

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, June 11, 2020,
Via WebEx

Present: Sofia Annunziata, Rosa Casella, Iwen Chu, Ruben Colon, Angelo Cucuzza, Victoria Curto, Salvatore D'Alessio, Claudio DeMeo, Paul DiSpirito, Laura Gottlieb, William R. Guarinello, Jeffrey Harris, Edward Lai, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Albert Milone, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Briar Sambolin, Inga Smolyar, Antonio Troia, Laurie Windsor, Daniel Zurek , Councilman Kalman Yeger

Absent: Bart Allegretti, Thomas Andros, Wai Cheung, Steven Chung, Charles Farrauto, Roy Jung, Alex Pellitteri, Sonia Valentin, Sai Chuen Yeung, Linda Zhang, Nicholas Zimmitti

Excused: Albert Campanelli, Msgr. David Cassato, Shirley Fineman, Nicholas Miraglia, Janet Perry

Guests: Jeannine Cherichetti – Councilman Treyger, P.O. Carmelo Vendra – 62nd Precinct, Gloria Daniels – Parks Department, Denise Daniello, Hannah Weirnerman – Rep. Nadler, Anna Shats – Health Department, Cathy SantoPietro, Frank Fontana – Department of Buildings, Sarah Anders – State Senator Gounardes, Andrew Olsen – Office of Resiliency and Recovery, Evan Burr – Brooklyn Borough President's Office, Olga Fiore – State Senator Savino, Naila Rosario – Brooklyn Public Library, John Johnston, Keisha Daniels – Metro Plus, Melinda Padilla – Metro Plus

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, June 11, 2020,
Via WebEx

Mr. William R. Guarinello, Chairman of Community Board 11, welcomed everyone to the teleconference. He advised that the meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to Community Board 11's Facebook page.

The Chairman shared some features of Webex and asked those who would like to speak at the public portion of the meeting to please send a chat to be recognized. He advised that comments or questions can be submitted via bk11@cb.nyc.gov.

Chairman's Statement

Mr. Guarinello paraphrased a statement that he shared in his professional capacity; but speaks to my principles and beliefs as Chairman of Community Board 11.

Black lives matter. In what world does that even need to be said? This world, unfortunately. The real world. Our world.

This community is no stranger to protests and racially motivated unrest, on August 23, 1989, Yusuf Hawkins, a 16-year-old black child was murdered in our community. This tragedy led to protests, exposed the racial tension in this community, this city, and created change. That moment in time, brought about uncomfortable conversations about who we are and who we continually strive to be.

In the past few months, the COVID-19 crisis has cast a searing harsh light on inequality, specifically racial inequality. Reeling from months of isolation and feelings of helplessness, from arguments of who is essential and who is not, from a relentless bombardment of assurances that we are all alone together, we witnessed the monstrous public murder of George Floyd and in an instant we were no longer alone together, we were together, period.

The throngs of justifiably angry protestors chanting "No justice, no peace" in every city of our country and cities around the world are refusing to be

manipulated into “us” and “them” any longer. Who are they? They are everyone. Every color, every age, every ability.

Peaceful protests and nonviolent movements are the sea of change.

The Chairman called for a moment of silence for George Floyd.

Public Portion

Melinda Padilla, representing Metro Plus, gave a presentation on MetroPlus Health Plan COVID-19 updates. Those interested can visit the the Brooklyn virtual office at <https://www.metroplus.org/metroplus-near-you/Brooklyn-Virtual-Office>

Naila Rosario, representing Brooklyn Public Library, advised that they are planning to safely re-open gradually in mid-July, beginning with Central Library and six other open locations throughout the borough, then increasing open locations and branch offerings over time to help keep our staff and patrons safe.

The Chairman inquired if anyone else from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Laurie Windsor to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Eileen LaRuffa. Unanimously adopted.

Minutes

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to accept the minutes of the May 14, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman’s Report

The Chairman welcomed and introduced the newly appointed board members: Sofia Annunziata, Jeffrey Harris, Briar Sambolin and Daniel Zurek.

Mr. Guarinello advised that prior to the NY PAUSE order, he and the District Manager, met with Captain Longobardi to discuss the Santa Rosalia Feast. We were advised that the length of the feast has put a strain on available resources.

During the timespan of the feast, the precinct received about 600 non-emergency police calls and 1566 emergency calls. Additionally, the police closed the feast early on the 3 evenings due to safety issues.

Mr. Guarinello stated that we have not yet received notification on the status of large-scale events due to COVID-19; however, we should consider a recommendation that the event be held for 7 days.

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to recommend that the event be held for 7-days. Seconded by Eileen LaRuffa. Unanimously adopted.

Election of Officers

Mr. Guarinello advised that the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of Officers for the 2020-2021 term at the May 14, 2020 meeting:

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

The Chairman inquired if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the slate of officers was unanimously adopted.

Elected Officials

Councilman Kalman Yeger spoke regarding the current events taking place in our city and nation. He spoke regarding the suffering and persecution of people and stated that Black Americans have suffered in a way that is indescribable, and it is true that black lives matter. We have seen over the past couple of weeks, people who protest for change and others who protest to destroy. It is hoped that he can make a difference in his position to effectuate change.

Councilman Yeger advised that he and Councilman Brannan had planned the honorary street co-naming ceremony for Bay Parkway and 60th Street

to Bishop Kearney Way. The ceremony has been postponed due to COVID-19.

The Councilman thanked the members for their volunteerism.

District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia reported that the Department of Transportation advised that they have scheduled changes to the Shore Parkway Greenway connector. They will be removing the floating parking lane on Shore Parkway at 26th Avenue, to create a through-lane and left turn lane onto 26th Avenue.

She further advised that the Civic Engagement Commission is providing Community Boards with free access to over the phone interpretation services (OPI). This service will be offered through Language Line and is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

The District Manager reminded everyone to complete the census and share the message widely.

Transportation Committee

Laurie Windsor, Chairperson of the Transportation Committee, reported that the committee reviewed an application for a Playstreet that was submitted by Hebrew Language Academy 2. They are seeking to close the street, on 82 Street between 24th Avenue and Stillwell Avenue, Monday through Friday, 11AM – 1 PM, for the 2020-2021 school year.

The committee recommends that the application be approved with the following modifications:

1. The street be closed for 2 days per week, Monday through Friday only.
2. The closure will not coincide with days that alternate side parking regulations are in effect.

A motion was made by Paul DiSpirito to accept the committee's recommendation. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

A motion was made by Eileen LaRuffa to adjourn. Seconded by Ruben Colon. Unanimously adopted.

The Chairman wished everyone a safe and healthy summer.