



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Marialena Giampino
Chairperson

Rhonda Binda
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

April 13, 2021

Board Members Attending:

Marialena Giampino
Chaio-Chung Chen
Andy Chen
Lorena Diaz
Michelle Dunston
Leeanne G-Bowley
Kristen Gonzalez
Lara Gregory
Deependra Lama
Vincent Laucella
Carol Machulski
Sunil Mahat
Patricia Martin
Sylvia Martin
Matthew McElroy
Edgar Moya

Sandra Munoz
G. Oliver
Georgina Oliver
Shrima Pandey
Purushottam Panthee
Lindsay Quartini
Ashley Reed
Clara Salas
Lucy Schilero
Alton Derrick Smith
Gregory Spock
Dewan Tarek
Marcello Testa
Yilin Wang
Minwen Yang

Board Members Absent:

Lynda Coral
Ari Espinal
James Lisa
Salvatore Lombardo
Rovenia McGowan
Jose Morillo
Ruby Muhammad
Gurdip Singh Narula

Alexandra Owens
Alexa Ponce
Brian Ramirez
Oscar Rios
Cristian Romero
A. Redd Sevilla
Urgen Sherpa
Dechen Tsering
Louis Walker
May Yu

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manger
Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator
Christina Long, Community Assistant
Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas
Council Member Francisco Moya
Michelle Hernandez, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Office
Mary, NYS Senate Jessica Ramos' Office
Jessica Schabowski, NYC Mayor's Office
Kelly Wu, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office
Kat Brezler, Queens Borough President's Office
Jacqueline, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz's Office
James Mongeluzo, Comptroller's Scott Stringer's Office
Meira Berkower, Dir. of Planning & Project Management, NYC Parks
Michal Mrowiec - STV
John Francescon, LGA Redevelopment Project Manager, Port Authority

NOTE: During the Board's virtual meetings, it may be difficult to determine Board Members, legislator representatives or guests who were present if they were not actively engaged or participating in dialogue or visually seen. Please notify the Board office if you were in attendance at any meeting and not marked present.

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, April 13, 2021

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: Online Via Zoom

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Marialena Giampino opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

II. Vote on Minutes March 9, 2021

Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Board Member Sylvia Martin, to **approve** the minutes. Motion passed.

III. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Marialena Giampino welcomed the new Board members. A Borough Board meeting was held on April 12 where NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea was present. Community Boards raised many questions and concerns, which the Police Commissioner had answered. Chair Marialena Giampino asked the Commissioner about the gang issues in CB4. The Police Commissioner was very aware of the issue citywide and is working on several programs.

The Department of City Planning and MTA had presented plans on elevator transit for subways. A zoning text amendment will be proposed to come before the Board probably next month and a vote taken.

Meanwhile, the Bylaws Committee had met last month. Board Member Chaio-Chung Chen chaired the Committee. Edits are being made to the Bylaws and by next month a vote will be taken on the Board's Bylaws. Also, the Executive Board held a meeting and spoke about membership and a letter was written to Borough President Richards addressing some issues of concern such as membership and the application process. During Open Session #1 attendance will be taken and new members will have the opportunity to introduce themselves. Two minutes will be allotted.

In the interest of time as we have a lengthy agenda, for Session #2 if Board Members do not have any comments, use the raise your hand button on the bottom of the screen to be called on.

IV. Report of the District Manager

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported Earth Day is quickly approaching and many events are planned. Flushing Meadows-Corona Park (FM-CP) is planning Earth Week.

For the preceding week leading up to Earth Day, FM-CP has planned small cleanups in different sections of the Park. Volunteers are needed. A reminder will be sent how you can join in and help out.

Next, he spoke about the Mayor's Initiative on the Graffiti programs at the local precincts but no funding was allocated. In the past, Community Board 4 had supplied the Precinct with paint for the cleanup projects.

Unfortunately, the precinct did not have resources for the paint and asked the Board for assistance. The Board does receive discretionary funding from the local council members and used the stipend to purchase the paint for the Precinct.

District Manager Cassagnol thanked the councilmembers for the funding and volunteers who had participated in the cleanup.

Subsequently, he reported the Queens Borough Public Library invited several District Managers throughout Queens to participate on a panel to discuss the function of Community Boards.

Three District Managers were chosen. He and the District Manager of Community Board 11 were selected as panelists. The session was well attended with 75-100 people in attendance and very well accepted.

For Earth Day, our community gardens are opened and every Sunday there is a community cleanup. In particular, at Salud en Movimiento Community Garden at Westside Avenue/Van Cleef Street, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Come on out and join the events!

Planning with Artists Making Changes to bring an arts and crafts element to an Earth Day event tentatively for April 25 or first week of May. Kids will do some crafts in a small art therapy session and those crafts will be brought to the local community garden.

The District Manager will be meeting with Environmental, Youth and Parks Chairs on Thursday, April 15, 2:30 p.m., at Sparrow's Nest Community Garden to discuss upcoming workshops/events, noting this is an open meeting and all were invited to attend. The meeting is open to anyone who would like to join in.

An informal orientation with the new Board members and the office staff online is planned probably in the next week.

Notification will be forthcoming for the date.

Additionally, a meeting with the Committee Chairs is planned tentatively for Friday, April 16.

V. Open Session #1

At this point, the Board went into Open Session #1 which also included attendance and gave the new Board members an opportunity to introduce themselves. Chair Marialena Giampino called on the following Board Members:

Chaio-Chung Chen – In attendance

Andy Chen – In attendance and spoke about the mural on Whitney Avenue/Broadway. There are many teenagers who would like to be a part of this project in other locations. If there is another project planned, please let him know.

Lynda Coral – Not in attendance

Lorena Diaz – In attendance

Michelle Dunston – In attendance

Ari Espinal – Not in attendance

*Leeanne G-Bowley – In attendance

Marialena Giampino - In attendance

Kristen Gonzalez – In attendance and gave details about the fire in Jackson Heights would like to see ways the Board can offer support.

*Lara Gregory – In attendance

*Deependra Lama – In attendance

Vincent Laucella – In attendance and reported on the installation at William F. Moore Park called the Tree of Hope. This represents a dedication to the COVID-19 victims who lost their lives to the virus. You can put the name of someone you have lost onto the tree. All were urged to see the tree.

May 1 - COVID-19 Remembrance Day at Forest Park/Woodhaven Blvd.

April 4 there was a vicious gang stabbing at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park where six individuals were stabbed. Later in the evening at 12:30 a.m. at 110 Street & Corona Avenue there was a domestic incident of a man beating a woman. Another man intervened, a gun pulled and he was shot four times.

This past Saturday at 5:30 p.m., there was another stabbing at Josephine Caminiti Park on 102 Street/Corona Avenue, noting the Park was full of children and mothers. Crime is up. Addressing elected officials, we cannot sit by, action is needed in our neighborhoods for the safety of our residents. More information will be put into the chat. 110 Precinct had the Asian Task Force do a presentation because the Asian community is in fear. He wanted to ensure everyone is well aware of the incidents in the neighborhood.

James Lisa – Not in attendance

Salvatore Lombardo – Not in attendance

Carol Machulski – In attendance and reported during the last month a food distribution was at the corner of Christie Avenue/99 Street with unemployment and Medicaid and SNAP assistance available. Also COVID-19 testing is done which is hosted by Elmhurst Hospital.

Sunil Mahat – In attendance

Patricia Martin – In attendance and reported we are all at risk for the violence in our streets and more needs to be done.

Sylvia Martin – In attendance

Matthew McElroy – In attendance

Rovenia McGowan – Not in attendance

Jose Morillo – Not in attendance

Edgar Moya – In attendance

Ruby Muhammad – Not in attendance

Sandra Munoz – In attendance and expressed sentiments to the families that were displaced by the fire in Jackson Heights. If there is more we can do as a Board to assist those families, we should help. She is newly on the Board of the Dominican-American Society (DAC) Queens which is a nonprofit community organization in Corona. A program has been launched the women's Young Latina Initiative which empowers high school and college students with resume writing, dressing for success etc. Speakers are present every week to discuss how they have met challenges and reached their goals and dreams. Call 718-457-5395 if you know of young women who would benefit from this program. Meetings are held in person one hour on Saturdays and social distancing guidelines are followed. Volunteers are needed.

At this point District Manager Christian Cassagnol spoke about ways to assist the fire victims in Jackson Heights on 89 Street/34 Avenue.

With the Sunshine Fund, perhaps, supplies can be bought for those families or have others come to the Board office and drop off items for the affected residents of 89 Street.

Gurdip Singh Narula – Not in attendance

*G. Oliver – In attendance and spoke about the volcanoes erupting in the Caribbean Island of St. Vincent. More information in the chat and a fundraiser on GoFundMe. Any support would be greatly appreciated.

Georgina Oliver – In attendance

Alexandra Owens – Not in attendance

*Shrima Pandey – In attendance

*Purushottam Panthee – In attendance

Alexa Ponce – Not in attendance

*Lindsay Quartini – In attendance

Brian Ramirez – Not in attendance

Ashley Reed – In attendance

Oscar Rios – Not in attendance

Cristian Romero – Not in attendance

Clara Salas – In attendance and reported the Mayor announced a new initiative where ten thousand individuals will clean the city streets, paint over the graffiti, and clean the parks. We can tap into the Mayor's initiative to send some of those workers to paint over the graffiti in Corona and Elmhurst and also to help clean our parks. She noted around 90th Street and under the L is much cleaner: garbage and graffiti were gone especially from the train columns. Planters with flowers are on site. You can see areas are much cleaner and free from graffiti. There is a website for manpower to help clean our streets and parks.

Lucy Schilero – In attendance - As for the Mayor's initiative, the group was working in our areas of Elmhurst and Corona. The District Manager was able to supply nearly \$3,000 in paint for the 110 Precinct. Manpower is needed for cleanups. Board Members were invited to attend the Public Safety Committee meetings conducted through Zoom. The Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month.

Any information on crime in the neighborhood will be discussed at the Public Safety Committee meetings.

A. Redd Sevilla – Not in attendance

Urgen Sherpa – Not in attendance

Alton Derrick Smith – In attendance and reported on an incident on March 31, 2021 which involved a well-organized theft ring dressed in green and orange vests in a white truck that targeted 99th Street to 108 Street where perpetrators were stealing catalyst converters from SUV vans. One neighbor was able to provide video of the theft and reported it to the Precinct and it made twice the neighbor's catalyst was taken. The cost of the catalyst converter costs \$4500 to replace. After installing a lock on the catalyst converter the ring came out in a truck and within two minutes was able to clip off the catalyst converter.

A Task Force is needed to investigate this matter. One police officer mentioned to a neighbor that their car too was vandalized.

Gregory Spock – In attendance and reported on the rise in crime. The answer is not over policing but solving the needs of young people in the age group 18-30 year olds. The need is for better schools and community centers to engage those young people now more than ever with the remote learning and noted a decline in applying to college as a result of the pandemic. More people, even as public members, need to be involved in civic engagement rather than gang related activities resulting in prison sentences and repeating the cycle.

Dewan Tarek – In attendance and reported on the rise in crime particularly since Albany passed the bail reform legislation with explicit support of Council Members Daniel Dromm and Francisco Moya and the Mayor. The rise in crime is not really a surprise and will be worse over the summer. He spoke about the lockdowns for over a year where cabin fever kicks in especially the young demographic. Board Member Dewan Tarek spoke about his efforts to contact the local legislators which were unsuccessful.

Condolences were extended to the weaker Muslims in east Turkestan currently being occupied by communist China. Two million Muslims are in concentration camps. He urged those of Islamic faith to consider contacting federal legislators to put pressure on communist China to get those people out of those concentration camps

Marcello Testa – In attendance

Dechen Tsering – Not in attendance

Louis Walker – Not in attendance

Yilin Wang – In attendance

Minwen Yang – In attendance

May Yu – Not in attendance

During the roll call, many Board Members wished all Happy Holidays and welcomed the new Board Members with good interest in working together.

*New Board Members gave details on their backgrounds and interests.

VI. Report from Elected Officials

--Federal

--State

--City

Senate

Charles E. Schumer

No report. No representative present.

Kristen Gilibrand

No report. No representative present.

House of Representatives

Grace Meng

No report. No representative present.

At this point, Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas addressed the Board and welcomed the new members and all were wished Happy Holidays. She reported on the fire on 89 Street in Jackson Heights. On April 6, there was an 8-alarm fire which destroyed the inside of the building on 34 Avenue between 89 Street and 90 Street. The buildings housed over 400 residents in 133 units. She is working with the tenants and other local elected officials, as well as various nonprofits, to ensure the needs of the residents are met during this difficult time. A letter was sent to HPD and the Red Cross to request an extension of the emergency housing in hotels. The Red Cross only covers a couple of days in emergency hotels. In order to receive more long-term temporary housing and given the magnitude of the fire, an extension of housing in hotels was given to April 20. After the April 20 date, the recipients will be headed to more long term temporary housing through HPD. The Assemblywoman's office is also accepting donations for those displaced residents. Office contact information will be put into the chat. If you wish to contribute, go to the GoFundMe page where cash is being raised to go directly to the tenants funneled through the tenant association Together We Can, a non-profit in the community to ensure the money is going to the displaced tenants. A cash donation is much needed by the tenants and would be appreciated.

In terms of COVID-19 and vaccine access, Assemblywoman Gonzalez-Rojas has worked with Assembly Members Jeff Aubry and Catalina Cruz and the Queens Borough President's office to call upon the Mayor to open additional vaccine sites. Corona had the lowest vaccination rates at a time when additional sites were requested. Only 4% who were fully vaccinated and 5% had received one dose. It is unacceptable that our community members are left behind. Fortunately, there are now pop up sites in Corona Plaza and Queens Center Mall.

Regarding the Johnson & Johnson vaccine both the FDA and the CDC are pausing distribution of the vaccine. The Queens Center Mall will use the Moderna vaccine. If you need help with an appointment, please call the Assemblywoman's office. Appointments can be made online.

Next, a virtual Town Hall was held on domestic violence and intimate partner violence on April 8 where experts were present and questions answered. It is important to note the Assemblywoman's town hall meetings are conducted in Spanish and Bengali interpretation. Residents only need to RSVP in advance to coordinate interpreters. Notices are sent out in Spanish, English and Bengali.

Subsequently, Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas spoke about the rent hardship forms and forms to prevent foreclosures and evictions. Information will be shared in the chat. Deadline is May 1 to file.

Next, the Assemblywoman spoke about the budget season in Albany and highlighted full funding for schools over the next three years. The schools in New York City were inequitably funded and a lawsuit filed in 2006. Finally, those needs are being met.

Also Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas spoke about the excluded workers fund. There are many excluded workers in our community who received no relief—no stimulus checks, no unemployment and ineligible for relief resources. \$2.1 billion was secured for those workers and the Assemblywoman will be working with the Department of Labor to roll out the program. Once the program is available, notices will be sent to the Community Board. Sites will be set up to help those register and receive funds.

\$2.4 billion was secured for COVID-19 emergency rental assistance for those struggling to pay rent, which will be available soon. For small businesses in our community, \$1 billion was secured and \$35 million for aid to restaurants return to work tax credits.

A tax structure was enacted to tax the wealthiest, which will bring in \$3.5 billion in 2021-22 and \$4.3 billion in 2022-23.

For upcoming events, an Upstander training and Self Defense Workshop will be held on April 24 11 a.m. in Travers Park outdoors noting there has been a rise in violence targeting the Asian community. Details will follow.

At this point, Council Member Francisco Moya addressed the Board. The Council Member stated if there are any concerns, please contact his office as they are always available.

Council Member Moya addressed the concerns about garbage in the community. The Council Member has allocated \$160,000 in additional money for the Ace Program and also allowed the Sanitation Department to do cleanups, five day pickups for litter baskets, noting more money will be restored into that service which are important for our quality of life.

Council Member Moya will accompany Sanitation personnel on a ride along in the community in the next two weeks. The Council Member wants Sanitation to see what he sees on our streets. Sanitation workers take pride during their jobs and noted the severe budget cuts to the Sanitation Department where attention must be brought to the needs in the community.

Council Member Moya mentioned that communities close by and affluent areas where the overflow of garbage is not seen.

We deserve the same quality of life and services as other communities experience.

Regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, in the op-ed he wrote in the *Daily News* asking the Mayor to prioritize vaccinations according to zip codes in the City of New York. Give priority to 11368 (Corona) and 11369 (East Elmhurst) that sustained the most impact of COVID-19 cases.

The Council Member noted our community is at the very bottom of receiving the vaccine.

About a month ago, we were at 17% vaccination rate. Since pop up sites at St. Leo's and Our Lady of Sorrows were established, we are now at 30% in those zip codes, especially in zip code 11368 we are now at 30% of those vaccinated for the first dose. The vaccination rate is still low, but increasing each week because new pop up sites are becoming available and a more permanent site is needed besides Citifield or Elmhurst Hospital emphasizing the City must deliver a permanent site to our community.

