

**COMMUNITY BOARD TEN BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2008; SHORE HILL COMMUNITY ROOM
MINUTES**

Chair Rasinya called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. He introduced Sean Gilligan, District Executive for Southwest Brooklyn, Boy Scouts of America, to lead the Honor of the Pledge.

Justice Arthur Schack performed the Swearing In Ceremony for the Community Board Ten officers for calendar year 2008. Our officers are:

Dean Rasinya	-	Chair
Mary Ann Walsh	-	Vice Chair
Eleanor Petty	-	Secretary
Brian Kieran	-	Treasurer

Chair Rasinya called for adoption of the Agenda as amended to include a presentation by Ann Smith from the Bay Ridge Counseling Center of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, a detailed reading of the By Laws Committee proposed revisions, a Youth Committee Informational Report and a Homeland Security Sub Committee Informational Report. Agenda adopted as amended.

PRESENTATION

Chair Rasinya introduced Ann Smith from the Bay Ridge Counseling Center of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services who gave a brief presentation about services that are available. The Bay Ridge Counseling Center can be reached at 718-238-6444.

PUBLIC SESSION

John Heyer, representing Borough President Markowitz, announced that those Board Members who are up for reappointment in 2008 must submit their application for reappointment no later than February 21st. He announced that the Borough President will give the State of the Borough Address on Thursday, February 7th at the Red Hook Terminal. Board Members should respond to 718-802-3700 as soon as possible if they are planning to attend. He also announced that BP Markowitz is once again hosting his "Sweethearts Day" on February 14th for all couples married 50 or more years. All interested couples should call 718-802-3700 for further information or to respond that they will attend.

Kwame Patterson, representing Councilman Gentile, stated that the Councilman is in the process of setting up a meeting with DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd to try to speed up the timeline for the Owls Head upgrades, and to assure that Owls Head continues to remain a priority for DEP even after Mayor Bloomberg's term ends. Kwame brought flyers that the Councilman has prepared which can be displayed on a resident's property requesting that unsolicited flyers and advertisements NOT be delivered to that property. The Councilman has arranged a rally at the 58th Street Ferry Terminal which will take place on Thursday, January 31st at 8:40 am. This is the last day that ferry service will run before service is suspended. He invited all to come and show support for this much needed form of transportation.

Before continuing with the Public Session, Chair Rasinya called for Adoption of the Minutes from the December 17, 2007 Board Meeting. Minutes adopted as written.

PUBLIC SESSION (continued)

Denise Costa and the group working to save ferry service spoke about the importance and safety of ferry service from Brooklyn to Manhattan. She stated that one half million dollars of funding that was allocated for ferry service is being held in the City somewhere, and has not been released for its intended purpose.

June Johnson spoke on behalf of the American Cancer Society and thanked all who participated in the drives last weekend to collect blood and tissue samples for possible bone marrow donors for Rachel Rodin and Jack Rubin, two children from our community in desperate need of help. Both drives were extremely successful. June announced that the Relay for Life Committee has selected Chair Dean Rasinya as one of the honorary chairpersons this year. Chair Rasinya noted that anyone planning to donate blood should not do so if they have a cold or are feeling a little bit under the weather. He learned that in a compromised condition, the blood donor's sample might result in a false positive reading for Hepatitis C or other conditions. If that should happen, the donor's blood would never be accepted again, even though the result was not accurate.

Eleanor Schiano announced that Friends For Life will present a concert to benefit the Guild for Exceptional Children's Capital Building Campaign on Friday, February 8th at 8:00 pm at the Bay Ridge United Methodist Church, the Green Church, on 4th Avenue and Ovington Avenue. Tickets are \$20 each and will be available at the door.

Allen Bortnick spoke about his December 20, 2007 meeting with DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd. He stated that Commissioner Lloyd claimed not to be aware of the problems at Owls Head. He stated that continued pressure directed toward DEP is necessary and asked that anyone wishing to help in this cause should contact him.

Dr. William Stratis, a PTA member of PS 185, spoke against the cell phone tower that was recently erected at 8701 Ridge Blvd. He stated that there are no definitive studies as yet regarding detrimental effects from being exposed to such towers, however, more and more information is coming out regarding side effects such as leukemia, memory loss, mental status changes, metabolic changes, high blood pressure, vision changes, sleep disorders, etc. Several agencies that have stated their opposition to cell phone towers include: The International Association of Firefighters, The World Health Organization, The US FDA, The International Agency for Research on Cancer, The National Cancer Institute, The New Zealand Ministry of Health. There has been legislation in the State of California prohibiting the erection of cell phone towers across the street from schools. Palm County Florida has done similar, as well as other counties in the nation. In the countries of England, Spain, Japan, France, and Germany legislation has gone through prohibiting the razing of cell phone towers across the street from schools. He stated that he is not against technology; however, we cannot put our children at risk until more definitive studies are released. He pointed out risks in the past with asbestos, second hand smoke, and lead poisoning. He stated that he is working with all elected officials and requested the Community Board's support in this effort.

Tressa Kabez, PTA Co President of PS 185, also spoke against cell phone towers. She mentioned that PS 185 has a roof top play area which is eye level facing two of those cell phone towers. Ms. Kabez also requested support from Community Board Ten. Chair Rasinya recommitted this issue to the Environmental Committee.

BM Harrison suggested the Board take an immediate position to oppose this. Chair Rasinya read a letter sent by CB 10 on December 8, 2005 to Mayor Bloomberg opposing all future citing of cell phone towers in close proximity to schools. BM Harrison stated that while that letter is generic, a specific letter should be sent regarding PS 185. BM Harrison made a motion to send a letter opposing the cell phone towers that were installed across from PS 185, motion second by BM Carroll. Discussion followed regarding targeting other

schools within Community Board 10 such as Xaverian and Fontbonne where cell towers have been erected nearby. BM Harrison stated that while he is not opposed to including other schools in the letter, he feels that since PS 185 is present stating their objection, we should specifically agree with PS185's objection in the letter.

Motion: To send a letter in support of PS 185's objection to the cell towers, and within the same letter state the other schools where we have cellular antennae that should be removed. 37 in favor; 1 abstention – BM Bortnick. Motion carried.

Chair Rasinya commented that history has shown up to this point that while these letters are well intentioned, the results in terms of removing cellular equipment can be counted on one or two fingers. Very few communities have been successful on this issue.

PUBLIC HEARING

In the matter of an application for a Special Permit to allow an enlargement of a single family residence out over an existing garage at 1157-83rd Street, BSA Calendar No. 274-07 BZ, the applicant's presentation was made by Richard Lobel of Sheldon Lobel PC. In the absence of ZALUC Chair Seminara, the Zoning Committee Report and Recommendation written by BM Gross was rendered by BM Pulaski. See Attached. The Motion and Recommendation of the Zoning and Land Use Committee: In the matter of an application for a Special Permit to allow an enlargement of a single family residence out over an existing garage at 1157-83rd Street, BSA Calendar No. 274-07 BZ is to recommend that the application for the Special Permit be approved. Discussion followed including questions by BM Fontas whether there was any opposition at all to which Chair Rasinya responded no, and whether Mr. Lobel had any presentation boards available. BM Pulaski responded that the visual presentation took place at the ZALUC meeting. BM Romero commented that this sounds like a large enlargement and asked whether it encroaches on either of the neighbors to the sides. Chair Rasinya explained that these concerns were resolved at the committee meeting. Mr. Lobel offered a photograph as a visual to describe the proposal. BM Sokoloski inquired whether there would be a medical office in the building. The answer was no, this is strictly a one family residential home. BM Harrison asked if this is pursuant to the Special Permit that Board 10 voted against. Chair Rasinya explained that this is pursuant to the Special Permit which the Board has voted to rescind from our zoning law. BM Buonvino asked if the neighbors were notified and whether the owner is familiar with the neighbors. Mr. Lobel called upon the owner who stated that his family has lived there for three years. Mr. Lobel affirmed that a mailing was sent to all neighbors within 200 feet.

Motion and Recommendation: In the matter of an application for a Special Permit to allow an enlargement of a single family residence out over an existing garage at 1157-83rd Street, BSA Calendar No. 274-07 BZ; 35 in favor; 1 opposed – BM Fontas; 1 recusal – BM Stelter; 1 abstention – BM Schack. Motion carried.

In the matter of a renewal application for an unenclosed sidewalk café at Spartan Souvlaki Corp., 6818-8th Avenue, for 13 tables and 34 seats, Consumer Affairs License No. 1142568, the applicant's presentation was made by Christine Lykourezos. In the absence of ZALUC Chair Seminara, the Zoning Committee Report and Recommendation written by BM Gross was rendered by BM Pulaski. See Attached.

Motion and Recommendation: In the matter of a renewal application for an unenclosed sidewalk café at Spartan Souvlaki Corp., 6818-8th Avenue, for 13 tables and 34 seats, Consumer Affairs License No. 1142568; all in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report – See Attached

District Manager's Report – See Attached

Treasurer's Report – See Attached

By Laws Committee

The By Laws Committee Report and Recommendation was rendered by By Laws Chair Cross. See Attached.

Chair Rasinya announced that he will reconvene the Nominating Committee to meet and recommend some guidelines and procedures for future Nominating Committees. This will be kept in a file for reference purposes for future Nominating Committees. The reconvened Nominating Committee will consist of : Chair Bob Buonvino, and Members Greg Ahl, Doris Cruz, Mary Nolan, Dilia Schack, and Harriet Rosenberg who has been added since she has been on a number of Nominating Committees, both as Chair and as a member.

Chair Rasinya announced that he will be out of town for the February 25th Board Meeting, and Vice Chair Walsh will also be away. The February meeting will be chaired by Secretary Eleanor Petty.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

The Environmental Committee Report and Recommendation was rendered by Environmental Committee Chair Ahl. See Attached.

Motion and Recommendation: To support Council Member Bill deBlasio's proposed ban on styrofoam use for city agencies and restaurants. Discussion followed. BM Fontas inquired as to whether Councilman Gentile is on this bill. Chair Rasinya and Environmental Chair Ahl responded that they did not have that answer.

Motion and Recommendation: To support Council Member Bill deBlasio's proposed ban on styrofoam use for city agencies and restaurants. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion and Recommendation: To support Senator Kruger's state legislation to ban styrofoam containers in the food industry. There was no discussion on this motion.

Motion and Recommendation: To support Senator Kruger's state legislation to ban styrofoam containers in the food industry. All in favor; motion carried unanimously.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Traffic and Transportation Committee Report and Recommendation was rendered by T&T Chair Kieran. See Attached.

Motion and Recommendation: Community Board 10 to send a letter to District Managers for Community Boards 7 and 6, to our elected officials and to New York State DOT requesting that they review the AIA concept for feasibility in any plan for revitalization of the Gowanus Expressway corridor. Discussion

followed including a question from BM Carroll asking if any other Community Boards are affected. The answer is no. BM Sokoloski stated that she read about this in the press and noted certain locations where she feels there would be a problem with the proposal.

Motion and Recommendation: Community Board 10 to send a letter to District Managers for Community Boards 7 and 6, to our elected officials and to New York State DOT requesting that they review the AIA concept for feasibility in any plan for revitalization of the Gowanus Expressway corridor. 37 in favor; 1 recusal – BM Stelter. Motion carried.

Motion and Recommendation: Community Board 10 to send a letter to the Commissioner of New York State DOT requesting a feasibility study for widening the surface ramp of the westbound Belt Parkway for Staten Island bound Verrazano Bridge traffic by one lane. Discussion followed. BM Schiano stated that she worked on this over the past several years and even drove through the area with DOT Commissioner Palmieri during an inspection. DM Beckmann answered that the Board has sent a letter in the past for this request. Chair Rasinya stated that we will update our previous request as necessary. BM Romero requested clarification as to the location of the additional lane, which Chair Rasinya and T&T Chair Kieran provided. BM Kassenbrock commented that the highway cannot carry all the traffic attempting to enter the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. Oftentimes, he must exit the highway at Bay Parkway and take the side streets down to Bay Ridge due to the high volume of traffic caused by cars exiting the Belt Parkway and entering the Verrazano Bridge.

Motion and Recommendation: Community Board 10 to send a letter to the Commissioner of New York City DOT requesting a feasibility study for widening the surface ramp of the westbound Belt Parkway for Staten Island bound Verrazano Bridge traffic by one lane. All in favor; motion carried unanimously.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Youth Committee Informational Report was rendered by Youth Committee Chair Casale. See attached. Chair Rasinya announced that the next Teen Night will take place on Friday, March 7th.

SUB COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

The Homeland Security Sub Committee Informational Report was rendered by Sub Committee Chair Collins. See Attached.

OLD BUSINESS

BM Ahl requested that the Board address traffic problems caused by Verrazano Bridge traffic, including looking at reinstating the two way toll. Regarding the toll booths, Chair Rasinya stated that there is a plan in place for removing the unused toll booths and installing high speed EZ Pass lanes where highway speed is maintained while traveling through the toll. These plans were announced, even though the Board has received no official communication. Chair Rasinya stated that if these plans are true, there is very little likelihood of getting the two way toll back.

BM Ryan responded to the letter from Howard Roberts read by Chair Rasinya during his Chairman's Report. She was at a meeting back in November where the Chief of the Bus Training Department stated that they would be training all bus personnel once a year starting December 1st on all bus lift flaps. The letter said that drivers would be trained only on the equipment they drive each day. This would not be sufficient, because

drivers get shifted around from depot to depot. Even if driver retraining began December 1st, it would take a whole year before all drivers are trained. Until then there are still problems with utilizing the lift flap. Many times, BM Ryan has to instruct the drivers on how to use the lift. Chair Rasinya will re-read the letter for clarification. His understanding is that each driver will receive annual training.

BM Cassara requested that we send a letter to the MTA requesting that the two way toll be reinstated to alleviate some of the traffic problems caused by the Verrazano Bridge. Chair Rasinya committed this issue to the Traffic and Transportation Committee for consideration.

BM Bortnick commented on the bus driver training and suggested that the MTA produce training videos quickly and have the bus drivers watch them at home.

BM May commented that oftentimes it is not the driver, but the equipment that does not work. Chair Rasinya suggested that any time we observe such a problem, the problem must be reported to the MTA.

NEW BUSINESS

BM Lamia stated that an entire city park was darkened because thieves broke into the lighting system for the copper. He suggested that the Parks Department and Police Department learn what can be done, if anything, to prevent this from happening again. Chair Rasinya mentioned that our park statue, "The Troll" was stolen from Leif Ericson Park about two years ago, probably for its metal content.

BM Stelter spoke of a recent Congestion Pricing forum that he attended. Most were for the Mayor's plan. William McCaffrey from Queens spoke against the plan stating that the outer boroughs will suffer with cars driving in and parking on the street, and continuing into Manhattan via public transportation.

BM Prezioso made a motion to adjourn.

Chair Rasinya adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.