

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at
The Bensonhurst Center, 1740 84th Street

Present: Albert Campanelli, Msgr. David Cassato, Iwen Chu, Ruben Colon, Salvatore D'Alessio, Linda Dalton, Claudio DeMeo, Eric DiNapoli, Paul DiSpirito, Shirley Fineman, John Garvey, William R. Guarinello, Roy Jung, Eileen LaRuffa, Dr. Tim Law, Albert Milone, Nicholas Miraglia, Caleb Pan, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Laurie Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung, Nicholas Zimmitti

Absent: Thomas Andros, Ross Brady, Wai Cheung, Vincent Chirico, Jin Wing Chiu, Steven Chung, Lawrence Ciulla, Angelo Cucuzza, Charles Farrauto, Giuseppe Floccari, Yonah Glatzer, Laura Gottlieb, Anthony Grigos, Ligia Gualpa, Peter Joseph, James Orlando, Janet Perry, Andrew Windsor, Robert Yee, Linda Zhang

Excused: Bart Allegretti, Rosa Casella, Priscilla Consolo, Man Wai Lau

Guests: Oscar H. Atehortua Sr., Richard-Oliver Marius, Gloria Daniels – NYC Parks, Hannah Weinerman – Rep. Nadler, Olga Fiore – Senator Savino, Jeanine Cherichetti – Council Member Treyger, Angelo Bruno, Patricia Capuano, Al Fazio, Diane Barranca – New Utrecht Library, Kwok Ng

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting
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The Bensonhurst Center, 1740 84th Street

The meeting was opened with Monsignor David Cassato having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Diane Barranca, representing the New Utrecht Public Library, announced the Summer Reading 2019 Kick-Off campaign. Beginning on June 1st, there will be fun activities for people of all ages. She further advised that the calendar of events is available.

Hannah Weirnerman, representing Congressman Nadler, provided updates and information relating to bipartisan measures to lower the cost of prescription drugs, and hearings on the Equal Rights Amendment and the Equality Act.

Ms. Weirnerman further advised that Congressman Nadler along with Reps. Rose and Velasquez, announced plans to reinstate two-way tolling on the Verrazano Bridge.

Maria Campanella introduced herself to those who do not know her, as Maria the Ice Cream Girl. Her family has operated an ice cream truck for 36 years. She submitted a proposal for the installation of a "Welcome" sign at the eastbound exit at Bay Parkway.

Zumera Ahmed, representing Congressman Rose, advised that a roundtable discussion was recently held with parents and students at Fort Hamilton High School regarding gun violence; the bipartisan efforts led by the Congressman to gain support to permanently renew and fund the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund, and legislation introduced to address veteran suicide.

She further advised that over \$85,000 have been brought back into the district through missing Social Security checks, disability and Veteran's Administration claims. Newsletters are available for those who are interested.

Gloria Daniels, representing the Parks Department, advised that Bath Beach Park rehabilitation project is in the design phase, which should take 9-12 months. She further advised that there was a broken pipe in the ballfield area that was repaired, and water was restored to the area.

Fasmina, representing Senator Gounardes, announced the dates for the free summer concert series that will take place in the district. They will be co-sponsored with Councilman Brannan. She further advised of the ongoing transit surveys being distributed at transit hubs. These surveys are important feedback gathering tools that will be used for future priorities and MTA discussions.

Mr. Guarinello inquired if anyone else from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Claudio DeMeo to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Sal D'Alessio. Unanimously adopted.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Guarinello requested a moment of silence for Emur Shavkator, the young child killed in a crash at the intersection of Bay 25th Street and Benson Avenue; Councilman Lew Fidler; and, David Ferraro the son of Arnaldo Ferraro.

Minutes

A motion was made by Roy Jung to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Claudio DeMeo. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello reported that Councilman Brannan will be holding the street co-naming ceremony in honor of Mafalda DiMango, on Saturday, May 11th at noon, on the corner of 81st Street and 15th Avenue.

The Chairman advised that Mr. Troia, the Chairman of Nominating Committee submitted the following slate of Officers for the 2019/2020 term:

Chairman – William R. Guarinello
1st Vice Chair – Laurie Windsor
2nd Vice Chair – Sonia Valentin
Treasurer – Nicholas Miraglia
Secretary – Man Wai Lau

Mr. Guarinello thanked Congress Members Nadler, Rose and Velasquez for the federal support in bringing back two-way tolling for the Verrazano Bridge. He stated that he believes that this will bring relief to Bensonhurst, as well as the surrounding communities.

The Chairman advised that Community Board 11 has been contacted by Big Apple Bath Beach Inc., to schedule a meeting to discuss their proposed plans for 169 Bay 17th Street. We have not received any other updates regarding their plan.

Mr. Guarinello advised that the request for a welcome would be referred to committee.

62nd Precinct

Captain Rubin, the Executive Officer of the 62nd Precinct, spoke regarding the tragic death of 3-year old Emur Shavkator, at the intersection of Bay 25th Street and Benson

Avenue. He stated that the motorist came to a complete stop at the intersection, the child was waved across the street by his mother and the motorist never saw him.

Captain Rubin extended his condolences to the family.

District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia reported that the Department of Environmental Protection is in the process of designing green infrastructure to manage stormwater run-off and improve the water quality in the local waterbody.

She advised that they are in our community studying potential locations for rain gardens, which are marked with green spray paint. Not all locations that are being studied will be a candidate for rain gardens.

Resident will see a drilling company that will collect and test underlying soil to ensure that it can absorb stormwater. Only locations that effectively absorb stormwater are considered for a rain garden.

Before construction begins, DEP will reach out to owners of abutting property with a letter and a robocall. To be removed from consideration, one-, two-, and three-family homeowners will be able to submit: 1. an image of a sprinkler system installed in the grass strip or; 2. a copy of a resident's parking placard for people with disabilities issued by the NYC Department of Transportation within thirty days of the letter.

The District Manager advised that she received notification that the Parks Department will be testing all the drinking fountains in our parks for lead. As they prepare to test, resident's may see plastic bags on the fountain and stickers indicating their status. If the fountain shows elevated lead levels above the federal threshold of 15 ppb, they will close the fountain until it has been remediated.

Testing will be completed by mid-June and remediation will continue through the summer.

She further advised that the Department of Information and Technology has assigned a nyc.gov email address for the board's general mailbox. We will be transitioning from the use of info@brooklyncb11.org to bk11@cb.nyc.gov.

My Friends Place NY, a community-based organization, is seeking volunteers to help beautify Garibaldi Playground, located on 82nd Street and 18th Avenue, on Saturday, May 11, 2019, at 11AM

Transportation Committee

Laurie Windsor, Chairperson of the Transportation Committee, reported on the Shore Parkway Greenway Connector that was presented to the committee on April 24, 2019.

The goal of the plan is to link the waterfront greenway to existing parks. In 2005, the Department of City Planning released the Shore Parkway Greenway Master Plan. As part of that plan there were multiple options presented to link the greenway with the parks. These options included an off-street greenway in the Shore Parkway right-of-way, an On-Street Bi-Directional Bicycle Lane with Buffer/Barrier, and a Shared-Use Sidewalk (Combined South Sidewalk & Bi-Directional Bicycle Lane).

The design that the Department of Transportation chose is a bi-directional bike lane on the south side of Shore Parkway from the Eastbound Belt Parkway on ramp to Community Board 11's district boundary at 26th Avenue.

The committee has concerns regarding the placement of bicycle infrastructure on the same side of the street as the entrance/exits to the shopping center, the proposed Target, the loading berths and driveways for BJ's that has back-in loading berths, as well as the other driveways along this segment.

A motion was made by Eileen LaRuffa to oppose the design of the Shore Parkway Greenway Connector as presented, and further calls on the Department of Transportation to consider the alternative options that were presented in the 2005 Master Plan. Seconded by Sonia Valentin. Unanimously adopted.

A motion was made by John Garvey to adjourn. Seconded by Claudio DeMeo. Unanimously adopted.