



ELIZABETH BRATON
Chairperson

COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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KARYN PETERSEN
District Manager

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

October 1, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

B. Braton, M. Q. Amin, L. Amorim, A. Antonino, P. Baumann, N. Bissoon, J. Calcagnile, M. Cherenfant, R. Ciulla-Frisone, A. Cosentino, F. Dardani, A. Dhanpat, I. Dimoh, E. Fraylon, A. Gellineau, R. Gendron, P. Granickas, C. Malizia, R. Martinez, D. Mitchell, C. Mocombe, F. Mohamed, N. Nigro, S. Pace, R. Rathour, M. Salim, N. Santiago, A. Siewnarine, J. Stahl, I. VanPutten, L. Walker

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

J. Ariola, J. Caruso, J. Fazio, R. Hitlall, E. Holland, P. Kishun, P. Lynch, A. Maharaj, J. Quijano, B. Ramsundar, G. Russo, J. Singh, D. Sookram Singh, M. Vecchio

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hon. J. Addabbo; M. Alemu, Rep. Hon. H. Jeffries; C. Moore, Rep. Hon. J. Addabbo; N. Peters, Rep. Hon. S. Pheffer-Amato; B. Jackson, Rep. Hon. A. Adams; J. Velasquez, Office of NYC Public Advocate-Queens Borough Liaison; V. Garvey, QBPO; T. Chester, QDA's Office; J. Resor, QDCP; P.O. Iaboni, 106 Precinct Community Affairs; J. Ottomanelli, NYC DOS; W. Saint-Fort, SEQ200490; M. Walker, CAO-PANYNJ; R. Day, JFK Redevelopment/RWNYC; A. Hill, Con Edison; C. Viemeister, Project Manager, Strategic Planning, Con Edison; K. Davis, Project Engineer, Central Engineering, Con Edison

The Chairperson began the Zoom remote meeting at 6:47pm. Board member attendance was taken by roll call and it was established a quorum was present.

The Chairperson opened the informational public hearing for the evening. She introduced Mr. Anthony Hill, Manager, Con Edison Corporate Affairs, to speak about the NYC Micronet Project in collaboration with the State University of New York at Albany, to install weather-monitoring stations to gather climate change data, indicating that our area is one of the areas they will be working in. Mr. Hill thanked the Chairperson and introduced Mr. Charles Viemeister, Project Manager in the Strategic Planning Group, and Mr. Kevin Davis, Project Engineer in the Central Engineering Group to give a little background on the project, noting that the data from the stations will help Con Edison guide its investments towards protecting its energy-delivery systems from severe weather events.

Mr. Viemeister indicated he would give a little background as to why they are doing this work. He said they did a climate study over the last couple of years to determine what impacts future climate changes might have on their system and as part of that study, they noted there may be some areas in their system that would be hot spots. You might have a general temperature in an area but might actually have a concentration of heat in certain areas. As a result of that, they decided they would put in some sensors around their facilities just to see where that might be in

order to confirm the study. While doing that, they came across the Mesonet that SUNY Albany is putting together where they have weather sensors throughout the state. Con Ed thought it would be good for them to contribute to the data as apparently SUNY was having a tough time getting sensor locations within the NYC area. Con Edison is collaborating with SUNY so they can get the information they need but also providing it to them so they can combine it with their other data. There is going to be a lot of analysis going on as to what the current impacts are, looking at current weather and also some attempts at predicting where weather and climate might be going. He stated, that's the reason for doing this work. A number of different sites have been selected based on the studies / evaluations from a consultant and a couple of them are located in Queens. He noted, they have them in all five boroughs and Westchester. The stations will monitor temperatures, precipitation amounts, soil temperatures, pressure and where possible wind speed and direction. It was clarified that wind takes a larger tower and there are not too many places where they can practically put such a tower. Most of these monitoring stations are small, not very tall, tripods that are placed on the roofs of their buildings, on their properties, or somewhere on a site where they are free of any other obstacles. He said, that's the whole intent of the project and asked if there were any specific questions.

The Chairperson said, the press release that went out from the company indicated that Howard Beach and South Ozone Park were two of the areas where weather stations were to be installed, and we would be interested in some information as to where and the size. He responded, they're small tripods, so you probably can hardly notice they're there, which are located on existing ConEd sites/properties and not intruding on any public property.

The Chairperson asked if any board members had questions, and there were none. The Chairperson asked if anyone from the public had questions, and there were none.

At this point, the Chairperson closed the informational public hearing and thanked the Con Edison representatives for the presentation.

At this point the Chairperson opened the second public hearing for the evening, the Capital & Expense Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2022, and asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak with regard to the Capital & Expense Budget for FY 2022. She instructed attendees from the public who were on the telephone to state their name and for those who were on video to use the "raise your hand" feature. She explained the purpose of the hearing, noting that it's to hear if there is anything that the public would like to see included in budget requests. There were no speakers or comments from the public. The Chairperson closed the Capital & Expense Budget Priorities Fiscal Year 2022 public hearing.

An inquiry was made by Mr. Caruana regarding the ADA ramps at locations of wide roadways such as Cross Bay Blvd., and the Chairperson explained it's not part of the FY2022 budget, rather what he is commenting on is existing and ongoing work where there are contracts in place for the installation of pedestrian ramps at the corners all over the district.

The Chairperson asked again if there was anyone else who wished to speak, hearing none. The public hearing was closed.

The Chairperson then continued with the regular order of business and advised members of a correction to the September 2020 minutes which is: to mark board member M. Cherenfant as "present" and not "absent." The minutes were accepted as corrected.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Chairperson reviewed incoming correspondence for the month of September 2020 which included:

- notice from NYC-DCP - EAS has been filed with the DCP relating to Resilient Neighborhoods: Old Howard Beach rezoning
- notice from OMB relating to Dept. of Parks work citywide
- notice from NYC HPD relating to Build it Back Acquisition & Buyout Program - change in use for two locations from Acquisition for Development (housing) to Buyout (open space): 99-01 162 Avenue and 99-77 First Street (are now changed to open space)
- demolition notification: 117-14 135 Street
- demolition / construction notification: 130-58 Van Wyck Expwy.

- letter from NYC DOT regarding traffic signal installation: 109 Avenue & 122 Street
- a letter from NYC DOS to NYC Council Speaker Johnson regarding submission of 2020-2021 Snow Plan Draft
- letter from OZPKRBA regarding liquor license renewal for Mike's Tavern (it was noted that the letter was sent to the right board (#10) but addressed to the wrong board (#9) – the establishment is in Board #10)
- NYS DOT notice regarding work on the Van Wyck Expwy., overpasses & service roads, as part of the VWE Capacity and Access Improvement to JFK Airport Project (details included in board member folder material)
- letter from NYC DOT regarding launching of NYC Clean Trucks Program in partnership with NYS DEC to reduce diesel truck emissions (fact sheet included in board member folders)
- NYMTC notice regarding comment period (which ended 09/25) relating to proposed transportation improvement amendments (none of it impacted our area directly)
- NYS DOT construction notice – long term closure of the right lanes on the Van Wyck Expwy. northbound & southbound service roads in Queens from October 5 through January 5 (closures are needed to facilitate work on the NYSDOT project to replace the LIRR railroad bridge over the LIE) although these closures are not in our board area, they are going to impact our board area
- notice regarding launching of: COVID Alert NY App (exposure notification system app created by NYS DOH)

A board member commented she had not yet received her board folder which was mailed to her per US mail; and indicated she filed a postal service complaint with Congressman Meeks' office.

TREASURER'S REPORT – the Board Chairperson read the report of expenditures for the month September 2020 for the Treasurer.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT – V. Garvey – provided the following announcements and information: BP Lee, in partnership with the King Fights Cancer Foundation, is hosting a toy drive to benefit children battling cancer; operated by the family of Queens Village 7 year old named King Singh who actually beat cancer. New, unopened toys can be dropped off in the lobby of Queens Borough Hall from October 1 through October 30 any weekday between 9am-5pm (please do not donate any stuffed animals as they will not be accepted). The Queens Drive-in free Wednesday movie nights at the Museum of the Moving Image at Flushing Meadows Corona Park is still happening – RSVP & register on line at: www.queensbp.org The next virtual jobs recruitment fair is October 7th from 2-3pm on Zoom – register at: www.queensbp.org The Census has been extended to October 31(unless anything changes), so please continue to reach out to any friends, family members, residents that you know to ask if they have completed it.

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING REPORT – J. Resor – reported that the notice of pre-certification has been sent out for two land use actions: Zoning for Coastal Flood Resiliency (ZCFR) - a citywide zoning text amendment on resiliency that will help strengthen the coastlines around the city; and the Old Howard Beach Rezoning / Map Amendment - this action also seeks to strengthen the neighborhood against rising tides. Both of these actions will be open to public review starting October 19th so the boards should receive all of that application material by the end of October. Additionally, everyone was reminded, NYC DCP is hosting public virtual workshops on the NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, which is released once every ten years, and it was noted that the October 15th workshop will focus specifically on southern Queens.

The Board Chair addressed the Land Use Committee Chair asking if he had any questions.

The Land Use Committee Chair asked Ms. Resor about the timeframe of the release of the materials and the public review process. Ms. Resor indicated the Board would receive the package probably by October 28th. She said, they usually give nine days after certification for the Board to receive the material, then the Board will have 60 days (from October 28th) to review. During that time, she will make a presentation to the board.

The Board Chair addressed the Land Use Committee Chair and said she had spoken with Ms. Resor in regard to how to approach doing the public hearing on a rezoning via Zoom. The Board Chair indicated, although things could change, she presumes the public hearing on the Rezoning will be done at the December meeting. The Chairperson commented that the rezoning action involves more than 1,000 properties and indicated that pre-Covid the Board would have held a mass meeting in the community in order to provide information. However, that is not possible now. She suggested to the Land Use Chairperson that perhaps he should schedule the Committee meeting early in November.

The Board would then be able to share the video of City Planning's presentation to the impacted community. The Board will send a mailing with information to all affected property owners as soon as the rezoning details are up on City Planning's website explaining how to access it and how to get their questions answered.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – the District Manager reported on information which had been provided at the Parks Budget Consultation meeting. The following projects are in procurement but there may be delays with OMB approval: reconstruction of comfort station, renovation and resurfacing of basketball courts, resurfacing of tennis courts at P.O. Edward Byrne Park; reconstruction of playground at Al Stabile Playground. The Pals Oval synthetic turf field carpet replacement at Tudor Park is in design. The following future projects are fully funded: reconstruction of playground and spray play area at Harold Schneiderman Playground (scope meeting is scheduled); reconstruction of playground at Frederick Judge Playground (scope meeting is scheduled). The Howard Beach area (South Conduit Avenue to 165 Avenue & 104 Street to 95 Street) is slated for tree pruning, but there may be delays due to budget constraints. It was also reported that DMV reviewed the request for the relocation of the Ozone Park road test site and will be relocating it to a different area to reduce the impact on residents in the area. Notification was received from the Dept. of Sanitation that CM Ulrich and CM Adams will be providing funding for additional basket trucks to assist with basket collection along commercial strips.

The Board Chairperson addressed Mr. Ottomanelli, Queens Liaison for the Dept. of Sanitation, and invited him to speak. He said, due to budget cuts and service reductions, DSNY is collaborating with local districts on organizing volunteer cleanup events. The department would provide tools to anyone who signs up for the cleanup event and a DSNY collection truck would then service the cleanup at its conclusion.

At this point, the Board Chairperson indicated she would run through the board member attendance again to ascertain if someone had been missed in the earlier roll call.

The Chairperson then addressed 106 Precinct Community Affairs Officer Iaboni and invited him to speak. He reported that a few more "vehicle theft warning signs" have been posted along Rockaway Blvd., reminding people to turn off their vehicles, remove keys and valuables, and lock doors. The theft of tires/rims from late model Hondas, Nissans, Mercedes, and Toyotas is still an issue; they are trying to deploy some resources to the hotspots of any locations where it is happening more often.

The Chairperson acknowledged others in attendance: C. Moore, representing State Senator Addabbo; N. Peters representing Assembly Member Pheffer-Amato; B. Jackson, representing Council Member Adams; J. Velasquez, representing NYC Public Advocate Williams.

At this point, the Chairperson acknowledged Senator Addabbo and invited him to speak. He reported, on the state level they are trying to work with the MTA in terms of supplementing their funding but are advocating that they try to get their \$12billion request from the Federal Government to basically save the transit system. He noted the Federal \$12billion will supplement what the State and City already give. He thanked all community residents who have been out cleaning up the area in and around CB10. He thanked City & State DOT and the Federal National Parks Service who have been working with him and local residents and community leaders regarding the Addabbo Bridge. He said, as many may have seen, NPS has put up a barrier to stop those who are trespassing underneath the bridge. We are addressing other issues in and around the Addabbo Bridge to reduce trespassing and to keep the area clean. In an effort to try to save businesses and get people back to work, they have been working with the Governor's Office to try to allow the restaurants along Cross Bay Blvd. and other parts of CB10 to open up with more than 25% capacity, in a safe manner. He indicated he thinks it can be done safely and it's being done in Nassau County rather safely. He announced some upcoming events: drive-in movie nights (Friday & Saturday) in partnership with Resorts World & NYRA; he and Assembly Member Pheffer-Amato are doing a virtual resume webinar on October 7th (call the Senator's office for more details); co-sponsoring with Resorts World a virtual job fair Friday, October 23rd thru Sunday, October 25th (call the Senator's office for the link); e-waste recycling event - Sunday, October 11th at Forest Park Bandshell parking lot 10am – 2pm; American Red Cross virtual presentation on disaster preparedness Thursday, October 22nd at 5pm (call the Senator's office for the link). The Senator thanked the Chairperson and advised everyone to stay safe.

The Chairperson thanked the Senator.

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of Ms. M. Alemu, representing Congressman Jeffries and Ms. T. Chester, representing Queens District Attorney Katz.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – the Chairperson – reported a notice had been received from National Grid earlier in the week in regard to the LL30 work that has been going on all over the borough, and in our area for the last couple of years, which by law requires the installation of safety valves in the street. A list of approximately 125 addresses was sent to the Community Board where the owners of the property have not allowed National Grid the access to the property to do what they have to do inside so that they can do the work outside. The Board sent a letter to each property owner advising them of the factsheet that National Grid sent us and advising them that the work is legitimate, required by law, and that ultimately National Grid will be forced to turn off their service if they don't comply and allow access.

Last week information was sent to board members, on what we have gotten so far, in regard to the City's plans to extend the Open Restaurants Program and allow outdoor dining year-round. The plans were highlighted which include: expansion of seating to the frontage of adjacent properties, incorporation of heating elements into outdoor dining setups, usage of tent enclosures to keep diners warm, and additional roadway safety measures.

The Chairperson indicated she was going to put something up on the share screen and continued with her report. The Census was supposed to end yesterday, however the lower courts have ruled that right now it can continue. A review of the shared information relating to the census response rates in percentages per each of the four zip codes in CB10 was made. It was noted that although there was a lot of improvement over the last month and half, and most areas in CB10 are over the 50% response rate, there are some areas that are still not over 50% and everyone was urged to complete the census if they have not yet done so.

The Chairperson addressed the board members stating, you have in your folder materials two presentations that were made at the last Queens Borough Complete Count Committee – we all know that we have been talking for months about census response and its relationship to funding which is very important. The main constitutional requirement in regard to the census is that every ten years reapportionment happens. There were two packages of materials that were presented as to how that process plays out in the next couple of years, and everyone was encouraged to read the material at their leisure.

The Chairperson stated that Ryan Day who represents JFK Redevelopment and also Resorts World, was also in attendance this evening and noted that signage would soon be going up at the new hotel at the casino and announced it will be a Hyatt Hotel.

It was reported that the Health Dept. has now started posting information on its website with zip code maps for 4-week periods.

The Chairperson indicated a letter was received from a resident in regard to the testing site at the Ozone Park library, which is ending tomorrow, asking us to urge Health & Hospitals not to take the site away from the library, which we certainly will do. That HHC testing site was running for two weeks and previously there was an HHC site at Tudor Park. The DOH has contacted us and we have responded that we want to see more sites in this area. We are advocating for other sites. Everybody should be aware that the Aqueduct testing site is still open, it has been moved more into the Port Authority property on the Aqueduct site, but that one is not a walk in – it's a drive in and an appointment has to be made. The telephone number to make an appointment is 888-364-3065. The HHC testing sites were walk in and no appointment was necessary. Urgent care centers throughout our area are also doing testing, they may require to see your health insurance information, but you will not get billed for the testing, but you may possibly be billed for the office visit.

The meeting continued with **COMMITTEE REPORTS** as follows:

BUDGET – the Board Chairperson reported for the Committee Chairperson that the Budget Committee met via Zoom on September 28th to review the Capital & Expense Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2022, a copy of which has been sent to all board members. The Budget Committee recommends that the full Board approve the FY 2022 Capital Budget Priorities & the FY 2022 Expense Budget Priorities as presented. The Board Chair asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. The Board Chair asked if there were any "no" votes, and hearing none.

The Board Chair asked if there were any “abstentions” hearing none. The Board Chair said to all board members who are in attendance, everyone else is counted as a “yes” vote. The recommendation carried.

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

EDUCATION – the Committee Chairperson reported NYC public schools are open. There is going to be random COVID testing of the students and there’s an App that the students use to report any symptoms before they get in the building, before they come in every day.

GATEWAY – in the absence of the Committee Chair, the Board Chair noted that information/pictures regarding the Gateway Project that Council Member Ulrich, the Board, and the Civic worked on with the Charles Park Conservancy & the Jamaica Bay Conservancy was included in the board folders.

LAND USE – the Committee Chairperson elaborated on the upcoming workshop regarding the NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan which is available to all on October 15 indicating that the reason for this workshop is to plan for the future of New York City’s waterfront. He stated that every ten years the Comprehensive Waterfront Plan is released, and the NYC DCP is currently working alongside other agencies and organizations, and New Yorkers to create a new comprehensive vision for the future of the waterfront. The plan will guide planning and policy for the city’s waterfront in the next decade and beyond. To prepare for the release of the upcoming plan, DCP will be hosting online public meetings to discuss the goals and strategies for the plan. This is a good chance to find out what’s coming down and share our feedback and help them complete this. As a good portion of our board is surrounded by water, it’s going to affect us in the future, and we need input on it. As Ms. Resor discussed, we have two actions coming up, we’ll keep you up to date as to when we’re going to have our committee meeting and then the public hearing. Reference was made to two of the projects the Board had acted on: the gas station project on the North Conduit is coming along and the property is pretty much cleared; and the JFK Logistics Center, on the South Conduit by 130 Street is also moving along and you can see the steel is going up.

At this point the Board Chair, acknowledged board member Mohamed Amin, and thanked him for the huge job he has been doing with his friends and his organization and other organizations in the Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park area indicating that to a great extent, the increase in the response rate to the census in that area is due to his work. Mr. Amin thanked the Chairperson and noted that there is still some time left and people still need to get counted.

PUBLIC SAFETY – the Committee Chairperson indicated crime stats report was in board folders. He urged everyone to be careful during Halloween and to try to end it early as it is on a Saturday.

