

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
BOARD MEETING
APRIL 10, 2018**

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

PRESENT

Khaleel Anderson, Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Louis Caucig, Annette Lord-Cohen, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Mordechai Dicker, Ahmed Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Temina Feldman, D. Brian Heffernan, Martin Ingram, Tamara Jacobs, Felicia Johnson, Betty Leon, Rosalyn Mason, Ife Maijeh, Desiree Maple, John McCambridge, Helen Montero, Sonia Moise, Al Moore, Daniel Mundy, Ellen O'Reilly, Dolores Orr, Harold Paez, Isaac Parsee, Eugene Pasternak, Edward Pasture Sr., Linda Plummer, Karen Sloan-Payne, Harvey Rudnick, Daniel Ruscillo Jr. Thomas Tobin, Michael Tubridy, Rachel Williams, Edwin Williams,

ABSENT

Edward Benson, Shalom Becker, Glenn Collins, Patricia Gillespie, Joel Kaplan, Denise Lopetri-Neibel, Sender Schwartz, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Chris Tedesco, Carole Trachtenberg, Jose Velez, Tyrone Worsley

GUESTS

Devaney Brown – Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Manuel Silva – Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Dan Brown – Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Ciara Donley - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Sandee Doremus - Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Danny Randell - Rep. Assemblywoman Stacy Pheffer-Amato, Irene Dougherty - Rep. Assemblywoman Stacy Pheffer-Amato, Chiedu Uzoigwe - Rep. Senator James Sanders Jr., Democratic District Leader Lew Simon, Democratic District Leader Valarie West, Allan Forster – Rep. NYC Transit, Simone Price - Rep. NYC Transit, Patrick Ijiogbe – Rep. NYC Transit, Joseph Mauro – Rep. NYC Parks & Recreation

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:35p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair thanked Assembly woman Stacey Amato-Pheffer for recognizing board member Felicia Johnson as a Distinguished Woman of New York. The Chair welcomed all of the 8 new board members.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager announced that the office received notice that the NYC Landmark & Preservation Commission was to make the Fire House located on Central Avenue which was built in 1911 a city land mark.

In addition a notice was sent out to the community regarding a proposal to construct affordable housing and retail stores on the old Peninsula Hospital site. The law requires that a scoping session be held before the ULURP process begins. The Scoping session is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 4:00 pm in the auditorium of P.S 105 located at 420 Beach 51 Street.

MINUTES FROM MARCH 13, 2018

Isaac Parsee made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Annette – Lord Cohen seconded the motion. The motion carried by a hand vote.

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 13, 2018

Betty Leon made the motion for the board to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Ellen O'Reilly. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor the motion. 11 abstained.

NEW BUSINESS

-John Cori asked for an update on his requests to invite HPD to a board meeting to discuss the Arverne East project.

John Cori made a motion for the board to approve the forming of an Ad Hoc Committee to explore the possibility of having one council seat to represent Community Board #14. The motion was seconded by Eddie Pastore Sr. The motion carried by a hand vote of 17 YES, 12 NO and 1 ABSTAINED.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 8:09pm. 9 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking at 8:27pm.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- 1. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr.** gave an overview of his goals for the 2018-2019 NYS budget which includes some the following:
 - Charter Schools received \$6.1 million in school facilities aide.
 - \$12.9 million was restored to cover veteran affairs and funding was increased by \$2.2 million for counseling, legal, health, and employment programs.
 - The Cross Bay Bridge resident reimbursement / waiver for Rockaway and Broad Channel was extended.

2. State Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer -Amato reported that she focused on the important issues affecting her district to be included in the State budget, some of which are the following:

- Continued efforts to eliminate the tolls on the Cross Bay Bridge.
- Requested to be part of a working group that focuses on issues such as funding for the MTA for charging inner borough bridges.
- Sent a letter reminding officials that the Rockaway Beach Rail Line study should have been completed already.
- Sent a letter to EDC requesting that the Far Rockaway Ferry Shuttle bus be restored even though the pilot program ended.

Assembly Member Pheffer-Amato thanked all the board members for being one of the hardest working community boards in the Borough of Queens

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

NYCT-Re: Flood mitigation project time table & service interruption

Simone Price, Assistant Director of Community Relations for MTA Transit explained that at the Board's request they are present tonight to give an update on service interruptions on the A line in Rockaway to do needed upgrades and repairs to protect critical infrastructure against major future storms.

Allen Forster, Project Manager explained that the repairs and upgrades are scheduled to be done in in 2 phases. The repairs and upgrades are extensive and detailed.

Phase 1 started yesterday and involves track repairs at the Broad Channel and Beach 90 Street connection. All stations will have service at all times, but there is no shuttle between Broad Channel and Rockaway Park. There will be regular train service for morning and evening rush hour from Far Rockaway to Manhattan. There will be regular service to Far Rockaway and there will be a shuttle train from Rockaway Park to Far Rockaway that operates every 20 minutes. Riders from Rockaway Park take the shuttle train to Beach 67 Street and cross over. The repairs on the track should be completed by May 18, 2018. Alternative bus transportation options are the Q22, Q35, Q53 Select bus service and the QM16.

Phase 2 will start July 2, 2018 and end September 4, 2018. The Far Rockaway section will take 60 days to complete because of the amount of work that has to be done. There would be no A Train service going east from Broad Channel to Far Rockaway.

The Chair requested for Ms. Price to update the board on the following:

- Notifying the Police and the community of the changes because travelers will be lost on the platforms and providing MTA staff on platforms.
- Request for reduced fair/free rides or transfer for express bus and LIRR because of hardship and on behalf of the elderly and disabled.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Chair reported that a meeting was held on March 26, 2018. The agenda item for discussion was regarding the Queens Connection Team for JFK opportunities. The Chair explained to everyone that JFK is undergoing a billion dollar renovation that has lead to the development of a JFK roundtable that is comprised of representatives of all the areas that the renovation would affect including Nassau County. The roundtable would discuss the pros and cons of how the community will be impacted.

Community Board #12 has been proactive and initiated discussions regarding a Community Benefits Agreement and has invited CB#14 join in with them to discuss their desire and the opportunity to benefit by being a partner in the movement. They are also going to approach Community Board #13 which will also be affected by the renovations at JFK.

The Chair stated to everyone that the Economic Development Committee passed a motion recommending Community Board #14 adopted a resolution to participate in the formulation of the community benefits agreement for the \$10 billion upgrade at JFK. The benefits agreement is a long term agreement that would affect the community because the construction will take 15 years. The community benefits by some of the following:

- Jobs for local residents including union priority, job training, apprenticeship, workforce development and education.
- Local businesses and WMBE businesses get priority for supply orders, Business opportunity for concessions/ownership in the community and at JFK.
- Opportunity for soundproofing locations and transportation alternatives would also be included.

Glenn Hamilton, Chair of the Economic Committee of CB12 and a member of the Queens Connection Group was present at the committee meeting and is present tonight to answer questions for board members.

Martin Ingram made the motion for the Board to join the Queens Connection Team along with Community Boards 12 & 13 to formulate a community

benefits agreement for JFK. Annette Lord-Cohen seconded the motion. The motion carried by a hand vote of 50 YES, 0 NO & 1 ABSTAINED.

2. PARKS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

John McCambridge Co-Chair of the committee reported that meeting was held on March 28, 2018. The first agenda item for discussion was regarding Phase 2 development of Lanett Playground.

Mr. McCambridge reported at the meeting Kevin Kinney, Project Manager gave a presentation explaining that the budget for the project was \$1.35 million from Queens Borough President Melinda Katz. The project goal is to create a welcoming entry plaza for the playground with decorative pavers, improved seating additional trees and game tables.

Martin Ingram made the motion for the board to support the Parks Dept.'s proposed Phase 2 design for upgrades in Lanett Playground. Martin Ingram seconded the motion. The motion carried by a hand vote of 40 YES, 1 NO & 10 ABSTAINED.

The second agenda item for discussion was regarding an update on the surfing schools. Portia Dyrnforth, Parks Administrator for District #14 explained to the committee that the surfacing schools are working well, they often cleanup the beach and give free lessons for fundraisers. Also the surfing schools are asking if the board is open for discussions to allow surfing schools at the beaches in the 30's.

A representative for one of the surf schools that was present at the committee meeting explained that they also do first aid if someone needs it on the beach in addition to the free lessons for 2 weeks and clean up the beach area voluntarily.

John McCambridge made a motion for the board to support sending a letter to the Parks Dept. asking for the surfing schools provide a scholarship for free surfing lessons by each surf school to any Rockaway Public school which has a summer program. Motion carried by a hand vote.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning