

Community Board #3

655 Rossville Avenue
Staten Island, N. Y. 10309

Youth and Education Committee Minutes

January 7, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

* denotes Committee members

Harold Kozak, Chairman Youth & Education*
Dan Ajello*
Verna Lauria*
James Mahaney*
Patrick Donahue

OFFICE STAFF:

Marie Bodnar, District Manager

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kasey Gaeta

GUESTS:

Major John Hodgson, The Salvation Army
Bridget Salvate, New York Public Library
P.O. Brian Cancemi, NYPD – 123rd Precinct
P.O. Daniel Condo, NYPD – 123rd Precinct
Joseph Palmieri, resident
Elaine Randazzo, P.S. 6
Elizabeth Licata, United Activities Unlimited

Meeting began at 7:30 p.m.

Harold Kozak began the meeting regaling committee members with accounts of his recent trip to England where he gave a NASA presentation at the London Museum of Science, and the Cambridge University Institute of Astronomy. Harold reported that England, like the United States, faces a shortage of science majors in their colleges and universities.

A schedule for committee members to notify intermediate and high schools for recruiting Youth & Education Committee interns was discussed. A suggestion by James Mahaney to change the title to Ambassador from Intern was agreed upon by all. Verna Lauria proposed contacting Coordinators of Student Activities (COSAs). Harold Kozak asked Bridget Salvato from the New York Public Library about including elementary school students. Ms. Salvato suggested Harold contact Chad Quartuccio, Children's Borough Specialist at 718 442-8562. Mr. Quartuccio sets up programs and reading clubs.

Major John Hodgson of The Salvation Army was introduced and gave a slide presentation on the new 120,000 square foot Kroc Community Center to be built on site of the former Bayley Seton Hospital. After competing with other cities Staten Island was selected as the site for the world-class Kroc Community Center. Staten Island has received \$76 million for the construction of this project, however overall cost will be \$100 million.

The plan, supported by Borough President Molinaro, procured an L-shaped parcel that will accommodate the 120,000-square-foot community center. The Center will include 3 swimming pools, a 500-seat auditorium, performance center, gymnasium and indoor track. These facilities will offer a therapeutic pool, a "Lazy River" area for the handicapped, state of the art aerobics and fitness centers, a supervised child watch class, education classrooms, a computer lab and library, music practice rooms, and a spiritual room. The Kroc Center is available to all Staten Islanders. In the area of education they will offer GED programs, and college students will be offered internships. Major Hodgson displayed pictures of the theaters and gymnasium.

Harold Kozak asked if it was possible to include a roof-top observatory with an adjacent room for hosting lectures and giving presentations for space science.

Elizabeth Licata, (UAU) inquired about membership fees. It was explained that employees and pre-construction discounts will be offered.

According to Major Hodgson, Bayley Seton will continue to operate the hospital on site for about two years. Then the Salvation Army will purchase the remaining 11 site acres and transform it into affordable senior housing.

The Kroc Community Center website is:

http://www.use.salvationarmy.org/use/www_use_statenislandkroc.nsf

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Kozak
Chairman Youth & Education Committee