



COMMUNITY
BOARD #14

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BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2018

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

PRESENT

Khaleel Anderson, Edward Benson, Louis Caucig, Glenn Collins, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Mordechai Dicker, Ahmed Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Felicia Johnson, Joel Kaplan, Peter Larkin, Desiree Maple, Milan Taylor, John McCambridge, Sonia Moise Al Moore, Denise Lopestri-Neibel, Dolores Orr, Eugene Pasternak, Edward Pasture Sr., Karen Sloan-Payne, Harvey Rudnick, Sender Schwartz, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Chris Tedesco, Thomas Tobin, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

ABSENT

Shalom Becker, Courtney Brown, D Annette Lord-Cohen, Temina Feldman, Patricia Gillespie, D. Brian Heffernan, Martin Ingram, Henry Iori, Betty Leon, , , Daniel Mundy, Ellen O'Reilly, Isaac Parsee, Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Carole Trachtenberg, Edwin Williams, Rachel Williams

GUESTS

Manuel Silva - Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Dan Brown - Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Ciara Donley - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Sandee Doremus - Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Danny Randell - Rep. Assemblywoman Stacy Pheffer-Amato, Felix Oumnsi - Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Democratic District Leader Lew Simon

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:35p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair advised everyone that Steve Barton representing U.S. Senator Charles Schumer contacted the office the office to inform the board that \$750 million of federal funding has been secured for the Army Corp of Engineers to proceed with the projects needed for the Rockaways.

In addition, The Parks Department informed the board of untrue announcements 596 Acres has printed in their news letter regarding that they have been given possession of the proposed Almeda Playground site (the old Sanitation Dept. salt storage site) to be used as a community garden by the Parks Department.

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REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager, Jonathan Gaska reported that starting on March 4th thru March 7th 2018 the NYC Fire Department will be distributing free smoke alarms to the public. The distribution location is at Congregation Kneseth Isreal 728 Empire Avenue Far Rockaway, NY 11691. The hours are 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For an appointment to have a free alarm installed call 877-REDCROSS or visit www.redcross.org/NYCFireSafety.

City Councilman Donovan Richards called to inform that the old Peninsula Hospital site has been demolished. The Archer Company that purchased the site plans to construct apartments up top and mixed-use commercial on the bottom. The Archer Company also purchased the site where the Papa John's Pizza located which is across the street from P.S.105 Playground on Beach Channel Drive. Archer Company plans to construct housing at the site also.

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 9, 2018

The Chair went to the Board for comments regarding the minutes from the Board meeting that was held on January 2018. Noreen Ellis made the motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Al Moore.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Chair opened the floor for public speaking. (13) People signed up to speak. They were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

1. URBAN UPBPOND

Brittany Bye, Outreach Specialist for Urban Upbound announced that they are currently offering free tax preparation for the community on Mondays and Fridays at City Councilman Donovan Richards office located at 1931 Mott Avenue in Far Rockaway on the 4th floor from 9:00 to 4:00 pm. Please note that the site has been crowded to capacity. Therefore free tax preparation is also been done at the Urban Unbound office located at 1907 Mott Avenue in Far Rockaway on Tuesday and Saturday. For more information and to make an appointment please contact the office at 718-784-0877.

In addition, Urban Upbound is partnering with State Senator James Sanders Jr. to offer free financial services on Wednesdays. These service does include free credit check, counseling. Please call 718-784-0877 to make an appointment.

2. NYC DEPT. OF EDUCATION-NEW PROGRAM UPDATE

Mrs. Vashi Valerius, Outreach Specialist for District 27 announced that the Department of Education is doing community outreach to inform the public about new Pre-k and 3-K for All Programs. All are invited to attend the 2018 Parent Information Sessions that will be held at the Queens Library at Seaside, 116-15 Rockaway Beach Blvd. Belle Harbor, NY 11694. The sessions will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 10:30am - 12:30pm and on Monday, March 19, 2018, 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Enrollment applications are going to be available starting February 5, 2018 to March 30, 2018.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chris Tredesco a member of the committee reported that a meeting was held January 30, 2018. The agenda for discussion was regarding the proposed changes to the Q22 and Q15 bus routes along the Beach 116th street corridor and how it would impact the businesses in the area.

