



**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2020**

PRESENT

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Louis Caucig, Andrea Colon, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Ahmad Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Jack Epter, Joanne Fogarty, Yitzchok Goldstein, D. Brian Heffernan, Felicia Johnson, Paul King, Betty Leon, Denise Lopetri-Neibel, Annette Lord-Cohen, Ife Maijeh, Nancy Martinez, John McCambridge, Sonia Moise, Helen Montero, Al Moore, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold Paez, Karen Sloan-Payne, Linda Plummer, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Chris Tedesco, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez, Wanda Warden, Edwin Williams, William Gordon

ABSENT

Temina Feldman, Eugenia Gibson, Tamara Jacobs, Alicia Mazyck, Roslyn Mason, Kevin Morgan, Daniel Mundy, Isaac Parsee, Eugene Pasternak,

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:20pm

MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 8, 2020

Noreen Ellis made the motion for the Board to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Betty Leon. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE WAS READ AS FOLLOWS

The office received a letter from PSEG Long Island regarding NYCDOT notification of upcoming Rockaway Freeway closures. PSEG Long Island is planning to upgrade facilities along Rockaway Freeway between Beach 104 Street and Beach 105 Street. The upgrades will require weeknight and weekend closures of the westbound lane Rockaway Freeway between Beach 102 Street and Beach 105 Street.

The weeknight closures will take place from 10pm to 5am and the weekend closures will take place from 6am to 5pm. The closures will begin December 14, 2020 and will take at least 4 to 5 weeks.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair reported that last night at the monthly Queens Borough Board meeting there was a vote by the 14 Queens Community Boards on City Planning's citywide zoning changes for Coastal Flood Resiliency. There was a discussion by Community Board Chairs. Dolores Orr advised the Borough Board and the Queens Council Delegation that CB#14 voted YES but with five conditions. The Chair stated she shared two of our conditions involving 1) Definition of "Vulnerable Population" be expanded to include occupants of: a) adult & assisted living; b) homeless shelters and c) group homes. Additionally to limit occupancy in any new senior housing to current residents of that Community Board. 2) That all new housing built in

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

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CB14Q shall only be in proportion to the ability for new residents to safely evacuate on our two limited access evacuation routes/roads evacuation . City Planning stated they will not consider the expansion of the definition of vulnerable population and they did not respond to the other conditions. Since City Planning would not consider any of our conditions Dolores Orr advised she voted NO.

As a reminder for everyone there will be a Special Election in the 31st City Council District seat which is currently vacate. The election will be held on February 23, 2021. Early voting will be held February 13, 2021 to February 21, 2021. There will be a presentation at the Board's February meeting on Ranked Voting that will be the voting format for the special election.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager, Jonathan Gaska reported that in the last 2 months the Dept. of City Planning, on its website, has created a zoning application portable that has a link which is now the way Community Boards are allowed to submit votes on ULURP applications. Also on the site is a list of applications in each district for ULURP and zoning applications.

ELECTED OFFICIAL/ GUESTS CALL-IN

NYC COMPTROLLER SCOTT STRINGER

Elaine Fan representing Scott Stringer reported that their office received several email complaints regarding the concession issue in Rockaway Beach and the Office of the Comptroller will review the contract.

SPEAKER OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Stefanie Alleyne representing the city council is available to assist constituents of the 31st District during period that the seat is vacant . The 31st Council District office is staffed and Constituents can still call 718-471-7014 to get assistance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Jose Velez Co-Chair reported that the committee had a meeting on January 6, 2021.

Thursby Basin Park

Alison Shipley representing Designs for Parks advised that the design is based on Community Input Session from March 10, 2020. The site for the park is Beach 62 St. – Beach 63 St. and Thursby Ave. & Elizabeth Road. Funding for the park is \$12,508.

Park Goals: Neighborhood Destination, Passive Recreation and Waterfront access for Kayaking, Kids Playground and Adult Fitness.

