



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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**Melinda Katz**  
Borough President

**Louis Walker**  
Chairperson

**Melva Miller**  
Deputy Borough President

**Christian Cassagnol**  
District Manager

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March 8, 2016

### COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

MARCH 8, 2016

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

I. Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. Executive Secretary Lucy Schilero took the roll call. A quorum was present.

#### IV. VOTE: **Minutes of February 9 Meeting**

Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula made a motion seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna to **approve** the minutes.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

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

Chairperson Louis Walker informed the Board Cathy Moore will no longer serve as the liaison between the Board and the Borough President's office.

Subsequently, Mrs. Moore said she had been the representative for Community Board 4 for the past fifteen years and for fourteen years, she had an office in Corona. A good portion of her life has been serving the residents of the community. Born and raised in Corona, her heart is always in the community. She will miss each and every one of her constituents.

Ms. Pat Rosero will be the new Borough President's liaison to the Board. It has been both a pleasure and an honor to help the community, stated Mrs. Moore. She thanked the Board for the privilege of allowing her to serve.

On behalf of the Board, District Manager Cassagnol presented Mrs. Moore with a gift for her many years of service and dedication.

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

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported on a house at 90-11 56 Avenue (the Horse Brook House). The Board is working with Board Member Marialena Giampiano to obtain landmark status and have this house turned into a museum. A letter of support from the Board is needed. Also an online petition can be accessed from the Board's Facebook page as well as the Board's website. He noted the house dates back to the 1600's.

Board Member Rovenia McGowan made a motion, seconded by Board Member Erica Cruz, to write a letter of support for this house to obtain landmark status.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

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

Lillian Zepeder, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland's office, reported on the upcoming participatory budget week to allocate a million dollars to projects decided by the community.

An expo week will be held at the end of March to see the proposed projects at the local libraries. A full list of the dates and times will be forthcoming in the next week. Follow the Council Member's Facebook page. Ms. Zepeder listed community projects the Council Member Ferreras-Copeland had funded. If you live in a participating district be sure to vote the week of March 26-April 3.

In addition, budget hearings are underway at the City Council. Council Members confer with the Mayor on where taxpayer money will be spent such as education, construction, public safety etc.

She also spoke about the passage of a Bill regarding the Department of Corrections where the agency will be required to report quarterly on any act of violence. Right now, the agency is only required to report incidents regarding adolescence, but now it will be any age involved in an incident.

Next, Ari Espinal, representing Assembly Member Francisco Moya's office, reported the Assembly Member is in Albany for budget season and will address the Board in April. Also, she announced the upcoming first ever bi-lingual College Fair event. It will be held at P. S. 69, 77-02 37 Avenue, Jackson Heights, NY. Parents will have the opportunity to be more involved in the process of their college bound children.

Before concluding, the women of CB4 were commended and wished Happy International Women's Day, which is March 8.

Next, Alex Bennett, representing U. S. Rep. Grace Meng's office reported the Congresswoman introduced legislation, along with a Congressman from Montana, to honor the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first woman ever elected to Congress. The measure would rename federal STEM program in honor of former Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin who was elected to the House of Representatives in 1916. The U. S. Representatives introduced the 100 Years of Women in Congress Act.

Second, Mr. Bennett said contraceptives are not included in Congresswoman's Meng's legislation to make feminine hygiene products that can be purchased with funds in a Flexible Spending Account.

Following this further, Congresswoman Meng sent a letter to Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan to eliminate the sales tax on feminine hygiene products. Recently, Governor Cuomo made a public commitment to do so also. Legislation to eliminate the sales tax on feminine hygiene products is presently pending in both chambers.

In the same way, Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland is introducing legislation to make tampons and other feminine hygiene products readily available for free in public schools, shelters, and correctional facilities.

Also, Rep. Grace Meng had convinced the Federal Emergency Management Agency to add feminine hygiene products to the list of key items that can be bought with grant money at shelters. Shelters can now spend grant money on blankets, toilet paper, soap, and toothpaste. Feminine hygiene products were not on the list. The change will become effective in April.

Lastly, he announced Congresswoman Grace Meng's Third Congressional District Art Competition. High school students who reside or attend school in our district are encouraged to contact their school's art department or principal to participate. Students who enter this competition will have their artwork put on display at the Queens Museum during the awards ceremony on Saturday, April 9, at 12:00 p.m.

Next, Michael Mallon, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm, reported Council Member Dromm wanted to thank everyone who joined him at his annual Elmhurst Lunar New Year event.

The event was a huge success!

He also reported Council Member Dromm and Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland were happy to advocate for the inclusion of \$868 million in the school construction budget. School Districts 24 and 30 are two of the most overcrowded districts in the whole city. New schools are sorely needed in our area. Even after the new schools are built, there will still be a great need for more construction. Going forward, Council Member Dromm will continue to advocate for much needed resources.

In addition, Council Member Dromm was excited to be a part of the Fifth Avenue St. Patrick's Day parade announcement to include everyone. The entire community is now welcome to march. LGBT support group was given a place in the line of march.

In the office, staff is busy signing up people for SCRIE (Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption). Call the Council Member's office if you or someone you know is eligible for this very important service. An attorney is present in the district office (almost every Wednesday) that deals with a variety of specialties and is a free service. See the attorney from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

#### **VIII. REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Chairperson Louis Walker reported the office internal operating budget is on target and there is a possibility the budget may be increased slightly for the next fiscal year.

#### **IX. PRESENTATIONS:**

**A. Harold A. Martinez/AIA, NCARB  
Two4Design Architecture, PLLC  
(82-10 Queens Boulevard)**

Before the presentation, Chairperson Louis Walker explained this report is on the New Life Fellowship building located on Queens Blvd. It is a landmarked building with a change regarding the air conditioning units.

Mr. Harold Martinez and Mr. Joe Torres from Two4Design addressed the Board. Mr. Martinez gave background history of the building. New Life Fellowship Church acquired the building in 2011. It is a neo-classical building reminiscent of Palazzo style Italian palace.

With the aid of diagrams, Mr. Martinez reported it is currently undergoing Phase 1 of four phases of the façade restoration. This includes the replacement of windows and waterproofing of the terrace because there are leaks. The idea is to restore the building to its original condition. Working with Board Member A. Redd Sevilla from New Life Fellowship Church, a matching grant was obtained from the Parks Department. Some of that money is being used to restore the building. However during the restoration and because the building is not full air-conditioned throughout, the only central air unit they have is in the sanctuary. The outside offices located along the exterior perimeter do have to be air conditioned by window units.

The existing condition is there is one over one regular window such as in your home. According to LPC (Landmarks Preservation Commission) guidelines you can install a regular air conditioner.

Mr. Torres explained the importance that the air conditioners do not impede on the operation of the windows. The original windows were casement windows. With the casement windows, it does not work in the same fashion. But, it is the original construction of the building.

Mr. Martinez said the height of the window must be altered and to install the air conditioner fixed on the upper right-hand of the window frame.

In this way, you still have the air conditioner and keep the original function of the window, added Mr. Torres.

LPC's requirement for air conditioning units on a casement window requires louvers and to put in air conditioner at the interior space of the building. He presented a diagram of the proposal of both the interior and exterior space.

Mr. Martinez further explained the air conditioners as proposed will jut out six inches beyond the face of the building. LPC wants the entire unit at the interior of the building with louvers flush to the window sash, noting the interior of the building also has historic fabric. The interior of the building will have to be altered to satisfy LPC's requirements.

He also explained additional, custom-made sashes are being ordered for this condition to be met. On the diagram, he pointed out the existing building and what is being proposed. The air conditioning is a small component to the overall feature of the building.

Because the building is now currently a church, it somewhat lacks an identity. A proposal is to add banners at each corner so there is an identity to the building, said Mr. Martinez. Currently, there are no signs stating it is New Life Church. The architects followed some of the guidelines from LPC. However, because it is such a unique building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission does not have specific guidelines for this type of building.

Moreover, the building sits in a particular zoning district. But compared to other buildings in the zoning district, it is an odd ball, explained Mr. Torres. Furthermore, the architects tried to follow all the different guidelines: such as the National Parks Service and read its preservation guidelines, the Zoning for New York City and zoning for this area; and consulted LPC's regulations. The architects combined all of these regulations into one to try to best fit the design and to make it fit each one of the guidelines. Mr. Torres provided more details on the guidelines.

Mr. Martinez continued most of the historic buildings have signage bands above storefronts. The building does not have a signage band because of its order of architecture. The only areas to put a sign were the very extreme edges where there is no historic fabric, other than brick masonry.

Board Member Sandra Munoz said there is a very big sign in front of the building announcing New Life Fellowship that has been there for a long time and shows the identity of the building.

Mr. Martinez responded that sign is not approved by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Board Member Marialena Giampiano brought up churches and community organizations do not have signs on the building. Usually, there is a small plaque placed outside the building. The proposed signage looks more like advertisement, she commented.

Mr. Martinez responded the client wanted to increase visibility from street level.

Mr. Torres added the building is on Queens Boulevard and it is very much a car driven focus in terms of how the frontage is experienced. Taken into account were other institutions that are similar, the scale of this building, its history, the type of material on the building, and the type of traffic that passes in front of the building.

At this point, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla remarked people do not know what's inside the building. When people need community support, it looks like an office or institutional building. The reason why the church came in was because they wanted to use the facility and people passing by do not know it's a church. The signage is not advertising but to create an identity for the building for people to come to.

Mr. Martinez added this is not just a church. Every Tuesday, there are food drives, a clinic to help low income families, and after school programs.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea commented aesthetically the signage does look like an advertisement, and along Queens Boulevard there are enough gaudy signs in front of storefronts. She had no objection to a sign, but the size of this sign is ugly.

Chairperson Louis Walker asked the sign currently in place, which has not been approved, will it be removed?

Mr. Martinez replied during the restoration campaign, it will be removed because it does not comply.

Board Member A. Redd Sevilla pointed out the sign is not the actual sign, it will be seasonal. It's there to convey the size and the location. The actual banner and design will be done by graphic designers who will make it fit within the architecture design aesthetic to the façade. The purpose of the visual is to show size and location, which will be a banner. It's a flat, cloth banner.

Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula asked about the existing windows and the proposed air conditioners. He suggested placing the units inside.

Mr. Martinez replied it was a financial handicap to expend the money using separate heating and air conditioning systems.

Discussion ensued.

Board Member Lucy Schilero asked has the Landmarks Preservation Commission seen the plan.

Mr. Martinez replied no. Although it was necessary to present the plans to the Community Board first, they are working with a staff member at LPC. A meeting with LPC is set for April 4.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker called for a discussion on the proposal and asked if the Board wished to support the changes.

Keep in mind this is the first hurdle. Once the Board approves or disapproves the proposal, Landmarks Preservation Commission does have the final determination, concluded Chairperson Walker.

Then, Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lucy Schilero, to **approve** the proposal for New Life Fellowship, 82-10 Queens Boulevard.

Before the vote, Board Member James Lisa brought up anything done to the exterior of a landmarked building takes away from the landmark. He did not understand how the changes proposed meet the guidelines. LPC may not approve those changes. Can a representative from LPC provide more information to the Board before the Board makes a decision?

Chairperson Walker asked if the Board does not approve the proposal tonight, what happens then.

Mr. Martinez responded a Board representative can attend the LPC meeting on April 4. There will be a segment where LPC will ask if anyone has an objection or concerns to this project. The Board representative can express concerns.

The Board's letter may state the Board will not accept the proposal unless more information is acquired, said Chairperson Walker.

Board member Gurdip Singh Narula provided an example on signage. His son rents a landmarked building in Manhattan and was fined \$7,000 for erecting a sign outside.

Following this further, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla reported the building was in severe disrepair in the late 1990's. Developers wanted to come in and make it condos. The reasoning they chose New Life Fellowship was because New Life Fellowship was going to invest in the families (women, youth, children, and students). The congregation's money was used for restoration. The exterior is in disrepair, and the cost for repairs is \$2 million to \$2.5 million. The organization is spending a great deal to maintain and adhere to many of LPC's requirements. Since the windows are unique, only two manufacturers make the windows required by LPC. For cost reasons, there are requirements that cannot be met explained Board Member A. Redd Sevilla. If the Board disapproves the proposal, New Life Fellowship will have to spend more money to preserve the building. Overall, 95% of the architecture intent is maintained. He expressed the changes are quite minor, and urged the Board to vote to approve the proposal.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker asked Board Member James Lisa if he wished to add an amendment to the motion on the floor to have an LPC representative provide the Board with more information or leave the motion as is.

Discussion ensued.

Subsequently, Board Member James Lisa agreed with the motion, but let LPC make the final decision.

Before the vote, Board Member Sandra Munoz informed the Board the elk statue will remain in front of the building.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion to **approve** proposal for New Life Fellowship passed.

In this case, Chairperson Louis Walker clarified the abstention (by Board Member A. Redd Sevilla will be counted as disqualified, not as a no vote).

## **PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)**

### **B. NYCDOT**

#### ***Elmhurst Hospital Safety Improvement Project (SIP)***

***“In response to a request from Council Member Daniel Dromm regarding safety concerns on the streets adjacent to Elmhurst Hospital, DOT proposes pedestrian safety improvements on both Broadway and Baxter Avenue. The proposed changes would improve pedestrian crossings, calm traffic, and clarify vehicular movements.”***

Department of Transportation representatives Elizabeth Wooten, Project Manager Pedestrian Projects Group, and Terra Ishee, Director of Special Projects, presented the plan with the aid of a power point presentation. The main focus will be on 41 Avenue and Broadway.

#### Project Background

Broadway is a Vision Zero corridor and location is in a Vision Zero priority area  
Council Member Dromm has requested safety improvements around Elmhurst Hospital  
Pedestrian fatality occurred on Broadway at 79<sup>th</sup> Street midblock crossing (2013)

#### Proposal Areas

Three intersections were presented:  
Northwest corner – 77<sup>th</sup> Street and 41 Avenue and Broadway  
Broadway has many left turns.

#### *1. Existing: Broadway, 41 Avenue, and 77 Street*

Missing crosswalks  
Vehicle and pedestrian conflicts  
Left turning vehicles cause congestion  
Long crossings

Proposed: Broadway, 41 Avenue and 77 Street

#### Actions:

Build concrete sidewalk extension on NE corners of 77 Street and Broadway  
Install painted sidewalk extension on NW corner 41 and Broadway  
Install left-turn bays on Broadway between 76 Street and 77 Street  
Reverse 41 Avenue between 76 Street and 77 Street  
Add third signal phase and mark two new pedestrian crosswalks  
Mark high visibility crosswalks

#### Actions:

Build concrete sidewalk extension on NE corner of 77 Street and Broadway  
Install painted sidewalk extension on NW corner 41 and Broadway  
Reverse 41 Avenue between 76 Street to Broadway

Benefits:

Increases pedestrian space  
Shortens and improves crossings

Existing

Actions:

Install left-turn bays  
Reverse 41 Avenue between 76 Street and 77 Street

Proposed

Reduce turning conflicts  
Reduce congestion and pressure on turning vehicles

Existing: Signal Timing

Actions:

Third signal phase for pedestrian crossing

Proposed: Signal Timing

Benefits:

New crosswalks  
Increased pedestrian crossing time

*2. Existing: 41 Avenue & 80 Street*

Wide one-way street  
Lack of pedestrian crossing at hospital entrance  
Unclear parking markings

Proposed: 41 Avenue & 80 Street

Actions:

Enhanced Crossing at 80 Street  
Perpendicular parking for loading and unloading  
Parking lane strips

Benefits:

Creates a safer pedestrian crossing  
Formalized how vehicles park today  
Calms and organized traffic

*3. Existing: Broadway Midblock Crossing*

Pedestrian fatality in 2013  
Marked as two moving lanes with insufficient road width  
Double parking in front of hospital entrance reduces visibility and limits access

Proposed: Broadway Midblock Crossing

Actions:

Construct concrete safety island



Curb regulation changes to better accommodate loading and unloading

Benefits:

Calms traffic and provides pedestrian refuge

Reduces double parking at crosswalks

At this point, Board Member Lucy Schilero inquired if the residents and businesses had been informed of the changes.

Ms. Wooten responded The Department of Transportation had met with Elmhurst Hospital and Council Member Daniel Dromm.

Were the residents on 41 Avenue and Chase Bank notified, asked Board Member Schilero?

Mr. Vikram Sinha, NYC Department of Transportation, responded DOT did not reach out to Chase Bank. The bank is not directly impacted by the changes.

Mr. Sinha continued the residents on 41 Avenue are not impacted since there is no loss of parking on 41 Avenue. The Seventh Day Adventist Church, 41 Avenue and Broadway, was called and as yet have not responded to Mr. Sinha's request to talk. Also, Mr. Sinha had dropped off literature on the changes for their information.

Next, Board Member Judy D'Andrea asked at the entrance of the Hospital on Broadway is made as a circular driveway where vehicles can just drive up. In this way, it would eliminate double parking when patients are picked up or dropped off. She noted it would also keep the traffic moving.

Ms. Wooten responded the sidewalk is not that wide.

Mr. Sinha agreed the sidewalk is not too wide and also stated it is not DOT's jurisdiction and it is private property after the curb line.

Next, Board Member Priscilla Carrow brought up the loading dock on 41 Avenue and 77 Street. She asked about plans to install a crosswalk. What color it will be because people do not see it, she said. People have constantly passed the stop sign (at 78 Street) to get into the parking lot, which is on the right.

Discussion ensued.

Specifically, Board Member Priscilla Carrow spoke about the stop sign and a tree and a traffic summons she had received because of the poor visibility the tree poses (especially in the summer). Many workers at Elmhurst Hospital had received traffic summonses because they do not see the stop sign because of the tree. This has been a big problem for many years. Board Member Carrow also brought up the problems with cab and ambulance drivers on 80 Street and 41 Avenue.

Discussion followed about more signage to increase visibility and installation of a stop sign. Also, more lighting is needed on 41 Avenue, said Board Member Priscilla Carrow.

At this point, Board Member Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow, to **approve**, the Elmhurst Hospital Safety Improvement Project.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Before proceeding to the next agenda item, Chairperson Louis Walker said before the DOT representatives leave had anyone reviewed the Queens Boulevard Proposed Corridor Safety Improvements plan because it has been available online. It will be formally presented to the Board in April.

**X. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Report and Vote**

Before beginning the Committee’s report, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero mentioned Divine Nightclub, located on 102 Street and 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue, a court meeting is scheduled for March 15 at the State Liquor Authority.

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported on the following SLA applications:

**NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES**

**NEW APPLICANTS**

<b><u>Establishment Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment’s Address</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>
Cocolon Restaurant Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider	90-16 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Super T&F Inc. <i>Icook</i> Wine, Beer & Cider	81-17 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Denied
Applicant stated they were not ready to meet at this time.		

**ALTERATION**

<b><u>Establishment Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment’s Address</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>
Los Cailpoties dba <i>Los Chipotles</i>	77-04D Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Judy D’Andrea, to **accept** the Committee’s report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

**XI. REPORT AND VOTE: Consumer Affairs Committee**

***Unenclosed Sidewalk Café, The Cheesecake Factory  
90-15 Queens Blvd.  
Elmhurst, NY***

Consumer Affairs Committee Chair Erica Cruz reported the committee met on the Cheesecake Factory to open at Elmhurst’s Queens Center Mall. Seating will be on the sidewalk on 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue, corner of 92<sup>nd</sup> Street. The restaurant is planned for a space once occupied by The Children’s Place and a Verizon Wireless Store. There will be a railing that blocks off the seating and a glass enclosure that can be opened in the winter. It is 48 seats on a 20’ wide sidewalk. The Cheesecake Factory will occupy 10’ so there will be 10’ of sidewalk untouched. The Committee had met with the architect and the Mall management.

Since the Committee felt there was enough room for the seating and the pedestrians, the Committee voted to approve the sidewalk café application.

Since a representative from the Cheesecake Factory was in the audience, the question was asked when the restaurant would open.

The representative responded a late August or September opening is anticipated.

Board Member Patricia Terranova made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lucy Schilero, to **approve** the unenclosed sidewalk café application.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 objections. Motion passed.

## **XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***Environmental***

Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano said there was no report.

### ***Parks***

Committee Chair Al Perna was not in attendance.

### ***Postal***

Committee Chair Gigi Salvador said there was no report.

### ***ULURP/Zoning***

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported there are two pending applications to meet on. Members of the ULURP Committee were asked to meet with the Committee chair after the Board meeting.

At this point, Board Member Rovenia McGowan brought up the poor mail delivery service. Problems with mail delivery dates back for many years.

Discussion ensued about lost, late and mis-delivered mail and to contact our Congress reps to assist with the problems.

Board members said Queens' mail is being sorted and prepared for delivery in Brooklyn as the cause. Sorting must be brought back to Queens.

Board Member James Lisa said to put pressure on Washington and the postmaster general to return sorting to Queens.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol said since the mail problem is borough-wide, he suggested enlisting the support of the Queens District Managers to also write letters to explain problems they are having.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker said in April new Board Members will be appointed to the Board and other Board members may not have their terms renewed. Although the Council Members may appoint members, the Board may remove a member for poor attendance.

The floor was turned over to Mrs. Cathy Moore who explained the review process and removal of Board members. Specifically, the Borough President is meeting with City Council members to go over which people will be added to the Board and taking into consideration people who have had four or more absences to be removed from the Board. Of course, there are mitigating circumstances to consider.

### ***Health***

Committee Chair Sal Lombardo reported the Committee met with the Director of Addiction & Treatment Services of the Long Island Consultation Services, a non-profit organization, regarding its relocation from Rego

Park to 91-31 Queens Blvd. The facility is a community behavioral health facility. A letter from the Board was sent supporting the move.

### ***Transportation***

Board Member James Lisa brought up the installation of a traffic light at 82 Street and 41 Avenue (Elmhurst Hospital proposal). He also mentioned the meeting on March 1 regarding the Queens Blvd proposal. There are many unanswered questions about bike lanes etc. The Dept. of Transportation will report back with answers to those questions. He spoke of concerns regarding vehicular accidents with cyclists.

### ***Youth***

Youth Committee Chair Cristian Romero reported the Queens Library will be holding open budget hearings on Monday, April 4, at 6:00 p.m., Queens Library, Flushing, NY. On the agenda is its operational budget as well as how the funds will be spent, followed by a question and answer session.

## **XIII. PUBLIC FORUM**

Board Member Clara Salas brought up the continual graffiti problem at 85-10 Broadway. The building across the new library. Community residents living in the area asked Ms. Salas to bring this matter to the Board's attention to write a letter to the owner asking to remove the graffiti.

Next, Chen Chaio-Chung, EHC CAB, reported the street light at Roosevelt Avenue and 87<sup>th</sup> Street had been repaired. Also, he reported other street lights in need of repair including other community problems.

Next, Maxine Davila, NYC-5 Boroughs, please sign the sign-in sheet if you are interested in the organization's newsletter. Also, she spoke about One +1 Networking for a Better World and the agenda 2030. Additionally, she spoke about upcoming conferences for the aging and empowering women, if interested please contact her. A rally is scheduled for March 18 12pm-1:30 pm, at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. The Rally is an important way to celebrate the successes of the international women's movement and the fight to end poverty and violence against women of all ages.

Next, Jessame Hannus spoke about DOT's bicycle plan and the needed changes for Queens Blvd. We cannot count on the driving public to respect the human lives that they are sharing space with. Road designs where everyone can get space, it would be a huge step in the right direction. It would make the seven mile length of Queens Blvd. a better place for everyone not just bike riders.

Next, Matt McElroy commented on the Queens Blvd. plan. As a result of Phase 1, he feels safe riding his bike on Queens Blvd. From 73 Street to 48 Street, it is safe. Extend the area of safety to Rego Park, the bike lanes will make it safe for all. Please positively consider the DOT plan he urged.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker commented on the Queens Blvd. bike study. He reported many pedestrians walking have been killed. Nothing has been mentioned about them. The focus is on the bikes. The Boulevard of Death has been on for a while. All of a sudden the priority is on the bikes. People must cross the street too. Nothing is mentioned about that, very oddly enough.

By the way, statistics point to many people injured on Queens Blvd. with most of them not on bikes, but crossing the street.

Since there was no further business, Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member James Lisa, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.