



Donovan Richards
Borough President

Kahleel Bragg
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Queens Community Board 13

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Bryan J. Block
Chair

Mark McMillan
District Manager

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2024

Next City Church

240-15 Hillside Avenue

Bellerose, NY 11426

Attendance

Present:

Maximus Barton; Corey Bearak; Bryan Block; Ella Caynes; Barbara Clements; Latanya Collins; Sylvia Cothia; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Stephanie Delia; Sequoyah Douglas; Charles Farruggia; Vernal Holder; Leonard Hookum; Bonnie Huie; Robert Glover; Richard Hellenbrecht; Mohamood Ishmael; Laura Morand; Curlene Nelson; Michael O'Keeffe; David Pecoraro; Latchman Persaud; Sandra Persaud; Nagassar Ramgarib; Anup Ramnauth; Ashok Satkalmi; Ronald Summers; Steven Taylor; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick; Jackie Wilson

Absent:

Angela Augugliaro; John Boyd; Kyle Bragg; Bobbie Cole; Marissa Cronin; Delroy Dawkins; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Fay Hill; Rhonda Kontner; Michael Mallia; Sophia Mighty; Kangela Moore; Loleta Beckett-Nicholson; Marcia O'Brien; Cinnamon Paltoo; Lenroy Pascall; Sheila Beverly-Skinner; Pritpal Singh Walia

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

Pledge of Allegiance by all present.

Chair's Report

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

BM Anup Ramnauth moves to accept. BM Corey Bearak seconds. Unanimous "yes" voice vote to accept.

Council Member Linda Lee:

- On the City of Yes – Economic Development vote coming up in June, she is a “NO” vote.
 - Amendments were made –
 - No corner stores
 - Number of employees in home businesses decreased there are 18 proposals in total – see DCP website
- City of Yes – Housing Opportunity will be coming up in the fall, no specific timeline for the City Council has been established.
 - 26 votes are needed for it to pass.
- More power has been given to municipalities from the state to enforce against illegal cannabis shops.
- Local Law 97 – her proposal for some relief in the timeline for coops and condos has 21 co-sponsors
 - The penalties will dramatically affect this class of homeowner.
 - She is trying to negotiate items out that are opposed by constituents/groups in her district.

DM Report (written)

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

Roll Call: 27 members present.

Presentation

Con Edison on New Substation being built in St. Alban's (Brinkerhoff & 10 Street – called “Springfield”) that will help power both community boards 12 and 13.

- Building a grid for the future.
- Smart meters being installed.
- Reimagining the gas system – lowering the carbon footprint.
- Power Point shown detailing this new facility.
- The roof will have vegetation to absorb rainwater.
- Bills will go up – amortized over 3 years.
- Aspiring to get the LEED Certification for this building.
- Project cost: \$1.2B

April General Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by BM Corey Bearak and seconded by BM David Pecoraro.
Unanimously approved.

Elected Officials

Justin Connor – **Congressman Tom Suuzzi's Office**
 Shubhuza Datta – **Queens Borough President Donovan Richard's Office**
 Jess Mueller – **Assembly Member Ed Braunstein's Office**
 Daniel Sparrow – **Council Member Linda Lee's Office**

Voting Item

BSA Calendar No. 103-91-BZ, 248-18 Sunrise Highway, Rosedale.

- 1) Block 13623, Lot 19, to request an extension of the term of the variance previously granted by the BSA to permit the continued operation of the automobile laundry establishment. This application also seeks a waiver of Sections 1-07.3(b)(2) of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure since the application is filed less than two (2) years after the term's expiration on July 9, 2023.

The firm representing the applicant could not attend this meeting; it is held over to the June 2024 General Board Meeting.

Committee Reports

Nomination Committee – Committee Chair Corey Bearak

- Deliberations – members concur on re-nominating the existing officeholders (the Slate). He thanks members of the committee for their time and efforts.
- Nominations from the floor:
 - Chair – none
 - First Vice Chair – none
 - Second Vice Chair – none
 - Executive Secretary – BM David Pecoraro nominates himself, BM Jackie Wilson seconds.
 - Treasurer - none

Public Safety Committee – Committee Chair Michael O'Keeffe:

- Detailed liquor license approvals.
 - One application was withdrawn.
- Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) license application seeking letter of no objection.
- Collective City Clergy Preventing Gun Violence attended the PSC meeting.
- Memorial Day Weekend live concerts at Padavan/Preller Fields disapproved by Captain Beauvoir due to lack of staffing.
 - The community board appreciates the Captain not approving these concerts.,

Health & Hospitals Committee – Committee Chair Bonnie Huie:

- Dr. Kenneth Rivlin, researcher on Sickle Cell disease presented:
 - There is a stigma attached to this disease because it mostly affects b
 - Black and Brown people.
 - One cannot “catch” the disease, you must be born with a “trait.”
 - Society needs to be more understanding of those afflicted because of the chronic pain they suffer.
- BM Vernal Holder again calls for support of proposed state legislation she spoke about at an earlier meeting.

Transportation Committee – Committee Chair Moh Ishmael:

- Presentation by Nick Fasano of MTA LIRR on the installation of an elevator at the Laurelton Station.
- May is “Bike Month.”
- DOT will be extending a bike lane in Cambria Heights along 121 Avenue.
- Details community concerns.
- Discussion of the Resolution on “Daylighting.”
 - Resolution is read – BM Rich Hellenbrecht wants the word “boulders” changed to “bollards.”
 - Concern over losing parking spaces if totally enacted.
 - NYC attempts to enact 1K corners a year.
 - Committee Chair Moh Ishmael moves to support the Resolution, BM David Pecoraro seconds.
 - Vote: 24 Yes; 3 No; 0 Abstention. Motion passes.

Public Speaking

- BM David Pecoraro speaks on his own behalf as a candidate for Executive Secretary.
- Richard Adams states City of Yes ideas are outrageous.
- David Kupferberg reads a written critique on the MTA Bus redesign.
- Jacqueline Dolly speaks about the generation gap and need for more civic engagement of younger people.
- Dwayne Moore, former teacher, speaks about the pressure migrant children are putting on the education system.
- BM Leonard Hookum speaks about “daylighting” and how some corner fences interfere with a driver’s sight lines.
- BM Sylvia Cothia announces NY Clean Act Bus Ride.
- Rally at City Hall Park in opposition to the City of Yes on May 31, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned @ 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McMillan

District Manager
Queens Community Board 13