



Donovan Richards
Borough President

Michael Carlier
Director of Community Boards

Queens Community Board 13

219-41 Jamaica Avenue
Queens Village, NY 11428
718.464.9700
qcb13.org



Bryan J. Block
Chair

Mark McMillan
District Manager

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES September 23, 2024 Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Present:

Maximus Barton; Corey Bearak; Bryan Block; John Boyd; Barbara Clements; Bobbie Cole; Latanya Collins; Sylvia Cothia; Marissa Cronin; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Stephanie Delia; Sequoyah Douglas; Charles Farruggia; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; ; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Vernal Holder; Leonard Hookum; Bonnie Huie; Mohamood Ishmael; Kangela Moore; 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; Sheila Beverly-Skinner; Ronald Summers; Steven Taylor; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick; Pritpal Singh Walia; Jackie Wilson

Absent:

Angela Augugliaro; Kyle Bragg; Ella Caynes; Robert Glover; Rhonda Kontner; Michael Mallia; Sophia Mighty; Laura Morand; Curlene Nelson

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Block.

Resolution to continue to meet virtually:

Chair Block makes a statement on the option to continue meeting via Zoom and reasons for a proposed Resolution to continue to do so.

Statements are made by each Executive Officer in support of this Resolution. The statement of Executive Secretary Rhonda Kontner is read as she is not in attendance.

BM Corey Bearak reads the Resolution and makes a motion to adopt, seconded by BM Bess DeBetham.

BM Dvid Pecoraro makes a motion to amend the Resolution, which is seconded by BM Kangela Moore.

The Amendment proposes taping meetings, opening the "Chat" feature and possibly doing hybrid meetings.

There is discussion regarding how the chat is distracting and, alternatively, how closing the chat is "censorship."

A statement is made that the written Minutes should always be the final record, and not a recording, as is done in corporate America.

Roll call vote on adopting the Amendment to the Resolution:

4 Yes; 34 No; 0 Abstentions. Amendment does not pass.

Roll call vote on adopting the Resolution as written:

38 Yes; 1 No; 0 Abstentions. Resolution is adopted.

Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers:

- She is holding a Public Safety meeting on October 15 in response to so many shootings in southeast Queens.
 - They are looking for ideas from the community on how to address this problem.
 - She will be meeting with Faith-based leaders the next day and discussing this issue with them, among other things.
- Camera enforcement is coming to the Q5 bus route – these are cameras on the buses that will photograph a car in the bus lane that will generate a summons. Please do not double-park in the bus lane.
- CM Brooks-Powers will be holding a "Senior Appreciation" event in October.
- CM Brooks-Powers will be holding a Veterans luncheon on November 6, 2024.
- Scooters: she is monitoring the situation –
 - They are only supposed to be within Community Board 12.
 - The City Council has an upcoming hearing on micro-mobility vehicles and e-scooters.
- The 116 Precinct will be opening soon.
- CM Brooks-Powers is having a "Fight Back Against Domestic Violence" event on October 12, 2024.
- Questions:
 - 100 Suits is addressing the problem of migrants at the Home Depot on Merrick Boulevard.
 - Center medians on Merrick Boulevard need to be cleaned – DSNY is trying to catch up after some budget cuts.

DSNY Updates - Antonio Whitaker, Assistant Director, Bureau of Community Affairs

- On November 12, 2024, there are mandated trash bins with a secure lid for all homes and buildings with less than 9 units.
 - These bins can be 55 gallons or less.
 - There will be official NYC trash bins required as of June 2026.

- These may be purchased at bins.nyc.
 - 10-year warranty for the bins.
 - There is no insurance available if lost or stolen.
- Houses of worship are also subject to the same regulations even if using a private carter.
- Violations for businesses have increased:
 - 1st violation - \$50.00
 - 2nd violation - \$300.00
 - 3rd violation (and any further in the calendar year) \$500.00
- Recycling does not need to be containerized.
- Compost does need to be in a container.
 - Detachable lid is acceptable.
- Bulk day: not the recycle day.
- The idea is to keep black bags and food stuffs off the street (decreases rats).
- November 12, 2024, through January 1, 2025, is the warning period.
 - Beginning January 2, 2025, summons start.
- Containerized trash can be put out at 6:00 pm the previous evening.

Roll Call: 40 members present.

Elected Officials

Nathaniel Hezekiah – **Congressman Meeks’ Office**
 Kevin Morris – **Mayor Eric Adams’ Office**
 James Mongeluzo – **Comptroller Brad Landers’ Office**
 Norris Johns – **Public Advocate Jumaane Williams’ Office**
 Marlon Palacios, Jr. – **Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz’ Office**
 Georgia Katsalis – **Queens Borough President Donovan Richard’s Office**
 Anthony Harrison – **State Senator Leroy Comrie’s Office**
 Irene Cheung – **Assembly Member Ed Braunstein’s Office**
 Yelva Muller – **Assembly Member Clyde Vanel’s Office**
 Daniel Sparrow – **Council Member Linda Lee’s Office**
 Maya Powell – **Council Member Nantasha Williams’ Office**
 Norman Jones – **Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers’ Office**

June General Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by BM David Pecoraro and seconded by BM Leonard Hookum.
 Unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee – Committee Chair Michael O'Keeffe:

- The October PSC meeting will be on the 21st because of a religious holiday on the stated meeting date.
- Detailed liquor license approvals.
- Cannabis Dispensary application at the Nassau County line – Nassau County residents attend and strongly voice disapproval.
- September 19, 2024, meeting convened by the Queens Borough President at the HERRC site:
 - It turned out not to be a walk-through of the tent as requested by the community.
 - Nevertheless, a lot of city agencies were present.
 - The 105 Precinct had no reports of serious crime.
 - A strong commitment was given for cleaning of the area from both DSNY and Parks.
 - There was no success at getting benches inside the facility for the migrants to sit and relax so they would not have to use the playground seats and benches.
 - The playground across the street from the tent is closed during school hours.
 - SNAP is having problems with panhandling of its seniors because of the proximity to the migrant population.

Heath & Hospitals – Committee Co-Chair Marcia O'Brien:

- Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Debby Garriques presented on anxiety and various ways to address this condition.

Transportation Committee – Committee Chair Moh Ishmael:

- DOT updates of various projects around the district:
 - DOT street changes.
 - Speed limit reductions at various locations.
 - Street co-naming in Rosedale.
- Specific constituent issues addressed.

Parks & Environment Committee – Committee Chair Fay Hill:

- Introduces new Vice Chair, BM Max Barton.
- Pickle Ball being introduced at Springfield Park – QCB13 letter of support to be written.
- Discussion of "dirty streets."
- Dog walk suggested site – Brookville and Springfield Parks:
 - Funding moved for dog walk in city budget.
 - CM Brooks-Powers had the funding reinstated after Committee Chair contacted her.
- Idlewild Soccer Field "hot spot" discussed.
 - No other hot spot found.

- Tree & Sidewalks Program:
 - Request letter from Parks detailing homeowner responsibilities and realistic Parks' actions to remediate.

DM Report (written)

BM Bess DeBetham motions to accept, seconded by BM Fay Hill. Unanimous "Yes" vote to approve.

Public Speaking

- BM David Pecoraro:
 - Budget vote required by Charter.
 - The Board failed to make the 500-foot rule for distance between cannabis dispensaries and libraries.
 - Was an advisory opinion sought?
 - Was the Queens Borough President's Office or were other community boards consulted?
- BM Sylvia Cothia: Concerns over the number of migrants hanging around the Home Depot on Merrick Boulevard.
- BM Vernal Holder: Strangers around her home and in her yard during early morning hours – checking her car to see if the door unlocked. She warns everyone to be more careful.

The meeting was adjourned @ 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McMillan
District Manager
Queens Community Board 13