



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Corona, New York

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Melinda Katz
Borough President

Damian Vargas
Chairperson

Melva Miller
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

May 9, 2017

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Damian Vargas
Priscilla Carrow
Giancarlo Castano
Lucy Cerezo-Scully
Chaio-Chung Chen
Debra Clayton
Lynda Coral
Erica Cruz
Judy D'Andrea
Maria Damico
Marialena Giampino
Jennifer Gutierrez
Salvatore Lombardo
Peter Manganaro
Rovenia McGowan
Edgar Moya

Sandra Munoz
Georgina Oliver
Alirio Orduna
Alexa Ponce
Ashley Reed
Oscar Rios
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
A. Redd Sevilla
Lucy Schilero
Malikah Shabazz
Alton Derrick Smith
Gregory Spock
Louis Walker
Rosa Wong
Minwen Yang

Board Members Absent:

Safat Chowdhury
Ingrid Gomez
James Lisa
Patricia Martin
Gurdip Singh Narula
Shwe Zin (Winnie) Oo

Albert Perna
Neil Roman
Gigi Salvador
Marcella Testa
Lester Youngblood

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB 4 District Manager
Christina Long, CB4 Community Assistant
Pat Rosero, Queens Borough President's Office
Barbara Jackson, U. S. Rep. Joseph Crowley's Office
David Burgos, Senator Jose Peralta's Office
QiBin, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office
D. I. Christopher Manson, 110 Police Precinct
Joanna Chrispe Director Community Engagement and Education, Municipal Art Society
Mike Liquori, VFW Post #150
Robert Fox, American Cancer Society, 131-07 40th Road, Suite E28, Flushing, NY
Fior Lampert. 8337 St. James Avenue, Elmhurst, NY
Ernestine McKayle, Lefrak City, 97-28 57 Avenue, Corona, NY
Debra Hargrove
Matt McElroy, 74-02 43 Avenue, Elmhurst, NY
Gazarina Luner, Young Governor's, 96-02 57 Avenue, Corona, NY
Rayan Imam, Young Governor's, 2930 Fulton Street
Joan Diaz, 112-22 37 Avenue
Erik Eitel, Corona Senior Center
Gloria Pizzuti, Latin Women In Action
Jimmy Apostolates, PO Box 737939, Elmhurst, NY
Gerald Burroughs X, 103-20 53 Avenue, Corona, NY
Andy Collodo, 102-34 46 Avenue, corona, NY
Quinn Hue, 88-14 St. James Avenue, Elmhurst, NY
Maria Esthoz, 108-74 Roosevelt Avenue
Delia Kin Sorto, Young Governor's
Edwin Kim Soto, New Life CDC, 32-11 23 Street, Astoria, NY

Public Speaker's List

Lazarina Luna, Young Governors—New Life CDC
John Wang, Queens Night Market
Erik Eitel

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

This meeting was streamed live.

I. Chairperson Damian Vargas opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. Executive Secretary Marialena Giampino took the roll call. A quorum was present.

IV. VOTE: Minutes April 11, 2017

Board Member Clara Salas made a motion seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna, to **accept** the minutes.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 32 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Damian Vargas reported on the following:

An Executive Committee meeting will be held this month to discuss various suggestions to improve the internal workings of the Board. If you have any suggestions for the agenda, let him know.

Support the Sunshine Fund. A contribution to the Sunshine Fund not only pays for the Board's Annual Holiday Party, but also for flowers/sympathy basket on the loss of a Board Member or a family member of the Board Member.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Cassagnol reported on several successful events held by the Board:

Supported Community Gardens (Environmental Committee) – Saturday, April 22 (Corona Taxpayers' Garden and Sparrow's Nest Community Garden).

Creative Placemaking & Cultural Planning co-hosted by the Municipal Art Society (ULURP Committee) – Saturday, April 29.

Park of the Americas (Linden Park) - Cleanup hosted by Neighborhood Housing Services

Community Board 4 received a citation signed by Council Member Julissa Ferreras for its participation.

Fire on 94 Street – Within 24 hours of the fire, the Red Cross and OEM had reached out to the Board for help to the residents. Working with the Queens Center Mall, who temporarily leased a store in the Mall, donations were collected. A letter was sent from the Red Cross and OEM thanking the Board for its support.

The Mayor’s Fund, Adidas, NYC Football Club and U. S. Soccer have partnered together to build 50 mini-acrylic soccer pitches across New York City over the next five years. It will also come with a free afterschool program provided by one of our partners. The possibility of placing a soccer pitch at PS 19 Marino Jeantet located at 98-02 Roosevelt Avenue was discussed. It will come to a Board vote, but it must be discussed by the Youth Committee first. Please attend the Youth Committee meeting if you wish to add your comments. The construction is to last 15 months of city time.

Recently, the Department of Health found a substantial amount of lead paint chips falling from the train trestles on food vendors below at Corona Plaza. Senator Peralta is looking to sponsor legislation that the MTA should not use lead in its paint and to prohibit sale of food under elevated structures.

Community Board 4 asked to screen a movie called 50/50 about women empowerment and women in the workplace. It also entails community workshops. Elmhurst Hospital has been secured as the venue. The dates will be sometime in June.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol reviewed the following flyers on the back table:

Talk To Tish – Conversation with Letitia James Public Advocate

Shred Fest- Saturday, May 20 & Sunday, May 21

Water Conservation Kits Given Out by DEP

Recycling Stickers

Stamp Out Hunger Campaign – Saturday, May 13

National Grid Construction Notification – (Corona Area) Work will be done at 97 Street & 45 Avenue; 97 Place & 45 Avenue 98 Street & Corona Avenue

He also announced 150 people have signed up to receive Community Board 4’s e-newsletters. Added to the link would be the new question, would you like to volunteer for future Community Board 4 events.

He concluded his report with a Parks Committee meeting is scheduled for May 10.

Next, Deputy Inspector Christopher Manson, 110 Police Precinct reported crime is down 25% last week and down 15% for the month, down 3 ½% year to date. This year down 35% down in felony assaults, down significantly in grand larcenies, even in stolen cars and rapes. Two homicides this year were both solved two arrests.

Next he reported on a postal worker that was arrested because he kept the mail in his garage, instead of delivering it. Not only was the mail found, but also thousands of dollars in stamps and electronic goods.

Next, he spoke about a robbery that occurred in a nail salon on Broadway. The perps. picked up an umbrella threatened the patrons, grabbed money from the cash box and fled. The NYPD apprehended them the next day. The same female perp. was involved in a robbery at Subway on 59th Avenue two months earlier. The perp. was 12 years old when arrested.

Regarding gang arrests, there was a big gang takedown. ABK where 17/18 gang members were arrested. The perps. are looking at significant jail time for the narcotics operation. Five were arrested for conspiracy to commit murder. The 110 Precinct continually targets gang members. Since the ABK takedown there has been a decrease in gang activity. Operations continue.

Next, Board Member Giancarlo Castano reported on Alstyn Avenue & 102 Street a person installs stereo systems in cars from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Cars are double parked and music is blasted trying out the systems.

Following, Chairperson Damian Vargas reported on cars with out of state plates parked all over our neighborhoods. In particular, two cars with black out tints where youths smoke up. The cars have been ticketed numerous times; noting there is no registration on the car parked on 41 Avenue. A conditions team will be sent out to investigate and the car will be towed, said D. I. Manson.

Mr. Chaio-Chung Chen reported on the 90th Street Elmhurst Station.

D. I. Manson said he notified Transit of the concerns. On the police poster, the officer's eyes were gouged out said Mr. Chen.

D. I. Manson said it would be checked out.

Next, he reported crime is down in the Pan Am, specifically, there is no crime in the Pan Am. For the year, there were three reports, which were not major crimes. Since the Pan Am was converted into a shelter, D.I Manson has been tracking it, no increase in crime reported.

Board member Erica Cruz inquired about the 94th Street fire.

D. Manson responded it was an unlicensed worker doing work and he accidentally set the fire. Details were provided. Injuries were minor.

97th & 57 Avenues Mike Liquori thanked D. I. Manson for the patrol car presence to monitor the drugs and shootings.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

QiBin Ye, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, reported Council Member Dromm is hosting a LBGT Pride event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Queens Pride Parade and Festival at the Queens Center Mall, Monday, May15, at 5:30 p.m. An RSVP is required. Call or e-mail her or Michael Mallon to confirm.

Next, David Burgos, representing Senator Jose Peralta's office, reported the following victories

- *Raise the Age* – NYS has risen the age of criminal responsibility, ensuring that 16 and 17 year olds who commit non-violent crimes are processed as juveniles in the state's justice system. Young people will now receive intervention and evidence based treatment they need and will no longer be permitted to be housed in adult facilities or jail.
- \$1 Billion was received in foundation aid if New York City distributes the funds proportionately schools in the district will receive \$18.3 million.
- Reverse mortgage protections were created. With these protections, the serving spouse or successor who has a claim to ownership can engage in a settlement conference to regain some of the value of the property.
- College Affordability – The Excelsior Program
- Foreclosure Prevention Programs

- \$10 million was allocated to fund services with NYCHA
- \$100 million was allocated to make needed repairs at NYC buildings
- Senator Peralta was awarded \$50, 000 for non-profits to serve the communities
- Next, he discussed the Immigrant Defense Coalition. Senator Peralta has declared District #13 a sanctuary district. If you have immigration issues, please call the hotline at 718-205-3881.
- In the budget \$10 million was allocated for immigrants facing immigration issues.

Before the Committee Reports, Chairperson Damian Vargas reported committee assignments are in process. He urged the members to attend as many committee meetings as possible to get an idea of the responsibility of each committee. Next month, cards will be handed out asking what your committee preference is. You may not get your first choice, but you will be accommodated, if possible. There will be three choices. Any questions, call the Board office.

VIII. REPORT AND VOTE – Public Safety Committee SLA Applications

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee was involved in assisting the tenant needs at 56-11 97 Street as a result of the recent fire. Working with NYCEM, the American Red Cross, Animal Care and Control, the Depts. of Aging and Homeless Services, Housing Preservation and Development, Human Resources Administration, as well as the Mayor’s Office of Immigration Affairs, an assessment of tenant needs was made, and the Committee moved forward with those recommendations.

There were 30 families with five children out of PS 13 by Saturday night because the service center was closing for Easter. A meeting was held with the tenants and all the agencies involved. Although tenants were allowed to return to the AMB building, it was felt it was unsafe so the American Red Cross and CERT gave out packets to wipe the walls as a result of smoke residue or asbestos. Toiletries were also distributed.

A \$200 debit card was given to all the tenants by the foundation Ti Chi.

Interpretations were available in Spanish, English and Bengali. For those that there were no interpretations, a 999 number which would help translate. Also, CERT gave out emergency communication cards, which were very helpful because they had pictures in guiding the recipient to the help they needed.

CERT had assisted with the gas explosions in the East Village. As a result, that same group of CERT came to help with the fire in Elmhurst. Volunteers from Park Chester, Harlem and Roosevelt Island and Forest Hills all came.

A round of applause was given to the CERT Team for their untiring efforts and dedication. She was very proud of the City for their efforts. No one died or was injured in the fire. She reported all agencies came together in this tragedy and the tenants thanked the Board for its help.

Additionally, she reported on the Blood Drive at St. Leo’s. Sixty people had donated blood at last count.

Next, she reported on legislation being prepared for restaurants to have a separate smoking section.

Furthermore, she reported on the 4,300 stamps were stolen and sold as well as laptops by a postal worker who was under arrest. He was doing this for a couple of years.

Since there was no quorum at the Committee meeting on May 2, the report had to be broken down into three categories: Clean Police Report, New Applicants, and Renewal Applicants.

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

Clean Police Report

*Mama Leti’s Inc.
Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

94-33 Corona Avenue
Elmhurst, NY

NEW APPLICANTS

Establishment’s Name

Establishment’s Address

*Coffeed Corporation
Wine, Beer & Cider

Queens Museum of Art
126 Meridian Road-FMCP

Corona Diner Inc.
Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

91-28 Corona Avenue
Elmhurst, NY

*El Zocalo Restaurant Inc.
Wine, Beer & Cider

40-10 83 Street
Elmhurst, NY

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

*Betty’s Catering Corp.
Liquor, wine, Beer & Cider

94-33 Corona Avenue
Elmhurst, NY

El Caramelo Coffee Shop
Wine, Beer & Cider

99-27 43 Avenue
Corona, NY

The Public Safety Committee’s recommendation was to **approve** the SLA applications.

Board Member Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow, to **approve** those first four applications with an asterisk (*).

By a voice voted 32 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Regarding the applicant El Caramelo Coffee Shop, there have been many noise complaints. The owner said she would work on that. Just recently she was summonsed for For Sale Intox. Recently, she hired a manager. The Committee’s recommendation was to **approve** the application with a strong letter attached applicant will keep noise level down.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Georgina Oliver, to **approve** the Committee’s report.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 32 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Regarding Corona Diner Inc., the applicant is requesting a full liquor license; However, Newtown Civic Association pointed out the establishment is right across from a church. The Committee does not have the means to size up the 200’ rule involved. If the establishment is less than 200’ under the law, they can only sell beer and wine. If it is over the 200’ rule, the establishment was approved by the Committee to have a full liquor license. A letter will be written to the SLA to ascertain the measurement from the church.

Board Member Min Wen Yang made a motion, seconded by Board Member Erica Cruz, to **accept** the Committee's recommendation.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 32 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Erica Cruz reported a meeting is planned for May and a speaker from the Department of Consumer Affairs is on the agenda. She reported being it is Mother's Day, the Rock Church, at 3:30 p.m. on 57th Avenue, plans a special event for those mothers who do not have a place to go and wants to feel special, come to the church. Free foods, manicures, make up classes, giveaways and raffles are planned.

Environmental

This month the Community Gardens event was held and was a success. For the first time ever, community gardens were introduced to the neighbors. An effort is being made to work with Green Thumb and the gardeners who are in charge of the gardens to open them up. He was optimistic in the near future, signs will be placed announcing the hours. Fencing for the gardens was also mentioned. Thank you was extended to District Manager Christian Cassagnol, Committee Members, Green Thumb, DEP, Pastor Kwon, Assembly Member Moya, Council Member Ferreras and Community Board Members for their support. Log onto Giancarlo Castano's Facebook page to see photos of the event. Log on to CB4greenteam.

A meeting is scheduled for May 18. On the agenda is a discussion on Corona Cement and talk on the next community garden event planned for a harvest event in the fall. A meeting is planned with Corona Cement possibly in June to resolve the issue.

Also, he announced on June 10 the Department of Sanitation is sponsoring a safe disposal event at Citifield Parking Lot A, 9:00 a.m.. If you have paint, electronic wastes bring it over.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea inquired about The Department of Sanitation picking up electronic waste because it is very inconvenient for residents to haul in these objects to drop off sites.

Environmental Chair Castano said he would look into it.

She also brought up signage advertising sell your house or exterminating services tacked to city trees.

District Manager Cassagnol said we could reach out to Forestry and see if they would be willing to do a sweep of the area ticketing and removing signage.

Health

Committee Chair Salvatore Lombardo reported its allergy season. Take you medication. A meeting is planned for next month.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea brought up the fact the Borough President wrote a letter that she is not quite on board regarding the proposed pre-school on the Hall of Science parking lot. As an early childhood educator she would very much like to see early education programs developed, but not on parkland. The Borough President is one of the few legislators besides Mr. Tony Avella who supports keeping parkland as parkland.

Unfortunately, our legislators do not agree. They want to use our parkland for purposes that are not meant to be. She urged the Board to show support in keeping parkland as parkland.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion that the Department of Education and the Mayor's Office find another site for the proposed pre-school.

Community Board 4 supports conservation of parkland and to find another site.

District Manager Cassagnol recommended the suggestion be discussed first by the Youth and Parks Committees before taking a vote.

Although the motion was made, it was not seconded and never on the floor said Chair Damian Vargas. Board Member Judy D'Andrea said she withdrew the motion.

Transportation

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Under this segment, Board Member Judy D'Andrea brought up 111 Street. She brought up parking along the median southbound. Driving northbound if you have to make a left turn, there is no visibility. Cars are blocking the motorists' vision. Many complaints are being generated. She also spoke about school buses backed up on 111 Street, waiting to enter the Hall of Science, all the way to 49th Avenue. These are severe blind spots.

Discussion ensued.

Board Member Edgar Moya agreed with Board Member Judy D'Andrea's assessment about 111 Street.

More discussion ensued about the bike lanes.

ULURP & Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported on the April 29 "Creative Placemaking & Cultural Planning" workshop. The workshop was very successful and much information was obtained. He thanked the District Manager, the Committee Members, and Board Members for their support to the grant awarded by the Municipal Art Society. ULURP Chair Alton Derrick Smith explained the process for ULURP applications. He also spoke on the Livable Neighborhoods Program which deals with Creative Placemaking. The concept is to look at your community assets, map those assets, and build upon those assets. Joanna Chrispe, Director Community Engagement and Education, Municipal Art Society, was in the audience to discuss the program.

Ms. Chrispe explained the organization will be 125 years old next year and it is a civic advocacy organization. An advocate for a more beautiful and livable city through the land use and built environment. Advocates for testimony land use related legislation at the city level and on specific projects that set precedent for the rest of the city. MAS have a very robust year 'round calendar of public events, adding many are free. Many awards are given out for good design and good projects. MAS works with many local community groups who are interested in leading land use planning at the community level through the Livable Neighborhoods Program. This year MAS supports the livable neighborhood program. Awards are given out for projects and for good design.

