



Community Board 12

The City of New York

Borough of Queens

Jamaica, Hollis, St. Albans, South Ozone Park, and Springfield Gardens

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Melinda Katz
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Rene Hill
CHAIRPERSON

Vicky Morales Casella
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY BOARDS

Yvonne Reddick
DISTRICT MANAGER

COMMUNITY BOARD 12, QUEENS

October 17, 2018

MINUTES

General meeting of Community Board 12 was held on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

- PRESIDING: Rene Hill, Chairperson
- PRESENT: Amir Abbady
Maxine Allen, Treasurer
Melvin Artis
Yasinul Ashraf
Jacqueline Boyce
Geraldine Taylor-Brown
Kenneth Carter
Manuel Caughman
Brittany Chambers
Clifton Stanley Diaz
Barbara Duncan
Daniel Englander
Mabel Everett
Joan Flowers, 1st Vice Chair
Marcia Francis
Nadi Ghaness
Glenn Greenidge
Dora Grizel
Nurul Haque
James Heyliger
Rene Hill, Chairperson
Derek Irby
Khondokar Tarikul Islam
Audrey Lee Jacobs
Celeste James

Bilal Karriem
Michelle Kirkland
Rev. Edward McKay
Gregory Mays
Rodney Pride
Kamal Saleem
Florence Simmons, 3rd Vice Chairperson
Yvette Sledge
C. Princess Thorbs McGee, 2nd Vice Chairperson
Bryan White
Benjamin Wright, Jr.
ABSENT: Nigel Barker
Thomas Greenaway
Ian Harris
Richard Hogan
Clementine James
Aiysha Jaggassar-Johnson
Michele Keller
Tunisia Morrison
Kemar Newman
Jean Phelps
Toni Totten

I. CORRESPONDENCE

Announcements were read by Rev. Princess Thorbs.-McGee, 2nd Vice Chairperson

II. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

- Asked the Board Members to please open their emails when sent from the board office
- Open data training is offered Friday, October 19, 2018 at the Flushing Public Library on Main Street.
- 1st Vice Chair, Joan Flowers, stood in for me at the Chairperson's meeting at Borough Hall.
- The attendance at the Land Use training last week was pretty good, but it would be nice to have more members in attendance; they also talked about budgeting. They also spoke about bringing the training to the Board.
- The Capital & Expense budget list is from 2019, in 2020 we are still getting ideas. Ms. Reddick and the Executive Committee will meet to prioritize the list.

Elected Officials and their Representatives were acknowledged by the Chairperson.

Captain Eric Robinson, Executive Officer

- The 113th Precinct is down 1 for the year, a little under the 28 day period. We are asking for the Community's help with a few issues. There has been a recent uptake in burglaries, we need the community to secure their homes, lock their windows, use bars if you have them, take the air conditioners out of the windows, etc. The car break-ins seem to plaque the neighborhood again, please secure your vehicles. Please do not leave your wallets and purses in your vehicles.
- Bought along Sergeant Geoff and Community Affairs Officer Washington, please feel free to speak to either of them if you cannot speak with me this evening.

Congressman Meeks, 5th C.D.

- Thanked all of the members of the Community (Planning) Board for all the time and work they do. You care about this community and all of the individuals that I see in this room, thank you because that is what makes a community strong. Your work, nor your sacrifice does not go unnoticed.
- Thanked Mr. Caughman, who met with the Postmaster, the Congressman's office is trying to stay on top of this issue. Looking into getting new mailboxes that will prevent anyone from being able to go into the mailbox and collect your information. Trying to ensure that the mail is being delivered at earlier times, as well as delivering the mail to the appropriate place. Need the Postmaster to attend the Planning Board meeting so that he can hear directly the issues that the community has. If you have an issue with the Postal Service, please call his office (718) 725-6000. The Congressional Officers demanded to have a Liaison from the Post Office that will be a Liaison to all Congressional Officers in case the community cannot get through to the post office.
- For those who are receiving Social Security, you may have heard that next there will be a 2.3% increase in Social Security checks. This is not such a fantastic achievement because the cost of living has increased substantially more than 2.3%.
- Open Enrollment for health insurance begins October 15, 2018
- JFK is undergoing a huge redevelopment, some say it is a \$10 billion redevelopment, but he believes at the end it will be close a \$40 billion redevelopment at JFK Airport. On Monday, there was a JFK Advisory Council Meeting.

PRESENTATION

1. James O'Connor, Bureau of Community Affairs, NYC Department of Sanitation: The direct telephone number for the DSNY Customer Service Unit is (646) 885-3769; if you use this number you do not have to call 311 to submit a complaint or concern or get information from the Department of Sanitation. The telephone number is active Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
 - The upcoming lawn and leaf collection program will be held on Saturday, November 24, 2018 and Saturday, December 8, 2018. One these two day leaves can be placed for collection at the curb in one of two containers, a brown paper bag or an unlined trashcan. Please do not put branches in with the leaves. Learn more at nyc.gov/leaf collection.
2. Bernard Warren & Gerard Rizzo, Godian Fellowship Church: This is a proposed development that will be behind York College; this project is located on Guy R. Brewer Blvd. and Tuskegee Airmen Way. The development is 74 units, looking at rezoning to R-7A; which will give them the ability to build 8 or 9 stories high. This is 100% affordable housing; the rent is \$300 for a studio down \$658.
 - Their goal is to be able to build something in the community that individuals can actually afford.
 - The Site Pastor of Godian Fellowship Church: Godian has an essential component in serving the South Jamaica Community for 37 + years, successfully executing a one stop shop for families residing in the community. Since 1981 the Founding Pastor, Rev. Carl L. Baldwin and his wife Mother Helen Baldwin has provided the meals for the soup kitchen and distributing food at the food pantry, provided clothing for men, women and children.

Godian has annually for 37 years provided Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas dinners, and coat drives for the winter.

3. Eleni Bourinaris, NYC Economic Development Corporation: This is an old project that the board has been working on since 2014/2015; Gateway Park along Atlantic Ave. She is looking for a letter of support because they were going to work with the Department of Parks and Recreation and Greater Jamaica Development Corporation (GJDC). GJDC has decided that while they are still helping with the project they have decided that it is probably a better conception to have a city agency maintaining the park for longevity.
 - Gateway Park – three public parks will be connected, improved access across the Van Wyck and the creation of 2 one-way piers on 94th Ave and 95th Ave. This was a project addition that GJDC has worked with this Community Board and local residents back in 2014/2015. Here to give an update on the project and requesting a letter of support.

V. BUSINESS SESSION

Rev. Thorbs-McGee, 2nd Vice Chair, 37 members present at roll call; quorum pronounced

- I. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:** Motion to accept September 19, 2018 minutes was made made by Rev. McKay, seconded by Maxine Allen; the motion passed; with 1 abstention.

Necessary corrections were made to the attendance sheet

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Good & Welfare Committee: Represented by Celeste James, Chairperson

The Community Board 12 By-Laws Article XI, Section B referring to Standing Committees states in part that the Good and welfare Committee shall acknowledge sick or infirmed CB members, coordinate holiday celebrations, and special Board approved recognition, through the use of CB12's "Sunshine Fund".

Collected funds for the Good and Welfare Committee at the Executive Committee. Starting this month, and hereforwith, will be collecting from the Community Board and any members of the Community if you like so that we can acknowledge in some way community board members and approved other persons in infirmities or anything else that the Board Chair or Board has decided that they would like to acknowledge.

In order to be able to move forward in sending out acknowledgements, I will be collecting tonight and going forward. Asking Board Members to donate each month the amount of their choice to the Good & Welfare Committee.

Land Use Committee: Represented by Kenny Carter, Chairperson

- This is a rezoning proposal submitted by Godian Fellowship Church. This project will enable construction of 74 units on lots owned by the Church and HPD located in Community Board 12Q. The lack of affordable houses is a concern of many board members, and we support the collaboration of these organizations to bring additional housing and resources to this community. The recommendation of the Land Use Committee is provide the letter of support for Godian Fellowship Church.

Education Committee: Represented by Geri Taylor-Brown, Chairperson

- Everyone should have received an email that included the Resolution from CDEC 29, you also received the policy that was written by the Chancellor and the Mayor.
- The recommendations of the Education Committee are:
 1. The NYC DOE immediately revamp the 3K to 8th grade educational services to address the disparities in communities of color.
 2. We also ask that NYCDOE use its unilateral authority to immediately address admission to the Gifted and Talented programs to make it merit-based as it is being proposed for the Specialized High Schools.
 3. We support the CDEC 29 Resolution #80162018-B which supports improving diversity in the NYC Specialized High Schools by replacing the single-test entry with merit-based entry criteria.

Parks Committee: Represented by Amir Abbady, Chairperson

- First, there is a letter of support that Michele Keller drafted for the park that we saw a presentation of.
- Parks Committee met with the NYC Human Rights Commission about the temporary installation of a mural on Murdock Ave at O'Donnell Park.
- The Communications Committee has a memo outlining how new e-newsletter will be provided; it is a standard template, the concept will not change, it will solely be based on reports submitted and approved by this community board.

Motion to suspend the report section of tonight's meeting made by Bilal Karriem, seconded by Amir Abbady

*The full Committee reports were provided to all members and is on file at CB 12's District Office

III. VOTE ON EDUCATION RESOLUTION: Motion to accept the recommendations of the Education Committee and authorize the Committee Chair, as well as the Chair of the Board to write letters of support made by Joan Flowers, Esq., seconded by Maxine Allen

Voting Results: 29 2 Oppositions, 6 Abstentions

Vote to support the mural on Murdock Ave at O'Donnell Park

Motion to draft a letter of support for the Human Rights Commission project made by Kenny Carter, seconded by Glenn Greenidge

Voting Results: 37 0 Oppositions, 0 Abstentions

Vote for letter of support for EDC

Motion to accept made by Kenny Carter, seconded by Florence Simmons

Voting Results: 36 0 Oppositions, 1 Abstentions

Vote for letter of support for Godian Fellowship Church

Motion made by Joan Flowers, Esq. to authorize the land use committee to prepare a letter to send to out in support of this project going forward, with the provision that they come back to the board after they have met with HPD, seconded by Florence Simmons.

Voting Results: 35 0 Oppositions, 2 Abstentions

Vote on CB 12 E-Newsletter

Motion to approve the memo that was circulated prior to the meeting of how CB 12's newsletter will be formatted made by Clifton Stanley Diaz, seconded by Yvette Sledge.

Voting Results: 37 0 Oppositions, 0 Abstentions

Joan flowers, Esq., 1st Vice Chair:

Capital and Expense Budget – Read letter stating that the FY 2020 Capital and Expense Budget forms are attached, after completing the form you may return it to Community Board 12 District Office located at 90-28 161 Street, Jamaica, NY 11432. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Deadline for receiving budget request form is Wednesday, October 31, 2018 by 5:00 p.m. These forms are not to be used for complaint request (i.e. repairing pot hole requests, sidewalks, etc.). All property owners are responsible for their own sidewalks.

Motion to close Business Session made by Amir Abbady, seconded by Marcia Francis

Public Forum

Vonetta Williams, Complete Girlz, Inc.: Our mission is to empower and strengthen young women in our community by giving them the tools needed to overcome adversity through educational and enrichment programs which promote leadership, confidence and self-worth. The hours of operate in I.S. 8 on Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and play a major role in the transformation of the girls ages 9 through 24 in our community. We provide the youth in our community with a valuable structured program called Complete Girlz, and we work with community based organizations to introduce the program and provide training to their students as well.

_____ Prep for Prep, is a nonprofit educational organization founded in 1978, their main goal is to target 5, 6, and 7th grade academically gifted high-performance talented students of color from low income communities to prepare them and put them through a vigorous academic leadership development process that will prepare them for entrance into independent schools. Applications are open now the first level of testing has already begun.