

## Community Board 1 Minutes October 21, 2014

Mr. Vinicio Donato, Chairperson of Community Board 1, commenced at 7:00 pm by introducing Guest Speaker Councilmember Costa Constantinides. Councilmember Costa Constantinides spoke of his support for the Board's recommendations on the Astoria Cove rezoning. He then spoke of his Public Hearing on the Participatory Budgeting for monies for Projects specific for his District (22). He thanked Board for giving him the opportunity to address them.

Ms. Elizabeth Erion, Assistant-Chair of the Zoning and Variance Committee, read public hearing item from the Department of City Planning (DCP) Cal. #N140358ECQ – Premises 33-01 Ditmars Blvd. (The Sandwich Bar). An application to construct an Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 13 tables and 26 seats and asked if there was anyone present to represent the application. Mr. Kerry Katsorhis, Attorney for the applicant, stated that the applicant is a group of brothers who are currently at the restaurant and the father is present. He stated that they brought additional prints of the plans that were approved by DCP for further examination by the Board. Ms. Erion asked if the plan were the same that were submitted to the Board's office. Mr. Katsorhis replied "Yes". He stated that originally the application was for 18 tables and 36 seats, but that was not acceptable and had to be reduced to 13 tables and 26 seats in order to have enough clearance at the rear, giving enough space for the muni meter and to make sure there was enough room for the public to go back and forth on 33rd Street. Ms. Erion asked what type of restaurant they have, the hours of operation, and the dimensions of the enclosed café. Mr. Katsorhis stated that he did not have the diagrams in front of him to provide the dimensions of the unenclosed sidewalk café. The owner stated that the restaurant is like a neighbor store serving fresh food and beer. They have a variety of sandwiches, salads, and soups that are made daily. The hours of operation are from 11am to 12am, 7 days of the week. Ms. Erion asked how many tables and seats are inside the restaurant. The owner stated that there 33 seats inside. Ms. Erion asked about the fence in the diagram. The owner stated that the fence is no longer there. Ms. Erion asked if he could provide the dimension of the enclosure. Ms. Erion stated for the record the enclosed would be 8' 3 ½" wide from the building and approximately 29 ½' deep from Ditmars Blvd. The owner stated yes and that there is an additional 8' from the enclosed cafe to the curb. Ms. Erion asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Mr. Khuzami asked if the windows are fixed or can they be opened. The owner stated that the window will be able to open. Mr. Mullarkey asked if the restaurant is handicapped accessible. The owner replied "Yes". Ms. McDonald clarified that the owner will be doubling the amount of seats they will have by having the enclosed café and that the fence will be removed. The owner confirmed that they would be doubling the seats and the fence will be removed. Ms. McDonald stated that this applicant has a way of doing things before they are approved. She asked when the enclosed café is finished will it be considered legally part of the restaurant. The owner was not sure. Ms. McDonald asked if they would be within the fire code occupancy with the enclosed café. The owner replied "Yes". Mr. Katsorhis stated that the occupancy is for 75 people. Ms. Erion asked how long the owner has been there. The owner replied "11 months, since November 1, 2013. Ms. Erion stated that the restaurant as it stands now goes right under the residential building in the back there is a garden that extends from the building line. She asked if they could tell the Board if the enclosure will equal to the garden or would it go beyond the sidewalk. Mr. Katsorhis stated that the enclosure will not go beyond the garden/planting area. It will be lined up or closest to the building line. It will not exceed where the garden is. The owner stated that there is enough room for customers to exit in case of emergency which is on the diagram and approved by DCP. Ms. Hantzopoulos asked about the tree in the back and how much space is there between the tree and the enclosure. The owner stated that there are 6'. Ms. Hantzopoulos asked if the business closes what happens to the enclosed café. Mr. Katsorhis stated that the enclosure remains there and under existing law with the approval from DCP and Buildings Department for use as an enclosed sidewalk café, unless the owner decides to remove it voluntarily. The enclosure generates additional money for the City. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. There was no one. Item closed.

Mr. Joseph Risi, Chair of Consumer Affairs Committee, read the next item from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) #1660619-DCA – Premises 35-25 Steinway Street (Olympian Summit Billiards). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 10 tables and 20 seats. Mr. Robert Callaghan, on behalf of the applicant, stated that they currently have an outdoor café for 10 tables and 20 seats. They have been licensed since 2004 and there will be no changes to the café, no violations that he is aware of, no complaint and there will be no outdoor music. Mr. Risi asked if they have a liquor license. Mr. Callaghan replied "Yes". Mr. Risi asked what the hours of operation were. Mr. Callaghan state that he was not sure about the hours of operation at the store, but the café is closed at 12am Sunday through Thursday and 1am Friday and Saturday. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. There was no one. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. No further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #1318210-DCA – Premises 33-10 Ditmars Blvd. (Watawa Japanese Restaurant). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 10 tables and 26 seats. No one came up on behalf of the application. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone who wanted to speak for or against the application. There was no one. No further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #11669199-DCA – Premises 29-05 23rd Avenue (Zorba's). An application to renew the license to operate and Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 18 seats. The owner stated that he and his father own Zorba's restaurant on 23rd Avenue. They have not had any issues with their neighbors, no fines from the city and they are present for a renewal of their unenclosed sidewalk café. Mr. Risi asked how long have they had an unenclosed sidewalk café license at the premises. The owner replied "10 years". Mr. Risi asked what the hours of operation were. The owner stated the hours of operation were from 8am to 11pm, 7 days a week. Mr. Risi asked if they have liquor license. The owner stated that they have a beer and wine license. Mr. Risi asked if they would be serving beer and wine at the outdoor café. The owner replied "Yes". Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the

Board who had a question for the applicant. There was no one. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. No further discussion. Item closed

The next item #1219506-DCA – Premises 29-20 30th Avenue (Plaza Patisserie). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 14 tables and 37 seats. The owner stated that they have been there for 15 years and have had the sidewalk café for 10 years. He has never had a problem. Mr. Risi asked what type of establish he has. The owner stated that it is a bar/lounge. Mr. Risi asked what the hours of operation were. The owner stated that the hours of operation are from 9am to 1 to 2am, 7 days a week. Mr. Risi asked if he received any violations for the unenclosed sidewalk café. The owner replied “No”. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Mr. Piazza asked what is served at their restaurant. The owner stated that they serve salads, appetizers, and sandwiches. Ms. McDonald asked if the picture on the application represents his place of business. The owner replied “Yes”. Ms. McDonald stated that it would be helpful if the picture showed the tables and chairs of the outdoor café. Mr. Risi asked if he has an unenclosed sidewalk café at 29-20 30th Avenue. The owner replied “Yes”. Mr. Risi asked if it was on the corner. The owner replied “Yes”. Mr. Risi asked if they have any tables on 30th Avenue. The owner replied “Yes”. Mr. Risi asked how many tables and seats are on 30th Avenue. The owner stated that there are 6 tables and 37 seats. Mr. Risi asked if he has tables and seat on 29th Street and how many are there. The owner stated that there are 14 tables. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Ms. O’Hara asked what is the meaning of Patisserie. The owner stated that its corporate name. Mr. Donato clarified that the establishment is a café and it is across the street from PS17. Ms. McDonald stated that we have a lot of cafes and the picture with the application does not show anything, she would like to know about the tree pit, the parking meter, etc. The owner stated that nothing has changed since the last application and nothing is being changed in this application. Ms. McDonald clarified that there has been changes in the laws and she feels that the Board should look into the changes in requirements. Mr. Donato stated that when anyone passes an establishment with an unenclosed sidewalk café and there is something wrong they need to inform the Board and the Board will inform the appropriate agency. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. No further discussion. Item closed

The next item #128509-DCA-Premises 34-01 30th Avenue (OVELIA). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 20 tables and 40 seats. Mr. Risi stated that there are 12 tables and 24 seats are on 34th Street and 8 tables and 16 seats on 30th Avenue. Mr. Robert Calaghan, representing the applicant, stating that the establishment is a full service restaurant with 20 tables and 40 seats with 12 tables and 24 seats on 34th Street and 8 tables and 16 seats on 30th Avenue. They have been licensed since 2006 and this is their 4 renewal process. They have a full liquor license and there will be no changes to the café. There will be no music and no enclosures to put up at any time. Mr. Risi asked if the applicant received any violations in the operation of the unenclosed sidewalk café. Mr. Calaghan replied “No”. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. No further discussion. Item closed

#### VOTING:

Ms. Erion reiterated public hearing item from DCP Cal. #N140358ECQ – Premises 33-01 Ditmars Blvd. (The Sandwich Bar). An application to construct an Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 13 tables and 26 seats. Ms. Erion said that the committee met and recommends approval with the stipulation that the applicant eliminate the corner angle the northern and southern corner of the enclosed café so that pedestrians have an easier pathway. The applicant would be receiving approval for 12 tables and 24 seats by removing the corners. The space between the enclosure and the adjacent garden should remain free and clear, seconded by Mr. Caliendo. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

Mr. Risi reiterated public hearing item from DCA #1660619-DCA – Premises 35-25 Steinway Street (Olympian Summit Billiards). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 10 tables and 20 seats. Mr. Risi said that the committee met and recommends approval of the application, seconded by Mullarkey. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #1318210-DCA – Premises 33-10 Ditmars Blvd. (Watawa Japanese Restaurant). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 10 tables and 26 seats. Mr. Risi said that the committee met and recommends approval of the application, seconded by Mullarkey. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato noted that they did not show up last time, as well, he then called for a vote. Motion called and carried to deny application. [The applicant’s representative, after the meeting, introduced himself and explained that he was present but not familiar with the process and so he did not speak. The application was approved]

The next item #11669199-DCA – Premises 29-05 23rd Avenue (Zorba’s). An application to renew the license to operate and Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 18 seats. Mr. Risi said that the committee met and recommends approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Alexiou. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #1219506-DCA – Premises 29-20 30th Avenue (Plaza Patisserie). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 14 tables and 37 seats. Mr. Risi said that the committee met and recommends approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Katsanos. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 2 Against.

The next item #128509-DCA-Premises 34-01 30th Avenue (Ovelia). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 20 tables and 40 seats. Mr. Risi said that the committee met and recommends approval of the application, seconded by Ms. D’Alleva. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 1 Against.

#### GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Ms. Melissa Wey, Long Island YMCA, PS/IS26 came before the Board during the Capital/Expense hearing. They are requesting a letter of support from the Board for the creation of the IS126 playground to be converted into a park for afterhours use by the community. It is an area that really needs to be restored for kids and seniors in the community. They will be writing to the Chancellor. Ms. Norma Nieves-Blas stated that the Capital/Expense Budget item for IS126 was recommended to #2 in the committee's recommendations tonight. It was moved up from a lower number last year's Capital Budget. Ms. Wey thanked the Board for their support.

Mr. Bill Peliquin, Chairman of the Astoria Dog Owners Organization, stated that they would like approval from the Board to build a dog run in their neighborhood. In 2012, The New York Economic Development Corporation did a study and found out that Astoria is a heavily dog populated area in all the 5 boroughs. According to their research our neighborhood is home to 30,000 to 40,000 cats and dogs. However, District 22 does not have a single official dog run for dogs to utilize. The Astoria community needs an adequate area to allow their dogs to socialize throughout the day. There are currently off-leash hour at the park, but many dog owners cannot make it to the park after 9pm or before 9am. Astoria needs a dog run up to the standards exhibited by recently establish dog parks such as Long Island City and Sunnyside. The best location for a dog run would be what is currently designated as Triborough Bridge Playground C/D. These lots are located under the Triborough Bridge and are bordered by 23rd Street, Hoyt Avenue North, Crescent Street, and Hoyt Avenue South. It should be noted that this property is not considered to be part of Astoria Park and therefore these hours would not be lost in Astoria Park if the dog run was built at this location. The establishment of a new dog run has tremendous support from the community. Supporters' include the old Astoria Neighborhood Association, The Astoria Park Alliance, and Councilmember Constantinides. In addition over 600 Astoria residents will have their voices heard by signing a petition. Once the dog run has been built his organization is committed to keeping the dog run clean and safe. In addition, the old Astoria Neighborhood Association has agreed to sponsor the dog run and therefore take on responsibility of park maintenance alongside the Astoria Dog Owners Association. They are asking the Board to support their proposal to construct and maintain a new dog run in Astoria. Mr. Donato asked that they send the Board everything in writing and the Board will review it. Ms. Hartmann stated that the Board has the documents already and gave it to Mr. Khuzami to review. Mr. Donato stated that the Board will not be voting on it this evening.

Mr. Michael Hall, Mr. Mathew Chrislip, and Mr. Christian Emanuel, stated that they are present to ask for the Board's support in their campaign to get the Clock Tower at 29-27 Queen Plaza North to be designated as an individual landmark. Last Spring, there were a number of requests for evaluation sent to the Landmark Preservation Commission asking them to declare the Clock Tower a landmark. The Commission's response statement was that they have carefully reviewed this property for consideration as an individual landmark and in its initial review the committee noted that the property may be of merit as a landmark. They are asking that the Board to send a letter of support to the Landmark Preservation in regards to their recommendation. Ms. Hartmann stated that a copy of this recommendation is in everyone's folder. Mr. Hall gave a brief history of the Clock Tower and its contribution to the area. They filed their recommendation last spring but since then the building was sold to a developer and may threaten this important structure. They are not opposed to development but they think that it is important to save the Clock Tower. He thanked the Board for their time and consideration. Additional information and contact information can be found in your folders. Ms. McDonald asked if the Board would be voting on this request. Mr. Donato stated that the request will go to Parks & Recreation/Cultural Affairs Committee and the committee will make a motion. Mr. Khuzami stated that they will have a meeting to discuss and Mr. Donato added that the Board supported the request before.

Mr. Bintso Topgay from the Queens Borough Career Center stated that he came to spread the word about the Career Center in Jamaica Queens and the work that they are doing there. They use a combination of recruitment expertise and training to make strong matches for job candidates. A few of their services include job listing, recruitment events, resume and interview workshops, training opportunities including ITT vouchers, job search resources, and veteran services. You can also contact them on their website <http://www.nyc.gov/html/sbs/wf1/html/home/home.shtml>. They currently have over 17 offices throughout New York City. The closet one to CB1 is on 13th Street, Long Island city.

Ms. Thea Romano, resident of Dutch Kills, stated that she is present because of the request for a bike corral in front of 38-40 29th Street. She understood that the decision by the Department of Transportation is being considered to enable parking for 8 bicycles and removing 1 parking spot for a vehicle. She is opposed to this decision for many years. The Dutch Kills Civic Association has been opposed to any developer that has considered building any building without any parking in their plan. Dutch Kills Civic Association is being saturated by new development and we cannot afford to lose a parking space. She urged CB1 to vote against this issue.

Detective Eddie Negron, 114th Pct. Community Affairs, stated that on behalf of Deputy Inspector Kevin Maloney and his predecessors he has personally assisted many in this room with a variety of different issues and most of the time they dealt with quality of life issues. These issues range from noise complaints, landlord/tenant disputes, graffiti, and illegally park vehicles, etc. These types of issues are so important because they affect the life of many people on a daily basis. However, while they are important, his primary goal as a NYC Police Officer it to protect life and personal safety. He would be failing to do his job, if he did not highlight the current issues at the licensed premises called Perfection at 62-05 30th Avenue. This establishment provides our community with an extraordinary amount of quality of life issues. People are also getting seriously injured and in one case murdered as a result of this establishment. He provides the Board with a breakdown of crimes that happened over the past 2 years at Perfections, starting from 10/1/2012 to the present. The 114th Pct. has experience 25 crimes at Perfections with 16 arrests. Many of the crimes happened inside the premises and other crimes have occurred directly outside the premises. Perfections is responsible from incidents that stem from inside the premises that have spilled onto our streets. He went on to review and explain the information provide to Board about the crimes that occurred at Perfections. He highlighted several incidents that he wanted the Board to be aware of that occurred in one evening. The 114th Pct. is dedicated and will continue to strive to provide the safest possible environment for residents.

However, one can only imagine the resources required to address the crime that occurred at one location on one night. Perfections have made it a regular practice to hold events that are promoted on the radio. The events are often held without notifying him or the 114th Pct. A large contingent of officers must be assembled last minute through his office to address the crime and quality of life actions that come with these events. Prime examples of quality of life are urinating in public, open can of alcohol and disorderly conduct. All of which were not included in the breakdown list. He asked that the Board review the list when they can and to pay attention to the date and time of the incidents. You will see the frequency of the incidents created by Perfections. The standard for operating a bar or nightclub in this community should be extremely high. The 114th Pct. has been successful in combating crime for so many years for 2 reasons. The first is the hard work by the officers at the 114th Pct. and the NYPD. The second the amazing relationship they have with the community. He asked that the community continue to help them in combating crime. Mr. Piazza asked if Officer Negron was aware of the 8 murders that occurred at that premises. They appeared before the Board to renew with the old owners and seemed a bit weird. Officer Negron stated that he was not sure of the principal of the premises and would have to do some research first. But, he can say that from the last establishment to the present establishment the incidents have been pretty similar. Mr. Piazza stated that most of the Board is aware of the previous incidents and the current incident. The question, how can this establishment be shut down? Officer Negron stated that it was a great question and typically to have a liquor license revoked is somewhat of a difficult task. From the Pct. standpoint they look at it as one having a relationship with the State Liquor Authority (SLA) and giving them as much information as possible. Then there is the Board who can reach out the SLA and letting them know that 114th Pct. and CB1 has a regular conversation about the issues at this establishment. The information provided should be enough for the Board to be able to go to the SLA. Mr. Katsanos asked if any of the incidents that spilled out onto the street were DUI/DWI incidents. Officer Negron stated that the report that was provided does not include DUI like many other reports. The reason is the way the crimes are broken down. It sometimes is hard to connect Perfections to someone that is driving drunk. He could say that 10 reports in that area directly in front of the premise for DUI. Mr. Katsanos stated that the 114th Pct. is not given prior notice of events. He asked if Perfections has any type of relationship with the 114th Pct. like other establishments. Officer Negron stated that several years ago there was a Consumer Affairs meeting and they came in and one of the main issues was that there was very little communication with Perfections and the 114th Pct. Perfection stated that would change and they was a change for a month or two and at this time communication with Perfections does not exist. The problem is when these promoted events that are hosted by celebrities the 114th Pct. are left scrambling for resources to cover the event. Advance notice would be better to assure resources are available to provide coverage for the event. Mr. Katsanos asked if there was gang activity inside of Perfections. Officer Negron stated that there are gang related persons that frequent the premises that come in from different areas which the 114th Pct.'s Gang Unit handles. There are vehicle that are used as deterrents throughout the area to counter crime. Mr. Kasapis asked about the new place on 35-35 Steinway and if there was a lot of crime going on there. Officer Negron stated that they have changed their name but they have the same principle over the years and every few years they change the name. A few years ago they were very problematic for the 114th Pct. and have slowed down a bit, especially with the weather. This premise is not open every night so they drive by to make sure all is well. Mr. Katsanos asked what a typical Friday/Saturday night at other premises. Officer Negron stated that on a typical Friday/Saturday night they have 8 or 9 patrol vehicles cruising and in addition, there will be anti-crime units in uniform in unmarked vehicles. Perfections are one of the premises that officers make their rounds during the night shift. Mr. Ryan stated that Perfections has a Bulletin Board off the BQE that informs you of upcoming events, postcards on windshield, and flyers. He asked if there could be checkpoints put into place since people come from surrounding neighborhoods. Officer Negron stated that it was an excellent suggestion and there are checkpoints throughout the area such as the Grand Central Pkwy and the BQE. It is there number one plan in filtering who comes in and out, especially when there are posted events. Mr. Ryan asked if they have any problem with LA Boom. Officer Negron stated that they do have problems with La Boom. Mr. Risi brought to the Board's attention that back in 2012 when the same applicant was seeking renewal of their liquor license there were stipulations with the applicant. One of the stipulations provided for grounds for revocation of proceeding against the applicant if they did not comply with the terms of the stipulation. In April 2013, they came before the Board and asked for a cabaret license and the Board recommended denial of the application. Based on what Detective Negron has brought to the Board tonight, he is recommending that the Board send a letter to the SLA. Mr. Donato stated that Tony Meloni is the Chair of Public Safety should meet before the next Board meeting and come up with a recommendation for SLA. Mr. Risi stated that in all fairness they should give the applicant an opportunity to defend the allegations that the 114th Pct. has set forth, in his opinion. Mr. Donato stated that there should be a joint meeting with Public Safety and Consumer Affairs Committees before next meeting to go over recommendation that the 114th would like to see. Ms. Hantzopoulos asked when the license is up for renewal. Mr. Risi stated that response is needed by October 23rd and his recommendation is to send a letter to the SLA to not take any action on renewal of the application until such time as we choose. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried.

