

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AND
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 4, 2014

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Not Present: P. Baumann, I. Dimoh, P. Ellison, A. Gellineau, E. Holland, S. McCabe, M. Salim, L. Walker, R. Martinez

Community Board 10 Staff Present: K. Petersen, DM; M. Turso

Others Present: Hon. J. Addabbo; Hon. P. Goldfeder; L. Savinkin, Rep., Hon. H. Jeffries; Asst. Commissioner S. Abeles, DCA; P. Osina, Rep. Hon. S. Stringer; P. McCabe, Rep., Hon. J. Addabbo; H. Singh-Toor, Rep., Hon. D. Weprin; L. Blira-Koessler, Rep., Hon. M. Miller; A. Katz, Rep., Hon. P. Goldfeder. Brown, QBPO; D.I. J. Schiff, CO, 106 Pct.; P.O. B. Reddick, 106 Pct.; O. Mangan-Sypher, QBPL; M. Nacmias, Rep., Palatnik P.C.; T. Alexander, Child Support Enforcement; P. Jenkins & S. Austria, Resorts World

The Chairperson began the meeting at 7:45 P.M. and asked that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. She asked that all remain standing for a moment of silence for all those who perished during the 911 terrorist attacks, especially our city's first responders who gave their lives in our service. She then acknowledged State Senator Joseph Addabbo and invited him to speak. Senator Addabbo welcomed everyone back from the summer break, stating that drivers should be aware of children crossing especially now that schools have resumed sessions. He announced a number of upcoming events, which included free prostrate exams on Saturday, September 13th from 10 am to 12 noon. He asked that anyone interested call his office for more information. He stated that he would be at the Ozone Park library on Thursday evening, September 18th from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. He will be sponsoring a Job Fair on Friday, September 19th at the WMCA on Rockaway Beach Blvd and 73rd Street from 10 am to 2 pm; a recycling event on Sunday, September 28th at the George Seuffert Sr. Bandshell Parking Lot in Forest Park from 10 am to 2 pm and on Thursday, October 2nd, he would be at the Howard Beach Library from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. The Chairperson asked if there were any questions for the Senator. A member commented that there have been complaints about the condition of the Addabbo Bridge. The Chairperson thanked Senator Addabbo.

The Chairperson then acknowledged former Board Member, Diane Marinconz, who spoke about the upcoming Walk to End Alzheimer's being held on Sunday, September 28th at Flushing Meadows Corona Park. (L. Gerardi arrived at 7:50 pm)

The Chairperson introduced the first Guest Speaker for the evening, Sandra Abeles, Assistant Commissioner for Enforcement and Consumer Services for the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, who gave updates and spoke about NYC's paid sick leave law.

(J. Cavanagh arrived at 7:55 pm)

(B. Ramsundar arrived at 7:55 pm)

Assistant Commissioner Abeles explained that to meet Mayor de Blasio's goal of reducing onerous fines on small businesses, in July 2014, the DCA announced a Small Business Relief Package of nearly two dozen reforms. She explained that these reforms would reduce the number of violations for small businesses and expand outreach and education. She stated that depending on the number of counts of a violation, fines in the past were often \$1,000 to \$10,000. With these reforms, fines will range between \$250 to \$1,200 allowing owners to reinvest their hard-earned money in order to grow and prosper, which the administration believes is good for the City and its economy. Commissioner Abeles stated that DCA's reforms not only will aid the majority of law-abiding businesses who may make an honest mistake, but also are designed to balance enforcement and consumer protection. The agency's commitment to consumer protection will remain stronger than ever with a rigorous structure of oversight and fines for businesses that engage in predatory behavior or negatively affect the public's well-being. She went on to explain the reforms. She spoke about financial counseling and education and financial empowerment and ways DCA can help those in need of taking control of their finances. She advised that employees in NYC can use sick leave starting July 30th and that NYC's new paid sick leave law applies to most employees. She explained if you work in NYC for more than 80 hours a year, you may earn up to 40 hours of sick leave each year to care for yourself or a family member. She stated that more information may be obtained by calling 311 or visiting www.nyc.gov/paidsickleave. She asked if there were any questions. There were none. Chairperson Braton thanked her for her presentation.

