



Queens Community Board 13
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Donovan Richards
 Borough President

Bryan J. Block
 Chair

Michael Carlier
 Director of Community Boards

Mark McMillan
 District Manager

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2025
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Present:

Genevieve Appolon; Maximus Barton; Corey Bearak; Bryan Block; John Boyd; Barbara Clements; Sylvia Cothia; Marissa Cronin; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Robert Glover; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Leonard Hookum; Shakrian Hossain; Mohamood Ishmael; Rhonda Kontner; Sophia Mighty; Loleta Beckett-Nicholson; Marcia O'Brien; Michael O'Keefe; Cinnamon Paltoo; David Pecoraro; Latchman Persaud; Sandra Persaud; Nagassar Ramgarib; Anup Ramnauth; Sheila Beverly-Skinner; Ronald Summers; Osban Thompson; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick; Jackie Wilson

Absent:

Angela Augugliaro; Ella Caynes; Bobbie Cole; Latanya Collins; Derrick DeFlorimonte (E); Sequoyah Douglas; Brian Ellis-Gibbs; Noreen Eltabakh; Charles Farruggia; Vernal Holder; Bonnie Huie (E); Michael Mallia; Laura Morand; Curlene Nelson; Lenroy Pascall (E); Steven Taylor

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Block.

Chair states that last month's meeting was challenging – he reflected on how the board members get along. Members need to speak up. The Queens Chronicle article is an "opinion piece" focusing on the grievances of one member. All events occurring are shared by board members trying to make their communities better who are not looking for acrimony at the meetings they attend.

Chair Report

- Lists meetings and events attended since last General Board Meeting.
- Motion to accept by BM Barbara Clements, seconded by BM Bess DeBetham.
 - Unanimous approval.

District Manager's Report (written)

- Motion to accept by BM David Pecoraro, seconded by BM Bess DeBetham.
 - Unanimous approval.

April General Board Meeting Minutes

- BM David Pecoraro objects and wants to insert specific changes. Parliamentarian Corey Bearak states his suggested changes are inappropriate. Motion to accept by BM Corey Bearak, seconded by BM Jim Delaney.
 - Vote: 32 Yes. 1 No. Minutes are approved.



Elected Officials

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

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

Ajani Pridgeon – **State Senator James Sanders Jr.'s Office**

Alisha Alli – **Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson's Office**

Imade Omozore – **Assembly Member Clyde Vanel's Office**

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

Norman Jones – **Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers' Office**

Roll Call: 33 members present, 15 absent, 2 excused.

Treasurer's Report (in writing):

- The Board office does not cut checks.
- There is one city worker on payroll,
- This reflects 3 of the 4 quarters.
- BM David Pecoraro objects.

Nominating Committee Report

- Committee Chair Corey Bearak opines on his concern with the 2019 law imposing term limits on board members. He believes the appointing authority (Borough President) has other options and asks for the law to be rescinded.
- All existing officers are re-nominated to the slate:
 - Chair – Bryan Block
 - First Vice Chair – Richard Hellenbrecht
 - Second Vice Chair – Marcia O'Brien
 - Executive Secretary – Rhonda Kontner
 - Treasurer - Mohamood Ishmael
- He thanks the committee members for their service:
 - Bess DeBetham
 - Charles Farruggia
 - Robert Glover

- Sophia Mighty
 - Michael O'Keeffe
 - Nagassar Ramgarib
- BM Max Barton asks BM David Pecoraro where does he want to go with all his disruptive behavior?
 - BM Lorraine Gittens-Bridges agreed with Max's inquiry to David.
 - BM Corey Bearak states the question is rhetorical to eliminate another disruption (about disruption) and states he intends no disrespect to either Max or Lorraine.
 - Committee Chair Bearak asks for nominations from the floor:
 - BM David Pecoraro nominates himself for both Executive Secretary and Treasurer.
 - Committee Chair Bearak states you cannot be nominated for multiple offices.
 - BM Pecoraro then states he nominates himself for Treasurer.
 - BM Lorraine Gittens-Bridges seconds his nomination.
 - BM Pecoraro will be on the ballot for Treasurer.
 - A motion is made by BM Richard Hellenbrecht to close the nomination process, seconded by BM Jim Delaney. Unanimous yes voice vote.

Committee Reports

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

- Reminder that the meeting is taking place on Thursday after the General Board meeting.

Transportation – Committee Chair Moh Ishmael

- DOT gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Hillside Avenue Bus Lane.
 - Some discussion on this – new opposition from those who missed the three earlier meetings on this proposal.
- P.S. 133 has traffic concerns during drop-off and pickup times –
 - DM will visit with the principal with DOT & 105 Precinct.
 - Our Lady of Snows has the same issue as P.S. 133
 - Both principals were in attendance.
 - DOT has some traffic mitigation proposals used elsewhere.

Public Safety Committee – Committee Chair Michael O'Keeffe:

- Lists liquor license applicants and findings.
- Cannabis license applications summarized.
- Upcoming Cannabis Town Hall at St. Clare Church with elected officials scheduled to attend.

Public Speaking

- BM David Pecoraro disagrees with the way the community board holds its meetings.
 - He wants to meet in-person.
 - He wants hybrid meetings.
 - He wants to be elected treasurer.
- David Kupferburg objects to the changes the MTA has made to the Eastern Queens bus service.
- BM Sophia Mighty believes Zoom is the best way to include members of the community, especially those who work. It is excellent to get speakers, It is important to get more voices to participate.
- BM Nagassar Ramgarib – On Monday, May 26, the Queens Village Civic Association will hold its Memorial Day Ceremony at Jamaica Avenue & Springfield Boulevard.
- Suzanne Peritz speaks about “Turks Square” – the local community wants to re-establish this location at Hillside Avenue & Winchester Boulevard in conjunction with Rocky Hill Civic Association and the American Legion.
- BM Rhonda Kontner – QCB13 does not have the equipment for hybrid meetings.
- BM Marcia O'Brien gives details of the Rosedale Civic Association Memorial Day Parade.
- BM Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick states on June 14 the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association will celebrate its 90th Anniversary at the Bellerose Playground, 85 Avenue between 248 & 249 Streets.
- BM Corey Bearak:
 - The May 8 article (in the Queens Chronicle) had a totally inaccurate headline, along with other failings in this editorial.
 - He goes into the details of the QCB13 Resolution to meet remotely and the applicability of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
 - He gives his professional background.
 - He states QCB13 operates within applicable law.
- DM states that everyone should always assume that the media is present at all QCB13 meetings.

The meeting was adjourned @ 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McMillan
District Manager
Queens Community Board 13