



COMMUNITY BOARD #14

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REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OCTOBER 10, 2017

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

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PRESENT

Khaleel Anderson, Louis Caucig, Annette Lord-Cohen, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Ahmed Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Patricia Gillespie, D. Brian Heffernan, Martin Ingram, Henry Iori, Felicia Johnson, Peter Larkin, Betty Leon, John McCambridge, Sonia Moise, Aldean Moore, Daniel Mundy, Denise Lopresti-Neibel, Ellen O'Reilly, Dolores Orr, Isaac Parsee, Edward Pastore Sr., Karen Sloan-Payne, Harvey Rudnick, Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Dr. Eli Shapiro, Thomas Tobin, Jose Velez, Edwin Williams, Rachel Williams

ABSENT

Shalom Becker, Edward Benson, Courtney Brown, Glenn Collins, Dr. Gerald David, Mordechai Dicker, Temina Feldman, Joel Kaplan, Desiree Maple, Milan Taylor, Eugene Pasternak, Sender Schwartz, Chris Tedesco, Michael Tubridy, Carole Trachtenberg

GUESTS

Lisa George - Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Irene Dougherty - Rep. State Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer-Amato, Ciara Donley - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Sandee Doremus - Rep. Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Dan Brown - Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Lew Simon Assembly Democratic District Leader, Devaney Brown - Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Manuel Silva - Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Simone Price - Rep. MTA-NYCT, David Moss - Rep. MTA Bus, Warren Berry - Rep. MTA Bus, Matt Campagna - Rep. MTA Bus

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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 advised members that Jonathan emailed an invitation from City Planning to all board members attend a Resiliency Workshop that would be held in Howard Beach.

Organics Curbside Collection would begin at the end of October 2017. We will ask the Department of Sanitation to scheduled informational sessions on both ends of the Peninsula.

The NYC Fire Dept. has not kept to their agreement to remove the sidewalk shed on Beach 116 Street, therefore Jonathan will follow up on the matter in addition to making sure that the new fire house location does not take up street parking because it was stated that they would have more than enough on-site parking for staff.

At the Executive Board meeting in August; Ozzy's suggestion was considered and agreed for the board to establish a Facebook page. The page will be for informational purposes only. Otherwise the office would have to hire a full time staff person just to answer Facebook questions and comments.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Jonathan Gaska reported that after the board votes on the FY 2019 Capital & Expense priorities he would input the priorities to the Office of Management & Budget in a booklet and hopefully with their new system the requests would be put on line for the public.

MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

The Chair went to the board for questions regarding the minutes. Martin Ingram made the motion for the board to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Danny Ruscillo Jr.

COMMUNITY BOARD #14  
City of New York  
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR  
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA  
District Manager

1931 Mott Avenue, Room 311  
Far Rockaway, NY 11691  
Tel.: (718) 471-7300  
Fax: (718) 868-2657  
cbrock14@nyc.rr.com



## **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 7:31 pm. 7 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

## **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION**

### **Fort Tilden-RDP-NYPD – Re: Counterterrorism Bureau use of army building**

Irving Poy, representing Queens Borough Hall reported that Fort Tilden Local Redevelopment Authority Plan submission is based upon the review of the existing conditions of the former Army Reserve property and the existing buildings at the facility, the physical location of the site and the uses in the surrounding neighborhood and its proximity to transportation, schools, retail and services. A Notice of Interest was released in 2015 to the public for the Fort Army Reserve property only not the Gateway property. Fort Tilden is being decommissioned and interested government agencies were invited to submit a proposal. The sole submission was from the New York Police Department Counterterrorism Bureau.

NYPD Counterterrorism Bureau proposal for the site is to use the existing buildings and property of the facility as a classroom and situational training facility. The range of activities of the bureau include the development of training programs for the NYPD patrol force, specialized units and tristate law enforcement agencies and first responders. Currently, the bureau is involved with threat reduction for infrastructures sites, detection and deterrence of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive weapons of mass destruction, harbor security and detection. NYPD has been using the property since august on a month to month basis.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Dr. Eli Shapiro, Chair of the committee reported that the requested updates, changes and suggestions from the previous meeting have been included in the final draft 2019 capital and expense priorities. After the public participation tonight the board will vote.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – The Chair opened the floor for public participation regarding the final draft 2019 Capital & Expense Budget requests.at 7:30 pm. 2 people signed up to speak. They were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public participation.

Mr. Mundy made the motion for the board to support the final draft 2019 Capital & Expense budget priorities presented by the Budget Committee. The motion was seconded by Noreen Ellis. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 31 YES, 0 NO and 0 ABSTAINED.

### **2. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Marty Ingram Co-Chair of the committee reported that a meeting was held on September 27, 2017. The first agenda item for discussion was regarding the MTA's proposal to reduce stops on the Q-22 bus route and to bring the route into alignment with the NYC standard of 750 feet between stops. They also propose to short turn the Q-22 at Beach 116 Street to increase the service frequency in high density passenger areas between Beach 116 Street and Mott Avenue. Eighty percent of the ridership occurs in these areas.

MTA is also proposing to re-route the Q-35 from Newport Avenue to Rockaway Beach Blvd. to adjust for the reduced Q-22 service at Beach 116 Street. Information presented by the MTA indicates that the data they gathered did not include seasonal consideration for peak summer activity.

It was recommended that MTA's planning include consideration for major upcoming developments within CB#14 such as the construction location of a new firehouse on Beach 116 Street and Beach Channel Drive, downtown Far Rockaway, new medical center at Beach 105 Street and increased residential housing within Arverne-By-The-Sea.

Route changes associated with the short turn of the Q-22 and the relocation of the Q-35 would result in all Q-35 buses and all Q-22 short turn buses terminating at Beach 116 Street. All these buses will have to turn north onto Beach 116 Street, left on Beach Channel Drive, left on Newport Avenue and then south back onto Beach 116 Street. This will result in tremendous traffic congestion on the Beach 116 Street commercial strip.

Martin Ingram made the motion for the board to oppose the proposed MTA plan to short turn the Q-22 and relocate the Q-35 to Rockaway Beach Blvd. because the reduced service and added significant congestion to the Beach 116 Street business corridor is detrimental to the community. In addition no bus stops be relocated until further studies and supporting documentation is presented to Community Board #14. Motion was seconded by Danny Ruscillo Jr. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 25 YES, 0 NO and 0 ABSTAINED.

The second agenda item for discussion was regarding the upcoming NYC DDC-Project# SANDWH13. The project encompasses the areas between Beach 73 Street and Beach 88 Streets. The project is scheduled to start in the fall of 2017 and will address water ponding, new sidewalks, catch-basins, storm sewers and would consider the installation of an island between Beach 73 Street and Beach 81 Streets.

### **3. PARKS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Jose Velez Co-Chair of the committee reported that a meeting was held on September 18, 2017 for an update on Parks Dept. capital projects in the district. Mr. Velez advised that Dan Plastuck is the new Parks Dept. Manager for District #14. Mr. Plastuck has experience with other waterfront communities, managed Flushing Meadow Park and has worked at Disney World.

Mr. Velez advised that concerns were raised regarding a shortage of garbage cans, garbage cans that overflowed, the beach being littered with debris the first few weeks of the summer beach season and the lack of a staff. Porcha Drynforth, Parks Administrator for District #14 stated that there are only approximately 100 employees for the summer to maintain and clean all the parks and 7 miles of beach.

The issue of lifeguards was raised and how could the Parks Dept. ensure that young people are given the opportunity to be employed. It was suggested if Parks could make an effort to involve the community in meetings with lifeguards. In addition the following issues were discussed:

- What can the community do to request more summer workers? Dan Plastuck response was that he will compile the number beach visitors and the use of parks' supplies to determine how many additional workers are needed the summer.
- The Dred Surfer concession area at Beach 17 Street has had an increase in visitors and has expanded to operate a mini concession area at Beach 32 Street, but there is a need for a comfort station at Beach 32nd Street. Does Parks have plans for a station to be built there if not; the data could be used to encourage the need for the station.
- Park funding was discussed including Bayswater Park and Sunset Cove. The bike lane issue, signage and mosquito magnets were discussed.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By: Mary Dunning