



COMMUNITY BOARD #14

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2015**

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

PRESENT

Shalom Becker, Louis Caucig, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, , Mordechai Dicker, Ahmed Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Patricia Gillespie, D. Brian Heffernan, Martin Ingram, Henry Iori, Felicia Johnson, Joel Kaplan, Peter Larkin, Betty Leon, Thomas Long, , Darrell Mitchell, Aldean Moore, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Eugene Pasternak,, Edward Pastore Sr., Karen Sloan-Payne, Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Dr. Eli Shapiro, Keith Sullivan, Chris Tedesco, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez

ABSENT

Richard Altabe, Kelley Brooke, Annette Lord-Cohen, Silaka Cox, Steve Cromity, Matthew Kessler, John McCambridge, Hazeron Mohammed, Sonia Moise, Ellen O'Reilly, Isaac Parsee, Harvey Rudnick, Sender Schwartz, Milan Taylor, Thomas Tobin, Carole Trachtenberg, Edwin Williams, Rachel Williams

GUESTS

Democratic District Leader Lew Simon, Sandee Doremus – Rep. Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Dan Brown – Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Jessica Luina – Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Ciara Donley - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Carla Downie – Rep. Assemblywoman Michele Titus, Roy Tellason – Parks Manager for District #14

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:15 p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair informed everyone that at the Borough Board meeting last night Parks Commissioner Silva talked about Parks Without Borders, which focuses on opening up park space by removing fences and improving entrances at parks that already exist. Park locations that have sport locations and children's playgrounds would remain fenced. The Parks Department is requesting that suggestions for (8) identified park locations be submitted on line. The deadline is February 28, 2015. Two parks identified in CB#14 are Beach 88 Street and Edgemere Community Park.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manger Jonathan Gaska reported that the Executive Board met with HPD to be given an update on the Edgemere Urban Renewal Area. The proposed plans involve 750 units of affordable housing units, 500 unites are already done, 250 more units have to be built. Construction could restart in the spring. The affordability AMI range would be at 80-130, which is a family of (3) or more with income of \$56,000 to \$91,000 a year.

The Arverne East project was also discussed. It does have a funding issue and the board suggested that since approval of the plan was a decade ago, the community has changed and Super storm Sandy has also changed the peninsula as well and it was suggested that the community and the Board work together to produce a new RFP that has less density and more, economic development and more recreation. Therefore the Board has requested a meeting with the Commissioner of HPD

Mr. Gaska wished everyone happy holidays and a good new year.

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

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MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 10, 2015

The Chair went to the Board for comments regarding the minutes from the Board meeting that was held on November 10, 2015. Al Moore made the motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Martin Ingram. There was 1 abstention.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

Ibrahim Abdul-Matin, Director of Community Affairs for NYC Dept of Environmental Protection informed everyone that the plans for upgrading the Rockaway Water Pollution Plant is being done to comply with the mandate to manage and improve water quality from the plant going into Jamaica Bay. \$15 million has been allocated to do the upgrade.

Most of the work would be done inside of the plant. The upgrade involves installing platforms, vents and mixers on the top of the tanks that would workers to control oxygen levels inside of the tanks. Cranes would be used to deliver materials. There would not be any increase in noise or orders.

Board members had questions about of the upgrade we therefore will request to schedule an additional meeting to address those concerns.

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.

GUESTS SPEAKER

NYC Dept of Corrections

Officers Lindsey Mulch and Christopher Chamberlin informed everyone that the Dept of Corrections is seeking to hire at least 2000 officers. The starting salary is \$42,000. The job offers 22 ½ years on the job for retirement, with \$12,000 every December as long as you live. To be eligible you must have at least 39 college credits and the tests are being offered in November 2015 and January 2016.

COMMITTEE REPORT

PARKS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

1) Sunset Cove presentation by Elizabeth Jordan from Dept. of Parks & Recreation

Jose Velez Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on December 1, 2015. The first agenda item the Committee discussed was regarding the presentation by Elizabeth Jordan from NYC Department of Parks & Recreation for the approval of the Phase 1 designs for the Sunset Cove Salt Marsh Restoration Project. Phase 1 of the project which has been allocated \$7 million in grant monies from DOI, NFW and DEC mitigation funds. The goal of the project is to restore 3 to 5 acres of salt marshland 7 to 9 acres of coastal upland, establishment of a berm along the eastern perimeter of park that will increase storm resiliency. The berm would also include a walking trail to increase educational opportunities and community involvement. The shoreline and southwestern portion of the site belongs to NPS and no work would be done at the locations. The entrance to the site would be from the parking area at the American all field. Phase 2 of the project would be presented at a later date, which has received funding of \$500,000 from NY Rising.

The Chair advised that the Board will resend another letter of support for some of the old boardwalk wood to be used for the project. In addition, the letter will also request an inventory of the old boardwalk wood.

The Chair went to the Board for questions. Jose Velez made the motion for the Board to support the Committee's recommendation to support proposed designs of Sunset Cove. The motion was carried by a roll call vote of 31 YES, 0 NO and 0 ABSTAINED.

2) Surfing Beaches-Report By Portia Dyrenforth

The second item the Committee discussed was regarding the proposed surfing beach location at Beach 110 – 111 and Beach 114 - 115 Streets which are being reviewed by the First Deputy Commissioner; however Parks would like to see a letter of support from the Arverne by the Sea home owners. No decision has been made regarding new surfing locations but Parks would like to have a resolution to this issue by January. It must also be discussed with the Lifeguard Association. The contracts with the Surfing schools from this previous season have expired and are now subject to policy review. No school has been awarded a new contract as of yet. Parks will continue to offer these contracts the way they do all summer camps, however it could offer it as an RFP but that would not happen until the summer of 2018. This would have the aspect of only one surfing school being the sole operator and it may not be a locally owned school.

The Chair advised that the Board requested financial information from the Parks Dept. regarding the revenue received from the surfing schools. The Parks Dept. responded back with a letter stating that it received \$4,212 for the 2015 season. On average the surfing schools charge \$80 per session less the Parks Dept. fee of \$1 per session. The surfing schools revenue for 2015 was \$332,000.

John Cori made the motion that since the required letters of support was submitted from specified homeowners associations and the Parks Dept. is requesting a letter of support in January 2016, the Board should send a letter of support to the Parks Dept. to allow surfing at Beach 63 Street to Beach 65 Streets and swimming at Beach 65 Street to Beach 67 Streets. The motion was seconded by Betty Leon. The Chair went to the Board for questions. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 21 YES, 1 NO and 4 ABSTAINED

NOTE: The areas of Beach 60 to Beach 62 Streets & Beach 68 Street to Beach 73 Streets was excluded from this motion because they are outside of the Arverne By the Sea Homeowners Association

3. Boardwalk/Beach Access Plan

The third item the Committee discussed was regarding a letter from NYC Parks Dept. that had been forward by the CB office to Parks Committee Co-Chairs. The letter states that due to a number of factors the approved Boardwalk/Beach Access Plan that CB#14 had voted on could not go forward. 12 beach side ramps that had been in the plan had to be changed to staircases. The letter had not been forward to other Committee members or the civics involved. With the start of Phase 3 the Rockaway Civic Association discovered that these changes had been implemented without their community's input. In the Phase 3 area 4 ramps had to be changed to staircases. When asked as to why these changes were made Parks responded that there had been a number of circumstances that dictated the changes. One being that the shorted ramps would eventually not be covered by sand due to their short length and would end up hanging in the air. This would create a safety issue and conditions that the Parks Dept. would be unable to satisfy. Long term maintenance required to keep the ramps sufficiently covered with sand without disturbing the berm and the expected planting that would help maintain the berm. The Committee agreed to wait to see if the Parks Dept. could review if any changes could be made to the current design.

The Board members raised the issue of there being no land side stair cases. After the discussion a motion was made by Michael Tubridy and was seconded that Phase 3 Boardwalk/Beach Access Plan be modified to add staircases at the base of all of the ramps on the land side of the boardwalk. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 19 YES, .O and 5 ABSTAINED.

The Chair stated that is after 10:00 pm, therefore no new issues could be discussed. The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting 10:10pm

Respectfully Submitted By: Mary Dunning