

Community Board 1 Minutes

September 21, 2015

George Stamatiades:

I just wanted to do a little house keeping. This is not public hearing item, so the public will not participating in this event. The First thing that is on the agenda, this meeting is nomination and the election of the chairperson. Are there any other nominations to be made? Mr. Piazza. Are there any others? It's been seconded. I am already nominated. Are there any other nominations? Joe Risi. Hearing none, nominations are closed. There is two ways we can vote. We can vote Roll call or if you like we have prepared ballots indicate the name of the person sign your name and then print your name. In my case, to make it easy, you can say George S., will be fine. What happens next is, motion by ballot. Second. All in favor, any opposed? So be it. We don't have a Sergeant-at-Arms but I will ask Carmen to hand out the ballots. Yes, Fran.

Fran McDonald:

What if we choose not to vote?

George Stamatiades:

If you don't vote, don't vote. Leave the room, you don't have to vote.

*Woman speaking (inaudible).

George Stamatiades:

What she said was, at the end of the night if you're clocked in as being here and you don't vote it's going to throw the vote off.

Fran McDonald:

That's why I put on a piece of paper, I'm not voting.

George Stamatiades:

Fine, as long as you sign it and print your name.

Yes sir.

Just a minute, I heard somebodies voice in the back.

Sir...

Dominic Stiller:

I am new here, I really don't know much about it, are we voting tonight?

George Stamatiades:

Yes.

Dominic Stiller:

I didn't know that.

Joseph Risi:

How are you? For those who don't know me, my name is Joseph Risi. Good things first, married for 32 years to the same person, I have 3 adult children. I have been a Practicing attorney in Astoria for 32 years. Started my career in the court system as a law secretary. I was Counsel to Senator Onorato for about 20 years. I was Deputy Superintendent of the insurance department for several years. I am Admitted US Supreme Court. US court Military Appeals. US Tax Court. Sit on the Character and Fitness Committee for the Appellate Division. I was a former member of the Grievance Committee for the Appellate Division. Member of this board for 26 years. Served as the executive secretary on the board, for the last 10 years Chair of Consumer Affairs Committee. Former President Queens County Bar Association. Former President of the LIC Lawyers Association. I don't want to bore you with these details. I wanted to introduce myself. I think we have a vibrant diverse, beautiful community. I would love the opportunity to serve as the chair. I would with your input which I need I wouldn't have all the answers but I would need your help and with your input and I want you never to be afraid to get up and ask a question. That's the most important. You were picked to be a member of this board for the special talents that you are. So let's use those talents let's make this a better community. Thanks.

George Stamatiades:

Good Evening everyone, for those of you that don't know me, my name is George Stamatiades, I am the First Vice Chair of Community Board 1 for a whole ton of years. I am also married to the same woman for 44 years. We don't have any children but we do have a dog and a cat. I hate to use the word "I", so I am not going to use it, I am going to use the word "we" because everything that has made people want to stay in Astoria and raise their families is because of the "we" of what has transpired around these tables. We started with the prostitution problem in the Dutch Kills community in '75 and '80. We weren't too astute because we went to the 108th precinct to help them get rid of the prostitutes so we had to battle that and then we had to battle Rikers Island wanting to put a state prison on Rikers Island. We had to fight Rikers Island because they insisted on having a bus ride through the community. Until we fought, had them run an express bus from Queens Plaza directly to Rikers Island. We also had to fight Rikers Island to drop off the prisoners at midnight at Queens Plaza, the hub of the transportation of the city of NY instead of local stations, 39th Avenue, Broadway, Ditmars Blvd so it has been a constant battle that we have fought that has made this community the great place to be today, to raise our families keep them here and welcome new people into the neighborhood because of the work we did and the work we are going to continue to do. More new people that we welcome with new ideas with progression, understanding and openness and the wonderful thing about Community Board 1, almost the second meeting that I was here, political pressure was put on board members to remove Vinny Donato. This board stuck together and defeated that motion, so it's great to be a part of an independent board. I'm independent person, you know that, you've read the papers. I will fight for what's right for the community and for your wishes there is no pressure here. There is no influence here, so be it. Thank you very much for your time.

Richard Khuzami:

If anyone has any questions for either one. I would like to make a motion, if anybody would like to ask questions you should have the opportunity to do so.

George Stamatiades:

All in favor, any oppose? Hearing none, the motion is carried.

Richard Khuzami:

First question, I have one, what if any changes would you make to the structure and procedures in this board?

George Stamatiades:

It's um, easy to create change but it's got to be positive change. I would like to see that the minutes are put on an attenuated form. I don't think any of us read them, I hope you do, that would be one thing. A transparency, I think our Executive Committee meeting meet more often and will get more inclusive and there is no reason in world that if anybody wants to be a part of the Executive meetings they are not there, we don't have any secrets, we won't have any secrets and um... There's probably some procedural that are possible down the road. I don't know if you're talking about switching chairmanships around. I don't know what direction you are going in but 'um I think also, that the chair will be out there to all the various civic groups and political groups to carry the flag for Community Board 1.

Joseph Risi:

I think the first thing is the minutes, let's talk about the minutes, we don't find out the minutes until we get here. I think we should have the minutes a week after we have our meeting. As far as committees, I think it is a little bit of a shame that some people have been members here for 10 years, 15 years and they have not had an opportunity to chair a committee. I think that's a shame. I think we have a lot of young talent here. I don't think we utilize our young talent. I don't think we look to use outside people who aren't board members to be on committees. That is something I would do, I would get outside members of the community to sit on committees, get their input, that's my suggestion. Other than that, I think you all have to never be afraid to ask someone who's making a recommendation, what their justification for the recommendation is, instead of just saying I, you should ask why? Why are we doing this?

*Woman (constituent) interrupts. (inaudible)

George Stamatiades:

Ma'am this section is closed to the general public.

Joseph Risi:

You will get an opportunity to ask why later on today.

George Stamatiades:

Thank you, any other questions. Fran

Fran McDonald:

I direct this vote to both our esteemed candidates. I would like to have as an agenda item or a reporting item or whatever you call it. Follow-up on issues that come before us as a board for example, the issues on open air cafes once we say what our decision is then, I would like to know from management. I am sure it's available on internet. What happened to that proposal, did they get permission or were they denied permission? Was a request to lower the amount of tables and chairs agreed to? For example, I am still looking for an answer to a couple of months ago, the board passed a resolution saying I believe the

legal wording of it is... We had no objection to certain people getting a liquor license for an establishment and they had complied with our request to not make it a topless place. I am waiting for those petitions of when this is going to come before the SLA public hearing.

Joseph Risi:

That doesn't come before the SLA as a public hearing. What happens if we have a stipulation with someone who is seeking a license and they sign a stipulation that they will not have with example adult entertainment? That would be part of their license, it is actually stamped on their liquor license so it doesn't come back to the board.

Fran McDonald:

No, no, it goes back to the SLA.

Joseph Risi:

The stipulation goes to the State Liquor Authority.

Fran McDonald:

Do they have a public meeting?

Joseph Risi:

No, we do not have a public meeting? We do not have a public meeting on every liquor license application, no.

Fran McDonald:

When do we find out if they are getting a license?

Joseph Risi:

The way you can find out is, to go online to the NYS Liquor Authority to type in the premise address, the trade name. They would tell you whether they have been licensed and when. I agree with you, there should be a follow-up but there's no requirement for the State liquor authority to notify us of that.

George Stamatiades:

Excuse me Fran, can you possibly meet with Joe after?

Fran McDonald:

No, I want this to be public, what do you think about, no telling us what the results were of our dedication, our work, our blood, our sweat, our tears.

George Stamatiades:

My thoughts are exactly as yours. Ok, I thought you were going somewhere else with it. I would have been there with you I thought you would have said say we would go to the SLA meetings and present our case in person so they know we are serious about our recommendations. We can form a committee that handles the liquor licenses and then be a little more vigilant in regards to that and get the answers, absolutely... Yes Miss...

Melanie La Rocca:

My question to the two candidates. I'm Melanie a newer board member? Areas where we can make improvements. What do you both think about having each committee that meets make a recommendation that the board can see in advance of our full board meetings with the language explicitly written out, for example sidewalk cafes if they were approved and denied. They would recommend 10 tables 5 chairs or however, so that when we are voting on an item we actually have before us if people came to the committee meeting to raise concerns we have what the Committee had consensus on and can see the exact language of what we are voting on.

George Stamatiades:

Melanie, sometimes time doesn't permit that, it's a great idea. There's no reason why it shouldn't be explored and figure out how to facilitate it and make it happen. That's not an issue, we can take care of that's an easy one. Joe.

Joseph Risi:

Ok, there is a lot of times that we don't get the full picture, until the applicant comes before us that night or tonight but I agree with you, if there is prior notice of a committee meeting or we have an applicant there, it doesn't take too much to notify the board? Good suggestion.

George Stamatiades:

Nancy.

Nancy ? :

I have a question for both candidates? One of the areas of major concerns for me and I have expressed is on the issue of quorums and one of the problems is, I am active on 3 committees. I am on the Parks Committee, I'm on Transportation, and I'm on Consumer Affairs, as active committees, sometimes we literally will not be able to do anything if we are actually try to get a quorum and I am concerned that we do have a requirement if we try to attend both our community board meeting and committee meetings it does not seem to me that has been followed up on or followed up on and I wonder from each of the committees, what is your level of commitment to ensuring that community board members attend both the full board and their committee meetings and ??? terrible circumstances that if they are in the hospital or something else.

George Stamatiades:

Nancy???? Richard asked what changes I would make at the time and that was one issue I wanted to address. I am not in favor of stopping the full board meeting so committees could break out and go have a committee meeting and come back and make presentation so the whole board could vote on, so the committee chairs are going to have to work to get a quorum to their meeting I am going to suggest that a form be made out listing all their committee members. When they have their committee, they sign off that they were there, what they were speaking about, what their vote was and go from there. But you're 100% right. But again, things will change, they just, take a little time. Can't do it all at once but your issue is a very important issue. I don't want a cloud anywhere. But the committee chairs and the vice chairs and the board members who are members of those committees have to begin to take their committeeship a little bit more serious.

Joseph Risi:

I'd like to respond to that. I think it is absolutely essential that we have these 5 or 10 minute break-out sessions. ?essential, we have to do it. ? A lot of times we don't have the information till the night of the meeting, very important. As far as the quorum, it's a problem. I will be honest with you, when you have 12 people on a committee, you need 6-7 people to show up, it's a problem. I think I will explore it with John and the Law Committee. I don't know if reducing the members or reducing number of members you have on a committee is a way to handle it? but it's a problem, something that needs to be addressed.

George Stamatiades:

Linda

Linda Perno: (inaudible)

Years ago ????. I was Chair of education? Quite some time now, meetings at the board office prior to our meetings days prior to our meetings whatever was convenient to get together and meet and that seemed to work, rather than having it the night of.

George Stamatiades:

It's up to the committee chair? The committee chair decides to have a meeting then its committee chair does not want a meeting knowing that not everyone is going to show up. You cannot come up with a decision ? so, the committee chair is going to have to do the work along with the assistant chair to make sure you have a committee. You're right, you call the shots you're the chair. Tom...

Thomas Ryan: (inaudible)

A lot of us here go to multiple meetings a month. The 3rd Tuesday of the month. We are going to have a set committee meeting. We would not be able to make that.

George Stamatiades:

That's a good suggestion. Again it falls on the chair and the committee.

Richard Khuzami:

Well two things, no one person sits on 2 chairs. Sits on both Consumer Affairs and the Land Use Committee. These are the two committee meetings that actually have meetings that meet when there is a general meeting. My other question is this, what's your position about publicizing things like public hearings that we have. Today we had a public meeting we had 2 people show up ? To me with the particularly nowadays with the elected officials are doing unless we reach 21st century proper publicize this stuff we will become irrelevant. What are your positions on this?

George Stamatiades:

Richard, first off the law mandates under the freedom of information? That we have to have notification. This meeting was in the Gazette as well as online. So, all these meetings are noted. How much more could we do? I mean.

Richard Khuzami:

Send a press release to all the media, its very simple.

George Stamatiades:

There is a cost involved.

Joseph Risi:

I personally think we can do a lot more. This is Florence's first meeting, we are in the internet era we can get anything on the internet, we should have lots of information on the internet. It should be a go to site where people want to find out about what's going on in your community go to the Community Board 1 website, it's not that hard. She just started, we have a new employee, just starting Monday, hopefully we will get to that point, definitely can be done.

George Stamatiades:

Any other questions?

Vanessa Jones: (inaudible)

Good evening my name is Vanessa Jones, a new community board member. My question is to both the candidates I agree with what Richard was saying when talk about communications, just my experience before? I joined this board living in Astoria Houses it was very? by me being on the ? Residents Association is how I learned about the community board meetings and their sessions. ? I would take that information back to the residents. My thing is, so much is going on up and coming in a hot/cold area and a lot of times around Astoria Houses especially so much they are being kept out of the loop of communications of what's going on in their community. I think out of fairness that the communications from community board 1 should extend further past 21st street. I feel it should go where you let all of the residents all of Astoria not part of Astoria know what's going on its community and have a fair chance, know what's happening, what should be fairly voted on as a public hearing like you said there was not enough people here for a public hearing. Very often, I see not many people from that side of ? Cove come to this meeting and it could be like you said that the internet or whatever. We get communications in the mail from the politicians all the time. We should get some communications from community board that is something I have noticed the community board has lacked as far as communicating that far out in Astoria which that is the beginning of Astoria. I just wish that whomever assumes this position the chair for this board really look at all of Astoria. Well, it's a statement that I made that they include the entire board, entire Astoria..It's my recommendation.

George Stamatiades:

You're 100% correct we have to look at the public relations committee or a communications committee that would take on more of that ? to ? your recommendation. Any other questions? Ok, hearing none.

Yawne Robinson:

Good evening everyone, Yawne Robinson. Here is my statement as well as suggestion. ? to either candidates as well as other? Because of time some of us have businesses? can be easily consumed with this information. So, I agree and applaud the idea of giving us the minutes in advance if we can do so but also wondering if committee chairs and under the leadership of whoever is the candidate who assumes the position later on would be open to the idea to hold the phone conference calls that another opportunity for those of us that cannot attend a meeting? A chance to participate? And hear the recording more so we can be well knowledgeable before we attend the meeting.

George Stamatiades:

I don't think there is a problem with that.

Joseph Risi:

I think it's a good idea.

George Stamatiades:

I think it's a good suggestion. Ok are there any other questions? I am going to ask Carmen would you be good enough to take this envelope. There's nothing in it.

John Katsanos: (inaudible)

As part of the procedural committee, be sure to print your name at the bottom of the ballot because without that, they are going to be searching for your signature.

George Stamatiades:

Following the collection of the ballots, I would like to ask Evie to count the ballots, Nancy Silverman, would you be kind enough to count the ballots and we have to get a fellow in there, Mr. Mitra would you be one of the ballot counters. I think 3 people. I didn't hear you – why don't we leave it at 3 and move it along.

Fran McDonald:

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman I request permission to address the board.

George Stamatiades:

Go ahead Fran.

Fran McDonald:

I have been in the outer chamber they asked me to leave. I said get a cop so they decided to let me stay. I said I am only here to ask what the blank is going on. I am told that they have informed the chairman and therefore informed me, that there is a tie and they are reading the bylaws and legal stuff to figure out how to address this tie. I told them to call Trump, I made that up. I am going to ask now, if there is anyone who put in a piece of paper and did not vote. I know I started that bologna I signed and I printed. I left a thumbprint and my DNA but is there anybody who voted with a piece of paper and chose not to vote. If there is such a person, I suggest you vote now and I won't tell you who to vote for. I think there will be a legal decision, he tells me, John tells me that's why he's there.? He's been requested by Nancy for legal advice and interpretation of what they do with a tie. I don't know. Some people got here late and I told John tell them they better hurry up to vote.

George Stamatiades:

Alright, Fran. Thank you very much.

Fran McDonald:

Does that mean shut up?

George Stamatiades:

Not yet but thank you very much. I would never say that to you Fran.

Fran Mc Donald:

You're right because I am liable to tell you to get a cop.

Thomas Ryan: (inaudible)

George Stamatiades:

No, that's not correct. The bylaws call for a vote when the chairman is no longer available, retires or whatever... Immediately follow that time.

Thomas Ryan: (inaudible)

George Stamatiades:

Are you putting that in a motion?

Joseph Risi:

I think you should wait until the other board members are here. I think your motion is inappropriate. Bylaws require an election.

***Board Members going back and forth about the election.**

Nancy Silverman: Ok, so, what's happening now ??? George and Joe will be going to the other room???? Where I am going to follow and Evie and the other people are there. There is a tie. We are going through the bylaws of this community board, we are going through state law so on that we can do this properly. We are going to probably going have to consult with the borough president's office or other areas we are dealing with this now ok this is an important matter.

George Stamatiades:

Look Joe, I am going to differ with you, there's a motion on the floor, anyone want to second it?

Joseph Risi:

That is an inappropriate motion. Motion is to....

***Board Members going back and forth about the election.**

Florence Koulouris:

Evie is going to explain to the body what happened.

Evie Hantzopoulos:

So, we just wanted to talk to the candidates first. John is in there with the bylaws with all sorts of legal documents, only in Community Board 1 would this happen. It's a tie vote which I think was already told to you and typically according to the bylaws then the Chair would cast the deciding vote but the Chair is one of the candidates so that makes it a little more complicated but there is some gray area as well, this is what we are going to recommend. I will bring John in because he is the legal expert. Obviously, we would like a decision tonight. So, what we want to do is consult with legal counsel at the Borough President's

office or whoever respected general counsel would be. John will come in explain it to you further, point to the areas where there is ambiguity in terms of the next vote. Thanks for your patience everyone. I don't think anyone was anticipating a tie. Let me see if Norma is done.

Norma Nieves-Blas:

Good evening everyone. We need to address these issues. We have Standard and Appeals Addendum. Is anyone here to address that issue? Addendum # Item #N1330347ECQ – DCA# CA1464788, Lite Bites in Astoria.

Elizabeth:

This is an application to the Department of City Planning to renew an enclosed sidewalk café on Steinway and Broadway, Northeast corner. Their reason, because there is a new owner involved existing sidewalk café. It is for 11 Tables, 22 Chairs. I would like to know if the applicant for this café is here.

Norma Nieves-Blas:

Yes, they are.

Elizabeth:

Introduce yourself and when you took over.

A.Pasad (inaudible):

Business was purchased 2 ½ years ago. It has been existing 12 years as is, no changes to it. Same 22 Chairs, 11 Tables exist. There has been no legal trouble with the establishment or sidewalk café since it is enclosed, so there is no noise. Any questions?

Elizabeth:

The question I have is when I went there I noticed there were bicycles and 3 motorized bicycles on the sidewalk in the out cove area in front entrance to this particular sidewalk café. I have an issue with it. That is not a legal parking for bicycles and motorized bikes. What do you propose to do with these obviously you need them for deliveries and perhaps your customers use them, but it's an issue. It adds to the congestion to the pedestrians, have to go around the very narrow space on Broadway.

A.Pasad:

That has been that way since.

Elizabeth:

That is not acceptable.

Ok, I am open to any changes that need to be made to free-up that walkway.

Elizabeth:

We need to have that entrance open, the sidewalk clear. So, you have to come up with a plan as to where you would be keeping these vehicles.

A.Pasad:

I would have to put in basement, until we have a plan to store them.

Elizabeth:

What are the hours? Enclosed, so it doesn't matter.

A.Pasad:

Monday through Friday, 6am to 9pm; Saturday and Sunday, 8am to 7pm

Elizabeth:

If there are any other board members who have questions about this.

Vanessa Jones: (inaudible)

Motorbike in basement?

A.Pasad:

Employees use 3 bicycles for deliveries, use minimal space for 3 bikes. I will not leave them there to satisfy the board.

Elizabeth:

I have to tell you that we only got this 1 ½ weeks ago and there is a deadline before our next October meeting ordinarily we would have had a committee meeting to discuss the sidewalk clearance does not meet regulations. The structure is there to comply with regulations are in terms of distance. There is a lot of street furniture there. There's a phone, a hydrant. We really are going to have to discuss how to vote on this. The committee has to talk about this, their deadline of October 29th, before our next meeting of the Zoning Committee ? meeting 29th of September, we can get a letter in.

A.Pasad:

With all due respect the structure has been there for 12 years. September of this year it's 12 years. With same, the same zoning has been approved. I comply with all the requirements City Planning and board approved it and sent it to the community board. No phone booth, there's a muni-meter not even in front of my establishment. There's a "No Parking" sign. It's been there for 12 years. If bicycles are an issue that can be taken care of. However, 12 years it's an enclosed café, a structure that was built 12 years ago and approved by the city.

Elizabeth:

Thank you very much.

Norma Nieves-Blas:

Any further questions:

Fran: (inaudible)

Norma Nieves-Blas:

Elizabeth, didn't you state that at the September 29th meeting that they would review this issue?

Elizabeth:

I would like to discuss this. We have something else on the agenda. But this is (inaudible).

Norma Nieves-Blas:

At this particular issue will be sent via e-mail out to all the members so they can vote. Their vote is required before our October meeting. Will that be made into a motion? I am now turning over the meeting.

Elizabeth:

The recommendation is that we will take it up in committee to determine what we can do about it. We might invite you to that meeting to discuss it. This is not a ? item. We don't need the board. Whenever you see an "N" means it is a non ? item. We can do a roll call vote or email vote and send that recommendation in to City Planning.

Norma Nieves-Blas:

So that's your motion? Can I have a second, all in favor.

George Stamatiades:

Let you know what's transpiring as far as the election. As you all know, it's a tie. And because the bylaws are not clear or definitive. John will research with the counsel, with the Borough President and report back to us. Right, John?

John Katsanos: (inaudible)

The vote was tied, 20/20.

George Stamatiades:

Thank you John. Next item.

Joseph Risi:

We have 4 applications for unenclosed sidewalk cafes on our agenda. The first application #11721, premises at 31-91 21st Street, the BelAire Diner, application for unenclosed sidewalk café, 10 tables, 30 seats.

--Hi, my name is Patricia Delaporta. We own BelAire Diner on 21st Street and Broadway. We put in an application for open tables. I want to introduce you to my manager speaks a little better because I'm a little nervous. We are in the community for 20 years. Times are changing, everyone has outdoor seating. We do well and appreciate your patronage. We want to change it up a little. We always give back to the community, the churches, the schools around. We have been great neighbors, I think. I know we are asking for a lot of seats.

Joseph Risi:

Why don't you tell us your hours of operation will be.

Patricia Delaporta:

We are open 24/7. In 18 years we have never closed even when renovating.

Joseph Risi:

What are your proposed hours of operation for the open café?

Patricia Delaporta:

This is Joseph ???, my manager for 18 years. He does most of the work. I just meet and greet everyone with a smile.

Joseph: (manager)

Open 9-9. Table/Chairs removed at night and put them back in the morning.

Joseph Risi:

I never heard of a diner have an unenclosed café, not that it's a bad thing. One of the concerns is the bus stop on 21st Street it's in close proximity of this unenclosed café.

Joseph: (manager)

We can remove the tables and chairs from 21st Street.

Joseph Risi:

So a total of 8 tables and 16 chairs, is that correct? Okay, I really have no further questions then. Does anyone else have any questions? Nancy.

Nancy ?:

Hi, so, if I understand correctly you're removing the tables and chairs on 21st Street. My concern is the number of bicycles on the Broadway side, takes up an awful lot of the sidewalk, I have noticed when I walk by there. What are your plans for the delivery bikes for your establishment?

Joseph: (manager)

To move them to the back, by the parking lot. We plan to make bike racks back there.

Joseph Risi:

Does anyone else have questions? Fran.

Fran: (inaudible)

Joseph: (manager/inaudible)

Double entrances to the back. Access to the Broadway side and parking lot. We have double entrances, not the front doors. In the front Broadway side has 2 doors.

Pat Delaporta:

On Broadway side there is a door on Broadway side, it's on the end of the building.

George Stamatiades:

Are there any other questions? Board members. John.

John Katsanos: (inaudible)

Removing tables on 21st Street? Questioning???

George Stamatiades:

Somebody has a question.

Woman???: (inaudible)

*Back/Forth on BelAire.

George Stamatiades:

Are there any other question on this side?

Richard Khuzami:

I am a little confused. So, you also have a proposed enclosed sidewalk café? So, you're putting in an enclosed café at some point?

Joseph Risi:

The application is for unenclosed sidewalk café. Anybody in the audience for or against this unenclosed café? No, okay. Next item. Please stay here, you have to sign a stipulation.

The next item is PBB Pub doing business as Nex Mex ? 37-11 30th Avenue, Astoria an application for renewal of unenclosed sidewalk café, 10 Tables and 30 Chairs. Mr. Katsoris, how long has your client had the unenclosed sidewalk café?

Mr. Katsoris:

2 years.

Joseph Risi:

Since the issuance have you received any violations?

Mr. Katsoris:

No sir.

Joseph Risi:

I have no further questions.

George Stamatiades:

Any questions on this side? On the other side?

Mr. Katsoris:

Pleasure to appear before you on an unenclosed café application.

George Stamatiades:

Dominick.

*Inaudible.

Joseph Risi:

Unfortunately, Department of Consumer Affairs doesn't require you to have a photograph anymore on a renewal.

George Stamatiades:

Any other questions on this side? Hearing none, this item is closed.

Joseph Risi:

Next item is, Willie O's Enterprising, doing business as Willie O's, 31-18 Broadway an application for a renewal unenclosed sidewalk café, 8 Tables and 20 Chairs.

Steve W.?:

Good evening, I am an architect. I have 2 comments first. I have enjoyed working with Joe for a long time. As for the vote goes, I think the guy that has been married a longer time should get it. (laughter)

Joseph Risi:

Unfortunate, a denial on the renewal. (laughter) Tell us how long your client has had the unenclosed sidewalk café.

Steve W.?:

2 years. This is the first renewal. Prior to that Mundo owned it for 8 years.

Joseph Risi:

Since your client has been there have they received any violations on the unenclosed sidewalk café?

Steve W.?

No, they have not.

Joseph Risi:

I have no further questions.

George Stamatiades:

Any comments? Hearing none, next item.

Joseph Risi:

Next item is, CDG LLC doing business as Flo, 37-20 30th Avenue, application for a renewal unenclosed sidewalk café, 36 Tables and 72 Chairs.

--Good evening, my name is Chris, owner of Flo on 30th Avenue. Any questions please.

Joseph Risi:

Tell us the hours of operation and what type of restaurant it is.

Chris:

Mediterranean Fusion. We have been there for 10 years now. Our hours of operation is 11 to 12 or 1 depends on the night, if it's winter or summer.

Joseph Risi:

Do you have all these tables on 30th Avenue? You have 36 Tables and 72 Seats. Tell us how many on 30th Avenue.

Chris:

I have 10 tables on 30th Avenue. I put less than on the license. About 20/22 on 38th Street. No more than 32 in total.

Joseph Risi:

Tell us you hours of operation.

Chris:

11 o'clock to 12/1 depends if its winter or summer.

Joseph Risi:

How long have you had the license?

Chris:

10 years.

Joseph Risi:

Any violations since the issuance of the license?

Chris:

No.

Joseph Risi:

I have no further questions.

George Stamatiades:

Any questions on this side? Liz.

Liz: (inaudible)

Chris:

Inside is 211 seats, yes.

George Stamatiades:

Fran.

Frances McDonald: (inaudible)

Chris:

It depends, sometimes I put less/more not more than 36. Sometimes 34, sometimes I put 20. Now it's cold so I put less and less.

Frances McDonald: (inaudible)

Chris:

It's probably 10 o'clock in the morning before I open.

Fran McDonald: (inaudible)

George Stamatiades:

Are there any questions from any Board members any comments for or against from the public? Please come up, state your name.

--Hello, my name is Norman S., 22-30 Astoria. I am neutral on this, why this is not reflected on the agenda. Clarification from Mr. Risi.

Joseph Risi:

It's on the agenda.

Norman S.:

The copy I picked up only goes up to 4. If it goes up to 5, I stand corrected.

Joseph Risi:

I need 4 minutes.

George Stamatiades:

There will be a side meeting for 4 1/2 minutes.

Joseph Risi:

On the first item, BelAire Diner application for unenclosed café, 15 Tables, 30 Chairs. The applicant agreed to delete/remove not install tables on 21st Street, which amends your application to 8 Tables, 16 Seats on Broadway.

George Stamatiades:

All those in favor, all those oppose, unanimous.

Joseph Risi:

Next item, PBB Pub LTD doing business as Nex Mex ? 37-11 30th Avenue, Astoria application for 10 Tables, 30 Chairs. Committee recommending approval.

George Stamatiades:

All in favor, all oppose, hearing none, unanimous.

Joseph Risi:

Next item, Willie O's Enterprises, doing business as Willie O's, 31-18 Broadway, Astoria. Application for 8 Tables, 20 Chairs. Committee recommending approval.

George Stamatiades:

All in favor, any opposition, hearing none, unanimous.

Joseph Risi:

Next item, CDG LLC doing business as Flo, 37-20 30th Avenue. Application for 36 Tables, 72 Chairs. Committee recommending approval.

George Stamatiades:

All those in favor, all those oppose, unanimous. Now, general discussion from the public. You have 2 minutes. Microphone, sign in please.

--Hi everyone my name is Laurie, I work at Citizens Committee for NYC. We are a 40 year old nonprofit micro-grants, up to \$3000 project to neighborhood improvement? This year we gave 324 micro-grants out community garden to an afterschool program 20 or more people to do some good. ??? Post cards ??? learn a little more of what we do our website is "citizensnyc.org". The applications are due January 25th, they are pretty easy, our program ? help anyone out ? improve quality of life here in Queens. Thanks.

George Stamatiades:

Thank you

--Hi, good evening. My name is Tara, I live in Sunnyside. ? to tell you about my experience as a volunteer with a special program called Friendly Visitors Sunnyside the program matches homebound senior citizens throughout Queens with volunteers who visit them. I moved here to NY a few years ago from California and as a newcomer, I was looking for ways to get involved in the community. I came across the Friendly Visitors program. When asked why I wanted to become a friendly visitor, my answer was simple, anyone who has spent a winter in New York City knows what it feels like to feel lonely in a city of 8 million people. For the past 2 years, I have been visiting my senior Estelle every week and as you can tell, it's been a deeply rewarding experience. The program director matched me with someone whom I would be friends ? anything in common like myself well fortunately ? topics to discuss. I am sure you are asking how could an 87 year old with a nice Jewish girl from Brooklyn we talk about everything from movies to theater to history the weather current events how hard it is to get off the 7 train at rush hour I can count my closest friends on my one hand and I am very very? appreciate that Estelle is one of them I can see how much ? to her ? the smile on her face our visits as you can tell have been such a positive experience that I am here tonight to ask for other people ? in this community right now the Friendly visitors program has 6 homebound seniors? here in Astoria who need visitors ? 3 of those seniors have a cat or a dog and also need help with pet care ? volunteers also commit ? at least once a week for an hour, it's one TV episode on Netflix. ? We ask for commitment of 6 months volunteers need to be 18 years old complete a criminal background ? check seniors and volunteers can talk take a walk they can play board games ? they can even cook dinner together or they can look at pictures but hopefully more than anything become friends.

George Stamatiades:

30 seconds

Tara:

You can also talk on the phone with a senior once a week if you're interested or you know someone who would be interested in participant in this program? We have flyers or take one of our postcards? community service. Thank you for your time.

George Stamatiades:

Thank you very much and thank you for your terrific work.

Norman S.: (constituent)

I just want to apologize to Florence? I want to also thank the Board for that vigorous about the changes and policies and procedures? they are thinking about? I want to thank the Board too about the changes??? For folks on the committees it is really exciting about those changes coming down? I think outreach to the community via the web? very easy and executable? for this board to accomplish. Thank you.

George Stamatiades:

Thank you. Anyone else in the public that would like to speak? Chairpersons report I think you were all here to report. Fran? Well right now as a board member you...

Fran McDonald:

This has been a very long evening so I would not like repeated so I heard? what we get the proper information assuming its proper from the Queens Borough Presidents Office that it includes notification of what's happening next when its gonna happen and the nature of it? are? Is this a continuation of tonight etc.? I want it spelled out so I can decide whether or not I'm able to run.

George Stamatiades:

As soon as we get a determination I? send out? as well as snail mail for those that don't have a computer. Yes.

? :

???? I don't know why it has not been announced but the community board now has a Facebook page and Twitter? how to follow the board on Twitter ??? It exists.

George Stamatiades:

Thank you very much. Dominic.

--Dominic Stiller: I am a parent of a student at PS 166? Playground removed? 10 years ago parents teachers principal? rooftop playground? as well as other schools? We will present Florence a letter.

George Stamatiades:

Ok, thank you. Is there anyone else, any board member, any public? As I said chairman's report? District Manager's report, Florence.

Florence Koulouris:

Good Evening All. This summer was rather busy. As you know, we had several cafes up for renewal. We had a steady flow of liquor license renewals and several meetings. In July, we met with Department of Consumer Affairs regarding giving input to their new site which the office forwarded to you. It will be a great asset to Boards. All the Chairs will their reports but I give you a little run down of what was happening this summer. George Stamatiades and I met and received an update on the Cornell Tech Center. Norma Nieves-Blas has been working on the Capital and expense and its new program. Bob Piazza met with the NYC Economic Corporation regarding the ferry in Astoria. Joan Asselin had a meeting regarding Bowery Bay and some changes that will improve the quality of life to our constituents. Ann Bruno and the 114th precinct held a fabulous National Night Out. Rose Marie Poveromo, Fran McDonald and I met with Westway at their advisory group. Our office held its first Cabinet meeting of the season and The Capital and Expense Borough Budget Consultations have begun. If I missed any other meetings to be mentioned, please excuse me. I look forward to working with each and every one of you. Please don't hesitate to contact the office should you need anything. Thank you and have a good evening.

George Stamatiades:

Thank you Florence. Minutes, motion to approve, all in favor, any corrections or additions? Hearing none, minutes are approved. Committee reports Capital and Expense.

Norma Nieves-Blas:

Good evening everyone, for those who do not know me, I am Norma Nieves-Blas. I have been on the board 29 years and I am the Chairman of the Capital and Expense budget ? I have been working on FY17 community board's budget since June 30th every week there is something new? For the chairs of our 15 committees. I have given each one of you a folder this evening in an envelope in the envelope you will find the FY16 needs statement that we submitted last year. Item #2 you will also find FY16 adopted budget and agency response the third item looks like this The first item looks like this the 2nd item looks like this and the 3rd item which I am going to give? looks like this it is like a 5 page ? out of 48 pages I completed on? The draft response of our committees for FY17 in July for a September 10th meeting sad to say that only 5-6 members showed up out of a committee of 16 ok I also want you to see that attachment. Item # 2 and #3 specifically states how our 15 committees combined 7 major areas by the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget and City Planning Commission and those 7 major areas have been combined so that all community boards across the city are consistent in their submission of the Capital and Expense Budget some of your committees will be combined only and only for submission of this budget it does not mean that your committee will be combined with another committee you will continue to function as individual committees and I will give you an example ? The youth committee will be reporting alongside with the education committee ? and the child welfare committee which does not even exist that's just an example. Please read all the documents ? that I have provided you with? document. I am going to give you your specific section? Okay. Health and Human Services Committee your section to complete completing it once you meet with your health committee starts on page 4 the Youth and Education Committee your section that you need to review and complete starts on page 7 the public safety committee starts on page 10 the court infrastructure which includes environmental committee starts on page 12 Land Use and Housing and Economic Development that section starts on page 15 Transportation starts on page 19 and Parks Cultural and other community facilities as well as community board section starts on page 21 these are your particular sections but as chairs of those committees of individual committees I thought I would ? with the district manager and I decided that you should have the entire

package ? to be completed seamless and upfront with you however here is the trick I need your ? You must meet with your committees by October 7th on Wednesday October 7th I will be in the board office all day since I am retired I have nothing to do but hang out at the board office. I will be there in the interim if you have any questions call the board office leave your number and I will immediately call you back as I have done so in the past couple of weeks with a few of the members ok Wednesday October 7th I need your responses so that then I can begin to prepare okay what the item looks like Capital and Expense Budget item looks like and what the Capital and Expense? so that I can send it out back to you guys ?so to the chairs and the committee we can approve it so that on October 20 when we come back here we know and every member knows what ? budget will look like ? any questions I have said a lot its been a long night ? and I was not feeling well earlier today please call me, call the office and I will return in addition ? items I have provided ??? a chairperson that's here with a compilation of newspaper articles ? I use to play with paper piles as a kid. That every article that pertained to your particular committee ? cut it off? And put it in your folder ? just to give you food for thought ?as to your needs of your committee maybe you want to put in a capital or an expense budget item for your particular committee ? I have been working all summer long ? It has been my commitment to complete this budget process ? in excellent and timely fashion we have extreme deadlines ?and entering everything on the computer? It's a whole other story. Any questions? Thank you, yes.

Liz? (inaudible)

Norma Nieves-Blas:

It's in your folder. I gave the needs statement for you to receive it electronically. Florence would have to send it out.

Liz? (inaudible)

Norma Nieves-Blas:

You want it to be sent out to all the board members?

Liz? (inaudible)

Norma:

I don't have a problem with that. Put it on Facebook, on Twitter, on the website. On Wednesday Florence said, she will address that particular issue. Thank you very much Liz. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

George Stamatiades:

Norma you have done a tremendous amount of work on this. We all appreciate it. Thank you very much. Daniel Aliberti, not here. Rosemarie had to leave. Consumer affairs we went through it. Tom Ryan, anything? Linda Perno, Joan, Environmental Protection, Judy Trilivas, Health and Hospitals. Mary O'Hara, Housing. Richard Khuzami, Parks.

Richard Khuzami:

Amy Hau and myself Tourism in the boroughs ? reporting activities starting with the non-profits in the areas. There will be a PC we will attending announcing a new dog run ? Triborough Bridge. Next sun shore fest 1-7 Green market ? Socrates Park?

George Stamatiades:

Ann Bruno, street festivals. Fine this summer no complaints. Bob, transportation. Thank you Bob. Meeting on the 29th City Planning presentation amendment ? offset costs ? any development 5B and above what's going to happen? 1 or 2 stories more. We have a 45 day review period we have to vote next month, not ? that gives us 60 days. What I would like to find out, why do we automatically renew? We can discuss that and third item for zoning, it's to let us know one of the items we voted 2 years ago Certificate of Occupancy Dutch Kills area.

Florence Koulouris:

Mr. Donato requested I extend his appreciation to all of the board members for years of service. He sends his regards.

George Stamatiades:

Thank you Florence. Thank you all.