Ms. Jean Caulley, resident of Dutch Kills, she is in favor of the bike corral in front of Dutch Kill Central. She read an email she sent to the Board in favor of the application for a bike corral and asked that they approve it. She sees bicycling as the future; it is part of a more livable environment that increases health both physical and emotional. It decreases pollution and reduces dependence on foreign oil. She would like her community to be more livable. She would like her community organizations to encourage health non subsidized modes of transportation. Making walking and bicycling easier, safer, and more convenient helps to improve everyone's quality of life. Bicycling is very social and it encourages and creates community. When people have a sense of community anti-social behavior is greatly reduced and their health improves. She asked the Board to approve the application and make our future better. She is a member of the Dutch Kills Civic Association (DKCA) and there are many of us who want this to go forward. Mr. Donato asked if she believes that people who ride bikes should follow the same rules as automobile drivers. Ms. Caulley replied "Yes". Mr. Donato asked if she believes people follow the rules. Ms. Caulley stated that she can say that she was almost hit by a car. Mr. Donato stated that he has witness bicyclist on his way into work and they have no regard for an automobile. Bicyclist ride in front of the car or in the opposite direction how is that following the rules. Ms. Caulley stated that she believes it has to be enforced by the police just like the cars. This needs to be enforced by the police. In her opinion, she feels that saying no to everything bicycle does not correct the problems that are occurring. Ms. Nancy Silverman, a Board member, asked if she was speaking on behalf

of the bicycle community. Ms. Caulley stated that she is here as a person. Ms. Silverman asked if she was related to anyone with Dutch Kills Centraal. Ms. Caulley stated that her husband owns Dutch Kills Centraal and she has been a bicyclist her entire life and she rides her daughter to school every day. There is safety in numbers, so that the more bicyclist that are out there the safer she is, her daughter is, and her husband is. They want to make Western Queens better and their community better. They moved to this neighborhood, bought a home and renovated it and renovated the building where the bar/restaurant is now. They care about this community and making it better place. They truly believe that other forms of transportation will help. Mr. Donato stated that the Board understands. Ms. McDonald stated that she mentioned that a lot of members of the DKCA who support this, did they take a vote. Ms. Caulley stated that she does not believe they did, her husband mentioned it at a board meeting and no one rejected it. The Board sent out a letter to the community in regards to the bike corral. Ms. Hartmann stated that the Board sent out a letter for public comment and there were pros and cons. Ms. DiSaverio stated on 28th Street Growing Up Green, she spoke to a couple of parents who bike their kids to school. They need parking for their bikes when they take the train to work and return back to pick their kids up by bicycle. On this street it is blocked and a bike corral would be beneficial. The focus of the school is sustainability and the environment. A lot of people are mindful of that in that way. Ms. DiSaverio stated even her husband bring their child to school by bicycle. Mr. Donato stated that Mr. Piazza of the Transportation Committee will be bringing it up later on in the meeting.

Mr. Norm Suteria, a resident, stated that he is in support of the bike corral on 29th Street. He is a cyclist and for a long time. He rides 10 miles each way between Astoria and downtown Brooklyn using 29th Street as his primary bike route. He thinks it's something like you don't want Astoria to be left behind. It's one spot that can hold 8-12 bikes. The economic impact it will bring to the area will be important. There are a lot of hotels in the area and development in the area. There is also JetBlue and the Department of Health in the area as well. He thinks it's important that CB1 considers voting favorable on this bike corral. It will bring growth and tourist and paint a picture of what Astoria can be. He is looking at the short and the long term. You think of Citibike and when they expand to Astoria and Long Island City.

Elaine Fan, representing for the NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, she brought copies of the testimony made before New York City Council on October 20, 2014 in regard to Astoria Cove Project by Comptroller Scott Stringer. She then proceeded to read the testimony as each Board member received an individual copy. Testimony of New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer before the New York City Council Subcommittee on Land Use, Zoning and Franchises (Astoria Cove Project) Testimony can be located at <http://comptroller.nyc.gov/category/newsroom/comptroller-testimonies/news-testimonies/>.

Ms. Gloria Malone, Officer of Dutch Kills Civic Associations, stated that they did received the letter at the last meeting, they were sent in but she feels that people from Dutch Kills and from other area sent them in as well. She has no issues with bike racks it can go on the sidewalks. There is no reason to take up a parking spot for bike corral when you can put one on the sidewalk along the curb. If Growing Up Green has a problem with people parking their bikes then they should install bike racks outside their school. You are not going to drive past 29th Street on your way to Brooklyn and then park your bike in the middle. She does not understand it. Bike racks should be put down by the train station, so people can take the trains. The whole issue with Dutch Kills and the people in the neighborhood are that they don't want to set a precedent and they don't want people taking away parking spots for bike corrals or any other reason because parking is so limited in that area.

Mr. Tex Crushiak, resident, stated that we should close down Perfections and make half of it bike corral and the other half a dog run. He reminded everyone that 3 Saturdays from tonight meeting Reverend Karen Davis Lawson is going to become the 17th Rector of St. George's church. She will be the first female Rector at St. George's Church. The service is at 10am. All are welcome.

Mr. Dominic Stiller, President of Dutch Kills Central, stated that when he came at 7pm they were going to hear the result of the vote. They were not told that there was going to a discussion pro or con on the bicycle application. He cycled from his home in Dutch Kills to Manhattan while obeying the traffic light His opinion is that it makes a hell of a lot more sense to take a 40 pound bicycle 6-10 blocks to buy a gallon of milk than it does to take a 5,000 pound car the same distance. He wants to do everything that he can to encouraging to save the bicycle lane and he feels that everything should be shared. He notices that many of the people that come and park in Dutch Kills, on our streets, jump on the train and go into Manhattan. It is true that Eastern Queens and Long Island use our streets as a very convenient parking space. Dutch Kills residents, if the question is going to be where I am going to park tonight, its tough decision. But, if you question is about property values and quality of life and where we want to be in 5 to 10 years he hope everyone can see with open minds what this application can be. Mr. Kasapis asked if there was anybody else in Dutch Kills willing to sponsor a corral like you are. Mr. Stiller stated that he did not know. Mr. Kasapis stated that we are hearing all of these alternatives like there are existing alternatives. Mr. Stiller stated that although the hotels are positively behind bike corrals but, he has not heard any of them at this point offering to do so.

#### BUSINESS SESSION:

Mr. Donato motioned to accept the minutes of September's Board meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Mullarkey. Motion called and carried unanimously

Mr. Donato reported that Ed Babor had some difficulty at our last meeting and he is doing fine. Mr. Donato also noted that Sal Galiardo a former Board member will be celebrating his 100th Birthday November 23th. If anyone would like to bring a card the Board will give it to him. He is a great guy and very mentally alert and he can teach us a few things.

Ms. Lucille Hartmann, District Manager, reported that effective this past April all new and replacement smoke alarms, in multiple dwellings and private homes, must have a sealed 10 year battery that is non-removable and non-replaceable. It must also have an end of life warning. Please be mindful of this new regulation when purchasing a

new alarm. It is possible that the old ones have not been removed from the shelves. She stated that Councilman Constantinides spoke earlier about his Participatory Budget. Our Councilman Jimmy Van Brammer is also having his meetings on October 22nd from 7-9pm at PS234 on 30-15 29th Street, October 27th from 7-9pm at PS122 on 21-21 Ditmars Blvd, and November 19th from 6:30-8pm at Astoria Community Center on 4-05 Astoria Blvd. The United Community Civic Association will be hold its annual Halloween Party. All are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult in costume. It is a lot of fun and will be held on Friday, October 31st starting at 6pm at Central Restaurant, 20-30 Steinway Street. The event is free.

Mr. George Alexiou stated that the Greek-American Homeowners Association will hold their 25th Annual Thanksgiving Lunch. It will be held on Thanksgiving Day and everything is free. It will be held at 23-49 31st Street from 12-4pm. We also provide meals for many people in their homes. Mr. Donato asked how many people they take care of. Mr. Alexious stated that they take care of 2,000 portions every year and give over 500 turkeys to poor families. Mr. Donato suggested that people should make a donation for a good cause.

Ms. Rosemarie Poveromo, Chair of Airport Access Committee, reported that as the Chair of Airport Access she would like to take this opportunity to address those Congressional representatives, always late to the party, who banded together and created the Quiet Sky's Caucus. The Caucus has brought them much success in their battle to achieve peace and quiet for the long suffering residents who live in communities abutting airports or beneath the flight paths. Representative Joseph Crowley, a modest and unassuming gentleman has been at the forefront of this environmental battle for decades. He is most deserving of a great big thank you for his years of dedication to this environmental concern. A curfew at LaGuardia Airport would also be welcomed when overhauling this likened preferred world airport by one of our elected officials. Mr. Donato added that it is a very difficult thing to handle.

Ms. Norma Nieves-Blas, Chair of Capital/Expense, Community Development Committee, reported that by directing the Board to the Capital/Expense Budget in their folders which was voted on September 30th when the Capital/Expense Committee met. After the meeting and review of the items, the committee received 3 additional items to be added to the budget. The first was submitted by the Department of Sanitation is to identify a new location for the sanitation garage on 21st Street facility and/or expand that exist sanitation garage facility, item number 2 from the Department of Parks is to purchase a 2 single cab truck and plow lift gate to be used in all of CB1, and the third item was to create a dog run outside of Astoria Park under the Triborough Bridge. Ms. Nieves-Blas stated that they are not on the current list since they were just submitted for consideration and have being placed at the end. Mr. Ryan motioned to accept the Capital/Expense Budget and to add the 3 additional items at the end, seconded by Ms. McDonald. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried. Mr. Khuzami stated that the Board should take a vote on a resolution for the support of the Clock Tower since the Board has supported it in the past. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried.

Ms. Judy Trilivas, Chair of Health & Social Services/Senior Committee, reported that they (Mount Sinai of Queens) have been working along with the City and State hospitals getting prepared for any type event over at the hospital. Their goal is to keep their patients and staff safe. There has been ongoing training and preparing for several weeks. Mr. Donato stated that he heard a rumor that there is a vaccine for Eboli now. Ms. Trilivas replied "No". She stated that there may be tested vaccines but she is not in infectious diseases and she knows that there has been discussion of testing being done in other countries, but there is nothing right now.

Ms. Mary O'Hara, Chair of Housing Committee, reported that on October 1, 2014 begins heating season. This means that between 6am and 10pm when outdoor temperatures are lower than 55 degrees indoor temperature must be maintained at a temperature of at least 68 degrees. And, between 10pm and 6am when the temperatures are lower than 45 degrees indoor temperature should be maintained at a temperature of 55 degrees. In addition, Daylight saving time will occur on the weekend of November 1 – 2, 2014.

Mr. Richard Khuzami, Chair of Parks & Recreation/Cultural Affairs/OTB Committee, reported that it was a good year. Goodwill Park known as Community Garden was completed. Queensbridge sea wall and Athens Square Park were completed. In the procurement stage there are 3 specific items under one contract – Triborough Site A, Triborough Playground sidewalk and the Hoyt Playground. These items actually have to be resubmitted and he is not sure when they will be done since there were no takers first time around. The Paul Raimondo Playground is in contract, Astoria Diving Pool has entered in procurement status is a 9 month process; then it will go to an 18 month contract status. Anticipated construction will begin in the summer of 2015. The Queensbridge Comfort Station filed house has finish looking for a design consultant and is now in the process of being designed. This is a \$2.5 Million dollars from Councilman Van Brammer. Scoping was held in September for this project. Queensbridge Park will be installing steel fence around plantings. Sean's Place Park is awaiting bid for \$750,000 for design, but there was a scoping meeting back in September. Astoria Park Erosion control which a few members of the Board attended. Future projects will include Astoria Heights Playground a top item last year and has received over \$2 Million from various sources. The scope meeting will be held any day now. There was a Community Parks initiatives program, which was extra money allocated by the Parks Department. Money that is being redirected to smaller parks has been afforded to Astoria Heights Playground and Van Alst Playground. He stated that when the Board goes through the capital request the item regarding synthetic turf fields. There has been some articles about them, some talked about cancer. He suggested that any kind of requests that are made should specifically state we will accept infill made from old tires.

Mr. Robert Piazza, Chair of Transportation Committee, reported that a couple of weeks ago they had a meeting with Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding three items which will need to be voted on tonight. 1) The Bicycle Rack was subject to a lot of discussion and there were considerations. At the meeting we received petitions that were secured by the gentleman that wants the bicycle rack. We did not have any from Dutch Kills, so some were sent out to Dutch Kills and we received petitions back from Dutch Kills. Some in favor and some against, they were added up taking out the ones from people outside of the neighborhood. At this time, the only thing we were considering was our District. The vote was 94 and 116 against. The majority of the committee voted and the

recommendation was not to approve the bicycle rack. The next two items is something the DOT came back to the Board after the Board approved their original recommendations. The first one was Astoria Boulevard North/Hoyt Avenue and 31st Street North and Astoria Blvd North crisscross, the problems that we have with traffic is something the Board wanted to do for a very long time. The Board approved the recommendations even though this would be an inconvenience to some drivers in order to help eliminate accidents in that area. Now DOT came back to the Board stating that they spoke to the MTA, who wants to put a dedicated bus lane for two blocks right along the right hand side of the road in direction of the Triborough Bridge. The concept is that this will save time, but he is not sure if it will since it is only two block. However, it does create a danger for the cars and bicycles that are turning right they are now allowed to turn through the bike lane in front of the buses, it doesn't make any sense. The effort is trying to make the intersection safe and avoid accidents not to increase the potential for more accidents. The committee voted and recommended to deny that proposal for the dedicated bus lane and keep the original proposal. The other proposal is on Vernon Blvd which has suffered tremendously for having a bike lane there. The people that live there lost 250 parking spots, lines paint here and lines painted there, and bike lanes were moved from one side to the other. The Committee came before the Board with a recommendation from the DOT, who wanted to take the bike lane from the eastern side and move it to the western side of Vernon Blvd making the bike lane two-ways. They will give back 25 parking spots in front of Rainey Park and give back some roadway. The committee voted to recommend it and brought it to the Board voted to approve the proposal. Now they are coming back saying that the lane in heading in the direction of the traffic which is making the bicycle riders very nervous. DOT now wants to put up barricades on the left hand turns. The barricades that they want to use to separate the lanes are Jersey Barriers which is made of cement and in his opinion they are ugly. People on Vernon Blvd will have to deal with having these barricades. The answer the committee wants to give the DOT is yes we agree something has to be put there but not the Jersey Barriers. Design or build something and bring it back to us to review. Make sure that it is something nice to look at. This is what the committee recommended to approve. Mr. Piazza stated that the committee recommended denying the dedicated bus lane, approval of doing something on Vernon Blvd, a barricade but not the Jersey Barriers, and they let the people of the neighborhood help make the decision on the bike rack. Mr. Piazza stated that the committee recommended denial of the application for the bike corral, seconded by Mr. Katsanos. Mr. Donato called for a vote on the motion. Motion called and carried with 9 Against. Mr. Piazza stated that the committee recommended the disapproval of the bus lane, seconded by Mr. Ryan. Mr. Donato called for a vote on the motion. Motion called and carried. Mr. Pizza stated that the committee recommended that something has to be put in on Vernon Blvd but they do not want the Jersey Barriers. Mr. Kasapis stated that the barricades were going to be put in for a short period of time, but if you put in this motion this will delay something being put in for over a year. Is there something that you would like put in right now to protect bicyclist. Mr. Piazza stated that there is always the option that they can put it back to the way it was before with the bike lane on the other side and they did not have a bus coming toward them. The DOT should have understood that when they moved the bike lane over and was not sure where it started or where it would end. Mr. Donato asked if the representative from DOT if knew the answer to where the bike lane starts and where it ends. Vikram Sinka, representing DOT, stated that the Vernon Blvd. bike lanes will be coming in from CB2 on 44th Drive all the way North to the end of Vernon Blvd. He added for the record, it would be Jersey Barriers which are not flat or left over from Manhattan or Brooklyn. They are not NYPD security barriers. The barriers are simply barriers that have about 11' of space to allow sanitation to come through and sweep it and it is a safety improvement to separate bicyclist from trucks. There will be not more additions, the quick curb barriers have been run over by trucks and provide minimal protection for bicyclist. DOT is putting the Jersey Barriers to maintain the separation and to increase the bicyclist's protection. This information was stated at a meeting they have with the committee on October 7th and feels that it is being misrepresented. Ms. McDonald asked if there was a picture of the barriers for them to see. Mr. Sinka stated that if you google Jersey Barrier it give you a picture of what they look like. The barriers can be painted and are primarily for safety not for aesthetics. Mr. Donato stated that the Jersey Barrier was started over 40 years ago in New Jersey. Ms. Hartmann directed the Board to the information in their folder regarding the barrier on Vernon Blvd. Ms. Hantzopoulos asked if there were any other alternatives. Mr. Sinka stated the quick curb is the first step, if that does not work then they go to the barrier. There are not many other options at this time. Mr. Donato stated that this item can be tabled. Mr. Piazza recommended that the item be tabled.

Mr. Jose Batista, Chair of Youth Committee, reported that the Department of Youth and Community Development has filled all the slots for their Summer Youths Program. For those youths that did not obtain jobs there are volunteer opportunities available. He received a good response.

Mr. Elizabeth Erion, Co-Chair of Zoning & Variance Committee, reported that City Planning is doing a zoning study of the Dutch Kills rezoning area. They came to the committee on September 22nd at which time they stated that the study is a priority with the administration because it is in Western Queens and the goal is to ultimately provide new areas for affordable housing. They are looking to include the area of Dutch Kills up to 23rd Street or from 23rd Street to around 41st Avenue. The committee suggested at that point for them to look along Northern Blvd where Standard Motor building is located to see if this area could be rezoned for residential development. City Planning will reach out to the committee sometime in November/December. She has been going through the restrict declaration of the Astoria Cove Project that the City Planning Commission passed onto the City Council to vote on and she feels that there are a lot of things missing that the committee proposed to be included. The main thing that disturbed her the most; was that there was no mention of barging in any of the construction supplies, the open space mitigation they have to do. They only mentioned equipment upgrade and new comfort station when they construct 688 of the units. So they don't have to do anything unless they construct over 688. There is no mention of a school site for community space in the interim. If the School Construction Authority decides not to build a school there is no mention that the site will be used for community purposes. She would like to continue going through the restricted declaration. She asked if the Board could send a letter outlining the weaknesses to the City Council. Mr. Donato called for a vote on sending a letter to City Council of the Board's recommendations. Motion called and carried.

**NEW/OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no further business before the Board Ms. Erion motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Nieves-Blas. Motion called and carried unanimously.