



Donovan Richards
Borough President

Maricela Cano
Director of Community Boards

Queens Community Board 13

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Bryan J. Block
Chair

Mark McMillan
District Manager

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 27, 2023
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Present:

Robert Alleyne; Rachelle Antoine; Bryan Block; Kyle Bragg; Barbara Clements; Sylvia Cothia; Marissa Cronin; Tanya Cruz; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Stephanie Delia; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Robert Glover; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Vernal Holder; Mohamood Ishmael; Rhonda Kontner; Jonathan Logan; Michael Mallia; Sophia Mighty; Kangela Moore; Loleta Beckett-Nicholson; Marcia O'Brien; Michael O'Keeffe; Cinnamon Paltoo; David Pecoraro; Anup Ramnauth; Ashok Satkalmi; Steven Taylor; Koshy Thomas; Pritpal Singh Walia; Jackie Wilson

Absent:

Angela Augugliaro; Corey Bearak; Alain Berrouet; Alexandra Brathwaite; Delroy Dawkins; Derrick DeFlorimonte; Nicholette Emptage; Charles Farruggia; Bonnie Huie; Jaslin Kaur; Antony Kuncheria; Curlene Nelson; Nagassar Ramgarib; Peter Richards; Sheila Beverly-Skinner; Steven Taylor; Perminder Thiara (R); Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick;

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM.

The Chair called for a "Moment of Silence" to remember the victims of the shooting in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Chair acknowledges the myriad of religious holidays taking place: Ramadan; Festival of Colors; Passover; Holy Week and Easter.

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards:

- This has been a good year for Queens.
- A banner year for community board member applications.
- His office has spent \$130M for capital projects.
- \$75M has been allocated to Queens this fiscal year:
 - Focus on education.
 - Public schools vs charter schools.
 - \$22M has been spent on schools the past 2 years.
- Health Care – Sloane Kettering is going into Jamaica Hospital
 - BP putting \$20M into hospitals to expand the number of beds.
- Crime – Queens numbers down the past 2 years.
- Unemployment down from 27% to 4.9%.
- \$15B of private investment in JFK Airport:
 - Up to 10K new jobs.
 - MWBE numbers have been good.
- Roy Wilkens Park getting \$147M in investments.
- 116 Precinct progressing – on budget and on time.
- Hosting meetings with Queens Public Library System and DDC on libraries
- Plans to visit high schools:
 - Despite disinvestment in schools, principals are doing amazing things.
- Questions where the money from “gambling” is being allocated:
 - BP has a vote on any gaming licenses
- BP has no position on Creedmoor:
 - Wants community input.
 - Does NOT support shelter(s) at this location.
- BP supports legalizing basement apartments:
 - Must be up to code.
 - Reasonable timeframes for compliance.
 - Basements are already being rented.
 - Wants financial support from both the federal government and the state.
 - Does NOT support ADUs (accessory dwelling units).
 - Will NOT support any plan to reduce residential zoning.
 - However, there may be places in Queens where it could work.
 - Governor Hochul's Plan (Housing Compact) falls short because there was no engagement for community input.
 - However, there are 80K people who are homeless.
- BP funds both Charter and public schools
 - Co-location absolutely takes away from public schools.
 - Big Charter Schools need to purchase their own buildings.
 - Enrollment is down in both public and Charter schools.
 - Supports “choice” for parents.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Board Member Mohamood Ishmael.

BM Richard Hellenbrecht motions to amend the agenda to have “New Business” as Item #11.

Chair's Report

- Speaks about Governor Hochul's "Housing Compact":
 - QCB13 Stakeholders Group.
 - Lists names of members.
 - Spoke about how this group was formed.
 - Detailed number of meetings.
 - Held a presser in front of BM Bess DeBetham's house.
- Lists events/meeting attended since the February 2023 General Board Meeting.
- BM Bess DeBetham motioned to accept the Chair's Report. Seconded by BM Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick. Unanimous "yes" voice vote.

DM Report (written)

- BM Jim Delaney motions to accept DM Report with necessary corrections. Seconded by BM Barbara Clements. Unanimous "yes" voice vote.

Presentation:

Queens Stakeholders PowerPoint Presentation by Bill Perkins:

- What the "Housing Compact" is... Defines TODs (Transit Oriented Development) and ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units)
- Details of the questions presented to Governor Hochul's staff.
- Detailed calendar of meetings.
- Next steps.

Elected Officials

Khaleel Bragg – **Queens Borough President's Office**

Marlon Palacios, Jr. – **Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz's Office**

Kayla Christie – **Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman's Office**

Jess Mueller – **Assembly Member Edward Braunstein's Office**

Joyce Choi – **Council Member Linda Lee's Office**

Roll Call

January General Board Meeting Minutes

- BM Bess DeBetham motions to approve, seconded BM Kyle Bragg.

Committee Reports

Parks & Environment Committee – Committee Chair Fay Hill:

- Newly appointed Queens Parks Commissioner Jackie Langsam attended:
 - Details Commissioner's Report.
 - Commissioner answers various questions.
- Committee Chair Fay Hill and BM Kangela Moore testified on behalf of their respective parks (Springfield and Brookville).

Land Use Committee – Committee Chair Michael Mallia:

- Discussed the Creedmoor site and ESD (Empire State Development).
- Read the Resolution drafted by BM Richard Hellenbrecht for this site:
 - BM Michael Mallia motions to have membership support this resolution, seconded by BM Richard Hellenbrecht.
 - Roll call vote: 26 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention.
 - (5 members marked "present" did not vote.)

Combined Youth, Education Libraries and Public Safety Committees – YEL Committee Chair Rhonda Kontner, and PSC Chair Michael O'Keeffe:

- Presentation on "School Safety Measures" being taken for schools within the 105 Precinct.
 - Inspector Igor Pinkhasov spoke at the meeting.
- Overall, there are social problems among young people.

Transportation Committee – Committee Chair Mohamood Ishmael:

- Belt Parkway eastbound from the Van Wyck Expressway to the Laurelton Parkway is being repaved over the next 6 weeks at night.
- Details individual constituent issues from the meeting.

Seniors & Special Needs Committee – Committee Chair Kangela Moore:

- Birch Family Services presents on two (2) "Individual Residential Alternatives" planned to be sited in Cambria Heights and Glen Oaks.

Public Safety Committee – Committee Chair Michael O'Keeffe and Co-Chair Robert Glover:

- Listed establishments with letter of support for liquor licenses. Looking at ways to minimize time spent on evaluating liquor license applications.

New Business

- BM David Pecoraro made requests for additions to the agenda regarding committee chair contact information, board member training and the sharing of board member contact information.
 - Committee Chairs understand they need to be contacted on business relevant to their committee's subject area. They can be contacted through the board office or directly on an as-needed basis.
 - The Queens Borough President's Office has agreed to arrange for any retraining that any incumbent board member requests.
 - QCB13 has a long-standing tradition of protecting the privacy of its members for any number of reasons. If any board member would like to contact another, they can reach out directly to the board office where a connection will be facilitated with the requested board member's consent.

Meeting adjourned @ 10:28 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McMillan
District Manager
Queens Community Board 13