Unfortunately there were no actual business owners or representatives in attendance and the committee did not have a quorum. The Chair Dolores Orr and committee member Noreen Ellis prepared a handout detailing how each route is proposed to be changed and the potential impact due to changes in traffic and, pedestrians patterns as well as the increased congestion on Beach 116 Street was discussed by those that were in attendance.

The co-chairs will personally distribute the handout and a brief survey that was available to the business owners in the affected area.

2. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Chris Tredesco a member of the committee reported that a meeting was held on January 30, 2018. Present at the meeting was Danny Randall representing Assemblywoman Stacy Amato Pheffer announced that the

Queens rail study is on track and would be released in March 2018 and Assemblywoman has introduced legislature that would remove the toll at the Cross Bay Bridge.

Danny Rusillo Co-Chair of the committee gave an update on the committee's accomplishments such as the new signage for the bike lanes installed on the boardwalk for the 2018 beach season. Al Silvestri and Craig Chin representing DOT discussed safety improvements around Scholars Academy. The committee unanimously voted to have speed humps installed on Rockaway Freeway between Beach 104 & Beach 108 Streets.

Laura McNeil also representing DOT announced that the Car Share Pilot Program would start in March on the eastern end of the Peninsula. 21 parking spaces and 18 cars would be used. Committee member Karen Sloan Payne expressed that there should be further studies of the program because of the loss of 2 parking spots at Beach 81 Street.

Steve Cooper a member of the committee requested that DOT resurface the dead end streets of Beach 24th & Beach 25 Streets. Discussions were held regarding pedestrian safety issues crossing Rockaway Beach Blvd at the Beach 44 Street train station. DOT suggested 2 speed humps at Beach 50th Beach & Beach 41 Streets. DOT has studied the location and documented that drivers frequently at least 15mph over the speed limit at the location.

Chris Tedesco advised DOT that Beach 60 & 61 Streets are being abused by drivers avoiding the traffic light on Rockaway Beach Blvd. & Beach 62 Street.

The Transportation Committee made the motion for the board to support a traffic study in the areas of Beach 60 & 61 Streets between Rockaway Beach Blvd. and Beach Front Road; and Larkin Avenue between Beach 60th & 61st Streets to calm/discourage thru traffic in the residential neighborhood. The Chair went to the board for discussion on the motion and the motion carried with a hand vote in favor of the motion.

The Transportation Committee made the motion for the board to support the installation of speed humps from Beach 101st Street to Beach 105 Street to improve safety around Scholars Academy.

The Chair went to the board for discussion on the motion. The motion was carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Jose Velez made the motion for the board not to support The Heart of Rockaway's decision to relocate the ferry shuttle bus stop from Beach 67 Street & Beach Channel Drive to Beach 67 Street and Rockaway Freeway. The motion was seconded by Lou Caucig. The Chair went to the board for discussion on the motion. The motion passed by hand vote in favor of the motion. 1 abstained.

- Felecia Johnson requested an Executive Board meeting to discuss the board joining a coalition along with Community Boards 12 & 13 to develop a Community Benefits Agreement for the renovated local airports. The Chair expressed that the issue should go to the economic development committee. Jonathan is reaching out the members to set a date.

- Al Moore requested that the Parks & Public Safety Committee meet to develop a strategy to stop the recent murders of the teenagers in the community. The Chair requested Jonathan to arrange a place and date.

- Lou Caucig asked the Chair if the board could request/assist St. John's Hospital in obtaining an additional accessible emergency room entrance other than entrance on Beach 20th Street.

The motion was made and second to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By: Mary Dunning