

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AND
INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
DECEMBER 4, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

B. Braton, M. Ali, L. Amorim, A. Antonino, J. Ariola, N. Beneduce, I. Brasile, J. Calcagnile, J. Caruso, J. Cavanagh, R. Ciulla-Frisone, F. Dardani, I. Dimoh, G. Duldulao, P. Ellison, J. Fazio, R. Ferrara, M. Finnerty, A. Gellineau, L. Gerardi, D. Gilmartin, P. Granickas, R. Hitlall, E. Holland, H. Kamph, C. Malizia, R. Martinez, D. Mitchell, S. Pace, J. Patron, J. Quijano, D. Quintana, B. Ramsundar, M. Salim, N. Santiago, I. VanPutten. M. Vecchio, L. Walker

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

P. Baumann, A. Bellantoni, A. Cosentino, P. Lynch, S. McCabe, G. Russo

COMMUNITY BOARD 10 STAFF PRESENT: K. Petersen, DM; M. Turso; M. Cirilli-May; P. Traina

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hon. J. Addabbo; P. McCabe, Rep., Hon. J. Addabbo; L. Fogal, Rep., Hon. M. Miller; A. Katz, Rep., Hon. P. Goldfeder; A. Brown, Rep. Hon. E. Ulrich; D. Brown, QBPO; T. Smith & M. Herlitz, QDCP; S. Austrie, Resorts World; D.I. J. Schiff, C.O. 106 Pct.; Capt. J. Ganley, XO 106 Pct.

Chairperson Braton opened the meeting at 7:45 pm and asked that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Jr. and invited him to speak. The Senator thanked everyone for his or her support in his re-election. He thanked the community board members and staff for their work with the community. He spoke about State revenue projections for the year. He advised that there is approximately \$5 million above what was projected in April and said that the legislators are in discussion with the governor as to what to do with this surplus. The Senate may be going back to Albany before the end of the year to attend to this issue. The regular session generally starts in January.

The Chairperson opened the Informational Public Hearing for the evening presented by Mr. Thomas Smith and Ms. Melissa Herlitz of the NYC Department of City Planning who provided more information with regard to the Resilient Neighborhoods Study for Old Howard Beach, Hamilton Beach located in CB10 along with with Broad Channel, which is located in CB14.

Mr. Smith referred to previous discussions that were held in June with regard to resiliency studies in portions of Board 10. He stated that things are moving forward based on the SIRR reports and the efforts of NY Rising programs. He and Ms. Melissa Herlitz spoke about Citywide Coastal Climate Resilience. They stated that the City's plan to build resiliency and make all New Yorkers safer is a multi-layered approach that is ambitious, achievable and based on the best available science. Ms. Herlitz gave a PowerPoint Presentation, explaining the plan, which included strengthening coastal defenses, upgrading buildings, protecting infrastructure and services to make neighborhoods safer and more vibrant. She stated that the City's 257 initiatives comprise a strategic plan to reduce the risk of extreme weather and climate change. This innovative plan includes funding, an implementation schedule and can be achieved over the next ten years. She stated that in Hamilton Beach, Old Howard Beach and Broad Channel, tidal flooding occurs at times now, and these conditions are only expected to worsen with projected sea level rise. In Hamilton Beach and Broad Channel, existing zoning, narrow lots and narrow, low-lying streets pose challenges for resilient retrofitting and reconstruction. In Hamilton Beach, Old Howard Beach and Broad Channel, high flood elevations present physical and economic challenges to commercial corridors. She continued with the

PowerPoint Presentation commenting on the tidal flooding that occurred in August (Super moon), and the lack of bulkheads, which is a serious problem. She continued, outlining the plans for this initiative.

(R. Martinez arrived at 7:54 pm)

Mr. Smith stated that as this study moves forward, DCP would continue to keep the Board updated with the current status. He will probably have an update in the early spring. The Chairperson asked if there were any questions. A member questioned the level that streets should be raised to. Discussion ensued. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Smith and Ms. Herlitz for their presentation.

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of Pat McCabe, representing State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Jr., Lisa Fogal, representing Assembly Member Mike Miller, Arlene Brown, representing Council Member Eric Ulrich, Sasha Austrie, representing Resorts World Casino, Deputy Inspector Jeffrey Schiff and Captain John Ganley. Chairperson Braton invited the Deputy Inspector to speak. The D.I. stated that all the precincts throughout the city are keeping their day tour personnel on reserve because of ongoing protest activity in various parts of the city. He commented that crime percentages were still down, however burglaries were up. He stated that he has inundated South Ozone Park with officers and burglaries in that area are now ceasing. However, burglaries are now rising in the north. He believes the burglars are working in pairs, knocking on doors, breaking into homes from the sides and backs. He cautioned everyone to be aware and careful of strange or unusual behavior outside and around homes in his or her areas. He commented on Vision Zero where summonses have been issued. He reminded everyone that the speed limit is 25 miles per hour unless otherwise posted. The Chairperson thanked D.I. Schiff for the information.

The Chairperson continued with the regular order of business. She asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November minutes. There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE – The Chairperson reviewed incoming correspondence for the month of November 2014, which included:

- Notice from the Design Commission, that there will be a public hearing on Monday, December 8th at 11:15 am. There are two consent items on its agenda that are in our Board area namely the installation of automated material handlers at the South Ozone Park Library and Howard Beach Libraries.
- Notice from the Department of Transportation. DOT has completed the draft final report with regard to the Woodhaven Boulevard Congested Corridors Project.
- Notice from DOT regarding HWQ-411B contract registration.
- Notice from the Office of the Borough President regarding the Land Use Public Hearing held on November 20th. An item on that agenda was one that the Board had approved. It referred to a small house on 106th Street where a prior owner had added a floor and the new owner was trying to legalize it.
- Notice from the NYC Department of Sanitation on a proposed rule, public hearing scheduled for January 6th. The Chairperson explained the rule. It stated that people receiving sanitation collection are now allowed to place their recyclables in bags containing solid waste and recyclables at the curb for collection no earlier than 4 pm on the day before their scheduled collection day. In reference to collection by a private carter while an establishment is closed they are permitted to set out their solid waste and recyclables within one hour of closing providing that the establishment's scheduled collection occurs before the business opens. With regard to the collection by a private carter when an establishment is open, the waste can be set out no earlier than two hours before their scheduled collection time.
- Notice that the City's Franchise and Concession Review Committee will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 8th at 2:30 pm regarding franchise to install, operate and maintain public communication structures on, over and under the City's inalienable property, which structures will offer free Wi-Fi service, as defined in the franchise agreement and some of which structures will service as public pay telephones, as defined in the franchise agreement.

- Notice from the PANYNJ regarding the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate alternatives to improve the movement of goods.

TREASURER'S REPORT – The Treasurer read the report of expenditures for the month of November 2014.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT – D. Brown wished everyone a happy holiday on behalf of the Borough President. He reported that Jerry LaMura was retiring, effective December 5th. Mr. La Mura served the City for over 34 years and will be missed. He also reported that on January 22nd, the Queens Borough President would be delivering her State of the Borough Address at the Colden Auditorium at Queens College at 10 am. Free tickets can be obtained on line at Queensbp.org. All are invited to attend. Board members will receive a personal invitation. With regard to Veteran Affairs, he stated that he had an opportunity to meet a few weeks ago with Retired General Lori Sutton, who is with the Mayor's Office of Veteran Affairs. The new commissioner and Borough President met with them and they will be upping veterans' assistance for the New Year. There will be a satellite office at Borough Hall. He also reported Chapter 92 of the Disabled Veterans meets at Borough Hall once a month. They will also have an office at Borough Hall. He asked that if there are any issues that need attention call him at 718-286-2853 or email at dbrown@queensbp.org.

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING REPORT – Mr. Smith's report had been covered earlier during the evening's public hearing.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – The DM wished everyone a happy holiday and best wishes for the New Year.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – The Chairperson reported on the 311 complaints for the month of November. The chairperson commented on the work that Dan Brown, who chairs the Hurricane Task Force, has done with regard to the Hurricane Task Force. She stated that the Borough President has worked hard to make sure that everyone involved with Build It Back are at the meetings to get the answers to the Build It Back issues. She commented that one of the biggest complaints that people have is that the feeling that nothing is moving forward. She stated that although it has been a slow process it is indeed moving forward. Information has been provided, at the most recent meeting, with numbers in relationship to the communities involved as to where applicants are in the process. Those who continue to experience issues should contact Dan Brown, John Calcagnile or the chairperson herself, who all sit on that Task Force. John Calcagnile has been sitting on a sub-committee of the task force bringing his professional expertise to bear as an architect on some of the building issues that the task force is trying to resolve. Another thing that was noted at the most recent meeting of the task force was that since the elected officials have had the ability to have Build It Back personnel in their offices there has been an increase in numbers of people served. Given the geography of where our different elected officials' offices are located, i.e. Senator Addabbo's office is right in the heart of the Sandy zone, his office has seen a large increase. Chairperson Braton asked that Pat McCabe, representing Senator Addabbo, convey to the Senator the Board's thanks for donating an office located next door to his office for Build it Back to work with the people in need. Also, she thanked Assembly Member Philip Goldfeder and Council Member Eric Ulrich, who also had Build It Back assistance at their offices. The Chairperson continued her report indicating that there was a meeting recently with the representatives of the Close to Home Program. It was not a particularly satisfactory meeting, however there were some questions that they were able to answer. It is a dialogue that will be continuing. A member commented on the 127th facility and asked if it was finalized or is there legislation that could go through to possibly stop it. The Chairperson explained that this was created by the governor's office ordering a change in how youthful offenders are housed. Presently this project is moving forward. She may, however, direct that question to a legislator. The Chairperson also commented that at the November Borough Board Meeting, the Parks Department presented on its framework for an equitable future on Parks. The book is available. The Chairperson informed members of the JFK Committee and the Port Authority Sub-Committee were invited to a tour through some of the areas on the airport involved in the Air Cargo Study with representatives from EDC on Dec. 11th.

Committee reports were given as follows:

AIR POLLUTION – The Committee Chairperson cautioned that it is now cold and flu season. Sanitize accordingly and get a flu shot.

SUB-COMM. JFK (P.A.) – The Committee Chairperson reported that the Part 150 Study is continuing. She will keep the Board posted. She also advised that as directed by the governor, the Port Authority would be hosting an International Design Competition to generate the vision on how to transform and modernize the airports in the New York City area. They invite aviation experts, architects, designers, and planners to envision a master plan. The competition starts on December 2nd. An information session will be held on December 15th. Initial drafts are due on December 31st and the final is on January 30th. More information is available if needed.

AQUEDUCT – The Committee Chairperson advised that Resorts World Casino will be holding Winter Con on December 6, the Comic and Science Fiction Expo. Anyone less than 18 years of age or with full facial mask must enter through the parking garage and not through the casino gambling floors. She also advised that the second part of the Jamaica Bay Art Exhibit is now open and the Christmas tree is lit. Sasha Austrie, representing Resorts World Casino, wished everyone a happy holiday.

PUBLIC SAFETY- The Committee Chairperson commented that the fencing at JHS 202 and North Conduit Avenue is being replaced, preventing school children from running across North Conduit Avenue from the school side to the other side of North Conduit Avenue. This situation was brought to light during a DOT on-site visit with the DM and himself, was approved and is now being repaired. With the fencing, school children will have to take the overhead ramp to get to the other side of the Conduit, a much safer route. He thanked the DM and the office for the efforts to get this done.

The Board Chairperson Braton advised members that there had been some meetings with OEM that have been productive and informed members the most recent dealt with New York City Winter Weather Emergency Plan. Included in the folders is a general synopsis of a very detailed and lengthy plan. They will be going over other plans with the Board as time goes on however, the chairperson stated; this one seemed timely because of the season. Also, one of the things that OEM is developing is a Borough specific communication component. There will be a point person who will be designated for Queens. That person will then be making the rounds to the Boards and organizations to get the local feedback on some of the issues. Another thing that has come out of these meetings is that, although OEM knows where all of the city installations are, they do not have a good feel on where all the private and religious facilities are. During emergencies and disasters, people tend to gravitate to their neighborhood centers. It is important for OEM to be informed of these locations. She commented that one of the things that the Board was asked to do is to notify all of the private institutions asking them to be a participant by letting OEM know where they are by filling out a general information sheet as to whether or not they will be available to OEM to use in the event of an emergency. This information will go into an OEM database, so they will know immediately what is in the community.

The Board Chairperson acknowledged Frances Scarantino, who is co-chairing with John Calcagnile on the NY Rising Committee. Ms. Scarantino and Mr. Calcagnile commented on the current status of the NY Rising project recommendations.

SUMMER YOUTH/OTHER OPPORT. – The Committee Chairperson advised information regarding employment opportunities were contained in the board folders. She advised copies are available of the Tentative Annual Examination Schedule. These are all subject to change so please contact DCAS. She urged all interested to visit the DCAS website or call 212-669-1357.

SANITATION – The Committee Chairperson reported that as of January 15th, the Sanitation Department would no longer accept electronics. Good Will and the Salvation Army will continue to accept these items. Staples will accept all electronics except televisions.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS – The Committee Chairperson advised the report was contained in Board folders.

EDUCATION – The Committee Chairperson advised that the Chancellor’s Report stated that more students are graduating and entering college and becoming career ready as part of the First Annual School Quality Report. He asked that all exhibit extreme caution when driving during the holiday season as school is out for the holiday.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC FORUM

Ms. Donna Montague commented on a Parade that is being held in the community.

Ms. Frances Scarantino spoke about Stars Youth Center in Coleman Square, the difficulties experienced with both the Irene and Sandy storms and new programs that Stars is now offering after their recovery from damages sustained. She also mentioned a blood drive that they are sponsoring on January 29th, in honor of her late husband.

Mr. Phil Konigsberg, Advocate for the Disabled and Smokfree Multiple Housing spoke about his request that the Board consider a resolution in favor of smoke free housing units.

The Chairperson wished everyone a happy holiday and reminded the Board members that the next meeting will be on January 8th, as New Year’s Day falls on the first Thursday.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by
MaryAnn Turso

Draft. Subject to approval.