

**COMMUNITY BOARD TEN BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 25, 2008; KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, COLUMBIAN ROOM  
MINUTES**

The meeting was chaired by Secretary Petty in Chair Rasinya's absence.

Acting Chair Petty called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm and called upon Joseph DiPaolo, Past President, Fort Hamilton Board of Trade to lead the Honor of the Pledge.

Acting Chair Petty called for adoption of the Amended Agenda. Agenda adopted as amended.  
Acting Chair Petty called for adoption of the Minutes from the January 28, 2008 Board Meeting. Minutes adopted as written.

Presentation given by Nazli Parvizi, Commissioner, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, on plaNYC2030.

Following the presentation, Commissioner Parvizi answered questions from Board Members.

BM Stelter stated that during the presentation the great need for additional housing was stressed and commented that Governor's Island is already developed with housing. He asked why that housing was to be demolished to make way for a park or some other type of community facility. Commissioner Parvizi stated that the housing on Governor's Island has been abandoned for quite some time. It is her understanding that some type of educational facility will be constructed. She stated that she would get back to BM Stelter with more information.

BM Kassenbrock made all aware that in some parts of the world and also in some parts of the United States, the projected population growth is 0.0%. People are moving closer to cities and pointed out that a plan such as this one is necessary to keep our city viable.

BM Bortnick spoke about waste in city budgets, hiring of consultants and suggested that the Mayor clean up the mess within existing agencies.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Councilman Gentile stated his concerns with plaNYC 2030. First, he commented on the planned growth projections in NYC, and he is not sold on the idea that we have to have a million more people by the year 2030. That is one of the reasons why we instituted Zoning. Also, he stated that the congestion pricing plan must be passed by legislators throughout the state. For them to vote "yes" on this plan, part of the money going into the pot has to be shared with Westchester, Rockland, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties, etc. There is nothing to say that this money, or a certain percentage of it, will remain in New York City, which is a concern. Right now, the MTA Bridges and Tunnels uses a great deal of the money collected at the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, and uses a large portion of that revenue to subsidize the fares of Long Island Railroad and Metro North Railroad.

The Councilman stated that he used his jurisdiction over city agencies to obtain data from the FDNY EMS regarding hospital diversions in this area. (Diversions are when the hospital ER states they are not able to handle additional cases, and patients are diverted to a neighboring emergency room.) The information he obtained from the FDNY contradicts information previously submitted. Based on this new information,

Councilman Gentile, along with Congressman Fossella and Senator Golden, have asked the State Department of Health to reconsider their denial of an emergency room site at Victory Memorial. Emergency room capacities need to be expanded at our neighboring hospitals, particularly at Lutheran. Until that happens, our fight is to have emergency room services at Victory.

Regarding ferry service, Rockaway Ferry Service is planning to add a Bay Ridge or Sunset Park stop to their existing service sometime this spring. His hope is that the MTA Capital Plan, due the end of the week, will include rehabilitation of the N and R subway stations, and the end of the R shuttle service in Bay Ridge.

There is no news on the Green Church; however, the Councilman mentioned a wonderful letter to the editor written by BM Gross and Eric Rouda. He thanked them for their effort.

Councilman Gentile stated that he will hold a news conference with Senator Golden on Thursday, Feb. 28, at 9:30 am at PS185 regarding the cell phone towers.

The Councilman announced that sometime this summer we might be able to bring a green market to Bay Ridge. He is working toward that effort, and has asked the Community Board for its support.

He announced that the Rankin Healy Veterans Post had received summonses from DOH because they did not have a license to serve ice cubes. The good news is that after much intervention and publicity, the summonses have been dismissed.

Councilman Gentile spoke of adaptive re-use for the current Community Board Ten building. He is working toward using the building for some type of community facility.

This Wednesday, Colonel Tracy Nicholson will be honored at a City Council meeting at 1:00 pm. The Colonel will be moving on shortly, and the Councilman is taking this opportunity to honor her.

Capital Projects funded by the Councilman are coming to fruition:

1. The Fort Hamilton Library contract has been signed with the construction company. Work will begin on March 29<sup>th</sup>. This will be an 18 month project, in which \$3.3million in renovations will occur.
2. The dance studio at McKinley Intermediate School has been completed over the mid winter break. The studio has been equipped with mirrors, lights and dance bars.

This Thursday at 10:00 am, there will be a hearing on the curb cut legislation. The Councilman stated that Zoning Chair Seminara is scheduled to testify, as well as other Board Members. The curb cut legislation is part of a larger DOT package put together by Speaker Quinn, and the Councilman feels there is a good chance of this legislation passing.

BM Mary Quinones gave a detailed explanation of how hospital diversions work.

## **PUBLIC SESSION (continued)**

Bocce player Sal Augusta from Dyker Beach Park Bocce Court, representing a large group of 183 bocce players, spoke about security issues at the recently renovated bocce courts as well as the bocce players' requests for additional equipment and services from the Parks Dept. He requested assistance from the proper agencies for these ongoing problems. In response to Mr. Augusta's comments, Councilman Gentile stated that he funded a capital improvement to the bocce court in the amount of \$500,000 which included a partial covering of the court at either end. The Parks Dept. at the time of the design included a state of the art clay

covering which was intended to absorb rainwater, so that the game could be played in all kinds of weather. He stated that he will speak to the Parks Dept. personnel about the missing clay cover for the court. He stated that he is working on these requests, as well as on the security issues, and will continue to do so. DM Beckmann stated that the Board has been in contact with the 68<sup>th</sup> Precinct numerous times when security issues have been brought to our attention and will continue to do so. BM Prezioso commented that prior to a security gate being installed around the bocce court, the groups of gangs causing the problem need to be controlled. A bocce player from the audience stated that several arrests have been made in the past.

Ellen Driesen, UFT Representative, spoke about the \$100 million budget cuts to the schools that just came down, and another round of cuts is expected in September. After school programs and art programs are being cut. There will be a huge rally on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm to protest these cuts that directly affect our students. She invited all to join in the rally.

DM Josephine Beckmann spoke about a fundraiser for Michelle DelPin, a 13 year old member of our community who was afflicted with a rare brain condition known as an Arterial Venous Malformation. She has had numerous brain surgeries since October, and is in need of extensive care and rehabilitation. Michelle's mother Joann, a single parent, was a temporary worker at the CB10 office last summer. The fundraiser will take place on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6 – 9 pm, at the Knights of Columbus Columbian Room, 1305-86 Street. The Knights have been very generous and have donated the use of their space for this event. The flyer with the event details will be e-mailed to Board Members at the request of BM Fontas. Checks can be made out to The Michelle Fund.

BM Cassara spoke of his support for the Mayor's congestion pricing plan and how funds generated from the plan can help improve our transportation needs. He announced that there will be a rally on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon in front of the Green Church in support of saving the Church.

BM Schack announced that Assembly Member Brook-Krasny will celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday on March 2<sup>nd</sup> with a birthday brunch at the Surf Turf Grille, from 12:30 to 3:30. She announced that three members of our community, Chair Dean Rasinya – Civic Award Winner, Ellen Driesen – Labor Leader, and Mary Ann Cino of the Borough President's Office, will be honored at a dinner on April 9<sup>th</sup> at Garguiliios from 6:30-10:30 pm. Invitations have been mailed to all Board Members. Since our own Chair is one of the honorees, BM Schack would like to collect \$2 from each Board Member to place a full page ad in the local paper to congratulate him. The deadline will be March 18<sup>th</sup>. She announced that the Kassenbrock Scholarship luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. She requested support from Board Members, since scholarships are given to students in our community.

Vincent Sapienza, Assistant Commissioner from DEP, gave a brief update on conditions at Owls Head. He stated that the focus over the past several months has been dedicated toward one process that was found by DEP's consultant to account for 91% of the odor problems. New equipment has been purchased and is in the process of being installed. The air blower units that were purchased put out 70 decibels, so enclosures need to be installed to bring the noise level to below the acceptable 55 decibels, and DEP is moving forward with that. DEP hopes that by spring, when everyone opens up their windows, there will be no further problems.

Art DeCesario, Parks Department, responded to the bocce court complaint. He stated that there is currently a very high scorecard for our local parks in terms of cleanliness. Dyker Park is staffed each day with 1 or 2 persons who clean the park and the bathrooms every day. Repairs were made recently to the floor tiles, and one of the bocce players present this evening thanked him for the work that Parks is doing. He has provided bags of surface for the bocce court in the past, and has cooperated fully when requests have been made. He stated that there is no funding for the improvements the bocce players are requesting, and Parks usually relies

on funding from the elected officials for such improvements. He expressed his offense to the remarks Mr. Augusta made about him and the way he spoke.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Acting Chair Petty stated that in the matter of adoption and support of the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2009, the Community Board voted on its recommendations in priority order and they were forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget for their review. OMB has now furnished our office with preliminary responses and objections to the fund raising feasibility of these requests. These responses were mailed to each of our Board Members prior to tonight's meeting. Tonight we must reaffirm our support of the recommendations which were made back in October, 2007.

Our Capital Budget Priorities and Requests include 19 requests plus 1 project which has already been funded. There are 12 requests for Parks and Recreation, 3 for DEP, 2 for Department of Education, 1 for Youth and Community Development and 1 for Economic Development. Discussion followed regarding our request to have a Youth Center at the current Community Board 10 space once we have moved. DM Beckmann explained that she spoke to DCAS today and discussed the need for a youth facility in our community. DCAS informed her that if there was a sponsor that is a not for profit organization and a host agency such as DYCD or HPD, and there is funding, then the agencies would work together toward a proposal for leasing the property. The Councilman is already working toward the conversion of the district office space into a youth center and he continues to hold meetings with those who are interested. BM Bortnick asked if there has been a figure established to cover a program. DM Beckmann stated that we will be meeting over the next few weeks to develop a budget.

Motion by BM Rosenberg, second by BM Eaton: To approve the Capital Budget. Discussion followed with a request by BM Stelter regarding the water pollution control plant, which was noted by DM Beckmann.

**Motion: To approve the Capital Budget Priorities. All in favor; motion carried.**

Acting Chair Petty called attention to our Expense Budget requests, which includes 25 requests. She called for discussion regarding the Expense Budget requests. No discussion.

**Motion by BM Schack, second by BM Colasuonno: To approve the Expense Budget Priorities. 37 in favor; 1 recusal – BM Stelter. Motion carried.**

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – See Attached.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT – See Attached.**

**By Laws Committee –** By Laws Committee Chair Cross announced that proposed revisions to the By Laws has been published in the Agenda and will be voted on at our March Board meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

The Environmental Committee Informational Report regarding private streets in Community Board 10 was rendered by Environmental Committee Chair Ahl. See Attached. Discussion followed.

The Environmental Committee Informational Report regarding cell phone towers will be rendered at the next Board Meeting.

## **HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE**

The Health and Welfare Committee Informational Report was rendered by H&W Chair May. See Attached. In reference to the upcoming CB 10 Obesity Health Fair, BM Cruz suggested that the event not be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>, since that is the date of the Five Boro Bike Tour.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

BM Eaton strongly recommended that our Chair reach out to other Boards and strongly object to the upcoming budget cuts to Community Boards. The Community Board budget was so dismal to begin with, and if we take the cut and not respond aggressively, eventually Community Boards may be phased out. DM Beckmann advised that all Brooklyn Community Boards are meeting to fight the cuts together.

BM Casale stated that the Dyker Park Bocce Court players' concerns should be addressed, since the bocce court has been a long standing part of our community. DM Beckmann announced that during this evening's meeting, she was informed by 68<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Affairs that a meeting will take place to address the concerns. She will be attending the meeting, along with the bocce players and the precinct to try to resolve the problems.

BM Bortnick supported BM Eaton's comments regarding budget cuts. He sees a very strong movement within the city to eliminate involvement of residents and citizens in anything government is doing.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

BM Carroll made a motion to move the date of our next Board Meeting from March 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Patrick's Day. Discussion followed. A new meeting date of Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> was established, depending upon availability of a meeting space.

**Motion: To move the March Board Meeting from Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> to Monday March 24<sup>th</sup>. 34 in favor; 4 opposed – BM Gross, BM Cassara, BM Cruz, BM Stelter. Motion carried.**

DM Beckmann thanked George DiGrande and the Knights of Columbus for their hospitality in providing coffee and cake at this evening's meeting.

9:10 pm, Motion to adjourn by BM Cassara, second by BM May.