

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING, WEST BRIGHTON/ST. GEORGE

November 18, 2008 – 7:30 P.M.

WALKER PARK-50 BARD AVENUE

Members:

Megan Delmar, Chair- Present
Sheila McGinn, Co-Chair-Present
Sean Sweeney-Present
Loretta Cauldwell- Excused
Linda Eskenas- Present
John Pabone-Absent
Terry Player-Excused
Christopher Rooney- Present
Anthony Cosentino-Present- Arrived @ 8:20 p.m.
Nicholas Siclari- Present
Ajmal Chaudhry- Absent
Joseph Pancila- Present
Adena Long- Excused
Mark Washington-Present

Voting Non-Members

Attendance on File in Board Office

Guests – Present:

Fill In

Tevah Platt- Staten Island Advance
Chris Beatty
Michael Murphy
Michael Schnall
Kamillah Hanks
Marion Bollinger
Bob Zion
John Beyer
Mary Christine-Meyers
Nancy Biggs
Joe Guastavino
Jeremy Papalardo
Alexander Summers
Ronald Meisels
Gennaro Papal

The meeting commenced at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

A. Staten Island Downtown Council:

Kamillah Hanks, Executive Director for the Staten Island Downtown Council spoke regarding a grant submitted on behalf of that entity for \$260,000 from the New York State Main Street Grant of 2009 of which she opined had a six million dollar surplus. The purpose of this New York Main Street grant would be to improving streetscapes, building facades, landscaping, as well as providing informational and historical signage in Tompkinsville. The area would encompass Bay Street up to Victory Boulevard and rounding out to Cebra Avenue. There are a large group of businesses there, and this type of grant would enable 35 buildings to undergo a facelift. This particular grant would also include Tappan Park and Paramount Theater. Once the grant is in place, there is an application process for a business owner with a 50/50 matching fund basis. SIDC board members are not eligible to receive funding.

According to Ms. Hanks, there is a serious need for the facelift in this low income area and Staten Island has never been awarded a Main Street grant from New York State.

As pointed out by member, Mr. Sweeney, in the past 4 years, the Staten Island Downtown Council has been respectfully requested to remove their signage specifically in the Rosebank area. For the past four years, the Staten Island Downtown Council has not gone through the renewal of the permit process for any of its signage (hanging flags) in particular that area. Ms. Hanks stated that she has been to Rosebank meetings, and has asked for banners from School Road for Willow Road. She has spoken to Tom Cuccola of the Department of Transportation and has a valid banner permit. Ms. Hanks is willing to show her e-mail confirmation and is so inclined to mend any fences, that may have been broken in the previous years between the Staten Island Downtown Council and the surrounding area. Mr. Sweeney pointed out to Ms. Hanks that to date, the Staten Island Downtown Council has yet to respond to Community Board One's civic questionnaire and that any efforts to have it submitted by them have been rebuffed. Once again, Ms. Hanks, stated that although she is short staffed, she is willing to comply with that request as well. She also stated that the grant application was submitted on November 13, 2008.

As such, Mr. Sweeney moved to have the letter of support tabled until the Community Board has further information, with respect to the signage permits issued to the Staten Island Downtown Council as well as the completed civic area questionnaire. This was seconded by Mr. Siclari and the motion passed with one opposed.

B. Neighborhood Watch in Tompkinsville:

Michael Schnall and Tony Abbate spoke regarding the Tompkinsville neighborhood watch. The point of the neighborhood watch is to organize and get some city services such as street trees planted, restriping of streets as well as addressing vandalism, street gangs and trash in the neighborhood. According to Mr. Schnall, their plan is to communicate with and organize neighbors to speak out about issues effecting the well being of Tompkinsville families and their respective homes. The neighborhood watch consists of a growing number of Tompkinsville residents and business owners who are tired of the loud music, vandalism, late night parties, overflowing garbage cans, absentee landlords and a declining standard of living. To join, interested neighbors may

e-mail the watch at TompkinsvilleNeighborhoodWatch@Gmail.com, leave a voice mail at 309-415-7823 or log onto Tompkinsville.weebly.com.

C. Liquor Licenses:

The following establishments were discussed as to their liquor licenses and no opposition was voiced thereto:

1. LaFamilia Restaurant, 1192 Castleton Avenue-renewal.
2. Pier 76, 76 Bay Street- new.

D. Department of Parks:

1. Clove Lake Park: In a letter dated November 12, 2008 from New York City Parks, a multiuse greenway trail will be constructed in Clove Lake Park.

2. Tot Park: In another letter by New York City Parks dated October 24, 2008, play equipment, safety surfacing and general cite work will be done at the Silver Lake Park at Victory Blvd. between Forest Avenue and Eddy Street.

E. The Lighthouse Museum:

Ronald Meisels, spoke in support for the old lighthouse museum and has a public petition for 800 signatures. As Ms. Delmar pointed out, it is very important to find out what the DEC's proposal will be for that particular site, so that we could all be on the same page.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Delmar