



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, MAY 10, 2016**

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**PRESENT**

Khaleel Anderson, - Shalom Becker, Edward Benson, Annette Lord-Cohen, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Silaka Cox, Dr. Gerald David, Ahmad Edwards, Noreen Ellis, Patricia Gillespie, D. Brian Heffernan, Henry Iori, Felicia Johnson, Joel Kaplan, Betty Leon, Desiree Maple, John McCambridge, Darrell Mitchell, Sonia Moise, Aldean Moore, Daniel Mundy, Ellen O'Reilly, Dolores Orr, Isaac Parsee, Eugene Pasternak, Edward Pastore Sr., Karen Sloan-Payne, Harvey Rudnick, Daniel Ruscillo Jr, Sender, Schwartz, Keith Sullivan, Milan Taylor, Chris Tesdesco, Thomas Tobin, Carole Trachtenberg, Jose Velez, Michael Tubridy, Edwin Williams

**ABSENT**

Richard Altabe, Kelley Brooke, Louis Caucig, Mordechai Dicker, Martin Ingram, Peter Larkin, Thomas Long, Hazeron Mohammed, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Rachel Williams

**GUESTS**

City Councilman Eric Ulrich, City Councilman Donovan Richards, 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., Bella Pori - Rep. Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder, Roy Tellison – Parks Manager for District #14, Mercedes Buchanan – Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Craig Chin – Rep. NYC Dept. of Transportation, Mike McSweeney – NYC City Clerk, Eleni Bourinaris – NYC Economic Development

\*\*\*\*\*

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 May 5, 2016 was sent to Mitchell J. Silver, Commissioner of NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation from Community Board #14. Letter requested the agency to assign more Park Enforcement Patrol officers to patrol our beaches during the summer season.

Letter dated May 3, 2016 was received from Nicole Garcia, Queens Borough Commissioner of NYC Dept. of Transportation. Letter responded to Board's February 25, 2016 email request to have guide signs for Beach Channel Drive at Beach 149 Street replaced.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

The Chair reported that at the annual summer meeting, present were Community Board #14, Parks Dept., Parks Enforcement Patrol, 100<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct personnel and local civic representatives; the local Parks Dept. announced that there will be 55 additional seasonal personnel for the summer. The Captain of 100<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct has agreed to work along with the Parks Dept. to enforce the park and beach rules. Also, Rockaway, for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, has been assigned a Parks Enforcement Captain that lives in Rockaway.

The Chair reminded everyone about the ongoing issue regarding the shortage of benches for the new boardwalk. At the meeting it was announced that FEMA would be paying for all the damaged benches that were on the old boardwalk which totaled 600. The design for the new boardwalk only calls for 520 benches therefore shorting the community 80 benches from the start. Additionally the portions of the boardwalk that were not damaged; FEMA did not pay to replace those benches and the City's budget should pay to replace those benches for

1931 Mott Avenue, Room 311  
Far Rockaway, NY 11691  
Tel.: (718) 471-7300  
Fax: (718) 868-2657  
cbrock14@nyc.rr.com



the new boardwalk. Parks will have to provide those additional benches and we are waiting for Parks to provide the number of benches.

The Chair announced that an email was received from Dorothy Lewandowski, Parks Dept. Queens Borough Commissioner thanking the Board for the support to have biking on the boardwalk without day/time restrictions and agreed to monitor the need for proper biking signage on the new boardwalk.

The Chair announced that an advertising ad agency; came to Rockaway on May 5, 2016 with 500 volunteers and funds to assist the Parks Dept. with community projects. In (1) day they did the following projects:

- All the planting at the Beach 94 Street performance space.
- Painted the skateboard park at Beach 91 Street.
- Repainted the Beach 84 Street bus shelter.
- At Beach 78 Street built a labyrienth, which is a meditation walkway.
- Painted all the benches and fence at Beach 32 Street.
- Cleaned the huge vacant lot at the end of Beach 26 Street by the boardwalk and planted 40 trees in the lot.

#### **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager reported that the office is still working with the Mayor's Office DOITT Division at least (2) days week to improve the office's website to include a community calendar, committee meeting announcement and agendas.

The new captain of the 100<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct and the Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene have been invited to speak at the Board's June meeting.

#### **MINUTES FROM APRIL 12, 2016**

The Chair went to the Board for approval of the minutes. Martin Ingram made the motion to accept the minutes written. The motion was seconded by Felicia Johnson. The motion passed.

#### **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION**

##### **NYC Clerks Office - Re: Amnesty Program**

Michael McSweeney representing the NYC Clerk Office announced that the Lobbying Bureau is offering a "One -Time Amnesty Opportunity Program" January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016. The Lobbying Bureau is responsible for the regulation and enforcement of NYC's Lobbying Law. The Bureau works to ensure increased compliance and further the goal of transparency in government. The Bureau also offers training, assistance on the law and its filing requirements.

Organizations that exceeded \$5,000 in combined compensation and expenses with respect to NYC Lobbying in a calendar year for any year from 2014 to the present would be at the threshold for your organization to be register for lobbying. Mandatory late fees for not filing could be \$25 a day.

Mr. McSweeney explained to everyone that examples of organizations lobbying activities are the following:

- attempting to obtain discretionary funding from the NYC Council.
- attempting to influence the NYC Council or mayor with respect to passing a new law.
- attempting to influence investment decisions of the NYC Pension Funds & Retirement Systems.



Applications are available on line at [www.cityclerk.nyc.gov](http://www.cityclerk.nyc.gov). The Help Desk can be reached at [lobbyist\\_helpdesk@cityclerk.nyc.gov](mailto:lobbyist_helpdesk@cityclerk.nyc.gov). Please call 212-669-8171 if more information is needed.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING** – The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 7:55 pm. (19) people signed in to speak. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Economic Development Committee**

Keith Sullivan Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on April 25, 2016. The first agenda item the Committee discussed was regarding a brief presentation given by the Parks Department's approved vendor for mobile carts on the boardwalk. They requested a 2- block buffer zone where no carts would be on either side of Beach 116 Street.

The Committee discussed the issue and a motion passed to create a 3-block buffer. The vendor indicated that they were ok with the 3-block buffer.

The Economic Development Committee motioned for the Board to support the recommendation of a 3-block buffer zone of no vendor carts would sale goods/food from Beach 113 Street to Beach 119 Street. The motion passed 36 Yes, 3 No and 0 Abstained.

The second agenda item the Committee discussed was an informational presentation from ANBARIC-Microgrid company which is submitting a proposal in response to and RFP put out by PSEG Long Island. The RFP is to upgrade the electrical system and comply with Governor Cuomo's renewable energy goal by the year 2030.

Their plan is to run a high voltage direct current from NJ to Long Island. The transmission and distribution of electricity would still be handled by PSEG. There were 3 benefits which were the following:

1. The lines would be fed from PJM (Penn, NJ, MD) which are more sturdier and reliable.
2. There would be "Black Start capability which would allow immediate restart of power after a blackout or de-energization process.
3. Power would be generated by an all green process such as wind and hydropower.

They did indicate that it would cost billions and they did not speak directly to customer cost but hedged that it would increase.

The third agenda item the Committee discussed was regarding an informational presentation by NYC Economic Development Corporation regarding the Downtown Far Rockaway Investment. The presentation addressed the revitalization of area with \$91 million. The plan is to establish the Downtown Far Rockaway as a commercial and transit hub that is a mixed –use district that would include mixed-income housing, public open spaces, improved quality of life through community serves, education, jobs, help community organizations and support local businesses.

### **2. Transportation Committee**

Danny Ruscillo, Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on May 4, 2016 at the Bayswater Jewish Center. The meeting started with an update regarding the ongoing transportation issues on the Peninsula. The following issues were discussed:

**-The Beach 169 Street and Rockaway Point Blvd. traffic light:** Despite several complaints

from residents and objections made by Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder the NYC DOT is continuing to re-establish the traffic light at Beach 169 Street even thou the light is within one hundred yards of an existing light at Heinzelman Road and in the past was the root cause for traffic back logs on the bridge.

- **The Beach Channel Drive closure between Beach 108 Street and Rockaway Freeway:** The Dept. of Transportation reported that work was about to start (work by National Grid) and the project would be completed by Memorial Day weekend.

- **Downtown Far Rockaway:** The project is estimated to cost between \$24 -25 million and would start in 2017 and in 2019. The plan was coordinated with multiple city agencies and addresses sidewalks, road surfaces, bicycle lanes, lighting, landscaping and improved storm and septic sewers. Plans include accommodations for commuter vans with curbside and layover space. It is intended to revitalize the downtown far rockaway area. This combined with the plans to build a new library will help to produce jobs and lure shoppers form Nassau County. The plan intends to keep a constant flow of traffic and avoid gridlock.

The Committee was impressed with the plans and the previous issue regarding the loss of the slip turn has been resolved. There was a major concern regarding parking because travel lanes will absorb street parking. The Committee requested that DOT inventory the amount of public and private available and the amount of parking that would be lost with the implementation of the plan.

Danny Ruscillo made the motion that Community Board #14 only supports the transportation plan for Downtown Far Rockaway with the condition that on street parking be included but not limited to the installation of muni-meters on Beach 19 Street between Smith and Foam Place. The motion was seconded by Martin Ingram. The motion passed 31 YES, 4 NO, 3 ABSTAINED and 1 RECUSED.

-**Queens Rail Update:** Rick Horan Representing Queens Public Transit informed everyone that the 4.2 mile stretch of abandoned Long Island Rail Road track from Ozone Park to Rego Park formerly known as the Rockaway Beach Line was deactivated in 1962. Reactivation of the line would reduce travel time from Rockaway to Manhattan by 30 minutes.

The Transportation Committee motioned for the Board to send a letter to elected officials and government agencies to re-affirming its March 2012 vote request for the rebuilding of the Rockaway Beach Line. The motioned passed by a hand vote in favor of the motion, with 2 NO and 1 ABSTAINED.

The Transportation Committee motioned for the Board to send a letter to the MTA and elected officials to complete its study in a timely manner and for the letter recipients to respond and what will they do to help the issue. The motion passed with a hand vote in favor of the motion, with 1 NO and 1 ABSTAINED.

### **3. Health & Social Services Committee**

Felicia Johnson Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on May 5, 2016. The agenda item for discussion was regarding an informational presentation from Joel Copperman, NYC Queens Community Coordinator for Smoke free Housing to ban smoking in new and existing multi-unit dwellings within NYC. Mr. Bhulyan gave a power point presentation regarding the group's mission and distributed handouts. The main concerns expressed were the ability to enforce the proposal on smokers living in NYCHA housing and



punitive actions regarding those NYCHA residents who may not adhere to the policy should it become law.

The Committee was informed that as a coalition they will not be the enforcers of the policy, that would be up to the legislators. HUD is already engaging in talks and has made some recommendations. HUD is not looking at punitive actions but are informing tenants that HUD is supporting smoke free multiple units.

Health & Social Services Committee motioned for the Board to support a Smoke Free resolution newly constructed multi-unit housing developments. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 33 YES, 6 NO and 0 ABSTAINED.

#### **4. Parks & Public Safety Committee**

John McCambridge Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on April 20, 2016. The first agenda item for discussion was regarding Ocean Kayaking and Stand Up Paddleboards which is being proposed by the Parks Dept. because the community has expressed a strong interest. For the summer the Parks Dept. is proposing that Beach 32, 57, and Beach 58 Streets be designated locations for Ocean kayaking and SUP, in addition to any beach before 10:00 am with the exception of the designated surfing beaches. All participants are required to be equipped with all safety gear as prescribed by the Coast Guard. The Parks Dept. reserves the right to adjust or suspend water access for emergencies, safety or other reasons.

The Parks & Public Safety Committee motioned for the Board to support the proposal to designate Beach 32, 57 and Beach 58 Streets for Ocean Kayaking and SUP. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 27 YES, 4 NO and 0 ABSTAINED.

The second agenda item the Committee discussed was regarding performance space at Beach 94 and 95 Streets on Shore Front Parkway. The following issues were discussed:

- \$500,000 budget, no funding from FEMA.
- The metal structure would be 28 x 50 with a slotted roof.
- There would be benches for only 6 people under the structure, no lights under the roof because there is no funding.
- It would have cement pavers with an oval blue paver to mark the performance area.
- More planting is needed around the plaza.

The census of the members and residents attending the meeting was that the plan was a disappointment. The Committee unanimously voted not support the Parks Dept. current plans for the performance space at this time and to return to the design team to come up with a better design.

The third agenda item the Committee discussed was regarding an update on the reconstruction of the boardwalk, which was the following:

- Beach 6 Street to Beach 108 Street will be open by Memorial Day.
- Beach 108 Street to Beach 127 Street will open in July.
- Beach 116 Street will have beach access.

#### **5. Bylaws Committee**

Carol Trachtenberg, member of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on May 5, 2016. The agenda item for discussion was regarding an update on the status of reviewing the Bylaws for Community Board #14. The Committee did not have a quorum but did discuss the need for more participation from the Committee members and to have 2/3 more meeting over the summer.

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

Submitted by: M. Dunning