



COMMUNITY  
BOARD #14

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
333 BEACH 90 STREETS  
ROCKAWAY BEACH, NY 11693**

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**PRESENT**

Khaleel Anderson, Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Louis Caucig, Annette Lord-Cohen, Stephen Cooper, Mordechai Dicker, Ahmad Edwards, Noreen Ellis, D. Brian Heffernan Martin Ingram, Tamara Jacobs, Felicia Johnson, Ife Maijeh, John McCambridge, Helen Montero, Sonia Moise, Al Moore, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Harold Paez Isaac Parsee, Linda Plummer, Karen Sloan-Payne, Chris Tedesco, Thomas Tobin, Jose Velez, Edwin Williams Rachel Williams Tyrone Worsley

**ABSENT**

Shalom Becker, Edward Benson, Glenn Collins, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David Temina Feldman, Patricia Gillespie, Betty Leon, Rosalyn Mason, Desiree Maple, Denise Lopetri-Neibel, Ellen O'Reilly, Eugene Pasternak, Edward Pasture Sr., Harvey Rudnick, Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Dr. Eli Shapiro, Michael Tubridy, Sender Schwartz, Carole Trachtenberg

**GUESTS**

State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Dan Brown – Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Ciara Donley - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Micheal Matteo - Rep. Assemblywoman Stacy Pheffer-Amato, Lisa George - Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Democratic District Leader Lew Simon, Sandee Doremus – Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr.

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The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:20p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CORRESPONDENCE WAS READ AS FOLLOWS:**

District Manager, Jonathan Gaska announced that the Board's Economic Development Committee will have a meeting at the Knights of Columbus on November 27, 2018. EDC will be present to discuss an update on the development of the old Rockaway Courthouse.

District Manager, Jonathan Gaska announced that office has received a land-use item regarding 128 Beach 9 Street. The developer is requesting a variance to construct a 17 story residential mixed-use building because the zoning for the area only allows 12 story buildings.

**MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 9, 2018**

The Chair went to the board for approval of the minutes. Annette Lord-Cohen made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Martin Ingram seconded the motion. The motion carried by a hand vote. 4 abstained

COMMUNITY BOARD #14  
City of New York  
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR  
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA  
District Manager

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EDC informed the committee that the action would involve taking The Harmony Group to court. The Committee would like for the board to invite EDC back to give further updates on the court house.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning

## **MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 24, 2018**

The Chair went to the Board for approval of the minutes. John Cori stated that the September minutes need to be corrected under old/new business to state that he “requested EDC be invited to the Board’s next meeting to give an update on the redevelopment/dirty conditions surrounding the old rockaway courthouse and DDC give an update on the holdup of the sewer project in Rockaway Beach”. Martin Ingram made the motion to accept the minutes with the stated correction. Jose Velez seconded the motion. The motion carried by a hand vote. 5 abstained

**STATE SENATOR JOSEPH ADDABBO JR.** – announced that he has been attending state meetings regarding Rockaway off shore windfarm legislature; that includes provisions for community input. The input going forward could involve ideas regarding commercial/recreational fishing and other needed innovations.

## **NYC COMPTROLLER SCOTT STRINGER**

James Johnson representing Comptroller Stringer announced that he is the south eastern liaison and covers community boards 14, 13 & 12. He started August 13, 2018 and has been going around to the NYCHA developments to address complaints such as broken front door locks which allows unwanted vagrants access to the buildings. In addition the agency has set up a constituent service department that operates 9:00 to 4:00pm. Mr. Johnson stated that he can be reached at 1-212-669-3916.

## **STATE ASSEMBLYWOMAN STACEY AMATO-PHEFFER**

Thanked everyone for their continued support for re-election and she is honored to serve the community. For more information on important upcoming community events please contact the office at 718-945-9550.

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

The Chair expressed to everyone that New York Rising will be attending the December board meeting and residents that were on the different committees to come prepared to ask questions because the clock is running out to spend the funding.

The Chair explained that the Transportation Committee was asked to meet to discuss several bus issues effecting the Peninsula. Therefore at least the MTA kept to the schedule and repaired the A line on time according to Ms Price schedule. Additionally a meeting has already been set up with EDC to discuss the Rockaway Courthouse.

## **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager reported that DOITT will be upgrading the Board's web page, speeding up the office internet and improving the office telephone system by the summer of next year.

In addition, Luisa Benedetto, Government Affairs Manager for the Queens Library came to the office last week to introduce herself and inform/invite the board to the ground breaking ceremony for the start of construction for the new Far Rockaway Library. The ceremony will be held on Monday, November 19, 2018 at 11:00 am at the corner of Central and Mott Avenue.

## **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION**

### **Port Authority of NY/NJ - Re: Update on JFK Redevelopment Program**

Ms. Powers, Manager of External Affairs for the JFK Redevelopment Program announced that there is an upcoming job fair and community outreach is still being developed to gather information on how to better improve communications to engage the community for welcomed input of ideas and suggestions.

