

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

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

PRESENT

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Khaleel Anderson, Louis Caucig Stephen Cooper, Dr. Gerald David, Mordechai Dicker, Ahmad Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Temina Feldman, Eugenia Gibson, Yitzchok Goldstein, D. Brian Heffernan Felicia Johnson, Paul King, Betty Leon, Denise Lopetri-Neibel, Annette Lord-Cohen, Ife Maijeh, Desiree Maple, Nancy Martinez, Rosalyn Mason, Alicia Mazyck, John McCambridge, Sonia Moise, Helen Montero, Al Moore, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold Paez, Isaac Parsee, Edward Pastore Sr., Linda Plummer, Karen Sloan-Payne, Chris Tedesco, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez, Wanda Warden, Edwin Williams, Tyrone Worsley

ABSENT

John Cori, Ellen O'Reilly, Eugene Pasternak, Dr. Eli Shapiro

GUESTS

Assemblywoman Stacey Amato-Pheffer, Dan Brown – Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Democratic District Leader Lew Simon, Sandee Doremus – Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Manuel Silva – Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Tavia Blakley – Rep. Assemblywoman Michele Titus, Democratic District Leader Valarie West, Michael Matteo – Rep. Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer-Amato, Dekendra Dazzell - Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Hallah Saleh – Rep. NYC Dept. of City Planning, NYC Police Officer Jones – Rep. 100th Police Precinct

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

MINUTES FROM JUNE 11, 2019

Betty Leon made the motion for the Board to accept the June 11, 2019 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by John McCambridge. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion. 1 abstained.

MINUTES FROM JUNE 25, 2019

Karen Sloan-Payne- correction on page 2, the 4th line from the bottom should be removed because it's the Committee's recommendation, not the vote of the full Board. Motion by Karen Sloan-Payne to accept the minutes with the stated correction. The motion was seconded by Isaac Parsee. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion with 2 abstentions.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair announced that the board's October meeting will be held at a later date due to Yom Kippur being on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

The Chair reported that Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams attended a Rockaway Beach Civic Association meeting in August and mentioned the important effects of the pipeline installation to the Peninsula and Brooklyn. National Grid has stopped new gas connections to businesses, homes and multifamily buildings and will stop the construction of affordable housing. The Public Service Commission (PSC) has retained consultants to analyze the stats/surveys that have been compiled by National Grid that shows the need for the pipeline. The PSC expects to have the final report sometime in October.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager, Jonathan Gaska thanked Lew Simon for the arrangements for refreshments for the meeting provided by Key Food and thanks to Board member Lou Caucig for providing the pastries.

Mr. Gaska reported that the foundation for the Far Rockaway Library is almost completed and as the construction begins we can expect congestion, detours and reduced available parking in the Mott Ave/Beach 20 Street area and therefore everyone should allow extra time for delays over the next 2 years.

Mayor DeBlasio announced today that the City has agreed to take full responsibility for street tree roots that has uprooted homeowner sidewalks and forgive previous violations.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 7:37pm. 15 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking 8:27pm.

GUEST SPEAKERS

1. ASSEMBLYWOMAN STACEY PHEFFER AMATO

Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer-Amato brings Metrocard Outreach To You on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, 12:30 to 2:30 pm at St. Frances DeSales located at 219 Beach 129 Street. Please bring proof of age and/or disability to receive a MTA Senior Citizen or Disability Reduced Fare Metro Card.

Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato and NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse announced free Naloxone Training and Certification on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 6:00pm at Peninsula Library located at 92-25 Rockaway Beach Blvd. 11693. For more information please call 718-945-9550.

2. CITY COUNCILMAN DONOVAN RICHARDS

Manuel Silver, Chief of Staff for Councilman Richards reported that Participatory Budget process will start soon. This process allows citizens to decide how/what \$1 million dollars is spent on in your community. Please reach out to the Far Rockaway office for more information to sign up/volunteer to be a part of the process.

All are invited to the Groundbreaking for Downtown Far Rockaway Infrastructure on September 18, 2019.

There will be a lot of construction, water main work, new streets & sidewalks and installation of pedestrian plazas along the Mott and Central Avenues. Please be informed the contractors have agreed to complete the much needed work in three years instead of five.

3. QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT MELINDA KATZ

Dan Brown announced that Queens Borough President Melinda Katz will be hosting an awards ceremony for board members on October 3, 2019 from 6pm to 9pm at Queens Borough Hall. Those receiving awards will be contacted.

INFROMATIONAL PRESENTATION

1. NYC DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING – Proposal for Coastal Flood Resilient Text Amendment

Hallah Saleh, City Planner explained that the waterfront is large with 520 miles of diverse areas. The areas face different flood risks and issues with the current regulatory frame work, and require particular strategies to make them resilient.

Currently New York City is a high flood risk and will increase over time. Super storm Sandy inundated all the lots whereas 16, 998 buildings in District #14 are in a floodplain. 68% of the buildings in the floodplain

are detached residences and 65% of the buildings in the flood plain have a full basement below grade.

The proposed text amendment would support long-term resilient design of all building types through flexibility in zoning. For example: height allowances and or floor area exemptions would be increased to allow more flexibility.

The Chair requested that copies of this presentation be sent to board members.

2. EXECUTIVE BOARD VACANCY VOTE

The Chair explained as stated on the agenda there will be a vote for the position of Secretary/Treasurer for the Executive Board and as is required it is an open vote. Candidate names were submitted by Board members via email. There are names placed in nomination:

Khaleel Anderson
John Cori
Betty Leon
Harold Paez

Mr. Gaska explained that each ballot must be signed.

The vote count was as follows:

Khaleel Anderson	15
John Cori	3
Betty Leon	15
Harold Paez	5

The vote count resulted in a tie between Khaleel Anderson and Betty Leon will require a runoff vote by open ballot at the October meeting.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager reported that the committee met on August 2019 to discuss the draft 2021 Capital & Expense Budget Priorities. The committee did not have a quorum. The City Charter mandates that community boards yearly submit a capital and expense list of projects to be funded by city agencies to improve the district.

The list was sent out to the public in August and to board members for review/suggestions and input. Tonight is the first of two meetings in

Which the board will review the budget. At the October meeting the budget will again be reviewed and voted on.

PUBLIC HEARING-The Chair opened the floor for a public hearing regarding the draft 2021 Capital & Expense Priority List. 2 people signed up to speak. They were recognized and heard. The Chair closed the public hearing.

Mr. Gaska reviewed the some of the new Capital items added to the list include the following:

#12 fund design and construction of a Park House (restrooms) at Bayview Park at Beach 88 Street and Beach Channel Drive.

#7 initiate a study and design for new storm and sanitary sewers for the Beach 84th Street between Beach Channel Drive and Barbadoes Drive dead end on bay.

#16 Initiate a study to locate a professional health related technical school and an aviation services school in the community district.

Expense items added:

Mobi- mats at every beachside ramp.

Development and distribution of a program on Water Safety to be shown at an assembly during the month of June at NYC Public Schools

Providing restroom trailers at the ferry landing from May 1st thru September 30th.

PARKS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Jose Velez reported that the committee met on July 31, 2019. The first agenda item the committee discussed was regarding the following:

Beach 108th Street Esplanade - Capital Project Presentation: Diane Dreier - Funding source: GOSR \$1,680,000

Presentation showed current conditions and proposed conditions. Objective is to replace the current temporary waterfront railing with a permanent railing. Create a plaza area with trees, benches, dual drinking fountain with bottle filler, bike racks, covered trash receptacles, new

pavers, and new planting framing plaza area. New plaza area will assist ferry operator in the queuing of ferry riders.

Questions: Bait cutting stations? No funding, exploring other possible funding sources for bait cutting stations.

Where will fisherman be able to fish, west of the plaza area, shade structures?

Clarify funding source? GOSR is NY RISING money, lacks lighting, what is the railing type, what happens to the former railing, garbage cans, benches, covering over plaza for rain/snow, bike rack style? Public restroom? Request port-a-potties or restroom trailers for summer. Make request for comfort station. Design should be completed by spring of 2020, construction to begin spring of 2021, completion 2022.

Bayswater Park - Capital Presentation: Diane Dreier

Funding source: \$55 million from FEMA, \$4.3 Million from Mayoral funds

Objectives: Reduce the park and community's vulnerability to flooding, increase resilience and sustainability, improve current park amenities. Reviewed current park conditions including New Skate Park, proposed new design is based on community input meetings.

Improve sidewalks and entrances: create new entrance at Bay 32nd and Beach Channel Drive, and Beach Channel Drive near Bay 35th Street, welcoming entrance on Norton Drive. Improved curb lines and formalize parking along Bay 32nd Street. (Create entrances at crosswalks) No fences only wooden guard rails.

Relocate Comfort station which is currently in flood zone. Restore Shoreline and Upland Maritime zone, repair erosion, formalize trails, tie in to USACE berm from Edgemere and create berm around Norton Basin. Create paths that allow exploration of mud flats.

Relocated Tennis courts and create gathering space. Athletic courts: relocating 3 tennis courts (reduced) increasing basketball courts to 4, decreasing handball courts to 2, adding adult fitness, and adding maintenance and operation building. There are two ball fields one will be relocated the other will remain in its current location. Open area for festivals and paths will be lit using solar lights.

Playground and picnic area – wall along Beach Channel Drive will be removed and trees will be saved. New playground area with water

features and fencing. Picnic area will include variety of tables and seating areas (plenty of benches) increased BBQ grills, ping pong table, solar lighting (pilot program), drinking fountains and view of water. Additional features include many benches, misting areas, drinking fountains, Kayak launch and reviewed site materials and furnishing.

Questions: Will there be chess and checkerboard tables? Why were courts reduced for tennis and handball? This was based on scoping meeting. Will explore adding 2 additional handball courts. Dog Park? Will cars be allowed or able to drive into park? No.

Safety on walking paths, how long will pilot program of solar lights run for and what will happen on cloudy days.

Playground ages, number of drinking stations? Can Parks do more outreach for scoping meeting, maybe direct questionnaires? Lighting along park edges and in park, are there plans to rent kayaks at the launch site.

Design complete date: spring of 2020, construction begins: spring/fall of 2021, park to be completed in stages completion fall of 2022, spring of 2023.

The motioned to accept Beach 108th Esplanade as proposed and passed unanimously.

The motion to accept Bayswater Park requesting additional handball tennis courts and center rail on backless benches. Passed unanimously.

Revenue - Alex Han & Sophia Filipino presented on upcoming issuing of RFP proposal for the Rockaway Beach food concessions area(s) (Beach 88th, 97th, and 108th). Current contract expires at the end of the 2020 beach season. RFP is open to anyone. Seeking input, thoughts and suggestions from community, starting from the ground floor.

Current agreement is for operation of three concession buildings, Beach 97th also operates a beach merchandise/surf shop, operator also has ability to put out additional 20 temporary mobile food units/carts and or pop up merchandise (from Beach 50th St to Beach 126th St.) Operator also has ability to allow food truck operators/vendors to sell from street level (south side of SFP).

Hope to issue new RFP by the end of this year, it would be out there for about six weeks. Main considerations/expectations are stated in the

RFP; new RFP will not differ much from previous RFP. Proposals are rated on 5 criteria, such as planned operations, what are capital improvements, minimum capital expenditures, operating experience, financial capability, and fee offered to city/rent.

Questions: How long is the lease for? Not determined yet, current lease was/is for 8 years. Possibly looking for 10-year lease, based on review of buildings and what capital improvements might be needed. Beach 17th St. is not included different RFP. Will community preferences of operators be accepted? Revenue meets with concession twice yearly to address any issue. Will revenue accept feedback on what community would like to see in concession areas, can concessions go up to 126th street? Can community request that operator provide a minimum of 10 sub licensees? Were current concessioners made aware of this meeting? Was Lola Starr RFP renewed? Possible vendors should reach out to Revenue if they are having problem securing sub-license, no guarantees. Can games be part of concessions? Committee requested copy of original RFP to be sent to Jonathan.

New/Old Business: Request by Arverne by the Sea residences that lifeguards be provided earlier than July 4th weekend at the beginning of the beach season, Beaches further uptown are getting lifeguards before they are.

When lifeguards finally do show up, surfers will not come out of water, they will not respond to lifeguard whistles or PEP officers, unless there is a white shirt (Captain or Sergeant).

Motion made to a request that Jonathan ask PEP officers and NYPD to coordinate and arrive at 10:00 AM during weekends to enforce swimming beaches regulations and get surfers out of swimming beaches when lifeguards are on duty – Beaches . 60th to 65th Streets.

Request for mobi-mats to be regraded at Beach 61st St. and additional mobi-mat at other beaches in the 60's (not available at this time). There was a request for bike lane enforcement and better signage.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Isaac Parsee inquired/requested that the MTA Q22 Bus parking lots located between Beach 21 and 22 Streets be cleared/cleaned of van

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drivers/vans that turned parking lots into a dumping ground.

Jose Velez stated that traffic in some areas are really stalled and backed up and the freeway should be opened to ease traffic.

Lou Caucig stated that the Parks Department needs to meet with the surfers and public to enforce safety because it is dangerous for swimmers and surfers to be together on the same beach. The Chair directed that the Parks committee discuss the issue at a committee meeting.

Chris Tedesco explained that the board members don't look good when they get all emotional at meetings in front of everyone.

Sonia Moise stated that she feels the motion for the redevelopment of the Peninsula Hospital site ULURP should have included the language of the need for a super market not just only a Western Beef. It was explained that URRLUP is for zoning issues and includes the square footage for commercial space – it does not cover to whom that commercial space would be rented to.

Mr. Gaska announced that some of the signs Sonia Moise requested be placed under the Rockaway Freeway starting at Seagirt Blvd have been put up by DOT.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning