,Attendance of Community Board 11’s Virtual General Meeting

Held on, Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 7PM

Present: Ross Brady, Jay Brown, Rosa Casella, Angelo Cucuzza, Salvatore D’Alessio, Claudio DeMeo, Michael Garthaffner, William R. Guarinello, Jeffrey Harris, Roy Jung, Edward Lai, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Janet Perry, Kaise Sun, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung

Absent: Reuvain Borchardt, Msgr. David Cassato, Lilibeth Chang, Victoria Curto, Alan Esses, Leon Freue, Lorraine Mazzola, Albert Milone, Ahmed Nasser, Lenny Salama, Briar Sambolin, Karen Sardell, Antonio Troia, Youssef Tsouli, Linda Zhang

Excused Rabbi Gary Pollack, Daniel Zurek

Guests: Assemblymember Colton, Sergei Chuprik – Comptroller’s Office, Nicole Mann – Senator Chu, Craig Kligfeld – Cert, Div. Chief 5, Shirley Grant – CB11 Staff, Detective Stephen Agosta – 62nd Precinct, Anthony Colorafi, David Kupferberg, Tambe John – New Utrecht Library, Michell Argus, Bryan Gross – Councilmember Aviles, Ethan Nash – Brooklyn Borough President’s Office, Jason Chen – Department of Sanitation, Captain Eddie Lau – 62nd Precinct, Paul Laguerre – Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, Sarah Sarawat – Assemblymember Colton, Susan Zhuang – Assemblymember Colton, Ayanna Williams – Councilmember Kagan

Minutes of Community Board 11’s Virtual General Meeting

Held on, Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 7PM

The meeting was opened with Captain Eddie Lau having the honor of the pledge.

Moment of Silence

Chairman Guarinello requested a moment of silence for passing of Police Officer Adeed Fayaz, who was assigned to the 66th Precinct.

Public Portion

Tambe John, representing New Utrecht Public Library, provided updates on the many programs available to families, older adults, and non-English speakers.

She further advised that the library offers many types of English classes, from beginner classes to specialized classes, which results in nationally recognized certifications in medical billing, food handling and technology. Anyone interested in these programs should visit [www.brooklynlibrary.org](http://www.brooklynlibrary.org)

Bryan Gross, representing Councilmember Alex Aviles, announced that the district office is offering free tax services in partnership with Grow Brooklyn. Appointments can be made by calling 718-439-9012.

Susan Zhuang, Chief of Staff for Assemblymember Colton, advised that legal services will be available at the district office for immigration and housing issues on Tuesdays between 10AM and 4PM.

David Kupferberg, representing NYC Passengers United, spoke regarding the MTA’s Brooklyn Bus Redesign proposal. They believe that ridership and coverage are important to a well-functioning mass transit network but are different than their peers in the sense of bus stop spacing. They prefer to give people a shorter distance to walk to the stop.

Ayanna Williams, Director of Constituent Services for Councilmember Ari Kagan, provided recent community updates and advised that free ice skating will be offered at Abe Stark Ice-Skating Rink on February 21-24th from 9-11AM.

Craig Kligfeld, Division Chief of CERT 5, introduced himself and looks forward to working with the community.

The Chairman inquired if anyone else from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Jeff Harris to close the public portion of the meeting, Seconded by Ross Brady. Unanimously adopted.

Minutes

A motion was made by Sal D’Alessio to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2023, meeting. Seconded by Janet Perry. Unanimously adopted.

Elected Officials

Assemblymember William Colton advised that a rally was held at City Hall with over 150 people in attendance to speak out against the proposed shelter at 137 Kings Highway. He stated that he is now looking for possibilities of better uses of the property and we're exploring the possibility of a school or affordable housing.

The Assemblyman further discussed the MTA’s Brooklyn Bus Redesign and the importance of improved service not the elimination of bus stops; the importance of investing in mental health services, education and jobs, as they relate to criminal justice services.

62nd Precinct

William R. Guarinello welcomed and introduced the new Commanding Officer of the 62nd Precinct, Captain Eddie Lau.

Captain Lau introduced himself and thanked everybody for their thoughts and prayers for fallen Police Officer Adeed Fayaz.

He looks forward to working with the community and personally meeting everyone.

Chairman’s Report

William R. Guarinello reported that the Planning and Zoning Committee recently met to hear an informal presentation on the proposed rezoning map amendment and zoning text amendment to facilitate the development of 7120 New Utrecht Avenue. The building proposed is a 9-story mixed use building with 100 new dwelling units, 30% of the units would be permanently affordable. He advised that the day after the presentation, the application was certified by the Department of City Planning.

He further advised that the district office received an application for a variance and special permit for 321 Avenue T, and an application for a new variance and an amendment to the existing variance for 2170 McDonald Avenue.

The applicant seeks to expand the pre-school contrary to the existing M1-1 zoning designation, and seeks waivers for Use, front wall height, setback and sky exposure plane, and rear yards.

Public Hearings will be scheduled on these matters.

The Chairman inquired if there are any comments or discussion on the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital and Expense responses. There were no comments or discussion.

District Manager’s Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia advised that we received the following information in the chat: the Brooklyn Borough president's office has extended the community board application deadline to February 23rd. They will be conducting interviews starting next week through March, and they'll notify applicants of interview times.

The New York State redistricting public hearing for Brooklyn will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 4PM. The hearing will be held at Medgar Evers College and testimony can be submitted in person or online.

The District Manager was honored to attend the many Lunar New Year celebrations in the district, and march in the 18th Avenue Lunar New Year parade hosted by Chinese American Social Services. She congratulated Dr. Law for organizing the parade, which was very well attended, as well as the 62nd Precinct for their work in coordinating a successful event.

She further advised that the Department of Sanitation announced new set-out guidelines for trash and recycling to reduce the hours that trash sits curbside.

Slated to go into effect on April 1st, residential buildings would have to:

* Place trash out after 6:00 PM in a secure container,
* Place trash out after 8:00 PM if putting bags directly on the curb, or
* If a building has nine or more residential units, the property owner may opt in to a 4:00 – 7:00 AM set-out window instead. The opt-in period will run for the month of January each year, allowing DSNY to design quick and efficient routes that take effect April 1.

In addition, curbside composting is expanding to all NYC neighborhoods. It will begin in Brooklyn on October 2, 2023. There is no sign-up required and it is on a voluntary basis.

She advised that NYC DEP is offering a limited one-time amnesty with up to 100% of interest forgiveness on water bills and wastewater charges to all qualified delinquent customers. The program began on January 30th and runs until April 30th and allows accrued interest reduced or forgiven by paying the principal balance.

To determine eligibility, visit nyc.gov/dep/amnesty, or call 718-595-7000, or email amnesty@dep.nyc.gov

The Department of Housing Preservation and Development is hosting a virtual homeowner resource fair on Thursday, February 16th at 6PM via Zoom. Some of the topics include property tax abatements and exemptions, residential building repairs and improvements, and foreclosure prevention and legal help. Anyone interested can contact Community Board 11 for the link, and we will share in our newsletter.

She further advised that the 62nd Precinct Community Council, the Federation of Italian American Organizations, Friends of New Utrecht Library and Community Board 11 will be hosting a meet and greet with the New Fort Hamilton Garrison Commander, Colonel Brian Jacobs on February 15th at 12 PM, at Il Centro, 8711 18 Avenue.

Transportation Committee

Laurie Windsor, Chairperson of the Transportation Committee, advised that the committee met on January 26th to discuss and review the MTA’s draft Brooklyn Bus Redesign plan.

She advised that they reviewed each route and the plan includes the removal of bus stops and spacing the bus stops further apart, which is a concern due to the high percentage of older residents who reside in the district and the MTA’s lack of bus stop utilization figures.

The committee presents three recommendations: contact the larger community-based organizations who serve older and non-English speaking residents, which we already shared.

The two other recommendations are for the MTA to conduct pop-up sites in the district, and to post flyers in multiple languages at the bus stops that are slated to be removed.

Laurie Windsor moved these recommendations and was seconded by Robert Whittaker. Unanimously adopted.

In closing, she urged the community to attend the virtual public workshop for Community District 11 on February 13th.

New Business

Dr. Tim Law thanked everyone who participated in the Lunar New Year parade.

The Chairman inquired if there was any other new business. Hearing none, a motion to adjourn was made by Robert Whittaker. Seconded by Roy Jung. Unanimously adopted.