



COMMUNITY BOARD #14

COMMUNITY BOARD #14 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING JANUARY 12, 2016

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

PRESENT

Shalom Becker, Annette Lord-Cohen, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Silaka Cox, Mordechai Dicker, Ahmed Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Patricia Gillespie, D. Brian Heffernan, Felicia Johnson, Joel Kaplan, Peter Larkin, Betty Leon, Thomas Long, John McCambridge, Darrell Mitchell, Sonia Moise Aldean Moore, Dolores Orr, Eugene Pasternak, Edward Pastore Sr., Karen Sloan-Payne, Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Sender Schwartz, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Keith Sullivan, Chris Tesdesco, Thomas Tobin, Carole Trachtenberg, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez, Edwin Williams, Rachel Williams

ABSENT

Richard Altabe, Kelley Brooke, Louis Caucig, Steve Cromity, Dr. Gerald David, Martin Ingram, Henry Iori, Matthew Kessler, Hazeron Mohammed, Daniel Mundy, Ellen O'Reilly, Isaac Parsee, Harvey Rudnick, Milan Taylor

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., Jessica Douglas – Rep. Mayor Bill De Blasio

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:18 p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair reminded everyone that Queens Borough President Melinda Katz will deliver the State of the Borough Address on January 21, 2016 @ Queens College @ 10:00 am, all are invited to attend. In addition, those Board members that are up for re-appointment should have received an application in the mail.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager reported that DOT has closed a portion of Beach Channel Drive between Beach 108 Street and Rockaway Freeway for safety reasons because the location has severe cracking and buckling. Calls were made to DOT to sync the traffic lights to stop the traffic pile-up that has been occurring since DOT closed the location without prior notice.

MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 8, 2015

The Chair went to the Board for questions regarding the minutes.

-John Cori stated that under the report of the District Manager the 2nd paragraph ; 1st line change from Board to Executive.

-Karen Sloan Payne stated "that under the Parks & Public Safety Committee report, item# 2 surfing beaches-report by Portia Dyrenforth; the 3rd line should state" Deputy Commissioner . However, Parks would like to see a letter of support from the Arverne-By-The-Sea Homeowners"

Betty Leon made the motion for the Board to accept the minutes as corrected. Thomas Tobin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

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INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

NYC Department of Parks & Recreation – Re: Parks Without Borders

Stephen Lenard, Deputy Director of Planning for the Parks Department informed everyone that Parks without Borders is a new initiative to help improve the connections between the community and the neighborhoods they serve. It is a new approach to park design that creates more open and beautiful public spaces.

Parks without Borders has (3) main goals which are the following:

- To make entrances to parks more welcoming and easier to find.
- To make park boundaries greener and more comfortable.
- To make parks safer and create more open public space by adding water fountains, benches and removing unnecessary fences.

Currently, \$10 million dollars has been allocated under the Mayor's Parks Improvement Initiative that would be used to improve (8) parks in the (5) boroughs. Community Outreach is being done by allowing individuals to go the website nyc.gov/parks/PWB before February 28, 2016 to nominate a park that they would like to be a part of the program.

The Chair advised she would like to nominate the park at Beach 88 Street and Beach Channel Drive to give access to Jamaica Bay for kayaking. Stephen Cooper nominated Edgemere Park; which is located at the old Edgemere Landfill. Jose Velez nominated Bayswater Park to have the concrete wall removed from the entrance of the park.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 7:30 pm. (2) People signed up to speak. They were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Danny Ruscillo reported that a meeting was held on January 6, 2016. The first agenda item the Committee discussed was regarding the NYC Department of Transportation's Downtown Far Rockaway Road, Traffic and Street Scape Improvements Project. Erin Maciel made a presentation regarding the proposed plan that is designed to make the area safer. The estimated cost is \$22 Million. The goal is intended to make the area a village center and transportation hub that would serve as an economic generator. Lighting would be improved to increase pedestrian safety. There was discussion on the loss of the slip lane (intersection of Mott Avenue and Central Avenue) and there were requests for modern Don't Walk signs with count down indicators and wider sidewalks.

The Committee advised that there is a need for evacuation signs and the Committee was very clear; that the elimination of the slip lane would be a mistake. DOT is considering adding more bus shelters and benches.

The second agenda item the Committee discussed was regarding the barricades at Beach 62 Street and Rockaway Beach Blvd. that restricts a turn to the north that is having a negative effect in the area for both residents and businesses. DOT advised that they would look into it and address the issue at a later meeting. The Committee also asked DOT to open a single lane of east/west traffic on Beach Channel Drive and Beach 108 Street since the emergency closure was causing traffic back up. DOT advised that they would look into the issue.

2. NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Shalom Becker - Committee Chair stated that the Nominating Committee contacted all Board members through email: 1) requesting nominations for any of the Board Officers positions; 2) notification that at the January 2016 meeting nominations would be taken from the floor and 3) as is required by law election voting is by open ballot.

Shalom Becker advised that no nominations were received via email.

The Nominating Committee presented the following Slate of Officers:

Chair	- Dolores Orr
1 st Vice Chair	- Aldean Moore
2 nd Vice Chair	- Daniel Mundy
3 rd Vice Chair	- Felicia Johnson
4 th Vice Chair	- Martin Ingram
Secretary/Treasurer	- Isaac Parsee

Shalom Becker opened the floor for nominations for Board Officers positions. Ahmed Edwards nominated John Cori for the position of Chair. John Cori accepted the nomination.

Jose Velez made the motion to close the floor for nominations. The motion was seconded by Annette Lord-Cohen.

Ballots were distributed by Jonathan Gaska. Ballots were collected and then counted by Shalom Becker and Danny Ruscillo. A total of 33 ballots were cast. The ballot count for the position of Chair was: Dolores Orr 23 votes, John Cori 8 votes; 2 ballots were blank.

Felicia Johnson - 3rd Vice –Chair cast one (1) vote to elect the remaining slate as proposed by Nominating Committee.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- John Cori stated that the voting process should be more transparent and requested that the Board's By-Laws be reviewed. Noreen Ellis made the motion for the By-Laws Committee to review the Board's By-Laws. Motion was seconded by John Cori. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

-Dan Brown stated that as of December 9, 2015 Queens Borough President Melinda Katz office is working on developing standard by-laws for the Queens boards and is not sure when the process would be completed.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Mary Dunning.