

Community Board 1, Queens – Board Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2019

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

The Chairperson, Marie Torniali and the District Manager, Florence Koulouris announced to the Board Members that they have access to Wi-Fi.

Chair, Marie Torniali introduces the representative from the NYC Conflicts of Interest Board, Mr. Alex Kipp.

Presentation:

NYC Conflicts of Interest Board

Alex Kipp, Director of Education & Engagement, NYC Conflicts of Interest Board – Mentioned the handout everyone had in their folders. Asked if anyone has their own Twitter account. He said they have the best government Twitter account. He suggested they follow them on NYCCOIB. They have an enforcement unit and an advice unit. He mentioned that he will present them with 3 enforcement cases.

Case #1 - There was a DOE school teacher who owned his own house walked out and there was a Sanitation Inspector writing him a ticket for the sorting of the trash. The inspector tells him look I can't help you because it is already in the system. You will have to go through the appeals process like everyone else. The man has no access to a fax machine so he uses the fax machine at the school where he works. A personal fax on a government machine. He asked, do you think this is a violation yes/no? He responded that it is not a violation to use the fax. He uses the office coversheet government DOE letterhead. Using the coversheet is a violation. A warning letter is given to him about the violation. Just a reminder that the name of the Community Board and the resources of the Community Board are for the Community Board business. Official Community Board social media, any letterhead, etc. in the devotion of city business only.

Case # 2 - Parks Department - Cold February morning a Parks Supervisor walks into a breakroom. He says a pipe froze at his home and hopes it defrosts. Should it be a violation? No it is not. 2 hours later they were at his home trying to unfreeze the pipe because of his mention of the issue out loud. He misused his staff and was fined \$2,000.00. Cannot use staff to do anything personal. It also extends to the gifts conversation. There is a \$5 gift rule acceptance. There is a \$50.00 valuable gift rule, not supposed to accept a gift from a person doing business or seeking business with the City.

Case # 3 - Staten Island – A school a couple of years ago that received a gift from Six Flags. They gave the school 400 season tickets to the school, for the kids. An Assistant Principal from the school took 100 tickets. 50 to his family and 50 went to his brother who sold them on EBay. He was prosecuted for misusing DOE resources and paid a \$20,000 penalty. It was \$8,000 worth theft. Most basic violation.

Mr. Kipp said they were moving onto the Voting Review – Community Boards always need advice when they can vote or not? The 3 D's: Disclose, Discuss and Do Not Vote. The operative concept is there is a direct benefit for you, the business you own or the business you work at. An example, if my Pizzeria is asking for a zoning variance. Can I vote on my own zoning variance? The answer given is No. What if another pizzeria is opening in the neighborhood and they need a permit of some sort so they are a competitor, can I vote? Answer is yes. I cannot vote on a Direct Effect. About 10 years ago in Queens there was a big zoning change which affected thousands of properties some board members owned apartments and they asked if they can vote and the answer was yes because it was also affecting a massive amount of other people, it was defused. A person that works for DOE, one of the things the Conflicts of Interest are supposed to protect the integrity protection of votes that happen at the community board. That is tough when they work for a city agency. If I am a DOE employee if any comes up for a DOE school related use 3 D's: Disclose, Discuss and Do Not Vote. Board of Directors for a Not-for-Profit – you do not have a paid position, you have a trust obligation with them, a legal obligation under state law, a fiduciary. Because you have a trust obligation you have a conflict, you need to use the 3 D's directly effects the not-for-profit where you serve. A variance,

a grant an actual benefit. Vote tabulations how does the Conflicts of Interest affect that. Quorum 50% + 1 - 26 show up, how many votes to pass an item 13 + 1. When a person has to use the 3 D's you are not eligible to vote. When a person is eligible you can vote 3 ways – yes, no or abstain. Vote must have to have more yes votes to pass the item. In this case with 26 people you need to have 14 yes' the other 12 can be combinations. 26 people in the room but 3 need to use the 3 D's they can stay for the discussion but they cannot vote yes, no or abstain for cause only 23 people who can vote on the issue. On the second issue how many yes votes to pass that, you need 12 but quorum is maintained. He asked if there are any questions.

Nancy Silverman, Board Member – She asked if someone has to abstain, has a conflict they should not be voting at all.

Mr. Kipp responded within the confines of Chapter 68 of the City Charter. If there is something that you are not legally entitled to vote on because you have Conflict of Interest then you should disclose the conflict. Whatever it is you put down as whether you putting it as Abstaining for Cause or ineligible vote it cannot count in the vote count with the yes votes. Chair Torniali indicated that CB 1 notes that as “Not Voting for Cause”.

Nancy Silverman, Board Member – She said when the votes are recorded there should be nothing.

Mr. Kipp replied yes, that is correct. You can call it something else so that it does not get confused. Not to be counted, not part of the tally as the Chair clarified.

Thomas Ryan, Board Member – He said if the meetings start with quorum and people leave. What do we do then? Established can business be done?

Mr. Kipp responded he does not know the answer. He would love to know if the Queens Borough President's office has given someone this information. He said that if there are 26 people in the room, quorum is established. If 3 people have Conflicts of Interest and they stay in the room to discuss although 23 is below the threshold 50% +1, quorum is still maintained because they are still in the room. What happens if you have 26 people, it is end of the night and 5 people of have left, there are 21 people they have 3 issues to discuss but they do not have quorum. That is someone to discuss with the Queens Borough President's Office.

There were a couple of Community Board Members that violated the Gifts Ban. There was one in particular in Manhattan for a membership at a club. It was a big case because the membership costs thousands of dollars a year. There was another case, Mattress Gate. They gifted the Community Board Members and the District Manager mattresses and box springs.

Call them for advice, they provide it confidentially, it is free of charge. They can also give you an answer in writing if you request it.

Marie Torniali, Chair thanked him.

The Chair asked if any elected officials/representatives wanted to address them.

Elected Officials/Representatives:

Joe Nocerino, Queens Borough President's Office – Queens Borough President sends her regards welcomes everyone back and hopes that you all had a great summer. There is an Awards Dinner on October 2nd for 5&10 years or more. You should have received a letter the doors open at 5 p.m. dinner will be served and are allowed 2 guests please RSVP to his office. There is a Newsletter that he provided. He also announced a Town Hall on Thursday, September 26th with Elmhurst Hospital on Opioid overdose crisis, public education and responder training.

Robert Piazza, Board Member – He asked can the guests join them for dinner.

Joe Nocerino – He responded, yes.

Kathleen Warnock, Board Member – Asked when is the Borough President being sworn in as District Attorney?

Joe Nocerino – He responded she must win in November in order to be sworn into office.

Daniel Banthius, Operations Coordinator, Caseworker and Field Representative for Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez – The congresswoman finished the summer recess last week and just got back to D.C. The Congresswoman is very proud of a few legislative priorities over the summer. She is proud to be a lead sponsor of fair chance housing act which amends the quality housing and work responsibility act of 1998 by rolling back screening and eviction policies to reduce homelessness and help ex-offenders find stable housing. Gun violence are taking far too many lives in our country. The Democrats are trying to put more pressure. She co-sponsored legislation to enforce background checks close the Charleston Loop Hole and prevent individuals with a history of domestic violence access to guns. On the Oversight Committee she was able to question the Acting Director of the FBI on the growing threat of White Supremacy. In regards to the helicopter flight patterns over Astoria in partnership with Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas' office they issued a letter to the FAA asking them to reevaluate the Throgs Neck flight path which goes over Astoria and to take into consideration the health effects, noise pollution and safety concerns. They have not heard anything yet but he will keep everyone updated. Over the summer recess they held a number of public events and 2 town halls, 1 on immigration and 1 on public housing as well as constituent meetings and visits to community events. He thanked RoseMarie for hosting the memorial event on the 12th and said it was lovely. They sent the summer newsletter. If anyone wants to receive it there is a sign-up sheet as well as extra copies on the table. Also follow their office on social media at: repaoc on all platforms. Their office can assist constituents with any federal issues which includes immigration social security and other concerns with federal government services. Caseworkers are available from 9-5 every weekday for walk-ins at the office you can also submit a request on their website or call the office. They just recently compiled the metrics from their first 200 days of this term. They opened over 518 cases so far this year, and closed 384 of them. He ended by saying he would be happy to answer any questions and thanked everyone.

