

**OCTOBER 8, 2013 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING AND  
REGULAR MEETING  
FAIRFIELD PAVILLION 131-10 101 AVE**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2013-MARCH 2014**

David Adorno	(1)*	H. Singh Duggal	(1)	Raj Rampershad	(0)
Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(0)	Sam Esposito	(1)	Mohamed Safie	(1)
Evelyn Baron	(1)	Dr. V. Evangelista	(0)	Regina Santoro	(0)
Julio Batista	(1)	Jan Fenster	(1)	Maharani Singh	(1)
D. Bhattacharjee	(0)	Linda Fogal	(1)	Ragbir Singh	(1)
Alex Blenkinsopp	(0)	Ralph Gonzalez	(0)	J. Richard Smith	(1)
Wallace Bock	(2)	Sylvia Hack	(1)	Dr. Stephen Sofer	(0)
Latchman Budhai	(0)	Joseph Iaboni	(1)	Maria Thomson	(0)
John Carter	(1)	Scott Jordan	(1)	Marie Turley	(0)
Jim Coccovillo	(0)	Sherman Kane	(1)	Seth Welins	(0)
Nick Comaianni	(1)	Patrick Khan	(0)	Clark Whitsett	(1)
Andrea Crawford	(1)	Joel Kuszai	(0)		
Sandra Datnarain	(0)	Priscilla Levine	(1)		
Richard David	(1)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)		
Joan DeCamp	(1)	Rabbi D. Pollack	(1)		

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Akhtar Ali	(3)	Marian Molina	(1)	Joseph Todisco	(2)
Anton Dietrich	(1)	Ivan Mrakovcic	(1)	Naidoo Veerapen	(1)
Stephen Esposito	(1)	Jagir Singh	(4)*	Kenichi Wilson	(1)

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mary Ann Carey, District Manager  
Lisa Gomes, 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.

## Legislative Representatives

Wilma Bynum, QBPO  
Kate Mooney, CM Crowley  
PO Brendan Noonan, 102 Pct.  
Karen Koslowitz, Council Member  
Carl Moore, Senator Addabbo  
Mohamed Hack, CM Wills  
Lisa Atkins, QBPO  
Michael Cohen, CM Koslowitz  
Chris Kaznowski, AM Hevesi  
Vishnu Mahadeo, Senator Saunders

Angel Vasquez, AM Miller  
Deputy Inspector Sautner, 102 Pct.  
Rudy Giuliani, CM Ulrich  
Elizabeth Crawley, Council Member  
Harpreet Toor, AM Weprin  
Scott Wolff, AM Simanowitz  
Barry Grodenchik, QBPO  
PO Jose Severino, 102 Pct.  
Greg Levine, Congress Member Meng

## GUESTS

Sign-in sheets are available upon request.

## PUBLIC FORUM

Neil Giannelli, Woodhaven Resident- spoke in opposition to any development along the old abandoned Rockaway branch of the LIRR.

Joe Guzman, Woodhaven Blvd – opposed the Queens Way Project and stated that the goal of the residents or the surrounding area is to preserve quality of life and property values.

Dolores Rosato, Woodhaven Resident – read a letter that will be sent to elected officials regarding opposition to the Queens Way Project.

Bill Brozawski, Ozone Park Resident – spoke in opposition to Proposed 101 Ave Plaza. He stated that those funds should be used to renovate the World War II Memorial statue that is currently at that location and being neglected.

EJ Sydell, Kew Gardens Resident – voiced her concern regarding empty storefronts of businesses that were forced to close down due to high rent increases. Ms. Sydell asked about the plans for the former Civic Virtue Statue site.

Sugiarto Widjaja, Woodhaven Resident – spoke in opposition to Queens Way Project.

Daniel Justiniano - spoke in opposition to Queens Way Project.

Travis Tery – spoke in favor of the Queens Way Project stating that according to a study conducted by Business Council of NY State the Greenways are best ways to boost the local economy and improve the quality of life.

Sasha Austrie, Resorts World, talked about special events that will take place at the Racino for their 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary.

Aurelio Arcabascio, Republican Candidate for QBP- introduced himself and thanked the board members for their services.

Darma Diaz spoke about the Liberty Ave Plaza and invited all to attend their Semi-Annual Project Presentation on October 19, 2013.

Rosseney Zelaya, Ozone Park Resident- spoke about a restaurant and bar that was opened on 101 Ave & 101 St stating that it is creating a lot of problems in the area.

Emily Weidenhof-NYC DOT Plaza Program stated that after their presentation at the Community Board September, 2013 meeting some concerns were received by DOT regarding Drew Street residents being unaware of the Plaza Program. There are over 39 signatures from residents of Drew Street; copies are included in Board Members folders. Letters of support were also received from businesses adjacent to the Plaza on both the Queens and Brooklyn sides. To address safety concerns DOT met with the 102 Pct., BACDYS and Queens DOT for a walk through of the plaza.

Joseph Reuter, Richmond Hill Resident- spoke about polling sites in his area.

Stephen Melwick- asked questions about proposed 101 Ave Plaza and the ways it will be monitored and maintained.

**Barry Grodenchik, Deputy Borough President**- presented five members of Community Board # 9 with 10-years of service certificate:

Nick Comaianni  
Andrea Crawford  
Harjinder Singh Duggal  
Mohamed Safie  
J. Richard Smith

Mr. Grodenchik thanked all board members for their service.

**Chairperson Jim Coccovillo introduced legislative representatives.**

**Chris Kaznowski, Assembly Member Hevesi** made an announcement about the Community E-Cycling 2013 event in Forest Hills on 11/2/2013 & Health Fair in Glendale on 10/26/2013.

**Kate Mooney** deferred her report because Council Member Crowley was on her way to CB 9 meeting.

**Mohamed Hack, Council Member Wills** stated that assistance on legal and immigration issues is offered every Monday & Thursday at the office.

**Harpreet S. Toor, Assembly Member Weprin** stated that the Assembly Member is planning on opening office in Richmond Hill.

**Scott Wolf, Assembly Member Simanowitz** stated that NYS Department of Taxation & Finance is requiring the homeowners, who receive a Basic STAR exemption, to register with them. The three ways to do so are: on-line at [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov) , call (518) 457-2036 or stop by Assembly Member's office so that the staff can handle it.

**Angel Vasquez, Assembly Member Miller** stated that on October 16, 2013 there will be a Hispanic Heritage event at the RHBA office. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013 the Instructional Tutorials for Obama Care will take place at the Sheppard's House Church of the Nazarene at 89-12 101<sup>st</sup> Ave.

1. Monthly Update Report- 102 Pct. – Deputy Inspector H. Sautner stated that there was an increased amount of police presence in Forest Park for the last 4 to 6 weeks due to the incident that occurred on 8/26/2013. The safety of the park is being addressed by 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct. personnel 24 hours a day. 1,500 of the Wanted flyers were disseminated. Park goers are encouraged to stay on main trails and to not run around the park after dusk.

There is extra pedestrian and vehicular traffic due to the starting of a new school year. He asked drivers to be cautious around schools and on the roads. School crossing guards are back in force as well as truancy officers.

102 Pct. was able to get a permanent officer assigned to School Safety Uniform Task specifically for Richmond Hill High School.

Deputy Inspector Sautner spoke about precautions people should take while doing their shopping, i.e. not to leave pocketbooks in the car, etc. The 102 Pct. crime prevention officers will be giving presentations about safety tips to local civic groups and organizations.

Question and answer period followed.

**Council Member Elizabeth Crowley** stated that starting January 2014 she will be responsible for smaller portion of CB 9 district. She gave updates on following:

- The ribbon cutting ceremony of Woodhaven branch library took place last month. It marked the completion of phase 1. She will continue to work on this project.
- Thanked Deputy Inspector Sautner for work he has been doing in trying to find a perpetrator who victimized a woman in Forest Park.
- Forest Park Carousel Landmarking Ceremony will be held before it closes for the winter.

- PS 66 in Richmond Hill was given a blue ribbon recognized by Federal Government for Excellence and Education.
- Council Member allocated \$1Million for renovation of Mary Whalen Playground.

**Council Member Karen Koslowitz** stated that she covers all of Kew Gardens, Forest Hills and Rego Park. Council Member along with her colleagues CM Crowley & CM Ulrich allocates money for extra pickups of waste baskets on Jamaica Ave. Council Member Koslowitz is looking forward to working with the new Chair James Coccovillo, the board office and the board members.

**Council Member Eric Ulrich** encouraged all board members to vote for the rezoning resolution of Ozone Park stating that this is the first major rezoning for Ozone Park since 1961. He praised the Department of City Planning for making the neighborhood a priority. He stated that they put an incredible amount of work and time into this resolution and made sure that the proposed plans accurately reflect the residential character of the community, and allow growth and development along the commercial strips on 101<sup>st</sup>, Liberty Avenues and Rockaway Blvd.

Council Member said that he also supports the proposed Pedestrian Plaza on 101<sup>st</sup> Ave stating that it will have a positive impact on the community. He stated that this part of Ozone Park has a very large and growing Bengali and Indian community and is taking an active role in improving Ozone Park.

**Carl Moore, representing Senator Addabbo**, made an announcement about a Free Job Fair at Atlas Park on Friday, October 18, 2013 that is sponsored by Senator in conjunction with the shops at Atlas Park.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

1. **Ozone Park Rezoning– Brief *Presentation by Tom Smith, Dept. of City Planning***
2. **Speed Bump Request 114th St. between 89th Ave. & Atlantic Ave**
3. **Liquor, Beer, & Wine Licenses, Letters of Intent Received**
  - a. **On Premise Liquor License Application- New**

Xquisite Ballroom Inc.  
 134-10 Atlantic Ave.  
 Richmond Hill, NY 11419  
*No speakers*

New Talent Zone Corp.  
119-30 Metropolitan Ave.  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415  
*No speakers*

Elixir Lounge & Restaurant Inc.  
105-06 Jamaica Ave.  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418  
*No speakers*

**b. On Premise Liquor License Application- Renewal**

9603 Bar & Grill Corp.  
96-03 101 Ave  
Ozone Park, NY 11416  
*No speakers*

**c. On Premise Wine & Beer Application- Renewal**

JMD Quick Stop Inc.  
130-01 Hillside Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418  
*No speakers*

**d. On Premise Beer- Renewal**

City 99 Discount Store  
117-20 Jamaica Ave.  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418  
*No speakers*

**e. Off Premise Wholesale Application-New/Reconsideration**

TWIB Wholesale, Inc.  
125-10 Jamaica Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418  
*No speakers*

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**2. Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes**

Correction made by Alexander Blenkinsopp, on page 4, under Public Hearing, Proposed 101<sup>st</sup> Ave Pedestrian Plaza, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph should read: Alexander Blenkinsopp asked whether the Department of Transportation had collected signatures from residents on the

affected streets, as per CB9 policy for speed humps. Ms. Weidenhof said no, and District Manager Mary Ann Carey added that residents had not yet been notified of the proposal by mail.

Jim Coccovillo made a motion to adopt minutes as amended. Andrea Crawford seconded the motion.

**Motion # 1:** To adopt minutes as amended

**Vote #1:** 40 in favor, 1 abstained

Sam Esposito acknowledged the passing of Priscilla Levine's husband Harvey Levine.

Tom Smith, a Department of City Planning representative, gave a brief presentation on the Ozone Park rezoning. He stated that the proposal would change the zoning for residential and business properties of 530 blocks in Ozone Park to promote new typed of businesses to open in the area, like on Liberty and 101sr avenues and Rockaway Blvd, while still maintaining its current character in residential neighborhoods. The rezoning is split between the two Community Boards that cover Ozone Park, about 318 blocks in CB 10 and approximately 212 blocs with Community Board 9. It has not been updated since 1961.

Mr. Smith said that the problem with the current zoning is that it does not differentiate between commercial areas and the residential streets that many people live on and the rezoning aims to keep commercial businesses from opening in residential areas. The rezoning still needs to be approved by the Queens Borough President and the City Council before it goes into effect.

Question and answer period followed.

**Vishnu Mahadeo, representing Senator Sanders Jr.,** reported on a new office location at 142-01 Rockaway Blvd. He stated that Senator Sanders was a part of a Legal Committee which ensured that all Super Storm Sandy victims who were relocated to hotels are given an extension to be accommodated properly in the future.

**Greg Lavine, representing Congress Member Meng,** distributed flyers regarding Affordable Health Care Act.

3. Chairperson's Remarks & Exec Report-James Coccovillo reported on following issues:

- Getting permanent law enforcement in the Forest Park is the first priority at CB 9 Capital & Expense Budget.
- Chairman Coccovillo supports proposed 101<sup>st</sup> Ave Pedestrian Plaza.
- CB 9 Ad Hoc Committee made recommendations for additions to the bylaws.
- Had a meeting with Parks Commissioner where she addressed all parks issues (copy is available at the board office).

- The office created a complaint spread sheet-a great tool to know how many complaints were received and what the status is. They are currently working on creating a true data system.
- A Policy and Procedure Log has been started.

Board member Sam Esposito made a motion to not hold board meetings on Election and/or Primary Day. Discussion ensued. Sam Esposito withdrew the motion.

4. District Manager's Report- Mary Ann Carey-stated that once a year Queens District Managers meet with the agency heads of twelve city agencies where they compile agendas on borough issues. The list of the agenda issues the DMs selected as their issues for the Fire Department are included in board member packages. Queens has 80 Fire Marshalls and 20 Supervising Marshalls. Homeland Security awarded more than \$450 million to the Fire Department. This enables the FDNY to provide specialized training and resources for Hazmat and Rescue teams to enhance communication and technology to insure that a 9/11 situation does not recur.

The building at 83-98 Woodhaven Blvd. will remain as a FDNY Communication office. The 911 system will be streamlined. The FD and Buildings Dept. meet regularly to review Risk Based Buildings. The Inspection Unit creates an index of buildings at risk. Those with the greatest risk of fire are prioritized for inspection, as are buildings most likely to have violations. All divisions are using the RBIS. This system will make violations easier to track and enforce.

The SRO program focuses on illegal occupancies where access is problematic. DOB, HPD, and FDNY compile list of these buildings based on factors such as fire history, neighborhood demographics and building violations. In some cases FDNY units are dispatched to meet DOB, and/or HPD inspectors to attempt to gain access. The program was piloted in Queens and expanded citywide.

The DMs will complete consultations this Friday, when they meet with HRA, ACS, DEP and the Department of Homeless Services.

The District Manager briefly talked about the FDNY Mobile CPR Training Unit.

5. Transportation Committee Report- Andrea Crawford

The Transportation Committee met with Joe Raskin from the MTA to discuss issues of Q10 route articulated buses. These buses clog up traffic, get stuck in stop lights, and they are often 2/3 empty. Mrs. Crawford asked Mr. Raskin for statistics on ridership on both on and off pick hours, information on how many buses are JFK bound and Rockaway Blvd bound, etc.

► *Proposed Pedestrian Plaza at 101 Ave. & Liberty Ave, btwn Drew St. & 75 St. VOTE TO BE TAKEN*

Andrea Crawford stated that the committee supports this project.

Discussion followed.

**Motion # 2:** To support proposed pedestrian plaza at 101<sup>st</sup> & Liberty Ave, btwn. Drew & 75<sup>th</sup> St.

**Vote # 2:** 39 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstained

► *Speed Hump Request 114<sup>th</sup> St. between 89<sup>th</sup> Ave & Atlantic Ave*

This request was made by Rev. Doris of Full Gospel Assembly Church because the current traffic conditions present a hazard for the children, youth from Richmond Hill School and elderly. Queens DOT approved it on July, 2013. CB 9 Traffic & Transportation Committee approves this request.

**Motion # 3:** To support the installation of speed hump on 114<sup>th</sup> St, btwn 89<sup>th</sup> & Atlantic Ave

**Vote # 3:** Unanimous

6. Land Use Committee Report– Sylvia Hack & Sherman Kane

► *Ozone Park Rezoning*

**VOTE TO BE TAKEN**

**Motion # 4:** To Support the Ozone Park Rezoning

**Vote # 4:** 40 in favor, 1 opposed

► *Republican Club LPC Public Hearing - 86-15 Lefferts Blvd, Landmarks Application* **VOTE TO BE TAKEN**

Sylvia Hack talked about CB 9 resolution that was offered in response to a request by the new owners to make changes in the use of the premises that are not now permitted (copy included in Board Members folders).

Discussion followed. Eric Palatnic answered board members questions.

**Motion # 5:** To support the LPC 74-711 resolution re: Republican Club

**Vote # 5:** 38 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstained

The Board voted that it had no objection to the 74-111 Landmarks Preservation Commission process to restore the landmark to a higher standard of work, in this case the Republican Club at 86-15 Lefferts Blvd. The Board, noted, however, that this did not mean that the Board supported granting a Special Permit required to install a cabaret in the building. Without such permit the owners will not fulfill the requirements of 74-111.

Sherman Kane gave an update on the collapsed building at 78-19 Jamaica Ave, stating that the Community Board sent a letter to DOB asking them to demolish the building and to the District Attorney asking him to pursue the owner of the building for criminal negligence.

7. Education & Youth Services Committee Report- Seth Welins reported to the following:
- Neal Ganesh has been named the new Interim Acting principal of Richmond Hill High School. He was appointed a few weeks before the start of the fall 2013 term. The school is still using structurally unsound trailer classrooms. Mold was found in some of these classrooms. The committee will explore possible actions to get the DOE to remedy these unacceptable conditions.
  - On October 8<sup>th</sup>, there was a rally in front of Queens Borough Hall. Many elected leaders protested the current policy to create new, small schools which are usually located inside existing school buildings. Some of these new schools are charter schools. The committee will look into this issue during the next few months.
  - Many parents and educators are very concerned about the number of standardized tests students routinely take during the year and the schools' over reliance on test scores to place students in many types of academic programs.
8. Health & Social Services Committee Report- Evelyn Baron.
- Stated that on Sunday, October 27, 2013 from 9am to 4:30pm the Care Clinic will provide free mammograms. Contact the office or Evelyn Baron to find out who qualifies.
  - Suggested all to attend Affordable Care Act Seminar on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 hosted by Congress Member Meng.
  - The Department of Health has mandated this year that all medical personnel must get a flu shot or wear a face mask at all times.
  - Medicaid Program is progressively disappearing. Almost everybody is being shifted into managed care.
9. Parks, Recreation & Environment Committee Report- J. R. Smith & J. DeCamp
- Joan DeCamp stated that free rain barrels were distributed to selected customers.
10. Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Report- Jim Coccovillo/Rabbi Pollack

► **On Premise Liquor License Application- New**

Xquisite Ballroom, Inc.  
 134-10 Atlantic Ave  
 Richmond Hill, NY 11419

**VOTE TO BE TAKEN**

Committee opposes to this liquor license.

**Motion # 6:** *To send letter of opposition for Xquisite Ballroom, Inc.  
 134-10 Atlantic Ave*

**Vote # 6:** *Unanimous*

New Talent Zone Corp.  
119-30 Metropolitan Ave  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

**VOTE TO BE TAKEN**

Committee is opposed to this liquor license due to lack of information given.

Jim Coccovillo explained CB 9 Public Safety Committee procedures to the owners.

The License application was withdrawn and the owners were advised to attend the next Public Safety Committee meeting on Wednesday, October 16, 2013 with the completed paperwork.

Elixir Lounge & Restaurant, Inc.  
105-06 Jamaica Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

**VOTE TO BE TAKEN**

Discussion followed.

Joan DeCamp made a motion to amend a motion of reconsideration. Sam Esposito seconded the motion.

**Motion # 7:** *Not to reconsider on premise liquor license for Elixir Lounge & Rest. Inc.  
105-06 Jamaica Ave*

**Vote # 7** *Unanimous*

► **On Premise Wholesale Application- New/Reconsideration**

TWIB Wholesale, Inc.  
125-10 Jamaica Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

**VOTE TO BE TAKEN**

The committee has no objection to this off-premise license.

**Motion # 8:** *To send a letter of no opposition for TWIB Wholesale, Inc.  
125-10 Jamaica Ave*

**Vote # 8:** *Unanimous*

Next Public Safety Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 16, 2013 at 7:45 pm at the district office.

11. **Executive Session**

Sam Esposito made a motion to go into executive session. Debate ensued and Nick Comaianni made a motion to table Executive session until next month.

Evelyn Baron stated Exec session should be in the beginning of the meeting not the end. Debate ensued.

**Motion # 9:** *To table Exec Session to next month*

**Vote # 9:** *Unanimous*

12. Old Business

Maria Thomson invited all to the Greater Woodhaven Development Corporation Street Festival on Sunday, October 20, 2013 from 12-6 pm.

13. New Business

Ragbir Singh made an announcement about an annual event at his temple at 114<sup>th</sup> St & 101<sup>st</sup> Ave on Saturday, November 9, 2013 at 12:30.

Andrea Crawford reminded all about Spirit is Alive even at the Maple Grove cemetery on Saturday, October 12, 2013

14. Public Forum

Bill Brozawski spoke in opposition to 101 Ave Plaza.

Wally Bock made a motion to adjourn, Andrea Crawford seconded it.

The meeting ended at 11 pm