

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 7PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Bart Allegretti, Ross Brady, Albert Campanelli, Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Vincent Chirico, Ruben Colon, Angelo Cucuzza, Salvatore D'Alessio, Linda Dalton, Claudio DeMeo, William R. Guarinello, Jeffrey Harris, Roy Jung, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Janet Perry, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Laurie Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung, Daniel Zurek

Absent: Sofia Annunziata, Wai Cheung, Steven Chung, Victoria Curto, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, Shirley Fineman, John Garvey, Laura Gottlieb, Edward Lai, Albert Milone, Alex Pellitteri, Leon Salama, Briar Sambolin, Inga Smolyar, Linda Zhang, Nicholas Zimmitti

Excused: Irene Chu, Nicholas Miraglia, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Antonio Troia, Andrew Windsor

Guests: Linda Papandrea, David Nussbaum – Department of Buildings, Sergey Chuprik – Comptroller's Office, Edward Cerna – Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, Patricia Capuano, Shirley Grant – CB 11, Nancy Lulu – Brooklyn DA, Andrew Olsen – Office of Recovery, Frank Fontana – Department of Buildings, Nancy Tong – Assemblyman Colton, Hannah Weinerman – Rep. Nadler, Carmelo Vendra – 62nd Precinct, Evan Burr-Brooklyn Borough President, Danielle Shapiro – Brooklyn Public Library, Gloria Daniels – Parks, Denise Daniello, Captain Tao Chen – 62nd Precinct

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 7PM
Virtual Meeting

The meeting was opened with Jeffrey Harris having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Frank Fontana, representing the Department of Buildings, provided updates on Local Law 152, the periodic gas inspections of buildings over 2 units will not take effect within CB11 until 2023. He further advised that beginning on March 4, 2021, under Local Law 104, the department will not issue work permits to buildings that have open or immediately hazardous violations. Buildings with 35 or more dwelling units: two (2) or more violations for every unit; Buildings with fewer than 35 dwelling units: three (3) or more violations for every unit. The permit restriction will apply if the violations were issued on or after January 4, 2020 – the effective date of Local Law 104 of 2019.

Nancy Lulu, representing the Brooklyn District Attorney's office, advised that due to the surge of gun violence, the offices of the District Attorneys, the NYPD and the NYS Attorney General's office is collaborating to host another gun buyback event. It will be held on May 22nd at the Cornerstone Center at Howard House, 90 Watkins Street.

She further advised that a Sunset Park Attorney was sentenced to 1-3 years in prison for stealing money from clients he represented in the sale of their homes; and, provided a quick reminder that the DA's office is offering to High Schoolers a virtual 4 week internship. For more information visit brooklynda.org.

Hannah Weirnerman, representing Congressman Nadler, provided information on two new programs available to help small businesses. The Shuttered Venue Operators grant, and the Restaurant Revitalization Fund are now accepting applications. Those interested in these opportunities should visit www.sba.gov or contact the district office at Nadler.house.gov

Ed Cerna, Brooklyn Borough Director, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, acknowledge the heroism of Police Officer McGurran, of the 81st Precinct, who was shot while confronting a person with a gun.

He further provided an update on vaccination efforts, which included the authorization of children ages 12 – 15 years old to receive the Pfizer vaccine; and, the Advisory Commission on Property Tax Reform has issued 10 preliminary recommendations. There will be a borough-based zoom public hearing on May 27th

Danielle Shapiro, representing Brooklyn Public Library, provided updates on branch re-openings and events. She announced that on May 21st, in Dyker Beach Park there will be a welcome back to the libraries event. There will be numerous activities, and all are invited to attend.

The Chairman inquired if anyone else from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Sal D'Alessio to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Jeffrey Harris. Unanimously adopted.

Minutes

A motion was made by Sal D'Alessio to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Bart Allegretti. Unanimously adopted.

62nd Precinct

Captain Tao Chen, Commanding Officer of the 62nd Precinct, wished the Muslim community Eid Mubarak. He advised that a large prayer service took place this morning on the waterfront and thanked the Caesar's Bay management for their partnership.

He further advised that the NYPD Asian Hate Crime Task Force is hosting a self-defense workshop for people ages 16 and up, this Sunday, at Tiger Shulman, 520 86th Street at 1:45 PM.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello advised that the Nominating Committee submitted the following slate of Officers for the 2021/2022 term:

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

The Chairman advised that nominations from the floor can be made at the June meeting.

A motion was made by Bart Allegretti to accept the report of the Nominating Committee. Seconded by Ross Brady. Unanimously adopted.

The Chairman advised that the Planning and Zoning Committee hosted a presentation by the Department of City Planning on Zoning for Accessibility, a citywide zoning text amendment. If you are interested in viewing the presentation, it can be found on our YouTube Channel, <https://bit.ly/CB11Meetings>.

Mr. Guarinello further advised that today the City Planning Commission referred the citywide Hotel Text Amendment. Public Hearings will be scheduled for the June 10, 2021 meeting.

The Chairman reminded the community that Primary Election Day is on June 22, 2021, and early voting begins on June 12th through June 20th. To find your poll sites, please visit www.vote.nyc.

The Chairman discussed the issue of Verizon oversized work trucks being parked overnight on the streets of our community. This practice began during the height of the pandemic and has not improved. He stated that on-street parking is difficult for the residents of this community and these trucks should not be on our residential streets.

There was discussion regarding this practice and the Chairman stated that if this practice was due to Covid then with the new CDC guidelines issued Verizon should immediately reverse this practice.

A motion was made by Ruben Colon to call upon Verizon to remove their vehicles from residential streets during the overnight hours. Seconded by Robert Whittaker. Unanimously adopted.

District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia reported that Community Board 11 received notification that a newly constructed 11-story residential building will be erected at 2224 Cropsy Avenue.

The developer plans to file a privately financed Senior Affordable Housing Application/Affordable Independent Residences for Seniors with Housing Preservation and Development.

They are planning 19 studios, 68 one-bedrooms, and 20 two-bedrooms. All the apartments will be set aside for households earning no more than 80% AMI.

She advised that there is no land use application before the board. Since this is an as-of-right development the Planning and Zoning Committee will invite the applicant to discuss the program and affordability options.

She reported that Adventurers Amusement Park submitted notification that they are adding a battery powered mini Go-Kart track in the park. They have applied to the Department of Consumer Affairs which is requesting comments, or a letter of no objection.

A motion was made by Bart Allegretti to issue a letter of no objection. Seconded by Eileen LaRuffa. Unanimously adopted.

The District Manager advised that she attended a Department of City Planning briefing on an upcoming proposed Health & Fitness text amendment. The goal of the text amendment is to remove the special permit requirement for gyms, spas, and massage therapy. These uses are not permitted in most locations.

It is her understanding that this proposed text amendment will also remove the definition of the Adult Physical Culture Establishment definition from the zoning resolution.

She stated that over the years, the board has found the most effective tool to combat unlicensed day spas and illegal massage parlors is using the zoning resolution and not police enforcement. The board has worked with the Mayor's Office of Special Enforcement and the Department of Buildings to enforce zoning provisions related to massage parlors.

She feared that the removal of this zoning tool will allow these establishments to operate as of right and voiced this concern to the Department of City Planning and the Mayor's Office of Special Enforcement. If there is no plan to address these establishments through zoning and enforcement, we will be creating red light districts throughout our community.

The District Manager advised that the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery is undertaking a green infrastructure project in the district. They are installing infiltration basins/bioswales to absorb stormwater and divert it from the sewers within the NY Rising boundaries. They are currently working in the area of Avenue P.

In closing, she advised that the Department of Transportation is scheduled to finish the paving of Bay Parkway by next week.

New Business

Dr. Tim Law thanked Assemblyman Colton and the Neighborhood Coordinating Officers for the May 1st walkthrough of Seth Low Park. Information regarding the importance of reporting acts of hate was shared with the park community.

He further advised that NCO Sector B will be holding a Build the Block Meeting on May 29th, at 12:30 PM. There will be limited in-person attendance at 124 Avenue O, and the meeting will also be held virtually.

Mr. Guarinello wished our Muslim neighbors Eid Mubarak and acknowledged our AAPI community for their contributions as we celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month.

The Chairman inquired if there was any other new business. Hearing none, a motion was made by Ross Brady to adjourn. Seconded by Laurie Windsor.