

**JUNE 10, 2014 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING &
REGULAR MEETING MAJESTIC MARQUISE
88-03 101 AVE**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2014-MARCH 2015

2nd # Represents Absences As of January 2014 (Borough President's Attendance)

David Adorno	(0) (1)	Dr. V. Evangelista	(0) (0)	Mohamed Safie	(1) (2)
Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(0) (1)	Laraine Fletcher	(0) (0)	Regina Santoro	(0) (1)
Julio Batista	(0) (0)	Linda Fogal	(0) (1)	Jarnail Singh	(1) (1)
D. Bhattacharjee	(0) (1)	Ralph Gonzalez	(0) (0)	Maharani Singh	(0) (0)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(0) (0)	Joseph Iaboni	(0) (1)	Raghibir Singh	(1) (2)
Alex Blenkinsopp	(1) (1)	Scott Jordan	(0) (0)	J. Richard Smith	(0) (0)
John Carter	(1) (2)	Patrick Khan	(0) (0)	Dr. Stephen Sofer	(0) (0)
Jim Coccovillo	(0) (1)	Joel Kuszai	(0) (1)	Maria Thomson	(1) (1)
Nick Comaianni	(0) (2)	Priscilla Levine	(0) (0)	Marie Turley	(0) (0)
Andrea Crawford	(0) (0)	Marian Molina	(0) (0)	Seth Welins	(0) (0)
Sandra Datnarain	(0) (1)	Ivan Mrakovcic	(0) (0)	Clark Whitsett	(0) (0)
Richard David	(0) (0)	Kevin O'Leary	(0) (1)	Kenichi Wilson	(0) (0)
Joan DeCamp	(0) (0)	Rabbi D. Pollack	(0) (0)		
H. Singh Duggal	(0) (0)	Raj Rampershad	(0) (0)		

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Cheryl Alexander	(1) (1)	Stephen Esposito	(1) (1)	Jagir Singh	(1) (1)
Latchman Budhai	(1) (2)	Sylvia Hack	(1) (1)	Naidoo Veerapen	(1) (3)
Sam Esposito	(2)* (3)	Sherman Kane	(1) (2)		

ALSO PRESENT

Mary Ann Carey, District Manager
Lisa Gomes, Office Manager
Irina Barayev, Staff

*Absences from a meeting shall mean physical non-attendance and /or failure to be present for voting on two or more agenda items marked "Vote to be Taken" at any regular or special meeting of the Board.

Legislators & Legislative Representatives

Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Joseph P. Addabbo
David Renz, Rep. Assembly Member Mike Miller
Greg Mitchell, Rep. Council Member Ulrich
Chris Kaznowski, Rep. Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi
Kate Mooney, Rep. Council Member Elizabeth Crowley
Anthony Lemma, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin
Bruce Eiber, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Melinda Katz, Queens Borough President
Elisa Velazquez, Rep. Queens BP Katz
John Pemcore, Rep. Queens BP Katz
Dev Awasthi, Rep. Comptroller Scott Stringer
Celia Dosamantes, Rep. Congress Member Grace Meng
Jahi Rose, Rep. Council Member Rubin Wills

Deputy Inspector Sautner, 102 Pct.
P.O. Jose Severino, 102 Pct.

Guests' sign-in sheets are available upon request.

Chair Gonzalez recognized volunteers and their director Murray Kaplan-veterans from J-CAP and thanked them for serving our country.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes

J. Richard Smith stated that he and Julio Batista attended the 911 tour.

Motion # 1: To accept minutes as amended

Vote # 1: 39 in favor, 1 abstention

- 2. District Manager's Report**- Mary Ann Carey reported on attending the Borough Cabinet meeting on May 20, 2014 where guest speakers, Boy Scouts of America, presented on various programs that they run. Boy Scouts of America is one of the largest youth organizations in the USA with 2.7 million youth and 1 million adult volunteers. Since it was founded in 1910 as part of the International Scout Movement, more than 110 million Americans have been members of the Boy Scouts of America. Its goal is to train youth in responsible citizenship, develop character and self-reliance, to participate in a wide range of outdoor activities and educational programs.

District Manager Mary Ann Carey wished all a good summer.

3. Chairperson's Remarks & Exec Report-Ralph Gonzalez

- Chair Gonzalez stated that his report was emailed to all board members; a copy of it is included in board members' envelopes.
- Board members who are in more than one committee should attend a committee meeting every month to meet attendance requirement.

Chair Gonzalez welcomed Queens Borough President Melinda Katz.

4. Guest Speaker-Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

- BP Katz thanked all board members for attending a training that was held May 8, 2014 for all board members in Queens.
- Congratulated Ralph Gonzalez on being elected Chair of CB 9.
- Thanked all for the guidance and support they provided for the last twenty years.
- Celebration of the 75th & 50th anniversaries of the World's Fair was a big success.
- Spoke about creating new jobs in Queens.
- Talked about preserving cultural diversity in the borough.
- Saving the NY State Pavilion for future generations is one of the biggest priorities.
- The Queens BP administration has been having task forces on coops and condos.
- Looking for feasible locations to build new schools in order to eliminate overcrowds and trailers.
- Had a briefing on the Kew Gardens Interchange with the NY State DOT: the Hoover Ave contract is 58% complete and expected to be completed in Feb. 2017; Van Wyck Expwy, btwn 86 & Grand Central Parkway will be completed in the summer of 2016.
- BP Katz stressed the importance of meeting attendance.

Sandra Datnarain presented BP Katz with a cake as a token of appreciation for her attendance.

Ms. Datnarain announced the honoree and recipient of Community Board 9 recognition award Community Affairs Officer of the 102 Pct. Jose Severino who does a lot for the community and goes above and beyond the call of duty with little or no recognition. PO Severino has been assigned to the 102 Pct. since 2006 and is well deserving of this award. He was also assigned to Anti-Crime Unit in 2008 and thereafter assigned to Community Affairs in 2011.

Queens BP Katz presented this award to PO Jose Severino and stated that a good Community Affairs officer is someone to be treasured and honored.

Raj Rampershad introduced legislative representatives.

Carl Moore from Senator Addabbo's office announced upcoming events sponsored by the Senator.

David Renz from Assembly Member Miller's office announced events sponsored by the Assembly Member.

Greg Mitchel representing Council Member Ulrich deferred his report until Council Member's arrival.

Chris Kaznowski from Assembly Member Hevesi's office stated that starting July 1st, 2014, the requirements for SCRIE eligibility will be raised from \$29,000 to \$50,000.

Starting Monday, June 16, 2014 Mr. Kaznowski will take over as a Chief of Staff.

Kate Mooney from Council Member Crowley's office thanked the board for honoring PO Severino. Ms. Mooney stated that the new address for CM Crowley is 79-19 80th Street, Glendale, NY 11385

Ms. Mooney thanked the board members who attended Mary Whalen Playground design presentation at Oakridge.

Anthony Lemma, representing Assembly Member David Weprin, announced an opening of the Richmond Hill office on Sunday, June 8, 2014 at 111-12 Atlantic Ave, phone # is (718) 807-2381.

Bruce Eiber, representing Council Member Karen Koslowitz, deferred his report until Council Member's arrival.

Dev Awasthi, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer, stated that a series of hearings are taking place across the city regarding 'Building Back' audit.

Jahi Rose, from Council Member Rubin Wills office wished all a good summer.

Celia Dosamantes, representing Congress Member Grace Meng stated that the bill that protects from any kind of vandalism on cemeteries got bipartisan support. Ms. Dosamantes announced upcoming events.

5. Monthly Update Report-102 Pct.

Deputy Inspector Sautner thanked the board for their recognition of Police Officer Jose Severino. Deputy Inspector Sautner stated that Vision Zero Pedestrian Safety initiative is a major issue in the Mayor de Blasio's administration. The 102 Pct. was selected to be part of Vision Zero initiative which will concentrate on pedestrian safety and reducing accidents. There will be a larger than normal contingency of officers in the Woodhaven and Jamaica Ave areas.

On Tuesday, June 17, 2014 the 102 Pct. Community Council meeting will take place at 7 pm at the Richmond Hill branch library. On Thursday, June 26, 2014 the 102 Pct. will be hosting a Blood Drive at the Precinct. On August 5th, 2014 "Night Out Against Crime" will take place in Richmond Hill.

Question and answer period followed.

6. Transportation Committee Report-Kenichi Wilson, Chair

Marian Molina reported on the following:

- On May 27th, 2014 Ms. Molina attended the Vision Zero Workshop at the Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning. The workshop was open to everyone to voice concerns and problems on specific streets around Queens. Some of the issues discussed at this workshop were: speeding, jay walking, poor visibility, long distance to cross, not enough time to cross, failure to yield to pedestrians and cyclist behavior. Some ideas for improving these problems are: reducing speed limits to 25 mph, pedestrian head start, longer lights on wide streets, and eliminating lanes to contain and organize traffic.
- The Mayor's initiative proposes following a Swedish traffic model started in 1997 in an effort to have zero pedestrian and bicycle deaths by 2024. On May 27th, 2014 the City Council voted unanimously to pass the bill. Vision Zero will give the City government total control over traffic. The DOT has dedicated a website www.NYC.GOV/VisionZero where the public can pinpoint specific area problems and get information about future events.

Kenichi Wilson reported on the following:

- The Transportation committee met on May 27 2014. DOT gave a presentation on pedestrian safety improvements to the complicated intersections of Hillside Avenue with Metropolitan Avenue and Kew Gardens Road. The pedestrian safety improvements include concrete sidewalk extensions, shorter and safer pedestrian crossings, improved traffic network with more efficient signal timing, turn restrictions to improve traffic flow, and the elimination of dangerous pedestrian and vehicle conflicts. This will enhance pedestrian safety and mobility while improving traffic flow through the complex intersections along Hillside Avenue.
- Mr. Wilson gave a follow up on graffiti complaints stating that he initiated his own temporary graffiti removal program.
- Mr. Wilson introduced Al Silvestri from DOT Borough Planning Office & Rich Carmona from Pedestrian Project Groups to give a presentation on Safety Improvements on Hillside Ave, Metropolitan Ave & Kew Gardens Rd.

Question and answer period followed.

Clark Whitsett made a motion to table the board's vote until after public hearing. Joan DeCamp seconded the motion.

Motion # 2: To table the board's vote on DOT's Proposal to make Safety Improvements on Hillside Ave, Metropolitan Ave & Kew Gardens Rd

Vote # 2: 22 in favor, 17 opposed, 1 abstention

Discussion followed.

Motion # 3: To have a public hearing on Monday, June 23, 2014

Vote # 3: 7 in favor, 23 opposed

Motion did not carry.

7. Education & Youth Services Committee-Seth Welins, Chair

- The proposed Circle Academy Charter School withdrew their charter application because the NYS Education Department decided not to recommend granting their charter to operate a school. The school cannot appeal this decision but they can re-apply after July 7th. The process will take approximately a year to complete. The NYS Department of Education requested a copy of our letter which challenged statements made in the school's Letter of Intent regarding outreach attempts to Community Board 9. Some members felt the letter should not be sent. A vote was taken and the members voted to send the letter to the NYS Education Department. A representative of Circle Academy Charter School, Mr. Estep, spoke during the Education Committee report. He outlined some of the reasons the school withdrew its charter application, including issues related to curriculum, finances and professional development.
- Richmond Hill High School re-siting-meeting will be held at the school on Thurs-June 12th at 6:00. The D.O.E.'s proposal includes opening a new school-Epic North, which will serve Queens students. Construction in the main building and projected lower enrollments could lead to the eventual removal of the TCUs (trailers) prior to the 2016-2017 school year, "once the TCUs are no longer needed to support students."
- The Woodhaven library was selected as a site for a pre-K program-Joel Kuszai offered some possible problems with this plan, including restrictions on the use of the library during school hours. The Education Committee will follow-up on the plan's implementation

Discussion followed. Michael Estep, spokesperson for Circle Academy Charter School, answered board members' questions.

8. Public Forum

Stella Loranca, Richmond Hill resident- not present

Anthony Rizzuto, Substance Abuse Field-Mr. Rizzuto asked the board to support the Assembly Bill No. 9443A which would require insurance companies and service providers to use the same set of criteria, and have a working knowledge of addictions when evaluating a person's treatment.

Paul Creary-not present

Tatiana Green, Substance Abuse Field, talked about her experience with substance abuse and asked the board to support Bill No. 9443A.

Dave Quintana, Ozone Park Resident, requested benches to be placed at 102nd Ave & 93rd St.
Sonia Lugo, Woodhaven Resident, spoke against Queens Way.

Richard Iritano, Ozone Park Resident, spoke in favor of bringing the Civic Virtue statue back to Queens.

Robert LoScalzo, spoke about history of Civic Virtue, its maintenance and said that it should be bought back to Queens.

Michael Butler, Richmond Hill East Business Association, stated that public hearing should be held before making any changes or safety measures at the intersection of Hillside Ave, Metropolitan Ave & Kew Gardens Rd.

9. Public Hearing

Liquor, Beer, & Wine Licenses, Letters of Intent Received

On Premise Liquor License Application- Renewal

Deleon Latin Cuisine Corp.
D/b/a Mi Casa Restaurant
116-20 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418
No Speakers

Yosmira Restaurant Inc.
131-09 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418
No Speakers

The Hibiscus Restaurant & Bar, Inc.
124-18 101 Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11419
No Speakers

Request for A Cabaret License

Woodhaven Manor Caterers & Banquet
96-01 Jamaica Ave
Woodhaven, NY 11421
No Speakers

On Premise Liquor License-New

Four Bhai Corp.
D/b/a New Tandoori Hut
119-08 94 Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11419
No Speakers

TLC Livery Base Station -Renewal

Kew Gardens Operating Corp.
122-11 Hillside Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418
No Speakers

Boulevard Operation Corp.
122-11 Hillside Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418
No Speakers

10. Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Report- Joe Iaboni & Jim Coccovillo

TLC Livery Base Station -Renewal

Kew Gardens Operating Corp.
122-11 Hillside Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

Motion #4: To send letter of no opposition for TLC Base Station Renewal Application,
Kew Gardens Operating Corp., 122-11 Hillside Ave

Vote #4: 38 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention

On Premise Liquor License-New

Four Bhai Corp.
D/b/a New Tandoori Hut
119-08 94 Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

Motion #5: To send letter of no opposition for new on premise liquor license, Four Bhai
Corp., d/b/a New Tandoori Hut, 119-08 94 Ave

Vote # 5: unanimous

Boulevard Operation Corp.
122-11 Hillside Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

- Motion # 6:*** To send letter of no opposition for TLC Base Station Renewal Application,
Boulevard Operation Corp., 122-11 Hillside Ave
- Vote# 6:*** 32 in favor, 7 opposed, 1 abstention

There will be no Public Safety Committee meeting on Monday, June 16, 2014.

11. Budget & Finance Committee Report-E. David Adorno, Chair reported to following:

The Budget and Finance Committee met on June 3rd, at Borough Hall and discussed proposed ideas for spending the remaining community board budget funding balance amount of approximately \$8500. As previously noted, this funding must be spent before the end of Fiscal Year 2014, meaning June 30th of this year. The committee approved a list of recommendations that was sent out via email to all board members and subsequently shared with the community board body during the general board meeting.

The recommended expenditures totaled \$4,172.31 and it was agreed that the remaining balance will go towards other office and postage expenses. The recommendations list included technology upgrades, website design, miscellaneous expenses, a new flag and flag stand, plaques for community recognition awards, and zoning handbooks for each member of the board. The last item on the list, the zoning handbook, was deemed necessary, given that the board has been dealing with a lot of land use and zoning issues since the mayor's announcement of his affordable housing initiative. This initiative includes a proposal to legalize basement apartments which has ignited much discussion amongst the board and its members. Since this issue has come to the forefront of the board, and likewise would appear that many members are not well versed in zoning regulations, the committee felt it prudent to obtain these handbooks for all members to ensure that a well-informed, robust dialogue can be had regarding this issue before the board makes a final decision as to its stance on the legalization of these basement apartments.

To summarize, the Budget and Finance committee presented the recommendations at the general board meeting and received a unanimous vote in the affirmative to approve the budget as presented. The committee will be meeting during the month of August to discuss the adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2015 for the City of New York and its effect on our board. The committee will also draft a list of capital and expense recommendations to be presented in September for discussion and to be ultimately voted on by the board.

David Adorno made a motion to accept CB9 Expense Report as is. Maria Thomson seconded the motion.

- Motion # 7:*** To accept CB 9 Expense Report as is.
- Vote # 7:*** unanimous

12. Land Use Committee Report-Clark Whitsett, Chair

Mr. Whitsett stated that at the next Land Use Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 the committee will discuss propose zoning changes around Jamaica Hospital. The construction manager will be in attendance.

Noncompliance of DOB codes at 86-23 111 St will also be on the agenda.

13. Health & Social Services Committee-Joan DeCamp, Chair

Joan DeCamp made the following motion:

Motion # 8: In response to the current epidemic of heroin and opium addiction, CB 9 supports “Families in Support of Treatment Coalition” in their efforts to support legislative reform to ensure access to appropriate care for those in need of treatment.

Vote # 8: 39 in favor, 1 abstention

The letter will be sent to all elected officials.

14. Parks, Recreation & Environment Committee-Nick Comaianni, Chair stated that many issues were discussed at their June 6, 2014 meeting, i.e. playgrounds, Greenway, etc. Representatives from the Greenway will be invited to the national public meeting.

15. Economic Development Committee-Richard David, Chair-the committee will be meeting in the summer. The issues that will be discussed will be coordinated closely with the Borough President’s initiatives.

16. Old Business

John Carter talked about Executive Board and Executive Committees statement mentioned in the Chair’s quarterly report.

Maria Thomson made a motion not to send a letter regarding a Charter school in Woodhaven. Alexander Blenkinsopp seconded the motion.

Motion # 9: Not to send a letter re: Charter school in Woodhaven.

Vote # 9: 11 in favor, 29 opposed

17. New Business

David Adorno stated that the Budget & Finance Committee will meet in August. The date is to be announced.

Rabbi Pollack made a suggestion of having better coordination between DDC projects scheduling and the Jewish holidays.

Jim Coccovillo stated that in most cases when DDC puts out No Parking signs, no work is being performed which creates inconvenience to the residents.

Sandra Datnarain announced the 102 Pct. Community Council meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at the Richmond Hill Branch library.

Maria Thomson stated that their party Friday night was a great success and thanked all board members who attended.

Ivan Mrakovcic commended Indo-Caribbean Alliance on their event.

18. Public Forum-no speakers

David Adorno and Jim Coccovillo made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting ended at 11:15 pm

