improvements will shorten crossing distance on Cropsey Ave, better organize traffic, and discourage speeding.

It is recommended that a motion be made to approve the project design with the addition of countdown clocks, and the removal of any new bus layover areas, which the board opposed in 2014.

A motion was made by Antonio Troia to approve the project design with the addition of countdown clocks and the removal of the bus layover area. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. The motion was unanimously approved. Robert Whitaker abstained for cause.

There was also a presentation on the B82 Select Bus Service proposal. The B82 corridor runs from Coney Island to Pennsylvania Avenue, accordingly it's a heavy route with slow trips. Features of SBS service according to DOT/Transit are dedicated bus lanes, signal priority, off board collection and all door boarding. Community Board 11 ended the presentation when DOT advised that metered parking would be removed from Kings Highway for a bus lane along the curb and metered parking placed on the side streets.

NYC Transit and DOT will be making another presentation in the Fall and at that time They will request that CB 11 take a position. For those interested in the proposal it is posted online at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/brt/downloads/pdf/brt-south-brooklyn-b82-cb11-apr2017.pdf>

62nd Precinct

Captain Sanseverino, the Commanding Officer of the 62nd Precinct, spoke regarding heroin addiction and overdoses. He spoke regarding collaboration with the community on treatment options.

District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia discussed the issue of massage parlors and what steps are being taken to address these establishments. She spoke regarding the definition of Adult Physical Culture Establishments as defined in the New York City Zoning Resolution.

The establishments that provide body rubs/massages by unlicensed practitioners are not permitted in any zoning district. While these establishments receive violations for zoning infractions from the Department of Buildings there is no mechanism for closure.

The NYC Building Code and Administrative Code abate public nuisance caused by certain illegal occupancies in residential districts; however the law does not include commercial districts.

A motion was made by Sal D'Alessio to call upon the New York City Council to amend Article 212 of the New York City Building Code, §28-212.1 of the New York City Administrative Code relating to Abatement of Public Nuisance caused by certain illegal occupancies to include *Adult Physical Culture Establishment*. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

The District Manager further advised that the Police Department recently closed multiple massage parlors for violations of NYS Workers Comp Law. She commended the 62nd Precinct and the Department of Buildings for their work in addressing these establishments.

The District Manager provided an update regarding the work being performed by National Grid throughout the community and advised that many of the open permits relate to work under Local Law 30, and that a permit is filed for each individual address.

National Grid advised that they are beginning a new capital project, the Ocean Parkway Governor. This will be a 4-month project that will take place on West 7th Street between Quentin Road and Kings Highway, in order to bring high pressure gas to the area. They will be conducting outreach to merchants.

Ms. Elias-Pavia announced that Shred Fest will take place at Bensonhurst Park on Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21 starting at 10 AM. Fliers are available.

She further announced that the Bensonhurst Alliance Community Day of Action will take place on Sunday, May 21, 2017. The starting point will be at the 62nd Precinct at 11 AM. All are welcome and encouraged to participate.

There was discussion regarding illegally posted fliers on public property. Mr. Guarinello urged residents to remove these fliers.

New Business

Sonia Valentin advised that the 62nd Precinct will be hosting a blood drive on June 23rd, outside of the precinct.

The Mobile Breast Care Clinic will be providing free mammograms tomorrow at the Chinese American Social Services, 124 Avenue O. Appointments are still available.

Antonio Troia advised that the school on 63rd Street and 16th Avenue replaced windows without permits.

A motion was made by Bart Allegretti to adjourn. Seconded by Ross Brady. Unanimously adopted.