



**COMMUNITY BOARD #14  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
DECEMBER 11, 2018**

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

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**PRESENT**

Khaleel Anderson, Louis Caucig, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Ahmad Edwards, Noreen Ellis, D. Brian Heffernan Martin Ingram, Ife Maine, Desiree Maple, Rosalyn Mason John Cambridge, Sonia Moise Helen Montero, Al Moore, Daniel Mundy, Ellen O'Reilly Dolores Orr, Harold Paez Isaac Parsee, Edward Pasture Sr., Linda Plummer, Harvey Rudnick, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Karen Sloan-Payne, Chris Tedesco, Michael Tubridy, Edwin Williams

COMMUNITY BOARD #14  
City of New York  
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR  
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA  
District Manager

**ABSENT**

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Shalom Becker, Glenn Collins, Mordechai Dicker, Temina Feldman, Patricia Gillespie, Tamara Jacobs Felicia Johnson Betty Leon, Annette Lord-Cohen, Denise Lopestri-Neibel, Eugene Pasternak, Daniel Roskill Jr., Sender Schwartz, Thomas Tobin, Carole Trachtenberg, Jose Velez, Rachel Williams, Tyrone Worsley

**GUESTS**

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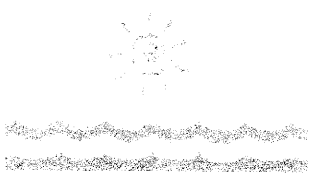
The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:20p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CORRESPONDENCE WAS READ AS FOLLOWS:**

Letter dated December 7, 2018 was sent to Mitchell Silva, Commissioner of NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation from Community Board #14. Letter requested that Seaside Playground/Park be officially put on the list for a capital upgrade.

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**REPORT OF THE CHAIR** – The Chair advised that at the Borough Board November meeting the Charter Commission discussed the NYC Charter Revisions for 2019 and promised a summary of the changes suggested and a list of sections in the Charter for residents to consider to the Board Chairs for discussion with their board members. The summary of changes is not available yet.



The Chair reported that at the Executive Board meeting concluded that one Charter change should be that succession for the Mayor should be the NYC Comptroller rather than the Public Advocate.

The Chair wished everyone Happy Holidays.

### **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager reported that EDC will be at the January board meeting to discuss the affordable mixed-use apartment building on Beach 21 Street between Cornaga Avenue and Mott Avenue in Far Rockaway. The building would consist of 224 units, 21,000 square feet of commercial space and 97 parking spots.

Meetings with DDC and City Councilman Donovan Richards are being held to discuss capital improvement projects that are needed to move forward with the new development of the Downtown Far Rockaway Shopping area. The capital projects could start south of Mott Avenue and would consist of the installation of new storm/sanitary sewers, new streets and sidewalks. The suggestion of the work being done at night so businesses are not effected is being reviewed in addition to getting the work done in 18 months instead of 36 months.

Mr. Gaska wished everyone Happy Holidays.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING:** The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 7:32pm. 7 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking at 7:51pm.

### **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION**

#### **1. The Far Rockaway Green Market & Urban Farm School Project**

Mr. Nerine Bharat, representing NYC Department of Education- Queens South. The DOE is working on plans to open an Urban Farm School in Rockaway. The green market and urban farm will be on a 1,800 square foot vacant lot located on Rockaway Beach Blvd. between Beach 40 Street & Beach 39 Street owned by the DOE.

The urban farm in partnership DOE would focus on age groups 5 to 12 years old and for high school students' grades 9 to 12 to allow the opportunity for business credits.

Beach Channel & Far Rockaway High Schools have already expressed

interest in participating in the project. The goal of the farm is to allow children and young adults on the Peninsula the opportunity to improve their knowledge of health, science and business through agriculture in an effort to transform a culture of unhealthy eating practices to healthier choices.

For high school students the focus will be business skills, while the middle schools will have a science focus.

The farm will also have a greenhouse so that growing and learning can continue through the winter months. The budget, which includes land preparation, soil, raised beds, irrigation, green house, organic seeds and trailers (2 classrooms and for growing mushrooms) is \$2 million.

There is also a plan to reach out to business for financial support in exchange for future produce.

## **2. New York State Storm Recovery Office**

Christopher Gorman, representing the Storm Recovery Office updated the board on the status of some of the NY Rising Program projects which are the following:

### **Rockaway West**

- Bch 108 St Safety Improvement project, \$13 million, 50% design phase. *(Board requested to see the design)*
- Bch 108 St. Corridor Improvement project, \$1.6 million, RFP in review.
- St. Francis De Sales School (at Bch 129 Street & RBB) resilience project \$690,000, design not started yet because no one responded to outreach until recently.
- Bioswells, \$1.5 million, list of potential locations being finalized and will be provided to Board upon completion.
- Peninsula Library, \$1.2 million, programming portion completed however Queens Library has recently declined the resilience component because of budget issues in maintaining the equipment associated with that resilience.

### **Rockaway East**

- Arverne Church of God's Recovery Workshops, \$165,000, project completed.
- Jewish Community Council's Recovery Resource Guide for the Community, \$800 and project completed.
- Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, \$150,000 for workshops, attendance at

those workshops was as follows: in 2015 – 105 individuals; 2016 – 295 individuals and in 2017 – 200 individuals.

- RDRC, \$452,000 for workforce development. *(Board requested details as to the number of individuals served and how many obtained employment as a result of this workforce development)*
- Far Rockaway, \$775,000 & Arverne, \$938,000 Libraries, as with Peninsula Queens Library has declined the resilience projects.
- Joseph Addabbo Health Center, \$1.6 million, 100% design, out to bid in 30 days.
- St John's Hospital, \$800,000, 100% design, out to bid in 30 days.
- Joseph Addabbo Health Center (6200 BCD), \$1.47 million, flood barrier in construction, expected completion November 2019.

### **Broad Channel**

- Sunset Cove Phase 2, \$500,000 for Eco-dock and a berm. Design nearly complete.
- Broad Channel America Legion Improvement project, \$2.7 million, Project design is 100% completed and ready for bid. Includes repairs to the roof, raising the mechanical systems and flood gates to the front doors.
- Broad Channel Athletic Club Improvement project, \$900,000, 100% designed and going out to bid. Includes storage facility upgrades.
- VFW, \$300,000, organization withdrew because they did not have the funds for required flood insurance.
- Boardwalk on East Road, reconstruction still an issue as to what government agency owns this.
- Broad Channel Volunteer Fire Department, \$750,000, funding is going toward current new building project.

### **Breezy Point**

- Breezy Point Storm Water Drainage Improvement project, \$17 million, designs include upgrades for ball fields, parking lot and fencing.
- Roxbury Ball Field Improvement project include upgrades for ball fields, parking lot and fencing.
- Breezy Point Park Improvement project that includes adding a sand and dune path around the playground area, create a concrete path to and from the playground area.

Board requested that a written report of what was presented tonight be provided to the Board. Mr. Gorman stated he would send and provide updates as each project progresses.

John Cori suggested that a letter be written to elected officials for assistance to keep the libraries on the Peninsula operating after a disaster.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **YOUTH SERVICES & EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**

Harold Paez Co-chair of the committee reported that a meeting was held on November 15, 2018. There was not a quorum. The committee met to begin the process sorting priorities, goals, assigned duties and created open dialogue between the members that were present.

A point was made about the need to address the high concentration of priority schools in Rockaway because these schools are designated by the NYS Dept. of Education as struggling and has a high priority for active remedial interventions. Suggestions were made to submit a request to have the Public Advocate to look into DOE response to the unique educational needs in the Rockaways where there is a severe imbalance in school achievement, opportunities and outcomes in comparisons to the rest of Queens.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:**

Noreen Ellis Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on November 27, 2018. The agenda item for discussion was regarding an update on the development of the old Rockaway Courthouse by EDC.

Noreen Ellis reported that EDC sold the property to Harmony Group with the plan to create a medical center which is no longer an option and expanded usage to include a broader amount of medical uses. Updates include the following:

- Permits were issued in the summer of 2017.
- Asbestos abatement started in the winter of 2017 and was completed in the spring of 2018.
- Summer of 2018 Phase II of environmental testing began and was completed in the fall of 2018.
- Fall of 2018 demolishing began and is almost completed

The committee would like monthly updates on the project from EDC by email. The RBCA sent a letter to CB#14 six months ago requesting that the project be scrapped immediately and the property be taken back from Harmony Group because the developer did not meet deadlines.

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