

SEPTEMBER 14, 2010 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING
VILLA RUSSO IL PALAZZO, 101-12 LEFFERTS BLVD

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2010

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| Akhtar Ali | (1) | Joan DeCamp | (0) | Sherman Kane | (1) |
| Evelyn Baron | (0) | Palo Dedvukaj | (0) | Balbir Kaur | (2) |
| D. Bhattacharjee | (0) | Anton Dietrich | (0) | Ivan Mrakovic | (0) |
| Wallace Bock | (0) | H. Singh Duggal | (0) | Rabbi Pollack | (0) |
| Latchman Budhai | (1) | Stephen Esposito | (2) | Raj Rampershad | (0) |
| John Carter | (1) | Dr. S. Evangelista | (0) | Melissa Rosales | (1) |
| Thomas Chiofolo | (0) | Susan Farrell | (0) | Ragbir Singh | (0) |
| Jim Coccovillo | (1) | Jan Fenster | (1) | Regina Santoro | (0) |
| Albert Cohen | (1) | Mel Gagarin | (1) | Dr. Stephen Sofer | (0) |
| Andrea Crawford | (0) | Sylvia Hack | (1) | Maria Thomson | (0) |
| Sandra Datnarain | (0) | Joseph Iaboni | (0) | Marie Turley | (1) |
| Richard David | (2) | Scott Jordan | (0) | Naidoo Veerapen | (0) |

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| *Rajinder S. Bawa | (3) | Sam Esposito | (1) | Kevin O'Leary | (2) |
| A. Blenkinsopp | (2) | Ralph Gonzalez | (4) | J. Richard Smith | (1) |
| Nick Comaianni | (1) | Priscilla Levine | (1) | Mohamed Safie | (4) |
| Joseph Todisco | (3) | Clark Whitsett | (2) | | |

ALSO PRESENT

Mary Ann Carey, District Manager
Lisa Gomes, 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

P.O. McCoy, 102 Pct.
Jeff Gottlieb, Sen. Addabbo
Jane Carey, Assembly Mbr. Lancman

Marian Gottlieb, Sen. Addabbo
Senator Addabbo

GUESTS

Asher Taub, CD-6 Candidate
Murray Berger, KGCA
Gwendolyn Willie, Richmond Hill Resident

Glenn Urbanas, Ozone Park Resident
Scott Strober, Marbridge Realty & Co., Inc.
Rafael L. Duran, Yosmira Restaurant

PUBLIC FORUM

Glenn Urbanas- resident spoke about the need to update CB9's website with interactive maps.

Asher Taub- Republican candidate for 6th Congressional District introduced himself and his candidacy. He briefly described his platform which includes but is not limited to Health Care Reform, Energy Dependence, Medicare and Immigration Reform.

Chairperson Mrakovic introduced the legislators and their representatives, and asked for updates:

- Joe Addabbo thanked Board Members for volunteering their time and expertise to the board every month. Sen. Addabbo will be evaluating the new voting machines used today, Primary Day to ensure that the process will go smoothly for the Nov. 2 2010 election as he is the Chairperson of the NYS Senate Election Committee. The Senator announced some upcoming events in his district; Sept. 19, 2010 he will host an Electronic Waste Event to recycle old electronics, 10-3PM at Atlas Park. Sept. 22, 2010 he will hold office hours at the Woodhaven Library from 11am-1PM. Sept. 26, 2010 he is sponsoring a Health Fair at Nativity Church in Ozone Park from 10am to 2PM. Question and answer period followed.
- Jane Carey- representing Assembly Member Lancman welcomed board members back. The Assemblyman is sponsoring a Community Fair where they have partnered with Community and Civic organizations to make residents aware of the many services and programs available to them. The event will be on Sept. 25 from 12PM to 4PM on 120th St. off of Liberty Ave. Flyers are available.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. **BSA 68-10 BZ- 80-15 Lefferts Blvd. - Variance for a 2 story use group 6 office building in an R-5 zone.**
No Speakers
2. **FY 2012 Capital & Expense Budget Priorities**
No Speakers

The Chair read the addendum to the agenda:

Item #3a. On premise Liquor License- New should be listed as On Premise Beer License- New and 3d. La Familia Mexicana Grocery Corp. should be Off Premise Beer & Wine Renewal.

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

On Premise Liquor License- New

H & C Enterprises Inc.
84-19 Jamaica Ave.
Woodhaven, NY 11421
No Speakers

Arising Banquet & Catering Hall
127-07 94th Ave.
Richmond Hill, NY 11419
No Speakers

On Premise Beer & Wine License- New

Yosmira Restaurant Inc.
131-09 Jamaica Ave.
Richmond Hill, NY 11418
No Speakers

c. On Premise Liquor License- Renewal

EL Salvador Restaurant # 9, Inc.
102-24 Jamaica Ave.
Richmond Hill, NY 11418
No Speakers

Nest Lounge Inc.
125-15 101 Ave.
Richmond Hill, NY 11419
No Speakers

d. On Premise Beer & Wine License- Renewal

Mexico El Salvador Rest Inc.
114-02 Jamaica Ave.
Richmond Hill, NY 11418
No Speakers

Olympic Diner Inc.
117-33 Myrtle Ave.
Richmond Hill, NY 11418
No Speakers

LA Familia Mexicana Grocery Corp.
75-15 Jamaica Ave.
Woodhaven, NY 11421
No Speakers

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA

1. The Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes

No corrections were made to the minutes.

Regina Santoro made a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

Andrea Crawford 2nd the motion.

Motion # 1: *To adopt minutes as presented*

Vote #1: *36 in favor 1 ABS*

2. Chairperson's Remarks – Ivan Mrakovcic

The chair thanked the Villa Russo for the continued support and generosity in hosting Community Board 9. He reminded board members to call 311 with DOB complaints and then give the complaint # to the board office to forward to the DOB to expedite action and follow up. The Budget Priorities' will be reviewed at next month's Executive meeting and voted on at our October board meeting. He asked board members to review the priorities and submit comments and suggestions before next months board meeting and to wait until the actual board meeting. Evelyn Baron reiterated the importance of the order in which the budget priorities are placed. The first ten items on the Capital budget are what is looked at.

Mr. Mrakovcic stated that there is a major Watermain project that will be taking place in the board area and that members should look for notices and or signs for said project, and pay attention to any parking regulation notices, as well as water shut off, etc. Andrea Crawford stated that the MTA seems to be unaware of this project and some buses aren't stopping at some stops, should contact the board office if there is a problem.

Mr. Mrakovcic informed the board he along with the District Manager Mary Ann Carey, and the parks manager for Forest Park will be meeting to discuss issues and conditions in the park. He informed the board that Assembly woman Audrey Pheffer along with Queens Borough President Helen Marshall will host a meeting with the Queens Community Board Chairs and District Managers to discuss changes with the NYS Liquor Authority. The rezoning of Woodhaven, Richmond Hill and Ozone Park is on track as per his conversation with Council member Eric Ulrich. The ULURP process should begin in the winter of 2011 – 2012 and if it were not for the efforts of the councilman it would be much later. The Public Safety, Consumer Affairs and Transportation Committee will now be spilt. Due to the many transportation issues there will be a separate Transportation committee chaired by Andrea Crawford. The chair announced that the exec board has been contemplating having a Candidates night at the October board meeting. ***The chair wished board member Anton Dietrich a happy 92nd Birthday!***

3. District Manager's Report- Mary Ann Carey

Beginning in April we had health issues at the office. As I mentioned at the June meeting Irina was taken ill and was out about two months I am pleased to report that she is feeling better and has completed her chemo. Lisa's mom is receiving rehab for her hip injury and we are lucky to have a Senior Citizen volunteer from the Department of the Aging Lila, who is an asset and a welcome addition to our office. Despite all our problems we managed to keep the office manned by at least one of us to service our constituency.

In June we were notified of several water main projects in our area in addition to a sidewalk replacement contract. The following is a brief overview of each project. For more specific info call me at the District Office. Or access the NYC Dept of Design and Construction website.

QED 988 (HWC988QB3) PUNCH Through at Union turnpike and Queens Blvd. a/k/a the Kew Gardens interchange project. There will be lane closures at various locations as well as erratic traffic. The project will extend Union Turnpike across Queens Blvd. and will eliminate the need for the (dog leg) or S turn onto KGR to 80th Road to access Queens Blvd. I will update you further at the October meeting.

QED989 -Water main replacement at various locations in Richmond Hill, at Park Lane South, 111th 112th, etc. This project is currently in design. Construction summer of 2011

QED996 – Kew Gardens Water Main Replacement two year project start Date Sept. 27 2010. Proposed completion date is 2012. DDC contact Ajay Patel is Project Manager and they are currently seeking a field office. Boundaries loosely all of Kew Gardens. For specific information contact the District Office.

QED 999 -Water mains at various Woodhaven locations a 2 year project scheduled for completion, in the summer of 2012.

In addition I received notification that the Department of Transportation will be or has started replacing sidewalks that were previously violated throughout the Borough of Queens. You may have received a sidewalk violation two or three years ago but the contract was only developed this year. Call the District office if you see markings on your walk and we will check to see if it is on the list.

If the sidewalk is damaged by a city tree there is no charge for that slab. The rate for slab replacement is \$ 9.17 for the 4" and \$ 11.57 for the 7". Again DOT has the option of violating any sidewalk that does not meet standards. As a homeowner you always have the right to appeal. You should anticipate in advance and prepare for this project by photographing each portion of the sidewalk and save it for your records. In this way you will have proof of the condition of your property it is suggested that you use a camera that records the date as well.

In preparation for these projects National Grid is working feverishly replacing gas lines in the aforementioned areas. The motto is "Be Careful what you wish for. We have complained about low water pressure and inadequate catch basins as well as Queens Blvd Safety issues for years. Who would have known that they would happen all at once?

4. Monthly Update 102PCT. - PO John McCoy-

Officer McCoy came to the rescue of a gentleman who got locked in Maple Grove Cemetery. Needless to say the man was relieved to see PO McCoy. Crime is down 6%. He informed the board that someone got hit by a car on 85th St. & Jamaica Ave. and it is currently under investigation. The precinct has had a lot of noise complaints and they have developed a warning system where the 1st offense is documented and 2nd offense a summons is given. The 102 PCT. is no longer issuing sound permits for block parties. Regina Santoro stated there was a burglary on 104th St, apparently home owner left screens down, and household items were stolen. She praised the 102 PCT. for going around the neighborhood alerting homeowners to shut windows, screens, etc. Officer McCoy alerted board members that in order to avoid these types of incidents homeowners should consider installing a security system, i.e. cameras, etc. He also stated that the precinct has a crime prevention officer, PO Petrovitch, who can do a presentation at meetings. Question and answer period followed.

5. Guest Speaker- Andrew Schultz, Dir. Community Association for At Risk Jewish Cemeteries

The association was established in 2006 to address the growing concerns regarding Jewish cemeteries in the NY area. Due to economic and demographic shifts many of the cemeteries have been negatively impacted, especially their physical condition. CAJAC provides support to recover neglected cemetery grounds and it works with cemetery owners and managers to implement practices to avoid future challenges to cemetery maintenance.

CAJAC is a recipient of support from the United Jewish Appeal of NY to fund the initial clean up of Bayside Cemetery. In addition UJA has provided funds to hire its first full time director. Its largest project to date is the recovery of Bayside Cemetery. Funds support clean up efforts, ongoing consultation and support to Congregation Shaare Zedek to ensure long term maintenance and preservation. Question and answer period followed.

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

BSA 68-10 BZ- 80-15 Lefferts Blvd. - *Variance for a 2 story use group 6 office building in an R-5 Zoned premises.*

Mrs. Hack read the resolution:

Queens Community Board 9 supports the requested variance BSA 68-10, BZ 80-15 Lefferts Blvd. for a 2 story use group 6 office building in an R5 zone.

The building is to be constructed by the same developer who owns the P.S. 99 Early Childhood Annex* and is to be designed to complement the existing adjacent structure.

* Leased to the NYC Department of Education.

Motion #2: *To support the variance application*

Vote #2: 35 in favor
1 abstention

7. Education & Youth Services Committee Report- Nick Comaianni- No Report

8. Health& Social Services Committee Report- Evelyn Baron

From January – August 2010 the Red Cross has helped people in Community Boards throughout NYC. Community Board was ranked 2nd in the highest number of people served. Community Board 12 had the highest numbers of people served, while Community Board 11 had the lowest. Access to quality healthcare and its delivery is not a matter of not having enough doctors; it is that there are too many people. Both Jamaica Hospital and Peninsula Hospital are at 211% capacity. Ms. Baron also alerted members of Dengue Fever a mosquito-borne illness that is occurring at high levels in many parts of the world, including the Caribbean and South and Central America, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. It is transmitted by mosquitoes. Symptoms are high fever, severe headache, severe pain behind the eyes, joint pain, muscle and bone pain.

9. Parks, Recreation & Environment Committee Report- J. Richard Smith- No Report

10. Public Safety, Consumer affairs, & Transportation Committee Report- Jim Coccovillo & Tom Chiofolo

❖ **On Premise Beer & Wine License- Renewal**

LA Familia Mexicana Grocery Corp.
75-15 Jamaica Ave.
Woodhaven, NY 11421

Motion #3: *To send letter of objection to the SLA*

Vote # 3: *unanimous*

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

Yosmira Restaurant Inc.
131-09 Jamaica Ave.
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Motion #4: *To send a letter of no objection to the SLA*

Vote #4: *35 in favor, 1 opposed*

❖ **On Premise Liquor License- New**

Arising Banquet & Catering Hall
127-07 94th Ave.
Richmond Hill, NY 11419
Wallace Bock motioned to table the vote
Sherman Kane 2nd the motion

Motion #5: *To table vote*

Vote # 5: *20 in favor*
15 opposed
1 not present

Mr. Coccovillo informed the board that the committee has discussed establishing a moratorium on all Liquor Licenses in CB#9 for a year. They plan on talking with the SLA about this. The SLA will attend the next Executive Committee.

10. Old Business

No speakers

11. New Business

Stephen Sofer asked board members to recycle/ donate their clothes to those in need.
Regina Santoro announced Holy Child Jesus School is having their 100th year reunion. Fellow board Member Anton Dietrich is the oldest graduate of the school.
Raj Rampershad informed members that Walgreens opened.

Maria Thomson announced the 30th Anniversary of the Wonderful Woodhaven Street Festival 10/10/10.

Naidoo Veerapen invited all members to the 15th Annual Mahatma Gandhi Peace March on Sunday, October 3, 2010.

Andrea Crawford announced the Spirits Alive event at Maple Grove Cemetery on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010.

Richard David presented an Award to fellow board member Sandra Datnarain and her husband for helping with the US Census. The award was from the Indo Caribbean Alliance.

12. Public Forum

Glen Urbanas- Resident - expressed the need for visual aids at meetings.

Wallace motioned to close the meeting, Regina Santoro 2nd the motion.

The meeting ended at 10:45 PM