



ELIZABETH BRATON
Chairperson

COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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KARYN PETERSEN
District Manager

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

March 7, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: L. Amorim, N. Bissoon, B. Braton, J. Calcagnile, J. Caruso, M. Cherenfant, R. Ciulla-Frisone, A. Cosentino, F. Dardani, I. Dimoh, E. Fraylon, A. Gellineau, R. Gendron, P. Granickas, B. Lall, N. Latchana, A. Maharaj, R. Martinez, F. Mohamed, S. Mohammed, R. Narine, A. Nocerino, P. Nostramo, S. Pace, J. Quijano, A. Rajnauth, K. Roan, N. Santiago, G. Singh, J. Stahl, I. Van Putten, L. Walker, D. Wesby

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: M. Amin, A. Dhanpat A. Deebrab, B. Escobar, J. Fazio, A. Hill, R. Hitlall, P. Kishun, K. Ludhiana, D. Mitchell, R. Ramgopal, B. Ramsundar, G. Russo, S. Uddin, M. Vecchio

COMMUNITY BOARD STAFF PRESENT: K. Petersen, D.M.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hon. J. Addabbo; C. Moore, rep., Hon. J. Addabbo; F. Sharif, rep., Hon. J. Sanders; T. Strong, Rep., Hon. R. Persaud; W. Bao rep., Hon. K. Anderson; M. Bernath, rep., Hon. S. Pheffer-Amato; T. Eason rep., Hon. A. Adams; A. Leguisamo rep., Hon. J. Ariola; D. Brown rep., Hon. M. Katz, DA; J. Mongeluzo, rep., NYC Comptroller; G. Katsalis, QBPO; A. Nurmansyah, QDCP; S. Zito rep., CAU; Lucille Songhai MTA, & MTA Qns. Bus Redesign Team; Capt. B. VanTull, C.O. 106 Pct.; P. O. Ree. 106 Pct; D. Tanis, rep., Resorts World; H. Rothkrug, Vassalotti Associates, Architects, LLP; C. Holmes, DPR; K. King, DPR

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 7pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairperson introduced Senator Addabbo and invited him to speak.

Senator Addabbo announced that on Tuesday, the Senate committee he chairs will meet to address problem gambling issues and concerns. He also announced that the Senate will be working on the budget during March and hopefully it will be completed by April 1st. Anyone that would like to weigh in on any issues may call his office. He thanked the MTA for their upcoming presentation later this evening and if anyone has any questions or concerns, they can always reach out to their elected officials.

The Chairperson then announced that there will be three Public Hearings this evening and then opened the first Public Hearing. Hiram Rothkrug from Vassalotti Associates, Architects, LLP was introduced to speak for the applicant regarding BSA Cal. 178-03 BZIV, an extension of term of a special permit action before BSA for the BP gas station located at 114-02 Van Wyck Expwy.

S. Pace arrived at 7:09 pm.

Mr. Rothkrug introduced himself and stated that the applicant has filed for a variance for the BP gas station at 114-02 Van Wyck Expwy. He stated that the site has been a gas station for 70 years. It has three different curb cuts, two on Linden Blvd. and one on the Van Wyck Expwy. Service Road. Over the years, the station has put in place certain safeguards such as lighting and makes sure that the fence is in good shape. They are asking for a ten-year extension with no changes at all to the existing variance.

The Chairperson asked if there were any members of the public who wished to ask a question or make a comment. Hearing none. The Chair then closed the public hearing.

The Chair asked if there were any Board Members with questions. Hearing none.

The Chair turned the next portion of the meeting over to the Land Use Committee Chair. The Land Use Chair stated that a Land Use Committee Meeting had been held, and the Committee reviewed the application extensively. The gas station is kept clean and neat, and they have consistently met the requirement for fencing and landscaping required by the existing variance that they seek to extend. There have been no complaints that have come into the Community Board Office regarding this location over the years.

The Land Use Chair asked for a motion to approve the variance. P. Granickas made the motion to approve. D. Wesby seconded the motion. The Board Chairperson asked for discussion. No one raised any issues.

