



COMMUNITY
BOARD #14

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2016

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
333 BEACH 90 STREET
ROCKAWAY BEACH, NY 11693

PRESENT

Khaleel Anderson, Edward Benson, Kelley Brooke, Louis Caucig, Annette Lord-Cohen, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Mordechai Dicker, Ahmed Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Patricia Gillespie, D. Brian Heffernan, Martin Ingram, Henry Iori, Felicia Johnson, Joel Kaplan, Betty Leon, Thomas Long, Desiree Maple, Darrell Mitchell, Aldean Moore, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Eugene Pasternak, Karen Sloan-Payne, Harvey Rudnick; Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Sender Schwartz, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Keith Sullivan, Chris Tesdesco, Thomas Tobin, Carole Trachtenberg, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez, Rachel Williams

ABSENT

Richard Altabe, Shalom Becker, Silaka Cox, Peter Larkin, Hazeron Mohammed, Sonia Moise, Ellen O'Reilly, Isaac Parsee, Edward Pastore Sr., Milan Taylor, Edwin Williams

GUESTS

Tate Senator Joseph Adabbo Jr., Democratic District Leader Lew Simon, Sandee Doremus - Rep. Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Dan Brown - Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Ciara Donley - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Tavia Blakley - Rep. Assemblywoman Michele Titus, Lisa George - Rep/ State Senator James Sanders Jr.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair advised everyone that everyone that last night there was a Rockaway resilience meeting hosted by the parks department and HPD. At the meeting it was announced that there is an extra \$140/120 million that would be spent in Rockaway for resiliency. 9 projects were presented. The Chair advised that the Parks Committee meet to discuss the important projects because the funding is for resiliency; for example bulkheads not bathrooms.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manger Jonathan Gaska reported that the 1st Ad-Hoc Downtown Far Rockaway Redevelopment Committee meeting has been scheduled for December 14, 2016. It appears that they will certify the ULURP application in January of 2017, which means the Board has 60 days to vote on the ULURP.

Mr. Gaska wished everyone happy holidays and a good new year.

MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 14, 2016

The Chair went to the Board for comments regarding the minutes from the Board meeting that was held on November 14, 2016. Lou Caucig made the motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Martin Ingram. There was 1 abstention. The motion carried.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 7:34pm. (8) People signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking at 7:48 pm

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Betty Leon Chair of the Committee reported that the proposed amendments to the Board's By-Laws are the following:

- Article -V- Officer's Eligibility:

To be elected for any office of the Board , a member must first have been appointed to the Board by the Borough President of Queens, serve for a minimum of one year as a board member and attend a minimum of seventy five percent (75%) of meetings.

- Article - VIII – Committees:

6. Each committee shall consist of a minimum of five (5) board members. A committee quorum is greater than fifty percent of its members.

12. Except as provided by law, committee meetings shall be open to the public. If time allows, comments and questions may be permitted by the public at the discretion of the committee chair.

- Article XII – Meetings of the Board:

1. Unless it is a government holiday, the Board shall meet at least once a month except during the months of July and August, subject to change at the discretion of the Chair.

Felicia Johnson made the motion for the Board to accept the proposed changes. The motion was seconded by Michael Tubridy. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 35 YES, 0 NO and 0 ABSTAINED.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Danny Ruscillo Jr. Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on November 21, 2016. The agenda item for discussion was regarding an update on Rockaway Ferry Operator Hornblower. Representatives from EDC and Hornblower were present at the Committee meeting.

Mr. Ruscillo Jr. reported that Justine Johnson representing EDC advised that all is on schedule for the ferry to be operating in the Spring of 2017. The boats and landings are currently being constructed and are on schedule. The ferry shuttle bus has been expanded to Beach 35 Street. So far they have not put out a bid for a bus contractor and have not worked out the details for the operation. There is a plan for six (6) bus stops east and west of the dock landing and it is timed to be within twenty-five minutes each way so that passengers could be accommodated on the ferry's hourly schedule. Still there is no plan for a shuttle bus stop in Broad Channel. Mr. Johnson also indicated that final decisions have not been made on the spending on \$18.75 million dollars for capital improvements of the entire dock landing area and are still soliciting community input.

So far the fare is \$2.75 but can go up if the MTA increases the cost of a subway ride. The tickets will be separate of the MTA card system but could align in the future. There was also discussion regarding student fares and senior citizen discounts. The Committee was also notified that National Grid would be charging a parking fee.

Cameron Clark, Hornblower's Citywide Project Manager avoided technical information regarding the ferry operation. Three vessels are being built specifically for the Rockaway line. All of the vessels are built to carry 149 passengers and it was indicated that they would have access to a larger vessel that could handle up to 400 passengers.

The Chair advised everyone that she suggested a 3rd shuttle bus to cover Broad Channel and the population in the 90s because the entire section has been excluded.

The Chair suggested that in addition to inviting EDC to the Board's January or February meeting; a letter be sent to EDC stating the following concerns of the Board:

- a) the Board opposes any parking fees.
- b) the east and west shuttle buses should be reviewed to include stops in the 70s and an additional shuttle bus is needed to stop in Broad Channel and the 90s.
- c) the ferry drop off and pick up location should be a little distant to avoid traffic and pedestrian congestion.
- d) the Board demands the 1st Far Rockaway Ferry arrives in Manhattan at the same time as all the other ferries.

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Felicia Johnson, Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on November 22, 2016. The first agenda item for discussion was regarding an update on the Beach 32 Street low-income senior building.

Ms. Johnson reported that City Councilman Donovan Richards was present at the meeting to announce that it is a \$70 million project for seniors only with income less than \$36,000 a year. The apartment building would have 1 and 2 bedrooms with mixed use development on the ground floor. The ground floor would also include a lounge area with heating and cooling services in case of emergency. Construction of the building should be completed in 2017. Application would be available through HPD's lottery process. 50% of the units would be for Rockaway residents, 46 units would be for displaced seniors. No one under the age of 65 years old would be permitted to sign a lease or be a tenant.

It was discussed that St. Johns Hospital will occupy 6,000 square feet on the ground floor to provide geriatric medical services including general practitioner services.

The second agenda item the Committee discussed was regarding an update on the Beach 105 Street medical center. Ms. Johnson reported that Dr. Gelwin, who is one of the partners in the ambulatory surgical division at the medical center was present at the meeting to announce that all documents have been received to demolish the old building. The new building should be completed by the end of 2017. The new privately funded medical center would be 60,000 square feet, 4 stories with 66 rooms for business offices, operations and surgical specialties.

There is a transfer agreement in cases of emergency with South Nassau Community Hospital. There are letters of intent for a fusion Center and lab services. The center would also have full imaging including MRI x-ray and radiology services. There will be 120 parking spots with 100% of employment of Rockaway residents. The Committee members that were present expressed that there is a need for dialysis services.

EDUCATIONAL & YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

Hank Iori Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on December 5, 2016. The Committee members discussed information that was gathered from the 24 public schools that are with Community Board #14. Not all of the schools have responded to the Committee's request of submitting three to five items of concerns related to their school. Outreach has already done by contacting PA Presidents and Parent Coordinators.

It was agreed that that the Committee would start to address the concerns of the schools that have responded to the information request by reaching out to the appropriate city agencies to assist in getting the concerns addressed.

Recent action item taken by the Committee involves the Board sending a letter to Queens Transportation Commissioner Nicole Garcia to request that traffic surveys be done around P.S. 104, P.S. 105 and P.S. 197.

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

Respectfully Submitted By: Mary Dunning