

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUBUS  
333 BEACH 90 STREET  
ROCKAWAY BEACH NY, 11693**

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**PRESENT**

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Lailah Boyd, Louis Caucig,, John Cori, Rose Dr. Gerald David, Marie Duggan-Gulston, Yitzchok Goldstone, D. Brian Heffernan, Paul King, Caren Lee, Betty Leon, Denise Lopresti, Nancy Martinez, John McCambridge, Sonia Moise, Helen Montero, Daniel Mundy, Vernell Robinson, Chris Tedesco, Jose Velez, Wanda Warden

**ABSENT**

Mark Anaya, Yaakov Berger, Giselle Carter, Natasha Carter, Eric Diaz, Jack Epter, Temina Feldman, Menashe Friedman, Jaden Gaab, Eugenia Gibson, Avionne Gumbs-Cumminngs, Randy Hall, Felicia Johnson, Brian Kelly, Maggie Larkin, Luquan Lloyd, Annette Lord-Cohen, Rosalyn Mason, Evelyn Miller-Stuber, Isa Mitchell, Al Moore, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold Paez, David Rood-Ojalvo, David Shelborne, Karen Sloan-Payne, Lisa Williams

**GUESTS**

Jason Greenberg - Rep. Assembly Member Stacy Pheffer-Amato, Sandee Doremus- Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Kevin Morris – Rep. Mayor Eric Adams, Joseph Edwards – Rep. Congressman Gregory Meeks, Dan Brown – Rep. Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, Ciara Donley – Rep. City Council Member Joanne Ariola, Moet Schultz – Rep. Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson, Renae Taylor – Rep. City Council Member Selvena Brooks- Powers, Lut. Powell - Rep. New York City Police Department, Kim McNeal-Caper – Rep. Queens Public Library, Nicole Gordon – Rep. Queens Public Library, Ari Gershman – Rep. NYC Dept. of Design & Construction, Dudley Saul – Rep. NYC Dept. of Design & Construction, Luisa Benedetto – Queens Public Library

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In the absence of Chair Orr and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Al Moore Dan Mundy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. The meeting was opened with the Pledge Allegiance. A quorum was not present.

**CORRESPONDENCE WAS READ AS FOLLOWS:**

Letters dated December 6, 2022, was sent to Mayor Eric Adams. Letter stated that Community Board #14 voted to send letter to local elected officials requesting funding to widen Rockaway Beach Blvd/Edgemere Avenue form Beach 59 Street to Beach 32 Street from one lane in each direction to two lanes in each direction.

**REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager announced that there will be a groundbreaking for the construction of the new school that was promised to the homeowners of Arverne By The Sea more than 15 years ago . The new school will be located at Beach 67 Street and Rockaway Beach Blvd.

All were reminded that Community Board #14 meeting dates and locations along with committee meetings and dates are still posted daily on Community Board #14's website. In addition, a direct link for virtual Committee meetings is also provided for easy access.

### **NYPD POLICE TRANSIT DISTRICT # 23**

Captain Arsenio Camillo, of Transit District# 23 introduced himself and cover the transit A Train subway line in the confines of the 100, 101 and 106 precinct. Captain Camillo updated all present as in announcing that subway riders and holiday shoppers should secure their belongings before they fall asleep and or leave holiday gifts unattended because during the holidays is when criminals will make moves on victims that are not aware of what is going on. Captain Camillo also expressed that two officers and himself are posted at every other subway stop along the A- Train Line.

John Cori and Betty Leon stated that perhaps officers need to be inside the subway cars instead of on the platforms to observe homeless fast asleep across the subway seats. Captain Camillo advised that he has personally observed the Beach 67 Street station and will follow up on the board members complaints at the board's next meeting.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT**

#### **ASSEMBLY MEMBER STACEY AMATO-PHEFFER**

Jason Greenberg invited all to attend the public hearing regarding LIPA & PSE&G to give live testimony regarding issues. The public hearing will be held at the YMCA starting at 10am on Thursday – Dec 15, 2022

#### **STATE SENATOR JOSEPH ADDABBO JR.**

Sandee Doremus reported that Senator Addabbo Jr. is in Albany and announced that after 20 years this would be the last CB#14 meeting she would be attending because of redistricting. Currently the office being packed up to relocate to a location in Forest Hills. The office will continue with the same phone number and therefore those in need of services are still welcome to call the office at 718-738-1111.

#### **CITY COUNCIL MEMBER SELVENA BROOKS - POWERS**

Renee Taylor reported announced the following updates:

- There will be a groundbreaking ceremony December 20, 2022 for the construction of a new charter school that will be located at the corner of Rockaway Beach Blvd and Beach 67 Street.
- will be arranging quarterly town hall meetings with city agencies according to community input and needs.

- Please sign up to receive emails and important announcements. From CM Brooks-Powers

### **CITY COUNCIL MEMBER JOANN ARIOLA**

Ciara Donley wished all happy holidays and reported that Council Member Ariola's legislature was passed that would have agencies remove large vessels that have been abandoned along coast lines within the 5 boroughs.

### **ASSEMBLY MEMBER KHALEEL ANDERSON**

Moet Schultz reported the Assembly Member Anderson was on Channel 11 news this morning informing all to report EBT scams and his office is working along with the Legal Aid Society to assist residents that have been scammed out of EBT funds.

### **NYC MAYOR ERIC ADAMS**

Kevin Morris reported that efforts are being made to remove the whale that washed up on the beach at Beach 73 Street. For those that don't know efforts were made to rescue the whale back into the water but the whale passed away. Also the Mayor's office is working along with the NYC Department of Sanitation to decrease the City's rodent population that has infested the subways and streets in the City.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**: The floor was opened for public speaking. 4 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. Public speaking was closed.

## **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION**

### **QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY- Re: Far Rockaway Library update**

Ari Greshman, representing the Department of Design and Construction for the Queens Public Library reported the following updates for the Far Rockaway Library:

- The construction of the library is completed
- DDC is currently working on the regulatory phase of the completion which involve an elevator inspection, boiler inspection and FDNY sprinkler and fire alarm inspections

DDC goal is to turn the library over the Queens Public Library in the spring of 2023. Once that is done the process of purchasing furniture, fixtures and any other items that are to be placed inside the library will take several months.

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

## **PARKS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Jose Velez, Co-Chair of the committee reported that a virtual meeting was held on November 14, 2022. The agenda item for discussion was regarding the following:

### **Replacement of the Rockaway Garage:**

The garage is essential to the workings of the Parks Dept. in the Rockaways as a central hub for operational needs. It will also be essential during storm events and recovery.

Review of schematics showing current facility and design of new operational headquarters, which included administrative, office and storage spaces, shop spaces, locker rooms, bathrooms, multi-purpose room, parking for official vehicles, and new plantings surrounding the facility. The facility will have 3 levels. It will have a generator and a solar array, and new fencing. Exterior building material were also reviewed.

### **Questions & comments from committee members, CB 14 Members and the public.**

-What is the flood plain and how does it related to the new building's elevation? 14 feet above grade.

-Vehicles parking, entrances and exits, where will the lifeguard chairs go, will the new plantings and trees have irrigation? Main function of facility, number of staff assigned to building, Bioswales and permeable paving on site, storage of flammables, is this a preliminary design.

- What is the final cost, and does it include new equipment: final cost was not available at the time and does not include new equipment. Start date and expected timeline for construction: 18 months build time, expected start time is first quarter next year for demolition. Temporary headquarters will be at Beach 80<sup>th</sup> north of Rockaway Freeway.

- Lighting of facility and surrounding area. Previous use of site. Use of solar power, number of car/truck lifts, number of mechanics, nursery area. Has there been outreach to the locals in the surrounding area. Yes, there has. Request that drivers exercise care in the area due to new senior facility.

## **BY LAWS/MEMBERSHIP/COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE**

Betty Leon, Chair of the committee reported that a virtual committee meeting was held on December 8, 2022. Dolores Orr, Chair of community board #14 was also present along with other Board members and Civic Leaders. A quorum was not present at this committee meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the naming of a room in Far Rockaway Library in memory of Former Queens Borough President Helen Marshall. A brief discussion on how the expansion of the Library came about. In 2007 Borough President Helen Marshall responded to a community

Board and Rockaway residents' complaints/requests to have a small CUNY Facility at the Rockaway Court House on the Peninsula.

This Court House which was City-owned Property was the ideal spot for such an undertaking. At the time Assembly Member Audrey Pheffer, other elected Officials and the Community Board led the charge to get funding for the College. Helen Marshall graciously responded and out of her Borough President's Budget allocated \$6.7 Million in Capital Funds to renovate and create the College.

Unfortunately, years later, CUNY rescinded the offer of Matching Funds and the Project could not move forward. Instead of reallocating the Funds to another area of Queens, Borough President Marshall asked if there was any other Project in the Rockaways that could use the Funds. The Board stated that the expansion of the Far Rockaway Library was also a top priority on their list. Helen Marshall not only agreed to transfer the funds to the Library Project, she added more funding which brought the total to almost \$10 million. Please note, this Project would not have occurred at that time if it wasn't for the foresight of BP Helen Marshall.

Although, we did not have a Quorum, other committee members and CB 14 board members present, were given an opportunity to share their thoughts/experiences of Helen Marshall. They all agreed and a recommendation was made that a Room in the Newly Renovated Far Rockaway Library should be named for Borough President Helen Marshall.

Since a quorum is not present at this monthly Community Board meeting to vote on both of the committee recommendations, we ask that these 2 items be on the January Community Board agenda.

#### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- Dan Mundy announced his retirement from the community board at the end of his current term.
- Jose Velez requested again for the installation of a traffic light at Beach 75 Street and Beach Channel Drive.
- Lisa Williams reminded all present to please sign the online petition to support a trauma center on the peninsula. [Traumachange.org](http://Traumachange.org)

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning