



COMMUNITY BOARD #14

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

1931 Mott Avenue, Room 311
Far Rockaway, NY 11691
Tel.: (718) 471-7300
Fax: (718) 868-2657
cbrock14@nyc.rr.com



COMMUNITY BOARD #14 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2016

BAYSWATER JEWISH CENTER
2355 HEALY AVENUE
FAR ROCKAWAY, NY 11691

PRESENT

Richard Altabe, Louis Caucig, Annette Lord-Cohen, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Silaka Cox, Dr. Gerald David Mordechai Dicker, Ahmed Edwards, Noreen Ellis, D. Brian Heffernan, Henry Iori, Felicia Johnson, Joel Kaplan, Peter Larkin, Betty Leon, Thomas Long, John McCambridge, Darrell Mitchell, Sonia Moise Aldean Moore, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Edward Pastore Sr., Karen Sloan-Payne, Harvey Rudnick, Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Dr. Eli Shapiro, Milan Taylor, Chris Tesdesco, Thomas Tobin, Carole Trachtenberg, Jose Velez, Rachel Williams

ABSENT

Shalom Becker, Kelley Brooke, Steve Cromity, Patricia Gillespie Martin Ingram, Matthew Kessler, Hazeron Mohammed, Ellen O'Reilly, Isaac Parsee, Eugene Pasternak, Sender Schwartz, Keith Sullivan Michael Tubridy, Edwin 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, Robert Schwach - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Lisa George- Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Pesach Osima – Rep. NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, Representatives from NYC Economic Development Corporation, Representatives from Anbaric

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

CORRESPONDENCE WAS READ AS FOLLOWS:

Email dated February 9, 2016 was received from Henry Ehrhardt Director of Community Relations for NYC Dept. of Sanitation. Email announced (2) collection service alerts because of the winter weather forecasts, which are the following: a) February 12, 2016 Lincoln's Birthday is generally an observed holiday, the department will collect trash and recycling that day. b) Residents may experience a delay in collection this week as the department responds to a series of snow systems that require the department to deploy salt spreaders and focus on keeping the city streets free of icy conditions.

Letter dated January 20, 2016 was sent to Nicole Garcia, Queens Borough Commissioner for NYC Department of Transportation from Community Board #14. Letter stated that Community Board #14 has no objection to City Councilman Donovan Richard's support of speed humps on Beach Channel Drive and Beach 63 Street.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair advised everyone that the park located at Beach 88 Street that was (1) of the (3) parks that the Board recommended to be considered in the Parks Without Borders program, is being looked at by Portia Dyrenforth Parks Administrator for District #14 to try to get the green boarder around the park making it easier for people to find.

The Chair advised that last night at the Borough Board meeting it was announced that the TWA Terminal will be restored at JFK Airport. There will be an addition of a 500 room hotel with 2 towers one on each side of the terminal.

This is a good opportunity for residents in Rockaway to get employment. The development creates 500 permanent jobs and 3200 temporary construction jobs. The hotel is scheduled to be open by 2020. There was a commitment for the Community Board's to get first priority but the jobs would be union.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager stated that the flooding on the Peninsula has gotten worse over the years. The recent severe flooding in Broad Channel, along Beach Channel Drive, Arverne, in the 30s, 40s and now along Seagirt Blvd. in the 20s are areas that usual did not have severe flooding. The office has reached out to the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit and the office of Emergency Management to provide some kind of relief for the residents that are going through financial hardship or perhaps lost everything due to the severe flooding.

Some of the flooding could be from back flow of the storm water outfalls which involve the rain water going down into the catch basin then to a bigger pipe then and then out to Jamaica Bay. When there is a powerful storm surge with a lot of force and pressure the water comes back in and pours out of the catch basins and manholes. The Community Board has already requested that new sewer projects install pikings or dumpbills which allows rainwater to flow out and closes to stop bay and tidal water to come back in. Apparently, there has been a massive failure with these systems in many neighborhoods. The office reached out to DEP to check the systems.

Jonathan thanked Dan Brown for doing a great job with the Borough President's Task Force along with the agencies and representatives from other neighborhoods to come up with ideas to solve problems related to Build It Back.

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 12, 2016

The Chair went to the Board for approval of the minutes. John McCambridge made the motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Daniel Ruscillo Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

1. NYC Economic Development Corporation- Re: Rockaway Ferry Update

Eleni Bourinaris, Director of NYC Economic Development Corporation stated that the Citywide Ferry Service would be a unified ferry system that would provide safe service and operate (7) days a week all year with the fare being \$2.75. \$55 Million has already been set aside for infrastructure to include (5) more landings to the ferry service that already currently exist in the (5) boroughs.

Rockaway will be included in the Citywide Ferry Service in 2017. The landing in Rockaway would be located at Beach 108 Street and Beach Channel Drive, which was the same location for the temporary ferry. Rockaway would receive a new landing that would be handicapped accessible along with adequate canopies for protection from the elements. The ferry vessels would be leaving Rockaway at 6:30am and the schedule would be synchronized with (2) shuttle buses at bus stops that already exist coming from Beach 149 Street and in Arverne.

Mrs. Bourinaris stated that no ferry operator has been chosen yet even though an RFP was released and responses were received already; the environmental impact study should be completed by the end of February. The construction company Skanka has already been

chosen to do the construction. The issue of parking for riders and bicycles is still being looked into. The Chair went to the Board for questions, comments and concerns. Board members asked EDC to reconsider the following:

- a) The placement of a ferry landing at Broad Channel, Bayswater, Beach 3rd Street, Beach 59 Street, Beach 25 Street and shuttle buses at same locations.
- b) Consider small ferries to transport riders from Bayswater and Beach 3rd Street to connect to the main ferry landing at Beach 108 Street.
- c) To increase the number of ferries for summer crowds especially for weekends.
- d) Provide an earlier ferry so the 7:00 am shift would arrive in Manhattan by 6:45 am. Since all other ferry services in the citywide ferry service has ferries arriving in Manhattan by 6:45 am.

2. Anbaric proposal/response to NYS RFP for Microgrids in the Rockaways

Anthony DeCristofaro, Project Manager for Anbaric stated that they are experts in delivering 660 megawatts of high voltage to existing systems that help entities maintain power. Microgrids can help the Rockaways by providing reliability, resiliency and renewable power by integration of new distributed resources of power that would increase energy efficiency. Rockaway residents have experienced devastating effects of extreme weather events like Super Storm Sandy.

Mr. DeCristofaro stated that Anbaric Microgrid plans to respond to the upcoming PSEG Long Island RFP with a visionary proposal to construct a community microgrid that could consist of batteries, solar panels and reserve generation storage devices that could be placed in certain areas on the Peninsula that would provide the Rockaway community with power in extreme weather conditions.

3. NYC Department of Transportation-Re: Update on Beach Channel Drive

Albert Silvestri, Queens Deputy Borough Commissioner for DOT stated that Beach Channel Drive between Beach 108 Street and Rockaway Freeway has been closed due to severe cracks and buckling in the street that created a hazard to drivers and pedestrians. DOT has been working with National Grid who has been conducting ground penetrating radar at the location to see what the underlying issue is. In addition National Grid, rather than NYC DOT, will repair the section of the road that is adjacent to their site. Currently there is no timeline set but it is being worked on to get the site repaired and open as soon as possible.

Mr. Silvestri stated that DOT has gotten complaints and requests to repair Beach Channel Drive. Currently DOT is working on project# SanHW11 that would repair Beach Channel Drive from Beach 108 Street to Beach 145 Street for FY 2017.

DOT has yet to change the traffic lights from red to yellow to improve traffic flow and increase safety.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 9:40 pm. (6) People signed up to speak. They were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Mary Dunning