



ELIZABETH BRATON
Chairperson

COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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KARYN PETERSEN
District Manager

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

September 8, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

B. Braton; M. Q. Amin; L. Amorim; A. Antonino; P. Baumann; N. Bissoon; J. Calcagnile; J. Caruso; M. Cherenfant; R. Ciulla-Frisone; A. Cosentino; F. Dardani; A. Dhanpat; I. Dimoh; E. Fraylon; A. Gellineau; R. Gendron; A. Maharaj; C. Malizia; R. Martinez; D. Mitchell; C. M. Mocombe; S. Pace; J. Quijano; N. Santiago; A. Siewnarine; J. Stahl; I. Van Putten; M. Vecchio; L. Walker

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

J. Ariola; I. Dimoh; J. Fazio; P. Granickas; R. Hitlall; E. Holland; P. Kishun; P. Lynch; F. Mohamed; N. Nigro; B. Ramsundar; R. Rathour; G. Russo; M. Salim; J. Singh; D. Sookram-Singh

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hon. J. Addabbo; Hon. S. Pheffer-Amato; C. Moore, Rep. Hon. J. Addabbo; M. Matteo, Rep. Hon. Pheffer-Amato; C. Torres, Rep. Hon. M. Miller; K. Mooney; Rep. Hon. A. Adams; D. Brown, QDA Office; V. Garvey, QBPO; J. Velasquez, Public Advocate's Office; J. Mongeluzo, NYC Comptroller's Office; J. Resor, DCP; M. Stoddart, RWN; B. Apple, RWN; J. Moran, Bowman Consulting Group; N. Louloudis, Bowman Consulting Group.

The Chairperson began the meeting at 6:47pm conducted remotely via Zoom. Board member attendance was taken, and it was established that a quorum was present.

The Chairperson asked everyone to observe a moment of silence in honor of former Queens Borough President Claire Shulman who served as QBP for sixteen years; and for board member J. Duldulao who passed away during the summer; and also in memory of all those who perished on 9/11 in 2001.

The Chairperson acknowledged Senator Addabbo and invited him to speak. The Senator welcomed everyone back. The Senator said he had a conversation with the Governor as well as the Mayor regarding the opening of restaurants for indoor dining. He expressed his support based on the virus numbers for NYC/Queens which is still under the 1% positivity rate. He said indoor dining can open if it's done in a safe way, and it would give restaurant owners, and workers as well as other businesses, some type of guidance, and a sense of hope, that they will be opening up soon. He is still urging the Governor to pull back on SLA. He said he is very happy that Resorts World Casino will be opening up tomorrow and extended his congratulations. He and Assembly Member Pheffer-Amato had a tour last week and were pleased and very impressed to see all the safety measures in place at the casino. He thanked Resorts World for always being a great neighbor, and for the safety measures they have taken which are beyond what the State was requiring. Visitors will have an enjoyable experience, the State will get the economic boost it needs, and educational funding will be increased through the gaming wagers, and jobs will come back. He said he also asked the Governor's Office to give the casino operators some type of guidance so maybe the 25% capacity can be increased to

50% or 75% based on the metrics followed during the various phases of reopening which allowed a change roughly every two or three weeks. This would also mean more workers going back to work. Regarding the Addabbo Bridge, he thanked his colleagues in City, State, and Federal government for working together with all the community leaders in addressing the issues on the bridge, on the side of the bridge, and underneath the bridge. A chain link gate has been installed with rock barriers and it's gotten better, but there is still more work to do which entails law enforcement, both on the US Park Police side and the NYPD side, so he'll be working with both of those to make sure that rules and regulations that pertain to the bridge are being enforced, and not just a warning and telling people to go away. He said, it's about time to start issuing violations and summonses and to really enforce the regulations that are there. He again expressed his thanks to all those involved. The Senator announced the fall recycling event co-sponsored with Assembly Member Miller is scheduled for Sunday, September 27 (10am-2pm) at the Forest Park band shell. It was noted that due to the current constraints there will be no electronics recycling. Items such as clothing, shoes, eyeglasses, American flags, document shredding will be accepted. He thanked everyone on Community Board 10 and indicated Mr. Moore will continue to stay on the Zoom meeting. The Chairperson thanked the Senator.

The Chairperson acknowledged Assembly Member Pheffer-Amato and invited her to speak. The Assemblywoman thanked the Chairperson for the 9/11 moment of silence and stressed the importance to reflect back on that time and remember how we all came together as a community at that time of crisis. She said it's important to never forget those people who perished on that day and to also remember that many people are falling ill from 9/11 related illnesses; which is something she has personally taken on to battle within the Governor's Office and noted the State should get support for those folks who have gotten ill after 9/11. If you can't be at one of the memorials, the 9/11 Museum has a webinar that is accessible all day, which the schools are also using. She noted that this is the first year in which the legislation that she and Senator Addabbo had supported, calling for a moment of silence for 9/11 in NYC schools, would have taken place. As schools won't be in session that day, a webinar will be held. She indicated, you can sign on to the webinar and said we are going to have a great robust discussion with a young lady that was born on 9/11 and what that experience has been. We're trying to get those who were not yet born at that time to understand what that significance is to us as New Yorkers and the entire country. After noting that Senator Addabbo had covered all the updates, she commented how impressed she was with Resorts World on the safety levels they are taking for their employees and potential gamers, and if everyone could get to that level, we would wipe out viruses across the country. She spoke about legislation she is sponsoring after storm Isaias knocked out power to our community for over a week. She indicated that one of things that came back in all the Con Ed and PSE&G hearings and conversations is that there's been no investment in capital improvements in our community, and throughout the communities in Queens and Rockaway. She proposed legislation for 40% of their capital budget to be for investments back into infrastructure. She said we're sponsoring that with Senator Comrie and are looking to have much more commitment to capital budget every year. She wished all students and teachers a healthy school year, and reminded everyone to stay vigilant, wear masks, social distance, and give support to parents and care takers. If anyone has any questions call her office, they also have masks and hand sanitizer.

The Chairperson thanked the Senator and the Assemblywoman.

At this point, the Chairperson opened the informational public hearing for the evening and introduced Ms. Michelle Stoddart, VP for Public Affairs and Community Development, Resorts World NY, and her team to present information regarding the Resorts World NY Landscape Berm Concept Design. It was noted that board members had been provided with a copy of the general schematics in their folder material. The Chairperson said she too wanted to add her voice along with the Senator and Assemblywoman on the job done during the time the Casino had closed to ensure that the casino is up to and above standards that are required; it's absolutely amazing and thank you. Ms. Stoddart thanked the Senator and Assemblywoman for coming over and doing a tour, so they were able to showcase all the work they have done in the casino since closing during COVID. As they have been open for nine years, it was decided they would just go ahead and start touching up everything. They made sure to go above and beyond the guidelines from CDC and the Governor's Office to make sure that when you come in you will be coming into an extremely safe environment. It was noted that they are requiring that people wear masks and to social distance and they are doing everything in their power to allow for safe gaming. The food court will be closed, as per NYC no indoor dining regulations and the lottery window will not be open. She said, we will welcome everyone back tomorrow at noon to come in and see what's going on, or to game if that is your pleasure.

Ms. Stoddart said that tonight she wanted to talk about some of the improvements they're making on the outside. You may have seen mounds of dirt all over the property. That dirt actually came from the digging out for the foundation of

the hotel that is being constructed and the dirt is being used to build a berm, which will be a part of the beautification around the property. She introduced Ben Apple to introduce the architects of the berm project who would walk us through and explain the improvements for the property. Mr. Apple said they have been working hard on some beautification projects and internal projects, and the Bowman Consulting Group has helped design this berm which will add not only to Resorts World, but also provide a landscape between the community and Resorts World. At this point, he turned it over to Jaydn Moran and Nicki Louloudis. Mr. Moran, Landscape Architect/Project Manager, Bowman Consulting Group, introduced himself and indicated he would share a power point presentation and then answer any questions. Overall, they were tasked with designing a series of berms with material that was generated from the recent onsite hotel project. The limits are from Rockaway Blvd. all the way to Pitkin Avenue on the west side of the property. The goal in general was to get these berms to be as natural and attractive as possible. The heights of the berms range from four to six feet in height, and in areas where there was a little more width, they were able to get up to 13 feet in height. The berms will be planted with a native wildflower seed mixture which consists not just of wildflowers but also ornamental grasses, and perennials with most of the native ornamental grasses ranging from two to five feet in height. They'll be installing slope stabilization matting which gives the seed some time to establish while holding down the soil in case there is a heavy rain event, which may wash away the soil. That erosion control mat helps the soil stay intact until the seed and the roots of the seed lock that soil. Along with all of these improvements, they also have drainage improvements all along the perimeter of the property and along the front as well. The existing trees are to remain; they are not removing any existing trees and precautionary measures are being taken with the row of street trees to stay as far away as they can from them. He stated, in general berms help control the noise and provide a visual separation; it's going to be great for both the residential community and Resorts. A five-foot maintained grass strip along the drive will give it a nice clean look on top of the ornamental grasses and the wildflower seed mixture which will be up top. He said they would be happy to answer any questions.

The Chairperson asked if there were any questions from members of the public participating. There were none. The public hearing was closed. The Chairperson asked if there were any questions from board members and noted the "raise your hand function" was not working, so anyone speaking should first state their name. A member asked if any soil was being brought in, or if it all came out of the ground excavation for the new building, as it seemed like a lot of soil. The Chairperson confirmed that the soil all came out of the excavation and it is certified clean fill. His other question related to maintenance and overgrowth and whether that be taken care of from in house maintenance. Mr. Apple, RWNY, responded that yes, they have a contract to maintain and as these are native grass species it's going to be watered and cut and well taken care of. Mr. Apple also addressed the question regarding the soil and confirmed they've tested all the soil and have used all of the excavated soil on site. A member asked if an irrigation system was going to be put in. Mr. Apple indicated that a native grasses mix has been selected that will not require irrigation. The member also asked if any of the parking was affected and how deep is that going into your property (i.e.: by Centreville Street going toward Rockaway Blvd.). It was indicated that this did not affect any of the roadway it's just on the perimeter. The Chairperson said she, the Senator and the Assemblywoman have met with Resorts on this and a lot of the questions have been answered. She explained, essentially what this is doing, by 108 Street it gives a good separation for the houses that are there, and then as you come around on the Centreville side it gives a good separation from the roadway and from the homes that are across the street, and from the casino's side it separates the automotive uses that are visual on the Linden Blvd. end. So, it's essentially a win-win, it prettifies the interior area and provides a buffer that provides not only a visual buffer but also a sound buffer for the residential uses on the west side of the property. A member asked, if you're going up 13 feet, are you sloping down or building a retaining wall on the casino side of the property, on the parking field side of the property, to hold up that height up. Mr. Apple responded there are no walls it's all just berm; it comes up and comes back down with enough room so we can get drainage improvement swales on both sides, noting those were our limits, our criteria. The Chairperson noted that the racetrack has always been a bad drainage area, and this gives a natural way to help the drainage overall to the property. A member asked about the timeframe. Mr. Apple said they have already gone through the permit process and are just waiting for approval on this - they are ready to start. It's about a 60-day project, so they anticipate finishing before the end of the year if they receive approval. The Chairperson noted that they probably would have been ready to start had meetings been held during the summer. She stated the Community Board does not have a formal role in approving this, but the State has required that Resorts World, on any of the things that they do to make the Community Board aware and to present things to the board, and they have been waiting to do this at our meeting. She said, absent any objections, we will be sending a letter indicating that it has been presented to us and that our questions have been answered and they will continue to consult with us as it moves forward and if there are any issues we want to bring up they will take our issues under advisement. The Chairperson asked if there were any other questions from anyone. A member asked whether the contractors for the project will be from Queens and if any of the labor hired to complete this job will be

coming from Queens. Mr. Apple responded they have gone through an RFP process and have selected a contractor which he believes is Long Island based, and he didn't know exactly where the labor comes from, but it's from the area.

The Chairperson addressed Ms. Stoddart and asked her to look into this and ensure that the company that is being used is making an absolute effort to use local labor as you have on all of the other projects that have occurred. Ms. Stoddart acknowledged she would do so and would have an answer by tomorrow. Ms. Stoddart thanked Mr. Apple and the architects. She indicated Senator Addabbo had asked her to make an announcement on his behalf. Noting that this has been a hard year for everyone, she announced they have put together a drive-in movie theater and are presenting four movies: Friday, September 25; Saturday, September 26; Friday, October 2; and Saturday, October 3. Movies will be shown on the NYRA parking lot (closest to Resorts World) and you'll enter via Rockaway Blvd. Each car has to have a ticket. You can go on the Resorts World website and click on drive-in movies where you can reserve and print out a ticket for any of the movies you want to come to. It's going to be for 200 cars per movie night. Enjoy a late summer movie night with your family.

Addressing RWNJ, the Chairperson said that despite the fact that there has not been any income for the casino, they have kept up their charitable giving through the summer. They have been a major contributor to the food efforts in the borough, a major contributor of PPE to medical facilities, including the 106 Precinct, through the Community Council. The casino has kept up its commitment to the community during this difficult time and we would like to thank you for that.

Ms. Stoddart announced the COVID testing site will still be operating there, but from the Port Authority portion of that parking lot, so it will still be available to this community and RW will continue to support their efforts for the long term. The Chairperson thanked her and her team for coming.

The Chairperson continued with the regular order of business and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the June 2020 minutes. There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Chairperson reviewed correspondence for the month of June, July, and August 2020 which included:

- letter from NYC DOT regarding meter parking conversions across the five boroughs
- letter from NYC DOT regarding speed reducer on 149 Ave. between 85 St. & So. Conduit Ave.
- notices from the NYC DPR regarding COVID-19 updates and anti-litter campaign
- various notices from OMB relating to: DOE, DEP, DDC, DPR, FDNY, NYC Health & Hospitals
- notice from Northwell Health, regarding book co-authored by their President & CEO: "Leading Through a Pandemic: The Inside Story of Lessons Learned about Innovation, Leadership and Humanity During the COVID-19 Crisis"
- notice from DOITT regarding 5G poletop design
- copy of letter from NYS Dept. of Public Service to Con Edison regarding storm response
- copy of letter sent to NYSLA regarding actions taken over the summer
- notice from DDC regarding notification of completion of HWQ411B Project
- DDC notification of completion: Green Infrastructure in the Jamaica Bay combined sewer outfall tributary areas
- notice of comment period: NY Metropolitan Transportation Council's Draft 2055 Population & Employment Forecasts
- notices from T. C. Systems regarding utility jobs
- notice from JEK Communications, Inc. regarding cable system work
- notice of TLC license renewal: Trinity Car Service (134-15 Rockaway Blvd., SOP)
- construction/demolition notices: 150-11 114 Place; 149-12 122 St.; Block 11562, Lots 115 & 119
- partial demolition notice: 107-04 & 107-06 Rockaway Blvd.

The Chairperson referenced some of the material in the board folders relating to NYC DOT 84th Street bike lanes indicating a discussion was to take place the next day.

TREASURER'S REPORT – due to technical difficulties the Treasurer could not be heard; therefore, the Chairperson read the report of expenditures for the months of July & August 2020 indicating that as of July 1st the budget was started with a new balance.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT – the Chairperson announced that Dan Brown has moved on to another job and introduced Ms. Vicky Garvey as the Borough President's Liaison, noting that Ms. Garvey is no stranger to the Board as she is with the Planning Office at Borough Hall. Ms. Garvey reported they have been doing census outreach and PPE giveaways, primarily in south Richmond Hill, since last week, and will be there again this Thursday the 10th and Saturday the 12th between 1pm - 4pm. They will be handing out masks and hand sanitizer and really encouraging folks to complete their census before the September 30th deadline. On Thursday they will be at Liberty Avenue/Lefferts Blvd. and the location is to be determined for Saturday. As they figure that out, it will be communicated to CB10. Their 8th virtual job fair is Wednesday, September 16th at 2pm / registration is online: www.queensbp.org/recruitmentfair. Feel free to call the main line: 718-286-3000 for any questions or registration issues. The Queens Drive-In at the NY Hall of Science at Flushing Meadows Corona Park is being held. Go to their website to register for tickets and/or purchase tickets in some cases: www.queensbp.org

QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S LIAISON REPORT – Mr. Dan Brown was welcomed and invited to speak. Mr. Brown said it's been my pleasure to represent the Queens Borough President at CB10 for almost seven years, and I feel like all of you are my friends. Starting today, he began working/representing the Queens District Attorney, Melinda Katz, for CB10. He does not yet have a phone, but if you want to call the office just call the main line: 718-286-6000 or email: dtbrown@queensda.org. If you have any issues you want to discuss, or if your organization, or civic, is having an event that you would like the DA to attend send that to him as well. He said it's a pleasure to still be here in a different capacity and I look forward to continuing my work with you all.

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING REPORT – J. Resor – the ULURP clock is going to start officially on September 14th. That will reopen the public review process for land use applications, and this also affects the (ZCFR) zoning for coastal flood resiliency text amendment, which will be coming up in the fall along with the Old Howard Beach rezoning. Notification will be received 30 days prior to the certification. She said to let her know if you have any questions. The DCP's Waterfront Division will be holding workshops on the Comprehensive Waterfront Plan and the workshop for CB10 will be on October 15th. DCP optional training webinars relating to the community district needs and budget requests process are coming up. If you have any questions email: jresor@planning.nyc.gov

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – The District Manager reported on the locations slated for milling and paving in the upcoming weeks.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – The Chairperson reported the board office still has a supply of masks which can be mailed out to anyone who requests them. If anyone is interested in getting tested for COVID there will be a testing site this week at Tudor Park on 133 Avenue & 81 Street, from 10am till 4pm. Reference was made to the earlier mention of the Public Service Commission's letter in regard to Con Edison's power restoration in Queens following storm Isaias. Both Senator Addabbo and Assemblywoman Pheffer-Amato spoke about the issues with the storm response. The Chairperson indicated that one of the things that compounded the response certainly was the tree damage, but a full week after the storm there still were people without electricity and that was unacceptable. The Borough President and elected officials from Queens did a press conference where they blasted Con Edison's management of power restoration in Queens County. She indicated she was the Board Chairperson that spoke for all of the boards and one of the reasons for that was that CB10, 12, 13 in southern Queens were the worst in terms of response in getting people's electric back on quickly. It was not until the 6th day after the storm that just a few people were still out. We were in the top three of the 14 boards for the number of outages for the entire week after the storm. In terms of tree damage, in the Borough of Queens which had the most tree damage in the City, yet other areas in the City were getting responded to for tree damage sooner than Queens was. The Chairperson provided information on the number of tree damage complaints for the Board area and asked that members aware of any trees that still have to be addressed, please give the office a call and let us know where they are, and we will try to follow-up. If you know anyone who has any damage to their property or vehicle because of a street tree, claims can be made to the Comptroller's Office, but must be made within 90 days from date of storm. The Chairperson continued with her report, indicating an e-mail had been received from the Center for NYC Neighborhoods regarding the backwater valve installation program which is still under way. For more information and to find out if you qualify for the program go to: floodhelpnewyork.org. The Chairperson commented on an interesting email we had received from a music group praising one of our neighborhoods. NYC DOB has its no-penalty inspection of business accessory signs and the return of the annual no-penalty deck and porch and retaining wall inspection programs which continues until September 15th. The Vision Zero Update is in the folders.

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

AQUDEUCT – it was noted the report was in board folders.

EDUCATION – the Board Chairperson noted that she asked Dr. N. Bissoon to assume the Chair of the Education Committee who graciously agreed. The Committee Chairperson reported schools have been delayed in opening and will now open on Monday, September 21st for hybrid learning.

JFK INTERNATIONAL – the Board Chairperson stated that some of the JFK redevelopment may not happen as quickly as it was supposed to happen due to the impacts of the budget issues at the State level.

LAND USE – the Committee Chairperson indicated he didn't have anything new to report but wanted to make everyone aware that there is activity at the Bolla Market service station on the North Conduit. The buildings that were at the site were demolished and clearing of trees and overgrowth was done. He noted, we will be seeing one of our projects get built and it looks like it's off to a good start.

At this point the Board Chairperson indicated she was going to pause to review the attendance list again to see if there was anyone who may have been missed earlier.

PARKS – the Committee Chairperson indicated that some of the parks may be looking a little shabby this year and explained it's due to lack of hiring of summer help because of the pandemic. He noted there are only five people working in the entire community board plus a supervisor and a gardener. DPR can no longer use Roundup weed killer and the product they have been given as a replacement seems not to be working very well. He announced that National Night Out is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th (4pm-7pm) at Demutiis Park adjacent to the 106 Precinct on 101 Street & Liberty Avenue.

PERSONNEL – in regard to the budget, the committee chairperson commented that he doesn't see anything happening to CB10's personnel at this time; and the Board Chairperson noted that right now the board has not been hit with additional budget cuts.

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

SANITATION – the Board Chairperson stated that Sanitation is another one of the agencies that has been hit with big budget cuts. Although a lot of people have been concentrating on the Police Dept. cuts, the Parks Dept. and Sanitation have been hit with huge cuts. We are seeing a big difference in basket pickup, a big difference in a lot of aspects that Sanitation deals with and we're coming into the winter season and hopefully it doesn't snow a lot this year. It was noted, none of the agencies have been hit yet with any personnel cuts, but that may be coming.

SUMMER YOUTH & OTHER EMPLOYMENT – the Committee Chairperson announced the US Postal Service is hiring for a few different positions and they can be contacted at: 1-800-995-5726 www.postalexam473.com/jobs. The Dept. of Youth & Community Development is offering virtual training courses. Check their website for more information: nyc.gov/dycd or call 1-800-246-4646

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – A board member, asked about the schedule of future board meetings and the Board Chairperson explained that the board will be resuming its regular schedule of meeting on the first Thursday of the month unless there is a reason to change and members will always be notified of that kind of change and the reason why.

PUBLIC FORUM – the Chairperson indicated Commonpoint Queens provided information per email to be announced in the public forum. They are offering free educational programs for youth 18 to 24 years of age. They are offering medical training, high school equivalency among other things. If anyone is interested contact Evelyn Herrera for more information and to sign up for an information session. Her email is: eherrera@commonpointqueens.org
Phone: 929-801-0042

The Chairperson asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak, and there was no one. She said, as in the past remote meetings, if there is anyone from the public who wishes to make a comment or a statement or ask a question, the record of this meeting will be held open until the close of business tomorrow; just reach out to us by email or telephone to let us know.

The Chairperson asked if there were any elected officials' representatives and city agency representatives who were present who wished to speak and invited them to do so. Information/updates were provided by: Mr. Matteo, representing Assembly Member Pheffer-Amato; Mr. Mongeluzo, representing Comptroller Stringer; Ms. Torres, representing Assembly Member Miller;

The Chairperson asked again if there was anyone else from the City Agencies or Representatives who would like to speak. There was no one.

A Board member said she wanted to commend the community board staff on a job well done during a rough time. The Chairperson indicated the staff has been partially back in the office and noted if anyone requires contact with the office to please call first to ensure that they are there, and also to make arrangements for a safe visit if it means a visit is necessary. She asked that as much as possible be done by phone or email. She stated, we're trying to keep our staff safe yet get the work done. We have a great staff who are doing an excellent job and it's been a very difficult time.

The Chairperson asked if there was anything else anybody would like to bring up; there was nothing.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting 8:21pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



M. May
Draft – Subject to Approval