



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Melinda Katz
Borough President

Damian Vargas
Chairperson

Melva Miller
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

May 8, 2018

COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Damian Vargas
Karin Abreu
Priscilla Carrow
Lucy Cerezo Scully
Chaio-Chung Chen
Lynda Coral
Judith D'Andrea
Marialena Giampino
Ingrid Gomez
Kristin Gonzalez
Jennifer Gutierrez
Matthew McElroy
Rovenia McGowan
Ruby Muhammad
Gurdip Singh Narula

Georgina Oliver
Alexandra Owens
Al Perna
Ashley Reed
Neil Roman
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Gigi Salvador
Lucy Schilero
A. Redd Sevilla
Malikah Shabazz
Alton Derrick Smith
Dewan Tarek
Rosa Wong
Minwen Yang

Board Members Absent:

Giancarlo Castano
Erica Cruz
James Lisa
Salvatore Lombardo
Peter Manganaro
Patricia Martin
Edgar Moya

Sandra Munoz
Alexa Ponce
Oscar Rios
Gregory Spock
Marcello Testa
Vivian Tseng
Louis Walker
Lester Youngblood

ATTENDING

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager
Christina Long, CB4 Community Assistant
Council Member Francisco Moya
Barbara Jackson, U. S. Rep. Joseph Crowley
Stacy Eliuk, Public Advocate Letitia James' Office
David Burgoa, Senator Jose Peralta's Office
Qibin Ye, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office
Joe Nocerino, Queens Borough President's Office
William Giron, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office
Anthony Iuliano NYC Department of Buildings
P. O. Dave Saponieri, 110 Precinct
Mike Liquori, VFW Post #150 Commander
Debra Hargrove
Ernestine McKayle
Ben Plout, Bike New York
Phil Wong, Elmhurst United
Gerald Burroughs X
Hannah Fernig, Girl Scouts of Greater New York
Jimmy Apostolatos
Tania Mattos, Queens Neighborhood United
Rafael Jose
Juliane A. Williams
Donna Adames Sanchez
Z. Andrea Rendon, Asadero La Fogata
Maria Esther Romero, Corona Senior Citizens

PUBLIC SPEAKER's LIST

Donna Adames Sanchez
Ben Plout – Bike New York
Carina Kaufman-Gutierrez & Tania Mattos
Hannah Fertig – Girl Scouts of Greater New York

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

- I. Chairperson Damian Vargas opened the meeting at 7:40 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 ON THE MINUTES – April 10, 2018

Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to **approve** the minutes.

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

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chair Damian Vargas announced congratulated Board Member Gregory Spock and his wife on the birth of his new baby boy.

Next, new Board Member Dewan Tarek was welcomed to the Board.

Subsequently, Chair Vargas reported an Executive Committee meeting was held May 2. On the agenda, was the forming of a Social Media Committee. With the Board members in attendance, it was decided a sub-committee/Task Force for Social Media be started which would be made up of one member from the existing Board committees. For the most part, the Committee Chairs would decide if they wish to serve on the Social Media Committee or appoint a designated person to serve. The goal is to reach out to the community and post events and be more involved. Facts should be posted only not the person's personal opinion on any matter/issue. He also mentioned letters that the Board had sent out on community projects. Those letters would be posted with the response from the recipient. He cited an example such as the Clear Curbs letter. There was no community input with the Clear Curb initiative which is affecting community members, residents, and small businesses. The Clear Curbs Initiative is contrary to Vision Zero because it is open lanes that motorists can drive at whatever speed they want. The majority of the Executive Committee agreed to post Board communication that affects our community. Chair Vargas explained it is important the Board Members and Public know what is affecting our community. Often times a letter is sent out from the Board office after the Board takes its vote. This letter is an example of a posting on Social Media.

Following this report, Chair Vargas spoke about Committee assignments. June 12 is the last Community Board meeting before the Board recesses for the summer and convenes in September. In June, ballots will be handed out as well as a list of the Board's standing committees for you to choose the top three committees you would like to serve on. No one is guaranteed their selections, but preference is given to the long serving members and consideration given to your preferred choice. Chair Vargas suggested members attend committee meetings to get an idea of how the committee operates and what issues are covered so that you can get an informed idea before you select committee choices.

Lastly, Chair Vargas reported on the livestream of Community Board meetings. We have reached out to our elected officials to reinstate the livestreaming of Board meetings. Thus far, there has been no movement. Possibly when the new Board's budget is implemented in July, we can buy some equipment to post our meetings on Facebook live, which will be better than YouTube airing a day later.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Christian Cassagnol acknowledged new Board Member Dewan Tarek.

Next, he spoke about the Clear Curb Initiative and the planned Rally. CB4 is officially partaking in our first rally in quite some time.

He explained the Clear Curbs Initiative is No Standing on Roosevelt Avenue from 7:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Meetings were held with the local businesses as well as the NYC Department of Transportation and businesses are adamantly opposed to the initiative. Some of the businesses banded together and created a new organization called the Roosevelt Avenue Business Coalition and immediately went live the same day. Posters and flyers for the rally were posted. The Rally is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, 9:00 a.m., at Manuel de Dios Triangle, 83 Street & Roosevelt Avenue. He mentioned there are two rallies taking place. The second one will occur on the steps of City Hall. Information on the City Hall Rally is unclear, but he believed they were happening simultaneously. The District Manager will attend the Rally on Roosevelt Avenue at 9:30 a.m. More details were provided.

Moving forward, Community Board 4 is joining with Neighborhood Housing Services for its yearly cleanup at Linden Park aka Park of the Americas. The cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, at 9:00 a.m. Instead of the normal park cleanup, NHS will also use this opportunity to get involved with SONYMA which provides grants to allow NHS to do small repairs on homes around the area. Volunteers will do repairs at those surrounding homes and volunteers within the Park with assist, with supervision. District Manager Cassagnol will be in the Park helping out with the park cleanup. It was optional if the Board members would like to participate in repairing homes (there is a damage waiver) or stay within the park cleanup.

Subsequently, he reported on the Queens Zoo Breakfast at 8:30 a.m., June 9. Community Board members, city officials, and their families will have free access to the zoo. Please RSVP as space and food is limited.

Next, he reported June 7 William F. Moore Park will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the death of Private William F. Moore. Community Board 4 had the intention of undertaking a ceremony; and at the same time, the Queens Borough President's office had planned to do a local park cleanup. It came together as a great opportunity to perform the cleanup days before the planned ceremony. June 2 at 9:00 a.m. is the Borough President's cleanup to be followed by the official 100 years William F. Moore ceremony on June 7.

Additionally, District Manager Cassagnol reported Council Member Fernando Cabrera will be proposing a budget increase for all community boards. Community Board 4 will respond that the funding is needed. This year there was shortfall in the Board's operating budget.

Lastly, he reported on the Hall of Science and the “Spring Fair” they are having. It will run Thursday, May 10, to Sunday, May 20, 4 p.m. – 11 p.m., Monday thru Friday, and Saturday and Sunday 12 Noon to 11:00 p.m. The Board does not know how this happened and is questioning the Hall of Science’s lease and its ability to sub-let the parkland, which they are leasing in the first place to allow an outside venue to come in. On behalf of the Board, we will put in an official request to obtain a copy of the Hall of Science’s lease agreement.

To his understanding, the Hall of Science is allowed to sub-let the land to an educational or child related entity. Moreover, the Queens Spring Fair is coinciding the same time as the Nigh Market. He emphasized this event is a carnival with paid rides and show. While there is no entrance fee, they are charging for rides.

At this point, more discussion followed about this event and the Hall of Science’s lease agreement with the city. A copy of their lease was requested by the Board.

Before moving forward to the next agenda item, Chair Damian Vargas announced it is Teacher Appreciation Week and noted there are some Board members that are teachers. All Board teachers were acknowledged and given a round of applause.

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

Donna Adames Sanchez’s concern was addressed to the NYC Department of Buildings. As a community, we are encountering a lot of roadblocks, closed doors and dead ends with trying to get answers, proper orientation, on how to have violations completely removed in an orderly and timely fashion. Paperwork is never entered into the system and constantly misplaced. Different areas within the Dept. of Buildings do not communicate with each other, which brings a lot of road blocks, especially for the elderly. Constituents of the community are going around in circles. In particular, is the case of her 85 year old father, who has been a member of the community for 50 years. His property was cited with a violation in 2005. This violation was resolved, the penalty removed, and “written off” as defined back then. Documentation was sent to the Dept. of Buildings, 280 Broadway. New York. Now, however, the documents do not appear on file or in the computer. The Dept. of Buildings at 280 Broadway sent the resident to 66 John Street to get paperwork to bring back to 280 Broadway, where they said the paperwork was not needed. More information on her father’s case and the ordeal she encountered was provided. After seven months of going in a complete circle, nothing was resolved. Advice was needed how to resolve this complaint. Ms. Sanchez explained her father needs a revised permit that the boiler is running fine. Her father cannot get his boiler revised or checked out. Throughout seven months there has been no heat or hot water.

Chair Damian Vargas was optimistic a resolution to Ms. Adames Sanchez’s problem will be forthcoming with the assistance of the Board’s guest speaker Mr. Anthony Iuliano of the Dept. of Buildings.

Next, Ben Plout, Bike New York, reported free cycling educational classes are available behind the aquatic center at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, also at the Flushing YMCA, and Roosevelt Island as well as other NYC locations. Adults and children are taught how to ride bicycles. For adults, bicycles and helmets are provided with learning how to handle your bicycle, how to ride on roads, and how to commute to work using the infrastructure. Since he could not list the classes coming up at the aquatic center because many classes are scheduled, flyers were available on the back table with a listing of the classes offered or log onto their website for more information. If you work for a school or educational facility, the organization can come to you and teach.

Next, Carina Kaufman-Gutierrez and Tania Mattos, Queens Neighborhood United, reported on the Queens Borough President’s hearing on the 40-31 82 Street rezoning. A packet was distributed to the Board Members which included:

- Public Statement regarding the land use hearing with Borough President Melinda Katz
- Cover letter that was submitted to Melinda Katz regarding the land use hearing with Borough President Melinda Katz
- How ULURP works for rezoning and what are the next steps

Tania Mattos reported on the testimony given at the Borough President's meeting which included about 20 parents from PS 89, attendees from CDC, CB4 members and 32BJ members, who were in favor of the development. This reasoning would be discussed later. Borough President Melinda Katz would make her decision on the rezoning this week. It was also mentioned that Council Member Francisco Moya had sent in a letter of support.

Carina Kaufman- Gutierrez spoke about the new proposal negotiated by Council Member Moya. The development will have six more affordable units than originally proposed. Residents are already rent burdened spending over 1/3 of their income on rent, which is 50% of the neighborhood. Prospective tenants will have to go through the city's lottery system that draws thousands of applicants for every available unit. Over 1,000 people apply for every single affordable unit that is available. Only half of the affordable units can be designated for CB4 residents, which are 12 units in total. To enter the lottery, proof of income is needed. If accepted by the lottery, a social security card is needed as well as a birth certificate for every person in the household, which disqualifies a significant portion of our community.

For those undocumented, it poses a significant problem said Carina Kaufman- Gutierrez. Presenting information was obtained from the NYC Housing website.

Board Member Lucy Schilero brought up a severe crisis where housing is built at such a growing rate that water pressure is a serious problem affecting all the neighbors and also affects the sewer system. Another storm will considerably affect our area. Sewers will backup resulting in flooding. Infrastructure must be looked at too. Additionally, there will be no water for fires.

100% affordable housing for our community is what is needed, Ms. Gutierrez pointed out. Shared ideas for the site included small business center, a park, open green space, a youth or community space.

Next Hannah Fertig, Girl Scouts of Greater New York, reported on new troops. The Girl Scout organization is girl only meant to empower girls to leadership positions and confidence. It is a unique opportunity for girls. Girl scouts troops unite in many ways such as in and after school programs, for example, at PS 14 and PS 28 where new troops are being started. More adults are needed in leadership positions because many girls are interested in becoming girl scouts. Training is provided for leadership positions. There is a yearly membership fee. To join now to September 19, the fee is \$35.00. Registration is available on their website July 1.

Before concluding, some shared facts presented were:

- 90% of female U. S. astronauts were girl scouts.
- 80% of all female tech leaders were girl scouts
- 76% of all female senators were girl scouts
- 100% of female U. S. Secretaries of State were girl scouts

At this point, P. O. Dave Saponieri from the 110 Police Precinct reported Capt. Ventre could not attend tonight's meeting as he was preparing for another meeting. For the 28 day period, there was a slight increase in crimes. Crime is up in the seven major categories. Much of the increase is Grand Larcenies such as theft of

packages, pocketbooks where people are leaving their belongings unattended. Keep belongings close to you, zip up pocketbooks.

Identify theft has increased too. Stealing credit cards and mail is one the rise. When writing checks use the Uniball 207 pen so that checks cannot be “washed”. Monitor your accounts, he advised to see no one has opened an account in you name.

Increase in felony assaults such as domestic related offenses (boyfriend/girlfriend cases).

P. O. Saponieri brought up the Spring Carnival on the Hall of Science land. There will be police presence covering the carnival.

Next, he spoke about the 5K Run on June 2 at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. He urged all to attend as it is an opportunity for the community and the Police Department to come together. Every Police precinct in Queens North is participating in the event.

Before concluding, he reported Thursday, May 10, is the 110 Precinct Community Council meeting, 7:00 p.m., at Flanders Field Post #150.

VIII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Chair Vargas called on the following legislators/ representatives for reports:

Congressman Joseph Crowley
No Report.

Congresswoman Grace Meng
Board Member Cristian Romero reported on the Congresswoman’s Grace Meng Elmhurst Senior Center Mobile Hours. Reaching out to as many senior centers in the district, however, Corona is not included in their district. Next, he reported on the veterans’ affairs office hours at the Congresswoman’s office. The Department of Veterans Affairs is holding monthly office hours at the district office. Call the Congresswoman’s office to make an appointment if you have any questions regarding veteran’s questions.

State Senator Michael Gianaris
No Report.

State Senator Jose Peralta
David Burgoa reported housing and immigration attorneys are based in the Senator’s office. Please call if you have a housing or immigration issue. He urged all to use those resources for assistance.

State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky
No Report

State Assembly Member Brian Barnwell
No Report

State Assembly Member Michael Den Dekker
No Report

State Assembly Member Ari Espinal
No Report

At this point, Council Member Francisco Moya addressed the Board. He reported Ari Espinal is in Albany in executive session and had introduced her first resolution on domestic violence, which is critical in our communities.

Next, he spoke about the 82 Street rezoning, which was a project he inherited from his predecessor, Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland. It was allowed in the lease for a Target to come in. We must see what we can do with the best abilities we have to bring in affordable housing. Seventy-seven units are as of right, meaning the developers can charge whatever they want to.

For the first time ever, Option 3 is being discussed. The 43 additional units coming in would be all affordable; and are the deepest affordable units of any type of rezoning in this area ever. Furthermore, Council Member Moya clarified his letter was not a letter of support but contingent upon the developer agreeing to those terms.

Subsequently, he read to the Board the terms agreed upon.

Out of the 43 units all will be affordable. 20% of the housing units, which is 24 apartments, for a family of three, requiring an annual income of \$31,000.

Additionally, 5% of the units, which equates to six units, will be at 50 AMI. The AMI was explained at the last Community Board meeting. This would also be for a family of three at \$42,950 annual income.

Six additional units at 60% of the AMI for a family of three would be \$60,000 annual income and another 6 units at 80% would be \$68,000 annual income. This meets the threshold for affordability in our community.

He is meeting with the Department of Education and the Department of Transportation as the increase of families materializes, new schools are needed to meet the demand.

Elected officials try to do the best for their communities by listening and hearing. Sometimes there is agreement and sometimes there is not. He said we received the most affordable deal we can get to bringing in the developer in this area.

Subsequently, he spoke about the MIH program and how affordable housing is negotiated in the City of New York. The most affordability to our communities is what is being sought. Much has been accomplished, but it is a process he explained.

Next, Council Member Moya spoke about the Clear Curbs Initiative. He had scheduled a press conference and also introduced legislation with the Council Chair of Small Business Mark Gjonaj. The legislation entails that the Department of Transportation and other agencies that are going to change the rules for parking regulations and meters etc. must give a ten day notice to the affected business owners and residents in the affected area. It is important that these agencies give notice so that there is input from the Community Boards and elected officials in a timely fashion to sit down and gather input to determine what is best for our community. In essence, notifications will be given in advance of the implementation of major changes.

Next, Council Member Moya spoke about the Hall of Science that is on his hit list. When they obtained the lease, the Hall of Science was only allowed to lease their space for events dealing with science or anything in that field, which they are not doing. At the rates the Hall of Science charge, our children cannot afford to visit the Hall of Science. Speaking further about the "Queens Spring Fair", notification was not given to the community.

More accountability is needed with the partners that are here and have anchored themselves in our community and selling out our parks and taking over this area without consideration for the residents or explaining what is actually coming in. This is problematic. A sit down is planned for Friday, May 11, between Council Member Moya and the Hall of Science. To be sure they are not taking advantage of the community and the precious space in the Park, more accountability is needed.

Board Member Clara Salas asked if his office has a budget for graffiti removal. If so, who would be the contact person?

Council Member Moya responded the contact person is John White, Budget Director, 718-651-1917.

Board Member Lucy Schilero asked about parking (80% designated to residents; 20% to others). With the SRO's in our community, how will that be worked out, she further inquired.

Council Member Moya responded a study to downzone Corona is a pilot to evaluate our community, which will help solve many problems. Much of what we have seen is a result of overdevelopment in South Corona. Some of the developers were not in compliance on how those homes were to be built.

Board Member A. Redd Sevilla thanked Council Member Moya for his presence at the Board meeting. Speaking about the 82 Street rezoning, the last time there were only six units that were truly affordable, meaning 40% AMI. Because of all the community input, it is now up to 24 units which is a significant increase.

Since there are now 24 units truly affordable of the 43 units that are affordable which ranges from 40% AMI to 80% AMI. 77 units are as of right, which will be market rate. Therefore, 77 units are as of right; 43 affordable, Can the numbers be reversed to the developer such as 77 affordable and 43 as of right?

Council Member Moya replied the only factor we can negotiate from the rezoning are the additional units. The developer is not obligated. The 77 units are their right, and we cannot force the developer to change them. Council Member Moya can control the 43 units, which are the additions from the rezoning. The developer can refuse which we have no control over. Laws are in place and the administration had set the tone for those types of developments to come into a community.

At this point, Council Member Moya took questions from the Board Members.

Subsequently, Chair Damian Vargas called for the next Legislator's report.

Council Member Daniel Dromm

QiBin Ye addressed Ms. Adams Sanchez's problem with the Department of Buildings. QiBin Ye said if the property is located within Council Member Dromm's district, please call the district office. Staff will work with her and the Dept. of Buildings.

Next, she announced the Free Rain Barrel Giveaway will occur on Saturday, May 12, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at Elmhurst Baptist Church, 87-37 Whitney Avenue, Elmhurst, NY. Please call the Council Member's office beforehand to reserve a rain barrel. Two rain barrels per address are given out. Pick up the rain barrels at the Elmhurst Baptist Church. Flyers were on the back table.

Also, the Council Member's office hosts a bi-weekly legal clinic. Offered at the clinic are services such as immigration consultation and other general topics including housing. She urged all to use those resources.

Board Member A. Redd Sevilla inquired if a letter from the Board is appropriate for a down zone of Elmhurst.

QiBin Ye said she would bring it back to Council Member Dromm.

Board Member Marialena Giampino said the Newtown Civic Association and Elmhurst groups have discussed it with Council Member Dromm who agreed with a study to downzone Elmhurst.

