

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**

PRESENT

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Mark Anaya, Gabrielle Bennett, Lailah Boyd, Giselle Carter, Natasha Carter, Louis Caucig, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Eric Diaz, Rosemarie Duggan-Gulston, Noreen Ellis, Jack Epter, Yitzchok Goldstein, Felicia Johnson Randy Hall, D. Brian Heffernan, Paul King, Betty Leon, John McCambridge, Isa Mitchell, Sonia Moise, Al Moor, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold Paez, Eugene Pasternak, Linda Plummer, David Rood-Ojalvo, Karen Sloan-Payne, Chris Tedesco, Jose Velez, Wanda Warden, Lisa Williams

ABSENT

Yaakov Berger, Andrea Colon, Ahmad Edwards, Temina Feldman, Maggie Larkins, Denise Lopresti, Annette Lord-Cohen, Ife Maijeh, Nancy Martinez, Rosalyn Mason, Helen Montero,

GUESTS

State Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson, Joseph Edwards-Rep. Congressman Gregory Meeks, Sandee Doremus – Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Irene Dougherty – Rep. State Assembly Member Stacey Pheffer-Amato, Malik Sanders – Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Mac Lawrence – Rep. Councilmember Selvena Brooks-Powers, Ciara Donley – Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 8 2021

Dan Mundy made the motion to accept the June 8, 2021 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Paul King. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDANCE

Letter dated August 19, 2021 was received from Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, Inc. to Community Board #14. Letter is requesting the Board’s support to expand their services located at 18-47 Mott Avenue in Far Rockaway to include treatment for substance abuse disorders, chronic physical ailments, histories of homelessness and those struggling with other social determinants of health. Letter of support would assist in applying to the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports. The Chair referred the issue to the Health/Social Committee Chairs.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed everyone back from the summer break and explained that the meetings will continue to be virtual until the Board is notified of any changes.

The Chair announced that The Mayor's Office of Resiliency has requested to meet with the Board's Parks Committee. Jonathan has reached out to the Chairs of the Committee to arrange a meeting for September 23, 2021.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager informed everyone that the office website is NYC.GOV/Queenscb14. The website has office information such as board/committee meeting dates and agendas. Also it has the community resource directory and information on street activity permits.

ELECTED OFFICIAL CALL IN **ASSEMBLYMEMBER KHALEEL ANDERSON**

Assemblymember Anderson gave an update on issues he has been working on in relation to the Rockaway Peninsula and servicing the community.

- In regard to legislature, its part time and members are in Albany from January to June with the exception of emergencies.
- Assembly members did reconvene on August 31, 2021, to extend the eviction moratorium as well as address the open meetings' law. Therefore, members passed legislature that will extend the ability to meet virtually and eviction moratorium until January 15, 2022, including expanded funding for the distressed landlords.
- NYS Department of temporary disability assistance has been processing WRAP applications. In a few weeks office will be working along with state to provide assistance for applying/processing WRAP applications for residents.
- The office has had a mobile office with Department of Consumer Affairs present that has been assisting local businesses with complaints in addition to staff doing community outreach by knocking on doors in the community to bring services and information to residents.

CONGRESSMAN GREGORY MEEKS

Joseph Edwards reported that Congressman Meeks will be participating in the hearing tomorrow regarding the Emergency Rental Assistance Program that has been difficult for states to distribute funds that has been set aside to rentals and landlords.

Congressman Meeks will be hosting a meeting with all local elected officials, NYS/NYC Department of Parks and NYS DEC and the Army Corp of Engineers regarding issues and concerns pertaining to the Reformulation Projects basically on

the west end of the peninsula as well as bringing updates on proposed projects regarding Jamaica Bay.

Congressman Meeks has requested funding for assessment improvements for the Van Wyck Expressway to JFK Airport and funding to address flooding in Southeast Queens which were included in the House Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill - \$16.1 Million. Dollars.

Congressman Meeks is continuing to push for more funding for the following projects which was already approved in the House of Representatives: The Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center, St. John's Hospital, Eastern Queens Alliance, Several projects for York College Programs and more etc.

STATE SENATOR JOSEPH ADDABBO JR.

Sandee Deremus reported that Senator Addabbo Jr. is meeting with Congressman Meeks and other elected officials regarding the Army Corp of Engineers Reformulation project.

STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER STACEY-AMATO PHEFFER

Irene Dougherty welcomed everyone back from a safe healthy summer and stated that Assembly Member Amato-Pheffer and staff is hard at work for the community and if you need assistance please reach out to us at 718-945-9550.

CITY COUNCILMAN ERIC ULRICH

Ciara Donnelly reported that they are mainly operating out of the Ozone Park office. Over the summer a staff member passed away and some staff have moved on. The office is still conducting COVID testing and for more information please call the office at 718-318-6411.

QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

Malik Sanders reported that the storm caused severe flooding within the borough of Queens and on Tuesday at 3:00pm Queens Borough President Richards will be providing an update on infrastructure improvements for areas in Community Boards #14, #13 and #12. A link to access the update will be provided to all when all the arrangements are confirmed.

CITY COUNCILMEMBER SELVENA BROOKS-POWERS

Mac Lawrence, Community Liaison reported that storm damage in areas are being investigated but there were no extensive power outages. Councilmember Powers

and staff were very active in the community over the summer by helping out and participating in community events.

Discussions were held Ace, Wildcat and NYC Dept. of Sanitation, Commissioner to arrange/reschedule some kind of clean up routes because back in August an on-site meeting was held down by the boardwalk along Beach 32 street to Beach 36 Street to address severe dumping of all kinds of items. Councilmember is considering posting cameras at chronic dumping locations.

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 sp

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Percent for The Art

Re: Arverne Library–Artwork Design Presentation-located at 312 Bch 54 St.

David Mandel, representing NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs on the behalf of the Percent for Art program to provide the community an update on the public art commission that will be part of the upcoming Arverne Library expansion project. Mr. Mandel expressed that the designs are conceptual as in nothing has been physically created or installed.

The next step is to present a design at a hearing next month with a letter of support from CB#14 and we hope that the proposed designed art work is appealing to the community. Additional agency representatives are available to answer questions regarding the larger capital project.

Justin Valdes, Artist stated that he has been surfing in Rockaway for several years and his proposed art work is reflecting on the Rockaway community working together after Superstorm Sandy expressing humanity and togetherness. He also helped distribute food and worked on renovating homes that were flooded.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Dr. Gerald David, Chair of the committee reported that meeting was held on September 1, 2021. The Chair expressed that since there are several new board members Jonathan Gaska reviewed the process of review and approval of the FY2023 Capital & Expense priorities list.

Jonathan explained that the City Charter gives community boards three responsibilities which are: 1) land use items, 2) monitoring the delivery of municipal public service and 3) every year come up with a capital & expense priority list. The list is more like a moral guide to be submitted to the City Council and the mayor that shows what City capital projects the community wants or needs funding. Many items on the list are 20 years old because agencies do not necessarily do what boards request or in order as it shows on the list. Boards conduct two public hearings to get community input and suggestions. After the board votes to approve the list, a copy is sent to the Office of Management and Budget, and all elected officials.

At the committee meeting members reviewed the list and removed items that were already completed and moved items that were in design and already funded to capital and continued to make room on the expense list which is the draft list that members and the community have already received for public hearing regarding the list for this board meeting.

Some new items the committee added are the following:

- New Emergency Announcement system for the beach along boardwalk
- The Beach 62 Street Community Playground is funded and is in design phase.
- Water safety classes in all schools
- Mold remediation in all the NYCHA buildings.

In addition, suggestions and input will also be heard at the Board's October meeting.

Harold Paez made a motion for the board to revisit any 5 year old items on the list to reformulate the requests. Rose Marie Duggan second the motion.

The motion failed by a roll call vote of 29 NO, 2 YES.

HOUSING & LAND-USE COMMITTEE

Joanne Forgerty, Co-Chair of the committee reported that a meeting was held on August 25, 2021.

Agenda Item #1 – ULURP C200299 ZMQ, Re: 350 Beach 79th Street, a zoning map amendment, to change from M1-1 to M1-2, to facilitate a new 6 story self-storage building (146, 986 square feet).

Rachel Scall from the Department of City Planning expressed that the goal is to approve a request for a zoning change from M1-1 to M1-2. That would allow for a

new multi-story building to be built for a self-storage facility. The client is proposing a 6-story building of approximately 160,000 square feet, which is about 900 self-storage units. They do not want to impact the existing building on the site which is occupied and used by tenant businesses. Employment opportunity is possibly 5-6 additional jobs.

Mr. Kaufman purchased the site 4 years ago and has been working with DEC to clean up the existing industrial waste. DEC and owner have agreed on mitigation plans to move forward. Mr. Kaufman provided data showing that the peninsula is underserved in terms of storage units.

The committee members expressed concerns regarding access issues and listened to input from the community. After deliberations the committee motioned to recommend the board support ULURP C200299 ZMQ with the condition that the committee concern regarding traffic entry/ exit be discussed with DOT. The motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING – The Chair opened the floor for ULURP C200299 ZMQ regarding proposed 350 Beach 79th Street zoning map amendment change from M1-1 to M1-2, to facilitate a new 6 story self-storage building. 3 people signed up to speak. They were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

The Committee made the motion for the Board to support ULURP C200299 ZMQ regarding proposed 350 Beach 79th Street zoning map amendment change from M1-1 to M1-2, to facilitate a new 6 story self-storage building with the condition that the committee concern regarding traffic entry/ exit be discussed with DOT. The motion failed by a roll call vote of 14 YES, 12 NO and 5 ABSTAINED.

Agenda item #2 – ULURP 21043ZR regarding a Citywide zoning amendment called “Open Restaurants / Sidewalk Café program”.

Rachel Scall from the Department of Community Planning presented the Open Restaurants/ Sidewalk Café program proposal. This is a city-wide proposal to remove the zoning restrictions to enable sidewalk cafes. Due to 2020 COVID-19 restrictions, the Emergency Use Authorizations allowed for many restaurants to continue service by creating outdoor dining areas.

This proposal discussed SIDEWALK dining only, not the areas that were created in streets. This proposal is also going before every Community Board for approval, to date, we are only the 4th CB to review / discuss this citywide zoning amendment.

During COVID 19 restrictions restaurants in CB14 areas that offered sidewalk dining increased from 1 to 20. This proposal is to remove conflicting and difficult verbiage. Restaurants would still need to apply for sidewalk-dining permits, and the areas would still fall under health/safety inspections. The deadline for CB14 recommendations are due by 9/27/2021.

After discussions the Committee made a motion to table a recommendation on this rezoning proposal, until after the DOTs presentation at Board's September 9, meeting. The committee motion was unanimously approved.

Hallah Salleh, Borough Planner for CB#14 and Jason Benray from Dept. of Transportation gave the Board a full presentation of the proposed citywide zoning text amendment that is also available online at NYC.GOV/DOT.

PUBLIC HEARING – The Chair opened the floor for ULURP 21043ZRY regarding a Citywide zoning amendment called “Open Restaurants / Sidewalk Café program”. No one signed up to speak. The Chair closed public speaking

After the Board discussed the presentation and asked questions Felicia Johnson made the motion for the Board not to take a position on ULURP 21043ZRY regarding a Citywide zoning amendment called “Open Restaurants / Sidewalk Café program”. The motion was seconded by Paul King. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 15 YES, 7 NO and ABSTAINED.

The Chair reminded the Board that the By-Laws state that no new items can begin after 10pm and it is now 11:15pm. Therefore, committee reports not discussed tonight will be first on the agenda for the Board's October meeting

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning