

## Community Board 1, Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2016

### **Board Member Attendees – List Attached**

#### **OPENING – 6:30pm**

- Mr. Joseph Risi, Chairman, opened the meeting with a greeting, and asked attendees to stand for and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chairman then offered a reminder of the long agenda and opened the meeting.
- **Introduction of New Community Board Members:** Chairman Joseph Risi introduced and welcomed the new Community Board members: Mr. Edwin Cadiz, Ms. Thea Romano, and Mr. Rod Townsend.
- **Resignations:** Chairman Joseph Risi announced that since the last meeting, there have been two resignations: Mr. Vincent Marsanico and Ms. Linda Perno.
- The Chairman called for the meeting to proceed to the first item on the agenda; the election of an executive board member.

#### **ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER**

- Chairman Joseph Risi introduced Mr. John Katsanos.
- John Katsanos greeted attendees, and notified attendees of a vacancy in First Vice Chairperson position.
- **MOTION:** Motion was made by John Katsanos to move all executives up one position, starting at Sergeant-at-Arms and proceeding to each subsequent position, and nominate Thomas Ryan for Sergeant-at-Arms.
  - The Chairman requested a revision be made to Mr. Katsanos's initial motion, given it contained two separate motions.
  - The initial motion was subsequently revised by John Katsanos.
- **MOTION 1:** Made by John Katsanos, to move executives on board up one position (i.e. making Norma Nieves-Blas the First Vice Chairperson; Jean Marie D'Alleva the Second Vice Chairperson; Richard Khuzami the Third Vice Chairperson; and Edward Babor the Executive Secretary), thereby leaving a vacancy in the Sergeant-at-Arms position.
- **MOTION 1 SECONDED** by Mr. Edward Babor.
- Chairman Risi noted the first motion had been seconded and asked for the Board to vote in favor via a show of hands.
- **MOTION 1 PASSED by MAJORITY VOTE, 1 OPPOSED** (Ms. Nancy Silverman).
- **MOTION 2:** Made by Mr. John Katsanos to appoint Mr. Thomas Ryan as Sergeant-at-Arms.
- **MOTION 2 SECONDED** by Edward Babor.
- Chairman Joseph Risi then asked whether the Board had any other nominations for Sergeant-at-Arms. Seeing no further nominations, Mr. Risi asked for a vote on Motion 2 (i.e. appointing Board Member Thomas Ryan to the Sergeant-at-Arms position).
- Chairman Joseph Risi requested a vote be taken via hand written ballot by all Community Board Members. Ballots were then collected.
- **MOTION 2 PASSED via Ballot Vote** by Community Board Members.
- The Chairman moved to take a vote via roll call instead of ballot vote.
- Ms. Jean Marie D'Alleva reminded the Board that voting is yes (in favor Mr. Thomas Ryan for Sergeant-at-Arms), or no (not in favor of Mr. Thomas Ryan for Sergeant-at-Arms).
- Roll call was taken by Jean Marie D'Alleva.
- **MOTION 2 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** by roll call vote.
- Chairman Risi congratulated Mr. Thomas Ryan on being appointed Sergeant-at-Arms and moved to hear Public Hearing Items.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

##### **Department of City Planning**

##### **Item 1: C 50135ZMQ, Application to rezone portions of 8 lots on 38<sup>th</sup> Street near 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue from R5B to R6B.**

- Chairman Risi asked if someone from the Department of City Planning was present at the meeting to discuss Item 1, C50135ZMQ.
- No representative for the applicant was available, and the Chairman suggested that the Board proceed to the subsequent item.

##### **Item 2: N160322BDQ, Request to Amend the District Plan for the Long Island City Business Improvement District**

- Chairman Risi asked whether a representative for the application was available. When the representative answered affirmatively, the Chairman asked the representative for the Business Improvement District (BID) to go to the podium, sign in, and address the Board.
- President of LICP and Executive Director for the LIC BID, Elizabeth Lusskin, greeted the Board and thanked the Board Members for giving the issue time on the agenda.
  - Information regarding the project and a map of the current BID was provided by Ms. Lusskin to the Board Members.

- Ms. Lusskin informed the board that this Business Improvement District, founded in 2005, presently includes Queens Plaza North and South, and Jackson Avenue down to Court Square. Community Board 1 and Community Board 2 are both represented on the BID board.
- Ms. Lusskin continued, saying there has been an ongoing effort the last few years, exclusively in Community Board 2, to expand the BID and have a second district. (Ms. Lusskin did note that nothing would change in in Community Board 1, but the BID representatives attended May's Community Board 1 meeting given CB1 is part of the existing BID). This effort included the creation of a steering committee, which analyzed what is needed in the area, what a BID could provide, and what should be included in the expanded BID.
- The conclusion from the steering committee was that a new sub-district should be created along three corridors; continuing down Jackson Ave., coming up Vernon Blvd., and then across 44<sup>th</sup> Drive. Representatives from each of these three corridors were represented on the committee.
- Ms. Lusskin called this a modest proposal to increase foot traffic to the businesses in the area, and informed the board that the goal is to draw people from the transportation hubs through the retail corridors, in turn making them stronger.
- The total budget for these improvements would be \$350,000.
- Ms. Lusskin continued, saying the assessment on most properties would be modest, with over 60% paying \$660 or less, with the assessment being focused on retail frontage.
- Ms. Lusskin also noted CB2 has been very involved, and that Councilman Van Bramer has also been very supportive both financially and through active participation.
- Ms. Lusskin concluded by stating this initiative has been in the works for years, and meetings culminated with two public meetings last summer, which were very well attended, and at which the public offered much support. Ms. Lusskin notified the Board that the project is now in the public approval process, which goes through the community boards and city planning, and that eventually it will go before the city council.
- Chairman Joseph Risi asked Ms. Lusskin who would pay for the BID.
  - Ms. Lusskin noted that representatives for the BID did go to the Economic Development Committee with Mr. Thomas Ryan and several other Board Members (who met recently). Ms. Lusskin then responded more directly to the question, by saying that the BID is a special assessment district, where people in the area agree to a budget and an assessment formula. The tax income is collected by the city, and 100% of this is passed back to the non-profit that carries out the services for the BID. Ms. Lusskin further informed the board that these services are not a replacement for city services, but rather supplement them, and that the BID does not provide supplemental security, and instead relies on the police department.
- The Chairman then asked Ms. Lusskin whether the financial contribution would be voluntary or involuntary.
  - Ms. Lusskin responded to the Chairman's question by stating that the issue of taxation goes before the city council, where a local law must be passed. Following this, the BID fees are placed on one's tax bill. Initially there is a process where people do agree to pay the assessment as part of their taxes, but once the law is passed, the fees are automatically rolled in to the tax bill. However, members of the BID can dissolve the BID if they do not wish to continue being charged for services via a tax assessment.
- Chairman Risi asked how the proposed changes would benefit Community Board 1:
  - Ms. Lusskin replied that the BID currently provides streetscape interventions such as supplemental sanitation work (in addition to what the city does) and graffiti removal. Furthermore, the BID works with the Parks Department on their plantings, and will be installing tree pits. There is also an ambassador who helps direct people and coordinate with the police department. Generally, the BID provides street level interventions to improve the community, which helps to create a healthier street/business environment, in turn helping businesses be more successful.
- Chairman Risi asked if the Board had any questions or comments for Ms. Lusskin.
  - Board Member Frances Luhmann-McDonald (acknowledged by the Chairman) asked whether the property owners (i.e. the tax payers) were involved and consulted during the process of analyzing the expansion of the BID, and how the vote went.
    - Ms. Lusskin responded that people are very much in favor of this, and that this issue will also go through the city council.
  - Board Member Nancy Silverman (acknowledged by the Chairman) asked whether business owners were involved and what interactions with business owners has been like. Ms. Silverman was especially concerned given property owners frequently pass down tax assessments to business owners, and overhead is already very high and rising.
    - Ms. Lusskin said that there has been a significant amount of outreach to see if people within the BID felt the expansion would be beneficial for them. This outreach included multiple mailings to and conversations with business owners, open invitations to the public meetings, and representatives for the BID going door to door. Property and business owners have been involved and very receptive, and feel that the street environment needs to be improved to draw in more customers.
- Chairman Risi asked whether there were any questions or comments from the public. There were none.
- Chairman Risi thanked Ms. Lusskin for her presentation.
- Chairman Risi asked whether anyone on the Board would make a motion in favor of the proposal.
- **MOTION** to support an amendment to the LIC BID made by Edward Babor.

- **MOTION SECONDED** by Marie Torniali.
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** by **ROLL CALL** [taken by Jean Marie D'Alleva].
- The Chairman asked again whether there was an applicant for the 38<sup>th</sup> Street rezoning application present at the meeting. With no applicant present, the Chairman moved on to issues regarding the Department of Consumer Affairs.

### **Department of Consumer Affairs**

- The Chairman introduced Department of Consumer Affairs Committee Chair, Mr. John Katsanos.
- Department of Consumer Affairs Committee Chair John Katsanos greeted community members and reminded the Board that he had printed off copies of his notes to help them.
- Mr. Katsanos summarized the nine items on the DCA agenda and asked that given the length of the agenda, the Board and constituents keep their questions and comments as concise as possible.

#### **Item 1: #N130366 ECQ/1275009-DCA Application by 40-01 Northern Blvd Corp., D/B/A Tequila Sunrise, 40-01 Northern Blvd., to renew a license to operate Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 30 Tables and 60 Chairs**

- Department of Consumer Affairs Chair John Katsanos called for a representative for Tequila Sunrise. No representative was present.
- The Committee Chair noted that typically given the circumstances (i.e. asking for a recommendation to renew an enclosed sidewalk café), if a representative were not in attendance, the application would automatically be denied.
- After some discussion regarding whether to stand by the current DCA Committee rule, Chairman Joseph Risi acknowledged Board Member Rod Townsend. Mr. Townsend noted the meeting's start time had changed, and wondered whether the applicant was aware. Given this, Mr. Townsend recommended tabling discussion of application #N130366 ECQ/1275009-DCA until the end of the Department of Consumer Affairs' public hearing period. DCA Chair John Katsanos agreed.
- Chairman Risi acknowledged the decision to postpone discussion of the Enclosed Sidewalk Cafe and asked to move on to discussion of DCA Item 2.

#### **Item 2: #2010317-DCA, Application by CCAS Inc., D/B/A The Thirsty Koala, 35-12 Ditmars Blvd. to renew a license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 Tables and 16 Chairs.**

- DCA Chair Katsanos called for the applicant for Item 2 to approach the podium and introduced The Thirsty Koala to the board.
- DCA Chair Katsanos questioned the representative present for The Thirsty Koala, Katherine Fuchs (Chef and Owner).
- Having no further questions, Committee Chair John Katsanos opened the floor to the Board for questions or comments.
- Having no questions or comments from the Board, the Committee Chair John Katsanos opened the floor to the public for questions or comments.
  - The constituents had no questions or comments.
- **MOTION** made by DCA Committee Chair John Katsanos to provide a recommendation for approval from the Board to DCA to renew The Thirsty Koala's license for an unenclosed sidewalk café.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Mackenzi Farquer.
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** by **MAJORITY VOTE** taken by Chairman Risi.
- Chairman Joseph Risi requested DCA Chair John Katsanos continue to the next item.

#### **Item 3: #2848-2016-ASWC, Application by Singlecut Beersmiths LLC, D/B/A Singlecut Beersmiths, 19-33 37<sup>th</sup> Street to obtain a license to operate a new Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 4 Tables and 16 Chairs (previously licensed).**

- DCA Chair John Katsanos called for the applicant for Item 3 to approach the podium, and introduced Singlecut Beersmiths to the Board.
- DCA Chair John Katsanos questioned General Manager Daniel Bronson and Head of Finance Val Lang, representatives present for Singlecut Beersmiths.
- Having no further questions, DCA Committee Chair John Katsanos asked whether the Board had any questions or comments.
  - Board discussion and questioning ensued.
- Committee Chair John Katsanos asked whether the public had any questions or comments, after confirming the Board had no further questions or comments.
  - The public had no questions or comments.
- **MOTION** made by the Committee Chair to provide a recommendation for approval for renewal of the license for an unenclosed sidewalk café.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by George Alexiou
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** by a **MAJORITY VOTE**.
- Chairman Risi asked if there was any reason to take a roll call given there was no apparent opposition
- DCA Chair Katsanos confirmed roll call was not necessary

#### **Item 4: #5425-2016-ASWC, Application by Dough Joe LLC, D/B/A Hinomaru Ramen, 33-18 Ditmars Blvd. for a license to obtain a new Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 8 Tables and 14 Chairs.**

- DCA Chair Katsanos called for the applicant for Item 4 to approach the podium and introduced the establishment to the Board.
- DCA Chair Katsanos questioned the representative for the establishment (Mindy Lee, owner) regarding the application.

- Having no further questions, Mr. Katsanos opened the floor to questions or comments from the board.
- Having no questions from the Board, Mr. Katsanos opened the floor to questions or comments from the public
  - Dialogue proceeded between community and the Board.
- Mr. Katsanos acknowledged additional Board Member questions, and discussion continued.
- Chairman Joseph Risi asked if Mr. Katsanos would move to provide a recommendation for the applicant.
- **MOTION** made by Mr. Katsanos to provide a recommendation for approval for renewal of the license for an unenclosed sidewalk café.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Edward Babor.
- **MOTION PASSED** by **MAJORITY VOTE, 2 OPPOSED** (Board Members Frances Luhmann-McDonald and Ann Bruno).

**Item 5: #5405-2016-ASWC, Application by Don Restaurant Group, Inc., D/B/A Hinomaruko Ramen, 42-06 30<sup>th</sup> Ave., to obtain a license to operate a new Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 Tables and 12 Chairs.**

- Mr. Katsanos introduced Item 5, informing the Board it is the sister location of the previous applicant. The same representative was present for this application as for Item 4 (Ms. Mindy Lee).
- Mr. Katsanos questioned Ms. Lee regarding her establishment and the application for a new Unenclosed Sidewalk Café.
- Having no further questions, Mr. Katsanos opened the floor for Board Member questions and comments.
  - Discussion between the Board and the representative for DCA Application #5405-2016-ASWC proceeded.
- Chairman Risi suggested the Board move on a recommendation for the applicant.
- Mr. Katsanos opened the floor to the public. Given no public commentary, Mr. Katsanos then moved to approve the application.
- **MOTION** put forth by Mr. Katsanos to provide a recommendation of approval for the applicant to obtain a license for a new unenclosed sidewalk café.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Ms. Jean Marie D'Alleva
- **MOTION PASSED** by a **MAJORITY VOTE, 4 OPPOSED** (Board Members Ann Bruno, Joanna D'Elia, Frances Luhmann-McDonald, and Edwin Cadiz).

**Item 6: #5356-2016-ASWC, Application by Broadway Marshall Corp., D/B/A, Portalia Ristorante, 35-03 Broadway, to obtain a license to operate a new Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 4 Tables and 8 Chairs.**

- Mr. Katsanos introduced application #6 on the agenda, and asked the applicant to introduce himself. Owner Antonia Trindade and his consultant were available to speak on the application.
- Mr. Katsanos questioned the applicant regarding details of the proposed unenclosed sidewalk café.
- Having no further questions, the DCA Committee Chair opened the meeting up to discussion and questions by the Board.
  - Discussion between Board Members occurred.
- Having no further questions or commentary by the Board, the DCA Chair opened the floor to any constituents who wished to speak.
- Given no members of the public had questions or comments, Mr. Katsanos moved to approve the application.
- **MOTION** put forth by Mr. Katsanos to offer a recommendation of approval for a new unenclosed sidewalk café.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Board Member Gus Prentzas.
- **MOTION PASSED** by a **MAJORITY VOTE, 3 OPPOSED** (opposed by Board Members Stella Nicolaou, Ann Bruno, and Frances Luhmann-McDonald).

**Item 7: #4910-2016-ASWC, Application by St. George Holding Corp., D/B/A El Basurero Bar & Restaurant, at 32-17 Steinway Street to obtain a license to operate a new Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 8 Tables and 26 Chairs.**

- Mr. John Katsanos introduced application #7, and asked the representatives for the application to introduce themselves. Business owner Jorge Morales and consultant/assistant Omar Arevalo were present to represent application #4910-2016-ASWC.
- Mr. Katsanos questioned the applicant regarding information about the establishment and the proposed unenclosed sidewalk café.
- Having no further questions, Mr. Katsanos opened the floor for the Board to discuss the matter.
  - The board discussed questions and concerns regarding the application and the establishment.
- Concluding the board discussion, Mr. Katsanos asked if the public had any desire to discuss the matter.
- Having no questions from the public, the DCA Chair moved (supported by an earlier motion by Ms. Nancy Silverman) to approve the application as is.
- **MOTION** by Mr. John Katsanos to approve the application as is.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Mr. Gus Prentzas.
- Chairman Joseph Risi asked how many Board Members were opposed to the application, but followed up but asking if there was any further discussion or any other motions by the Board.
- Discussion resumed between the Board regarding whether to move forward with voting now or after a breakout session. **MOTION WITHDRAWN** by Mr. John Katsanos as a result, and discussion turned to the number of tables and chairs and whether any obstructions were present.

Conclusion was that the 3 outer tables were problematic given obstruction posed by a meter on the sidewalk, and should be removed.

- **MOTION** by Mr. John Katsanos to provide approval for 5 tables and 20 chairs.
- Board discussion resumed.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Ms. Rose Anne Alafogiannis.
- Chairman Risi asked applicant if he would accept the modification to the size of the unenclosed sidewalk café, to which he answered yes.
- **MOTION PASSED** by a **MAJORITY VOTE, 2 OPPOSED** (Ms. Ann Bruno and Ms. Frances Luhmann-McDonald)
- Before proceeding, the DCA Chair noted that the following two applications would be discussed in a breakout session prior to moving ahead on the agenda.

**Item 8: #5753-2016-ASWC, Application by C&S Gourmet Meals & Deli D/B/A The Pomeroy, 36-12 Ditmars Blvd. to obtain a license for a new Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 8 Tables and 16 Chairs.**

- Mr. Katsanos introduced application #5753-2016-ASWC, and specifically noted that the district office had recently received several complaints from nearby residents and businesses about the establishment. Some of the concerns were smoking, noise levels, and patrons congregating outside of the establishment.
- Mr. Katsanos further noted the owner had agreed to a number of stipulations during an earlier discussion with the DCA Committee Chair as a proposed resolution to community concerns.
- Mr. Katsanos then proceeded to question representatives for the application, Michael McGuire (owner and managing partner of The Pomeroy) and Bo O'Connor (chef and partner at The Pomeroy).
- Upon conclusion of his questions, Mr. Katsanos opened the floor to questions from the Board.
  - The Board proceeded to discuss concerns regarding the application, as well as further question the applicants. Mr. Katsanos noted that the board's concerns would be addressed in the later breakout session.
- DCA Committee Chair John Katsanos opened the floor for public dialogue.
  - Conversation ensued between the Board and community members expressing concerns regarding the application for an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café at the Pomeroy. Constituents presented pictures and affidavits as supportive evidence. While one neighbor of the Pomeroy did offer support, calling the establishment a good neighbor, the community generally did not support the proposal.
- Mr. Katsanos noted that no motion would be made until after the breakout session for the Consumer Affairs Committee.

**Item 9: #4187-2016-ANSW, NEWSSTAND. An application for a proposed newsstand at the North East Corner (NEC) of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 31<sup>st</sup> Street, in front of 31-05 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Chase Bank).**

- Mr. Katsanos called to begin discussions on applicant 9 on the agenda, and introduced the proposal to the Board.
- Mr. Katsanos questioned the applicant, Mr. Oli Uddin, regarding the proposed newsstand.
- The DCA Committee Chair called for Board comments.
  - Members of the Board questioned the applicant.
- The DCA Committee Chair called for public commentary.
  - Attitudes of community residents was mixed.
  - Business owners in the vicinity of the proposed newsstand expressed concern over the application.
- The DCA Chair asked the Board to approve going to a breakout session to discuss The Pomeroy and the Newsstand.
- Chairman Joseph Risi asked to return to the matter of an Enclosed Sidewalk Café at Tequila Sunrise prior to a breakout session.

**Board Returned to DCA Item 1: #N130366 ECQ/1275009-DCA Application by 40-01 Northern Blvd Corp., D/B/A Tequila Sunrise, 40-01 Northern Blvd., to renew a license to operate Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 30 Tables and 60 Chairs**

- Mr. Joseph Risi, Chairman, noted the applicant for DCA Item 1 was now present at the meeting, and Mr. Katsanos introduced the establishment to the Board.
- DCA Chair John Katsanos questioned the applicant (owner Mr. Fernando Gonzalez) regarding the request to renew a license to operate the Enclosed Sidewalk Café.
- Having completed his line of questioning, Mr. Katsanos asked the Board whether they had any questions or comments.
- Given the Board had no questions or comments, Mr. Katsanos asked whether any constituents wished to speak. No requests to speak were heard from the public.
- **MOTION** by Mr. Katsanos to recommend approval of renewing applicant's license as is.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Mr. Rod Townsend.
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** by **MAJORITY VOTE**.
- Chairman Risi noted that prior to going to a breakout session, there was a remaining public hearing item to attend to.

**Board Returned to Department of City Planning Item 1: C 50135ZMQ, Application to rezone portions of 8 lots on 38<sup>th</sup> Street near 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue from R5B to R6B.**

- Mr. Risi asked if a representative was present for application C 50135ZMQ. No representative for the application was present, and Mr. Risi asked if Ms. Elizabeth Erion would like to make a recommendation on the item.

- Ms. Elizabeth Erion presented the details of the project, which is a rezoning proposal to facilitate construction of a new 5-story residential building, to the Board. This presentation included discussion of the concerns of area residents/property owners living on 37<sup>th</sup> street, and proposed stipulations to mediate some of the problems that could be posed by construction, to the adjacent 37<sup>th</sup> street property owners.
- Ms. Erion noted that a vote would need to be taken, and that this project is a ULURP item.
- Mr. Risi asked if the Board had any questions or comments regarding the matter.
  - Discussion proceeded between Board Members regarding the application.
- Chairman Risi called for public commentary regarding the application. No constituents requested to speak.
- **MOTION** made by Elizabeth Erion to Conditionally Approve Recommendation to rezone the lots.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Melanie La Rocca.
- **MOTION PASSED** to approve the application (with conditions) by **Roll Call** (taken by Jean Marie D'Alleva); **27 IN FAVOR, 13 OPPOSED.**
- Chairman Risi summarized the approval of the City Planning item, and called for a break to allow the DCA Committee to meet to discuss The Pomeroy's Unenclosed Cafe and the proposed Newsstand on 30<sup>th</sup> Ave and 31<sup>st</sup> Street.

**\*Board Went to a Breakout Session**

**\*\*Board Reconvened**

- Chairman Joseph Risi called the meeting back to order, stating the Board would hear recommendations by the Consumer Affairs Committee. The Chairman then summarized the remaining agenda items for the evening.

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS RECOMMENDATIONS on Item 8, #5753-2016-ASWC, C&S Gourmet Meals & Deli D/B/A The Pomeroy, an application to obtain a license to operate a sidewalk café, and Item 9, #4187-2016-ANSW, an application for a proposed NEWSSTAND at the North East Corner (NEC) of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 31<sup>st</sup> Street, in front of 31-05 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue (i.e. Chase Bank).**

**Item 9, #4187-2016-ANSW- NEWSSTAND at 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 31<sup>st</sup> Street**

- DCA Committee Chair John Katsanos opened with discussion on the matter of the newsstand, Applicant 9 on the agenda.
- Mr. Katsanos noted that the DCA Committee recommended denying approval of the newsstand.
- **MOTION** to deny the application for a newsstand on 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 31<sup>st</sup> Street made by Mr. John Katsanos.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Mr. Gus Prentzas.
- **MOTION** (to deny application) **PASSED** by a roll call vote taken by Ms. Jean Marie D'Alleva; **31 IN FAVOR, 10 OPPOSED.**

**Item 8, #5753-2016-ASWC- Unenclosed Sidewalk Café at The Pomeroy**

- DCA Committee Chair John Katsanos proceeded to a discussion of Applicant 8 on the agenda.
- Mr. Katsanos informed the Board that the DCA Committee did not have a recommendation for the Board regarding The Pomeroy's application to operate a new unenclosed sidewalk café.
- Chairman Joseph Risi asked if the Board would make a motion to approve the application as is. No motion was made.
- Chairman Risi asked if the Board had any other motions they would like to consider.
- **MOTION** by Ms. Melanie La Rocca to approve the sidewalk café with a reduction to 6 tables and 12 chairs.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Mr. Rodolfo Sarchese.
- Chairman Risi asked for any amendments to Ms. La Rocca's motion.
- **AMMENDED MOTION** by Ms. Mary O'Hara to reduce the application to 4 tables and 8 chairs.
- **AMMENDED MOTION SECONDED** by Ms. Norma Nieves-Blas
- Given there were two motions on the floor, **Mr. Katsanos moved to have a vote on the first motion**, for approval of an unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 12 chairs, subject to the stipulations discussed earlier with the applicant.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Edward Babor.
- Mr. Risi noted that Mr. Katsanos's motion would also be subject to the bike rack obstruction being moved by the Department of Transportation.
- The Board proceeded to discuss the matter.
- **ROLL CALL** taken by Ms. Jean Marie D'Alleva on the **initial MOTION**, for 6 Tables and 12 Chairs.
- **MOTION DOES NOT CARRY** by roll call vote: **17 IN FAVOR, 22 OPPOSED, 1 ABSTAINED FOR CAUSE.**
- **ROLL CALL** taken by Jean Marie D'Alleva on **AMMENDED MOTION** for 4 Tables and 8 Chairs.
- **AMMENDED MOTION PASSES** by a roll call vote: **27 IN FAVOR, 12 OPPOSED, 1 ABSTAINED FOR CAUSE.**
- Mr. Risi clarified that the motion that carried was a recommendation that the Department of Consumer Affairs approve the application with a reduction to 4 tables and 8 chairs, subject to the terms of the stipulations recommended by the committee.
- Chairman Risi asked Deputy Inspector Fortune to present his report.

### **REPORT BY DEPUTY INSPECTOR FORTUNE OF THE 114<sup>th</sup> PRECINCT:**

- Deputy Inspector Peter Fortune discussed the shooting outside Ace's Gentlemen's Club on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>, where a male was shot in the foot after an altercation inside of the club, and informed the board that he has had conversations with concerned community members.
- The Deputy Inspector noted that those causing the problems at the local gentlemen's clubs come from outside of the district, and are attracted to these venues by high profile DJs or artists.
- The Deputy Inspector further noted there are now nine gentlemen's clubs in the district, and that the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct is allocating resources to patrolling the clubs.
- Deputy Inspector Fortune concluded by indicating the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct is committed to doing everything in its power to keep the community safe, and that the police department is willing to work with the Board/community to find a solution to the problem.
- Chairman Risi thanked Inspector Fortune and the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct for their commitment to the community.
- Mr. Katsanos asked the Inspector to remain present to listen to the DCA Committee Report on the Gentlemen's Clubs, and asked if he could review the May 2016 Liquor License applicants to see if any of the establishments were problematic.

### **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS REPORT:**

- Department of Consumer Affairs Committee Chair John Katsanos reported to the board a series of issues related to Ace's and similar establishments, which include unscrupulous business practices, crime, concerns of community residents, and potential violations of businesses' certificates of occupancy that prohibit adult entertainment.
- Mr. Katsanos noted that the SLA and other government agencies are aware of these problems.
- Chairman Risi opened the meeting up for public commentary, while reminding the audience that comments should be limited to 2 minutes.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- Multiple community residents from the 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street area expressed concerns regarding Ace's Gentlemen's Club. The constituents are concerned about safety and quality of life issues posed by the establishment, and asked the Board to do what they can to have the club shut down.
  - Mr. Risi reiterated Mr. Katsanos's statement that the Community Board did send a letter to the SLA asking that the club's liquor license be suspended (revoked).
- A constituent who spoke for the public hearing on The Pomeroy again expressed concerns regarding The Pomeroy's application for a license to operate a new unenclosed sidewalk café on Ditmars Blvd.
  - Chairman Joseph Risi reiterated that the Board only offers a recommendation, and that ultimately the DCA has final say in any approval or denial.
- Ruthie Campbell from New York Road Runners spoke regarding ongoing programing [Open Run] and a Global Running Day. The representative invited the community to the event in Astoria Park on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Sarah Eismann spoke to the Board and the community about the Manhattan Shakespeare Project, an all female theater group for which she is the artistic director. Ms. Eismann announced a production of Othello that would be presented in Astoria Park from June 7<sup>th</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- A constituent who resides near Queens Plaza spoke to the Board regarding concerns about noise problems at Crescent and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, and played a recording as evidence. The constituent offered several proposed interventions that might help alleviate the problems with noise in the area.
  - Mr. Risi thanked the constituent for his presentation and said the Board would send a letter to the Department of Transportation regarding the issue.
- Chairman Joseph Risi transitioned the Board to the business segment of the meeting.

### **BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

- Chairman Risi asked for a motion for approval of last month's minutes.
- Ms. Nancy Silverman had a concern with an ambiguity in April's meeting minutes, and asked that attention be paid to ensuring votes be reported accurately.
  - Mr. Risi stated that the meeting minutes would be amended to ensure the vote was reported accurately.
- **MOTION** to approve minutes by Mr. Robert Piazza.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Ms. Vanessa Jones-Hall.
- **MOTION PASSED.**

#### **Chairperson's Report**

- Chairman Joseph Risi had no report other than to wish Joan Asselin a happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and to announce that Katie Ellman had a baby girl.

#### **District Manager's Report:**

- No report was given by the District Manager, Ms. Florence Koulouris.

### **CHAIRMAN JOSEPH RISI CALLED FOR COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **1. Access & Disabilities**

- Committee Chair Daniel Aliberti introduced the topic of Access-a-Ride to the Board, gave an update regarding the Access-A-Ride Report by Scott Stringer's office, and reviewed the issues that

the report uncovered. The Committee Chair continued, stating he supports the proposed solutions outlined in the report.

- Mr. Aliberti also reported to the Board on a discussion at the biannual MTA meeting regarding the issue of Select Bus Service bus slips not being cross-honored throughout the rest of the MTA system. The Chair stated that six elected community officials and the Community Board had written letters to the MTA regarding the problem, that the elected officials had not heard back, and that if the Community Board had not heard back, a second letter should be sent out.

## **2. Airport**

- No Report

## **3. Land Use and Zoning**

- Chair Elizabeth Erion presented a proposal to reduce the required number of off street parking spaces for buildings at 19-55/57 49<sup>th</sup> Street, and discussed a set of conditions under which the Land Use and Zoning Committee would offer conditional approval of the reduction in a letter to the Board of Standards and Appeals.
- **MOTION** made by committee Chair Elizabeth Erion for Conditional Approval of reducing parking spaces at building on 49<sup>th</sup> Street.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Ms. Melanie La Rocca.
- Questions were heard from the Board.
- **MOTION PASSED**
- Chair Elizabeth Erion next presented the issue of offering conditional approval for the Fresh Supermarket at the Halletts Point Development.
- **MOTION** made by committee Chair Elizabeth Erion for Conditional Approval of the Fresh Supermarket.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Ms. Melanie La Rocca.
- **MOTION PASSED**
- The final item addressed by Chair Elizabeth Erion was offering a letter of no objection to an application to grant revocable consent to Halletts Astoria LLC for installation of utility lines under 1<sup>st</sup> Street.
- **MOTION** made by committee Chair Elizabeth Erion in favor (of no objection).
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Melanie La Rocca.
- **MOTION PASSED**

## **4. Transportation**

- Committee Chair Robert Piazza informed the board that the letter drafted after last month's meeting regarding improvements on 21<sup>st</sup> Street was not yet sent because changes were needed. Mr. Piazza asked that the erroneous portion of the letter be removed, and asked that the letter be sent out as soon as possible once necessary changes were made.
- **MOTION** made by Mr. Piazza to make changes and send out the revised letter.
- **MOTION SECONDED** by Ms. Nancy Silverman.
- **MOTION PASSED**

## **5. Capital Expenses & Budget/Planning**

- Committee Chair Norma Nieves-Blas thanked the District Manager for inviting her to the Fiscal Year 2018 Training. Ms. Nieves-Blas announced that there would be changes taking place starting in June, and that the Board was invited to attend the committee meetings.

## **6. Education/Library**

- No Report

## **7. Environmental Protection**

- Committee Chair Antonella DiSaverio announced that residents could get rain collection barrels for their gardens by calling Assemblywoman Nolan's office to reserve one.

## **8. Housing**

- No Report.

## **9. Health and Senior Services**

- Committee Chair Judy Trilivas announced that on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 8am, the new Emergency Department at Mt. Sinai Queens would be opening.

## **10. Legal, Legislation & Parliamentary**

- No Report.

## **11. Public Safety**

- No Report.

## **12. Street Festivities/Special Events**

- No Report.

## **13. Youth Services**

- No Report.

## **14. Parks/Recreation & Cultural Services**

- Committee Chair Richard Khuzami addressed the progress on a letter sent by the Board with respect to security at local playgrounds, and announced Sean's Place would now be locked each night (as originally announced by Councilman Costa Constantinides).
- Mr. Khuzami concluded by informing the Board that fliers for local cultural events were placed in their folders, and summarizing what organizations were hosting upcoming events.

## **New Business**

- Chairman Joseph Risi called for new business.
- Ms. Thea Romano addressed concerns about traffic safety and noise in multiple locations in Dutch Kills, and asked the board send a letter to the Department of Transportation asking for a study analyzing the prospect of installing a traffic light at 29<sup>th</sup> Street and 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue, as well as solutions aimed at curbing horn honking on Crescent between Queens Plaza and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and moving traffic agents to 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

- Chairman Risi announced he would speak with District Manager Florence Koulouris and Transportation Chair Robert Piazza to draft a letter to the Department of Transportation.

**Old Business**

- Chairman Joseph Risi asked if the Board had any old business to discuss. There was no old business to address.

**Adjournment**

- Chairman Risi asked if a motion would be made to adjourn the meeting.
- **MOTION to ADJOURN.**
- **MOTION SECONDED.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:55PM**