



**Donovan Richards**  
Borough President

**Michael Carlier**  
Director of Community Boards

## **Queens Community Board 13**

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**Bryan J. Block**  
Chair

**Mark McMillan**  
District Manager

### **GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 28, 2024 Zoom Virtual Meeting**

#### **Attendance**

##### **Present:**

Maximus Barton; Corey Bearak; Bryan Block; John Boyd; Barbara Clements; Bobbie Cole; Latanya Collins; Sylvia Cothia; Marissa Cronin; 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; Rhonda Kontner; Michael Mallia; Sophia Mighty; Laura Morand; Curlene Nelson; Loleta Beckett-Nicholson; Marcia O'Brien; Michael O'Keeffe; Cinnamon Paltoo; David Pecoraro; Latchman Persaud; Sandra Persaud; Nagassar Ramgarib; Ronald Summers; Steven Taylor; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick; Jackie Wilson

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##### **Absent:**

Angela Augugliaro; Kyle Bragg; Ella Caynes; Delroy Dawkins; Robert Glover; Kangela Moore (R); Lenroy Pascall; Anup Ramnauth; Ashok Satkalmi; Sheila Beverly-Skinner; Pritpal Singh Walia

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The meeting was called to order at 7:26 pm by Chair Bryan Block.

**Pledge of Allegiance** led by Chair Block.

The Chair related he gave condolences on behalf of the board as BM Robert Glover's mother has passed away.

The Chair wished all a Happy Diwali!

#### **Chair Report**

- A plaque was given at the 105 Precinct Council Meeting to the widow of P.O. Jonathan Diller.
- Lists meetings and events attended since last General Board Meeting.

### **Congressman Tom Suozzi**

- He has made allocations for:
  - Queens County Farm Museum.
  - A cleanup of Little Neck Bay.
- He has a Queens Congressional office in Douglaston on Northern Boulevard.
- He opposes the City of Yes – Housing Opportunity, as it presently stands.
- The housing of migrants on the Creedmoor Campus is “wrongheaded.”
- His priorities in Congress:
  - Securing the border.
  - Repealing the SALT Act.
  - Bringing back money to his district.
  - Getting people to stop fighting with each other.

### **New 105 Precinct Commanding Officer Captain Douglas Moodie**

- He is introduced by Captain Sony Beauvoir, the outgoing 105 Commanding Officer.
- Captain Moodie was born in Jamaica, West Indies, and grew up in Queens Village.
- He joined the Marine Corps and was deployed to Iraq.
- All his NYPD experience is in Brooklyn with various units.
- His Mission: reduce crime; ensure a high quality-of life; and to serve with the respect and dignity that all deserve.

### **District Manager Report** (written)

BM Rich Hellenbrecht motion to accept, seconded by BM Bess DeBetham. Unanimous voice vote to accept.

**Roll Call:** 38 members present.

### **PowerPoint Presentation – Isabelle Chandler, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, NYC Campaign Finance Board**

- Presents the text for each of the six (6) November 5 ballot initiatives.
  - Comments presented on each initiative both for and against.

### **September General Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve by BM Bess DeBetham and seconded by BM Charlie Farruggia. BM David Pecoraro wants to change “make” to “pass” in his public speaking part. He also wants to insert a “quote” which he states clarifies his earlier statement.

Parliamentarian Bearak rules there are no comments during the voting process.

Vote on the motion to support approval of the September Minutes: 37 Yes; 1 No. Motion passes.

### **Michael Carlier, New Director of Community Boards, Queens Borough President's Office**

- He introduces himself to board members and the community.
- He spoke about some of the issues of concern in the district, specifically mentioning overgrown weeds in medians.
- He asked to be kept informed of any other constituent issues with their locations.

### **Elected Officials**

Nathaniel Hezekiah – **Congressman Meeks' Office**

Kevin Morris – **Mayor Eric Adams' 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**

Adjani Pridgeon – **State Senator James Sanders Jr.' Office**

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

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

Clothilde Hakuna – **Council Member Nantasha Williams' Office**

### **District Priorities – FY26**

- Presentation by District Manager on Capital; Expense; Continued Support:
  - Motion to approve, with changes as specified by board members, by BM Jim Delaney, seconded by BM Rich Hellenbrecht. Unanimous "Yes" vote.

### **Financial Report**

- Treasurer Mohamood Ishmael submitted a written report to board members detailing expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and proposed budget for FY25.
- After discussion, a motion to approve the report is made by BM Bess DeBetham, seconded by BM Nagassar Ramgarib. Vote: 37 Yes; 1 No. Motion to support passes.

### **Committee Reports**

**Public Safety Committee** – Committee Chair Michael O'Keeffe:

- Detailed liquor license approvals – 3 renewals; 2 new.
- Livery license application in Rosedale still pending:
  - Should this be a paratransit application?
  - Applicant asked to return to future meeting with counsel.

- BM David Pecoraro proposed a Resolution to change laws requiring cannabis dispensaries to be the same distance from libraries and parks as required for schools and houses of worship.
  - Disagreement on how to proceed.
  - The motion to support this Resolution was tabled by committee vote.
  - The Resolution was referred to the Youth, Education & Libraries Committee.

#### **Parks & Environment Committee – Committee Chair Fay Hill:**

- Dr. Christine Gilbert, a professor at Stony Brook University presented on a grant she received for signage in Brookville Park on the removal of phragmites.
- Vice Chair Max Barton called in live from the NY4Parks Gala: “People who don’t live near parks die sooner...”
  - They are still fighting for the 1% of the city budget the mayor promised; presently Parks receives <.5%
- The committee is still working on a location for a “dog walk.”

#### **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.

#### **Land Use Committee – Committee Chair Michael Mallia:**

- A presentation by Attorney Eric Palatnic regarding an upcoming ULURP application to de-map 2 paper streets to build a large warehouse (logistics center).
  - This was a preliminary meeting to inform the community.

#### **Public Speaking**

- Tanya Cruz speaks about “Women Creating Change” group to work on equity issues.
  - This group has secured a \$50K grant from Yamaha Corp.
  - They are looking for suggestions for workshops.
  - She also spoke about “two-wheeled safety” issues.
- BM David Pecoraro:
  - Reads an excerpt from an opinion from a lawyer for Committee for Open Meetings.
  - Any documents should be posted 24 hours before the meeting.

- States there is a need for to have a transparent process for the full budget committee where the community is involved with quarterly reports.
- Parliamentarian Corey Berak states the only obligation the community board has to the community is to prepare a budget.

The meeting was adjourned @ 9:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McMillan  
District Manager  
Queens Community Board 13