The Board Chairperson addressed Mr. Rathour advising he can make his announcement. Mr. Rathour announced the Sikh Officers Association is hosting a prayer service in remembrance of slain Deputy Sheriff Dhaliwal from Houston, who was shot while on duty. The service will be held October 9th and everyone can attend and show support for the community and law enforcement.

SUMMER YOUTH & OTHER EMPLOYMENT – the Committee Chairperson announced DYCD offers resources and virtual sessions – go to their website for more information: nyc.gov/dycd or call 800-246-4646

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

At this time, the Board Chairperson called on the various representatives of the elected officials to share information/updates:

Mr. Velasquez, representing Public Advocate Williams introduced himself. He thanked everyone and stated he is the new Queens Borough Liaison for the NYC Public Advocate. There are two representatives for all of Queens. He said he is available for any questions or concerns, and is looking forward to attending the meetings.

Ms. Alemu, representing Congressman Jeffries, indicated Mr. Chuprik has transitioned to the NYC Comptroller's Office and she is temporarily filling in. She noted this was a great first start to a well-organized virtual meeting during stressful times and thanked everyone. Updates regarding the Congressman's activities were provided.

Ms. Peters, representing Assembly Member Pheffer-Amato, announced the upcoming mobile office hours and encouraged everyone to stop by.

Mr. C. Moore, representing Senator Addabbo, indicated he would e-mail the flyer of the upcoming events which the Senator had announced earlier.

Mr. Jackson, representing Council Member Adams, spoke about the importance of getting the census response numbers up. In view of the slight COVID uptick, he reminded everyone to make sure to be as safe as possible, to wear a mask and wash your hands. He reported a town hall was held in August and the video is on Facebook. They recently participated in community cleanups and are looking to do more. Information and locations can be sent to him per e-mail: bjackson@council.nyc.gov. He indicated he participated in the conference call with National Grid regarding the safety values which are being installed. He noted there are many locations in Queens where people have not answered the door. He stressed the importance of this work and indicated National Grid will start shutting off the gas if access is not provided. They have been working with the Parks Dept. regarding the downed trees from the last storm.

Ms. Chester, representing Queens District Attorney Katz, noted this was a well-run Zoom meeting and said the DA is going to have a representative at all of the meetings. She indicated information about what's going on is available on their Twitter Page and on their website and noted there are a lot of new bureaus that DA Katz has implemented.

The Chairperson asked if there were any other representatives of elected officials or agencies that were on the phone line who wish to speak. There were none.

PUBLIC FORUM – the Board Chairperson indicated that Mr. Walker, Outreach Specialist, Council for Airport Opportunity NY & NJ had provided a written statement regarding upcoming workshops and events which the Chairperson read on his behalf.

The Chairperson then indicated Mr. Steven Williams, Outreach Trainer, Accessible Dispatch Program had requested to speak. He proceeded by sharing a flyer on the screen and indicated he represents a program that connects the community to wheelchair accessible taxis. It basically is a citywide wheelchair accessible taxi service - it operates 24/7 in all five boroughs of NYC and there is no enrollment necessary. All drivers are trained in wheelchair securement – so these are large vehicles that can basically hold a wheelchair plus additional passengers without wheelchairs. It's on demand service or you can book advance reservations. He emphasized this is the same fare as a regular standardized taxi sedan cab. You can download their mobile App and order cab service thru the App or call their dispatch call center for service. You can e-mail them for any questions or reach out to representatives at their customer call center at: 646-599-5999. He said, this is a great program to assist the elderly or people from the disabled community.

The Chairperson asked if there was anyone else from the public who wishes to speak, and hearing none. She said, as we have with all of our Zoom meetings because of the limitations of the format, the record of this meeting will be kept open until 5pm tomorrow afternoon; so if there is anyone from the public who wishes to make a comment or inquiry send us an email or give us a phone call and we will add it to the record.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



M. May

Draft – Subject to Approval