

T480

1/11/2022

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
MONTHLY VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2022**

PRESENT

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Mark Anaya, Yaakov Berger, Lailah Boyd, Giselle Carter, Natasha Carter, Louis Caucig, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Eric Diaz, Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston, Ahmad Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Jack Epter, Temina Feldman, Jaden Gaab, Eugenia Gibson, Yitzchok Goldstone, Randy Hall, D. Brian Heffernan, , Felicia Johnson, Brian Kelly, Paul King, Maggie Larkin, Betty Leon, Denise Lopresti, Annette Lord-Cohen, Ife Maijeh, Nancy Martinez, Rosalyn Mason, John McCambridge, Isa Mitchell, Sonia Moise, Helen Montero, Al Moore, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold Paez, , Linda Plummer, David Rood-Ojalvo, Karen Sloan-Payne, Chris Tedesco, Jose Velez, Wanda Warden, Lisa Williams

ABSENT

Gabrielle Bennett, Andrea Colon, Tamara Jacobs, Eugene Pasternak

GUESTS

City Council Member Joanne Ariola, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, Ciara Donley - Rep. City Council Member Joanne Ariola, Dan Brown – Rep. Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz , Joseph Edwards – Rep. Congressman Gregory Meeks

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

MINUTES - December 14, 2021

Motion by Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston to approve the December 14, 2021 minutes as written. Denise Lopresti seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter dated December 16, 2021 was sent to the Independent Redistricting Commission from Community Board #14. The letter expressed their strong objection to the proposal to split Community Board #14 between three congressional districts and urged that Community Board #14 continue representation by one Congressional Representative.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

With a very full agenda, Dolores Orr, Chairperson will forgo a report but wanted to remind everyone that anyone without heat to be sure to call 311 and if there is no resolution to please contact the Community Board office.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager reported that an email was sent to board members reminding those members up for reappointment to re-apply to remain on the community board. The email from Queens Borough Hall that was forwarded includes the website link to re-apply. The deadline to submit application is February 16, 2022.

COUNCILMEMBER JOANN AIROLA-INTRODUCTION

Council member Ariola advised that the Rockaway office opened two weeks ago. Currently the offices/staff are still at the same locations currently 93-06 101 Avenue office in Ozone Park is being renovated, therefore staff is available at the 114-12 Beach Channel Drive office. Office hours are 9 am to 5pm, with the possibility of office hours extended on Thursdays to 7pm.

A plan for the First 100 Days has been produced and distributed for District #32 to ensure meetings with the Commanders of the local precincts, School principals, religious leaders, business leaders and elected officials that represent the district.

There are 7 COVID testing buses within the District to improve accessibility to the public. Including a COVID bus for Broad Channel and a bus to cover Breezy Pont should be in place by Sunday.

Councilmember Airiola expressed that she is looking forward to serving the community and already has partnered with City Councilmember Selvena Brooks-Powers and Assemblymember Stacey Pheffer-Amato.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

The Chair reminded all that at the previous board meeting it was requested that local elected officials submitted an update of the efforts that has benefitted the Peninsula and to date written reports received from Assemblymembers Pheffer-Amato and Anderson and a verbal report by Joseph Edwards was received on behalf of Congressman Gregory Meeks.

QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ

D.A. Katz stated that it has been 2 years since she became District Attorney and has made changes in efforts of keeping the Borough of Queens safe by creating a system of the same level of justice for all even if it's case by case, justice for veterans, protecting youth from ongoing gang activity or getting guns off the street by cosponsoring Gun-Buy-Back programs though out the borough.

Special thanks goes to organizations, agencies, tenant leaders and family members that are willing to create a community partner/mentorship. Some community partners are the following:

- Far Rockaway Justice Center
- Queens Defenders
- Catholic Charities
- Community Mediation Services
- Queens Center for Court and Dimension
- The Ravens Team Learning Center
- The Robins Team Learning Center
- The Community Center of the Rockaway Peninsula

In addition, the following bureaus have been created within the D.A.'s office:

- Worker Protection Bureau
- Community Partnership Division

ASSEMBLY MEMBER KHALEEL ANDERSON

The Chair advised that Assembly Member Anderson submitted a 10-page end of year update report for his district which was emailed to board members. His report included that secured state funding was secured to advance the following projects:

- To be able to create Challenge Coronary Demonstration Kitchen which gives training opportunities to trouble youth, veterans and food entrepreneurs at Challenge Charter School located on Central Avenue.
- Secured funding for the Ocean Bay Community Corporation to improve the handball courts, basketball courts at the Hammels & Beach 41 Street Houses.
- To be able to create a state-of-the-art food storage facility operated by the Queens Defenders.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STACEY PHEFFER-AMATO

The Chair advised that Assembly Member Amato submitted an updated end of the year written report which included the following:

- Established a law signed by the Governor and Commission to create a commission to prevent childhood drownings.
- The passage of Fred's Law which prohibits hospitals from just allowing individuals with disabilities from having an essential support person.
- Created a Mitchell Lama Coop Equity Reform Bill.

CONGRESSMAN GREGORY MEEKS

Joseph Edwards representing Congressman Meeks gave the following End of Year update on projects that benefit the Rockaway Peninsula:

Mr. Edwards focused on earmarked last year community projects funding (funding each congressional member was allowed to submit 10 projects for community funding), on July 29, 2021 the House passed HR4502 which included all 10 community projects submitted by Congressman Gregory Meeks totaling over \$15 Million.

-The American Rescue Plan was passed in the house on March 10, 2021 for the District/New York.

- March 11, 2021 Aid for COVID19 Pandemic package was signed into a law to restore the economy.

- New York received over \$800 Million for home energy assistance through low income home energy assistance program in November

The Chair that updates be provided as that funding is allocated to projects so that we are aware of what portion of the funding will benefit the residents of CB#14.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The Chair opened the floor for public speaking. 13 individuals signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. Public speaking was closed.

100th POLICE PRECINCT

Deputy Inspector Carlos Fabara reported the 2021 End of Year update as follows:

- Crime was down in all 6 of the 7 major crime categories.
- The lowest crime ever in the history of the 100th Precinct.
- Gun arrest category was/is high, which is a critical component for reducing shooting and, shots fired down 30% for precinct in 2021.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers –Re: Rockaway Contract#1-Beach Replenishment & Groin installation Project.

Dan Falt, Deputy Chief of Program Management at the New York City District. The will be a new project manager, yet to be named, that will cover the projects for the peninsula as the ACOE expands on different phases within the contract.

Dan Falt reported the following 2021 End of Year project update:

- Contact#1 (groins) has 3 phases completed already.
- The work on the bayside issues is progressing and will be the next big phase being worked on. ACOE has finalized and updated a line of protection on the bay side from Beach 87 Street to Beach 35 Street along Jamaica Bay

shoreline. Currently the ACOE is working on the issue of drainage, which is a challenge, but will get done with the construction of 8 pump stations. It should be noted that each pumping station will require a 1/2 acre of land. ACOE is working on acquiring 4 acres of property will do so under working with NY State and NYC and the ULURP process which will require approval by City Planning, CB14, QBP and , City Council. In a few months ACOE will present a proposal as to where the pump stations could be placed and then begin the acquisition process to acquire the property.

An update regarding the installation of groins is as follows:

- Groins constructed at Beach 107 Street is already completed
- Groins constructed at Beach 98 Street should be completed in 2 weeks.
- Groins at Beach 92 Street need more time for completion because the location is highly eroded.
- Upcoming 5 locations for groin construction is Beach 130, 125, 120, 116 and 110 Streets.

- Contract#2 - SAND REPLENISHMENT - from Beach 9 Street to Beach 149 Street including, crossovers and reinforced dunes with steel rock to go under the dune to provide a high level of protection from future flooding.

COMMITTEE REPORT

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Gerald David, Chair of the committee reported that at the December Board meeting there was one nomination from the floor for 4th Vice Chair, Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston nominated herself. As stated in the Board's By-Laws; one must be a board member for at least a year, therefore she is not eligible to run for an Executive Board position at this time. on this election.

Therefore, Jose Velez - Secretary/Treasurer cast one vote for the Nomination Committee's recommendations for the presented slate of Executive Officer nominations:

Dolores Orr - Chair
Al Moore – 1st Vice Chair
Dan Mundy - 2nd Vice Chair
Felica Johnson – 3rd Vice Chair
BVetty Leon – 4th Vice Chair
Jose Velez – Secretary /Treasurer

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Dr. Harold Paez made a motion for the Board to resend a letter to the new NYC Dept. of Education's new School Chancellor, which was

previously voted on and supported by Board stating support of the SLT and Student Body of The Scholar's Academy to remain with sibling preference in admission since the previous administration made admission lottery policy changes. The motion was seconded by Paul King. The motion carried, 3 No, 0 ABSTAINED.

- Dr. Harold Paez stated that the fire that occurred last week at 102-00 SFP, residents felt that the multiple speed humps along SFParkway delayed fire rescue. The Chair requested for Jonathan to reach to the Battalion Chief to obtain data to confirm that issue.

-Wanda Warden requested any update on the Edgemere Commons development because area residents were promised an urgent care center so what is that status given that most of the property has been resold? Also, since the supermarket has backed out, is there a replacement market proposed and can residents get some kind of ownership of 50% of the proposed units of the Edgemere Common site. Jonathan advised he has already reached out to HPD and still there has not been a response. Also, he had requested HPD give an updated on the new developers and their intentions, which HPD should be providing at the Board's upcoming Housing & Land-Use Committee meeting on January 20, 2022.

-Jack Epter made a motion for the Board to send a letter to the MTA requesting an increase homeless outreach when temperatures are below 32 degrees so the A -Train does not continue to be a rolling 10 cars bed. Jose Velez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

-Mark Anaya advised that he has been reaching out to Jonathan and other agencies regarding a business at the north end of Beach 80 Street that has blocked off an entire portion of the block with his scaffold business equipment. Jonathan advised that Sanitation has already fined him and confiscated his truck and other items but he still has not cleared the street. The Chair explained that Jonathan has already been referring the complaint to other agencies and will continue to follow up.

- Betty Leon introduced Jason Pierre, Chief Operating Officer for Peninsula Academy Charter School. Mr. Pierre expressed that he just wanted to introduce himself to the community and announce that the academy is currently recruiting students for Pre-K through the 5th Grade, including the intention to expand on a middle school with the next 5 years. More information will be emailed out to the surrounding community

A motion was made and seconded to adjourned meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning