



Queens Community Board 13

219-41 Jamaica Ave.

Queens Village, NY 11428

Telephone: (718) 464-9700

Fax: (718) 264-2739

Melinda Katz
Borough President

Leroy Comrie
Director of Community Boards

Bryan Block
Chairman

Lawrence McClean
District Manager

**BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2014
BELLEROSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
240-15 HILLSIDE AVENUE
BELLEROSE NY 11426**

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Angela Augugliaro, Isa Avery, Corey Bearak, Bryan J.Block, Kyle Bragg, Daisy Carew, Tanya Cruz, Delroy Dawkins, Bess DeBetham, Bruno DeFranceschi, James Delaney, Sam Elliott, Seymour Finkelstein, Jack Friedman, Robert Glover, Anthony Greene, Mohamed Hack, Lloyd Hicks, Fay Hill, Bonnie Huie, Mohamood Ishmael, Rhonda Kontner, Kangela Moore, Nagassar Ramgarib, Anup Ramnauth, Peter Richards, Sanu Thomas, Pritpal Singh Walia, Derrick Warmington, Clive Williams, Jackie L. Wilson, Jerry Wind.

ABSENT: Verdell Boncoeur, Matthew Chacko, Charles Farruggia, Andrea A. Foy, Edward Harap, Richard Hellenbrecht, Antony Kuncheria, Marcia O'Brien, Ashok Satkalmi, Helene Zaro.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Senator Tony Avella represented by Volodymyr Bakhnak, Assemblyman Edward Braunstein represented by Gene Sweeney, Jerry LaMura, Queens Borough Presidents Office, Assemblyman David Weprin represented by Anthony Lemma, Councilman Mark Weprin represented by Anthony Lemma, Jeong-ah Choi, Queens Borough Hall

STAFF: Lawrence T. McClean, District Manager, Stephanie Rainkie, Community Coordinator, Maxine Brannon, Community Associate.

Mr. Block called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

December 2013 minutes were approved. Motion was made by Kyle Bragg and seconded by Anup Ramnauth.

Note* Kyle Bragg was present at the December 2013 Board Meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On December 19th Mr. Block attended a Holiday Party given by Chief Banks.

On December 20th Mr. Block attended a Holiday Party given by Assemblywoman Barbara Clark.

On January 2nd Mr. Block attended a Meet & Greet , I.Daneek Miller and Donovan Richards hosting.

On January 9th Mr. Block attended the swearing in of the new Borough President Melinda Katz at Queens College.

On January 18th Mr. Block attended a Tribute to Martin Luther King sponsored by Melinda Katz, Queens Borough President.

On January 20th Mr. Block attended the United Negro College Fund MLK Breakfast at Antun's.

On January 31st there will be an unveiling of the Shirley Chisholm stamp. Ms. Chisholm was the first black Congresswoman to serve in Congress.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. McClean asked if there were any questions on his written report.

On Thursday, January 23rd Mr. McClean attended a press conference with Councilmen Richards and Daneek Miller as they unveiled a new traffic light at Francis Lewis Blvd and 121 Avenue.

On page three in his report there was mention of 2 homicides, there was only one.

Motion was made to accept Mr. McClean's report by Jackie Wilson and seconded by Lloyd Hicks.

Mr. Clive Williams stated that on page seven G's Restaurant and Bar, Mr Williams, Mr. Elliott and Marcia O'Brien visited this establishment. Mr. Williams said that this should not present a problem as it is a family restaurant. The Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee recommended and the 148th Drive Block Association there is no objection to this liquor license being granted.

Bonnie Huie *Co-chair* of the Health Committee introduced Lucille DeMarinis, Director of Social Services Program for JSPOA.

Ms. DeMarinis spoke on NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities). Ms. DeMarinis stated the JSPOA is now in its 41 years as a social service agency in Jamaica. They operate three senior centers, they have a senior employment program, and they have vans to pick up seniors for medical appointments etc. They offer computer classes to those 55 and over.

The NORC community consists of one and two family homes, 58 years of age or older, who want to remain in their homes and may be having some difficulty. They are now in their 8th year of this program. They assist with gardening ,transportation and housework services.

