



## Queens Community Board 13

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**Melinda Katz**  
Borough President

**Vicky Morales-Casella**  
Director of  
Community Boards

**Clive Williams**  
Chair

**Mark McMillan**  
District Manager

### GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 24, 2018

**Bellerose Assembly of God**  
**240-15 Hillside Avenue**  
**Bellerose, NY 11426**

#### Attendance

##### **Present:**

Corey Bearak; Alain Berrouet; Bryan Block; Verdell Boncoeur; Jacqueline Campbell; Mizanur Choudhury; Barbara Clements; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Samuel Elliott; Seymour Finkelstein; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Felice Hannah; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Vernal Holder; Bonnie Huie; Mohamood Ishmael; Franck Joseph; Rhonda Kontner; Antony Kuncheria; Andy Laine; Kangel Moore; Curlene Nelson; Marcia O'Brien; Michael O'Keeffe; Tameka Pierre-Louis; Celeste Powers; Nagassar Ramgarib; Anup Ramnauth; Peter Richards; Ashok Satkalmi; Steven Taylor; Mathew Thomas; Sanu Thomas; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick; Pritpal Singh Walia; Clive Williams; Nantasha Williams; Jackie Wilson; Jerry Wind

##### **Absent:**

Angela Augugliaro; Isa Avery; Kyle Bragg; Tanya Cruz; Charles Farruggia; Robert Glover; Jonathan Logan

The Board Chair Clive Williams called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by BM Alain Berrouet.

The Board Chair welcomes everyone.

Board Chair introduces Council Member Donovan Richards...

## **Council Member Donovan Richards**

- He is Chair of the City Council Public Safety Committee.
- He attended the QCB13 Health Fair - thumbs up.
- Held a hearing on school safety:
  - Security in the school system
- Submitted a package of 14 bills on school safety:
  - Remarks on the amount of arrests in school system.
  - An issue: 5,000 school safety agents; only 4,000 guidance counselors.
- 116 Precinct coming back to Community Board with additional items to be voted on in this ULURP process.
- Rosedale Parking Lot sudden raise in fees without notice and lack of progress in mediating this issue.
  - Looking at legislation to change the process.
  - Agreement with DOT not standing because of lawsuit by commuter.
- Property taxes – a hearing in Queens next week.
- DEP work – DDC has a dedicated unit in Southeast Queens:
  - Meetings with local community.
- Snake Road and Francis Lewis Boulevard - \$100M being spent on road infrastructure improvement.
- Local schools \$12M allocated.
- \$3M allocated on Rosedale Jets.
- Dog run being looked at for Brookville Park
- Skate Park being constructed in Laurelton Park.
- Participatory Budgeting - \$2M allocated.
  - Take advantage of this opportunity
- OATH Pop-Up Court coming to his office Thursday, September 27, 2018, from 10 am to 4 pm:
  - Any outdated civil summons;
  - Summonses sometimes given out disproportionately;
  - Jamaica office closed, now have to go to Long Island City;
  - Tell him about any other big priorities.

BM Mike O’Keeffe: Confirmation of Pop-Up Court.

Board Chair: Acknowledges Reverend Charles Norris.

## **Board Chair’s Report**

- Confluence of his calendar and the District Manager’s.
- Lists other numerous events and activities attended.
- Acknowledges awardees from Community Board Awards.

Bob Friedrich: Questions the District Manager's statement that the Law Department can prohibit a Community Board from supporting or opposing a City Charter referendum. Under what Charter provision is this authority stated?

BM Kangela Moore: Thanks Chair for attending her event.

Board Chair introduces Congressman Tom Suozzi...

### **Congressman Tom Suozzi**

- Speaks about how President Clinton mispronounced his last name.
- Gives his professional background/experience.
- His states his district lines.
- On Washington:
  - All screwed, everyone is fighting.
  - There are structural problems in Congress:
    - Of 435 seats, 380 are safe seats.
    - Gerrymandered districts makes it hard to lose your race.
    - Scandal or primary is the only way to lose.
    - On Congressman Joe Crowley's loss - of 270 registered voters, only 27K voted.
    - This is pleasing for those in the extreme who vote in primaries.
    - Result: please the base instead of reaching for the middle.
      - Fox – 3M
      - MSNBC
      - NY Times – 4M
    - Gun violence: He speaks with high school kids
      - Before: As a kid fire drills were fun.
      - Now: Fire drill, where will I hide.
        - This is not a new issue.
        - 25 years ago there was the LIRR massacre.
        - Reagan was shot in 1980's.
        - 90% of Americans support background checks.
    - He belongs to the Bipartisan coalition.
    - There is more talent than you would think in Congress.
      - Reasonable things cannot get done because a congress person would lose the next primary.
    - Dreamers: most Americans want to give them a chance but... primary consideration.
    - Healthcare: Congress has been discussing this issue since Harry Truman.
- If you want to change things:
  1. An answer – change it to [what]?

2. The guts to stand up and fight against status quo.
3. You have to understand how it works:
  - a. The politics; and
  - b. Press – how to get something done.
- He believes in public service to make things better, however:
  - People need to start working together.
  - Figure out how to solve problems.
- He speaks about parents who were immigrants, 1<sup>st</sup> generation Americans.
  - He believes in this country.
  - He looked at his father’s yearbook: His goal was to be a “real American.”

BM Seymour Finkelstein: Many of us in the community have fought. The problem: there should be term limits.

A: He does not like term limits. If someone does a good job, bad job get rid of them. He is part of an Amicus brief to stop gerrymandering. Politics need competition. He will support term limits if court doesn’t overrule [and get rid of gerrymandering]. California has primaries where all can vote and the top two go to general election. He has learned so much after being in Congress.

Board Chair: Seymour you are such a good guy you have been for 38 years.

BM Richard Hellenbrecht: Gerrymandering and, second, money in politics. Invites Congressman to candidates’ night at [his] Civic.

A: 2016 hopeful campaign finance reform after “Citizens United” case. Corporations are spending billions to keep things the same. He is in a group called “End Citizens United.” Corporation money to PACs come from the employees.

Change things - get the corporations involved because the status quo works for them now. See: health; guns; immigration.

BM Felice Hannah: Invites him to 10/31/18 Candidates Night at North Shore Towers.

Board Chair: There is a disruptive climate in Washington, DC now. What is the Democrats response to disrupt this disruption?

A: Healthcare is more affordable, higher wages, clean up politics. President cannot make deals with democrats in Congress because of the Freedom Caucus. Democrats cannot just say “no” because they don’t like Trump. Democrats have to work with the President to solve problems. You can’t fight all the time.

- Problem Solvers Caucus
  - 24 Democrats, 24 Republicans.
  - However, they cannot get bills put on the floor.

- He will not vote for a new Speaker unless rules changed to make it easier to put bills on the floor.

BM Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick: Issues an Invite for her Civics' candidates night. States Congressman Suozzi does not care about Queens...speaks about his connection and office on Northern Boulevard.

BM Jackie Wilson: Why hasn't President been impeached?

A: Explains the [impeachment] process... Republicans scared. President has 15% of extreme right. If Democrats get the majority, he would advise against [impeachment] it. He is worried if [Rod] Rosenstein is fired. He is wait for [Special Prosecutor Robert] Muller's report. [The late Senator John] McCain is beloved because he stood up to the President because it is best for the country.

Bill from North Shore Towers: Agrees with 99.999%. What to do about opioids?

A: How did this happen?

- Doctors became anxious in giving prescriptions with too many pills.
- Heroin is now coming into the country very inexpensively. It is now laced with a Chinese synthetic called Fentanyl.
- They are trying to limit the number of opioids:
  - Electronic prescriptions are part of this process.

None of this stuff is simple. There is supposed to be hearings with experts. But that is not happening now. One side simply tries to ram it [a bill] through.

BM Bryan Block: What committees are you on?

A: Armed Services and Foreign Affairs. It is awesome...I have been to Afghanistan, Korea and the DMZ, Kuwait. One thing is clear: this is serious business. We have let politics get so personal, so petty.

Doris Bodine: Cybersecurity – Facebook trying to mine our personal data. Does Congress have a plan?

A: There is no Congressional plan. Big data is already being mined. Society has not had time to figure out how technology has changed things. He believes in competition, in capitalism.

Glen Oaks Voter: What steps are you taking? Will you stop taking corporate money?

A: No. I will not unilaterally disarm.

BM Bonnie Huie: Health care... cannot keep up.

A: Since 1993, has never seen people as engaged as now! This election is more important than 2016. If the people do not show up...

## **Pictures with Executive Board**

### **District Manager's Report**

- Encourage Board Members to come to committee meetings.
  - BM Jackie Campbell says we should do a survey on why Members do not come to committee meetings.

### **Roll Call**

### **Minutes**

1 correction – BM Richard Hellenbrecht change to Richard Weinberg (pg. 2)

Motion to approve, seconded.

### **Public Speaking**

#### **Tammy Williams – Co-Organized for Belmont Park Coalition**

- Background [on Belmont Redevelopment Project]:
  - 18K seat area.
  - 200+ room hotel.
  - 200K sq. ft. of retail space.
- The project is now in its scoping phase.
- Full disclosure: She is personally opposed.
  - Traffic; no full time train station.
  - Jobs: what kind?
    - Construction pay, but temporary.
    - Selling hot dogs...
- Board has not taken a position on this

#### **Bob Friedrich: Term limits**

- Disagrees with Law Department disallowing Community Board taking a position. He doesn't see it in the City Charter.
- Reads written statement.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Public Safety: Chair Mike O'Keeffe**

- Hearing good things for all 5 sectors on NCOs.
- Lists liquor licenses approved.

- Traffic problems around PS 176.
- At the next meeting, an FDNY representative will present on fire safety.

BM Marcia O'Brien: 105 Precinct gave tickets...

Board Chair: Look into [establishments] "Sports Mania" and "Secrets". He is concerned, things going from bad to worse.

**Health:** Chair Bonnie Huie

- #1 – It's about coming to meetings.
- More voices make the meetings more interesting.
- A survey is important; it is embarrassing with speaker and no members attending.
- Caring Kind presented at a previous meeting.
- Dr. Ashok presented on "mental health" at a previous meeting.
- She is on the Community Advisory Board (CAB) at Queens Hospital:
  - Opens up on what is going on there.
  - Last meeting: "Active Shooter" exercise.
  - "How to be a Good Leader" PowerPoint.

**Land Use:** Chair Richard Hellenbrecht

Presentation by "DIVAS for Social Justice"

- Community Garden in Laurelton

BM Bess DeBetham: Motion to support this garden giving young people an opportunity to learn about the environment.

BM Bonnie Huie: Seconds.

**Unanimous "yes" vote,**

- De-map a portion of the street never been built for the new 116 Precinct.

251-77 Jericho Turnpike at Little Neck Parkway

- Requesting permits for Day Care Center and Physical Culture Establishment.
- Requesting parking reduction from 121 parking spots down to 114, cellar would have stackers.
- This building poses significant issues for the community.
  - Valet parking.
  - Outside 11 stackers, 4 cars high.
  - Entrance and exit on Little Neck Parkway dangerous.

BM Corey Bearak: How many parking spots would make sense?

A: If spots were accessible, it would make sense.

BM Seymour Finkelstein: Traffic issues.

Board Chair: Those issues were raised.

BM Finkelstein: Car wash on Jericho Turnpike had similar problems.

#### 241-32 Hillside Avenue

Owner requesting rezoning of his lot:

- Garage removed to make Pharmacy on 1<sup>st</sup> floor and offices on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.
- Changes to shape of the building with entrance on Hillside instead of 214 Street.

#### DSNY Garage on Winchester Boulevard

- 20 years old; it has structural problems.
- A presentation was made on improvements.
- Issues:
  - Where will be temp offices and personal cars?
  - Eventually, Trucks will be put into building, not on the street.

#### Bartlett Dairy

- Airport adjusting property.
- Nassau Expressway and Rockaway Boulevard (next to FAA building).
- 200 people employed; this will be a warehouse, not a factory.

#### Belmont Area Issues

- Tammy Williams (above) has already spoke about this.

#### **Seniors, Social Services and Special Needs:** Chair Kangela Moore

- Meeting canceled because the Group Home hearing was canceled. Owner decided not to sell.
- She wants seniors to be acknowledged in the community.
- And youth with Special Needs.
- Centurions – need the Board Members help by them submitting names [of those in their communities].
- She will be visiting various senior centers.

#### **Parks and Environment:** Chair Fay Hill

- Problem: no one from northern part of the Board attending the meetings.
- They met with Park Manager, Justin Argo.
- There is a problem with personnel, vehicles and equipment.

- Mentioned comments from a resident who lives across from Brookville Park.
- Garbage cans are not being emptied.
- Council money takes too long to get to the parks.
- Idlewild Park Ground Breaking for its new building coming up.
- Trucks being removed from around Springfield Park by Council Member Donovan Richards.

BM Kangela Moore: Park equity – Western Queens does not have those problems.

A: There will be a budget meeting on Wednesday [at the Overlook].

BM Jackie Campbell: Brookville Park is in bad shape.

A: There will be a partnership with Park Department and volunteers.

**Economic Development:** Chair Curlene Nelson

- Focus on Guy R. Brewer and Farmer Boulevards up to 147 Avenue.
- She has a meeting place at a local church.
- Her background is bringing people together.
- She recently met two new merchants.
- Walk-through on Farmers Boulevard at MTA - it has been cleaned up.

BM Peter Richards: Wants Committee reports in writing.

BM Pritpal Walia: Request participation in parade November 10, 2018 at 12 pm. Sikh Celebration. 1:30 pm roses from helicopter.

BM Jackie Campbell:

- Capital One Bank on 243 Street has moved to Green Acres.
  - Spoke with Council Member Donovan Richards to use for...
  - Partner with Borough President?
- We treat Elected Officials as celebrities. They work for us.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McMillan  
 District Manager  
 Queens Community Board 13