



COMMUNITY BOARD #14

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD #14 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016

PRESENT

Richard Altabe, Kelley Brooke, Louis Caucig, Annette Lord-Cohen, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Silaka Cox, Mordechai Dicker, Ahmed Edwards, Patricia Gillespie, D. Brian Heffernan, Henry Iori, Felicia Johnson, Joel Kaplan, Peter Larkin, Betty Leon, John McCambridge, Darrell Mitchell, Sonia Moise Aldean Moore, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Eugene Pasternak, Edward Pastore Sr., Karen Sloan-Payne, Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Sender Schwartz, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Keith Sullivan, Milan Taylor, Chris Tesdesco, Thomas Tobin, Isaac Parsee, Jose Velez, Michael Tubridy, Edwin Williams, Rachel Williams

ABSENT

Shalom Becker, Dr. Gerald David, Noreen Ellis, Martin Ingram, Matthew Kessler, Thomas Long, Hazeron Mohammed, Harvey Rudnick, Carole Trachtenberg

GUESTS

Sandee Doremus – Rep. Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Democratic District Leader Lew Simon Dan Brown – Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Jessica Luina – Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Ciara Donley - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Lisa George- Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Jessica Douglas – Rep. Mayor Bill DeBlasio, Mercedes Bucannon – Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Dan Fate – Army Corp of Engineers, Portia Drynforth – Parks Administrator for District #14, Roy Tellison – Parks Manager for District #14

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

CORRESPONDENCE WAS READ AS FOLLOWS:

Letter dated February 10, 2016 was received from Joshwant Sookraj. Letter stated that there is proposed construction of a new one-story medical building to be located at 9013 Rockaway Beach Blvd. NY, 11693.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager stated that last week he attended a Far Rockaway Leadership meeting that was sponsored by City Councilman Donovan Richards at Arverne View.

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 9, 2016

The Chair went to the Board for approval of the minutes. Dan Mundy stated that under the District Manager's report the correct term would be check valves and duck bills. Annette Cohen made the motion to accept the minutes with the stated correction. The motion was seconded by Jose Velez. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Friends of Rockaway – Re: Sandy Outreach

Carol Dowling, Director of the Friends of Rockaway stated that Friends of Rockaway is a disaster recovery organization that started after Hurricane Sandy and is still going strong. The office is located on Beach 88 Street and is still in the community helping residents repair their homes in Rockaway, Howard Beach, Brooklyn and any other area where there is a resident that need assistance.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
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ROCKAWAY BEACH, NY 11693

2. Army Corp of Engineers

Dan Fault, Project Manager for the Reformulation Study for the Army Corp of Engineers reported that the ACOE was tasked to determine the best plan for flood risk for the Rockaway peninsula which does include the beach and the Jamaica Bay area since there is flooding from both directions.

The basic preliminary engineer reformulation alternative study has been completed. The Alternative #3 plan for the beach & bay has been identified and will be delivered to the Secretary of the Army in Washington D.C. for approval to move forward to release the preliminary plan at the end of the month. Once approval is given the feasibility study will be completed and released to the public in June for a 30 day public comment period.

Discussions have been held with federal, state and city agencies including the national park service, FAA and elected officials to gather support and approvals in an effort to make sure all parties involved are on the same page.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2018 for the Alternative #3 plan which involves reinforced dunes for the entire shoreline, the installation of 12 tapered sloped groins that will be placed in the Beach 30s and Beach 90s.

Mr. Fault stated that the Rockaway shoreline has (2) main erosion locations which are in the 90s and 30s which would always need to be replenished.

The Hurricane Barrier Protection plan has been identified to provide the best protection for the bay area. Barrier gates could open and close when there is a major storm. Lower level flood gates could be constructed inside the bay to provide protection for locations that flood when there is a minor storm and at other locations that only flood when it rains. Therefore there would be (1) major gate with (10) small gates.

The draft general evaluation report would be released in June and a series of public meetings would be held in July. Then all of the comments and concerns would be collected and addressed which would be documented and made a part of the final report that would be submitted to the Secretary of the Army. Once the Secretary approves it and forwards it to the Office of Management & Budget, it goes to the President to be signed and the process would be completed in 2017.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Economic Development Committee

Keith Sullivan Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on February 10, 2016. The first agenda item the Committee discussed was regarding the Beach 116 Street Partnership. Mr. Sullivan stated that the partnership also extends down to Beach 108 Street and Director of the Beach 116 Street Partnership spoke about projects the Partnership would be working on in the future.

The second agenda item the Committee discussed was an informational presentation by Robert Schwach, Constituent Liaison for City Councilman Eric Ulrich. Mr. Schwach informed them about economic development for the area could be stimulated by the ferry coming to the area. The Committee did agree to request that the Board send a letter to EDC requesting that the Board/Committee be informed if they receive information regarding grants, programs or contracts for businesses that would be helpful to the community.

2. Parks & Public Safety Committee

Jose Velez Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on February 18, 2016.

a) Update from 100th & 101st Police Precincts: The Committee received an update from Deputy Inspector Lenz of the 101st Police Precinct. Deputy Inspector Lenz reported that last year the main issue was that there was a lot of unattended property on the beach and that the Beach 17 Street concession was open too late during the summer. There was also an update from Captain Hanrahan of the 100th Police Precinct. Captain Hanrahan spoke about issues within the confines of the precinct; which were regarding the dollar vans being a nuisance, shootings are down for the year and the precinct was asked to monitor the students walking along Rockaway Beach Blvd. after they get out of school.

b) Update from Deputy Director Alexander Huang & Santiago Zindal, Project Mgr. for Rockaway Concession

- The new mobile concession locations are not final and community input is still being accepted.
- There are new mobile concessions at Beach 8th Street to Beach 18 Street and concessions are needed at Beach 30th Street. There would be subleasing of an ice cream truck on Seagirt Ave and Beach 9 Street.
- Beach 59th Street to Beach 69 Street, Lola Star is looking for a vendor to provide beach chairs and umbrellas around Beach 60th Street.
- Rockaway Beach Club will have a Beach 68 Street mobile food cart and Lola is also looking to provide a mobile cart at the same location.
- Beach 86 Street to Beach 109 Street stays the same. Lola would provide a merchandise truck at Beach 91 Street and have roller skate rentals by Beach 108 Street.

c) Surfing & Swimming locations for 2016 Summer:-By Portia, Parks Adm. for Dist.#14

- Beach 87 Street to Beach 91 Street would remain as surf beaches.
- Beach 110 Street to Beach 111 Street would be new surf beaches
- The Arverne surf beaches would be between groins that span Bch 68 Street to Bch 71 Street.
- There is no surfing beach at Bch 114 St. to Bch 115 St. due to lifeguard's concerns regarding separation of the swimming areas.
- Swimming would be expanded from Bch 58 Street to Bch 62 Street.
- No new surf schools would be added.

The Chair went to the Board for questions, Jose Velez made the motion for the Board to accept the surf and swimming beach locations for the upcoming summer and the locations could be revisited by the Parks Department at the end of the season. The motion was seconded by Annette Lord-Cohen. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 27 YES, 1 NO and 3 ABSTAINED.

d) Update on Goldie Maple Park

The playground located at Beach 57 Street has been redesigned and is in the process of being reconstructed to include tennis and volleyball court, a track, fitness equipment and playground equipment thanks to City Councilman Donovan Richards allocating \$3 Million.

A November inspection of the revealed that certain elements installed in the playground were not up to Parks Dept. safety standards and a new inspection would be done soon and hopefully the park would be open by spring.

Committee member John Cori advised everyone that he attended a Friends of Rockaway Beach meeting and there were skaters at the meeting also raising concerns regarding the new design of the skate park at Beach 91 Street. The Board, the Committee and the Parks Dept.

already approved the designs some time ago. The safety concerns were regarding sharp rails, stairs and jump off points that could be dangerous once the park is full of skaters.

Therefore, a motion to have the Parks Dept. revisit the design and address any possible threats to public safety. Committee members were unanimously in favor of the motion.

The motion was made by John Cori for the Board to request the Parks Dept. to revisit the designs for the skate board park. The motion was seconded by John Mc Cambridge. Motion failed by a roll call vote of 2 YES, 28 NO and 0 ABSTAINED.

e) Community Parks Initiative – Presentation by Ms. Davis, Ons. Parks Outreach Coord.
Ms. Davis introduced herself and talked about the Its My Park Program and her role in providing support for community involvement in local parks. Small grants are available to create programming in local parks and a special team has been set up to improve community involvement in the CPI parks.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 9:00 pm. (22) People signed up to speak. They were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

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

Respectfully Submitted By: Mary Dunning