

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, January 9, 2020,
At the Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,
1740 84th Street

Present: Bart Allegretti, Albert Campanelli, Msgr. David Cassato, Iwen Chu, Salvatore D'Alessio, Claudio DeMeo, Paul DiSpirito, Shirley Fineman, John Garvey, William R. Guarinello, Roy Jung, Edward Lai, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Albert Milone, Janet Perry, Inga Smolyar, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung

Absent: Thomas Andros, Ross Brady, Wai Cheung, Vincent Chirico, Jin Wing Chiu, Steven Chung, Lawrence Ciulla, Priscilla Consolo, Angelo Cucuzza, Victoria Curto, Linda Dalton, Charles Farrauto, Giuseppe Floccari, Yonah Glatzer, Laura Gottlieb, Caleb Pan, Alex Pellitteri, Linda Zhang

Excused: Rosa Casella, Ruben Colon, Nicholas J. Miraglia, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Nicholas Zimmitti

Guests: Oscar Alterhorta, Gloria Daniels – NYC Parks, Michael Lau, Kong Chan, Kenneth Lazar – Department of Buildings, Jeannine Cherichetti – Councilman Treyger, Olga Fiore – Senator Savino, David Lin, Fanny Lee, Nancy Tong – Assemblyman Colton, Hannah Weinerman – Congressman Nadler, Jibreel Jalloh – Public Advocate Williams, Peggy Jung

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting
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1740 84th Street

The meeting was opened with Steve Hood, Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Fort Hamilton, having the honor of the pledge.

Moment of Silence

William R. Guarinello requested a moment of silence in memory of Father Joseph Gancila, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, who passed away on January 6th.

Public Portion

Hannah Weirnerman, representing Congressman Nadler, provided an update on the implementation of split-tolling for the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, which includes MTA improvements to the plaza area.

She further advised of free income tax preparation services that are available to those who qualify. Informational fliers are available.

Nancy Tong, representing Assemblyman Colton, announced that the Metro Card Mobile will be at the Assemblyman's office, located at 155 Kings Highway, on January 31, 2020 from 10AM – Noon. Fliers are available.

In addition, the office provides residents assistance with completing IT-208 and IT-210.

Sarah, representing Senator Gounardes, announced the Neighborhood Reading Challenge. Upcoming events include free mammograms and a Kids Town Hall. Informational fliers are available for those interested.

Ari Kagan, representing Comptroller Stringer, announced that the Comptroller will be hosting a Lunar New Year celebration. Fliers are available. He further advised that the Comptroller recently released the

audit findings of the MTA's \$600 million contract for new subway cars. All the cars that were delivered were removed from service due to defects.

Kayla Santousso, representing Councilman Brannan, advised of the snow removal program for senior citizens, which is sponsored through his office. Anyone in need of this service should contact the district office.

Steve Hood, Deputy to the Garrison Commander Fort Hamilton, joined by Amanda Haye, the Public Affairs Officer, advised that beginning January 1, 2020, there is expanded access to the Commissary, Exchange and Recreation Facilities.

Mr. Hood explained that the program was expanded to include all veterans with service-connected disabilities, approved caregivers, Purple Heart recipients and former prisoners of war. He urged people to share the info with those that may meet the eligibility requirements.

He further advised that the installation will be using scanners and ID checkers that will immediately determine eligibility for expanded access.

Gloria Daniels, representing the Parks Department, advised that she is available to discuss any parks related concerns.

Jabril Jalloh, representing Public Advocate Williams, introduced himself and advised that he is available to discuss any concerns or issues that residents may have.

Ken Lazar, representing the Buildings Department, advised that he has informational pamphlets for property owners relating to construction professionals.

Mr. Guarinello 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 Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

Minutes

A motion was made by Sonia Valentin to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello spoke regarding the recent anti-Semitic hate crimes that have occurred in the city. He stated that this community will not stand for hate in any form and urged communication from anyone who experiences any form of bias. The Chairman advised that it was important to immediately stand up as a community and denounce these acts.

The Chairman advised that the Brooklyn Borough President has made available the 2020 Community Board Membership applications. Current board members whose term is expiring received information on how to re-apply.

He urged residents who are interested in serving to apply for membership either online through the Borough President's website, www.Brooklyn-usa.org or via hard copy, which are available on the table.