The design includes new sidewalk and curbs, Multiple entrances, natural features, walking trail, drinking fountains, shower spray, bottle filler, gaming tables, ping-pong table, seats, benches, rock seating, ramp down to shoreline for kayak launching, new plantings and 90 new trees, two children play areas, water play area, natural low rocks for seating or playing, picnic area, two lawn spaces, shaded seating area, and an overlook (with some binoculars). A space has been reserved for a comfort station but there is currently no funding for it (cost is \$3-4 million). Center of the park is a mounded lawn surrounded by walking paths, center of the site is the 150-foot setback from the mean high water as dictated by the state DEC wetlands regulations, those regulations determine what material can be used on the site, that is why the play areas are on the west side of park.

The site is being raised based on the ACOE shore front protection requirements (elevation 6 to elevation 10). Site will be surrounded by 2 ft. high Timber rail fencing, play areas will have an outer 4ft high steel fence and 3 ft. high fencing delineating inside play areas. Additional low fencing will be used for planting and trees. There are Salt Marshes on the site that must be protected as per State DEC

John Cori made the motion to support the proposed design with the to accept design with condition of an additional ping pong table, solid roof for one of the shade seating areas and bike racks inside the park. The motion was seconded by Karen Sloan Payne. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor's Office/ NYC Parks Dept.

NYC Soccer Initiative, Mini Soccer Field at Bayside Playground/320 Beach 104 Street(adjacent to Scholar's Academy)

Irfan Ahmed representing NYC Soccer Initiative explained that this is a public-private partnership that is creating 50 mini-soccer fields, this is the fifth and final year for the project and to date they have created 47.

Partners/Investors in this project are: U. S. Soccer Foundation, NYC Football Club, Adidas, Etihad Airways and the Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC. The NYC Football Club will provide a \$600,000 maintenance fund for the fields. Additional partners include: NYC Parks, NYCHA, and the NYC Dept. of Education. Irfan Ahmed has been the led in this project since 2016. The soccer fields are built on public land and accessible to the public. Programming is provided by the U. S. Soccer Foundation and the NYC Football Club. For this project the U. S. Soccer Foundation will provide the programming, 3 days a week plus gear to student that participate. Both organization provide additional programming resources.

The mini soccer will sit on the north-west corner of the Bayside Playground. This is a share playground which means that during school hours, it is closed to the public. Once all school hours are over the Playground is open to the public.

It is not a grass field but an acrylic coating similar to what is used on basketball court. Installation of the field is approx. 6-8 weeks. The project has the support of the School's administration, the PTA and the School Leadership Team. Once project is approved by the Community Board design and construction will start.

Annette Lord Cohen made the motion for the board to support the private public partnership to create a mini-soccer field at Bayside Playground. John Cori seconded the motion. The motion carried, 1 abstained.

Other business the committee discussed was the following:

1) Pending Shore Front Parkway projects and Bay Breeze Park, while Diane Dreier (NYC Parks) did provide some answers, a detail list of where projects are was requested. Will request DM Jonathan Gaska to send letters to city officials requesting updates.

2) Will there be beach closures this year given the serious erosion issues and will there be sand replenishment this year. Eric Peterson (NYC Parks) stated that there is money available for sand but it is a 24-month procurement process. Concern was expressed over the lack of urgency regarding sand replenishment. Will request DM Jonathan Gaska to send letter requesting emergency sand replenishment.

Alexander Han and Sophia Filipino of NYC Parks Revenue were present at the meeting to answer questions regarding the awarding of the new concession contract.

Q&A/Comments:

Was the community's input taken into consideration when making the final selection? Yes, it was. The Rockaway Beach Club did have the highest points in that category, however the vetting process has five categories.

Will the new concessioner be willing to work with community? Yes. What is the status of the Lola Starr contract? One year left. Will ask Jonathan to schedule meeting with the new group

LAND-USE COMMITTEE

Michael Tubridy Co-Chair of the committee reported that there needs to be discussions on the draft EIS for Edgemere Resilience.

In 1997 Community Board #14-Queens unanimously supported the current Edgemere Urban Renewal Plan that called for 800 units of low rise one and two family homes. The board strongly felt and still feels that low rise homeownership would provide a low density, stable, way to provide affordable housing in an effort to revitalize a struggling community in our District. While only 307 units were completed to date, the positive effect these homes had in revitalizing the Edgemere community has been almost miraculous.

The board is pleased that an effort to move forward in the Edgemere community is now a reality.

However, since 1997 much has changed in Community Board# 14-Queens. Superstorm SANDY wreaked havoc in our community and had an especially devastating effect on our communities adjacent to Jamaica Bay.. In the last two years The City of New York has approved three major large scale high rise affordable housing projects in the 11691 zip code. The Downtown Far Rockaway Plan, Peninsula Hospital site and the Arverne East development site all will be starting construction in the next year. When finished it will add over 10,000 units to an area that already suffers from high unemployment, over crowded schools, lack of adequate primary and emergency health care, useable open space and park land, inadequate access roads and substandard public transportation.

The City also approved despite community board objection residential up zoning changes adjacent to the Far Rockaway Site that will allow for more residential construction to further over saturate the Far Rockaway area.

The Board has a number of concerns with the proposed changes in the plan and the negative impacts that will be caused by these changes.

The Community Board therefore requests that the following issues/concerns be studied/addressed in the Draft scope for the Resilient Edgemere Plan and the amended Edgemere Urban Renewal Plan.

That the Draft scope and subsequent Environmental Studies must be completed as per CEQR Technical manual, guidelines of generic actions that apply to entire neighborhoods,:

1. The studies shall include all planned and approved development projects in surrounding neighborhood in the 11692 and 11691 zip codes. Downtown Far Rockaway project, Arverne East Project and Peninsula Hospital site must be studied in accessing possible impacts on Schools, Transportation, hospital, emergency medical care emergency evacuation.
2. The Draft EIS states” The incremental difference between the Future No Action and the Future With-Action conditions will serve as the basis for the impact analyses of the EIS. To determine the With-Action and No-Action conditions, standard methodologies have been used following the CEQR Tech Manual guidelines employing reasonable assumptions. These methodologies have been used to identify the amount and location of future development, as discussed below”.
3. As per CEQR “Reasonable and feasible alternatives should not automatically be excluded from consideration simply because the applicant has not promised to pursue them”-we request this be included in scope and DEIS as well.

The No action conditions/study must include the existing:

1. 1997 Edgemere Urban Renewal Plan the Community Board approved which creates a framework for the investment of \$100 million in infrastructure- sewer and street improvement for the 800 units for middle income home ownership.
2. Impact of the 1997 plan has had on the area allowing the city to this day continually acquire lots in Edgemere through in rem foreclosures and to allow them to remain vacant, and thus including them in the blight study to be included in new study.
3. Draft must include a study of the effect of raising the grade of these residential lots and new residential units on existing and adjacent homes regarding flooding and structural integrity of existing adjacent homes
4. Draft should include comparison of Affordable home ownership vs. proposed disposition of City owned real property to a sponsor to be selected by HPD.
5. Draft should include comparison of vacant lot distribution by auction and private ownership and CLT focusing affordable home ownership.
6. Current Edgemere Urban Renewal plan expires in 2037. Why has the City /HPD requested to extend it- for what purpose?
7. Draft must study and explain why the City/ HPD are skirting the ULURP process and community input
- 8., by allowing them to seek a Mayoral Zoning override to slightly reduce the minimum parking requirement on selected City owned sites in order to facilitate the development of ground floor retail uses.
9. Original 1997 Edgemere Urban Renewal Plan called for 800 units of low rise 2 family homes to preserve the low rise character of the neighborhood, why are midrise rental units a necessary addition to the plan and what will be the impact on the surround low rise neighborhood?
10. It is not clear in the provided documents as to what are the proposed infrastructure measures and methods to protect the surrounding community from sea level rise and constant flood from Jamaica bay these protections must be studied.
11. Additional community amenities, open space, active recreation needs must be studied.
12. The proposed Mid and High rise buildings appear to be rental units-The board opposes rental units and would like the concept of Affordable coop and or Condominiums in the mid and high rise buildings be considered and studied
13. The Community board in its past approval of Edgemere Urban Renewal Plan stated that the units be totally Home Ownership. The Proposal for Community land Trust instead of direct individual home ownership is troubling to the board. We request that reasoning behind this change in Home ownership

and the benefits of CLT vs Direct individual Home ownership be studied and defended.

Michael Tubridy made the motion for the Board to officially support and send testimony regarding the 13 discussed questions/concerns as part of the official record for the draft scope for the Edgemere Resiliency project. Mr. Tubridy agreed to work with the district manager to prepare the Board's official submission. Nancy Martinez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning