



ELIZABETH BRATON
Chairperson

COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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KARYN PETERSEN
District Manager

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

April 6, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

B. Braton, M. Adams, L. Amorim, A. Antonino, J. Ariola, P. Baumann, N. Bissoon, J. Calcagnile, J. Caruso, E. Cheng, M. Cherenfant, R. Ciulla-Frisone, J. Coulverson, F. Dardani, A. Deebrab, I. Dimoh, J. Fazio, E. Fraylon, A. Garcia, A. Gellineau, R. Gendron, P. Granickas, E. Holland, D. Mitchell, F. Mohamed, S. Mohammed, B. Ramsundar, G. Russo, N. Santiago, A. Siewnarine, V. Singh, J. Stahl, I. VanPutten, M. Vecchio, L. Walker

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

M.Q. Amin, A. Cosentino, A. Dhanpat, R. Hitlall, P. Kishun, M. Logan, P. Lynch, A. Maharaj, R. Martinez, C. Mocombe, A. Nocerino, S. Pace, J. Quijano, R. Rathour, M. Salim

COMMUNITY BOARD 10 STAFF PRESENT: K. Petersen, DM; M. May

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hon. H. Jeffries; T. Jackson, Rep. Hon. H. Jeffries; Z. Lobel, Rep. Hon. H. Jeffries; M. Figueroa, Rep., Hon. H. Jeffries; C. Moore, Rep. Hon. J. Addabbo; A. Costella, Rep. Hon. J. Sanders; I. Dougherty, Rep. Hon. S. Pheffer-Amato; M. Schultz, Rep. Hon. K. Anderson; G. Slade, Rep. Hon. J. Rajkumar; K. Mooney, Rep. Hon. A. Adams; M. Cano, Director of Queens Community Boards QBPO; D. Brown, QDA's Office; J. Resor, QDCP; J. Ottomanelli, DSNY Queens Liaison; Sgt. V. Bhatt, NCO Coordinator, 106 Pct.; Det. B. Reddick, Community Affairs 106 Precinct; P.O. S. Jaffe, Community Affairs, 106 Precinct; P.O. J. Iaboni, Community Affairs 106 Precinct; M. Walker, CAO-PANYNJ; R. Day, RWNYC / JFK Redevelopment; F. Beekman, VP Jamaica Hospital; L. Baron, USACE

The Chairperson began the meeting conducted remotely via Zoom at 6:48 pm. Board member attendance was taken, and it was established a quorum was present. It was indicated attendance would be reviewed again later on to add any members missed in the roll call.

At this point the Board Chair extended congratulations and announced the names of all the reappointed and newly appointed board members as follows: reappointed board members: B. Braton, A. Antonino, J. Calcagnile, S. Pace, I. VanPutten, R. Ciulla-Frisone, P. Baumann, G. Russo, J. Ariola, A. Gellineau, E. Holland, R. Martinez, B. Ramsundar, M. Salim, N. Bissoon, M. Cherenfant, R. Gendron, and A. Maharaj; newly appointed members: M. Adams, A. Deebrab, A. Nocerino, M. Logan, E. Cheng, V. Singh, S. Mohammed, A. Garcia, and J. Coulverson.

The Chair welcomed all of the new members and shared some information regarding the current composition of the Board in terms of length of service. It was indicated we now have 50 members which is what the Charter allows for and 58% of the members have less than ten years of service on the board, 44% have served five years or less; and 38% have served three years or less which gives us a mix of newer and longer-serving members.

At this point the Chair opened the informational public hearing and introduced Fred Beekman, Vice President of the Jamaica Hospital Medical Center to speak about the hospital's Emergency Department Modernization Project.

Mr. Beekman greeted and thanked everyone for being invited this evening to talk about Jamaica Hospital's proposed Emergency Department Modernization Program. He indicated he wanted to talk a little about the existing emergency room so listeners could see why there is such a need for a modernized emergency room. Planning for that ER began in 1980, and at that time before it had that ER, Jamaica Hospital saw about 34,000 Emergency Dept. visits per year. In planning for the new ER, which was ultimately completed and occupied in 1989, during the planning phase the hospital's Executive Management Team had visited a number of state-of-the-art ED & Trauma Centers including the MEM Shock Trauma Center in MD and the George Washington University Hospital Trauma & ED in Washington, D.C. The design was basically patterned off of these state-of-the-art facilities at that time which consisted of a central nursing station and open treatment spaces that circle around it so that it made for easy and constant observation. The ED that was ultimately completed and occupied in 1989 was designed to handle 60,000 visits. In 2009, with the closure of a number of hospitals in Queens, Jamaica's ED saw 135,000 visits and except for the previous year it has been averaging over 120,000 visits annually. Therefore, the hospital is now seeing over twice the number of patients it was designed to handle. Over the years the hospital has tried to utilize whatever administrative space existed on the ground floor adjacent to the ER, to try to keep pace with the volume and medical needs. It added to the original ER, a chest pain center & asthma area, a dedicated pediatric ED and an additional medical area; however, he reported this has not been sufficient to address the need and currently the hospital is totally out of space that it could utilize for the ER purposes.

Given the high number of visits that it has had and the lack of space the current ED does not allow for patient privacy and waiting times are excessive. In recent years, the hospital has seen a number of infectious diseases occur throughout the world as well as here locally, including the H1N1, Mers, Ebola, and now COVID. It's really important for hospitals to have isolation rooms in order to better contain infectious diseases. The current ER is only designed to have one isolation room which is totally inadequate. Right now, Jamaica Hospital is seeking to expand and modernize the ED to deal with the limitations. Also, as advances in medicine and surgical procedures continue over time, hospital in-patient care (not emergency care) is moving more and more to an out-patient setting. However, the need for critical care beds continues to increase. The hospital in recent years has developed a number of advance specialty services, including a stroke center with neuro-intervention capabilities, cardiac catheterization, head & neck surgery, all of which are going to require, additional critical care. The hospital just recently brought on a neuro-interventionist who works in terms of our stroke program to save lives with that new procedure. The current critical care capacity is oversubscribed, just like the ER, and as a result the hospital frequently has patients holding in our ED waiting for critical care beds. The modernization would include two 11-bed critical care units on the second and third floors of a new building proposed and located on what is now a doctors' parking lot. Our out-patient services, which are located on the ground floor of the main hospital, are going to be expanded and moved to the lower level allowing the ED to take over that space and expand out – moving from 19,000 sq. ft. to 40,000 sq. ft., doubling the area that it currently has. The new ED will have between 40 and 45 treatment locations which can be utilized for holding isolation patients. And finally, the hospital will have an urgent care center adjacent to the ED to provide immediate care for non-emergency conditions and that will hopefully take some of the burden off the ER and better serve the community in terms of customer service by speeding them through care; and since it's adjacent to the ER it will give people who utilize the facility some additional reassurance that if they come in and they need emergency care they won't have to be transferred out. Mr. Beekman indicated he would be happy to answer any questions, as time allows.

The Chair asked if there was anyone from the public on the phone line that had a question, and said please say your name, to unmute yourself press star 6. There were no speakers. The Chair asked if there was anyone from the public on the video side who had a question, hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

The Chair acknowledged board member, J. Ariola, noting her professional relationship with Jamaica Hospital and who represents our board on issues related to hospital care and asked if there was anything she would like to add. Ms. Ariola thanked the Chair and also thanked Mr. Beekman for his great presentation, indicating they work together as colleagues, and this is a project that is so necessary for our community because as the Chair mentioned before, Jamaica Hospital is it for us. If there's any type of trauma, accident, heart attack, stroke, neurological issue, Jamaica Hospital is the best place you can go for health care and I'm really proud to work for Jamaica Hospital and to work with Mr. Beekman and we're looking forward to this expansion because now more than ever we need a larger place to go with less waiting time so we can have continued good health care here in our district. Ms. Ariola extended thanks to Mr. Beekman for the presentation and to the Chair for the time, indicating she looks forward to this happening.

The Chair asked if there were any other board members with any comments. Mr. Calcagnile asked about the projected timeline.

Mr. Beekman responded that typically the most important thing is to get financing. Once we're able to secure financing, we probably will start construction within three to six months if not sooner, and then it will probably be a two-to-three-year construction phase. Mr. Calcagnile thanked him.

The Chairperson asked if there were any other questions from board members, hearing none.

The Chair stated we do have representatives from a number of elected officials, I'll give you a chance to speak again later, but if any of you would like to weigh in on the hospital issue, please let me know, put your hand up to comment now on the hospital issue. There were no further comments.

The Chair thanked Mr. Beekman for the presentation and said, we look forward to the construction getting underway and of course, we do support it.

The Chairperson addressed board members and commented on the addition to the agenda relating to the Spring Creek Resiliency Project, noting everyone got the revised agenda, and apologized for the last-minute notice. She explained a call was received over the weekend from the Office of Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, who represents roughly half of this board area, and he has been working on many of the very important resiliency issues. The Chair addressed Lisa Baron from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asking if she was in a rush or whether she can wait a few more minutes as the Congressman will be joining us this evening and he wanted to speak before her. Ms. Baron indicated she was not in a rush.

At this point, the Chairperson continued with the next item of business and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the March 2021 minutes. Hearing none, the minutes will stand as read.

Then the Board Chair stated, in accordance with the provisions of the board's bylaws we are required to hold our elections during the month of April. Our Board Officers are all one-year terms, they are elected each April. The Chairperson opened the floor to nominations.

Mr. A. Gellineau nominated the existing slate of officers as follows: for Board Chairperson, Betty Braton; for First Vice Chair, John Calcagnile; for Second Vice Chair, Isabel VanPutten; for Treasurer, Nellie Santiago; for Executive Secretary, Rosemary Ciulla-Frisone.

The Board Chair reiterated the nominations which were just made by Mr. A. Gellineau: Betty Braton for Chairperson; John Calcagnile for First Vice Chairperson; Isabel VanPutten for Second Vice Chairperson; Nellie Santiago for Treasurer, and Rosemary Ciulla-Frisone for Executive Secretary.

The Board Chair asked individually by position for any further nominations twice for each position. There were no further nominations. Nominations were closed.

The Board Chair stated that in compliance with the Open Meetings Law our records must reflect every Board member's vote.

Therefore, for the office of Chairperson, Betty Braton are there any "no" votes (hearing none), are there any "abstentions" (hearing none), all others present will be recorded as "yes."

For the office of First Vice Chairperson, John Calcagnile, are there any "no" votes (hearing none), are there any "abstentions" (hearing none), all others present will be recorded as "yes."

For the office of Second Vice Chairperson, Isabel VanPutten, are there any "no" votes (hearing none), are there any "abstentions" (hearing none), all others present will be recorded as "yes."

For the office of Treasurer, Nellie Santiago, are there any "no" votes (hearing none), are there any "abstentions" (hearing none), all others present will be recorded as "yes."

For the office of Executive Secretary, Rosemary Ciulla-Frisone, are there any “no” votes (hearing none), are there any “abstentions” (hearing none), all others will be counted as “yes.”

The Chair said thank you very much, that concludes our election process and congratulated her fellow officers of the Board.

At this point the Chair stated we have been joined by a gentleman who has been very busy down in Washington and welcomed Congressman Hakeem Jeffries.

The Congressman thanked the Chair for her leadership and for giving him an opportunity to participate in the CB10 meeting. He also thanked all his colleagues in government and civic leaders, and said, it’s good to be with you and see all of you.

He commented this has been a difficult time period, of course, for our community, our city and our nation as we’ve been grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic, both a public health crisis as well as an economic crisis and we try to navigate our way through both. He said he’s pleased that they were able to pass the American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion intervention that was designed to do a few different things: crush the virus, provide direct relief and assistance to every-day Americans who have been struggling, make sure we get vaccinations in the arms of all Americans, and also make sure we can get our children back into schools and our small businesses open and able to be part of a vibrant economy.

It was indicated there are different aspects of the American Rescue Plan, and he wanted to talk about one in particular: the Funeral Assistance Program, to help pay for funeral related costs incurred after January 20, 2020 connected to any loved one who has passed away from Covid-19 related fatalities. This particular unique program will provide up to \$9,000 per family member, for up to a total of nine different family members, and a maximum total of \$35,000 in funeral, burial or cemetery related expenses that were not otherwise covered by governmental assistance. The death certificate / documentation must indicate the cause of death is connected to Covid-19. If funeral, burial, crematory, cemetery related expenses were covered by either funeral or burial assistance, then you won’t be eligible to apply for this FEMA grant. He indicated his office is available to help anyone access this unique program or any other benefits that are part of the American Rescue Plan. He noted Senator Schumer played a particularly important role in helping to secure this along with the rest of us in the NY Delegation.

The Congressman said, as we move from rescue to recovery and revitalization of the economy, I think many of you have seen that President Biden has proposed a \$2.2 trillion infrastructure plan to help fix our crumbling bridges, roads, tunnels, airports, mass transit system, water, sewage system, housing modernization, schools, internet access and things of that nature in cities, towns, counties, urban, rural and suburban America all across the country. I wanted to make sure that given that we at least have a possibility of making a meaningful investment in infrastructure that one of the projects that you all have spent a long time talking about related to the resiliency of Howard Beach, particularly the Hamilton Beach area, and the protection that is increasingly needed because of the damage that we’ve seen from flooding from major storms as well as increasingly regular storms. Given the fact that the Biden administration has indicated we’re going to try to invest significantly in rebuilding our infrastructure, we were able to finally advance the ball with respect to the Spring Creek South Ecosystem Investment & Revitalization & Howard Beach Restoration and Storm Resiliency Plan. With Chair Braton’s permission, I asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide a brief update this evening on where things stand. At the conclusion, Lisa Baron, the Program Project Manager, will be able to answer a few questions and then I can talk about any loose ends in terms of where I see things progressing in terms of trying to bring this necessary project to life. And with your permission let me yield to Lisa Baron of the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Chair expressed appreciation and thanks to the Congressman for the work he has been doing on this. The Chair welcomed USACE’s Lisa Baron and informed her the screen was available for sharing.

Ms. Baron thanked the Congressman for getting this on the agenda for presenting. Ms. Baron stated it has been a few years since she was able to come before this board and indicated she wanted to give an update status of where we’re at on Spring Creek South. She expressed thanks to the Congressman, noting he was responsible for obtaining and

including language in the latest Water Resources Development Act (WRDA 2020) that was signed into law on December 27th that will help.

Ms. Baron shared a power point presentation highlighting the Spring Creek South Multi-Purpose Feasibility Study: current potential new start, prior studies, benefits of the project, and the next steps.

It was indicated that one thing which was unique about the new authorization to resurrect the Spring Creek South Study is that it's a multi-purpose feasibility study so it's not only going to provide ecosystem restoration benefits, which is the project seen in the past, but it will also provide hurricane and storm damage reduction to the community. This project works in an integrative fashion providing a comprehensive solution and the area's 237 acres of degraded habitats would be restored as well as provide coastal storm risk management benefits.

The history of the prior studies of this area were presented which date back to early 2000's when it was part of an ecosystem restoration project under the Jamaica Bay Restoration, then was integrated into the Hudson Raritan Estuary Program. In 2012 Sandy hit, and the area was devastated by that storm. It was then moved into the East Rockaway Inlet Jamaica Bay Reformation Study and then it was given back to the Hudson Raritan Estuary Program. In 2014 the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Plan was to look at other projects along shorelines to help prevent flooding in the area. In 2015 NYS DEC wanted to move forward and the project was advancing through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to provide resiliency and improved sustainability.

It was indicated the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) was probably what was last seen by the Board. NYSDEC in conjunction with USACE managed to get a detailed design in the preconstruction and design phase. This was the design that was submitted to FEMA under the HMGP. It's a mosaic of a variety of habitats, a mix of upland habitats along the edge, maritime forest, grasslands, and a protective berm in the middle. They were excavating the site and removing more than 188 acres of phragmites (the invasive species that causes lots of problems), regrading that site and moving that soil and planning to create a berm to help prevent water from going over the area and into the community as well as flap gates right in the middle of the two areas. That was the design that was carried forward and submitted to FEMA in 2018. Much had been done, and everybody was very disappointed when it was not approved to move forward to Phase 2. And the USACE could not do anything more as they were working on behalf of the state and it wasn't approved to move forward.

They were basically waiting for coordination with NY/NJ Harbor and Tributaries Study (HATS). There were a couple of other studies, East Rockaway and Jamaica Bay Reformulation Study, which ended up being incorporated into the HATS which looked at tide gates, berms around the whole area, (perimeter plan) or the big large storm surge gate at the front of Jamaica Bay. It ended up being deferred and incorporated into the HATS Study and that is ongoing right now which is looking at flood risk management issues among the entire harbor, every water body in the harbor. This storm surge gate is incorporated in every single one of the concepts. It's very important and received a very good benefit cost ratio. Their study would need to coordinate with the HATS study and determine what kind of coastal storm risk management features in conjunction with the berm and flap gates would need to be incorporated as it functioned with whether or not there would be a coastal storm barrier there. That would be a big component of the study and consideration to work with as they get the opportunity to move forward with the study. The coastal storm restoration of Spring Creek South would provide ecosystem and coastal storm risk management benefits, as well as educational and recreational benefits.

Ms. Baron commented on the next steps and where we are right now indicating this is a potential new start and expressed thanks to the Congressman. She stated, it's in the WRDA and now we have to get funding appropriated. It's very hard to get a new start approved and appropriated because we're competing nationally for this particular project. If we get approved, we will have \$3 million that is co-shared with a non-federal sponsor; we can then execute a feasibility cost share agreement with our sponsor. The study can be conducted using all data that's available from all of those prior studies as a foundation and should be able to move very quickly given, how much data has been collected, the design from those restoration features, and even the environmental analysis that has been done to move this particular project forward.

It is a long road to get that support. The USACE study process has changed dramatically and we'll get it done in three years if not quicker. It would then have to go back to WRDA where we rely again on the Congressman for authorization for construction and then move the engineering and design forward. We're halfway there in the

engineering and design of Spring Creek proper but we would have a more to do to go on to other coastal storm features like tide gates. They were looked at in the East Rockaway Study but only preliminarily and they were dropped for further consideration. We have to take that forward in feasibility as well as moving that forward in design if we were approved and go to consideration. There is still hope.

The Congressman asked if anyone had any questions for himself and/or Ms. Baron. He said, I am committed to making sure that we bring this project to life, sooner rather than later. We have it authorized and now we have to get the appropriations done. We're working two different lanes to try to get that to happen. Either we can get the feasibility study connected to the project funded in President Biden's next budget which he is due to submit to Congress in the next few weeks, and we're working on seeing if we can get that to happen. At the same time, we are working the Congressional Appropriations Process, and Community Project Initiative Funding is going to be available to us for the first time in my time in Congress which goes back to 2013. It existed for decades and then it disappeared, and it is being brought back. One of the things we are exploring is whether we can get the feasibility study funded so that we don't have to wait till fiscal year 2023 and can get it funded in the appropriations bill that is due to be passed prior to October 1 of this year to get the next step in the process underway. In that regard it would be helpful to me if I could get letters of support from the community, from CB10, as well as perhaps from the Hamilton Beach Civic and all the groups in the area. This would be helpful, in trying to secure an appropriation, the Appropriations Committee wants to see community support. We're going to prioritize this initiative, but the more community support that we can show, taking the next step, the better.

The Chair addressed the Congressman and said it would be very helpful if you could get to the Board a sample of the things you believe would be the most helpful as the talking points in letters and we'll work with the community groups to get them and to get the points that would be most effective made in their letters.

The Chair asked if there were any board members who had any specific questions and acknowledged R. Gendron who had his hand up. Mr. Gendron is also the President of the Hamilton Beach Civic Assn. He indicated he was glad to see the presentation included Hamilton Beach, Old Howard, Shellbank Basin and Hawtree Basin. He expressed his personal thanks to Congressman Jeffries for spearheading this. He noted they've spoken before when the funding was pulled back in 2019 and one of the reasons was that it didn't protect the entire community, it was closing one door but allowing water to come in the other. He indicated the plan that was shown with flood gates and berms around the parks just seals it. He stated he's glad the studies that were previously done were going to be used. He expressed his thanks and appreciation again to both the Congressman and Ms. Baron. The community really appreciates it, and at end of the day if this gets done and gets done right the community itself could be taken out of a high risk flood zone, we're going to be protected, so the benefits that this could bring to this community is tremendous.

The Congressman thanked Mr. Gendron.

The Chair asked if there were any other questions and acknowledged J. Ariola. Ms. Ariola said she just had a statement as President of the Howard Beach Lindenwood Civic Assn. to echo to the Congressman what Mr. Gendron and the Chairperson have said. The civic association fully supports this plan. It is inclusive of the entire neighborhood; it will bring resiliency and it will cause this neighborhood never to suffer the level of devastation again from a hurricane or coastal storm that our residents experienced during Sandy. Thank you for putting this on the front burner, keeping it on the front burner, and committing to be relentless until you see it come to fruition. We look forward to it and whatever you need from our civic to be supportive and make that happen. We're happy to get the word out and there isn't a person in this entire community who wouldn't support such a terrific plan. Thank you.

Mr. Gendron added he has about 900 signed letters from this community, which he can provide.

The Congressman indicated that would be helpful. He again thanked Mr. Gendron and Ms. Ariola and said we'll definitely be in touch. The Congressman said he thinks part of the key change that we were able to make is that when we got the study authorized as Ms. Baron indicated, we specifically authorized it not just as an ecosystem restoration but as a storm and hurricane damage reduction project to try to make sure we dealt with those issues as many of you have been raising in terms of protecting the entirety of the community. I know the community suffered significant damage from hurricanes Donna, Irene, and superstorm Sandy. We've got to get this done before the next storm. Hopefully well in advance of the next storm in the Howard Beach community and the City of New York.

A. Garcia had his hand up and the Chairperson called on him to speak. Mr. Garcia thanked the Chair, the Congressman and Ms. Baron. With regard to the community support aspect of it, he asked the Congressman is it on an asap basis to get you that support and also asked do you think as part of Biden's new infrastructure plan we have that money accelerated and perhaps this project itself accelerated?

The Congressman indicated, in terms of the letters of community support, I believe that the deadline for us to submit those letters is April 29th or 30th so we have a few weeks to gather all that information and we will make that sure we work closely with the Board and everyone to get all those details. The Congressman extended congratulations to Mr. Garcia on his appointment. The Chair said we'll have those letters to you before the end of this month. Congressman Jeffries said the second part of the question is a good one. We're cautiously optimistic that if we're going to go down the road of a major investment infrastructure that the entire NY delegation is, of course, going to fight for initiatives and projects in our communities that could potentially be a part of those investments. So that's definitely one of the lanes that we are pursuing. Then the traditional Army Corps of Engineers lane is also available to us because of the authorization that we have to get the study funded and basically whatever track allows us to hopefully get this accomplished, in the fastest possible way, is the approach that we're going to continue to take.

The Chair thanked the Congressman.

The Chair indicated she saw two hands were raised by members of the public. She said we are not in Public Hearing at this point and are only open to board members to ask questions and informed them they would have an opportunity to speak during the public forum.

The Chair asked are there any other board members with questions or comments, hearing none.

The Chair said I'd like to again take this opportunity to thank Ms. Baron from USACE who has worked with us on this project for years and we are pleased that she's still with it and, of course, to Congressman Jeffries. Our thanks for the work that you have been doing down in Washington on these issues. They are major issues, and we look forward to them getting rectified. Although they take a long time to accomplish you are working on them and we definitely do appreciate it. Thank you for taking the time to come to us with this and to join us this evening. The Congressman thanked the Chairperson.

The Chair asked the Congressman if there was anything else he would like to say before we move on.

The Congressman said to the extent that there are other issues that folks want to see addressed please don't hesitate to either call the office at 718-237-2211 or email me directly at congressmanjeffries08@gmail.com I also wanted to thank Lisa Baron who has been with us through all of the trials and tribulations and the ups and downs connected to this journey and knows this project better than anyone and is committed to working with the community and with us to try to see this through. Thank you Lisa for your presentation today and for your continued work.

The Chair alerted the Congressman, Irene Dougherty who is a representative from the office of AM Pheffer-Amato has a word on behalf of the Assembly Member. Ms. Dougherty said the Assembly Member wanted me to take a moment to thank not only Congressman Jeffries but most importantly our community leaders who brought attention to this, who kept pushing and advocating for this. The AM wanted to make sure I stated that this project has the Assembly Member's and our office's full support and anything we can do to facilitate, to assist, to help we're more than welcome. Once again thank you very much, not only as an employee of the Assembly Member, but as a resident who had eight feet of water in my home after hurricane Sandy, this is really long overdue and greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

The Chair asked Carl Moore from Senator Addabbo's office if he had any comment. Mr. Moore indicated, unfortunately he has not spoken with the Senator but is certain he sends his wishes and appreciates everything the Congressman and Ms. Baron are doing for the community.

The Chair said thank you very much Congressman and thank you very much Lisa Baron.

Ms. Baron indicated she appreciates all the support and hopefully we'll be able to move this project forward and I'll be able to come before the board with progress in the future.

The Chair stated we look forward to that.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Chairperson reviewed correspondence for the month of March 2021 which included:

- NYC DDC Second Quarter Newsletter: Green Infrastructure in areas of South Ozone Park
- VNSNY - Covid vaccine appointment scheduling for seniors in underserved community (not for homebound seniors)
- NYC Dept. of Social Services - Turning the Tide on Homelessness
- NYC DEP Notice: Advisory Committee for Sustainable Rate Structure Analysis (SRSA)
- Queens Covid Remembrance Day (QCRD) Planning Committee notice: remembrance vigil May 1 - creation of memorial space at Forest Park Bandshell
- NYC DDC Second Quarter Reconstruction Newsletter: storm sewer & water main project in Howard Beach
- NYMTC Notice of Comment Period open till April 5: Proposed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments
- NYCEM notice: apartment buildings/multiple dwellings required to post hurricane evacuation notice
- Queens Public Library notification of COVID-19 vaccination site at Ozone Park Library
- NYC Task Force on Racial Inclusion & Equity (TRIE) request for information
- NYC DOT: traffic signals along 92 Street between 159 & 157 Avenue
- NYC DOT: speed reducer on 105 Street between 107 Ave. & Rockaway Blvd.
- NYC DOT: concession solicitations
- Demolition notice: 25 102nd Street, HB (Build it Back Property)
- Demolition notice: 135-23 126 Street, SOP
- Letter to DCP in regard to the Citywide Statement of Needs based on last month's public hearing
- Various OMB Capital Program notices that deal with various projects for various agencies. In the interest of time, the Chair did not go through them all. It was clarified for our newer members the OMB notices are part of the scoping process where money has been allocated for different things with budget lines in different agencies.
- NYMTC Program, Finance, and Administration Committee (PFAC) meeting notice
- NYC Equal Employment Practices Commission audit of the 14 Queens Community Boards (CB10 met the requirements of the EEO audit and is in full compliance)
- NYC Public Design Commission: Meeting Agenda March 22, 2021
- NYC DCP Upcoming Citywide Text Amendments: Zoning for Accessibility (ZFA); Hotel Special Permit; Health & Fitness; Open Restaurants
- DCP Notice of Completion for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Zoning for Coastal Resolution City Planning Commission Approval of Zoning for Coastal Flood Resiliency (ZFCR)

The Chairperson advised members to let her know if there is anything on the directed mail that a member would like a copy of.

TREASURER'S REPORT – the Treasurer experienced technical difficulties and the Board Chair read the report of expenditures for the month March 2021 on behalf of the Treasurer.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT – M. Cano – extended congratulations to members on their appointment to the board. It was noted they had a lot of good candidates and are happy to include people with more of a diverse background. The BP is hosting a Bicycle Jamboree May 15th for children ages 5 to 12 at Queens Borough Hall parking lot starting at 12 noon. The first 100 to RSVP will receive a free bike helmet. Activities include free VIN etching, bicycle maintenance, bicycle safety and bicycle riding course, and a raffle to receive a free refurbished bicycle. Her e-mail was put in the Chat for anyone with any questions. She said thank you for having me.

The Chairperson thanked her.

CITY PLANNING REPORT – Joy Resor – reported the DCP is pushing through five citywide zoning text amendments. These would be similar to the process that ZCFR went through. Ms. Resor stated she would quickly summarize each of them but wanted to make this process as painless as possible for the board, as this is just before the summer recess and there's a lot going on. Zoning for Accessibility was certified on Monday and that will be coming

to the board shortly. Essentially DCP is partnering with the MTA on the proposal that seeks to expand existing zoning tools that help coordinate new developments in transit with the construction of improvements to station accessibility and capacity. The citywide Hotel Text Amendment is certifying April 19th. This aims to create a more consistent approach to hotel development across communities and would require any hotels to undertake a special permit review process. No hotels would be able to be built as of right any longer, they would all have to go through a special permit review process. They are expanding the Fresh Program, and Fresh 2 will be a grocery store expansion. This is really only applicable to Queens Districts 1, 3, 4, and 14 and is certifying May 17th. Health & Fitness text amendment is looking to allow exercise gyms, licensed massage therapy, martial arts studios and spas, and other health related businesses to open as of right. It's sort of opposite of the hotel text amendment. This would allow more of these health focused businesses to open without a special permit. The Open Streets Text Amendment would essentially make permanent the open restaurants program. Fresh, Health & Fitness & Open Restaurants are all certifying on May 17th so that would come to the board in May and ideally, I think it would be best to separate this up.

The Board Chair indicated we will probably waive our right to hear on Fresh 2 as it doesn't apply to us. We will deal with the others. Ms. Resor said, that makes sense and commented Zoning for Accessibility might also not apply but I can definitely provide more information on all of those and focus on the ones that apply to your district.

The Board Chair said Hotels and fitness are the ones that are going to be big here. As far as Accessibility, where we have non-accessible stations are the Liberty Avenue corridor. We have one accessible station at Lefferts Blvd. and then on the subway line that goes south to Rockaway, the Aqueduct Racetrack/Casino station is accessible, and the Howard Beach station is already accessible. We have four stations that are not accessible. Ms. Resor stated she'll come back to talk about those proposals in more depth and will work with the Land Use Committee to schedule those meetings, and we can go from there.

The Chair thanked Ms. Resor.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – The District Manager reported National Grid has notified they will be working on 134 Street from 97 Avenue to 116 Avenue. Construction begins in April 2021 and the expected completion is fall 2021. Work will be done from Monday to Friday between the hours of 7 am and 6 pm. There will be eight work zones on 134 Street, and work will be continuing from work zone to work zone to minimize impact as much as possible. NYC DOT has notified it has completed its investigation to determine the feasibility of a speed reducer on 105 Street between 107 Avenue and Rockaway Boulevard. Based on the evaluation of the data collected, this location meets the criteria for the installation of a speed reducer; installation will take place when resources are available.

At this point the Board Chair acknowledged 106 Precinct Det. Reddick and P.O. Jaffe and invited P.O. Jaffe to speak and make an introduction.

P.O. Jaffe stated unfortunately Captain Costello is unable to attend tonight, he is still out sick from a minor car accident he had a few weeks ago and sends his regards. P.O. Jaffe announced NCO Sgt. Singh has been transferred to the Borough and is now a Community Affairs Sgt. working for Patrol Borough Queens South. The new NCO Sgt. was introduced and invited to speak.

Sgt. Viral Bhatt introduced himself and spoke briefly about his background. He said he started the job about ten years ago in Brooklyn. He worked in the 107 for some years before he got promoted and was lucky enough to come to the 106 Precinct to patrol on the afternoon shift for the past couple of years. He luckily got the new NCO position after Sgt. Singh went to the Borough. He said, I hope everyone is staying safe during these harsh times. First and foremost, I'm very excited to take this position. I know this community is very close and very tight and I'm here to help in any regard I can. He commented overall crime has definitely been reduced in the 106. Year to date we're down about 25%. We have seen an uptick in grand larcenies/phone scams. We can definitely try to spread the message as much as possible that Social Security and DMV Offices are not going to be reaching out to you on the phone for any personal information or anything of that nature. The uptick in grand larcenies is on that financial crime side. Another big major concern in the 106 is grand larcenies/auto. There are a lot of folks leaving cars running and unattended. NCO Officers are out there and trying to get information out to the public, and together we can make a difference on those things. He stated he's available anytime someone may need him noting he's another resource to use in addition to Community Affairs. If anyone has any concerns or questions, reach out to him at any

time. He added he was an NCO Officer for two years while he was in the 107 and does have some experience at being an NCO. He said he hopes to meet everybody soon and provided his cell number: 917-943-7742. Please leave a message if he doesn't pick up and he will call back as soon as he can.

The Chair asked if there were any questions from board members on the phone line, or on the video, hearing none. The Chair said welcome and thanked Sgt. Bhatt.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – The Chair reported progress is being made on the vaccination front and commented on today's numbers posted by the DOH: in zip code 11414 (which is fully within our board area) 35% of adult population has been partially vaccinated & 23% of the adult population is fully vaccinated. In zip code 11417 (also fully within CB10) 36% of the adult population is partially vaccinated & 21% is fully vaccinated. In zip code 11419 (which is half in our board area) 35% of the adult population is partially vaccinated & 23% is fully vaccinated. In zip code 11420 (fully within our board area) 36% of the adult population is partially vaccinated & 23% is fully vaccinated. The Chair said, we still have a long way to go, but we're getting there. Everyone was urged to continue to try to get the appointments, to work with getting everyone who is eligible to make appointments and get their vaccinations. As of this week, everyone over the age of 16 is eligible.

The Chair indicated the DDC 2020 Year End Report "Delivering Innovation in a Challenging Year" was received, noting it would be gladly provided if anybody wants the full report.

The U.S. Census Bureau is having a Data Summit Series of webinars between April and July, where they will be teaching how to use census numbers when they're released and how to find what you're looking. It was noted, this may be of interest for those involved in non-profits. Anyone who would like a copy of the catalogue should let the Chair know.

The Queens Borough Board's full approved response to the Expense & Capital Priorities is now posted on the QBP's website. It's 48 pages long. It is full of different statistics, facts, factoids, if you're interested in the types of things that are supported in the borough of Queens that's the place to look. It also gives you a lot of background information on why different things are supported.

The EEO Audit Final Memorandum was received. The Chair took this opportunity to comment, for the benefit of the new board members, on the extreme importance of the EEO Guidelines, noting they will be getting information on it. All board members know, collectively the board is the employer of our staff so how board members interact with our staff has to be fully in accordance with the EEO practices that are acceptable in a workplace. We may be volunteers, but collectively as a board we are an employer and the staff in the office are our employees and they are entitled to all of the respect and all of the different types of things that we need to comply with must be complied with.

It was indicated last month that we were waiting for some answers before posting this year's block party rules. We've gotten some answers, some answers we didn't get, but we covered that with the catchall that Covid regulations as they change will be applicable to our block party rules. Our block party rules are up on our website.

The Mayor's Office New York City Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Draft Plan was received. It's a 187-page report and is out for review. If anybody would like a copy of it, I'll be happy to send it to you.

I mentioned earlier that we have one shelter and six hotels being used as shelters.

Reference was made to folder material that came out of the most recent JFK Redevelopment meeting which was held about a week and a half ago having to do with some job opportunities. The JFK Redevelopment Program although it is still on pause due to the impacts of COVID 19, at this time only the American Airlines Terminal Aid Expansion Project is underway. They had anticipated starting construction on the Terminal 1, Delta Terminal 4, terminal projects last year, but those projects have been delayed due to impacts of COVID-19. They don't currently have an update on timing, but they're continuing to work with terminal developers to find a way to advance the projects.

Recently the Mayor's Office announced on February 22 that the airport lease for JFK was extended.

The PANYNJ 2021 Leadership Fellows Program, and the Summer Internship Program and the Pre-Apprenticeship: Construction Skills Program were in your folders. Project Readiness Boot Camp / the Early Works Project are still underway, they have independent utility and are necessary to improve JFK. They will also support the redevelopment as enabling projects. Their portfolio is made up of more than 20 projects including airside, landside, and facility improvements. Ahead of the major redevelopment program elements these projects are anticipated to commence in quarter two of 2021 and continue on a rolling schedule. The projects range from all kinds of things. I would urge anyone in any of the related industries and MWBE businesses to touch base on a regular basis with the JFK Redevelopment website to get the information or look on our Facebook page as we post things we receive there. The Early Works Local Emphasis Program is one local businesses may wish to look into as we are one of the areas that is within the project zone for these things. The Procurement Strategy for it is to emphasize the use of local MWBE firms for up to \$1million projects. Many firms have not been able to bid on some of the bigger projects, but there are smaller contracts that are available. The virtual office hours for the JFK Redevelopment are Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm. email: jfkreddevelopment@panynj.gov website: www.anewjfk.com

The Redevelopment Information Center is closed due to health and safety precautions, but they do respond to e-mails and there is information on its website.

On the bad news front: on April 1st FEMA put out a press release saying that updates to its flood insurance reading methodology to deliver more equitable pricing is back in play. That does not go well with communities like ours because we may have people who are going to see much higher flood insurance rates in the future.

The Chairperson reminded Parks & Recreation Committee members that there is a Parks Committee Meeting scheduled for April 13th.

The meeting continued with Committee Reports as follows:

CONSUMER AFFAIRS – the Committee Chair indicated report was in board folders.

EDUCATION – the Committee Chair reported this year DOE will administer the ELA exam on April 20th for grades 3 through 8; the Math exam on May 4th for grades 3 through 8; the Science exam on June 7th for 4th and 8th grades. This is not mandatory, the students will not be penalized, there's always an opt-out period, so check with your schools. Regents Exams will be administered this year on June 17, 22, 23 & 24. The website link for the Student Participation Guide was included in the Chat for anyone needing additional information.

GATEWAY – the Committee Chair commented he was glad to hear the Congressman is going ahead with the plans on that end of the bay.

LAND USE – the Committee Chair noted he is going to wait for DCP, Ms. Resor on the schedule for the text amendments.

At this point the Board Chair indicated she would review the attendance once again to catch anyone who may have come in late and did so.

The meeting then continued with Committee Reports.

PARKS – the Committee Chair commented they're involved in four projects: Frederick Judge, Schneiderman Playground, Byrne Park bathroom, Al Stabile Playground.

PUBLIC SAFETY – the Committee Chair indicated crime stats report was in board folders

SANITATION – the Committee Chair had nothing to report.

Mr. Ottomanelli, DSNY Queens Liaison, commented the COVID Federal relief money is helping restore Sunday basket service that was affected by the cuts due to the pandemic. Everyone was encouraged to participate in community volunteer neighborhood clean-up events. DSNY can provide free loans of clean-up tools and equipment.

SUMMER YOUTH / OTHER EMPLOY. OPPORT. – the Committee Chair welcomed all the new board members. The Summer Youth Employment Program is available for NYC young adults 14 – 21 years of age. Application filing must be done online: www.nyc.gov/dycd and the deadline for submission is April 23rd. It was noted the employment report was in board folders.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

The Board Chair then acknowledged the various representatives of elected officials and agency representatives who were in attendance inviting anyone wishing to speak to do so.

Carl Moore, representing State Senator Addabbo, announced upcoming events at the Forest Park Bandshell Parking Lot co-sponsored by AM Rajkumar: April 25th (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) paper shredding and household goods donations for veterans; the e-waste recycling event tentatively set for May 2nd. If anyone has any questions call the office at: 718-738-1111.

AnneMarie Costella, representing State Senator Sanders commented the Senator is focused on the budget which should be wrapping up tonight. The Senator is somewhat satisfied with the budget and wants to let people know he fought for and advocated for many things. He has advocated for grant programs to help small businesses, especially MWBEs who have been significantly impacted by the Covid pandemic. The grant program is expected to be in the final budget, but the dollar amount is still being negotiated. He has voiced his support to restore funding to health care, social services, education, and it looks like those funds are generally being restored.

Irene Dougherty, representing Assembly Member Pheffer-Amato, indicated the Assembly Member, Senator Addabbo, Senator Sanders, AM Anderson are sponsoring an offshore wind energy public education webinar April 28th (6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.). This is open to students, educators, community members interested in learning more about New York's growing offshore wind energy industry, its career opportunities, and the environmental benefits. The registration link was put in the Chat and it was indicated you can also reach out to their office for more information.

Monet Schultz, representing Assembly Member Anderson thanked Ms. Dougherty for discussing the offshore wind energy event that's coming up. It was indicated their office is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Upcoming events the AM is hosting were announced: April 16th South Ozone Park Business Corridor Clean-up. Ms. Schultz asked anyone interested in signing up and becoming a volunteer to please reach out to her. Her contact information was in the Chat. April 20th the Community Conference Series - Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act (MRTA) virtual information forum. April 8th Homeowner Property Tax Information Session. It was noted all information is found on their social media platforms.

Greg Slade, introduced himself stating he is the Legislative Director for Assembly Member Rajkumar. He commented on the AM's work on the State budget. He reported their office on Woodhaven Blvd. has hosted food distribution and also Covid mobile testing. He noted the AM came into office at such a difficult time for our community and they are happy to be able to provide assistance. Everyone was reminded, as of today individuals 16 years and older are eligible for the vaccine. He commented on the public safety town hall the AM hosted last month. The AM has introduced six of her own bills and has sponsored well over 30 additional bills. One of the bills she sponsored was in response to the horrendous fires that have plagued our community. Many fires spread because of a cockloft (open space in the roofs of homes that allow fires to spread from one to another) and this bill would incentivize homeowners to close the cockloft through a tax credit. This bill has great potential to reduce the spread of fires and we're happy to be partnering with Senator Addabbo on this. The AM made history as the first South Asian woman to be elected to NYS. She recently introduced a resolution to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence. Being the first South Asian to be elected to Legislature is an incredibly special and moving event. She is a proud member of the Veterans' Committee. The AM was recently given special appointment by the Speaker of the Assembly to Chair the Subcommittee on Diversity & Law. Our office is open Monday – Friday and we also have weekend hours on Saturday. He noted he would drop his contact information in the Chat.

Chair Braton advised anytime a representative has a lot to say, it can always be done in writing and sent to us.

Kate Mooney, representing Council Member Adrienne Adams, was no longer on the session.

The Chair said we send our sympathy to CM Adams who lost her mother recently.

Dan Brown, from the Queens District Attorney's Office, extended congratulations and welcomed the new members to the board, noting this is an amazing board with great leadership. Tomorrow, April 7th at 4 p.m. DA Katz is hosting a "Combatting Anti-Asian Hate Crime" event on-line. You can go to: www.queensda.org to register. The panelists will include: Congresswoman Grace Meng, Senator John Liu, and Councilman Peter Koo.

Matthew Walker, Council for Airport Opportunity PANYNJ reported as people are getting vaccinated and traveling again the airports are coming back to life which means they are hiring a lot of new employees. There are employment opportunities for passenger service agents and a lot of customer service positions as well. We have driving positions as well as security guards. Starting April 14th and going through the rest of the Wednesdays in April 21, 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in our office at JFK at 141 Federal Circle we are having an open call recruitment for: cooks, bartenders, baristas, and warehouse receivers. These positions are being interviewed for in our office and they are also hiring at this event as well. If you're interested or know anyone who is interested and needs a job, feel free to have them get in touch with me. I'll post my contact info in the Chat again. The airports are opening up again and the employment opportunities are starting to come back.

The Chair asked if there was any other representative of an agency or elected official that got skipped over, hearing none.

PUBLIC FORUM – the Chairperson asked if there was anyone from the public on the telephone line who wishes to speak, instructing them to press *6 to unmute themselves; and there was no one. The Chair asked if there was anyone from the public on the video portion who would like to speak.

Felicia Singh spoke about pedestrian safety and a recent fatality.

Jeremy Bucaria commented on the conditions at Charles Park and about cones being put out by utility companies taking up parking spots but not doing any work.

Fabio Estrada also spoke about pedestrian safety and the recent fatality.

Erik Estrada spoke of an online petition regarding the need for a traffic control.

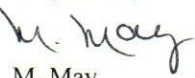
The Chair asked if there was anyone else from the public on the video side who wishes to speak, hearing none.

The Chair asked if there was anyone else from the public on the phone who wishes to speak, hearing none.

The Chairperson said due to the constraints presented by this type of remote meeting, as has been our custom since the start of Zoom meetings, the record of this meeting will be held open until the close of business tomorrow so anyone from the public who wishes to submit a question or make a comment may do so by contacting the office by phone or e-mail.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



M. May

Draft – Subject to Approval