



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

46-11 104th Street

Corona, New York 11368-2882

Telephone: 718-760-3142 Fax: 718-760-5971

E-mail: qn04@cb.nyc.gov

Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Marialena Giampino
Chairperson

Ebony Young
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

May 10, 2022

COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Marialena Giampino
Rownoka Ashakhan
Michelle Calderon
Valery Calderon
Chaio-Chung Chen
Jaime Cho
Lynda Coral
Michelle Dunston
Ramakrishna Kadukuntla
Vincent Laucella
Carol Machulski
Sunil Mahat
Abu Zafar Mahmood
Matthew McElroy
Rovenia McGowan

Mac Ryan Merchan
Edgar Moya
Sandra Munoz
G. Oliver
Georgina Oliver
Alexandra Owens
Shrima Pandey
Purushottam Panthee
Lindsay Quartini
Ashley Reed
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Alton Derrick Smith
Louis Walker
Minwen Yang

Board Members Absent:

Tsering Dechen
Ari Espinal
Lara Gregory
Leeanne G. Bowley
Deependra Lama
James Lisa
Salvatore Lombardo
Patricia Martin
Sylvia Martin
Jose Morillo

Ruby Muhammad
Alexa Ponce
Brian Ramirez
A. Redd Sevilla
Urgen Sherpa
Dewan Tarek
Marcello Testa
Charlie Tetiyevsky
Yilin Wang
May Yu

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager
Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator
Christina Long, CB4 Community Associate
Michelle, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Office
Kyle Salcido, Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office
Samantha, Assembly Member Catalina Cruz's Office
Berenice Navarrete-Perez, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office
Shamina Rahman, Council Member Shekar Krishnan's Office
Kat Brezler, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards' Office
Elizabeth, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz's Office
Mikhail Priyev, NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Marisa Wise, Design Director, NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, May 10, 2022

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: On Line via Webex

I. Due to technical difficulties, the Board Chair Marialena Giampino called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

II. Vote on Minutes from April 12, 2022

Health Committee Chair Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Parliamentarian Louis Walker, to **approve** the minutes.

Before the vote, Board Members Sandra Munoz and Alexandra Owens brought up they were marked absent at the April 12, 2022 Board meeting. Both Board Members noted their absence was due to observing Ramadan.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino responded it would be noted they are excused absences.

Since there were no Board Members opposed or abstentions to the minutes, the motion passed.

III. Chairperson's Report

Board Chair Marialena Giampino reported she had attended last night's Borough Board meeting noting a presentation by DYCD and a proposed resolution called The Smoke Free Housing Resolution, which gives the landlord/ homeowner the right to make their building smoke free. The vote was postponed because the verbiage had to be amended before voting. It would be brought up again at the next Borough Board meeting.

Next, the Board Chair reported an email from the Board office will be sent regarding a notice received by the NYC Board of Standards & Appeals regarding 109-52 54 Avenue. A virtual public hearing is scheduled on June 6 or June 7, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Community Board 4 had voted to deny application which is presently against current zoning. The property owner bought the property before the zoning was changed and a foundation was started. However, the project was stalled from 1989 and now the owners want to resume building the project as before the zoning was changed. The owners waited from 1989 to commence construction and in the interim zoning in the area was changed to more residential use.

The Board Members have the opportunity to write testimony/or attend the virtual meeting.

Next, the Board Chair reported on the Janta House which the Board had voted to landmark. Several other groups showed support as well, however, it has been demolished. The Board Chair thanked Council Member Shekar Krishnan for a fantastic job holding the Landmarks Preservation Commission accountable for not representing immigrant individuals or groups and the lack of immigrant landmark sites in New York City. Currently, the site has stop work orders and violations for the developers not following proper procedures of demolition as per the Department of Buildings.

Lastly, Board Chair Marialena Giampino reported on the establishment of a Bylaw Committee. As a result of issues that were discussed by the Nominating Committee. Serving on the committee were the Board Chair, Lou Walker, Sandra Munoz and Ashley Reed who brought up issues that need revision. Anytime there is an issue that needs to be improved or changed, the Board Chair calls for a Bylaw Committee meeting and those changes are presented to the full Board for a vote.

The Board Members serving on the Bylaw Committee are:

- Board Chair Marialena Giampino
- Louis Walker
- Sandra Munoz
- Ashley Reed

The Board Chair explained one more person is needed to serve on the Bylaw Committee. To join the Bylaw Committee, a knowledge of procedure, a somewhat knowledge of the bylaws and *Robert's Rules of Order* is needed. A new member cannot join the committee since members must have served on the Board at least one year. If anyone is interested, please submit your name to the Board office.

If Louis Walker and Sandra Munoz accept the nomination, please let the Board Chair know of your acceptance to serve.

Those voicing acceptance were Louis Walker, Sandra Munoz, and Ashley Reed.

IV. Report of the District Manager

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported on the FDNY redesign project for Engine 287. The proposal was unclear and the FDNY was also somewhat confused on the process. A letter from the Board was drafted and the FDNY will have it tomorrow. The letter mentioned that it's not that the Board is supporting the project but the Board accepts the fact that we understand the condition at the firehouse. Details on the historical value of the building were also added to the outgoing letter. As it stands, it is a letter of receipt citing our concerns.

Next, the District Manager reported on the MTA bus redesign throughout the entire borough. Transportation Committee Chair Matt McElroy along with the committee have been working very hard to spread the word. He urged all to canvas the local community and enlist concerns from residents who feel more can be done to get the word out about the redesign.

The Queens District Managers explained to the MTA this redesign should be more heavily showcased such as broadcasting it on New York 1 and other media channels because this redesign is much larger than just the local community board. A meeting is planned with the MTA sometime soon.

Next, he reported on a DCAS workshop in the community regarding jobs. The lack of jobs is one of the community's biggest issues. Specifically, youth employment. The idea is to set up a workshop where DCAS would explain how to apply for city services and how to obtain a city job etc. A meeting is planned with DCAS tomorrow to discuss details. The planned date is mid to end of June.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol reported on a zoning application for a certification date of early June, however, it will not give the Board enough time to properly promote public participation. The project concerns a residential component for the Food Bazaar on 57 Avenue in Lefrak City. The proposed development is as-of-right, however, a public hearing is needed. Therefore, a summer Board meeting may be held to address this application. It may not be a full Board meeting but instead a Public Hearing which requires a smaller quorum. The Board has 90 days to respond from the date the application comes to the Board. If it is received during the Board's summer recess, it will come back in September and the Labor Day weekend must be considered.

Next, the District Manager spoke to the new members about the Needs Statement. It was a great orientation. One of the issues brought up was polo shirts for the present and new Board members. An email will be sent from the Board office asking what shirt size you wear. The polo shirt is navy blue with an orange CB4 logo. The back is imprinted with *Servicing the Communities*. Wear the shirt to cleanup events or photo ops or whenever possible to be identified as a CB4 Board Member.

June 8 the Board is obligated to meet in-person. It is still unclear whether the Board will meet in person or to move the Board meeting before June 8. There is some difficulty securing a meeting venue for in-person meetings. Unless the timeframe is extended, it is in-person meeting for the June meeting, with the possibility of a hybrid via on-line if the Board chooses to do so.

At this point Parliamentarian Louis Walker asked, Will they build on top of Food Bazaar?

District Manager Cassagnol responded the supermarket will be renovated and a residential component above the existing structure and the rear of the building will be added. It is an as-of right development.

Lastly, the District Manager reported on the School Construction Authority's proposal for a new high school in our district. Unfortunately, the proposal is dormant for now. At this point, there is nothing happening with the proposal.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino received word from Detective Saponieri from the 110 Precinct that at 81-05 Queens Boulevard ten arrests were made last week. Bikes were removed illegally blocking the sidewalk. Perps were selling the bikes and took over a whole storefront in the building. Police were able to make arrests and also confiscated heavy drugs.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino stated a letter will be sent to the Department of Buildings about the condition of the building mentioning the numerous problems on site.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol added at the new Board member orientation, questions arose when the Board would be receiving the link to what was discussed that night. As yet, Borough Hall has not provided the link. When the link is received, it will be shared with the full Board. Also, he had requested information about any inserts handed out. Among those inserts were brief outlines about ULURP/Zoning along with a Code of Conduct which includes absences, excused absences, and what is expected at a meeting. This information is for the long standing members as well as the newer members.

V. Open Session #1/Board Member Attendance
Statements will be limited to two minutes

Board Chair Marialena Giampino took the roll call:

Rownoka Ashakhan – In attendance
Michelle Calderon – In attendance
Valery Calderon – In attendance
Chaio-Chung Chen – In attendance
Jaime Cho – In attendance
Lynda Coral – In attendance
Tsering Dechen – Absent
Michelle Dunston – In attendance
Ari Espinal – Absent
Leeanne G-Bowley – Absent
Marialena Giampino – In attendance
Lara Gregory – Absent
Ramakrishna Kadukuntla – In attendance
Deependra Lama – Absent
Vincent Laucella – In attendance

Board Member Vincent Laucella mentioned an upcoming event June 4 at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park at the Unisphere, 11:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. Vision experts will be in attendance performing vision testing. Diabetes testing will be done also and numerous vendors and agencies will be on site as well as Corona Ambulance, the 110 Precinct and the Community Board. All were urged to come and support the event and to spread the word. Contact information for the president of the Lions Club was provided – Mildred Ramirez at 718-607-0343. Also, he mentioned the upcoming 110 Precinct Community Council meeting at St. Bart's, Thursday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. Both father and son from Louie's Pizzeria will be receiving awards from not only the Precinct but also from the Community Council for their heroics and bravery displayed in thwarting a robbery.

Further, Board Member Vincent Laucella reported on two electrical bike accidents that occurred on April 22 where a young girl was hit by a delivery person on 104 Street who left the scene of the accident. Video was obtained and the Precinct is working to apprehend this person. Exactly one week later in front of the Community Board 4 office on April 29 a woman was hit by an electric bike traveling in the wrong direction. Neither the Department of Transportation nor Transportation Alternatives had any record of those accidents. These accidents must be reported and the community should be aware of unpleasant incidents in the community and public safety is at risk.

Lastly, Board Member Laucella reported this morning on Alstyn Avenue his car was vandalized. There have been a number of break-ins on Alstyn Avenue. Meeting with the 110 Precinct this morning the perpetrators, Catch and Release, are known to the Precinct who are on first name basis with these perps. Citing another failure of bail reform.

James Lisa – Absent
Salvatore Lombardo – Absent
Carol Machulski – In attendance

Environmental Committee Chair Carol Machulski mentioned she wore her CB4 shirt to the PS 14 Health Fair on Saturday, May 7 that had a pretty good turnout. Also, she inquired if the members had completed the Comptroller's survey on sanitation services. Another audit is planned by the Comptroller as was done for the rain gardens. She had completed the survey and was optimistic others did too.

Sunil Mahat – In attendance
Abu Zafar Mahmood – In attendance
Patricia Martin – Absent
Sylvia Martin – Absent
Matthew McElroy – In attendance
Rovenia McGowan – In attendance
Mac Ryan Merchan – In attendance
Jose Morillo – Absent
Edgar Moya – In attendance
Ruby Muhammad – Absent
Sandra Munoz – In attendance
G. Oliver – In attendance
Georgina Oliver – In attendance
Alexandra Owens – In attendance
Shrima Pandey – In attendance
Purushottam Panthee – In attendance
Alexa Ponce – Absent
Lindsay Quartini – In attendance
Brian Ramirez – Absent

Ashley Reed – In attendance
Cristian Romero – In attendance
Clara Salas – In attendance
A. Redd Sevilla – Absent
Urgen Sherpa – Absent
Alton Derrick Smith – In attendance
Dewan Tarek – Absent
Marcello Testa – Absent
Charlie Tetiyevsky – Absent
Louis Walker – In attendance

Parliamentarian Louis Walker reported car break-ins have been occurring throughout Corona and he has seen break-ins in various places with different year cars, noting there is no difference between new or older cars when it comes to the vandalism. Also, he reported many cars are running red lights very regularly and also noted much speeding. Alternative vehicles are riding on streets and sidewalks, which is very dangerous.

Furthermore, in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in the parking lot that serves the zoo and the carousel area people are selling or leaving cars abandoned. He questioned what, if anything, the Park is doing about it.

Yilin Wang – Absent
Minwen Yang – In attendance
May Yu – Absent

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino announced a quorum was present.

VI. Report of Elected Officials

-Federal

-State

-City

House of Representatives

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Michelle reported the Congresswoman's office received over 5,000 at home Covid-19 test kits from the State of New York. Over the past several weeks the Congresswoman partnered with grassroots community organizations to distribute those at home tests to Bronx and Queens Residents needing them the most. Last Wednesday, the Congresswoman's office distributed 1,000 at home test kits on Corona Plaza during the evening rush hour.

On April 20, the Congresswoman hosted the second in-person town hall of the year in Astoria. Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez discussed advancements in addressing the climate crisis and the introduction of the Green New Deal resolution. Following their lead, at least ten local green new deals have been introduced in New York City, Los Angeles, Portland and New Mexico.

With the recent passage of the fiscal year 2022 Appropriations Omnibus, the Congresswoman's office secured funding for over 300 students at SUNY Maritime to train for union jobs in wind energy. This is one of the first Green New deal workforce training programs in the country. Please subscribe to the Congresswoman's Newsletter for the day and location of their next in-person town hall which will take place in the Bronx.

Meanwhile, the Social Security Administration has a new filer tool for those who wish to check eligibility for supplemental security income or also known as SSI. The SSI program provides monthly payments to adults and children with a disability or blindness who have income below specific financial limits. SSI payments are made to those aged 65 and older without disabilities who meet financial qualifications.

In addition, the Congresswoman just wrapped the 2022 Congressional Art Competition and a thank you was extended to all the high schoolers and teachers who participated, noting a record number of submissions was received this year. The winner will be announced very soon. Please follow the Congresswoman's social media pages. Questions and comments from constituents are always welcomed. The office is now open for walk-ins Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Grace Meng

Kyle Salcido reported the House has passed legislation sponsored by Representative Grace Meng entitled, The Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History And Culture Act. This Bill would create a commission of eight individuals with various expertise in museum planning or Asian Pacific American history and culture to examine the feasibility of establishing, maintaining funding, and operating such a facility in the nation's capital possibly as part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., which is the world's largest museum and research complex. This Bill is now headed to the Senate where, hopefully, to be voted on and passed. Then, headed to President Biden's desk so that the Commission can be created further leading to the establishment of the museum.

Representative Meng is encouraging local houses of worship and nonprofit organizations to start preparing applications for the Federal government's nonprofit security grant program if interested in seeking funding. This program provides synagogues, churches,

mosques, temples and non-profit institutions such as community centers, schools and other facilities with Federal grants to improve the safety and security of their properties to guard against threats and attacks.

The Nonprofit Security Grant Program helps keep our communities safe. It is critical for facilities to take advantage of this important funding.

The U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the agency that administers the program informed Congresswoman Meng's office that it will soon open up this year's applications. Along with the applications being opened in the coming weeks, today the Congresswoman was alerted by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services that this year there will be an extremely quick turnaround for the applications. It will likely be less than a two week period. He stressed it is very important that nonprofits and houses of worship start gathering the necessary materials as soon as possible. Please reach out to the Congresswoman's office for assistance and letters of support.

Moreover, Congresswoman Grace Meng was instrumental in securing an unprecedented \$250 million for the program this year which is a \$70 million increase over last year's \$180 million that she helped obtain last year.

Anyone who has Federal related casework within the district, contact the Congresswoman's office for assistance. The Congresswoman's contact information with office email, phone, and address, which now takes walk-ins Monday thru Friday, from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., in the chat.

NYS Assembly

Catalina Cruz

Samantha reported on last month's community events. The Mother's Day Baby Kit distribution was held last week and also the first community cleanup was conducted in Elmhurst. Also Assembly Member Cruz has been visiting different schools in the district to determine the school's needs. Upcoming community events are:

Friday, May 13 – The Assembly Member will partner with NYLAG for a legal aid clinic for legal representation or advice. By appointment only. Information in the chat.

Also, A Naleo Get Ready to Vote webinar will be held.

Additionally, a second community cleanup will be held Sunday, May 15, at 10:30 a.m. – 12 Noon. All were invited.

Next, Samantha reported on the district office services such as dol issues, reporting grand larceny cases, public assistance such as with food stamps, HEAP, one shot deal through Medicaid and assistance with ERAP (Emergency Rental Assistance Program).

NYC Council

Francisco Moya

Berenice Navarrete-Perez reported the district office now has a mural outside. It is a sunset inspired mural, the fourth beautification project done in partnership with Publicolor.

Also, an Easter event was held a few weeks ago with District Leader Ari Espinal, Corona Ambulance, the 110 Precinct and the New York Hall of Science.

Earth Day the Council Member kicked off a beautification and cleanup effort cleaning up 82 Street, with the 82 Street Partnership, DSNY, and DEP. This is the first of many cleanups this summer.

Saturday, May 14, a Shred event, outside the district office, will be held from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m. Two shred events are held in E. Elmhurst and one event in Lefrak City. When confirmation is received from the Department of Sanitation, a flyer will be sent.

Further, there are weekly fitness sessions for families – youth and older – today at Louis Simeone Park, and held every Tuesday, at 1:00 p.m. until June 28. Classes include Zumba, other dance fitness, chair aerobics and small circuit classes.

There is a spin and evening boot camp at Helen Marshall Playground every Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. until June 29.

Every Thursday afternoons, Teen and Youth Fitness at Park of the Americas, from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. until June 30.

The program includes fitness, relays, obstacle courses, active games and fitness challenges.

Lastly, in partnership with Rooftop Films and the Parks Department a series of films will be hosted in our local parks. More information to be posted soon on social media. Information in the chat.

Shekar Krishnan

Shamina Rahman, Community Affairs Coordinator, welcomed the new Board Members and acknowledged the long-standing members.

Shamina Rahman spoke about Ramadan and reported a month-long fasting for those in the community who celebrate the month of Ramadan and fasting was held. Working with Elmhurst Hospital, a food giveaway was conducted and about 300 free meals to the district community members were distributed. Also, a diabetes and stroke talk awareness was conducted in the local mosque.

Regarding City Council legislation, the first piece of legislation by Council Member Krishnan, Intro. 173A, is about parks equity in our city requiring the New York City Parks Department to report to the Council annually on city parks in dire need of repairs including a plan and timeline to which Parks will have to complete.

It is important because this past month the Council Member's team visited all parks in the district in Jackson Heights and Elmhurst where the parks were assessed to determine types of upgrades and renovations are needed by the Parks Department.

Schools in Elmhurst were also visited such as PS 7, PS 721 and PS 13 to work with the schools to expand bilingual education programs and resources for culinary space at PS 721.

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Kat Brezler reminded all about the queensbp.org/calendar for the Borough President's upcoming events mentioning an Aging in Place webinar important for the senior community.

Learn about Ecuador's off shore wind project. On May 11 both the Aging in Place and the offshore wind project will be held.

Additionally, an in-house job fair is forthcoming in June. Details to follow.

Kat Brezler reported the Borough President's office launched Operation Urban Sustainability. The first meeting was tonight with numerous groups, organizations, and advocacy partners focusing on how to move the borough forward. Thoughts about Rikers, proliferating open streets, and multiplying access to compost were brought up. If interested, please reach out to

kbrezler@queensbp.org. -- For more information.

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

Elizabeth reported Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz will host the Aapi Heritage Month Celebration on May 24. Due to the uptick of Covid-19 cases, the event will be held virtually.

On May 26 at 11:00 a.m. the Queens District Attorney will host a Memorial Day Observance Ceremony streaming live from Elmhurst Park. Please join in for the online event to pay tribute to those who served our nation.

VII. Presentation: Department of Parks & Recreation

Hoffman Park Comfort Station Reconstruction

With the aid of a slide presentation, Mikhail Priyev, Architect, Department of Parks and Recreation, presented the Hoffman Park Comfort Station Reconstruction.

The goals of the project is to provide an ADA complaint bathroom layout, replace the old fixtures, electrical systems, plumbing fixtures, and upgrade mechanical systems. Also included is to upgrade the furnace from gas to electric and replace all fixtures and create new openings for windows to bring light into the bathrooms.

The comfort station is located in Hoffman Park corner of Woodhaven Blvd. and Hoffman Drive. The existing conditions of the building and the four elevations were shown.

Currently, the building is covered with some type of paint that will be removed.

A quick diagram representing the scope of the building's exterior starting from the roof was explained. The roof was inspected and the existing slate is in good condition and will remain. The fascia of the building will be replaced along with necessary masonry work to remove the paint, create two new openings for the windows to bring natural light into the bathrooms, and the doors replaced. In the back of the building, a new drinking fountain will be installed and an ADA compliant path created.

Next, the existing conditions of the bathrooms were shown. The fixtures are old, floor paint chipping off, and bathroom stalls are not ADA compliant.

Next, the existing conditions of the mechanical room were indicated. The furnace will be replaced with an electrical one and an upgrade to all plumbing systems.

Succeeding this slide, the existing floor plan of the building was displayed which outlines the scope presented. Two new windows in each bathroom will be opened and all fixtures and doors replaced.

Following this slide, the proposed plan showed the new bathroom layout with new windows and doors. An area where a new drinking fountain on the exterior of the building was explained.

Succeeding this slide, building elevations after construction is completed (the final building) where doors will be replaced on each side of the building that will receive a security mount and light fixture.

A rendering that illustrated how the building will look after the renovation was exhibited.

Subsequently, standard DPR materials used on the project was pointed out along with some of the standard materials that will be applied on the building's interior.

VIII. Discussion & Vote: Parks, Cultural & Historical Preservation Committee

Hoffman Park Comfort Station Reconstruction

Board Member Sandra Munoz commented the sketch showed one stall but the standard DPR bathroom partition showed more than one stall. How many stalls are in the bathroom, she inquired?

The response was due to the ADA requirements and the given condition of the building, only one stall can be in each room. Each bathroom will receive one stall. It is not a unisex bathroom and not a single occupant but rather a single stall with a lavatory and a baby changing station. The room can be used for someone changing the baby while another person is using the bathroom.

Based on given parameters of the building and ADA requirements, it is one cubicle per bathroom.

Board Member Sandra Munoz continued the room for the electrical furnace appears to have considerable room that looks like a lot of wasted space further commenting can the wall that divides the two areas be moved to create an area with more stalls.

The response was the slide is not graphically presented correctly. The mechanical room is much occupied, but not illustrated well. There are also electrical panels and piping. The slide illustrates the overall building layout but detailed enough. Also, the wall between the mechanical and bathrooms is structural which is holding up the roof and cannot be moved any further.

Marisa Wise, Design Director, at Citywide, Parks Department reported this is a very standard layout. This is how Parks lay out all of their reconstruction for standard 20-foot by 20-foot comfort stations throughout the five boroughs. The mechanical room is not larger than any others. The building is not being shortchanged and this is the standard ADA complaint layout that gives the most space for each bathroom, while providing code compliance and all space required for utilities within the mechanical room.

Transportation Committee Chair Matthew McElroy commented since a million and a half dollars is being spent on 400 square feet, a second stall in the ladies bathroom and a urinal in the men's bathroom could be managed for the projected cost. It is unfortunate there is a decrease in services to the public because of the lack of facilities.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino asked, "Is there any way a toilet can be installed for a park employee who would be going into the mechanical room?" It looks like there is a sink in the room. "What about if the employee needed to use the restroom noting there is no toilet in the mechanical room for an employee?"

The response was the sink in the mechanical room is a slop sink that is used by the janitor. Parks employees are able to use the public bathrooms.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino further inquired, "In the men's bathroom is there a toilet and a urinal?"

The response was no. It's just a toilet.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino asked, "Could a urinal be put in the men's bathroom?"

The response was given the restrictions and the existing footprint of the room, there is not enough room for a urinal.

Subsequently, Board Chair Marialena Giampino commented the outside structure is very classical, (featuring limestone and slate roof) But the present light fixtures are very basic. Is there any way to get more classical light fixtures for the outside because it seems more fitting?"

The response was the Department of Parks and Recreation has standard light fixtures used on all buildings and deviating from that standard will have to be reviewed. This is just a standard light fixture used on all projects.

Marisa Wise, Design Director, added the reason why these standards are used across all 700+ very similar comfort stations throughout the city is when a light goes out or there's a vandalism, there is a replacement fixture on hand immediately and that can ensure there is not a break in service and functionality of the building for the public. By using these standard fixtures, it enables the comfort stations to be in the best working condition for public use.

Board Member Chaio-Chung Chen inquired, "What is the percentage against vandalism or abuse?"

The response was all park standard fixtures are vandal resistant and have been heavily tested for destruction. This determines how standard fixtures are chosen by installing and testing them also citing these are very strong and durable fixtures.

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported Hoffman Park is about to undergo a major redesign in the next year or two. At a Parks Committee meeting, it was brought up if this reconstruction of the Comfort Station coincides with the upcoming redesign. The response was no.

Regarding expenses, with the city the most difficult upgrade to implement in parks is always restrooms. One of the Parks committee members did request a cost breakdown of where the millions of dollars is being spent on the reconstruction of the comfort stations.

Subsequently, Board Member Rama Kadukuntla asked, "During the reconstruction work will Parks provide alternate bathrooms for the public?"

Marlisa, Design Director, responded this will be coordinated with the Borough Maintenance and Operations staff.

Since there were no other comments or questions from the Board, the floor was turned over to Parks Committee Chair Ashley Reed for the committee's recommendation.

Parks Committee Chair Ashley Reed reported the Parks Committee met on April 27 with a quorum and was satisfied with the presentation and concerns brought up by the committee. The reconstruction will be fully ADA accessible and the committee was satisfied with the proposed timeline that the work would begin in August 2022 and be completed by October 2022. Additionally, this reconstruction will not overlap with next year’s capital project. The Parks Committee’s recommendation was to **approve** the proposal.

Subsequently, Transportation Committee Chair Matthew McElroy made a motion, seconded by Parliamentarian Louis Walker, to **approve** the Hoffman Park Comfort Station Reconstruction.

Since a roll call vote would be taken, Board Chair Marialena Giampino recapped the motion on the floor to **approve** the presentation as presented by the Parks Department for the Hoffman Park Comfort Station Reconstruction.

By a roll call vote, the Board voted 23 in favor, 2 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed.

IX. Report & Vote: Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

--State Liquor Authority Applications

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

May 2022

NEW/TEMPORARY PERMIT APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>LICENSE TYPE</u>	<u>New/Temp</u>
Chimi Express Rest. Inc.	101-17 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	New & Temp.
La Moon Inc. <i>Jui Sung Ma</i>	81-40 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	New & Temp.
Nha Sang Enterprise LLC	83-17 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	New & Temp.
El Nopal 93 Inc.	93-14 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	New & Temp.
Pollos D Maria Corp.	106-26 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	New & Temp.

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>LICENSE TYPE</u>
Alfonso's Tapas Bar Corp.	75-15 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
Albion Venue LLC	79-17 Albion Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
7714 Entertainment Corp.	77-14 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
Winners Bar	82-67 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
El Trio Corp.	102-01 44 Avenue Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

CB4 Staff Member Christina Long reported the Public Safety Committee met Thursday, May 5, 2022 and the denials are as follows:

New/Temporary Permit Applicants

Denials:

#5 – Pollos D Maria Corp.

No show.

Renewal Applicants:

Denials:

Alfonso's Tapas Bar Corp.

No show.

El Trio Corp.

No show.

Shanghai Zhen Gong Fu Rest. Inc.

No show.

Terraza Coffee Bar & Art Corp.

No show.

Board Member Sandra Munoz made a motion, seconded by Board Member Georgina Oliver, to **approve** the Committee's recommendation as presented.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino called out if there were any opposed or abstentions.

Before the vote, Board Member Alexandra Owens inquired why many of the businesses did not attend the Public Safety Committee meeting.

Staff Member Christina Long explained some applicants responded they would attend, but never appeared.

Also, Terraza Coffee Bar & Art Corp. had already secured its license because it was a renewal and by the very short turnaround time it was renewed.

Board Member Jaime Cho asked if it were possible for committee members to visit the businesses as many have scheduling issues and are so busy they cannot attend the meeting.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol responded it was done in the past by former Committee Chair Lucy Schilero and is not a safe practice and not recommended. Those restaurants will not be able to identify as to a person who can vote in favor or against their liquor license and it creates a dangerous situation for the Board member. More dangerous there is the ability to be coerced or bribed by the restaurant. For example, the restaurant owner may say have a free juice on us because you are the person voting on their license. More so, many Board Members would not know what to look for because issues are very technical such as what sales to a minor is.

However, the Board does plan on solidifying and presenting a more solid operating procedure for the committee. For example, what is supposed to happen, what are timelines and to create a questionnaire sent out in advance to the restaurants so that information is at the Board office before the meeting? It is highly not recommended for committee members to visit restaurants.

Reverting back to the motion on the floor, Board Chair Marialena Giampino called out if there were any questions relating to the motion.

Since there were none, the motion passed.

Committee Reports

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Michelle Dunston reported the committee has not met and is looking forward to expanding the committee and is optimistic more people will join. Participation is essential and encouraged new members. A meeting is planned for next month.

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino reported usually committee assignments occur in September but since new Board Members were appointed in April and there were issues with committees, especially attendance and quorums, we were able to assign new Board Members to committees now until reassignment occurs again in September. Each committee had received one or two new Board members. More details were provided by the Board Chair on committee assignments.

Environmental

Committee Chair Carol Machulski reported the committee met on May 4 with a quorum. Mr. Oliveri and Mr. Lee from the Department of Environmental Protection discussed The Lead Line Replacement Program - a state policy of zero lead in the water, but the program is no longer in effect, ending in 2021 as grant funds ran out. At this time, there are no plans to reactivate the program. Rain Gardens is a major topic for the Comptroller. Committee Chair Carol Machulski inquired about the goal for the rain gardens. The response was to capture water from rain and storms, reduce overflow, and reduce street flooding. The Committee Chair was unsure if the program is meeting its goals, particularly, maintenance. The presenters could not answer what the schedule is of maintaining the rain gardens. After completion, maintenance is supposed to be every six weeks. However, it was also stated there is not enough staff and there was no track record of when maintenance is performed on the rain gardens. Planning to hire more staff, nothing has been done by DEP. As far as people behaving destructively by throwing garbage or chemicals in the rain gardens, currently there is no law for issuing summonses to those offenders. Although a law may be forthcoming in the future, DEP is looking into enforcement for this program. No report for QSWAB because of a lack of communication. May 25 is the next QSWAB's meeting.

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino stated there needs to be more maintenance for rain gardens and some type of fines initiated with enforcement.

Subsequently, Committee Chair Carol Machulski stated initially ticketing was done by the Sanitation Dept., however, DEP gave a mixed message to those where rain gardens located in front of their property: although they wouldn't be ticketed, and not to do anything about those received so people just ignored the unsanitary conditions. By putting garbage in the rain garden, it will not absorb the rain water.

Consequently, District Manager Cassagnol stated he had requested a maintenance schedule on how often maintenance occurs. DEP had requested a list of any rain gardens needing maintenance because the agency is claiming maintenance is being done. All were encouraged to report unkempt rain gardens, please take a photo of it or call the Board office.

Health & Human Services

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported the first committee meeting was very successful, however, after that meeting, no one attended subsequent meetings except for Board Member Sunil Mahat and the presenters. Therefore, it was decided not to proceed further because of the lack of membership participation. Attending committee meetings is an important part of being a Board Member. Please inform the Board Chair/District Manager if you do not wish to serve on a committee, likewise, if you do not wish to serve on the Health Committee.

Health Committee Chair Clara Salas mentioned members by name serving on the Health Committee. Planning a committee meeting is much work such as finding a speaker and planning an agenda. It is discouraging to have just one or two people in attendance. Because of this uncertainty, a May committee meeting is undecided.

Transportation

Committee Chair Matthew McElroy reported the All Way Stop Sign at 104 Street and 46 Avenue had been approved by the Department of Transportation.

Next, a first in Community Board 4, a new electrical vehicle charging station established by the city at 41 & Baxter Avenues (near Elmhurst Hospital).

Also, two forthcoming projects, which are safety improvements, at the following intersections proposed by the Department of Transportation:

1. Where Woodside Avenue meets Broadway at Baxter Avenue
2. Where Britton Avenue meets at Roosevelt Avenue

The Department of Transportation will present the details at the next Transportation Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 17. All were welcomed to attend.

The Board had received a request from the MTA asking for a letter of support by USDOT for the Interborough Express project. A few months ago, the Transportation Committee had a lengthy and excellent conversation about this project which is the use of the freight rail between the Hell Gate Bridge and Sunset Park in Brooklyn and the establishment of passenger service along it. The feeling of the committee was that it was a very promising project and offered many benefits, but many questions needed to be answered before the committee took a formal position such as where the station will be located, the connection at 74 Street and Roosevelt Avenue to the freight line, which is about a block and half away, and the mode of transit such as buses, heavy trains and light rail team service. The committee was polled over the last few days and the committee is unanimously supportive of sending a letter supporting U.S. federal funding under the new infrastructure bill for preliminary design and engineering so that those questions can be answered.

Committee Chair Matthew McElroy was requesting to send the letter in the name of Community Board 4Q.

After a discussion, Board Chair Marialena Giampino said to make the letter from the Transportation Committee.

Transportation Chair Matthew McElroy recapped a letter of support for the whole project and the feeling of funding for preliminary engineering is needed. The feeling of the committee was not to give a blank approval to the whole project, but noted the committee did support the preliminary design and engineering. In this way, it would be known where the stations would be, where the connection at 74 Street would be, and what type of vehicles would be used: trains, buses, or trams as well as a response to other questions brought up. The letter would state all the committee's questions and he explained the committee does support the funding.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol commented the letter should not come from the whole Board but rather sent from the Transportation Committee.

Discussion ensued.

At this point, Board Member Georgina Oliver brought up 57 Avenue/Junction Blvd. is a dangerous intersection when turning left from Junction Blvd. either eastbound or westbound. Many people have been killed and badly injured in this intersection. Jim Galloway had fought for years to get a turn light there and but it never happened. She emphasized it is a very unsafe corner and would appreciate if the Transportation Committee take another look at it and to get reports from the Police Department to implement a left turn signal on that block.

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported the committee did not meet, but an application is pending on the Food Bazaar to build a residential unit and to change the zoning by a private applicant from C1 to map a C2-4 overlay at 97-27 57 Avenue and to eliminate the BSA variance. The application goes for certification on June 6, 2022. It is a complicated application, but he was able to view it. The technology to upload was difficult. The Committee Chair read the description to the Board - The rezoning would facilitate the development of the new building approximately 88,400 sq. ft. mixed use building. The new building would contain approximately 24,500 sq. ft. the supermarket floor area on the ground floor plus an additional 5,000 sq. ft. of supermarket back of house and 25 supermarket parking spaces in the cellar, and approximately 3,000 sq. ft. of loading space on the ground floor. The new building's 41 residential parking spaces would be located on the second floor with approximately 82 dwelling units above. The new building would contain a total of approximately 62,000 sq. ft. of market rate housing pursuant to development's site existing residential zoning district's meaning as of right they can charge whatever rent they want. It would be free market apartments not subject to MIH because that part is not being rezoned.

The applicant is contemplating Affordable New York residential component. We have no idea what that is.

The new building will rise to 75 feet/6 stories on 57 Avenue, with a set back above the fifth floor meaning it would go up and then set back.

The new building would be 31 ft./2 stories on the majority of the development site's 97 Place frontage, and would be between 3 and 4 stories a (a maximum 55 feet) on the majority of the development site's 98 Street frontage.

The new building would have three curb cuts – two on 98 Street, providing access to the new building's loading berth (a 24-foot wide curb cut including splays) and residential parking (a 12-foot-wide curb cut including splays) and one on 97 Street, providing access to the proposed supermarket's parking (an 18-foot-wide curb cut, including splays).

A Public Hearing is needed because this is a huge undertaking. A meeting with the owner prior to certification is contemplated which would mean the ULURP/Zoning Committee meet to see what the owner's proposal is, and would be only to view the proposal, not to make a recommendation because it has not been certified and a public hearing held. Because of the complexity of the application, we need time to study the proposal because there are many aspects to the application. The ULURP/Zoning Committee needs to meet probably end of May before certification to ask the applicant to explain the proposal.

ULURP/Zoning Chair Alton Derrick Smith also reported there are problems with committee attendance, and he strongly suggested each committee make a diligent effort to attend because this is a huge project for the community.

Board Member Vincent Laucella provided details on problems with delivery trucks from the Food Bazaar.

This corporation is not a friendly community partner and should give back more to the community.

Youth Services

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Before adjourning, Health Committee Chair Clara Salas brought up graffiti problems in Elmhurst/Corona. Graffiti is a serious problem in our communities and she is requesting what programs the administration has in place and to continue under Mayor Adams administration.

The Department of Sanitation had improved cleaning the Queens Blvd. center medians from garbage to the dead trees after many calls she had made. The Department of Sanitation cleans the Queens Blvd. medians once a week from Horace Harding to the Long Island Railroad and sweeps on Mondays including the business district of Broadway.

Since there were no further issues, Board Member Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Environmental Committee Chair Carol Machulski, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.