



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Donovan Richards

Queens Borough President

Marialena Giampino

Chairperson

Ebony Young

Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol

District Manager

June 13, 2023

COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Marialena Giampino
Rownoka Ashakhan
Isaac Carmignani
Lynda Coral
Lara Gregory
Alexander Huaylinos
Vincent Laucella
Carol Machulski
Sylvia Martin
Matthew McElroy
Mac Ryan Merchan
Ruby Muhammad
G. Oliver

Georgina Oliver
Alexandra Owens
Ramon Pimentel
Lindsay Quartini
Mildred Ramirez
Ashley Reed
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Delia Sebastian-Cecilio
Alton Derrick Smith
Anthony Szeto
Marcello Testa
Louis Walker

Board Members Absent:

Jonathan Anzalone
Valery Calderon
Michelle Calderon
Jaime Cho
Aridia Espinal
Leeanne G. Bowley
Ramakrishna Kadukuntla
Myrna Littleworth
Abu Zafar Mahmood
Michelle Dunston

Rovenia McGowan
Jose Morillo
Edgar Moya
Sandra Munoz
Alexa Ponce
Meenu Singh
Dewan Tarek
Charlie Tetiyevsky
Minwen Yang

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB#4 District Manager
Kyle Salcido, Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office
Michelle Luna, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez' Office
John Bahia, Assembly Member Steven Raga's Office
Brenda Barrera, Assembly Member Jessica Gonzales-Rojas' Office
Representative from Assembly Member Catalina Cruz's Office
Yisett Peralta, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office
Pat Rosero, Queens Borough President's Office
Representatives from NYC Department of Transportation (DOT)
Emanuel Evans, NYC Department of Transportation (DOT)
Representatives from United States Tennis Association (USTA)
Shelby Ponder, United States Tennis Association (USTA)
Nicole Garcia, DOT Queens Borough Commissioner
Jennifer Ochoa
John P. Albert

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, June 13, 2023

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: Elmhurst Hospital

Auditorium

79-01 Broadway

Elmhurst, NY

I. Board Chair Marialena Giampino opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. Roll Call

District Manager Christian Cassagnol took the roll call. A quorum was present.

IV. Vote: Minutes May 9, 2023

Public Safety Chair Lara Gregory brought up a correction on page 11. The first sentence said by the Committee Chair was not addressed. A correction will be sent to the Board office for inclusion in the minutes.

At this point, Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Transportation Chair Matthew McElroy, to approve the minutes of May 9, 2023 with the added correction. Since there were none opposed or abstentions, the motion passed.

V. Chairperson's Report

Board Chair Marialena Giampino reported over the summer months, there are many fun events and the e-mails will be updated and sent to all and urged everyone to check the e-mail blasts. All were encouraged to attend those events.

At the May 9, Community Board meeting it was announced an Executive Board meeting was held where several issues were discussed. One of those issues was Board attendance. A motion was made at the meeting, as per the Board's bylaws, to vote off members who were not attending meetings and affecting quorums. Board meeting attendance was reviewed as the basis for removal, not committee attendance. The five Board members in question were notified, however, the Board did not receive a response from them. Subsequently, their names will be announced and if more information is requested on meetings attended by those under review, please inquire with the Board Chairperson.

The motion from the Executive Board meeting was to bring the matter to the full Board for a vote for removal

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol reiterated the Board was informed by The Queens Borough President's Office at its last Board meeting, it had the worst attendance of all the Queens Community Boards. The District Manager reviewed the procedure concerning voting off members according to the Board's bylaws and its requirements. Both requirements were met. None of the Board Members under review expressed any concern or gave any feedback about the excessive absences, except Board Member Alexa Ponce who is a single mom and expressed problems with scheduling. Equally important, none of those five Board Members were in attendance tonight. The Board did pursue its charter mandated duty and right to remove those members with poor attendance.

Subsequently, the Board Chair read the names of those Board Members to be voted off the Board because of excessive absences:

- Ari Espinal
- Rama Kadukuntla
- Abu Zafar Mahmood
- Alexa Ponce
- Dewan Tarek

Transportation Committee Chair Matthew McElroy brought up the fact Board Member Ari Espinal had attended a Board meeting where a liquor license for Spicy Shallot was discussed.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol acknowledged this, however, Ari Espinal's attendance was completely lax with the exception of that one meeting.

Next, Board Chair Marialena Giampino read out the numbers for the 2022/23 Board Attendance Records for those five Board members in question.

Equally important, District Manager Cassagnol brought out none of those members had attended committee meetings.

At this point, Environmental Committee Chair Carol Machulski made a motion, seconded by Board Member Anthony Szeto, the five Board Members named tonight in accordance with the Board's Bylaws having been duly notified as well as the notification sent to the Borough President's Office, be voted off the Board.

Since there were none opposed or abstentions, the motion passed.

VI. District Manager's Report

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported the Board office is currently understaffed. Because of a scheduling conflict, the Board staffer accepted a job offer at another agency. The Board is in the process of hiring a replacement and the posting will remain open until June 28. However if a viable candidate is found before then, the Board is ready to hire.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol discussed the street co-naming for Barbara Jackson, former District Leader, and longtime ally of Community Board 4, sponsored by Council Member Francisco Moya, at Junction Blvd. and 57th Avenue on Friday, June 16, at 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming events were brought up. A while ago, the Board held a job fair in partnership with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) which entailed how to get a job with the City of New York and how to take the city civil service exam. The event was very well attended and the Board is planning another one with the assistance of Board Member Mac Merchan. The workshop is planned for June 30 or henceforth.

Next, the District Manager reported the Health Committee met this month headed by Dr. G. Oliver, the new Chair of the Committee, where a dog licensing/vaccination event for dogs and cats was discussed. The Board had held a similar event a few years ago. Documents had been submitted for an approximate date of July 15. Currently, the Board is waiting on approvals from the appropriate agencies. Because the new fiscal year begins July 1, it is not clear what funding agencies will have available, the reasoning behind the selected date of July 15.

In addition, District Manager Cassagnol reported on a street co-naming ceremony sponsored by Council Member Shekar Krishnan, Saturday, June 10, 2023, for John Browne Way.

At this point, Council Member Shekar Krishnan addressed the Board. The Council Member spoke on the visioning session for Frank O'Connor Playground where many Board members were in attendance. The Council Member worked with the Parks Department and the Parks Commissioner to ensure that Frank O'Connor Park was chosen as the only Queens park for the community parks initiative which is led by the Mayor and City Hall to identify playgrounds and parks across the city that not only need renovation but also equity to focus on neighborhoods that do not have enough green space and how to make more green space. Council Member Krishnan advocated with the Parks Commissioner and City Hall to ensure Frank O'Connor Park received the funding. Now, the visioning process has started for the playground. About a month and a half ago, the first community visioning session was held and went well with more to come. It is exciting that City Hall has identified this playground as one of five recognized across New York City, which has meant so much to families that utilize it as well as the workers at Elmhurst Hospital. As NYC Council Parks & Recreation Chair, the emphasis is on how green spaces are connected to public health, mental health, and well-being. Subsequently, Council Member Krishnan brought up the work of Elmhurst Hospital. Council Member Krishnan was proud to work with the City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams and Queens Borough President Donovan Richards to allocate \$10 million for Elmhurst Hospital for a fully funded new HIV infectious disease clinic for renovation and expansion. Also, a new main entrance on Broadway is planned for the hospital.

Under the new budget, Council Member Shekar Krishnan is working with the Queens Borough President Donovan Richards on priorities for Elmhurst Hospital whether it is a hand surgeon clinic as there is only one hand surgeon for all of Queens that takes care of many immigrant workers for on the job injuries as well as the maternal health fund as well as the other needs for Elmhurst Hospital. The public hospitals are the heart of the health care system in New York City and Elmhurst Hospital is at the center of that heart. The Council Member is proud to work with the CEO of Elmhurst Hospital Helen Artega-Landaverde.

Next, Council Member Krishnan spoke about the street naming's. As NYC Council Parks Chair one of the responsibilities is the street naming's for New York City. In part, street naming's are not just changing a street but permanently marking the landscape of New York City for those individuals/communities who have had a remarkable impact on our district. In the last few months, 73 Street, Jackson Heights, was named Bangladesh Street, Woodside Avenue/Little Thailand Way, and Grand Avenue/Simonson Street/John Browne Way where over 100 people attended a beautiful event.

Also Council Member Krishnan mentioned the street co-naming ceremony for Asif Rahman for 55th Avenue and Queens Boulevard/Asif Rahman Way scheduled for June 17, 2023.

Furthermore, Council Member Krishnan reported on other events held in the district. Moreover, the Council Member mentioned he had put aside funding in the City Council's Parks allocation to increase every council member's funding to support parks in their districts. Funding was used to ensure more parks workers in the district and more movie nights in the district most recently one at CC Moore Park and Frank O'Connor Park with more coming up for the summer.

Likewise, the parks workers are the beating heart of our parks system that maintain our parks and the Council Member is proud to stand with DC37.

In addition, the allocation for sanitation services in our neighborhoods had been increased, which is a priority of Council Member Krishnan's, whether it is garbage picked up or graffiti removal, or working with QEDC to ensure the work is done. Also, the ability to increase more sanitation pick-ups, more graffiti removals in addition to the ACE allocation.

Finally, the Council Member's Rain Barrel event was very successful last year and is a great way to protect the climate using run off water, reusing it for plants and vegetation. Another event is planned in July and he urged all to spread the word.

In the City Council, the legislative term is ending. This year, several bills were passed by Council Member Shekar Krishnan to improve the parks capital process to build parks quicker, more efficiently, and with more transparency. Also, to consider different ways to get more green space in the city.

In fact, just passed in the City Council was to expand access to AED Defibrillators from a public health standpoint. The Council Member relayed an incident about a constituent's father who passed away because of a heart attack and who was the inspiration for this legislation. The Council Member provided more information on the Heart Act. The Health Department does not know where the AED's are located throughout the city and whether or not they are up to date. The issue of heart health was brought to light and the City Council has been working with legislators on the national level to address the issue of AED's. An op-ed was written on the importance of heart health. Council Member Shekar Krishnan's bill passed the NYC Council last week and simultaneously important bills were introduced to protect taxi workers in the city when they are deactivated by for hire companies with no notice or bill of rights.

At this point, Council Member Shekar Krishnan took questions from the Board.

Board Member Clara Salas commented about the rising rents and homelessness crises. Currently, apartments on Queens Boulevard rent for \$2200 for a one-bedroom, and \$2700 for a three bedroom. She spoke about the Claremont Terrace building which is maintained by the landlord who does pay the taxes, but problems still exist. Senior citizens need affordable housing mentioning NYCHA housing. Claremont Terrace can be converted into affordable housing for our community, which is desperately needed. Board Member Clara Salas requested the Council Member's help in utilizing this building, at least for senior citizens who have limited incomes, to serve this population.

Council Member Krishnan was in agreement about escalating rents and the importance of protecting tenants and tenants' rights. Through the years, landlords have harassed tenants out of their homes while increasing the rent.

On a citywide level, the City Council will introduce legislation to protect tenant's rights and fight against income discrimination that prevent tenants from qualifying for a home. The City Council has just voted to increase city subsidies allowances for tenants seeking apartments. The federal government does have subsidies, but at the city level it was just increased so that tenants have more public funding available when applying for an apartment.

The City Council is working on bills to combat the source of income discrimination. One of the biggest issues is when a landlord displaces tenants from their home such as shutting off their electricity or hot water, and vacates tenants making it very difficult to re-enter the home. On a city-wide level, four to five different bills will be introduced which will hold landlords accountable who force tenants from their homes to make those buildings into luxury buildings removing them from rent stabilization.

On a community level, it is a priority of Council Member Krishnan's for more affordable senior housing and to protect seniors in their homes.

Opportunities are being reviewed to create senior housing in our community. One of the issues is that our area is very dense, however, when opportunities come up; the Council Member's focus is on building senior housing and LGBT senior housing while ensuring protection to seniors and helping them stay in their homes.

Finally, Claremont Terrace is known very well to Council Member Krishnan as several walk thrus of the building have been performed with the Depts. of Buildings and Health. The owner does not live in the community (he has an office in Connecticut) which the Council Member had contacted. Since it is a private landlord, it is a challenge, and finding a way to repurpose the building requires some degree of cooperation. While there are ways to create low income ownerships to repurpose housing when it's abandoned, this building has been flagged at every level. The Council Member has spoken to the Commissioner of the Buildings Dept. to see what is possible and what the landlord's intentions are.

Environmental Chair Carol Machulski pointed out Claremont Terrace does not exist on the city maps.

Council Member Krishnan was not aware of this fact but will follow up with the Department of Buildings. It was pointed out to the council member the property was a private ownership.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol said it is an unmapped street. As a result, it is exempt from city services. The Sanitation Dept. nor NYPD will not go in. If the street can get mapped, it would open up the city services. It's not the building at fault but rather the mapping of the street.

The question was raised to Council Member Krishnan although upgrades are being allocated to Elmhurst Hospital, how much funding will Elmhurst get for those who live here and those with mental health issues living on the streets and the parks will receive services from Elmhurst Hospital. This problem not only affects those living with it but the community as well.

Council Member Krishnan responded the fundamental cause to help these individuals must be addressed before it becomes a crises. Funding, services, and resources must be increased for mental health for the homeless before it comes to the point of crises. The Council is working on different ways for mental health funding to prioritize services for those individuals that need services. Similarly with homeless services also. Active negotiations are taking place now to put pressure on City Hall in budget negotiations to comply with the Council's demands for funding services reiterating it is a priority in the City Council to address the problem at its root before it becomes a point of crises.

The need for a community center such as a boys and girls club and YMCA was brought up and a suggested site was mentioned.

Council Member Krishnan responded a community center is part of creating public space and engages our youth. From a public safety standpoint, it is important to keep youth engaged noting the Elmhurst community does not have such a space. Working closely with the Boys and Girls Club for space and to reach out for available opportunities. Without vacant space, finding buildings and space is a challenge in the neighborhood. The most difficult challenge is to find a willing partner either to sell or rent the space. The Council Member will persist in this endeavor and keep working on this challenge.

Board Member Clara Salas mentioned in the 1970's the mentally ill were taken to Elmhurst Hospital given a shower and then taken to Pilgrim or Creedmoor Psychiatric Hospitals to stay six months and receive the care and medication needed. Afterwards, adult homes were opened from psychiatric hospitals. Nowadays, there are no services for the mentally ill.

Council Member Krishnan responded from those tools in the 1970's an 80's came Mitchell Lama, HDHC's etc., but the city has walked away from those resources. The City Council is trying to revive and make better the investments done before that the city has retreated from in many ways. The City Council has passed a number of bills for mental health to housing programs. For the longest time, these public benefits were tied to 1990's definitions, which are outdated today. The City Council has put pressure on the Mayor and the administration to do more and invest in mental health services, and supportive housing for the homeless.

Board Member Anthony Szeto asked about graffiti removal.

Council Member Krishnan responded to call his office on this matter as they do perform graffiti cleanups.

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported the Board office is also involved in a graffiti removal cleanup. More details to follow.

VII. Public Forum – Good & Welfare of the District

Jennifer Ochoa addressed the issue of the Open Streets proposal. More information is needed on the Britton Avenue street closure from Gleane Street to Hampton Street, specifically, how will it be coordinated and who will do it? Also, Woodside Avenue from 76 Street to 79 Street someone must be there to monitor the movable gates because people throw them to the middle of the street and accidents can occur.

Next, Ms. Ochoa commented Citi bikes take more of our parking spaces. The community is in need of parking because residents need to park to go to work.

VIII. Report from Elected Officials **House of Representatives**

Grace Meng

Kyle Salcido reported Congresswoman Meng has introduced the bipartisan Mental Health Workforce and Language Access Act which will establish a new grant program to provide federal funds to community health centers. This money will be used to hire qualified mental health professionals dealing with languages other than English to ensure more people have access to health they seek. This would be nationwide funding.

In addition, Representative Meng will host a veteran's information session on June 28 at 1:00 p.m. at Maspeth Town Hall, located on 72 Street, Maspeth, NY.

Meet in person or on zoom to learn about one of the largest health care investments in history, which was signed into law into 2022. The Pact Act gives health care benefits to veterans for long term complications received in their service to our country.

Furthermore, Representative Meng met with Secretary Becerra, Department of Health & Human Services, to discuss how federal money is being used to save lives with the 988 and suicide crises life line. In addition to the 988 phone hot line, the line also phones, texts, and chats to reach young people to render support. Moreover, both legislators discussed the \$35 monthly cap on insulin passed by Congress in the historic Inflation Reduction Act. This cap is putting more money back in the pockets of our senior citizens. Representative Meng will continue fighting for lower prescription drug costs and increased access to mental health services.

Representative Meng is pleased to congratulate all Queens's graduates. On June 24, the Congresswoman will be hosting an event from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Woodside. All graduates from pre-k to college are welcome to attend. Graduates can take a photo with the Congresswoman and receive a certificate of congratulations. Please call the Congresswoman's office to RSVP.

If you have any issues relating to a federal agency, please call Congresswoman Meng's office for assistance.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Michelle explained in conjunction with the USPS a passport fair at the Elmhurst Post Office is scheduled for Sunday, July 16. Event is first come first service, and doors will open at 9:00 a.m. Please sign up for their Newsletter so that you will receive all the event details.

The district office is hiring a veteran for a two-year paid position through the Green and Gold Congressional Aid Program. Finally, the winner of the 2023 Art Competition was announced. Titled "No Place Like Home" which highlighted the centrality of immigrant families in our district. Call the Congresswoman's office for details.

NYS Assembly

Steven Raga

John Bahia announced for constituency services and events, the following events were hosted in the last month:

Rain Barrel Giveaway with the Department of Environmental Protection where 100 rain barrels were distributed.

Shredding Truck Event with AARP in Woodside.

Job Search Clinic with Temps. – Constituents signed up in search of temporary jobs – held at the Assembly Member's office

Upcoming: Tenant Legal Clinic – Tuesday, June 27.

Inaugural Pride Event – Thursday, June 29 at the Queens Borough Public Library, Elmhurst, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. More to follow.

Second Rain Barrel Event in late August

Added Flood barriers for rain mitigation in the area

Call Assembly Member Steven Raga's office with any questions or concerns.

Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas

Brenda Barrera reported Saturday, June 17, Shredding event at 10:00 a.m. at Northern Blvd.

A self-dense workshop on June 28, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm will be held in partnership with other legislators at Travers Park 77/78 Streets.

Call the district office with any questions or concerns.

Jeffrion Aubry

No Report. Representative not present.

Catalina Cruz

A representative reported on last month's events: a free pet vaccine and microchip clinic, and mammogram/scan van.

Upcoming events: Pride Prom on Friday, June 16 from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the New York Hall of Science

- FDNY Fire Safety Event at the Jackson Heights Library, June 23, from 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

- Housing Clinic at the district office on June 26, from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. regarding tenant/landlord

Please call the office with any concerns or if you require services.

NYS Senate

Michael Gianaris

No Report. Representative not present.

Jessica Ramos

No Report. Representative not present.

Toby Ann Stavisky

No Report. Representative not present.

NYC Council

Francisco Moya

Yissett Peralta announced ongoing events: Fitness in the Park till end of June, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, at William F. Moore Park; Tuesdays and Thursdays at Helen Marshall Park from 10 am to 12 Noon (William F. Moore Park) and 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Helen Marshall Park.).

Five Movie Nights are remaining in the district. Dates and locations were given.

Tenants’ rights will be discussed tomorrow

Friday, June 16, Barbara Jackson will be honored with a street co-naming at 6 p.m. at Junction Blvd. and 57 Avenue.

Please call the office with concerns or if you require services.

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Pat Rosero announced the Queens Pride Event on Wednesday, June 14, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Helen Marshall Cultural Center at Queens Borough Hall.

Although no meetings are held during the summer months, events are scheduled and details were given. Check the queensbp.org website for more information.

IX. Guest Speakers:

1. NYC Department of Transportation (DOT)

Presentation & Discussion:

CB4 Citi bike Expansion Plan

2. United States Tennis Association (USTA)

Presentation: US Open Job Fair

1. CB4 Citi bike Expansion Plan

With the aid of a slide presentation, a representative from the Department of Transportation (DOT) presented the updated expansion plan presented to the Transportation Committee last month and a brief overview was given.

Bike Share is a sustainable mode of transportation and made-up of a dense network of shared bicycles and helps increase mobility around communities and provides an additional option for people and compliments the existing infrastructure to all modes of transportation. Systems are available 24/7 and provides benefits of bikes in the city without having to worry about storage or maintenance.

Citi bike is New York City’s bike share system, which is a public/private partnership with the Department of Transportation

Which does the system planning and outreach and the day to day operations. It is the largest and most utilized in the country and the largest in the world (outside of China). No city funds are used to operate the system. Revenue is generated from membership and other rider fees. It is station based meaning it is module which does not require any solar power. Stations can be on the sidewalk or roadbed to provide much reliability and consistency for riders.

The ten year Citi bike anniversary was recently celebrated when the program launched in 2013 in areas of Manhattan and Brooklyn. In 2015, Phase 2 was started and that expansion doubled the service area and expanded into Queens.

Phase 3 started in 2019 and expands into the Bronx further out into Queens and Brooklyn. When Phase 3 is completed, approximately half of New Yorkers will be within the Citi Bike service area.

The program has been tremendously successful with 182 million trips to date. On the average, four trips per bike per day is seen. Since we are in the peak riding months, the average is over 100,000 daily trips and 120,000 trips on busier days. There are 182,000 annual members and 10,000 reduced fare bike share members.

Membership options are:

Single ride.

Day pass which is unlimited 30-minute rides for a 24-hour period.

The most popular is the annual membership 45 minute rides within that year. The reduced fare bike share membership program is available to NYCHA recipients/residents and SNAP recipients, which is \$5/month with no annual commitment and includes the 45 minute rides.

Next, the equity efforts were discussed. Besides the reduced fare bike share program, the community grants program through Lyft was noted and the other in Woodside, Queens. More information was given on those programs and community based organizations. Also, there is a Board to help with some of the equity efforts.

Bicycling efforts are done in a variety of ways such as helmet fittings, helmet giveaways, safety awareness classes, partner keys and free ride codes are offered to community based organizations, which provide opportunities to facilitate programs. Core rules of the road are in every basket and kiosk.

Subsequently, the expansion planning process with its four major steps was described.

Station sighting - High density of stations equally distributed throughout service area to ensure people are no more than a three to five minute walk, which is crucial to the success of this program. When identifying particular area, there are so many considerations to take into account such as proximity to hydrants, utilities, ADA accessibility, pedestrian clearances, curb cuts etc.

Next, the public outreach process was described. Interactive feedback portal for ongoing stakeholder meetings where over 2,500 comments were collected in the fall of 2022 and spring of 2023 for Community Boards 3 & 4.

For the draft plan created, area community feedback was used with a map where sighting principles were incorporated with sighting principles and operational considerations and solar access etc. which were presented to CB4's Transportation Committee last month, which was posted online.

Final steps and installation and feedback over the last month along with technical screening and coordination site specific outreach and notification will begin shortly and install stations over the summer with continued outreach and monitoring once installed and make any adjustments

Updated Plan: An overview was shown, which will be available online tomorrow, the northwest corner was presented with an overview of the symbols depicted. The icons and letters were explained.

Board Member Alexandra Owens brought up at the Transportation Committee meeting Elmhurst Hospital and Ithaca Street.

The representative from the Department of Transportation responded an adjustment was made there and also concerns on Baxter Avenue were addressed. More details were given.

A Board Member inquired if 12 stations were the norm.

The DOT representative responded yes which is part of the core as it is a very dense network. Density is the same everywhere to ensure equal access, but the stations and sizes will vary tremendously. Stations here will be smaller on average 21 docks per station.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino said this was not indicated.

The response was no; and currently in the final process doing the final surveys; adjustments may be in the docks based on modifications as the actual size is never shown-only average sizes as DOT makes the final decision. The rule of thumb is residential communities will have smaller stations near a subway station. Those will be a bit larger and what might be a community hub or a significant trip generator.

Public Safety Committee Chair Lara Gregory asked for specifics on criteria used for site selection.

The response was the 28 station per square mile density must be met which forms the framework of how many sites are selected in the community. Locations are looked at such as access to a subway station the focus will be on that area and put a dock there. From there it is built out to ensure the network is tight and there is no more than a three to five minute walk. Core considerations that may make a sidewalk site non-viable is that equipment must fit into the existing street scape.

If there are too many tree pits very close together, it cannot be done. If there is a situation where the station is put on the sidewalk and narrows the sidewalk and does not meet ADA criteria, it cannot be done. Usually, utilities and tree pits make sidewalks not viable. Other not viable considerations are main entrances to large institutions or many curb cuts or hydrants, to name a few.

A Board Member asked is the criteria based on the Department of Transportation's selections, specifically, why is there three stations near Elmhurst Hospital. Is the decision based on the area is so dense that three stations are needed.

The response was if one station is completely full and you are trying to dock, you will then easily be able to find another station nearby.

Board Chair Marialena brought up the area around Elmhurst hospital is very dense, noting traffic and emergency vehicles, there is much road beds and less sidewalks which is a concern for the area. How does the Department of Transportation consider the issue?

The response was for locations, the Department of Transportation allocates parking for stations that have a smaller footprint than a parked car, which creates clearer site lines and makes the space visible and increases safety in communities, called daylighting. It makes any pedestrian on the sidewalk more visible than behind a parked car. In terms of the hospital's needs, sites are reviewed with all institutions involved and if adjustments are necessary, DOT will work with the institution.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino inquired if a dock is installed on a sidewalk and there is an issue with it, will someone investigate that it is not working.

Emanuel Evans responded the Borough Commissioner's office is always open and an email address is available where a walk thru will be performed and coordinate with people to discuss complications that may occur post installation.

A Board Member brought up our community has many one-way streets, very narrow roads, not many bike lanes and much traffic congestion. How does DOT look at those community concerns.

The response was going into communities often riders want to utilize a space that has a bike lane. In many places, there are similar areas of congestion such as narrow roads and it remains successful. Communities will not be bombarded with riders when docks are installed. It's more of an even flow throughout the day and is not expected to cause a surge in ridership.

A Board Member asked if a DOT representative goes out to study the sites, pedestrian traffic, motorists etc. On the map, there are locations where a gasoline station is situated and a dock is planned by the gasoline station by Queens Blvd. /St. James. The TD Bank is on Albion Avenue and those streets are used to cross over to the south side where schools and the shelter is located. One is planned for the sidewalk and one for the road, which is not feasible. The dock planned for Ithaca the street is narrow and is between traffic going on Roosevelt Avenue and a supermarket, noting the congestion. Furthermore, the Q29 will be taken away for two new bus routes. The new bus routes will travel on Hampton Street, which is not practical. The Board Member questioned the design without studying the area.

At the point, District Manager Cassagnol reported the map was released well over a month ago for community feedback. The map is accessible to all. He urged the Board Members to review the map and pick out the trouble locations. This is ¼ of the map; there is another ¾ of the map up for review. He pointed out the meeting cannot last the entire night breaking down every single stop. Furthermore, this has been public information and CB4 has a very low response when it comes to feedback.

Transportation Chair Matthew McElroy said there are three days more of the comment period. If you have not looked at the map, this is the time to do so and make comments through the DOT portal. It must be done within the next three days, which is when the 30 day period ends.

Nicole Garcia, Queens Borough Commissioner, reported go online, maps are posted and post feedback and send to her. For example, Commissioner Garcia said community feedback has been heard that a station is planned for a certain location, but parking is really needed. Parking in front of my house or at the corner is good feedback during the week, but on weekends, residents can take a Citi bike to run errands. This is an option for people in the community to get where they need to go. Site specific feedback is needed such as: this is a one-way or there is a curb cut here and it will be considered. Also added by the representative that all feedback will be monitored.

Subsequently, more review on the maps were given as well as the updated plans which are available tomorrow.

Discussion ensued.

At this point, questions were taken from the Board.

2. United States Tennis Association (USTA)

Shelby Ponder explained last year almost 900,000 people were brought in. Over 110,000 people who came were in family, which is free from Tuesday thru Sunday. He explained the program for children where much fun events are planned. The show is free and will run August 22 thru August 25. More events were announced.

Also, U. S. Open Job Fairs will be held at the National Tennis Center on June 27-28. On July 6 another Job Fair will be held in partnership with Common Point Queens and July 7 in partnership with the Queens Chamber of Commerce. Elmhurst Hospital was thanked for their support and all the workers were invited out for family day and were optimistic to do it again this year.

A Board Member inquired tickets were usually given out for the children in the past for the show.

The response was when it wasn't a children's show, but now it's free for everyone and there is no charge. No RSVP is necessary; it's first come first serve and held in the Louis Armstrong Stadium which holds 14,000 people.

X. Report and Vote: Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

Public Safety Committee Chair Lara Gregory reported there are only two licenses in question. A notification will be available for anyone to sign up for the FBI training for the Active Shooter event.

Next, the liquor license applications were discussed.

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

June 2023

NEW/TEMPORARY PERMT APPLICATIONS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>LICENSE TYPE</u>	<u>NEW/Temp.</u>	<u>DATE REC.</u>
Mahamitr Inc. <i>DBA: Bla Bla Bar</i>	71-28 Roosevelt Ave. Jackson Heights, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	New	04/27/23
Tulcingo Deli Plus Inc. <i>DBA: Tulcingo Restaurant</i>	40-36/40-40 National Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	New & Temp.	05/08/23
Sandra's Pizzeria & Restaurant Corp.	41-06 Junction Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	New & Temp.	05/08/23
Faarzi LLC	85-35 Grand Ave. Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	New & Temp.	05/12/23
Himalaya Sis Inc.	75-16 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	New & Temp.	05/19/23

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>LICENSE TYPE</u>	<u>DATE.REC.</u>	<u>LIC. EXPIR. DATE</u>
Billiards Sol y Luna <i>DBA: Billiards Sol y Luna</i>	102-02 43 Ave. Rear Parlor Corona, NY	Wine Beer & Cider	04/24/23	06/30/23
J&I Products Corp. <i>DBA: Spicy Shallot</i>	77-01 Woodside Ave. Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	04/27/23	06/30/23
The Little Chinantla Rest. Corp.	96-06 43 Ave. Corona, NY	Beer & Cider	05/01/23	05/31/23
Gorkhali Rest. LLC <i>DBA: Gorkhali Rest. & Bar</i>	77-04 Roosevelt Ave. Jackson Heights, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	05/01/23	06/30/23
Pico DeGallo Inc. <i>DBA: Tecolote</i>	82-18 Roosevelt Ave. aka 40-09 82 Street Jackson Heights, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	05/08/23	07/31/23
El Zocalo Grill Corp.	40-10 83 Street Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	05/12/23	06/30/23
El Cuencanito Deli & Pizza Restaurant Inc.	99-12 Alstyne Ave. Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer	05/24/23	06/30/23

CLASS CHANGE APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>LICENSE TYPE</u>	<u>TYPE OF APPLICATON</u>	<u>DATE RECEIVED</u>	<u>LIC. EXPIRATION DATE</u>
Eat Gai Inc. DBA: <i>Zaab Zaab</i>	76-04 Woodside Ave. Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	Class Change	04/27/23	03/21/24
Florence Culinary Assoc. DBA: <i>Florence Diner</i>	40-13 82 St. Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	Class Change	05/24/23	01/31/25

Public Safety Committee Chair Lara Gregory reported on the following five **New Applicants:**

Mahamitr Inc. /dba: *Bla Bla Bar*

Tulcingo Deli Plus Inc. /dba: *Tulcingo Restaurant*

Sandra’s Pizzeria & Restaurant Corp.

Faarzi LLC –indicated they would be doing business as Faarzi but did not specify what their dba is and the committee did not feel comfortable recommending approval of a business because it is unclear how they would transact with the public.

Himalaya Sis Inc.

For the **Renewal Applicants:**

All applicants listed were recommended for approval except for El Zocalo Grill Corp.

Billiards Sol y Luna

J&I Products Corp/dba: *Spicy Shallot*

The Little Chinantla Rest. Corp.

Gorkhali Rest. & Bar

Pico DeGallo Inc.

El Zocalo Grill Corp.

El Cuencanito Deli & Pizza

Referring to the denial given to El Zocalo Grill Corp., Public Safety Committee Chair Lara Gregory reported based on the NYPD 110 Precinct report submitted by P. O. Cabrera from February to March 2023, there were 46 Incidents. In three incidents, El Zocalo exceeded the occupancy limits allowing than 75 people in the establishment, thereby causing an unsafe environment.

During the June 6 committee meeting, the attorney for El Zocalo appeared and explained the incidents. While admitting the incidents occurred, the restaurant is hiring more security guards to ensure it does not happen again. When the question arose whether or not hiring more security guards would solve the problem because there are counters to determine how many people are coming into the establishment the owner said they have the counter but do not use it because they are not conscious of complying with the sixty regulation.

In addition to exceeding the occupancy limits, El Zocalo, according to the NYPD, allowed the use of hookah inside establishment. Hookah paraphernalia was found inside establishment. Moreover, summonses issued for location exceeded occupancy and failed to conspicuously post, “Dangers of consuming alcohol while pregnant” sign.

Equally important, the committee took note of the fact no incident did occur but the observance of safety requirements should not happen as in the case of an actual fire. Issuance of a license is a privilege subject to the diligent compliance with city safety rules. It is important to understand from the SLA standards they usually renew the license of El Zocalo, which means there is no downside to them if their license is approved. However, the Community Board is not a rubber stamp for the SLA and the Board represents the interests of the community and because of underlying safety violations that appeared in a recent one month period. As a result, the committee was unable to recommend approval for El Zocalo.

Public Safety Committee Member Georgina Oliver added there was smoking and pregnant women in the establishment.

At this point, Public Safety Chair Lara Gregory turned the floor over to District Manager Christian Cassagnol.

Committee Chair Lara Gregory reported one of the decisions in making the recommendation is the NYPD report. It would have been cited if they had a permit.

District Manager Cassagnol referenced an incident at Community Board 9, and spoke about a Board approval for a license for Amadeus, which had problems. Subsequently, the Community Board denied the license and asked the SLA to rescind the license.

However, the SLA did not rescind the license. So that, the Community Board was at fault because the District Manager was the representative. A minor safety issue is still a safety issue. If a tragedy does occur, it would be noted the Community Board approved the license.

General safety issues were brought up.

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino called for a vote.

Board Member Lynda Coral made a motion, seconded by Parliamentarian Louis Walker, to **approve** the Public Safety Committee's report as presented.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol asked for clarification if the committee approved or denied the license for El Zocalo.

Public Safety Chair Lara Gregory responded it was denied.

Since there were none opposed or abstentions, the motion passed.

XI. Report and Vote: Transportation Committee

Open Street Proposal

1. Britton Avenue from Gleane Street to Hampton Street

2. Woodside Avenue from 76th Street to 79th Street

Committee Chair Matthew McElroy reported the Transportation Committee met on May 16, 2023 and reported on two Open Street applications:

1. Britton Avenue from Gleane Street to Hampton Street
2. Woodside Avenue from 76th Street to 79th Street

Actually, this began as a discussion to close Gleane Street resulting in discussions between the Board and the NYC Department of Transportation, elected officials, the school, and the Transportation Committee. Approval was given for Britton Avenue as opposed to Gleane Street. The motion brought before the Community Board is approval for Britton Avenue from the school's main entrance. For the Woodside Avenue application, the proposal is to close the street on weekends: Friday evenings, Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 76th Street to 79th Street.

Britton Avenue is in front of the school so that P. S. 89 requests to close the street for arrival and dismissal including lunchtime/recess. If the school would not use the street for longer than ½ hour, it would re-open on Friday.

Woodside Avenue from 76th Street to 79th Street is sponsored by the local restaurant association and the renewal has been in effect for at least two three years.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol along with Board Member Rownoka Ashakhan canvassed the local area around Britton Avenue to ensure residents were made aware of the change. No feedback was given by the local residents. DOT is proposing Monday – Friday 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. consecutively. However, the committee is requesting to amend the current DOT proposal and only to close it certain hours of the day when the school was not being used. DOT was clear the street would be accessible to residents during the day, however, the committee was not comfortable with it.

For that reason, the current proposal from 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. will be amended by the Board to have the street opened during certain hours. District Manager Cassagnol had spoken to the Assistant Principal who agreed to the change and could not justify having the street closed for the entire day.

A Board Member inquired about the Gleane Street issue as opposed to Britton Avenue, noting parking from private houses on Britton Avenue with the huge amount of traffic coming in. In the past, street bumps or crossing guards had been requested. More details were given about safety and congestion on the street.

Transportation Chair Matthew McElroy said during the period in question about arrival and dismissal times, there will be no traffic along Britton Avenue and did note safety issues. During the time period requested, the possibility of being struck by a car will be significantly lower. Furthermore, cars will not be allowed on that block. Parents will have to use Gleane or Hampton Streets to drop off children at the corner. They will not be allowed on that street during the time it is closed. The only movement in and out will be the people who reside there.

Board Member Alexandra Owens commented when a meeting was held with the principal, Gleane Street already has an open street and the issue is cars are moving barriers and one teacher was almost struck. Gleane Street is a major roadway where more commercial traffic is traveling than Britton Avenue.

Transportation Committee Chair Matthew McElroy reported the committee **approved** both proposals as amended.

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino called for a motion on the Open Streets proposals.

Board Member Lynda Coral made a motion, seconded by Parliamentarian Louis Walker, to **approve** the proposals.

A Board Member brought up the street closures time from 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol mentioned P. S. 89 has a summer camp, and this will transcend throughout the summer, not just during the week.

A Board Member inquired if new signage will be put up so that the community will be aware of the changes.

District Manager Cassagnol reiterated he had canvassed many homes, laundromats, and the school and there was no feedback.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino asked if requests must be renewed every year.

The response was yes. Requests who has applied for the program will be shared with the Board to gain feedback. Adjustments can be made as needed.

Subsequently, the Board voted on the motion on the floor. Since there were none opposed or abstentions, the motion passed.

Transportation Committee Chair Matthew McElroy added he had attended the John Browne Street co-naming at Grand Avenue and Simson Street which was hugely attended and a festive occasion.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for June 20 and will be virtual. On the agenda is a discussion of how the open streets locations are handled in terms of what applicants will be asked. The other agenda item is the Woodhaven Blvd. subway station ADA elevator installation. Construction to start in the fall.

XII. Committee Reports:

Consumer Affairs

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Environmental

Committee Chair Carol Machulski reported the committee did not meet this month. QSWAB met on May 24. There were two speakers: Michael Rieser, Coordinator of NYC Paint Care and Joyce Bialik from NYS Micro plastic Taskforce. Ms. Bialik was seeking support for NYS legislation Intro. 797. She stated that 90% of plastics produced use fossil fuel and that the chemical additives comprise 5% to 50% of plastic polymers which leak into water, air, soil animals and humans.

QSWAB will take an electronic vote tomorrow as to whether or not to support this legislation.

The Nominating Committee submitted a slate of officers for next year.

There was no new business.

The Environmental Justice Committee met on May 23. There was further discussion on the proposed DAC information session and two possible dates were given both on a Saturday between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

It was suggested that a community cleanup be scheduled before June 30. Suggestions for a community cleanup are needed.

Health and Human Services

Dr. G. Oliver reported the first meeting was held about two weeks ago and a tentative dog event is planned for July 15.

Much was discussed and the meeting was productive including adding sub-committees within the committee. Each member will head their own sub-committee. Members have already volunteered to head those sub-committees.

The Director of Relations and Community Engagement from the Committee of Interns and Residents addressed the committee and she also does outreach for the New York City Labor Council.

A speaker will be scheduled to address the committee on what life is like in Elmhurst Hospital. The resident doctors went on strike earlier in May for two weeks, and the strike was resolved.

Parks

Parks Committee Chair Ashley Reed reported the committee did not meet last month and referred to Council Member Krishnan's report on the Frank D. O'Connor meeting which she had attended on April 12. More information to follow on its progress.

Next, Parks Chair Ashley Reed had attended the Elmhurst History & Cemeteries Preservation Society's first walking tour, which was a nice event.

ULURP & Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported the committee did not meet last month but he did attend Community Board 7's presentation on Willets Point. A brand new stadium display was shown which will hold 25,000 seats. The stadium will be a 40,000 sq. ft. public space. 25 units or 1% will be affordable housing with a hotel in the area and a school. Part of the housing unit will be a senior citizen section.

Youth

Committee Chair Sylvia Martin reported the committee did not meet and stated there was issue with membership, noting one Board member is no longer a committee member, therefore, the committee must regroup. A meeting will be held soon.

At this point, Board Member Vincent Laucella thanked the District Manager for supplying clay material for the bocce court in William F. Moore Park.

Since there was no further business, Board Member Mac Merchan made a motion, seconded by Board Member Georgina Oliver, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.