



**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2019**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
333 BEACH 90 STREET
ROCKAWAY BEACH, NY 11691**

PRESENT

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Louis Caucig, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Mordechai Dicker, Ahmad Edwards, Noreen Ellis, D. Brian Heffernan, Felicia Johnson, Denise Lopresti-Neibel, Ife Maine, Desiree Maple, Rosalyn Mason, John Cambridge, Sonia Moise, Helen Montero, Al Moore, Daniel Mundy, Ellen O'Reilly, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold Paez, Isaac Parsee, Eugene Pasternak, Edward Pasture Sr., Linda Plummer, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Karen Sloan-Payne, Jose Velez, Edwin Williams, Tyrone Worsley

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

ABSENT

Khaleel Anderson., Shalom Becker, Glenn Collins, Stephen Cooper, Temina Feldman Patricia Gillespie, Tamara Jacobs, Betty Leon Annette Lord-Cohen, Harvey Rudnick, Sender Schwartz, Chris Tedesco Thomas Tobin, Carole Trachtenberg, Michael Tubridy, Rachel Williams

GUESTS

State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Assemblywoman Stacy Pheffer-Amato, Dan Brown – Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Nicolette Peter - Rep. Assemblywoman Stacy Pheffer-Amato, Ciara Donley – Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Lisa George - Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Democratic District Leader Lew Simon, Sandee Doremus – Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr.,

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:29p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Queens Budget Hearings were held on February 20, 2019 at Borough Hall. Since District Manager Jonathan Gaska was on vacation, Board Chair presented testimony. Included in that testimony was request for support and funding of the Board's FY 2020 Capital and Expense priorities some of the following:

- Demanded funding for sand replenishment on the closed beaches- Beach 90 Street to Beach 102 Street.
- Since summer weekend attendance is estimated at 250,000, requesting additional summer detail police officers over and above the normal detail of 25 officers.
- Funding by D.O.T to design and expand to two lanes in each direction of Rockaway Beach Blvd. from Beach 62 Street to Beach 32 Street.

1931 Mott Avenue, Room 311
Far Rockaway, NY 11691
Tel.: (718) 471-7300
Fax: (718) 868-2657

Faint text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or footer.

-Funding for the expansion of the Rockaway Ferry to include a stop on the east end of the peninsula.

Additionally the Chair advised that on February 13th, the day after our scheduled February meeting, which was cancelled due to weather, we received a letter from the Department of Homeless Services advising that a men's homeless shelter is scheduled to open at 236 Beach 101 Street by the end of 2019. This location is a former manufacturing factory. Further details and information to follow.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager advised that he attended funeral services for Barbara Smith, the President of Deerfield Civic Association. She was a longtime community activist and she will be greatly missed.

Mr. Gaska reported that he attended a meeting called by the Dept. of Homeless Services for the elected official meeting regarding the proposed all male homeless shelter to be located on Beach 101 Street. At the meeting, representatives from the Dept. of Homeless Services announced that the shelter would have 116 single men, no sex offenders and no mentally disturbed men would be placed at this facility. Jonathan and all elected officials voiced their objections to this facility being built. The Dept. of Homeless Services will attend our March 12, 2019 meeting.

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 8, 2019

Lou Caucig made the motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by John McCambridge. The motion carried with 4 abstentions.

GUEST SPEAKERS

1. **STATE SENATOR JOSEPH ADDABBO JR-** apologized for missing the rally against the homeless shelter and understands the severe frustration from the community.

Senator Addabbo Jr. stated that he does not support the mayor jamming homeless population into an already distressed neighborhood. There, Senator Addabbo Jr. announced that he has introduced legislation in the State Senate that requires the affected community be provided an assessment of how/why/need and the effects of the placement of a homeless shelter in any neighborhood before any contracts are signed.

2. ASSEMBLYWOMAN STACEY PHEFFER-AMATO - explained that at a meeting with the Dept. of Homeless Services representatives reported that there are at least 1,000 people in the shelter system that live in CB District #14. The Not for Profit that will be running the shelter is Black Veterans for Social Justice. This group has been in existence for approximately 40 years. Currently they do not serve Veterans.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 7:45pm. 32 individuals signed up to speak. All those who signed up and were present when their name was called was recognized and heard. Public speaking concluded at 8:30 pm.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

Waterfront Alliance– Re: Presentation of waterfront design guidelines-(WEDG)

Samir Dalal representing the organization expressed that they are requesting the Board to support the Queens Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines Standard for New York City Resolution.

Mr. Dalal explained that the alliance is a coalition of more than 950 organizations working together to bring about a change to our City's 520 miles of shoreline. The Alliance partners include businesses and non-profit organizations throughout New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. For more information please contact the organization at sdalal@waterfrontalliance.org or wedg.waterfrontalliance.org. At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chair referred this topic to the Environmental Committee for further discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORT

YOUTH SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Harold Paez Co-Chair of the committee reported that a meeting was held on January 8, 2019. The agenda item for discussion was regarding education and school safety in public schools in Rockaway.

District 27 Superintendent Jennifer Ambert and NCO Officers from the 100th Police Precinct were present at the meeting. There were questions regarding the status of Priority Schools in Rockaway which are PS/MS 42,183 & 106. These schools are listed by NYS Dept. of Education for remediation as they are struggling and among 5% in performance on ELA and Math testing. Superintendent Ambert explained to the committee that most of the schools are no longer on those lists due to improved performances and are now

- considered RISE schools for example PS 197. Other school issues and concerns the committee discussed and addressed were the following:
- Fredrick Douglas Academy VI High School remains in Chancellor Receivership.
 - the issue regarding class size reduction and how the funds received through federal Title 1 funding, State Contracts for Excellence funding and City Renewal Program funding which are all aimed at reducing class size as a primary goal .
 - The issue to reduce student suspensions and alternative methods of student discipline.
 - The issue of expanding student swimming instruction in view of the tragic drowning incidents in Rockaway.

Additionally the committee motioned for the Board to support the request to provide the Waterside Children's Studio School (PS 317) a letter of support to further their efforts at gaining more space and student seating capacity in order to alleviate severe overcrowding at the elementary school.

The Chair went to the board for discussion and support for the committee's recommendation to provide a letter of support for PS 317 to expand the school. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion.

- Edwin Williams motioned for the board to send a letter to NYC DOE and the Arverne-By-The Sea developers requesting the status of construction of the required elementary school. The motion was seconded by Al Moore. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

- Sonia Moise requested issues for discussion from last month regarding a) Left turn lanes under the Rockaway Freeway from East to West and 2) a review of the traffic pattern at intersections of Seagirt Blvd and Rockaway Freeway. The Chair directed that Jonathan to refer the concerns to DOT for review and study.

NEW BUISNESS

- John Cori suggested the Board send a letter to principals of schools surrounding the proposed men's homeless shelter at Beach 101 Street.
- Jose Velez stated he feels the traffic problems in the Arverne by the Sea area need to be addressed.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.