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Queens Community Board 13

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Bryan J. Block
Chair

Mark McMillan
District Manager

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES March 25, 2024 Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Present:

Maximus Barton; Corey Bearak; Bryan Block; Barbara Clements; Bobbie Cole; ; Sylvia Cothia; Marissa Cronin; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Stephanie Delia; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Robert Glover; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Vernal Holder; Bonnie Huie; Rhonda Kontner; Michael Mallia; Sophia Mighty; Loleta Beckett-Nicholson; Cinnamon Paltoo; Lenroy Pascall; David Pecoraro; Latchman Persaud; Nagassar Ramgarib; Anup Ramnauth; Sheila Beverly-Skinner; Ronald Summers; Steven Taylor; Koshy Thomas; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick; Pritpal Singh Walia; Jackie Wilson

Absent:

Robert Alleyne; Rachelle Antoine; Angela Augugliaro; Alain Berrouet; Kyle Bragg; Tanya Cruz (R); Nicholette Emptage; Charles Farruggia; Mohamood Ishmael; Jaslin Kaur; Kangela Moore; Curlene Nelson; Marcia O'Brien; Michael O'Keeffe; Sandra Persaud; Peter Richards; Ashok Satkalmi

The meeting was called to order at 7:28 pm by Chair Bryan Block.

Pledge of Allegiance led by BM Richard Hellenbrecht.

Chair's Report

The Chair details the events/meetings attended since the last General Board Meeting.

Queens DA Katz, scheduled to speak tonight, had to go to a shooting of an NYPD officer in Far Rockaway and will probably not be attending.

Notes the changing dates of the next two General Board meetings: April 29, 2024 (moved back one week because of Passover), and May 20, 2024 (moved forward one week because of the Memorial Day holiday).

There are rumors of a shelter being built at the former Rite Aid site on Linden Boulevard – QCB13 has not received any notifications for any proposed shelter at this time.

Kevin Morris, the mayor's representative to QCB13 – "Nothing from the Mayor's Office or DHS has that site as a homeless shelter."

BM David Pecoraro moves to accept. BM Nagassar Ramgarib seconds. Unanimous "yes" voice vote to accept.

DM Report (written)

BM David Pecoraro motions to accept, seconded by BM Richard Hellenbrecht. Unanimous "yes" voice vote to accept.

February General Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by BM Delroy Dawkins and seconded by BM Richard Hellenbrecht. All "Yes" votes except 1 "No" vote by BM David Pecoraro.

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz:

(Calls into the meeting on her way to Far Rockaway to be at the scene of the NYPD officer who got shot.)

- Crime statistics have gone down.
- "Ghost Guns" has become a huge issue for law enforcement.
- Deed thefts are also a big issue; arrests are being made and her office is getting people back their deeds.
 - Suggests everyone signs up for Acris to check on their property and get notices of any changes from the City of New York.

Elected Officials

Nathaniel Hezekiah – **Congressman Gregory Meeks' Office**

Justin Conner – **Congressman Tom Suozzi's Office**

Kevin Morris – **Mayor Eric Adams' Office**

Norris Johns – **Public Advocate Jumaane Williams' Office**

Georgia Katsalis – **Queens Borough President Donovan Richard's Office**

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

Daniel Sparrow – **Council Member Linda Lee's Office**

Roll Call

Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee – Committee Vice Chair Bob Glover:

- Approved 3 liquor license applications.
- Spoke about “domestic violence” presentation at the meeting.

Youth, Education & Libraries Committee – Committee Chair Rhonda Kontner:

- Rosana Rai Shields, Guidance Counselor, Business Technical Early Entry College High School (B-Tech), presented on the school (which is co-located in Martin Van Buren High School).
 - The school is presently in year 10 of its existence.
 - The school has an early college CTE Program.
 - The school has a 99% graduation rate.
 - The school has numerous AP classes.
 - The school confers Amazon Certificates.
 - The school has partnerships with Baruch College, John Jay College and CCNY.

Economic Development Committee – Committee Chair Sophia Mighty:

- Robert Hynes, Manager, Community Affairs, New York Racing Association (NYRA), presented on the updating of Belmont Racetrack:
 - This is a \$455M redevelopment.
 - All downstate horseracing will be consolidated at this racetrack.
 - The Grandstand will be downsized to 1/3 of its current size.
 - This will create 30 acres of green space – making it more accessible to the public.
 - The return on investment (ROI) is expected to be \$155M annually.

Transportation Committee – Committee Vice Chair Sophia Mighty:

- DOT Presentation on the area around Rosedale Success Academy:
 - Several one-way streets have been created for safety reasons that are supported by the Rosedale Civic Association and QCB13.
- DDC Presentation on the “acquisition and scope” of land to minimize flooding in an eastern area of Rosedale.
- DOT Permanent Outdoor Dining Rules finalized.

Parks & Environment Committee – Committee Chair Fay Hill:

- Although no meeting was held, BM Maximus Barton (in-person) and Committee Chair Hill (virtually) testified at City Hall against budget cuts to the Department of Parks.

Health & Hospital Committee – (DM McMillan on behalf of the Co-Chairs)

- Gerald Williams, Family Nurse Practitioner, presented:
 - He spoke about the importance of Primary Care -
 - Its behavioral aspects.
 - Combining western and natural medicines.
 - Weeding out non-compliance.

- Eliminating many of the medications prescribed.
- A system utilized to identify unrecognized diseases.
- The different classifications for primary care.
- The overall community recognition of the importance of preventative medicine - the need for primary care providers and patients to have long-lasting relationships.

Public Speaking

BM David Pecoraro wants more transparency with the community board. He also wants to fight the mayor's proposed library budget cuts.

BM Vernal Holder speaks about how there is no hospital in the five boroughs properly equipped to address those afflicted with Sickle Cell Disease. There is a proposed bill in the State Senate – S18908 – that attempts to address the problem.

BM Loleta Beckett-Nicholson queries on what is happening at the old Burger King site at Merrick & Springfield Boulevards. BM Bob Glover informs it is being remodeled and will become an updated Burger King/Popeyes restaurant.

James Johnson requested a letter of support for additional DSNY street sweeping on Rockaway Boulevard within the GatewayJFK catchment area. The DM assured him the letter would be written and sent out.

Tamara Gonzalez requested a school crossing guard for the Cambria School for the Gifted located at 233 Street & Linden Boulevard. The DM stated he would investigate this with the NYPD and DOT.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McMillan
District Manager
Queens Community Board 13