

**APRIL 14, 2015 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING &
REGULAR MEETING VILLA RUSSO IL PALAZZO
101-12 LEFFERTS BLVD**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2015-MARCH 2016

2nd # Represents Absences As of January 2015 (Borough President's Attendance)

Julio Batista	(0) (1)	Mohamad Z. Islam	(0) (0)	Maharani Singh	(0) (0)
D. Bhattacharjee	(0) (0)	Scott Jordan	(0) (1)	Matthew Singh	(0) (0)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(0) (0)	Sherman Kane	(0) (0)	Ragbir Singh	(0) (2)
John Carter	(0) (2)	Joel Kuszai	(0) (0)	J. Richard Smith	(0) (0)
Jim Coccovillo	(0) (0)	Priscilla Levine	(0) (3)	Maria Thomson	(0) (1)
Nick Comaianni	(0) (0)	Marian Molina	(0) (1)	Marie Turley	(0) (0)
Andrea Crawford	(0) (0)	Ivan Mrakovcic	(0) (1)	Seth Welins	(0) (0)
Sandra Datnarain	(0) (0)	Kevin O'Leary	(0) (1)	Naidoo Veerapen	(0) (1)
Richard David	(0) (0)	Rabbi D. Pollack	(0) (0)	Clark Whitsett	(0) (1)
Stephen Esposito	(0) (0)	Raj Rampershad	(0) (0)	Kenichi Wilson	(0) (0)
Jan Fenster	(0) (0)	Mohamed Safie	(0) (3)		
Linda Fogal	(0) (0)	Regina Santoro	(0) (1)		
Sylvia Hack	(0) (1)	Jagir Singh	(0) (1)		
Joseph Iaboni	(0) (0)	Jarnail Singh	(0) (1)		

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(1) (2)	Joan DeCamp	1) (1)	Patrick Khan	(1) (1)
Alex Blenkinsopp	(1) (2)	Laraine Fletcher	(1) (1)	Harichandan Singh	(1) (1)
Latchman Budhai	(1) (3)	Ralph Gonzalez	(1) (1)	Dr. Stephen Sofer	(1) (1)

ALSO PRESENT

Lisa Gomes, District Manager
Irina Barayeva, Community Associate

*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

Barry Grodenchik, Rep. Borough President Melinda Katz
Redmond Haskins, Rep. Council Member Eric Ulrich
Aaron Siegel, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin
Lauren Capotti, Rep. Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi
Bruce Eiber, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Jahi Rose, Rep. Council Member Rubin Wills
Joseph Addabbo, Senator
Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Joseph P. Addabbo
David Renz, Rep. Assembly Member Mike Miller
Scott Wolf, Rep. Assembly Member Michael Simanowitz
Amit Bagga, Rep. Mayor's Office/Consumer Affairs
Stacey Eliuk, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie
Deputy Inspector Deodat Urprasad, 102nd Pct.
P.O. J. Severino, 102nd Pct.

Guests' sign-in sheets are available upon request.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. PUBLIC FORUM

Barry Grodenchik, Director of Community Boards, addressed the board and congratulated the new Chair Raj Rampershad and the new District Manager Lisa Gomes.

Mr. Grodenchik introduced new board members: Jan Fenster, Harichandan Singh, Mohamad Z. Islam and Mathew Singh and congratulated Murray Berger on his recognition award for his service to the community.

Joseph Reuter, Richmond Hill resident, reported a damaged utility pole at the intersection of 103rd Ave & 101st Street.

Richard Iritano, Richmond Hill resident, urged the board to return the Civic Virtue statue to the grounds of Queens Borough Hall.

Jean C. Silva, Community Board 6, invited board members to attend events coordinated by Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy.

Murray Berger, KGCA, stated his opposition on returning the Civic Virtue statue to the grounds of Queens Borough Hall.

2. Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes

Ivan Mrakovcic asked for additions/corrections to the minutes. There were none.

Motion # 1: To adopt minutes as presented.

Vote # 1: 34 in favor and 4 abstentions

3. Monthly Update Report 102 Pct.

Deputy Inspector Deodat Urprasad, commanding officer of the 102nd Precinct, reported that crime is down 70% in 28 days and 12% year to date.

There has been an 18% increase in robbery arrests mostly among school kids. Many incidents are the result of students using their cell phones during school hours and other students stealing their phones which constitutes a robbery. Police officers are present on 101 & Jamaica Avenues during school dismissal times.

Flyers were distributed regarding a robbery that occurred on March 31st, 2015 around Jamaica Ave & 104 St.

PO Severino announced there will be increased regarding drivers who don't stop their vehicles when school buses pick-up or drop-off children.

He asked all to be alert while in fitness clubs and to protect belongings and personal information.

Question and answer period followed.

Amit Bagga, Deputy Commissioner, NYC Department of Consumer Affairs, addressed the board and gave a quick description of Department's functions.

The DCA licenses nearly 80,000 businesses in 55 industries; mediates complaints and educates consumers and businesses about their rights and responsibilities. The Agency also enforces the Consumer Protection Law and other business-related laws.

DCA administrates New York City's Earned Sick Time Act, in which most employers in New York City are required to provide their employees with sick leave. As of January 2016, DCA will enforce the City's Transit Benefits law in which certain employers will be required to offer their full-time employees the opportunity to use pre-tax earnings to purchase qualified transportation fringe benefits. Information is available on DCA website in twenty six languages.

4. Chairperson's Remarks & Exec Report- Raj Rampershad

Chair Rampershad thanked the board members for voting for him and gave an overview of his actions, stating that: he wants to

- Streamline meetings.
- The process of selecting District Manager is over; we all need to move forward to solve the issues that face our communities.
- The Land Use Committee will be working on the CB9 Statement on The Proposal For Zoning for Quality and Affordability.
- Committee Preference Form is included in the packages and should be filled out and submitted.
- Committee meeting absences will be enforced: three committee meeting absences are counted as one absence.
- Board Member Info sheet should be filled out and submitted to Lisa or Irina.
- Attended Borough Board meeting where "*Zoning for Quality and Affordability*" *Scoping Document* was presented. Will ask the Department of City Planning to give a presentation to the board.

- Expressed his special gratitude to Dr. Vincent Evangelista for chairing the District Manager Search Committee.
- The Executive Committee will consist of the chairs of each committee; the first Exec Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 28, 2015.
- Assigned Joel Kuszai to create an appropriate emailing process.

5. District Manager's Report- Lisa Gomes

At BP Katz's Borough Cabinet meeting this morning, DOT presented info on Vision Zero Action Plan for Queens Pedestrian Safety and gave the following statistics:

- In the first year Queens Pedestrian fatalities dropped from 57 to 38.
- Pedestrian fatalities have grown. Between 2007 & 2013 pedestrian fatalities grew from 51% of all traffic fatalities to 58%.
- Since 2007, fatalities of vulnerable road users increased by 1% while fatalities of motor vehicle occupants fell by 37%. Pedestrians represent the majority of traffic fatalities citywide.
- One of the reasons for this is the challenge of an aging population in The City of NY. Seniors walk more than that elsewhere in the US and their fatality rate is 4 times that of younger New Yorkers.
- Pedestrian Fatalities in Queens have fallen by 44% in the past three decades but have risen recently and pedestrian fatality rate is slightly higher than the citywide average.
- Most fatalities concentrate around high density historic town centers like, Flushing, Jamaica & Elmhurst.
- These occur during Off Peak weekday which accounted for 76% of pedestrian weekday weekday fatalities.

The second presentation was by LinkNYC-NYC's Wi-Fi Network (DOITT):

An RFP was issued in 2014 for the largest & most advanced digital 'Street Furniture Network' in the world. (there has been a significant drop in payphone usage). This is being led by City Bridge LLC in partnership between four companies: Titan, the New York display advertising giant, Comark, which will be fabricating the actual kiosks; Control Group, which is providing most of the strategy for the concern; and chipmaker [Qualcomm](#). (This is a twelve year project) There will be up to 10, 000 structures throughout NYC. As of now 7500 are contracted to be built. The structure will be 91/2 Ft. by 11 inches wide. This will be the Fastest Public Ad Fee Free Wi-Fi (Users choose username & password to get into the system- this lasts for one year.) This will be approved by the NY Public Design Commission. They will be installing 77 Advertising Structures in Queens. They want our input on where we want to place the Kiosks.

6. CB9 Recognition Award-Sandra Datnarain

****Murray Berger*-Executive Chairman, Kew Gardens Civic Association***

Sandra Datnarain read Mr. Berger's biography:

"Mr. Murray Berger was born in 1924 in Brooklyn, raised in East New York; attended Danny Kaye's Junior High School 149. He got his B.A. degree in 1947. He got married to Carol in 1953, 61 years ago, a partner in civic activities as well. They have a daughter in Manhattan and a son in Connecticut.

Mr. Berger entered the printing industry and served as President of the Typographers Association of New York. He then became the owner of a large Manhattan printing plant specializing in illustrated children's books at which he retired from the industry in 1994, and thereafter, Murray Berger devoted himself full time to the Kew Gardens Civic Association and its involvements. He served as the Kew Gardens Civic Association (KGCA) President for over 25 years -- and since then as Executive Chairman.

Murray said to me that his phone rings off the wall most of the time. He said that he often gets calls after hours and at night also. Many people from the community call him with a lot of complaints which results in him making a lot of phone calls to various agencies to get situations resolved. Believe me Murray always gets the situation resolved.

Murray has also been a non-board member for many years, representing his fellow community members and getting answers.

At his age - Murray is still a non-board member and still with the civic association servicing his community.

God Bless him and congratulations."

Mrs. Datnarain presented Mr. Berger with the CB9 Recognition Award. He was also presented with a cake to celebrate his 91st birthday.

Mr. Berger thanked the board members and stated that he wants to serve Kew Gardens Civic Association until his 100th birthday.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

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

a. On Premise Liquor License Application-Renewal

GSGA Restaurant Corp.

D/b/a The Classic Diner

117-33 Myrtle Ave

Richmond Hill, NY 11418

No speakers

Mingle #1 Inc.
D/b/a Mingles
130-18 101 Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11419
No speakers

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

Mr. Iaboni stated that the committee has no objections to the above liquor licenses.

9. Transportation Committee Report- Kenichi Wilson, Chair

- The Transportation committee met on March 23rd, 2015. Logan bus issues and complaints were addressed. An agreement was reached; so far there are no complaints. The issue of the lack of bus service during winter season was also discussed. Ms. Sheila Webb-Halpern of MTA Government & Community Relations answered questions. Presentation was made by Transportation Alternatives regarding Improvements on Queens Boulevard.
- Attended meeting in Queens Borough Hall on March 26th re: Select Bus Service. One of the design projects was picked: Design Concept #2. There will be more public hearings held: 4/16/15 is re: Union Tpke, Woodhaven & Rockaway Blvd design; 4/23/15 meeting re: Queens Blvd & Union Tpke; 4/29/15 meeting re: Crossbay Blvd and 4/30/15 meeting re: Rockaway Blvd design.
- Attended meeting regarding DDC's municipal parking lot demolition project. Question and answer period followed.

10. Land Use Committee Report – Clark Whitsett, Chair

The Land Use Committee will prepare a statement regarding the Mayor's "Zoning for Quality and Affordability" Scoping Document. All board members are asked to review the statement and to indicate whether they can support it as the current deadline for public comment is April 30, 2015.

Discussion followed. Clark Whitsett made a motion to draft a letter on the "Zoning for Quality and Affordability" Scoping Document. Regina Santoro seconded the motion.

Motion # 2: Land Use Committee to draft a letter on the "Zoning for Quality and Affordability" Scoping Document

Vote # 2: 37 in favor, 1 opposed

Chair Rampershad recognized Senator Addabbo who reported on the following:

- 2015-2016 New York State Budget.
- Free Recycling Event will take place on Sunday, April 26, 2015 10 a.m. -2 p.m. at the Forest Park Bandshell.
- Second Annual Seniors Only Job Fair will take place on Friday, May 15, 2015, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Queens Community House, 80-02 Kew Gardens Rd.

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

- New Visions for Public Schools intends to open a 9-12 grade charter school in August Martin HS. The school is under-utilized, according to DOE figures. The school currently has one co-located school as well as a transfer school. The charter school will pose additional challenges for the building's co-located schools that will have to share scarce school spaces and resources.
- The new NYS Education bill adopted as part of the budget will require additional methods for evaluating teachers. Fifty percent of the teachers' evaluations will be based on students' test results. In addition, some teacher observations will be performed by outside evaluators who do not work in the school building. The evaluation program does not appear to be funded. Details will be worked out by the State Education Department.
- Students in Grades 3-12 are now taking the annual NYS ELA (Language Arts) and Math test, of which each requires 3 days of testing. Thousands of students are expected to opt out of the tests, as they did last year.
- There was an article in the April 6, 2015 edition of The New York Times describing the educational programs in Success Academy Charter Schools. Members are encouraged to read the article and draw their own conclusions about how these programs are affecting the students enrolled in these schools.

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

13. Parks, Recreation & Environment Committee Report-Nick Comaianni & J.R. Smith-Chairs

J. Richard Smith thanked Anthony O'Reilly from the Queens Chronicle for an article re projects and improvements in Forest Park.

14. Economic Development Committee Report- Richard David, Chair- *no report*

Chair Rampershad recognized new board members Mathew Singh and Jan Fenster of Richmond Hill.

15. Old Business- *No speakers*

16. New Business

Nick Comaianni expressed his disappointment with BP Katz's decision not to reappoint Dr. Vincent Evangelista who served CB 9 and his community for several years and had almost perfect attendance. Sylvia Hack read a letter, drafted by Nick Comaianni, regarding Dr. Evangelista. Nick Comaianni made a motion to send the letter to Queens Borough President Katz. Maria Thomson seconded the motion.

Motion # 3: To send a letter to BP Katz regarding Dr. Evangelista's reappointment

Vote # 3: 35 in favor, 2 opposed and 1 abstention

Richard David spoke about CB9 Facebook page.

Rabbi Pollack acknowledged the office staff for securing a Passover special sanitation pick up.

Maria Thomson congratulated Murray Berger and thanked him for the excellent job he is doing for the Kew Gardens community.

Andrea Crawford talked about how helpful the information is in the Bus Time booklet.

Sylvia Hack stated that she worked with Murray Berger for many years. She said that if someone needs to find info online going back 70 years-Murray will find it within minutes.

17. DM Salary

J. Richard Smith made a motion to go into executive session. Sylvia Hack seconded the motion.

Motion # 4: To go into executive session to discuss DM salary

Vote # 4: unanimous

Motion # 5: To give the District Manager an annual salary of \$67,500.

Vote# 5: 37 in favor, 1 not present

18. Public Forum

Redmond Haskins Rep. from Council Member Ulrich spoke about Participatory Budgeting.

Stephen Esposito made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Sherman Kane seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 10:00 pm