



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, and Elmhurst

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Helen Marshall
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Karen Koslowitz
Director of Community Boards

Richard Italiano
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2009

TIME: 7:35 P.M.

PLACE: FLANDERS FIELD VFW POST #150
51-11 108 STREET
CORONA, NEW YORK

I. The Chairperson Louis Walker called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

II. The District Manager Richard Italiano took the roll call. A quorum was present.

III. Vote On The Minutes (June 02, 2009 Meeting)

Mr. Tony Moreno made a motion, seconded by Ms. Laraine Donohue, to **accept** the minutes. By a voice vote, the Board voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chair reported on Assembly Member Audrey Pheffer's correspondence regarding the New York State Real Estate Cease & Desist Program. This borough wide program expired on August 1. Assembly Member Pheffer was seeking the Board's help in gaining immediate reinstatement of the Cease & Desist Program by writing to Secretary of State Lorraine A. Cores-Vasquez.

The Chair asked does the Board wish to support the Program? Do I hear a motion?

Mr. Tony Moreno made a motion, seconded by Mr. Luis Enrique Lugo, to **accept** renewal and to write to the Secretary of State for the immediate reinstatement of the Queens County Real Estate Cease & Desist Program.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

This concluded the Chairperson's report.

V. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Richard Italiano reported on the reconstruction of combined sewers on 55th Avenue from Junction Blvd. to 94th Street scheduled mid-September to mid-October.

It was mentioned 57th Avenue/Junction Blvd. was re-paved over the summer.

Next, a speed hump will be installed on 48th Avenue, between 108th Street and 111th Street. P.S. 28Q is located within this vicinity. Installation will take place when resources are available.

Next, 53rd Avenue between 103rd and 108th Streets has been approved for additional street lighting.

Next, the Citizens Committee For New York City awards grants of \$500-\$3000 to volunteer led groups to work on community improvement projects. See the flyer or log onto their website for further information.

Next, the Neighborhood Advisory Board will hold a Public Hearing on September 8, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m, at Elmhurst Hospital, 79-01 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY, Rm. A1-22, on Community Services & Programs. NAB members are responsible for identifying the service needs of their local communities, a process which guides the City in its allocation of federal Community Block Grant funding to support community based human service programs. See the flyer for additional information. All were urged to attend.

This concluded the District Manager's report.

VI. DISCUSSION & VOTE: FY 2011 CAPITAL & EXPENSE BUDGET

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stephen Castro, to **accept** the budget as presented for the following fiscal budget year.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

VII. GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Alexander Kipp, Director of Training & Education Conflicts of Interest Board of the City of New York

Presentation: COIB Guidelines Relating To Community Boards

Mr. Kipp reported how the conflicts of interest law applies to Community Board members. The goal of the law is to prevent conflicts of interest from interfering with actions taken by the Community Board.

Community Board members are appointed to the Board because each has a vested interest in the community, for example, involvement in a not-for-profit entity, working for a city agency, or operating a business in the community. The problem is not having a conflict of interest but rather addressing voting issues when a conflict of interest occurs.

Mr. Kipp outlined the basic three D's—(disclose) the potential conflict of interest, (discuss) the issue at hand, and (do not vote) .

The categories for conflicts of interest by Community Board members were discussed:

VOTING:

1. A Community Board member is not entitled to vote on any matter that may result in a personal and direct economic gain to the member or any person or firm with whom the member is “Associated”.
2. A Community Board member who serves on the board of directors of a not-for-profit organization is not entitled to vote on Board resolutions recommending funding by City agencies for that organization, or other resolutions that could result in a direct economic gain for the not-for-profit in question.

Mr. Kipp urged all Board members to call the Conflicts of Interest Board if questions should arise or assistance is needed on any potential matter. Call the COIB and ask to speak to the lawyer of the day for free, confidential advice. All calls are kept confidential.

Read the hand out for more information.

However, Mr. Kipp pointed out one matter which will not be kept confidential and acted upon. Accepting bribes or committing a crime will be channeled to the proper authorities. Call early and often to have any questions answered to avoid conflicts.

3. A Community Board member who is a City employee is not entitled to vote on any matters concerning the member’s agency, but may take part in discussion on such matters.

At this point, specific examples of conflicts of interests were given to the Board, in particular, accepting gifts.

4. A Community Board member who is a professional (e.g. lawyer, architect, engineer) may not personally represent any party presenting a project or proposal for consideration to the Community Board on which he serves.

Since this is an election year, Community Board resources are for Community Board activities only and not to be used to support a political candidate. Additionally, Community Board staff cannot be asked for a contribution, volunteer, or told how to vote. Also, Board members and Community Board staff cannot enter into a financial agreement. For example, they cannot babysit, do work on a Board member’s house, or represent a Board member in court.

5. Former Community Board members may not appear before their former Community Board within one year of leaving Community Board service.

A “Conflicts Of Interest” hand-out was distributed to the Board listing advisory opinions and information. Any questions, call the Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB) at 212-442-1400 or log on to <http://nyc.gov/ethics>.

At this point, Mr. Kipp gave an example of tabulating Community Board votes when members have conflicts of interest. A fifty member Board had a quorum of twenty-six members present. Two members were excluded from voting on a particular matter due to conflicts of interest or City agency employment. The number of members entitled to vote on that matter drops from twenty-six to twenty-four, but the two members not entitled to vote are still present. The quorum is maintained. The majority needed for that matter changes from fourteen to thirteen.

Mr. Kipp pointed out voting for a proposal that may cause harm to a competing business or non-profit is not a conflict of interest.

Mr. Stephen Castro questioned the discussion aspect and the possibility of swaying other Board members as a result of mannerisms or speech on the subject. Mr. Kipp responded yes that is part of the discussion. People do want to convince others about their point of view.

Mr. Nick Pennachio asked can Board members attend fund raisers to help solicit votes for local legislators doing business with the Board.

Mr. Kipp replied Board members are not disqualified from raising funds or from working for any person currently in or running for office. Free speech rights are not impacted by service on the Community Board, with the exception funds cannot be solicited from Community Board staff.

VII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Vote: SLA License Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported on the following liquor licenses:

New Applicants

<u>Establishment Name</u>	<u>Establishment Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Car Mike Corp. On Premises Liquor	102-30 43 Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Denied. Between Two Churches, 200' Rule Applies
Los Dos Potrillos Rest-Bar Premises Liquor	40-20 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY 11368	Denied. 500' Rule Applies DOB Investigation Requested-- Expanding on the business.
Promex D/B/A Mi Bella Pizza Restaurant Wine	78-04 Woodside Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Punto Y Coma Corp. On Premises Liquor	103-02 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Denied. History. Previous violations. Are new owners involved in previous Violations? Checking to see old License not being used. Checking For Correct Address. (103-02A)
Viva Puebla Inc. Eating Place Beer	89-16 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied. Selling Beer To Minors. More checking needed.

Renewal Applicants

Begin Corp. Restaurant Wine	77-05 Woodside Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Chrystal Ball Group D/B/A Terrace On The Park On Premises Liquor	52-11 111 Street Corona, NY 11368	Approved

E & C Caridad Rest. Corp. D/B/A Caridad Rest. On Premises Liquor	90-18 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Approved
Eustaquio Cortez Cabanas D/B/A Paraiso Azteca Rest. & Bar Restaurant Wine	102-53 43 Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Denied. Between Two Churches. Under 200' Rule-But Can Get Rest. Wine License, However, Problems In This Location With Liquor. Long History. Selling to Minors.
Forest Hills Spa Restaurant Wine	59-21 Calloway St. Corona, NY 11368	Approved
Jeab & Joy D/B/A Nusara The Kitchen Restaurant Wine	82-80 Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved

Reconsideration

7532 Cellar Corp. Tavern Wine	75-32 Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Coatingo Enterprises Inc. D/B/A California Sports Bar On-Premises Liquor	79-18 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Enrique Lugo, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consumer Affairs

No. Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Environmental

Committee Chair Tom McKenzie reported the Strauss Store on Queens Boulevard is closing. Secondly, the Committee Chair reported on the For Sale cars without license plates parked at meters for days and pays no money, causing the City to lose revenue and also valuable parking space. At last count, there were 14 of those cars parked on Queens Blvd. Mr. McKenzie said even though Sanitation had marked For Sale cars, the Department does not have tow cars to remove them.

Next, noise was mentioned, in particular, the work being done at P. S. 7, which is located at Cornish Avenue and Queens Blvd., Reconstruction is being done at the school in a double shift and the emanating noise is deafening and constant. Crude construction workers also add to the problem. The school, which is located on an environmentally toxic site, has three teachers suing for damages. More information is needed about this renovation and the cost involved to a school that is only 14 years old. Questions need to be asked. The whole top floor of the building was removed.

Work is done at 7:00 p.m. and continues through 11:00 p.m. When school is in session, work will be done from 3:00 p.m. -11:00 p.m. with no end in sight.

Mr. McKenzie asked the Youth Committee Chair or someone who takes care of schools to investigate and get some answers. The District Manager responded there is a similar situation by P. S. 102. By permit, night construction is allowed, which ends about 11:00 p.m. The heart of the noise is between 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding the noise permits issued to contractors. Mr. McKenzie emphasized you cannot get answers. Instead of filling out Freedom of Information forms, can the Board get some answers? Specifically, what the cost is on this project and who is paying for it. The noise, debris, and bricks are problematic to the entire neighborhood.

Health

Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported a Committee meeting is scheduled for September. Notices with details will be mailed.

Parks

Committee Chair Tony Caminiti reported the Committee did not meet.

