



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst and Newtown

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Helen Marshall
Borough President

Anthony R. Moreno
Chairperson

Barry Grodenchik
Deputy Borough President
Director of Community Boards

Richard Italiano
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 01, 2011

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: VFW POST 150
51-11 108 STREET
CORONA, NY 11368

I. Chairperson Anthony Moreno opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. District Manager Richard Italiano took the attendance. A quorum was **not** present. Since a quorum was not attained, the October 11 minutes could not be voted on. Instead, the Chairperson moved to the Report of the Legislators with the expectation a quorum made as the meeting progressed.

IV. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Ms. Yoselin Genao, Chief of Staff, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras reported a street renaming will be held in honor of the first Italian that settled in America in 1635, *Pietro Cesare Alberti Way*, Saturday, November 5, 2011, 12 PM, at the intersection of Corona Avenue and 104th Street, Corona, NY. Special thank to Mr. James Lisa for his help and support. All are invited to attend.

More Upcoming Events From Council Member Ferreras' Office:

November 9, 2011 – An anti-gang presentation, in conjunction with NYPD, DYCD, and the Dept. of Education, will be held at the Pan American High School for parents, students, and community leaders.

November 10, 2011 – at Elmhurst Hospital, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 Noon, a Domestic Violence Forum will be held. Representatives from the District Attorney's office and various community organizations will be in attendance. The Council Member serves as the Chair of the Women's Issues Committee. Serving in this capacity, she had spearheaded a plan to combat domestic violence. This is an opportunity to serve as a bridge to help each other, our neighbors and community.

Next, Carolyn Tran, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm, reported the Council Member supports the Occupy Wall Street demonstrations. Taxing individuals earning \$699,000 or more an added one/two per cent would prevent a budget crisis.

At this point, more upcoming events were announced by Ms. Tran.

Next, Mr. Bruce Eiber, representing Council Member Karen Koslowitz, reported for all residents who live in the Council Member's council district there is a free night of landlord tenant advice. An experienced attorney, who is proficient in landlord/tenant issues, is available to provide information. Call the office at 718-544-8800 and make an appointment. Generally, the attorney is available on Tuesday nights at the Council Member Koslowitz's office.

Next, Ms. Ari Espinal, representing Assembly Member Francisco Moya's office, announced the mobile office on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Dominico American Society and a community cleanup is planned with the Corona Lions. She thanked everyone who helped at the job fair. Special thanks were extended to Mrs. Pat Terranova and the Corona Lions and Mr. Jim Lisa.

From Senator Peralta's office, a staff member is now available to address community concerns. She will attend the next CB 4 meeting and introduce herself.

At this point, a quorum was present (7:50 p.m.) and a vote on the minutes of October 11, 2011, was taken.

Mr. Nick Pennachio made a motion, seconded by Ms. Myrna Littlewort, to **accept** the minutes.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Anthony Moreno announced the Elmhurst Library will close on November 7. This branch is being torn down to make way for a new showcase library. It is the second most used library facility in all of Queens. Moving forward, the community is very grateful.

At this point, Mr. Tom McKenzie brought up re-naming Ketcham Street for Mr. Steven Trimboli. A brief discussion ensued. Mrs. Catherine Moore mentioned the City Council had turned down the request. The Chairperson had advised Mr. McKenzie to present this issue under the Environmental Committee report.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Richard Italiano read correspondence from Borough President Helen Marshall, FEMA had extended the deadline for applications. Qualified residents and businesses in Queens that suffered from Hurricane Irene can apply for aid over the next six weeks. The new deadline is December 15. Applicants can log on to www.DisasterAssistance.gov or call 1-800-621-3362 to register.

Next, from the Department of Transportation regarding the Board's request they investigate the feasibility of changing the direction of traffic flow on Lamont Avenue between Gleane Street and 41st Avenue from two-way operation to one-way operation northbound in Elmhurst. DOT agreed that a conversion to one-way operation northbound for Lamont Avenue between Gleane Street and 41st Avenue would improve safety for pedestrian and motorists and alleviate congestion in the area. The narrow roadway, coupled with parking on both sides of the street, makes it very difficult for two opposing vehicles to pass each other. Field visits indicate that Lamont Avenue between 43rd Avenue and Gleane Street is already operating as a one-way northbound street.

Since the Department of Transportation had already approved this change, Community Board approval is now needed.

Discussion ensued. District Manager inquired if a Public Hearing should be held. The Board agreed to a Public Hearing in January, 2012, since no deadline was given by DOT to implement this change.

Next, a notification was received from L.K. Comstock & Company of a street closure for construction:

Warren Street between Roosevelt Avenue and 40th Road
On Monday, October 31, 2011 through November 11, 2011.

Next, District Manager Richard Italiano had attended a community forum at the LeFrak Library last night. Also attending were Mr. Louis Walker, Ms. Priscilla Carrow and Mr. George Onuorah. It was an excellent forum, very well attended, and will be held the fourth Monday of each month. Last night's forum was dedicated to the Community Boards. Each month the dedication will be devoted to a different honoree, for example, next month the dedication will be to a council member.

VII. NYC PUBLIC ADVOCATE
“Consensus for Reform”
A Plan For Collaborative Reform

The guest speaker was not in attendance.

VIII. TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Joseph DiMartino reported staff member Shirley Medina-Chatel had resigned her position at the Board office on September 23.

The District Manager commented with her resignation, approximately \$22,000 was left on her salary line for this fiscal year. Unfortunately, the Mayor imposed another agency cut and part of that money was set aside to meet this budget cut, if the Boards are, indeed, included in the round of cuts.

Treasurer DiMartino added a hiring freeze had been imposed on all city agencies.

At this point, Board Member Clara Salas said a donation for Shirley Medina-Chatel will be taken at this meeting. Serving as a staff member for 9 ½ years, she was an excellent worker. With the money collected, a gift check/card will be sent to her.

Next, Chairperson Moreno reported the remaining \$16,000 if not used in salaries must be returned to the City treasury. Therefore, the Executive Committee met and decided those dollars, with some set aside, would be allocated to the District Manager and staff of Community Board 4. Salary increases were based on a percentage of the staff's present salary to the Board's budget.

IX. PUBLIC SAFETY

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met on Tuesday, October 25, at the Community Board office.

NEW APPLICANTS

ESTABLISHMENT NAME ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Cavico Corp. DBA Sabor Deportivo Restaurant Wine and Beer Only	40-30 National Street Corona, NY	Approved.
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ESTABLISHMENT NAME ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Tradiciones Latinas Corp. Restaurant Wine	85-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Denied. No C of O.
Blue Bird Rest. Lounge Corp. On Premises Liquor	79-21 Queens Boulevard Elmhurst, NY	Approved.
El Madrono Corp. Wine and Beer Only	102-06 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Approved.
Priama Inc. DBA Club Glazz Liquor,Wine,Beer	79-51 Albion Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

Sweet Yummy House Inc. Restaurant Wine	83-13 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Cositas Ricas Ecuatorianans Corp. Db a El Pequeno Coffee Shop	86-10 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied History of problems. Numerous fights. ABC Violations. Patrons Hitting each other with Pool sticks. Sale to underage Minors.

At this point, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the CERT Team was in attendance at the St. Leo’s Fair, which was very successful. Special Thank You extended to Mrs. Pat Terranova.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Ms. Clara Salas, to **accept** the Committee’s report as presented.

By a voiced vote, the Board voted 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

X. ULURP & ZONING

1. Discussion BSA 31-10BZ

Chairperson Anthony Moreno explained Council Member Daniel Halloran wrote to all the Community Boards informing them the BSA had more power than they needed. Important issues brought before the BSA affecting our community were approved over the Community Board’s objection.

Since this is happening too often, we will send the BSA the first notice of our intentions. They will meet and if they are not in agreement with the Community Boards, the BSA must come back to us. We will have to repeat the process a second time, except the BSA will not have the ability on its first vote to do what the Community Board initially objected to.

We want to save our communities and not give it up to central Boards.

A vote will be taken tonight on this legislation.

Committee Chair Levenson reported for further review, the legislation is enclosed with the Meeting Notice. Additionally, the Pi building on Queens Blvd. will be all retail, no apartments. However, additional parking is being sought by the developer.

The District Manager added the building had been considerably scaled down than initially proposed and now a parking waiver is being sought.

The ULURP Committee voted to accept the BSA application.

Mrs. Levenson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nick Pennachio, to **accept** the BSA application.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Next, Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Miriam Levenson, to accept the Intros. As presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

XI. PRESENTATIONS

Korean Community Services

Queens Smoke Free Partnership

This was a dual presentation given by Ms. Christina Choi and Binh Luu. KCS has been a longtime supporter of smoke free activities in the New York City area, with a particular focus on youth in fighting the tobacco industry. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventative death in the United States. According to a community health survey done in 2009, 20,000 New York City high school students smoke. In Queens, 5,000 high school students smoke.

According to research, 90% of smokers start before age 18. It is vital to reach out to the youth before they form habits that cannot be broken. 35% of teens who visit neighborhood convenience stores are exposed to tobacco ads on a daily basis.

Partnership in fighting against tobacco industry marketing and product placement designed to get kids addicted to tobacco. The tobacco industry spends \$1.1 million per day to market its products in stores.

The Board was briefed on two important events organized by Korean Community Services. Details were provided.

The impact of smoking was given to the youth and demonstrations and workshops given on how smoking can affect health.

Solutions include:

1. Decrease tobacco marketing in stores.
2. Limit selling tobacco products around schools.

To get the word out on its campaign, the Queens Smoke Free Partnership has been meeting with Community Boards throughout the borough. Community Board members were asked to reach out to elected officials, community organizations, city agencies, and local leaders to inform them on how to best make an impact on the community.

More outreach events were mentioned.

At this point, Board member Ms. Gigi Salvador was personally presented with the Queens Borough President's 10-year Community Service Award. A round of applause was given to Ms. Salvador. Photographs were taken to commemorate this event.

Ms. Salvador thanked the Community Board 4 for giving her the opportunity to work in the community. She enjoys working in the community and hoped to make a difference.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Chairperson Anthony Moreno informed the Board St. Leo's Church is honoring Mr. Caminiti's 100th Birthday Party. It will be held December 3 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Offerings are \$25.00 per person. See Mrs. Roseann Geiger for more information.

Health

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Youth

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported she had attended the CEC24, Tuesday, October 25, 2011 Calendar Meeting. Place: PS 58, School of Heroes, 72-24 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY.

Time: 6pm to 9 pm

The Community Superintendent Madelene Chan, together with the Department of Portfolio Planning presented the CEC24 with a proposal of the PS/IS 49 zoning changes.

Over 150 residents and parents filled the auditorium of PS58. As stated in "The Forum Newsgroup" of October 27, 2011 by Jean-Paul Salamanca, reporter.

"...CEC24 meeting was dominated by complaints from angry parents who argued that the proposed plan to send students living in certain areas of the PS 49 district to other schools was huge mistake. The proposed redistricting plan-introduced last month by the DOE Office of Portfolio Management as a means to alleviate overcrowding at PS/IS49-would mean that the northern and southern section of PS/IS 4's enrollment zone would become zone for other schools."

"PS/IS 49 currently have 1,063 students enrolled, but have the capacity for only 802 students. PS 58, meanwhile has 998 students and a capacity of 1, 034 children, while PS/IS 87 have 554 students, and can accommodate 585 students."

"A vote on the redistricting plan was originally scheduled on Tuesday, calls from upset parents and a petition containing approximately 400 signatures opposing the changes to PS/IS 49 - launched last month - forced officials to change the date of the voting to November 22, 2011."

The following are the complaints of very angry parents affected by this proposed rezoning:

PS/IS 49 is overcrowded because of falsified paperwork. DOE does not enforces the residency requirements, thus students that do not legally live in the area attend the school.

Parents who bought houses in the area and that live close to PS/IS 49, are finding out now that their children might have to go to another school district.

In the second part of the meeting, Community Superintendent Taub- Chang gave power point presentation on the Contracts for Excellence and Supporting College and Career Readiness: Moving to the Common Core Standards in NYC. For information and a copy go to www.nyc.gov , Department of Education.

(2) Ms. Salas reminded those registered of the UFT Parent Education Conference, Saturday, November 5, 2011 at the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel.

Postal

No Report.

Environmental

Committee Chair Tom McKenzie reported:

1. A meeting of the Environmental Committee was held and no Committee members attended. He had asked members to RSVP, but no one did.
2. Mr. McKenzie asked each Board member to let him know at the next meeting the dirtiest place they see in their neighborhood. As an example, the worst cable crowding on the street. Cable companies leave their wires all over. He mentioned a pile of wires on Alstyn Avenue.

Mr. McKenzie also mentioned the phone company that removes a line and wraps it around a tree or a pole.

Next, Mr. McKenzie reported on the LIRR. For twenty years, he had complained about the Broadway overpass, with water leaking down and freezing on the sidewalk. Nothing was done. He reported on a high tower stanchion and expressed concern it may fall and kill someone. More details were provided.

Next, he reported on neighborhood billboards, one in particular was on Queens Blvd. and Barnwell Avenue, Another one was removed on Broadway off Dongan Avenue, which was put up illegally. Those billboards earn \$2,000/month for each sign. Most of them on Queens Blvd. were put up illegally. The City Council allowed them to become legal, but no one paid the back taxes on them, pointing out home taxes rose 120% in ten years.

Next, Mr. McKenzie reported in 1970 there were “x” number of people residing in New York City. In 2010, there is the same number of people. Yet in Corona and Elmhurst, we now have 59 ½% more people than in 1970. Did other Board areas lose people? Are we getting more services than other Board areas? More information was provided on why this increase and why the influx of people to the area. Have we gotten commensurate services to address the population increase, he questioned.

Before concluding, Mr. McKenzie brought up the Willets Point project. He mentioned the sewage aspect, which should be finished by 2013. Details were provided.

Regarding the Steven Trimboli street renaming, Mr. McKenzie wanted to know, before a motion is made, the reasons why the City Council thought he should not be honored.

The District Manager said he would investigate, but expressed uncertainty because it was a long time ago.

Consumer Affairs

Consumer Affairs Committee Chair George Onuorah reported the Committee met on October 28.

He reported on the Inspection of the Food Bazaar:

The store manager was approached before the store inspection. He joined the Committee on the walk-through inspection.

The tour focused on key areas such as staking of items on the store shelves, the aisle space, produce, dairy, and expiration of food items. Some food items had expired. Smorpak marshmallow had expired on 9/22/11, but remained on the shelf. The manager collected the expired food items and put them in a shopping cart. More expired food items turned up. All were immediately removed by the store manager.

Also, Mr. Onuorah noted the ethnicity of the store's employees were of one particular group.

Questions about discounts for senior citizens were raised to the store manager. He assured Mr. Onuorah discount days are posted giving seniors a 10% discount on certain days.

The Committee will tour the other Food Bazaar on 57th Avenue and 98th Street by Lefrak City on November 17, the next meeting date of the Committee.

Regarding Western Beef opening in Lefrak City, it is still a rumor.

This concluded Mr. Onuorah's report.

At this point, Mr. Tom McKenzie pointed out the inequities in pricing of prescription drugs in other areas compared to our area. Prices in our community were more than prices in other neighborhoods.

Mr. Onuorah responded at times there are two sets of standards. One set for one community; another set for another community. He will investigate further.

Ms. Beth Anna Moon Ray Ferguson brought up pricing by zip code. Case in point she mentioned calling the oil company, receiving a price for the neighborhood she lived in, then having a relative call to receive a price for another neighborhood. Corona pricing was always higher. Based on where you live, you are paying more for your oil, she noted. It is a serious problem and needs to be addressed. Residents are being short changed, especially seniors.

Secondly, there are numerous stores between Lefrak City and Corona selling liquor and cigarettes to underage minors without identification. This also needs to be addressed.

Ms. Ferguson mentioned *Black*, looks like a small cigarette but is a drug, sold behind the counter. The youth know about it, but parents don't. This issue also needs further investigation.

Discussion ensued on the disparity in pricing for different areas.

Transportation

Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino invited all to attend the street re-naming on Saturday, November 5, at 104th Street and Corona Avenue.

Explaining we are not changing anything, Mr. Jim Lisa reported we are putting the name back on the street. 104th Street is Alburdis Avenue and the 103rd Street train station is also known as Alburdis train station. Alburdis is the Latin spelling of *Alberti*.

XIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Ms. Julissa Rodriguez, a student at John Jay College, asked in terms of the ethnicity of the employees at the Food Bazaar, what the manager had said.

Mr. Onuorah responded it is an on-going conversation.

Were there any undocumented aliens working there, Ms. Rodriguez inquired.

Mr. Onuorah replied no. Some of the employees were youths going back to school.

Next, Ms. Emmy Wang, Citizens Committee for NYC, a non-profit, which had received grant funds for community groups for community improvement projects. The organization is seeking groups that are grassroots. Non-profit or 501c3 is not needed. Block associations, tenant associations, or groups of neighbors coming together for the first time to work on creative community projects can apply.

Applications are due by January 31, 2012.

Eligible groups can receive a grant of \$500 to \$3,000 for any community improvement project. Gardening, tenant advocacy, youth workshops, etc. are just a few examples of community projects. An application session will be held December 8 at Queens Borough Hall.

Flyers were distributed with more information.

Mrs. Pat Terranova asked about the criteria on behalf of the Corona Lions of Corona, which was rejected.

Ms. Wang said it is a fairly competitive process. Last year, 175 grants were given from 400 applicants.

Discussion ensued.

Questions arose who decides the recipients of the grant, how many people are on staff at the organization and are they Queens based residents.

Discussion ensued.

Before the meeting concluded, Mr. Tom McKenzie announced:

- November 11 – The Elmhurst Memorial League is honoring the veterans. A 15 piece band, free lunch, concerts is planned. He urged all to attend, but let him know first if you are planning on attending.
- The Elmhurst Memorial League donated \$1800 to veterans groups—one in Elmhurst, and one in Corona.
- Out of \$1800, money was given to the Humane Society and ASPCA and Dog Rescue of Queens.
- The Chancellor of the Board of Education had been notified that every public school in Elmhurst, the 11373 zip code, can receive up to \$500. Vendors will be paid for any equipment for students. The Chancellor was asked to notify the schools and contact Mr. McKenzie.

There being no further business, Mr. Nick Pennachio made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Miriam Levenson, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.