



COMMUNITY
BOARD #14

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015**

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

PRESENT

Richard Altabe, Shalom Becker, Kelley Brooke, Annette Lord-Cohen, John Cori, Silaka Cox, Dr. Gerald David, Mordechai Dicker, Ahmed Edwards, D. Brian Heffernan, Martin Ingram, Henry Iori, Felicia Johnson, Joel Kaplan, Peter Larkin, Betty Leon, Thomas Long, Darrell Mitchell, Aldean Moore, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Isaac Parsee, Edward Pastore Sr., Karen Sloan-Payne, Harvey Rudnick, Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Dr. Eli Shapiro, Keith Sullivan, Chris Tesdesco, Milan Taylor, Thomas Tobin, Carole Trachtenberg, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez, Edwin Williams, Rachel Williams

ABSENT

Louis Caucig, Stephen Cooper, Steve Cromity, Noreen Ellis, Patricia Gillespie, Matthew Kessler, Sylvan Klein, John McCambridge, Hazeron Mohammed, Sonia Moise, Ellen O'Reilly, Eugene Pasternak, Sender Schwartz

GUESTS

City Councilman Donovan Richards, Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder, Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., John Greenfield – Rep. Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder, Sandee Doremus – Rep. 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, Democratic District Leader Lew Simon

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:20 p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair reminded and asked everyone to remember those that lost their life on September 11th. In addition, on September 11, 2015 there will be morning and afternoon memorial services at Tribute Park on Beach 116 Street.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager reported that in a few weeks borough consultations will begin. During borough consultations he will meet with all the city agencies to advocate for funding of needed capital projects in the district.

Mosquito season started late this summer and the office has started receiving calls from residents in Arverne asking for help. So far the Dept of Health has not agreed to spray adulticide in mosquito infested areas because our area does not have any cases of the West Nile Virus.

MINUTES FROM JUNE 9, 2015

The Chair went to the Board for questions regarding the minutes from the meeting that was held on June 9, 2015. Milan Taylor made the motion for the Board to accept the minutes as written. Danny Ruscillo Jr. seconded the motion. The motion carried with no abstentions.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION – Re: Rockaway Volunteer Ambulance Corp.

Ronnie Murchinson, Founder of the Rockaway Volunteer Ambulance Corp. informed the Board that he is asking for a letter of support from Board for renewal of the state license. Rockaway is in need of additional urgent response services and RVAC would be able to provide additional ambulance services for residents in the community. Currently there is (3) full staffed ambulances for the entire Peninsula. When there is an emergency on the

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City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

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Peninsula those ambulances would be going to that emergency leaving the rest of the Peninsula vulnerable.

Mr. Murchinson stated that the FVAC would provide the community with other important needed services such as free CPR and EMT training. RVAC would be open to volunteers ages 13 and up. RVAC participated in community events such as the National Night Out on Crime. More information regarding FVAC is on Facebook and Rockawayems.com.

Al Moore made the motion for the Board to give a letter of support to FVAC. The motion was seconded by Annette Lord-Cohen. The motion passed unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKERS

1. Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr. – invited everyone out to attend the Annual Fall Recycling Fair that will be held on September 27, 2015, from 10am to 2pm at the Forest Park Band shell. The fair is important because electronic items will accepted as well as paper, clothing and certain household items. For more information please call 1-718-738-1111.

2. Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder – informed everyone that funding is now in place to demolish and rebuild the Far Rockaway Library. The MTA has repaired the holes in the fence that allowed thieves to steal copper wiring and has agreed to increase patrol along the train tracks.

3. City Councilman Donovan Richards

Councilman Richards informed everyone that renovations for the new plaza located between Beach 20 and Beach 21 Streets has already started. In addition, Dunkin Donuts will be opening soon at the Far Rockaway Shopping Mall.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Chair opened the floor for public speaking. (6) People signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. BUDGET COMMITTEE

Dr. Eli Shapiro, Chair of Committee reported that a meeting was held on August 10, 2015. The agenda item for discussion was regarding the draft FY2017 Capital & Expense list for funded items. The Committee also reached out to Board members and the community for suggestions and input. The Committee members discussed the draft and unanimously agreed on the draft FY 2017 Capital & Expense list that has already been distributed before tonight's meeting for more suggestions and further discussion for input.

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager stated that this is a city charter mandated process and public participation will be conducted tonight and at the Board's October meeting to allow public input before the Board votes on the draft that will be submitted to local elected officials, OMB and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – The Chair opened the floor for public participation at 8:06pm regarding the draft 2017 Capital & Expense list. (1) Person signed in to speak and was recognized and heard. The Chair closed public participation.

2. Land-Use & Housing Committee

Michael Tubridy, Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on August

25, 2015. A) The first agenda item the Committee discussed was BSA# 252-00-BZ regarding 104-02 Rockaway Beach Blvd., seeking to waive rules the of procedure to extend the term of the variance for the existing physical culture establishment with in a C2-3 Zone. Mr. Tubridy reported that the Committee was in favor of supporting the applicant.

Carl Sulfura, ESQ representing the client stated to the Board that the request is a formality and there will not be any major changes in the facility or any encroachment on the surrounding businesses.

PUBLIC HEARING – The Chair opened the floor for a public hearing regarding BSA#252-00-BZ for 104-02 Rockaway Beach Blvd. No one signed up to speak. The Chair closed the public hearing.

Mr. Tubridy made the motion for the Board to support BSA#252-00-BZ. The motion was seconded by Eddie Pastore Sr. The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 33 YES, 0 NO & 0 ABSTAINED.

B) The second item the Committee discussed was BSA#101-15-BZ regarding 830 Hicksville Road proposal for a new building of House Of Worship/Temple to be 2- stories high to include a waiver of the side yard, a reduction in the parking spaces, front & rear yard requirements. After the presentation the Committee agreed to support the proposed BSA.

PUBLIC HEARING-The Chair opened the floor for a public hearing regarding BSA#101-15-BZ. (3) People signed in to speak and were recognized and heard. The Chair closed the public hearing.

Jay Goldstein, the Attorney representing the client stated that the BSA is needed because there has been an increase in membership. A neighborhood support petition has been submitted to Community Board #14 along with a letter of support from Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder. The Chair went to the Board for questions.

Mr. Tubridy made the motion for the Board to support BSA#101-15-BZ for 830 Hicksville Road. The motion was seconded by Annette Lord-Cohen. The motion was carried by a roll call vote of 31 YES, 0 NO and 1 ABSTAINED.

C) The third item the Committee discussed was BSA#802-48-BZ for 1346 Beach Channel Drive regarding the request to re-open and amend the extend term of a 10 year period – permit current/continued use as an automotive service station with an accessory convenience store. Mr. Tubridy reported that the applicant was given a letter of support from the local civic association and the Committee was in favor of supporting the request.

Public Hearing: The Chair opened the floor for a public hearing regarding BSA#802-48-BZ. No one signed-in to speak. The chair closed the public hearing.

The Chair went to the Board for questions and Mr. Tubridy made the motion for the Board to support BSA#802-48-BZ. The motion was seconded by Jose Velez. The motion was carried by a roll call vote of 35 YES, 0 NO and 0 ABSTAINED.

D) The fourth agenda item the Committee discussed was BSA#327-41BZ regarding 100-17 Beach Channel Drive request to amend variance to permit in residential use district R-4 use Group 16 gasoline service station with accessory uses. Mr. Tubridy reported that the Committee was in favor of supporting the applicant after discussing the request.