Testing vans are available in our community. Every week, three testing vans go throughout the district. One van is scheduled for tomorrow at 82 Street/Roosevelt Avenue where rapid testing is done and results are given in 15 minutes. While more people are being tested, more people are getting vaccinated, and we are seeing a 6% infection rate, which is the lowest since the summer. Strategy is working as a result of bringing in the resources needed, resources translated in multiple languages, and more accessibility to local pharmacies through pop up sites for vaccinations and planning is in progress for a pop up site in Lefrak City. Details will follow.

Next, Council Member Moya spoke about the commemoration at William F. Moore Park. A year has passed since the pandemic struck and our community was devastated with the loss of loved ones. There is a beautiful art installation in the Park by a local artist, Yessenia Calle in partnership with the Ecuadorian Civic Committee of New York, containing a Tree of Hope. Beautiful branches hold the names of those who passed due to Covid-19. This past year has been very difficult for those families. If you would like to honor a loved one lost, call Council Member Moya's office and their name will be placed on the Tree of Hope.

More money is being invested in our community parks and spoke about the timing it takes to complete a project and the cost involved. For example, a comfort station costs \$5 million and takes about five/six years to construct, which is not acceptable. The procurement process needs to change.

More direct access is needed so that the money appropriated for construction will not take more than two years to build. Why should it take three years to change a light bulb? Or cost \$100,000 to add an additional light in a park he questioned. A hearing was held about the procurement process with the Parks Commissioner and those issues brought up.

Council Member Moya spoke about a trailer coming to Parks of the Americas to house PEP officers from the Parks Department who will be deployed from to patrol our parks and to ensure our parks will be enjoyed by families and children.

At this point, Council Member Moya announced the Summer Youth Employment Program. There are ten days left to apply. The program was restored from last year and will be fully restored this year. Application will be available online.

In conclusion, Council Member Moya reported the tax deadline has been extended to May 17. Council Member Moya's office sponsors a free tax preparation service with Urban Upbound. Call 718-784-0877 to arrange an appointment to file your taxes free of charge or call Council Member Moya's office for assistance.

Subsequently, Chair Marialena Giampino called on the representative from Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's office for a report.

Michelle Hernandez reported she is a senior constituent liaison and field representative for the office.

The Congresswoman hosted her monthly virtual Town Hall end of March to discuss the start of the legislative year and took questions from constituents. If you were not able to attend the event, a recording is available along with other Town Hall meetings on their YouTube page. A link will be shared for access.

During the past few weeks, the Congresswoman's office has been collecting proposals on community projects to include in this year's appropriations package. Requests will undergo a screening and vetting process to ensure requests the Congresswoman's office submits to the Appropriations Committees meet the needs of New York 14. Every member of Congress is allowed to submit ten requests.

As far as legislative efforts, the House will consider an amendment that the Congresswoman's office had proposed to address the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1931 to be updated to provide more effective remedies to victims of wage discrimination on the basis of sex and other historically marginalized communities. The House will also consider the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industry to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan.

The FEMA funeral funds assistance program opened on April 12 and information on how to participate in the program will be shared. However, you must call and there are multi-lingual services available or contact Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's office for assistance. FEMA will cover up to \$9,000 in burial expenses for victims of COVID-19. More details will be added in the chat.

Lastly, the Congressional Art Competition's deadline is April 23. If you know of a high schooler who would be interested, the winner will have their art piece displayed in the halls of the U. S. Capitol building. Information will be shared on how to enter the competition.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol commented since tonight's agenda is lengthy with scheduled presentations and votes that the two minute time limit be honored suggesting anyone representing an elected official, share information in the chat or if there was a flyer already shared, put it in the chat.

He noted it was 8:30 p.m. and the Board had not yet conducted its Board business for voting to fulfill its charter mandated duties.

NYS Assembly

Brian Barnwell

No report. No representative present.

Jeffrion Aubry

No report. No representative present.

Catalina Cruz

No report. No representative present.

NYS Senate

Michael Gianaris

No report. No representative present.

Jessica Ramos

Mary reported the staff is working remotely and the office phone number will be shared in the chat. The office had received many calls about the new Bill passed that excluded workers from benefits. The office has not received the outline for applications and when they arrive, the office will help many members who need assistance.

If anyone needs assistance, please contact Senator Ramos' office. Senator Jessica Ramos is against the LGA Air Train because of the environmental impact and other implications. If you want to know more about Senator Ramos' position please reach out to the office.

Toby Ann Stavisky

No report. Representative not present.

NYC Mayor's Office

Jessica Schabowski reported the Johnson & Johnson vaccine per FDA and CDC guidelines is paused as investigations are looking into rare cases of blood clots. New York City has no known cases at this time. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines will continue to be administered.

Walk-in vaccine sites were expanded for New Yorkers 75 years old and older at city-run vaccine sites. If you accompany a senior citizen in that age group both you and the senior can receive vaccines thru walk-in appointments.

As vaccines are becoming more accessible, the Mayor's Office has launched the mobile vaccination effort with vans and buses traveling in New York City neighborhoods throughout the next few months.

She announced an expansion of 3-K for All to the remaining 16 community school districts for the 2021-2022 School year. By this fall, there will be approximately 40,000 seats 3-K across all 32 school districts. Families were encouraged to explore the 3-K and Pre-K for All options available and apply.

Lastly, Ms. Schabowski reported on NYC's Clean Up Corp which is a new deal inspired program on economic recovery.

Link will follow to job postings.

Daniel Dromm

Kelly Wu reported on Wednesday, April 21, the Council Member's office in partnership with OATH will hold virtual court. If anyone had received a Sanitation summons, please contact Council Member Dromm's office for an appointment for a hearing with OATH. More information in the chat.

Next, Kelly Wu reported on a franchise voting training session for voters on Thursday, April 29, 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Information on Facebook.

Lastly, Council Member Dromm's office continues to provide legal services for general matters, housing, and immigration. Call the Council Member's office for an appointment. Kelly Wu noted staff is working remotely. Call the office with questions or concerns.

Office of the Queens Borough President

Deputy Director Kat Brezler reported on the Jackson Heights fire. Many have been working thru the weekend and around the clock to help those residents that were displaced. If you can, log on to GoFundMe to support those in need.

Next, she reported on the Swearing-In Ceremony for new member appointees and re-appointees on April 19 at 6:00 p.m. Individual links will be sent to attend. Those links are not to be shared as it is exclusively for you. Friends and family members were encouraged to watch live on YouTube and Facebook. Do not give out the meeting invite.

Lastly, Deputy Director Kat Brezler spoke about an upcoming anti-Asian Hate Town Hall on April 20. Information in the chat or watch live on YouTube.

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

Jacqueline, Community Coordinator, covering Community Board 4 and the 110 Precinct welcomed the new Community Board members. Resources are available at the District Attorney's website www.queensda.org for assistance and also announced the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Seminar Wednesday, April 21, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom for crime victims. More information to follow.

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

James Mongeluzo placed a copy of the Comptroller's weekly Newsletter which includes information about the city's economy in the chat. The agency watch list was released because agencies are spending money poorly and mentioned the Department of Corrections and other agencies related to Homeless Services.

The Comptroller thinks money should be spent on affordable housing and not on homeless services that have ballooning costs and where not enough results are seen to justify the cost such as housing people in hotels where there are no refrigerators and they cannot prepare meals and are not self-sufficient.

The Comptroller's office published fiscal year 2020 Claims Report and Mr. Mongeluzo reported there were 13,700+ claims/lawsuits against New York City. The Comptroller's Office helped to resolve those claims. The City of New York paid out over \$1 billion as a result of those claims slightly up from fiscal year 2019.

Subsequently, Mr. Mongeluzo reported on caregivers but mostly women serving as caregivers and the challenges they faced during the pandemic and juggling their jobs and caring for their children and the elderly. There are recommendations on how city government can help.

Lastly, a report is available on CUNY and its contribution to the economy and how it helps the state and the city in terms of tax revenue and how the graduates and system are of benefit to us. Click on those links for more information and his contact information is also in the chat. Call him at 646-689-6509 for more information.

VII. Presentation

Meira Berkower, Director of Planning & Project Management, NYC Parks Department Passerelle Reconstruction and the World's Fair Marina Operations Relocation

Meira Berkower with colleagues from the Parks Department and representatives from the Port Authority and the Design Teams of STV presented the Passerelle Reconstruction and the World's Fair Marina Operations Relocation and reported the projects are associated with the proposed Air Train project, but will not speak about the Air Train project this evening.

Plans will go to the Public Design Commission with preliminary design, which is being shown tonight.

Ms. Berkower inquired of the Board would they prefer both projects presented or would the Board prefer one project be presented at a time.

Subsequently, Board Chair Marialena Giampino asked the Parks Chair Gregory Spock for his recommendation. Parks Chair Gregory Spoke advised to hear the Passerelle project more than the Marina and recommended a small recap of the Marina so that people are aware it is part of the current plans but place more focus on the Passerelle reconstruction.

Ms. Berkower said the Passerelle Overpass Reconstruction will be presented, stop to take questions, and then move on to the World's Fair Marina proposal.

Successively, she introduced Michal Mrowiec STV, the representative who will be presenting the Passerelle project. With the aid of photographs and slides, the Board was shown project reconstruction. First shown was the Passerelle reconstruction although you may see some of the Air Train components of it. However, the focus is the Passerelle bridge reconstruction and he provided the following:

Goals:

Reconstruct the Passerelle Overpass in relation to the new Air Train Guideway/Terminal

Maintain and/or restore historic World's Fair elements

Provide security lighting

Provide ADA compliant ramps

Integrate Passerelle with the AirTrain Terminal/LIRR Station

Slides shown were:

Aerial view of the Passerelle site in relationship to the future Air Train alignments. The Passerelle Bridge was built in 1939 between Roosevelt Avenue and Meridian Rd. pointing out the #7 train line

ADA accessibility will be provided for all the Passerelle ramps.

The planned view of the existing Passerelle was exhibited and the main components of the Passerelle is mainly a wooden boardwalk bridge which is was represented in yellow color on the diagram.

The existing geometry includes four ramps at the north side and one ramp on the south side.

Photos of the existing Passerelle were displayed with the view north toward the #7 train and the existing wooden boardwalk can be seen. Also you can see what the experience of walking on the Passerelle, which creates a procession experience and this is created mainly by the two rows of flag poles which is a very unique feature of the bridge.

The south end of the Passerelle was shown and depicts the zigzag canopy built during the 1964 World's Fair. He explained the ramp to the David Dinkins Circle, which is not ADA compliant, but will be made ADA compliant along with all other ramps as part of the project (south and north end ADA compliant).

The David Dinkins Circle and New York City Administration Building was shown. Pictures of the canopy and the events plaza from Meridian Road looking east was shown. The proposed alignment of the Passerelle Bridge was presented. The Bridge will be moved slightly approximately 40' to the east which will recreate the same geometry exactly as it is currently on the existing Passerelle. There are four ramps in the north, one ramp at the south and the events plaza. Also, he explained working with NYC Parks and NYC Department of Transportation on this project to identify some of the historic elements that create this experience citing the paving. The proposed painting and concrete finishing cover was shown.

