

## **Community Board 1, Meeting Minutes**

**September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

### **Board Member Attendees – List Attached**

#### **OPENING: 6:30pm**

- Chairman Joseph Risi greeted attendees, and asked for people to stand for the pledge of allegiance. The pledge was recited.
- Mr. Risi called for Public Hearing Item 1, the issue of the Capital/Expense discussion of the FY 2018 Budget to commence.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:**

**Capital/Expense: Community Board 1 held a public hearing on the FY 2018 Capital/Expense submission. Residents were invited to make requests known to the Board possible submission.**

- Capital/Expense and Budget/Planning Committee Chair Norma Nieves-Blas clarified FY-2018 would begin July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and end June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- Ms. Nieves-Blas acknowledged a number of emails had been sent to the district office regarding the noise barrier between PS 85 and the MTA Tracks on 31<sup>st</sup> Street, and noted that the item is listed as number one on the FY-2018 budget. Ms. Nieves-Blas further informed attendees that the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget has issued a statement stating the following: *"OMB supports the agency's position as follows: This request includes more than one proposal. Funding for part is recommended"*, and that meetings with NY/NJ Transit Authority and the Department of Education on the matter would continue.
- Ms. Nieves-Blas indicated that the evening's discussion would be dedicated to allowing for suggestions for possible budget items by Board Members and the public, and that voting would occur at the October 20<sup>th</sup> [full board/public hearing] meeting. The Chair also indicated that the FY-2017 budget items were in Board Members' folders.
- Ms. Nieves-Blas opened the floor to Board Members, and public discussion.
- Board Member Ms. Frances Luhmann-McDonald asked that a proposal to make PS 2 handicap accessible be included in the budget.
  - The Chair indicated this project had been proposed and rejected in FY-2014, and added it to a list of items to consider.
- Constituent Mr. Herdan requested upgrades/renovations at playgrounds and parks, specifically St. Michael's Playground (sanitation issues, lighting and fixtures) and Whitey Ford Field, be included in the budget.
  - Ms. Nieves-Blas indicated that the playgrounds were listed by the Parks Committee for consideration on the FY-2018 budget.
- Constituent Lucille DeBias spoke, asking the Board to ensure they took in to consideration ways in which proposals could negatively impact the neighborhood. Discussion between the board and the constituent took place, and ended with a recommendation by Ms. Nieves-Blas to speak with the appropriate committees regarding the constituent's concerns.
- Board Member Edwin Cadiz requested that repairs to 16 Oaks Park be included.
  - Ms. Nieves-Blas indicated that this item is on the 2018 budget, and that it was addressed at a meeting in July with the Parks Committee.
- Constituent Tex Crulkshank requested lines be painted on the track at Astoria Park.

- Ms. Nieves-Blas responded that this item has been on the budget for a number of years, and the Board can only make recommendations for what should be funded in a given year, and support city agencies in making necessary changes. Discussion ensued.
- Having no further requests for proposals from the Board or the public, Committee Chair Ms. Nieves-Blas concluded the agenda item.
- Chairman Risi and the Chair of the Capital/Expense and Budget/Planning Committee clarified that voting would take place on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Risi reminded Board Members to speak with Ms. Nieves-Blas or the District Manager regarding any proposal they would like see considered for the FY-2018 Budget.
- Chairman Joseph Risi opened discussion of Item Two, an application with the Board of Standards and Appeals.

**Board of Standards and Appeals: BSA Cal. No. 581-56 BZ 24-01 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Special Order Calendar proposed change of use from existing warehouse, distribution, offices, etc. (Use Group 6 & 16) to trade school, meeting hall, offices (Use Groups 6 & 9).**

- A presentation was given by Mr. Michael Nacmias, a representative for the applicant. Matthew Arachich, a representative for the Local 12 Union (who will be using the space), was also present.
  - The intent by the developer is to convert the space into a school for union training. The only changes will be to the interior space. Given the trade is insulation, noise will not be a concern for the local residents. Onsite parking will remain, but most if not all students are expected to take public transportation to the location.
- Mr. Risi questioned the applicants regarding the matter, resulting in the following clarifications:
  - Community impact for parking will be low to none, given most students are expected to take public transportation. Many potential students also live walking distance from the site, and will not have to drive for that reason. Finally, cars can be stacked to increase the amount of onsite parking.
  - There will be an apprentice drive to recruit new students/union members, but candidates will no longer have to camp out to have their applications received.
- Mr. Risi called for questions from the Board. Questioning resulted in the following clarifications:
  - There is no term on the original variance.
  - The school will not be working with any hazardous materials that could or would be released into the air in the community.
  - Air from the facility will be HEPA filtered prior to being release from the building.
- Mr. Risi asked for public commentary to proceed. No requests to speak were heard from the public.
- The Chairman requested a vote be taken.
- Ms. Nancy Silverman asked whether the Land Use and Zoning Committee had a recommendation on the matter.
  - Ms. Elizabeth Erion answered affirmatively, and notified the Board that a draft letter in support of the application was included in their folders. The Land Use and Zoning Chair indicated that the Committee was in support of the application (i.e. in support of a change in use for the variance), and felt that the proposed use would be better for the neighbors than the current use in terms of neighborhood impact.
- **MOTION MADE by Elizabeth Erion to support the change in use for the variance.**
- **SECONDED by Nancy Silverman.**
- Mr. Risi called for any discussion to proceed. No requests for discussion were heard.

- **Roll Call taken by Jean Marie D'Alleva.**
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY with exception of one abstention for cause (Gerald Caliendo).**
- Given a representative from the Conflicts of Interest Board was not yet in attendance, Chairman Risi asked for public discussion to commence.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

- Representatives from Build Up New York were present to discuss concerns regarding failure by developers to follow through with promises made to the Community Board, as well as violations by the developers of Astoria Cove, especially regarding asbestos abatement, and failure to hire a qualified remediation team.
  - Discussion between the Board and a Build Up New York representative ensued.
  - Chairman Risi did note that the developer had been fined.
- A liaison from the Astoria Houses [NYCHA] discussed the Section 3 Program, geared towards providing training for union jobs to residents of the Astoria Houses to work on the FEMA resiliency/Sandy recovery project currently underway.
  - Discussion between the Board and the representative ensued.
  - Mr. Risi asked the representative to give her contact information to the District Manager.
- Two constituents discussed concerns about removing the diving pool from Astoria Park, asking for it to be reopened rather than turned in to a performance space or modified for other use.
  - The Chairman did highlight that no conclusive plans have been made for the space, and Parks Committee Chair Richard Khuzami indicated that the plan is to have the Parks Department provide a presentation regarding possible options for the space.
- Steven Martin, a representative for Four Freedoms Park on Roosevelt Island, provided a presentation on the park (which is a memorial to FDR).
  - Questioning from the Board led to the clarification that there is a plan to build a kayak landing near the park.
- Anna Rodriguez from Mt. Sinai Queens discussed upcoming programing.
- Constituent McCartney Morris thanked the Board for their resolution regarding the traffic concerns on 21<sup>st</sup> Street.
- Richard Melnick from the Greater Astoria Historical Society discussed upcoming programing.
  - The Chairman requested the information be provided to the District Manager so it could be placed on the webpage.
- Constituent Joseph Dougherty spoke regarding safety concerns with Aces club, and asked for a status update regarding what the Board was doing to fix the problem.
  - District Manager Florence Koulouris indicated that the Board and the District office have been working diligently with the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct, the Department of Buildings, and the Department of Consumer Affairs to mitigate the problem, but that the District Manager and the Board could only advocate on behalf of residents (ultimately having no control over the decisions of state/city agencies).
  - Discussion between the constituent and the Chairman ensued. Outcome was that the Chairman asked the constituent to call the District Manager so that the office and the Community Board could look in to the matter.
- Representatives from Care NYC spoke regarding services available to caretakers of individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia.

- Having no further requests from the public to speak, the Chairman asked for a presentation from the Conflicts of Interest Board.

**Presentation by The NYC Conflicts of Interest Board** – *The Conflicts of Interest Board is an independent New York City Agency responsible for administering, enforcing and interpreting Chapter 68 of the New York City Charter, the City’s Conflicts of Interest Law. A representative was present to provide a short synopsis of how the laws apply to New York City’s Community Boards.*

- Representative Alex Kipp provided a presentation on how the Conflict of Interest Laws apply to Community Board Members.
- The Conflict of Interest Board provides free and confidential legal advice, and welcomes questions from Board Members regarding their conflict of interest concerns.
- The primary concern as it relates to Board Members is when voting. If the Board Member has a direct stake (especially financial), and will be directly impacted by a decision made by the Board, the Conflicts of Interest Board advises Members to Disclose, Discuss, and Do Not Vote.
- Alex Kipp advised all Members that if they are unsure of whether something is a conflict of interest, to call.
- Mr. Kipp also discussed concerns regarding gifts from those seeking to do business with the city, restrictions on Board Members in private practice representing clients before the Board, restrictions on hiring of subordinates, and prohibitions on political activities involving subordinates.
- Discussion ensued between the representative and the Board.
- Mr. Risi called for a report from Deputy Inspector Peter Fortune.

**REPORT FROM DEPUTY INSPECTOR PETER FORTUNE OF THE 114<sup>th</sup> PRECINCT:**

- Deputy Inspector Fortune discussed with the Board (and answered questions and concerns from the Board) regarding the conclusion of an investigation and subsequent arrests in the Astoria Houses.
- Deputy Inspector Fortune spoke regarding the new Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCO) Program that is being implemented in the precinct starting in October, and answered Board questions regarding the matter.
- Deputy Inspector Fortune also informed the Board of a permitted march by Close Rikers occurring in the neighborhood, and answered questions regarding the matter.
- The Chairman thanked the Deputy Inspector and asked that the Board proceed to the Business segment of the meeting.

**BUSINESS:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Chairman Risi requested a motion to approve the minutes.
- **MOTION MADE BY Rose Anne Alafogiannis to approve minutes.**
- **MOTION SECONDED BY Melanie La Rocca.**

### **Chairperson's Report: Joseph Risi:**

- Mr. Risi notified the board that there are a number of issues that will be impacting our community, and will be discussed at the meetings in the coming months. These include the topics of Marine Terrace, Astoria Park, homeless shelters in the district, and LaGuardia Airport.
- Mr. Risi asked that the Board remain objective in discussing these matters, and that Committees feel free to request support from the District Office, or work within their perspective committees. He then thanked attendees, and called for the District Manager's report.

### **District Manager's Report: Florence Koulouris:**

- District Manager Ms. Florence Koulouris greeted attendees, and then discussed the multitude of meetings and events she attended throughout the summer within the district. She also summarized office affairs throughout the summer.
- Ms. Koulouris also noted that the upcoming October and April meetings were moved as a result of conflicting religious observances.
- Mr. Risi called for Committee Reports.

### **Committee Reports:**

1. **Access and Disabilities:** No Report.
2. **Airport:**
  - Committee Chair Ms. RoseMarie Poveromo discussed invitations extended to the Port Authority and other parties to provide a power point presentation about the work being done at LaGuardia Airport.
  - The Chair also noted there have been significant changes to the roadways around the airport, and stated that anyone wanting more information should go to LaGuardia's webpage.
3. **Capital/Expense & Budget/Planning:** No Report.
4. **Community & Economic Development:** No Report.
5. **Consumer Affairs:** No Report.
6. **Education/Library:**
  - Committee Chair Danielle Tharrington discussed a reading program being conducted by Cosco, and encouraged interested parties to email the District Manager for more information.
7. **Environmental Protection:** No Report.
8. **Health/Senior Services:** No Report.
9. **Housing:**
  - Committee Chair RoseMarie Poveromo reviewed the purchase of Marine Terrace by Related Companies, attempts to have the developer attend a meeting and provide a presentation, and issues related to the Section 8 status of the property. The Chair noted that the project is As of Right, and the corporation is under no obligation to discuss plans with the Community Board. The Chair further noted that no homeless shelter would be put in to the complex, despite rumors to the contrary.
  - Discussion ensued between the Board regarding the matter.
10. **Land Use and Zoning:** No Report.
11. **Legal, Legislation & Parliamentary:** No Report.
12. **Office Staff:** No Report.

**13. Parks/Recreation & Cultural Services:**

- Committee Chair Richard Khuzami reviewed upcoming and recent events, and provided an update on recent parks renovations and a request for use of Chappetto Square by the operators of LIC Flea and Food Market. Details covered in the Chair's report were provided to Board Members in writing.

**14. Public Relations: No Report.**

**15. Public Safety: No Report.**

**16. Street Festivals/Special Events:**

- Committee Chair Ann Bruno discussed changes proposed by the Mayor's office that will affect local street festivals, and relayed information about a public hearing on the matter. A notice was provided to Board Members' in their folders that included more information.

**17. Transportation:**

- **MOTION:** Committee Chair Robert Piazza motioned to send a letter to Councilman Costa Constantinides in favor of renaming a local street in honor of FDNY Firefighter Nicholas J. DeMasi, who passed away as a result of illness related to being a first responder during, and working at Ground Zero following 9/11. (Information regarding the matter was included in the Board Members' folders).
- Chairman Risi requested the Board vote by offering a show of hands in favor.
- **MOTION PASSED by a Majority Vote.**
  - i. By a show of hands, the Board approved sending a letter in favor of the street renaming.
- Discussion between the Board and the District Manager took place regarding a street closure affected emergency vehicle access to Astoria Houses. Ms. Jones-Hall, who brought the issue to the attention of the Board, will contact the District Manager regarding the matter to determine how to proceed.

**18. Youth Services: No Report.**

**New/Old Business:**

- Mr. Edwin Cadiz expressed concerns that PS 111 is being labeled a dangerous school, and discussed several incidents that have led to this designation, despite these incidents being minor in nature.
- Mr. Rodolfo Sarchese discussed concerns related to the purchase of Marine Terrace by Related Companies.

**Adjournment:**

- Chairman Risi requested a motion to adjourn.
- **Motion Made by Rose Anne Alafogiannis to adjourn the meeting.**
- **Motion Seconded by Melanie LaRocca.**
- **Adjournment Time: 8:30pm.**

COMMUNITY BOARD 1, Queens

DATE 9/20/16

1-Aug							
Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.
Rose Anne Alafogiannis	✓			Jerry Kril	✓		
George Alexiou	✓			Melanie La Rocca	✓		
Daniel Aliberti	✓			Frances Luhmann-McDonald	✓		
Joan Asselin	✓			Antonio Meloni			E
Edward Babor			E	Prabir Mitra			E
Jose Batista			E	Kevin Mullarkey	✓		
Ann Bruno	✓			Stella Nicolaou	✓		
Edwin Cadiz	✓			Norma Nieves-Blas	✓		
Gerald Caliendo	✓			Mary O'Hara	✓		
John Carusone			E	Robert Piazza	✓		
Jean Marie D'Alleva	✓			RoseMarie Poveromo	✓		
Joanna D'Elia			E	Gus Prentzas	✓		
Antonella Di Saverio	✓			Joseph Risi	✓		
Katie Ellman			E	Yawne Robinson	*		
Elizabeth Erion	✓			Thomas Ryan	✓		
Mackenzi Farquer	✓			Rodolfo Sarchese	✓		
Dean Feratovic	✓			Nancy Silverman	✓		
Evie Hantzopoulos	✓			Dominic Stiller	✓		
Amy Hau	✓			Danielle Tharrington	✓		
Pauline Jannelli	✓			Marie Torniali	✓		
Vanessa Jones-Hall	✓			Rod Townsend	✓		
John Katsanos			E	Judy Trilivas	✓		
Richard Khuzami	✓						
Nancy Konipol	✓						
<b>Number Board Members Present</b> _____							
<b>Present</b> _____				<b>Absent</b> _____			
				<b>Excused</b> _____			
				* Late - Did not sign in.			