



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Melinda Katz
Borough President

Damian Vargas
Chairperson

Melva Miller
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

April 10, 2018

COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Damian Vargas
Karin Abreu
Priscilla Carrow
Giancarlo Castano
Chair-Chung Chen
Lynda Coral
Erica Cruz
Marialena Giampino
Ingrid Gomez
Kristin Gonzalez
Peter Manganaro
Patricia Martin
Matthew McElroy
Rovenia McGowan
Edgar Moya
Ruby Muhammad
Sandra Munoz
Gurdip Singh Narula

Georgina Oliver
Alexandra Owens
Alexa Ponce
Ashley Reed
Oscar Rios
Neil Roman
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Lucy Schilero
A. Redd Sevilla
Malikah Shabazz
Alton Derrick Smith
Gregory Spock
Marcello Testa
Vivian Tseng
Louis Walker
Rosa Wong
Minwen Yang

Board Members Absent:

Lucy Cerezo Scully
Judy D'Andrea
Jennifer Gutierrez
James Lisa
Salvatore Lombardo
Albert Perna

Gigi Salvador
Dewan Tarek
Lester Youngblood

ATTENDING

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager
Christian Long, CB4 Community Assistant
Council Member Francisco Moya
Ari Espinal
Joe Nocerino, Queens Borough President's Office
William Giron, NYC Comptroller's Office
Louise Emanuel, Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry's Office
David Burgoa, Senator Jose Peralta's Office
Barbara Jackson, U. S. Rep. Joseph Crowley's Office
Larry Gallegos, U. S. Rep. Joseph Crowley's Office
Stacy Eliuk, Public Advocate Letitia James' Office
Janice Melnick, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
Meira Berkower, Director of Planning for Queens Parks
Michael Mullaley, Partnership for Parks
Marta Lebreton, Community Board 3Q
Mario Matos, Maspeth High School
Lesvia Mendez, Catholic Migration Services
John Wang, Queens Night Market
David Stern
Ben Plaut, Bike New York
Patricia Chou, Queens Neighborhoods United
Carina Kaufman-Gutierrez, Queens Neighborhoods United
Anthony Tellez
Robert Grant
Ernestine McKayle
Mindy Ziegler Stern
Michelle Dunston, Tenant Association
Jimmy Apostolates
Debra Hargrove
Mike Liquori, Commander, VFW Post #150
Librada Reyes, Mujeres en Movimiento
Claudia Yac, Mujeres en Movimiento
C. Gonzales, Mujeres en Movimiento
Olga Ramirez, Mujeres en Movimiento
Veronica Raza, Mujeres en Movimiento
Ingrid Garcia, Mujeres en Movimiento
Gerald Burroughs X
Yixih Chen
Jessica Ramos
Jorge Rodriguez
Zuleyma Pena
Jessenia Burgos, Jackson 79 Corp.
Linda Turstun

PUBLIC SPEAKER'S LIST

Lesvia G. Mendez, Catholic Migration Services
Ben Plaut, Bike New York
John Wang, Queens Night Market
Ellen Shugrue, Elmhurst Neighbors
Patricia Chou/Carina Kaufman- Gutierrez. Queens Neighborhoods Unit

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

I. Chairperson Damian Vargas opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. Executive Secretary Marialena Giampino took the roll call. A quorum was present.

IV. VOTE ON THE MINUTES – March 13, 2018

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Clara Salas, to approve the minutes.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 36 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Damian Vargas thanked the Board members for their patience at last month's Board meeting. Since it was not the easiest of the Board meetings, all were recognized for their diligence at the March 13 Community Board meeting.

Moving forward, the five new Board members were introduced. They are:

- Karin Abreu
- Kristin Gonzalez
- Matthew McElroy
- Alexandra Owens
- Dewan Tarek

At this point, he announced the following four Board members had left:

- Debra Clayton
- Maria Damico
- Safat Chowdhury
- Winnie Oo

Currently, there are a total of 45 members serving on the Board.

Also, he announced there is one public member assigned to the Youth Committee who is Sylvia Martin, who was not present at tonight's Board meeting.

Next, he reported Board Member Erica Cruz does not wish to remain as Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee. Therefore, a new Committee Chair is needed. If any Board Member is interested in the Committee assignment, please contact the Board Chairperson. Speaking to the new Board Members, it is Board policy that a Board member must serve on the Board for one year before he/she can become a Committee Chair.

Subsequently, he reported very soon committee assignments will be initiated, usually occurring at the June Community Board meeting. Forms will be passed out with the committees available. Pick the top three you would like to serve on and you will be accommodated as best as possible. He suggested new Board members attend upcoming committee meetings to see what committees would be of interest to them.

Next, he reported livestreaming the Board meetings had ceased. Funding was only temporary and had ended. Council Members Daniel Dromm and Julissa Ferreras-Copeland had shared the expense of the livestreaming for the Community Board meeting. The Board office had reached out to both our Council Members Daniel Dromm and Francisco Moya inquiring if the livestreaming can be reinstated. Moreover, he spoke about a Bill that was introduced in 2014 requiring all Community Board meetings be webcast. In a Board letter to both Council Members Dromm and Moya, the Board inquired if the 2014 Bill can be moved forward and/or funding allocated.

Next, he spoke about the Clear Curbs Initiative on Roosevelt Avenue. This Initiative is to ease congestion on certain parts of Roosevelt Avenue from Broadway to 90th Street. From 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., there are no deliveries, no parking, and no standing on either side of Roosevelt Avenue. The District Manager made it clear to the Queens Borough Commissioner and the NYC DOT the Board was not in favor of this Initiative. We were not informed and when we were, it was already being implemented. No community feedback was given by the businesses or the residents, who were unhappy about this plan. A letter was sent by the Board office to the Mayor, NYC DOT Queens Borough Commissioner and other top elected officials if this plan is necessary and/or what else can be done. The Board was told when the plan was already in the works, reiterated Chair Vargas.

Next, he spoke about the traffic changes made on 111 Street. This was a temporary measure as more studies were to be done. Going on close to a year, no review was done or response received. The Board is asking for an immediate follow up. Board letters were sent to the Mayor, the NYC Department of Transportation Borough Commissioner and other top elected officials for an immediate response. NYC Department of Transportation had been asked to meet with the Board to sit down and discuss community concerns.

Subsequently, he spoke about the Board's vote on the proposed rezoning at 40-31 82 Street. The Board voted no on the application and a letter from the Board was sent to the City Planning Commission citing concerns the community had in regard to affordable housing, which is not affordable to the community, a threat to small businesses, and congestion. The application now moves to the Queens Borough President's office.

In conclusion, he reported a meeting of the Executive Committee is tentatively planned for April 25, at 6:30 p.m.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Christian Cassagnol welcomed the new members and reported many of the issues he had planned to speak about were brought up by the Board Chair. He highlighted some of the issue:

He did a walk thru with the 82 Street Partnerships with the NYC DOT Commissioner Nicole Garcia as well as her Deputy Borough Commission Janson Banray. Businesses on both the north and south side of Roosevelt Avenue to gain input from the local businesses about the clear curb initiative. After visiting the second business, the tour stopped. The general consensus was that the businesses do not like the initiative. Besides establishments receiving summonses, there is an aggressive towing operation that is occurring along Roosevelt Avenue. The struggle on Roosevelt Avenue is real, guys, District Manager Cassagnol reported.

He mentioned he has a New York City parking placard and he also received a summons. He wasn't even in a no-standing zone but at a standard location where he would have normally parked.

Next, he mentioned Community Board 4's Youth Fair planned for October 2018. Speaking about the committees, he is currently working with the Environmental Committee for April 22 to open the community gardens to the local public. Unfortunately, the Corona Taxpayers Garden is out of commission. Sparrows Nest is the one we are working with. The good news is that the Environmental Committee met earlier this month and a new community garden will be coming our way very soon, "Salud en Movimiento" at 55-25 Van Cleef Street.

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

Lesvia Mendez, a volunteer with Catholic Migration Services, invited the Board and the public to attend a Queens Town Hall: Right To Counsel meeting. Tenants in NYC won a new right to a free lawyer when facing evictions. The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's Church, 44-15 Judge Street, Elmhurst, NY. Flyers were on the back table.

Second, Ben Plaut, Bike New York or aka the Five Borough Bike Tour spoke about an event planned for May 6. Although it does not pass through Community Board 4, it will travel through Astoria and Long Island City. Classes are also taught on how to ride a bike for children and adults. Classes are taught for safety and confidently on bike riding to get to work or for fun. Classes are taught in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Multiple classes are available during the year. They can also be invited to events. All programming and events are free. Flyers were on the back table.

Third, John Wang, Queens Night Market, reported opening day is April 21. Ticketing is for the first two nights to alleviate congestion. Twenty percent of the proceeds will be donated to charity. Chairing the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Community Advisory Board, a meeting was held three weeks and based on the Open House; recommendations were given to the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Alliance. Also, he reported he is a member of the Queens Solid Waste Advisory Board, which advises on building codes, recycling. Let Mr. Wang know if you are interested in joining. Further, District Manager Christian Cassagnol was given a copy of the letter about the Queens Solid Waste Advisory Board.

Fourth, Ms. Shugrue, representing neighbors in Elmhurst, wanted to express their opinion about the owners of Island Seafood at 79-21 Queens Blvd. The owners cannot be trusted and should not be given a liquor license. Since its recent opening, which is about a month, there was an assault. On Wednesday, April 4, a dis-satisfied employee tried to burn the restaurant down. The perp. entered with a gas can and splashed gasoline all around the establishment and tried to burn the place down.

Following, she spoke about this establishment's past history. Before the current establishment opened, it was called The Hive. Ms. Shugrue was unclear if it was the same owner, but it was a terrible establishment with many community complaints. Neighbors do not want a repeat of what was there before. At this point, she read a letter to the Board about what The Hive was like where the quality of life was increasing intolerable because of this establishment. She noted deplorable conditions in the neighborhood with loud music playing all day long. Screaming and yelling of The Hive clientele which was outrageous during closing time between 4:00 a.m./5:00 a.m. This was due to intoxication. Young people were also seen urinating on the neighbors' private property.

Before The Hive occupied the premises, the Exotic Lounge was a business on the premises and the same problems existed. Again, it was unclear if it was the same owner. Neighbors could not sleep or were afraid to venture out at night four days out of seven.

It was also noted on November, 2014 a woman was murdered leaving The Hive. Surrounding neighbors are fearful Island Seafood will bring in the same problems to the neighborhood again.

At this point, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla brought up he lives a few blocks from this building and this is the best scenario for this building in the past seven years. It is a different owner (Timothy) from The Hive. He related he and his wife had lunch there and it was a pleasant experience. He also noted the owner was very approachable and it is a different clientele served. It was his recommendation to go there and have lunch, meet the owner, and to work together to have this business become a great establishment.

Fifth Patricia Chou and Carina Kaufman-Gutierrez, Queens Neighborhoods United, spoke about 40-31 82 Street. As a follow-up to the March 13 Community Board meeting, an update was given on two strategies:

Strategy for the lot includes working within the ULURP process the next step is the advisory role from the Queens Borough President Melinda Katz. A hearing will be held later this month and all were encouraged to attend. Send a petition or call her office to let her know that this process is being followed to the end. Additionally, Queens Neighborhoods United has held outreach in front of the development almost every weekend (Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) and speaking to small business owners. The consensus is that people are interested in stopping this development.

Also, working toward a larger envisioning process is the second strategy which will help the conversations throughout the ULURP process starting with an envisioning session which will be held in collaboration with the Community Development Corporation on Monday, April 16, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center. Flyers were available on the back table. All were urged to attend.

Before concluding, upcoming events were also mentioned.

Following this presentation, the floor was turned over to 110 Precinct P. O. Dave Saponieri who reported Capt. Ventre could not attend tonight's Board meeting due a Comp. Stat. meeting on the same night. If there are any questions, please give them to P. O. Saponieri who will bring them back to Capt. Ventre. As a reminder, Thursday, April 12, at 7:00 p.m., at Italian Charities of America, 83-20 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst, NY, at 7:00 p.m. the 110 Precinct Community Council will be held. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to attend.

VIII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Chair Vargas called on the following legislators/representatives for reports:

Congressman Joseph Crowley

Larry Gallegor reported if there are any questions or concerns; please reach out to Congressman's Crowley's office. They are there to help.

At this point, Board Member Lucy Schilero asked both Congressman Crowley and Congresswoman Meng to get the circulation of the mail back at the College Point facility. This is a must and explained during the holidays, residents waited for two weeks to delivery. Important documents were not delivered to residents in a timely manner. Although some mail deliveries were upgraded, mail is being delivered between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. each day. Complaints have initiated from all neighborhoods in Queens on mail delivery. A push is also needed for the security mailboxes to prevent mail theft. Both elected officials need to collaborate and move forward on those measures.

Congresswoman Grace Meng

Board Member Cristian Romero reported Congresswoman Grace Meng, Congressman Joseph Crowley, and Congressman Gregory Meeks, have been working very hard with the United States Postal Service on those issues. If anyone has any personal issues such as mis-delivery please contact the Congresswoman's office.

State Senator Michael Gianaris
No Report.

State Senator Jose Peralta

Next, David Burgoa welcomed the new Board members and reported the IDC went back to the main line Democrats which included Senator Peralta. Work needs to be done to get all in the majority in the NYS Senate to change leadership and continue with passing a progressive legislative agenda.

Additionally, he announced a Health Insurance and General Legal Update event on Sunday, April 15, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at Elmhurst Hospital—Conference Room, centered on the impact of the new Trump policies on DACA and health insurance. An attorney will be present. Call the Senator's office to make an appointment. A lawyer is based in the Senator's office every Tuesday for Immigration matters and an attorney for Housing matters can be seen on Fridays.

State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky
No Report

State Assembly Member Brian Barnwell
No Report

State Assembly Member Michael Den Dekker
No Report

Council Member Daniel Dromm
No Report

Council Member Francisco Moya
No Report

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

William Giron announced NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, in partnership with State Senator Michael Gianaris, Assembly Member Aravella Simotas, and Council Member Costa Constantinides, is hosting a Greek Community Breakfast honoring Rev. Fr. George Anastasiou, on Friday, April 27, 2018, of the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church. Doors open at 8:30 a.m., Breakfast from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., at the Stathakion Cultural Center, 22-51 29 Street, Astoria, NY. Flyers were on hand.

Public Advocate Letitia James

Stacy Eliuk reported today is Equal Pay Day. One of the priorities of the Public Advocate is to narrow the wage gap. A report was released by the Public Advocate's office not only looking at private sector industries but also looking at public sector as well, which is any agency under the purview of the City of New York. With certain titles between men and women, the pay held steady. In general women, even in city agencies, overwhelmingly held lower paying jobs, noting there were massive problems with the retention and promotion of women within city agencies. A number of recommendations were issued including keeping an active roster on the demographics of those working within city agencies and use this as a follow up to the report that was issued a year ago that detailed that women in the city earn \$5.8 billion less than men on average every year.

Also, she reported on AFSCME vs. Janus an important case coming before the Supreme Court which a ruling against AFSCME would set a national precedence that could bring unions to its knees financially. A forum was held to bring union leaders together to talk about what the impact would be in New York. The Public Advocate has always stood strong with unions. She mentioned the striking Spectrum workers who have been without a contract for over a year. The new Board members were welcomed.

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

Joe Nocerino read a statement from Borough President Melinda Katz would like to welcome all the new members to the Board and would like to thank all the returning members. Community Boards are the eyes and ears of our diverse neighborhoods and play a vital role in shaping the borough. Serving on the Board is not easy, but it is rewarding and your commitment and dedication are to be commended. For those on the Board for the first time, look to your fellow Board members for guidance and history. For those of you who have served on the Board for several years listen with an open mind to the ideas of the new members and work together because we all want the same thing. More of this statement was read into the record.

The swearing in ceremony for new and renewing members is April 26 at 5:30 p.m., at Queens Borough Hall. Refreshments will be served.

Board Member Lucy Schilero brought up her organization CURSC had been asking for years to have a contingency At Flushing Meadows-Corona Park either a satellite or a mobile unit. The Queens Borough President had found the funds to get a mobile unit in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

Borough President Melinda Katz was thanked for her commitment.

Board Member A. Redd Sevilla brought up if a conversation was had with the Queens Borough President regarding the vote for 40-31 82 Street Rezoning.

Joe Nocerino replied yes. He is here to listen to what's on everyone's mind and bring it back to Borough President Katz, who is open to understanding that there is a concern. She has been working with her Land Use and Economic Development departments on this matter. He announced an upcoming Public Hearing. The Borough President was aware of the comments that were presented.

IX. SPEAKER: Janice Melnick, Administrator

Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Discussion of Capital Projects updates and upcoming events. Explanation of various roles of NYC Parks, Community Advisory Board and the Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

While the setup for the slide presentation was initiated, Janice Melnick explained she is the Administrator of Flushing Meadows-Corona Park working for the NYC Parks Department and she is also the Executive Director of the Alliance for Flushing Meadows (unpaid).

In past meetings, there were some questions and confusion about the role of the Parks Department vs. the role of the Alliance vs. the role of the Community Advisory Board. She was here to answer some of those questions.

No responsibility has been delegated to any other entity, said Janice Melnick. The Parks Department is responsible for cleaning it taking care of it, and is all inclusive. Primarily, the Alliance was formed to raise money for the Park. Several years ago, a vote was taken on the USTA expansion. Out of six Community Boards three voted to support the expansion if money was given toward amenities that would help the Park and three Boards said they would not support the expansion unless the USTA gave money to the Park. As a result, the USTA agreed to give \$350,000/year for the first three years followed by \$200,000 for the next twenty years to the Alliance to help support the Park for a total of 23 years. The Alliance is first and foremost a fund raising entity. As part of it, it was agreed a group of stakeholders of the Park was formed to give their voice on what should be done with the money raised for the Park, which is the primary function of the Community Advisory Board.

Next, she reported on staffing in the Park. Staffing is not enough, but there is five full-time administrative staff. A deputy administrator is on the maintenance staff and there are three supervisors starting tomorrow and a vacancy is being filled. Seventeen workers are on staff to clean and shovel snow etc. In addition, the Parks Department pays for seasonal staff, an additional supervisor on night crew (to keep the bathroom open late etc.). Also there is a crew chief who takes job participant workers out and five maintenance staff and one playground associate who are assigned to the Playground for All Children for the summer.

In addition, the Alliance has funded crew chiefs—this year three crew chiefs (last year two crew chiefs) additional seven maintenance staff and an additional playground associate who will split their time in the Park. A city service core member will also assist.

Event season is starting and a printout of the events for 2018 was on the back table. You can also see the events on the Parks Department and the Alliance websites. All events are free.

Every Tuesday morning during the summer months of July and August in the lawn area on 111 Street at 11:00 a.m. there is a children's program. Relying very heavily on volunteers, last year 5300 hours of work was done by volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Janice Melnick.

Subsequently, she spoke about upcoming events, obtaining permits, and improvements in the Park.

Last year, two trailer bathrooms were added. One was at the west side of Meadow Lake and the other in the core of the Park between the Unisphere and the Theatre. The Parks Department had paid for one bathroom and the Alliance paid for the other.

Next, she spoke about signage in the Park. Existing signs either don't get you where you want to go or misdirect you. Those signs were installed in the late 1970's or early 1980's. Funding was obtained by the City which the USTA gave \$5 million in capital dollars over the course of six years. OMB agreed to use that money to redesign and replace all of the Park's signs. RFP will be let shortly. A firm will come in and walk the Park to see where the signs are needed. Many meetings will be held, including meetings with the Community Board, and also scope and vision meeting sessions will be conducted. Input will be gathered to see what you would like to see with the signs.

At this point, the Board Members asked questions.

Meira Berkower, Director of Planning for Queens Parks, reported on projects in Community Board 4.

Roosevelt Avenue Entrance – enhancing the entrance near Citifield. Currently, it is in construction and expected to be completed end of summer 2018.

111 Street aka as the Henry Hudson Gate is currently in design to enhance the entrance. The design to be completed by end of April 2018. Slides were shown on the proposal. This will create an entrance at the main entrance.

This project will control circulation and make it more attractive. Gates will be installed at both ends, which will result in the ability to close the Park, reported Janice Melnick.

Design to be completed by end of April 2018 where it will go into the procurement process where it will go out to bid said Meira Berkower. She continued the NYS Pavilion is in the procurement process where it went out to bid. The project is for some restoration work of the towers, to light the towers, and the Tent of Tomorrow. Only two high bids were received. The contract will be relooked at and sent out to bid again. She was optimistic more contractors would respond.

The Fountain of the Fairs is also in the bid process--construction to start end of this year. This is the one closest to the Unisphere. The idea is to create a mist fountain. In this way, it draws people away from going into the Unisphere, where they should not be in that fountain. A rendering after construction was shown. The mist fountain can be turned off so that the area can be used for other activates, large events, entertainment added Ms. Melnick. In this way, it will have a multi-use. Construction to start end of this year.

Lastly, funding was received to install adult fitness equipment in the Park. A scope meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, 2018, 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. For more information, flyers were in the back.

X. SPEAKER: Michael Mullaley, Grants & Resource Development Manager

Partnership for Parks

Partnership for Parks is distributing a grant through Building Health Communities (NBHC), which is an initiative through New York City to build healthier and more vibrant communities across the five boroughs.

Mr. Mullaley, Grants Manager, Partnership for Parks, is a joint program of the NYC Parks Department and City Parks Foundation that puts on summer stage, free concerts and sports activities in the Park. They support New Yorkers who want to care for and build community around local parks and green spaces.

\$28,000 will be given to Corona and Flushing in neighborhoods in the Parks Build Healthy Communities Grant. Flyers were available. The Parks Build Healthy Communities Grant supports community groups and organizations with small grants up to \$5000 for projects, events, and programs in parks, playgrounds, community gardens, and street trees to improve community health and well-being in Corona, North Corona, Flushing, and East Flushing. It is not open to individuals: two or more people qualify; you do not have to be an established organization, to hold programs, events, and activities in the parks in Corona and Flushing. Some of the activities could be cultural festivals, fitness and music in the park, art, activities engaging seniors, youth, sports activities, and literacy events. These are all possibilities that engage people in community health and well-being. The money is coming through Building Healthy Communities, which is a mayoral initiative focusing on improving health and

Wellness in twelve neighborhoods throughout New York City. Deadline is May 1. Information sessions will be held, which are posted on the flyers. Upcoming informational sessions were mentioned. Translation will also be provided. Food will be provided.

A Board Member asked if an informational session can be held at the Lefrak City Library.

Mr. Mullaley responded he would be happy to help organize one.

At this point, Council Member Francisco Moya addressed the Board. Council Member Moya welcomed the new members and stated this is a wonderful opportunity to lend your voice and be the person to change the way you see community. Although Board members are on a volunteer basis, they make a world of difference. There are so many good things we can do when we stand together and united.

Council Member Moya spoke about initiatives in progress at the City Council.

Fair Fares is a new initiative that the Speaker and the Council collaborated to ensure services for the most vulnerable are provided in our society. Currently so many are underserved and living below the poverty line. The Federal government's poverty line which is under \$24,000 per year. As the fares rise, people cannot afford to go to work to buy a MetroCard. The City Council will provide money that those below the poverty line will be able to get discounted Metro Cards. So many people are struggling, he commented. With the partnership

with Riders Alliance, a campaign was built and a proposal started. The Council will ensure the Mayor does his part to acquire funding in this year's budget.

Next, he spoke about the high property taxes homeowners must pay. Relief is coming. \$400 rebates, not for only homeowners but also for co-op and condo owner, will also receive rebates. A commission at the City Council will be formed to start looking at the way property assessments are done, especially in our area. Assessments rise, but salaries remain the same. Our community pays higher property taxes than Park Slope and property value there is much higher. The annual income of those property owners are not the same and they pay less in taxes than Corona, E. Elmhurst, Elmhurst and Jackson Heights. Council Member Moya reported this is one of the initiatives he and other Queens Council members have placed in the budget for this year to bring property tax relief to homeowners. This is needed long term for our communities.

Next, as Community Board Members help and support is needed. Council Member Moya is fighting for the necessary resources. He is funding money for Community Board 4 through the Council budget to get our initiatives accomplished this year. \$20,000 has been allocated for Community Board 4 and its initiatives.

Since he is the Chair of Zoning and Franchising for the City Council. Many community projects are received for our communities on zoning issues. Since the average person does not know the difference between the various zoning designations, it is the responsibility of the Department of City Planning to make sure they put in their budget funding for a city planner assigned to Community Boards. When the re-zonings are received, Community Boards understand what it is. Experts should be here to guide Community Boards through the process because we all want to know what is happening in our community. Through conversations, the City Council has now pushed this item is included in this year's budget so that every Community Board will have a planner, which will bring much help and support to our neighborhoods.

Next, he spoke about downzoning. Finally, Council Member Moya was able to allocate money to do a study of south Corona. A designated group will look at areas like Corona, which is overdeveloped, to see how this area can be downzoned. It will take about a year, but the funding is in place. It will alleviate many problems the community has with overdevelopment. This is an opportunity for us to take back our community, which is critical for our growth.

Next, he spoke about Annual Median Incomes/AMI's and how affordable house is arrived at. AMI's are derived from incomes from the entire city, which does not include the local areas. Council Member Moya is proposing language that would exclude New York City. Westchester had done it in the 1990's. Communities can have the right income calculated for proposed housing projects. The Federal level must be involved and support this project, which can bring affordability to our communities when housing projects are proposed. Speaking about the 82 Street application, he stated this is a project that he inherited from his predecessor. There are two issues—the opposition to a Target coming in and the rezoning to build higher. Unfortunately, there is not much that can be done about the Target mall, which was done prior to his taking office in the City Council. It is difficult to get involved as Target's has already signed a lease agreement. The request from the developer was to building higher. He will talk to the developer and noted he has always been a proponent for affordable housing in our community, which we do not have and need. Both options proposed Option 1 and Option 2 are not good enough. We need 100% affordability in our community so that people want to live and stay here. So that people can afford to rent or buy into the incoming units. Conversations will be held with the developer, and he will report back to the Board with the findings. Listening is imperative. Part of these measures will prevent this happening again in the future. He commented the annual income for a family of three is \$34,000 annually, he noted.

Before concluding Council Member Moya reminded all to prepare their taxes. Free tax services are offered at the Council Member's office every Tuesdays and Thursdays at his office, as well as immigration services are offered.

At this point, Council Member Moya took questions from the Board.

**XI. REPORT & VOTE: Public Safety Committee
SLA Applications**

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Fire Department is asking the public to check their fire and carbon monoxide detectors more than twice a year. Also, to be sure all entrances/exits in your home are clear of bikes, boxes, shoes and all clutter.

She also asked to give her the address of any cast iron fire alarm boxes. Last year the boxes were being eliminated, and she wanted to stop it before it happens.

Next, she reported on an NCO meeting her and Karin Abreu had attended. The Police Department and United States Postal Service are working on the white-washing of personal checks. Call the Postal Inspector at 1-877-876-2455 if you encounter any problems with the mail. The 110 Precinct, as well other police precincts, is asking you file a report with the precincts too.

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero spoke about the Night Life law and how this law will affect night clubs and is trying to set up a meeting next month for more information.

She spoke about a law requiring the Police Department to give quarterly stats. on low crime arrests such as marijuana smoking. A raid by the Police Department on Cornish Avenue and Broadway was mentioned.

Chair Damian Vargas reported there has been a problem in the Corona Golf Park where people are smoking marijuana on the handball courts. He spoke to the NCO officers who replied they are actively issuing tickets. However, these youths are now moving into the bathrooms, but they are aware of the police. Eventually, those offending youths will be arrested.

At this point, Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero reported to use a Uniball 207 pen to prevent your checks from being white-washed. Or, use the finest point Sharpie permanent marker.

Subsequently, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero presented the report on the liquor licenses.

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Islander's Seafood Inc.	79-21 Queens Blvd.	Denied
Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	Elmhurst, NY	

Community Board 4 voted previously not to approve any liquor licenses at that location.

Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero reported this location has had a history for years. Every business owner has given trouble as attested by Ms. Shugru, Tom McKenzie and Paula Brun all civic leaders. No matter how many new owners serious issues always arose such as murders and stabbings during the last six/seven years. Neighbors are frightened neighborhood problems will occur again. She spoke about the incident where an employee tried to burn down the place with gasoline. Luckily, two employees subdued him until police arrived. March 21, 2018 there was assault on premises, noting they just opened and an arrest was made.

A new establishment opening is starting off on the wrong foot, she commented. Two years ago the Board voted not to allow this location to have a liquor license. Open another type of business.

Meeting with the owner, Public Safety Chair asked the owner does he need a liquor license. The owner replied no.

The Committee voted no for now to give the establishment time to acclimate to the community and to see how he will be a good neighbor.

At this point, Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Georgina Oliver, to **accept** the Committee's recommendation on Islander's Seafood Inc. as presented.

By a voice vote the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 6 abstentions. Motion to deny passed.

Before moving on to the next liquor license application, Board Members added more comments on the Islander's Seafood application.

Norbu Lingkhas Kitchen Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	75-16 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
John's Food Corp. <i>Nuevos Tacos Al Suadero</i> Beer & Cider	97-22 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
Jackson 79 Corp. <i>Riko</i> Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider Pending DOB clearance for the work that was done.	78-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
NY El Diamante Corp. Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider	90-18 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
Hornado Ecuatoriano Corp. <i>Sal Y Pimmienta Restaurant</i> Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	81-10 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
Alfonso's Tapas Bar Corp. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider Representative did not have letter authorizing him to represent establishment.	75-15 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Denied
Penang House Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	82-84 Broadway, Store 2 Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Juquila Mexican Cuisine Corp. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	40-12 83 Street Elmhurst, NY	Approved

CLASS CHANGE

Establishment's Name	Address	License Type
La Mexican Inc. <i>El Gallo Negro</i>	111-12 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider Approved

At this point Board Member Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow, to **approve** the rest of the Committee's report as presented.

Before the vote, a representative from Jackson 79 asked for clarification on the vote. This representative gave the Board a detailed explanation on the Department of Buildings denial, commenting there is no need to get the permits.

Discussion ensued on the location and the requirements.

Subsequently, it was determined the establishment is not ready to open at the present time.

Board Chair Damian Vargas inquired do we need to amend the motion or are we going forward with the motion?

The consensus of the Board was to go forward on the motion.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

XII. REPORT: Environmental Committee

Implementation of a new community garden – "Salud en Movimiento" (55-25 Van Cleef Street)

Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano reported the Environmental Committee and the Parks Committee met jointly on March 28 to discuss the implementation of a new community garden in Corona. The Committee supports the implementation of the new community garden and will work with the group to provide recommendations on how to work within the community and to offer suggestions how to be a good neighbor.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to **approve** the community garden and for the Environmental Committee to make recommendations to the group.

A letter of support from the Board will be given to the group, said Chair Damian Vargas.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 36 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Subsequently, Environmental Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano reported the newly renovated Louis Simeone Park is open. It's beautiful. Go out and support the Park and it's close to the two Corona community gardens.

Come Celebrate Earth Day on April 22 and visit Sparrow's Nest Community Garden (54-01 101 Street). The Environmental Committee is working with Pastor Kwon, the Coordinator for Sparrow's Nest, on this event to open the community garden on that day. Tour the garden, learn about the environment and see our neighborhood community garden.

At this point, Board Member Priscilla Carrow asked all to join the NYC Health & Hospitals/Elmhurst the Global Health Institute For Earth's Vital Statistics: How Climate Change is Affecting Your Health.

The discussion will be on how climate change and how it impacts the health of people around the globe. Flyers were in the back.

Friday, April 20, 2018

9 am - 11 am

NYC Health & Hospitals/Elmhurst Auditorium

Please RSVP at the bottom of the invitation.

Continuing with the Committee Reports:

Consumer Affairs

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Health

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Parks

Since the Committee Chair was not in attendance, District Manager Cassagnol reported Louise Simeone Park (102 Street & Strong Avenue) is officially opened. Much effort was put into this Park by Community Board 4.

Great job! A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held in the next few months.

Furthermore, he reported on William F. Moore Park. As of June 7, it is 100 years since William F. Moore passed away. District Manager Christian Cassagnol has been in contact with Vincent Tomeo, the unofficial Historian of Corona and Elmhurst, who brought this fact to the Board's attention. Parks Committee Chair Al Perna contacted Mike Liquori from the VFW Post #150 who will probably get in contact with the family to pay tribute to William F. Moore on June 7. Since we have been requesting funding for this Park to paint the fence, redo the flag pole, and other minor repairs, perhaps the Parks Department and NYC DOT can have it ready before June 7.

Subsequently, he spoke about Neighborhood Housing Services that do a yearly neighborhood cleanup of Linden Park. This will be done again on/around May 19, 2018. CB4's Parks and Youth Committees are working with this group. Board volunteers are urgently needed. Last year, the Board received a Council citation for its efforts.

Transportation

Committee Chair Louis Walker announced the Committee will meet on April 17, 6:30 p.m., at the Board office. NYC DOT will be guest speakers who will address several issues. Since Mr. Walker also chairs the Bylaws Committee, he noted this committee will not meet in April, but instead a meeting will be held in May.

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported a committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, 6:30 p.m., at the Board office.

At this point, Board Member Marialena Giampino, who is a member of the Elmhurst History & Cemeteries Preservation Society, has requested Community Board 4's assistance for land marking status on two community historic sites. The Judge Street row houses are along the oldest planned street in Elmhurst by the Cord Meyer Company. They are built in Colonial Revival style. And, the Elmhurst Baptist Church designed by architect Adolph Leicht, a showcase of Gothic Revival architecture. It is very important to preserve and protect this area for future generations to come.

Board Member Marialena Giampino gave the background history of the cemetery and updated the Board on the past and current status of the cemetery.

At this point, Board Member Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Board Member Oscar Rios, to **support** landmark status for those sites.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 36 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

Before concluding, Youth Committee Chair Ingrid Gomez reported on October 6 at Hoffman Park CB 4 will hold its annual Youth Fair. This new location will be more accessible to commuters and will be an amazing event for all because there will be more space. Flyers were passed out to Save the Date! The page is live on Facebook, with a link, so that organizations can sign up if interested in participating. There will also be a Facebook Event page to give updates on participating organizations and the services provided. Some have already signed up, and if you know of anyone interested such as youth organizations, family educations, or career services, please sign up soon. Deadline to apply is June 30.

There being no further business, Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lucy Schilero, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.