

# **Economic Development Committee Meeting**

April 25, 2016

**In attendance: Danny Ruscillio, Tom Long, Keith Sullivan, Milan Taylor, John Cori, Noreen Ellis, Brian Heffernan, Lou Caucig, Tom Tobin, Eugene Pasternak**

## **1) ANBARIC-Micro grid (Informational Presentation)**

This company is submitting a proposal in response to an RFP put out by PSEG Long Island. The RFP is to upgrade the electrical system and comply with Cuomo's 50 by 30 goal (50% of NYS electricity derived from renewable energy by the year 2030).

Their plan is to run an HVDC (high voltage direct current) from NJ to Long Island. The transmission and distribution of electricity will still be handled by PSEG. This just alters the source of their power. The lines will run under the sea sediment and per the presenters, will have no adverse environmental impact. Along shipping channels it will be buried 12-15 feet below the ocean bed. On land it will be buried 4.5 feet below grade and will contain a warning sheath 2.5 feet below grade. Currently, the grid is fed by windmills in Pennsylvania. The new lines must be fed by new energy sources, or "new wind", thus they will build more wind turbines in PA and possibly in the Upstate/Western, NYS region. There will not be wind turbines in the ocean. There were 3 main benefits; First, the line will be fed from the more reliable, sturdier and the nation's largest electric grid known as PJM (Penn, NJ, MD); Second, it will have "Black Start" capability allowing immediate restart of power after a blackout or de-energization process; Third, it will be generated by all green process such as wind and hydropower when there is insufficient wind. The cost of this will be in the billions, however, they said the system on the Peninsula and of the old LIPA system as a whole is so antiquated and in need of repair, it will cost billions to upgrade it. They didn't speak directly to customer cost, but seemed to hedge that it will increase reasonably.

In conjunction with the HVDC line, they will also create micro grids to capture solar power and distribute it back to the grid. There would be solar panels placed in Riis Park, Edgemere Landfill and on commercial rooftops at Green Acres mall. Riis Park parking lot would have a "canopy" above every 4 parking spots attached to poles that would not reduce parking spaces. The poles would have a gutter system to better alleviate snow/ice collection and melting so as to prevent damage to the canopy.

The last aspect of their plan would be to use CPH (Combined Power & Heat) for NYCHA buildings, hospitals, St. Johns Boys Home and the waste treatment plant. They would use the by-product of heat from the power they purchase to heat the building.

**As this was merely informational, no vote was necessary.**

## 2) Parks Vendor Carts at/near Beach 116th Street (Voting Matter)

A brief presentation was given by the Parks Dep'ts approved vendor for mobile carts on the boardwalk. They requested a 2-block buffer zone where no carts would be on either side of Beach 116th Street. After a lengthy discussion that included talks of no buffer, a 1, 2 and 3 block buffer and not voting until summer 2017, a motion was made to create a 3-block buffer and that passed by a majority vote of 5 to 3. The vendor stated during discussion they were okay with a 3-block buffer. During public speaking, the owner of Smoothie Haven said he was disappointed that his requests to Parks for a vending truck on Beach 73rd Street OR Beach 90th Street parking lot were never considered or offered to him.

**Recommendation: Allow a 3-Block buffer around Beach 116th Street where no vendor carts will sell goods/food. Thus, no vendors on boardwalk from Beach 113th Street up to and including Beach 119th Street.**

## 3) NYC- EDC Downtown Far Rockaway Investment (Informational Presentation)

NYC-EDC presented a power point presentation with handouts addressing the revitalization of DFR with \$91 MILLION. The plan is to establish DFR as a commercial and transit "hub of the peninsula"; reposition the area as a mixed-use district, including new mixed-income housing, build public open spaces, improve quality of life through community services, education and jobs, build the capacity of community organizations and support local businesses. There is a further outreach meeting on May 12th and to give another update in the summer of 2016 to CB#14. Several questions from board members centered around what exactly the plan will entail, what steps were taken to study why the area is suffering now, how to prevent this from happening again and why one localized area is receiving such a tremendous amount of \$ while nowhere else on the Peninsula is. Kevin Alexander from RDRC seems heavily involved and explained that this has been in the works since 2006 and may also include some PA \$ earmarked for neighborhoods impacted by JFK.

**As this was merely informational, no vote was necessary.**