

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 11, 2020**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
333 BEACH 90 STREET  
ROCKAWAY BEACH, NY 11693**

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**PRESENT**

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Khaleel Anderson, John Cori, Ahmad Edwards, Noreen Ellis, , D. Brian Heffernan Tamara Jacobs Felicia Johnson, Paul King, Betty Leon, Denise Lopestri-Neibel, Nancy Martinez, Rosalyn Mason, John McCambridge, Sonia Moise, Helen Montero, Al Moore, Dr. Harold Paez, Isaac Parsee, Linda Plummer, , Karen Sloan–Payne, Chris Tedesco, Michael Tubridy Jose Velez,

**ABSENT**

Louis Caucig, Dr. Gerald David, Mordechai Dicker, Eugenia Gibson, Yitzchok Goldstein Alicia Mazyck Annette Lord-Cohen Dolores Orr Eugene Pasternak Edward Pasture Sr. Ellen O’Reilly, Daniel Mundy, Wanda Warden, Tyrone Worsley, Edwin Williams

**GUESTS**

Dan Brown – Rep. Queens Borough President , Ciara Donley - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Michael Matteo – Rep. Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer-Amato, Manuel Silva – Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards

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Al Moore, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:20pm. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES FROM MARCH 11, 2020**

The 1st Vice Chair opened the floor for approval of the minutes. Betty Leon made the motion for the minutes to be approved as written. Noreen Ellis seconded the motion. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion. 1 abstained.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING:** The floor was opened for public speaking. 12 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. Public speaking was closed.

**REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

District Manager, Jonathan Gaska reported that the City contacted the office regarding the development of Arverne East which the Board approved the ULURP several years ago before the housing market crashed. Arverne East is the large vacant land located from Beach 56 Street to Beach 32 Street between Rockaway Freeway and Beach.

The developers are proposing the development of affordable mid-rise apartment buildings with some one and two family homes. There would be a lot of park space from Beach 58 Street going east, which would be

interpretive trails/natural area. The proposed commercial component involves a major hotel that includes a catering/convention hall and a block of popular mid-big box retail stores.

The developers would like to meet with the Land-Use, Parks and Transportation Committees therefore meetings will schedule within the next 2 months to discuss all the issues. The ULURP is expected to be certified in May 2020 and the Board would vote in June 2020 only on the UDAP because the Board already approved the ULURP 17 years ago. The UDAP is acquisition and the finance of the land.

Mr. Gaska expressed that the Board should consider that the density is more and the EIS has definitely changed in the last 17 years. The developers only want to do EAS which is an Environmental Assessment Study.

## **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. Council for Airport Opportunity**

Mr. Barnett, Director of Adult Workforce Development at RDRC announced that they are working along with the Council for Airport Opportunity to bring more jobs to the community.

Mrs. Noels, Director of Workforce Development at Council explained that in the next few weeks they will be opening 2 locations Far Rockaway on Mott Avenue that will provide job readiness training for the community that will enable residents to obtain jobs at the JFK/LaGuardia Airports during the redevelopment phases that will be taking place over the next few years. Job Placement would also be provided to qualified residents as slots become available.

Announcements will be circulated on the Peninsula to provide adequate community outreach. Information is already available online at [www.calnynj.com](http://www.calnynj.com).

### **2. NYC Dept. of Design & Construction - Re: Update on expansion of the Arverne Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation for Board approval**

Mr. Calamari, Vice President of Capital Design Projects for Queens Library explained that the proposed designs for the library would involve a short and long term upgrade. The short term does consists of the construction of new large annex building that would be located on the vacant lot that is adjacent to the existing library that would allow space for tutoring and other needed group tasks h that could not happen in the current library because it is too

small to serve the population that uses it. The annex would free up space for equipment and any other needed learning devices. The long term upgrade would involve demolition of the old library and construction new library the same spot total almost 50,000 square feet of much need space. Funding for the demolition and construction of small is already being requested.

John Cori made the motion for the Board to support the proposed design for the Arverne Library being presented by DDC. The motion was seconded by Felicia Johnson. The motion passed by a hand vote in favor of the motion. 2 abstained.

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Transportation Committee**

Chris Tedesco, Chair of the committee reported that a meeting was held on February 25, 2020.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Safety improvements on Cross Bay Blvd from Addabbo Bridge to East 6th Road
2. NYC Transit Authority Queens Bus Network Re-design Presentation

#### **Broad Channel Safety Improvements**

DOT reps gave a power point presentation on the safety improvements coming to Broad Channel following the death of a cyclist on Cross Bay Blvd in 2019 and many smaller yet frequent accidents and near misses. Broad Channel Civic approved DOTs plan unanimously. The plan includes:

- Bike lane redesigns in both directions, including a northbound crossover to access the protected double bike lane that begins at 1st Road.
- moving the parking lane out from the curb which will give a better buffer for bikers
- installing jersey barriers on certain segments that are more exposed to traffic
- eliminate left turn @ East 4th Road
- to accommodate the new design at 6th Road, 3 parking spaces will be eliminated.

A study for a traffic signal at the entrance to the BCAC fields was done in November. The BC Civic has been asking for a signal at that intersection for several years. As of the Feb 25th meeting, there were no updates from DOT signals engineers. Al Silvestri would not commit to a timeline, but expected to have an update in the coming weeks.

## **Queens Bus Network Redesign**

NYC Transit reps Judy McClain and Lucille Songhai presented the proposed Queens Bus Network redesign. The presentation was a more comprehensive version of information that was presented at the outreach event at the RISE center on 59th Street on Feb 5, as well as the NYC Transit Town Hall at the YMCA on Feb 6. The proposed redesign has several negative effects on our community, including:

- elimination of Q53 – no access to Elmhurst Hospital and Roosevelt Ave/Jackson Heights and LaGuardia access
- possible elimination of Q114
- Q22 terminating at 116th street, westbound would need to transfer to Q35
- lack of clarity if Q35 ends at Avenue U or extends to Brooklyn College/ Flatbush Avenue
- rerouting Q22 in Far Rockaway misses St John's Hospital
- unclear on terminus of Q113, does it include Wavecrest

Did not take ferry access into consideration with redesign, missed opportunity to move bus layovers off 116th street. The committee suggests that a list of our top priority concerns be compiled by the board and sent to DOT.

**Additional meeting notes:** DOT will conduct a parking feasibility study on Rockaway Freeway between Cornaga Ave and Beach 59th street.

### **LINKS:**

[Broad Channel Safety Improvements Presentation](#)

[Queens Bus Network Redesign Presentation PowerPoint, PDF Version](#)

Board members expressed several concerns/issues and expressed good ideas for improving transportation on the Peninsula. Members that were present agreed for Mr. Gaska to compose a letter with all of the discussed issues to go out to the appropriate City agencies.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 9:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning