

# COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

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HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS
CHAIR

DONOVAN RICHARDS
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

FRANK P. GULLUSCIO
DISTRICT MANAGER

# CB 6 MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 12, 2022

# **PRESENT**

A. WEITZMAN, CHAIR G. GORDON, 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE CHAIR P. BEADLE, 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE CHAIR H. DIMITRIADIS, VC FINANCE P. KUMAR, VC LAND USE D. SCHNEIER, VC SCOPING M. LASTER, VC SECRETARY

M. ARCATI B. GRIFFITH G. SANDOVAL A. AYON **B. GROSSBERG** H. SCHONHAUT K. BATRA R. LEONART J. SILVA M. BERFAS J. LI T. SIMMONS H. BIRNBAUM K. LY R. TAMAYEV H. CHAIN R. MEHRRA I. TAMAYEVA S. CHU S. METZ M. TUCKER P. MORGAN A. COHEN S. WANDERMAN L. DAVIS R. NEKTALOV J. WESTON J. DERESZEWSKI E. NEWTON E. WONG

A. DIAZ-HOUSTON

K. ENGEL

T. PADGETT

S. ROLNICK

# **ABSENT**

O. HORODNICEANU J. MEDINA E. FELDER D. YAKUBOV

E. KALENDAREV

# **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

FRANK GULLUSCIO CB 6 DISTRICT MANAGER
L. SCHULMAN NYC COUNCIL MEMBER – DISTRICT 29

F. CLASS OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN
K. MCALEER OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN

A. ROSERO OFFICE OF QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT RICHARDS

M. CARLIER OFFICE OF NYS ASSEMBLY MEMBER HEVESI

J. MONGELUZO OFFICE OF NYC COMPTROLLER LANDER

S. MCCABE OFFICE OF SENATOR ADDABBO

J. GOLDES OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER MENG

This meeting was held virtually via WebEx due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

# **PUBLIC FORUM**

All requests for public comment must be submitted via email to <u>QN06@CB.NYC.GOV</u> by 3pm on the day of meeting. Public comments submitted by Friday at 5pm will be included in the minutes.

There were no public comments for this meeting.

# COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN

Newly elected Council Member Lynn Schulman addressed the Board. She introduced her staff, Facia Class – Chief of Staff and Kevin McAleer who will handle Community Board 6

Council Member Schulman announced the following:

- She visited all schools in the district.
- During the recent snowstorm, she called all the Community Organizations, Schools and made sure Ace shoveled the curb cuts before it iced.
- Arranged to have a test site for COVID with Borough President and others by McDonald Park and the Forest Hills Jewish Center.
- Working with the Department of Health and Health and Hospital to get more test sites in the Community.
- Had a meeting with the Mayor, Elected Officials, Health Commissioner and School Chancellor about schools having remote option.
- The office can be reached through e-mail: district29@council.nyc.gov, and by telephone: 718-544-8800
- Attended the first stated meeting with the City Council for the year. Elected the Speaker Adrienne Adams

# **MINUTES**

The minutes of December 8, 2021 were approved as written.

# CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Alexa Weitzman thanked the outgoing Executive Board for their support and work, including: Gail Gordon, Peter Beadle, Mark Laster, Heather Dimitriadis, and David Schneier. In addition, she thanked District Manager Frank Gulluscio and CB 6 Staff,

Christine, Maria and Barbara. She also thanked the Board Members for their assistance while she was Chair.

Chair Weitzman also gave the following COVID update:

- In Forest Hills (Zip Code: 11375)
  - o 1 in every 5 people were diagnosed with COVID
  - o 1 in every 214 passed away from COVID
- In Rego Park (Zip Code: 11374)
  - o 1 in every 3 people were diagnosed with COVID
  - o 1 in every 222 passed away from COVID

Please support your neighbors because many of them have been affected by COVID.

# DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager Frank Gulluscio thanked Alexa for her hard work over the past few years and Chairing through the pandemic.

Mr. Gulluscio congratulated Lynn Schulman on being elected to the City Council and reminded everyone that Council Member Schulman was a member of CB 6 for many years.

Mr. Gulluscio spoke about the fire in the Bronx recently and said he was on the phone with FDNY reminding everyone that we have a lot of apartment buildings in our Community Board. Please be safe.

Mr. Gulluscio reminded everyone that there is currently a blood shortage. If you can donate blood, please do so.

Mr. Gulluscio announced that he has been meeting with the new commissioners and representatives from different agencies. He also had a meeting with DSNY regarding the recent snowstorm. He wanted to remind everyone that there are priorities. The streets, bike lanes, etc., must be completed first and then they will begin clearing crosswalks.

Last, Mr. Gulluscio reported that the Parks Department is hiring lifeguards for the summer and Community Board Applications are up on the Borough President's website. Spread the word.

# ELECTIONS FOR CB 6 EXECUTIVE BOARD

# A. CHAIR

The two nominees for Chair, Heather Dimitriadis and Jean Silva were given 2 minutes to speak to the Board.

The Community Board voted via WebEx. The vote was Heather Dimitriadis 30 votes, Jean Silva 10 votes.

# B. FIRST VICE CHAIR

Peter Beadle was the only nominee.

Mark Laster, Secretary, cast one ballot for Peter as First Vice Chair

# C. SECOND VICE CHAIR

Keith Engel was the only nominee.

Mark Laster, Secretary, cast one ballot for Keith as Second Vice Chair

# D. THIRD VICE CHAIR

Mark Laster was the only nominee

Mark Laster, Secretary, cast one ballot for Mark as Third Vice Chair

# E. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION

The two nominees for Chair, Sheridan Chu and Tania Padgett were given 2 minutes to speak to the Board.

The Community Board voted via WebEx. The vote was Sheridan Chu 13 votes, Tania Padgett 27 votes.

# F. SECRETARY OF FINANCE

Kevin Ly was the only nominee

Mark Laster, Secretary, cast one ballot for Kevin as Third Vice Chair

# G. PARLIAMENTARIAN

John Dereszewski was the only nominee

Mark Laster, Secretary, cast one ballot for John as Parliamentarian

Chair Weitzman congratulated the new Executive Board and turned the meeting over to Chair Heather Dimitriadis.

# CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Elizabeth Newton – Co-Chair, reported that CB 6 didn't receive any new applications this month.

The Community Board received the following renewals:

- A. TANDOOR AND CO, 95-24 QUEENS BOULEVARD, RP
- B. ANDA07 CORP, 96-18 QUEENS BOULEVARD, RP
- C. ACEY DUCEY'S, 101-17 METROPOLITAN AVENUE, FH

There were no negative reports from 112 Pct. The Committee motion is to approve the renewals. The renewal applications were approved unanimously on a voice vote.

# AGING / SOCIAL SERVICES / DISABILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark Laster, Co-Chair, reported that the committee met on January 10, 2022 to discuss the following:

- There will be an Intergenerational Panel Discussion on 1-27-22 at 6:30pm
- The committee is still working on a resource manual for older residents
- The committee will be printing copies of the Senior Survey and bringing it to senior centers and libraries
- The committee is working on ways to increase attendance at future presentations
- The next meeting will be on Monday 2-14-22

# DIVERSITY EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Martha Tucker, Co-Chair, reported that the committee held its inaugural listening session on December 14, 2021. A Google Form was created for speaker sign-up and registration. There were three responses and one speaker attended. Committee Members in attendance listened to the speaker, Edgar. Edgar spoke on the following: "I identify as Latino. I just moved over to Forest Hills from Astoria in May 2021. I want to know what is being done by CB6 to increase the number of Black and Latino families in the neighborhood. CB6 is 50.0% white, and 30.0% Asian (80.0% total) according to the Furman center's statistics (https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/rego-park-forest-hills)". Citizen Member Grace Pellicano volunteered to read a poem but ran into technical issues. The co-chairs will work to include the reading in the next listening session.

The committee plans to continue the listening sessions in 2022. The dates will be announced when they are confirmed.

# PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION / TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Peter Beadle, Co-Chair, reported that the committee met on December 16, 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to start working on a list of concerns and issues that would shape the meetings in the future.

Some of these items include:

- Forming a subcommittee in conjunction with Aging, Social Services, Disabilities Committee to address concerns about the Access A Ride system.
- Traffic Issues
  - o 108<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Yellowstone Boulevard and Austin Street
  - Safety Study for Union Turnpike
- Queens Bus Network Redesign expected to come back in the Spring
- Neighborhood Loading Zones If anyone has suggestions on specific blocks that would benefit from loading zones, email us
- Bicycle Storage (possible future presentation from Pod)

The next meeting will be on January 20, 2022 at 7:00pm. There will be a presentation from a company called Ride Circuit. They operate a fleet of electric shuttles that can't go more than 35 miles an hour and offer shuttle service to help connect people to transit, shopping, doctor's appointments to either increase the mobility of people that don't own cars or enable people to have a reasonable way of leaving their cars at home while they go about their local errands.

There is a new group in our community called the Burns Street Alliance. They have been working with local elected officials and the LIRR. There will be changes coming to the LIRR station in Forest Hills. There will be an elevator installed and platforms extended, etc.

#### **GOOD & WELFARE**

Mark Laster announced that the Forest Hills Green Team is encouraging people to bring their compost to the GROW NYC composting site at the Greenmarket. The next meeting of the Forest Hills Green Team is on Monday 1-17-22. If anyone is interested in learning more, you can email <a href="FHGTInc@gmail.com">FHGTInc@gmail.com</a>.

Heidi Chain announced that the 112<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council will be holding a meeting next Wednesday, January 19, 2022 via Zoom. If you are interested in attending or has questions, email council112@yahoo.com

Edwin Wong announced that the Forest Hills Asian Association will be hosting its State of FH Civic Community on Monday Jan 24, 2022 at 7:00pm. It is a virtual event where local community organizations can speak about their organization and what they do in the community. He will send us the link and information to join.

Steven Metz spoke about an incident near his house where there was a scooter accident and the scene wasn't secured, causing a dangerous condition to exist.

Jean Silva reminded everyone that Parks are open, and everyone should enjoy them. If anyone sees any issues in Parks, let us know so we can work on it.

# ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI

Michael Carlier announced the following:

- Legislation has been signed by Governor Hochul that would ban the arrest of children under 12 except in the case of homicide. They would be referred to mental and behavioral health services
- AM Hevesi has secured additional COVID tests and PPE. The following distributions are scheduled:
  - o Thursday January 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am at the Kew Gardens LIRR Station
  - o Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at the FH Greenmarket
  - o Wednesday January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive MTA Station

- o Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00am at Ascan Avenue and Austin Street
- Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00pm at 74-18 88<sup>th</sup> Street
   If you can't make the distribution, you can call the office at 718-263-5595 to schedule a pickup.

# CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes reported the following:

- Congresswoman Meng joined President Biden for the signing of federal infrastructure bill; some of the funding will go to elevators in Forest Hills Long Island Railroad station; ensuring that subway stops are ADA accessible are among our priorities.
- The Congresswoman helped pass the build back better act in the house.
- Regarding COVID 19, the Congresswoman is pushing for more testing sites and testing kits; has sent two letters to the President regarding this matter and secured testing sites around the district.
- COVID 19 Hate Crimes Act, which the President signed into law is in the process of being implemented by the Justice Department.
- Pushed to increase funding for internet access for students and schools.
- Allowed SNAP program to cover hot and prepared foods.
- Asked FEMA about low payouts to the constituents regarding Hurricane Ida. There is also a 60-day grace period on applications for extenuating circumstances that prevented people from applying before January 4<sup>th</sup> deadline.

# QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

Amparito Rosero announced the following events:

- Community Board application is on-line (www.queensbp.org) and will be open until February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Borough President will hold a media roundtable for the creation of the NYC office of COVID recovery on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Will also be livestreamed at queensbp.org
- Aging In Place, Growing Older at Home Webinar, Co-Sponsored by the NYC Department of Aging, AARP, CB6 and Queens Public Library will be on 1-13-22 at 1:00pm.
- New York State Homeowners Assistance Fund Webinar on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 5:30PM.

# NYC COMPTROLLER BRAD LANDER

James Mongeluzzo announced the following:

- The monthly Economic Fiscal Outlook newsletter is out.
- Completed an audit under Comptroller Stringer regarding Community
  Boards in Queens. For more information,
  <a href="https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/audit-report-on-the-fourteen-queens-community-boards-compliance-with-new-york-city-charter-and-new-with-new-w

york-city-administrative-code-requirements-for-public-meetings-and-hearings-and-for-websites/

# NYS SENATOR JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR

Sean McCabe announced the following:

- Senator Addabbo has voted to maintain virtual community meetings until the end of COVID emergency restrictions.
- If anyone needs assistance, feel free to contact the office at 718-738-1111

# MAYOR OFFICE – COMMUNITY AFFAIRS UNIT

Maria Bolanos announced that if there are any organizations that need masks, they can request them from the office.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Nolan Community Coordinator

CB 6 VOTING SHEET 1-12-22	ATTENDANCE	RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS	
MICHAEL ARCATI	P		
ANISIA AYON	P		
KAVISH BATRA	P		
PETER BEADLE	P		
MIRIAM BERFAS	P		
HOWARD BIRNBAUM	P		
HEIDI CHAIN	P		
SHERIDAN CHU	P		
ALEXANDER COHEN	P		
LATRICE DAVIS	P		
JOHN DERESZEWSKI	P		
ALEJANDRA DIAZ-HOUSTON	P		
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS	P		
KEITH ENGEL	P		
ETHAN FELDER	ABSENT		ABSENT
GAIL GORDON	P		
BRENDAN GRIFFITH	P		
BRUCE GROSSBERG	P		
ODED HORODNICEANU	ABSENT		ABSENT
EMANUIL KALENDAREV	ABSENT		ABSENT
PRAMEET KUMAR	P	+	
MARK LASTER	P	†	
RALPH LEONART	P	†	
JONATHAN LI	P	_ ш	
KEVIN LY	P		
JACK MEDINA	ABSENT	ALL IN FAVOR - VOICE VOTE	ABSENT
RENEE MEHRRA	P		
STEVEN METZ	P	OR O	
PAT MORGAN	P	FA	
RAFAEL NEKTALOV	P	Z -	
ELIZABETH NEWTON	P	<b>⊤</b> ₹	
TANIA PADGETT	P		
SHARI ROLNICK	P		
GLADYS SANDOVAL	P		
DAVID SCHNEIER	P		
HERBERT SCHONHAUT	P		
JEAN SILVA	P		
TERESA SIMMONS	P		
ROBERT TAMAYEV	P		
IRINA TAMAYEVA	P		
MARTHA TUCKER	P		
SUSAN WANDERMAN	P		
ALEXA WEITZMAN	P		
JOAN WESTON	P		1
EDWIN WONG	P	ABSENT	
DANIEL YAKUBOV	ABSENT		
TOTALS:	41 PRESENT		
	5 ABSENT		