

Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 8, 2025 – 6:30 P.M. – St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 347 Davis Avenue

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

Members

Joe Ahlstrom
Michelle Akyempong ab
Tatiana Arguello
Vincent Atkinson
Dora Berksteiner
Doreen Berksteiner
Joseph Bird ex
Allison Brown ex
Telee Brown
Christopher Campbell ex
Loretta Cauldwell
Andre Ciprut
Katheleen Coen ex
Christopher Corbo ab
Anthony Cosentino
Claudette Duff
Samir Farag ab
Selina Grey ab
John Guzzo
Robert Holst
Linda Huff ab
Sunny Jain
Linda Juarbe

Lillian Lagazzo
Peter Lisi
Ali Lula
Mohan Radhakrishna
Alina Nevradakis ex
Friday Ogbewe
Ernest Paige ab
Francine Reali
Joshua Renta
Cindy Salzillo ab
Catherine Schiavone
Anthony Scutari
Anthony Sgarlato
Sean Sheil
Nicholas Siclari
Jaclyn Tacoronte ab
George Turner ab
Steven Williams ex

Office Staff

Joan Cusack, District Manager
Linda Maffeo, Community Coordinator

Guests:

Marie LaFrancesca, Michael Arvanites, Makeda Campbell, Dawn Clarity, Agnes McBeth, Elena Brady, Cathleen Kenny, Nicole Brooks, Suzanne Dvells, Lisa Crosby, RV Augusty, James Smith, Bill Morrish, Robert Palton, Peter Hegel, RV Augusty, Gregory Jaenicke, Eric Ritzer, Jason Snyder, Edwin Hernandez, Jose Burban, Rosemarie Martinez, Mimi Spillane, Neil & Catherine Anastasio, Noah McClain, Andrew Dorman, Pamela Silvestri, Denise Trerotola, Nicole Brooks, Victoria Carstensen, James Smith, Peter Levine, Dine Snyder, Teri Scottolavino, Illona Thomas.

Meeting called to order by Nicholas Siclari, Chair – 6:30PM
Pledge of Allegiance

Public Session - Friday Ogbewe

Makeda Campbell, Special Projects Director for Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's office – Waiting for Makeda to send the transcript.

Michael Arvanites, Councilmember Hanks Office – Intergovernmental Community Outreach with the Buildings Department at Ocean Breeze Complex, 65 Father Capodanno Blvd. on Saturday, May 17th from 10-3. It's a New Regulations Event, You can clear up any violations you may have. Department of Finance, Lien sale. Friday, April 11 from 10-1. 309 St. Paul's Avenue. You can look online to see if your property is part of this. Last week we introduced two bills. Electric Battery Storage Notification Bill 1222, (BESS). Right now they can put these in residential neighborhoods without informing us. This bill will notify the Community Board, Borough President, and local elected officials. Bill 1106 – Fran Reali

inspired with the loss of her son to a heart ablation with her charity, "Protecting one young heart at a time" all school athletes would get an electrocardiogram and we want to bring this statewide.

Cathleen Kenny, Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo's office – who strongly is opposed to Retail Cannabis Dispensaries especially the proposed site at 755 Forest Avenue. He sent a letter to OCM and CB1 regarding the guidelines around schools and children. He is writing legislation to inform state legislators when an application is filed and approved. Copy of letter in the back. Wednesday, April 16 along with the Borough President's office and NRPA, Shoreline Cleanup on Front Street from 10-12 noon. All are invited. Please see flyer. Happy Easter and Passover.

Agnes McBeth, Community & Youth Liaison, Office of DA McMahon's office – Introduced Denise Trerotola, ADA in charge of misdemeanors. Agnes McBeth said "Discovery" Thank you for your vote. We have a safe borough but some of the numbers are disturbing. Mark Henry, attempted assault in the first degree on Simonsen & Walker Streets pled guilty and will spend 10 years behind bars. Community Cleanup for West & New Brighton on April 26, 9:00AM, Allison Park on Brentwood Avenue.

Nicole Brooks, NYC Parks – Tuesday, April 15th, 6:30PM, Virtual meeting at the CB1 West Brighton Area Committee we will discuss Walker Park Playground Reconstruction.

Victoria Carstensen, DOT Deputy Borough Commissioner – Unity Engagement Forum with Commissioner Rodriguez at CSI Recital Hall, 5PM. April 26 – Earth Day Event with Port Richmond North Shore Alliance. May 3, Motorcycle Advisory Council on Father Capodanno Blvd., 10AM-2PM.

Neil Anastasio, FRRCA – Blood Drive last month with 35 donations. Meeting on April 29th with two important issues. St. Patrick's Day Parade Dilemma and impact on businesses, DA will be at our meeting to discuss. Silver Lake Park, we will have a clean-up, meeting on Victory Blvd. We are aware of the crime last week and hoping for an arrest. Hopefully Spring/Summer will bring yoga in the park. We would like a study by DOT to make Metropolitan Avenue a 1-way street. Victory State Bank 755 Forest Avenue Cannabis Dispensary Application. Four letters of non-support from Elected Officials sent to OCM due to it being 200 feet from a Daycare Center. A dispensary does not belong in this residential neighborhood.

James Smith, Community Coordinator for Port Richmond North Shore Alliance – Veterans Banner Event. Port Richmond Avenue from Richmond Terrace to Forest Avenue. May 17th at 11:00 AM with refreshments and FDNY. We have a WWII Veteran still alive, 7 killed in action, and our first African American killed on his 2nd tour of Vietnam, Larry Thompson. Please come out to see these people who served our country.

Peter Levine, Manager of the Port Richmond Library – We are now reopened after 5 years from the Pandemic to Renovations. It is a landmark building and all new inside. Invite all of you to come out. We have a flyer with programs and a lot of activities available. We have a English Conversation Class and an Easter Egg Hunt on April 18th. My colleague is here from St.-George Library, Peter Abel. Programs English as a second language, computer labs, etc. Go to NYPL.org.

RV Augusty – New Brighton Civic Annual Spring on the Hill, Skyline Park, Cottage Hill, Prospect Avenue. Christ Church Fundraiser, Bingo night for the Youth Group Pilgrimage going to Italy in June.

Dine Synder – 20 years living across from Curtis High School. We are 15-75 from the new NFL style stadium. It feels like an echo chamber, lighting, noise and retaliation. We need solutions. These are all reasonable requests. I have sound clips, videos and photos. None will show the true intensity of the problem. 115 decibels. The Curtis High School stadium has a design problem. It has been turned into a megaphone. Asking to call experts and work with us to find solutions to live, work and play together.

Illona Thomas – Lt. Lia Playground restroom. Can't put a bathroom there without maintaining it and supervising it between two high schools. I feel it will be a danger to the area.

Anthony Scutari - Food Drive this weekend. Friday morning Blessed Sacrament's parking lot. 7:00 AM and Saturday morning at Monsignor Farrell High School Rotunda area, 7:00 AM. We pick up donations from all the schools in Staten Island and Brooklyn. Great cause if you want to join with Nicholas Siclari, Robert Holst and Tatiana Arguello and her sister.

Teri Scottolavino, Curtis High School speaker: My husband used to play football which is why we chose Hamilton Avenue to watch the Warriors play. Curtis then put a viewing barrier. Curtis built a new gym and we lost the view of the Freedom tower but happy the students had a new gym. During and after Covid we watched enormous lights going into the new field. It went from a neighborhood football field into a stadium with stadium lights, noise and traffic. The plans were not presented to this CB1 board or community. Our meetings were canceled. We were told to go back in the house and shut the blinds or leave our homes during games. This was done during Covid to avoid communication. This threatens our health, safety and welfare. Some of the bulbs are pointed directly at our bedrooms.

Roll Call attendance - Loretta Cauldwell, Secretary

Presentation: Suzanne Dvells - St. George civic - (Slide Presentation) Curtis High School Complex has caused quality of life issues. This was without community input. In 2019, the school construction authority capital plan listed two North Shore High Schools for athletic complex renovations. Port Richmond HS, \$20 million athletic complex. They complied with the guidelines. It has concrete bleachers that act as a sound wall to protect the neighbors and no lights. The lights are comparable to having your car high beams on all night. Showed a photo of comparison on lights from New Dorp HS which allow light pollution trespass to Curtis HS which does not. Curtis High School started "Friday Night Lights" games with a DJ. The glare of the stadium lights is over 8x of what would be considered acceptable. The artificial lights was tested to cause mental issues and cancer. They put in 80- foot light poles that are designed to sway but make a lot of clanking noise. The noise decibels are off the charts. "Noise impact may be avoided if the system is properly designed and operated". DOE did not have time to meet with us. We are hardworking residents and this needs to be resolved in compliance with codes. What measures have been taken? How will the community be recognized in future endeavors?

Principal of Curtis High School, Gregory Jaenicke – Joined by two colleagues. We have the responsibility to provide the safest cleanest Athletic Facility. 2400 students, 40 athletic teams, 2 gyms, swimming pool, Fitness Room, Athletic Field.

1991 – Athletic Field grass to artificial turf, 2013 – Turf Replacement, 2016 – Request Capital funding to upgrade facility. March 2021 – Lighting, equipment & design were approved.

Spring 2021 – Security lights installation was completed.

June 2021 – Field lights installed, October 2021 – First Game Played. June 2022 – Resurfacing.

Spring 2023 – Athletic Field Bleacher Lights, Spring 2024 – Sound System Installed.

We've had meetings with St. George Civic.

November 2023 – Repositioned lamps to point out further. Cut power to 2 lamps.

December 2023 – Cut power completely to all security lamps.
We revised game start times from 7pm to 6pm.
Limited the volume on announcements and muffled the sound system.
Fall 2024 – Managed the number of home games with moving some games to the Ferry Ball Field.
2021-2024 – 1000 + Calendar days, light turned on 200 + days.
Concerns were raised and we made adjustments and are open to other adjustments but must maintain program for students. We are welcome to mitigate concerns of our neighbors.

Marie La Francesca, Borough President's office is following this issue closely with emails from Suzanne Dvells and we spoke to DOE. We have a meeting with the school facility.

Michael Arvanites, Councilmember Hank's office – The Councilmember is aware of the issue and we are meeting regularly with an open dialogue. The neighborhood needs to be respected and schools need to thrive. We will work with the BP's office.

Chairman, Nick Siclari said he is sure there is a solution with the lighting. Can't have a light shining in a resident's home. He Introduced our CB1 Parliamentarian, Catherine Schiavone.

Catherine Schiavone, Attorney and Chief Clerk of Land in the County Clerks office and CB1 Parliamentarian - Roberts Rules of Order. Voting Rules come from Robert Rules of Order, Community Board Handbook, and ByLaws. Abstentions count as a NO vote. You can abstain without cause but please try not to abstain. If we have a 24 count of board members present, we need 13 votes for majority. The packets go out ahead of time to be informed. Any questions please ask. Also, a motion can't be brought again once voted on and decided unless there is more information presented.

Officers' Reports in the packet.

First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino – Elected Joe Ahlstrom to take Timothy Forsyth's place for the Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh Area Committee.

Second Vice-Chairman, Open – Chairman Siclari said thank you to Timothy Forsyth for his service. He was not reappointed.

Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewe - No report.

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell – Nominations from the floor. Any nominations? Chairman Siclari nominates Catherine Schiavone for 2nd Vice Chair.

Treasurer, Sunny Jain – Report in the packet.

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari – Creates new position for Sergeant of Arms, John Guzzo. Letter of support to open Silver Lake Park Road.

Reverse Roll Call by Loretta Cauldwell – Passes unanimously. Would like the road to be closed on weekends.

District Manager, Joan Cusack – Not present.

Functional Committee Reports:

Land Use, George Turner – No present. Chairman Siclari said there was no votes taken at the Land Use Meeting. We had the Local Law 172 by DCP & SI Family Court Complex preliminary stage.

Waterfront, Joe Ahlstrom – Next meeting April 22nd. EDC Pier 1 and concessions. Opening Pier and North Shore Esplanade. I would like the Silver Lake Park Road closed on weekends and nights.

Public Services, Sunny Jain – Composting. We had complaints where residents thought the garbage was all going in the same place but sanitation says there are separate compartments. Sanitation will be at our next Full Board Meeting on May 13th to answer questions.

Youth Services, Katheleen Coen & Mohan Radhakrishna – Report in the packet.

Rules & Legislative Affairs, Anthony Cosentino –

Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino – Citywide Statement of Needs. Not sure if we need another letter.

Parliamentarian, Catherine Schiavone –

Anthony Scutari - Bread of Life. Dates are April 11th, Blessed Sacrament, 7:30 AM. The trucks meet and deliver in Brooklyn and Staten Island (27 locations). April 12th, Farrell High School. Starting something in New Jersey. High School and Grammar School kids are there. We get 150 electricians, Nick Siclari comes. The sad thing is that we still have to do it. People in Brooklyn know the trucks are coming and actually chase the trucks.

Transportation, Joseph Bird – Minutes in the packet.

Small Business & Non-Profit, - Meeting April 17th, in person.

Labor, Robert Holst –

Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino – Walker Park will be at our April Parks meeting as a joint meeting with West Brighton Area Committee.

Cultural Affairs - Anthony Sgarlato – Website is up including NYPL. Please visit. Give us feedback

Health and Human Services, Fran Reali – With Councilmember Kamillah Hanks and Michael Arvanites support. Every High School Freshman should have a EKG and Echocardiogram. Department of Education fought this. We've wanted it for 15 years. With 5,000 kids tested, 19% had a heart condition and didn't know it. It should be done with regular physical. Please make this a reality to keep hearts healthy. Thank you to Kamillah Hanks and Michael Arvanites. We also need a city hospital on Staten Island.

West Brighton/Randall Manor, Anthony Cosentino – Joint meeting with Parks and 755 Forest Avenue, new OCM applicant with same location that does not qualify.

New Brighton/St. George/Tompkinsville, Claudette Duff – Meeting next week. We had Parks at our meeting about Lt. Lia Playground public restroom construction. Adding another level. ADA

compliant. Safety is a concern with McKee High School kids hiding in bathroom. Maybe 120th precinct can oversee or parks enforcement. John Guzzo suggested Parks employee but Nicole Brooks said there is no funding. Reverse roll call, passes unanimously.

Tony Cosentino said, Happy Birthday Claudette!

Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Grymes Hill/Westerleigh/Willowbrook, Joe Ahlstrom - No meeting or minutes. Meeting on April 10th in person.

Rosebank/Shore Acres, John Guzzo – Minutes in packet.

Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond/Elm Park/Arlington, Selina Grey & Dora Berksteiner – Meeting canceled last month.

Stapleton/Clifton/Concord, Peter Lisi- Renewal of liquor license Casa del Molcajete approved. Letter for Ana Marie Mendez Drug and Mental Health Program. We have a substance abuse problem on SI. Notification of replacing a watermain completed in 2026, New Lane in Rosebank and Stapleton. Water build-up by Bay Street and Prospect Street. Hazardous condition especially in the winter with 3 blocks of ice. DOE Hungerford School demolished, extensive violations. Put another school in its place. City of New York Amnesty Program – Reduced fines by property owners expired 2016. If you own \$5,000 in taxes it can be \$15,000 years down the road. This will reduce foreclosures. Quote: In your life's blueprint, know your worth. Don't allow anyone tell you your nobody. You count and have significance. Martin Luther King Jr.

The motion for the letter is in the beginning stages and no location is known yet. Motion to approve letter and it passed unanimously.

Chairman Siclari – we partner with FRCCA, Neil Anastasio and Lindy Peter Crescitelli with Post-Parade Survey flyer, March 2025

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Meeting Adjourned – 8:23 PM