



COMMUNITY BOARD #14

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REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2015

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

PRESENT

Richard Altabe, Shalom Becker, Louis Caucig, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Silaka Cox, Dr. Gerald David, Ahmed Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Patricia Gillespie, D. Brian Heffernan, Martin Ingram, Henry Iori, Felicia Johnson, Peter Larkin Betty Leon, Thomas Long, John McCambridge, Darrell Mitchell, , Aldean Moore, Dolores Orr, Ellen O'Reilly, Eugene Pasternak,, Edward Pastore Sr., Karen Sloan-Payne, Harvey Rudnick, Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Sender Schwartz, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Keith Sullivan, Chris Tesdesco, Carole Trachtenberg, Edwin Williams, Rachel Williams

ABSENT

Kelley Brooke, Annette Lord-Cohen, Steve Cromity, Mordechai Dicker, Joel Kaplan, Matthew Kessler, Hazeron Mohammed, Sonia Moise, Daniel Mundy, Isaac Parsee, Milan Taylor, Thomas Tobin, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez

GUESTS Dorothy

State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder, Queens Borough Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski for NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation, Democratic District Leader Geraldine Chapey, Democratic District Leader Lew Simon, Sandee Doremus – Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Dan Brown – Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Lisa George – Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Jessica Luina – Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Ciara Donley - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Carla Downie – Rep. Assemblywoman Michele Titus, Portia Dyrenforth – Parks Administrator for District #14, Roy Tellason – Parks Manager for District #14, Brendon Pillar – NYC Dept. of City Planning

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:15 p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair asked all Veterans in the room to stand and she thanked them for their service. All present responded with a round of applause. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz will be having her State of the Borough Address on January 21, 2016, 10:00am @ Queens College. All are invited to attend.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 13, 2015

The Chair went to the Board for corrections, additions and approval of the minutes from the Board meeting that was held on October 13, 2015. Karen Sloan-Payne stated that the Parks & Public Safety Committee report, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence; should be amended to include the following statement: " there was no money allocated to restore the wave shelters other than the one located at Beach 106 Street". Hank Iori made the motion to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Danny Ruscillo. The motion carried. There were 15 abstentions.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 7:20pm. (36) People signed up to speak. The Chair informed everyone that according to the By-Laws public speaking is not to exceed 20 minutes. Therefore a motion is needed to limit speaking time for everyone to speak.

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

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Al Moore made the motion to limit speaking time to 2 minutes. The motion was seconded by Louis Caucig. The motion carried. Those who signed in to speak were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

GUEST SPEAKER

Build It Back

Cheneir Rivers introduced herself as the new Director of the Build It Back. Also present was Sarah Taylor, Deputy Center Director for the Build It Back offices located at Beach 20 Street & in Rockaway Beach. Cheneir Rivers stated that if anyone has questions regarding their application to contact the office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Danny Ruscillo reported that a meeting was held on September 17, 2015. The first agenda item for discussion was regarding an update on the Rockaway Ferry from the NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC). All plans and permits were on track to start the Rockaway Ferry in 2017, and not likely in 2016. The routes for the free bus shuttle for the east and west ends of the peninsula were also discussed. The ferry boat is scheduled to operate from 6:00am to 10:00pm.

The second agenda item the Committee discussed was regarding the proposed Select Bus System (SBS) for Woodhaven /Cross Bay Boulevard. The Committee expressed concern over the plan to eliminate bus stops in on the Peninsula, eliminate left turn lanes on Woodhaven and Cross Bay Blvd., remove two traffic lanes for dedicated bus service and reduce existing speed limits.

The third agenda item the Committee discussed was regarding a presentation to the Committee made by Jeanne Dupont, Director of Rockaway Waterfront Alliance on her concerns about the Rockaway Freeway. Mrs. Dupont presented a brochure regarding Project Underway dated September 17, 2015 that explained her ideas and concerns. The cover of the brochure was misleading as to indicate closure of the entire freeway with no participation of other modes of transportation. The Committee expressed to RWA that the Freeway is needed for vehicles especially after what the Peninsula went through with Super Storm Sandy.

2. LAND-USE & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Al Moore Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on October 28, 2015. The agenda item for discussion was regarding a presentation by Brendan Pillar of City Planning on the City's plan for Housing New York, Mandatory Inclusionary Housing, Zoning for Quality and Affordability.

Brendon Pillar stated that the City wants to create 80,000 new units of housing. The standards and guidelines have been in existence since 1961 and do not provide flexibility for current affordable housing quality issues. Therefore over a period of ten years (2) aspects would be focused on regarding what is affordable housing to address the issues of area medium income to close the gap residents already paying rent with the majority of their income and the issues of addressing the need for more affordable senior housing.

Al Moore reported that the changes are a broad brush and don't take into consideration the amount of existing affordable housing. The senior housing and long term care beds in the community are not taken into consideration. The changes for senior housing parking requirements are drastically reduced or eliminated, while the Peninsula is already poorly served by mass transit. Parking for seniors housing should meet zone requirements in the

area it is built in. In addition, there should be no parking reduction in Rockaway at all we all need our cars because mass transit is substandard. Special permits need to stay in place for new nursing care beds in Rockaway.

We in CB#14's district are living with 6000 nursing and adult home beds, 5000 units of public housing, the highest section 8 voucher placement, with the highest unemployment rate in Queens and 20% of our population receives some type of public assistance.

Al Moore advised the Committee's motion is to recommend that Community Board #14 not support the Housing New York Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Zoning For Quality and Affordability because the Peninsula has done more than its fair share to help those in need. In addition the Peninsula continues to be poorly serviced by mass transportation and our limited roads and infrastructure can't handle the already large increase in population that has occurred over the last decade. The motion was carried by a roll call vote of 32 YES, 0 NO and 0 ABSTAINED.

3. PARKS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

John McCambridge Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on October 27, 2015. The first agenda item the Committee discussed was regarding the (5) ADA ramps and (2) vehicular ramps being proposed by the Parks Dept. and EDC in the Phase 6 (Beach 127-149 Street) portion of the boardwalk renovations.

Mr. McCambridge reported that the presentation of the ADA ramps by the Parks Department that had been made the previous fall to the community was not received well. The Parks Department took the feedback and redeveloped the ADA ramps that look similar to a 'V' shape. The residents that were present at the meeting expressed concern regarding emergency vehicles access, height and how it would affect beach replenishment.

After the presentation the Committee unanimously agreed to request the Parks Department to go back and redesign the ramps and table the issue until further community outreach could be made so people understand what the issues are.

The second item the Committee discussed was regarding the proposal for additional surfing beaches. Mr. McCambridge reported that the Rockaway Civic canvassed over 140 people in the neighborhood affected and the consensus was that surfing beaches be located at the following areas Beach 110 Street to Beach 111 Street & Beach 114 Street to Beach 115 Street.

The Chair went to the Board for questions. Noreen Ellis made the motion for the Board to support the Committee's recommendation to support adding surfing beaches from Beach 110 Street to Beach 111 Street & Beach 114 Street to Beach 115 Street. The motion was carried by a roll call vote of 24 YES, 3 NO & 0 ABSTAINED.

The third item the Committee discussed was regarding Bill Zlata of the Dunes Homeowners Association that represents Beach 62 Street to Beach 69 Street & Chris Tedesco, homeowner at Water's Edge that represent Beach 59 Street to Beach 62 Street presented a proposal to the Committee that had been mailed to Committee members that consisted of certain beaches being used for surfing and certain beaches used for swimming.

The Chair stated that even though Mr. Zlata and Mr. Tedesco did a comprehensive review of Beach use the issue must be tabled until there are letters of support from the civics /associations of the area under consideration.

The Chair stated that is after 10:00 pm, therefore no new issues could be discussed. The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting 10:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Mary Dunning

NOV