Chairperson Braton opened the Public Hearing for the evening, BSA Calendar Number: 178-03-BZ, BP Gas Station at 114-02 Van Wyck Expressway wherein a request for the granting of an application has been filed to extend the terms of a special permit for 10 years, which was previously granted by the Board of Standards and Appeals. The special permit expired on April 28th, 2014. The application also seeks a waiver of the Rules of Practice and Procedure. The special permit allows the operation and maintenance of an automotive service station. Mr. Michael Nacmias, representing Eric Palatnik, P.C. explained the request to extend the terms of the special permit. He stated that the granting of the special permit would allow the BP Station to operate for another 10-year term. This station has 4 pumping lanes and is a 24-hour, 7 day a week operation. It has stood as a service station since 1948. If the application is approved, it will allow the operation of this station until April 28, 2024. There are no changes in the use of the station. The Chairperson asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak. There were none. The Chairperson closed the public portion of the hearing and opened the floor to the Board members. The Chair of the Land Use Committee commented that there were special conditions on the Certificate of Occupancy that needed to be upheld, including, the premises should be maintained free of debris and graffiti, any graffiti would be removed from the premises within 48 hours, there should be no used car sales on the premises. There have been no police problems that we have been made aware of; all tanks are up to standard to date with no outstanding violations. The Fire Department has checked all of this. All requirements have been fulfilled. There was a question regarding lighting. Mr. Nacmias advised that lighting is directed to as not to shine onto neighboring properties. The Chairperson asked if there were any further questions or concerns. There were none. She closed the public hearing. The Land Use Chair, made a motion to recommend approval of the extension of the special permit for 10 years. Mr. J. Cavanagh seconded the motion. There were no objections, no one abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

The Chairperson introduced the second guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Trevor Alexander of the Office of Child Support Enforcement. Mr. Alexander spoke about that office's efforts to ensure that every child receives financial support from both parents. He stated that child support is a critically important aspect of healthy child development and responsible parenting and a meaningful tool in keeping children and families out of poverty. He explained that the Office of Child Support Enforcement is embarking on a comprehensive public awareness and education campaign to address this issue. Mr. Alexander explained the Legal Information for Families Today program (LIFT) that offers free services for fathers, mothers and caregivers with family law matters including child support, custody and visitation. More information can be obtained by visiting www.LiFThotline.org. Those interested in checking their child support account can check their case by going online to www.newyorkchildsupport.com. However, a Social Security Number and PIN (personal identification number) is required. To obtain a PIN, you can call the New York State Child Support Custer Service Help Line at 1-888-208-4485. He stated that those persons owing large amounts of child support are in danger of legal action. Mr. Alexander also spoke of DNA testing to determine the paternity of a child, and mediation services where the office of child support provides one or both parents an opportunity to settle visitation issues without going to Family Court. It is a no-cost or low-cost way for parents to discuss and resolve these problems in a private and confidential environment. He explained that the noncustodial parent is obligated to pay support until the child reaches age 21. Mr. Alexander spoke of various situations where

child support isn't paid and the consequences to the parent. The Chairperson asked if there were any questions. There were none. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Alexander for his informative presentation.

Chairperson Braton acknowledged the presence of Ms. Pat McCabe, representing State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Mr. Harpreet Singh-Toor, representing Assembly Member David Weprin, Ms. Arlene Brown, representing Council Member Eric Ulrich, Mr. Pesach Osina, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, Ms. Leilani Blira-Koessler, representing Assembly Member Mike Miller, Mr. Larry Savinkin, representing Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, Sasha Austrie, representing Resorts World Casino NY and Ofelia Mangel-Sypher, representing Queens Library. Ms. Mangel-Sypher requested a few moments to speak. She advised of a grant from the Mayor's office to create a resource guide and workshop series for disaster preparedness and resilience. She asked that those interested fill out a survey, which would help the Queens Library create a resource guide and workshop series that serves their customers from Broad Channel, Howard Beach and the Rockaways. This resource guide is aimed at recovery, sustainability and resilience in areas most hit by Super Storm Sandy. She asked that the surveys be filled out and returned to her. She thanked the Board for allowing her the time to speak.

(G. Duldulao arrived at 8:20 pm)

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of Angelica Katz, representing Assembly Member Phil Goldfeder.

The Chairperson invited Deputy Inspector Jeffrey Schiff to speak. The D.I. welcomed everyone back from the summer break. He advised that noise complaints have been the most common quality of life complaint reported. He said he has been diligent in monitoring noise from block parties, clubs and bars and club enforcement has been very well conducted. He advised that Grand Larceny Auto is still a problem, with cars being broken into. He spoke about individuals being sought for burglaries and showed a picture of one individual for identification. The D.I. also mentioned the situation with the green dot scam. He focused attention to the opening of schools; especially pointing out that schools will be targeted, individually, for double parking, giving out tickets to the drivers who double park. He advised that there would be a contingent on Rockaway Boulevard for school dismissals, the number one corridor for John Adams H.S. and JHS 226. There will be a mobile unit going up and down Rockaway Boulevard. A member commented on a situation with yellow buses at 115th Street and 111 Avenue, the location of OLPH School. The D.I. said he would look into it. Another member commented that he believed crime is up in the area he resides in. The D.I. stated that based on last year's figures, burglaries actually were down by 40%. The Chairperson thanked D.I. Schiff for his information.

The Chairperson resumed the regular order of business and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the June minutes. There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE – The Chairperson reviewed some incoming correspondence for the months of June, July and August 2014, which included:

- Notices received from the City of New York Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regarding the expenditure of funding for locations in the Community Board area through CDBG-DR.
- Notice received from the School Construction Authority regarding MS 137 advising that the exterior modernization is about to begin. The project is expected to last until January 2016. Due to the nature of the work and for the safety of the school children, all activities will take place after normal school hours.
- Notice received on August 19th regarding an SLA's 500 foot rule public hearing to be held on August 21st. Applicant's request for a license is for a catering hall. A letter was sent advising that the community board requests that the 500 ft. rule be upheld.
- Letter received advising of CB9 District Manager MaryAnn Carey's retirement. The Chairperson stated that a congratulatory letter was sent to her on behalf of CB10 thanking her for her service not only to CB9, but also CB10.
- Letter from DOT regarding a listing of City Bench sites.
- Letter from DOT regarding the 2014 Jamaica Bay Greenway Guide (contained in board folders).

At this point in the meeting, the Chairperson acknowledged Assembly Member Phil Goldfeder and invited him to speak. The Assemblyman spoke about schools opening and applauded the continuance of summer reading. He stated that in southern Queens, residents suffer from awful transportation. Queens is geographically isolated. He

wanted to be clear that he advocates for all modes of transportation. He spoke about a pilot program in the Bronx that allows people, mostly seniors; to use their EBT cards to order food online and have their groceries delivered to their homes. Community Board 10 has one of the largest senior communities where seniors have to visit the stores and either walk or use Access-A-Ride to get their groceries home. He spoke with the USDA and they have shown a willingness to work with online food retailers to make service available. This would improve the quality of life for seniors. The Chairperson thanked him for his presentation.

The Chairperson then continued with the reading of the correspondence.

- Notice from the Regional Plan Association, which also relates to the Greenway issue. The next Jamaica Bay Greenway Coalition meeting will be at the Ryan Visitors Center at Floyd Bennett Field on Saturday, September 27th at 10:30 am.
- Memo received from the Department of Homeless Services requiring its 7-day community notification protocol for emergency shelter siting.
- Letter from a group called Vines NY, Inc. requesting a letter of support for its homeless housing proposal.
- Notice from DDC regarding Contract SEQ200517 construction of a storm sewer and replacement of water mains in 128th Street.
- Email received on the work taking place on the Woodhaven bus lanes.
- Notice of the Borough Board meeting where DDC did an update on the projects in Queens. They sent us a copy of the pages in that presentation that referred to our Board. These are the active projects that are moving their way through the process. The Safe Route to Schools Project that is ongoing now at PS 108 area on 109th Avenue and 109th Street. Also project HWQ1184A that is the James Court roadway and bulkhead in Hamilton Beach. That is in design development for FY 2016. HWQ411B is in construction procurement. Another small storm sewer project going through the process, SEQ200490 in 95th Street to 162nd Avenue and a storm sewer extension at 128th Street which is also in pre-design and predevelopment.
- Notice from DEP, Matt Mahoney, Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs, has left his position. The new Assistant Commissioner is Eric Landau.
- Notice from the United States Department of the Interior announcing the release of the Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Gateway National Recreation Area.
- Scoping Notice received on the Environmental Assessment, Gateway National Recreation Area, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, West Pond. Comment was sent in on the West Pond.
- Sign-off on the Twist It Top It sidewalk café.
- Notice from DOT that the Ozone Commuter Van Service is up for renewal.
- Request for “Letter of No Objection” from the South Beach Transportation Car Service Base Station. No letter has yet been issued, as off-street parking has not yet been received.
- Renewal on Mazin Car and Limo Service, 125-01 Liberty Avenue. Letter of “No Objection” was provided.
- Letter of resignation was received from Board Member Renate Teuschler. The Borough President has accepted her resignation.
- Received letter from Success Academy Charter Schools explaining their plan.
- Milling notice received via email.
- Notice of the Listening Sessions for the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council Certification Review.
- Email from Richard Heilebrecht who works for Regional Alliance Contractors, who along with the Port Authority and the Rockaway Development Revitalization Corp is sponsoring construction management course in Far Rockaway each Saturday in October, from 9 am to 4 pm each day. The Chairperson will provide those interested, with a link for more information.
- Information in folder for Senior Activities that are up coming.
- Borough President Melinda Katz has released her strategic plan.

TREASURER’S REPORT – The Treasurer reported that the budget ended at the end of June with a zero balance. As of July 1st, the budget was started with a new balance. The Treasurer reported the expenditures for the month of July and August 2014.

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of Patrick Jenkins representing Resorts World Casino. The Chairperson commented that Resorts World has funded replacement equipment for the playground in Hamilton Beach Park. A round of applause was given. She advised that Councilman Eric Ulrich took the lead on the project,

along with Assembly Member Goldfeder, State Senator Addabbo as well as the Chairperson, to move the project along. An email was received advising that the equipment has arrived at Resorts World. Local 1010 will be doing the labor preparing the site and installing the equipment as part of their apprentice-training program. Demolition may begin on Tuesday and the equipment will be delivered to the playground site on Thursday. They estimate that the building process will take about 10 days and when the playground equipment is installed the playground contractor will install the rubber safety surface. By September 25th, all of the work should be completed. The Chairperson thanked Resorts World for this contribution to the community. The Chairperson also commented that last year Resorts World contributed a large sum of money to the former South Queens Boys and Girls Club, which is now called the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Queens. Although the club is not located in Community Board 10, it services youths in CB10 and CB 9. Several weeks ago, Resorts held an event on the third floor where part of the proceeds went to the Boys & Girls Club and another event, a Comedy Benefit, which will also benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Queens is upcoming. Tickets are available on the Resorts World website. Mr. Jenkins stated that they are happy to be able to help with the rebuilding of the playground after Hurricane Sandy and that Resorts World is committed to being a good neighbor. Discussion ensued.

The Chairperson commented that Time Warner would be making some cable upgrades to their system. They will be working through the month of September along 156th Avenue and 77th Street. The Board was contacted by the Science and Resilience group, which is doing a focus group in regard to some issues related to the Jamaica Bay Watershed. They have asked for recommendations and the Board recommended the community groups in the Jamaica Bay area.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT – D. Brown – With regard to Build it Back, he mentioned that the Borough President's Hurricane Task Force met and the meeting was very productive. A goal was set by Build it Back for 500 construction starts and 500 checks to be out out by Labor Day. They advised that those numbers have been exceeded. The problem is that when they are asked what a construction start is, they don't know. The next meeting will be on September 15th. At that meeting they will try to get clarity on construction starts. Mr. Brown stated that they will also try to compile a list of zip codes of where Build it Back checks were sent, where the rebuilds are being done and where the repairs are being done. He advised that the Borough President met with the Commissioner of the Office of Emergency Management regarding disaster preparedness. As Mr. Brown is involved with the Veteran's Affairs in the Borough President's Office, he announced that the Veterans Business Owners' Forum meeting would take place once a month at Borough Hall. The next meeting will be on September 25th at 2 pm. Flyers are available. He asked if there are any questions. There were none. He encouraged all to call his office for any help he can provide.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – The District Manager advised that the Board office was notified by the MTA of a change in the completion date for part of the station renewal work that they are performing at 88th Street-Boyd Avenue and 104th Street-Oxford Avenue Stations on the A line in Ozone Park. Both of the Queens bound platforms will reopen to the public for regular service on Monday, September 29th. The delay is due to the need to make additional unanticipated repairs to the badly deteriorated girders supporting the station platforms as well as complications caused by discrepancies with platform geometry, which have made edgework and concrete slab pouring more difficult and time consuming than originally projected. Once the work is completed on the Queens bound platforms and mezzanines at these stations, they will move their renewal work to the Manhattan bound sides of these stations thereby suspending Manhattan bound service there beginning Monday, October 13th. It will take approximately 14 weeks to complete and they anticipate restoring Manhattan bound service to these stations by mid-January, 2015. The MTA will continue to post notices in all affected stations and they will continue to make announcements on all trains informing customers of these temporary service changes. Service notices are posted on their website www.MTA.info where riders may sign up for free text and email alerts. The Board office was also notified that the Metro Van would be at the Foch Post Office located at 126-15 Foch Boulevard on Tuesday, September 30th, 2014 from 1 – 3 pm.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – The Chairperson referred to a notice that was sent out by the Parks Committee Chair during the summer regarding the Spring Creek Salt Marsh on the Lindenwood side. The NYC Parks Department did win the grant it applied for. They received \$4,270,000 and \$6.9 Million in matching funds. The Howard Beach NY Rising Committee showed its commitment to that project by recommending \$250,000 towards the match. The governor did approve that \$250,000 match and hopefully that project will move forward. She also stated that the Spring Creek project planned for the southern section of Spring Creek Park that is Gateway-owned is moving its

way through the process and DEC is hoping to have an update shortly. Also moving forward is the Resilient Neighborhood Planning Study. The first meeting should be coming up shortly. That involves the Cross Bay Boulevard corridor and old Howard Beach and Hamilton Beach. Tom Smith of City Planning is spearheading this project. Some of the Board members will be participating in this as well. There is information in the Board folders on this item and more information on the City Planning website. The Chairperson then commented on the annual Statement of Needs that was done and submitted over the summer. She gave a synopsis of the issues that were part of the Needs Statement. She stated that Governor Cuomo, in March of this year indicated to the Port Authority that he was requiring them to do a Part 150 Noise Compatibility Planning Study. At the same, the Governor directed that the Port Authority form aviation community roundtables. So far, there have been 3 meetings of the roundtables. The most recent was on August 20th. There has been some discussion and debate as to whether there should be one roundtable for both airports together (JFK and LaGuardia) or, because of the nature of the two airports and the issues are different, that there should be one roundtable for La Guardia and one for JFK. As that debate continues, the Chairperson stated that she would like to get a sense of what people are thinking in terms of what the Board's viewpoints would be. She therefore asked for a show of hands for having one roundtable for both airports. She then asked for a show of hands for having two roundtables, one for JFK and one for LaGuardia. It was clear from the show of hands that the members preferred there be two separate roundtables. She stated that the PA Committee report contained in the Board folders has more information on this issue. The Chair of the JFK Committee commented regarding complaints of airport noise. Discussion ensued. The Chairperson continued with her report, stating that the Board received, by email the Woodhaven Cross Bay Boulevard Design Workshop meeting summary from the last meeting. Also, we received a District Resource Statement specific to our Board from the Human Resources Administration, which includes many statistics that are useful for other issues as well.

LAND USE – The Committee Chairperson commented on the situation with regard to an open residential property that was being used as an illegal parking lot on Cohancy Street and North Conduit Avenue at the start of the summer. He stated that with the help of the Board Chairperson the issue was successfully resolved and the illegal use was now gone. He asked about the new construction in Centreville. The Board Chairperson stated that the School Construction Authority is proceeding with the school site on Albert Road for the building of a 500 seat, Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade school. The Board Chairperson reminded members of the history of the site's acquisition and also reminded members of the Board's 2004 resolution to request the next school constructed in the Board area be named for the late Art Beroff. The Board will be asking that the school be named after former Board member, Art Beroff who also served as an elected member of Community School Board 27. The School Construction Authority will present at the next Board meeting.

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

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

HOMELAND SECURITY SUB-COMMITTEE– In the Committee Chairperson's absence, the Board Chairperson advised the report was contained in Board folders.

SUMMER YOUTH & OTHER EMPLOYMENT – The Committee Chairperson advised the report was contained in Board folders. She advised that for the month of September, DCAS is offering exams for police officers, school safety agents, traffic enforcement agents, and emergency medical techs. The DCAS website has all the information, or you can contact them at 212-669-1257. She stated that if you have taken a civil service exam and you moved, call DCAS because if they cannot contact you, you lose your place on the list.

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

PARKS – No report. A member inquired about the white painted lines that have been appearing. He was told that those lines indicated future tree plantings. An update will be available this fall.

EDUCATION – The Committee Chairperson cautioned drivers to be alert to school crossings now that sessions are back.

GATEWAY – The Committee Chairperson commented on the West Pond of the Wildlife Center that was breached during Sandy. He indicated that comment had been provided to Gateway on the restoration issue

LIBRARIES – The Committee Chairperson reported on the Queens Public Library’s free mobile application.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – A member commented on the old meter poles that were left on the street that were made into bike hook-ups.

PUBLIC FORUM – Ms. Adele Rogers commented that the traffic signal lights on 130th Street between 133rd and 135th Avenues need to be timed. Vehicles stop at 133rd Avenue and race to 135th Avenue to beat the light.

The Chairperson asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak. There were no other speakers.

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

Respectfully submitted by

MaryAnn Turso
Draft, subject to approval