

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting  
Held on Thursday February 8, 2018, at  
The Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare  
1740 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, NY 11214

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Present: Ross Brady, Albert Campanelli, Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Wai Cheung, Lawrence Ciulla, Ruben Colon, Linda Dalton, Claudio DeMeo, Paul DiSpirito, Shirley Fineman, John Garvey, William Guarinello, Peter Joseph, Roy Jung, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Albert Milone, Nicholas Miraglia, Caleb Pan, Janet Perry, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung, Nicholas Zimmitti

Absent: Bart Allegretti, Thomas Andros, Matthew Bromme, Vincent Chirico, Steven Chung, Priscilla Consolo, Eric DiNapoli, Charles Farrauto, Yonah Glatzer, Anthony Grigos, Ligia Guallpa, James Orlando, Robert Yee

Excused: Iwen Chu, Salvatore D'Alessio, Mafalda DiMango

Guests: Ari Kagan – NYC Comptroller's Office, Danielle Shapiro – Brooklyn Public Library Highlawn Branch, Josephine LaRosa, Jeffrey Kraus – Senator Golden, William Vitale – CERT 10/11, Robert Salberg – Bensonhurst Volunteer Ambulance Service, Michael Bove – Neighborhood Improvement Association, Al Fazio – Assemblyman Abbate, Patrick Lewis – Public Advocate's Office, Jeannine Cherichetti – Councilman Treyger, Angelina Dahab – Councilman Brannan

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting  
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The meeting was opened with Detective Stephen Agosta of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Precinct, having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Danielle Shapiro, representing the Brooklyn Public Library Highlawn Branch, announced that overdue book fines have been waived for children under the age of 17. She further announced that the Brooklyn Public Library will be hosting its first International Film Festival at the main branch. Information flyers are available.

Jeannine Cherichetti, representing Councilman Treyger, announced that the Councilman will be hosting the Department of Finance to discuss the recently mailed Notices of Property Value. Fliers are available.

Patrick Lewis, representing Public Advocate James, advised that the Public Advocate called upon the State Legislature to move the date of primary day. This year's primary day falls on Rosh Hashana, which would prevent many people from voting.

Ari Kagan, representing Comptroller Stringer, advised that the results of the School Construction Authority audit found that they lacked sufficient internal controls over an account named "Other Funds", which held over \$100 million during the audit period. These funds should have been placed in a higher yielding interest account.

Mr. Kagan further announced that Comptroller Stringer will be celebrating Lunar New Year, on February 21, 2018, in Flushing. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact him.

Additionally, Mr. Kagan advised that in response to the audit of Access-A-Ride, the Comptroller has called the MTA to create a new position of Access-A-Ride Ombudsperson. His/her role would be to overhaul the complaint system and fix the bureaucratic breakdowns within the service.

The Chairman inquired if anyone else from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by John Garvey to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Claudio DeMeo. Unanimously adopted.

## Minutes

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to adopt the minutes of the January 11, 2018 meeting. Seconded by Paul DiSpirito. Unanimously adopted.

## Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello advised that Community Board 11 has received an application for the re-establishment of a previously granted variance for 1820 Cropsey Avenue, a garage and repair shop. The Planning and Zoning Committee will review, and a public hearing will be scheduled for the March general meeting.

The Chairman advised that the Transportation Committee will be meeting on Thursday, February 15, at 7PM, at the Bensonhurst Center, regarding the B82 Select Bus Service. He urged everyone to attend.

He further advised that due to a scheduling conflict, next month's meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018.

## Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Capital and Expense Budget

The Chairman advised that the Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget was released on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Pursuant to the New York City Charter the community board has 30-days from the release of the preliminary budget to submit a letter of comment.

Man Wai Lau provided a comparison of the fiscal year 18 and 19 capital and expense budget requests. He advised that there was an increase in the number of requests that Community Board 11 made for the fiscal year 19 budget. He commended the District Manager, Marnee Elias-Pavia for compiling the submissions.

The District Manager spoke regarding the responses that Community Board 11 received from the agencies. She stated that the responses to priority numbers 3, 6 and 19 were unacceptable. The response to have residents call 311 and log complaints is ridiculous. All these issues were brought to the attention of the agency and effort should have been made to provide an informed response.

Ross Brady stated that a tidal gate flap should have been the top priority due to the strong sewer smells throughout this community. He advised that it takes very little rain to cause a combined sewer overflow event.

Robert Whittaker spoke regarding the street condition on Bay Parkway between Bath and Cropsey Avenues.

The District Manager advised that that location has been identified by the Department of Transportation as in need of trench restoration and has been included in an existing

capital project SE883. She has requested that the Department of Transportation inspect this location to ensure the integrity of the roadway.

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to submit a letter of comment on the fiscal year 2019 preliminary budget including comments on the responses discussed. Seconded by Laurie Windsor. Unanimously adopted.

