

# Community Board 1, Queens - Board Meeting

Minutes October 17, 2017

**Amended 11-22-2017**

Board Member Attendees – List attached.

## **Opening: 6:30 PM**

Chair Marie Torniali called the meeting to order; the pledge of allegiance followed. Chairwoman Torniali introduced Councilman Constantinides.

Councilman Costa Constantinides provided updates from City Hall. He also spoke about The Asthma Initiative- two (2) bills to have nebulizers in schools so as to not wait for EMS. The mapping of Asthma will take place in zip codes 11102– 11106 as part of his proposal. The Council Member also mentioned the transition to newer energy looking at wind - renewable energy for the future. Councilman announced Batty over Halloween Festival.

Chair Torniali introduced Joseph Nocerino, representative of the Queens Borough President's office. Mr. Nocerino announced Veteran's Day Event to be held November 8th at 8:00 am at Borough Hall. He stated that the Borough President has a new program with High School students participating to cleaning parks, planting, beautifying and enhancing the areas. The Borough President's Office should be contacted for information regarding this project.

Chair Torniali introduced LGA Partnership and opens the floor for their presentation.

## **Presentations:**

**Port Authority of New York and New Jersey – LaGuardia Airport** – Richard Smyth, LGA Redevelopment Project Executive; Lysa Scully, LGA General Manager, Shanel Thomas, LGA Redevelopment Community Outreach Manager, LaGuardia Gateway Partners, Delta Airlines and Skanska Walsh gave a presentation with updates on the Redevelopment Program.

Mr. Richard Smyth, LGA Redevelopment Project provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Governor's master plan for one unified airport.

- Governor Cuomo's Advisory Panel's Vision;
- Single Unified Airport;
- Terminals C & D Redevelopment;
- Construction Updates;
- Sustainable and Resilient Airport;
- Future Rail Connection;
- Potential Hotel;
- Roadway and Signage Changes; and
- Community Outreach -contracting, employment, and events.

Rose Marie Poveromo, Airport Chair stated she is deeply concerned with toxic fumes from aircrafts and their effect on the community and environment; monies should be provided to community regularly impacted by toxic fumes for window/doors repairs to protect community. Ms. Poveromo expressed great concern for the traffic change announced. Additional information shared during Q&A- Pocket parks will be included in design. Port Authority will be looking at feasibility of study of ferry service at the airport. Time set of work completion in pieces no formal date of completion given - approximately 2025.

**Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) New York City Transit Enhanced Station Initiative (ESI) – Luke De Palma, Assistant Director, Government and Community Relations/ Bill Montinili, Program Manager-**

The MTA announced that the New York City Transit's Enhanced Station Initiative will expand to the 30th Avenue and 36th Avenue N/W stations with work commencing on Monday, October 23, 2017. SKANSKA won contract 4/2017 and Astoria is first elevated line to be enhanced.

- Improved signage for easier navigation, including digital, real-time train arrival information at subway entrances;
- Glass and wire mesh platform windscreens to protect riders from the elements;
- At 30th Avenue, a new staircase for exiting from the Astoria-bound platform to the street-level intersection of 30th Avenue and Newtown Avenue;
- New security cameras and railings for improved safety;
- New glass barriers and LED lighting throughout for increased light and transparency; and
- New artwork, and durable granite flooring in the station mezzanine.

MTA provided alternate route advice to the Board and street closures. During the Q & A several board members questioned regarding safety on the two opened stations due to congestion. Daniel Aliberti opened dialogue regarding ADA compliance, audio signs and elevators. Others spoke to solar power, multi lingual screens and lack of elevators at the affected subway stations. The board also expressed concern that the project was mainly cosmetic. Mr. DePalmer, MTA responded that it is a misconception that it's just cosmetics as capacity and customer flow will improve, as well as will safety with security cameras, railings, glass barriers, etc. The project will be done faster by closing stations completely and wrap up in under 8 months improving the way stations function and will look great in the end. Chair Torniali stated that the board was disappointed that all the concerns and matters brought up tonight had been discussed at the committee level and were not addressed by the MTA presentation this evening. Mr. De Palmer stated he would follow up with the district office on this matter.

**New York City Department of City Planning:**

**ULURP # C 170299 ZMQ, C 170300 ZRQ and N 180061 ZRQ**

35-10 Astoria Boulevard South Rezoning an application submitted for an amendment of the Zoning Map by changing from an R6B District to a C4-3 District bounded by Astoria Boulevard (So. Portion), 36th Street, a line 100 feet southwesterly of Astoria Boulevard (So. Portion), and 35th Street, Astoria, Queens

**Public comment-** Several people spoke in favor of the project.

**Vote C170299 ZMQ and 170300 ZRQ-**

**Vote:** 27 in favor; 3 opposed and 0 abstaining

**Joy Chen NYC Department of Planning-** brief presentation with details. R6 1 zoning change to facilitate development consistent across the board 3.6 FAR (R6 non contextual district) zoning more constant and to make new development more predictable for new projects. Running concurrently with 35-10 Astoria Blvd. because that zoning R6B to C4-3 District has same equivalent as R6 hence R6-1

Board dialogue ensued.

Liz Erion: Motioned for disapproval because it undercuts ULURP procedure/process (city wide applicability) eliminates side street considerations 2nd Tom Ryan

Board dialogue ensued.

**Vote N 180061ZRQ-**

**Vote:** Unanimously 30 to 0 to disapprove

Chair called for approval of Minutes: Motion seconded by Roseanne Alfogiannis; show of hands unanimous.

**Chairperson's Report:**

Chair Torniali Thanked everyone for their assistance. The Chair discussed the Borough Board Presentation regarding a new text amendment to require a special permit for hotels in M1 districts. The text amendment should be expanded all hotel in commercial districts. Chair Torniali stated the Land Use Chair would expand on the topic further.

Liz Erion, Chair of Land Use stated that the proposed, new text for M 1 districts would require a special permit. A scoping meeting for the DEIS is scheduled for October 26th. The Borough President wants, to expand scope of the new text amendment to include all commercial districts. Liz motioned that a letter be sent to City Planning in support of the revision to include all commercial district seconded by Rod Townsend.

**Board Vote:** Show of hands in support unanimous.

**District Managers Report:** Florence Koulouris stated in essence of time she would not provide a report and have been working extensively on Capital and Expense (at the Board Office).

**Committee Reports:**

Norma Nieves-Blas Chair of Capital and Expense motioned to pass Capital and Expense Budget placed in the folders in its totality.

**Discussion Opened-**

Transportation Chair Bob Piazza stated that elevators be requested at all elevated NW subway. Item #17 was funded according to Mr. Khuzami. Therefore Ms Blas amended her motion to include elevators; seconded by Tom Ryan.

**Vote:** 29 in favor/1 abstention.

Consumer Affairs Chair Andy Aujla, reported, Moura & Vigel requested additional information. There will be an event on Sunday, October 29th which will be 8 am to 10 am, part of a 3 day event including 4000 people. Police Department has numerous complaints regarding this location in the past. The large number of people will be a drain on the community which will be a burden to police resources for the Paper Factory. They have filed for an 8am-10am special permit for a liquor license with the SLA. Andy makes a motion to deny, and approve the other ones (applications) Evie Hantzopoulos seconded- **Vote:** Unanimous.

Chair Torniali asked Ann Bruno if she had a report on this item.

Street Festival Street Closure Chair Ann Bruno reported that 4000 people is a handicap for the NYPD and street closure for Paper Factory will not be good for the community.

Chair Torniali- Asked for any other committee reports.

Chair Dan Aliberti reported that he was the only person who showed up for his committee meeting to discuss Capital and Expense Budget items. Dan noted Airport Chair Rose Marie Poveromo reported that the Airport · Committee met and she was the only person who attended for the presentation. Chair Torniali stated that this problem was being addressed by requesting everyone select committees with which they have an interest which will foster participation and attendance.

Parks Chair Richard Khuzami reported attending Parks consultations with the District Manager. The Capital and Expense meeting was discussed and Phase II for Charybdis playground which requires a letter of support. Parks Committee voted in favor of the letter of support with a stipulation to study and if feasible build storage under the (field house) land mark structure. Richard motioned for a letter of support second. The Board voted to send letter.

**Vote:** 29 in favor - 1 against.

### **Public Comment:**

Barbara (not audible) expressed concern regarding the loss of affordable housing.

Travis Tinrey, ACE Program- Speaker did not state his name. He said ACE is new to LIC and happy to be here. They have a work force development for people in homeless shelters. Which provide (to LIC) Sanitation services throughout area. Full time homeless workforce programs offered 3 days of classes help find employment. They have gotten 2,800 out of shelter in 25 years. The Chair stated that she had seen the workers on various business districts and they were doing an outstanding job.

Donna Van Blarcom - presented a letter regarding Astoria Park Pool discrepancies on policy, staff issues and management, extremely poor treatment of pool patrons throughout the summer. Ms. Blarcom made it clear she wanted the community to be aware of the activities of these employees and she wanted to be assured of change for the sake of the community. The Chair acknowledged that the office was aware of the situation and had communicated with the Parks Department regarding same.

Richard Melnick - Stated he witnessed the infractions of the pool personnel and as a pool user and he is here to support Donna and her complaint regarding the pool. He is a licensed tour guide. He would like to update the community on Greater Historical Society Haunted Walk tour and invites people to attend this event.

Neil Herdan -update/reported Whitey Ford Field friends group has nominated 2 new Vice Chairs and 2 new Co- Chairs, funds to repair facilities, lock box storage, restrooms for females is an issue they would like to address, two

(2) Grants for \$1,000 have been acquired.

Charles Lenzo from Garden Bay Condos - Disconnect LGA - Voiced that exiting Marine Air terminal West gate, unto 19th Avenue, created dangerous issue with commercial traffic increased 81st Street to 49th Street swells, BQE exit change back-ups in community and is a hardship to residents. Changes to the BQE is a failure. Cars back up into the community. Chair Torniali response- Please contact the Board office so we can look into this.

Barney Chow, Mayor's Office, CAU - Thrive NYC - Spoke about aiding mental health issues and mayoral agenda with this program and describes services and school link with this program. Chair thanked Mr. Chow.

Jesse Marchese, Executive Director- Introduces himself as the new director of APAC. Astoria Performing Arts Center will have Veil'd performances (a new play for APAC) which begin on November 2nd November 18 at the Good Shepherd Church, Astoria. He invites the community to attend. He is thrilled to be continuing services in this area and at APAC.

Motion to Adjourn Tom Ryan - Seconded by Antonella Di Saverio

Meeting adjourned 9:15 PM