

Queens Community Board 13

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Sharon Lee
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Clive Williams
Chair

Mark McMillan
District Manager

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2020

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

Attendance

Present:

Isa Avery; Corey Bearak; Alain Berrouet; Bryan Block; Barbara Clements; Sylvia Cothia; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; Derrick DeFlorimonte; James Delaney; Charles Farruggia; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Bonnie Huie; Mohamood Ishmael; Rhonda Kontner; Antony Kuncheria; Curlene Nelson; Marcia O'Brien; Michael O'Keeffe; Deepa Patel; Celeste Powers; Nagassar Ramgarib; Anup Ramnauth; Ashok Satkalmi; Steven Taylor; Mathew Thomas; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick; Pritpal Singh Walia; Clive Williams; Nantasha Williams; Jackie Wilson; Jerry Wind

Absent:

Angela Augugliaro; Kyle Bragg; Tanya Cruz; Samuel Elliott; Seymour Finkelstein; Robert Glover; Vernal Holder; Franck Joseph; Andy Laine; Jonathan Logan; Kangelia Moore; Tameka Pierre-Louis; Peter Richards; Perminder Thiara;

The Board Chair Clive Williams called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance by DM.

Board Chair:

- Acknowledges passing of BM Felice Hannah and calls for a moment of silence in her memory.
- Speaks of loss of Kobe Bryant and daughter Brianna passing yesterday. Moment of silence for all those who perished in helicopter crash.

Chair's Report

- Personal, not community business:
 - Over the past two years his business and home system has been hacked. Credit cards and info all over the internet.
 - Reported to banks; their fraud department has no teeth. Reporting ???
 - All his credit cards have been compromised.
 - Hacked into his emails.
 - (FordPass) New 2020 car hacked; hackers manipulated car while he is driving.
 - Ford could not help.
 - Made FBI report, going to One Federal Plaza.
 - Hacker called and gave a running commentary on his daily activities.
 - Warning: be careful when you are online -
 - Be extra careful with Android phones.
 - People are logging into your phones and watching you.
 - Grandson told him of a YouTube about "MDOS attack"
 - Hackers can disable everything in your house
 - Crime of the future is cybercrime; non-existent remedies for these issues presently.
 - NYPD stymied by this; hacker called while speaking with the police. Nothing could be done.
 - Be prepared for this eventuality.
 - Targeting older folks -
 - Technology is not witchcraft.

DSNY Presentation – Joseph Ottomanelli, Community Affairs Liaison

Plastic bags Ban:

- March 1st phase out.
- Thin plastic not recyclable.
- Orange DSNY bags given out.

Board Chair: The purpose of this?

Maxine: How much for a paper bag?

A: 5 cents.

BM James Delaney: What about the plastic bag for home delivery of newspapers?

A: Only for single use bags.

BM Lorraine Giffens-Bridges: Are smaller bags 5 cents?

A: A universal size paper bag.

Q: Are these bags washable?

A: Yes.

Bob Friedrich: Who is exempt?

A: Sabine French: Recipients of SNAP and WICK.

Q: Is SNAP food stamps?

A: Yes.

Committee Reports

Land Use, Richard Hellenbrecht, Committee Chair

- New BSA item:
 - Construction of a lot at 142-18 Hook Creek Boulevard.
 - Building 2-family houses.
 - Legal R3X site.
 - No DOB objections.
 - On a mapped street.
- Land Use meeting Next Monday at 7:30 pm.
- Procedural item -
 - Hillside east of Vanderveer

Economic Development, Curlene Nelson, Committee Chair

- Attends JFK Roundtable Committee:
 - Spoke about noise level in surrounding communities.
 - Research indicates noise levels high near airports nationwide -
 - Noise given levels 1-4.
 - Aircraft weight must subscribe to specific noise levels.

- Quad adoption site
 - Great strides with collaboration with Council Member Richards, QCB13, DSNY and DOT.
 - Visits businesses regularly to ascertain issues -
 - A person in the area is selling drugs.
 - Will notify 105 Precinct.

Dollar Tree: worked together to eliminate dumping in it's parking lot ;

- Must be engaged to get something done

Board Chair: What is going on with the unopened supermarket?

A: Blinds covering window. Via third-hand info, supermarket is waiting for DOB permits. Work is being done; do not know the hold up. Only contact is platters of fruits and vegetables to civic meeting.

Board Chair: Drugstore on 243 Street...

BM Marcia O'Brien: Going to be a C-Town.

Board Chair: A business closing affects the tax base and people loose their jobs.

Zalieka Johnson: Thanks QCB13 for being on top of 243 Street issue.

Public Safety, Michale O'Keeffe, Committee Chair

- Curlene's work is a model for community engagement.
- 105 Pct. Community Council Meeting on 1.29.20 at 7PM.
 - Topics
 - Raise the Age
 - Human Trafficing
- Lower attendance at 1.8.20 meeting because of Precinct meeting with community leaders.
- Uptick in auto theft.
- Report of dangerous locations in Rosedale:
 - DM to arrange site visits.
- Le-Tis Williams, FDNY Borough Manager, spoke about smoke detector program with Red Cross.
- "Rhythm" heldover until president of Federated Blocks of Laurelton is available to meet:
 - Background on owner.

- Community concerns voiced.
- Approved with noise proof of the establishment.
- Will have security officer at door and 2nd to assure no quality of life issues.
- New owners entitled to property interest of liquor store.

Board Chair: Middle ground... while sympathetic to Bess's position to not interfere with community life, he also sides with the entrepreneur who wants to actualize their dream. Importance of doing visits to their businesses and being a part of the community. Visit them so they are up to snuff; we as a community want to help you be successful.

BM Fay Hill: Entrepreneur applying for liquor license on Guy R Brewer. Denied because too close to a school. Now reapplying. Another liquor store close by. Do not need another liquor store.

Board Chair: This requires a delegation of people going to SLA hearing. This is not under community board purview. This is an economic situation – this generates state revenue.

BM Fay Hill: People going to SLA on 2.13.20.

BM Charles Farrugia: Jerry and he spoke to SLA and were told a license is not a privilege and not a right. Too many stores are "overkill".

Board Chair: Normally agrees with Charles; however, certain areas are known for certain things – example of Austin Street.

Sabine French: Must keep business standards up. Wants to stay home instead of going to Bell Boulevard or Austin Street. Wants to support local businesses.

Marie Ovide: Is there a signed stipulation with the sound proofing?

A: Great idea.

Parks and Environment – No report

Health, Bonnie Huie, Committee Chair

- Coronavirus description and background.
- February is "Women's Health Month" – Red-Dress.

Transportation, District Manager – In Sentinel

- February 13 MTA workshop.

Seniors, Social Services and Special Needs, Jerry Wind, Committee Vice Chair

- Finalized plans on honorees for February.
- Scams in the area.
- Taking committee meeting on the road.

Special Initiatives, Nantasha Williams, Committee Chair

- Looking to help the Board.
- Chinese Year of the Rat.
- Increasing participation and rallying around issues.
- Reached out to Civic Engagement and Census to increase participation.
- Reach out to committee chairs and civic organization.s
- Have a "Town Hall" in April.
- Next meeting February 6 at Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman's office.

Zalieka Johnson: A list of civics in the district...

A: Work with the DM to do so.

Youth, Education and Libraries, Lorraine Gittens-Bridges, Committee Vice Chair

- "Imagine School":
 - Short timeline, learned mid-September deadline end of November.
 - Partenering with CB12.
- Diversity plan:
 - Affects CB12, not CB13.
 - Want process eliminated and restarted. No transparency.
- Campus Magnet Pool:
 - Pool functioning, but students do not have opportunity to take swimming classes.
 - Funding for swimming instruction:
 - Outside organizations utilizing the pool.
- Proposed:
 - Transportation routes and the impact on their schools.

Board Chair: Go on the website.

Wants a Schools chancellor visit.

Elected Official Representatives

- **Manuel Silva**, Council Member Donovan Richards' Office
 - Introduces staffers present.
 - City Council has discretionary app open – close 2.13.20
 - 10 AM Friday in front of Queens Borough Hall holding a rally opposing current MTA bus redesign plan.
 - 2.27.20 Robert Ross Johnson:
 - Public Safety Town Hall with Police Commissioner Dermott Shea.
- **Zalieka Johnson**, Senator James Sanders, Jr.'s Office
 - Thanks for partnership at enrollment event; over 50 people attended.
 - Describes organizations participated.
 - Thursday – Free Movie – “Just Mercy” at Bowtie Theaters
 - Call his office; 500 tickets available: 718.523.3069
- **Shana Gladden**, Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman's Office
 - Every 3rd Thursday a free legal advice session.
 - Every last Tuesday – SNAP representative for senior citizen paperwork.
- **Shurn Anderson**, Borough President's Office
 - New BP Sharon Lee.
- **Paul Nichols**, State Senator Leroy Comrie's Office
 - Extend “E-Hail Access-A-Ride” Program
 - 1.31.20 – Smoke Alarm registrarion event.
 - Free tax prep.
 - Tuesday 9-5 HEAP represenative at the office.
- **Nathaniel Hezekiah**, Congress Member Gregory Meeks' Office
 - 2.7.20 Census Job Fair 5:30PM at the Harvest Room.
 - 2.8.20 Taxpayer Advocate Service a division of the IRS.
 - On 10.1.20 change to REAL ID required to travel overseas and military bases:
 - Check for star on drivers license.
 - Federal ID; not Enhanced ID.

BM Bess DeBetham: Discount on new license \$98? This cannot be used as a REAL ID?

- Senator John Liu's Office
 - Queens Network Bus Re-Design:
 - Cross Island YMCA Thursday February 27 7-8:30 PM
- Assembly Member Edward Braunstien's Office:

- Make your voice heard on MTA issues.
- Valentines for Vets event.
- **Anthony Lemma**, Assembly Member David Weprin's Office
 - MTA "bill of goods" with "Congestion Pricing".
 - Enough is enough
 - DOE – disgrace with School Chancellor walking out on parents.
- **Sabine French**, Public Advocate Jumanee Williams' Office
 - Queens point person.
 - Team dedicated to community outreach.
 - MTA redesign.
- **Susan Sienfeld**, Council Member Barry Grodenchik's Office
 - See flyers.

Acting Borough President Sharon Lee

- Board Chair introduction.
- BP Remarks:
 - Special election for interim BP on March 24 – please vote.
 - Census 2020 a top priority:
 - 10 years ago Queens undercounted.
 - QCB13 undercounted.
 - Mayor \$95B budget and Queens needs to get its fair share.
 - 2 days of budget hearing at Borough Hall for district priorities.
 - Wants to make an impact in a very short period of time.

105 Precinct Report, Sergeant John Collins

- Community Council Meeting.
- 2019 Year-end down 1.3%
 - 21 less major crimes.
 - Murder/ robbery/ felony assault top list of crimes.
- Grand larceny -
 - Keep you car locked; do not leave it running or leave the keys in the car
- PO Salazar – new Community Affairs Officer replacing Detective Jovoda Cooper.
 - Big shoes to fill.

BM Fay Hill: 102-06 146 Drive, this past Wednesday. What is going on? 2 units there for a while. Shooting of pregnant woman this past Saturday?

A: No to first. Active investigation to second.

BM Jerry Wind: Build-A-Block, thanks Sergeant Collins and NCO Gallagher for a fantastic job.

PO Gallagher: Tells Fay to talk to her Sector NCOs.

Roll Call

December 2019 General Board Meeting Minutes Approved.

Public Speaking

BM Bess DeBetham, Merrick Commercial Strip (20 blocks)

- Written statement.
- 12 restaurant bars and lounges (that are known).
- CB serves in an advisory capacity, but when you don't object you approve.
- With shelters the term "over-saturation", we vote no.
- Why liquor stores and bar/restaurants, we vote yes?
- Mr. Chair; 40 years for 116 Pct. I will advocate for as long as I can.
- These bars lower the value of my property.
- I will continue to object to this and find support in the community.
- Mr Chair; I wat businesses but not another bar.
- Same bar on 128-28 noise started at 3 AM. Gunshot.
- Restaurants do not keep promises made to Public Safety Committee.
- Fighting for quality of life and biggest investment of her life – her home.
- Protecting her community; you protect yours.
- Just vote "no".

Board Chair: Totally agree to her point of view, respect her, continue your advocacy. Lives off of Linden Boulevard, similar situation. Offer option to work with businesses.

BM Fay Hill: Wants date, wants to accompany her.

Board Chair: I would join you.

Troy Wallcot, Local 3 at Spectrum:

- Higher rates being charged.
- Franchise ends at the end of July.

- End of March – 3 year anniversary of being on strike.
- Ask elected officials for their view on this strike.
- Unplugspectrum.com
- Wants to set up another public option.

Marie Adam-Ovide, Laurelton/Rosedale resident

- Concerned about census count.

BM Bryan Block: Make up signs for not wanting Spectrum.

Supports Bess; businesses do not keep their word. A chronic situation with these business establishments. Cannot compare Austin Street and Bell Boulevard to Linden and Merrick Boulevards because there are no homes there. No comparison. Businesses comply in other neighborhoods.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark McMillan
District Manager
Queens Community Board 13