



# COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

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Whitepot Settled 1653

## CB 6 MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

ALEXA WEITZMAN  
CHAIR

SHARON LEE  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

FRANK P. GULLUSCIO  
DISTRICT MANAGER

### PRESENT

GAIL M. GORDON  
1ST VICE-CHAIR

A. WEITZMAN, CHAIR  
P. BEADLE, 2<sup>ND</sup> VC  
B. GROSSBERG, VC FINANCE  
S. KING, VC SCOPING

G. GORDON, 1<sup>ST</sup> VC  
M. LASTER, VC SECRETARY  
P. KUMAR, VC LAND USE

PETER BEADLE  
2ND VICE-CHAIR

SOUMALY KING  
VICE-CHAIR • SECRETARY

NAOMI ALTMAN  
VICE-CHAIR • FINANCE

N. ALTMAN  
A. AYON  
M. BERFAS  
H. CHAIN  
S. CHU  
A. COHEN  
J. DERESZEWSKI  
A. DIAZ-HOUSTON  
H. DIMITRIADIS  
E. FELDER  
G. FERRERAS  
J. GOLANT  
B. GRIFFITH

M. HECHT  
O. HORODNICEANU  
E. KALENDAREV  
J. KEVELSON  
N. LEIBOWITZ  
R. LEONART  
J. LI  
K. LY  
J. MAKIN  
J. MEDINA  
R. MEHARRA  
S. METZ  
P. MORGAN

E. MURRAY  
K. NEUMANN  
E. NEWTON  
T. PADGETT  
S. ROLNICK  
D. SCHNEIER  
H. SCHONHAUT  
J. SILVA  
R. SILVER  
M. SILVERSTEIN  
S. WANDERMAN  
E. WONG  
J. WESTON

PRAMEET KUMAR  
VICE-CHAIR • LAND USE

DAVID SCHNEIER  
VICE-CHAIR • SCOPING

### ABSENT

M. JACOBSON

R. NEKTALOV

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

FRANK GULLUSCIO  
A. ARECCHI  
J. SCHABOWSKI  
R. MALONE  
M. COHEN

CB 6 DISTRICT MANAGER  
OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER HEVESI  
MAYOR'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS UNIT  
OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER ROSENTHAL  
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ

This meeting was held virtual via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

David Schneier requested a moment of silence for CB 6 Member Chris Collett, who passed away over the summer.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

*"I am Michael Perlman, and I am submitting this significant public testimony on behalf of an extensive and growing group of community residents and fellow preservationists & organizations. As you may be aware, Rego Park has been honored and selected as a "Six To Celebrate" 2020 community through the Historic Districts Council, and my organization, Rego-Forest Preservation Council, has partnered to address these preservation needs.*

*It is essential for CB 6 to support Individual Landmark and Historic District designations for buildings that are endangered & address long-term needs for landmark designations at a time when Rego Park and Forest Hills are undergoing redevelopment. Most often in Queens, historic treasures which impact our communities are being sacrificed, but there is no replacement for physical reminders of our history and classic architecture which add distinction, civic pride, and beauty to our communities, and foster tourism. Landmarking priorities are the endangered Forest Hills Jewish Center, Trylon Theater/Ohr Natan with Tower Diner, & Parkside Chapel.*

*We are hoping that CB 6 will support us by advocating for Individual Landmark status. Community residents have already pledged their support in these endeavors. There is a large quantity of community residents that oppose demolition, only to be replaced by another modern high-rise.*

*There have been proposals to demolish the historic and beautiful Forest Hills Jewish Center & the 1939 World's Fair-inspired Trylon Theater/Ohr Natan synagogue & community center and the adjacent stately & Colonial Tower Diner among adjacent small businesses and replace both historic sites with out-of-context condos & commercial spaces. The historic Parkside Chapel is now vacant, open to environmental elements & graffiti, is adjacent to a large parcel undergoing condo redevelopment, & its fate is in limbo, & is also eyed for housing. These buildings have an extensive history, have been subject to awards for their architectural & cultural merit, and were recognized in noteworthy books. Our communities would not be as meaningful and distinctive if these buildings are demolished, and it will contribute to a "Domino effect." We are at the point where every loss is one too many. We must unite and stand firmly to protect our neighborhood's unofficial architectural, cultural, artistic, and religious landmarks, while not approving what will contribute to increased traffic and congestion, the loss of more small businesses which are often owned by immigrant families who built their business from the ground up & cannot afford to relocate and/or reopen, the loss of sunlight, and the killing of our young and mature trees on these properties and surrounding them.*

*Despite our extensive history and beautiful and diverse architecture, Forest Hills only has 3 official Individual Landmarks (Ridgewood Savings Bank, Remsen Cemetery, & Forest Hills Engine Co. 305 and Ladder 151), but Rego Park has zero landmark designations under the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission. The Landmarks Preservation Commission conducted an extensive preservation survey in January 1990 for Forest Hills and Rego Park, but despite investing time and resources, they prioritized on sites in Manhattan at that time, and then the staff changed hands. No sites were calendared, heard, and landmarked.*

*Our mission statements are as follows:*

*1. Rego-Forest Preservation Council advocates for landmark status for architecturally and culturally significant sites and sections of Rego Park, Forest Hills, and nearby Queens communities, as well as commemorates local history. We maintain the Rego-Forest Preservation Council Blog and Facebook group.*

*2. The Historic Districts Council is to ensure the preservation of significant historic neighborhoods, buildings and public spaces in New York City, uphold the integrity of New York City's Landmarks Law, and further the preservation ethic. The HDC is the city's largest preservation advocate for NYC's historic neighborhoods."*

## **MINUTES**

The minutes of June 10, 2020 were accepted.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Alexa Weitzman reported that some committees have been meeting continuously throughout the summer to keep up the momentum.

Alexa acknowledged the continuing hard work of the first responders and front-line workers in our community. In addition, she recognized the parents, caregivers, elder care workers. She reminded everyone that we are still in a pandemic and everyone should be wearing masks, keeping social distance, etc.

Alexa reminded everyone that the Census deadline is September 30, 2020. It is very important. She also reminded everyone that there is an election coming up in November. All residents are eligible to request an absentee ballot. Applications can be requested at [www.nycabsentee.com](http://www.nycabsentee.com). Also, early voting will take place from October 24 – November 1.

## **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

District Manager Gulluscio acknowledged the hard work of Mark Laster and other CB Members with respect to the census.

Mr. Gulluscio announced that the staff has been working remotely and taking turns in the office.

He spoke about Borough Budget Consultations coming up in the next 2 months. These will be virtual this year. Unfortunately, he feels that a lot of the responses will be that due to the budget deficit, there is no money for extra programs / services.

Frank announced that we still have facemasks available. If anyone needs them, please contact the office.

## **ELECTIONS OF CB 6 OFFICERS**

Elections were completed remotely using Airtable and Zoom. Each nominee will have 1 minute to introduce themselves.

### **A) CHAIR**

Chairman Weitzman asked Gail Gordon to take over the meeting for the Chair Election.

Ralph Leonart nominated Alexa Weitzman. Steven Metz seconded the nomination.

Norman Leibowitz nominated Jean Silva. Naomi Altman seconded the nomination.

Board voted via Airtable. Alexa Weitzman won 31-14.

B) 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE CHAIR

John Dereszewski nominated Gail Gordon. Pat Morgan seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

Secretary cast one ballot for Gail Gordon as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair.

C) 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE CHAIR

David Schneier nominated Norman Leibowitz. Marsha Silverstein seconded the nomination.

Ed Murray nominated Peter Beadle. Pat Morgan seconded the nomination.

Board voted via Airtable. Peter Beadle won 23-22.

D) VICE CHAIR, SECRETARY

Anisia Ayon nominated Soumaly King. Heather Dimitriadis seconded the nomination.

Naomi Altman nominated Renee Mehrra. Norman Leibowitz seconded the nomination.

Board voted via Airtable. Soumaly King won 24-21

E) VICE CHAIR, FINANCE

Soumaly King nominated Heather Dimitriadis. Peter Beadle seconded the nomination.

Gloria Ferreras nominated Naomi Altman. Marsha Silverstein seconded the nomination.

Board voted via Airtable. Naomi Altman won 24-21

F) VICE CHAIR, LAND USE

Peter Beadle nominated Prameet Kumar. Elizabeth Newton seconded the nomination.

Naomi Altman nominated Bob Silver. Marsha Silverstein seconded the nomination.

Board voted via Airtable. Prameet Kumar won 23-22

G) VICE CHAIR, SCOPING

Ralph Leonart nominated Mark Laster. Kevin Ly seconded the nomination.

Norman Leibowitz nominated David Schneier. Gloria Ferreras seconded the nomination.

Board voted via Airtable. David Schneier won 24-21

## **CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Elizabeth Newton, Chair of Consumer Affairs Committee reported that the Board received 4 new liquor license applications.

1. The Cottage Tavern, 71-63 Austin St/108-01 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, FH
2. Paratha Wala, 103-09 Metropolitan Avenue, FH
3. AKAL Holding, Inc., 108-25 Ascan Avenue, FH
4. Cho-Sen Garden, Inc., 64-43/45 108<sup>th</sup> Street, FH

The Committee had no objections to these applications, and a motion to approve the new applications passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

CB 6 received the following liquor license renewals:

1. Narita Cuisine, 107-08 70<sup>th</sup> Road, FH
2. Mito Asian Fusion, 64-18 108<sup>th</sup> Street, FH
3. Barosa, 62-29 Woodhaven Blvd., RP
4. El Coyote, 70-09 Austin Street, FH
5. Chipotle Mexican Grill, 61-35 Junction Blvd., RP
6. Red Pipe Café, 71-60 Austin Street, FH
7. Moca Asian Bistro, 107-18 70<sup>th</sup> Road, FH
8. Aged, 107-02 70<sup>th</sup> Road, FH

The 112<sup>th</sup> Precinct reported no issues with these establishments. The Committee made a motion to approve these applications, which passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

## **BY-LAW COMMITTEE REPORT**

John Dereszewski, Chair of the By-Law Committee, reported that the committee has held 4 meetings (starting in person and transitioning to virtual). He thanked Alexa for assisting with the technical aspects of the virtual meetings. The committee has been going over the current by-laws and picks out sections that could be changed. This will continue over the next few meetings. Mr. Dereszewski is hopeful that after another meeting or 2, these suggestions can be presented to the full board. The board will then have time to go over these suggestions and make further recommendations. These may also have to be presented to the Queens Borough President's Office and Law Department. Mr. Dereszewski invited all members to attend the next meeting of the By-Law Committee Meeting.

## **AGING / SOCIAL SERVICES / DISABILITIES REPORT**

Mark Laster, Chair of the committee, reported that the committee has been meeting

monthly and has held several forums. The next forum will be on Wednesday September 23, 2020. It will be about voting safely in the upcoming November Election. He also thanked Alexa for her support of the committee.

## **GOOD & WELFARE**

### **NYS ASSEMBLY MEMBER DANIEL ROSENTHAL**

Rick Malone, announced that Assembly Member Rosenthal's Office has been assisting individuals remotely. Now, the office is open with one staff member at a time.

He also announced that the Assemblyman has been working on the Umbrella Hotel in Kew Gardens. There has been a lot of crime there and it is being monitored by the NYPD 24 hours a day.

He also announced that they received a notice from DOH that Forest Hills positivity rate has increased to between 2 – 3 %. They will be tracking this.

### **MAYOR'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS UNIT**

Jessica Schabowski announced the following:

- The Mayor has been advocating for the Federal Government to provide a stimulus and for the State to provide long term borrowing authority. The pandemic has resulted in a \$9 million revenue loss in the city's budget. The Mayor is working to prevent 22,000 layoffs of NYC Employees.
- The test and trace corps have been working to get the word out on free resources to stop the spread of COVID-19. If there are any community organizations that would like to help disperse this information, let her know.
- All New Yorkers are encouraged to get tested. Test sites can be found at [www.nyc.gov/covidtest](http://www.nyc.gov/covidtest).
- The census response rate for Queens is only about 60%. There are 21 days left to respond to the census. This data will affect the city for the next 10 years. Please encourage your friends / contacts to fill out their census.
- Last week the NYPD made 160 gun arrests, which is the most gun arrests in one week in the last 25 years. This is being addressed through Community Policing in an attempt to keep New Yorkers safe.
- There are more than 10,000 restaurants participating in the Outdoor Dining Initiative. This means that an estimated 90,000 jobs were saved. The mayor announced that indoor dining will return on September 30, 2020. It will be subject to rigorous inspections and strict occupancy limits. If the positivity rate exceeds 2%, the city will re-analyze this.
- Last, NYC Malls are opened today at 50% capacity and casinos are open at 25% capacity.

Steven Metz announced that as of 2021, he will be on the Board of Directors for the Wallace Clan Society. He is hoping to get more cultural events in the area.

Pat Morgan asked the Community Board Members to get more involved with sharing information on Facebook. The CB sends out flyers and notices and board members should share with their contacts.

Heidi Chain reported that the 112<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council Meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday September 16, 2020. She will forward the link to the CB Office and it will be shared with the Board. If anyone has any questions for the Captain, they can be emailed to [council112@yahoo.com](mailto:council112@yahoo.com).

Jean Silva reminded everyone that Parks are open. Everyone should utilize them and social distance and wear masks. She encouraged everyone to visit [www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks) to find out what free events are available to the public.

Heather Dimitriadis reminded everyone that schools are reopening soon. It has taken a lot of work over the summer to plan for the upcoming school year. There are going to be a lot of changes in and around schools so be patient. If you see an educator or a school worker, please thank them.

Elizabeth Newton reported that the Women's Bar Association will be holding a Voter Registration / Census Drive on Saturday September 12, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm at Flushing Meadows Corona Park near the Unisphere.

Kevin Ly thanked teachers, daycare and childcare workers. As schools reopen, these workers are crucial.

Ethan Felder thanked all the members that ran for office tonight.

Alexa ended the meeting by reading the following statement that was submitted by Oded Horodniceanu

“Just a reminder that in a few days it will be the 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9-11. I hope that we all take a moment Friday morning to remember those that we lost that day and first responders and workers that have lost their lives due to 9-11 related illnesses since that awful day.”

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Nolan  
*Community Coordinator*

9-7-20

**CB 6 VOTING SHEET**

**LICENSE APPLICATIONS**      **LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

	LICENSE APPLICATIONS	LICENSE APPLICATIONS
NAOMI ALTMAN	Y	Y
ANISIA AYON	Y	Y
PETER BEADLE	Y	Y
MIRIAM BERFAS	Y	Y
HEIDI CHAIN	Y	Y
SHERIDAN CHU	Y	Y
ALEXANDER COHEN	Y	Y
JOHN DERESZEWSKI	Y	Y
ALEJANDRA DIAZ-HOUSTON	Y	Y
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS	Y	Y
ETHAN FELDER	Y	Y
GLORIA FERRERAS	Y	Y
JEREMY GOLANT	Y	Y
GAIL GORDON	Y	Y
BRENDAN GRIFFITH	Y	Y
BRUCE GROSSBERG	Y	Y
RABBI MORDECHAI HECHT	Y	Y
ODED HORODNICEANU	Y	Y
MYRNA JACOBSON	ABSENT	ABSENT
EMANUIL KALENDAREV	ABSENT FOR VOTE	ABSENT FOR VOTE
JOYCE KEVELSON	Y	Y
SOUMALY KING	Y	Y
PRAMEET KUMAR	Y	Y
MARK LASTER	Y	Y
NORMAN LEIBOWITZ	Y	Y
RALPH LEONART	Y	Y
JONATHAN LI	Y	Y
KEVIN LY	Y	Y
JAMES MAKIN	Y	Y
JACK MEDINA	Y	Y
RENEE MEHARRA	Y	Y
STEVEN METZ	Y	Y
PAT MORGAN	Y	Y
EDWARD MURRAY	ABSENT FOR VOTE	ABSENT FOR VOTE
RAFAEL NEKTALOV	ABSENT	ABSENT
KARL NEUMANN	Y	Y
ELIZABETH NEWTON	Y	Y
TANIA PADGETT	Y	Y
SHARI ROLNICK	Y	Y
DAVID SCHNEIER	Y	Y
HERBERT SCHONHAUT	ABSENT FOR VOTE	ABSENT FOR VOTE
JEAN SILVA	Y	Y
ROBERT SILVER	Y	Y
MARSHA SILVERSTEIN	Y	Y
SUSAN WANDERMAN	Y	Y
ALEXA WEITZMAN	Y	Y
JOAN WESTON	Y	Y
EDWIN WONG	Y	Y
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>ALL IN FAVOR</b>	<b>ALL IN FAVOR</b>