

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, November 14, 2019, at
The Bensonhurst Center, 1740 84th Street

Present: Bart Allegretti, Albert Campanelli, Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Iwen Chu, Ruben Colon, Victoria Curto, Salvatore D'Alessio, Claudio DeMeo, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, John Garvey, William R. Guarinello, Roy Jung, Eileen LaRuffa, Dr. Tim Law, Albert Milone, Janet Perry, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung

Absent: Thomas Andros, Wai Cheung, Vincent Chirico, Jin Wing Chiu, Steven Chung, Lawrence Ciulla, Priscilla Consolo, Angelo Cucuzza, Linda Dalton, Giuseppe Floccari, Yonah Glatzer, Laura Gottlieb, Edward Lai, Caleb Pan, Inga Smolyar, Linda Zhang, Nicholas Zimmitti

Excused: Ross Brady, Shirley Fineman, Man Wai Lau, Nicholas J. Miraglia, Alex Pellitteri, Rabbi Gary Pollack

Guests: Tat Chan, Tambe John – Brooklyn Public Library – New Utrecht Branch, Jeannine Cherichetti – Council Member Treyger, Michael Bove – Neighborhood Improvement Association, Tommy McNally (Robert Whittaker) – NYC Transit Bus Operator, Hannah Weinerman – Congressman Nadler, Al Fazio – Assembly Member Abbate, William Vitale – Community Emergency Response Team 10/11.

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

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

Public Portion

Hannah Weinerman, representing Congressman Nadler, provided a legislative update regarding the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

She further advised that the Congressman announced that he introduced legislation, the Disaster Equity Assistance Act, that would make condos, co-ops or other properties with common areas eligible for FEMA assistance. Locally, the Congressman is working on legislation that would ban non-essential helicopters flights over New York City.

Tommy McNally, a bus operator on the B1 bus route, advised that last Friday, the Transit Authority was testing articulated buses on the B1 route. He stated that articulated buses are 60 feet long and are harder to drive and would be impossible to operate under the 86th Street elevated train trestle. He requested that the board call upon the MTA to not use these buses.

Tambe John, representing the New Utrecht Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, announced that new self-check machines that will provide customers with change, and new computers will be coming to the library. Newsletters with upcoming events are available for those interested.

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

Minutes

A motion was made by John Garvey to accept the minutes of the October 10, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Robert Whittaker. Unanimously adopted.

Elected Officials

Councilman Justin Brannan advised that the Bensonhurst Park and Bath Beach Park reconstruction projects have begun. He successfully secured over \$11 million dollars to move these projects forward. He further announced funding for the Federation of Italian American Organizations and Reaching Out Community Services.

The Councilman spoke regarding the statue of Mother Cabrini, which was not included as a finalist in the She Built NYC competition, even though she received the most nominations. He advised that the Governor has now stepped-in and pledged funds to build the statue.

Assembly Member Simcha Eichenstein introduced himself to the board and thanked them for their volunteerism. He advised that his first piece of legislation should be signed into law within the next 2 weeks. The law would permit children to participate in the Summer Youth Employment Program without affecting the annual household income that is used to determine the need for public assistance.

He further announced his successful expansion of the Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes grant program to include sleepaway summer camps.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello discussed the issue of the articulated buses on 86th Street that were brought forward at the public portion of the meeting.

A motion was made by Eileen LaRuffa to oppose the use of articulated buses under the 86th Street elevated train structure. Seconded by Antonio Troia. Unanimously adopted.

The Chairman reported that pursuant to Local Laws 92 and 94 of 2019, beginning November 15, 2019, all new buildings and alterations of existing buildings where the entire existing roof deck or assembly is being replaced must provide either solar panels or a green roof. Here Comes Solar, in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Sustainability will be making a presentation on this new mandate to the Planning and Zoning Committee on Thursday, November 21, 2019, in the Community Board Office at 6:30 PM. Anyone interested in attending should contact the District Manager.

Mr. Guarinello discussed the importance of members attending committee meetings. He requested that every effort be made to attend.

He further reminded residents to be mindful of scams and with the upcoming holiday season everyone should be very careful of telephone solicitations for charitable donations.

Transportation Committee

Laurie Windsor, Chairperson of the Transportation Committee, advised that the committee recently met and discussed the MTA's Brooklyn Bus Redesign. The committee had recommended that a letter be sent to the MTA to request that they make a presentation within the district. However, the MTA recently contacted the district office to schedule a presentation following the holidays.

District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia reported that the Department of Buildings issued about 140 notices of violation to property owners for failure to provide inspection results for the retaining wall along the open-air tracks along the N line.

These retaining walls have historically been inspected and repaired by NYCT, however the Department of Buildings was requiring proof from the property owner that the retaining wall was not on their property.

Last Friday, New York City Transit wrote to the Department of Buildings taking responsibility for the inspection and repair of the retaining walls along the subway line. It was also their view that the violations issued to the homeowners should be rescinded.

In response, the Department of Buildings advised that they would rescind the notices of violation for all properties along the N line that NYCT has taken responsibility for.

She acknowledged Assembly Members Abbate and Colton for their assistance in addressing this issue.

The District Manager reported that she attended a press conference held by Councilman Treyger, where he announced that he allocated \$260,000 of his discretionary funding for cleaning initiatives along our major commercial corridors, which include 18th Avenue and 86th Street. She thanked the Councilman for the additional resources allocated to cleaning services.

She further reminded residents that the district does not have special leaf collection services since we receive organics curbside collection. Residents may place their leaves in their brown bins, in paper leaf bags, or in unlined rigid containers, at the curb for pick-up according to their regular curbside composting collection schedule.

The Department of Sanitation began its annual winter schedule, also known as Night Plow, on October 28th. This schedule, which lasts through mid-April, enables the department to have pre-scheduled staff to respond to snow and ice conditions around the clock. In our district, residents may see their recycling material collected during the evening hours.

In closing, she announced upcoming Neighborhood Coordinating Officer Sector meetings. Anyone interested can take the available fliers.

New Business

Sonia Valentin announced the upcoming 62nd Precinct Community Council meeting. Fliers are available to those interested.

A motion was made by Eileen LaRuffa to adjourn. Seconded by Sal D'Alessio.
Unanimously adopted.