



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst and Newtown

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Helen Marshall
Borough President

Anthony R. Moreno
Chairperson

Barry Grodenchik
Deputy Borough President
Director of Community Boards

Richard Italiano
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012

TIME: 7:20 PM.

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

I. Chairperson Anthony Moreno called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

At this point, Chairperson Anthony Moreno recognized Board Member Nicholas Pennachio, who requested to make a brief statement. Mr. Pennachio read the following statement to the Board:

“This Sunday (January 8) was the first anniversary of the shooting in Texas where Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was shot in the head. At the ceremony, Congresswoman Giffords led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Her hand was raised to her heart with the aid of her astronaut husband as she recited the Pledge of Allegiance with tears and emotion. A Pledge that was given proudly.”

Community Board 4 is a very vital part of our community. We begin our meetings with this patriotic pledge and most of us pledge it sincerely and with pride. We have several Board members who choose to remain silent during the Pledge. This silence has continued meeting after meeting for several years. This is their prerogative and they have the right to do so. However, how can they, in fairness, vote for issues brought before our democratic Board 4 if they feel uncomfortable and doubt whether the Pledge is warranted. For this reason, Mr. Pennachio has a problem justifying remaining on Board 4 and is announcing after 24 years as a Board member he is submitting his resignation to the Borough President after this meeting.”

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

IV. Vote: Minutes of December 13, 2011

Ms. Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D’Andrea, to **accept** the minutes of December 13, 2011.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Anthony Moreno reported on the Queens Blvd. repaving from Grand Avenue to Broadway, which was completed this past Fall. Now, the Water Department will tear up this roadway and install water mains. No communication between agencies exists because this happens time and time again.

At this point, Mr. Thomas McKenzie brought up the Board's meeting date emphasizing the Board always met on the first Tuesday of the month, except for November. Now, the Board meets on the second Tuesday, which is problematic for him.

The District Manager responded a prior vote had been taken on the change of the meeting day.

Regarding the aforementioned report on the tearing up of Queens Blvd., Mr. James Lisa suggested this type of occurrence happens more than it should. Can we, as a Community Board, write a letter to the Mayor, city agencies, and Queens Borough President and also include other Community Boards to join in calling for better communication between all. He spoke about the introduction of a Bill in the City Council that unless better communication is achieved, there will be problems. Agencies must get together, have a dialogue with one another, and coordinate efforts.

When the Bill is introduced in the City Council, legislators will know the community supports it.

The District Manager responded there is a Bill pending but it does not cover this project since it was approved beforehand.

Discussion ensued. The Board wholeheartedly approved of Mr. Lisa's suggestion.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Richard Italiano reported on the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy. Some Board members still need to sign for their copy. A list of Board member names was read. Please see him at the end of the meeting.

Next, water main work will be performed on Queens Blvd. from Simonson Street to 63rd Road.

Next, the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center Outreach Program had invited CB 4 members to take part in one of its ongoing special events. PS 14Q has been invited to attend Project ACES Program on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. Also, PS 16Q is scheduled to take part in the same project on Monday, February 6, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

To confirm participation, please call 718-595-2409.

Before continuing with his report, the District Manager announced the Board Treasurer, Mr. Joseph DiMartino, will make a collection for the Sunshine Fund. Requested donation is \$15 or whatever you can afford.

Domestic Violence Community Training Program scheduled for January 12, AT 12 Noon. Register by e-mail at qcsw@aol.com.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Carolyn Tran, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm, invited all to a Co-op/Condo Town Hall meeting on Thursday, January 26, 2012, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Flyers were distributed.

Next, Emily Paez, representing Senator Jose Peralta, reported a Coat Distribution is planned for Saturday, January 21, at PS 307, Pioneer Academy, 40-20 100th Street, Queens, NY 11368. Flyers were distributed.

Next, Ari Espinal, representing Assembly Member Francisco Moya, reported on the Mobile Office with Assembly Member Francisco Moya. Mobile Office will be every other two weeks, every month. Stop by on Saturday, January 14, at Plaza Del Sol, 37-16 108 Street, Corona, NY and meet your Assembly Member. Flyers were distributed.

Next, Ms. Yoselin Genao, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras, reported a State of the Council District address is scheduled for February 9 at Langston Hughes Library at 6:00 p.m. Not only the issues but also problems resolved and how we as a community can present solutions not only for short term but long term as well will be discussed. Save The Date cards were passed out.

Next, the Council Member has partnered with different organizations, In particular, the Chamber For Women. A forum is scheduled for January 24. "How To Start Your Business In The Hair Salon Business/Cosmetology". For those who already are in business, programs on how to expand will be offered.

Next, on January 19, at Transfiguration Church free taxes for low income residents will be offered in conjunction with the Food Bank of Greater New York.

VIII. BY-LAW COMMITTEE

Vote: By Law Revision #8A

Committee Chair Judith D'Andrea reported last month a change to the bylaws was presented as follows:

Article 6 – Nomination And Election of Officers
Item 8A

Revision – Officers Serving More Than ½ a Term Counts As Serving
A Full Term For The Purpose of Term Limits As Noted
In Robert's Rules of Order

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tom McKenzie, to **accept** the revision.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

IX. NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Formation of Nominating Committee

Chairperson Anthony Moreno explained he is permitted to make two nominations and three nominations must come from the floor. For his nominees, Chairperson Moreno named **Mr. Robert Rothschild** and **Mrs. Patricia Terranova**.

Next, the Chairperson called for nominations from the floor.

Mrs. Roseann Geiger nominated **Mr. Edgar Moya**.

Mr. Diego Freire nominated Mr. **Alirio Orduna**.

Mr. Alirio Orduna nominated **Mr. Diego Freire**

The Chairperson recalled the members of the Nominating Committee: Mr. Robert Rothschild, Mrs. Patricia Terranova, Mr. Edgar Moya, Mr. Alirio Orduna, and Mr. Diego Freire.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Miriam Levenson, to **accept** the nominees.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

X. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Vote: SLA Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met on January 9 regarding the following applications:

New Applicants

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>
Comales Restaurant Corp. Wine and Beer Only	107-02 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Approved

Renewal Applicants

Editas Bar & Restaurant Inc. On Premises Liquor	85-10 & 85-12 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Denied. History of problems. 2011 7 civil summons issued. ABC& health code violations 2009 15 civil court summons.
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Brenmac Tavern Inc. DBA Grand Stand On Premises Liquor	85-35 Grand Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
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Mirtiel Rest. Inc DBA Hill Tap Tavern On Premises Liquor	83-03 Grand Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
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Mr. Thomas McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Roseann Geiger, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

XI. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Vote: One Way Conversion of Lamont Avenue

Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported the Committee did not meet on the Public Hearing subject matter of the one-way conversion of Lamont Avenue.

Discussion ensued about the committee's recommendation. The Committee Chair stated he was in favor of the one-way conversion.

Mr. Joseph DiMartino made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D'Andrea, to **approve** the one-way conversion of Lamont Avenue.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 27 in favor, 4 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

Discussion ensued about the DOT study that was done on this conversion.

Ms. Lucy Schilero said the street is very narrow, and cars double park. She expressed concern about the traffic flow emptying out into 94th Street, Lamont, and Benham. Years ago, a traffic light was requested for that location. She asked this be added to the study. Streets all merge into that one area.

Mr. James Lisa brought up NYC DOT install a traffic control device, traffic light at the corner of 94th Street and Lamont Avenue to control the traffic volume.

Discussion ensued about the need for the one way and the traffic flow of the surrounding streets.

XII. CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Vote: DCA Newsstand Application

License #1413617

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Miriam Levenson, to **deny** the application.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention. Motion to deny passed.

At this point, Mrs. Judy D'Andrea brought up the telephone calls from energy companies soliciting business. Unsuspecting consumers may not be aware they are signed with another company for a new service until they start receiving bills.

Discussion ensued.

Mrs. D'Andrea urged elected officials to address this problem with legislation. Companies must clearly identify their intent before their presentation is given indicating the consumer is signing for a new service. The elderly and immigrants are more vulnerable because they may not understand the concept.

Speaking on this issue, Mr. Bruce Eiber, representing Council Member Karen Koslowitz, reported this issue has been brought up at the precinct councils. He suggested if someone claims to be a representative from a utility company and does not show identification, do not let them in. Call 911 the Police. This is a criminal matter. Also, if anyone has a landlord tenant issue, come to Council Member Koslowitz's office for assistance. An attorney is on staff.

At this point, Mr. Tom McKenzie brought up a \$12.95 charge by the telephone company for Enhanced Services Billing Inc. He said there was another company involved and provided more details.

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

At this point, Mr. Tom McKenzie asked Mrs. Patricia Terranova, as a member of the Parks Committee to bring up a matter of concern. Trees around P.S. 7 are being strangled by iron grids surrounding the pits. Trees have gotten so big that they are squeezing the grids out.

Health

Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee held a meeting on January 5. The subject of the meeting was Smoke Free Apartment Buildings. There will be a Q&A workshop for landlords, co-op owners or

anyone interested in a smoke free building. The workshop will be Tuesday, January 31, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., at the NYC Department of Health, 42-09 28th Street.

Youth

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported meetings are held as needed.

Environmental

Committee Chair Tom McKenzie reported:

- The Dept. of Sanitation mixes recycling with regular garbage.
- Cable companies and Verizon have streets in a shambles. Hanging wires are extremely unsightly and ruin the aesthetics of the neighborhood. He requested representation from those companies at the District Cabinet meeting.
- The Long Island Railroad never remedied the problem with the Broadway overpass. The water runs off onto the sidewalk and freezes in the winter. This problem has been brought up over the years and nothing was ever done.
- The community has a high water table. He suggested calling the American Cancer Society for a radon kit to test neighborhood homes. A high radon reading may mean a high incidence of breast cancer. More details were provided.
- Lastly, he mentioned “fracking” especially around the Indian Point atomic power plant. More details were provided. He pointed out the 11 earthquakes in Youngstown, Ohio. He also mentioned harming the city’s water supply. Water supplies are threatened by shale gas development using hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking” which stimulates well production by injecting millions of gallons of water laced with chemicals down the well bore to crack surrounding shale.

At this point, Ms. Beth Anna Moon Ray Ferguson reported a leaning pole on Corona Avenue in front of the Laundromat. This is a very dangerous situation and must be investigated. Details were provided.

Subsequently, Chairperson Moreno urged every Board Member to report any situation of negative incidence. Call the Board with any community problems.

ULURP & Zoning

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported no December meeting was held.

Postal

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

XIII. PUBLIC FORUM

At this point, Mr. Eric Howard, representing the Queens Borough Public Library at Lefrak City spoke about an open forum held at the Library the last Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of forum is to introduce the community to one level of government each month. Noted participants were the Community Board, city Council Member Daniel Dromm, and the Queens Borough President is a scheduled the end of January.

Before the Board meeting concluded, Board members updated the Board on various activities and events with their organizations.

Mr. Alirio Orduna addressed the Board on behalf of the cadets. A trip is planned to Santo Domingo for 20 cadets. Donations are urgently needed to help cadets who can not afford traveling expenses.

At this point, Board Treasurer Joseph DiMartino gave a brief report of the Sunshine Fund and requested donations for the fund.

Subsequently, the District Manager reiterated the Board Members needed to sign for the EEOC Policy

Before adjourning the meeting, Assembly Member Francisco Moya addressed the Board. Next week, the Governor will present his budget hearings. The Assembly Member promised to address the Board next month on what the fiscal forecast holds for our neighborhoods and what we can do to better our community.

Saturday, January 14, 2012 the Mobile Office will be stationed at Plaza Del Sol, 37-16 108 Street, from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m. Come out and meet your Assembly Member. The Council Member is bringing his office throughout the community in an effort to help constituents who cannot visit his office during business hours. The mobile office is scheduled to outreach in the community twice a month on the weekends.

Specifically speaking about the issues on Roosevelt Avenue such as garbage, money laundering, prostitution, we must engage the proper agencies to focus on those problems.

At this point, Board members asked questions about community issues.

There being no further business, Ms. Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Miriam Levenson, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.