Next, the proposed railing which will be rebuilt as 54" high to meet the standard NYC Department of Transportation standard along with the proposed transition between the new railing and the existing railing.

Thereafter the existing light poles from 1964 were looked at and the closest model found was shown which integrates with the railing. The 1964 World's Fair benches and the rendering views of the Passerelle looking west and north toward the city view along with proposed paving on the south side and the plaza. As part of the project, paving will be restored on top of roof of the existing administration building. Also provided the ADA accessible ramp looking as today's ramp, however, it would have a slightly different slope to provide the ADA accessibility. The processional feeling of the Passerelle will be maintained by adding those historic components as they are currently. Obviously, they are not the same exact components but they are trying to match existing experience of the Passerelle as it was designed and built in 1964.

Next slides of the Exterior Building Masonry Project Goals were shown.

To recap, the full presentation included:

- PDC Preliminary Review
- Project Location
- Flood Risk
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
- Surrounding Land Use
- Neighborhood Context
- Existing Site Analysis
- Existing North End Conditions
- Existing Bridge Conditions
- Existing South End Conditions

- Tree Inventory – North End
- Existing South End Conditions
- Tree Inventory – South End
- Site Photos
- Proposed Site Analysis
- Proposed North End Conditions
- Proposed Bridge Conditions
- Proposed South End Conditions
- Site Furnishings
- Paving Pattern
- Railing Plan
- Pedestrian Level View
- Railing

Connection of Proposed Railing and Historic Railing
Ramp Railing
8” NYCDOT Approved Standard Fence

Light Poles
Flag poles
Aerial View
Pedestrian Level View
Site Photos-Overall
Site Photos – Masonry Typical
Site Photos – Masonry Parapet Walls & Guardrails Typical
Existing Exterior Elevations-Overall
Existing/Removals Exterior Elevations-East
Existing/Removals Exterior Elevations – West
Proposed Exterior Elevations – North
Proposed Exterior Elevations – South
Masonry/Guardrail Existing - Typical

The proposed Passerelle Bridge, the Air Train Terminal; (conceptual). Proposed Passerelle Plaza, NYCT 7 Train Station Interface, Proposed LIRR Station Interface

Proposed Passerelle Plaza, Restored Historic Canopy Structure, ADA Complaint Pedestrian Ramp, Renovated Passerelle Administration Roof, Proposed LIRR Station (conceptual), David Dinkins Circle/Flushing Meadows Corona Park Entrance.

At this point, Chair Marialena Giampino opened the floor to questions from the Board.

Board Member Leanne G-Bowley asked about an Environmental Study and community input.

The response was no.

Board Member Ashley Reed asked about a time line (when project will start and be completed).

Before responding to Board Member Ashley Reed’s question, Ms. Berkower explained the community input procedure. Initially, the Parks Committee is contacted to share information. Also public meetings are scheduled. In this case, this is a replacement because the Passerelle had to be reconstruction.

As the project began, it was ascertained the Air Train was planned for this area and coordination with the Port Authority began. Shifting to the east, but it is the same project that would have been done absent the Air Train.

Board Member Lucy Schilero asked about the cost of the project.

Ms. Berkower responded \$124 million for the project and a memorandum agreement with the Port Authority if the cost exceeded that figure the Port Authority will cover the basic scope items.

Will neighbors closest to the Park be notified when the project commences asked Board Member Lucy Schilero?

Ms. Berkower replied yes. The Community Board will be notified before the work starts.

Next, Parks Committee Chair Gregory Spock questioned if the Passerelle Overpass needed repair regardless of the Air Train being built. The answer was yes. As an expensive project costing \$124 million, this what they are relying on to force this down our throats—a project we do not want. It's \$2 billion and there is much related to the process and about transparency of the other proposals. Parks Chair Gregory Spock wanted to focus on the fact that it is clear the Passerelle Overpass had to be reconstructed. But looking at it more closely, the Port Authority is trying to utilize those projects to force through the Air Train.

Chair Marialena Giampino reiterated the Passerelle had to be repaired whether or not the Air Train is implemented and it was in the works through the Parks Department.

Ms. Berkower replied yes.

Chair Marialena Giampino asked about the timeframe of the project.

Since she was unclear about the timeframe, Meira Berkower responded a representative from the design team should reply.

John Francescon, LGA Redevelopment Project Manager on behalf of the Port Authority, responded the Passerelle along with the Air Train is scheduled to be awarded in July 2022. The Passerelle is one of the first undertakings to be built because of the sequence of construction, which will start next summer. Much of the Passerelle will be built within the first 18 months, but the platform at the end of the bridge moving south will be above the Long Island Railroad and where they are building the Air Train station up above. As a result, that area will remain under construction for another three/four years beyond the 18 month period. Although the Passerelle can be built quickly, the entire Passerelle will not be finished for four/five years.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol explained the process to the Board. An agency will come to the Board and the committee will review the proposal at length and those committee members will have unlimited time with the agency presenting the project. Then it is brought to the full Board as a presentation. It's very important to attend committee meetings where much of the dialogue is performed. More details were given.

Board Member Matthew McElroy asked will there be any period of time during construction that the Passerelle or Air Train station above/adjacent when it will not be possible for individuals to go from the #7 train into the Park. If so, how long?

Matt DiScenna representing the Port Authority responded no; the Port Authority will maintain continual access into the Park throughout the construction period explaining temporary bridges will be in place as needed during the staging and phasing to ensure continued access. There will always be access from the #7 train into the Park.

Board Member Lucy Schilero stated it looks as if the Air Train is possibly coming. It definitely will be here and directed her question to Transportation Committee Chair Matt McElroy.

However, Chair Marialena Giampino responded not definite yet. They are still going through certain processes. Board Member Lucy Schilero said an impact statement is definitely needed.

To be clear, District Manager Cassagnol confirmed these are two separate projects and the Passerelle redesign going forward the Public Design Commission has no connection to the Air Train or anything else. A letter from the Board is needed that the Board saw the design and acknowledged receipt, not necessarily that it was approved by the Board. Is a formal vote needed that the members saw it or a letter from the office stating it was received and shared with the Board?

Ms. Berkower responded it depends on the Board. Generally there is a vote but she did not think a vote was necessary. The presentation will be given to Community Boards 3, 4 and 7.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed upon a formal letter will be sent from the Board stating the design was presented to the full Board.

Parks Committee Chair Gregory Spock stated we are voting on project that had to be reconstructed but he wants it to be completely separated from the Air Train in all instances. A Parks project is a parks project and he did not want it to be attached to an Air Train that he nor the community does not want. He had indicated that it was through litigation that the documents were shared. In fact, people who live in the community and fellow Board members inquired where information is because it is not easily available.

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino asked do you want to go straight to the discussion on the World's Fair Marina directed to the Parks Committee Chair.

Parks Chair Gregory Spock replied yes there can be a summation of the project. The Board does not need a full presentation.

Since all were in agreement, Meira Berkower gave an overview presented the World's Fair Marina Operation Relocation.

Currently, regarding the World's Fair Marina Operation there is a boat yard, boat storage area, boat lift and an office. Because of the proposed air train alignment, it's impacting the boat storage area. Therefore, the World's Fair Marina Operations will be relocated east of the current site. In this way, operations at the World's Fair Marina is not impacted by the Air Train. This includes the relocation of the boat storage area, a small pier that is used for a boat lift where boats are brought in and out of the water for dry storage during off season. An office space will need to move with these operations. A new building will be constructed in the boat storage area. Plans were submitted to Public Design Commission preliminary.

Following the presentation, Chair Marialena Giampino asked the Parks Chair for his comments.

Parks Chair Gregory Spock said the presentation sums up from the infrastructure period, but added there is a component again that the Air Train and Port Authority are dangling about the Promenade in front of the Marina that would be redone. It is not his information but was shared by a panelist at one of the meetings he had attended via Zoom. The paltry sum offered, about \$15 million, is extremely small in comparison to other projects such as Domino Park or Hunters Point south that have been redone. This is trying to win over the community to give input on the redesign of the Promenade, but noted there will be a significant impact on the environment as well as the relocation of the Marina.

VIII. Vote: Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee
--State Liquor Authority Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported a quorum was present at the April 6 committee meeting and discussed Asian hate in length. In conversation with the Officer who attends the committee meetings, it was reported that in all criminal cases where people are victimized they must be aware of their surroundings. Many people talk on their phones and not look around them and cases reported where people lose their phones, bags and purses. The Committee Chair Lucy Schilero explained people are very frightened to complain to the Police or even to a neighbor.

She works with a group who are predominately Asians and they try to get them to come to the group if they are upset about anything. In those cases, they are encouraged to make a report but many do not want to contact the Police. It's seems they are ashamed to do so and the mindset must be changed to help them.

Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero is encouraging those the Committee met with to reach out to their Asian neighbors to have an open dialogue. In this way, they will not feel alone to make a case or file a Police report or if they were hurt, to go to a hospital. We must show them in this country you can work to help yourself without feeling shame. The fear factor is undeniable and cited a personal example.

Suggested tips by the Officer were:

Be aware of your surroundings. Turn around and look behind you.

Stay in a lighted area—don't be alone in a dark area.

Get to know where lights and cameras are.

Before presenting the applications, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero explained many times the applications are reviewed by the State Liquor Authority and approved even though the Board had denied the application. The Committee had denied three applications from the thirteen presented.

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES
APRIL 2021

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>License Type</u>
Triangolo Group Inc.	96-01 Corona Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
La Taverna Bar & Grill Inc.	45-02 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
Queens Seafood Restaurant Inc.	82-22 45 Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider
Alli Kai Fish Market Inc.	102-23 Horace Harding Expsy. Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
El Foco Rojo Inc.	85-16A Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>License Type</u>
P&N Pub Corp.	86-34 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
Mama Leti's Inc.	40-07 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider
LaFusta Restaurant Inc.	80-31 Baxter Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
J&I Products Corp.	77-01 Woodside Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Luz De America Restaurant Inc.	104-30 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
A.N.G. Diner Corp.	58-21 Junction Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider
Thai Son Queens Inc.	40-10 74 Street Corona, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider

CLASS CHANGE

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>License Type</u>
El Cuencanito Deli & Pizza Restaurant	99-12 Alstyne Avenue Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero read the denials:

Ali Kai Fish Market

Applicant withdrew its application – No problems – May come back next month

Mama Leti's Inc. – No show. It does work against the establishment if they do not appear before the Board because they need the vote for their liquor license.

Luz De America Restaurant Inc. – Many complaints through the years. Establishment had violation with the Mayor's office.

At this point, Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Board Member Georgina Oliver, to **approve** the Committee's report as presented.

Before the vote was taken, District Manager Christian Cassagnol said the Night Market needed to be discussed.

Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Night Market came and is seeking a liquor license. She spoke to some of the neighbors and they felt the applicant was too noisy. John Wang said he will take it under consideration. She explained the Night Market have come a long way compared to before and would like to help them find a place to for cars that customers bring to the location. The vote was a yes for the Night Market.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol clarified it was not a vote for the Night Market but the State Liquor Authority did reach out to the Board as a result of the COVID-19 situation inquiring that the local community had no complaints pertaining to liquor. Additionally, the Precinct was contacted and they verbally had no opposition to the Night Market continuing with its beer and wine license application.

To be clear, the Board is not voting in favor of the license but rather that we know there are no issues with local intoxication pertaining to the Night Market.

Accordingly, Board Chair Marialena Giampino called for a vote on the Public Safety Committee's report as well as the Night Market. If anyone does not agree or abstains, please raise your hand. If not, the motion will pass.

Discussion ensued in favor of the Night Market.

Since there were no Board Members in opposition or abstentions, the motion passed.

IX. Vote: ULURP Zoning Committee

BSA Application #2020-91-A for 109-52 54th Avenue – Cellar and Four Story Family Residential Building

The presenter was not present at tonight's meeting. Therefore, ULURP Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported Staff Member Christina Long will share the application with the Board.

ULURP Chair Alton Derrick Smith explained this is an application appearing before the Board of Standards & Appeals and it is seeking to complete a building that an owner started in 1989. The address of the property is 109-52 54 Avenue, Corona, NY.

In 1989, the owner started to build a four-story unit. Based upon financial problems that particular owner had the owner was not able to complete the construction and stopped the construction. The owner was building under R6 zoning. Because the owner ran out of funds, he could not complete it in time for the rezoning and the rezoning of north Corona occurred. The rezoning involved contextual zoning. Protection zoning was in place to lower density. It was a situation where buildings were constructed out of control. Contextual zoning was built and now 32 years later there is a new owner. The new owner wants to be grandfathered in back to 1989 and is seeking what could have been built in 1989 indicating his rights to do so, which is not the Board's concern. The legal right is up to the Board of Standards & Appeals. The Committee was concerned with the impact that the proposal will have on the community.

The Board of Standards & Appeals is concerned if this is a building is out of character in our neighborhoods. The ULURP/Zoning Committee held a meeting on March 25 and concluded this building is out of character with the neighborhood. It is four stories high noting most of the buildings in the area are three stories high, commenting some were built under the prior restrictions. There is no need for the Board to change contextual zoning as the applicant did not present a case to show why it is necessary to do so or give any preference why to deviate from the current zoning.

As a result, the ULURP/Zoning Committee voted to deny the application stating the proposed building is out of character with the neighborhood and not in compliance with the current contextual zoning. The ULURP Committee's motion was the building is out of character and the impact on the community would not be what we were looking for because our infrastructure is already impacted by over building.

Board Member Lucy Schilero commented the Board will adhere to the current zoning and stated to go back 32 years is a long time and agreed with the Committee's recommendation to deny.

As a result, Board Member Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Board Member Georgina Oliver, to **deny** BSA application #2020-91-A for 109-52 54 Avenue.

Before the vote was taken, District Manager Christian Cassagnol explained the agenda item was processed as a Public Hearing item and the office had sent out notification to a 500' radius of all the residents in the surrounding area for both the committee meeting and the full Board meetings. However, no feedback was received from those residents. Two people inquired about the site but did not submit any testimony.

For the vote, Chair Marialena Giampino asked Board Members to use the raise hand feature if you do not agree with the motion or wish to abstain. If no one has their hand raised all were in acceptance of the motion. The Board vote was to **deny** the BSA application. Motion passed as the community does not support this BSA application and to leave the zoning as is.

X. Committee Reports

Consumer Affairs

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Environmental

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance

Health

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance

Transportation

Committee Chair Matthew McElroy reported a meeting is planned for next week and meeting notices have been sent. All were invited to attend. The Committee addresses all questions relating to safety on the streets including pedestrian, motorist, and bicycle safety.

Parks

Although the Parks Department was on the agenda tonight, Chair Marialena Giampino asked the Parks Committee Chair if there was anything else to add.

Parks Committee Chair Gregory Spock reported James Mongeluzo from the Comptroller's Office was present to discuss the USTA audit and a representative in the form of a lobbyist for the USTA said the reason the amount of money which is \$200,000 that is given to the Park per the agreement set up many years ago but related to \$311,202 a portion of that has been paid back and we wanted to know what was going to happen. The USTA said that the U. S. Open is their bake sale which is an insult. Board Member Vincent Laucella had great input related to their concessions etc. We will stay on top of them. They are going to continue to hold the tennis tournament. We do want to ensure they are giving their fair share to the Park. Lastly, the casino bus is parked in front of CC Moore Park. He sent a strongly worded email to representatives at Resorts World in addition to an email sent by Board Member Matt McElroy. We know the Department of Transportation had issued their response. It is up to the local precinct on enforcement. Lastly, the entrance at Elmhurst Park, which had been closed for probably five years, has been reopened.

Board Member Lucy Schilero complimented both Parks Chair Gregory Spock and Transportation Chair on their efforts and time involved to improve our communities and make it places where people can enjoy.

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino thanked Parks Chair Gregory Spock who was working with the Board Chair and District Manager on initiatives that were started with the Elmhurst History and Cemeteries Preservation Society. Historic plaques will be put back into CC Moore Park and Newtown Playground. Verbiage was changed for correct historical information. More details will follow as it occurs.

Transportation

Committee Chair Matt McElroy had previously made his report.

Youth

Committee Chair Sylvia Martin reported the Youth Committee will be working with the District Manager on Earth Day/Earth Week. A meeting is planned with the District Manager on Thursday.

X. Open Session #2

Chair Marialena Giampino announced if any Board Member had any questions or comments, please raise your hand. In the interest of time, a roll will not be done.

Parks Committee Chair Gregory Spock commented with the amount of public intoxication and smoking, city agencies need to address those issues by enforcing who is selling to intoxicated people. Alcoholism is a disease and businesses are exploiting it for profit.

Board Member Vincent Laucella commented let's work together and beautify the neighborhoods which comes by listening and speaking up.

Board Member Michelle Dunston reported she was nominated as Co-chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee. New members were invited to join this committee, which is coming together with the businesses in the area.

Since there were no other questions or comments, Board Chair Marialena Giampino adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.