

Community Board 1, Queens – Board Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2017

Board Member Attendees: List attached.

Opening 6:46 PM

Chairwoman Marie Torniali opens the meeting; the Pledge of Allegiance followed. Chairwoman Torniali greeted the Board.

Chairwoman Torniali stated that since there were no public hearings items scheduled for tonight she would like to invite the public if they wish to.

Neil Herdan approached the podium and introduced himself as the Co-Chairman for Friends of Whitey Ford Field. Mr. Herdan enthusiastically advised that on December 19, 2017, Astoria Park victoriously won the Photo Park Contest in a landslide of 548 votes. Astoria Park beat out Pelham Bay Parks, with just 147 and Flushing Meadows, with a mere 47 votes which really, in his opinion, put Astoria on the map. Mr. Herden stated that votes were made from all parts of the world, including Barcelona, Spain, Manchester, England, Northern England and London, England. There were a tremendous amount of votes from Oxford University and New York University. He also thanked all the businesses of Astoria for their support, specifically acknowledging Brooklyn Bagel and Astoria Fitness. He then asked that the Board support the Friends of Whitey Ford Field's goals in the future. Chairwoman Torniali asked him what the prize was for winning and he responded that they won a camera!

Chairwoman Torniali congratulated Mr. Herden and asked if anyone else wished to speak.

Audrey Dimola, of Socrates Sculpture Park, approached the podium, stated her name and advised that usually Directors John or Katy would come to the meeting, but she was attending in their place and stead. She advised that she is the Director of Public Programs at Socrates Sculpture Park and that she is proudly born and raised in Astoria and happy to be at our meeting. She then asked who has been to the park and a majority of the attendees raised their hands. She went on to explain that the park is open all year long from the hours of 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. She said there is a fantastic exhibition running now due to an open call. She went on to explain that an open call means anyone can apply and have their artwork displayed. Ms. Dimola advised that the open call for next year's exhibition just closed on December 19, 2017, but should anyone be interested, please email her and she will try to get whoever was interested in. The next seasonal exhibition will run from May, 2018 through October, 2018 which will include outdoor cinemas, kayaking, festivals, workshops for all ages and multicultural programs.

Ms. Dimola invites all community organizations of Queens to attend. Socrates Sculpture Park also invites volunteers to help out with exhibitions and is now offering youth job opportunities for a few public schools. She then said Happy Holidays.

Chairwoman Torniali asked her what her email is and she responded, my email is:
amamola@socratessculpturepark.org

Chairwoman Torniali asked if anyone else wished to speak, but no one else did.

Chairwoman Torniali asked Joe Nocerino, representative for Queens Borough President, Melinda Katz, to say a few words. Mr. Nocerino said Borough President Katz sends well wishes and stated *that she*

truly enjoys working with the Board, Florence Koulouris and Marie Torniali and is looking forward to working with Community Board, 1 Queens for many years.

He then told the Members that Board Renewal Applications for 2018 (even years) are on the table and if any Members of the Board filled it out that night the application would not have to be notarized. He then wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Chairwoman Torniali then asked the Board whether motion to approve minutes of November 20, 2017 was satisfactory. The Board unanimously approved same.

Florence Koulouris greeted everyone. She related that there were a lot of civic meetings last month but didn't want to delay the meeting with details. She mentioned if anyone had any questions regarding those meetings, she would be happy to discuss same. She also stated that this is a wonderful time to be in her position and Happy Holidays to the Members and their families

Chairwoman Marie Torniali then said to the Members of the Board "thank you all for your support and Happy Holidays to you all this season".

Chairwoman Torniali then called for Committee Reports:

Consumer affairs Chair, Andy Aujla, pointed out that the spread sheet of the liquor licenses for December, 2017 are in the folder. He also mentioned there are a few businesses with stipulations and that one business in particular, One Degree Up a/k/a Astoria Lounge, will be a restaurant and recommended approval. He then said that the 114 Precinct had no issues with any of the Stipulations for the December, 2017 licenses and asked for Board approval. It was then pointed out that One Degree Up a/k/a Astoria Lounge was not on the spread sheet and he advised it will be on the January, 2018 spread sheet as Florence Koulouris mentioned, they are waiting for the C of O.

