

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 14, 2020**

**KNIGHTS OF COLOMBUS  
333 BEACH 90 STREETS  
ROCKAWAY BEACH, NY 11693**

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**PRESENT**

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Khaleel Anderson, Louis Caucig, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Mordecai Dicker, Ahmad Edwards, Temina Feldman, Yitzchok Goldstein, D. Brian Heffernan, Felicia Johnson, Paul King, Betty Leon, Denise Lopetri-Neibel, Desiree Maple, Nancy Martinez, John McCambridge, Sonia Moise, Helen Montero, Al Moore, Daniel Mundy, Ellen O'Reilly, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold Paez, Edward Pastore Sr., Linda Plummer, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Karen Sloan-Payne, Chris Tedesco, Jose Velez, Wanda Warden, Tyrone Worsley

**ABSENT**

Stephen Cooper, Noreen Ellis, Eugenia Gibson, Tamara Jacobs, Annette Lord-Cohen, Ife Maijeh Rosalyn Mason, Alicia Mazyck, Isaac Parsee, Eugene Pasternak, Michael Tubridy, Edwin Williams

**GUESTS**

Dan Brown – Rep. Queens Borough President Sharon Lee, Dekendra Dazzell - Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Robby Schwach – Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Democratic District Leader Lew Simon, Manuel Silva – Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Tavia Blakley – Rep. NYS Assembly 31<sup>st</sup> A. D., David Hooks – Rep. Congressman Gregory Meeks, Nicolette Peter- Rep. State Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer- Amato

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:25pm. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CORRESPONDANCE WAS READ AS FOLLOWS:**

Letter dated December 30, 2019 was sent to James Patchett, President of NYC Economic Development Corp. from Community Board #14. Letter stated that the Board voted to request more information on the summer pilot program for the NYC Ferry shuttle from Far Rockaway to the ferry terminus at Beach 108 Street because members had concerns that EDC did not conduct adequate outreach to advise residents of the program. The letter requested information regarding the outreach plan, media strategy, and use of flyers, actual shuttle schedule and ridership.

Letter dated December 16, 2019 was sent to D. Criswell, Commissioner of OEM from Community Board #14. Letter stated that the Board voted unanimously to request a copy of the new and revised the Evacuation Plan for the Rockaways that has been formulated to deal with the reduction in safe travel lanes on the Rockaway Peninsula.

## **MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 10, 2019**

Betty Leon made the motion for the Board to accept the December 10, 2019 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Al Moore. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion. 2 Abstained.

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

The Chair announced that applications are available for the free NASA STEM Program at York College on Saturdays starting February 8, 2020 for 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade students. Port Authority as part of the JFK Redevelopment is funding the free program.

The Chair announced that hopefully the Army Corp of Engineers will follow JFK Development's debris disposal by barge plans when they are constructing the new rock jetties along the beach that way the roads will not be damaged or affected.

The Chair advised board members that the office placed packets of the MTA's plan on buses in each member's folder. Since the plan is 171 pages for the Borough of Queens, it can be viewed online. The packet provided is for the Rockaway lines Q22, Q52, Q 53, Q113 and Q114. The plan is disturbing in that the MTA is planning to discontinue the Q53, Q114 and for the Q22 the last stop on the west end will be B 116 instead of Fort Tilden.

The Chair advised that, at the Town Hall meeting last night with Chancellor of NYC Dept. of Education, the question was asked about Rockaway Peninsula receiving a Gifted and Talented program that was promised by Mayor De Blasio and City Councilman Donovan Richards. After a lengthy response, the bottom line is the Gifted and talented program will not be coming to Rockaway.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING:** The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 7:52pm. 12 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking 8:13pm.

### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

#### **Queens Borough PRESIDENT SHARON LEE**

Sharon Lee stated that former Queens Borough Melinda Katz is now the 1<sup>st</sup> female Queens District Attorney. Ms. Lee explained that she will be the Borough President for the next three months, until the special election on

March 24, 2020 and assured all that she would not be campaigning for the position. Mr. Lee welcomed all to contact borough hall if any assistance is needed.

**DAN BROWN- REP- DEPUTY BORO. PRESIDENT SHARON LEE**

Dan Brown announced that Community Board applications are due on January 31, 2020. Mr. Brown advised that if anyone is having issues turning in an application please give him a call.

**INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Captain Eric Robinson – Commander of the 101<sup>st</sup> Precinct**

Captain Robinson advised that he has been at the 101<sup>st</sup> for at least two months and has already developed a good working relationship with the elected officials and active community residents.

**2. NYC DDC- Re: The expansion of Arverne Public Library**

Mr. Jomo Blackman representing, NYC Dept. of Design Construction reported that the expansion of the library will be built on the vacant lot adjacent to the existing library on Beach 54 Street between Rockaway Beach Blvd and Beach Channel Drive. The extension will be at least 4,600 square feet and 4-1/2 ft. above the street to prevent future flooding.

New features include handicap access, new bathrooms and large windows for a more welcoming open space atmosphere. There will be skylights, solar panels (but no emergency generators) and artwork by a local artist. Special thanks was given to Mayor De Blasio, City Councilman Donovan Richards, and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz. Board members expressed several concerns regarding the expansion including but not limited to: out of library hours access for community meetings; is existing library sufficient in size as it seems new extension will not have library facilities but more meeting space; would like to see plantings in front of building, more than just the street trees; addition of bike racks.

Questions and concerns regarding operations would be discussed at a future meeting. Construction should begin in 2022 with anticipated completion in 2024

## COMMITTEE REPORT

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jose Velez, Chair of the Committee reported that at the December meeting, the Nominating Committee submitted their slate of candidates for the executive board which was elected members of the executive board.

The Chair, at the December meeting had opened the floor for nominations for each of the executive board positions. There were no nominations for any of the positions from the floor the nominations were closed and that at the January meeting the Secretary/Treasurer will cast one vote for the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee.

Listed below is a list of those members:

Dolores Orr - Chair

Al Moore - 1st Vice Chair

Dan Mundy - 2nd Vice Chair

Felicia Johnson - 3rd Vice Chair

Isaac Parsee - 4th Vice Chair

Betty Leon - Secretary/Treasurer

Betty Leon, Secretary/Treasurer cast the one vote needed for the slate of officers.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning