

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AND
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

P. Baumann, I. Brasile, R. Ferrara, R. Ciulla-Frisone, D. Gilmartin, P. Lynch, S. McCabe, B. Ramsundar, M. Salim, G. Duldulao

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Hon. P. Goldfeder; Dep. Commissioner V. Turso, DSNY; L. Savinkin, Rep., Hon. Hakeem Jeffries; L. Fogal, Rep., Hon. M. Miller; H. Singh-Toor, Rep., Hon. D. Weprin; E. Svartzman, Rep., Hon. P. Goldfeder; A. Brown, Rep., Hon. E. Ulrich; J. Rose, Rep., Hon. R. Wills; D. Brown, QBPO; D.I. J. Schiff, C.O., 106 Pct., Capt. J. Ganley, X.O., 106 Pct.; P.O. B. Reddick, 106 Pct. Community Affairs; 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 announced that the scheduled Public Hearing for the evening regarding BSA Cal. No. 205-14-BZ, 100-02 Rockaway Boulevard, Ozone Park, NY, for a special permit to allow a physical culture establishment would have to be postponed as the attorney representing this applicant had indicated he was unable to attend the meeting. She stated that the Land Use Committee had met and discussed the application with the applicant's representative, however many questions were not answered to the committee's satisfaction. More information is needed in order for the Committee to make a recommendation to the full board. The Public Hearing on this matter will be rescheduled.

The Chairperson then introduced Vito Turso, Deputy Commissioner for the NYC Sanitation Department.

(I. Dimoh arrived at 7:51 pm)

(J. Cavanagh arrived at 7:53 pm)

Commissioner Turso spoke of the change in shifts with regard to garbage collection. He commented on last winter's snow conditions and the efforts of the Department of Sanitation to combat the amounts of snow that had fallen. He explained how the temperatures make a difference in how effective the salting of streets can be. He explained the new snow plan for the coming season, and the changes that were being made with regard to primary, secondary and tertiary streets; improvements in the workforce with the hiring of 500 additional sanitation workers; more snow removal vehicles to clear away street corners and other areas of difficulty to pedestrians; additional snow plows to be used on various sanitation vehicles and improvements in the GPS system used by the department. The Chairperson asked if there were any questions. There were none. The Chairperson thanked Deputy Commissioner Turso for his presentation.

The Chairperson then acknowledged Deputy Inspector Jeffrey Schiff and Captain John Ganley who spoke about the fact that crime is down in our community with regard to shootings and robberies, however grand larceny auto is still a problem in the area although a drop in percentage has been indicated. They spoke about the green dot scams and also alerted everyone to the fact that there have been car thefts where unmarked tow trucks have been stealing cars. It was noted that traffic injuries, including car accidents and pedestrian accidents were down for the year with only

one fatality for the year in our Precinct and Capt. Ganley commented that progress is being made with Vision Zero. The Chairperson thanked Deputy Inspector Schiff and Captain Ganley for their presentation.

The Chairperson advised that there would be no changes in the community's various legislators as a result of Tuesday's election. Both Congressman Meeks and Congressman Jeffries were reelected, as were State Sens. Addabbo, Sanders, and Gianaris. Also reelected were Assembly members Cook, Titus, Miller, Goldfeder, and Weprin. She acknowledged the presence of Arlene Brown, representing Hon. Eric Ulrich, Eugene Svartzman, representing Hon. Phillip Goldfeder, Linda Fogal, representing Hon. Mike Miller, Jahai Rose, representing Hon. Ruben Wills, Harpreet Singh-Toor, representing Hon. David Weprin and Larry Savinkin, Representing Hon. Hakeem Jefferies.

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

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

- Notification received from Cheap Shots, Inc., dba C.J.'s Bar, 137-09 Cross Bay Boulevard indicating their intention to renew their State liquor license. As there have been ongoing issues and police actions taken, the Board has entered into a stipulation with the owner limiting the use of the rear yard. The stipulation becomes part of the terms of the license. Any violation of the stipulation could result in the loss of their liquor license.
- Notification received from the NYC Office of Consumer Affairs regarding its approval of the sidewalk café for Twist It Top It. The permit will expire in April of 2018.
- Notification received from the Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy expressing its support for increased public access to the Rockaways through expanded and improved subway, bus and ferry service.
- Notice from the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery regarding Combined Notice of Findings of no Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds; NY Rising and NYC Build It Back acquisition for Redevelopment Programs in Bronx County, Kings County, New York County and Queens County by New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation and the City of New York Office of Management and Budget.
- Letter sent to DOT with regard to the 53-foot trailer rule changes.
- Notification of 500-ft. rule Public Hearing from the State Liquor Authority for Masala Enterprises, Inc., dba Masala Guyanese Kitchen, 116-02 Rockaway Boulevard in South Ozone Park.
- The Board was notified by NYC Administration of Child Services that they will be launching their Close to Home Limited Secure Program. The facility will be located at 133-23 127th Street.

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

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT – D. Brown commented on the Borough President's State of the Borough Address to be held on Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 10 am at Colden Auditorium at Queens College. He advised that he had flyers with him and that the Board would be getting invitations. He thanked Chairperson Betty Braton and District Manager Karyn Petersen and others from the Board who attended a meeting that was held by the National Guard with regard to disaster preparedness at St. Barnabas Church. OEM and National Guard spoke about disaster preparedness as individuals and community as a whole. He spoke about a veteran's event that was held today at Borough Hall, the first Veteran's Day Observance Ceremony. As part of her commitment to veterans, Borough President Katz is also setting up a meeting on November 17th at Borough Hall, an invite only meeting. The Mayor's Office Commissioner on Veteran's Affairs, Lori Sutton, State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Council Member Eric Ulrich and some leaders from the veterans' service community will be on hand to help set an agenda for aiding

veterans in the borough of Queens as a collective. Mr. Brown also commented that the borough president also had her monthly Hurricane Task Force Meeting at Borough Hall that was centered on Department of Buildings issues i.e. permits, regulations, etc. There will also be a separate meeting on issues with Build it Back and people who are rebuilding their homes or are having problems with the Department of Buildings as far as permits go. Anyone having problems in that regard should contact Mr. Brown and the issues would be addressed at the meeting. You can call him with these and other issues at 718-286-2853. If you want to be included in his email blasts, the email is dbrown@queensbp.org.

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING REPORT – No report.

The Chairperson advised that there would be a Neighborhood Resiliency Study Meeting with DCP in December.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – The DM advised that the Board office had been notified that DDC will be installing traffic poles and wiring in the vicinity of P.S. 108 located at Rockaway Boulevard and 113th Street as part of the Safe Route To Schools Construction. The work will take place from November 3rd to November 7th, 2014 between the hours of 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.

She also advised that the Skyway Men's Shelter is accepting donations of men's clothing for the clients to use for interviews and they are also accepting book and magazine donations for their library. To coordinate a donation contact Program Director, Kwame Rennie at 718-659-6301.

The 2015 Neighborhood Grant awards micro-grants of up to \$3,000 to resident-led groups to work on community and school improvement projects throughout the city. Applications are due January 26, 2015. For more information contact grants@cittizensnyc.org or call 212-822-9563.

Also, The MTA Metrocard Mobile will be in front of the Foch Post Office at 126-15 Foch Blvd. on November 25th from 1 to 3 pm.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – The Chairperson referred to information contained in the Board folders with regard to the Queens Gas Reliability Project. National Grid has been to the Board office to discuss the project as it is moving forward. She referred to the map attached to the information and advised that the project is running through the Board area on 120th Street from Rockaway Boulevard up to 103 Avenue and then preceding on into CB9 and CB6 further north. She stated that it is a needed project, which will modernize the natural gas distribution system.

She spoke about the Select Bus Service meeting that was held on Wednesday evening, November 5th by DOT to discuss and provide some information on three difference concepts that they had in regard to the plans to change the manner in which bus service is provided along Woodhaven Boulevard/Cross Bay Boulevard. There was a meeting at Borough Hall with DOT at the end of October where three concepts were discussed at length with the affected Community Board DMs & Chairs. For those who were unable to attend the community presentation, the Chairperson reviewed the three concepts presented. Key points in Concept #1 are that the bus service would offer off-set bus lanes and add select service bus bays. Buses would have to yield to parking and turning vehicles. In terms of street design and safety, it would use existing roadway geometry. There are neck-downs and widened medians at station locations and it would maintain three consistent lanes of vehicular traffic. The key points from the 2nd concept are that bus service would be "main road" bus lanes and median stations that they say would not offer any conflicts with turning vehicles or parking. In terms of street design and safety, they said that the new service roads would provide traffic calming and shorten pedestrian crossings with the consistent roadway design. There would be separate, local and thru-traffic lanes, 3 lanes total, one lane in the service road and two lanes in the third road. The key points from the 3rd concept would be bus service would be median bus way and stations. No conflicts with turning vehicles and parking. Street design would be separated by northbound and southbound roadways with a center median providing pedestrian refuge. It would provide three consistent lanes of traffic, rush hour parking restrictions on Cross Bay Boulevard and left turn-only signal required in the cross bus way. The Chairperson advised that DOT would be continuing with further discussions on these three concepts and then they will be determining which of the concepts they will be going forward with. DOT will have to come to the Board and present at some point so that there will be further information. Information will also be posted on DOT's website.

At this point, the Chairperson moved away from the regular order of business and acknowledged Assembly Member Phil Goldfeder and invited him to speak. He said he was honored to be an Assembly Member for another two years. He stated that there is much work to be done. He commented on the Sanitation Department's GPS system and stated that temporary GPS systems should be provided when the Department uses private contractors to help with snow removal. He thanked the Sanitation Department for the fine work they do. He mentioned the amount of graffiti that is on the blue bridge in Hamilton Bridge and thanked the 106 Pct. Auxiliary for removing graffiti from the bridge and all other areas that are prone to graffiti. He advised that due to the efforts of his office the "Kidfitti" children's item was taken off of the Toy's R Us shelves. He stated that, in his view, it sent mixed messages. We must find ways for not only our government and agencies to work on problems, but that our retailers are good partners. He spoke about FEMA and how disappointing the program is. He advised that the FEMA Recoupment Policy is requiring that those who FEMA felt were paid "too much" to send FEMA money back. He plans to fight this policy. He feels it is not acceptable. He thanked everyone for his or her support.

The Chairperson then continued with the regular order of business and the rest of her report. The Chairperson advised that the next meeting of the Port Authority Aviation Committee Roundtables is scheduled for November 20th. They will be reporting on the Part 150 Study. She commented that the JFK Sub-Committee Report was inadvertently left out of the Board folders. It will be sent to the Board via email and hard copy. She reported on the 311 complaints, indicating that blocked driveways and noise are still the two top complaints. She advised that City Planning has put out a 112-page book on retrofitting buildings for flood risk. It's informative and in a more simple language than FEMA information. It can be accessed at City Planning's website. It's called Retrofitting Buildings for Flood Risk. She stated that everyone should have received the newsletter on the reconstruction of the Bergin Basin sewer. That is the work taking place now on the North Conduit and 125th Street. This project will be ongoing for quite a while, as it has to go from the north side of the parkway to the south side of the parkway to the sewage treatment plant. All should have received information on the sewer repairs in Lindenwood. The Chairperson commented on the Close to Home legislation that was signed by Governor Cuomo on March 31st, 2012, explaining what that legislation deals with. She advised that a location has been selected in our community board for a facility at 133-23 127th Street. A meeting is being held on Friday to discuss this further with members of ACS. The Board has many questions with regard to this facility. This will be a limited secure facility. Our Board already has a non-secure facility on 128th Street. More information will be provided after that meeting. Discussion ensued.

The Chairperson acknowledged Sasha Austrie representing Resorts World Casino, LLC. The Chairperson stated that Resorts World had recently celebrated their 3-year anniversary. Ms. Austrie advised of events that were coming up, including a Blood Drive on November 18th, 2 pm to 7 pm, Holiday Tree Lighting on November 24 as well as a Coat Drive to start on November 24. She thanked the community for their support.

Committee reports were given as follows:

BUDGET – In the Committee Chairperson's absence, the Board Chairperson advised that the Board folders contained the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2016 and that the Budget Committee had met with regard to these Budget Priorities. The Board Chairperson asked if there were any questions on the Capital Budget Priorities as listed. There were no questions. Any questions on the Expense Budget Priorities as listed. There were no questions. Budget Committee member N.Santiago presented the Committee's recommendation that the Board approve the Capital & Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2016 as presented, seconded by Mr. A. Cosentino. There was no discussion. All were in favor with 0 abstaining, 0 opposing. Recommendation to approve unanimously carried.

AQUEDUCT – In the Committee Chairperson's absence, the Board Chairperson read the report.

LAND USE – The Committee Chairperson advised that he will keep the Board informed as more information is received from the applicant for BSA 205-14-BZ in the coming months.

GOOD & WELFARE – Board members were advised that the holiday party would once again be held directly before the December Regular Board Meeting.

SUMMER YOUTH/OTHER OPPORTUNITIES – Members were advised the report was contained in the Board folders.

SANITATION – The Committee Chairperson reported information on snow laborers wherein anyone who is interested could report to any local garage from 7 am to 3 pm. The rate of pay is \$12.00 per hour and increases to \$18.00 per hour after completing the first 40 hours in a given week. Applicants must be 18 years of age and eligible to work in the United States. Bring two small photos and two forms of identification and social security card to sign up. He also reported that he attended the solid waste plan and policy-making meeting for NYC on 10/7/14. He advised that waste generated in NYC has seen a steady decline since 2002. Recycling has stayed relatively the same due to increase in packages such as glass and metal, etc. The only change is that effective 1/1/15, no electronics will be picked up by the Sanitation Department. All electronics must be brought back to the stores where they were bought. Staples stores will only take back computers and copy machines. By 2018, all managed refuse will leave the city by barge or rail, cutting down pollution and emissions from trucks. The Board Chairperson advised that Council Member Wills has extended the clean-up program on Liberty Avenue. She acknowledged Jahai Rose, Councilman Wills’ representative, and invited him to comment. Mr. Rose advised that the Council Member’s office has funded the Wild Cats to come to this community, cleaning Liberty Avenue from the Van Wyck to 108th Street. In addition to this clean up, it is noted that they may be doing spray washing along that strip as well. They plan to start in two weeks regarding the spray washing; however the general clean-up started last week. The Wild Cats should be at that location three days a week. Aside from the commercial clean-up, the Wild Cats will be doing snow removal and leaf removal. He asked that anyone who is aware of a senior who is in need of that service to contact the Council Member’s office. A member asked if there is a way to address an abandoned, unattended property. Ms. Rose stated that the funding for Wild Cats is limited; however, if the community board has a collection of those properties, the Wild Cats will come in and clean up on a one-time basis. After that, it would be the responsibility of HPD to get involved.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY – The Committee Chairperson advised the report was contained in folders.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC FORUM: Ms. Isioma Omenge, an intern for Citizens Committee for New York City spoke about the 2015 Neighborhood Grant awards micro-grants of up to \$3,000 to resident-led groups to work on community and school improvement projects throughout the city. Applications are due January 26, 2015. For more information contact grants@cittizensnyc.org or call 212-822-9563.

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

Respectfully submitted by

MaryAnn Turso

Draft. Subject to approval.