



**Queens
Community Board 13**
219-41 Jamaica Avenue
Queens Village, NY 11428
718.464.9700
Fax: 718.254.2739
qcb13.org



Melinda Katz
Borough President

Vicky Morales-Casella
Director of
Community Boards

Bryan J. Block
Chairman

Mark McMillan
District Manager

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2016

**Long Island Jewish Medical Center
270-05 76th Avenue
New Hyde Park, NY 11040**

Attendance

Present:

Angela Augugliaro; Isa Avery; Corey Bearak; Alain Berrouet ; Bryan Block; Verdell Boncoeur; Daisy Carew; Delroy Dawkins; James Delaney; Samuel Elliott; Charles Farruggia; Seymour Finkelstein; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Robert Glover; Felice Hannah; Edward Harap; Richard Hellenbrecht; Mohamood Ishmael; Rhonda Kontner; Antony Kuncheria; Jonathan Logan; Marcia O'Brien; Michael O'Keeffe; Celeste Powers; Nagassar Ramgarib; Ashok Satkalmi; Mathew Thomas; Sanu Thomas; Pritpal Singh Walia; Clive Williams; Jackie Wilson; Jerry Wind

Absent:

Terence Banks; Kyle Bragg; Jacqueline Campbell; Tanya Cruz; Bess DeBetham (S); Terry Ebony DeMendonca; Fay Hill; Vernal Holder; Bonnie Huie; Davon Lomax; Kangel Moore; Tameka Pierre-Louis; Anup Ramnauth (E); Peter Richards (E); Wilson Thomas; Derrick Warmington

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 7:46 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

The Chair called for a moment of silence for the passing of former Board member Michael Gordon.

Northwell Long Island Jewish Medical Center - Presentation

The Chair opened by thanking Michael Goldberg, Executive Director of Administration, Bill Cunningham, Vice President, Government Affairs and Judy Jacobs, Director of Community Relations for giving access to the facility and being such generous hosts for the Board to have its meeting at Northwell Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Board members give a round of applause.

The Chair then introduced Michael Goldberg, Executive Director of Administration, Northwell Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Mr. Goldberg gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Northwell umbrella that LIJ is a part of, statistical data on the many health care services the hospital provides, and the relationship – both in terms of services and employment – that the hospital provides to the residents of Community Board 13.

Q&A

Michael Augugliaro asked if the hospital takes all insurances...Mr. Goldberg replied, yes.

BM Pritpal Walia asked about the long wait time in the ER...Mr. Goldberg replied that the ER was built to accommodate 65K patients annually. In 2015 there were 95K visits, and in 2016 they anticipate over 100K because of the 5 hospitals that have closed in Queens. Northwell is trying to redefine the flow of how care is given. Bill Cunningham, Vice President, Government Affairs, LIJMC, replied that 90% of ER patients are "treat and release," and do not become in-patient. Services could better be delivered if they went to a doctor's office or Urgy Care Center. The Chair stated that Urgy Care is not open 24 hours; could that be changed? Mr. Cunningham replied that this \$9B organization and budget had a 1% profit margin.

BM Mohamood Ishmael asked about the charity care policy...will offer charity care assistance up to five times the federal poverty limit.

BM Felice Hannah asked if the Center was part of HHC...Answer: No. Is there is a procedure to inform patients before transfer to a skilled nursing facility (SNF)? Answer: Yes, and that occurs through an active conversation with each patient (taking into account the 3-4 day limit and Medicare.)

BM Rich Hellenbrecht asked if there were any plans for additional structures/extensions? Answer: No, only to build out new pediatric operating rooms within the facility.

BM Dr. Ashok Satkalmi asked if undocumented people who show up at an Urgy Care center without insurance receive treatment. Bill Cunningham replied anyone who shows up will be taken care of; that it is required under law and hospital is policy.

BM Dr. Clive Williams asked, now that the hospital is in the "too big to fail" category, what potential threats do they see? And how does the Affordable Care Act affect the hospital? Answer: It [the legislation] is helpful because more people get insurance; however, insurance negotiation can be a problem.

BM Seymour Finkelstein asked about how a stay for less than two days can be costly...insurance will not cover. Important to distinguish between status of in-patient or out-patient.MG: There is always a conversation with those patients who may need to stay about cost. BC: The "2 Midnight" Rule: if a patient stays [as in-patient] for 2 midnights it will be covered by insurance. A lot of in-patient treatment can take place in 10 hours. Observation is important, however, the government does not want to pay for it.

Audience: Are there any volunteer or internship opportunities available? Yes.

Bob Friedrich spoke about community parking. He also wanted signage to alert people where the Emergency entrance at 76th Avenue and 263rd Street was located. Judy Jacobs, Director of Community Relations, introduced herself and said she was the contact for the community members who had issues with parking or anything else.

BM Dr. Ashok Satkalmi asked if there was speaker's bureau for the community? He wants to have someone at the Health Committee meetings for an educational component. Answer: Yes, would love to.

Mike Augugliaro asked if Northwell was self-insured? Yes for smaller claims; it has also has started an insurance company for community members (similar to Blue Cross but only for those in the area).

Mike Castellano stated that the hospital center had a good relationship with Lost Community Civic Association.

BM Angela Augugliaro asked about if the hospital center had a provider network? Yes, with 3,000 physicians plus others with privileges. She then went on to compliment the hospital on its services as her daughter had her baby here with the "hotel feel."

Michael Goldberg: Even though there are less babies being born in New York City, the LIJMC is delivering more each year.

BM Dr. Clive Williams stated that his grandson and wife were both recently here in emergency situations and received outstanding care!

Michael Goldberg: They have been working on the culture for better care for a couple of years, and last year received a "Magnet" for excellence in nursing care.

The Chair stated that if not for LIJMC, he or his mother would not be alive. The health care here is outstanding and extremely important!

BM Mohamood Ishmael stated that we must support good hospitals; bad hospitals should close.

Council member Barry Grodenchik came in and the Board Chair recognized him (as he had to leave):

- o Introduced his staff member Spencer.
- o He gave a "thank you" to the Northwell series of hospitals as the largest employer in New York State and for their wonderful service to the local communities.
- o Stated he had been here with First Lady Charlene de Blasio to cut the ribbon on the perinatal unit at Zucher Hillside Hospital where mothers with mental health issues after giving birth can stay with their babies.
- o He is collaborating with the Borough President and another Council member to buy the hospital a nice piece of equipment...
- o He introduced Felice Hannah – his new appointee to the board from the 1800 families in the North Shore Towers complex.
- o He also introduces retired FDNY Deputy Chief Michael O'Keeffe, his other new appointee to board.
- o He spoke of the Belmont Casino deal as dead... experts in economic development say a casino is the lowest form of economic development.
- o Creedmoor – ESD is coming back; he has spoken to the Borough President about supporting a new school for small kids as PS 18 – behind Creedmoor is at 150 - 175% capacity.
- o He announced the Participatory Budgeting results (results on website): funding going to 11 or 12 schools and 2 libraries; the Borough President is adding funding to the Queens Village library; he has spoken with the new Director of the Queens Library, Dennis Walcott who will be touring this branch shortly.
- o Happy Passover!

Judy Jacobs stated that serving the community is very much on her mind.

BM Daisy Carew stated that her husband came with no hope...and the hospital staff was always there.

BM Alain Berrouet asked if the Center would partner for preventative care...Answer: They would be more than happy to partner.

Elected Officials

The Board Chair acknowledged the elected officials' representatives that were present:

Jason Antonopoulos representing Assembly member Edward Braunstein; Tayler Jackson representing State Senator Leroy Comrie; Spencer Nelson representing Council member Barry Grodenchik; Shurn Anderson and Jeong-ah Choi representing Borough President Melinda Katz; Jordan Gibbons representing Council member Donovan Richards; Jihan Joseph representing State Senator James Sanders; Casey Lajszky representing Assembly member David Weprin.

The Board Chair took the roll call.

March 2016 Meeting Minutes

The Board Chair asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the March meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes.

The Chairman's Report

The Board Chair reported on the events he had attended since the previous month's General Board meeting. A motion was made to accept the Board Chair's Report; it was seconded and unanimously approved.

District Manager's Report

The DM stated his written report was included in The Sentinel package. He also went through the package of enclosures document-by-document; called attention to his written testimony before the City Council Land use Subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions and Concessions in support of the TWA Flight Center Hotel; and closed by asking those board members who have not been attending committee meetings to do so because that is where the "the rubber meets the road" with respect to community boards.

A motion was made to accept the DM's Report, seconded and unanimously accepted.

Public Hearing

ULURP Item Number C 160070ZMQ – 227th Street Rezoning

Land Use Chair Rich Hellenbrecht gives background on a parking lot built on freight facility to provide parking for some of its employees. The location is within a residential community, R3-1 with a C2-2 overlay. This is to keep as much employee parking off of the streets as possible.

The attorney Steven Sinacori and representatives of the applicant passed around before-and-after pictures to the board members showing the improvements made around the facility and how these enhance the look of the area.

BM Charles Farrugia asked how parking for 24 cars worked for 138 employees with little mass transit...it was explained that the applicant has parking in other areas of the community.

BM Sam Elliott asked if the water tank was still there...Answer: Yes.

BM Jim Delaney asked if the perimeter of the buildings facing the houses have trees? Answer: Yes, 60 were planted with augmented landscaping. They had room for 38 parking spaces, but they had to put in berms to deal with storm water. They also have a solar [panel] installation that generates 1.6 megawatts into the Springfield Gardens Con Ed grid.

BM Marcia O'Brien asked if the facility was sharing parking with local churches. Answer: Yes, they pay a monthly licensing fee.

Mike Augugliario asked how much space was between the 2 buildings? Answer: They put in 60' loading docks so the tractor trailers can go completely in the buildings and the doors can close. There is no impediment to traffic.

BM Jackie Wilson asked how many parking spots were there for trucks? Answer: There are 60 spots within the building and other lots at other locations.

BM Dr. Ashok Satkalmi asked what type of business they were in. Answer: Air Freight logistics business at JFK International Airport in high value items – importing and exporting luxury items. Some of the tenant companies were mentioned.

BM Mohamood Ishmael asked if zoning can prevent mechanical lifts in the parking lots. Answer: No.

BM Jonathan Logan asked if this original design was started under Borough President Helen Marshall. Answer: Yes. They fought the Department of Buildings so they could have "inward" loading docks.

BM Marcia O'Brien stated her concerns over trucks backing in...Response: They are available to discuss community issues.

BM Sam Elliot asked if this was formerly and immigration jail [holding facility]? Answer: Yes.

Public Statements:

BM Dr. Clive Williams asked if they were hiring in the community. Answer: Every one of the tenants must give an interview if they have a background in the air freight industry. Dr. Williams followed up: are there apprenticeships? Answer: He is the landlord, if a resume comes to him with qualifications he will pass it on to his tenants. Dr. Williams comments that they are good corporate citizens; there is care in the infrastructure of the plant that takes in community concerns.

BM Sam Elliot: This is a good business.

BM Jackie Wilson [looking at a design sketch of the plant]: I like this grid from a military point of view. Response: There are 48 security cameras on both of the buildings. There is 24 hour security. One tenant, Verizon, has security in an elevated tower. Security guards do rounds every 2 hours.

BM Delroy Dawkins: I know what it used to look like and now it is much better.

A motion was made to close the hearing and seconded.

A roll call vote was taken to support the ULURP application, and the vote was 32 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. The motion carried.

The owner thanked the board for its support.

BSA # 77-99-BZ 255-39 Jericho Turnpike "Auto Laundry"

Land Use Chair Rich Hellenbrecht explained this item is for a 10 year extension of a term of variance.

Committee spoke of how under the previous owner there were a lot of complaints with traffic and noise from car radios. This has changed with the new ownership.

BM Charles Farruggia spoke of how this car wash closed for 1 month for renovations and told their employees how to act as good neighbors. He knows the owner and feels good about his approach to this business. Also, several blocks further east in Nassau County is a more expensive car wash with the same owner. They have inside lanes for full service.

BM Dr. Clive Williams asked if there were any objections from anyone in Bellerose or Floral Park. Answer: No. BM Farruggia has family who live in the cul-de-sac behind the car wash and he says they state they are good neighbors.

Bob Friederich stated this was the #1 Car Wash! The Best!

BM Mohamood Ishmael asked what the zoning issue was. Answer: a variance renewal.

A motion was made to accept the variance for an additional 10 years, seconded. A roll call vote was taken and tallied, 31 yes, 1 no, 0 abstentions, the motion carries.

Nomination Committee

The Chair nominated Marcia O'Brien and she accepted and nominated Sanu Thomas. Sanu Thomas accepted and nominated Sam Elliott. Sam Elliott accepted, and nominated Daisy Carew. Daisy Carew accepted and nominated Robert Glover. Robert Glover accepted and nominated Dr. Ashok Satkalmi. The Chair counts those who have accepted their nominations at six, and says he needs one more. The Chair nominated Rich Hellenbrecht who accepted, and there are now seven members of the nominating committee. The Chair asks Marcia O'Brien to be Chair of this committee; she declines – and asks Sanu Thomas who then accepted being Chair of this committee.

Committee Reports

Youth & Education: Co-Chair Rhonda Kontner spoke about the "New Visions" presentation – a hybrid organization that runs charter schools and provides support to Department of Education schools. The Committee Co-Chair is personally not a fan of charters and co-location of schools; they were grilled and gave good answers; the parents of IS 109 are against this co-location because it puts a high school in a junior high school; and the DOE promised an enrollment cap at this school of 1,000 students.

The co-location is not conducive to sharing the facility. The community is against it. She attended a community meeting which had a disappointing turnout. There is a vote on this item the next day.

DOE says District 29 schools are underutilized. She would like the committee to do a utilization study. There are no capital projects scheduled in the next 4 years.

BM Mohamood Ishmael states he is not against Charter Schools per se, but likes the preference. District 29 residents get preference for admission at this proposed Charter School.

BM Alain Berrouet stated as a DOE employee, if a school is put in, DOE can put in students who are problematic. He spoke of a conference he attended where the Schools Chancellor stated 50% of schools do not have a Comprehensive Education Plan.

BM Nagassar Ramgarib stated his 2 kids went to that school; there are lots of problems there presently; high school students with junior high School students will exacerbate the problems including vandalism in the neighborhood. The IS 109 PTA is against the co-location.

BM Felice Hannah stated she had issue with the girl's gym be taken away, especially with the obesity problem. Also, she took issue with the age differences. She posed the question: if high schools in District 29 are underutilized, why is the DOE moving a high school there?

BM Daisy Carew stated that Charter Schools have more "better things" when they move in, and push out students in the other school.

BM Dr. Clive Williams asked if this happens by fiat. Committee Co-Chair: Yes. That is presently the DOE way.

BM Alain Berrouet stated meetings are planned but parents work hard and sometimes cannot make them. It's not like they [the parents] don't care.

BM Jonathan Logan works with the Community Education Council – at the March 23 meeting there was a good showing; people voted against yet people were still applying for the Charter School. This is a political issue...

Public Safety

Chair Dr. Clive Williams stated that 105 Precinct Community Affairs officer Detective Jovoda Cooper reported that crime is under control in our communities, except for the increase in burglaries in Cambria Heights and Glen Oaks.

In terms of the Santoor Restaurant liquor license approval, there were no problems according to NYPD. BM Jerry Wind stated that he spoke to Bob Friedrich and that there were no problems lately, and any other problems have been all solved. BM Rhonda Kontner said they had problems a number of years ago. BM Mohamood Ishmael said as a customer it is an excellent place. It was on hold but will now be released.

The Committee Chair announced as his committee members and some select others would be visiting SLA in Harlem to have questions answered.

BM Jonathan Logan that there were some police issues - the quota system – is above Detective Cooper's pay grade. The Committee Chair invited him to join the committee so it may be discussed and can take a more even-handed approach to the dealing with NYPD.

Land Use

Co-Chair Rich Hellenbrecht reported on the PowerPoint presentation by "Habitat for Humanity" – Phase I is 12 houses being rehabilitated; Phase II is about to begin as 6 houses rehabbed and one demolition with new construction. Pictures were shown of finished houses.

The next committee meeting has 2 items: Hook Creek (22 2-family houses) and Fountain Way (10 houses). Committee Chair concerned about traffic and narrowness of Hook Creek Boulevard.

The Co-Chair spoke about the extension of term of variance for a service station located at 222-19 Linden Boulevard.

He also spoke about a Hindu Temple being built at 264-12-20 Hillside Avenue. The Mayor's Office of Remediation spoke reported on the status of this location.

BM Seymour Finkelstein stated that people were concerned about the aforementioned Temple. He also asked where the people are going to park. BM Angela Augugliaro stated that any facility with a certain amount of fixed seating must have some parking. The Committee Chair asked if the developer for the Temple could attend an upcoming committee meeting...

Seniors & Special Needs

Co-Chair Jerry Wind reported on the "car fit" program – a location has been booked and it will occur in the next school season.

On June 4 this committee is partnering with the Youth & Education Committee to have a program on the services available for disabled children. There will be a speaker from, "United We Stand."

They are still looking to honor centurions by identifying some in the community..

There was a spirited discussion on Group Homes – what to do when they are approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark McMillan
District Manager
Queens Community Board 13