



COMMUNITY
BOARD #14

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
BOARD MEETING
MARCH 13, 2018**

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

PRESENT

Khaleel Anderson, Edward Benson, Louis Caucig, Glenn Collins, Annette Lord-Cohen, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Mordechai Dicker, Noreen Ellis, Temina Feldman, Betty Leon, John McCambridge, Al Moore, Daniel Mundy, Ellen O'Reilly, Denise Lopestri-Neibel, Dolores Orr, Eugene Pasternak, Edward Pasture Sr., Karen Sloan-Payne, Harvey Rudnick, Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Sender Schwartz, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Chris Tedesco, Thomas Tobin, Michael Tubridy, Rachel Williams, Edwin Williams

ABSENT

Shalom Becker, Courtney Brown, D. Brian Heffernan, Ahmed Edwards, Felicia Johnson, Patricia Gillespie, Joel Kaplan, Martin Ingram, Desiree Maple, Sonia Moise, Isaac Parsee, Carole Trachtenberg, Jose Velez

GUESTS

Adrienne Felton – Rep. NYC Public Advocate Letitia James, Devaney Brown – Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Dan Brown – Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Ciara Donley - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Sandee Doremus - Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Danny Randell - Rep. Assemblywoman Stacy Pheffer-Amato, Felix Oumnsi - Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Democratic District Leader Lew Simon, NYC Police Officer Maurice Moore – Rep. 100th Police Precinct, Deputy Inspector Janice Holmes – Rep. 100th Police Precinct, NYC Police Officer Arquer – Rep. 100th Police Precinct, Brittany Bye – Rep. Upward Bound, Helen Montenero – Rep. St. John’s Hospital, NYC Police Officer Jewel – Rep. 100th Police Precinct, Jeanette - Rep. Rockaway Business Alliance

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:35p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair requested the Parks & Public Safety Committee meet with the Parks Dept. to discuss the status of the Piping Plovers being protected or endangered. Apparently, federal and state requirements are different for the species. In addition, the Chair requested the Youth Services Committee meet with RDRC since they operate the Summer Youth Program. The meeting should focus on helping RDRC identify Rockaway businesses that could be introduced to the SYP for a source of additional job opportunities for the youth of Community Board #14.

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The Chair announced that the Queens budget for FY2019 has been finalized. Jonathan will email the document to all the board members. The budget is organized according to agencies. Some of the highlights in the budget are the following:

- Queens has 16 precincts; the 100th Police Precinct has the lowest crime rate in the borough whereas the 101st Police Precinct has the 4th lowest crime rate in the borough for 2017.
- In reference to community boards; Queens County gets the least per capita support to operate a community board office compared to other boroughs. The budget show that Queens get \$1.40 per person, Bronx gets \$1.93, and Manhattan gets \$1.71 per person.
- Queens has the highest utilization of our schools (108.11%) of all the boroughs. Queens is over capacity by 22,151 students while Manhattan Bronx and Brooklyn has less than 95% utilization with empty sites ranging from 11,000 to 30,00 seats. And yet Queens has the smallest per student spending of all the boroughs.

The Chair urged all Board members to review the Queens budget and offered that the CB office would print a copy for any board member who wanted a hard copy.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager, announced that next week DOT will start paving in the district. DOT already has the compiled list provided to them and if anyone is aware of any street that is in dire need of resurfacing please contact the office within the next few days. In addition, a few capital projects are slated to begin in the district in a few weeks.

Reminder to anyone that street activity permit applications are to be submitted on line and are required to be submitted 90 days in advance, no exception. This requirement is mandated by the Mayor's Office, and local community boards have no ability to override this 90 day requirement. The fee is \$27. 25 which is non-refundable. The applicant must submit to the community board office a petition of 75% of the people that live on the block that are in favor of the block being closed.

GUEST SPEAKER

Deputy Inspector Janice Holmes representing the 100th Police Precinct informed everyone that there have been 7 pharmacy robberies in Nassau and in south Queens. The precinct is being proactive and notifying the local pharmacies in the area. The three guys are in a blue Chrysler with fancy rims. Therefore if anyone sees anything suspicious please call 911.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Update on construction of the Rockaway Beach Hotel to be located at Beach 108 Street

John advised all necessary permits from NYC Dept. of Buildings and the architectural designs have been completed and are now moving forward with the execution of the construction. The previous structure has been demolished and site has been cleared. Currently piles are being put in and soil checks are being done because there was some soil contamination, which was removed. The foundation will be installed from now until June. Starting in July the first floor and the façade will be worked on until the end of the year. The Development team would like to give progress updates every three months if the Board's agenda allows their appearance.

2. ROCKAWAY BUSINESS ALLIANCE - Re: Weekend Walks Events

Annette, Executive Director announced that RBA is proposing Weekend Walks events in collaboration with NYC Department of Transportation. The events will close Beach 116 Street traffic from Rockaway Beach Blvd. to the Boardwalk on Fridays, May 11 & 18, 2018 from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. The events would draw pedestrian traffic to the businesses and engage the community to support their local businesses and become more involved.

John Cori made the motion for the board to support the proposed Weekend Walks events. The motion was seconded by Danny Ruscillo. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion. 5 abstained.

COMMITTEE REPORT

PARKS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

John McCambridge, Co-chair reported that a meeting focusing on public safety was held on March 1, 2018. The agenda item for discussion was regarding the spike in violent crime in the 101th Police Precinct.

Captain Tavaiaro of the 101st Police Precinct explained that this year there has been 5 shootings with 2 deaths. The shootings are all gang related and there are nine gangs in the Rockaway with over 400 members.

Furthermore it seems that the shooters are getting younger. The ages are 14, 15 and 16 year olds when in the past the shooters were 17 to 20 year olds.

The precinct has made 10 gun arrests and confiscated 13 guns from the drug arrests.

Captain Tavaiaro advised that there is a program that the precinct is looking into that has been a success in California that involves football and basketball with 2 hours of mandatory tutoring through the Board of Education. Perhaps all the schools on the Peninsula could have a team where the kids would get a chance to play together and get to know each other.

John McCambridge explained that the committee did not have a quorum and those in attendance discussed all the issues that were presented and unanimously agreed to request the board to support sending a letter requesting for summer detail officers that have bicycle training for the 101st Police Precinct due to the increase in usage of parks, concession and beach in the area of Beach 17 Street. The Chair of the Board recommended that the board request the numbers from the Parks Department for the east end separately to show that there has been an increase in usage.

Also the committee agreed to the following: 1) to have Augustina Playground placed on the agenda for the next committee meeting for discussion. 2) To request that the director of the St. John's Boys Home meet with the Youth Services Committee.

The committee made the motion for the board to send a letter to the Mayor De Blasio and the Commissioner of the Parks Department requesting at least 10 summer detail police officers with bicycle training for the 101st Police Precinct. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion.

The Chair directed Jonathan to invite the Director of St. John's Boys Home to meet with the committee in addition to an update on their Close To Home Program.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning