Attendance of Community Board 11’ s General Meeting

Held on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 7 PM,

Via Zoom Videoconference

Present: Reuvain Borchardt, Ross Brady, Jay Brown, Angelo Cucuzza, Victoria Curto, Salvatore D’Alessio, Alan Esses, Leon Freue, Jeffrey Harris, Roy Jung, Edward Lai, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Lorraine Mazzola, Janet Perry, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Lenny Salama, Kaise Sun, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung

Absent: Rosa Casella, Lilibeth Chang, Claudio DeMeo, Albert Milone, Ahmed Nasser, Linda Zhang

Excused: Msgr. David Cassato, Youssef Tsouli, Daniel Zurek

Guests: Anastasi Yaskova – Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit, Denise Daniello, Frank Fontana – Department of Buildings, Detective Stephen Agosta– 62nd Precinct Community Affairs, Captain Tao Chen – 62nd Precinct, Sergey Chupril – Comptroller’s Office, Bryan Gross – Councilperson Avila, Tambe John – New Utrecht Library, Eric Palatnik, Shirley Grant – CB 11, Byron Todman – NHS Brooklyn, Hannah Weinerman – Congresman Nadler, Frank Kopylov

Minutes of Community Board 11’ s General Meeting

Held on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 7 PM,

Via Zoom Videoconference

The meeting was opened with Victoria Curto having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Byron Todman, representing NHS Brooklyn, spoke regarding the programs that the not-for-profit is administering. He highlighted a program for disabled veterans through the New York State Affordable Housing Corporation, as well as working with the City of New York and Enterprise Community Foundation, the emergency housing voucher program to recruit landlords with vacant units to assist in housing. Those interested in learning more should visit [www.nhsbrooklyn.org](http://www.nhsbrooklyn.org)

Nancy Lulu, representing Brooklyn District Attorney Gonzalez, announced that on May 21st, the Brooklyn DA’s office and the NYPD hosted a very successful gun buyback event with 69 guns taken off the streets of Brooklyn.

She further announced three defendants were sentenced to 75 years to life in prison for the 2017 robbery and murder of a New York City Police Department civilian employee that used to reside in Bensonhurst. Anyone interested in upcoming events should visit [www.brooklynda.org](http://www.brooklynda.org)

Tambe John, representing New Utrecht Library, thanked the community for supporting recent events. She provided updates on upcoming events and advised that for the first time since the pandemic they are planning indoor programming. Residents should visit [www.brooklynlibrary.org](http://www.brooklynlibrary.org) for additional programming information.

Brian Gross, representing Council Member Alexa Aviles, provided information on the upcoming Puerto Rican Day parade in Sunset Park, and the upcoming Sanitation Worker exam.

Frank Fontana, representing the Department of Buildings, advised that Mr. Eric Ulrich will serve as the agency’s Commissioner. He further provided updates on Local Law 152, which requires properties, except for 1 and 2 family homes, to perform and submit gas piping inspections at least once every four years. For properties located within the confines of Community Board 11, the date ranges are January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023.

Chairman Guarinello 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 Jeffrey Harris to adopt the minutes of the May 12, 2022, meeting. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

Election of Officers

The following slate of Officers for the 2022-2023 term was submitted at the May 12, 2022, meeting:

Chairman: William R. Guarinello

1st Vice Chairperson: Laurie Windsor

2nd Vice Chairperson: Sonia Valentin

Secretary: Man Wai Lau

Treasurer: Eileen LaRuffa

The Chairman inquired if there were nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the slate was unanimously accepted.

Chairman’s Report

Chairman Guarinello welcomed and introduced the newly appointed board members: Kaise Sun, Youseff Tsouli and Msgr. David Cassato.

The Chairman advised that he had hoped to hold tonight’s meeting in-person, however, due to high community transmission of Covid-19 we transitioned to a virtual meeting and are planning on an in-person meeting for September.

He requested that board members respond to the committee questionnaire and other requests for information, so that we can align committee assignments with interests and areas of expertise.

Mr. Guarinello thanked the committees for their tireless work.

In closing, the chairman reminded the community that Primary Election Day for Governor, Lt. Governor, and State Assembly is June 28th. Elections for House and State Senate will be held in August.

Early voting begins on June 18th through June 26th. To locate early voting and election day polling sites, please visit <https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc>

62nd Precinct

Captain Tao Chen, Commanding Officer of the 62nd Precinct, provided an update on the online threats targeting High Schools, which includes New Utrecht High School. He advised that he cannot elaborate because it is an active investigation, but he wants to assure the community that the NYPD has increased security at the school.

He further advised that there will be street closures on 86th Street from Bay Parkway to 19th Avenue, for a street fair, on Sunday, June 12th.

District Manager’s Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia reported the Transportation Committee recently met with the Department of Transportation and Hildalyn Colon Hernandez, the Director of Policy, and Strategic Partnerships, for Los Deliveristas/Workers Justice Project, to initiate a discussion on education and outreach for e-mobility users. The last few months we have received safety concerns from pedestrians regarding e-bikes and other devices that use the sidewalks, don’t follow traffic rules, and make it dangerous for all users of the roadway.

She advised that electric bikes with pedal assist or operable pedals and e-scooters a device with handlebars, a floorboard or seat and weighing less than 100 pounds are all legal and do not require licensing or registration.

Limited use motorcycles or as they are commonly called Mopeds, which all require a licensed driver, registered, and insured. However, there are many of these vehicles being sold in our neighborhoods that do not have VIN numbers and therefore cannot be registered.

The committee discussed an outreach and education campaign. She further acknowledged the work of the 62nd Precinct, which has been conducting educational outreach throughout the district to all users of the roadway.

The District Manager advised of recently received notification from the Department of Transportation that an open street has been approved for PS 48, the Mapleton School on 61 Street between 18th and 19th Avenues.

The Department of Design and Construction is installing pedestrian ramps at various locations within the district. The contractor will post notices in the affected areas in advance of construction.

DOT is conducting paving in the district: they are working on West 5 Street between 65th Street and Avenue U and Dahill Road between 24th Avenue and Kings Highway.

Planning and Zoning Committee

Ross Brady, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning committee, reported that the committee met following last month’s public hearing regarding 2080 McDonald Avenue. The applicant seeks a zoning map amendment of block 6680, lots 39 and 42 and block 6680 lots 39 and 42, from an M1-1/R5B to C4-4L. The action will facilitate the development of an apartment building containing 66 residential units, of which 16 will be affordable under Mandatory Inclusionary Housing, 67 parking spaces and ground floor commercial and community facility.

The committee recommends approval and reiterates the request to the Department of City Planning to conduct a comprehensive review of the district to assess the need for core services.

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to recommend approval as presented. Seconded by Eileen LaRuffa. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman Brady reported that the committee heard an introductory presentation on a potential zoning map amendment for 166 Kings Highway, which would rezone 166 Kings Highway, as well as adjacent properties from R6B/C2-3 to R7X/C2-4. This would facilitate the development of a 10-story residential building on the former site of Del Rio diner. The building proposed would have 99 dwelling units, ground floor retail space, and provide 52 accessory parking spaces.

In addition, the proposal seeks a text amendment to make the rezoning area applicable as Mandatory Inclusionary Housing area under option 2. Thirty percent of the residential floor area for incomes averaging 80% AMI.

New Business

Dr. Tim Law advised that the 62nd Precinct Crime Prevention Officer held a meeting to discuss scams. Residents were warned to never share personal information.

He further announced that on June 16th a meeting will be held at 124 Avenue O, at 11AM to discuss gambling addiction. Call 718-975-0955, if interested in attending.

The Chairman inquired if there was any other new business. Hearing none, a motion was made by Laurie Windsor to adjourn. Seconded by Eileen LaRuffa. Unanimously adopted.