



COMMUNITY  
BOARD #14

COMMUNITY BOARD #14  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 2017

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

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**PRESENT**

Khaleel Anderson, Shalom Becker, Edward Benson, Louis Caucig, Annette Lord-Cohen, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Ahmed Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Patricia Gillespie, D. Brian Heffernan, Henry Iori, Felicia Johnson, Joel Kaplan Peter Larkin, Betty Leon, Thomas Long, John McCambridge, Desiree Maple, Sonia Moise, Aldean Moore, Daniel Mundy, Ellen O'Reilly, Dolores Orr, Eugene Pasternak, Edward Pastore Sr, Karen Sloan-Payne, Harvey Rudnick; Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Dr. Eli Shapiro, Chris Tesdesco, Thomas Tobin, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez, Edwin Williams, Rachel Williams

**ABSENT**

Richard Altabe, Kelley Brooke, Silaka Cox, Mordechai Dicker, Martin Ingram, Darrell Mitchell, Hazeron Mohammed, Isaac Parsee, Sender Schwartz, Keith Sullivan Milan Taylor, Carole Trachtenberg

**GUESTS**

Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer-Amato, City Councilman Donovan Richards, Dorothy Lewandowski – Queens Borough Commissioner for NYC Parks & Recreation, Nicole Garcia – Queens Borough Commissioner for NYC Department of Transportation, Dan Zarrilli – NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, 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, Tavia Blakley – Rep. Assemblywoman Michele Titus, Lisa George – Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Portia Dyrenforth – Parks Administrator for District #14,

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

**CORRESPONDENCE WAS READ AS FOLLOWS:**

Letter dated December 30, 2016 was sent to Maria Torres-Springer President of NYC Economic Development Corporation from Community Board #14. Letter stated that Community Board #14 at its December 13, 2016 meeting made the following motion in regards to the new Rockaway Ferry:

1. The Board opposes any parking fees for ferry users.
2. The East-West shuttle buses should include stops in the Beach 70s and Beach 90s and a shuttle bus stop in Broad Channel.
3. The shuttle bus drop off/pick up location on Beach Channel Drive should be moved at least one block west of Beach 108 Street to avoid traffic and pedestrian congestion.
4. The Board strongly requests that the first Rockaway Ferry arrive in Manhattan at the same time as all the other ferries.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

The Chair advised everyone that Queens Borough President Melinda Katz will be presenting the State of the Borough on January 27, 2017 at 10:00 am at York College. All are invited to attend.

COMMUNITY BOARD #14  
City of New York  
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR  
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA  
District Manager

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At the Borough Board meeting there was an update from DOT on the NYC Street Design Manual. The manual provides small details such the placement of trees and benches along a street. The manual could also be used as a street guide in which you could look up items yourself. The manual is also on DOT's website.

#### **MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 13, 2016**

Betty Leon made the motion to accept the minutes from December 13, 2016 as written. The motion was seconded by Daniel Ruscillo Jr. The motion carried.

#### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

##### **1. City Councilman Donovan Richards**

City Councilman Donovan Richards announced that at least 20 stores on Mott Avenue have new facades due to working closely with RDRC and the Dept. of Small Business Services.

- The Far Rockaway Library redevelopment is on schedule and moving along as expected. In addition, the Arverne Library will be expanded by the allocation of \$3.8 million dollars.
- Last month the expansion of the Addabbo Family Health Care Center was announced. The expansion is an increase of 20,000 square feet for much needed additional health care space.
- The \$250 million dollar RAD Program (Rental Assistance Demonstration) has been instituted at the Ocean Bay Houses with the help of Mayor De Blasio and Governor Cuomo. The private and public partnership would promote resilience and pave the way for the first RAD Program in New York City.
- The ULURP process will begin for the redevelopment of Downtown Far Rockaway. There are concerns with the proposal and his office is available for discussion on those issues.

##### **2. Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer- Amato**

Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer-Amato thanked everyone for their support. The swearing in ceremony was held earlier today and it is an honor to serve the community. At the swearing in ceremony it was announced that she and her mother former Assemblywoman Audrey Pheffer are the first mother and daughter to represent the same district.

#### **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

##### **1. NYC Dept. Transportation – Re: Woodhaven Select Bus Service Plan**

DOT & MTA representatives explained that Select Bus Service is a more reliable and faster bus service. The service already exist and is operating in 11 different other routes around the city. The service increases ridership, increase quality of service and provides safer travel by decreasing accidents.

The package of improvements involve the following:

- Paying for your ride on the sidewalk before you get on the bus which saves time.
- All doors on the bus open at the same time allowing faster boarding.
- The buses travel in the bus lane allowing faster and safer travel.
- The bus stops will have shelters from the elements and benches.

The Q52/53 bus carries at least 30,000 people a day, which makes it an important corridor for Queens. 35% of the riders originate in Rockaway and travel all the way to Queens Blvd. Therefore, problems with the Q52/53 corridor will be incorporated into the Select Bus Service plan. This combined effort leads the Select Bus Service to pick up passengers at limited stops. Those stops at which the Select Bus Service does not stop at will still be serviced by the Q22 bus.

The Chair advised that the following stops would be eliminated:

- Beach 98, 101 and 105 Streets.
- West 5<sup>th</sup> Road in Broad Channel.
- Beach 86 Street stop would be moved to Beach 84 Street.

In Rockaway DOT has already targeted certain bus stops that need treatment such re-painted cross walks, improved signage and improved handicapped accessibility. The request to extend the Q52 is still under review and the Board will be notified soon. The Select Bus Service will be implemented in 2017.

D. Brian Heffernan made the motion for the Board not to support the Woodhaven Select Bus Service proposal in all aspects. The motion was seconded by Daniel Ruscillo Jr. The motion failed by 22 NO, 11 YES and 2 ABSTAINED.

**Mayor's Office of Recovery & Resiliency-Update on remaining FEMA Funding**

Dan Zarrilli, Director of the Mayor's Office of Recovery & Resiliency reported that the anticipated excess Rockaway boardwalk funds could be \$120 million dollars. The Mayor has committed to using the funds for resiliency projects in Rockaway. The FEMA 428 Pilot Program allows for anticipated savings from a FEMA 428 project to be applied to alternate projects.

Dan Zarrilli along with the Parks Department presented 9 FEMA eligible projects for review by the Board and the community. Community residents and the Board have the opportunity to submit support for projects. At the end of the comment period three of the projects with the most support could receive the funding but NYC Parks Department would make the final determination. Project criteria are resiliency, recovery and community improvement. The 9 projects were selected from the Rockaway Parks Conceptual Plan, The Resilient Edgemere Plan and from the NYC Parks Department.

Daniel Mundy stated that Broad Channel is not included in the 9 FEMA eligible projects and made a motion for FEMA to allow the Broad Channel Civic Association to submit a resilient proposal to be included. The motion was seconded by Desiree Maple.

Michael Tubridy made an amendment to the motion to state that the Broad Channel Civic Association resiliency's project be included along with all other resiliency projects in the plan and that FEMA reprioritize all the other projects to budget resiliency projects first, recovery projects second and recreational projects third. The amendment was accepted by Daniel Mundy. The amended motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion.

Hank Iori made the motion for the Board to send a letter to the Mayor requesting that a portion of the FEMA dollars allocated to the Department of Parks & Recreation for resiliency projects be used to reinforce the existing berm according to USACE standards and install rock jetties between Beach 126 Street and Beach 149 Street. In addition further recommend that in the event the USACE receives federal dollars for their master plan they reimburse the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation for their resiliency work between Beach 126 Street and Beach 149 Street. The motion was seconded by Peter Larkin. The motion failed by a hand vote.

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

Respectfully Submitted by: M. Dunning