

## Community Board 1, Queens – Board Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2018

**Board Member Attendees:** List attached.

**Opening 6:30 pm**

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

Chairwoman Torniali stated since there was no public hearing items scheduled for the night she would like to invite the public to speak.

John Katsanos approached the podium and said he will miss everyone on the Board and thanked everyone for all their support. He went on to say he enjoyed many wonderful years working with the Board. He then stated that he is being inducted on January 23, 2018 at the Civil Court, Queens County at 4:00 pm and invited all to attend. He also mentioned that any Member of the Board could come down to the Courthouse at any time. The Courthouse has an open door policy and he would be happy to give a tour. He asked if anyone had any questions. Fran McDonald asked, "What does a Civil Court Judge actually do?" He replied that a Civil Court Judge can be assigned to Criminal Court, Family Court or a host of various areas of Law, as well as Small Claims matters up to \$25,000.00. He also said, "Civil Court is considered a First Tier Court and a Civil Court Judge eventually moves up to become an Acting Supreme Court Judge and then an Elected Supreme Court Judge." He then mentioned that anyone can initiate a Small Claims Action on their own without an attorney.

Chairwoman Torniali invited Joe Nocerino to say a few words. Joe mentioned that he handed out a flyer to all Members and said on the back of the newsletter is an upcoming event on Friday, January 26, 2018 at 10:00 am at the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School and to RSVP sooner rather than later. He then said that Borough President Melinda Katz thanks everyone for their well wishes and she is recovering from knee surgery.

**Dr. Alison Persad, Principal of Young Woman's Leadership School**

- Students range between 6-12 years of age;
- Students are willing to participate and help organize small businesses and community boards with their vast knowledge in technology in the hopes of growing local businesses;
- The students attend the gym across the street and Dr. Persad is hoping to get a crossing guard and/or pavement markings to alert vehicles that her students are crossing the street.
- Chairwoman Torniali told Dr. Persad to get in touch with District Manager Koulouris for follow up.

Chairwoman Torniali addressed the Board Members noting that the election of Executive Officers ballots were in front of them. She advised the Members to circle one name for each position or write another name if they chose. Members were asked if there were nominations from the floor. Seeing none, she then noted that all ballots had to be signed. She advised that Melanie La Rocca, George Kalergios, Jose Batista and Loren Amor would be the ballot team. A few ballots were illegible, those votes had to be verified. Ballot counting was finalized. Chairwoman Torniali then reported that all current Executive Officers were elected for another term.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Access & Disability – Dan Aliberti**

- Issues with Access a Ride;
- New program has been created by Councilman Paul Vallone;
- Queens Delegation is paying for the subsidies of care products;
- To qualify for this free program a person has to be over 60 years old with the specific need to go to their doctor's office;
- The person would be entitled to four (4) roundtrip rides per month in the Queens area only, or 2 roundtrips rides per month in the other boroughs;
- The person calls Queens Self Help (number on the flyer) and they will give you the number to Four 2's, the company offering the car service;
- The person has to call the day before between 9am to 12 noon; No need to call for return the day before; and
- Not quite sure what type of transportation would be provided, i.e. ambulette or taxi.

**Consumer Affairs - Andy Aujla - Happy New Year –** He indicated on the January Liquor License Applications and the Unenclosed Sidewalk Cafes contained three (3) Stipulations that were addressed with 114 Precinct. He advised there were no issues with the Stipulations and requested a Motion to approve. Edward Babor made motion to approve; Chairwoman Torniali seconded the Motion; no opposition.

**Land Use and Zoning - Co-Chair Elizabeth Erion** stated the committee has been reviewing proposed developments that will be coming before the Board in the next few months.

- **New BSA application** to reduce required parking from 109 spaces to 54 spaces for a new office building at 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 11<sup>th</sup> Street. CB public hearing in February.
- **Update on 35-10 Astoria Boulevard:** October 2017 CB1 recommended approval to rezone the site to C4-3; City Planning held public hearing 1/12/18; for decision on February 12, 2018. City Council hearing not yet scheduled. Commissioner's comments and decision will be reported next month.
- **Update on R6-1 Zoning Text Amendment:** October, 2017 CB1 recommended disapproval of the next text amendment because:
  - The text amendment has city-wide applicability and should be reviewed with input from all community boards;
  - The text amendment would eliminate in the new R6-1 district the current Quality Housing zoning regulations for lower FAR and lower building height on narrow streets that were written to encourage contextual development.

The BP also recommended disapproval. Commissioner's comments and decision will be reported next month.

- **Upcoming proposals under Committee review with hearings expected in Spring:**
  - Variety Boys and Girls Club site proposal to rezone from R7A to R7X to construct a new community facility building and a separate residential building.

- 38<sup>th</sup> Street Rezoning proposal to rezone a full block to C4-4D and R6B to construct an office building along 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue and a residential building on 38<sup>th</sup> Street near 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Proposal to rezone M1 to R7X to construct a mixed-use building at 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Northern Boulevard.

The Committee is working with a fellowship graduate student to assess the physical context and economic profile of the Ravenswood and the Kaufman Studios areas. Since most of the new development is proposed in those areas, the information will be considered when reviewing new proposals to minimize some of the negative effects rezoning has on a community.

#### **Parks/Recreation & Cultural Services – Richard Khuzami**

- Parks Department did a presentation for the project of Whitey Field Park which is a \$2 Million Dollar project. The Committee was in favor of the Design Plans.
- The Parks Committee added a stipulation that the installation of bicycle racks be in place;
- Also requested by the Parks Committee to the Parks Department is the implementation of:
  - Comfort station or some equivalent facility;
  - Seawall Repair;
  - Scoreboard; and
  - Plaque of Whitey Ford.

The Parks Department is doing a study of the diving pool for public space. Also in review is the space where the sprinklers are currently occupying.

Motion to approve the minutes – Ed Babor made motion to approve; George Alexiou seconded.

#### **District Manager Koulouris Report:**

Rose Anne Alafogiannis' son is in poor health.

She noted 2 events of interest she attended :

January 9, 2018 Borough Cabinet at Borough Hall:

- Presentation on Car Share Pilot Program

January 10, 2018:

- NYC Department of Planning implementing a system to go completely paperless; DCP wanted opinions from district managers for any glitches they may foresee if/when the process would go paperless.

Chairwoman Torniali advised new committee assignments will be delegated by the end of January, 2018.

New business – Richard Khuzami – was very enthusiastic to advise that Curb NY held a contest for the best neighborhood in Queens and Astoria won over Hudson Yards and Yorkville.

Chairwoman Torniali made a motion to adjourn; Vanessa Jones–Hall seconded. Meeting adjourned:  
7:27 pm