They will be having a Homeowner Fair in the Spring. The phone number is 718-657-6639
Tues thru Friday.

Mr. Block introduced Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, the Borough President thanked the Board for their hospitality. She stated that one of her former positions was Director of Community Boards under Borough President Claire Shulman. Community Board 13 is the first Board she has visited since becoming the Borough President. The Borough President said that her dad was the founder of the Queens Symphony Orchestra and her mother was the founder of Queens Council for the Arts. Her dad is now teaching in Jamaica High School. She stated that the Queens Symphony Orchestra was started in the basement of Jamaica High School. Ms. Katz stated that Mr. McClean's father was a violinist with the Queens Symphony Orchestra. The Borough President gave the Board her email address Katz@queensbp.org.

There was a brief question and answer period. The Borough President said that she also has a Facebook page.

Derrick Warmington asked the Borough President if she was supportive of Idlewild Park. Ms. Katz said that they will be supportive. She said they will be starting an Aviation Task Force.

Jackie Wilson asked about the replacement of an American Flag. The Borough President asked him to give the information to her office.

James Delaney asked about Bellerose Playground, and how come the flag is taken down in the winter. The Borough President said she will look into that also.

A community person asked about an issue with the Q111 bus stating that the bus is always overcrowded at Parsons Blvd. That is being looked into, and possibly an extra bus can be put on.

Bob Schurr of Bell Park Manor Terrace spoke on the P-Tech program scheduled for Martin Van Buren High School.

Rhonda Kontner went to a meeting on the P-Tech program. She stated that community supported it, the Borough President asked that she send whatever information she had to her office.

The Borough President then swore in the Executive Officers that were elected in June 2013. Chair- Bryan Block, 1st Vice President- Tanya Cruz, 2nd Vice President- Angela Augugliaro, Executive Secretary- Jerry Wind, and Treasurer Anup Ramnauth.

Jack Friedman announced that on February 11th the Queens Chamber of Commerce is hosting a breakfast at the LaGuardia Marriott. The Borough President and her complete cabinet will be there as well as the District Managers.

Mr. McClean welcomed back Anthony Greene who had been out with an illness.

Proposed Community Residence/ Individual Residential Alternative (IRA).
85-20 263 Street Floral Park (for 6 individuals).

Ravi Dahiya spoke on INDEPENDENCE RESIDENCES INC. who are running this program since 1984. This particular property has 6 bedrooms, 3 ½ baths. According to

Mr. Dahiya the program will be staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The staff to client is a 1 to 2 ratio. From 12 midnight until 6 am, there will be 2 overnight staff.

The clients cannot go out unsupervised.

There were several questions asked by the Board members. Mr Finkelstein asked if they had gone into the community to introduce themselves, or at least put something out in writing. Suggestion was made that a Community Advisory Group be put into place. Angela Augugliaro explained what an Advisory Board does.

Mr. Raymond DeNatale who is the Executive Director of the program stated that they do not create these things until they know they have been approved.

Seymour Finkelstein stated that it would be a good idea if they reached out to the community first.

Mr. McClean said that there was a community meeting scheduled last week at MS 172 dealing with this residential home, but due to the inclement weather it had to be cancelled.

Bob Friedrich said that Community Board 13 is saturated, and wanted to know what the mental disabilities of these clients were. Mr. Dahiya said that they have a home by the North Conduit, question was asked if anyone was ever hurt there. No answer but to say there hasn't been any violence. None of the residents are on probation.

Mr. McClean asked about the funding of this program. Will the funding remain the same or increase in the future as the cost of living increases? The answer was that this is a State funded program. Mr. Dahiya said that this program has a stellar reputation with the State.

A community resident said that he is a director, and lives only a few blocks away. These clients have intellectual impairments, they are from Queens. The staff has at least 190 hours of training.

Mr. Finkelstein stated that we are not against this, we don't want problems like we just experienced at Creedmoor who is also "supposed" to be supervised.

Mr. Ramgarib asked if there is a time clock on this item. The time is 40 days. February 9th is the 40 day limit. There is not enough time for it to appear on the Borough Presidents calendar.

Motion was made to reject this home and seconded by Seymour Finkelstein. Vote was taken 25 votes to reject 6 abstentions, motion carried.

ULURP ITEM C14203ZMQ New York City Dept of Parks / Yeshiva Har Torah:

Bess DeBetham stated that the meeting on this ULURP item was scheduled for Wednesday, January 22nd but due to the inclement weather it had to be cancelled. This application is being submitted by the NYC Dept of Parks and Recreation and Yeshiva Har Torah.

This is a request for changes to a city map. This area is a portion of 87 Avenue between 235 Court and Gettysburg Street.

Bess DeBetham asked the representative from the Dept. of Parks, Mr. Jose Lopez to make his presentation.

Jose Lopez- Dept. of Parks and Recreation:

Mr. Lopez, the Deputy Director, stated that this presentation is partly the demapping of the Grand Central Parkway that is bounded by the service road / Little Neck Parkway and Yeshiva Har Torah.

This Grand Central Parkway portion was approved by the State Senate Assembly in 2004. The replacement of Parkland for the Grand Central Parkway is about two miles away, it is located to the south of Detective Gunn Park. It is at 235 Court and Gettysburg Street, upon the demapping 12,000 square feet will be added to the existing park.

It is the Parks Department's intention to improve this area, now a dead end street , in the near future.

Yeshiva will be getting additional parking, and parks will get additional land for parks.

Mr. Block asked Mr. Lopez about the fence encroachment. Mr. Lopez said that they met in May 2013 with the Land Use Committee. He said that Senator Avella has been very active in working with the Yeshiva and the neighbors surrounding the park. The encroachment has been worked out with the Yeshiva, the Parks Dept. and the homeowners.

The homeowners that were present agreed that they had worked things out with the Senator and Parks.

Kyle Bragg asked for a clarification of the Grand Central parking lot. Mr. Lopez explained that there was a speeding problem on the service road to get to Little Neck Parkway, the Yeshiva will create an additional parking lot, plus an egress/ exit. Mr. Lopez explained this by showing the map he brought with him.

Jack Friedman explained that this goes back at least 12 years. He explained that this will be a win-win situation for everyone. The cinder blocks in the back , the area being used as a dumping ground, by the Grand Central Parkway the trees and weeds are an overgrown mess.

Rhonda Kontner asked the representative from Yeshiva that the fence by the parking lot at Yeshiva is a ramshackle mess, and was to be temporary. Once the land is acquired, this fence will be replaced? The answer was yes, it will be replaced.

Frank Toner, President of the Rocky Hill Civic Assn. stated that one of the residents whose property backs on 87 Avenue cannot be reached.

Mr. Toner asked if the westerly border on 235 Court will be park land? Mr. Lopez stated that the first 100 feet will still function as a dead end street.

Jerry Wind had an e-mail from the Creedmoor Civic Association that they wanted read into the minutes. " The Creedmoor Civic Association does not object and would like to thank Senator Avella and his staff for helping resolve this issue. Frank Toner said that he didn't object either, Yeshiva can put in a new fence.

Mr. Block closed this portion of the hearing.

Mr. Block asked if anyone wanted to make a public statement. Dan Donahue from Creedmore Civic stated that there are three houses involved in the Creedmoor Civic and one house in the Rocky Hill Civic. This issue came to their attention in September 2013, they have reached an agreement with Yeshiva about moving their fences. Frank Toner from Rocky Hill Civic stated that he is also in favor of this decision. There is one homeowner that no one has been able to reach but everyone including Senator Avella and Parks have done their utmost. Bob Friedrich, President of Glen Oaks Village he is in favor of this as well. Jerry Wind spoke on behalf of Michael O'Keefe, President of the Creedmoor Civic. The Creedmoor Civic Association approves this project.

The public statement portion of the hearing was closed.

Bess DeBetham asked for a motion to accept this application. Mr. McClean said that there are three ULURP's and you would be voting for all three. Jerry Wind made a recommendation to accept all three ULURP items in this package.

Kyle Bragg made a motion to accept, it was seconded by Bonnie Huie.

Mr. Block called the roll – the vote was 30 in favor – 1 abstention.

Seymour Finkelstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, its was seconded by Bonnie Huie.

Meeting adjourned at 10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Stephanie Rainkie
Community Coordinator**