

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, May 14, 2020
Via Webex

Present: Bart Allegretti, Ross Brady, Albert Campanelli, Vincent Chirico, Ruben Colon, Angelo Cucuzza, Salvatore D'Alessio, Linda Dalton, Laura Gottlieb, William R. Guarinello, Roy Jung, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Albert Milone, Alex Pellitteri, Janet Perry, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Laurie Windsor, Andrew Windsor, Nicholas Zimmitti

Absent: Wai Cheung, Iwen Chu, Jing Wing Chui, Steven Chung, Priscilla Consolo, Victoria Curto, Claudio DeMeo, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, Shirley Fineman, Giuseppe Floccari, Edward Lai, Caleb Pan, Inga Smolyar, Sai Chuen Yeung, Linda Zhang

Excused: Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, John Garvey

Guests: Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Congressman Max Rose, State Senator Andrew Gounardes, Cathy Santopietro, Denise Daniello, Bob Quigley, Hannah Weirnerman – Rep. Nadler, Evan Burr – Brooklyn Borough President, Laurence Majors – Parks Department, James Chapman, Andrew Olson – NYC Recovery, Patrick Lempert, PO Carmelo Vendra – 62nd Precinct Community Affairs, Sarah Anders – Senator Gounardes, Naila Rosario – Brooklyn Public Library, Olaniki Alabi – Administration for Children's Services

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, May 14, 2020,
Via Webex

William R. Guarinello, Chairman of Community Board 11, thanked everyone for joining tonight's meeting via teleconference. He advised that the meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to Community Board 11's Facebook page.

The Chairman outlined some of the features of WebEx, and requested that everyone mute their microphones. He advised that the chat and hand raising function will be monitored. To speak at the public portion of the meeting, please use the raise your hand function or send a chat to be recognized. If anyone is missed, we will be accepting comments or questions via bk11@cb.nyc.gov, which we will include in the minutes.

The Chairman welcomed and recognized Congressman Max Rose.

Congressman Rose addressed the board and stated it was good to see the Community Board 11 family stand strong and in their respective homes. He wished everyone health and strength.

The Congressman shared that he and his wife recently adopted a baby boy. He stated that what we're fighting for today, is what we fight day in and day out, to support our heroes. We fight day in and day out to get our economy open, to get past partisanship and put the country first. And, he has renewed faith and hope as a new father.

He further shared that last month, he had the opportunity to serve in the National Guard, to get activated to stand up a COVID-only hospital facility in our congressional district on Staten Island. He served alongside infantryman and medical professionals, many of whom could not hug their kids for months. He stated that they give us the hope about what we're capable of to get through this. We must get the economy open we need to invest in the state and the city, and to invest in our health care institutions. It must done responsibly, quickly and in a unified manner.

Congressman Rose inquired if there were any questions.

Mr. Guarinello stated that he was aware that the House was working on passing a second Corona Virus relief bill for financial relief and it is vital for the survival of non-profits that they receive assistance.

Congressman Rose responded that the bill is by no means perfect, but he supports the bill. He stated that we have to work at a speed that reflects the absolute urgency of this matter. First and foremost, the number one priority has got to be getting money to states and localities.

Our state has had to spend massively more money as a consequence of being at the global epicenter of this crisis, and at the same time our tax revenue has taken a hit that we could have never even envisioned from the economy going into a coma.

It is the federal Government's responsibility to step in and provide the state and the city with those funds.

Mr. Guarinello thanked the Congressman.

Congressman Nadler advised that he joined Rep. Maloney, and Rep. King, in introducing the Pandemic Heroes Compensation Act, which provides funds for essential workers who get sick with or die from COVID-19.

Modeled after the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF), this new fund would provide compensation for injuries to any individual, or their families, who are deemed an essential worker and required to leave their home to perform services and who have become ill or died as a result of COVID-19.

The Congressman highlighted the Heroes Act, which would be the 5th stimulus bill passed by the House in response to the pandemic. The bill includes nearly \$1 trillion in funding for State and local governments. New York state will get \$23 billion dollars over the next two years, and \$15 billion dollars for NYC. If we pass this bill with those amounts, it will make the city and the state whole.

The bill also includes 2 standalone piece of legislation that Congressman Nadler introduced: The COVID-19 Correctional Facility Emergency Response Act, to support state and local governments for testing, treatment, and prevention of COVID-19 in correctional facilities, and the Public Safety Office Pandemic Response Act, which will make sure brave first responders who die or become disabled due to COVID-19 can access the benefits they deserve.

He further discussed the Paycheck Protection Act, the Economic Injury Disaster loan program and the CARES Act. There was brief discussion.

The Chairman thanked Congressman Nadler for his leadership.

State Senator Andrew Gounardes hoped everyone is safe and healthy at home.

He stated that this is a very challenging time for so many of us, whether you've been personally affected by the virus or not.

Whether you have lost a loved one, or you've been sick and recover, or you are trying to navigate the school system with remote learning, or you have a loved one at a nursing home that you can't get in touch with, or you've lost your job, or whatever the case may be.

Everyone is experiencing this moment in a different way. But we are really working very hard to make sure that everyone can get the assistance. That help and the services that they need to get through, and we are getting through this together. People in our community have stepped up to support each other. They are delivering groceries, running errands for seniors. They are banding together, and we all have to continue to stick together.

The Senator spoke regarding the State and City budget, and the magnitude and impacts that these budget cuts will have on our communities. He stated that Washington D. C needs to step up.

He further advised that he has introduced a series of four bills to help strengthen and expand the unemployment system. The state announced that they have already paid out \$7.5 billion dollars in unemployment claims but there needs to be additional safety nets to address gaps in the system.

He and Assembly Member Kim introduced comprehensive legislation to hold nursing homes more accountable and transparent; help small businesses get their business interruption claims approved by insurance companies. Lastly, he is working on a comprehensive housing solution for people who rent, for people who have mortgages and can't pay. In our neighborhood, especially those who rent are in significant housing distress in part, because they have not gotten their unemployment benefits processed.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman advised that Mr. Troia, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, submitted the following slate of officers for the 2020-2021 term:

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

He further advised that board members whose term is expiring continue to serve until they receive notification from the Borough President's office.

Mr. Guarinello advised that information relating to Covid19, changes very quickly. He suggested that residents visit the official New York City website, www.nyc.gov/coronavirus to get up to date information and resources.

District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia reported on the following Department of Sanitation Service Reductions:

- * Suspension of Organics Program and Organics Processing until June 30, 2021
- * Reduction in the dedicated weekday basket truck service, as well as Sundays and Holidays.
- * There are no appointments being accepted for electronic curbside pickup

She further advised that to facilitate street cleaning, alternate side parking regulations will resume on Monday, May 18th through Wednesday, May 20th, suspended on Thursday for religious observances, in effect Friday and Saturday.

It will then be suspended for two weeks from Monday, May 25 through Sunday, June 7. Meters are in effect.

She further advised that Community Board 11 received notification from NYC Transit of the following full road closings:

-McDonald Ave, between Colin Pl and Ave T

-Ave S, between Lake St and East 1st St

These roads will be closed 3pm Friday-5am Monday, from 5/22/20 thru 6/22/20, in order to install new railroad tracks with mobile cranes.

Local and emergency traffic will be permitted to enter the streets from both ends of the blocks.

NYC Parks has submitted a notice of lead agency designation and review for the reconstruction of the 17th Avenue Pedestrian Bridge over the Belt Parkway. This project is subject to review under City and State Environmental Quality Review and an Environmental Assessment Statement has been submitted.

The proposed project will replace the existing bridge with an ADA compliant bridge, with higher vertical clearance above all lanes of the Belt Parkway in order to avoid strikes by over-height trucks.

A motion was made by Bart Allegretti to adjourn. Seconded by Antonio Troia. Unanimously adopted.