



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst and Newtown

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**Helen Marshall**  
Borough President

**Anthony R. Moreno**  
Chairperson

**Barry Grodenchik**  
Deputy Borough President  
Director of Community Boards

**Richard Italiano**  
District Manager

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### COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

**DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011**

**TIME: 7:50 P.M.**

**PLACE: VFW Post #150  
51-11 108 Street  
Corona, New York**

- I. Chairperson Anthony Moreno opened the meeting at 7:50 p.m.
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.
- III. District Manager Richard Italiano took the attendance. A quorum was present.

At this point, a vote on the Jackson Heights Transportation Study is called for. Before the vote was taken, however, Transportation Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported this Study was three years in the making. The Transportation Committee voted in favor of both studies.

Ms. Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to **approve** both the Jackson Heights Transportation Study and the Woodhaven Boulevard Study.

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

Next, Transportation Committee Chair reported on the Q38 Extension to Connect with the Q58. The Transportation Committee **opposed** the route offered by the MTA Bus Company. Furthermore, the District Manager explained the Board is asking that the Q38 is re-routed to travel along Christie Avenue, making a left on 99<sup>th</sup> Street, continuing to Corona Avenue, and coming back down to 99<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. James Lisa proposed that the Q38's route cover all of the areas previously mentioned at the Public Hearing. The travel path Mr. Lisa suggested for the Q38 bus route is:

The bus would come up 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 99<sup>th</sup> Street  
At 99<sup>th</sup> Street, make a left to Corona Avenue  
At Corona Avenue, make a right to 108<sup>th</sup> Street

At 108 Street, make a right onto the Horace Harding Expressway  
Make a right on the Horace Harding Expressway to 99<sup>th</sup> Street  
Make a right on 99<sup>th</sup> Street to 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Make a left on 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue and go back

Committee Chairperson DiMartino added the MTA Bus Company's proposed route would remove the bus stop where three senior housing complexes are located.

Chairperson Moreno stated a vote is needed on the suggested route submitted by MTA Bus Company.

Mr. James Lisa made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tom McKenzie, to **deny** the proposal submitted by the MTA Bus Company.

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

At this point, Mr. James Lisa made a motion, seconded by Ms. Priscilla Carrow, to approve the connection with the Q58 via the 99<sup>th</sup> Street extension.

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

Next, the Chair called for a vote on the matter of the MOBIL Service Station, BSA #258-07BZ. ULURP Committee Chair Miriam Levenson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Laraine Donohue, to **accept** the variance.

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

**IV. Vote:** Minutes of the April 12, 2011 Meeting  
Minutes of the May 10, 2011 Meeting

Correction: Minutes of the April 12, 2011 Meeting

The District Manager thanked Mr. McKenzie for the addendum he had sent because the tape recorder was not working properly the evening of April 12, however, minutes of the whole meeting was needed.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D'Andrea, to **accept** the minutes with the addendum given by Mr. McKenzie.

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

Correction: Minutes of the May 10, 2011 Meeting

Mr. James Lisa pointed out at this meeting Mr. Edgar Moya had asked the School Construction Authority whether it would consider another site. There was no response by the agency.

The next question asked by Mr. Moya was that if the Board presented an alternate site would it be considered. Again, the SCA did not answer. This is important because it shows the SCA is not working with us.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D'Andrea, that the minutes as presented include the two questions asked by Mr. Moya as an addendum and also to include Mr. McKenzie's request to Ms. Priscilla Carrow to obtain a report on the 94<sup>th</sup> Street group home.

Ms. Carrow stated Mr. McKenzie's request was made after the meeting was adjourned.

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

## **V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson Moreno expressed sympathy and condolences on the passing of Board member Audrey Galligan's sister, noting Ms. Galligan and her sister were very close and never apart from each other. The Sunshine Fund had sent flowers.

Next, Chairperson Moreno reported on the ribbon cutting ceremony at Elmhurst Park held on June 6. It was a wonderful ceremony noting such dignitaries as the Mayor, Congressman Joseph Crowley, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, Board Members, and many other dignitaries were in attendance to open the Park.

## **VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

No Report.

## **VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS**

Mr. Bruce Eiber, representing Council Member Karen Koslowitz, was introduced to and welcomed by the Board.

Next, Ms. Yoselin Genao, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras, reported on upcoming community events sponsored by the Council Member Ferreras. She highlighted four following upcoming events.

DATE: Sunday, June 12  
TIME: 11 AM – 7 PM  
PLACE: 94-15 Northern Blvd.  
East Elmhurst, NY 11372  
Free Brain Scans

Next, Ms. Genao provided information for those whose property the City has levied a tax lien against. This is a claim for unpaid property taxes, water, sewer or other property charges. There are exemptions which can exclude the property from the sale. The Department of Finance and HPD representatives will visit the community for one to one counseling for each homeowner in debt. A payment plan must be entered into before August 1, 2011. No down payment is required for a payment agreement.

DATE: Tuesday, June 28, 2011  
TIME: 4 pm – 7 pm  
PLACE: ELMCOR  
108 Street & Northern Blvd.

Next, a street renaming will be held in honor of Nancy DeBenedittis best known as Mama's of Corona

DATE: July 31, 2011  
TIME: 12 Noon  
PLACE: 104 Street & 46 Avenue (Mama's Way)

Also, a street renaming will be held in honor of hero Staff Sargeant Luis Manuel Gonzalez

DATE: Saturday, August 20, 2011  
TIME: 5:30 P.M.  
PLACE: 108<sup>TH</sup> Street and 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Corona, NY 11368

The next speaker was Mr. Andrew Ronen, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm, who reported the Council Member is very supportive of the Jackson Heights Transportation Study.

The June in Jackson Heights promotion was mentioned. This event is an exciting month long festival of diverse arts, food and culture.

DATE: June 1 through June 25 . Enjoy!

Also, Council Member Dromm invites you to an LGBTQ Foster Parent Information Forum:

DATE: Monday, June 13, 2011

TIME: 5:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Place: Jewish Center of Jackson Heights  
37-06 77<sup>th</sup> Street  
Jackson Heights, NY

### **VIII. REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

Since the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee was not in attendance, Ms. Clara Salas presented the report. Ms. Salas informed the Board, the Committee met on June 1. Nominated for the vacant At-Large Director position was Mr. George Onuorah. Mr. Onuorah was asked if he accepted the nomination. The nomination was declined by Mr. Onuorah.

At this point, nominations were taken from floor.

Mr. Alirio Orduna nominated Mr. Peter Vekiarelis

Ms. Laraine Donohue nominated Mr. Robert Rothschild.

Mr. Joseph DiMartino nominated Mr. James Lisa.

Following the third nomination, Chairperson Moreno asked if there were any other nominations.

Since there were none, printed ballots were distributed to the Board members for a vote. The Chairperson advised the Board print your name to the left, and circle or to put a \* for the person you are voting for.

Since the ballots were in the process of being tallied, Chairperson Moreno called on Transportation Committee Chairperson Joseph DiMartino to present the Committee's report. Both the following street activity permits were approved by the Transportation Committee.

### **IX. REPORT OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Vote: Street Activity Permits

1. *Corona Plaza Street Festival*
2. *Colombian Independence Senior Health Festival*

*Corona Plaza Street Festival* – Sunday, August 28, 2011

Corona Plaza  
11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Setup: 9:00 a.m.  
Breakdown: 7:00 p.m.  
500 In Attendance

*Columbian Independence Senior Health Festival* – Friday, September 23, 2011  
 Whitney Avenue between Aske Street and Benham Street  
 12:00 Noon  
 5:00 p.m.  
 Setup: 8:00 a.m.  
 Breakdown: 6:00 p.m.  
 250 In Attendance

Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lucy Schilero, to **approve** the Committee’s report as presented.

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

Now that the ballots were counted, Chairperson Moreno announced Mr. Robert Rothschild will serve as the new At Large Director. The vote count was as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u># of Votes</u>
Peter Vekiarelis	8
James Lisa	7
Robert Rothschild	13

Congratulations were extended to Mr. Rothschild.

**X. ULURP & ZONING COMMITTEE**

Vote taken earlier in the meeting.

**XI. PUBLIC SAFETY**

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met June 6 to review the following applications:

**NEW APPLICANTS**

<u>ESTABLISHMENT’S NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT’S ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>
Castillo Sports Bar Corp. On Premises Liquor	82-18 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved
LaRica Vicky Food, Inc. Beer Only	97-12 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Denied. No C of O.
Loma Restaurant Corp. Restaurant Wine	58-28 99 <sup>th</sup> Street Corona, NY 11368	Approved

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS**

<u>ESTABLISHMENT’S NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT’S ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>
Betty’s Catering Corp. Catering Establishment	94-33 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont'd)**

<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>
El Dorado Café, Corp. Restaurant Wine	102-02 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Approved
El Gauchito, II Corp. Dbá El Gauchito Restaurant Restaurant Wine	94-58/60 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved

**RECONSIDERATION**

Wrong Way Bar On Premises Liquor	87-33 Britton Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
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Regarding the Wrong Way Bar, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported there were many Police issues on this establishment. They will get a letter stating their record is clean. The Committee will continue to track and monitor.

Furthermore, the Committee Chair reported on the Loma Restaurant. Residents complained to Police and 311 about noise and disorderly behavior up to 4: 00 a.m. The Committee will approve liquor license if applicant lowers the volume of music, take control of disorderly customers and shorten their hours of business to 12:00 a.m. during work week and 1:00 a.m. weekends.

Discussion ensued whether or not Committee can impose restrictions on the establishment's hours of operation. It was suggested this come in the form of a recommendation to the owner.

Mr. Tom McKenzie mad a motion, seconded Ms. Laraine Donohue to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

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

**XII. CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

Committee Chair George Onuorah reported the Committee met on June 3 and discussed permits for unenclosed sidewalk café for Sabor Latino I. Corp. and Global Entertainment Group LLC/Play. Also discussed was the Cabaret license for BlueBird Restaurant Lounge/Exotics.

For the unenclosed sidewalk café Sabor Latino. Corp. and Global Entertainment Group LLC/ Play, the Committee recommended approval. Site visits were conducted to both businesses by the Committee Chair.

Regarding Blue Bird Restaurant Lounge/Exotics -- Approval of permit request is contingent on entity submitting appropriate documents.

Board Chairperson Anthony Moreno stated each entity will voted on separately. A roll call vote was taken.

Sabor Latino I. Corp.

Ms. Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gigi Salvador, to **approve** the Committee's recommendation.

By a roll call vote, the Board voted 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 4 abstentions. Motion passed.

Global Entertainment Group/Play

Ms. Georgina Oliver, made a motion, seconded by A. Redd Sevilla, to **approve** the Committee's recommendation.

By a roll call vote, the Board voted 16 in favor, 13 opposed, and 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

BlueBird Restaurant Lounge/Exotics

Before the vote was taken, Mr. Redd Sevilla expressed concern about I. S 5 and P. S. 7 located in close proximity to this establishment. At 2:30-3:00 p.m., crowds of students are exiting to Queens Boulevard. The exposure to anything Exotics is disturbing.

Next, Mr. Alirio Orduna commented this establishment is not a dance place rather its specialty is food. Discussion ensued on its long hours of operation.

Since the owner was answering questions from the Board, Ms. Georgina Oliver said at the last meeting, it was recommended a change of name for the establishment. The owner had agreed to this suggestion. More discussion on the hours of operation. Operating hours are 12:00 noon to 4:00 a.m.

Next, Mrs. Judy D'Andrea said even if the name is changed, the concept will still remain the same. What is the Exotic part, and why is it opened to 4:00 a.m., she questioned.

More discussion followed on the name and long hours.

Next, Ms. Beth Anna Moon Ray Ferguson commented their menu carried nothing that was Exotic. You can say anything in another language, but it does not make the food exotic. It's only a different language. In this society, the word Exotic carries a distinct meaning.

Next, Mrs. Roseann Geiger said using the word Exotic will attract an element the community does not want.

Next, Ms. George Onuorah brought up this is question of language and not to confuse the issue. This is unfair!

Next, Mr. Nick Pennachio brought up the 4:00 a.m. closing time is the major criteria.

Ms. Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to **approve (in support of)** the Committee's report and approve the DCA application.

A point of information was called by Ms. Rovenia McGowan in terms of the operating hours. Why must the establishment stay open until 4:00 a.m.?

Discussion ensued. Chairperson Anthony Moreno reported the business can stay open as long as it wants because there is no restriction on the time. More discussion about what time an establishment must stop serving liquor.

At this point, Chairperson Moreno called for the vote.

By a roll call vote, the Board voted 7 in favor, 19 opposed, with 3 abstentions. Motion defeated.

### **XIII. PRESENTATION**

#### **NYC Small Business Services**

No Report. Speaker not in attendance.

### **XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### *Parks*

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

#### *Postal*

No Report.

#### *Health*

Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee did not meet.

#### *Environmental*

Committee Chair Tom McKenzie reported on three on-going issues:

- ❖ Cable wires still hanging throughout neighborhoods. Nothing being done.
- ❖ The Long Island Railroad does not care about our community.
- ❖ McDonald's Restaurant has rats and is very dirty.

#### *Youth*

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported applications for the 2011 DYCD Summer Youth Employment Program ended on May 27. Call the 1-800 # on their website for more information for summer employment or by dialing 311. The Community Education Council rejected the idea of a Charter School in Queens. The more schools the community has, the better for our children. Schools are so overcrowded in the borough.

At this point, Mr. McKenzie asked Ms. Priscilla Carrow for a report on the group home mentioned earlier. Ms. Carrow responded she had sent them an e-mail but, as yet, did not receive a response.

### **XV. PUBLIC FORUM**

Ms. Binh Luu, Queens Branch Coordinator, Chinese-American Planning Council Inc., (CPC) reported this is a non-profit agency servicing the Queens community for over thirty years mainly the Asian American population. CPC Queens will be collaborating with Queens Smoke Free Partnership through a grant administered by Fund for Public Health in New York and funded by New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to expand smoke-free air and reduce the number of tobacco retailers and access to tobacco products at the point of sale.

As you know on May 23, Mayor Bloomberg announced all parks, beaches and public plazas will be now smoke free. The law was passed in February and affects all New York City residents. Statistics showed that 55% of New Yorkers favor this policy. The health of New Yorkers is very important to the community because it affects our youth which is the future generation. Statistics were presented on the effects of smoking on teens. 90% of regular smokers stop smoking before age 18. Over 5,000 high school students in Queens currently smoke.

CPC is excited about this grant and hopes to partner with community based organizations and Community Boards to advocate and educate the community in expanding smoke free air and reduce the sale of the number of tobacco products.



Equally important, CPC is planning a smoke free workshop in July for the youth in the community. She urged all young people to attend and hopefully to think twice about smoking as a result of the workshop. Finally, all organizations were welcomed to share ideas.

At this point, an area resident complained about an establishment at 108 Street and Corona Avenue. The District Manager responded this is an ongoing problem. The business, 108-45 Corona Avenue, does not have a liquor license. Parties and catering and loud music are constant. The Police and the State Liquor Authority were called. Activity had stopped for awhile, but now it's back again.

In light of this complaint, Mrs. Judy D'Andrea commented this is what this neighborhood is coming to. People are doing whatever they please. The Police, Fire, and Buildings Departments and every city agency are neglecting those issues. Mrs. D'Andrea sympathized with the area resident. Not to mention people sleeping in the new park across from P. S. 28 in the morning and people sleeping on the street corners.

Chairperson Anthony Moreno stated it is a Police matter and the Police will be made aware of the situation.

Additionally, Mrs. Beth Anna Moon Ray Ferguson noted children's parties are held in that building. What happens is the children's party turns into an adult party, which is part of the issue.

Discussion ensued.

Next, Lorenzo, who holds permits in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, spoke about the many illegal vendors in the Park. At a cost of over \$250,000 to obtain these permits, he had called 311, the Parks Department, 911, and the 110 Police Precinct for help. The Police do not acknowledge any incidents. This is an ongoing problem. Can the Community Board reach out to PEP, Dept. of Mental Health & Hygiene and the Police Dept. for assistance? As it is now, nothing is being done.

Discussion ensued.

Next, Sandra Rhodes, who lives on Martense Avenue and 108 Street, complained about loud music played at night. Music starts at 2:00 p.m. and plays until 5:00 a.m. Calls to 311 and visits to the Precinct are useless. What can be done?

Next, Ms. Beth Anna Moon Ray Ferguson noted Police and 311 have been called on noise complaints, to no avail. With summer here, this problem needs to be addressed.

There being no further business, Mrs. Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Miriam Levenson, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.