

**NOVEMBER 12, 2014 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING &  
REGULAR MEETING ROYAL INDIAN PALACE  
118-06 ATLANTIC AVE**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2014-MARCH 2015**

**2<sup>nd</sup> # Represents Absences As of January 2014 (Borough President's Attendance)**

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(0) (1)	Dr. V. Evangelista	(0) (0)	Regina Santoro	(1) (2)
Julio Batista	(0) (0)	Laraine Fletcher	(1) (1)	Jagir Singh	(1) (1)
D. Bhattacharjee	(0) (1)	Linda Fogal	(1) (2)	Jarnail Singh	(2) (2)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(1) (1)	Ralph Gonzalez	(0) (0)	Maharani Singh	(1) (1)
Alex Blenkinsopp	(1) (1)	Sylvia Hack	(1) (1)	Raghibir Singh	(2) (3)
Latchman Budhai	(2) (3)	Scott Jordan	(1) (1)	J. Richard Smith	(1) (1)
John Carter	(1) (2)	Sherman Kane	(1) (2)	Dr. Stephen Sofer	(0) (0)
Jim Coccovillo	(0) (1)	Patrick Khan	(1) (1)	Maria Thomson	(1) (1)
Nick Comaianni	(1) (3)	Marian Molina	(2) (2)	Marie Turley	(0) (0)
Andrea Crawford	(0) (0)	Ivan Mrakovcic	(0) (0)	Seth Welins	(0) (0)
Sandra Datnarain	(0) (1)	Kevin O'Leary	(0) (1)	Naidoo Veerapen	(2) (4)
Joan DeCamp	(0) (0)	Rabbi D. Pollack	(0) (0)	Clark Whitsett	(1) (1)
H. Singh Duggal	(1) (1)	Raj Rampershad	(0) (0)	Kenichi Wilson	(0) (0)
Sam Esposito	(2) (3)	Mohamed Safie	(2) (4)		

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

David Adorno	(1) (2)	Richard David	(1) (1)	Joseph Iaboni*	(1) (2)
Cheryl Alexander	(2) (2)	Stephen Esposito	(3) (3)	Joel Kuszai	(1) (2)
Priscilla Levine	(2) (2)				

**ALSO PRESENT**

Lisa Gomes, Acting District Manager  
Irina Barayeva, Staff

\*Absences from a meeting shall mean physical non-attendance and /or failure to be present for voting on two or more agenda items marked "Vote to be Taken" at any regular or special meeting of the Board.

## LEGISLATORS & LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

David Renz, Rep. Assembly Member Mike Miller  
Scott Wolf, Rep. Assembly Member Michael Simanowitz  
Redmond Haskins, Rep. Council Member Ulrich  
Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Joseph P. Addabbo  
Jahi Rose, Rep. Council Member Ruben Wills  
Bruce Eiber, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz  
Manav Nanda, Rep. Assembly Member Hevesi  
Council Member Eric Ulrich  
P.O. Martinez and P.O. Severino, 102 Pct.

*Guests' sign-in sheets are available upon request.*

## REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

### **1. Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes**

Marie Turley read the additions to the minutes submitted by Maria Thomson:

Page # 9, Public Forum-Mr. Hasib Ali also had a petition of business and store owners that he presented to the board.

Page # 7, Budget & Finance Committee Report, Item # 2 clarification: these are added items to the Capital & Expense Budget and the numbers assigned do not indicate priority numbers.

**Motion # 1:** To adopt minutes.

**Vote # 1:** 40 in favor, 1 not present, 1 abstained

### **2. Monthly Update Report 102 Pct.**

P.O. Martinez stated that starting November 7<sup>th</sup>, the speed limit on all New York City streets will be 25 MPH unless otherwise posted. This new speed limit will be enforced by the NYPD and with speed enforcement cameras. By getting New York drivers to slow down we will prevent crashes; protect New Yorkers from injury and save lives. Lowering the speed limit is one aspect of the Mayor's comprehensive Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries.

Question and answer period followed.

Chair Gonzalez thanked Mr. Ragbir Singh for the use of his facility and providing food.

Vice Chair Rampershad recognized legislative representatives.

**David Renz, Rep. Assembly Member Miller**, stated that AM Miller is sponsoring Pantry drive for local food pantries from Nov. 3 through Nov.22, 2014. All nonperishable food can be dropped off at 83-91 Woodhaven Blvd. Annual Toy Drive for the benefit of children in need will start Dec. 1 through 15, 2014 at the same location.

**Scott Wolf, Rep. Assembly Member Simanowitz**, stated that AM Simanowitz and the Queens Chamber of Commerce announced the Queens Veterans Discount Program. Businesses throughout the borough who take part in the new initiative will offer discounts to any veteran that has a free discount card. Assembly Member Simanowitz will hold a 529A College Savings Program Forum on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 7 p.m. at the Pomonok branch library.

**Redmond Haskins, Rep. Council Member Ulrich**, reported on Veterans Food Drive sponsored by CM Ulrich. According to recent reports, about 40% of NYC's veterans and their families rely on emergency food to get by. In honor of their selfless sacrifice, we need to insure that local food pantries and soup kitchens are equipped to assist our brave veterans with hot meals this upcoming holiday season.

**Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Joseph P. Addabbo**, stated that Senator Addabbo will be serving his community for two more years and wishes all a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Jahi Rose, Rep. Council Member Ruben Wills**, stated CM Wills announced the extension of the beneficial CSS Neighborhood Sanitation Initiative- the neighborhood clean-up services performed by Wildcat Services Corporation. This program will continue through May 2015.

**Bruce Eiber, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz**, wished all a Happy Holiday season.

**Manav Nanda, Rep. Assembly Member Hevesi**, stated the Assembly Member is going to hold hearings on how to approve Foster Child Abuse cases.

**3. District Manager's Report**-Lisa Gomes, Acting District Manager

- Attended Forest Park Fall Harvest Festival 10/18/14, CB 9 had a table with information. We partnered with DOT's Truck Event which shows young people how drivers of trucks have blind spots, We secured a Sanitation Truck and a Fire Truck with the help of FDNY Capt. Timothy Smith Community Engagement Officer & DOS Ignazio Terranova, Citywide Community Affairs Officer.
- Attended the QBP Cabinet meeting on 10/21/14 and the Borough Board Meeting on 10/27/14. We had presentations by the NYC Health Department and the Dept. of Education on Ebola and how it is transmitted & spread. Letters will be sent home with Students with the latest information regarding the virus. QBP Melinda Katz advised the need for emphasizing the importance of hand washing at lunch time and bathroom time, etc. DOH stated there was over 9,000 people affected by the Ebola virus, and it is the largest outbreak with over 4,000 deaths.
- On 10/30/14 the borough president held a meeting with the Department of Homeless

Services regarding the site selection for placement of Shelters. Due to an Emergency Declaration regarding the over 57,000 homeless Families, the DHS has a mandate to house everyone who seeks shelter. They are seeking input regarding any available sites to place the homeless.

4. **Public Forum**

**Hasib Ali, Ozone Park Resident-** spoke about the 101<sup>st</sup> Ave Pedestrian Plaza impact on businesses stating that they were thriving before the Plaza was created. Mr. Ali asked the board for help to remove the Plaza stating that their livelihood depends on it.

**Michael Castillo, Brooklyn Resident-**asked the board to support Mr. Ali with his request about the Pedestrian Plaza as it creates chaos with traffic and parking.

**Esmeralda Robinson, Richmond Hill Resident-**student from La Guardia Community College came to the meeting to observe and to get more information about her community.

5. **Public Hearing**

*Liquor, Beer, & Wine Licenses, Letters of Intent Received*

a. **On Premise Wine & Beer License Application-New**

EL Rey IV Billiard & Lounge Inc.  
75-16 Rockaway Blvd.  
Woodhaven, NY 11421  
*No Speakers*

b. **On Premise Beer License Application New- Reconsideration**

San Cecilio Inc.  
90-04 Jamaica Ave  
Woodhaven, NY 11421  
*No Speakers*

6. **Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Report- Joe Iaboni, Chair**  
Jim Coccovillo gave committee report.

**On Premise Wine & Beer License Application-New**

EL Rey IV Billiard & Lounge Inc.  
75-16 Rockaway Blvd.  
Woodhaven, NY 11421

***VOTE TO BE TAKEN***

**Motion # 2:** To send a letter of objection to the SLA

**Vote # 2:** Unanimous

**On Premise Beer License Application -Reconsideration**

San Cecilio Place, Inc.

90-04 Jamaica Ave

Woodhaven, NY 11421

*VOTE TO BE TAKEN*

**Motion # 3:** To send a letter of no objection to the SLA

**Vote # 3:** 4 in favor, 37 opposed, and 1 not present

**7. Budget & Finance Committee Report- E. David Adorno, Chair *Not present***

- Executive Session-Staff Reassignment/Additional Responsibilities & Compensation

*VOTE TO BE TAKEN*

J. Richard Smith stated that he was told by David Adorno to withdraw the Executive Session until the December board meeting.

**8. Transportation Committee Report- Kenichi Wilson, Chair**

- Mr. Wilson reported on speed limit changes stating that there are three phases: advertisement, posting of new speed limit signs and enforcement.
- DOT finally removed graffiti on the Atlantic Ave overpass.
- Andrea Crawford stated there have been no graffiti complaints since a mural was put up on 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave overpass in Kew Gardens. Mr. Wilson said he will reach out to the DOT to see if any mural projects are available.
- The Transportation Committee received several complaints regarding film shootings in the CB 9 area and the lack of parking. Mr. Wilson contacted the Supervisor of Field Operations Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting who stated that they do not want any negative effect on the community and are willing to communicate.
- Q10 articulated bus noise issue has been taken care of by Joe Raskin from MTA.
- Woodhaven Blvd. service lane was re-striped as a part of the Congested Corridor Study that started back in 2008. If it improves safety, it will stay there permanently.
- DOT is still working on addressing all concerns at the 101 Ave Pedestrian Plaza so it works for both businesses and residents.

Mr. Wilson answered board members' questions.

**9. District Manager Search Committee Report-Dr. Evangelista, Chair**

The District Manager Search Committee meeting will take place tomorrow at 7 pm. A total of eleven resumes was received and will be reviewed at the DM search committee meeting. All personal information will be blacked out to judge resumes on their merit.

After reviewing the resumes, the committee will determine how many applicants will be called for an interview and how many of the interviewed individuals will be presented to the full board for a vote.

Council Member Eric Ulrich addressed the board. He reported on following:

- Veterans' Food Drive
- Graffiti Program
- Participatory Budgeting
- Farmer's Market Update

**10. Land Use Committee Report – Clark Whitsett, Chair**

Mr. Whitsett stated an application to build a six-story building at 116-20 Curzon Rd was rejected by DOB.

**11. Education & Youth Services Committee Report– Seth Welins, Chair**

- Our committee had a meeting with the P.T.A. president of P.S.90. The school is asking us to help support their efforts to get a gym built in their school. Members of the committee will visit the school on Nov. 25 to see how we can best assist them.
- There was a press conference at Richmond Hill High School on November 6. The parent leaders publicly thanked our community board for all the help and support we provided during the past few years. Our advocacy helped them obtain a commitment from the DOE to remove the trailers from the school yard by the end of the school year.
- The DOE will initiate a new program to help under-performing schools. Richmond Hill HS will be one of the programs chosen for the School Renewal Program. The schools will have an extended school day of one hour, an academic centered summer program and additional teacher training and development. The schools will be closely monitored for a 3 year period. If schools do not attain specified goals by the end of this period, they could be closed.
- The DOE will continue its efforts to transform schools into community schools. Outside social and medical services as well as private agencies and businesses will coordinate their work with their paired schools.
- The NYC Comptroller's office will be auditing Success academy schools as well as several other charter schools. The Comptroller wants to do both financial and operational audits of these schools.

**12. Health & Social Services Committee Report- Joan DeCamp, Chair *No report***

**13. Parks, Recreation & Environment Committee Report – N. Comaianni & J.R. Smith Chairs**

An RFP to operate a concession at the Golf Course was released.

**14. Economic Development Committee Report- Richard David, Chair *Not present***

**15. Chairperson's Remarks & Exec Report – Ralph Gonzalez**

The office received a subpoena to catalog our meeting tapes. The Exec Committee addressed the issue and complied with the request.

**16. Old Business**

Seth Welins asked about a donation that was offered by a film shooting company. Chair Gonzalez contacted them and gave them a list of organizations to choose from. Andrea Crawford suggested the donation be given to an organization such as The Forest Park Trust.

**17. New Business**

Maria Thomson said that the Greater Woodhaven Development Corporation Street Fair was very successful. The GWDC will have a free trolley on Jamaica Ave on 11/29/2014 from 12 to 5 pm and all are invited.

**18. Public Forum**

Franklin Ganoo, Esq. an attorney for El Ray IV Billiard & Lounge, Inc. located at 75-16 Rockaway Blvd voiced his concerns of how his client's Wine & Beer License Application was handled by the Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee. Chair Gonzalez suggested scheduling a meeting with the committee to address the problem.

J. Richard Smith made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Scott Jordan seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 10:30 pm