

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting and Public Hearing
Held on Thursday, February 12, 2015, at
St. Athanasius School, 6120 Bay Parkway

Present: Bart Allegretti, Gerald Bertuna, Rosa Casella, Jin Wing Chiu, Priscilla Consolo, Sal D'Alessio, Claudio DeMeo, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, Shirley Fineman, John Garvey, William Guarinello, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Nicholas Miraglia, Dr. Raymond Mollica, Caleb Pan, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Salvatore Rao, Sonia Valentin, Laurie Windsor, Victor Wong, Sai Chuen Yeung, Nicholas Zimmitti

Excused: Matt Bromme, Rocco Buonpane, Msgr. David Cassato, Vincent Chirico, Steve Chung, Louis Crispiano, Eric DiNapoli, Albert Milone, Robert Yee

Absent: Thomas Andros, Albert Campanelli, Warren Chan, Wai Cheung, Donald Clark, Mafalda DiMango, Marc D'Ottavio, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, Yonah Glatzer, Anthony Grigos, Ligia Guallpa, James Orlando, Antonio Troia

Guests: Mary Placanica – Assemblyman Colton, Adimbola Etta – New Utrecht Library, Sudha Patel, Jonathan Li, Ruben Colon – NYCCC, Mike Gregorio – Senator Felder, Mark D'Addona – Home Abstract Corp., Joseph Rizzi – Federation of Italian American Corporations

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting and Public Hearing
Held on Thursday, February 12, 2015, at
St. Athanasius School, 6120 Bay Parkway

The general meeting of Community Board 11 opened with Assemblyman Peter Abbate having the honor of the pledge.

Public Hearing

BSA Calendar # 156-92-BZ
1835 Bay Ridge Parkway
Brooklyn, New York 11204

The applicant seeks an extension of term for a previously granted variance, which permitted a medical office.

The Chairman inquired if anyone from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Sal D'Alessio to close the public hearing. Seconded by Bart Allegretti. Unanimously adopted.

Public Portion

Esther, representing the Department of Consumer Affairs, spoke regarding current initiatives. These include Paid Sick Leave and free tax preparation services offered through the Office of Financial Empowerment. Literature with additional information was provided to those interested.

Mary Placanica, representing Assemblyman Colton, advised that the following tax forms are available for property owners and tenants: NYC 210, NYC 208, and IT 214.

She further spoke regarding Identity Theft and the legislative work the Assemblyman is working on.

Trip Fang, representing Brooklyn District Attorney Thompson, announced upcoming events the District Attorney is hosting. Black History Month will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 24th at 5:30 PM, at Brooklyn Law School. The keynote speaker will be the Honorable David Dinkins.

Jeanine Cherichetti, representing Councilman Treyger, announced that the Councilman will be hosting free ice skating during school recess on Friday, February 20th at Abe Stark.

Olga Fiore, representing Senator Savino, spoke regarding new businesses that are opening in Coney Island.

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 Paul DiSpirito. Unanimously adopted.

Minutes

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to accept the minutes of the January 8, 2015 meeting. Seconded by Laurie Windsor. Unanimously adopted.

Disposition of Public Hearing

Victor Wong, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Committee, reported the applicant is seeking an extension of term for a previously granted variance for an additional period of 20 years. The building does not comply with side yard regulations, which were pre-existing to the time that the property was used as a synagogue.

The medical offices have existed compatibly with the surrounding neighborhood and have been providing health services to the community for decades. Given there are no changes to the property or usage, approval of this request is recommended.

The Chairman recognized the many people from the community that are present in support of the continued use.

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to recommend approval of the variance as presented. Seconded by Sal D'Alessio. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman's Report

Mr. William Guarinello introduced and welcomed newly appointed member Caleb Pan.

The Chairman advised that the Mayor recently released the preliminary budget. At next month's meeting, we will hold a public hearing on the responses to the FY 16 Capital Budget Priorities and Requests.

He further reported that National Grid has advised that due to recent incidents of imposters and scammers they are reminding customers to be on alert. All National Grid employees and contractors have visible ID. Never allow anyone into your home without proper photo ID badges and uniforms and never give credit card or bank information over the phone.

Parks and Libraries Committee Report

Eileen LaRuffa, Chairperson of the Parks and Libraries Committee, reported that the Parks Department presented a capital project for Benson Playground, located on Bath Avenue between Bay 22nd and Bay 23rd Streets. This site adjoins the Benson Elementary School (P.S. 200) on Benson Avenue and is jointly operated by Parks and the Department of Education.

The project is within the area of the asphalt field and handball courts abutting PS 200. This area will receive new asphalt pavement, color seal coat for game, field and track, new concrete pavement for the handball courts, new trees and the resetting and replacement of the existing blocks within the tree pits, color seal coat for the basketball courts, and a new greenspace for school use.

Additionally, new fencing will be installed as well as a bike rack and water fountain. The project cost is \$1.5 million dollars funded by Councilman Gentile. The Parks Department anticipates that this will be an 18-month project and should begin within 6-9 months.

Parks Department has advised that they have met with the Principal of PS 200, who supports the design.

The Parks and Libraries Committee recommends approval of the design as presented and thanks Councilman Gentile for funding this capital project.

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to support the design as presented. Seconded by Claudio DeMeo. Unanimously adopted.

District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia advised that the Franchise and Concession Review Committee approved a franchise agreement between the Department of Information, Technology and Telecommunications and CityBridge, for the installation and maintenance of Public Communication Structures, also known as "Links". These links will be replacing public payphones. It is developing a new wifi initiative called LinkNYC. These new "links" will provide 24/7 free Internet access with up to a gigabit of speed, free domestic calls anywhere in the US, a touchscreen tablet to access city services, free charging station for your mobile devices.

The links will come in two models, one with advertising and one without. The advertising model will be used in locations that are commercially zoned.

The approved contract provides that most of the active pay phone kiosks that were active on April 30, 2014 will be replaced with the link structures. Replacement will begin this year and it should be operational by year's end.

The District Manager advised that the Gravesend and Bensonhurst NY Rising Community Reconstruction Committee hosted the final open house on Wednesday, January 14th, where the final New York Rising Plan was unveiled. She provided a brief overview of the final projects and associated costs. The full plan can be accessed online at the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery.

Ms. Elias-Pavia reported that the Department of Sanitation has responded to the Board's resolution requesting a reduction to the ASP Street Cleaning Regulations on New Utrecht Avenue between 79th and 81st Streets. They advised that in order to sustain cleanliness it is important to maintain the current level of mechanical cleaning along New Utrecht Avenue.

NYCT has scheduled track construction work on the West End Line, on New Utrecht Ave and 86th Street that was scheduled to begin on January 30, 2015 and ending March 1, 2015. Prep work and the unloading of panels will be on Fridays from 7A-5P and material staging, track removal and track installation will be on Saturdays and Sundays from 5A to 9P. NYCT has permission to work this location from the NYC Department of Transportation. Street Crane locations are as follows: 19th Avenue between 86th Street, and Benson Ave, Bay 20th Street between 86th Street and Benson Ave, a moveable crane along 86th Street between Bay 20th Street and New Utrecht Avenue, and 84th Street between New Utrecht Avenue and Bay 16th Street.

Assemblyman Abbate

The Assemblyman advised that the Governor has released the executive budget. There is a lot of work to be done especially for the proposed cuts and the lack of increased funding for social programs and education.

He further advised that there are capital and operating surpluses. He hopes that the capital surpluses will be used for infrastructure projects in New York City.

In closing, the Assemblyman advised that he is scheduling an inspection date with the Department of Buildings regarding illegal conversions.

62nd Precinct

Captain Nelson Chen, the Executive Officer of the 62nd Precinct, advised that he is available after the meeting to discuss any issues. He further advised that the Community Council meeting is next Tuesday, at the precinct, 1925 Bath Avenue, at 7:30 PM.

New Business

Sonia Valentin announced that the Friends of New Utrecht Library will be hosting the first Lunar New Year event on Saturday, February 28th at the library. Flyers are available.

She further advised that Captain Taylor will be at New Utrecht Library on February 20th at 1PM, for a community safety awareness discussion. All are invited.

A motion was made by Bart Allegretti to adjourn. Seconded by Eileen LaRuffa. Unanimously adopted.