



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, and Elmhurst

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Helen Marshall
Borough President

Anthony R. Moreno
Chairperson

Barry Grodenchik
Deputy Borough President
Director of Community Boards

Richard Italiano
District Manager

March 2, 2010

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010

TIME: 7:35 P.M.

PLACE: FLANDERS FIELD VFW POST #150
51-11 108TH STREET
CORONA, NEW YORK 11368

I. Chairperson Anthony Moreno called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Before the meeting proceeded, the Chair thanked both the Board's former Chair and its Executive Committee for an outstanding job.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. District Manager Richard Italiano took the attendance. A quorum was present.

IV. Vote on the Minutes (February 2, 2010)

Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to accept the minutes. By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Moreno reported on the service cuts proposed by the MTA. The first public hearings on service cuts began on March 2 in Queens and Staten Island. The MTA has proposed shutting down or scaling back many of the local and express bus lines and eliminating two subway lines. Affected buses are the:

Q14, Q42, Q74, Q75, Q79, Q89, QM22, QM23, X31, and X55 and two subway lines the W and Z would stop running altogether.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

The District Manager reported on a proposal for the Q38 bus route (which runs from Middle Village, onto 57th Avenue, onto to Christie Avenue, onto 99th Street, and back to 57th Avenue) which would connect this route with the Q58.

Residents of the TWU and Presbyterian housing on 99th Street are in favor of this new route. The MTA's response was because of the present budgetary crises, the request could not be implemented at this time. Also, the MTA was considering eliminating the bus route on 99th Street, which cannot be done since it services three senior housing complexes, and would leave seniors without public transportation. Discussion ensued.

Next, the District Manager reported a request was sent to DOT regarding the parking meters on Corona Avenue from 52nd Avenue to 50th Avenue on behalf of the business owners. Existing meters are timed for one hour; however, patrons and business owners were having problems with those time limits. Therefore, the existing one hour duration will now be changed to a two hour limit. DOT agreed with the request, and work will be implemented Spring 2010.

Mr. Joseph DiMartino said the bus stop at 108th Street and 49th Avenue had been removed. The residents want it returned. The District Manager replied the bus stop was moved because of the fire at the Laundromat. Once renovations are completed on the building, the bus stop will be reinstated.

Next, the District Manager reported on the proposed Skate Plaza at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. The exact site of the proposed project within the Park is within the footprint of the existing Astral Fountain, originally constructed for the 1964-1965 World's Fair. Working with the Maloof Family Foundation, the Parks Department will host an event June 5-6 at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. The Maloofs are building a new street park that will remain after the event. Once the contest is over, the Maloofs will donate the street park course to the city.

Next, the District Manager reported the Queens Culture Trolley is back. From February 6 to March 27 (Saturdays only), the trolley will be running between Willets Point 7 train and the Queens Museum of Art from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

As it is vital the district receive a proper count in the upcoming Census, the District Manager noted the Board office will assist the Census Bureau. From March 19 to April 19, the CB office will serve as a questionnaire assistance center from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. From 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., census staff will be based at the Board office to help residents with the form. At times when Census staff is not at the office, the Board staff will provide assistance. During the last week of April, the Conference Room at the Board office will be used as a training center for employees hired by the Census Bureau.

At this point, Council Member Karen Koslowitz addressed the Board. Council Member Koslowitz informed the Board she represents part of Community Board 4. Serving the 29th Councilmanic District, the district includes part of Elmhurst, Forest Hills, Rego Park (shared with Council Member Daniel Dromm), Maspeth, Middle Village, Kew Gardens and Richmond Hill. "Even if you are not in my district, you are my friends," she said.

Excited to be back in the Council and serving a very diverse area, Council Member Koslowitz enjoys meeting the many people living in the district. It is a pleasure to represent you, she stated.

Council Member Koslowitz reported on the upcoming budget negotiations. Strongly advocating for the people she serves, Council Member Koslowitz will do the best she can for all communities she represents.

Call Council Member Koslowitz at 718- 544-8800 with any issues of concern or problems, and she will be happy to assist.

Next, Ms. Claudia Filomena addressed the Board. Ms. Filomena, who replaces Jennifer Manley, is the new Queens Director of the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit. Working with Community Boards and civic associations addressing quality of life issues as related to city agencies, problems such as graffiti, illegal dumping, and vending problems (to name a few) are addressed.

Business cards were distributed to the Board. Call Ms. Filomena at 212-788-7449 to report any issues. The Mayor's Office is ready to help.

At this point, Chairperson Moreno called for a motion to accept the FY2011 Capital and Expense Preliminary Budget.

Mr. Nick Pennachio made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lucy Schilero, to accept the Budget. By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

VII. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Board Treasurer Joseph DiMartino reported on the Board's FY 2010 internal operating budget. Copies of the budget were distributed to the Board. Mr. DiMartino reviewed the object codes and explained each budget line citing before and after balances.

The District Manager added as it is now the Board's finances are stable. However if an unforeseen expense should arise, it cannot be covered. For example, an unplanned expense for the computers, equipment cannot be replaced. Currently money is in place for postage, however, in the future funds will be needed to replace those existing funds. Otherwise, the office cannot mail out documents.

The suggestion came up to save money on postage, e-mail. The District Manager responded not everyone has e-mails, and those who do, don't read them. The current FY 2010 budget spans July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. If the pending MN is implemented (\$9,865) this fiscal year, every Community Board will be in deficit. Since services in the office are already cut to the bare bones and there is no fat or waste in the budget, the proposed cuts will negatively impact on our office.

The District Manager will keep the Board informed on future developments regarding the operating budget.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Taxi and Limousine Commission
Renewal of For Hire Base License

Cibao Radio Dispatch License #01663
112-44 Roosevelt Avenue
Corona, NY 11368

Transportation Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported no problems exist with this base. In fact, the base had been very cooperative, therefore, the Committee approved the application.

The District Manager reported the only problem the Board has with livery services, not Cibao, but with all car services is in the area of Roosevelt Avenue, between 108th and 111th Streets—using it as a livery stand. At any given time, there are at least 12 different bases parking in that area. Many community complaints have been received. Whatever the Board's decision is, the District Manager requested to put in his letter to the base not to park there.

Moreover, the District Manager is reluctant to make it a taxi stand for livery cars since the meters will be lost permanently, however, this must be discussed and looked at.

Discussion ensued.

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

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

IX. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Vote: SLA License Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero presented the Committee’s report. The Committee held a meeting on March 1 on the following applications.

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT’S NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>
Carchiofini Restaurant II Corp. Restaurant Wine	109-16 Corona Ave. Corona, NY 11368	Approved.
Car Mike Corp. D/B/A Eternity Lounge *Change of Class from On-Premises Liquor to Restaurant Wine	102-30 43 Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Approved.
Casanova’s Billiards Corp. Beer Only	102-02 43 Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Approved
Corona Latina Bar Corp. On Premises Liquor	85-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved
Osvis Bar Restaurant Corp.	80-04 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT’S NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>
Angelos Continental Cuisine Café Inc. Restaurant Wine	95-58 Roosevelt Ave. Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved
Chef Pug Inc.	83-02 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
El Caramelo Coffee Shop Restaurant Wine	99-27 43 Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Denied. Sales after Hours; Assaults, Noise Complaints; Possession of weapons.
Team Tacos Mexico Corp. On Premises Liquor	88-10 Roosevelt Ave. Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved.

Tropic Pollo Corp. 90-59 Corona Avenue Approved
Restaurant Wine Elmhurst, NY 11373

On the last applicant, the Committee Chair explained the Committee was split on the vote and requested the Board to cast the final vote. Factors to consider on this establishment are: 200 ft. rule (near a church), assault 10/08.

ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME	ADDRESS	COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
Zacapoaxtla Corp.		Split Vote.
D/B/A Poblano Bar & Café	86-22 Whitney Avenue	
On-Premises Liquor	Elmhurst, NY 11373	

Discussion ensued. Ms. Georgina Oliver commented the owner of the establishment was asked about the assault and he responded although he was present when the assault occurred, he had no knowledge of it.

At this point, Chairperson Moreno called for a motion on the application for this establishment.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to **approve** the application with the proviso the establishment is monitored.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 4 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Immediately following the vote, Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Ms. Laraine Donohue, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

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

IX. PRESENTATIONS

1. Census 2010 Mr. Omar Ulffe Partnership Specialist

Mr. Ulffe reported on March 15 residents will receive the Census questionnaire. Queens is the most diverse county in the United States, and is below the national average regarding voluntary response to the questionnaire. \$400 billion per year is allocated and Queens needs to be a part of it in order to receive its share of resources such as schools, shelters, hospitals etc. Also accurate data determines the number of seats the state has in the U. S. House of Representatives. We can't afford to lose representation in Washington or Albany. An undercount could mean millions less in federal and state aid.

Working with the Borough President Marshall's Queens Complete Count Committee, the committee meets on a regular monthly basis to determine the best Census outreach for Queens.

The goal of the Committee is to ensure Queens gets an accurate count. The Committee is aware immigrants are particularly fearful of the questionnaire because of the questions asked. Data given is protected and confidential--it cannot be shared with any agency and protected under federal law.

The Census questionnaire consists of ten questions. It is easy, safe, and important and constitution protected. Basic trust is the key since many people do not trust the government. Mr. Ulffe was enlisting the Board's support in this endeavor to educate community residents.

Mr. Ulffe spoke of churches in the area he had visited to reach people and also thanked community leaders in educating the public on the importance of the census. Working together, more can be accomplished to obtain much needed resources. He urged everyone to encourage friends and neighbors to complete and return the census form. Any suggestions are welcomed.

Of equal importance, Mr. Ulffe reported because of major budget cuts the city is now facing, this year, more than ever, it is essential to achieve an accurate count.

April 1, 2010 is National Census Day. Fill out the form when it comes and send it right back.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea asked if the census form could be filled out on line. Mr. Ulffe replied no. No software is available and there is also a safety issue.

Mr. Nick Pennachio asked can information be gathered from NYS tax returns, public housing records, nursing and assisted living facilities Medicaid, housing vouchers since this is an accounting of people living here.

Mr. Ulffe replied information is not shared with any government agency either Federal, state, city or any other establishment.

Ms. Beth Anna Moon Ray Ferguson asked about the hiring practices for census workers. She related personal incidences regarding census personnel which were unprofessional.

Mr. Ulffe gave an explanation of the hiring process and provided information on safeguards to take when letting people in your home.

The District Manager added each person not counted costs on average \$3,000/year; for ten years--\$30,000 is lost per person.

Millions of dollars to communities are lost for each person that does not respond reiterated Mr. Ulffe.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

ULURP & Zoning

No Report. Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee did not meet. However, a meeting is planned for March 16. The agenda item for the upcoming meeting is: 94th Street, Corona Avenue Rezoning. The Committee Chair provided more details. The full presentation will be provided at the April 6 Community Board meeting. All were invited to attend the ULURP open meeting at the Queens Center Mall—Management Office, at 7:00 p.m., since this land use application impacts both Elmhurst and Corona. An Attorney will be present to give the presentation.

Postal

No Report. Committee Chair was not present.

Environmental

Committee Chair Tom McKenzie reported on the recent snowfalls. Sanitation Dept. did a good job overall, noting there was some flooding because when the snow melted, it could not get to the catch basins.

Committee Chair McKenzie spoke about the on-going problems with litter baskets that need to be emptied more often. Household garbage is deposited in those receptacles. Removing the baskets is a consideration; however, people would still leave garbage and walk off.

An Environmental Committee meeting is planned for Wednesday, March 31, 2010. The agenda will be set by those attending. This will be for Spring season and Summer.

Mr. McKenzie reported since the year 2000 real estate taxes have risen 114%. In the first five years, taxes rose only 38%. Interestingly, federal, state, and city income taxes, and factoring in social security, sales tax, gasoline taxes, insurances on house and car, 50% or more of our entire income goes to different taxes.

Next, Mr. McKenzie spoke about blockbusting in Elmhurst. Seniors, who do not respond to mailings to sell their homes, are being harassed. Garbage is thrown in front of their homes in the middle of the night, and immediately the next morning the Sanitation Department appears and issues a summons for a dirty sidewalk. He related a personal incident about an 85-year old senior who had received a summons. Fines are not for \$75 or a \$100 but \$300.

Ms. Beth Anna Moon Ray Ferguson reported Sanitation Enforcement embellish on their findings, and related a personal incident. In this way, fines are higher.

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Helen Landaverde reported the Committee was scheduled to meet but because of the snow, the Committee did not meet.

Health

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Youth

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported a meeting is planned for April. Meeting date to be confirmed with Elmhurst Hospital. Notices will be mailed.

Parks

No Report. Committee Chair Tony Caminiti reported the Committee did not meet.

At this point, Congratulations were extended to Mr. Caminiti on "The Courier Sun", February 24, 2010, Star Of Queens news article featuring Mr. Caminiti. Mr. Caminiti received a 'round of applause.

XI. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Legislative reports were given earlier in the meeting.

XII. PUBLIC FORUM – Good & Welfare of the District

Mr. James Lisa thanked Mrs. Judy D'Andrea and P. S. 28 for the students help with the canned foods to give to St. Leo's Church from the Corona Lions.

Second, Saturday, March 6, there will be an Earthquake Relief Drive at the VFW Hall at 1:30 p.m. for the victims of Chile. Bring non-perishable foods.

Third, on March 21, the Sons of Italy will host their St. Joseph's table. A collection of non-perishable foods is needed to give to the parishes of St. Leo's and St. Paul's.

There being no further business, Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tom McKenzie, to adjourn. Unanimous.

Before the meeting adjourned, an additional guest scheduled to give a presentation earlier in the meeting delivered her presentation at this point.

XIII. PRESENTATION

Family Resource Center of Queens

Ms. Anna Jaramillo reported the Family Resource Center delivers mental health services for children and adolescents. Family Resource Centers serve parents who live in the Bronx, Manhattan and Queens who have children with serious emotional/behavioral disorders. The program is funded by the New York City

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. All staff is parents of children with special needs, and services are free and confidential.

Parenting classes are provided for special needs children in English, Spanish, and Chinese. Family advocates who work only with children speak English, Spanish and Chinese.

Services include:

- Support groups
- Information about mental health and referrals to community services
- Assistance is provided in guiding parents through public and private agencies such as schools, hospitals, child welfare, mental health programs and much more.

Brochures were on hand with more information.

The office is located at 87-08 Justice Avenue, Suite C-14, Elmhurst, New York. Phone 718-651-1960 to reach Ms. Lorraine Jacobs, Director.

There being no further business, Ms. Miriam Levenson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Georgina Oliver, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.