

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
MONTHLY VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING
JUNE 14, 2022**

PRESENT

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Mark Anaya, Lailah Boyd, Natasha Carter, Louis Caucig, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston, Jack Epter, Avionne Gumbs-Cummings, D. Brian Heffernan, Felicia Johnson, Paul King, Maggie Larkin, Caren Lee, Betty Leon, Luquan Lloyd, Denise Lopresti, Rosalyn Mason, John McCambridge, Evelyn Miller-Stubber, Sonia Moise, Helen Montero, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold Paez, David Rood-Ojalvo, David Shelborne, Karen Sloan-Payne, Chris Tedesco, Jose Velez, Wanda Warden, Lisa Williams

ABSENT

Gabrielle Bennett, Yaakov Berger, Giselle Carter, Eric Diaz, Temina Feldman Menashe Friedman, Jaden Gaab, Eugenia Gibson, Yitzchok, Randy Hall, Brian Kelly, Annette Lord-Cohen, Nancy Martinez, , Isa Mitchell, Al Moore Eugene Pasternak, Vernell Robinson

GUESTS

City Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers, Ciara Donely – Rep. City Council Member Joanne Ariola, Sandee Doremus- Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Joseph Edwards – Rep. Congressman Gregory Meeks, Dan Brown – Rep. Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, Deputy Inspector Carlos Fabara - Rep. 100th Police Precinct

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

CORRESPONDANCE WAS READ AS FOLLOWS:

Letter from CB#14 was sent in support of Rockaway United Community Coalition in their community revitalization work. The letter stated that CB#14 recommend Rockaway United for the dedication to resilient community development in NYC/NYS Brownfields opportunity areas.

Felecia Johnson made the motion for the Board to send a letter in support of Rockaway United Community Coalition and their application to New York City and New York State Brownfields Opportunity Area Grant Program. The motion was seconded by Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston. The motion carried with a hand vote in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair reported that she attended the QBP's Safety Forum which included community board Chairpersons, commanding officers of the all the precincts in the borough of Queens including borough south/north commands. CB#14 district did get approval for summer NYC Traffic Officers to issue illegal parking summons in District #14, Thursday thru

Monday for the 100th and 101st Precinct. In addition, thanks to several board members that attended the beach opening which was great.

The Chair reported that she attended a meeting regarding motions/amendments and all the board members were invited to attend. The meeting was very informative as in learning new things for conducting public meetings and also being reminded of procedures that have been forgotten. Over all the meeting was very engaging and all board members participate when it is offered again.

Attended the MTA new bus route workshop (some board members were in attendance). It was very disappointing as is in the workshops are only 90 minutes long and for the first 30 minutes nothing is mentioned about CXB#14 in the MTA's presentation just the effects on entire the City. The Q53 bus will stay but the route will be shortened.

Attended and testified at the hearing for the Edgemere Resilience along with City Council members Brooks-Powers, Assembly member Stacey Pheffer-Amato, Sonia Moise and Jackie Rogers who are presidents of local civic groups that will be impacted by the plan and several local residents. Most that testified asked several questions in opposition of the plan and Queens Borough President Donovan Richards is in full support of the plan by HPD.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager reported that as a reminder, please call the office to report locations of dump outs, ponding conditions that could cause mosquitos and potholes.

New board members have been emailed the board's committee list and have been notified that they are allowed to request up to 3 committees to participate on. Old board members will be asked if they would like to remain to the committee that they are already on or if they would like to change committee. Everyone have a great summer as in there will be several items coming to the board starting in September as a result of build, build and more build for review.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

100th POLICE PRECINCT

Deputy Inspector Carlos Fabara reported that major crime is up in comparison to last year which was 34 as of now 2022 it is at 39 which is an increase of 5 incidents. Major crime categories include rape, robbery, felony assault and grand larceny auto. Burglaries are down for the 28 day period.

Shootings are down and there is an increase in shoots fired. Four of the incidents occurred in Hammels housing development.

Parking summons has increased by 10% as in almost 300 for the 28 day period compared to last year and it does show that the additional summer Traffic Agents are doing a great job. To comment on the drowning, two 15 year old went into the Jamaica Bay. A vigil was held yesterday for one of the victim and viewing services started today for one of the victims.

CONGRESSMAN GREGORY MEEKS

Joseph Edwards reported that on behalf of Congressman Meeks June is “Gun Violence Awareness” Month and wanted to share that the House of Representatives last week on Thursday voted in favor of legislature that allow federal codes for federal courts to temporarily bar some people from possessing or purchasing arms if deemed to pose a risk to themselves or others. Under the Bill law enforcement offices, family members/household members could petition the federal records.

The passage of the Bill under House Actions last week on gun violence which included other gun control bills and testimonies from survivors from the elementary school in Texas before the House Oversight Reform Committee. The two Bills are the protecting our Kids Act Package and the Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act.

STATE SENATOR JOSEPH ADDABBO JR.

Sandy Doremus reported that Senator Addabbo Jr. wishes everyone a safe and happy summer.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER SELVENA BROOKS-POWERS

Councilmember Powers reported the following updates:

- City Council passed a \$101 Million budget last night and actually budget modifications occur all year. Being the Majority Whip and being a part of the budget negotiation team it has been an eye opening experience as actually seeing every breakdown of initiative and every organization that gets money as in there always being talk about how under invested our community is. As far as the 31st District the following was secured:
- \$1.7 Million in expenses between discretionary money and \$18 Million in capital investments for the district.
- \$ 7 Million was secured to close the gap to build the school that was promised to the community by Arverne- By- The- Sea.
- Capital funds were secured to fund school projects, and the Resident Councils of NYCHA.

STATE SENATOR JAMES SANDERS JR.

Anmarie Costella reported the following updates:

- All are invited to participate in an Active Shooter, Mass Shooting Defense Training. The training will be held at the Rockaway YMCA, Saturday June 5, 2022, 1pm to 3pm.
- All are invited to attend our Anti-Gun Violence event on Thursday, June 30, 2022 at Macedonia Church Baptist Church as 6:30pm.
- All are invited to attend the Senator's Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday at Dred Surfer Grill from 12:00 to 4:00pm. The theme is to educate, heal and celebrate.

STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER STACEY PHEFFER AMATO

Gregory Slade reminded all that the Rockaway Beaches are open for all to Enjoy. This summer Assembly Member Amato will be hosting the Annual Summer Reading Challenge so anyone that has children grades K through 12 will be allowed the opportunity for them to read and then obtain a certificate and a prize from Assembly Member Amato.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The Chair opened the floor for public speaking. 9 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. Public speaking was closed.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

Black Homeownership Program

Gabriel Jamison, representing the Black Homeownership Program informed all the he just wanted to outreach to the community regarding the black homeownership project, which came out of the blueprint project which began 2019. In the 10 years since the financial crisis in 2008, New York City has seen a huge drop in the number of Black homeowners. In Queens alone, the City lost more than 20,000 Black homeowners between 2005 and 2017. Nationally, Black homeownership has fared no better — seeing a precipitous decline across the country.

Black and Latino Americans have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with deep economic impacts, and greater rates of infection and death. These disparities have been tied to the decades of discrimination, redlining, segregation, and environmental racism that has resulted in Black communities with fewer resources, less investment, and worse health outcomes. We want to make a major shift in these trends. Our initiative, the Black Homeownership Project (BHP), is a slate of transformative interventions that will strengthen and expand Black homeownership in our city. Through a systems approach, our pilot programs are aimed at removing barriers for Black and Brown families. Under the

black homeownership project there are five to ten pilot interventions. Five of the intervention pilots to assist minorities are the following:

- Down Payment Assistance Navigator
- Savings Accelerator
- Generation 2 Generation Estate Planning
- Homeowner Landlord Services
- Pathways to Tenant Purchase

For more information on the Black Homeownership Project please reach out to <https://bhp.nycn.org>

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Public Safety Committee

John McCambridge, Co-Chair of the committee reported that a virtual meeting was held on May 23, 2022. Present at the meeting were the following representatives of NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation: Michael Dockett/Queens Parks Commissioner, Eric Mattress/Capital Team Leader, Alexander Maureau, Eric Peterson, Joe Mauro

The agenda item for discussion was regarding Summer 2022 Update:

Commissioner Dockett opened meeting by introducing attending staff Eric discussed opening weekend plan, staging of lifeguard chairs, trash cans, mobi-mats (priority locations of mats Bch 121, 117, 68th & 30th streets, Most Summer Concession locations have already opened. Beach opening for Memorial Day weekend will be held at Beach 17th Street/Dred Surfer Grill all are welcome to attend.

The open swimming beaches would be the following:

Bch 9th -11th, 15th - 18th, Edgemere will have 4 blocks open, (32th – 36th?), a review with a Lt. Lifeguard may result in some opening in the high 20s, 59nd – 65th, 74th -86th, 117th – 147th, portion of 148th. As ACOE work progresses beaches will open and close.

Beaches not opened to swimming are the following:

Bch 12th – 15th, 18th – 28th, 36th – 38th, 58th, 66th – 73rd, 86th – 90th, 96th - 109nd, 111th – 116th, portion of 148th to 149nd.

Green roofs are being installed on two concession locations this cycle and will be installed on other concession locations next cycle. There is a request for a mobile concession on beach 73rd. The 97st concession has been undergoing interior renovations and should be completed soon. New water safety signage is going up. Adventure play area is open and new pickle ball courts 101 – 102 Street.

Question and concerns raised: Who is going to apologize to community for beach closures, why the additional groin construction this season.

Concerns were raised regarding future construction schedule (pumping of sand and construction of reinforced dune) as they related to next year's beach season. As stated in previous years the Rockaways require augmented personnel as soon as the weather get warm, not when Memorial Day begins. Bicycle lane signage and safety enforcement. Signage in no swimming areas, why are there going to be closed beaches and why are the beach closures so fluid.

How will closed beaches be enforced, no update on PEP this meeting. Parks will be using other additional Park staffers to monitor closed beached but refused to use Lifeguards in this capacity. Updated communications regarding all upcoming changes in the Rockaways will be provide via a Rockaway Weekly update page on the Parks website and newsletter.

Update on Capital Projects was the following:

Reviewed completed projects and other Capital projects in their various stages. Questions regarding funding shortfall of O'Donohue Park expansion and reconstruction of basketball courts, supplemental Shore Front features, street side ramps for Beach 24th & 25th, Beach 59th street shade structures, performance space & flagpole delay, community partner of dog park, Multi-purpose field construction fence (provide opening at bch 77th street), status of funding at Bayswater Park, Rockaway operations complex, materials being used during/for construction & maintenance,

Land Use & Housing Committee

First Meeting: Denise Lepresti, Co-Chair of the committee reported that a virtual meeting was held May 19, 2022. The first agenda item for discussion was regarding:

Pre-ULURP Presentation for proposed rezoning at 14-10 Beach Channel Drive. Sheldon Lobel, PC representing owner requests rezoning to allow mixed use development of 97 dwelling units, commercial and community facility uses for:

- Block 15525 lots 1, 51, 49, 47, 44 and 40.
- Re-zone from an R5 to R6A/C2-4 and R6A zoning districts
- Text amendment – 25-30% affordability (73 units mkt. rate/24 affordable)
- 6 stories plus cellar, 95,608 SF/3.33 FAR (4,881 SF ground floor commercial, 4440 SF ground floor community use, 86,287 SF residential)
- House of Worship will get new space and remain on site.
- 102 parking spaces

Concerns were raised by committee members regarding affordability of parking, no street parking, lack of infrastructure and over-development, jobs created for Rockaway residents and little outreach to neighbors and need to reach out to the local civics for comment/input.

Pre-ULURP Presentation for proposed rezoning at 29-32 Beach Channel Drive. The Community Builders to create new affordable housing development with approximately 111 housing units.

- Block 15744 lot 7, - Rezone from R4-1 to R6Aw/MIH
- Text amendment - 100% affordable
- 36 at grade parking spaces - Transit improvements (Zip cars)
- MWBE & local hiring goals - Storm water improvements
- Approximately 91,000SF residential building on vacant parking lot

Concerns were raised by committee members regarding excessive up-zoning and development, Zip cars as part of the parking requirement, need to reach out to local civics, construction jobs for local community members, flooding concerns. Upon completion of presentations, it was recommended that the committee convene prior to the next Board meeting to develop language to place a moratorium on further development in CB14 & require infrastructure & critical needs be addressed.

Second Meeting: Denise Lepresti, Co-Chair of the committee reported that a virtual meeting was held June 1, 2022. The agenda item for discussion was regarding Al Moore, Co-Chair, taking committee members through each paragraph of the proposed Resolution of Community Board 14 which seeks a moratorium on development within the boundaries of CB14, (all board members should have already received a copy of the resolution).

Discussion by the committee included the need to address issues directly with the City Planning Commission, engage media and the community at large to assist in the support and lobby for our moratorium and insist our elected officials become involved and support our effort.

The Land-Use and Housing Committee made the motion for the Board to accept the resolution as modified support a moratorium on development within the boundaries of CB14 motion. The motion carried by a roll call vote of YES 29, 1 NO and 0 ABSTAINED.

The June 14, 2022 Resolution of Community Board 14 is as follows:

WHEREAS, that over 12,000 units of mid and high rise buildings has been approved and will be built in the next 2-3 years Community Board 14.

WHEREAS, the increase in district wide population as a result of these units will be a minimum of 30% and projected to be at least 30,000 new residents.

WHEREAS, Community board 14 is poorly served by Public transportation and the commute to any job center in Queens by Public transportation is one hour and exceeds one hour to Manhattan

WHEREAS, Community board remains as having one of the highest unemployment rates in NYC and no significant local job base for projected new residents.

WHEREAS, despite an existing shortage of adequate schools seats and overcrowding in most local schools, No approved or funded plan to provide additional school seats for the thousands of projected new students.

WHEREAS, the City of New York has not implemented a visible, well identified evacuation route and other measures within the district such as designated bus stops for residents to evacuate, warning sirens or other methods of warning communication.

WHEREAS, since super storm Sandy, The City of NY has not implemented flood mitigation measures in all of our bayside communities, the request for building bulk heads, sea walls , storm drainage and tide gates on all storm water out falls has not been done.

WHEREAS ,the Rockaway peninsula has only two east-west roadways for travel and is only one lane in each direct on certain segments of each span, which makes evacuation difficult and with projected increase in residents and vehicles will cause monumental traffic issues during AM/PM rush hour, beach season and may will cause potential loss of life during an evacuation.

WHEREAS, with 12,000 units being built and an estimated minimum 6,000 new cars will be located and on our already inadequate roads these plan only provide for less than 40% new parking spaces and will exacerbate an already severe parking problem in Community Board 14.

WHEREAS, Community board 14 has only one small hospital that is barely managing the communities' medical needs now, with a 30% increase in population and the lack of any level of trauma center within a safe traveling distance from CB14 will cause the potential for significant loss of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Community board 14 requests that until such time that The City Of New York funds and completes a District wide Environmental Impact Study which shall include, Transportation issues, public transit, traffic flow, street widening and parking, School seats, economic development including Permanent local job creation, the need for additional Hospital beds including anew trauma unit of any level, that OEM create and activate a hurricane evacuation plan with signage and other information

measures. USACE fund and complete instillation of flood mitigation plan for both ocean and Jamaica bay sides of our community.

RESOLVED, Community board 14 requests a moratorium on all up zoning requests to zones R6-R10. Until such a time that the requested Environmental Impact study with items requested has been completed, the listed infrastructure requests have been planned and funded and that all evacuation requests have been implemented.

NOW, THERFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Adams, Department of City Planning, QBP Donovan Richards, NYS Senator Sanders Jr., NYS Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Assembly Member Stacey Pheffer-Amato, Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson, City Council Member Joanne Ariola, City Council member Selvena Brooks-Powers assure the enactment of this up-zoning moratorium in CB#14.

MINUTES FROM MARCH 8, & MAY 10, 2022

Betty Leon made the motion to approve the May 10, 2022 minutes as written. Wanda Warden seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously in favor of the motion.

Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston made the motion to accept the March 8, 2022 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Felicia Johnson. Motion carried unanimously in favor of the motion.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Jack Epter expressed that beach closures as well as no lifeguards along with the installation of goins in the Edgemere area is damaging/hurting the community and the ACOE need to replenish the sand that was promised.
- D. Brian Heffernan expressed thanks to Council Member Brooks for speaking out about the NYCHA Section 8 programs. Also, note that there was an article in the Rockaway Times about him taking credit for ideas about opposing parks dept. issues.
- John Cori requested a follow up regarding illegal parking of 18 wheelers along Seagirt Blvd. and observed contractors along Arverne East site installing sidewalks without redoing curbs as CB#14.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourned meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning