

MAY 12, 2015 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
THE CENTER AT MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY
127-15 KEW GARDENS RD

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2015-MARCH 2016

2nd # Represents Absences As of January 2015 (Borough President's Attendance)

Inderpaul Ahluwalia (1)(2)	Sylvia Hack (0)(1)	Jagir Singh (0)(1)
D. Bhattacharjee (0)(0)	Joseph Iaboni (0)(0)	Jarnail Singh (0)(1)
Kamal Bhuiyan (0)(0)	Sherman Kane (0)(0)	Maharani Singh (0)(0)
Latchman Budhai (1)(3)	Patrick Khan (1)(1)	Matthew Singh (0)(0)
Jim Coccovillo (0)(0)	Joel Kuszai (0)(0)	Raghibir Singh (0)(2)
Andrea Crawford (0)(0)	Priscilla Levine (0)(3)	Dr. Stephen Sofer (1)(1)
Sandra Datnarain (0)(0)	Marian C. Molina (0)(1)	Maria Thomson (0)(1)
Richard David (0)(0)	Ivan Mrakovic (0)(1)	Marie Turley (0)(0)
Joan DeCamp (1)(1)	Kevin O'Leary (0)(1)	Seth Welins (0)(0)
Stephen Esposito (0)(0)	Rabbi D. Pollack (0)(0)	Naidoo Veerapen (0)(1)
Jan Fenster (0)(0)	Raj Rampershad (0)(0)	Clark Whitsett (0)(1)
Laraine Fletcher (1)(1)	Regina Santoro (0)(1)	Kenichi Wilson (0)(0)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Julio Batista (1)(2)	Linda Fogal (1)(1)	Scott Jordan (1)(2)
Alex Blenkinsopp (2)(3)	Ralph Gonzalez (2)(2)	Mohamed Safie (1)(4)
John Carter (1)(3)	Nick Comaianni (1)(1)	Mohamed. Z. Islam (1)(1)
Harichandan Singh (2)(2)	J. Richard Smith (1)(1)	

ALSO PRESENT

Lisa Gomes, District Manager
 Irina Barayeva, Community Associate

*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

Lauren Capotti, Rep. Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi
Kate Mooney, Rep. Council Member Crowley
Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Joseph P. Addabbo
Aaron Siegel, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin
Mohamed Hack, Rep. Borough President Melinda Katz
Dev Awasthi, Rep. Comptroller Scott Stringer
Scott Wolf, Rep. Assembly Member Michael Simanowitz
Bruce Eiber, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Jahi Rose, Rep. Council Member Rubin Wills
Stacey Eliuk, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie
Redmond Haskins, Rep. Council Member Eric Ulrich
David Renz, Rep. Assembly Member Mike Miller
Deputy Inspector Deodat Urprasad, 102nd Pct.
Capt. Raia, 102nd Pct.
P.O. J. Severino, 102nd Pct.
P.O. E. Martinez, 102nd Pct.

Guests' sign-in sheets are available upon request.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Public Forum

Francis Rodriguez, The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP): Program assists income-eligible families and individuals by reducing their heating and cooling costs. It addresses health and safety issues in their homes through energy-efficiency measures via an assessment and/or "energy audit". Households with incomes at or below 60% of NY state median income are eligible for assistance. Applications are accepted from renters, homeowners, and rental property owners. Both single-family and multi-family buildings are assisted.

Marina Mavasheva, The Future and Relay for Life Program, extended her gratitude to Tavern Bar & Lounge for sponsoring many of their events.

Redmond Haskins, Rep. Council Member Ulrich spoke about a Veterans Job Fair sponsored by the Council Member. The event will take place on Friday, May 22, 2015, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Resorts World Casino.

David Renz, Rep. Assembly Member Miller, distributed Assembly Member's Spring Newsletter.

Kate Mooney, Rep. Council Member Crowley:

- o Council Member allocated \$100,000 for the Mary Whalen Playground renovation.
- o Free legal help is offered to constituents regarding immigration questions at the district office on the first and third Wednesday of every month.

- o Starting a new program: Resource and Legal Assistance for victims of Domestic Violence in conjunction with the Urban Justice Center.
- o Had a Senior Tea event at Oakridge today.
- o Started funding a Bird Watching Program at the Ridgewood Reservoir with the Forest Park Trust which will connect schools to this program.
- o Council Member encourages women to run for public office.

Joseph Reuter, Richmond Hill resident, spoke about problems created by double parking.

Aaron Siegel, Rep. Assembly Member Weprin, announced his Open House event on Sunday, June 7, 2015, 12:00 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the district office and distributed crime prevention checklist for your home and automobile.

