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Queens Community Board 13

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Bryan J. Block
Chair

Mark McMillan
District Manager

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 29, 2024

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Present:

Maximus Barton; Corey Bearak; Bryan Block; Ella Caynes; Barbara Clements; Bobbie Cole; Latanya Collins; Sylvia Cothia; Marissa Cronin; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Charles Farruggia; Leonard Hookum; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Robert Glover; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Mohamood Ishmael; Rhonda Kontner; Sophia Mighty; Kangela Moore; Laura Morand; Curlene Nelson; Loleta Beckett-Nicholson; Marcia O'Brien; Michael O'Keeffe; Cinnamon Paltoo; Lenroy Pascall; David Pecoraro; Latchman Persaud; Sandra Persaud; Nagassar Ramgarib; Anup Ramnauth; Ashok Satkalmi; Ronald Summers; Steven Taylor; Pritpal Singh Walia; Jackie Wilson

Absent:

Angela Augugliaro; John Boyd; Kyle Bragg; Stephanie Delia; Sequoyah Douglas; Vernal Holder; Bonnie Huie; Michael Mallia; Sheila Beverly-Skinner; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chair Bryan Block.

Pledge of Allegiance led by BM Max Barton.

Chair's Report

The chair states we are a city agency with different rules than civic associations.

He speaks about the Rite Aid property:

The community board will not be holding a vote on this because the community board has not received any official notification about any city-connected use.

- There will be an opportunity to speak during "public Speaking" time.
- The Community Board cannot act or vote without any official notification.
- We are aware of the Department of Buildings filings.

The Chair introduces the new Board Members present:

- LaTanya Collins
- Ella Caynes
- Leonard Hookum
- Laura Morand

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

BM David Pecoraro moves to accept. BM Steven Taylor seconds. Unanimous “yes” voice vote to accept.

DM Report (written)

BM David Pecoraro motions to accept, seconded by BM Delroy Dawkins. Unanimous “yes” voice vote to accept.

March General Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by BM Rich Hellenbrecht and seconded by BM Anup Ramnauth. All “Yes” votes except 1 “No” vote by BM David Pecoraro.

Elected Officials

Nathaniel Hezekiah – **Congressman Gregory Meeks' Office**
Kevin Morris – **Mayor Eric Adams' Office**
Georgia Katsalis – **Queens Borough President Donovan Richard's Office**
Marlon Palacios – **Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz's Office**
Anthony Harrison – **State Senator Leroy Comrie' Office**
Irene Cheung – **Assembly Member Ed Braunstein's Office**
Maylene Thurton – **Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman's Office**
Imade Omozore – **Assembly Member Clyde Vanel's Office**
Daniel Sparrow – **Council Member Linda Lee's Office**

Roll Call

Congressman Gregory Meeks

- He calls into this meeting from his office in Washington, D.C., understanding its importance to his constituents in the affected area.
- Thanks community board members for their service.
- Remarks on the Rite Aid site in Cambria Heights:
 - He had a direct conversation with Mayor Adams who stated this will not become a homeless shelter.

- He is working directly with the other elected officials in the area to address and monitor this situation.
- The mayor will come and state this directly to the Cambria Heights Civic Association.
- The Board Chair thanks Congressman Meeks for coming to the meeting.
 - Chair Block will inform the community when the mayor is attending a meeting in the rea.

Nomination Committee

The Chair states this is the time when a nomination committee is organized to create a slate for the Executive Committee elections in June.

The Chair nominate BM Corey Bearak. He accepts.
 BM Bearak nominates BM Bess DeBetham. She accepts.
 BM DeBetham nominates BM Sophia Mighty. She accepts.
 BM Mighty nominates BM Robert Glover. He accepts.
 BM Glover nominated BM Delroy Dawkins. He accepts.
 BM Dawkins nominates BM Charles Farruggia. He accepts.
 BM Farruggia nominates BM Barbara Clements. She accepts.

Chair Block states having requisite number of committee members, he nominates BM Bearak to Chair this committee. He accepts.

Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee – Committee Chair Michael O'Keeffe:

- Expressed condolences to members of the 105 Precinct on the killing of P.O. Jonathan Diller.
- Spoke about the 105 Precinct Council Meeting:
 - The issues of illegal smoke shops and squatters were discussed.
 - Collective City Clergy Preventing Gun Violence presented and would be attending the May PSC meeting.
 - A new policy of e-commerce exchanges being done in front of all police precincts.

Seniors & Special Needs Committee – Committee Chair Kangela Moore:

- Dr. Carol Grant spoke about her Op-ed which advocated the need for more senior housing in NYC.
- BM Lorraine Gittens-Bridges spoke about education for special needs children and the creation of a new advocacy group (NYCCSEPTSA) using the model of parent and community leadership structures that already exist in this space.

Transportation Committee – Committee Chair Moh Ishmael:

- Open Plans Group gave a presentation on "Daylighting:"
 - NYS law – NYC is not up to date on compliance with the law.
 - A Resolution will be drafted and reviewed at the next committee meeting before being brought to the full board.

- The outdoor dining process has now been implemented by DOT.
 - It goes from April through November.
 - There can be sidewalk tables year-round if they meet the regulations.
- DOT now has lockers where people can receive packages (a response to porch pirates).
- New parking meters are being rolled out – the first batch in Manhattan.

Youth, Education & Libraries Committee – Committee Vice Chair Lorraine Gittens-Bridges:

- There were three speakers –
 - “Empower My ‘Hood” presentation by BM Bobbi Cole on the organization she runs getting young people into college.
 - Vanessa Sparks spoke in detail on the college financial aid process.
 - Trina Mitchell, CEC for District 29, spoke about her 3 children who are at different points in the education process.

Public Speaking

- BM David Pecoraro welcomes new board members.
- Dwayne Moore has concerns about the proposal to lower the speed limits for motor vehicles in NYC; he states there are already too many fines. He expresses that the roads should be fixed.
- Harry Lature questions whether ADUs (accessory dwelling units) are being made legal?
- Arcelia Cook – she serves on cb12 and sees the need to collaborate on the shelter issue.
- Jax Dolly does not express positive feelings about the local elected officials and the community board. She thinks there is a better way to communicate with the community.
- BM Sylvia Cothia requests information on the MTA Bus Redesign.
- Juanita attended the Bus Redesign meeting and had concerns about the Q4 bus.
- BM Jackie Wilson states the Laurelton Memorial Day Parade will begin at 9:00 am on Memorial Day at Merrick and Francis Lewis Boulevards.
- BM Marcia O'Brien states the Rosedale Memorial Day Parade will start after the finish of the Laurelton Parade on 243 Street & Mayda Road.

The meeting was adjourned @ 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McMillan
District Manager
Queens Community Board 13