The Chair summarized for clarity and expressed that qualifying residents, business owners etc.; are going to be allowed opportunities. York College will be providing courses on an ongoing basis. Etc.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING:** The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 7:58pm. 10 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking at 8:24pm.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **LAND-USE COMMITTEE:**

Al Moore reported that a meeting was set to be held on October 3, 2018. A quorum was not present additionally the attorney representing the client requested postponement to do additional community outreach and is present tonight to present to the full board. Eric Planick attorney representing the client explained that the front and side yards need to be increased by a percentage because the property is so small.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

The Chair opened the floor for public participation regarding BSA#2018-51-BZ for 1101 Plainview Avenue at the corner of Beach 11 Street to permit the construction of a 3 story single family home in a R5 Zone. No one signed up

to speak. The Chair closed public speaking.

Michael Tubridy made the motion for the Board to support BSA#2018-51-BZ regarding 11-01 Plainview Avenue to permit the construction of a 3 story single family home in a R5 Zone. The motion was seconded by Lou Caucig. The motion carried by a roll vote of 26 YES, 0 NO & 2 ABSTAINED.

### **PARKS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Jose Velez Co-Chair of the committee reported that a meeting was held on Thursday November 8, 2018. The committee discussed the following:

**1. Bay Breeze Park- Beach Channel Drive and Beach 88 Street.** Review of requested features and changes are as follows:

Mounded lawn as opposed to salt marsh, larger playground

Boathouse has been extended as requested and now include additional storage space for general, dry and parks equipment. Includes shaded overhang for teaching, putting on lifejackets, signing waivers etc.

Binoculars added (including ADA compliant), shower foot wash post and water fountains also added. Picnic tables removed.

Questions: depth of kayak bays, playground equipment age group, tables removed, can storyboards be added (interpretive signage), will fishing be a problem for kayaks, security for kayaks, type of fencing, planting type, no swimming signage, emergency beacon, lighting, mosquito magnets, bait cutting table, how do we secure funding for bathroom, estimate start time for construction – spring of 2020. The committee reached consensus to support project

**2. Bayside playground comfort station @ Scholars Academy**

Presented by Jorge Prado, Deputy Director of Architecture for Capital.

Goal is to reconstruct restrooms and mechanicals room, make comfort station ADA compatible, upgrade all electrical, mechanicals and plumbing and open up all windows, budget 1.6 million of Mayoral money, Jointly operated by Parks and DOE.

Comfort station is in a flood zone so all equipment is being raised

Damaged trees are being removed and then replaced with new trees

Old ramp is being torn down and the area around comfort station will be regraded allowing for ADA compatibility, all doors will be replaced and windows will be opened, all old signage and bulletin boards will be removed,

Flagpole area to be regraded and existing cobblestone will be moved to rear building that has existing cobblestone.

A trench will be cut from street to building to accommodate new utility line work, gas service to remain unless too difficult to maintain

Brick on outside of building that is degraded will be replaced, window glass will be opaque and new window screen will be installed, in addition there will be new stainless steel drinking fountains and new security lighting  
All 7ft fences remain in place except for one being opening during construction

Questions: Solar panels, scheduling of project (typically 12 – 18 month construction schedule), replacement of trees, is the bathroom open, when will the bathroom be closed, when will construction begin - design will be completed June 2019, procurement 6 – 8 months, expected construction to begin 2020.

Request for letter of approval from the board

Committee reached consensus to support project but request that project attempt to keep to 12 month construction schedule to minimize negative impact to school's use of yard.

### **3. Friends of Seaside Play ground: Laura Frank & Carolina Cisneros** **Co-chairs of Friends of Seaside Playground**

Parents from Waterside studio school formed a committee - Friends of Seaside Play ground - Parents, members of community with support of the school advocating for renovation of Seaside Playground, it is an L shaped playground that wraps around the school, also known as the big yard. It is a big empty space, used by over 600 kids every day, last renovated in 1998. They had a meeting at the school back in Feb., where Dan Brown and Robert Schwab of Councilman Ulrich office showed their support.

Group has been taking community input and surveys and have done some programming in the park. Using community input they have some ideas about what they would like to see in the Park and are asking for Community Board support.

Dolores explained design process cannot begin until there is funding in place. Once funding is secured it could be a 3-5 year process (5-6 million dollars). Joe (Parks) will ask the sport coating team to redo basketball courts lines and handball courts in the spring. Just as a start maybe playground can be divide in to painted games area. Joe will look into having this done as well as patching up asphalt as new Handball court redesign.

They have also met with Rockaway Park conservancy.

Looking for support for temporary sprucing up and help secure funding

Concerns: St John's youth are at times using area for smoking and harassing people. It was suggested that going to Precinct and meeting with NCO's to alleviate this problem. Committee reached consensus to support temporary project and permanent project.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS:** The Chair explained that as a result of the previous meeting as a trial period going forward please request ideas and comments that could be placed the agenda.

Sonia Moise expressed that the left turn signage under the freeway is confusing and needs to be addressed at Beach 56<sup>th</sup> Place and Rockaway Freeway. The Chair concluded that the safety DOT issue has to go the transportation committee.

The issues regarding the boardwalk ramps and access issues will be followed up by letters to the Parks Department and Jonathan will follow up on all the details to report back to board.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning