

REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
AND  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
MAY 1, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

P. Baumann, A. Bellantoni, I. Brasile, A. Cosentino, G. Duldulao, J. Fazio, S. McCabe, R. Teuschler

COMMUNITY BOARD 10 STAFF PRESENT: K. Petersen, DM; M. Turso

OTHERS PRESENT: State Senator J. Addabbo; Assemblyman P. Goldfeder; Commissioner J. Bruno, OEM; Commissioner E. Lloyd, DEP; 1<sup>st</sup> Dep. Commissioner C. Drayton, OEM; Dep. Commissioner for Operations F. McCarton, OEM; L. Savinkin, Rep., Hon. H. Jeffries; C. Moore, Rep., Hon. J. Addabbo; D. Renz, Rep., Hon. M. Miller; N. Jones, Rep., Hon. M. Titus; E. Svartzman, Rep., Hon. P. Goldfeder; A. Katz, Rep., Hon. P. Goldfeder; P. Osina, Rep., Hon. S. Stringer; E. Tonmay, Rep., Hon. L. James; J. Rose, Rep., A. Brown, Rep., Hon. E. Ulrich; Hon. R. Wills; D. Brown, QBPO; M. Herlitz, DCP; K. Ellis, DEP; J. Field, NYSDEC; D. Avrin, GNRA; N. Silvestri, OEM; D.I. J. Schiff, CO, 106 Pct.; A. Woodall, NYPD School Safety; S. Austrie, Resorts World

The Chairperson began the meeting at 7:45 P.M. and asked that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The chairperson advised that at her request, the scheduled DOT presentation will be rescheduled for next month due to a need to clear some time at this evening's meeting to allow for information to be presented regarding last night's flooding impact within CB10.

The chairperson advised of the emergency conditions that existed in the Lindenwood section of Howard Beach due to the heavy rains that caused significant flooding of both streets and homes. She further advised that commissioners from DEP and OEM were in attendance to advise as to what was presently happening in Lindenwood. She then introduced State Senator Joseph Addabbo who spoke of the current conditions at that location. He thanked all of the city agencies that were present at the meeting and in Lindenwood all through the night of Apr. 30<sup>th</sup> and through the day today for their assistance in helping those affected by the floods. The chairperson thanked D.I. Schiff and Capt. Ganley for the great job the precinct in getting resources immediately to the scene and advised the OEM Command Center and personnel from various agencies were still out at the scene. She thanked Sen. Joe Addabbo, Assembly Member Phil Goldfeder and their staff members as well as Council Member Eric Ulrich and his staff members for their efforts through Wed. night and all day today. The chairperson advised that the Borough President and her staff provided assistance as well, thanked Dan Brown and asked him to convey the board's thanks to Borough President Katz.

(D. Quintana arrived at 7:50 PM)

The Chairperson then introduced Commissioner Joseph Bruno of the Office of Emergency Management and Commissioner Emily Lloyd who attended the meeting to pass on information about the situation. They reported what their respective agencies are doing to provide help and services to the people affected and encouraged those impacted to file claims with the Comptroller's Office and to contact 311 for information from any of the agencies that are at the location. The agencies are assessing conditions and members of a task force have been going door-to-door providing information. That will continue until all homes affected have been visited. They thanked the community legislators, Borough Hall and the Red Cross and the Community Board for their attention to this situation. The chairperson thanked the commissioners for addressing the meeting.

The chairperson Braton acknowledged the presence of Helen Ho of the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit who expressed her concern over the flooding. She stated that claim forms may be obtained online and at the offices of the area elected officials and the Community Board. She commented that she is working with OEM, DEP and all the agencies involved. She stated that the Sanitation Department would not be issuing summonses. DSNY crews are out now collecting debris and will continue to collect debris tomorrow. She commented that Build it Back had personnel in the area earlier today and have been taking notes on the areas that were affected as the current flooding took place within an area also impacted by Sandy. They will take this into account when it comes to inspections.

The chairperson acknowledged Assembly Member Phil Goldfeder and invited him to speak. The Assemblyman thanked his colleagues, Chairperson Braton and the Howard Beach-Lindenwood Civic Association for their part in coming together in the effort to get help to those affected. He commented that the infrastructure needs to be evaluated. He stated that now is the time to make sure that the funding is in place in the City budget. His office will continue to do what they can to make sure the residents get the services they deserve. The chairperson asked if there was anyone else from any of the agency personnel present who wanted to speak. She expressed the Board's thanks to everyone for the effort that was put in today. As further information is obtained it will be distributed.

The chairperson then opened the scheduled Informational Public Hearing for the evening, Ms. Joanna Field, Marine Resources Biologist for DEC and Mr. Dave Arvin, Chief of the Division of Resources Management at Gateway National Recreation Area provided an update on the Governor's Proposal for the Spring Creek South Hazard Mitigation Project.

(J. Cavanagh arrived at 8:10 pm)

(I. Dimoh arrived at 8:10 pm)

Ms. Field began the presentation. She stated that the project has 2 phases. Initially, they hoped Phase 1 would end in August this year. She advised that DEC was currently in the legal and administrative phase, which has proven more challenging than had been expected. They are planning to apply to FEMA for an extension. Ms. Field commented that the best-case scenario would be that Phase 1 would end at the end of 2014; FEMA would review the application, and approve the move to Phase 2, which would then happen in the spring of 2015. The project would then be completed in the summer of 2016. Worst-case scenario would be that Phase 1 does not end until summer of next year which means Phase 2 does not begin until winter of 2015. Therefore the project would not be complete until the summer of 2017. As Phase 1 is completed, there will be a much clearer picture on what the project milestones and timeline will be. She is not certain that DEC will have that information at the beginning of June in time for the Board's June meeting, but they will definitely have the information in July. The chairperson commented that the Board does not meet in July, however if DEC provided the Board with a written or PowerPoint update in July the information would be passed on to Board members and a summer meeting could be scheduled if the information indicated one was necessary. Ms. Fields continued, commenting that most of the work will be contracted out. ACE (Army Corps of Engineers) has identified a strong contender for the position of architect/engineer, however nothing has been signed as of yet. Ms. Field stated that in Phase 1, the first thing people will see at the site will be data gathering activities. Sub-contractors will do this work. There will be no construction in Phase 1. She explained that some of the types of activities at the site during this data-gathering phase are; delineating a wetland, measuring for topography, measuring for bathymetry, measuring air quality, surveying the property boundaries and taking soil samples. Construction will begin in Phase 2. Community involvement will be determined by permitting requirements, i.e. environment assessment or full NEPA review (National Environmental Policy Act). If a NEPA review is required, that process has very specific requirements for public scoping,

community involvement; and specific public information. An environmental assessment is not as specific. Once that information is determined – which type of review is required –, then the community involvement process required by the review will occur. They are considering how best to communicate with the community. They are aware that there are different demographics and information needs. They will look to the community board for feedback on those needs. She commented on the Greenway planning and stated that these projects are not the same. They do, however, overlap but the timelines are not in sync. DEC is mindful of the effort in their design. They are talking to city agencies, coordinating ideas to avoid duplication of effort. At this point in the presentation, Ms. Field introduced Mr. Dave Avrin of the National Parks Service. Mr. Avrin stated that the DEC environmental project Ms. Field described would take place in a national park, which is part of Gateway. He stated that if at all possible, public access and amenities should be added to this project, as it is in an area that has been lacking them. Also, he stated that fire and emergency access is very important to this project. Spring Creek can benefit from attention to maintenance and aesthetics. Gateway wants to improve the habitat to make the area more aesthetically pleasing.

The chairperson asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to make a comment or ask a question in relationship to this project. Barbara Granickas asked where the soil for the project would be coming from and expressed concern about it perhaps being dredged material. Ms. Field explained that it would not be dredged material. She also asked if it would be trucked in. Ms. Field stated that they had considered bringing soil in by barge, however, the amount of soil that is already onsite might be enough, it will just be moved around on the site. They will not use dredged material or any toxic or contaminated materials. The chairperson asked if there were any other questions from the public. There were none. The chairperson closed the public portion of the meeting.

She then opened the meeting to the Board for questions or comments. The Land Use Committee Chairperson asked if the property would ever be looked at for some other type of use and specifically mentioned that a golf course could be a suitable use. Mr. Avrin stated he could probably not give a satisfactory answer at this time as they are still in the talking phase; there are no specific plans on Gateway's part at this point. He said he would have to hear what the public has to say about the needs of the project, however, he reiterated that the project was a flood control project and funding for amenities would not come out of the funding for resiliency. Mr. Avrin stated that there were 150 acres and it could perhaps be possible to add to the project to provide amenities. The board chairperson reiterated that the community's concern at this point is that although there is opportunity now to look at possible development in that area, the community is in agreement that in no way do they want discussion of amenities to in any way slow down the process of DEC doing the work that they are planning to do to make a part of our coastline more resilient and to offer a part of the community better coastal protection. In terms of the community, the issue now is resiliency. If there is a way to accommodate other things that the community might want, the community board would like to be very much a part of that discussion, however the community presently is definitely focusing on the resiliency factor. The community does not want anything to slow down that project by considering different options. i.e. the DOT bike path proposal that is aimed at connecting the Rockaways to the parkway. It is understood that the DOT connectivity project, which could consider a route involving parkland, is a valuable project but in the community's opinion it does not and should not take precedence over the resiliency effort at this time. The chairperson asked if there were any other questions or comments from the Board. Ms. Ariola, speaking as President of the Howard Beach-Lindenwood Civic Association, stated that the adjacent homeowners have made it clear that they do not want public usage of that property in any way, shape or form. She believes this would have an adverse affect on the community. For remediation and flood control, there is no objection. The chairperson advised that although that may be the feeling of some people, the land is public parkland. Any proposal for use will have to be evaluated and community opinion considered, but the fact remains that the land is public land that is part of a National Park. Discussion ensued. The chairperson thanked DEC and NPS for their update. She also asked that the Board be provided with a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

The chairperson acknowledged the presence of Mr. Ehsan Tonmoy, representing Public Advocate Letitia James and invited him to speak. He stated that the Public Advocate's Office is here to help the people of New York City. Any concerns can be addressed. With effort and hard work, problems will be solved. You can visit its website, [www.publicadvocate.nyc.gov](http://www.publicadvocate.nyc.gov) or email his office. The chairperson acknowledged the presence of Mr. Carl Moore, representing State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Ms. Karen Ellis of DEP, Ms. Arlene Brown, representing Council Member Eric Ulrich, Ms. Nancy Silvestri, representing OEM, Deputy Inspector Jeffrey Schiff of the 106 Precinct, Ms. Sasha Austrie, representing Resorts World Casino, and Mr. Jahai Rose, representing Council Member Ruben Wills, who asked to speak. Mr. Rose advised of upcoming events sponsored by the councilman, including the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Commit to Be Fit on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12 noon to 4 pm at Baisley Pond Park and the Free Bike

Helmet Fitting and Distribution Event that will be held on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12 noon to 3:30 pm at Baisley Pond Park. He also commented on the Clean Corridors project and advised that the Wildcats will be working Monday, Wednesday and Friday along Liberty Avenue. Ms. Arlene Brown stated Council Member Ulrich would be sponsoring a Veteran's Job Fair on Memorial Day Weekend at Russo's on the Bay. The chairperson also acknowledged Mr. Larry Savinkin, representing Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, Mr. Norman Jones, representing Assembly Member Michele Titus, Mr. Pesach Osina, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, Mr. David Renz, representing Assembly Member Mike Miller, Alfred Woodall, representing the Police Department School Safety Division and Melissa Herlitz, representing the Department of City Planning. The Chairperson continued with the regular order of business.

For the benefit of those who were not in attendance at the start of the meeting, the chairperson stated that the Board was to have DOT at the meeting providing information on the Select Bus Service, but because of the necessity of the flooding issue the Board has rescheduled that presentation until next month.

The chairperson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the April minutes. There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE – The chairperson advised that because of the nature of the day's events, she may not have all incoming mail ready to present and asked that if there was anything on the Directed Mail that a Board Member wanted she would provide them with the information. She then reviewed some incoming correspondence for the month of April 2014.

- She thanked Council Member Ulrich for the HWQ411B fact sheet that he developed. It was distributed at the Ozone Park Civic Meeting.
- Board Members were sent the NYC Transit Station Work flyer. The flyer is also available on our website.
- Copy of a notice from Flushing Meadows Corona Park. There will be numerous World's Fair Anniversary events throughout the season celebrating the anniversaries of both the 1939 and 1964-65 World's Fairs. The Queens Botanical Gardens is participating Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> through Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup> with some events; From May 24- 26, they will have the World's Fair Train Show. The Long Island Garden Railway Association will be presenting a working G-scale model train exhibit in the World's Fair-themed outdoor setting. On Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, festivities will include food and craft vendors, a trackless train for rides through the Garden and a 4 pm concert. On Saturday, July 19, 12 to 7 pm they will have a Taste of the World Botanical Brew Fest. Tuesday, August 5 – Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, the New York World's Fairs and the Port Authority Bringing Trade, Travel and Tourism to Queens, the Region and the World which will be a multi-media exhibit showing how aviation, the Port of New York and the States of New York and New Jersey contributed to the success of the New York World's Fairs and to the economy of the region. On Sunday, September 28 at 2 pm there will be a World's Fair Lecture.
- Copy of letter from the Port Authority regarding Governor Cuomo's request that the Port Authority set up airport community roundtable meetings. The meeting for JFK was yesterday at the Sheraton JFK Airport Hotel from 6 to 8 pm.
- Those who are new to the Board and those who have been reappointed have received notice in regard to the Community Board Orientation Program, which will be held at the New York Hall of Science on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. The Borough President has indicated that she expects new and reappointed Board Members will attend.

TREASURER'S REPORT – The Treasurer reported the expenditures for the month of April 2014.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT – Mr. Brown reported that the Borough President, along with elected officials, OEM, DEP and other agencies are working very hard to address the flooding issue in Lindenwood. Updates are being provided. Dissemination of information is very important. Email blasts go out every day from his office. Anyone interested in being part of his email blasts, please contact his office. He asked that anyone who feels that are not getting service with regard to the storm should call his office at 718-286-2853. He stated that he has provided the Board with "Senior Resource" books. He announced that May 22<sup>nd</sup> the Annual Memorial Day

Ceremony would take place at Borough Hall. All are invited to attend. At the end of the ceremony, there will be a reception, which will feature a Veteran's Art Show, including photographs from those veterans who were in World War II, etc. During the summer there will be two health fairs, one in Community Board 10 and one in Community Board 14. Dates will be set up. More information will be coming. A member commented and thanked Mr. Brown for his email blasts.

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING REPORT – Ms. Melissa Herlitz attended the meeting, representing Mr. Tom Smith.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – No Report

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – The Chairperson reported on the New York Rising Construction Plan for Howard Beach that now has been made public by the Governor's office. She commented that the work put into the plan was very detailed and expressed her opinion that that it is well worth reading all 144 pages of the document. It is downloadable at the NYS NY Rising website. She explained what the Plan called for and provided a synopsis of the Plan's proposed and featured projects. She encouraged everyone to read the proposal for further detail.

The chairperson reported that the City was required by the City Council via a Local Law to annually provide a report on poverty in the City of New York. That report was issued on April 28<sup>th</sup>. According to the report, Community Board 10's poverty rate was 18.3% of our population. In relation to the Borough of Queens, Community Board 10 ranks 5<sup>th</sup> out of the 14 community boards in Queens (least to greatest poverty rate).

The chairperson continued discussion with regard to the current flooding situation. She advised that at the OEM Command Center today, they had hanging on a wall outside the bus, a large map that divided the area into sections. As the task force went house by house, color-coding was added on the map and information as to who was home and what the needs were along with other data collected were being constantly updated inside the command center all day. The elected officials and the Board were briefed regularly throughout the day. The chairperson commented that this was a marked change from what occurred after Sandy as far as information sharing.

PARKS – The Committee Chairperson commented that the Board attempted to get in touch with Parks to get an update on Cedar Lane Stables. DPR has not yet responded. He hopes to have some information next month.

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

SUB-COMM. JFK (P.A.) – The Committee Chairperson commented on the JFK Roundtable process. She will provide an update after the next meeting of the Roundtable.

AQUEDUCT – Sasha Austrie, representing Resorts World Casino expressed her sympathies for those affected by the rainstorm in Lindenwood. She also reported that there were two positions in the Accounting and Finance Department available at the casino.

SUMMER YOUTH & OTHER EMPLOYMENT – The Committee Chairperson advised that the deadline for applying for Summer Youth Employment was April 25<sup>th</sup>. For those who applied, the season starts on July 17<sup>th</sup> and ends on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The Committee Chairperson advised the Job listings report was contained in the board folders. She advised that the Summer Internship Program positions might be reviewed by going to the DCAS site, [www.nyc.gov/DCAS](http://www.nyc.gov/DCAS) for a listing of all city agencies. She thanked her Committee members for their help throughout the year. She specifically thanked Ms. Elaine Holland for her efforts in making it possible for 3 job positions to be filled in the community.

HOMELAND SECURITY SUB-COMMITTEE– The Committee Chairperson's Report was contained in folders.

HIGHWAYS, ROADS AND TRAFFIC – The Committee Chairperson advised the report was contained in the board folders.

Deputy Inspector Schiff addressed the meeting to present a traffic report; He stated that the precinct would be giving out summonses on Liberty Avenue for traffic infractions such as double parking, cell phone use, etc. This would take place on Liberty Avenue from 114<sup>th</sup> Street to the Van Wyck. Deputy Inspector Schiff also advised that a M.A.R.C.H. Operation had been conducted in the confines of the 106<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Five locations were given summonses (St. John's Express Restaurant and Bar, Sparkles Bar and Lounge, Hookah Paradise, Eclipse on the Boulevard, Silver Lounge). All are considered problematic locations. One inspection resulted in the arrest of the owner of one of the establishments. The Department of Buildings, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Fire Department, Department of Environmental and personnel from the NYPD VICE Enforcement Unit and the Legal Bureau were present and assisted with the operation. He advised that Hookah Paradise was closed down by the Buildings Department for illegal occupancy.

D.I. Schiff also advised that with regard to the flooding condition, every effort was made to try to have every door knocked on to ascertain the individual situations and what needs were. He advised of an update stating that National Grid has indicated there were some gas service problems in Lindenwood, however ConEd reports there are no electric service problems. He stated that in National Grid's name, they visited over 800 locations within the flood zone. There were 108 boilers that were shut off that needed to be inspected and repaired by National Grid. Four hundred and eighty homes had gas on with no problems. There are 4 crews working tonight until midnight and then there are 2 supervising crews for overnight. DEP is still pumping all night long and the Department of Sanitation has two trucks to pick up the debris all night. They will be back in the morning to continue with the collection of debris.

He commented on noise complaints, especially during the spring and summer months. Some of the problematic locations have been identified. The command will start to visit these problematic locations and will be handing out notices with information advising residents on their responsibility with regard to noise and parties. Summonses will be issued and equipment may be seized. He will also be investigating the area gangs. He stated that crime was down for the most recent 28 Day period and Year-To-Date. The chairperson praised the command for the good work in response to the flooding issue.

LAND USE – No Land Use report. However the Committee Chairperson commented on New York State Rising process and the fact that their plan was submitted in Albany. There is one more engagement that needs to be held to fulfill the four public engagements required by the process. He advised that this engagement will be held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Howard Beach Library. All projects will be on display for a week. This event will be advertised. He will keep everyone up to date on the actual implementation of the process.

PUBLIC SAFETY –The Committee Chairperson advised the Crime Stat Report was contained in folders and commented with regard to the Highways and Roads report on Vision Zero. He advised that he visited the Mayor's Vision Zero website mentioned in it and viewed the interactive mapping tool. He explained that it is important that everyone review this in order to let City Hall know where the problem areas are in our community. The Board Chairperson advised that one could also include comments on conditions someone else already put on the map and can include comments on conditions they want to add to the map. The Chairperson advised that the Board was asked to co-sponsor Vision Zero public events that DOT will be involved in.

OLD BUSINESS – A member expressed concern for the safety around schools, specifically OLPH with regard to traffic issues and double parking.

A member commented on the drainage problems occurring in her area. The Chairperson explained that among the issues that were discussed with Commissioner Emily Lloyd of DEP today when she was in Lindenwood was the sewer project currently in design and the other concerns the member was commenting on. Discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS –None

PUBLIC FORUM – A resident of who lives on 81<sup>st</sup> Street and 153<sup>rd</sup> Avenue expressed his frustration with the flooding conditions, stating that this problem has been occurring at his home for many years, with no solution.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by

MaryAnn Turso  
Draft, subject to approval