A Request For Proposals was let out in February and they received more than 40 applications from different community groups interested in doing creative place making and cultural asset planning. Community Board 4 was chosen for the award and also the south Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation as a partner as well.

Purpose of the program is to kick start community based creative asset planning. The NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs Dept. is a comprehensive plan and is doing much outreach to gain input for the draft of the plan. Timing is good because a draft will be released with the priorities next week.

The second Creative Placemaking & Cultural Planning workshop is scheduled for May 20 at Lefrak City Library, 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A review will be discussed from the last workshop and to hear more about what the City has in mind for their cultural plan, share some information about land use planning, and learn about the context of cultural planning.

Furthermore, ULURP/Zoning Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith explained the following Topics will be discussed at the May 20 workshop include:

*Affordable Housing
Terms and Tools that will help you become a stronger Advocate for our neighborhood*

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith explained more of what to expect on May 20 for those who attended the April workshop. More details were provided.

Ms. Crispe added this is just a starting place to provide tools for a draft document that could become the basis of more cultural planning. The ULURP Committee will manage the document as this is just a start.

Board Member Lucy Schilero asked how many blocks were being looked at from Italian Charities.

Ms. Crispe replied a 20 block radius, and said it up to CB4 to decide what the boundaries are for the cultural planning efforts.

At this point, Chairperson Damian Vargas called for the Youth Committee's report:

Youth Committee Chair Cristian Romero reported the Committee continues to work on the Youth Fair, which is planned for the first Saturday in October. A Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. Not only will the Youth Fair but also the soccer initiative is on the agenda. All were urged to attend.

Board Member Chaio-Chung Chen inquired about the bus station on Broadway/75 Street. Two young homeless people are living there. What can be done?

District Manager Cassagnol it would be called in to the proper agency, but if they do not want to be moved, we cannot get them moved. No provision is in place to physically remove a homeless person off the street if they refuse.

Mr. Chen also mentioned the homeless occupying Moore Park and the problems that occur due to the homeless.

Same provisions apply said District Manager Cassagnol. More details on handling the situation were given by the District Manager.

X. PUBLIC FORUM

Delia Kim, Founding Director, Young Governors which is a youth empowerment program addressed the Board. She turned the floor over to her younger peers since she was the oldest member. Ryan explained under the New Life CDC, their vision is to empower the community by empowering youth. Making vacant lots useful in Elmhurst is their current project. Those lots could be used as community gardens or parks or more. Laz, the intern and a social worker, explained safety is a key issue. The project is to make vacant lots for use whether it is converting them to gardens or for recreational use such as mini parks. Questions were posed to the Board for their input

She asked the Board for their help with this project.

Board Member Lucy Schilero said land owners are concerned about liability. Some of the properties are very old and in the past, acids have been dumped in the soil and contamination may exist.

Locking the property is another area of concern. The possibility of the homeless occupying the property can exist.

Furthermore, the reality exists the property owner may sell the property.

Next, John Wang, Queens Night Market, reported the first two ticketed events were held and \$23,000 was donated to charity-- New York Immigration Coalition, New York Police and Fire Widows and Children Benefits Fund, and the Alliance for Flushing Meadows –Corona Park.

Ticketing changed the spending patterns of visitors quite substantially, people were spending two to three times more money than initially.

Next, a caseworker at the Corona Senior Center reported when a senior citizen boards the bus, the bus takes off like a truck causing the senior to lose their balance. There have been a few accidents. The driver should wait until the senior or disabled person sits down before proceeding along the route.

Chairperson Damian Vargas said it would be brought to the attention of the MTA.

Board Member Lucy Cerezo-Scully, a teacher at IS 61, reported on a musical, *Into the Woods*, the students will be presenting on June 2 at 7:00 p.m. and June 3 at 6:00 p.m., in IS 61 auditorium. The shows are free.

Donations may be collected such as a can of soup, but the decision has not been yet. Full details will be posted in the *Corona Times* and flyers distributed.

Board Member Rovenia McGowan reported on the Q88 buses on Calloway & Otis on the Horace Harding Exp. Buses take up the entire block on Calloway blocking visibility of the motorist, which can cause accidents.

Second, cars are double parked in the right lane in front of the DEP building down to Junction Blvd. with the construction ongoing, it causes traffic backup.

Third, stores are leaving mattresses on the sidewalk.

Since there was no further business, Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lucy Cerezo-Scully to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.