

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022**

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

PRESENT

Lailah Boyd, Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston Jack Epter, Eugenia Gibson, Avionne Gumbs-Cummimngs, Felicia Johnson, Betty Leon, Denise Lopresti, Annette Lord-Cohen, Nancy Martinez, John McCambridge, Evelyn Miller-Stuber, Sonia Moise, Al Moore, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold Paez, David Rood-Ojalvo, David Shelborne, Karen Sloan-Payne, Lisa Williams

ABSENT

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy Mark Anaya, Yaakov Berger, Giselle Carter, Natasha Carter, Louis Caucig, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Eric Diaz, Temina Feldman, Menashe Friedman, Jaden Gaab, Randy Hall, Yitzchok Goldstone, Vernell Robinson, D. Brian Heffernan, Brian Kelly, Maggie Larkin, Paul King, Caren Lee, Luquan Lloyd, Rosalyn Mason, Isa Mitchell, Helen Montero, Chris Tedesco, Jose Velez, Wanda Warden

GUESTS

Jason Greenberg - Rep. Assembly Member Stacy Pheffer-Amato, Sandee Doremus- Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Joseph Edwards – Rep. Congressman Gregory Meeks, Malik Sanders – Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Dan Brown – Rep. Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, AnnMarie Costella – Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr. Ciara Donley – Rep. City Council Member Joanne Ariola

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:15pm. The meeting was opened with the Pledge Allegiance.

CORRESPONDENCE WAS READ AS FOLLOWS:

Letters dated September 19, 2022 was sent to NYC Dept. of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez, regarding the following:

1. CB#14 unanimously voted at its Septemeber13, 2022 monthly meeting to request that DOT remove the current bike lane on Beach 20 Street between Mott Avenue and Cornaga Avenue and install unloading and loading only signs on the east side of the street.

2. CB#14 is disappointed to learn that DOT will be implementing /constructing their Seagirt Blvd plan. The board and the surrounding community does not support the plans currently designed despite the community's objection during the 2 meetings held with Queens DOT. Letter requested DOT stop their plan and work with CB#14, elected officials and the surrounding community.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair reminded all present to please cleanup/remove items to the trash cans located by the doors when leaving the meeting as requested by the Knights of Columbus.

The Knights of Columbus is collecting toiletries for the veterans at St Albans Veterans Hospital. The collection of items will be accepted up to October 16, 2022, any day of the week between the hours of 2:00pm to 8:00pm. Items can be dropped off at the Tap Room.

At the Queens link press conference Mayor Eric Adams announced the support allocating \$34 million to build a park inside the Forest Hills Park which is the actual location of the train tracks that could be opened to provide Rockaway commuters faster train access to Manhattan in an hour.

A reminder to vote in November and early voting begins on October 29th – November 6th .

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager reported that the upcoming Park and Public Safety Committee meeting to discuss the construction of a new parks garage at same location as the old one has been postponed because the Parks Department need more time to gather all the needed information.

NYC POLICE TRANSIT DISTRICT # 23

Captain Arsenio Camillo, of Transit District# 23 introduced himself and advised that TD23 covers the transit A Train subway line in the confines of the 100, 101 and 106 precincts.

At the A train's last stop- Mott Avenue there is a team of agencies (NYPD, Homeless Services, EMS) to offer to the homeless who are removed from the train. TD#23 can be reached at: office telephone #718-474-5362 or email arsenio.camillo@nypd.org

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

CONGRESSMAN GREGORY MEEKS

Joseph Edwards announced the following:

- Applications to apply for military academy are available and can be submitted up until November 15, 2022. For more information please call 347-238-4032. Gregory Meeks will be hosting his Annual Senior Appreciation Day with a free day at the movies. For more details please call 718-483-9300.

STATE SENATOR JOSEPH ADDABBO JR.

Sandee Doremus reported that Senator Addabbo Jr. will be hosting a Job Fair on Friday October 18, 2022, from 10:00am to 2:00 pm at the Resort Casino. For more information please call the office at 718-738-1111.

GUEST SPEAKER

Chair gave Community Board Member Sonia Moise the floor for 5 minutes to advise of the following:

Sonia is President of the Edgemere Community Civic Association .

She wanted to informed all those present that currently the association and other residents are requesting signatures to support tan online petition called Birds over People to Regain Access to our beach. The Edgemere Community is located from Beach 35 Street to Beach 50 Street from the Bay to the beach. For many years residents have not had access to the beach which residents in the community feels it's considered Environmental Racism in addition to being an underserviced community.

The petition is on line and also includes a story done by a college student that lives in Rockaway and it's called the Tale of 2 Beaches
She thanked everyone for the time to speak and for their support.

PUBLIC SPEAKIG: The Chair opened the floor for public speaking. 5 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. Public speaking was closed.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Arverne East – Re: Update on capital construction

Ms. Grillo, Project Engineer for the Arverne East project reported that the residential project boundaries are Beach 32 Street to Beach 38 Street between Edgemere Ave. and the boardwalk. As far as a time line for the reconstruction of the roadways and the need to install infrastructure; designs has been worked along with DOT back in 2020 and has been adjusted to accommodate the need for infill to bring the property up to grade for resiliency in order start work on the project.

Currently construction for the nature preserve and the multi-purpose building is continuing and involves the movement of soil, regaining access to beach and boardwalk at some locations that have been completed. Also construction of sidewalks and curbs are shaped out to be filled in and will continue as needed to allow storm water and proper drainage for the nature preserve in the Edgemere area. Fall and Spring planting of trees and needed shrubs is continuing as long as weather permits.

Installation of walkways and lights within the nature preserve is almost completed and hopefully will be open to the public in the spring of 2023. Solar panels for the multi-purpose building is almost complete in addition to the installation of wood panels for the outside of the building. Underground utility work has been completed. Construction of sidewalks and curbs is ongoing and will have some impact on traffic that will be regulated by workers to keep traffic flowing. 100 parking spaces will be constructed to accommodate visitors. More details are available on line at arverneeast.com

Additionally, the presentation included the widening of Edgemere Avenue. While the Board's motion to approve the upzoning for the residential portion was predicated on the widening of Edgemere Avenue from Beach 32 Street to Beach 56 Street, Al Silvestri of DOT and Sara Levenson of L & M advised that Edgemere Avenue would only be widened from Beach 32 St to 38 Street with parking on both sides of the street and that Beach 38 St to Beach B 56 Street would remain as is – one lane in each direction and no parking.

Board members stated that this designed will create a bottle neck east of Beach 32 Street and west of Beach 56 St with 2 lanes of traffic converging into one lane and is unacceptable. DOT and L & M stated that was not in their road plan and there was no money to expand the road improvements beyond the residential component. The Board demanded Edgemere Ave from B 38 St to B 62 St be widened to provide adequate roadways/traffic lanes and parking for both residents and visitors to the new Nature Preserve..

COMMITTEE REPORT

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager reported on behalf of Dr. Gerald David, Chair of the committee whom is not present due to the Jewish Holiday; that at the Board's September meeting the FY 2024 Capital & Expense Priorities list that has been emailed and distributed to the community for input and suggestions has been added in addition to opening the floor for a public hearing inviting community input. The requests from the community has been added and discussed by the board which has to be voted on tonight.

PUBLIC HEARING: The Chair opened the floor for public participation regarding CB# 14's FY 2024 Capital & Expense Priorities. 1 person signed up to speak. They were recognized and heard. The Chair closed the public hearing.

Betty Leon made the motion for the Board to support the FY 2024 Capital & Expense Priorities list that has been distributed for community

input/suggestions since the board's September meeting. The motion was seconded by Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston. The motion carried unanimously in favor of the motion.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

-The Chair suggested that since the initial funding for the new Far Rockaway Library was allocated by the late Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, and it is library policy not to name a library after a person, the board request that a room/section of the new Far Rockaway be named in her honor. Betty Leon Chair of the Commemorative Committee was asked to schedule a meeting to discuss the issue formally and present the committee's decision to the full Board of Directors. .

-The Chair advised that in following up on the issue of sand replenishment for Riis Beach, Mr. Edwards from Congressman Meeks office informed the Chair that there is currently a review of the current contract Army Corp is working under.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourned meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning