

**COMMUNITY BOARD # 14  
VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 12, 2021**

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**PRESENT**

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Mark Anaya, Lailah Boyd, Giselle Carter, Natasha Carter, Louis Caucig, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Rosemarie Duggan-Gulston, Ahmad Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Jack Epter, Yitzchok Goldstone, Felicia Johnson, Betty Leon, Denise Lopresti, Annette Lord-Cohen Nancy Martinez, John McCambridge, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold Paez, David Rood-Ojalvo, Karen Sloan-Payne, Chris Tedesco, Jose Velez, Wanda Warden, Lisa Williams

**ABSENT**

Gabrielle Bennett, Yaakov Berger, Andrea Colon, Eric Diaz, Temina Feldman, Joanne Fogarty, Jaden Gabb, Eugenia Gibson, Randy Hall, D. Brian Heffernan, Tamara Jacobs, Kelly Brian, Paul Kin, Maggie Larkins, , Ife Maijeh, Rosalyn Mason, Isa Mitchell, Sonia Moise, Helen Montero, Al Moore, Eugene Pasternak, Linda Plummer,

**GUESTS**

Rob Schwach – Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Irene Dougherty – Rep. State Assembly Member Stacey Amato-Pheffer, Malik Sanders – Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Mac Lawrence – Rep. Councilmember Selvena Brooks-Powers, Dan Brown-Rep. Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, Danielle Mitchell-Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Owen Foote & Joan Krevlin & Joe Vivino & Jomo Blackburn – Rep. NYC Department of Design & Construction

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

The Chair reminded the Board that this meeting will begin with the completion of the agenda from the September board meeting since meeting was adjourned at 11pm without completing the agenda.

**PARKS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Jose Velez, Co-Chair of the committee reported that a virtual meeting was held on June 29, 2021, actually there was 2 meetings regarding the same agenda item.

**1) Army Corp of Engineers-Dan Falt: Update on Rockaway Contract #2 - Coastal Protection/Reinforced Dune & Crossovers Project:**

**Purpose of project:** The purpose of **CONTRACT #2** is to provide an effective barrier against erosion and wave attack, limiting storm surge inundation and cross-peninsula flooding this includes: Reinforced dunes that starts on Beach 9 Street to

Beach 149 Street which is like a sheet pile with a concrete cap fronted by a rubble mound structure (ie: a lot of rocks).

The second part of the project was approximately 101 dune crossovers which include, elevated timber, ADA compliant pedestrian crossovers/ramps, on grade pedestrian crossovers with stabilization mats, vehicular crossovers and combination vehicular with pedestrian crossovers.

The reinforced dune begins at Beach 9th street & extends to Beach 149<sup>th</sup> street. There will be 18 Elevated Timber ADA crossovers (zig-zag ramps) at Beach 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 44<sup>nd</sup>, 67<sup>nd</sup>, 74<sup>th</sup>, 81<sup>th</sup>, 84<sup>th</sup>, 92<sup>nd</sup>, 95<sup>th</sup>, 103<sup>th</sup>, between 108/109<sup>th</sup>, 113/114<sup>th</sup>, 121/122<sup>th</sup>, 131<sup>th</sup>, 135<sup>th</sup>, 142<sup>nd</sup>, 147<sup>th</sup>. Other pedestrian crossovers include beach mats to existing boardwalk stairs and ramps that will be graded at an angle to allow for ease of passage over dunes.

There will be 11 vehicular access points, 4 of these to be both a vehicular access & pedestrian access point/ramps (Beach 9<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 38<sup>th</sup>, 69<sup>th</sup>, 73, 87, 96, 106, 116, 109<sup>th</sup>, 116<sup>th</sup>, 149 St.). In order to reduce the number of elevated ADA crossovers from 8 to 4, as requested by the BHPOA and NPAO civic organization from Beach 126<sup>th</sup> to Beach 149<sup>th</sup>, there will need to be a 5 ft. wide pedestrian walkway on the north side of the reinforced dune allowing connectivity with all crossovers. Once the reinforced dune is completed it will be planted to increase its stabilization. There will be approximately 2.8 million cubic yards of beach fill.

The proposed construction is scheduled to start September 2021 and the estimated cost is between \$100,000,000 & \$250,000,000. The city will provide an additional funding.

The Committee expressed the following concerns: a) there is no vehicular access from Beach 38<sup>th</sup> street to Beach 69<sup>th</sup> street, emergency vehicles need to be able to access this area. Dan Falt stated he would take this concern back to the city and state. b) Only one ADA ramp between Beach 67<sup>th</sup> and Beach 17<sup>th</sup> because of the Piping Plover? c) What is the timetable for project? Dan hopes to have contractor selected by September 2021, with work beginning near the Plover area soon after.

D.B. Heffernan made the motion for the committee to support the Army Corp's Contract 2 which included 50 years of sand replenishment and reinforced dunes with plantings. The ADA ramps from Beach 10 Street to Beach 147 Street with the reduction of zigzag ramps from eight to four in the area of Beach 126 Street to Beach 149 Street. And the addition of a vehicle access to the boardwalk in the area of beach 62 street to beach 57 Street. John Cori seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 4 Yes and 2 Abstentions.

Mark Anaya made a motion and seconded by Lou Caucig for the board to support the ACOE to construct 2 ADA ramps-1 ramp located at Beach 142 Street and 1-ramp at Beach 131 Street connecting ramps with mats in the middle, no vehicles

are permitted to use the mats including emergency vehicles. The mats are only for pedestrians and disabled vehicles. Lou Caucig seconded the motion. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 14 YES, 5 NO and 6 ABSTAINED.

## **2) NYC Surfing School - Jay Sigelakis**

Jay is a Rockaway resident, a veteran, and operator of NYC Surfing since 2013. Jay is looking for a permit to offer surfing instruction only. There will be no camp programs, instruction will be limited to 12 or fewer students. He is EMT certified and has a Surf Instructor Certification. Jay had established his surfing school when there was no established process for Parks Dept. Permit. He then left to join the military. He has just recently returned and would like to be given the opportunity to reactive his surfing school. He will be offering a discount to 1<sup>st</sup> responders, and Vets and would be offering a surf after work program.

He recommends that the Community Board work with NYC Parks to establishment minimum requirements for surf school/camps to obtain a permit to operate on a NYC beach such as a maximum ratio of instructor to students, maximum number of students for each school, a staff member with EMT certification on the beach and that all instructors be certified. He also suggests the creation of a surf beach in Belle Harbor/Neponsit, he believes that this would be great for students learning to surf.

There was some concern that another school could lead to overcrowding on the surf beaches. The committee agreed to support the idea for this season and revisit next season.

B. Heffernan made a motion to support the issuance of a NYC Parks Permit for the operation of a surfing school, seconded by J. Velez. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

## **BY-LAWS, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Betty Leon, Chair of the Committee reported that a virtual meeting was held on June 24, 2021. The agenda item for discussion was regarding proposed changes to Board By-Laws as requested by Queens Borough President. The Committee did not have a quorum; however, the committee met to discuss updating the CB14 By-Laws that could include the following changes:

1. **Article IV: Officers:** The recommendation is to add the officer position of Parliamentarian who would be responsible for advising on issues of parliamentary procedure and other by-laws requirements, as well as connecting board members with relevant resources on these topics. **(One goal in the bylaw revision process is to ensure that there are enough offices available to allow future leaders to**

**get executive committee experience, which will be especially important as term limits kick in and there is more turnover in leadership).**

2. **Article V11: Duties of Officers, (A) The Chair:** The role of the Chair will be elaborated vis-a-versa professional staff and operations of the District Office. “Although the Chair is the ‘Agency Head’ per the Charter and the District Manager serves at the pleasure of the Board, different Chairs might have different interpretations of what ‘Oversee’ means, with greater Chair turnover in the future due to term limits, we must be more explicit regarding the nature of the supervisory relationship and formalize the hiring of the District Manager. We must also enumerate responsibilities for staff.

3. **Article V11: Committees:** They are recommending adding a Technology/Engagement Committee to explore ways CB 14 can better engage and publicize its operations. In addition, we should considering adding that the By-laws committee to meet at minimum every four (4) years. The Bylaws should consider a provision making clear that there can be public members of committees and a statement that the Chair shall endeavor to appoint public members to committees whenever appropriate.

4. **Article 1X: Responsibilities of Community Board Members:** Here note the trigger for notifying the BP: “Substantial nonattendance’ is having more than three (3) unexcused absences in a six (6) month period (They do not need to be consecutive).

5. **Article X1: Vacancies #2:** “Vacancies on the Board shall be filled by the BP”. This provision could be removed as it imposes a responsibility on the BP and is not necessary.

6. **Article X11: Meeting of the Board. #2:** The Bylaws need to reflect that CB14 has a livestream of the meetings/Hearings and the posting of the recordings of these Livestreams online, linked to the CB’s website. We must indicate where in the Agenda, the Public can regularly be expected to be heard during a meeting ie: a time certain where the public can speak provided the New York City Council funds the budget necessary to enable this.

7. **Article X1V: Agenda # 4:** The Bylaws to include identification of ways that meetings (Regular, Committees and Special) and Hearings will be noticed to the Public (eg. On the website, via social media network etc.). There must also be a requirement that final minutes be posted timely to the board’s website and accessible to the public. While CB14 already does this, it should be included in the By-Laws to that we can ensure this practice continues

8. **Article XV: Removal of Officers:** Extract from the Charter the procedure for removing a member or an Officer.

In updating our bylaws re: Notices, Agenda, and Minutes etc. We must outline procedures where we follow the Open Meeting Law re: Commitment to openness

and Public commitment. The bylaws to include a provision of The Human Rights Law.

Please note, some of the discussions by the committee that ensued during this update: 1. Privacy issues with Zoom & Livestreaming. 2. Fact that CB 14 does not have the money to hire someone to videotape meetings. 3. Suggestion to have BP office provide the resources or the Tech person to do so. References:

<https://queensbp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/queens-community-boards-bylaw-reform-initiative-pdf>.

<https://nyc-charter.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>

District Manager : Charter 7t, Sec : 2800-F

The By-Laws Committee will continue review and discussion and present at a future Board meeting for Board approval.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**

The September minutes will be discussed at the October meeting due to technical issues.

### **CORRESPONDANCE WAS READ AS FOLLOWS:**

Letter was received from City Council member Selvena Brooks-Powers, which was sent to Steve Banks, Commissioner of NYC Dept. of Social Services. Letter expressed unacceptable decisions NYC DSS continues to make that impact our communities and requested an immediate cease on the La Quinta Hotel being converted into a male shelter until further review.

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

The Chair reported that she and Dan Mundy Jr. (President of the Broad Channel Civic Association) are members of the JFK Committee. This committee has member representing communities in southeast Queens and Nassau County that are impacted by flight paths at JFK Airport. After several years of discussion she and Dan were finally able to get the JFK Committee to send a letter to the FAA regarding changing the take-off flight pattern of runway 31-L which goes over the Arverne community. The FAA responded to the letter and included a diagram which had nothing to do with runway 31-L. The JFK Committee will again write to the FAA and request that to review what was submitted and respond accordingly.

### **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager informed everyone that the NYC Department of Sanitation has announced that agency is accepting applications for snow removal.

## **ELECTED OFFICIAL CALL IN**

### **QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS**

Malik Sanders gave the following updates-

- For LGBT history month, there will be a screening of “Brother Outsider” on October 13, 2021 at 5:30pm.
- Redistricting Town Hall will be virtually held on October 18, 2021 at 5:30pm.
- Southeast Queens Regional Town Hall will be held on October 19, 2021 at York College at 6:30pm. Several representatives of different agencies will be available for the public to address concerns/issues.

### **QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ**

Dan Brown reported that all are invited to attend virtual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on October 13, 2021 at 5:00pm just log into queensda.org. Also, a Gun Buy Back program will be held in the Jackson Heights community. A \$200 gift card is given in exchange for working fire arm. More information is available by logging onto queensda.org.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- D.B. Heffernan stated that some members of the board don't know that a vote of Abstain is the same as a no vote. The Chair explained that issue is addressed at board member trainings.
- John Cori stated that he previously mentioned/clarified that requesting for sanitation to be invited to a board meeting to address the filth in the community.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING** – The Chair opened the floor for public speaking. Eight people signed up to speak. All were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

## **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION**

### **NYC Department of Design & Construction-Re: Design for new firehouse at 116-11 Beach Channel Drive**

Jomo Blackburn, Representing DDC Community Outreach Division presented to the board the designs for the proposed new firehouse for Engine Company 268 will be constructed at 116-11 Beach Channel Drive.

Mr. Blackburn stated that they spoke with the firefighters to find out what was not working with the current fire house and made designs to endure flooding, wind, rain and easy ability to turn around fire trucks to ease in and out access which simply lead to the designed firehouse to be constructed in the middle of the

location and is requesting a letter of support from the Community Board to move forward with the design. The entire presentation has already been emailed to board members and is available online at NYC Department of Design & Construction website. Board members expressed concerns that the new house should be at a higher elevation and that the old firehouse not to become an eyesore.

John Cori made the motion for the Board to give a letter of the support for the design for the new firehouse for Engine Company 268 to be constructed, as presented, at 116-11 Beach Channel Drive. Motion seconded by Jose Velez. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 26 YES, 0 NO, 1 ADSTAINED, 1 RECUSED.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Dr. Gerald David, Chair of the committee reported that for the proposed FY2023 Capital & Expense priorities list, the suggested/concerns of changes that were advised at the board's September meeting was added and mass emailed out to the public and board members for review and a response was received from the Edgemere Civic Association requesting to have storm sewer system improvements on Beach 35, 36 and 37 Streets to deal with flooding be added to the list.

Dr. Gerald David made the motion for the Board to support including the request from the Edgemere Civic Association to have storm sewer system improvements on Beach 35, 36 and 37 Streets to deal with flooding be added to the list. Karen Sloan-Payne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FY2023 Capital & Expense priorities list - **PUBLIC HEARING** – No one signed up to speak.

Dr. David made the motion for the Board to support submitting the FY2023 Capital & Expense priorities list. Karen Sloan-Payne seconded the motion. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 24 YES and 1 ABSTAINED.

The Chair announced that it is now 10:05 and By-Laws prohibit and new items after 10:00pm. The December meeting will begin with the Transportation Committee.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning