



COMMUNITY BOARD #14

City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

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**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016**

**WEST END TEMPLE
147-02 NEWPORT AVENUE
NEPONSIT, NY 11694**

PRESENT

Khaleel Anderson, Shalom Becker, Edward Benson, Stephen Cooper, John Corti, Dr. Gerald David, Mordchai Dicker, Ahmad Edwards, Noreen Ellis, D. Brian Heffernan, Martin Ingram, Henry Iori, Felicia Johnson, Joel Kaplan, Peter Larkin, Betty Leon, Thomas Long, John McCambridge, Desiree Maple, Darrell Mitchell, Sonia Moise Aldan Moore, Daniel Mundy, Ellen O'Reilly, Dolores Orr, Eugene Pasternak, Edward Pastore Sr., Karen Sloan-Rayne, Daniel Ruschillo Jr., Sender Schwartz, Chris Tesdesco, Carole Trachtenberg, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez, Edwin Williams

ABSENT

Richard Altabe, Kelley Brooke, Louis Caucig, Annette Lord-Cohen, Silaka Cox, Patricia Gillespie, Hazeron Mohammed, Isaac Parsee, Harvey Rudnick, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Keith Sullivan, Milan Taylor, Thomas Tobin, Rachel Williams

GUESTS

Dan Brown - Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Sandee Deremus - Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Ciara Donley - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Stacey Elive - Rep. NYC Public Advocate Letitia James, Mercedes Buchanan - Rep. NYC Councilman Donovan Richards, Democratic District Leader Lew Simon, Psach Osuma - Rep. NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, Valarie West - Democratic District Leader, Barbara Smith - President of Deerfield Association, Nicole Garcia - Queens DOT Commissioner, Stacey Amato - Elect Assemblywoman, Portia Dyrenforth - Parks Administrator for District #14, Harold Paez - President of City Educational Council

CORRESPONDANCE WAS READ AS FOLLOWS:

Letter dated October 20, 2016 was sent to Mayor Bill de Blasio from Community Board #14. Letter requested an itemized break down of how and where the funding of \$200 million dollars committed for the recovery/repair of Rockaway's boardwalk and adjacent parks was spent.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair reported that at the Board's Executive Board meeting attendance/participation of board members on committees was discussed. It was decided that board members who had poor attendance would be removed from current committees and that board member would have to request membership on other committees. Active membership on two committees by board members is a requirement of Community Board #14 Bylaws. The Executive Board also discussed the Downtown Far Rockaway Revitalization project. An Ad Hoc Committee will be formed that would consist of Board members who live in the Far Rockaway area and community leaders to review the project and present recommendations to the Board and local elected officials.

The Chair advised that the Eastern Queens Alliance would be conducting workshops on the noise reduction maps at JFK airport on Saturday, November 3, 2016 12: 30 to 2:30 at the Rosedale Library or 3:00 to 5:00 at the Laurelton Library. The Chair wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Jonathan Gaska reported that the NYC Department of Sanitation announced that they are accepting applications from individuals that are interesting in shoveling snow. Mr. Gaska wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

The Chair advised everyone that the September minutes were tabled at the October 2016 meeting pending a review to Parks & Public Safety Committee report for a possible correction. Jose Velez advised that the Committee report was corrected to state that the police are focusing on Beach 17 Street due to 311 and 911 calls. Martin Ingram made the motion to accept the September 13, 2016 minutes with the stated correction. The motion was seconded by Danny Ruscillo Jr. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion.

MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 11, 2016

The Chair went to the Board to accept the October minutes. Betty Leon made the motion for the Board to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Felicia Johnson. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion. There were 6 abstentions.

PUBLIC SPEAKING The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 7:28 pm. (12) individuals signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Martin Ingram Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on October 24, 2016 at the Knights of Columbus. The first agenda item for discussion was regarding an update from the NYC Economic Development Corporation regarding the \$18.75 million plus \$15 million in matching funds earmarked for the coming ferry project.

Alex Brady and Justine Johnson representing EDC indicated that the funding can only be spent on capital projects such as additional infrastructure amenities around the boat landing. The representatives indicated that the plan included three phases: which are planning, design and construction. Currently they are in the planning phase and are soliciting public comments regarding suggested amenities. The suggested amenities that were discussed were making the adjacent parking area handicapped accessible; temperature controlled waiting area and public bathrooms. The study is estimated to cost \$100,000.

There were concerns regarding the designs that were presented because the boardwalk did not go out as far into the wetland as originally planned and the boardwalk was changed to the south side at the request of the Parks Department citing safety concerns. The community agreed to this with the stipulation being that the classroom would still be near the tidal inlet allowing for the best viewing point

Mr. Velez reported that phase 2 construction will begin immediately after phase 1 is completed. A portion of the site is under National Park Service jurisdiction therefore piles can only be driven on NYC parkland. The wooden boardwalk will be using salvage wood from the old Rockaway boardwalk and dark gray RPL as accents and aluminum railings. The outdoor classroom is a wooden octagon design with a decorative metal roof that will provide shade but will not protect against rain or snow. A compass design built in the center of the classroom plankings, binoculars stands and solstices markers coming off railings. The seasonal floating dock is temporary due to ownership issue. National Park Service will not allow permanent construction on their land. The site will include emergency exit out to West 19th Road, an entrance/exit on Shad Creek Road and an entrance/exit to the parking field.

Jose Velez Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a meeting was held on November 10, 2016. The first agenda item for discussion was an update on Sunset Cove which is located in Broad Channel. This phase 2 of the project which includes a wooden boardwalk with a return loop, a outdoor classroom, an entry plaza and a temporary seasonal dock and gangplank. There is \$1.8 million dollars available for the project.

2. PARKS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Chair advised that DOT and the MTA has asked to present this SBS plan to the full board and will do so at the January meeting. Their presentation will also include SBS for the East end of the peninsula, which was not discussed at the committee meeting.

The third item the Committee discussed was regarding the Select Bus System for Woodhaven/Cross Bay Boulevard. The Committee reviewed the various aspects of the proposed system and voted to disapprove the proposal. This was based on the planned loss of bus stops in Rockaway; proposed loss of a traffic lane in each direction for a bus only lane on Woodhaven Blvd and the loss of several left turn lanes also on Woodhaven Blvd. The traffic congestion will have significant negative impact on the residents of Community Board #14 that travel the Woodhaven Blvd corridor. The Committee did not have a quorum but the members present recommend to the Board to vote on the issue at the November meeting.

Martin Ingram reported that the second agenda item for discussion was the NYC Department of Design & Construction and NYC DOT presented their plan for improving Beach Channel Drive between Beach 115 Street and Beach 124 Street. The projected cost is \$15,723,000. It will also include coordination with DEP. The design for the project should be completed by December 2016 and construction would begin in the fall of 2017. The project should be completed by December 2018.

for all the wetland activity. When the Parks Department presented this current design it did not meet with the community's expectations or approval. Dan Mundy spoke with the Region 2 Director who told him that it would not be an issue and the boardwalk would go out as far as originally planned.

Parks & Public Safety Committee made the motion for the Board to accept the design for Sunset Cove provided that the boardwalk is moved to the point immediately adjacent to the tidal inlet and that the switch back loop be brief and not return to the point of origin and that the emergency exit on West 19th Road be an exit only and with a panic bar design. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion.

The second agenda item the Committee discussed was regarding an update on the summer beach season. Portia Drynforth, Parks Administrator for District #14 was present at the meeting and reported that the entire boardwalk was open for the summer for the first time since Super Storm Sandy. Additional staff was hired to maintain the beach and there least 6.8 million visitors to the beach. Additional trash cans were placed at the concession areas. Plainclothes officers issued summons to sellers of alcohol. Mobile mats were used to extend access to the beach for the disabled.

Parks & Public Safety Committee made the motion for the Board to support that only uniformed PEP personnel be allowed to use motorized ATVs on the beach. The Chair suggested that the issue go back to the Committee to get further clarification.

3. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Hank Iori Co-Chair of the Committee reported on an update of actions taken to begin to understand what the issues are facing the 24 schools, serving approximately 12,736 students, which are within the Queens Community Board 14 geographical location.

After having small meetings (6 schools participated) the conclusion was that there was a strong need to gather information about each of the schools within District #14. Outreach was done to PA Presidents to meet with parents to discuss what the concerns are related to their school and to list three to five top concerns voiced by parent association members.

The Committee had meetings on October 19th and 25th, 2016. It was noted that some of the schools had similar concerns relating to school safety, building repairs, transportation, fixing the adjacent school parks and overcrowding.

The Chair advised that the Committee give the list of issues the Jonathan so that he could send letters to the appropriate agencies to get assistance to address the concerns.

The Committee Co-Chair acknowledged that both meetings were held on the west end of the peninsula and committed to secure a meeting location on the east end making it more accessible for the parents of east end schools.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

-Peter Larkin suggested that there be an amendment to the By-Laws suggesting that Committee meeting agendas include public participation.

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

Respectfully Submitted By: Mary Dunning