The vote to recommend approval to BSA was all in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstaining. The motion carried.

The Chair announced that she assumes that most of the large group of people in attendance were here for the Bus Network Redesign and indicated there is a sign in sheet up front for anyone who would like to speak.

The Chairperson then opened the second Public Hearing regarding the MTA Queens Bus Redesign proposal.

The Chairperson introduced Lucille Songhai, the Assistant Director of Government and Community Relations for NYC Transit and invited her to speak.

Ms. Songhai introduced herself and her team and stated that the Q-10 bus stop at 130th Street & Sutter Avenue issue the Board has been working on with area residents has been looked at by MTA. She wanted to let the residents know that they have been heard. MTA appreciated their engagement regarding this particular stop. Ms. Songhai then informed the Board, and the residents present, that MTA is now planning to restore the bus stop. They will keep the Board updated as to where they are in the process to do that.

Ms. Songhai then continued with information on the Bus Redesign and explained that this plan was 5 years in the making and there has been a lot of revision since the draft that preceded this final proposal was reviewed. MTA's team is here tonight to listen and get further feedback. She added that they have also heard concerns about other stops that were changed and explained that the planners had to look at data, census information and the ridership.

Lucille Songhai introduced a member of the MTA Queens Redesign Team who would begin the Queens Bus Network Redesign Presentation. (Copies were provided to all.)

The Team Member stated that The Queens Bus Network is being redesigned because there are 113 existing routes that serve 800,000 customers on an average weekday and the proposal expands the number of routes to 121 in order to provide more reliable service, better connections, faster travel, and simplified service. It was explained there are 4 route types in the proposal:

Local routes that connect to local neighborhoods where frequencies vary from high to low depending on customer demand; Limited Routes that serve high demand corridors with frequent service 9-10 minutes or better between 6 am and 9 pm on weekdays; "Rush Routes" that connect outer-borough neighborhoods quickly to bus or subway hubs that are more frequent during peak hours and SBS or "Crosstown" routes that connect key destinations across a bigger distance that have all day frequent service where most routes are 10 minutes or better between 6 am and 9 pm on weekdays.

There will be key differences with the new Local Bus Network in Community District 10. The Q7 now connects 75 St. J/Z station and JFK Travel Plaza; the Q10 no longer is combined with the Q64; the Q11 now serves both Old and New Howard Beach on each trip; the Q37 now extends to Lefferts Blvd. Air-Train & is 24 hours; the Q41 service from Howard Beach to Jamaica is maintained; the Q51 now connects Rockaway Blvd. A station and Cambria Heights and the Q112 is no longer combined with the Q57.

The new Rush route provides faster and more direct service to the subway and Jamaica (Q9); the new Limited routes provide all day frequent service on major corridors with stops spaced slightly further apart than Local routes, providing fast consistent, and more reliable service, while complementing Rush routes (Q8, Q10, Q51); The new and modified Local and Limited routes expand the reach of the bus network, making it easier to travel through Queens and Brooklyn (Q7, Q8, Q112) and several Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign routes also improve these connections (B7, B 13, B55). Other routes are straightened, extended, realigned, or shortened to provide new connections and improve speed and reliability (Q7, Q8, Q9, Q10, Q11, Q37, Q41, Q112). The new express Bus Network in Community District 10 has minor bus stop balancing changes. The routes are color coded by Manhattan destination (3 Av, Madison Av, 6 Av, Downtown). Most express bus routes have minor frequency adjustments due to low ridership on some trips. All express bus routes maintain existing routing through Community District 10 (QM15, QM16, QM17, QM18).

She then turned the next portion of the presentation over to another member of the team, a transportation planner for the MTA. He introduced himself and spoke about how to read the route profiles. He stated that they include route identifiers, route names, certain statistics, and frequency. He continued that there is also a link to click online that will take you to the route. He also explained how to read the stop lists where it tells you the route and the stop name.

He then went on to describe individual routes within CB10. The Board Chairperson interjected that MTA had provided a 62-page presentation specific to all of the routes that service CB10. She thanked the MTA for providing it. She went on to say that it had been provided to all Board members and to the civics in the district so that the information could be widely shared. She informed all present that the Board could email it, or provide a hard copy, if necessary, to anyone upon request to our office.

Ms. Songhai informed all this project was 5 years in the making. The process started in late 2018 and there was an 18 month pause due to covid. MTA received over 11,000 comments from Queens bus riders and commuters on the draft proposal. MTA will continue doing outreach through the 2nd quarter of this year then will have a public hearing where there will be another opportunity for people to comment. Then there will be a final plan addendum that will go to the MTA Board for a vote.

The Board Chair stated that if anyone wants a copy of the presentation made by MTA at this meeting to call or e-mail CB 10 and it will be provided. For the benefit of those not present, who may be watching the meeting livestream, she added that we will accept any comments for the record of this CB10 hearing going forward by e-mail, regular mail or by phone. She continued that it is a lot of information to deal with and indicated that CB10 was not voting on this tonight. The Chair thanked the MTA for their presentation.

The Chair then began the public comment period regarding the Queens Bus Redesign proposal. She indicated that due to the number of speakers signed in to talk the 3-minute time limit would need to be strictly kept.

The following people spoke and/or asked questions:

David Kupferberg	Nia Rollins	Trinette Saliard
Kim Stephens Chamorro	Bianca Peebles	Donna Emanuel
Henry Chamorro	Pamela Soogrim	Andrea Masters
Kathleen Scullion	Nisha Laloo	Roseann King
Cinikka Wahab	Gail Toussaint	Dinah Isidor
Michelle Yaskel	Shayna Hewitt	Richard David
Allison Hinds	Gary Hewitt	

Ms. Songhai thanked everyone for coming out and stated that this is one of the largest group turnouts they've seen. She reiterated that this is a 5-year process and that they have to listen to the public and they appreciate their specific feedback. She stated that they will keep the Board updated on where they are in the process.

The Chair thanked all of the speakers who came out to share their concerns.

The Chair then turned the meeting over to the Chair of the Transportation Committee Chair. The Transportation Committee Chair wished everyone a good evening and thanked all of the Committee members who attended the Committee meeting regarding this proposal and thanked the residents who came out this evening for their input. She

stated that their voices have been heard and that CB 10 is your Board and that your Board is here for you. She continued that The Board and the Transportation Committee have also received written testimony, phone calls with opinions, and a petition. The reported written testimony has been received from the following individuals and organizations: Zaleema Shah, Mohammad Shaw, Kasrie Ibrahim, Deloris Severo, Bianca Peebles, Henry Chamorro, Raimondo Graziano, Darryl Wesby, Roger Gendron-New Hamilton Beach Civic Assn., Lawrence Hughes, and Tiffany Echevarria. All comments will be entered into the record of this public hearing.

The Chair stated that if there are any Board Members that may have questions to hold them until next month and the Transportation Committee will get follow up to get the response from the MTA.

The Chair thanked the Parks Department for their patience and then opened the third public hearing and introduced Clara Holmes from the NYC Parks Department to present on the Spring Creek North Ecosystem Restoration Project and invited her to speak.

Ms. Holmes introduced herself and stated that she is an ecologist with the Parks Department and that she is joined here tonight by her colleague, Kristi King. She provided the boundaries for Spring Creek North. The Board Chair clarified that the neighborhood vernacular for the area is "the weeds north" meaning it's the city-owned parkland north of the Belt Parkway. The southern part known as Spring Creek South is south of the parkway and is part of Gateway National Recreation Area.

Ms. Holmes continued that the park is currently not open to the public and that it is not changing. The project will include a partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers and DEP in which the wetlands will be addressed to provide more resiliency. There will be movement of fill and dredged material as needed and any necessary trucking will be done so as to minimize any community impact. They hope to start construction this year. She continued that some trees will be taken down, which is part of the restoration project, and they will be replaced.