### District Manager's Report

The District Manager advised that she and the Chair of the Transportation Committee met with NYC Transit, Community Board 15, and Magen David Yeshiva to discuss the upcoming weekend closures of McDonald Avenue and Avenue S, for the new signal room on the F line.

To erect the structure, shut downs are necessary at the intersection to mobilize and stage the cranes that will lift the steel girders and room. The work will take place over 8 consecutive weekends starting the end of February 2018. Workers will mobilize late Friday afternoon/evening and work through the weekend. The street will re-open for Monday morning rush hour at 5AM. To maintain 2 lanes of traffic, parking will temporarily be removed on Avenue S between Lake Street and McDonald Avenue.

Marnee Elias-Pavia provided an update on the sewer odors on Bath Avenue and Bay 16<sup>th</sup> Street. The Department of Environmental Protection advised that they are working on an engineering "fix" to address the sewer odors. It seems that the odors are escaping through a vented cover that was used to release air pressure from the force mains.

She further advised that in observance of the Lincoln's Birthday holiday, the New York City Department of Sanitation announced that there will be no garbage, organics nor recycling collection on Monday, February 12, 2018. Residents who normally receive Monday collection should place their garbage and organics curbside after 4PM for collection.

### Committee Reports

Laurie Windsor, Chairperson of the Transportation Committee, advised that in April 2017, the Department of Transportation and New York City Transit gave a presentation on the B82 Select Bus Service. She advised that the original presentation called for the removal of parking along certain segments on Kings Highway from McDonald Avenue to Bay Parkway.

Ms. Windsor stated her concerns for the small businesses on Kings Highway where they call for the removal of parking for dedicated bus lanes. These segments are: south side from West 7<sup>th</sup> to West 10<sup>th</sup> Streets, northside from West 5 to West 7 Streets, and southside of Van Sicklen Street to McDonald Avenue.

She advised that at the April presentation, the committee voiced their strong opposition to the removal of parking along this commercial corridor and the installation of meters on the residential side streets.

The District Manager has found permits issued and work has already begun on the B82 SBS route and the upcoming committee meeting maybe an exercise in futility.

She requested that the Board consider supporting a resolution this evening, and before the presentation, that opposes the removal of parking on Kings Highway, and the installation of meters and loading zones on the residential side streets.

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to oppose the removal of parking on Kings Highway for a dedicated bus lane, as well as the installation of meters and loading zones on the residential side streets. Seconded by Claudio DeMeo. Unanimously adopted.

Ms. Windsor discussed the issue of commercial vehicles parking overnight on residential streets. The area bounded by 15 – 17<sup>th</sup> Avenues and 69<sup>th</sup> – 72<sup>nd</sup> Streets is particularly saturated with commercial vehicles. She stated that while this board has previously addressed the issue, the 62 Precinct issues summonses, but more must be done. The issuance of summonses is not enough to ameliorate this issue.

There was discussion regarding this issue.

A motion was made by Eileen LaRuffa to send a letter to the Police Commissioner that calls for aggressive enforcement, including towing of commercial vehicles that park overnight on residential streets. Seconded by Ross Brady. Unanimously adopted.

### Parks Committee

Marnee Elias-Pavia, District Manager, presented on behalf of the Chairperson of the Parks Committee. She reported that the Department of Parks presented the schematic design for Bensonhurst Park to the Parks Committee, on January 29, 2018. Bensonhurst Park is a 5-acre park, with playground areas, handball courts, basketball courts, sitting areas and game tables.

The project limits focus on the northeasterly corner of the park that includes the playground and sitting areas. The design addresses the flooding issues in the playground, deteriorated pavement edges, stump and tree removal due to poor condition. There will be new walkways including a new path along a “desire line” from the corner of Bay Parkway and Cropsey Avenue. The playground area will be expanded; with separate areas for children 2-5 and 5-12. The plan calls for new benches, water fountains, game tables, fences, garbage receptacles and light poles.

The total budget of \$6.5M precluded the inclusion of the courts, ballfields, existing lawn and the dog run along the southern edge of the park.

The Parks Committee was disappointed that the dog run was excluded from this phase of work. While the committee recommends approval of the design, it calls upon the parks department to explore the feasibility of a temporary dog run at Bensonhurst Park.

There was discussion regarding the location of the dog run and the ability for senior citizens to exercise and practice Tai Chi.

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to approve the recommendation of the committee. Seconded by Paul DiSpirito. Unanimously adopted.

### New Business

Sonia Valentin announced that the 62<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Community Council will be meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2018 at 7:30 PM, at the Precinct.

The New Utrecht Public Library will be celebrating Lunar New Year on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM.

John Garvey spoke regarding a concern regarding a school being constructed in a residential property on West 6 Street and Highlawn Avenue. He stated that with the lack of parking and curb cuts being installed, this will have a negative effect.

The District Manager advised that according to the Department of Building filings, it shows a tutoring center on the bottom floor and the 2 upper floors are remaining residential.

A motion was made by Linda Dalton to adjourn. Seconded by Ross Brady.

Meeting adjourned.