

Community Board 1, Queens – Board Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2018

Board Member Attendees: List attached

Opening: 6:40 pm

Chairwoman Marie Torniali opens the meeting; commended the Board Members for attending the meeting despite the weather; Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Public Hearing:

RoseMarie Poveromo, Chair of the Airport Committee welcomed Airport Committee, the LaGuardia Redevelopment Team, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, LaGuardia Gateway Partners, Delta Airlines and Skanska-Walsh.

Richard Smyth, Budget Executive of LaGuardia Redevelopment Team presented an updated photo and plans regarding the next phase of the redevelopment. He described the project state of the art.

- New parking garage at the airport opened in February, 2018. He indicated the Main building steel skeleton is underway and will be the head house for Terminal B, for arrivals and departures and that most of the restaurant concessions will be in that area. They are starting to enclose the building and should be done by the year end.
- The first major terminal phase will be ready this coming fall.
- The airport will have 9 miles of new roadway and elevated structures and should be completed within 4-6 months.
- The Air Train is in the planning stage and will start an environmental review process, which will be performed by the FAA.

Tony Vero, Deputy General Manager of LaGuardia Airport reiterated Richard Smyth's presentation. He advised the following:

- They are spending \$2-3 million a day on construction which requires a lot of vehicle activity; bringing in material getting rid of debris.
- Still operating the airport on full schedule; 1,200 planes a day taking off and landing. This is going to be an \$8 billion dollar Redevelopment Program.
- They have an active traffic plan in place.
- They are gathering up flight arrival and departure info, hour by hour, during the course of the day to keep the traffic going.
- They are providing a 3,100 space parking garage for Airline Managers and Customers.
- Customers who want car service can walk a short distance through a covered terminal to meet their ride.
- They are providing 1,600 spaces for employee parking. They are also providing dedicated shuttle buses to get employees to their destinations.

Shanel Thomas also gave an update:

- MWBE (Minority Women in Business Enterprises).
- This program has been awarded 413 Contracts at approximately \$617 million dollars and 116 contracts worth \$60 million dollars.
- MWBE will be hosting events and offering opportunities to minority woman in business.
- Delta and LaGuardia Gateway Partners are committed to at least one event per month.

- There are employment opportunities provided on a regular basis; they are hiring various positions at the airport.
- Every Wednesday between the hours of 10:00 am - 2:00 pm anyone can go and apply for employment.
- This summer they will be working with HANAC and will be hiring High School and College Students to work on the Redevelopment Program.
- Queens based artists are welcome to display their art at the main terminal.

RoseMarie Poveromo, Chair of the Airport Committee is concerned about the Air Train and how it will affect Ditmars.

Richard Symth: Train will not go to Ditmars Blvd. by the houses on the north side that face the Grand Central Parkway. They are looking at riding alongside the GCP, moving further north towards the water, away from the homes.

RoseMarie Poveromo: Please keep in mind wherever, whatever the route, do not bring close to the residents.

Hersh Parekh, representative of Governor Cuomo's office advised that there is, in fact, a multi-million dollar bucket of money to set up different programs to help the residents around the airport and will give an update by the next Board Meeting, or the September meeting.

RoseMarie Poveromo: If you have money, this money should be spent on replacing the windows and doors for people who suffer from noise and fumes going into their homes. Also, no one is addressing the problem of fumes excreting from every single airplane.

Elected Officials:

Joe Nocerino had 2 announcements:

- The Borough President's Office will be giving awards for Board Members who have served 5 years and 10 years on June 27, 2018 at 5:00 pm.
- On May 24, 2018 the Borough President's Office is hosting the Annual Memorial Day Observance at Borough Hall in the garden, which starts at 11:00 am.

Andy Aujla, Chair of Consumer Affairs, gave his Committee Report:

- May Liquor Licenses and Sidewalk Cafes;
- There was a lengthy meeting regarding Don Coqui and XL35 35, XL35 35 was disapproved because the Committee was advised they were operating as a strip club and other unfavorable reports have been received.
- 2 Enclosed Cafés Lite Bites and Sac's Place. They both agreed to continue their operations as they had been.

Motion to approve, all of the above except XL35 35 by Andy Aujla; seconded by Jean Marie D'Alleva
Show of Hands: Unanimous

Andy Aujla also spoke about a new establishment, 3635 LIC Development LLC d/b/a The Arc, which will be opening at 36-30 36th Street a/k/a 36-35 35th Street, Long Island City, NY 11106.

Representatives of The Arc, John Belitsky, Rich Pawelczyk, James Heinema and Marc Rosenkilde, presented their business model to the Board:

This is a new Cultural and Music Venue that will open at the above location. The Concert Hall will hold up to 1,600 people, the café will hold a maximum of 389 people and the Recording Studio will hold up to 45 people.

- Alan Boss, together with John Belitsky, Michael Duncan and Rich Pawelczyk, are in the midst of creating The Arc, a community of music lovers, musicians, film artists, playwrights and artists of all kinds.
- This space will be the best in class performance, arts and cultural center in Long Island City.
- Entire premises is being built completely sealed from sound.
- Great means of designs with multiple entrances and exits.
- They have done a traffic study to minimize vehicles, pedestrian traffic, noise and light.
- The building is zoned as M11 and will have a Certificate of Occupancy once the construction is complete.
- They have been operating with a Temporary Use Permit and several artists have been working there for free.
- Their hours of operation will be 24/7.
- They will have 1 Security Guard for every 70 people; will have barricades; and will have proper screening procedures.
- They are located 1 ½ blocks away from public transportation.
- They will steer people to the subways and ensure minimal congregation.
- They reached out to all residences and commercial operators in the area and contacted the schools surrounding the area and are encouraging students to attend.
- They presented the Committee with a petition of signatures in favor of The Arc and spoke to at least 40-45 residents in the area who are supportive.

Questions/Answers with the Board:

Dan Aliberti: Since the Concert Hall will hold up to 1,600 people, will there be Electronic Rope for people with hearing aids?

Answer: They stated they will look into that.

Katerina Duarte: Do you know what percentage will be allocated to multi-media v. the venue and will you be open when you don't have any events?

Answer: The building will be open perpetually. Anyone can come to the stage to see what's going on. There is no distinction between performance and media. They will make sure that patrons are over a certain age. Café is like any restaurant/café; 110 seating and high tops.

Rod Townsend: Thinks this is a good opportunity economically for the neighborhood. He questioned if the Board could have a commitment, that you will put effort into hiring locally.

Answer: Yes. There will be at least 60 opportunities for many types of work at The Arc.

Amy Hau: How many concerts do you see in the next year?

Answer: I forecasted, what is a bullish forecast of, 110 performances in the first year.

Yawne Robinson: As an Administrator of one of the schools in the area she stated that the student area already has stressed over parking; need to emphasize parents pick up and drop off their children at school and also there are a lot of school buses. Be respectful and communicate with our schools, so we know how to conduct our children.

Answer: We will have schedule of events in advance that we will give you. Most of our programs will happen between 7:00 & 8:00 p.m. – if there is something going on that will create a change in traffic patterns we will address the issue.

Dominic Stiller addressed several concerns:

- Please don't park on sidewalk it is illegal;
- You need a very powerful HVAC System - make sure it is not loud; and
- Please don't have lights on your roof that shine on people's windows or backyard.

Answer: The HVAC System will be located on the north side of the building where there is no residential buildings. Lights at the premises are facing down over the doorway; not shining any lights in the direction of residents.

There was also was a discussion regarding bike parking and Chair Torniali commented that they might be able to park bikes on the curb area of the sidewalk.

Public Session Regarding The Arc:

There were several comments regarding The Arc from the public; some were in favor and some against. The ones in favor were enthusiastic about having the venue, where anyone could go and experience live performances and to be inspired by the artists; there is no other facility like this in Queens. Those residents/businesses against The Arc are concerned with parking, noise levels, congregating in front of the premises, altercations and drunkenness of patrons, as a Webster Hall like night club. There are 6 houses on that street, 2 apartment buildings with 25 units each; not the place for The Arc to be located.

Andy Aujla, Chair of Consumer Affairs Committee: The Committee deliberated to decide what is best for the community. The Committee decided to unanimously approve the application with the Stipulations that The Arc maintain a valid Certificate of Occupancy, obtain proper permanent and Public Assembly Certificate with Health Department approval, the sale of alcohol at this establishment would cease by 4:00 am and various other stipulations as attached to the application. The Stipulations are very similar to ones that circulate with many establishments, so they will be cooperative with community and good neighbors.

In favor of Andy Aujla's motion to approve with Stipulations:
Show of Hands 28 in favor; opposed 4

New Topics:

Jessica representing River Parkland advised over the course of year and a half they have been working on a visioning plan for Flushing Bay and Flushing Creek in order to provide the community with more amenities for school trips. The air train would greatly impact both the bay and creek negatively and wishes to have more conversations with Community Board 1 in the near future.

Lynn Kennedy: Advised she had started working with a "Serious Fun" a youth program in 2008 with 13 students and now has over 800 students in 7 schools 3 of which are located in Astoria. Families that

qualify for financial assistance and free summer programs focuses on youth development for 50 children which will commence on July 9, 2018 through August 17, 2018.

Several residents of 38th Street and Ditmars Boulevard spoke to complain about Jack Jones Restaurant and Bar located at 38-01 Ditmars Boulevard. The establishment requested to put tables outside; there is not much of a sidewalk and the residents complain about, patrons yelling, people drinking and throwing up on the sidewalk. Chair Torniali asked the residents if the tables and chairs were already outside and they replied, no not yet. Jack Jones has put in an application for a sidewalk café and Chair Torniali stated when the Board receives the application, she will note the residents' comments.

Elizabeth Erion Co-Chair of the Land & Use Committee prepared an amendment to the Minutes of April 17, 2018 to clarify the Land Use & Zoning items which made it much shorter and much clearer.

Motion made by Ed Babor to approve the Minutes of April 17, 2018 with amendments. Motion seconded by Richard Khuzami.

Committee Reports:

Chair Torniali thanked all the Board Members for attending many Committee Meetings; koudos to all of the Members.

District Manager, Florence Koulouris made no report due to the late hour.

Richard Khuzami, Capital & Expense Planning Committee: He hopes all Members continue to come up with ideas for Capital & Expense items.

Rod Townsend, Co-Chair of Community & Economic Development advised the Committee had a productive meeting with Costa Constantinides regarding the overview of the economic situation of the neighborhood and the Committee will do a presentation in the near future and advised there will be a Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting on June 5th, 2018 and that all Board Members are invited.

Evie Hantzopoulos, Chair of the Housing Committee, advised that the Committee met on May 3, 2018 and that Jimmy Van Bramer presented the Sunnyside Yard Project and how it relates to housing and the impact on Astoria. She also talked about the \$400 tax rebate that home owners and condo owners who make under \$175,000.00 proposed to include in the City's budget. The Housing Committee made a motion to send a letter to Mayor's Office regarding the \$400 rebate.

All in favor of sending the letter: unanimous

Evie Hantzopoulos advised there will be a Committee Meeting on May 22, 2018 and a representative from HPD will attend and discuss a wide array of affordable housing programs.

Elizabeth Erion, Co-Chair of Land Use & Zoning advised the Committee is having a local area Public Hearing on May 24, 2018 at the Ravenswood Community Center for 2 applications:

- Rezoning of the Variety Boys and Girls Club; and
- New housing and development behind Ravenswood project.
- The Committee wants more information from the residents themselves.
- Surveys still live and received over 100 responses.

Nancy Silverman, Chair of Parks/Recreation/Cultural, advised there are several items to vote on:

- Chappetto Square - The Committee met and saw presentation of renovations and voted unanimously to send a letter to the Parks Department to advise that the Parks/Recreation/Cultural Committee approved the plans.

Nancy Silverman made a motion to approve the letter to be sent to the Parks Department. Ed Babor seconded the motion. Unanimous.

- The Committee met with The Economic Development Corporation to review the Kayak Launch and new Ferry Dock. They presented a conceptual plan that was 40% complete. The committee liked the plan and voted unanimously to approve the 40% of the plan.

Nancy Silverman made a Motion to approve the 40% conceptual plan; Amy Hau seconded. Unanimous.

- The Parks/Recreation/Cultural Committee discussed being more proactive in the community, i.e., Committee to co-sponsor some events that is put on by the NYC Parks Department.
- The Committee would put Community Board 1's name on the event flyers;
- There would be no money and no commitment.
- The Committee would co-sponsor one event each season.
- The Committee received authorization from Borough Hall to go ahead with the Committee's plans.

Nancy made a motion that the full Board support the Parks/Recreational/Cultural Committee recommendation to be a co-sponsor of NYC Parks Department events in the local parks.

25 in favor – 3 opposed

Nancy Silverman then advised that a colorful mural is going to be painted at Steinway playground on or about June or July, 2018.

Antonio Meloni, Co-Chair of the Public Safety Committee advised the Committee is working with the 114th Precinct in doing background checks for new employees. The NY Anti-Crime Agency currently conducts background checks which have a 14 week turnaround. Antonio Meloni advised that there is a location 2 blocks from 114th Precinct that does background checks for new hires with a 1 week turnaround.

Andre Stith advised that Zone 126 is having its Annual Community Breakfast on May 22, 2018 at the Long Island City High School Football Field. Both local community business and elected officials usually attend and the culinary students at the High School prepare the food.

Ed Babor made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Andre Stith seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY BOARD 1, Queens

DATE 5/15/18

Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.
Rose Anne Alafogiannis	✓			Nancy Konipol		✓	E
George Alexiou	✓	✓		Jerry Kril		✓	
Daniel Aliberti	✓			Melanie La Rocca	✓	✓	
Loren Amor	✓			Frances Luhmann-McDonald	✓		
Avninder Aujla	✓			Hannah Lupien	✓		
Edward Babor	✓			Antonio Meloni	✓	✓	
Jose Batista	✓			Prabir Mitra	✓	✓	
Ann Bruno	✓			Eric Mouchette	✓		
Giselle Aida Burgess		✓		Stella Nicolaou	✓		
Edwin Cadiz	✓	✓		Norma Nieves-Blas		✓	E
Gerald Caliendo	✓			Mary O'Hara		✓	
Jean Marie D'Alleva	✓			Robert Piazza	✓	✓	
Antonella Di Saverio	✓			RoseMarie Poveromo	✓		
Katerina Duarte	✓			Yawne Robinson	✓		
Katie Ellman	✓			Thomas Ryan	✓	✓	
Elizabeth Erion	✓			Manuel Salce		✓	
Mackenzi Farquer	✓		E	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	✓		E	Rod Townsend	✓		
George Kalergios	✓			Judy Trilivas	✓		
Richard Khuzami	✓			Kathleen Warnock			E
Number Board Members Present <u>35</u>							
Present <u>35</u>				Absent <u>9</u>			
				Excused <u>6</u>			