

**COMMUNITY BOARD # 14
VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2021**

PRESENT

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Lailah Boyd, Natasha Carter, Andrea Colon, John Cori, Eric Diaz, Dr. Gerald David, Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston, Ahmad Edwards, Jack Epter, Temina Feldman, Joanne Fogarty, Yitzchok Goldstone, D. Brian Heffeman, Felicia Johnson, Paul King, Maggie Larkins, Betty Leon, Denise Lopresti, Annette Lord-Cohen, Nancy Martinez, John McCambridge, Daniel Mundy, Sonia Moise, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold Paez, Linda Plummer David Rood-Ojalvo, Karen Sloan-Payne, Chris Tedesco, Jose Velez, Wanda Warden, Lisa Williams

ABSENT

Mark Anaya, Gabrielle Bennett, Yaakov Berger, Giselle Carter, Louis Caucig, Noreen Ellis, Jaden Gabb, Eugenia Gibson, Randy Hall, Tamara Jacobs, Kelly Brian, Ife Maijeh, Rosalyn Mason, Isa Mitchell, Helen Montero, Al Moore, Eugene Pasternak,

GUESTS

City Councilmember Elect- Joann Ariola, Ciara Donley – Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Karl Valere-Rep. Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 9, 2021

- Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston requested correction of her name to be spelled correctly as Rose Marie is two separate words.

Betty Leon made the motion to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Dan Mundy. Motion carried in favor of the motion, with two abstentions.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair advised that the Resilient Edgemere ULURP has been certified and the clock gives the Board 60 days to review, hold a public hearing and vote on the ULURP.

At the last board meeting HPD was asked to give the Board copies of documents from the community input sessions/surveys that were held a few years ago when the board voted on the redevelopment of the peninsula hospital site and the board has not received the information from HPD.

The Chair stated that email will be sent to our elected officials requesting a year end report of accomplishments for CB#14 residents and list of goals for 2022.

The Chair wished all Happy Holidays and a happy healthy and safe New Year!

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager announced that the Edgemere Resiliency ULURP has been certified by the Dept. of City Planning and the Board has 60 days to hold a committee

meeting to vote on the ULURP at the February board meeting. Also the Board has a BSA application for the Rockaway Court House requesting a change in the use to an office building.

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager wishes everyone a happy new year and wished that next year be a little better than last year.

ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORT

CITY COUNCILMEMBER ERIC ULRICH

Ciara Donely announced that in a few days the office of City Councilman Eric Ulrich will be closing and she will be working for the newly elected City Councilmember Joann Ariola. Also, the city council voted to approve street re-names for Lew Simon and Clare Doroesch

CITY COUNCILMEMBER ELECT JOANN ARIOLA

Councilmember Elect Ariola advised that she has already been active in the community and is aware of the complaints regarding Zombie Homes coming from local civics and residents. Email and contact information will be forwarded out to everybody. Councilmember Ariola wished all Happy Holidays and thanked all for voting for her.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER KHALEEL ANDERSON

Assembly Member Anderson invited all to an office warming on _____ at 1931 Mott Avenue in Far Rockaway, Room 301 from 4:00 to 5:30pm.

PUBLIC SPEAKING – No one signed up for public speaking.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Fund for the City of New York Project – Pedro Cruz

Pedro Cruz explained to the Board that he is a third-year student at CCNY from the Spitzer School of Architecture. Recently he was awarded The Community Planning Fellowship from the Fund for the City of New York. The fellowship gives students the opportunity to interact with real-world community planning issues by partnering up with an organization or a community board in New York and working together to develop a research/design proposal that is beneficial to both the stakeholder as well as professional growth for the student.

Mr. Cruz explained that during a walkthrough in Jamaica Bay, he met Alex Zablocki from the JBRPC and was immediately interested in the Bay for further research. Mr. Cruz was born and raised in Puerto Rico and moved here after Hurricane Maria hit the island in 2017 in order to continue my studies given that my school was suffering from recuperation at the time. During the walkthrough, he was amazed by the number of similarities between Jamaica Bay and the Bay of San Juan in Puerto Rico, a city he grew up around. Both have to deal with disproportionate unequal planning, have suffered from a devastating hurricane disaster, and struggle with recuperation and resilience around the Bay and its communities.

Based on those issues he made the decision to reach out to Alex, and since then have been having a fruitful conversation around the growing immigrant South Asian, Caribbean and Hispanic and Latino population around the Bay.

