

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
BOARD MEETING
MAY 8, 2018**

**BAYSWATER JEWISH CENTER
2355 HEALY AVENUE
FAR ROCKAWAY, NY 11691**

PRESENT

Khaleel Anderson, Edward Benson, Louis Caucig, Annette Lord-Cohen, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Mordechai Dicker, Ahmed Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Temina Feldman, Patricia Gillespie, D. Brian Heffernan, Martin Ingram, Tamara Jacobs, Felicia Johnson, Betty Leon, Rosalyn Mason, Desiree Maple, John McCambridge, Helen Montero, Sonia Moise, Al Moore, Daniel Mundy, Ellen O'Reilly, Denise Lopestri-Neibel, Dolores Orr, Harold Paez, Eugene Pasternak, Edward Pasture Sr., Linda Plummer, Harvey Rudnick, Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Dr. Eli Shapiro, Chris Tedesco, Thomas Tobin, Jose Velez, Tyrone Worsley

ABSENT

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Shalom Becker, Glenn Collins, Dr. Gerald David, Joel Kaplan, Sender Schwartz, Ife Maijeh, Isaac Parsee, Karen Sloan-Payne, Carole Trachtenberg Michael Tubridy, Rachel Williams, Edwin Williams

GUESTS

Dan Brown - Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Robby Schwach - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Sandee Doremus - Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Nicolette Peters - Rep. Assemblywoman Stacy Pheffer - Amato, Chiedu Uzoigwe - Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Tavia Blakley - Assemblywoman Michele Titus, Democratic District Leader Lew Simon, Elaine Alexander - Rep. NYC Ferry/ Hornblower, Radhy Mirald - Rep. NYC Economic Development Corporation, Gabrielle Miller - Rep. NYC Economic Development Corporation

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

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair announced that previous board member Richard Altabe was presented the Prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at the Annual Legislative Breakfast.

NYC Parks Department 2018 Beach Opening will be held on Friday May 25th @ 11am at Beach 94 Street.

The Chair reminded Board members that in July 2017 the Parks Department held on very short notice a meeting to discuss the Piping Plover, closing of beaches on the east end as a result of nesting and protection measures in place - with short notice and it being on a Friday night - this meeting was poorly attended. On April 2, 2018 Parks Department announced a follow up

meeting for April 17, 2018. This meeting was announced at the April 2018 CB meeting. Unfortunately this meeting had a poorer attendance the July 2017 meeting. US Wildlife and NYC Parks Dept. gave an update on the status of the Piping Plover nesting area located from Beach 38 Street to Beach 51 Street and in the Beach 60's. In summary US Wildlife and NYS will not even begin a discussion of the possibility of removal of the removing the Piping Plovers from the endangered species list, and therefore the reopening of our beached, until at least the piping plovers population increases by at least another 200 birds. However now there is an endangered plant species discovered on the beach in the same area of the Piping Plovers and each of those plants are being caged in, measured and monitored.

The Chair advised that a meeting with the Army Corp of Engineers was held a meeting at Queens Borough Hall. Present were Elected Officials, representatives of local civic organizations from Rockaway, Broad Channel, Howard Beach and Hamilton Beach. It was announced that they are moving forward with the Atlantic Plan but at this time there would be minimal protection measures on Jamaica Bay. It has been decided that further study for protection measures on Jamaica Bay will be included in a new study that will include waterways as far north as Albany. This new study has yet to be funded or scheduled. This delay will leave Bayswater, Board Channel, Howard Beach and Hamilton Beach without protection for many years to come. The Borough President has requested Community Boards #10 & 14 to respond to the ACOE's study of Jamaica Bay with a joint letter.

Dan Brown representing Queens Borough President Melinda Kats, advised the Borough President is requesting that local civics also send letters in response to the delay.

CORRESPONDANCE

Letter dated May 4, 2018 was sent to Andy Byford, President of NYC Transit. Letter invited MTA to attend the Board's June 12, 2018 meeting to discuss a number of concerns the Board has with the subway system service in the district in general in addition to the planned closures over the summer for track repairs.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager announced that the scoping meeting for Peninsula Hospital site is on April 26, 2018 in the auditorium of P.S. 105. Also the board's request for additional summer detail for the 101st Police Precinct is being considered.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 7:35pm. Seventeen people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking at 8:05pm.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

NYC Economic Development Corporation - NYC Ferry Operator - Hornblower Re: Summer Plan including schedule

Radhy Mirald, Representing EDC will provide an update on the ferry summer schedule and to answer concerns that the board submitted to EDC. Updates are as follows:

- Ridership for the 1st year was counted at 640,000 and 4,500 riders a week including weekends.
- Now there are plans to move forward to increase capacity by using the larger vessels which is scheduled to start for the Memorial Day weekend. The larger vessels have the capacity to hold 250 to 500 passengers.
- The vessels will leave the docks every ½ half an hour instead of the current schedule of every hour and on weekends there may be vessels every 20 minutes.
- Every other vessel will not stop in Brooklyn and therefor go directly to Manhattan.
- The larger vessels have the space to hold 8 to 10 bikes on each vessel.
- At this time there is no plan to add shuttle buses for the additional vessels.

Rockaway Waterfront Alliance – was not present to introduce their new program “Create Far Rockway”

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Felicia Johnson Co-Chair of the committee reported that a meeting was held on May 3, 2018. The agenda item for discussion was regarding a meeting with the Department of Homeless Services to share the Mayor’s new initiative “Turning The Tide”. This program will end the use of all 360 cluster sites and hotel facilities that house the homeless within 5 years. The goal is to open a smaller new more effective traditional shelters. The goal is to provide shelter/temporary housing for each Community Board’s residents within that Community Board. As a facility opens DHS is going to try to place homeless individuals and families within their last zip code. The residents must provide proof of prior address, driver’s license, pay stubs, bank statements and marshal notices.

The types of sites that DHS is looking for are for single adults, facilities for families with children and adult families including those with domestic

abuse complaints. DHS will not be identifying sites . It will be the not-for profit organizations who provide this services who will identify sites and apply to DHS to open and operate a shelter/temporary housing. DHS reviewed services they provide beyond shelter/temporary housing such as a new Special One Time Assistance Program voucher along with other traditional vouchers to assist with permanent housing.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Dan Mundy, Chair of the committee reported that a meeting was held on April 19, 2018. The agenda item for discussion was to review and discuss the Draft Environmental Impact Statement which was issued on March 23, 2019 for the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project as proposed by the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company owned by the Williams Company. At the committee meeting an update was given by the Chair about the FERC process, the DIES document & rules for the having the meeting. A detailed presentation was given by three members of the Williams Team and they also answered questions from the residents and committee members that were present.

The committee did not have a quorum however the consensus of the committee was to not take a position on the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project "pipeline" but rather request that if the pipeline is approved, funds from the required mitigation include enhancement the off-shore Rockaway Reef . Therefore Dan Mundy made a motion for the board to support the request for DEC, if they approve the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project, include enhancement to the off-shore Rockaway Reef as part of the required mitigation in the region. The Chair went to the board for discussion. Dan Mundy withdrew the motion. Martin Ingram made the motion for the board to oppose the pipeline. The motion was seconded by John Cori. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 23 YES, 6 RECUSED, 2 NO.

OLD BUSINESS

- John Cori requested a follow up on the request to start an Ad Hoc committee to explore the possibility of having one council district represent the peninsula.

NEW BUSINESS

- Felicia Johnson made a motion for the board to fast track the paper work to keep On Our Way Learning School operating. The motion was seconded by Betty Leon. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion.

- Eddie Pastore requested that the board support the request for the Parks Dept. to place a flag at the hockey rink on Beach 108 Street.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Submitted by: M. Dunning