



**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

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

COMMUNITY
BOARD #14

PRESENT

Khaleel Anderson, Edward Benson, Louis Caucig, Annette Lord-Cohen, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Mordechai Dicker, Ahmed Edwards, Noreen Ellis, D. Brian Heffernan, Martin Ingram, Felicia Johnson, Joel Kaplan, Betty Leon, Thomas Long, John McCambridge, Sonia Moise, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Edward Pastore Sr, Karen Sloan-Payne, Harvey Rudnick; Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Sender Schwartz, Thomas Tobin, Carole Tractenberg, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez, Rachel Williams

ABSENT

Richard Altabe, Shalom Becker, Kelley Brooke, Silaka Cox, Patricia Gillespie, Henry Iori, Peter Larkin, Desiree Maple, Aldean Moore, Hazeron Mohammed, Ellen O'Reilly, Isaac Parsee, Eugene Pasternak, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Keith Sullivan, Milan Taylor, Chris Tesdesco, Edwin Williams

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

GUESTS

Dorothy Lewandowski - Queens Borough Commissioner for NYC Parks & Recreation, Irene Dougherty - Rep. Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer-Amato, Mercedes Buchanan - Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Democratic District Leader Lew Simon, Sandee Doremus - Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Dan Brown - Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Ciara Donley - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Portia Dyrenforth - Parks Administrator for District #14,

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:20 p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Speaking - from January 10, 2017 meeting.

The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 7:22 pm. 21 people signed up to speak. They were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

Guest Speakers

1. RDRC - Kevin Alexander, President

Mr. Alexander informed the Board that RDRC is requesting letters of support from Community Board #14 for the submission of 2 applications to NYS Homes & Community Renewal to acquire capital funding to continue doing more store improvements to downtown Far Rockaway. The NYS Main Street Program allows store improvements and renovation of 2nd and 3rd floor apartments as long as the units remain affordable units for at least 10 years. This effort would include the larger buildings in downtown Far Rockaway that have stores on the bottom and apartments on top.

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The first application is for a technical assistance grant up to \$20,000 to hire consultants to do the designs and studies. This application requires 25% matching funds.

The second application is a RFP to acquire funding to do the actual work. The application involves funding of \$50,000 up to \$100,000 to improve store fronts plus



another \$10,000 up to \$100,00 per unit to improve upper level apartments as well. In addition, the large commercial buildings would be included for capital improvements up to \$500,000.

Felicia Johnson made the motion for the Board to support RDRC's request for letters of support for the NYS Main Street Program. The motion was seconded by Annette Lord-Cohen. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion. 4 opposed and 2 abstained.

Ad Hoc Downtown Far Rockaway Committee report from Jan. 10, 2017 meeting.

Joel Kaplan Co-Chair of the committee reported that a meeting was held on January 19, 2017. The committee was formed to research and gather input from the community. The agenda item for discussion was regarding the City's proposal to revitalization/rezoning of downtown Far Rockaway.

Present at the meeting were appointed community residents and Ad Hoc committee members as well as representatives from EDC, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and City Councilman Donovan Richards.

EDC made a power point presentation of the proposed plan that encompasses an area bounded by Redfern and Beach 20 Street but the focus of the plan is the shopping center on Mott Avenue and Beach 20 Street. However, the rezoning area encompasses a broader area which includes the shopping center, behind the shopping center to the Long Island Rail Road station, the parking lot across from the Mott Avenue train station and the disposition sites owned by city agencies.

The plan is to implement the following goals:

- Proposed up to 3000 housing units, 1700 of the units would be on the new shopping center site plus buildings reaching 15 stories high.
- The other 1300 units would be developed on the disposition sites and throughout the rezoned area over a number of determined years.
- An urban renewal area designation grants acquisition authority to acquire property within the urban renewal area.
- The proposed rezoning would be to upzone a portion of residential to R-6, eliminate light manufacturing and higher density commercial space and provide lower density commercial space.
- Proposing to increase retail from 90,000 to 243,000; increase community facility to 91,000 from 5,000.

After the presentation, the following concerns were expressed to EDC:

- density in a small area and 15 story buildings are too high.
- would it be mixed income and there is a need for more school seats.
- the lack of additional parking and traffic would be serious issue.
- homeownership options.
- construction of new parks.

The committee requested a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Study to review before the timeline because the impact study would address the issues and propose ways to mitigate the impact of the project.

Old/New Business from January 10, 2017

- Danny Ruscillo made the motion for the Board to place Queens Public Transportation on the board's March agenda. The motion was seconded by Martin Ingram. The motion carried by 24 Yes, 1 No and 0 Abstained.
- Jose Velez made a request for the board to send a letter to DOT requesting that they provide Arf, Arf with parking. John Cori explained that Rockaway Beach Civic Association is working on locations for additional parking from Beach 73 Street to Beach 108 Street which includes parking in front of the dog park.

Minutes from January 10, 2017 – Betty Leon made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Annette Lord-Cohen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of the Chair – The Chair announced that on March 8, 2017 at Beach Channel High School there is going to be a meeting regarding the proposed opening and co-location of a charter high school inside Beach Channel High School. The meeting starts at 6:00 pm.

The old firehouse at Beach 116 Street as everybody already knows has a sidewalk shed and our concern that could possibly be in place for a year or more. The board reached out to the Fire Dept. and starting in the spring they will mesh wrapped the old fire house and remove sidewalk shed.

Public Speaking -The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 8:45 pm. 11 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

Committee Reports

Parks & Public Safety Committee – Jose Velez, Co-Chair of the committee reported that a meeting was held on January 30, 2017. The first item for discussion was regarding presenters Esther Grillo and Christina George are proposing a large scale sculpture project on Shore Front Parkway (Bch 108 St to Bch 73 St) in partnership with the Parks Dept. from June 3 to Oct 9, 2017. There would be 17 artists, 18 sculptures and 16 sets. There would also be additional programming relating to the artwork. The project has support from the Rockaway Beach Civic Association but has not received final approval from the Parks Dept yet. The committee discussed the proposal and vote unanimously to support the proposal.

The second item the committee discussed was regarding the review of a previous motion made in November 2016 banning the use of ATV's by non-uniformed personnel which was approved but needed further clarity on who was actually using the ATV's. The committee decided to request that the Parks Enforcement Division attend a meeting to give the committee clarification.

The third item the committee discussed was an update on FEMA funded projects from the Parks Dept. Mr. Velez reported that Sarah Neilson, representing the Parks Dept. at the meeting advised that the issue of Broad Channel not included in the

selection process would be reviewed at a later date but five of the projects that were selected from the nine projects that were previously proposed for community support to receive the \$120 million dollars that was left over from the boardwalk reconstruction is the following:

1. Bayswater Park will receive \$55 million dollars.
2. Edgemere Raised Shoreline Project will receive \$ 16 1/2 million dollars to only do the drainage portion not the raised berm portion.
3. Rockaway Community Park will receive \$12 million dollars to only do resiliency features, raised berm, shoreline bank stabilization and wetland restoration.
4. Park Operations Headquarters will receive \$29 million dollars to demolish, reconstruct and elevate the new building.
5. Recreational amenities along Shore Front Parkway will receive \$20 million dollars.

The total for all five projects is \$133 million dollars is more than the \$120 million dollars and is being done to make sure no money is left over. The process going forward is that the City and state submits the projects to FEMA for a question and answer period which will last until the summer of 2017. Parks will then attempt to secure additional funding for any elements not addressed by FEM funds and the design process should start in the fall.

The committee expressed concerns regarding the omission of the parks in Broad Channel not receiving any FEMA funding, in addition to being omitted from the proposed nine projects. The committee also expressed that the funding towards the Park's Operation building should be lowered.

Mr. Velez reported that the fourth agenda the committee discussed was regarding updates on capital projects going on in District #14. The status of all of the projects can be found online under the Parks Dept.'s Capital Tracker.

John Cori made a motion for the board to support the temporary sculpture garden on Shore Front Parkway that was recommended by the committee. The motion was seconded by Karen Sloan-Payne. The motion carried unanimously.

Land-Use & Housing Committee – The Chair of the board reported that she chaired the meeting because the Chairs of the committee were not present. The Chair reported that a meeting was held on January 26, 2017.

The agenda item for discussion was BSA#2016-4332-A: regarding 4 Williams Court located in Far Rockaway near Caffrey Avenue and New Haven Avenue. The location is a single lot for a one family home that is zoned R4-1. The applicant filed their plans according the Dept. of Building codes and was denied because the property is boarded by an unmapped street, which is 4 Williams Court. There are other existing homes on Williams Court. The applicant needs a waiver to build under the General City Law 36 which would allow them to build on an unmapped city street.

The home will be owner occupied and the attorneys representing the Finman family did send letters to the Fire Dept., DEP and DOT requesting letters of no objections and are waiting for responses. The committee members made the motion to support BSA#2016-4332-A to allow the residence to be constructed at 4 Williams Court under General City Law 36 provided that letters of no objections are received from the appropriate agencies. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation – The Chair opened the floor for public participation regarding BSA# 2016-4332-A: 4 Williams Court to construct a one family home which will front on an unmapped street. No one signed up to speak. The Chair closed public participation.

John Cori made the motion for the board to support BSA#2016-4332-A to allow the residence to be constructed at 4 Williams Court under General City Law 36 provided that letters of no objections are received from the appropriate agencies. The motion was seconded by Felicia Johnson. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 20 Yes, 0 No and 0 Abstained.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting 10:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by: M. Dunning