

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting  
Held on December 12, 2013  
At Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,  
1740 84<sup>th</sup> Street

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Present: Bart Allegretti, Ross Brady, Matt Bromme, Rocco Buonpane, Maria Campanella, Al Campanelli, Dr. Joseph Caruana, Msgr. David Cassato, Vincent Chirico, Sal D'Alessio, Claudio DeMeo, Mafalda DiMango, Marc D'Ottavio, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, Shirley Fineman, Yonah Glatzer, William Guarinello, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Vito Marinelli, Al Milone, Nicholas Miraglia, Vincent Nativo, Barbara Parisi, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Laurie Windsor, Victor Wong, Robert Yee

Absent: Gerald Bertuna, Warren Chan, Donald Clark, Eric DiNapoli, Yoketing Eng, Anthony Grigos, Michael Marks, Raymond Mollica, Salvatore Rao, Stan Roher, Sonia Valentin

Excused: Rosa Casella, Steve Chung, Louis Crispiano, John Garvey, Ligia Guallapa, James Orlando, Antonio Troia

Guests: Stephanie Thayer – Dept. of Parks, Chief Martin Maher – Dept. of Parks, Denise Virga – Senator Golden, Jo Benafanti, Lily Wong – Brooklyn Borough President, Olga Fiore – Senator Savino, Susan Grossman – CB 11, Mary Placanica – Assembly Member Colton, John Petito, Al Fazio – Assembly Member Abbate, Sara Steinweiss – Council Member Gentile, Jane Carey – Council Member Greenfield

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting  
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Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was opened with Chief Martin Maher, Department of Parks and Recreation, having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Chief Martin Maher, representing the Department of Parks and Recreation, presented two capital projects for Seth Low Park, which were funded by Borough President Markowitz and Council Member Greenfield.

The project was designed with wide-ranging uses based upon observations conducted by the Parks Department.

The first project calls for repairs to the concrete walkways surrounding the park, new handball and basketball courts, drainage and infrastructure work.

The second project, which was previously presented to the Parks committee, focuses on the concrete play area. This area will be transformed into two turf fields; one field for little league sports, such as field hockey, rugby, quidditch etc. The second a community space- multi-purpose/special event field. This field would not require a special event permit except for organized events with over 20 people attending. Around the outside of the field there would be a 4 foot wide rubber track path, a fitness area with fitness equipment, bleachers, benches, a mist post, 2 drinking fountains and plantings.

Mary Placanica, representing Assembly Member Colton, wished everyone happy holidays and advised there is literature available regarding a food drive.

Denise Virga, representing Senator Golden, advised that he was hosting a senior holiday event at St Francis Cabrini, located on 86<sup>th</sup> Street and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at noon.

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

## Minutes

A motion was made by Matt Bromme to adopt the minutes of the November 13, 2013 meeting amended to reflect Vito Marinelli as present. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

## Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello thanked Paul DiSpirito, of Lioni Italian Heroes, for donating food for tonight's meeting.

The Chairman additionally thanked Denise Daniello and the administration of Bensonhurst Home for hosting and for making the Community Board so welcomed.

The Chairman recognized representatives from Congressman Grimm, Senator Savino, Council Members Gentile and Greenfield.

Mr. Guarinello advised that he and the District Manager met with Borough President-elect Eric Adams met to discuss community concerns. He is eager to work with the community.

## Assembly Member Abbate

The Assemblyman wished everyone a happy and healthy new year and looks forward to the year ahead.

## Council Member Greenfield

Councilman Greenfield thanked the members of the board for their volunteer work and dedication to the community.

He further addressed the project design for Seth Low Park and stated that he understands that no design is ever perfect; however this is a significant capital improvement that will benefit the community.

## Seth Low Park

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to recommend approval of the Seth Low park design as presented. Seconded by Eileen LaRuffa.

Paul DiSpirito inquired about the accommodations being made for the softball players who prefer to play on the concrete surface.

The Chairman advised that Chief Maher will work with him to find an alternate concrete field.

The vote was 27 for, 3 opposed, 0 abstentions. Motion approved.

Mr. Guarinello thanked Councilman Greenfield for securing funding for this significant capital improvement for Seth Low Park.

### District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia advised that the community board's website has been modernized. The new website has a community calendar, updated links and a translation option that represents the diversity of the community. The website address is [www.brooklyncb11.org](http://www.brooklyncb11.org)

She further advised that the community board will be participating in the New York Cares Annual Coat Drive. Anyone interested in donating a coat may bring them to the district office, 2214 Bath Avenue. We will be accepting clean, gently used coats from now until February 7<sup>th</sup>.

She advised that with the snow season upon us that snow and/or ice must be cleaned from the sidewalk within 4 hours after the snow has stopped falling, or by 11:00 AM if the snow has stopped falling after 9PM the previous evening.

The District Manager advised that snow may not be thrown into the street.

### New Business

Man Wai Lau spoke regarding the hospitality that Bensonhurst Home has shown the community. He suggested a way to give back to the Bensonhurst Home in the form of forging a one-on-one relationship, in order to provide companionship for the residents. .

The Chairman recommended that Mr. Lau speak with the administration to discuss his idea.

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to adjourn. Seconded by Barbara Parisi. Unanimously adopted.