Motion to approve the liquor licenses was made by Andy and seconded by Nancy.

Chairwoman Marie Torniali asked for a show of hands and the vote was unanimous.

Access and Disability - Dan Aliberti - No report

Airports - RoseMarie Poveromo - No report

Community and Economic Development – Thomas Ryan - Happy New Year

Education/Library – Danielle Tharrington - No report

Environmental Protection – Antonella Di Saverio – Ms. Di Saverio attended a Public Advocate Hearing and advised that due to climate change the water levels in NYC will rise 6 feet by 2100. She also stated that New York City instituted a mandate to reduce greenhouse gases by 80 percent by the year 2050. Mr. Costa Constantindes introduced new legislation that would reduce the fuel usage for 15,000 buildings, but that would only be a 7% decrease. New York City needs to do more to reduce the greenhouse gases.

Land Use and Zoning – Gerald Caliendo & Elizabeth Erion (absent) - No report

Parks/Recreation & Cultural Services – Richard Khuzami - Mr. Khuzami advised that Norman Chan has moved on and that Shirley Echevarria will be the new Parks Manager. He is looking forward to great year and asked everyone to please thank Norman Chan for his devoted service for the past 6 years on the Board.

Mr. Khuzami then advised that the work on the diving pool has finally begun at Astoria Park, after 30 years of being dormant. The project should be completed in at least 1 year.

He also advised that there will be a meeting for Whitey Ford Field on January 9, 2018. He then wished everyone a wonderful holiday.

Street Festivals/Special Events – Anne Bruno - Happy Holidays!

Old business - None

New business:

Pauline Jannelli suggested that a “Slush Fund” be created by the Board to set aside funds for emergencies. She noted several funerals of board members had taken place recently and stated these funds could be used to purchase flowers. Chairwoman Torniali noted that a slush fund was inappropriate but the possibility of a petty cash fund for this purpose might be possible. Florence Koulouris will talk to Borough Hall in January, 2018 to determine if that is feasible.

Rosemarie Poveromo made a motion to adjourn, all board members seconded.

Chairwoman Torniali then invited everyone to go in the back and join her for the Holiday gathering!

Meeting adjourned: 7:00 pm

COMMUNITY BOARD 1, Queens

DATE 12/20/17

Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.
Rose Anne Alafogiannis			E	Richard Khuzami	✓		
George Alexiou	✓		E	Nancy Konipol	✓		
Daniel Aliberti	✓			Jerry Kril	✓		
Loren Amor	✓			Melanie La Rocca	✓		
Avninder Aujla	✓			Frances Luhmann-McDonald	✓		
Edward Babor	✓			Antonio Meloni		✓	
Jose Batista			E	Prabir Mitra	✓		E
Ann Bruno	✓			Stella Nicolaou	✓		E
Giselle Aida Burgess		✓		Norma Nieves-Blas			E
Edwin Cadiz	✓			Mary O'Hara			E
Gerald Caliendo	✓			Robert Piazza			E
Jean Marie D'Alleva	✓			RoseMarie Poveromo	✓		
Antonella Di Saverio	✓			Yawne Robinson	✓		
Katie Ellman			E	Thomas Ryan	✓		
Elizabeth Erion			E	Manuel Salce		✓	
Mackenzi Farquer	✓			Rodolfo Sarchese	✓		
Dean Feratovic	✓			Nancy Silverman	✓		
Evie Hantzopoulos	✓			Dominic Stiller	✓		
Amy Hau	✓			Andre Stith	✓		
Helen Ho	✓			Danielle Tharrington			E
Pauline Jannelli	✓			Marie Torniali	✓		
Vanessa Jones-Hall	✓			Rod Townsend	✓		
George Kalergios	✓			Judy Trilivas			E

Number Board Members Present 32

Present 32 Absent 3 Excused 11