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

William Giron reported last summer the Comptroller presented a policy called A Citizenship Fund. This fund would address the rising costs of the naturalization process. Currently, the cost is about \$800 to apply for citizenship. Since 1989, there has been about a 500% increase. Unfortunately, the cost impacts a large number of people who do qualify for citizenship. In fiscal year '19 budget proposal in the City Council, \$3 million has been allocated for the citizenship fund. Specifically, it helps subsidize the cost of the naturalization process by paying the entire \$800 for those who qualify. Comptroller Stringer is committed to supporting immigrant rights, racial reform, and working with the community.

Discussion ensued with the citizenship application process.

Public Advocate Letitia James

Stacy Eliuk reported the Public Advocate introduced a Bill along with Borough President Gale Brewer and the NYC Council Speaker to create an independent body to examine the City Charter reform.

Issues that come before Community Boards dealing with affordable housing, land use etc. The body will be independent across the city which will take community input into consideration. In this process, members would be appointed to the Board comprised from members from various groups. In this way, it will give people more direct lines to city government especially at the foundational level, which is the City Charter.

Regarding the Clear Curbs Initiative, the Public Advocate's Office is aware of matter. Ms. Eliuk will attend the City Hall Rally tomorrow in support of the businesses so that better strategies can be developed.

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

Joe Nocerino reported the Annual Memorial Day Observance Ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 24, at 11:00 a.m., at Queens Borough Hall. All are invited. Rain or Shine. Following the event held in the Memorial Garden, the Borough President will provide refreshments.

Recently, the swearing in ceremony was held, partnering with that on June 27 at 5 p.m. the Awards Ceremony will be held. Letters will be mailed out if the Board Member is eligible for an Award for Service.

Mr. Nocerino, District Manager Christian Cassagnol, and Parks Committee Chair Al Perna had visited William F. Moore Park to look at ways to clean it up and do minor repairs. The Queens Borough President is in agreement to sprucing up the Park.

IX. Speaker: Anthony Iuliano, Department of Buildings

Discussion on how to identify building code violations and how to use 311 to report violations.

Mr. Iuliano apologized to Ms. Adames Sanchez who previously described her ordeal in trying to get an issue resolved with the Buildings Department. Mr. Iuliano said he goes through the same experience even though he works in the Buildings Department. Government Relations and Community Relations are a part of Mr. Iuliano's duties. Primarily, the Department of Buildings (DOB) enforces the buildings and zoning codes. Zoning is not created in the Buildings Department; however, it is interpreted and enforced by the agency. Zoning is handled by the Department of City Planning. Zoning and building codes and possible violations are enforced by the Dept. of Buildings. He explained sometimes the Buildings Department can be a difficult agency to navigate. Especially with Super Storm Sandy in the Rockaways where people were trying to rebuild their homes, couples have divorced because they could not obtain the Certificate of Occupancy to move back into their home. City agencies have their issues and are a reaction to transparencies. For many years, there

has been much criticism of the Buildings Department because of graft and corruption, which was true. However, to be more transparent, it created another problem. Now the DOB is heavy on enforcement. Sometimes in enforcing a complaint, Community Board members must be watchful of problems occurring in our Community Board.

Community Board 4 is on the lower end of 311 complaints called in to the system about various infractions. When Mr. Iuliano drives through the five boroughs, as well as Corona and Elmhurst, he sees conditions that people do not call in, such as construction activity. Community Board 4 averages about 100 complaints per month while Community Board 7 averages about 380 complaints per month.

Subsequently, he spoke about illegal or finished basements. This is an illegal condition. However, the person that owned the home had occupied the basement. Years go by and the home is sold. For income potential, new buyers start renting out the basement.

Subsequently, he spoke about the parking issue in Queens and how difficult it is now to find parking. Neighborhoods are changing. Many people are coming back to New York City. Elderly couples, whose children are grown, living in Nassau and Suffolk counties are selling their homes and relocating back in the city limits. Living in Nassau or Suffolk, residents need a car. In New York City, a resident is within walking distance of activity.

He also spoke about the major development in Harlem followed by changes in other boroughs. Mr. Iuliano mentioned Roger Sanjek who wrote the book, *The Future Of Us All*.

The job of the Buildings Department is to ensure that people live safely. Illegal basements, attics, SRO's, overcrowded conditions, and people that have a one-family home rent to multiple individuals which are all dangerous conditions.

Additionally, there are many Airbnb's. The reason housing stock is short and rents are high is because there are Airbnb's in every community in New York City. The Airbnb's are illegal in the City of New York.

What to look for:

People that pave over their property to park their vehicle. They might have installed an illegal curb cut too. Call DOB who will send out an Inspector.

In the Buildings Department, it is a case by case basis, which means what is necessary for one house does not mean another house will fall into the same pattern. It depends when the house was built. Was it built pre-1961? Codes change constantly.

At this point, Mr. Iuliano took questions from the Board.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea brought up the problem of illegal conversions. The response is always, "Could not gain access". What happens to the complaint, she inquired.

Mr. Iuliano responded the way the policy is written if a complaint is received about an illegal conversion, an Inspector makes two attempts. The first attempt, the Inspector knocks on the door or rings the doorbell. If access is denied, the Inspector makes a second attempt. If no one answers on the first attempt, a form (LS4) is posted. It is a call for an inspection. Many times, the homeowner does not call for an inspection. After the second attempt if the Inspector fails to gain access, the complaint is closed out. If the person knows firsthand or has evidence, the person making the complaint must sign the affidavit. Based on the affidavit, it is given to the Law Dept. who obtains an access warrant. The homeowner must let the Building Inspector in. Last year, there were 260 access warrants in Queens County.

Second, under the new zoning laws, new construction is being built with a height of three/four story buildings, landscaping should be included but it is not. Nothing is there but dirt.

Mr. Iuliano responded as long as it is not paved over. Some people use gravel or fill. It does not say there must be green grass or plantings, but it must be a permeable surface for water to get through.

More questions by the Board Members.

X. REPORT & VOTE: Public Safety Committee
SLA Applications

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported hurricane season is from May to November, but for the east coast the time frame is June to November. She commented what happened in Puerto Rico can easily happen in New York City so we must be prepared.

The Fire Dept. is making “hits” on the hookup of illegal gas meters. If you notice any SRO’s, please report them to 311 or Christian. Let her know if you notice any locations where cast iron fire boxes are located. Kids are pulling the lever and setting off the alarms.

Call 311 or the 110 Precinct or local firehouse if you see fire hydrants running without spray caps. Although it is tiresome to wait eight hours for police to respond, it is important to report Noise complaints to 311.

Also, there was to be a meeting with the Office of Nightlife on night clubs, but there is nothing new to talk about.

The Night Life Mayor is a paid employee as is his office. The advisory people working with them (12 to 14) do not get paid. Once a year a public hearing will be held on some locations we will discuss. Moreover, there is talk that each of the Night Life Mayors may have a forum with community boards and civic groups, but this is not definite yet.

At this point, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero presented the report on liquor licenses.

Three of the applications had to be brought to the Board for review. All three applications were denied by the Public Safety Committee.

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment’s Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Sake Bar by Zabb Liquor, Wine, Beer, & Cider	71-28 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Board vote needed
Ginger Dollar Sushi Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	89-14 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Board vote needed
Nangsang Sherpeni <i>Kanchanjunga Restaurant</i> Beer & Cider	72-24 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment’s Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Terraza Coffee Bar & Art Corp. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	40-19 Gleane Street Elmhurst, NY	Approved

Chiflez Corp. 95-02 Roosevelt Avenue Approved
Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider Jackson Heights, NY

Winners Bar Inc. 82-67 Broadway Approved
Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider Elmhurst, NY

7714 Entertainment Corp. 7714 Queens Blvd. Board vote needed
Vanity Elmhurst, NY
Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

5/12/17 – A female had a verbal dispute with another female patron where she was punched in the face and had bruises on her face. An arrest was made.

On the same day there was a group of young men who had a fight inside the location, pushed him out, where the man died.

The Public Safety Committee had voted to deny the liquor license application. But the way the vote was taken, it appeared as a yes vote.

Chairperson Damian Vargas had the motion sheet in hand and explained the motion was to deny the application. Five committee members voted: two Board members voted yes to deny the application; one person voted no to deny; and two members abstained from the vote. Since the abstentions equal no vote, the committee vote is 2 votes to 1 vote to deny the application. It is not a majority vote but because Committee members had abstained, their votes are not counted.

Discussion ensued. As a result, the vote to deny prevailed. From the police report, Chairperson Damian Vargas mentioned other incidents had occurred at this location, including a homicide.

The Committee's recommendation was to **deny** the application, explained Chair Vargas.

At this point, Board Member Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to **deny** the application.

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

The following establishments are not a vote to deny their liquor license application, but rather they did not go through protocol (not attending the Public Safety Committee meeting and not furnishing the necessary requested documents):

Sake Bar by Zabb 71-28 Roosevelt Avenue
Must come back to the Committee for review.

Ginger Dollar Sushi, Inc., 89-14 Queens Blvd.
Must come back to the Committee for review.

The Committee's recommendation was a no vote on those two establishments based on the fact they were not present at the Committee meeting.

At this point, Board Member Lynda Coral made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lucy Schilero, to **approve** the Committee's recommendation to deny the liquor license applications for the Sake Bar by Zabb and the Ginger Dollar Sushi.

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

Subsequently, the Board voted to accept the remainder of the liquor license application presented. Board Member Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lucy Schilero, to **approve** those applications listed.

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

XI. Report and Vote: Consumer Affairs Committee

Renewal of Sidewalk Café License DCA# 2023200-DCA
Asadero La Fogata (108-40 Corona Avenue)

District Manager Cassagnol reported since the Consumer Affairs Committee was unable to meet, an application was sent to the Board for the renewal of a sidewalk café license for La Fogata (108-40 Corona Avenue). The applicant was in attendance.

Community Board 4 had reached out to the NYPD and a report was sent regarding complaints against the establishment.

3/30/18 – 311 calls generated at location for loud music. Patrol did remedy the situation.

2/16/18: Loud music from location. Multiple 311 calls generated from location with the same complaint of loud music from the Bar.

At this point, Chair Vargas called for discussion or questions.

Board Member Lucy Schilero commented the establishment must work on the noise complaints. Also, she recommended installation of noise mitigation equipment by the owner.

Board Member Clara Salas inquired when the establishment was opened.

The District Manager's response was since 2014.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea inquired is the restaurant downstairs and upstairs is the lounge where the music is coming from.

Discussion ensued where the music is coming from. The applicant was asked to clarify.

Since there is no recommendation by the Committee, the subject matter is on the floor if anyone would like to make a motion, said Chair Damian Vargas.

At this point, Board Member Jennifer Gutierrez made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to **approve** the enclosed sidewalk café application.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea asked can the motion include that the owner abate the noise and to adhere to the closing hours, and that noise ceases at midnight so that there are no further noise complaints.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 27 in favor, 2 opposed, with 1 abstention to **approve** the enclosed sidewalk café application with provision. Motion passed.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental

Since the Environmental Committee Chair was not in attendance, District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported the event at Sparrow's nest Community Garden was a huge success.

Health

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Parks

Parks Committee Chair Al Perna reported on the Queens Spring Fair and commented on using park grounds behind the Hall of Science. He also requested a copy of the Hall of Science's lease. The 11 day carnival is put on the parking lot and the Hall of Science is only allowed to lease its space for science events or similar events. He also invited all to the cleanup in the Park of the Americas (Linden Park) on May 19. And on June 2, a cleanup is planned for the William F. Moore Park on 108 Street coordinated by the Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and Community Board 4. All were invited to attend. In addition on June 7, at 6:30 p.m., a tribute to U.S. Marine Private William Frederick Moore will be held in the Park to commemorate 100 years since his death. There will be a 21 gun salute. All were invited to attend the spectacular ceremony.

Transportation

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported a meeting is scheduled for May 22 at the Community Board 4 office. On the agenda is the proposed text amendment to require a CPC Special Permit for new hotels within M1 Districts. Currently hotels can build as of right. The new proposal would subject hotels to the ULURP process.

Youth

Committee Chair Ingrid Gomez had nothing to report.

Before concluding, Board Member Priscilla Carrow reported Elmhurst Hospital has a wide array of health care services to offer. Flyers were in the back.

There being no further business, Board Member Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.