

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14  
VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING  
MAY 19, 2020**

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**PRESENT**

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Khaleel Anderson, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Ahmad Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Yitzchok Goldstein, D. Brian Heffernan Tamara Jacobs, Paul King, Betty Leon, Denise Lopestri-Neibel, Annette Lord-Cohen, Ife Maijeh, Nancy Martinez, Sonia Moise, Helen Montero, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold, Isaac Parsee, Eugene Pasternak, Edward Pastore Sr., Karen Sloan-Payne, Chris Tedesco, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez, Wanda Warden, Tyrone Worsley

**ABSENT**

Louis Caucig, Mordechai Dicker, Temina Feldman, Felicia Johnson, Eugenia Gibson, Rosalyn Mason, Alicia Mazyck, John McCambridge Al Moore, Ellen O'Reilly, Linda Plummer, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Edwin Williams

**GUESTS**

Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer-Amato, City Councilman Donovan Richards

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:20pm.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Dolores Orr welcomed everyone to first virtual meeting of Community Board #14. She asked for a moment of silence for our two Board members Steve Cooper and Desiree Maple who have passed and for all our family, friends and residents who have passed during the Covid Pandemic.

Board Members were advised that attendance would be taken after the Informational Presentation.

The Chair explained that the developers for Arverne East wanted the board to agree to have a virtual meeting with the committees and board but it would not be fair if the community was not able give input so it was decided to meetings. Also the Mayor has put all ULURP processes on hold anyway.

NYS DEC denied the certificate to the Williams Pipeline, therefore as of that will be now there is no pipeline that will be constructed.

City Planning put together a task force and reached out to the board regarding challenges that have been experienced with in the community as a result of COVID 19, Sonia Moise, Felicia Johnson – Co-Chairs of the Health and Safety Committee and myself would work on gathering information for the task force.

Dolores Orr requested that all Board Members and all those in attendance reach out to their family, friends and neighbors urging them to complete the 2020 Census. To date only 30% of Queens residents have completed the census. We stand to lose federal funding and congressional seats.

### **REPORT OF DISTRICT MANAGER**

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager reported that the Mayor announced that by Memorial Day the sand on the beaches should be open for the public but there will not be any swimming allowed. Both precincts will have school safety agents patrolling the boardwalk. Also both precincts will receive summer detail officers that will assist with the large crowds of beach goers which have been increasing in the last 2 years.

Outreach was done to Mayor, DOT and to the Parks Dept. to request electronic information signs be placed at locations letting people know what is open or closed in District 14 before they arrive. DOT liked the idea and has agreed to place signs at locations that have major traffic highways leading onto the Peninsula.

The Army Corp. of Engineers reached out to inform the board that a notice to proceed was received to start the process of installing groins along the beach. The ACOE has to submit a work schedule that has to be reviewed by the Parks Dept.

Groins would be constructed at the following beach locations:

Beach 32, 36, 43, 45, 52, 90, 98, 102, 105, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145 and 149 Streets. The entire project should take 3 years and it takes 3 months to install 1 groin.

### **MINUTES FROM MARCH 11, 2020**

Dr. David made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Edward Pastore Sr. seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 abstained.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS CALL IN**

#### **CITY COUNCILMAN DONOVAN RICHARDS**

Councilman Richards reported that according to the stats he received 800 individuals on the Peninsula died from COVID 19.

At least 400 people are currently working on the construction sites at the Downtown Far Rockaway shopping area. The library is also being worked on.

The Edgemere Commons site developers have agreed to provide 30,000 square feet of space for a Health & Hospital facility.

**NYS SENATOR JOSEPH ADDABBO JR & ASSEMBLY STACEY PHEFFER-AMATO**

Both spoke about the thousands of unemployment applications that have been registered and additional funding to hire 1000 more workers for the NYS Dept. of Labor to handle the increase of applicants.

Both also spoke about acquiring funding for grants/loans for small businesses that had to close down for the pandemic.

**INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

**NYC DEPT. OF PARKS & RECREATION-RE: UPDATE ON BEACH CLOSURES**

Michael Dockett, Commissioner of Queens Parks and Recreation advised the following citywide restrictions apply when the beach opens:

- All staff must wear face masks and use hand sanitizer in addition to washing their hands.
- Signs will be posted letting patrons know about social distance and only 2 patrons will be served at time.
- At Concessions, on line ordering should be used if possible and simple menus should be used to make lines safer and there will be No seating.

To communicate restrictions the Parks Dept. will do the following:  
Additional signs and red flags will be posted at entrances along boardwalk stating which sections of the beach are closed. As requested by CB#14 electronic messaging boards will be placed along routes leading to the beach.

Parks Dept. is also working on producing and communicating a marketing plan regarding swimming and water safety. Additionally Parks is working on a plan to prevent crowding when trying to access the stand area. The boardwalk will be open 6am to 10pm.

The beach and boardwalk would be patrolled Parks Enforcement, NYC Police and School Safety Officers. Additionally other agencies will be patrolling as Social Distance ambassadors distributing masks as long as supplies last.

Lifeguards are now being tested and certified in case beaches are allowed to open for swimming. All parks, playgrounds, basketball & handball courts, skate board parks etc. are still closed. Daily updates would be available on Park's website.

### **NYC DEPT. OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGEINE**

Chae No, Queens Liaison reported that as far as stats globally there are reported 4.8 million cases as of this this morning. NYS has reported 158,000 reported cases. NYC has reported 191,000 cases and 15,983 confirmed deaths and 4,500 possible confirmed deaths which means the person possibly was not a resident of NYC.

Mr. No explained that Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children is new and in the beginning it was not known that this was related to COVID 19. CSDC discovered that there is a link and now research is being done to figure out how and why it is related COVID 19.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

#### **PARKS AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Jose Velez reported that a virtual meeting was held on May 5, 2020 to discuss the following:

Shorefront Parkway Multi-Site Amenities - Capital Project Presentation:  
Diane Dreier & Stacia Tull

Funding source: FEMA - \$3.61M, Borough President \$ 359K = Total 397M

Presentation shown presented both the current conditions and proposed improvements.

Objectives: Create welcoming spaces with seating (1964 World's Fair benches and cast stone seats), shade (tree plantings), planted buffer zones(edges), enhanced existing planting beds, gaming tables, foot showers, pavers and colored concrete paving to match adjacent path & patterns, water foundations (where necessary).

There are 4 sites:

Site A Seating Plaza Beach 102nd Street

Site B Seating Plaza Beach 101st Street

Site C Seating Plaza Beach 98th Street

Site D Path Area Beach 73th Street - Beach 77th Street

Questions from committee members:

Initially there was a larger allocation of money, what happened to it?

There was no outreach to the local civics before presentation was put together, why not?

Will foot showers have drains, permeable pavers? Local civics have done planting will these planting be kept?

Will the areas be linked by a common path? Yes. Are there any areas that have not been address, that are just grasses areas? (Will look into these areas). Where are we with the procurement for multi-purpose area?

What's being done regarding irrigation? Will there be additional lighting, will there be solar lighting.

Lighting will be from street lighting, solar lights are a pilot project in Bayswater, if successful will look at adding to other areas. Will these parks be gated, concerns regarding crime? Will there be additional PEP officers to patrol these areas. Request to provide updates of all Shorefront projects. Drainage, Is the sidewalk continuous on Shorefront Parkway? No, but all the new areas will have sidewalks. Can benches be returned to Beach 84th street area on Shorefront between the two playgrounds (Will look into). Shorefront was done with FEMA money, when the city will make its contribution to the project if needed. Flagpole?

Questions from the community: What type of shade trees, will tables have checkerboards, will fountains be touchless, allocation of monies, if money was allocated differently Parks should have come to CB beforehand, Will these areas be ADA compliant, can additional concessions areas be built?

Committee members are in support of this project, as long as any changes to the project are brought to the committee beforehand. Diane will try to have benches added to Beach 84th Street area, In addition the Community Board's expectation were that a continuous sidewalk would be added on the south side of Shorefront Parkway.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Sonia Moise expressed the community's concerns and frustration with a COVID 19 testing site is currently being constructed on a vacant lot on RBB and between B 39- B40 Sts. There was not advance notification to the CB or the community and there is construction around the clock, very bright lights and it's been going on for 3 weeks. The Chair asked Jonathan to look into the matter and find out more information.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning