



COMMUNITY
BOARD #14

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MARCH 22, 2017

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

PRESENT

Khaleel Anderson, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Ahmed Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Patricia Gillespie, D. Brian Heffernan, Henry Iori, Felicia Johnson, Joel Kaplan, Betty Leon, Thomas Long, John McCambridge, Sonia Moise, Aldean Moore Daniel Mundy, Ellen O'Reilly, Dolores Orr, Isaac Parsee, Eugene Pasternak, Edward Pastore Sr, Karen Sloan-Payne, Harvey Rudnick; Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Dr. Eli Shapiro, Thomas Tobin, Chris Tesdesco, Carole Tractenberg, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez, R Edwin Williams, Rachel Williams

ABSENT

Richard Altabe, Shalom Becker, Kelley Brooke, Louis Caucig, Annette Lord-Cohen, Mordechai Dicker, Martin Ingram, Peter Larkin, Desiree Maple, Sender Schwartz, Milan Taylor

GUESTS

Daniel Randell – Rep. Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer-Amato, Mercedes Buchanan – Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Democratic District Leader Lew Simon, Sandee Doremus – Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Dan Brown – Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Lisa George – Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Joyce Mulvauy – Rep. TBTA, Marc Mende – Rep. TBTA, Mark Shelton – Rep. NYCEM, Mosi London – Rep. NYCEM, David Schmidt - Rep. NYCEM

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:20 p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report of the Chair

The Chair advised board members that Isaac Parsee, Secretary of the board, is going to disturb copies of the NYC Equal Employment Opportunity Policy. All board members must sign the sheet to verify that they received the policy and that each board member is responsible to read and adhere to these policies.

Minutes from February 14, 2017

Dan Mundy made the motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Felicia Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

Informational Presentations

1. TBTA- Regarding cashless tolling on Crossbay & Marine Park Bridges

Joyce Muluane, Director of Community Affair at TBTA announced that Governor Cuomo's initiative to bring cashless tolling to all MTA bridges and tunnels by the end of 2017. The Crossbay and Marine Park Bridges will be cashless by April 30, 2017. Currently the booths are being demolished at both bridges.

The benefits for the Peninsula is that traffic moves safer and faster. Drivers will pay by using E-Z Pass or receive a toll bill in the mail. Payments have to be received within 30 days if not a 2nd notice violation will be sent. The DMV registration suspension program has been instituted and will be enforced. Bill payments can be

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

1931 Mott Avenue, Room 311
Far Rockaway, NY 11691
Tel.: (718) 471-7300
Fax: (718) 868-2657
cbrock14@nyc.rr.com



made online. Metal tokens will no longer be accepted starting April 30, 2017. Drivers can apply for E-Z Pass at mta.info/ezpass. Rockaway residents can apply for the Rockaway Resident Program by contacting customer service center at 1-800-333-8655. The Rockaway E-Token Plan will end on April 30, 2017. If you have unused tokens you can order a token refund kit by calling 212-360-3000. TBTA is looking for a popup location to distribute token refund kits and to process E-Z Pass applications.

The Chair expressed a need for additional traffic control at Van Brunt Road in Broad Channel to make sure the residents can get in and out of the block. The Chair suggested a "Don't Block the Grid Box". Dan Mundy suggested that DOT move the existing traffic light one block north. The MTA advised they have already requested that a "Red Light Ahead" sign be placed prior to the intersection and so far there has not been a response from DOT.

The Chair requested that Jonathan Gaska, District Manager send a letter to DOT regarding all of the ideas for Van Brunt Road.

TBTA also shared a video on the current repairs going on at the Marine Park Bridge.

2. Housing Preservation & Development - Re: Edgemere Urban Renewal update

Perris Straughter representing HPD reported that the Resilient Edgemere Community Plan is available online and is divided into four sections that the working group decided that was important which are the following:

1. Protect the neighborhood from flooding.
2. Create resilient housing & maintain low density.
3. Improve streets & transportation
4. Increase neighborhood amenities

Mr. Straughter explained that sixteen acres have been identified to be used as open space. Five acres of city owned lots along Rockaway Beach Blvd. would be used for mixed development. \$68 million dollars would be used for improvements of the Beach 41 Street Houses and the community center.

Mr. Straughter explained that the EURA was designated in 1997, which authorized the City to acquire certain properties. If needed, any land use actions required for this plan would be pursued separately later on. The open areas close to the Bay will remain open areas and not designated for housing because of flooding. There are vacant and occupied homes scattered within the open areas and long term plans do focus on moving the occupants out of a flood zone. The plan does not involve taking occupied homes.

The Chair urged that HPD conduct community outreach as soon as possible to inform the homeowners in area of the City's Volunteer Acquisition Program.

3. Office of Emergency Management – Re: Hurricane preparedness update

David Schmid, Senior Advisor at Emergency Management reported that the agency is currently doing outreach regarding evacuation signage.

The NYC Evacuation Signage Program has been instituted to focus on improving public safety and awareness than active direction along specified evacuation routes. The density of the signage will be increased on the Peninsula along Rockaway Beach Blvd. and Beach Channel Drive.

Again OEM was asked to identify evacuation bus stop and to create and post those signs.

4. New Visions Charter H.S. for the Humanities at Beach Channel H.S.

Jennie Soler-McIntosh representing that New Visions Charter High School expressed that she is aware of the community concerns and no decision has been made as of yet for the use of space. New Vision is being considered to co-locate at Beach Channel High School because according to the Board of Education it is at 58% capacity. If DOE approved the co-location all of the principals would meet to discuss utilization of space to see if the co-location is feasible. The DOE is voting tonight.

New Visions Charter High School is unique because it has a 92% graduation rate with four schools already operating in the five boroughs. Queens District #27 New Vision already operates at August Martin High School. The model offers career internships, community involvement and college prep. If approved New Visions would start in September with a freshman class of 125 students and a lottery for those seats are currently underway.

Board members, expressed concerns:

1. Channel View has a graduation rate of 95% so why not just expand what is already in place and successful.
2. There is not enough shared amenity space (cafeteria/gym/labs/library/each school with a designated entrance/exist) but yet another school to be added.

5. Queens Public Transit Committee - Re: Woodhaven Blvd. SBS Plan

Allen Rosen, former NYC Transit Director of Bus Planning representing QPTC reported that the Woodhaven/Cross Bay Blvd. Select Bus Service is simply a bad /idea for some of the following reasons:

- Passengers would save 5 minutes if they are on a long trip but spend more time walking to the new bus stops.
- SBS Rockaway bus stop sidewalks would be overcrowded due to elimination of seven bus stops in Rockaway and Broad Channel.
- Most passengers use it for short trips.
- Passengers have to go into traffic to get to the median to the bus which causes a safety issues.
- The service would delay the flow of emergency traffic delaying needed rescue services.
- No environmental impact study was done by DOT.
- The service would cause traffic congestion issues because drivers and emergency vehicles would be restricted to the other lanes.

D. Brian Heffernan made the motion to oppose the Woodhaven Blvd. SBS plan for all the reasons discussed. The motion was seconded by Noreen Ellis. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 21 YES, 2 NO and 0 ABSTAINED.

Public Speaking: The Chair opened the floor for public speaking, 15 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm.

Submitted By: M. Dunning