

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, February 13, 2020
At the Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,
1740 84th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11214

Present: Bart Allegretti, Albert Campanelli, Iwen Chu, Linda Dalton, Claudio DeMeo, Shirley Fineman, John Garvey, Roy Jung, Edward Lai, Eileen LaRuffa, Dr. Tim Law, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung, Nicholas Zimmitti

Absent: Thomas Andros, Wai Cheung, Vincent Chirico, Jin Wing Chiu, Steven Chung, Ruben Colon, Priscilla Consolo, Victoria Curto, Paul DiSpirito, Giuseppe Floccari, Yonah Glatzer, Albert Milone, Caleb Pan, Alex Pellitteri, Janet Perry, Inga Smolyar, Linda Zhang

Excused: Ross Brady, Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Angelo Cucuzza, Salvatore D'Alessio, Charles Farrauto, Laura Gottlieb, William R. Guarinello, Man Wai Lau, Nicholas J. Miraglia, Rabbi Gary Pollack

Guests: Oscar H. Atehortua, Danielle Shapiro – Brooklyn Public Library, Eddie Lau, Jo Benfanti, Hannah Weinerman – Congressman Nadler, Frank Fontana – Department of Buildings, Ari Kagan – Council Member Treyger, Janna Skeire(sp), Nancy Tong – Assembly Member Colton, Al Fazio – Assembly Member Abbate, Angelo Bruno, Susan Bruno, Mike Garthaffner – Island Federal Credit Union

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting
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Laurie Windsor, 1st Vice Chairperson, advised that she would be chairing tonight's meeting.

The meeting was opened with Ari Kagan, District Operations for Councilman Treyger, having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Eddie Lau, representing the Center for New York City Neighborhoods, a non-profit association serving NYC homeowners, spoke regarding the free programs offered which include flood risk, mortgage help and scam preventions.

Hannah Weinerman, representing Congressman Nader, spoke regarding the ineligibility of New York State residents to apply or renew membership in the Trusted Travelers Program. As information becomes available it will be shared.

Daniele Shapiro, representing the Brooklyn Public Library, spoke regarding upcoming census initiatives, free tax assistance, classes and events. Informational fliers are available.

Frank Fontana, representing the Department of Buildings, spoke regarding Homeowner's Night, which is held every Tuesday evening, to ask questions or resolve issues. He further spoke regarding new Local Laws and initiatives. Informational fliers are available and if anyone has questions, he will be available following the meeting.

Ari Kagan, representing Councilman Mark Treyger, introduced himself as the new District Director. He announced that on February 24th, beginning at 4:30 PM, the Department of Buildings Mobile Office, will be at the District Office, 2015 Stillwell Avenue.

Mr. Kagan advised that Councilman Treyger recently held a press conference to strongly condemn bias or bigotry, which arose from the Novel Corona virus. He stated that these acts will not be tolerated.

Nancy Tong, representing Assemblyman William Colton, advised that assistance is available for those applying for senior citizen property tax exemptions, filing for the unearned tax credits, and the rent freeze program.

Laurie Windsor advised that this month was the new meeting time was implemented and there may have been confusion. Since we do not have a quorum there will be no motions and the meeting will be informational reports.

62nd Precinct

Captain Longobardi, the Commanding Officer of the 62nd Precinct, commended the men and women of the 62nd Precinct for their hard work in keeping this community safe. He advised that burglaries are at an all time low.

Captain Longobardi advised that the 62nd Precinct Community Council is meeting on Tuesday, February 18th, 2020 at 7:30 PM, at Il Centro, 8711 18th Avenue. All are encouraged to attend. In closing, he spoke regarding phone scams and urged the public to never give out personal information.

Senator Gounardes

Senator Gounardes advised that the State is facing a \$6.5 billion budget deficit. He advised that \$2.5 billion is related to the Medicaid program, and is very concerned regarding potential cuts to the program. The Governor has convened the Medicaid Redesign Team whose goals are to identify savings.

The Senator spoke regarding the increase in property taxes. He advised that he has introduced legislation to address this affordability crisis. The legislation would provide low- and middle-income renters and homeowners with a tax credit.

He additionally announced an upcoming Notice of Property Value tax event, which will be held on February 18, 2020, from 6-8PM, at the JCH of Bensonhurst. The Department of Finance will hold one-on-one sessions.

In closing, the Senator advised that he is working on a package of legislation regarding reckless driving.

Chairperson's Report

Laurie Windsor, 1st Vice Chairperson, advised that the Mayor recently released the preliminary budget for fiscal year 2021. Members received the responses to Community Board 11's capital and expense priorities and there are additional copies available. She inquired if there were any comments to the responses.

She further advised that last night the MTA made a presentation to the Transportation Committee on the Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign Existing Conditions Report. The presentation primarily consisted of the MTA's goals of reimagining the bus network, data and goals.

The next step in the process will be to develop a draft plan that reflects the findings in the report and input that they receive. Following the release of the draft plan there will be additional public input sessions. For those that may want to submit recommendations or comments they can either call 511, or submit via their comments at https://mta.nyc.custhelp.com/app/comments_brooklynbus

Ms. Windsor advised that the Police Department is always looking for School Crossing Guards. The position is part-time, \$15.00 per hour, health insurance with 20 plus hours worked per week, and you work close to home. Interested applicants can apply online, <https://crossingguard.nypdonline.org/CrossingGuard>. There are no paper applications.

She further reported that the Transportation Committee met with Department of Transportation regarding the Shore Parkway Greenway Connector.

In response to concerns regarding traffic flow at the 26th Avenue intersection, DOT proposes to add a left turn lane onto 26th Avenue and add a through lane to continue along Shore Parkway. This would require the removal of 7 recently installed floating spaces.

Ms. Windsor inquired if there were any comments or concerns regarding this proposal. There was brief discussion regarding DOT's reasoning behind not legalizing the behavior that existed prior to the project's implementation.

Census 2020

Dr. Law, Chairman of the Census Committee, reported that the committee met on February 4th, and was joined by 7 local community-based organizations. He spoke of the community's diversity, the multiple languages spoken, and the importance of notifying the community to participate in the upcoming census in their language. By partnering with local community-based organizations which speak the language it encourages the residents to be counted.

District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia advised that starting on March 1, 2020, single-use plastic carry-out bags are banned, with limited exceptions in NY State. And, in NYC businesses will begin collecting a five-cent fee on paper carryout bags. The fee will not apply to customers using SNAP or WIC benefits.

The Department of Sanitation has provided reusable bags, which are available this evening to those who need.

She further advised that the Department of Sanitation responded to the board's request to provide daytime street cleaning regulations on Bay Parkway from Shore Parkway to the bulkhead. They can facilitate cleaning with a No Parking for street

cleaning regulation from 6:30AM-7:30AM, Monday through Saturday. We have requested that DOT implement the sign changes and are awaiting their response.

The District Manager provided an update on the traffic study proposal and cost that the board previously approved. She advised that due to procurement procedures for expenditures over \$20,000 there is a process which is time consuming. She discussed reducing the scope of work to include the intersections of Cropsey Avenue and Bay Parkway and Shore Parkway and Bay Parkway, the intersections of main concern due to as-of-right development. She will report back to the board.

She further advised The Department of Design and Construction notified the board in a letter dated February 7th, that they have begun design work for complex pedestrian ramp upgrades. The work includes sidewalk corner quadrant modification for the installation of the ramps, relocation of street lights and traffic signals, and drainage structures. There are 21 corners included in this project, which are located on 18th Avenue at 68th and 63rd Streets, 19 Avenue and 68th Street, 21 Avenue and 72 Street, 23rd Avenue and 82 Street, Bay 16th and 84th, Bay Parkway and 63rd Street, West 10th Street and Avenue T/Kings Highway, West 9th Street and Avenue S/Kings Highway. The project is scheduled for bids in fiscal year 2022.

The MTA advised in a letter dated January 16, 2020, of bus schedule revisions effective April 2020. In that letter, they further advised that the B1 route is being converted to articulated buses, in order to increase seat capacity and accommodate customer loads at Kingsborough Community College. However, the board is concerned regarding the implementation of this service, as well as the planning and coordination between MTA and DOT underneath the elevated structure, where currently, 10 bus stops have no bus islands, accessibility or safe refuge for riders. We shall be scheduling a meeting with MTA and DOT to discuss these concerns.

Laurie Windsor inquired if there were any other comments. Hearing none, the meeting was closed.