The drafted research proposal seeks to give a voice to the underrepresented communities that are spread around Arverne and Edgemere neighborhoods through the Flood Watch program. During their talks, they discussed how some of this research could benefit from the community board 14 meetings and stakeholders that might be able to offer more insight and feedback as well as possible interviews of some of its members. Pedro requested that CB members share this study with members of residents they know in the Arverne community, asking those residents to contact Pedro so he could interview them. Pedro asked for CB member participation. Pedro provided his contact information. _____

2. NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs-Re: Conceptual design for art work at new fire located at 116-11 Beach 116 Street

David Mandell representing NYC Cultural Affairs Percent For Art Program introduced Andrea Belag, Artist who been chosen to design the conceptual art for the new fire house that will be constructed on Beach 116 Street.

Andrea Belag stated that Far Rockaway was her introduction to the ocean and beach. Upon returning to Rockaway in 2015 she was inspired by sunshine and ended up living in one of the original bungalows on Beach 25 Street and now is her part-time residence and studio.

The art work concepts will focus on bright colored waves with mixtures of everyday interaction of residents in the neighborhood. The art work will be made glass and displayed in areas of the fire house that will be appealing with natural sun light.

John Cori made the motion for the Board to support the art work design for new fire house located at 116-11 Bch 116 St. with the conditions of the inclusion of a photo of the Rockaway Park community where the new fire house is located, lighting for the art work and requested information on the thickness/strength of the glass. The motion was seconded by Betty Leon. With one No vote and two abstentions the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Nomination Committee Report

Dr. Gerald David, Chair of the Committee reported that a virtual meeting was held on December 12, 2021. The agenda item for discussion was regarding the Board's upcoming Executive Board election. First the Committee reached out to the current executive board officers to inquire if they would be looking to serve another term. All stated yes. Committee met virtually and after discussion, by unanimous vote, will present to the full board the following slate of officers is presented as follows:

Chairperson- Dolores Orr

1st Vice Chair – Al Moore
2nd Vice Chair – Dan Mundy
3rd Vice Chair – Felicia Johnson
4th Vice Chair- Betty Leon
Secretary/ Treasurer – Jose Velez

Dr. David advised committee members that nominations for the Executive Board positions will be taken from the floor at the December 14, 2021 board meeting. The QBP's lawyer was contacted as to how the Board would vote by web-ex and was told that it will be a public election/rollcall vote. Lou Caucig made the motion for the committee to support the current slate of officers as presented. Chris Tedesco seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Board Member Election:

Slate present by Nominating Committee

Chairperson- Dolores Orr
1st Vice Chair – Al Moore
2nd Vice Chair – Dan Mundy
3rd Vice Chair – Felicia Johnson
4th Vice Chair- Betty Leon
Secretary/ Treasurer – Jose Velez

Dr. David asked for nominations from the floor for each elected position. Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston nominated herself for the position of 4th Vice-Chair.

Vote for 4th Vice-Chair will take place on January 11, 2022.

2. By-Laws Committee

Betty Leon, Chair of the committee reported that a virtual meeting was held on November 16th 2021. The agenda item for discussion was regarding an update on requested Board's by-laws changes made by QBP Donovan Richards. The committee members were already emailed the Amended Version of the City Charter, Chapter 70: City Government in the Community, Section 2800: Community Boards and Section 2801: Actions of Community Boards. The committee was updated on the changes the QBP requested as noted in the June 24th committee meeting minutes.

Discussion/questions centered on a number of topics regarding the changes recommended by the QBP, some of which are not mentioned in Section 2800 nor Section 2801. The technology recommendation is a great idea; but a budgetary component must be in place to cover this expense, there is not. There is no definitive procedure for the Removal of a Board Member in the Charter. Words such as Substantial Nonattendance, Excused vs Unexcused Absences are not defined and a provision of Due Process is not referenced in the Amended Charter, Chapter 70.

Since some of the QBP's recommendations are not referenced in the Amended Charter, members questioned his role/authority to mandate such changes and if some of the changes would be appropriate for our community. After much discussion the consensus of the committee was to request a Formal Document from the QBP's attorney, stating all the recommendations including those not addressed in the Charter that must be added to the By-Laws. Then the committee will review our current By-Laws, alongside the City Charter and the QBP's recommendations, with the obligation to comply with all City Laws and Charters and determine how the QBP's recommendations impact our community.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Betty Leon made a motion for the board to send a letter to the Redistricting Commission opposing splitting CB#14 between three different congressional districts. Jack Epter seconded the motion. The motion carried in favor of the motion, 2te voted No and 1one Abstained.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning