Attendance of Community Board 11’s General Meeting

Held on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at

Il Centro, 8711 18th Avenue

Present: Reuvain Borchardt, Ross Brady, Angelo Bruno, Victoria Cammarata Curto, Millie Choy, Salvatore D’Alessio, Catherine Daly, Claudio DeMeo, Chung Dick, Alan Esses, Leon Freue, Kenneth Fu, William R. Guarinello, Jeffrey Harris, Kerry Hines, Richard Kurtzer, Ed Lai, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Tim Law, Joudi Menefah, Janet Perry, Leon Salama, Kaise Sun, Sonia Valentin, Katherine Vero, Laurie Windsor, Tina Zeng, Marnee Elias-Pavia – District Manager

Absent: Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Mohammed Elder, Teresa Holland, Alvin Li, Albert Milone, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Nancy Sottile, Thao Troung, Youssef Tsouli, Andrew Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung, Jason Wong, Xin Jie (Tina) Zeng, Daniel Zurek,

Excused: Jay Brown, Angelo Cucuzza, Michael Garthaffner, Anthony Salazar Vazquez, Robert Whittaker, Winston Tran

Guests: Patricia Faint, Helen Klein, Glib Dolotov, Gabrielle Woods – Councilmember Brannan, Jay Goldstein, Nicole Mann – Senator Chu, William Vitale – NYCEM, Captain Edddie Lau, Detective Stephen Agosta

Minutes of Community Board 11’s General Meeting

Held on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at

Il Centro, 8711 18th Avenue

The meeting was opened with Chairman William R. Guarinello having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to accept the minutes of the May 4, 2023, meeting. Seconded by Jeffrey Harris. Unanimously adopted.

Disposition of Public Hearing

1. BSA Calendar # 202-07-BZ/2023-4-BZ

Magen David Yeshiva

2170 McDonald Avenue

Block 7087 Lot 34

The applicant seeks a variance to allow the enlargement of the existing building contrary to rear yard and required yards along district boundary coincident with rear lot lines of two adjoining zoning lots.

1. BSA Calendar # 2023-5-BZ

Magen David Yeshiva

321 Avenue T

Block 7087 Lot 46

The applicant seeks a variance and special permit to permit a five-story and cellar school building in a M1-1 zoning district contrary to use, floor area and height, setback, and sky exposure plane.

Ross Brady, Co-Chairperson of the Planning and Zoning Committee advised that a public hearing was held on June 1, 2023. The applicant is seeking to extend the existing school to meet enrollment demand and to comply with State regulations. To extend the school, the applicant filed a new application for 321 Avenue T and must re-open the previously approved application to modify 2170 McDonald Avenue.

The committee on a vote of six to three, recommend that the board affirms the accommodations with, of course, all the applicant’s promises about keeping the trash inside the building and being good neighbors.

A motion was made by Reuvain Borchardt to accept the recommendations of the committee. Seconded by Sonia Valentin. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman’s Report

William R. Guarinello welcomed and recognized the newly appointed board members.

The Chairman spoke of his time serving on Community Board 11 and the difficult decision to retire and relocate.

Election of Officers

At the May 4, 2023 meeting the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of Officers for the 2023-2024 term: There were no nominations from the floor.

Laurie Windsor – Chairperson

Ross Brady – 1st Vice Chairperson

Eileen LaRuffa – 2nd Vice Chairperson

Secretary – Man Wai Lau

Treasurer – Edward Lai

Sonia Valentin – Sgt at Arms

The Secretary casted one vote to accept the ballot of Officers. Unanimously adopted.

Mr. Guarinello congratulated Laurie Windsor and extended his support for any questions that may arise.

Laurie Windsor, on behalf of the board and the community, thanked Bill Guarinello for his many years of service and the countless hours he's given to the community. Throughout his years of service, he’s been the voice of reason in Bensonhurst. He formed audiences with groups that felt that they were alienated; he promoted peace in our neighborhood during great times of turmoil; and Bill was the key player in doing that and bringing everyone together at the table. In true Bensonhurst custom, Bill did not broadcast it and say, “look what I did, and I got this done.” It was a matter of him doing it for his love of the community because he did not need these accolades. In Bill's low-key way, we simply say thank you to Bill and his wife, Donna for sharing him with us.

Chairperson Windsor presented Bill with a plaque with his gavel mounted, it read: In recognition of your 43 years of leadership and untiring and dedicated service to the Bath Beach, Bensonhurst and Gravesend communities. Signed the officers, members, and staff of CB11.

Recognition

Councilman Ari Kagan presented a New York City Council citation recognizing William Guarinello’s years of service to the community. He thanked him for his wisdom and expeditious meetings and wished him well in retirement.

Councilman Kalman Yeger presented a citation and thanked Bill Guarinello for his years of volunteerism and service to the Bensonhurst community.

Anastasia Yaskova, Brooklyn Borough Director, of the Mayor’s Community Affairs unit, presented to William Guarinello, a Proclamation on behalf of the Mayor's Office and Mayor Eric Adams, for his outstanding work and support of the community.

Carol-Ann Church, Director of Community Boards for the Brooklyn Borough President, welcomed the newly appointed board members. She extended greetings from Borough President Antonio Reynoso and extended his appreciation to William Guarinello, who has served under six Mayors and four Borough presidents in his term of service. She presented a proclamation in recognition of his service.

Edward Lai, who serves as Vice President of the New York Chinese Association, presented Mr. Guarinello with the President’s Volunteer Service Award, which honors individuals whose service positively impacts communities.

Captain Eddie Lau, Commanding Officer of the 62nd Precinct, on behalf of the members of the precinct, thanked Mr. Guarinello for his support and wished him well.

Sonia Valentin, representing the 62nd Precinct Community Council, thanked Mr. Guarinello for his service and presented a token of their appreciation.

Peter Abbate thanked Bill for his years of service. They worked together for 36 years and was so proud to work with this board on local issues. He urged the new board members to hold their elected officials responsible.

Gabrielle Woods, representing Councilman Brannan, congratulated Bill on his retirement and announced upcoming community events.

Laurie Windsor extended greetings and congratulations on behalf of Rep. Nicole Malliotakis who is in Washington D.C.

Marnee Elias-Pavia, District Manager worked under Bill's leadership for 25 years. She recalled her first few weeks after she started working for the board Bill learned that the KKK was in the community doing a targeted outreach membership drive to our community's youth. He quickly organized all the community-based faith-based organizations, education, and community leaders to stand together to denounce hate and Bill has done that every day since. She would never forget all the people that he brought together and how proud she was to join this amazing team and work under his leadership. Bill taught her to act on facts, rules and not upon emotion; that a large part of her job is to listen. For residents to be heard and to always fight for what is right and just even though it may not be a decision that is embraced by all.

She thanked him for his guidance, commitment, leadership and for expeditious board meetings.

Laurie Windsor introduced Paul DiSpirito, a former board member and owner of Lioni’s Italian heroes.

Paul DiSpirito said there is a saying in Bensonhurst that you didn't really make it until there's a sandwich named after you.

In recognition of Bill’s years of service to the Bensonhurst community, the “P6” sandwich was unveiled with the saying, “Order it fast, it may be gone quicker than one of his meetings.”

Laurie Windsor thanked Paul for donating the food for the collation.

A motion was made by Eileen LaRuffa to adjourn. Seconded by Bill Guarinello.

Unanimously adopted.