

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
JUNE 11, 2019**

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

PRESENT

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Khaleel Anderson, Louis Caucig, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Ahmad Edwards, Noreen Ellis Yitzchok Goldstein, D. Brian Heffernan, Tamara Jacobs, Felicia Johnson, Paul King, Betty Leon, Denise Lopetri-Neibel, Annette Lord-Cohen, Ife Maijeh, Desiree Maple, Nancy Martinez, Roslyn Mason, John McCambridge, 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, Karen Sloan-Payne, Chris Tedesco, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez, Wanda Warden, Edwin Williams, Tyrone Worsley

ABSENT

Mordechai Dicker, Temina Feldman, Eugenia Gibson, Alicia Mazyck, Dr. Eli Shapiro

GUESTS

Dan Brown – Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, 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., Irene Dougherty – Rep. Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer-Amato, Manuel Silva – Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Hallah Selen - Rep. City Planning, Stephen Everett - Rep. City Planning, Eric Palatnik – Attorney At Law, Vincent O’Conner – Rep. Vincent O’Conner Funeral Home, Daphne Yuuf – Rep. National Park Service, Rita Millally - Rep. National Park Service, Jen Nersesian – Rep. National Park Service, Dave Tarr- Rep. National Park Service, Eric Peterson – Parks Administrator for District #14, Casey Peterson–Rep. NYC Housing Preservation & Development, P.O. Richardson–Rep. 100th Police Precinct

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:21pm. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES FROM MAY 14, 2019

The Chair went to the Board for approval of the minutes. Two corrections were presented: 1) Under attendance – Dan Mundy was present and 2) correction of email address of NYC Parks Administrator – eric.peterson@parks.nyc.gov.

Motion by Betty Leon accept May 14, 2019 as corrected. The motion was seconded by Dan Mundy. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion with 1 abstention.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Dolores Orr, Chair advised all board members that each member is required under the Bylaws to be a member of two committees and expected to be active on those committees. All Committee Chairs are to ensure that the minutes show those members in attendance and those members absent so there is a clear record of those member who have attendance at committee meetings.

This is the opportunity for all board members to review what committees they are on and if they wish to request a change in committee selection/assignment submit an email to Jonathan Gaska.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager, Jonathan Gaska reported that the office received the 311 May 2019 Complaint Summary Report for District#14 that states the following: 45 asbestos complaints

29 no water at all complaints

19 noise construction before permitted hour complaints

15 hydrant running complaints

1 ice cream truck noise complaint

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 7:30pm. 17 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking 8:07pm.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

Gateway National Recreation Area–Re: Proposed Changes to Riis Park Bath House

Jen Nersesian, Superintendent of Gateway National Park explained that months ago GNP issued an RFP for the Robert Moses Bath House that has been vacant for several years. The Riis Beach Bazaar was selected to partnership with GNP. The Beach Bazaar has already been operating in the park on a smaller scale and with this larger space their plan involves a pool, food services and event space. GNP plans to do \$ 30 Million of restorations on the park that includes the old clock, lighting and fences.

HOUSING & LAND-USE COMMITTEE

Al Moore Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on April 2, 2019. The first agenda item the committee discussed was ULURP#C180282-ZMQ – regarding O’Connor’s Funeral Home located at 91-05 Beach Channel Drive. The applicant is requesting a change of zoning from R4-1 to R4-1+C2-3 Overlay. Mr. Moore explained that by obtaining a zoning change the funeral home will not have to come before the Board every few years for a Variance. This zoning change will not change the use of the property. The committee voted to support the zoning change from R4-1 to R4-1+C2-3 Overlay.

PUBLIC HEARING: The Chair opened the floor for public hearing for ULURP#C180282-ZMQ – regarding O’Connor’s Funeral Home located at 91-05 Beach Channel Drive. 5 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard.

Eric Platnick the attorney representing the client explained that there would not be any changes to the property.

Al Moore made the motion for the Board to approve ULURP#C180282-ZMQ regarding O’Connor’s Funeral Home’s request for a change of zoning from R4-1 to R4-1+C2-3 Overlay with the condition of no additional expansion. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 40 YES, 0 NO and 0 ABSTAINED.

The second agenda item the committee discussed was ULURP#C190396-PCQ for NYC acquisition of Superstorm Sandy related properties for resilient housing and open space which involves 74 parcels of vacant land in Queens. 43 of those vacant parcels are in Rockaway/Broad Channel. Seven of those parcels to be RFP’ed (as a group) for sale and development of affordable one/two family homes. One property will be auctioned. The process began in 2015 and must be completed by December 2020.

PUBLIC HEARING: The Chair opened the floor for public hearing for ULURP#C190396-PCQ regarding NYC acquisition of Superstorm Sandy related properties for resilient housing and open space. One person signed up to speak and was recognized and heard. The Chair closed the public hearing.

Al Moore made the motion for the Board to support ULURP#C190396-PCQ for NYC acquisition of Superstorm Sandy related properties for resilient housing and open space with the condition only to support the open space/yard expansion properties and the Beach 143 street auction property and to oppose the properties for housing managed sites until more information is provided by HPD. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 33 YES, 0 NO and 2 ABSTAINED.

Al Moore explained that since the committee had several concerns regarding the development of the Peninsula Hospital site the developer of the site agreed to attend another committee meeting on May 29, 2019 to address the committee concerns.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Chris Tedesco Chair of the committee reported that a meeting was held on June 3, 2019.

1)Dockless Bike Share Pilot Program

Arnold Cruz and Bryan Perret from DOT explained that there are currently 600 Lime bikes in operation. Pace bikes withdrew from the program in Sept 2018. There are currently 1k –3k trips per week, confirming a clear demand for bike share. DOT acknowledged that bike parking, retrieval, and maintenance are areas that can be improved, as well as more effective ways to gather more feedback from riders and non-riding community residents.

Highlights:

- over 78,000 unique trips since the launch in May 2018
- 6 outreach events across the peninsula, including 4 in Far Rockaway
- 73% positive response from feedback survey
- a GPS geofence was implemented when riders try to take the bikes off the peninsula and a \$25 fine is imposed to the riders account if the rider ends their trip outside of the geozone.

2)Saftey & Mobility Improvements of the Q52/53 SBS Bus Route

The Mayor's better buses action plan, which aims to improve bus speeds 25% by 2020. The Q52 and Q53 on Rockaway Beach Blvd was identified as one of 24 priority projects across all 5 boroughs.

This corridor has experienced numerous traffic crashes, pedestrian injuries and fatalities. Since SBS in November 2017, ridership has increased between 5-8%, bus bunching has decreased 9-10% improvement in travel times on the Q52/53, maintained vehicle travel times, and had a 6% reduction in crashes.

accessibility improvement, enhanced pedestrian safety, traffic calming, improved bus speeds and reliability for all busses using the corridor, adds, overnight parking and daytime loading and improves ADA accessibility throughout the corridor.

Nolan Levenson and Al Silvestri from DOT presented the powerpoint for the 6 specific target areas in the corridor which is the following:

Rockaway Beach Blvd & Beach 116 – 113 Sts.

13 traffic crashes resulting in 7 injuries including 3 pedestrians.

1 pedestrian fatality (2013 - 2018)

Add concrete median extension and 1 parking space along median (across from pizza d'amore)

Rockaway Beach Blvd & Beach 108 and Beach 102 Street

- Add eastbound bus lane, two concrete median tip extensions and one concrete pedestrian island (RBB & B102st.)

- Add painted curb extension and formalize angled parking on B102 St. and RBB and Rockaway Freeway

- Separate moving traffic from bus stop on SW corner of RBB & B102 St.

- Clarify travel lanes and delineate parking on B102 St. NB approaching RBB and add painted median extensions to intersection of B102 & RBB.

- New signal phase to allow for continuous S turn movement on RBB & B102 St.

Beach 59th street, BCD, RBB

- add SB bus land on B59th between BCD and RBB, 24/7 and painted curb extensions SE corner BCD & B59 & NE corner of Arverne Blvd & B59 St.

- recess EB stop bar on RBB to ease articulated bus turns from SB B59St

3) Other transportation related updates are the following:

DOT opened a case to study the misalignment of WB lane markings on Seagirt & Camp Road.

DOT is currently studying the intersection of Seagirt Blvd, Rockaway Freeway, BCD & B35th for overall improvements to traffic flow, signal timing, and pedestrian safety.

MTA is undertaking a borough wide bus network redesign that launched in April. According to the timeline outlined on the MTA website, we should expect a presentation in the fall. They expect to have the final plan completed by this time next year, and no further timeline on plan implementation.

Speed humps will be installed very soon on Beach 60 and Beach 61Sts. The approved street conversions on B60, B61 and Larkin Ave will be installed later than initially anticipated. Several street conversions in

YOUTH SERVICES & EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

Meeting held on June 4, 2019; updates are the following:

-Members of the committee participated in a free garden compost giveaway held on Saturday, April 21st. This event was sponsored by the Rockaway Civic Association and the NYC Department of Sanitation. Young men from the St. John's School for Boys volunteer crew were invited to the event by the youth services committee. The compost giveaway was a great success with approximately 10 tons of compost given away to the community with the assistance of the young men from St. Johns School for Boys, St. Francis De Sales Catholic Academy and the Scholars' Academy. The committee continues to work with the St. John's school administration to maintain active engagement with the Rockaway community.

