

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 - FINAL
June 30, 2025
NEXT CITY CHURCH
240-55 HILLSIDE AVENUE, BELLEROSE

Attendance

Present:

Angela Augugliaro; Maximus Barton; Corey Bearak; Sheila Beverly-Skinner; Bryan Block; John Boyd; Barbara Clements; Latanya Collins; Sylvia Cothia; Marissa Cronin; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Noreen Eltabakh; Charles Farruggia; Robert Glover; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Leonard Hookum; Shakrian Hossain; Bonnie Huie; Mohamood Ishmael; Rhonda Kontner; Michael Mallia; Sophia Mighty; Curlene Nelson; Loleta Nicholson; Marcia O'Brien; Michael O'Keeffe; Cinnamon Paltoo; Lenroy Pascall; David Pecoraro; Sandra Persaud; Anup Ramnauth; Steven Taylor; Jackie Wilson

Absent:

Genevieve Appolon; Ella Caynes; Bobbie Cole; Derrick DeFlorimonte (E); Sequoyah Douglas; Brian Ellis-Gibbs; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Vernal Holder; Laura Morand; Latchman Persaud; Nagassar Ramgarib; Ronald Summers; Osban Thompson; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick

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

The Executive Board election moved up to the agenda to assure a quorum.

Executive Committee Election – Conducted by Nominations Committee Chair Corey Bearak live:

- **Treasurer** – 29 votes for Mohamood Ishmael; 3 votes for David Pecoraro. Mohamood Ishmael is elected Treasurer.

A motion is made to state that a "yes" vote means the board member is voting for the "Slate" candidates in all other offices to save time. Motion passes.

- **Chair** – Bryan Block 31 votes; Jackie Wilson 1 vote. Bryan Block was elected Chair.

- **First Vice Chair** – 31 votes for Richard Hellenbrecht, 1 vote for Derrick DeFlorimonte. Richard Hellenbrecht was elected First Vice Chair.
- **Second Vice Chair** – 31 votes for Marcia O'Brien, 1 vote for Lorraine Gittens-Bridges, Marcia O'Brien was elected Second Vice Chair.
- **Secretary** – 31 votes for Rhonda Kontner, 1 vote for Latanya Collins. Rhonda Kontner was elected Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Block.

- Chair thanks board members for their time and efforts, especially committee chairs.
- The Chair speaks about the Queens Chronicle article on \$12K in invoices misplaced in a city budget of \$116B. Errors happen but the invoices were paid.
- There has been a precedent established at this board for over 40 years that unless given permission, only the Chair or District Manager can speak to the press. Some individuals think they can do whatever they please. They should be following the policy of the board. When you work in unions, you go to the leadership with grievances.

Chair's Report

- Lists meetings and events attended since last General Board Meeting.
- Motion to accept by BM Anup Ramnauth, seconded by BM Bess DeBetham.
 - 31 yes, 1 no.

Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers:

- The City Council just adopted a \$116B Budget.
- She will be holding two budget briefings – one on the mainland and the other on the peninsula.
- She is working on a wage transparency bill.
- There should be more attention from city agencies to address local issues:
 - Abandoned vehicles
 - Her office will be doing task force visits DSNY and DOT.
- The new budget will address quality of life issues.
 - The City Council is attempting to make it "Trump proof."
- The Department of Finance will be coming to her office.
- She has put in the budget cleaning services that go around her district (4 distinct areas).
- Residential homes are getting DSNY tickets when commercial stores are not...when a city agency comes to her office these issues can be resolved immediately.
- Uber drivers take breaks in front of people's homes, throwing garbage in people's yards. When this happens, write down the license plate number and report it to Taxi and limousine Commission (TLC).
- More public restrooms are going to be built around the city.

BSA Calendar No. 2024-26-BZ

Brief presentation given by applicant's attorney Sandy Anagnostou stating a waiver is being requested for two front yards on a corner lot.

A motion to approve the application made by BM Michael Mallia. Seconded by BM David Pecoraro.

Vote: 30 yes, 2 no. Motion to approve carries.

District Manager's Report (written)

- Motion to accept by BM David Pecoraro, seconded by BM Richard Hellenbrecht.
 - Unanimous approval.

May General Board Meeting Minutes

- BM David Pecoraro submits written amendment. Parliamentarian Corey Bearak rules against this amendment.
 - BM Pecoraro makes a motion to amend. No second on the motion, motion dies.
- Vote: 32 Yes. 1 No. Minutes are approved.

Elected Officials

Justin Conner – **Congressman Thomas Suozzi's Office**
Michael Carlier – **Queens Borough President Donovan Richard's Office**
Ajani Pridgeon – **State Senator James Sanders Jr.'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: 32 members present, 15 absent, 3 excused.

Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee – Committee Chair Michael O'Keeffe:

- For the first time, two National Nights Out – 105 Precinct is being held at the Queens Farm Museum, and the 116 Precinct is being held at Brookville Park.

- Lists liquor license applicants and findings.

Parks & Environment Committee – Committee Chair Fay Hill

- Teresa Cunningham from DSNY gave the committee an update on composting.
- Overall updates on QCB13 parks.
- Dog Run update.
- More cameras are needed on Snake Road.
- Trucks have returned and are parked on Springfield Boulevard next to Springfield Park.

Transportation Committee – Committee Chair Moh Ishmael

- DOT gave a PowerPoint Presentation on Brookville Boulevard Flood Mitigation Study.
- Presentation by BM Osban Thompson on knowledge and skill for safe and responsible driving.

Youth, Education, Libraries & Special Needs Committee – Committee Chair Rhonda Kontner

- Shannon Rocket from Queens Public Libraries presented on its summer programs.
- Tania Obey-McCombs presented on a new adult home (4 adult women) in Floral Park.

Public Speaking

- BM Corey Bearak speaks about the Queens Bus Redesign bus routes being implemented.
- BM Steven Taylor speaks about the visitors to the Grand Rebbe's Tomb from the Ohel Chabad Lubavitch:
 - He feels like he is living in occupied territory.
 - There were iron barricades everywhere.
 - He needed an ID to get into his own house.
 - There were two large tents constructed in Cabal Park:
 - How was this approved without community input?
 - 700 men to sleep with port-o-potties and loud generators.
 - The character of the area is changing.
 - It's impossible to sell one's house.
 - The concerns of the community being outweighed by someone else.
 - There is heightened security for one group because of what is going on in the world.
- BM David Pecoraro states his Latina wife is deathly afraid of being picked up by the authorities.

- The Queens Chronicle used its First Amendment rights to see something say something.
- He wants hybrid meetings.

The Chair states every month this board member states almost the same thing! Enough is enough.

Meeting adjourned amidst back and forth.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McMillan
District Manager
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