



COMMUNITY  
BOARD #14

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OCTOBER 13, 2015**

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

**PRESENT**

Shalom Becker, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Silaka Cox, Dr. Gerald David, Mordechai Dicker, Ahmed Edwards, Noreen Ellis, D. Brian Heffernan, Henry Iori, Felicia Johnson, Betty Leon, Thomas Long, John McCambridge, Darrell Mitchell, Sonia Moise, Aldean Moore, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Ellen O'Reilly, Isaac Parsee, Edward Pastore Sr., Karen Sloan-Payne, Harvey Rudnick, Daniel Ruscillo Jr., Sender Schwartz, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Keith Sullivan, Chris Tedesco, Milan Taylor, Carole Trachtenberg, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez,

**ABSENT**

Richard Altabe, Kelley Brooke, Louis Caucig, Annette Lord-Cohen, Steve Cromity, Patricia Gillespie, Martin Ingram, Joel Kaplan, Matthew Kessler, Peter Larkin, Hazeron Mohammed, Eugene Pasternak, Thomas Tobin, Edwin Williams, Rachel Williams

**GUESTS**

State Senator James Sanders Jr. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Lisa George – Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Ciara Donley - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Sandee Doremus – Rep. Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Dan Brown – Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Jessica Luina – Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards, Democratic District Leader Lew Simon, Bella Pori – Rep. Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder, Pesach Osina – Rep. NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, Roy Tellason – Manager of Parks for District #14 of NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation

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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 September 30, 2015 was sent from Community Board #14 to Dorothy Lewandowski, Queens Borough Commissioner of NYC Dept of Parks & Recreation. Letter stated that Community Board #14 at its September 8, 2015 meeting voted unanimously that the request be made that baffle walls be installed north of the boardwalk/adjacent to and around all the concession stand locations and at Beach 116 Street and they be contiguous with existing and future baffle wall sections to be installed.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

The Chair reminded everyone of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Super Storm Sandy is on October 29<sup>th</sup>, the road is long to get to the end of recovery.

**REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

District Manager Jonathan Gaska reported that the last section of the MGP site is going to get remediated. The site is the bulk head section that is located between Beach 108 Street & Rockaway Freeway going east to west along Beach Channel Drive adjacent to Jamaica Bay. The remediation will start in the next 2/3 weeks and testing of the site would be conducted first. The actual work would begin sometime in November and if the weather permitting the site could be completed by spring of 2016.

**MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 8, 2015**

The Chair went to the Board for questions regarding the minutes from September 8, 2015. Al Moore made the motion for the Board to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Eddy Pastore Sr.

COMMUNITY BOARD #14  
City of New York  
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR  
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA  
District Manager

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## INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

### NYC Economic Development Corporation - Re: Rockaway Ferry Update

James Wong, Director of Ferry Service for NYC EDC informed everyone that the agency is working on a new Citywide Ferry Service for 2017 that would include a ferry landing at Beach 108 Street & Beach Channel Drive (the same location where the previous ferry was). The new service would be an affordable way to travel between waterfront communities throughout New York City. The service would consist of (5) new ferry routes and the fare would be \$2.75.

The Rockaway landing would be operational in 2017 and ferry barges would more comfortable for riders by installing new shelters and canopies. A shuttle bus would be provided to pick up riders from the east beginning at Beach 67 Street and from the west beginning at Riis Park to bring riders to the ferry. The travel time to the City would be about 43 minutes.

The agency is still working on securing parking for riders and the community outreach process is still going on to allow more suggestions and ideas to be considered. More information could be found on the internet at [www.nycedc.com/ferry](http://www.nycedc.com/ferry).

### PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Chair opened the floor for public speaking. (16) People signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

### GUEST SPEAKERS

#### 1. State Senator James Sanders Jr.

Senator Sanders Jr. announced that he is fighting to renovate LaGuardia Airport. The repairs and upgrade is an estimated \$4 billion dollars and he wants to work along with Community Board #14, RDRC and others firms to ensure that the community residents and business owners gets jobs and contracts.

#### 2. City Councilman Eric Ulrich

City Councilman Eric Ulrich invited all to attend the official reopening of the Roller Hockey Rink located at Beach 108 Street.

In addition he stated that he fully supports the hotel planned for Rockaway Beach Blvd. & Beach 109 Street but opposes NYC Dept. of City Planning's proposed zoning change that would allow for hotels to be built and could be turned into homeless shelters.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 1. BUDGET COMMITTEE

Dr. Eli Shapiro, Chair of the Committee reported that at the Board's last meeting the Draft 2017 Capital & Expense budget priorities was distributed, discussed and public participation was held. Again tonight the draft is still open for discussion and suggestions. After public participation the Board will vote on the draft.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – The Chair opened the floor for public participation regarding the draft 2017 Capital & Expense Budget. (2) People signed in to speak and was recognized and heard. The Chair closed public participation.

The Chair went to the Board for questions, changes and suggestions regarding the budget. Dr. Shapiro made the motion for the Board to support the 2017 Capital & Expense budget

priorities. The motion was seconded by Al Moore. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 28 YES, 0 NO and 0 ABSTAINED.

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

Jose Velez Co-Chair of the Committee reported that a Committee meeting was held on September 29, 2015. The first item for discussion was regarding an update on the rebuilding of Sandpiper Playground. Funding for the park was made available from a combination of FEMA reimbursement, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and City Councilman Eric Ulrich.

The park is going to be expanded to be divided into 3 areas for ages 4 and under, 5-12 and a water sprinkler play area. The Wave Shelter would be restored and seating would be added. The park designs include: 2 entrances, benches, grandstand seating, shade structures, terrace areas and wheelchair accessibility.

In the water sprinkler play area all of the sprinklers would be around the ground area, there would be tall sea grass like spray posts and a sperm whale structure also with sprinkling water. The park would feature a water front theme that includes colored concrete and various imprints of marine life on rocks, plaques and sidewalks.

The second agenda items the Committee discussed was regarding reconstruction of the boardwalk. Commissioner Lewandowski mentioned that the Boardwalk reconstruction project is preceding and if members of the public would like to be on an email list that details the progress of the project they should see Alex at the end of meeting. Memorial Day of 2016 there should be a continuous boardwalk that runs from Beach 9 Street to Beach 126 Street. There would still be a wooden boardwalk from Beach 19 Street to Beach 39 Street that would be reconstructed and completed by 2017.

Commissioner Lewandowski also presented what areas of the beach are open for swimming, fishing and surfing. Conversations were also held regarding issues that need be solved before 2016 beach season which are the following:

- Red Flagged beaches that could be reopened.
- In Breezy Point, NPS allows beach access in the Piping Plover area why doesn't NYC Parks allow it.
- The designated surfer Beach location at Beach 90 Street is overflowing.
- Who is responsible for enforcement of the surfers and the surfer beaches?
- When does the permits for the surfer school expire and the legality of monies being earned by using a public beach.
- Water Edge homeowners felt they are being ignored in regards to beach access.
- Some residents requested a compromise between surfers and swimmers.
- A Board member mentioned that the surfers were rude and both parties deserve fairness, in addition to the reference that Arverne-By-The-Sea homeowner's tax pay for the Piping Plovers.

The Rockaway Civic Association was not ready to present all of their finding regarding the surf beaches but would be forth coming with letters, signed documents and the number of meetings with community members.

Edward Pastore Sr. made the motion for the Board to send a letter to the Parks Department stating that the Board was not in favor of permits being issued to organizations to use the City beach for profit. The Chair stated that the issue would be referred to the Committee for discussion.



The Chair noted that according to the Board's By-Laws no new items can be discussed after 10:00pm. A motion was made and second to adjourn the meeting at 10:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Mary Dunning