

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 7PM
via Teleconference

Present: Bart Allegretti, Ross Brady, Rosa Casella, Vincent Chirico, Iwen Chu, Ruben Colon, Angelo Cucuzza, Victoria Curto, Salvatore D'Alessio, Linda Dalton, Claudio DeMeo, William R. Guarinello, Jeffrey Harris, Roy Jung, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Briar Sambolin, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Daniel Zurek

Excused: Albert Campanelli, Shirley Fineman, John Garvey, Nicholas J. Miraglia

Absent: Sofia Annunziata, Msgr. David Cassato, Wai Cheung, Steven Chung, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, Laura Gottlieb, Edward Lai, Alex Pellitteri, Janet Perry, Lenny Salama, Inga Smolyar, Antonio Troia, Sai Chuen Yeung, Linda Zhang, Nicholas Zimmitti

Guests: Captain Tao Chen, Commanding Officer 62 Precinct, NO, Evan Burr – Brooklyn Borough President's Office, Frank Kopylov, Jay Brown, Gerardo Lucero, Amy Yu, K Ho, John Chen, Cathy Santopietro – Rep. Malliotakis, Edward Olonge, Jane Duong – Senator Gounardes, Ree Jan, Sergey Chuprik – NYC Comptroller's Office, Edward Cerna – Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, Yuying Xian, Shirley Grant – CB11, PO Vendra and Detective Agosta – 62nd Precinct Community Affairs, LGerardo Lucero, Steph Lee, Frank Fontana – Department of Buildings, Andrew Olson – Mayor's Office of Recovery & Resiliency, Kaylia F., Hannah Weirnerman – Rep. Nadler, Sherid Hamad, Shanshan Lin, Tambe John – Brooklyn Public Library, Jennifer Ou, Judge Dweynie Esther Paul, Andrew Tsui, Frank Kugler, Esther Gonzalez, Yi Duong, Juan Romero – Workers Justice Project, Denise Daniello, Bin Li, David Nussbaum – Department of Buildings, Nancy Lulu – Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, Gloria Daniels – NYC Parks, Tasmiah Ahmad – Senator Gounardes, Sharon Pinsker

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting
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via Teleconference

The meeting was opened with Vincent Chirico having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Hannah Weinerman, representing Congressman Nadler, spoke regarding President Biden's signing of the \$1.9 trillion recovery package. There is a lot of information to share. The office is preparing informational summaries. She urged anyone with questions on the COVID relief bill, or other federal concerns can call 212-367-7350.

Frank Fontana, representing the Department of Buildings, advised that the City Council has extended the 2-year moratorium on the issuance of storefront sign violations for an additional 2-years. Additional information can be found on www.nyc.gov/buildings. He further advised that those interested in receiving the department's newsletter or particular job filings can sign-up on the website.

Tambe John, representing Brooklyn Public Library, advised that the library is offering one-on-one online college guidance for anyone interested in post-secondary education.

She further advised that over 50 branches are open for grab and go kits for all ages, which include everything from arts and crafts to informational materials, as well as a variety of online programs for all ages.

Gloria Daniels, representing NYC Parks, spoke regarding the signs being vandalized with graffiti in Seth Low Playground. New signs have been ordered for replacement; however, this has been a chronic issue throughout our parks.

Juan Romero, representing Workers Justice Project, shared that in partnership with the Brooklyn Relief Kitchen, they are distributing food on Bay Parkway at the water's edge, on Fridays from 1:30 – 3PM. For more information, please call 718-600-0425.

He further advised that they offer free OSHA training to the community.

Nancy Lulu, representing the Brooklyn District Attorney's office, provided information on recent indictments including a Brooklyn attorney who allegedly stole \$201,000 in funds while representing clients, and a driver who ran a red light while speeding, seriously injuring a woman.

Anyone with concerns can contact the Brooklyn District Attorney's Action Center at 718-250-2340, or email lulu@brooklynda.org.

Cathy Santopietro, representing Rep. Malliotakis, advised that the district office is assisting people aged 65 and over obtain vaccination appointments at local pharmacies. If you know anyone 65 and over still needing the vaccines, please call 929-557- 2091 or email cathy.santopietro@mail.house.gov

Kaylia F., a resident of Bay 26th Street, spoke regarding the amount of garbage on 86th Street between Bay Parkway and 18th Avenue.

A motion was made by Bart Allegretti to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Ross Brady. The vote was 23 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion approved.

Chairman Guarinello requested any speakers that may have been inadvertently missed at the public portion of the meeting, to please enter comments in the chat, or email any concerns to bk11@cb.nyc.gov and they will be addressed.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Guarinello requested a moment of silence in memory of Pasquale Casella, son of board member Rosa Casella, who recently passed away.

The Chairman extended condolences on behalf of the board.

Minutes

A motion was made by Sal D'Alessio to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Ross Brady. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello acknowledged and thanked Captain Chen for addressing the parking concerns on Bath Avenue between Bay 22 and Bay 23 Streets. We scheduled and met with DOT to discuss short-term solutions to the parking issues by the precinct.

DOT is looking at the feasibility of converting the existing parking on Bay 22 Street to angle street parking on one side of the street. They will advise the board.

The Chairman advised that the Department of Homeless Services confirmed receipt of the board's resolution regarding the planned shelter at 2147 Bath Avenue and will provide a response.

Mr. Guarinello urged residents to be vigilant and monitor the Department of Buildings website to ensure that building permits are not quietly filed; and that the community groups who are in opposition to the siting of the shelter should be prepared to file an Article 78 to argue the zoning and seek an injunction.

He further advised that the board received an application for an extension of term of an existing variance for 6702 -6724 New Utrecht Avenue. We will schedule a public hearing for next month's meeting.

The Chairman advised that Target had a soft opening this week in the Caesar's Bay shopping center and their grand opening is this Sunday.

62nd Precinct

Captain Chen, the Commanding Officer of the 62nd Precinct, thanked the board for their assistance in finding a solution to the parking in the vicinity of the precinct.

The Captain reported that year to date the precinct had a 40% decrease in robberies, 5% decrease in burglaries and a 30% decrease in car theft. An area of concern that the precinct is addressing relates to domestic violence and assault.

The Captain addressed the graffiti in Seth Low Park. He will have Officers organize another clean-up, and the presence of patrol officers will increase as the warm weather arrives, which will help deter graffiti.

District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia advised that last week there were delays in garbage collection, but Sanitation is back on schedule. She asked that residents be patient with them as they are impacted by Covid-19. It has been reported that at the end of February, our garage had 48 cases of Covid.

The District Manager gave an update on 86th Street. She advised that she attended a meeting with the Department of Consumer Affairs and Worker's Protection to discuss general vending updates. Under Local Law 18 of 2021, an office of street vendor enforcement was created, which shall consist of enforcement agents who are specially trained in local laws and rules relating to vending on the streets and sidewalks. The office will be fully operational by September 1st.

The new office has limited inspectors who are doing business education and outreach. However, she did not have a clear understanding of how it is going to address the unlicensed vendors on 86th Street and Bay Parkway, or on the restricted areas of 86th Street.

She stated that she understands that these are tough times; but we also cannot have these oversized congested sidewalks blocked, and while she agrees with outreach and education there must also be an enforcement component.

She acknowledged the many complaints posted on social media regarding the conditions on 86th Street but she finds very few formally filed complaints in the 311 system. She urged residents to please file 311 complaints so that there is a record of the issues.

The second issue on 86th Street between Bay Parkway and 23rd Avenue is some of the fruit stores with the oversized stoop-lines received permits to operate under the open storefronts program. They are required to maintain 8 feet of sidewalk, which is not the case. The program does not have a compliance/ enforcement component and DOT is not taking responsibility for the program and referring concerns to the Department of Small Business Services.

Currently, there are no disincentives to comply with rules.

She further advised that notification was received from the Department of Design and Construction regarding the start of a pedestrian ramp construction project. They are working on various corners of Cropsey Avenue between Bay 8th Street and 18 Avenue.

On March 18-19, from 9 – 4PM, West 5 Street between Kings Highway and Quentin Road will be closed to vehicles due to a crane operation.

National Grid will be installing gas mains on 72nd Street between 16th and 17th Avenues. There will be a typical 3' trench and work is expected to last 90 days. The utility distributed a community notification to the affected area.

New Business

Laurie Windsor advised that the sewer odors on Bath Avenue between 16th and 18th Avenues have come back in full force. She stated while this has been an ongoing issue, this past week has been unbearable.

Marnee Elias-Pavia advised that she had previously contacted DEP to request a meeting to discuss this matter and she has not received a response from the Commissioner.

Robert Whittaker inquired if we received any indications if there would be restorations to services when the city receives funding reimbursements due to the pandemic.

The Chairman advised that we would be in a better position to understand the service restorations in July, when the city budget is passed.

Dr. Law spoke regarding the rising anti-Asian hate crimes across the country. He advised that Assemblyman Colton will be chairing a meeting regarding this issue on March 19th at 11AM. Anyone interested can request a link.

A motion was made by Ross Brady to adjourn. Seconded by Robert Whittaker. Unanimously adopted.