



COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

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Whitepot Settled 1653

ALEXA WEITZMAN
CHAIR

FRANK P. GULLUSCIO
DISTRICT MANAGER

GAIL M. GORDON
1ST VICE-CHAIR

PETER BEADLE
2ND VICE-CHAIR

MARK LASTER
VICE-CHAIR · SECRETARY

BRUCE GROSSBERG
VICE-CHAIR · FINANCE

PRAMEET KUMAR
VICE-CHAIR · LAND USE

SOUMALY KING
VICE-CHAIR · SCOPING

CB 6 MEETING MINUTES MARCH 11, 2020

PRESENT

A. WEITZMAN, CHAIR
P. BEADLE, 2ND VC
P. KUMAR, VC LAND USE

G. GORDON, 1ST VC
M. LASTER, VC SECRETARY
S. KING, VC SCOPING

M. BERFAS
H. CHAIN
S. CHU
A. COHEN
C. COLLETT
J. DERESZEWSKI
H. DIMITRIADIS

B. GRIFFITH
O. HORODNICEANU
E. KALENDAREV
N. LEIBOWITZ
R. MEHRA
Y. MEIROV
S. METZ

P. MORGAN
R. NEKTALOV
E. NEWTON
S. ROLNICK
J. SILVA
J. WESTON
E. WONG

ABSENT

N. ALTMAN
A. AYON
G. CARLSON
A. DIAZ-HOUSTON
E. FELDER
G. FERRERAS
J. GOLANT

B. GROSSBERG
J. HENNESSY
M. JACOBSON
J. KEVELSON
J. MAKIN
J. MEDINA
E. MURRAY

K. NEUMANN
D. SCHNEIER
H. SCHONHAUT
R. SILVER
M. SILVERSTEIN
S. WANDERMAN

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

SHARON LEE
FRANK GULLUSCIO
J. PERRICONE
J. D'ANGELO
M. CARLIER
M. COHEN
CAPTAIN CAPPELMANN
DETECTIVE REDZEMATOVIC

QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT
CB 6 DISTRICT MANAGER
OFFICE OF BOROUGH PRESIDENT LEE
OFFICE OF SENATOR ADDABBO
OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER HEVESI
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ
COMMANDING OFFICER - 112TH PRECINCT
PATROL BOROUGH QUEENS NORTH

COMMUNITY BOARD 6

MARCH 11, 2020

Chair Alexa Weitzman asked Norman Leibowitz to open the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers at the public forum.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 12, 2020 meeting were accepted.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Weitzman announced that the meeting would be streamed live on Facebook since many board members and members of the public couldn't attend due to the COVID-19 situation. She said that the board will be exploring this in the future as a way for more people to have access to Community Board Meetings. In addition, the meeting will be as brief as possible. The committees that were supposed to report this evening will submit their reports in writing for the minutes.

Ms. Weitzman announced that Community Board Membership Applications are due on Friday March 14, 2020.

Community Board 6 will be hosting shredding events in our community. If any members would like to volunteer to sit at the community board table, it would be helpful. A list will be passed around.

Census begins Thursday March 12 and people are encouraged to complete it online or by telephone.

Chair Weitzman announced that the Rego Park Library will be getting permanent swing space while the library is under construction. This was announced at the Mayor's Town Hall Meeting.

Last, Chair Weitzman reminded everyone that the Special Election for Queens Borough President is on March 24 and early voting starts on Saturday March 14th.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager Gulluscio had no report.

PRESENTATION BY CHAE NO

NYC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE

Chae No reported that there is a new virus, COVID-19, which is caused by a strain of the Coronavirus. This virus is normally found in animals but has now been found in humans. Previous Coronavirus outbreaks were SARS (Severe acute respiratory syndrome) and MERS (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome). COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, shortness of breath. Many individuals that contract this virus will have very mild symptoms. However, the elderly and people with underlying health conditions like asthma, COPD, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, etc. are at a higher risk. Individuals that smoke or vape are also at an increased risk. This virus is spread by droplets of secretions from the nose and mouth (such as saliva or mucus). These droplets don't stay in the air. It can be contracted by having someone's bodily fluids enter your eyes, mouth, etc.

In order to prevent the spread of this virus, you can take the following precautions:

- Wash your hands frequently for more than 20 seconds with soap and water.
- If soap and water isn't accessible, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your cough with a tissue or your elbow (not your hand)
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth
- Don't shake hands
- Get your flu shot

If you feel sick you should stay home and call your doctor. Don't go into the office without calling first.

If you don't have insurance, you can call 311 to receive medical care. You will not be asked about your immigration status or financial situation.

You should utilize social distancing,

- Avoid crowded places (subways, buses, etc)
- Businesses should stagger their employees work hours as much as possible

There is a lot of discrimination against people wearing masks or people of certain nationalities. If you see this discrimination, please contact the NYC Commission on Human Rights at 311. Also, some stores are price gauging on necessities such as hand sanitizers, Lysol, etc. If you see this in any store, please call 311 to report it as this is illegal.

Last, NYC Well offers mental health services (888-NYC-WELL). For updates on the Coronavirus, please text COVID to 692692 or visit nyc.gov/coronavirus.

NYPD - 112th PRECINCT

Captain Joseph Cappelmann introduced himself as the new Commanding Officer of the 112th Precinct. He said that last year was the precincts best year on record with respect to crimes. This year, they are seeing a lot of burglaries and property crimes. The detective squad has recently apprehended a suspect that is believed to be responsible for a lot of burglaries in the area. There has also been an increase in grand larcenies, mostly shoplifting and car break-ins. Please don't leave valuables in the car and lock the doors.

PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION IN HONOR OF JOSEPH C. HENNESSY

The following individuals presented proclamations / certificates in honor of Joseph Hennessy to his daughter Sheila. One of Joe's grandchildren was also present.

- Borough President Sharon Lee
- Michael Cohen (on behalf of Council Member Karen Koslowitz)
- Michael Carlier (on behalf of Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi)
- John D'Angelo (on behalf of Senator Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.)
- Leslie Brown (on behalf of the Forest Hills Chamber)

Some board members shared memories about Joe.

Joseph Hennessy has been a member of Community Board 6 for the last 43 years and was Chair of Community Board 6 from 1996-2019. He was also the President of the Forest Hills Coop for many years and on the Board of the Queens Community House.

QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT SHARON LEE

In addition to the Proclamation presented in honor of Joe Hennessy, Borough President Lee reminded the Board about the following:

- Census will be starting 3-12-20. It is very critical that everyone is counted
- There will be several elections coming up: Special Election - March 24, Presidential Primary - April 28, Primaries in June, General Election - November

CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Elizabeth Newton, Chair of Consumer Affairs Committee, reported that the Board received 3 new liquor license applications and 1 renewal with a corporate change.

1. Jade Eatery, 1 Station Square, Space A, FH
2. Levy Premium Food Service – Forest Hills Stadium, 69-50 Burns Street, FH
3. DFG LIC, LLC, 71-22 Austin Street, FH
4. Mojo, 70-20 Austin Street, FH (Corporate Change)

Representatives from all above establishments were present. The Committee motion was to approve all applications. The Committee motion passed unanimously on a voice vote for each new establishment.

CB 6 received the following liquor license renewals:

Rimtin Mediterranean Inc, 104-02 Metropolitan Ave., FH

The 112th Precinct reported no issues with these establishments. The Committee had no objections, and a motion to approve these applications passed unanimously on a voice vote.

CB 6 also received a renewal application for an enclosed sidewalk café:

BAROSA, INC – 62-29 WOODHAVEN BOULEVARD – Renewal for a revocable consent to operate an existing enclosed sidewalk café with 10 tables and 40 seats. The Committee had no objections, and a motion to approve this application passed unanimously on a voice vote.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION / TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Peter Beadle reported that the committee met on March 5, 2020. The 112th Precinct requested that Pedestrian Way (at Yellowstone Boulevard and Austin Street) be renamed in honor of Detective Jeffrey A. Lee who passed away from 9-11 related illness. Detective Lee spent most of his NYPD career in the 112th Precinct keeping the communities of Forest Hills and Rego Park safe.

The Committee made a motion to approve this street renaming. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Peter also announced that the Committee will be working on arranging a Bike Bonanza, scheduled for October 4, 2020. More information will become available soon. The Committee will also be discussing Budget Priorities and District Needs related to Transportation needs.

THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE REPORTS WERE SUBMITTED IN WRITING:

PARKS & RECREATION / BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Jean Silva reported that the committee met on February 12, 2020. Karen Imas, Friends of the Queensway, made a presentation about the current status of the Queensway and what their goals are. The proposed Queensway is a 3.5-mile rails to trails park in Central Queens. They discussed security questions, recent endorsements of their project and their funding requests from the city / state. The group would like to present before the Community Board in the future to seek their support for their project.

LAW / BY-LAW COMMITTEE REPORT

John Dereszewski reported that the committee met on February 26, 2020 to continue its discussion of revisions and amendments to the Board's by-laws that commenced at the committee's initial meeting. This discussion will continue at the committee's next meeting, which will occur in April. Board members are invited to participate in this discussion.

The committee intends to prepare a report containing its preliminary revisions and amendments to the by-laws at the Board's May meeting. This will continue a discussion that will result on a final vote on this issue later in the year.

Given the complexity and importance of this issue, it is most prudent that this discussion occurs in a careful and deliberate manner.

AD HOC HOMELESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Renee Mehrra reported that the committee met on March 11, 2020.

The Committee discussed the following items that they will work on / look into in the coming months:

- Utilization of Drop- in Centers; in particular, resources and availability of these centers in CB 6
- Access to services for homeless veterans. Senator Addabbo can give a presentation on this issue
- Services and resources for homeless with disabilities
- Resources for Supportive Housing
- Supportive Housing Network can come, in the near future, to offer their insights
- Converting abandoned buildings for the homeless as well as for training personnel

GOOD & WELFARE

Heather Dimitriadis announced that Participatory Vote Week will be 3/28/20 – 4/5/20. Volunteers will be at the Green Market to collect votes. Also, there will be digital voting. As more information is available, it will be sent out by the office.

Heidi Chain announced that the 112 Precinct Community Council Meeting will be on Wednesday March 18 at Russel Sage Junior High School. They will be honoring Melinda Katz as it is Women's History Month. Ms. Chain also thanked the Community Board, on behalf of the Precinct, for the Street Renaming in honor of Detective Jeffrey Lee.

Jean Silva, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, announced that there are a lot of events going on in the Park this year. In addition, there will be an informational event on April 23 at Kew Gardens Community Center with all the different groups / cultural institutions from the Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

Pat Morgan spoke about the 80-02 Kew Gardens Road building not being ADA Accessible. Chair / DM confirmed that they sent a letter to the management of the building regarding this and they will continue to follow up.

Pat also spoke about Social Media. She feels that the Social Media committee hasn't posted anything on social media. Also, the Board Members should be putting more information about CB 6 in the area Facebook groups.

Chris Collett – Forest Hills Community & Civic spoke about the MTA Bus Re-Design. His residents are still very upset about the Q23. The MTA didn't respond to the letter his Civic sent. He feels that they aren't giving any updates to the community.

Steven Metz announced that the Tartan Day Parade will be in Manhattan on April 4, 2020 and Brian Cox is the Grand Marshall.

Gail Gordon announced that Heidi Chain was recently honored by the Forest Hills Jewish Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Nolan
Community Coordinator