

**Community Board 1, Queens – Board Meeting Minutes -- AMENDED**

**January 21, 2020**

Meeting opens with Chairperson, Marie Torniali at 6:30 p.m. – Pledge of Allegiance followed.

The Chair introduced the first item and the representative.

**NYC Department of City Planning:**

**NYC Department of Correction (C 200143 MMY)**

Establishment of Rikers Island as a Public Place within are bound by US Pierhead a bulkhead line in the Borough of the Bronx and under the jurisdiction of Queens CB1 in accordance with map no CPC 200143 MMY dated November 27, 2019 and signed by the director of the DCP.

Dana Kaplan, NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice - thank you for having us tonight in consideration of this application. I am joined with colleagues from the Mayor's Office, the Department of Correction and the Department of City Planning, they will be available for any questions. They are going to talk about why they are closing the jail at Rikers Island and which is what the ULURP application is in regards to, a history how they got there and what exactly the Rikers Island Public Place ULURP application does as well as what it does not do and talk about what comes next in this process. The City made a determination that from public policy and criminal justice perspective it was appropriate to close the jails on Rikers Island after some pretty significant deliberation it was a decision that the administration reached it was also something that was recommended by a number of elected officials and by the independent commission chaired by former Chief Judge Jonathan Littman and a number of different criminal justice reform organizations. Essentially the challenge is achieving our reform goals in the jails on Rikers Island specifically are on a number 1 specific, 2 the design of the facilities themselves they are outdated they lack a number of the types of programming and recreational spaces and the things that we know are actually important for reform justice system but beyond the conditions of the facilities there was also a fundamental problem of the distance and the location of Rikers Island itself so with limited public access and being very far from the courts it was a challenge to transport people every day to their court cases there is a huge challenge of people be able to visit loved ones on the island attorneys being able to visit service providers being able to visit so across the board they realized there were a number of challenges in terms of achieving their criminal reform goals that could not be achieved by replacing the facilities themselves on Rikers Island. Their goals for moving to a borough based detention system is that they will be able to provide new humane facilities designed to improve health educational and social outcomes with smaller housing units better programming space more access to outdoor recreation more rooms for visiting and a number of the different things that they know evidence says support people ability to not essentially reduce the rate that which people come back into incarceration or back into detention after coming into contact with the jails to provide greater access to families social services and community service providers again smaller housing units that can provide better lines of site which can improve safety both for people in detention and also facility staff and to support their efforts overall to improve culture and improve safety within the facilities. They know reform of their criminal justice system issue they are very focused on culture change and improvements in programming and staff training and all those things across the Board, but they very much believe that small borough-based facilities can help support their overall reform goals. On October 17, 2019 the City Council approved a plan to create these 4 smaller borough based facilities so they are now moving ahead with a total detention capacity of 3545 beds this is a significant reduction of what the capacity has been historically and it is a result of decades of reform and improvements in our criminal justice system these 4 borough based sites will be located in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. These sites were selected because of their proximity to the courts, proximity to public transportation and having sufficient square footage and being city owned. In Queens the new facility will be in Kew Gardens directly adjacent to the courthouse and there is currently the Queens detention center which operates for intake and processing and use to be operational for overnight use so they will be demolishing and rebuilding that facility. The purpose of this ULURP application is to designate Rikers Island a Public Place to ensure future development on that site will be solely for the public benefit. To be clear this ULURP application does not speak to what will happen in the future on Rikers Island it only says that it can no longer be used for incarceration of individuals after December 31, 2026 when the city system of 4 new borough based jails is expected to be completed

and in operation. The 2026 timeline is essentially tied to when the construction will be complete of the new facilities and that point they will be able to move individuals off of Rikers Island and into the new detention system. Some facts it lies within the borough of the Bronx but under the jurisdiction of Queens Community Board 1 as was mentioned the application is on the behalf of the Department of Correction the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson so this is an effort of both the administration and the City Council and it covers a change to the City Map for Rikers Island to become a public place. To reiterate there are no other actions uses or development proposed. Any new use would require a separate review process want to make this very, very clear is that what this accomplishes it prohibits the use of Rikers Island for jails but there will need to be a separate review process for any new use on the island. In terms of what is coming next, they are in the Community Board review process of the ULURP application then move to the Borough President then City Planning Commission and then the City Council for a vote by the summer of this year. They will also be doing is beginning a community engagement participatory planning process they are working with the Council to determine what that looks like one thing they can commit very certainly is there will be engagement from this Community Board as well as other interested and invested stakeholders including different justice organizations and other elected officials and civic organizations that have a stake in what happens here. We know that community engagement is very critical in the future of Rikers Island we have time with the timeline but committed to start this planning process during this administration as we work through the details of this will make certain to update you on that very soon as well as how exactly there will be opportunities for the Community Board to be involved. Available for questions.

The Chair asked if there are any questions that were not answer

George Alexiou asked what will happen with Rikers Island after that.

Dana Kaplan responded we don't know and continued there are no plans for the future of Rikers. She said they are committed to doing a participatory planning process and this Community Board will be involved in that planning process. Ms. Kaplan said there will also be a separate review as it relates to any requirements for the outcome.

Dan Aliberti asked if under the new zoning what will be permitted jails or not or what would

Blake Montieth, Department of City Planning reported that the current zoning is a C8 zone this is a higher intensity commercial zone that typically allows for a wide variety of commercial uses but we often see other oriented uses we are not proposing uses that are or are not consistent with the current zoning district this public place designation is a way for us to indicate that the use will be determined in the future and we will certainly look at any opportunities to adjust the zoning or other uses.

Ted Kasapis, Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas' Office, asked even if this passes, are we guaranteed that the federal government or the state can come in and decide what they want to do with the property.

Blake Montieth said this is a process that will be led by the Mayor's office. They will need to see how the City will lead a review process and an outreach process to determine the use and that will then inform whether or not if the City or the State or some other entity will take on the future of this island.

RoseMarie Poveromo The island belongs to the Bronx as long as this is the beginning process and we have no idea what the De Blasio administration intends to do in the future with this property some of us are not comfortable the bridge comes into Astoria Heights since is the beginning of this entire process and the island belongs to the Bronx why not take the bridge and place it in the Bronx especially since all these years the number of bodies that have been housed at Rikers Island have benefitted the Bronx in the Census.

Blake Montieth -- responded once they determine what use will go on this island, they would then access what transportation or traffic patterns need to be addressed will certainly keep in mind, take note of her request of shifting the bridge.

RoseMarie Poveromo asked if in the future, will the Mayor be able to change the zoning from a public place and put high-rise developments?

Blake Montieth responded that this area is within a Flight Restriction Zone, so the heights are limited in this area, so they do not impede with take-off or landing from LaGuardia airport. Second, if the zoning or any land use controls are changed on this site that would go through a required review process either at the city level or through Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP) or through a state level review process.

Vanessa Jones-Hall asked regarding the question about a possible housing being placed there. It is our concern as RoseMarie stated that it belongs to the Bronx. It seems there is a developer waiting to take that spot. Once again, we will be bombarded with high priced apartments which we have such a high level of homelessness that they cannot afford. That is a huge piece of property. The developers are taking over and we are concerned.

Dana Kaplan confirmed that there are no current plans for housing on the island. If that were the case, they would have to go through a separate legal review process. For housing it would have to go through a ULURP process and would go to the Community Board, the City Planning Commission, the Borough President and the City Council. It is not something that could be a unilateral decision beyond the administration's commitment to not have a recommendation for what comes next on Rikers Island. In terms of their desire to do a Participatory Planning Process there is also the mandated review that means that is not something that can happen without the Community Board's recommendation, Council vote, the City Planning Commission and the Borough President. Consistent with a number of different uses, those are some of the protections there.

Dino Panagoulis said they do not hear specific answers about the As of Right, which he is particularly concerned with. We are saying let's not use this particular piece of land or property for a prison, but do we have any levers that even if they wanted to use it As of Right they would still have to come here. The Politics would do an end drop on what we as a Community will be able to provide feedback with.

Blake Montieth – explains As of Right, he said it means that whoever is building something would not have to go through a public review process like this, 95% of the buildings in NYC are built As of Right. In this case there is a very slim to none chance that An As of Right development could occur on the island first this is city owned property so it would have to go thru ULURP process if there is a change in use a sort of facility it would still go through a ULURP application with them as the city and the community feels comfortable with that function being on the island. They are very committed to a Pre ULURP process and any action on the island would likely require a ULURP.

Nancy Silverman Clarity, what we are voting tonight is just the Public Place she noticed that the Committee included recommendations that respond to some of these concerns that also came up in the Public Hearing. Is this just the Public Place designation and there will be other hearings in the future?

Elizabeth Erion - Yes, that is correct. She said the Land Use Committee in its discussions with the applicants and amongst themselves have no issue with the mapping of Public Place which would lead to the closing of the jail. The issue came up with the As of Right issue and what is considered a public benefit use. Some things that are still nebulous about the jail. The recommendations would be included in the letter to City Planning which ultimately would get to the Mayor's Office and let them understand the position of the community and how they want to be eagerly awaiting their response to their questions so they can begin the planning process which is the planner she knows is a very long process legal will get to a consensus on what is appropriate and what can be done on the island.

Andy Aujla said to clarify again that this application only means that incarcerated individuals will not be housed on Rikers Island after December 31, 2026, correct? Promising today that any new use being put on the island they will seek community input.

Dana Kaplan responded correct/yes to his questions/comments.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson said not only before anything is put in but at the initial stages, they agreed that the Community Board has to be a part of the demolition phase.

Marie Torniali asked if anyone else had any other comments or questions either from the Board or the Public on this item

No one responded. The Chair said that the item is closed, and the Board would vote on it during the Business Session under Land Use Committee. She thanked everyone.

**Elected Officials/Representatives:**

Victor Montesinos, Director of Constituent Services, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney – The Providing Urgent Maternal Protection (PUMP) Act for nursing mothers. This bill will close the gaps to ensure that millions of working mothers have the access and protections they need to breastfeed should they choose to. Mr. Montesinos read a statement by Congresswoman Maloney, As the first mother to give birth while serving in the NYC Council she knows first-hand the difficulties new mothers face in the workplace. Those difficulties should not include breastfeeding and millions of nursing mothers are still without a clear right to pump at work without these protections nursing mothers face serious health consequences including risk of painful illness and infection diminish milk supply or inability to continue breastfeeding this is why we must pass the PUMP Act to strengthen the 2010 breaking time law by making sure more mothers are guaranteed the right to pump at work.

Daniel Bonthius, Operations Coordinator, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez – He wished everyone a Happy New Year. He stated their office held a Town Hall on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The Congresswoman discussed her newest piece of legislation Green New Deal for public housing and answered questions from the audience. If you were unable to attend in Woodside, you can watch it on their Facebook page. On January 10, 2020 the Congresswoman sent a letter to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding the proposed Air Train to Willets Point the Congresswoman asked for careful consideration of public comments and further explanation for the dismissal of several reasonable alternatives. Legislative update, last week their office took action to ensure the people of Puerto Rico are getting the necessary resources following the devastating earthquakes. With their colleagues they wrote to Secretary Carson urging the release of approved funds. Asking the administration to issue a major disaster declaration and wrote to FEMA asking the agency to ensure all available poles and resources are made available to restore power to the island. Additionally, the house also passed legislation to protect our national security by reiterating that only Congress can declare war under the Constitution and reaffirming the limits imposed on the President under the War Power Resolution in 1973. They distributed their newsletter in December, which he said he had copies of on the table and offered if someone wants to sign up, they can do so. Their office can assist constituents with any federal issues, including immigration, social security and other concerns with federal government agencies. They can take walk-ins at the office, 9-5 weekdays. You can also submit constituent services requests on their website. To date, they have opened over 800 cases for NY-14 constituents. Finally, they encourage everyone in the community to participate in the Census. They started counting today in Alaska because they are so hard to get to. They are still hiring, encourage family and friends to visit the 2020 Census website to learn about job opportunities. If you are involved in a local count committee please reach out so they can share information and resources they are trying to collect all of that for the district so they can continue encourage the entire NY-14 to be counted, we all know the importance of the Census count. If you have any questions, he is happy to answer.

Ted Kasapis, Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas' Office, said we were under counted by at least 12,000 votes. (inaudible).

Daniel Bonthius said they are speaking about it each time they are out or when people come into the office at all the meetings reminding them about the Census. They are in close contact with the Census about the different stages of that count they will have stations in their office so that people can sign up in their office they will be doing outreach events to encourage the count in the community as well. They just got a map from the Census of the percentage of the different neighborhoods throughout their district and the percentage of people that work on it. There are quite a lot under 75% and actually parts of Astoria were down 60%. It is important that every office encourages in the community that they get counted it will take a citywide effort.

RoseMarie Poveromo asked Mr. Bonthius to please remind her (AOC) that the United Community Civic Association (UCCA) and the Astoria Community fought 20 years and won the fight against the Port Authority of NY/NJ who wanted to bring a light rail link, a people mover through Astoria, from the N train at 31<sup>st</sup> Street down to 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue over to LaGuardia Airport. They fought it, they won. They would hate to fight her again. She is young enough and may not be aware.

Daniel said that she is fully aware of it. If you are referring to the letter to the FAA is requesting that the Air Train be moved back to Astoria because that is not at all what the letter was about.

RoseMarie Poveromo said she has attended several meetings and has heard the Community suggesting that they run an extension on the N train at 31<sup>st</sup> Street. Since she has been so vocal on so many issues, she would like to remind her once again they are not happy with the extension.

Daniel said they are fully aware of the feelings of CB1 about N train extension plans and other plans relating to the Astoria area. The push back from 20 years ago is happening now in the Elmhurst area to this point.

RoseMarie Poveromo it is at their meetings; they have valid concerns. We are not about to push our situation on to another community, there has to be a better way.

Daniel said if anyone has seen the Air Train plan and the process. The current one is the one they are moving forward with. The letter says is that it was not made clear in the plan what the process was that eliminated the other plans that resulted in only the Willets Point Air Train that was chosen. Based on the community input in CB3 and CB4 areas they don't feel like they were listened to in that process. The letter is requesting more transparency about that process, why the options were eliminated and how we can include the communities.

Katerina Duarte commented with no disrespect there may not have been a vote on what the position was, does not want anyone speaking on behalf of her.

Marie Torniali said there was never a vote because it did not belong in Community Board 1.

Katerina Duarte said something that was objected to 20 years ago would not apply now. For her, personally, that does have to travel something like that it would save her \$30.

Daniel said there was never a vote on these plans it was a process that has been handled by the Governor's office, thus far asking for community input. This is evidence as to the lack of outreach, which is why they wrote the letter.

RoseMarie Poveromo said the reason it was fought 20 years ago and would be fought again is because extending the N train it would take many pieces of private property by eminent domain down 31<sup>st</sup> Street that is the difference. On the Willets Point route no private properties would be affected.

Daniel said to be clear it is not a choice between those 2 options there were 16 other proposals and what the letter states is asking for more transparency on what the process was to eliminate all of the other options and asking for a better intake of the Community input from the areas that would be affected by the different plans. Their office does not play a role in that process except for the fact FAA is a federal agency and they can put pressure on the FAA.

Niki Kokkinos, Councilman Costa Constantinides' Office announced an update, said she believes the DOT finalized the date, DOT along with Community Board 1 and Councilman Van Bramer's office hold a community workshop to discuss a protected north south bike route in the district on the evening of February 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at P.S. 166 wanted to inform you of it and believes a flyer from DOT will be forth coming find it online and they will be sharing it as well as the Community Board will be sharing it as well.

Marie Torniali said she urges everyone to attend the forum and thanked Niki.

Niki told everyone that DOT will be presenting a few different alternatives that they have in mind, one of them is Crescent Street and encourages everyone to attend and make their voices heard.

Tom Ryan asked if the route proposals are online

Niki responded that they are not online yet but will have them available at the meeting.

Matthew, Councilmember Jimmy Van Bramer's Office announced that they are incredibly close to the completion of the Park House at Queensbridge Park it is 6.5-million-dollar project complete renovation. They will have a ribbon cutting in the coming weeks. They are really excited about it and will be in contact with the Community Board office.

**Business Session:**

The Chair announced the Business Session and the first agenda item is the Election of Officers. She announced that she asked Rod Townsend to oversee this agenda item along with Andy Aujla, Pauline Jannelli, and Nancy Konipol.

Rod Townsend announced that pursuant to the bylaws they have an Election of Officers in January. He said the open positions are listed on the Agenda. Mr. Townsend announced the positions, which are: Chairperson, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Third Vice Chair, Executive Secretary and Sergeant-at-Arms. He told the Board that there is a ballot in their folders. Mr. Townsend told them the ballot has listed the candidates who were nominated in advance of this meeting, as per the emails that were sent out. He asked if at the time there any nominations from the floor.

Kathleen Warnock announced that she would like to be considered for the position of Sergeant-at-Arms.

Vanessa Jones-Hall announced that she would like to be considered for the Executive Secretary position.

Rod Townsend said the next step would be the Vote. He then read down the ballot the Positions and Names:

**Election of Officers:**

- Chairperson - Marie Torniali
- First Vice Chairperson - Edward Babor
- Second Vice Chairperson - Jean Marie D'Alleva or Amy Hau
- Third Vice Chairperson - Richard Khuzami
- Executive Secretary - Nancy Silverman or write in, Vanessa Jones-Hall
- Sergeant-at-Arms - Thomas Ryan or write in, Kathleen Warnock

**Counters:** Andy Aujla, Pauline Jannelli, Nancy Konipol and Rod Townsend

Rod Townsend instructed the Board Members if they are choosing the name that is on the ballot, please circle it, if you are writing in the name do so on the other side (blank box) and asked them to please sign their name on the bottom. He asked the counters to collect the ballots from the Board Members when they are done.

Ballot collection occurs and team goes to back room to count votes.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson calls meeting to order.

Rod Townsend announces the results of the election and congratulates the candidates:

- Chairperson - Marie Torniali
- First Vice Chair - Edward Babor
- Second Vice Chair - Amy Hau
- Third Vice Chair - Richard Khuzami

- Executive Secretary - Nancy Silverman
- Sergeant-at-Arms - Thomas Ryan

The Chair thanked Rod Townsend and team for their assistance. She also thanked the new Executive Board Members and those who have worked with the Board for many years and have helped the Board thrive. She especially, thanked, Jean Marie D'Alleva.

The Chair, Marie Torniali, Motioned to approve the December 2019 Minutes. Motioned by Ed Babor; Seconded by Dino Panagoulis. Unanimous.

**Chair Report:**

Marie Torniali, Chair shared that the BQX came to the Transportation Committee meeting. She announced that one of the most important things at this time is that she asks the Board to look at the new bus lines/routes and encouraged everyone to go to the MTA website. She told the Board Members that they have a flyer in their folders from the MTA. She mentioned that the bus stops will be further apart. She said the new bus lines/routes will also affect the students going to school (middle school/high school). The Chair reiterated to keep this as a high priority and see how it will affect you and people you know. She mentioned that our elected officials have not heard many complaints from this area but in Jackson Heights there have been a lot of complaints, which was reported by Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's office. The MTA are having a public workshop on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m., she mentioned the information on the website and that you can also reach out to our elected officials.

A Board Member commented that some parents in her son's school are up in arms about the changes but did not know where to voice their opinions.

The Chair advised that they can also comment via the MTA's website/online.

Florence Koulouris, District Manager, commented that individuals are welcome to attend the Transportation Committee meeting on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Board Office. They can sit in on the meeting without making comment.

The Chair advised to send their comments to the Community Board and copy your elected officials.

Joe Nocerino, Queens Borough President's Office mentioned that on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at Queens Borough Hall the NYC Transit with Andy Byford a workshop. He also came to Borough Hall about a week ago and met with the Elected Officials to go over all of the concerns.

The Chair mentioned The Queens Bus Network Redesign workshop will be on February 4<sup>th</sup> at Jacob Riis, 6-8 p.m. She feels that is not enough and everyone should go on the website, please comment, spread the word as well as let your elected officials know. She thanked Joe Nocerino.

Jeffrey Martin stated if you live in Western Queens you know that it is about a 20-minute walk to the N train. A lot of people are unable to walk because it is too far. They rely on the bus more so than most in the community because we are so far from the N and they are cutting services. It is important especially to those who live in Western Queens to comment on the plan to write to public officials and be at these meetings.

**District Manager Report:**

Florence Koulouris added to Marie's comments on the Bus Redesign we have it on Facebook on Twitter please forward to people that you know and spread the word The Board office has only had 2 complaints it is very disheartening that people are not responding. She said she put out on social media and made it easily accessible. We have a growing senior population in our district we have people from different walks of life that rely on the buses we need more buses with better service not less, further apart. She stated that in the folders she provided you with information from the Office of Parking Summons Advocate (OPSA) we have an Ombudsman if you get a parking ticket there is someone to help you, he made a presentation at the Borough President's Office that is the information

included. She also included information on a meeting taking place at Borough Hall for Taxes if you own a home or building you are able to learn from experts on how to do your taxes and getting more tax breaks. There are different ways of layering your tax breaks in order to help you. She also announced Queens Day of Service, the Borough President's Office wants to have a week of service from February 10, 2020 they want the 14 Community Boards to Co-Sponsor a Day of Service in each district people want to feel that can help on a one on one basis. The Chairs, District Managers and Borough Hall Staff will decide on one of the 3 events to participate in during that week. Option 1: Sandwiches or Socks – to give out to homeless individuals; To partnership with a Non-Profit like Hungry Monkey Rescue Truck Service and give out socks. The most asked for item is socks. Ironically at Nancy Silverman's Parks Committee we discussed this. Option 2: Help Veterans in the Community, Veteran Service Providers will have mobile office hours during that week and sponsor NYC Veterans Services and other disabled Americans and/or collect in need of the Board in the Board Office, they can collect socks for the Veterans specifically. Option 3: Mental Health or Mammogram Check-in would hire a truck although she learned that the truck is very hard to get. Marie and she are working with the Borough President's Office and will keep everyone updated. It will start February 10<sup>th</sup>, they will let you know how we will participate. She wished everyone a great month.

The Chair thanked Florence and announced Committee Reports.

### **Committee Reports:**

RoseMarie Poveromo, Airport, stated she had No Report and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Rod Townsend, Community & Economic Development, reported that they met with Tom Grech, President & Chief Executive Officer, Queens Chamber of Commerce learned about their organization. This coming month they are working to meet with NYC Small Business Services (SBS) they are still working on a date for that. Would like to remind Committee Members that show up that they are learning a lot at these meetings and looking forward to putting together some proposals based on what they are learning in the coming year.

Andy Aujla, Consumer Affairs, reported that the Q69 is losing some stops as well and that stops right in front of the Community Board Office, he is encouraging everyone to reach out to the Community Board. He announced that the spread sheet is in the folder which includes businesses that have applied for liquor licenses or renewals in the last month. They have been reviewed with the 114<sup>th</sup> precinct, as usual. Requesting that they all be approved with the exception of Oven Grill or Chill Lounge they came in to a Committee Meeting in 2019 and will have them coming to a Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Board Office and will have 2 other entities as well who have some very negative reports including violence in their establishments if you are interested please join us. He asked for approval with the 1 exception.

Motioned by Nancy Silverman; Seconded by Ed Babor

The Chair asked if all were in favor, Unanimous.

Antonella Di Saverio, Environmental Protection, reported that on March 6<sup>th</sup> they will have a Solar and Green Roof Public Session at the Oliver Wendell Holmes Junior High School, I.S. 204, 36-41 28th Street. They are working on a date for the February meeting. There will be a Rally to oppose the Roll Out of the 5G Tech on the steps of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Library in Manhattan between 2:30-4:00 p.m. this Saturday.

Judy Trilivas, Health & Human Services, reported that on February 3<sup>rd</sup> the Committee will be holding a meeting to discuss a community education on Stop the Bleed and how to use Narcan to be Co-sponsored by Community Board 1 so the Queens Delegation of Emergency Management will be presenting at the meeting

Evie Hantzopoulos, Housing Committee, She stated, No Report but reminded everyone that on January 28 the Committee will have a meeting with 2 guest speakers, Jo Ann Darcy, Housing Director, Central Astoria Local Development Corp will talk about some of the changes to rent laws and the impact on the Community and also some issues are here and also invited Carol Wilkins, President of the Ravenswood Tenant Association they will be looking at the Sanitation Garage currently on 21<sup>st</sup> Street there are plans to move it, it is public land they want to start envisioning what the future will look like for that piece of property invites all the Board Members to join to have that process started.



Elizabeth Erion, Co-Chair, Land Use & Zoning – Thanked all the Board Members for attending the January 8<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing on Rikers Island. She said 2 of the meetings were preoccupied not with the land use issue in front of us tonight which is the mapping of the public place. we generally agreed with that the committee voted to support that the issues that we had discussed and have concerns about related to is what has been brought up before is what happens afterwards and how do we get to the point where everyone has a workable land use plan to reuse Rikers Island there is so much input and so many stake holders involved but the one thing we are concerned about is that it begin early very early that means not 2 years from now it means more like the summer we start talking about what the strategy going to be here how are we going to get these groups together and the Community Board should be involved in this the other thing that we are very concerned about is the fact that there is a as of right redevelopment component here and when you have an as of right issue you don't necessarily have community review or ULURP review however this is city owned property so there is a little exception here and any change on city owned property goes through ULURP so if it were as of right use we would have a similar situation like tonight we are not talking about the public place issue we are talking about something else when we get a site selection situation it does not necessarily mean that they are going to be talking about use changes, zoning, etc. These are things we will focus on when we do look at all of this. We really want a commitment from the city, that we are going to have a ULURP and environmental review on anything that occurs on this island. We hear rumors about toxic landfill etc. we have an issue also with the demolition and what is going to happen with the respect to the effects on the local community and bringing these materials, disposed materials not through the community but by barge etc. we tried to cover as much as possible and all of this is going to go into the letter to City Planning and city officials to let them know that we are looking ahead and we want them to join with us in looking ahead and take the lead in this. The recommendations we have are spelled out. Does someone want to make a Motion to approve this application but within the letter that goes to the Commission we will outline all of the issues that we want answers on that are outlined in this report

Motioned by Rod Townsend; Seconded by Pauline Jannelli

Elizabeth Erion – If there are any questions about the effect the public place has I can reiterate that there is no zoning change as a result of this action there is no incarceration after 2026 because of the notation that is going on the city map No new development that is not connected to the current facilities there they made need to construct something to enhance but it is related to the existing facility and the ULURP for any future use are going to be an important part of the letter we send

Kathleen Warnock – Commented that this is a really good list that goes in with this and knows it took a lot of work and a lot of discussion and she really appreciates it.

The Chair asked to repeat the Motion

Elizabeth Erion – The Motion is to approve the application to change the City Map and establish Public Place designation encompassing all of Rikers Island the City Map is to be amended to note following Riker Island shall not be used for incarceration of individuals after December 31, 2026. The letter to City Planning will include the recommendations planning the redevelopment of the island as outlined in the report to the Community Board.

The Chair announced a Roll Call

Unanimous; 1 Abstention for Cause

The Chair said the Motion carries

Elizabeth Erion - Today City Planning certified a site selection for the Department of Sanitation to acquire property near Luyster Creek so that the garage on 21<sup>st</sup> Street and 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue can be relocated to that site we will be discussing it at the next Land Use Committee and next month it will be a public hearing and vote on the item. The site is on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 31<sup>st</sup> Street, behind ConEdison.

Nancy Silverman, Parks/Recreation/Cultural, reported that the Committee met and continued their discussion of their participation/co-sponsoring events throughout the spring, summer and fall they did not decide on anything, but they are continuing to discuss. If Board members who know of an event that is taking place in a park especially if they are a non-profit cultural service that CB1 can co-sponsor volunteer publicize and if someone wants to take full

responsibility they are open to ideas last year they did quite a number of events but they can only do so much they invite everyone's participation last year they co-sponsored Senior Stars at the Astoria Performing Arts Center thanks to Kathleen Warnock and took responsibility for that this year they will mostly co-sponsor with the Astoria Performing Arts Center. Eventually Playground 35 will open, and she takes responsibility to have an event there. She said they welcome everyone's input. They will have their next meeting on the second Monday of every month. They welcome everyone who has ideas.

Tony Meloni, Public Safety reported that lately there have been a lot of house fires/apartment fires. He spoke to the local Fire Department a lot of people have the detectors but do not change them the seniors are unable to change the batteries themselves The Fire Houses will assist with a free smoke alarm/battery. Warn homeowners

Bob Piazza, Transportation reported of a couple of items in everyone's folder the first is the BQX flyer an idea as it was presented as what they are going to go coming in from Brooklyn to Queens at the Committee meeting there was a lot of disagreement with route and lay out they will have a series of workshops there will be one on Feb 25 at the Museum Moving Image. The next item is the letter sent to the EDC regarding the Ferry Stop to 90<sup>th</sup> Street on the Upper East Side. The letter was rewritten as per discussions. He asked if everyone had a chance to read it and if there were any objections.

Motion is to approve the letter, Bob; Seconded by Jeffrey Martin

1 Opposed

Andre Stith, Education/Library/Youth Services reported that he will be discussing with the District Manager, Florence Koulouris to set-up some Committee Meetings

The Chair announced:

**Old/New Business:**

Evie Hantzopoulos announced that her organization Global Kids is part of the CUNY City of New York's Complete Count Fund they are training the youth to do Census Outreach mainly from Bryant High School in this area. The youth are available with staff to speak with your school, group or organizations and will be doing Pop-Up Events. They can do this starting in March through mid-May. You can reach her at: [evie@globalkids.org](mailto:evie@globalkids.org)

Vanessa Jones-Hall announced that there is someone present that evening from the Census Bureau.

Nancy Silverman said that we should be mindful when we sponsor events to include Census information.

The Chair announced the Public Session.

**Public Session:**

David Burgoa, Neighborhood Housing Services of Queens (NHSQ) Greeted everyone and said he was there to remind you of their programs, they can help first time homeownership, they have grants they help with. They have assistance for emergency repairs, mortgage assistance, foreclosures and pointed out the different flyers they have with information and they also help with employment opportunities at LaGuardia Airport at the Elmore office and they have flyers for that as well.

Ken Baxer, Census Bureau Greeted everyone and thanked Daniel from Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's Office and Evie from Global kids. He said he is happy to hear so much dialogue is occurring on the Census. He shared that the Census is safe, your information is protected under title 13, your information cannot be used against you or given to another federal agency or to the courts. All Census workers take a lifetime oath to protect your information. Working with top cyber security experts to keep your information is protected online. You can respond to the Census over the phone as well. They have a very robust language support and as everyone knows, they have \$675 billion of federal aid. There are 30-40% of places are under counted. They are looking for partnership with various organizations.

Vanessa Jones-Hall said she is there to speak about the jobs of Census taking. They are looking to hire many people for \$25 to \$28 an hour and the hours are from 10 hours to 40 hours a week. They allow a flexible schedule. Districts within West Queens are greatly under counted for the past 10 years. Our communities have grown tremendously. She is urging that everyone to pass on the word of the importance of this job and of the Census. The federal government funding is lost for schools, afterschool programs, roadwork and possibly even our councilmember representation. We need to educate the young people to let them know what this is about. Pass along all the information.

Debra Istwan and Joseph Ciurveo, Owners of The Lingerie Shop/Astoria Secret she said she wanted to introduce themselves, their new business and why they picked Astoria. He stated that they are an upscale elegant speak easy lounge and it is a 2 year build out. They had an art collaboration with local artists, recently and participated in the art walk in August and would like to expand on that. They feel they have had a warm welcome and share that their Grand Opening is next month it will be Valentine's Day all month. Thanked everyone.

Donal Cogdell, Director of Justice, Hope Astoria announced that on February 19<sup>th</sup> they are having their 2<sup>nd</sup> Town Hall They are creating a justice initiative for Astoria. They will talk about social economics. They still have space for information their tables. The Town Hall will take place at 36-14 35<sup>th</sup> Street at 6:30 p.m.

Gerick Lee, shared he is a scientist in the City, lives in Astoria and is in support of Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's position on the Airtrain. He said like the BQX, he opposes the Airtrain, which is an overpriced vanity boondoggle much like the BQX.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson asked for a Motion to Adjourn

Motioned by Ed Babor; Seconded by Tom Ryan

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 p.m.**

COMMUNITY BOARD 1, Queens

DATE 1/21/20

Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.
Rose Anne Alafogiannis	✓			Jerry Kril	✓		
George Alexiou	✓			Joel Lock	Moved		
Daniel Aliberti	✓			Hannah Lupien	✓		
Loren Amor			E	Jeffrey Martin	✓		
Avninder Aujla	✓			Antonio Meloni	✓		
Edward Babor	✓	✓		Prabir Mitra	Passed Away		
Jose Batista		✓		Eric Mouchette	✓		
Ann Bruno	✓			Stella Nicolaou	✓	✓	
Edwin Cadiz	✓			Norma Nieves-Blas		✓	
Gerald Caliendo	✓			Mary O'Hara		✓	
Jean Marie D'Alleva	✓			Dino Panagoulas	✓		
Antonella Di Saverio	✓			Robert Piazza	✓		
Katerina Duarte	✓			RoseMarie Poveromo	✓		
Katie Ellman			E	Yawne Robinson		✓	
Elizabeth Erion	✓			Thomas Ryan	✓		
Mackenzi Farquer	✓			Rodolfo Sarchese			E
Dean Feratovic	✓			Nancy Silverman	✓		
Evie Hantzopoulos	✓			Dominic Stiller	✓		
Amy Hau	✓			Andre Stith	✓		
Helen Ho		✓		Marie Torniali	✓		
Pauline Jannelli	✓			Rod Townsend	✓		
Vanessa Jones-Hall	✓			Judy Trilivas	✓		
George Kalergios	✓			Kathleen Warnock	✓		
Richard Khuzami	✓			Mitchell Waxman	✓		
Nancy Konipol	✓						
Number Board Members Present <u>39</u>							
Present <u>39</u>				Absent <u>5</u>		Excused <u>3</u>	
May 19							