

Queens Community Board 13

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qcb13.org



Donovan Richards
Borough President

Maricela Cano
Director of Community Boards



Bryan Block
Chair

Mark McMillan
District Manager

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2021

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Present:

Isa Avery; Corey Bearak; Alain Berrouet; Bryan Block; Kyle Bragg; Barbara Clements; Sylvia Cothia; Tanya Cruz; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; Derrick DeFlorimonte; James Delaney; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Robert Glover; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Vernal Holder; Bonnie Huie; Mohamood Ishmael; Rhonda Kontner; Antony Kuncheria; Andy Laine; Jonathan Logan; Michael Mallia; Sophia Mighty; Kangela Moore; Curlene Nelson; Marcia O'Brien; Michael O'Keeffe; Cinnamon Paltoo; Nagassar Ramgarib; Anup Ramnauth; Peter Richards; Ashok Satkalmi; Steven Taylor; Perminder Thiara; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick; Jermaine Washington; Jackie Wilson; Jerry Wind

Absent:

Angela Augugliaro; Charles Farruggia; Seymour Finkelstein; Tameka Pierre-Louis; Celeste Powers; Patricia Robinson; Mathew Thomas; Pritpal Singh Walia; Nantasha Williams

Meeting Called to Order at 7:22 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair statement on "Business Model" for General Board Meetings.

Board Chair Report

District Manager Report

Minutes

- Motion to approve by BM Kyle Bragg, seconded by BM Bess DeBetham
- Unanimous Yes

Elected Officials

- Chair acknowledges Jeanine Agard and Katherine Brezler from the Queens Borough President's Office
- Questions on Board Member application
- Stella Chan, representative for 31st Council District, NYC Council, Community Engagement Unit – 718.471.7014
- Sherwyn James – District Leader
- Justin Conner – Congress Member Thomas Suozzi
 - New Office address– 242-09 Northern Boulevard
- Arie Inniss – Council Member I. Daneek Miller
- Tayler Jackson – State Senator Leroy Comrie
- Haris Khan – NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
- Amber Yoon – Assembly Member Edward Braunstein
- Akshar Patel – State Senator John Liu
- Susan Seinfeld – Council Member Barry Grodenchik
- Tenagra Bledman – Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson
- Shana Gladden – Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman
- Muhammad Rahman – Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

105 Precinct Report

- Chair presents plaques to two injured officers from January shoot out who were badly wounded
 - Officer Christopher Wells
 - Officer Joe Murphy
- Captain Igor Pinkhasov
 - Crime decreased 40% year-to-date
 - Drag racing still an issue

Roll Call

Land Use Voting Items:

- BSA-827-55-BZ – variance extension for ten years
 - BSA required to notify everyone within 500-foot radius
 - BM Bess DeBetham: Cars with flat tires in front of homes (condition of approval)
 - Needs to be part of any recommendation to approve

- Land Use motion to approve: 8 Yes, 0 No
 - Motion to approve by BM Richard Hellenbrecht, seconded by BM Derrick DeFloramonte
 - Roll call vote: 39 Yes, 1 No
- BSA 2020-29-BZ – renewal of a lapsed variance and addition of 4057 square feet mezzanine:
 - Land Use Committee voted 9-0 in favor
 - BM Kyle Bragg: What percentage of local residents employed?
 - Motion to approve by BM Richard Hellenbrecht, seconded by BM Marcia O'Brien
 - Roll call vote: 40 Yes, 0 No

Ranked Choice Voting

- PowerPoint Presentation
 - Ballot cure at poll with workers
 - 50% plus one to win an election for each office
 - Absentee and paper ballots later: how do they fit into ranked choice? All votes in before count – it can be a week.

Committee Reports

- **Land Use** – Richard Hellenbrecht, Committee Chair
 - Passed zoning for block on Jericho Turnpike
 - Text amendment on hotels which will eliminate "as-of-right" anywhere in NYC without special permit
 - Report on "Planning Together: A Comprehensive Framework for NYC"
 - Possibility of eliminating single family zoning in NYC
 - Presentation in February
 - Resolution drafted
 - Next meeting February 8, 2021
- **Public Safety** – Michael O'Keefe, Committee Chair
 - Approved six renewals – listed on agenda
 - Next meeting February 3, 2021 – speaker on DA policies on diversion and sentencing
 - Zoom meeting for Sector Eddie
 - Roundtable at Harvest Room about Police policies and community relations
- **Health** – Bonnie Huie, Committee Chair
 - Pleased to have Northwell LIJ Medical Center to have as partners
 - Speaks about vaccine presentation
- **Economic Development** – Curlene Nelson, Committee Chair
 - Bartlett Dairies – Site has been cleared, no work has started yet

- Belmont Arena Development
 - Cross bridge over Cross Island Parkway has been reinforced
- JFK Redevelopment – will present at next meeting, February 10, 2021 at 7pm
- Support local businesses
- **Seniors, Social Services and Special Needs** – Kangel Moore, Committee Chair
 - Recognized Jamal Thinner
 - Recognized Blaque Resource Network
 - December 3 – Dr. Letisha Bond, Learning Bridges, spoke about resources for those with special needs
 - Need to do more for those with food insecurity
 - Rating system for nursing homes
 - SNAP Center speaker at upcoming meeting on February 4, 2021
 - AARP Legal for grading system
 - Post 398 - free COVID testing on February 3, 2021 from 1pm to 5 pm – first 100 people get a gift bag
- **Youth, Education and Libraries** – Lorraine Gittens-Bridges, Committee Vice Chair
 - Luisa Benedetto from Queens Public Library presented
 - Concerned about what programs in schools are discontinued because of COVID-19
 - What is the plan moving forward to help students catch up?
 - Executive Superintendent of Queens South to next meeting
 - February meeting a planning meeting for March meeting
- **Parks and Environment** – Fay Hill, Committee Chair
 - Cleanup at Snake Road and at JFK Holiday Inn
 - Virtual meeting for Partnership for Parks
 - Greenway Project at next Parks meeting
 - Plant trees blown down from storms at Springfield Park
 - Problems with tree pruning in the district

Adjourn at 10:19pm

Respectfully submitted,



Mark McMillan
 District Manager
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