

FEBRUARY 10, 2009 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFEILD PAVALLION 131-10 101 AVE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2008

Jan Fenster	(3)	Dr. Stephen Sofer	(3)	Joe Todisco	(5)
Evelyn Baron	(2)	Joan DeCamp	(1)	Maria Thomson	(2)
Dulal Bhattachrjee	(3)	Sylvia Hack	(1)	Marie Turley	(0)
Wallace Bock	(2)	Joseph Iaboni	(1)		
Latchman Budhai	(1)	Sherman Kane	(0)		
John Carter	(1)	Robert Mangieri	(1)		
Nick Comaianni	(1)	Priscilla Levine	(3)		
Andrea Crawford	(0)	Ivan Mrakovcic	(0)		
Sandra Datnarain	(1)	Rabbi D. Pollack	(2)		
Palo Dedvukaj	(2)	Stephen Esposito	(2)		
Anton Dietrich	(0)	James Coccovillo	(2)		
Harjinder S. Duggal	(0)	Regina Santoro	(1)		
Susan Farell	(1)	J. Richard Smith	(0)		

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Sam Esposito	(3)	Ralph González	(5)	Balbir Kaur	(3)
Tomas Chiofolo	(3)	Naidoo Veerapen	(1)	Richard S. David	(3)
O. Raj Rampershad	(1)	Mohammed Z. Safie	(5)	Akhtar Ali*	(1)

*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.

ALSO PRESENT

Mary Ann Carey, District Manager
Lisa Gomes, Irina Barayeva, Erica Dilan, staff

GUESTS

Brian Pugh, Assemblyman Lancman	David Qunitana
Audrey Lucas, Councilmember White's Office	Arif Ullah, Guest
Wilma Bynum, QBPO	Raj DeRiver, Guest

Marian Gottlieb, Senator Addabbo
Brian Pugh, Assemblyman
Amit Bagga, Congressperson Weiner
P.O. Jay Remsen
Rosemarie Fair, C.M. Katz
Kate Mooney, C.M. Crowley
Scott Strober, Marbridge Realty
Ralph Mancini, Ridgewood Times
Jeff Gottlien, Senator Addabbo
Kristy King
Savitree Sahadeo
Sam Jagnarime
Tiffany Wickliffe
Leslie Pake
Sal Violo
Joanne Franco
Mike Ricatto

Jimmy Knight
Ellen Kruse
Michael Cohen
Rubin Willis
Carmen Acosta
Bajnauth Mahabir
Diane Mahabir
Matthew DaVino
BettyAnne Stype
Alicia Stype
R. Datnarian
Guyaul Sewarine
Courtney McAllouch
Michael Cohen
Nick Delgado
C. Singh
Anthony Como

PUBLIC FORUM

1. David Quintana

Mr. Quintana spoke about the upcoming meeting on Mayoral control of the Department of Education meetings to be held in Borough Hall. He also mentioned the MTA'S proposed service cuts of the Q56, which will directly effect the Community Board #9 area. All are urged to come and testify against these cuts.

2. Arif Ullah

If you know someone whose home is in danger of foreclosure, there are grants available, please file an application by March 14th. Visit www.citizensnyc.org/grants or call 212-822-9580.

3. Jimmy Knight

Mr. Knight lives in the Silver Towers on Queens Blvd. He is asking for support for the clean up of garbage by the Q10 bus stop along Queens Blvd. from Union Turnpike to 83rd Ave. He stated that merchants as well as residents should work together to organize a clean up and of the area.

4. Ellen Kruse

Ms Kruse also lives in the area; the deterioration of the area brings the property value down. She has tried to get police involved, who refer her to sanitation, who have done little to help the situation.

5. Rubin Willis

Mr. Willis, organizer from NYC Alliance Health Care Reform spoke on the closing of Mary Immaculate Hospital and St. Johns hospital. Both hospitals will close their doors on February 28th. Queens will loose the 4,150 hospital beds, and 2,500 employees will be out of work. This will obviously lead to overcrowding in neighboring hospitals like Jamaica Hospital. Queens has 1/3 of the amount of hospital beds compared to Manhattan. This

means that there will be one bed per 1,000 people. With the closing of these two hospitals there will be a great loss of income to the borough. There will be a bus leaving to Albany tomorrow to rally against the hospital closings. Please show support

6. Carmen Acosta

Ms. Acosta stated that Valentine's Cards can be sent to the legislation in order to try to prevent hospital closings. Please send cards by Feb 17th to. Tuesday February 17th the Greater Ridgewood Council will have a meeting at 62-04 Myrtle Ave.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Liquor, Beer, & Wine Licenses, Letters of Intent Received:

a. On Premise Liquor License- New

La Braza Bar & Restaurant Inc.
123-04 Metropolitan Ave
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Exotic Zone Bar & Lounge, Inc.
(moved from 87-18 Liberty Ave.)
77-02 101 Ave. Store #1
Ozone Park, NY 11416

b. Off Premise Grocery Beer & Wine License-New

Central Mini Market
77-20 101 Ave.
Ozone Park, NY 11416

c. On Premise Liquor License- Renewal

Jim Byrne's Wee Pub, Inc.
93-01 95th Ave.
Ozone Park, NY 11416

Danni Pizza & Restaurant Corp.
81-28 Lefferts Blvd.
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Richmond Hill Moose Lodge 1176
87-25 118th St.
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Caridad of Woodhaven Restaurant Corp.
90-19 Jamaica Ave.
Woodhaven, NY 11421

d. Off Premise Liquor License- Renewal

Shang Wen Lin- *Liquor Store*
D/b/a Lin Wines & Liquors

118-04 Jamaica Ave.
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA

1. The Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes

Additions/Corrections to the January 13, 2009 minutes:

Under New Business, after Maria Thomson's statement about "nightclub guidelines", it should read:

Maria stated that there will be a proposal submitted to name the Forest Park Tennis Courts to the Honorable Arthur J. Katzman Tennis Courts in memory of our longtime New York City Councilman Arthur J. Katzman.

*Stephen Sopher motioned to accept the January 13, 2009 minutes as amended.
Joe Todisco seconded the motion.*

*Motion # 1: To adopt minutes as presented
Vote #1: unanimous*

2. Chairperson's Remarks – Andrea Crawford

Ms. Crawford spoke about the foreclosure crisis, especially in Woodhaven where the rate of foreclosure is extremely high. A new law states that mortgage restructuring companies are not allowed to take money upfront. Any one has been victimized by scams by predatory companies from September 2008 may be eligible for refunds. One foreclosed property on a block can decrease property value of the neighborhood by 30 %. For information call 311 for the Center for NYC Neighborhoods.

She introduced the legislators and their representatives, and asked for updates.

- Amit Bagga stated that Congressman Weiner will be in Washington D.C. tonight voting on the proposed Stimulus Package, which he will vote in favor for. The congressman also sends his support for the GWDC Street Fair.
- Kate Mooney of councilmember Crowley's office reported that she along with nurses and staff of St. Johns and Mary Immaculate Hospitals will be going upstate in order to protest closings tomorrow. They spoke with Richard Davis of NYS DOH about the urgency to keep hospitals open. Councilwoman Crowley is scheduled to attend a meeting at P.S. 90.
- Wilma Bynum of QBPO invited everyone to come and testify on the proposed Capital and Expense budget at the Public Hearings in Borough Hall. Please call 718-286-3000 to register in advance, and bring 30 copies of testimony.
- Brian Pugh of Assemblyman Lancman's office left "Do Leave Unsolicited Items on this Property" Flyers for homeowners.
- Marianne Gottleib of State Senator Joe Addabbo's office stated that he will do what ever is necessary to help out with the prevention of the closing of the two hospitals.

3. Executive Committee Report- Ivan Mrakovcic

- The Greater Woodhaven Development Corp.
"Wonderful Woodhaven Street Fair" Sunday, October 18, 2009

Motion # 2: To support the GWDC Street Fair

Vote #2: 26 in favor, 2 Abstentions.

The Executive Committee will prepare a letter in support of Mary Ann's Budget Cuts letter to Mayor Bloomberg. The committee met with the 102 Pct. to speak about the angled parking at Myrtle and 117th St. P.O. Remsen stated that they are doing everything they can to ticket these cars.

If a board member misses three committee meetings, it is the equivalent to missing one board meeting, so please attend all meetings as the board.

4. District Managers Report- Mary Ann Carey

The District Manager Mary Ann Carey stated that Saturday February 21, 2009 there will be a "Cash for Guns" day from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Any one who turns in a gun, besides law enforcement will receive a \$200 bank card with no questions asked. The 103rd Pct. located at 108-11 Sutphin Blvd. is the closest pct. participating in this event. Call them at 718-526-9286.

Every one should come testify against budget cuts on Wednesday February 18, 2009 at Queens Borough Hall. It does not make sense for DC 37 to give a 4% raise to its members when the office will loose 1 ½ of its staff in FY 2010. Along with cutting CB #9's Budget, the ULURP Process will also be taken away from Community Boards.

5. Guest Speakers- Ms. Kristy King, Queens Forester, NYC Parks Dept. - *Street Tree requests, PlaNYC 2030, Million Trees Initiative, Planting Process and Contracts.*

Kristy King of the Street Tree Division spoke about the Plan NYC Initiative, partnered with NY Restoration Project, which will reduce global warming emissions by 30% by the year 2030. The budget for items such as tree planting, restoration, and trunk removal have all gone up. If someone has a request for any, they may call 311, which has an updated database to store and obtain this information. There are two types of tree planting requests; individual and block requests. Spring planting requests must be in by December. Fall planting requests must be in by May. These trees will be planted in neighborhoods with poor air quality and high asthma rates.

The process for planting trees goes as follows: First a forester goes out to survey the neighborhood. Second, a contractor goes out in order to flag where the trees will be. Finally a hole gets dug and a tree is planted. If a tree is viewed to be old or dangerous, it will be inspected and removed within 30 days.

Community Board 9 has had 100 trees planted in fall 2007, 150 in spring 2007, 200 in fall 2008. For more information call 311 or go to NYC.gov/parks.

Discussion Period Followed

6. Monthly Update Report -102 Pct

P.O. Remsen spoke about "Cash for Guns" Go to the 103rd of 105th Pct. The booting of commercial trucks down Atlantic Ave. was a success. The 102 will be booting illegally parked trucks once again on Thursday night. The 102 recommends against approving the liquor license for Exotic Zone Bar. There have been numerous police reports regarding violence and underage drinking since 2003. Question and Answer Period Followed.

7. Land Use Committee Report- Sylvia Hack and Sherman Kane

- BSA No. 88-08 BZ
101-17 Lefferts Blvd.
Richmond Hill, NY 11419
Conversion of a residential structure in an R5 zone to Commercial Office Use/Use Group 6A

Ms. Hack stated that this BSA is the same BSA which was opposed at the May 2008 board meeting. The committee still does not support the waiver, there will be no vote.

Discussion Period Followed

8. Education & Youth Services Committee Report-Nick Comaianni

No Report.

9. Health and Social Services Committee Report- Evelyn Baron

- **Independence Residences, Inc. –**
Relocation of group home residence from 103-12 101 Ave. to 97-39 94

This program is not new; it is just a change of address. Mary Gate of Heaven wants to reclaim the property. The residents will be moving to a more spacious location, where each person will get their own room.

Evelyn Baron motioned to send a letter of support for the relocation of the group home residence from 13-12 101 Ave. to 97-39 94 ST. Susan Farrell seconded the motion.

Motion #3: To send letter of support for the relocation of group home residence from 13-12 101 Ave. to 97-39 94

Vote #3: unanimous

Ms. Baron also spoke about the Jamaica Hospital Ambulatory Care Meeting, where concerns about the patients on Medicaid came up. Medicaid will receive an additional 18.8 million cut.

With the closing of Mary Immaculate, the 22,000 Emergency room visits a year will over flow into Jamaica Hospital which already has 100,000 visits per year, with no additional beds being added.

10. **Parks, Recreation & Environment Committee Report- J. Richard Smith**

Woodhaven Store Owners must pay for dirty sidewalks and overflowing public trash cans that are set up in front of their businesses. Although Police Officers can give tickets to pedestrians littering on the street, they do not.

Discussion Period Followed.

11. **Public Safety, Consumer affairs, & Transportation Committee Report- Jim Coccovillo & Tom Chiofalo**

▪ **On Premise Liquor License- New**

Exotic Zone Bar & Lounge, Inc. (moved from 87-18 Liberty Ave.)
77-02 101 Ave. Store #1
Ozone Park, NY 11416

*Nick Comaianni motioned to send letter of objection for Exotic Zone Bar & Lounge, Inc.
Joe Todisco seconded the motion.*

*Motion # 4: To send letter of objection for Exotic Zone Bar & Lounge, Inc
Vote #4: unanimous*

12. **Old Business**

No Reports

New Business

- On March 8th there will be a walking tour of Kew Gardens conducted by Andrea Crawford. The tour starts at 11:00 a.m. at the Bunch House and will end at the Civic Virtue Statue.
- Priscilla Levine: "nuisance laws" are laws that police do not bother to ticket for, but it would be a good way to create revenue for the city during the recession. Examples include no windshield wipers during rain, and not removing snow on top of cars.
- Maria Thomson: The Q56 bus stop serves as an extremely necessary mode of transportation for all types of people in the community board 9 area and beyond. If this bus service gets cut, families with small children, the elderly, students and shoppers will all be negatively affected. Ms. Thomson will testify at the budget hearings next week against this service cut. The principal of Franklyn K. Lane H.S. has passed away at the age of 53, he did much good for the school and will be greatly missed.
- Bob Mangieri: Supports planting trees, but now that expense cannot be justified when the Mayor is cutting 14,000 teachers and closing libraries. With the Financial crisis the federal government has lost 3 trillion dollars. The trains have gotten worse.
- Evelyn Baron: DOT is requiring faculty parking at the local Yeshiva schools in Kew Gardens, which will create hardships for teachers and staff since they operate on split sessions.

14. **Public Forum**

1. *Michael Cohen*

The Severity of MTA Cuts will hurt the population. NYS received billions of dollars for transit, yet they are cutting service for people who need it.

Wally Bock made a motion to end the meeting, Joe Todisco seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 10:35 p.m.