At this point, Mrs. Judy D'Andrea reported on the homeless population at the entrance of 49th Avenue and 111th Street (Flushing Meadows-Corona Park). Discussion ensued on this and other existing problems in the vicinity, including the side streets.

Discussion ensued on the increased homeless population in the Board area.

Postal

Committee Chair Stephen Castro reported a Committee meeting is scheduled for September 23, at 12:00 Noon, at the Post Office, 59-01 Junction Blvd. Any issues please contact the Board office who will contact Mr. Castro.

A Board member mentioned the long lines at the post office. Mr. Castro gave possible causes for the long delays and said suggestions were given to the Post Office to eliminate those delays and long lines.

Transportation

Committee Chair Joe DiMartino reported on the Corona Green Market on Roosevelt Avenue between 103rd & 104th Streets. The market is open on Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until November 29.

Furthermore, the Green Market located at the Hall of Science will be open on Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., until November 15. All green vegetables from local farms are sold.

The District Manager added any produce sold at the Green Markets must be raised within 150 miles of New York City otherwise it cannot be sold. A site for a green market in Elmhurst is still being explored.

ULURP

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported a meeting was held with a representative whose firm is interested in acquiring the St. John's Queens Hospital site, which is slated for auction in September. Suggestions were presented to the Committee for a health facility, school, restaurant, and/or doctors' offices etc.

Because of the lack of an American supermarket in the area, the Committee suggested a supermarket for the site.

Mr. Nick Pennachio added the Board should encourage an Elmhurst Hospital satellite since the Board area is in desperate need of a hospital.

At this point, Mr. Enrique Lugo expressed about the overbuilding in the neighborhoods. Developers convert a single family home into a multi-family dwelling. More needs to be done about this on-going problem.

Discussion ensued about who would take possession of the site and the possibility of residential housing for the St. Johns Hospital property, including the zoning that currently exists.

Youth

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported school will officially open Wednesday, September 9, and concerns exist about students and the Swine Flu (H1N1 Flu). A Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for November. More details will be presented at the next Board meeting.

XI. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Mr. Jeff Gottlieb, representing State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo Jr., reported legislation on Mayoral Control & the New York City Public Schools passed the New York State Legislature with the following four chapter amendments:

1. Most controversial of the amendments--One day per year the parents must meet at the school to discuss school safety.
2. Parents will have input in Arts Education. A city wide Arts Committee will be formed to represent those who care about music and art.
3. Schools superintendents in each district will have greater control over curriculum and instruction. Each principal will be graded on those areas.
4. Parents should be educated in borough academies on how a school is run, such as, relationships between Assistant Principals and teachers, relationships between Assistant Principals and Guidance Personnel and Principal will be taught in each borough academy.

Health insurance coverage for children up until the age of 29 was signed into law by the Governor. Parents would pay group policy rates.

Since there are over 900 public authorities, the State Assembly and State Senate passed legislation for an Independent Budget Office to be formed at the state level to look into public authorities' budgets (such as the MTA) and to come out with reports.

Any public authority contract of \$1 million falls within the purview of the Comptroller of the State of New York to look into it. Additionally, if public authorities use lobbyists, their names must be listed.

More challenges in Albany that need to be addressed concern the MTA's five year budget plan to pass through the State Legislature and the Governor's Office before it's rubber stamped, and budget items should be listed on a public web site including where the item is located, how much is budgeted, and is it over-budgeted?

Next, Randy J. LaFargue, representing Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum's Office, cited recognition for the good work done by the Community Board. The Public Advocate looks forward to working with the Board to improve the quality of life within the Board area and the borough.

Next, Mr. George Onuorah, representing Council Member Helen Sears, reported it is both an honor and privilege working with Council Member Sears and the Community Board toward the betterment of our community, improving the quality of life, making a better life for our children, and living together more harmoniously.

Mr. Onuorah reported on Saturday, August 29, Council Member Helen Sears in conjunction with Elmhurst Hospital sponsored a Health Fair at St. Paul The Apostle RC Church, which was very successful and productive. Board Member Stephen Castro, Chair of the Wellness Committee, was thanked for his untiring efforts. Vision screening, glucose monitoring, and hearing testing was conducted,

For the record, Mr. Onuorah said the antiquated bus shelter on Junction Blvd. between 56th and 57th Avenues needs to be rehabilitated.

XII. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Luis Enrique spoke about H1N1 Influenza and its devastating effects world-wide. A kit is available for prevention. The kit is called the Influenza Education And Prevention Kit, and a press conference is scheduled for September 3. A kick-off Health & Wellness Initiative is planned for September 12. Mr. Lugo urged the Community Board to hold an outreach event related to the flu season.

Health Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow needs to be consulted regarding community outreach.

At this point, the Chair asked, Does anyone else from the Public wish to speak ? There were no other speakers.

The Chair asked, Do I hear a motion to adjourn?

There being no further business Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D'Andrea, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.