The Chair asked if there were any questions from the public. Hearing none. The Chair then closed the public hearing.

The Chair asked if there were any questions from the Board Members.

A question was raised by a Board Member about how much fill will be removed and how will it be removed. Ms. Holmes stated that she didn't remember the exact cubic yard amount, but the majority of the fill will remain on site and will be covered with clean sand material, and they will plant on that.

The Chair asked if there were any other questions from the Board Members.

A question was raised by a Board Member about if they were going to test the fill. Ms. Holmes stated that testing of the fill to be used has already been done, and the fill is safe.

The Chair asked if there were any other questions from the Board Members. Hearing none. The Chair thanked the Parks Department for their presentation and resumed the regular order of business.

The Chair asked if there were any additions or corrections to the February Minutes. Hearing none, the minutes will stand.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Chair reviewed incoming correspondence for the month of February which included:

- Comment from the New Hamilton Beach Civic regarding the Q11 bus.
- Testimony from individuals whose names were read earlier, regarding the Queens Bus Network Redesign
- Letter from DOT regarding speed reducers at 89th St. bet. 107th Ave. & Sutter Ave.
- Notice Borough President's office regarding Citywide Statement of Needs
- Letter to the Mayor regarding our comment on the Preliminary Budget
- Letter from ONCA regarding the City of Yes Housing
- Letter from S. Ramchandra regarding Congestion Pricing
- OMB notices

- NYMTC Hearing/Meeting Notices
- Borough Board Budget Response Book
- Notice from City Planning with link to Principles of Good Urban Design
- Notices of Contract Awards Public Hearings
- Notice from Franchise Concessions and Review Committee
- BSA Public Hearing Notice
- Notice from HPD to vacate at 117-32 134 St.
- Notice from HPD to vacate at 104-59 Lefferts Blvd.

The Chair stated that if there is anything in the directed mail that the Board Members would like to view to let her know.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer read the report of expenditures for the month of February.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT: Georgia Katsalis from the Borough President's Office introduced herself and announced that the Community Board Applications deadline to submit for 2024 has passed. The Borough President's office received 592 new applications. Total new applications and renewal applications was 843 total applications. She added that if there are any questions about the application process, to reach out to Khaleel Bragg at Kbragg@queensbp.org. She announced that on March 18th the Borough will be holding a Phagwah/Holi Celebration at Borough Hall at 6 pm, and on March 25th they will hold an Irish heritage Celebration at 5:30 pm at the Sunnyside Community Service Center located at: 49-31 39 Street, Sunnyside. To RSVP, go to www.queensbp.org/rsvp.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT: The District Manager stated that We have received notification that in the coming weeks National Grid has planned construction work to install a new gas main at the following locations: 112 St bet. 107 Ave & Liberty Ave, 112 St bet. 109 Ave & 111 Ave, 107 Ave bet. 112 St & 113 St, 107 Ave bet. 111 St & 112 St, 109 Ave bet. 112 St & 113 St, 109 Ave bet. 111 St & 112 St, 109 Ave & intersection of 111 St, 109 Ave and intersection of 112 St, 135 St bet. 115 Ave & 116 Ave, 116 Ave bet. 135 St & 134 St, 116 Ave bet. 135 St & Van Wyck Expwy, 116 Ave & 135 St, 116 Ave & 134 St 116 Ave & Van Wyck Expwy. The new gas mains will be installed in the street or sidewalk and the excavation required will be backfilled each day. The entire work area will be kept clean and orderly, and attempts will be made to keep noise, dust and debris to a minimum.

The Chair stated that all of the streets mentioned are posted on the CB 10 Facebook page.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT: The Chairperson reported/commented that information on the following was in members' folder material:

- Bus Redesign Presentation and Route Book
- Information regarding Parks Hiring
- DSNY notice.
- Emergency management Notice
- Information regarding social security scams
- JFK Redevelopment information
- Committee Reports

The Chairperson added that if anyone would like to see what Resorts World has presented for their expansion referred to in the Aqueduct Committee's written report, you can go to their website at rwnewyork.com. There is a link that you can click on "The Next Chapter." That link will let you see the pictures of what they are proposing to do. She continued that this is the Resorts World proposal for the license for full gaming. They don't have the approval yet for that license, but we have worked 12 years with Resorts World and our experience has been what they say they are going to do – they do, has been our experience. Please note there is a housing component separate from the casino license in the plans but the proposal to the state now is for a casino. Anything related to housing will perhaps be part of future development if, and/or when, NYRA is no longer at Aqueduct. Resorts World is expressing interest in developing that piece of property and that will be open for further discussion in the future. She stated that David Tanis is here

monthly representing Resorts World and that Resorts World is proposing to build the casino expansion if they get the license and they are ready to go. Resorts World is a known entity in the city. All the other entities are new – we have one that works. She continued that some people may misinterpret what workforce housing is and she clarified that workforce housing is a category where higher income levels for eligibility apply as it is aimed at more middle-income housing. In general, workforce housing income levels are those that can go from about \$79,000-119,000 for a 1-person household or from about \$113,000-170,000 for a 4-person household.

David Tanis from Resorts World added that in their proposal the 10 acres of parkland is included, and he informed all that suggestion had come from the Community Board.

The Chair went on to report that Resorts World has listened to us and that shows in their proposal. In the interest time, the Chair indicated we would discuss the proposal more fully at our next meeting and went on with the rest of her report which dealt with the Queens SWAB, City of Yes status update, and the Rockaway Blvd. elevator temporary bus stop relocation.

The meeting continued with committee reports:

AIR POLLUTION: No report.

AQUEDUCT: The Committee Chair informed members that the report is in their folders.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS: The Committee Chair informed members that the report is in their folders.

EDUCATION: The Committee Chair stated that summer applications are due March 25th.

JFK INTERNATIONAL: The Committee Chair stated there is a meeting on March 15th for college students who are looking for jobs and that the flyer is in the folder.

The Chair commented that we also posted this information on our Facebook page.

LAND USE: The Committee Chair stated that the main focus right now is part 3 of the City of Yes. He received an e-mail today that a lot of input from Community Boards was taken into consideration by City Planning as it reviewed the economic portion responses. City Planning made some modifications as suggested by CBs. City Planning has voted 11 to 1 to approve on that portion and it is moving on to the City Council. Part 3, City of Yes for Housing probably will be certified for public review in April or May. They are trying to get this done by the end of the year. We are working on planning more interaction with community groups and civics on it as it will be the most controversial portion.

LIBRARIES: The Committee Chair announced that this month is Women's History month. Much info is accessible at our libraries. You can also pick up a calendar there or you can go online for their events. She asked that everyone continue to support your local libraries.

PARKS: The Committee Chair announced that they are continuing to work at Schneiderman Playground located at the Walter Ward School, PS232. Hopefully the work will be done quickly since we didn't have a bad winter and then the children will be able to use the playground.

PERSONNEL: The Committee Chair stated that he hopes that everything is up to speed.

PUBLIC SAFETY: The Committee Chair stated that the crime stats are in the folder.

The Chair stated that Captain VanTull was in attendance but had to leave the meeting earlier this evening.

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT: The Committee Chair announced that the deadline for the Summer Youth Employment Program has been extended to March 15th. To apply go to applications.nyc.syep.com or nyc.gov and she added that the rest of her report is in the folders.

TRANSPORTATION: The Committee Chair stated that she received 4 written opinions requesting locations to make MTA aware of so they can reconsider them in their Bus Network Redesign Plan.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Chair reported that we have to send our attendance record to the Borough President's Office periodically. She then asked that the following Board Members to stand:

L. Amorim,
J. Calcagnile
J. Caruso
F. Dardani
S. Mohamed
K. Roan
D. Wesby

The Chair then stated that all these Board Members had 100% attendance for 2023.

The Chair next asked the following Board Members to stand:

R. Ciulla-Frisone
E. Fraylon
A. Gellineau
P. Granickas
F. Mohamed
N. Santiago
J. Stahl
I. VanPutten
L. Walker
P. Nostramo
G. Singh

The Chair then stated that these Board Members only missed 1 meeting for all of 2023.

The First Vice Chairperson added that The Board Chair had 100% attendance as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

N. Santiago announced that the Month of March is dedicated to Women's History celebrating women who are outstanding in our city and in our community. She stated that she would like us tonight to recognize B. Braton for the great job that she does in our Board as Chairperson. She works hard handling all the information from the government and letters that come to our Board. She explains it to us and gives us assistance. In addition, she attends all the meetings at Borough Hall representing our Board. She is always ready to help us with questions and gives us direction. Also, she really knows how to run a meeting. In 1 hour, we cover everything, and we are out of the room! No one runs a meeting like Betty. People that visit our meeting tell me that we run the best meeting in comparison to other Boards! and I thank them on behalf of Betty. Also, Betty is very active in the community at large. She participates in many of the local events and meetings. She is very dedicated to the community. Nellie asked everyone to please give Betty Braton a standing ovation and a big round of applause for all of the extraordinary work that she has been doing for all of these years. So, Betty is our woman of the month in our Board and community!

The Chair thanked the Board Members and commented that she has a lot of help, and they are all sitting around the table this evening. She went on to say we have great Committee Chairs and that many new members are stepping up as we get closer to term limits.

The Chair continued with some general comments. We have a good, solid community. People come out in a crowd when they have something to say, and they continue to do so with written comments as we've seen tonight. For those who are here tonight in support or nonsupport of the Bus Route changes – the MTA is listening. What comes out of this we don't know yet. The MTA will be holding listening sessions outdoors soon in our area by the PC Richards bus stop which gives another opportunity to ask questions and get answers.

The MTA started work on the elevator at Rockaway Blvd. and it will be a mess for a while. The bus stop by PC Richards was to be relocated near Dunkin Donuts, which is not a particularly safe place, so they moved it further south a short distance from Kalish Pharmacy.

The Chair announced that we have elected official representatives in attendance this evening and that she apologizes but they won't get to speak tonight unless they have something to announce other than events. They can send the events and we will post them on our Facebook page. The speaking time tonight is only for an issue due to time constraints.

The Chair introduced Maggie Bernath rep. AM Pfeffer-Amato and invited her to speak. Maggie Bernath announced that there was a large bust on the smoke shop next to their office on 102 Street and they thank everyone for all the information they gave. She also stated that AM Pfeffer-Amato has voted no on smoke shops.

The Chair introduced Tiffany Eason rep. Speaker Adrienne Adams and invited her to speak. Tiffany Eason stated that she heard all of the voices about the bus plan, and she understands their frustration. She also announced some upcoming traffic signal changes. If anyone has any questions, they can call her at the office at 718-206-2065.

The Chair introduced Alex Leguizamo rep. CM Ariola and invited him to speak. Alex Leguizamo stated that CM Ariola participated in the bust of the illegal smoke shop along with the DA's office and she will continue to do so.

The Chair introduced James Mongeluzo rep. NYC Comptroller Lander and invited him to speak. James Mongeluzo stated that the Comptroller put out comments on the Mayor's Budget and they are doing a youth climate survey, and they need High School students in public schools to participate. There will also be a raffle and the winner will meet Comptroller Lander and have lunch with him. The Chair stated that the Comptroller's reports can be found on the Comptroller's website.

The Chair introduced Dan Brown rep. DA Katz and invited him to speak. Dan Brown announced that the DA is working with the NYPD on illegal scooters and by mid-February 250 were confiscated and she will continue to work with the police on this effort.

CAU rep. Simone Zito, present for the first time, introduced herself.

PUBLIC FORUM:

The Chair asked if there is anyone else from the public who would like to speak.

A member of the public stated that he had an issue with the Colonial Area Cemetery but since it was getting late, he will wait until next month's meeting to discuss it.

The Chair asked if there was anyone else from the public who wished to speak. Hearing none.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Karyn Petersen
Draft- Subject to Approval