

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, September 10, 2020
At 7PM via Webinar

Present: Sofia Annunziata, Ross Brady, Rosa Casella, Vincent Chirico, Angelo Cucuzza, Victoria Curto, Salvatore D'Alessio, Linda Dalton, Claudio DeMeo, John Garvey, Laura Gottlieb, William R. Guarinello, Jeffrey Harris, Edward Lai, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Janet Perry, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor

Absent: Bart Allegretti, Thomas Andros, Albert Campanelli, Msgr. David Cassato, Wai Cheung, Iwen Chu, Steven Chung, Ruben Colon, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, Roy Jung, Alex Pellitteri, Briar Sambolin, Inga Smolyar, Sai Chuen Yeung, Linda Zhang, Nicholas Zimmitti

Excused: Shirley Fineman, Albert Milone, Nicholas J. Miraglia, Daniel Zurek

Guests: Senator Andrew Gounardes, Andrew Olson – NYC Recovery, Anne Marie, Cathy Santopietro, Hannah Weirnerman – Rep. Nadler, Flora Arias, Evan Burr – Brooklyn Borough President, Joseph LoMonaco, MD Fazley Fayel, Nicholas Cuevas, Sergey Chuprik – NYC Comptroller, Stephanie Gardini, Teresa DeLauro, Ari Kagan – Councilman Treyger

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting
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The meeting was opened with Ross Brady having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Despina Costalas, representing Congressman Rose, advised that they held a Russian community leaders roundtable discussion with members of the Bath Beach, Bensonhurst, and parts of Sheepshead Bay community.

Senator Gounardes advised that the district office has resumed in person visits by appointment only, in order to maintain social distancing and capacity.

The Senator spoke regarding the recent shootings in the area and advised that he has spoken with the Police Department and they are actively investigating. He urged residents to attend the 62nd Precinct Community Council meetings to receive accurate information. In the age of social media and apps; misinformation is easily disseminated.

Hannah Weirnerman, representing Congressman Nadler, spoke regarding the importance of Census 2020, and urged residents to complete the form and spread the message.

The Chairman inquired if anyone else 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.

Moment of Silence

The Chairman requested a moment of silence for those who lost their lives on, or due to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Minutes

A motion was made by Sal D'Alessio to adopt the minutes of the June 11, 2020 meeting. Seconded by John Garvey.

Andrew Windsor called a point of order in regard to a presence of a quorum. The quorum was confirmed.

The vote to accept the minutes was unanimously adopted.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello welcomed everyone back from the summer recess.

The Chairman spoke regarding the perception of increased crime in the community and reported that the crime rate in our community is low. He thanked the 62nd Precinct for their efforts in keeping our community safe and acknowledged the work of Senator Gounardes and Councilman Brannan.

Mr. Guarinello spoke regarding the 31st anniversary of the murder of Yusef Hawkins. He advised that on behalf of the board, a flower memorial was placed on the corner of Bay Ridge Avenue and 20th Avenue.

The Chairman advised that community board members should have received their 2020-2021 committee assignments and tentative dates of upcoming meetings. He advised that next month's meeting date would be changed. At that meeting a public hearing will be held on the FY2022 Capital and Expense budget priorities. All requests should be submitted to the district office as soon as possible.

He stated that upcoming meetings would be held via the Zoom platform to address the audio issues that we previously experienced.

Mr. Guarinello reminded everyone that there are 20 days left to complete the census. He urged everyone to complete the questionnaire, which is quick and easy. He asked that board members help spread the word on the importance of getting counted.

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Shirley Grant, who has joined the district office staff.

District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia advised NYC Transit is undertaking the replacement of track switches at Atlantic Avenue-Barclays Center on the D, N and R lines. The scope of work requires 3 weekends with no service between Atlantic Avenue/Barclay's Center and 36th Street.

Work will take place during the weekends of October 9-12, 16 -19 and 23-26, from 9:30 PM Friday to 1AM Monday.

The service plan calls for the D to operate in 2 sections between Manhattan and Brooklyn. Once you get to 9th Avenue, there will be free shuttle buses running between 9 Avenue and Atlantic.

The N will also operate in 2 segments – riders can transfer at 36th Street or Atlantic Avenue, for free connecting shuttle service.

She further advised that the Department of City Planning will be holding remote workshops to gather comment and input on the next edition of the City's Comprehensive Waterfront Plan. The Plan is scheduled to be released by the end of the year. Those interested in participating can visit their new website at waterfrontplan.nyc and attend the Southern Brooklyn virtual workshop on October 29th.

This fall, the Department of Transportation will be converting all 1-hour meter parking zones to 2-hour meter parking, as well as implementing a graduated 2nd hour rate at all locations. There will be no change in rates for drivers who park for an hour or less. The second hour rate on 86th Street from New Utrecht to 23 Avenue, will be \$2.50. (4). All other metered locations will be \$2 for the second hour (3.25)

The Center of NYC Neighborhoods and the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery are collaborating to install backwater valves in homes in select coastal communities at no cost to property owners.

Backwater valves are designed to prevent sewage backup, which can pose health hazards and cause hundreds or even thousands of dollars in damage.

Homeowners can get started now by determining whether they are pre-qualified for the Backwater Valve Installation Program through floodhelpny.org

Last week the Mayor announced that as part of Vision Zero, there will be lowered speed limits on 9 major streets throughout the city. In our district, the Shore Parkway service road both east and westbound will be lowered from 30 to 25 mph.

Committee Reports

Ross Brady, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Committee, advised that the committee heard a presentation made by Sheldon Lobel, PC, regarding a proposed zoning map amendment for 1900 Shore Parkway. Most of the property is zoned M1-1 and about 25' 11" falls into a R4 zoning district. The applicant is seeking to rezone the entirety of the property to the M1-1 zoning designation. There will be public review once the application is certified and referred.

It was also reported that over the summer recess an application was received for an extension of time to obtain a certificate of occupancy for 1820 Cropsey Avenue. Last year, the board held a public hearing and recommended the approval for of the variance; however due to COVID-19 the applicant is seeking additional time to obtain the certificate of occupancy.

A motion was made by John Garvey to waive the public hearing and approve the extension of time to obtain a certificate of occupancy for 1820 Cropsey Avenue. Seconded by Robert Whittaker. Unanimously adopted.

Councilman Mark Treyger

Councilman Treyger spoke regarding these unprecedented times and issues related to COVID-19. He urged everyone to wear a mask and has requested that the Administration hold additional PPE distributions in Southern Brooklyn.

The Councilman advised that he has previously hosted food distributions based on request for those neighbors in need; he requested that anyone in need of food should contact his office.

He further commented that the City's budget negotiation team has not met since the vote on the fiscal year 2021 budget. He is eagerly waiting to reconvene to discuss items relating to the Sanitation Department and Parks Department. He further advised that he restored funding to Wildcat Cleaning Services to supplement services that were removed from the current budget.

In closing, Councilman Treyger advised that he continues to speak truth to power on school re-opening and the need for schools to have information and resources to safely operate.

New Business

John Garvey stated that the Department of Transportation removed the green arrow signal on the Westbound Belt Parkway ramp at Bay Parkway. This has caused spillback during the morning rush hour.

There was discussion regarding the traffic issues that was created by the removal of this light.

Mr. Garvey further stated that he observed children on school buses without masks or social distancing.

Mr. Guarinello suggested that in the future he should obtain the bus number and contact the district office so that we can report the issue. He further stated that unless all of us come together as a city, we are not going to beat back this virus.

Ross Brady stated that we need religious and community leaders to set the tone and advise their congregants that we are all in this together, and everyone must comply with mask and social distancing mandates.

Robert Whittaker commented regarding the MTA providing shuttle service for the upcoming N and D projects but did not provide shuttles for the F project during the weekends.

He further inquired if the 62nd Precinct was impacted by the recent push to defund the Police.

Mr. Guarinello advised that the 62nd Precinct did not lose manpower due to the recently adopted budget. The savings were programmatic.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Unanimously adopted.