-The committee is glad to report that the Scholars' Academy has been named to U.S. News and World Reports list of best high schools in Queens based on college readiness evaluations. Scholars' Academy High School, along with Townsend Harris H.S. and Queens H.S. of the Sciences at York College were the three schools awarded Gold Medals in their annual list of best schools.

-This month the State Assembly and Senate will be considering a change to the law governing admissions standards to the Specialized High Schools of NYC. The committee feels that changing the standards to admission to these schools does not address the underlying problem of lack of access to gifted and talented programming in the elementary and middle schools. Programs which would lead advanced students towards the academic achievement levels necessary to succeed in testing into the 8 specialized high schools.

- Rockaway still has no gifted and talented programs at the elementary school level, even though at the Mayor's Town Hall meeting at PS 42 earlier this year, the Mayor and Councilmember announced a gifted and talented program would be established in Rockaway. There are very limited seats available in the Scholars' Academy advanced academics program.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) published by the Department of City Planning.

Review of the report revealed that there are unavoidable adverse impacts projected to impact local elementary and intermediate schools as well as unavoidable adverse impacts to publicly funded child care and head start programs.

These are documented on pages 22-23 and pages 43-44 of the EIS. The Environmental Impact Study clearly states that the Peninsula hospital development in its current form would result in a severe impact to local schools through overcrowding.

The report gives two remedies for these projected adverse impacts:

- 1. To increase seat capacity by expansion or reallocation of existing space and/or construction of new school and childcare space. This remedy would be applicable towards the three areas which would sustain significant adverse impacts: elementary schools, intermediate schools and child care centers within the impact zone of the Peninsula Hospital redevelopment site.*
- 2. Alternatively, the report states that a reduction in the planned number of dwelling units by 521 units or by 36% would scale back projections to below the significant impact level.*

The committee feels that in view of the significant challenges currently facing schools in this area of Rockaway, including overcrowding, limitations in educational programming and schools struggling to meet standardized benchmarks, the burdens projected by the redevelopment proposal in its current form are unacceptable. Furthermore, the DOE and SCA are already behind schedule in meeting the demands for additional school space and additional school programming options in all areas of Rockaway. This record does not inspire confidence that such improvements would be developed in line and in conjunction with the current project proposal.

The committee consensus, therefore, is that the Community Board should not support the Peninsula Hospital project in its current form. The committee further recommends that discussion on the hospital redevelopment site should commence with their Environmental Impact Study's own recommendation of a 36% reduction in size in order to mitigate the "...unavoidable adverse impacts" related to overcrowding of schools. We would add the additional stipulation that the discussion

Include space or funding to increase school and childcare capacity in the area which is already strained by a growing population, limited access to the full spectrum of educational programming and underperforming schools.

-Capital and Expense Budget recommendations:

The round table discussion yielded the following recommendations:

Under Capital Expense:

- Funding to increase school seat capacity and building space for the Waterside Children’s Studio School (PS 317) in Rockaway Park
- Funding for a complete rebuild or replacement of The Chris Galas School (PS 47) in Broad Channel which has suffered from intractable facility heating problems, roof failures, severe space limitations and the structure which has far outlived its useful life span.
- Recognizing the very limited availability of seats in the highly successful Scholars’ Academy, and the surplus of highly qualified students who are left without a seat due to the highly competitive process for acceptance, funding for the creation or development of another school modeled after the Scholars’ Academy to be located in the East end of the Peninsula (possibly as part of the large scale redevelopment of the Downtown area of Rockaway.

Under Expense Budge:

- Funding for the development and implementation of a Gifted and Talented program located in Rockaway.
- Funding for the expansion of NEST and Horizon programs in Rockaway.
- Funding for the development or expansion of programs aimed at assisting middle school students in Rockaway prepare for the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) taken in the eighth grade.

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting opened at 7:10 PM with a presentation from Renee Hastick-Motes giving an update on **St. John Episcopal Hospital**. Her initial informational was on the current “F” grade received by the hospital from the non-for-profit organization; LEAPFROG.

Renee explained that the organization is one which grades all hospitals in the NY area. It is a voluntary assessment that the hospital signed up

for. This was their first time going through this process, and because of this there was data that was pulled from CMS-(centers for Medicare/Medicaid services), from 2015. The grading system is based on 28 measures, which is not known to the hospital until the time of the survey. The organizations algorithm is rather complex, and Renee walked the group through some of the criteria. The survey is done twice a year; once in the Fall/Winter, and again in the spring.

It was reported that they fully expected the poor score as their initial survey, and believe by the Fall/Winter survey, the score will rise. Some of the areas they scored low in, was because certain specific processes were not in place based on the 2015 data. However the systems are now in place and once reported to CMS that will be the data that will be pulled for the Fall/Winter survey. It should also be noted that there is no consideration for types of hospitals or sizes of hospitals. So large hospital systems like Northwell are measured the same as small Safety Net hospitals, such as SJEH.

She provided updated information that included the Specialty Partnerships the hospital has with Northwell Hosp. system, who runs their lab; and St. Francis Hospital, who is involved in the cardiac specialty. Labor and Management updates were also discussed. The hospital thru the CAC, which I co-chair discussed at length the culture change that was often times the complaints from patients. SJEH management entered into a Labor/Management Initiative with 1199 SIEU; in which the staff participated in a yearlong intensive training/retraining program to better serve the patients by promoting safety initiatives, a healthier work environment, etc.

Physical updates to the hospital were also provided. Highlights include:

- Phase II of the ED renovation is in progress; a new entry to the hospital will be ready 6/17/19
- The 340 B Pharmacy is now open. It has to be open for 30 days for cash only services; before they can accept Medicare/Medicaid and other insurances; in order to comply with regulations. Community will be able to get their RX filled just like a CVVS, Duane Reade, etc.
- Lobby Gift shop and Café will open in 10/19. Café will feature Starbucks coffee and snacks

- BOCES building is currently closed; and will be part of Phase III. That building once complete will house Behavioral Health Services.
- Meds to Beds program- where a discharged patient will receive their meds prior to their discharge. \$4.2 million has been secured to redo the Labor and Delivery Unit. It will be set up as a “Mother and Baby Center”, which requires special designation from the NYS-DOH.
- B.34th St. Senior apartment complex 1st floor commercial space is being built out and will provide geriatric, primary & diabetic services
- A letter of intent is being explored to have a comprehensive Women’s and Radiology services in the B.105th Medical Center. \$17 million has been provided for those services.
- Rusk Univ. has provided \$10 million for a medical teaching facility that will be in the old teaching enter that is on Plainview Ave. That is currently under construction

The hospital will be distributing and conducting their community needs assessment at the end of the year, so look for surveys and opportunities to let the hosp. know what other services the community may need.

The second agenda item was a presentation by Sol Weiss, the CEO of a company called Millin Associates LLC. The CEO has a background in medical billing and revenue cycle software for behavioral health agencies; including agencies that provide substance abuse and mental health treatment.

The presentation was for a proposed out-patient substance abuse clinic; to be located at 230 Beach 102nd St., an area that is “underserved”, according to their stats. The presentation is to comply with a NYS-DOH, Article #32 OASAS (Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services) requirement. The clinic is slated to be solely counseling based, and propose to have 4 F/T staff members, and they expect to serve up to 20 clients per day. There is no partnership with any hospital at this time, and there is no special certification required on the part of the “owners” to open

and operate the clinic. The certification would be through the staff hired, i.e. Med. Director, Clinical Director, and CASAC's- (credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselors).

The committee had the following several concerns:

- What made that area underserved?
- 269 Queens residents died from drug overdose, but presenters did not know how many were from this area they want to serve
- Presenters stated there are no counseling centers within a 5 mile radius of the proposed area (Committee member Googled and found seven existing clinics within the 5 mile radius.)

The statistics did not provide or support the thesis this particular area, within a 5 mile radius, is underserved, in terms of providing substance abuse counseling, and if it is actually needed in this area. Based on the proposal, the question was asked of the committee, "who was in support of the proposition".

- 4-Opposed
- 1-Abstention
- 1-member left

The recommendation of the committee is not in favor of this project. It was mentioned that the NYS has the final decision, and the committee is requesting that a letter be sent to our state elected officials not to support this endeavor.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS The Chair explained that Jonathan sent an email to everyone about the bylaws and being on the executive board. Filling the vacancy is a two-step process. The vacancy is a result of Martin Ingram 3rd Vice Chair not applying to renew his appointment to the Community Board. With this vacancy executive board members automatically move up thereby: Felecia Johnson became the 3rd Vice Chair and Isaac Parsee became the 4th Vice Chair leaving the position for secretary/treasurer vacant. Any board member may nominate another member to fill the Secretary/treasurer position. Jonathan will email all a reminder to nominate member for this position and the Board will vote to fill the position in September.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning