

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at
The Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare
1740 84th Street, Brooklyn New York 11214

Present: Ross Brady, Matthew Bromme, Albert Campanelli, Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Vincent Chirico, Irene Chu, Priscilla Consolo, Salvatore D'Alessio, Mafalda DiMango, Eric DiNapoli, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, Shirley Fineman, John Garvey, William R. Guarinello, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Tim Law, Albert Milone, Nicholas Miraglia, Caleb Pan, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Sai Chuen Yeung, Nicholas Zimmitti

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

Excused: Bart Allegretti, Linda Dalton, Lurie Windsor

Guests: Ari Kagan – Comptroller Stringer, Michael Marquez – Bensonhurst Volunteer Ambulance Service, Lisa Garvey, Kenny Li, Bob Quigly, Michael Bove, P.O. Tran – NYPD PBBS, William Vitale – CERT, Andrew Gounardes – Brooklyn Borough President Adams, Stanley Lave, Jeannine Cherichetti – Council Member Treyger, Olga Fiore – State Senator Savino, Robert Birkhead – Congressman Donovan, Elie Peltz – Congressman Nadler, Peter Joseph, School Safety Agent Martin – NYPD, Gary Wan, Mary Placanica – Assemblyman Colton, Omar Sharif – Muslim American Society, Iva Kaci – Council Member Greenfield

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The meeting was opened with Sonia Valentin having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Michael Marquez, representing Bensonhurst Volunteer Ambulance Service, announced that on May 21, the Knights of Columbus, Bensonhurst Volunteer Parish and St Finbar Parish will be hosting a community fair. Fliers are available for those interested.

A community resident spoke regarding speeding vehicles on Bay Parkway.

Mary Placanica, representing Assemblyman Colton, advised that there are two petitions available for signatures. The petitions are calling for a bus stop shelter on Cropsey Avenue and Bay 46th Street and additional school aid funding for New York City schools. She further announced that the Metro Card Mobile office will be at Assemblyman Colton's Office, 155 Kings Highway, on April 28th. Please call for the district office for an appointment.

Additionally, the Assemblyman will be hosting an AARP defensive driving course, on May 21st, from 8:30 – 4:30PM, please call the Assemblyman's Office for further information.

Olga Fiore, representing State Senator Savino, announced that this Sunday, Coney Island will be opening with the blessing of the rides. The cyclone will be offering free rides for the first 100 people.

Ari Kagan, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer, extended an invitation to Greek Heritage celebration on April 20th. He further announced the release of a report titled, Aging with Dignity that analyzes our aging communities and puts forth policy recommendations.

Diane, representing New Utrecht Public Library, announced the upcoming calendar of events. Fliers and calendars are available for those interested.

Robert Birkhead, representing Congressman Donovan, announced that the congressional office is accepting submissions for the 2017 Congressional Art Competition. The competition is open to high school students and one winner per district will have their artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol.

The Chairman inquired if anyone else from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Man Wai Lau to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Sal D'Alessio. Unanimously adopted.

Minutes

A motion was made by Sonia Valentin to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2017 meeting. Seconded by John Garvey. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello advised that an application has been filed with the Board of Standards and Appeals for an amendment to previous board approval for Magen David Yeshiva, located at 2130 McDonald Avenue. The applicant is seeking to remove a condition contained in the original variance to permit the use of an existing entrance/exit on Lake Street. Community Board 11 recommended that Lake Street not be used as an exit/entrance based upon community concerns presented at the original public hearing.

The planning and zoning committee will review the application, schedule a public hearing, and issue a report at the May meeting.

The Chairman reported that the Bensonhurst Alliance, a multi-cultural alliance comprised of community leaders and community based organizations is scheduling a community day of action. Our goal is to join our youth, community based organizations, and community leaders in a neighborhood clean-up. This project will bring our children together in an exercise of unity, celebrate our diversity and build pride in Bensonhurst. Mr. Guarinello advised that we are working on the logistics and once confirmed it will be shared with the community. We hope everyone will participate.

Mr. Guarinello appointed the following members to serve on the 2017/2018 Nominating Committee: Antonio Troia – Chairman; Ross Brady, Al Campanelli, Msgr. David Cassato, and Eileen LaRuffa.

The Chairman advised that Community Board 11 received notification from the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit that there was a spill of home heating oil at Bayside Fuel, 1776 Shore Parkway. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the US Coast Guard responded, which remains on scene evaluating potential impacts to wildlife and the surrounding area. Environmental Protection Agency assistance was not requested.

Mr. Guarinello stated that the Allegretti family, the owners of Bayside Fuel Oil Depot, has deep ties to this community, and took all of the necessary steps and protocols following the oil spill.

62nd Precinct

Captain Sanseverino, the Commanding Officer of the 62nd Precinct, spoke regarding the holiday coverage for Passover and Holy Week holidays. He further spoke about safety precautions when using ATM machines, and how to prevent bank accounts from being compromised.

District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia provided an update on the asbestos containing material (ACM) found at the SW Brooklyn Marine Transfer Station. She advised that abatement of the ACM began on April 5, 2017, by an approved asbestos abatement contractor, under the supervision of the NYC Department of Design and Construction. The work should be completed within two weeks. The abated area will be sealed and ultimately surfaced with heavy-duty asphalt as per the contract plans.

The District Manager advised that National Grid issued notification that they are planning additional capital construction within Community Board 11. She stated that according to the NYC Street Permit Management System there are approximately 300 current, active permits within our community. Ms. Elias-Pavia requested a meeting with National Grid to discuss their overall construction plans and requested that they start no new construction during the upcoming holidays.

She further announced that the Department of Sanitation announced the expansion of the organics program that includes district 11. Following the announcement, she attended a public meeting of Community Board 10, who had an agenda item relating to changes in bulk collection and other service delivery impacts resulting from the district wide organics program.

Mr. Guarinello spoke regarding the program and the compliance and diversion rates. He stated that there are many unanswered questions regarding this program as it relates to truck traffic, bulk collection and the Marine Transfer Station.

A motion was made by Eileen LaRuffa to oppose the implementation of the organics program within Community Board 11 until there is full dialogue with the Department of Sanitation and compliance statistics are presented. Seconded by Ross Brady. Unanimously adopted.

Ms. Elias-Pavia advised that Community Board 11 received a notification from TH Karaoke, located at 6322 20th Avenue, that they are seeking a 30-day waiver for their restaurant wine liquor license. However, upon review for any complaints we found that this could be a billiard hall. On March 21, 2017, a request for an amended application was made to specify their method of operation and a copy of their billiard license, if applicable. To date we have not received a response.

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to oppose the application as submitted. Seconded by Sal D'Alessio. Unanimously adopted.

The Department of Sanitation will be making the Passover garbage collection on Monday, April 10th, on the day tour. They will be making the same collection as in past years.

New Business

Sonia Valentin advised that due to holidays the 62nd Precinct Community Council would not be holding an April meeting.

She further advised that they would be holding a breast cancer-screening event on Friday, May 12th. Fliers are available.

Dr. Law spoke regarding scams and he has compiled a list of the most common scams that residents should be aware of.

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to adjourn. Seconded by John Garvey. Unanimously adopted.