

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting and Public Hearing
Held on Thursday, September 12, 2019, at
The Bensonhurst Center, 1740 84th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11214

Present: Bart Allegretti, Ross Brady, Rosa Casella, Iwen Chu, Angelo Cucuzza, Victoria Curto, Claudio DeMeo, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, Shirley Fineman, William Guarinello, Edward Lai, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Nicholas J. Miraglia, Alex Pellitteri, Janet Perry, Inga Smolyar, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung, Nicholas Zimmitti

Absent: Thomas Andros, Wai Cheung, Vincent Chirico, Jing Wing Chiu, Steven Chung, Lawrence Ciulla, Ruben Colon, Priscilla Consolo, Giuseppe Floccari, John Garvey, Yonah Glatzer, Roy Jung, Albert Milone, Caleb Pan, Robert Whittaker, Linda Zhang

Excused: Albert Campanelli, Msgr. David Cassato, Salvatore D'Alessio, Linda Dalton, Rabbi Gary Pollack

Guests: Oscar Aterhora, Jonathan Herlin, Zunera Ahmed- Rep. Rose, Melinda Alexis Hayes – Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, Anna Marie Mistretta Pannetto, Edward Paunetto, Fanny Lee, William Vitale – Brooklyn CERT 10/11, Eugene Pilner – Eric Palatnik PC, Jeannine Cherichetti – Council Member Treyger, Olga Fiore – Senator Savino, Jason Taylor – COTI Mobile Outreach, Jonidee Noci, Lysna Paul, Sharlin Adonis, Tambe John – Brooklyn Public Library, Angelo Bruno, Susan Bruno, Sheldon Berger, Victoria Berger, Lorraine DiSchiavi, Rosa Cerrato, Hannah Weinerman – Rep. Nadler, Andrew Chan, Cheryl Chan, Cindy Chan, Nancy Tong – Assembly Member Colton, Peter Joseph

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting and Public Hearing
Held on Thursday, September 12, 2019, at
The Bensonhurst Center, 1740 84th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11214

The meeting was opened with Captain Longobardi, the Commanding Officer of the 62nd Precinct having the honor of the pledge.

Public Hearing

Calendar No. 406-82-BZ
2411 86th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11214

The applicant seeks an extension of term for a special permit to operate an eating and drinking establishment (McDonald's) with an accessory drive-thru.

Shelley Berger, who resides behind McDonald's, spoke regarding the garbage storage area. He advised that the birds rip open the bags and the mess and smell is awful. Mr. Berger advised that he has spoken with the current owner about various issues to no avail.

Nancy Boniello, a resident of 85th Street, spoke regarding the drive-through's hours of operation, the volume of the speaker's and the lack of gates to secure the parking lot.

There was loud cross-talking from neighbors and the Chairman called the meeting to order.

Eugene Pilner, representing the applicant, addressed the concerns of the neighbors and advised that they were not aware of these issues. He advised that the recent sound levels measured 30 decibels at the rear lot line and will recheck to ensure that the speaker is compliant with the maximum 30 decibels. He will also work with the operator to address the garbage storage and the gate.

A motion was made by Ross Brady to close the public hearing. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

Public Portion

Anna Marie Mistretta, who was joined by Edward Paunetta and neighbors, spoke regarding sewer construction on Avenue T and West 12th Street. She stated that the corner recently flooded during a heavy rain and construction material floated due to the site not being properly secured. She advised that historically the location floods during very heavy rains because the leaves get suctioned to the catch-basins. She further spoke about speeding and truck and bus parking on Avenue T.

William Vitale, representing Brooklyn CERT 10/11, spoke regarding emergency preparedness. The CERT Team provides emergency preparedness training to community based and civic organizations. He further advised that the CERT team is comprised of volunteers and they are always looking for people to join.

Zunera Ahmed, representing Congressman Rose, provided an update on the office's constituent work, the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund, and announced an upcoming transit town hall meeting on October 4th, 2019, at Il Centro. She urged residents to complete a survey that is available on the table.

Hannah Weinerman, representing Congressman Nadler, also spoke regarding the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund, added that people can file claims through 2090 but urged people to register even if they don't have a claim.

Melinda Alexis Hayes, representing Brooklyn District Attorney Gonzalez, announced that there would be town halls throughout Brooklyn. She further spoke regarding various programs relating to criminal justice.

Nancy Tong, representing Assemblyman William Colton, announced upcoming events relating to the Metrocard van and flu shots. Fliers are available.

Victoria Berger, a resident of 85th Street, requested a speed hump on 85th Street between 24th and 25th Avenues.

Tambe John, representing New Utrecht Public Library, announced that the library is offering English for Speakers of Other Languages. The classes take place on Monday through Friday, from 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM.

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 Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Guarinello requested a moment of silence for those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Minutes

A motion was made by Sonia Valentin to adopt the minutes of the June 13, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

Assemblyman Abbate

The Assemblyman advised that over the recess he has been in the district working with the community boards, community education councils, as well as the many community

groups to address concerns of the neighborhood. He recognized the great team of elected officials who represent this district.

62nd Precinct

Captain Longobardi reported that over the summer there was an uptick in crime. Thanks to the hard work of the men and women of the 62nd Precinct several arrests were made and there should now be a downward trend in crime.

He further advised that the Santa Rosalia Feast was taxing. There were outside groups causing trouble, which resulted in a couple of nights of having to close the feast early. The Captain advised that he tripled the detail assigned to the event.

Disposition of Public Hearing

Ross Brady, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning committee, reported that based on the discussions with the committee, the history of the special permit, and the issues that were brought forward at the public hearing, the recommendation be approved with the following provisos:

1. The sound from the speakers does not exceed 7 decibels over ambient sound or the maximum of 30 decibels. The applicant will re-test to ensure sound levels.
2. The applicant will enclose their trash.
3. The parking lot will be gated off when the restaurant is closed.
4. The drive-through closes at 11 PM.

A motion was made by Ross Brady to approve the application with those provisos. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello advised that over the summer recess the District Manager submitted a planning project for the Community Planning Fellowship Program for the 2019-2020 academic year.

The Community Planning Fellowship Program was created to improve the capacity of community boards to undertake planning activities and to develop the next generation of planners, instilling in them a first-hand appreciation of local government and planning issues from the perspective of community boards.

Our proposal seeks a comprehensive review of the district to assess the need for additional core services needed by this community.

The Chairman advised that the Department of City Planning is proposing an upcoming citywide zoning text amendment to improve the city's resiliency, known as Zoning for Coastal Flood Resiliency. Following Hurricane Sandy, DCP proposed a text amendment to remove zoning barriers and promote flood resilient buildings. The text amendment adopted by the City Council in 2013 on a temporary, emergency basis is set to expire within one-year after the adoption of the new final Flood Insurance Rate maps by FEMA, which is targeted for release in 2022.

Since these zoning provisions would apply to the southeastern portion of the district, the Chairman requested that the Planning and Zoning Committee engage with City Planning to discuss these recommendations.

The Chairman advised that the District Manager will address the residents' concerns that were brought forward, relating to Avenue T and West 12 Street.

The District Manager advised that the sewer reconstruction project was an emergency job and she will work with the residents to address the outstanding issues.

Mr. Guarinello stated that the board will be meeting with the Captain and the feast organizers to address this year's event.

District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia reported that the Bensonhurst Park Playground reconstruction project began on Monday September 9th. The playground will be closed for construction and the restrooms are scheduled to close shortly. The flag pole plaza, paths and benches along Cropsey Ave will also be closed and renovated during construction.

She thanked Councilman Brannan for funding this project.

The Department of Environmental Protection is conducting or has completed emergency catch basin replacement in the following locations: Bay 28th St and Bath Avenue, New Utrecht Avenue and 78th Street, 21st Avenue and Shore Parkway, West 12 Street and Avenue T, 74th and 15th Avenue, 20th Avenue and Shore Parkway, and 80th and 16th Avenue.

The Department of Transportation notified the board that the following streets will be resurfaced:

15th Avenue from 65th Street to Bay Ridge Parkway, Bay Ridge Avenue between 15th Avenue and Bay Parkway, West 10th Street between Bay Parkway and Kings Highway, 74 Street between 14 Avenue and Bay Parkway, 76 Street between 14 Avenue Bay Parkway, and 20th Avenue between 81 and 86 Streets.

The agency recently completed its study regarding traffic controls at the intersections of 17th Avenue and 72nd and 73rd Streets. Traffic Signals were approved and is scheduled to be installed by January 31, 2020.

The Vision Zero project on 65th Street between Bay Parkway West 6 Street will begin shortly. The safety improvements include a new crosswalk across 65th and West 6 Street, a painted curb extension, and the installation of a flashing yellow left turn arrow.

The District Manager further advised that SVU Season 21 is scheduled to film tomorrow on 84th Street between Bay 16th and 16th Avenue, 17th Avenue between 84th and 85th Streets, and 16th Avenue between 84th and 85th Streets.

A motion was made by Sonia Valentin to adjourn. Seconded by Bart Allegretti. Unanimously adopted.