The Chairman spoke regarding the importance of community participation in the upcoming census and advised that he was appointing an Ad hoc Census 2020 committee. He requested that the following serve: Dr. Law - Chairman, Irene Chu, Eileen LaRuffa, Sonia Valentin, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor and Steve Yeung.

He invited anyone interested in serving to contact Marnee Elias-Pavia.

Mr. Guarinello advised that an office staff member announced her intention to retire. He directed the District Manager to begin the hiring process for the vacancy.

The Chairman advised that the surveys sent to board members regarding the meeting time have been reviewed and the meetings will now be scheduled for 7PM.

Assemblyman Abbate

Assemblyman Abbate wished everyone a happy new year. He advised that the legislature is back in session and some of the issues that they will be addressing is the Governor's announced \$6 billion deficit and amending the bail reform by adding hate crimes to the list of offenses.

The Assemblyman commended Congressmen Nadler and Rose for their work in reinstating the split-tolling on the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge.

District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia spoke regarding the street cleaning regulations on Bay Parkway between Shore Parkway and the dead end. The current regulations are during the overnight hours from midnight – 3 AM. However, we do not have a regularly scheduled midnight broom. The area would benefit from a change in the regulations from midnight to the 6:30 AM regulation, which exists in the district.

A motion was made by Eileen LaRuffa to call upon the Department of Sanitation and the Department of Transportation to change the parking regulations on Bay Parkway between Shore Parkway and the dead end from midnight to 6:30 AM to facilitate street cleaning. Seconded by Sonia Valentin. Unanimously adopted.

The District Manager discussed the upcoming as of right developments on Cropsey Avenue between Bay Parkway and 23rd Avenue. She advised that these 2 residential developments will bring about 400 new units and 413 parking spaces. In addition, Target will be opening in Caesar's Bay. Since all the projects are as of right, which means that they comply with existing zoning regulations and no special permits or public review is necessary; no traffic studies were required.

For the board to understand the potential traffic impacts in this small area, a proposal and work program was submitted by BFJ Planning to conduct traffic analyses. The proposal includes the intersections of Cropsey Avenue and 23rd Avenue, Cropsey Avenue and Bay Parkway, Bay Parkway and Shore Parkway, and 26th Avenue and Shore Parkway. The study fee is about \$30,000, which would be used with the funding allocated by the NYC Council

to Community Boards, which is to be used for specific uses including consultants.

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to move forward with the proposal as presented. Seconded by Sonia Valentin. Unanimously adopted. Marnee Elias-Pavia announced that the Department of Sanitation began its annual curbside collection of Christmas trees on January 6, 2020. Collection runs through Friday, January 17, weather permitting. Residents should remove all stands, tinsel, lights and ornaments before putting trees out for collection.

National Grid has advised that they will be performing capital construction work on 64 Street between 17th and 18th Avenues. The scope of work includes a 2-foot trench which will run about 60 feet. The job should take 30 days.

62nd Precinct

Captain Rubin, the Executive Officer of the 62nd Precinct, advised that the precinct had a great year in crime reduction and hopes to continue that trend in the new year. The Captain introduced Lt. Faselle, who will be working the 4PM-Midnight shift.

New Business

Sonia Valentin announced that the 62nd Precinct Community Council will be meeting on Tuesday, January 21st at 7:30 PM. The meeting will take place at Il Centro, 8711 18th Avenue.

She further advised that the branches of the Brooklyn Public Library will be active in the 2020 Census.

Ms. Valentin spoke regarding the commercial vehicles parked along Dyker Beach golf course and the park. She advised that she has counted over 47 commercial vehicles.

The Chairman advised that that location is not within Community Board 11's boundaries but does have an impact on our residents.

The District Manager advised that Councilman Brannan has been working with the police department on towing operations. She further stated that the issue is like ours relating to commercial vehicles and soon after enforcement the commercial vehicles return.

There was brief discussion regarding vendors selling in restricted area. The Chairman advised that disabled veterans can vend in restricted areas.

John Garvey advised that he has been receiving many scam phone calls and suggested that everyone stay vigilant.

The Chairman advised never to give out personal information.

The Chairman inquired if there was any other new business. Hearing none, a motion was made by Laurie Windsor to adjourn. Seconded by Sonia Valentin. Unanimously adopted.