

**OCTOBER 14, 2014 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING &
REGULAR MEETING FAIRFIELD PAVILLION
131-10 101st AVE**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2014-MARCH 2015

2nd # Represents Absences As of January 2014 (Borough President's Attendance)

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| David Adorno | (0) (1) | Joan DeCamp | (0) (0) | Rabbi D. Pollack | (0) (0) |
| Inderpaul Ahluwalia | (0) (1) | Sam Esposito | (2)*(3) | Raj Rampershad | (0) (0) |
| Cheryl Alexander | (1) (1) | Stephen Esposito | (2) (2) | Jagir Singh | (1) (1) |
| Julio Batista | (0) (0) | Dr. V. Evangelista | (0) (0) | Maharani Singh | (1) (1) |
| D. Bhattacharjee | (0) (1) | Ralph Gonzalez | (0) (0) | J. Richard Smith | (1) (1) |
| Kamal Bhuiyan | (1) (0) | Sylvia Hack | (1) (1) | Dr. Stephen Sofer | (0) (0) |
| Alex Blenkinsopp | (1) (1) | Joseph Iaboni | (0) (1) | Maria Thomson | (1) (1) |
| John Carter | (1) (2) | Scott Jordan | (1) (1) | Marie Turley | (0) (0) |
| Jim Coccovillo | (0) (1) | Sherman Kane | (1) (2) | Seth Welins | (0) (0) |
| Nick Comaianni* | (1) (3) | Patrick Khan | (1) (1) | Clark Whitsett | (1) (1) |
| Andrea Crawford | (0) (0) | Joel Kuszai | (0) (1) | Kenichi Wilson | (0) (0) |
| Sandra Datnarain | (0) (1) | Ivan Mrakovcic | (0) (0) | | |
| Richard David | (0) (0) | Kevin O'Leary | (0) (1) | | |

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| Latchman Budhai | (2) (3) | H. Singh Duggal | (1) (1) | Laraine Fletcher | (1) (1) |
| Linda Fogal | (1) (2) | Priscilla Levine | (1) (1) | Marian Molina | (2) (2) |
| Mohamed Safie | (2) (3) | Regina Santoro | (1) (2) | Jarnail Singh | (2) (2) |
| Raghubir Singh | (2) (3) | Naidoo Veerapen | (2) (4) | | |

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

Elisa Velazquez, QBPO
David Renz, Rep. Assembly Member Mike Miller
Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Joseph P. Addabbo
Congress Member Grace Meng
Vishnu Mahadeo, Senator James Sanders
Redmond Haskins, Rep. Council Member Ulrich
Lauren Capozzi, Assembly Member Hevesi
Bruce Eiber, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Scott Wolf, Rep. Assembly Member Michael Simanowitz
Capt. Raia, 102 Pct.
P.O. Martinez, 102 Pct.

Guests' sign-in sheets are available upon request.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. The Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes

Marie Turley and Nick Comaianni motioned to adopt the minutes.

Motion # 1: To adopt minutes.

Vote # 1: Unanimous

2. Chairperson's Remarks & Exec Report- Ralph Gonzalez

Mr. Gonzalez stated that after the public forum the board will go into an executive session.

Dr. Evangelista reported on the District Manager Search Committee (DMSC) meeting, stating that DMSC approved a set of preferred skills and requirements for this position. In order to apply, candidates must mail their resume, via registered return receipt mail to the CB9 office by 11/7/2014. He stated the committee will meet on November 13, 2014 to review resumes. All personal information will be blacked out to judge resumes on their merit. The job posting was published in the Chief and local newspapers and forwarded to Directors of Personnel citywide.

Chair Gonzalez commended Alex Blenkinsopp for creating a CB 9 PSA (Public Service Announcement) for QPTV.

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

- ADM Gomes thanked the board members for sending a fruit basket on behalf of her mom and for attending her mother's funeral.
- Ms. Gomes stated that the Annual Fall Harvest Festival will take place on Saturday, October 18, 2014 in Forest Park Victory Field and named all the city agencies who will be participating.

- Attended Budget Consultations; FY2016 Capital & Expense Priority Requests list is included in board members' packages. City agency representatives asked the Community Boards to support their requested budget items.
- Former DM Mary Ann Carey discussed FY2016 CB9 Parks Budget with Parks Commissioner Lewandowski and Forest Park Administrator Debby Kuha via a conference call.
- Lisa Gomes gave a brief update on the CB9 office management situation.

4. Guest Speaker- John S Cnapich, Dir. Paternity and Outreach Services. Office of Child Support Enforcement, NYC Human Resources Administration-Not present

Chair Gonzalez invited Capt. Raia and PO Martinez from 102 Pct. to speak.

PO Martinez reported on the following:

- 102 Pct. has an increase in cases of grand larceny by deception; the main targets are the elderly and immigrants.
- Increase of grand larceny auto.
- Green Dot Scam- the crime that often involves con artists who claim to be from companies like Con Edison, i.e. making phone calls to residents and threatening people with service disruptions if they do not send funds immediately via a "Green Dot MoneyPak."

Question & answer period followed.

PUBLIC FORUM

Isioma Ononye, Citizens Committee Intern-spoke about The Citizens Committee for NYC awarding grants of \$1,000 for resident-driven block beautification projects citywide.

Andrew Ronan, NYC DOT- gave a brief history of BACDYS being awarded pedestrian plaza at **101 Ave. between Liberty Avenue and Drew Street in 2012**. He stated DOT and BACDYS are working together on addressing concerns that were brought up by business owners impacted by this plaza. DOT will add muni meters on the Liberty Ave. side of the plaza and will reduce the size of the 101st Ave. portion of it. This action will restore eight parking spots.

Darma V. Diaz, BACDYS-reported on what was done by BACDYS members to address business owners concerns regarding the Pedestrian Plaza impact.

Congress Member Grace Meng- addressed the board, gave updates on what her office is working on. She thanked all for the privilege of representing her constituents in the US Congress. Congress member Meng's office helps to resolve any problems that people may experience with federal agencies, i.e. immigration issues, IRS problems, federal grant support, small business assistance, passport and visa issues, etc.

Question and answer period followed.

Monjurul Sami, Ozone Park Resident, spoke in favor of the 101st Ave. Pedestrian Plaza.

Mohammed Ali, Business Owner, spoke in favor of the 101st Ave. Pedestrian Plaza. He stated that creating this plaza is the best thing that happened in this neighborhood in thirty years.

Misba Abdin, BAGDYS President, talked about the Pedestrian Plaza, stating it is a public space that brings the community together.

Ms. Singh, BAGDYS Employee, stated that this pedestrian plaza serves as a recreational facility for different cultures and generations.

Anthony Iuliano, NYC DOB, stated that Queens Community Boards are very active compared to the other boroughs. He assured board members that Ken Lazar, CB 9 liaison, has been very responsive in addressing CB 9 complaints. The Department of Buildings is a very complicated agency to navigate and often time's people become frustrated that complaints are not addressed in a timely matter, stating it depends on the issue. Most of the complaints in Queens are about illegal curb cuts. This kind of complaint is categorized as a D Complaint and it can take up to nine months to address. However, Ken Lazar goes through the list of complaints diligently to make sure the inspections are done sooner rather than later. As a result 985 complaints were looked at and 60% were issued violations.

The other category is illegal conversions which is much more difficult to combat because there is no access in the majority of inspections. Queens DOB is pursuing having access warrants through an Affidavit Program. Constituents are asked to meet with the borough attorney to answer questions and to determine if there is enough information to go to court and obtain an access warrant. The building inspectors also has the ability to get an access warrant if they see enough evidence from the outside. In the last fiscal year 278 access warrants were issued citywide, 272 of which were for Queens County. Question and answer period followed.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. ***FY 2016 Capital & Expense Budget No speakers***
2. ***Liquor, Beer, & Wine Licenses, Letters of Intent Received***

- a. **On Premise Liquor License Application- New**

La Cabana Restaurant de Rosa
D/b/a La Cabana Restaurant
102-24 Jamaica Ave.
Richmond Hill, NY 11418
No speakers

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

El Pollo Inka Peru, Inc.
78-06 101 Ave
Ozone Park, NY 11416
No speakers

Linda's Store
84-19 Jamaica Ave.
Woodhaven, NY 11421
No speakers

c. On Premise Beer License Application- New

San Cecilio Place, Inc.
90-04 Jamaica Ave.
Woodhaven, NY 11421
No speakers

d. On Premise Liquor License Application-Renewal

Arena Lounge, LLC
89-25 130 St
Richmond Hill, NY 11418
No speakers

e. On Premise Liquor License Application-Renewal-(Cont'd)

97-07 Jamaica Ave Tavern Corp.
D/b/a McHugh's
97-07 Jamaica Ave
Woodhaven, NY 11421
No speakers

Altiff Corp.
D/b/a The Rush
107-12 101 Ave
Ozone Park, NY 11416
No speakers

► Executive Session- Staff Reassignment/Additional Responsibilities & Compensation

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

David Adorno made the motion to table raises for CB 9 employees Lisa Gomes and Irina Barayeva until the next Community Board meeting. Joe Iaboni seconded it. Raises will be retroactive to September, 2014.

Motion # 2: To table the raises for CB 9 employees Lisa Gomes and Irina Barayeva until the next Community Board meeting

Vote # 2: Unanimous

5. Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Report- Joe Iaboni, Chair

On Premise Liquor License Application- New

La Cabana Restaurant de Rosa
D/b/a La Cabana Restaurant
102-24 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

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

Vote # 3: 30 in favor, 7 opposed

On Premise Wine & Beer License Application -New

El Pollo Inka Peru, Inc.
78-06 101 Ave
Ozone Park, NY 11416

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

Motion # 4: To send a letter of objection to the SLA

Vote # 4: Unanimous

Linda's Store
84-19 Jamaica Ave
Woodhaven, NY 11421

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

Motion # 5: To send a letter of objection to the SLA

Vote # 5: Unanimous

San Cecilio Place, Inc.
90-04 Jamaica Ave
Woodhaven, NY 11421

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

Motion # 6: To send a letter of no objection to the SLA

Vote # 6: 37 opposed, motion did not pass

97-07 Jamaica Ave Tavern Corp.
D/b/a McHugh's
97-07 Jamaica Ave
Woodhaven, NY 11421

Maria Thomson made a motion to refuse renewal of liquor license. Joan DeCamp
Seconded it. Discussion followed.

Motion # 7: To end discussion

Vote# 7: 34 in favor, 3 opposed

Motion # 8: To send a letter of objection to the SLA

Vote # 8: 29 in favor, 8 opposed

Raj Rampershad recognized legislative representatives.

Vishnu Mahadeo from State Senator Sanders' gave a brief update on the positive developments at Richmond Hill High School. Dept. of Education has given \$8.7M for the renovation and refurbishing of the RHHS. There are three brand new computer labs, a refurbished swimming pool, three gyms and 7.5 new classrooms. The DOE in conjunction with the School Construction Authority will demolish trailers by the end of the school year and replaced by multi-function tracks around the facility and tennis courts. Mr. Mahadeo thanked the board for their support and invited them to attend a press conference on Nov. 6 at 12:30 in RHHS.

He invited all to a Hurricane Sandy Memorial presented by Senator Sanders at the Rockaway YMCA on Wednesday, October 29, 2014. Richard David thanked Senator Sanders for helping to remove the trailers from the RHHS.

6. Budget & Finance Committee Report- E. David Adorno, Chair

Item 1:

Since Mary Ann will no longer be our district manager as of October 1st, 2014, our budget will see some savings, which have yet to be determined. Consequently, we will have to distribute the responsibilities of the district manager amongst the two remaining employees of CB9, Lisa Gomes and Irina Barayeva. Since they are going to have more responsibilities, it is only fair that they receive more compensation.

The total combined compensation package for both Lisa and Irina will be around \$4881 per calendar year, with them receiving 25% of that for the remainder of this calendar year. The savings we will realize because of Mary Ann's retirement will outweigh the small raise being requested. It is approximately a 5% increase of their current salary. That said, as chair of the finance committee, I would like to make a motion to approve the recommended compensation package for both Lisa Gomes and Irina Barayeva. Executive session was commenced and a closed discussion was had regarding the proposed raises.

Members raised several questions that I as chair was unable to answer. Because of this, I made the motion to table the discussion with the understanding that when we enter into our next executive session and approve whatever raises for our staff, that those raises will be retroactive to September of 2014.

Item 2:

The last item is the CB9 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for FY2016. The finance committee created a list of recommendations for projects to be funded within the CB 9 district. A public hearing was held during the October meeting; the list is unchanged for the most part with the exception of several additions:

1. DCAS: Construction of Queens Borough Hall Municipal Parking Garage
2. Parks: Fund Resurfacing of Tennis Court on Park Lane South
3. Asphalt Path from the Carousel to the Playground
4. Secure mounted unit and PEP Officers for Forest Park

5. Secure new equipment for Forest Park Maintenance workers
6. Additional requests for tree plantings on Woodhaven Boulevard from Myrtle Avenue to Atlantic Avenue* (Should be added to Priority #14 on the capital list)
7. Repair and construction of all sewer basins and sidewalks and roadway of Forest Park Drive** (Should be added to Priority #6 on the capital list)

► FY 2016 Capital & Expense Budget

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

Motion # 9: To adopt FY 2016 Capital & Expense Budget as amended

Vote # 9: Unanimous

7. Transportation Committee Report- Kenichi Wilson, Chair

► Pedestrian Plaza Letter

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

Mr. Wilson posed the question of whether or not a vote needs to be taken on Pedestrian Plaza letter to the board. The board members stated that a vote need not be taken. The vote was withdrawn.

Kenichi Wilson stated that the speed limit in NYC will drop down to 25 mph starting Nov. 7, 2014.

The MTA will add wireless service to 29 subway stations in Queens.

Mr. Wilson reported on the meeting that was held at Queens Borough Hall regarding re-evaluation of the 101 Ave Pedestrian Plaza and the impact on businesses.

Discussion followed.

8. Land Use Committee Report – Clark Whitsett, Chair

► Queens Borough Hall Municipal Parking Lot Letter

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

The Land Use Committee drafted a resolution requesting that the city rebuild the parking garage with adequate parking based upon earlier traffic studies that were done when proposals were solicited to replace the parking garage ten years ago.

Mr. Whitsett made a motion to support the CB 9 Resolution to replace the parking garage with a new parking garage for 1,400 spots. Jim Coccovillo seconded the motion.

Motion # 10: To support CB 9 Resolution on municipal parking garage

Vote # 10: Unanimous

Sylvia Hack requested to send the resolution to the Mayor, CB 9 elected officials and the DOT Commissioner.

Mr. Whitsett reported on a proposal to build a six-story building on Curzon Rd, between 116 & 118 St that was addressed by DOB Commissioner earlier today.

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

- The D.O.E. is proposing new charter schools for school districts 24, 27 and 28. No information was offered as to how many schools will be opened or where they will be located. N.Y.S. Education Law 2852 requires new charter schools to be put in place and execute meaningful public outreach. Community boards will hopefully be included in these schools' outreach plans.
- John Carter spoke about the loss of our community's teen CYO basketball program. Our committee would like to see this valuable program restored and would be most willing to support efforts to do so.
- Our committee will meet with the P.T.A. president of P.S. 90 on November 3. The P.T.A. would like us to support their efforts to get a gym in their building.

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

11. Parks, Recreation & Environment Committee Report – N. Comaianni & J.R. Smith Chairs
No report

12. Economic Development Committee Report- Richard David, Chair

Mr. David invited all to attend an annual Diwali Motorcade on Sat., October 18, 2014 at 5 pm.

13. Old Business

Dr. Sofer submitted a petition and asked the board to write a letter to the MTA regarding Q10 buses reducing and or removing the noise pollution as they are extremely loud and the buses run all night.

Maria Thomson submitted an addition to the September CB 9 board meeting minutes:

Education & Youth Service Committee

Pre-K class in the Woodhaven Library is the only one in the United States.

14. New Business

Stephen Esposito invited all to the Wonderful Woodhaven Street Festival on Sunday, October 19, 2014 on Jamaica Ave, between Woodhaven Blvd. & 80th St where Lion Dancers, Country Western Band, etc. will be performing.

15. Public Forum

Hasib Ali, Ozone Park resident, talked about the 101st Ave Pedestrian Plaza impact on businesses, stating that he wants it to be removed.

Joan DeCamp suggested contacting DOT and asking them to address this issue.

Dr. Evangelista made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Stephen Esposito seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 11:35 pm