Chair Torniali asked him to give the office number

Mr. Banthius stated their telephone number is: 718-662-5970.

Nicholas (Nick) Roloson, Chief of Staff to Council Member Costa Constantinides – He announced first that with the fall season it is the beginning of the participatory budgeting in their office. For those you don't know what participatory budgeting is, it is a process by which they take some city capital dollars and they allow the public to decide how to spend that money. In the spring time they hold a vote in the community on which projects will best served the neighborhood. If you are interested in participating you can go to: pbnyc.org and there is an idea map. They will be going to high schools and civic associations or you can also call their office. Council Member Constantinides is the Chair of the Environmental Protection Committee in the Council. This month is climate month they are working on a lot of projects. Next week they are going to have a very busy week, they are going to be hearing a lot of bills about Asthma and the air quality. If you have any opinions on that please attend the hearing or feel to reach out to their office. They are also going to be announcing some great green infrastructure projects in Astoria some of them are underway and they are very excited about it. They are also going to talk about the future of Con Edison. They have had a lot of issues with them, particularly here in the neighborhood so they will have a conversation at the end of climate week as to what Con Edison looks like moving forward in the city. Asked if anyone had questions.

Deborah Tharrington – She stated if you go on the PB NYC Map, you need to know what district you are in.

He responded, yes, you need to know the district, if you live in Council Member Costa Constantinides' district, it is District 22 and Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer is District 26.

Antonella Di Saverio, Board Member- She mentioned some green initiatives in our area and asked him to briefly touch on that front.

Mr. Roloson said a lot of that will be related to increasing our solar capacity in the neighborhood using some of our school buildings.

Antonella Di Saverio – She asked, is that only for DOE schools or will it apply to charter schools as well?

He responded right now only DOE schools and told her if she had any concern about a charter school they would love to hear it? He thanked everyone.

She responded that she would follow up with that.

Chair Marie Torniali thanked him. She then Motioned to adopt the June 2019 Minutes.

Motioned by Ed Babor; Seconded by Andre Stith

Chair Report:

Chairperson Marie Torniali –

She announced that there is a Draft of the Capital & Expense in the folders and that they will be voting on it in October. Next year they plan to build on this year's process and have a concrete date when any capital and expense ideas need to be in the office so they can forward it to the committee and then they can have a list in September and then look it over and then decide what priorities are. It is a work in progress thank you for your patience and comments. There will be a couple of additions to what they have. They will try to get the additions prior to next month.

Nancy Silverman asked if individuals will forward them to the Chair and then they will be forwarded to the committee or to Florence.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – She responded that they can forward directly to the committee with a copy to the office.

Nancy Silverman asked if anyone, even if not on the Committee, can make suggestions.

The Chair responded, yes.

Nancy Silverman asked when the suggestions will go to the Committees.

Chairperson said they started working on this in June. Next year they will set a date. It should be in to the Committee by September 1st. By the September Board meeting everything should be ready to be looked over.

Nancy Silverman asked if she had a suggestion for a specific Committee but they are not scheduled to have a meeting, for example for this year.

The Chair said for next year they will pick a concrete date. For this year it is late. The deadline for this year was September 13th.

RoseMarie Poveromo commented, what should be clarified is if someone has a suggestion, it should go to Florence first.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – She clarified that it should always be sent to the office whether directly or copied. Apparently they did not send out enough reminder, next year they will send more reminders.

Nancy Silverman said she sent a suggestion before the deadline and was not told about the meeting

Florence Koulouris said the meeting was being scheduled as her suggestion came in. Durst wanted the meeting in June because their representative is traveling overseas. Dates were being worked on with the representative.

Nancy Silverman – She asked how far in advance members are notified of a Committee meeting.

Florence Koulouris – She responded that the notifications are sent out 5 to 7 business days prior.

Nancy Silverman – She said the official notification did not go out.

Marie Torniali – The Chair stated she feels 2 weeks is a better number.

Bob Piazza, Board Member – He said when Capital and Expense comes up as a senior member what do you have for transportation? I know what is going on in my neighborhood with transportation. The Board has to understand that

we all have a responsibility for all of our individual neighborhoods. If you have something that you think should be happening or a change, whatever the issue may be you have to bring it to us through Florence so that we can present that. It applies to everything, a park in your neighborhood, an environmental problem brought to the Community Board I know as a Chair of Transportation that is a difficult thing to come up with.

Marie Torniali – The Chair said Nancy and other board members are doing that. Timing is the question.

Bob Piazza, Board Member – He said last year he received nothing for Capital and Expense for suggestions.

Katerina Duarte – She said, following up on that, since she is a new Community Board member. Now that Bob is bringing it to her attention I actually have a lot of issues in her community. Asked if there is a summary posted on line of what each committee does? Questioning if any committees give summaries.

Marie Torniali, Chair – She responded, we can formulate something.

Nancy Silverman, Board Member – She said when Richard Khuzami was Chair of the Parks Committee, he always held a meeting to specifically talk about the budget, Capital and Expense. It should be a requirement that prior to the deadline all the Committees meet and others can join and give their ideas as well. She made a suggestion for a Protected Bike Lane on Crescent Street. Questioning “new” items on the Capital and Expense list.

Marie Torniali, Chair – She clarified the new items were requested by agencies.

Vanessa Jones-Hall – Stated that she has always received communications from all of the Committees regarding their Capital and Expense. Vanessa stated she received communications for meetings. She said she disagrees that the Committees are not communicating. She stated meetings did occur last year and notices went out in the mail and by email. The agendas stated all interested Board Members may attend.

Nancy Silverman – Stated that the Transportation Committee has not met since January.

Marie Torniali, Chair – She responded they did not have a need to meet. Chair asked all the Board Members if they received the Transportation Committee meeting Agenda mailing.

Everyone in the room replied, yes.

Stella Nicolaou – She stated, the Board Office goes out of their way to alert all Board Members not only receive the Memos in the mail but also receive them via email. If you cannot attend you can forward the information to Florence, their suggestions, to pass along to the Chair of the Committee. The office goes beyond their call of duty. I get everything.

Dominic Stiller – He suggested to eliminate the mailing. Stated his main reason is that a few years ago with his busy schedule in trying to get to Committee meetings he suggested and would like to suggest again that having a standing Committee meeting for all the Committees would be proactive, right now it happening last minute, it is reactive. It can always be cancelled and we can be the best Community Board in Queens. 60 day standing meeting or cancel the meeting.

Thomas Ryan, Board Member – He feels like he gets excessive information and suspect they are duplicates. He also stated that the memos are addressed to the Committee & All Interested Board Members. They also indicate you should call to let them know you are attending the meeting.

Thomas Ryan – He stated, to have meetings every 60 days for every Committee is too much when most have other meetings to attend. If you have the option and you want to get involved then you make the choice to attend them when they are scheduled.

Judy Trilivas, Board Member – She suggested that there be a sub-committee that looks at the process so that they can streamline it. Then they can come up with suggestions to recommend for the Board Members to vote on.

Chair Torniali thanked her.

Kathleen Warnock, Board Member – She agreed with Ms. Trilivas. There should be a sub-committee on Communications and would like to work with them if they put that committee together to help out the best ways for them to utilize their time and best ways to receive communications.

Dino Panagoulis – He stated he agreed with Dominic's suggestion because he works at the DOE, he has standing meetings with about 150 individuals that have go to the meeting or do not go. Knowing that you have a meeting whether it is in 30 or 60 days in advance helps. If he does not need the meeting for whatever reason then an email can be sent cancelling it.

Rod Townsend, Board Member – He made a motion that this proposed Communications committee convene to discuss this topic further.

Seconded by Andre Stith

District Manager Report:

District Manager, Florence Koulouris – Provided a power point guide of the website. She stated that all of the meetings and agendas are posted on the website under each Committee. She stated that she will give them an oversight of the Community Board 1, Queens' website. She shared that Community Board 1, Queens is the only Community Board that have the Zoning Resolution books posted on their website. She showed the Board members the useful links area with its content.

Ms. Koulouris also shared that she updates Facebook and Twitter for the Full Board meetings as well as LinkNYC located in the communities' streets. The Programs & Initiatives listed at the bottom of the page has a view all button which will take you to every program NYC has and offers. On the last page under resources a new booklet has been posted for Capital and Expense to help you understand the budget. Unfortunately the internet has stopped working. *Due to a technical malfunction, she was unable to finish her presentation but will continue at another time.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – She thanked Florence and mentioned that she has put a lot of work into the website. She also said that she is proud of it and added that she should be.

Florence Koulouris – Stated that the website is a tool for the Board Members, to make their job easier, have immediate access and to do everything we can to be transparent as well as trying to get the word out to the Community that we are here and everything is accessible to them.

Committee Reports:

RoseMarie Poveromo, Chair, Airport Committee – No report.

Thomas Ryan, Co-Chair, Community & Economic Development Committee – He attended the Sunnyside yards master planning meeting. The 3rd Public Meeting at Aviation High School. They provided brochures. There was a rally which he found it very difficult to hear the presentation and gather the information.

Andy Aujla, Chair, Consumer Affairs Committee – Started by saying he hoped everyone had a good summer. He mentioned that there are three (3) spread sheets for July, August and September and would give them a few minutes to review. He mentioned that they do have regularly scheduled meetings, generally, once a month. They were able to handle business without having a committee meeting over the summer break. He thanked the Committee members who attend the meetings, he appreciates it. If you would like to learn more or join the Committee please see him. The businesses that applied for licenses and all of the applications on the spreadsheets were reviewed with the 114th Precinct. If something pops up on the radar or if you have a complaint please let the Board office know. Generally the 114th Precinct provides their stats. Requested a Motion to approve the stipulations unless someone has a question first.

The Chair, Marie Torniali pointed out that two of them indicate stipulations served and only one stipulations complete. Please define the difference to the Board.

Andy Aujla responded generally they serve a stipulation and they are standard stipulations which all the members of the Board have seen and can provide them with a copy if necessary. He explained what the stipulations state. Sometimes they do not get them back in time before the meeting. He asked for a motion to approve these applications.

Motioned by Rose Anne Alafogiannis; Seconded by Antonella Di Saverio

All in favor with a show of hands.

Antonella Di Saverio, Chair, Environmental Protection Committee – Shared that Richard Khuzami had the Old Astoria Neighborhood Community meeting (OANA). She said that she and Vanessa attended. One of the speakers was the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). He did a presentation and said there was a big problem with Fatbergs which is when people throw out grease, q-tips, baby wipes, and such causing a huge clog in the sewer system and causing the city a huge cost and costing us as tax payers. She asked that everyone should be mindful of it. The DEP has been scheduled to meet with the Environmental Committee on October 17th, waiting for confirmation from the Board Office.

Judy Trilivas, Co-Chair, Health & Human Services Committee – No report. She welcomes Capital & Expense ideas.

Elizabeth Erion, Co-Chair, Land Use & Zoning Committee – (City Planning representative was unable to attend.) Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS) overview on September 4th non ULURP Text Amendment for comment. Provisions signage and amenities in community's private spaces – would update POPS symbol it requires signage to describe POPS – updates design standards public access tables and chairs in arcades. It requires the signage to describe the open space/arcades. Public open spaces (POPs) available for zoning regulations (there was a contest for symbol of signage). It will public/private open space circulation. Publicly moveable tables and chairs shown where not currently allowed. This will apply to new developments in certain areas. Updates pedestrian flow of the spaces. Background of POPs the builder will gain additional zoning area or waivers space for providing the POP. The new rules do not apply to privately owned open spaces in CB1. However, 32-01 Vernon is providing an open space, though, and will be govern by this text. The graphic is 3 chairs the graphic for this item use to be a tree no public vote required. Show of hands to let the commission know we have no objection.

Dominic Stiller, Board Member - Did it touch on owner closing a space indefinitely during construction? Did it strengthen or weaken that?

Elizabeth Erion - Only certain provisions shown. Don't recall reading that.

Show of hands, had no objections - Unanimous

Dino Panagoulis, Board Member – He stated clarification on voting due to lack of the information provided.

Liz Erion – Explained City Planning was to attend and that each item is reviewed thoroughly at the committee level prior to Board presentation she explained in depth the area review and considerations taken. She explained the full applications/text are on line at City Planning's website.

Dominic Stiller, Board Member - Is there a dead line on this?

The Chair/Elizabeth Erion stated the end of month. Text amendments are non ULURP sent out to Community Boards for citywide issue for 45 days for comments and position on item.

Nancy Silverman, Chair, Parks/Recreation/Cultural Committee – She stated that at the standing meeting they met with the Parks Department. She said due to holidays there are a few changes to the next committee meetings, for October there will be no meeting and the November standing meeting has to be rescheduled to November 13th. The standing meeting is held the 2nd Monday of every month, if you would like to join them. At the last standing meeting the Queens Parks Commissioner Mr. Michael Dockett attended the meeting. She said he answered all their questions, gave them information and, it was really interesting to get to know him. She also shared that he is now in this position for about 6 months, it is a transition period. She stated that the Commissioner has been working for Parks for a very long time but is learning the Queens Borough parks he does not just focus on our district. It was a very productive meeting. She said that Shirley, Manager for Western Queens parks as well as Sara, who works for Partnerships for

Parks have been attending the meetings. They attend the meetings because they answer all sorts of questions and they work their schedules around the standing meetings. In addition, they discussed budget items with the Commissioner, they discussed Capital items. They did not get to discuss Expense items. As a Committee they voted unanimously to put forward the renovation of Steinway Playground which will include a dog run or dog park, a community gardens/gardening spaces. Also over the summer on behalf of the Community Board they sponsored 3 events, a movie night at Paul Raimonda Park, Senior Stars for the Astoria Performing Arts Center and the Ballet Folklore at Socrates Sculpture Park. They will also be co-sponsoring or sponsoring coming up at Socrates Sculpture Park the Flux Factory Take Over and asked if someone would like to volunteer for that event and thanked everyone who volunteered over the summer even those that are not on the Committee. The Flux Factory event is on Saturday, October 19th.

Marie Torniali, Chair – Asked if the Commissioner gave her an update on Playground 35 or Dutch Kills restrooms?

Nancy Silverman said the Commissioner said to check the website, the Capital Tracker. The Capital Tracker says it will be open/done in November. Playground 35 has been closed for a very long time.

Tony Meloni, Co-Chair, Public Safety – Started by sharing there is crime in 114th Precinct. He said that during the summer, crime went down. There was a murder on Steinway and a gun point robbery. The precinct is actually seeing crime going down. He reminded everyone that Next week is 114th Community Council will have a meeting, he said Ann Bruno is the Chairwoman for a number of years. He said the Inspector gives them information and what is going on in the Community.

Stella Nicolaou – She said that Astoria went up to 300% in crime.

Tony Meloni – He said a lot of times the information is not accurate. The media is not always correct. You can ask the Inspector for the correct percentage. Burglaries have gone up in Astoria. The numbers have been at an all-time low so the increase seems significant.

Bob Piazza, Co-Chair, Transportation Committee – He announced they are having a meeting with Durst on September 25th concerning Halletts Point, all are welcome. He said the East side access was supposed to be finished in 2015 and they just extended it to 2022. All they are doing is completing the last part of it going to the Grand Central. If you have a problem in your area, please bring it to him or to Florence, especially when it is a severe problem. He shared that he physically goes out to look at the sites/areas that are a problem.

Andre Stith, Chair, Education/Library/Youth Services Committee – He shared that being Chair of the Education/Library/Youth Services Committee means a lot to him. He will get together with the Committee and will set a meeting date.

Public Comment:

Solomon, Organizer, Vocal – NY – Civil Rights organization for Queens. Started by saying, Please check them out on Twitter, they have been around for 20 years. He is reporting about public safety specifically what is happening in public housing regarding residents describing terrorism on behalf of the Police Department. Police accountability in public housing, it is not being addressed. He announced that there was a Civilian Complaint Review Board, Queens meeting that took place last Thursday. He asked if anyone wants to become engaged with the relationship with the Police Department, he has a clipboard to sign-up and he can speak with them.

Thomas Odermatt – He said he is from Tom's Pet Supply. He shared he is an Astoria resident his whole life and wanted to introduce himself to the Community. He said when Petland Discount closed down, they left hole in the Community. He caters to all animals. They do a lot of free adoption events. They have one on the 27th of this month if you are looking to adopt. They do not sell cat or dogs. They plan on having education programs for kids soon.

Chair Torniali welcomed him and asked where they are located.

Mr. Odermatt said they are located at 21-11 Broadway in the Broadway shopping center. He said he can take special requests and is here for the Community.

James Collins – Announced he is an organizer for Rank the Vote New York City. Voters will have the opportunity to update and reform our local elections by voting “Yes” on 1 and bringing Ranked Choice Voting to New York. They will be able to vote for multiple candidates. You can talk to him and he has more information.

Kathleen Warnock – She said as an Astorian, she wants to publicly recognize the Astoria Performing Arts Center (APAC) for their continuing outstanding work. This past summer they presented 3 full productions, free of charge. The Senior Stars production featured Astoria residents singing and dancing. Community Board 1 tabled it. Astoria Stories a Cabaret by and about Astorians. APAC continues to offer some of the finest independent theater in the city. Please support APAC and its continuing work.

Shruti Murti, United States Department of Commerce Census Bureau – She said they are engaging a Partnership outreach program for 2020 Census. In 2010 they did a Pilot Program and it was quite successful. She is working with various Community Boards in Queens to do outreach and how to spread the word about the Census because Queens was severely undercounted last census and we cannot afford that. There is \$675 billion in federal funding that can be lost if undercounted (not accurate count) you will lose congressional representation which we can't afford. Lose funding for schools roadways infrastructure police fire departments everything a lot of our youth seniors are undercounted. Would love to work with you to spread the word. You can respond on-line, by the phone or traditionally by mailing it in. All information is safe, sworn to confidentiality. It is not shared with anyone, any other agency or law enforcement entity. They assure citizens that their responses are crucial, it is safe and easy. Please help her help the Community.

Rod Townsend – He asked Florence if the Census link is accessible on website. If not to please put it on.

Florence Koulouris – Responded, she is sure it is on but would check.

Robert Piazza asked her if she can work with a non-profit.

Ms. Murti – Responded she would be happy to and is working with anyone that wants to work with her, non-profits, schools and libraries. She would be happy to speak with anyone that wants further information.

Margaret Rodgers – She said she is a resident of Astoria and a member of Justice for All Coalition. There are important housing issues. One is the Sunnyside Yard Development Project. She was not one of the protestors but wished she was. The seriousness and need to resist this project, it is a boondoggle for developers. Nothing for the community. It is important. Secondly a word of our activities with NYCHA and make residents aware of RAD, Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) move to privatize NYCHA is really serious and dangerous. We have 3 major developments here in Astoria, Queensbridge, Ravenswood and Astoria Houses. Does not have fliers but there is a Community meeting on this on September 30th at Ravenswood.

Murray Abeles – He said he is a Queens resident. He is Chief of Administration and Finance, NYC Kids RISE – they work in District 30 exclusively in partnership with the city and the Board of Education to run the Save for college program it is an amazing program gives an opportunity for all the children to raise assets for their higher educational dreams. Every entering kindergarten student is automatically given \$100.00 scholarship in form of a 529 with their association with the Board of Education everyone who is enrolled in a Public School or in a Charter School all 39 schools in District 30 automatically gets it. They are in their 3rd year of the Pilot Program that means over 6500 first and second that have this \$100. It is to help families save money. The exciting part is that the community can come in and contribute to the scholarship accounts. In February, Seamless just did a round-up to donate to schools. They donated \$300,000 was deposited to our District. To date over \$1.1 million has been deposited to accounts and parents have been able to raise \$750,000. He thanked, for their support, Council Member Costa Constantinides, Assembly Member Cathy Nolan and Andre Stith.

Katerina Duarte – Asked is Amazon Smile also one of the community builders?

Mr. Abeles responded, yes. On the smile platform anyone can use that is a registered non-profit.

Jean Marie D'Alleva, Board Member – Asked, why is it only limited to certain grades?

Mr. Abeles said it is a 3 year Pilot Program trying to get it right. They move up as the children move up. He also suggested that the children that are not able to join because they are in older grades to join the State 529 Plan. He has more information and is available.

Kathleen Warnock – Asked what can we do to continue this and what can you do?

Mr. Abeles said they received a \$10 billion grant from the Grey Foundation. It is a public private partnership. The idea is not to be only in District 30, they want to expand.

Victor Chu, said he is a resident and has lived here for 5 years. He said the noise that comes from Astoria Park has been increasing. This year it has been terrible, the loitering, stereos and cars racing down the street. He mentioned a New York Times article that says it is an ongoing problem since 2002. He also played an audio clip of how loud it gets. He requested suggestions from the Board Members.

The Chair suggested he call the office and speak with Florence the District Manager. She also suggested that the go to the next 114th Precinct Council Meeting.

Ann Bruno – She gave him the date and place of the next meeting.

Mark Papish, Director of Community Affairs, Assembly Member Brian Barnwell's Office – He said they are having their 3rd Annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration coming up on the 27th at Topaz, from 6-8 p.m. located at 55-03 39th Avenue. Inviting everyone to join them. They had the first meeting since June, in June they had Legislative Session passed new rent laws and the MCI Bill and security deposit reform. They encourage if anyone has comments or concerns please call the office. There are a lot of housing issues, there are 976 open violations looking to address that in the State level. You can call them at 718-651-3185 and ask for Mark.

Antonio Meloni, Executive Director of the Immigration Advocacy Services – He mentioned the Save-the-Date card for their 30th Anniversary on Saturday, October, at 6 p.m. at Riccardo's honoring Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Assembly Member Aravella Simotas, and Borough President Melinda Katz.

James Furey – He said he lives between 34th & 35th Avenues, 5 days a week PS 166 has a street closure so there is no street cleaning. He also said he has a 2nd issue, the school acquired barricades and block the traffic and leave them in the street all year round.

The Chair suggested he call the office and speak with the District Manager and she will be in touch with Sanitation and to mention the barricades.

Donal Cogdell – Director for Justice for Hope Astoria – He said the church has about 250 diverse members and that care about the Community. They are looking to serve and be a partner of community the best they can. They are going to do a series of Town Halls. Will start on November 13th. The theme will be about families and all the things that impact families. We want the Community to come out, he has fliers.

Richard Khuzami, OANA – He said he wanted to thank the Community Board, Councilman Costa Constantinides and the Sanitation Commissioner, Nicole Garcia regarding establishing the street cleaning in Old Astoria. He said on September 16th it was initiated.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson Motioned to Adjourn

Motioned by Ed Babor; Seconded by Jean Marie D'Alleva

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 p.m.

COMMUNITY BOARD 1, Queens

DATE 9/17/19

Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.
Rose Anne Alafogiannis	✓			Jerry Kril	✓		
George Alexiou	✓			Joel Lock		✓	
Daniel Aliberti	✓			Hannah Lupien	✓	✓	
Loren Amor	✓			Jeffrey Martin	✓	✓	
Avninder Aujla	✓			Antonio Meloni	✓		
Edward Babor	✓			Prabir Mitra	✓		
Jose Batista	✓			Eric Mouchette			E
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	✓			Yawne Robinson		✓	
Elizabeth Erion	✓			Thomas Ryan		✓	
Mackenzi Farquer	✓			Rodolfo Sarchese	✓		E
Dean Feratovic	✓		E	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>38</u>							
Present <u>38</u>				Absent <u>8</u>			
				Excused <u>3</u>			