Carl Moore, Rep. State Senator Addabbo, announced that a Job Fair for Senior Citizens will take place on Friday, May 15, 2015 at the Kew Gardens Community Center, 80-02 Kew Gardens Rd.

Bruce Eiber, Rep. Council Member Koslowitz, spoke about events sponsored by the Council Member.

Hasib Ali, Ozone Park Merchant, stated that he wants action to have pedestrian plaza removed.

2. Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes

Ivan Mrakovcic asked for additions/corrections to the minutes. There were none.

Motion # 1: To adopt minutes as presented

Vote # 1: 34 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstention

3. Monthly Update Report 102 Pct.

Deputy Inspector Deodat Urprasad, Commanding Officer of the 102nd Precinct, reported that for the last 28 days the precinct is up 250% in making arrests comparing to last year. He stated that the men and women of 102nd Pct. should be credited for their hard work.

The number of car break-ins near Forest Park has increased; D. I. Urprasad reminded all not to leave any valuables in their cars and stated that a patrol will be set up at this location. Kate Mooney from Council Member Crowley's office thanked the police officers for their work. Chair Rampershad commended police officers stating he lost his brother on the job.

4. Chairperson's Remarks & Exec Report- Raj Rampershad

Chair Rampershad thanked the board members for their cooperation and the staff for resolving issues in a timely matter. He reported on the following:

- New committee chairs were assigned to some CB9 committees.
- The subject of Community Boards' By-laws was discussed by Borough President Katz and Queens CB Chairs at the Borough Board meeting. All fourteen Queens Community Boards have different by-laws; the Borough President is trying to standardize the by-laws.
- Nicole Garcia was announced as the new Queens DOT Borough Commissioner by BP Katz.
- A \$15 donation for the Good & Welfare Fund for 2015/2016 is being collected at this time.
- The letter re: Dr. Evangelista not being re-appointed was drafted by Nick Comaianni and mailed out to QBP Katz.
- A utility pole that was reported by Mr. Reuter at the last meeting was inspected by DOT. Each and every complaint will be reported and followed up upon in a timely matter.
- Will be reaching out to all local Civic Organizations.

5. District Manager's Report- Lisa Gomes

District Manager Gomes reported on the following:

'In your packages you will find several documents and issues the office has worked on. In addition, there are recognition and thank you letters from agencies & constituents. We forwarded the CB9 Board Members Personal Information, DOB Building Inspection Reports, Incoming and Outgoing Mail, CB9 Committee List and Committee Meeting notices. Letters were sent out to our Council Members on behalf of the Land Use Committee inviting them to a meeting to discuss The Zoning Text Amendment. Letter to QBP Re: Dr. Evangelista was mailed out to BP Katz and all board members. Meetings I attended:

- 102 PCT Council- FDNY Fire Safety Presentation
- WRBA- of which our own Maria Thomson was the guest Speaker, as the Director of the Woodhaven Business Improvement District.
- I had the pleasure of joining Council Member Ulrich and DOS Commissioner Kathryn Garcia, for the installation of 120 new litter baskets in Woodhaven. Also present were Maria Thomson, J.R. Smith, Martin Colbert & Giedra Kregzdys of WRBA, & Simcha Weisman (RHBA). Finally I got some positive press!!! And I was quoted!
- Attended DA Richard Brown's breakfast where he introduced his newly established Immigrant Affairs Office and its director, Carmencita N. Gutierrez.

QBP had the Mayor's Office Combat Domestic Violence Commissioner Resemonde Pierre-Louise as a guest speaker. She stated they are expanding their services in all 5 boroughs. They will be providing a Mental Health component to all services and the Mayor's office has provided \$70 Million for this.

Key Programs:

- Every Family Justice Center will have a mental health component with a psychiatrist and a psychotherapist.
- Coordinate Approach to Prevent Stalking- which is a major issue
- Queens Human Trafficking Intervention (Pro Bono)
- NYC Housing Authority Domestic Violence Response Team

I will be holding a District Cabinet Meeting on Thursday, May21, 2015 @10am. If you would like to attend please let me know."

Chair Rampershad recognized Jahi Rose, Rep. Council Member Wills who announced a Spring Cleaning 2015 Press Conference taking place on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 10 a.m. at the intersection of Liberty Ave & 111 St.

Part of this program includes a power washing of the bird waste under the underpass. Power washing the sidewalks, sweeping and trash removal will be done on 101st Ave, between Van Wyck Expressway & Atlantic Ave.

6. Public Hearing

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

a. On Premise Beer License Application-New

Antojitos De San Cecelio Place, Inc.
90-04 Jamaica Ave
Woodhaven, NY 11421
No speakers

7. Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee- Jim Coccovillo & Maharani Singh-Co-Chairs

On Premise Beer License Application-New

Antojitos De San Cecelio Place, Inc.
90-04 Jamaica Ave
Woodhaven, NY 11421

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

Motion # 2: To send a letter of no objection to the SLA for Antojitos De San Cecelio Place, Inc., 90-04 Jamaica Ave with 1 a.m. stipulation

Vote # 2: Unanimous

On Premise Liquor License-New Reconsideration

Harbor Breeze Restaurant
107-12 101 Ave
Ozone Park, NY 11416

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

Motion # 3: To send a letter of no objection to the SLA for Harbor Breeze Restaurant, 107-12 101 Ave with 1 a.m. stipulation

Vote # 3: 35 in favor, 1 opposed

On Premise Wine & Beer Renewal-Reconsideration

The Village Food Corp.
D/b/a Village Diner
81-74 Lefferts Blvd.
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

Motion # 4: To send a letter of no objection to the SLA for Village Diner, 81-74 Lefferts Blvd.

Vote # 4: Unanimous

9010 Atlantic Ave, Inc.
D/b/a Queens Buffet
90-10 Atlantic Ave
Ozone Park, NY 11416

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

Motion # 5: To send a letter of no objection to the SLA for Queens Buffet, 90-10 Atlantic Ave

Vote # 5: Unanimous

Mr. Coccovillo reported on four other renewal applications that the committee had no problems with: Bicheiros Bar 94-10 Jamaica Ave; Maracas Lounge 121-08 Jamaica Ave; Last Call, Inc. 81-72 Lefferts Blvd and Mistura Peruana 84-23 Jamaica Ave.

Maria Thomson expressed disappointment that several liquor license renewals weren't listed on the agenda. Mr. Coccovillo said the renewals were not listed because the committee did not have a problem with them and did not receive any written complaints about them.

Mr. Coccovillo raised his concern regarding additional funds not being allocated to the city budget for hiring more police officers. He made a motion to send a letter to Mayor de Blasio, Maria Thomson seconded the motion.

Motion # 6: To send a letter to Mayor de Blasio re: allocation of additional funds for NYPD personnel.

Vote # 6: 35 in favor, 1 opposed

8. **Transportation Committee Report- Kenichi Wilson, Chair**

Mr. Wilson reported on the following:

- Speed hump on Park Lane South and 104th Street that was requested in June, 2014, was installed in April, 2015.
- Mr. Wilson attended all SBS meetings and suggested that the new DOT Commissioner Nicole Garcia should arrange a meeting with all of the Transportation Committee Chairs with DOT and MTA.
- Mr. Wilson stated that he made a request to DOT for 101 Ave Plaza be re-studied now that weather became warmer. Discussion followed.

****Transportation Alternatives Presentation* - Jessame Hannus***

Ms. Engels of Transportation Alternatives stated that more than \$100 million has been allocated for safety improvements along Queens Boulevard. The project will include construction of expanded pedestrian spaces, separated bike lanes, new medians and pedestrian islands. The project is expected to be completed by 2017. The work will only take place from the Queens Boulevard's western end to 74th Street in Forest Hills. It will not include Kew Gardens and Briarwood.

Ms. Hannus stated that Transportation Alternatives advocates are calling on the city for a complete redesign of the entire corridor, citing the frequency of accidents taking place and pedestrians being struck.

Ms. Vernon, President of the Briarwood Action Network, called on CB 9 members to adopt a Resolution for a Complete Street along the Queens Boulevard corridor. Question and answer period followed.

9. **Land Use Committee Report – Sylvia Hack & Sherman Kane, Co-Chairs**

Sherman Kane thanked all board members for responding to the Land Use Committee letter re: the Opposition to The Zoning Text Amendment before the deadline April 30, 2015. He also thanked The GWDC and the Woodhaven BID for writing a letter of support on this issue.

Sylvia Hack stated there will be a meeting with the Department of City Planning regarding this re-zoning document on May 20, 2015 at 7 p.m. at Borough Hall, room 200 and encouraged all to attend.

10. **Education & Youth Services Committee Report- Seth Welins, Chair**

Mr. Welins reported on the following:

- The Queens Library is asking for support because of possible budget cuts. They are asking for a \$65 million restoration in operating expenses as well as \$1.4 billion in Capital funding in NYC's ten year capital funding. These funding requests are in anticipation of cuts in the Mayor's preliminary budget. The City Council has supported inclusion of these items in the FY 2016 budget. A draft resolution opposing possible funding cuts to libraries was introduced and approved by the community board.

Motion # 7: To send Queens Library Letter of Support against possible budget cuts.

Vote # 7: unanimous

- The NYC Executive Budget does provide for expansion of the Pre-K program and the Community School Initiative. On the down side, the executive budget did not fund expansions of the free lunch and breakfast programs and the Summer Youth Employment Program. Additional funds are needed to increase the number of children who will benefit from these programs. In addition, many after school programs, like the Beacon program, will not see necessary increases in their funding.
- According to Scott Stringers' report on Physical Education Access in NYC Schools, nearly 1/3 of city schools have no full-time certified physical education teachers. Nearly 30% do not have dedicated physical fitness space. Of the 435 schools without physical fitness space, nearly 80% are co-located with another district or charter school.
- The committee will be discussing responses to these issues at its next committee meeting on Monday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m.

11. Parks, Environment & Sanitation Committee Report-J.R. Smith & Laraine Fletcher, Co-Chairs

Laraine Fletcher reported on the following:

- J. R. Smith and she attended The Kew Gardens Civic Association annual meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2015. Debby Kuha, Forest Park Administrator, made a presentation regarding projects in Forest Park and the Overlook. Ms. Kuha stated that \$1.3 million is allocated for a capital improvement project in the Overlook for the reconstruction of paths, planting new trees, installing more benches, trash receptacles and creating new bioswales. The reconstruction will start in June and will continue for twelve months.
- 2015 Free Events in Forest Park Pamphlets were distributed.

Joan DeCamp asked for an update on the former Ozone Industries Site cleanup.

Sherman Kane asked if the Parks Dept. has a program for the raccoon population.

Ivan Mrakovcic stated that a sidewalk that connects Woodhaven Blvd and Myrtle Ave will be repaved.

12. Economic Development Committee Report- Richard David, Chair

Spoke about unutilized underpass on Hillside and Myrtle Ave. Asked board members for ideas for the committee to work on.

13. Health & Social Services Committee Report- Marian C. Molina, Chair

Ms. Molina stated that on Monday, May 11, 2015, the committee met with Phil Konigsberg, CB7, Eileen Miller, CB11 and Nancy Copperman, Director of Public Health Industries at LIJ, Northshore Hospital to discuss the Smokefree Housing Resolution.

A copy of the resolution and the PowerPoint presentation by Ms. Copperman was emailed and distributed to all CB9 members for their review with the purpose of voting on the resolution on June 9th, 2015. 34 CB's have already passed the resolution.

The 3 major health problems in our area are heart disease, diabetes and mental illness. Second hand smoke shows a correlation to all three plus there is a link between long-term exposure and dementia. Second hand smoke has also been linked to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). It can trigger more severe and frequent asthma attacks in children, increases the risk of heart and respiratory disease and lung cancer. Smoking is the leading cause of residential fire deaths.

The Smokefree Housing Campaign is part of Mayor de Blasio Vision 2: Healthy Neighborhoods Active Living Initiative. Our next committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 2nd at 7:05pm in the CB9 office, 3rd floor.

14. Old Business

Sylvia Hack stated DOT should attend one of the CB 9 meetings and give an explanation of some of the projects in Community Board 9.

Maria Thomson stated that all liquor licenses should have been listed on the agenda and that she has a problem with Bicheiros Restaurant.

Richard David encouraged all to like the CB 9 page on Facebook.

Seth Welins stated that the Education committee will meet on Monday, June 1, 2015 at the district office.

15. New Business

Stephen Esposito announced that the GWDC Annual Dinner Dance will take place on Friday, June 12, 2015, 7:30 p.m. at the Woodhaven Manor. The honorees are: Chris Ward, recently retired teacher for "Woman of the Year 2015"; Frank Castelli, owner of Beat the Clock Printing for "Man of the Year 2015"; NYPD Sergeant Frank DeMarco of 102nd Pct. for "Special Recognition Award 2015"; and Sanitation Dept. Chief Keith Maisel for "Special Recognition Award 2015". Tickets are \$65.

Maria Thomson announced the following events:

- ❖ A free trolley is coming to Woodhaven on Saturday, June 6, 2015, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- ❖ Memorial Day Ceremony will take place on May 27, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ Make Music Project will take place on Sunday, June 21, 2015 at the corner of Jamaica Ave and Forest Parkway on Forest Parkway Plaza.

Andrea Crawford stated that on Sunday, June 7, 2015 the Civil War Veterans will be honored at Maple Grove Cemetery 11 am to 4 pm.

Richard David suggested that the newly hired staff member should be bilingual and speak Bengali, Punjabi and Spanish. District Manager Gomes stated that it is listed in the Ad.

Sandra Datnarain stated that the 102nd Pct. Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, 7-9 p.m. at the Richmond Hill Branch Library.

Jan Fenster suggested for the volunteers to come to the district office and translate when it's necessary. Andrea Crawford asked if there are any translation services available through the city.

Kenny Wilson asked if attending Borough President Katz orientation is mandatory for all board members who were re-appointed.

16. Public Forum

No speakers

Richard David made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ivan Mrakovcic seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 10:15 pm