

**Community Board #1 Virtual Full Board Meeting, March 8, 2022 -
6:30 PM**

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

Members

Vincent Accornero, Excused
Joseph Ahlstrom
Ali Mir Masum
Anjail Amen-Rice
Larry Beslow
Joseph Bird
Telee Brown
Celeste Bute-Holmes
Loretta Cauldwell
Sandy Carles, Excused
Anthony Cosentino
Megan Delmar
George Doyle
Claudette Duff
Linda Eskenas
Timothy Forsyth
John Guzzo
Robert Holst
Sunny Jain
Lisa Lattanzio
John McBeth
Mohan Radhakrishna
Friday Ogbewele
Olaf Olsen, Absent
Ernest Paige
Catherine Paradiso
Amy Poirier, Absent
Francine Reali
Chris Rooney
James Samuels, Absent
Anthony Scutari
Nicholas Siclari
George Sona
George Turner
Kevin Washington
Daniel Williams, Absent
Steven Williams
Camille Zarrelli
Nicholas Zvegintzov

Guests

Sherry Diamond, Rep. Nicole Malliotakis'
Joe Cucci, Assemblyman, Michael Tannousis'
Viomo Emmanuel, Assemblyman, Charles Fall
Elena Brady, Councilman, David Carr
Agnes McBeth, Richmond Cty District Atty Office
Jermaine Williams, NYPD, SI Ambassador
David Pena, Council member Kamillah Hanks
Adam Beckerman, DCP CB1 Liaison
John Stepensky, ADA, RCDA
Brent Alexander
Mark Anderson
Miriam Arnold
Cathy Bernsten
Martha Bromelmeier
Nicole Brooks
Mary Bullock
Mario Buonviaggio
Mary Bullock
Dorothea Cernera
Karen Cummings
Xenia Diente, DDC
Sarah Gowell
John Kilcullen
Lillian Lagazzo
Andy Levison
David Mandel, DCLA
Troy McGhie
Dorcas Meyers
Laurel Miller
Michael Morrell
Frank Fontana, DOB
Jason Price
Cleveland Adams
Kevin Squires
Carmen Torres
Nahn Tseng
Everett Wattlely

Office Staff

Joseph Carroll, District Manager
Lisa Crosby, Community Coordinator
Linda Maffeo, Community Associate

Nick Siclari: Calling meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call/Attendance

Nick Siclari wished everyone a Happy International Women's Day.

Motion to accept the minutes.

Presentation:

David Mandel - Department of Cultural Affairs. Percent for Art Program. Upcoming public Art Work Commission coming to your District. This is part of the larger project for the Mary Cali Dalton Recreation Center. Here with some reps from our partner agencies. I want to let you know about the commissioning process and how you can get involved. When we talk about Public Art, we are talking about a section of public space for the artist and their work and the community where it is located. The Percent for Art Program was established in 1982, Local Law 65 was passed which is the Percent for Art Law. 1% of Capital Funds appropriated for newly constructed or reconstructed city-owned buildings must be allocated for works of art. This budget is approximately \$590,000. Since 1983, there have been over 400 Percent for Art displayed in the five boroughs. The art is located in many places around the city such as, court houses, parks, fire stations, police precincts, plazas, libraries, schools, health centers, streetscapes, etc.

Cleveland Adams - Department of Design and Construction. I'm working with Parks to deliver the new Mary Cali Dalton Recreation Center on Staten Island at 6 Victory Blvd, located south of the Lyon's Pool.

David Mandel - What does it mean to commission a new work of art and what is the process? There are two panel meetings to select an artist. At the first, we review the work of 25-30 artists, their body of past work and the panel decides what moves and interests them. The list then gets narrowed to 4 artists for the second panel meeting where they present a proposal presentation. We will select two artists for this project. There is a Q&A by the panel members. After voting, an artist is selected. We have many representatives who make up the panel. Voting panelists such as DCLA Commissioner as Panel Chair, Percent for Art Program Representative, Representative of Design Agency, Representative from Sponsor Agency and three representatives of the public who are knowledgeable with public art, the project and community where the project will be located. The Advisory panelists are made up of the Architect Design

Team, Public Design Commission, Program staff, local Borough President, Council member, Community Board representatives, local representatives and general public.

Upcoming dates: We are presenting tonight at the CB1 Board Meeting, March 8, 2022. In April and June 2022 for Artist 1 Selection Panels. July and October 2022 for Artist 2 Selection Panels. Public Design Commission Public Hearing, late 2022, early 2023. Selected artists present proposals to CB1 at another meeting where you will meet the artists selected and they can show their proposals in late 2022, early 2023.

How can you get involved? Panelists should be 18 years of age and knowledgeable about contemporary art and live in the community where the project is taking place. Provide us with a short letter of interest with email address and phone number to: Percentinfo@culture.nyc.gov. If you know anyone, please let me know by April. We are open for you to suggest artists as well, International or local. I look forward to working with you. www.nyc.gov/culture and 212-513-9300. Thank you.

Public Session:

Agnes McBeth, Community RCDA, Michael McMahon's office. Good evening. I want to acknowledge the ADA who is joining the meeting, John Stepensky.

Last month, I mentioned, "Standup Stop Bullying". Our challenge to elementary and middle schools has begun and is underway. Please encourage students to go online and find the information. They should have received the information from their Principals. We know that there are children suffering in silence. If a student shares their experience then maybe other children suffering will come out of the shadows. On March 29th, along with BP Fossella's office we will be hosting our Annual Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Breakfast at 9am at the Hilton Garden Inn. Invitations are going out to all of our veterans on Staten Island and we have quite an extensive list. If you know of a Vietnam Veteran that you know that we should personally invite, let us know. We want to make sure we don't overlook anyone. Please send me their contact information. Lastly, I'm sure many of you heard of that terrible car crash on Van Duzer Street. The investigation is ongoing. The suspect was arrested but unfortunately he is not still in jail. His case is considered not violent even though his car went into a house and injured 6 people. It is not bail eligible so we believe he is under supervised release. Our office is working with NYPD and the case is ongoing. If you have any questions, I will try to get answers for you. Thank you again for allowing me to speak at this time.

John Stepensky, ADA at RCDA - I just want to introduce myself. I don't have anything to speak about tonight. Thank you.

Karen Cummings, "Live On NY" - Caring for New Yorkers through Organ Donation - We facilitate all the life-saving transplants in the New York/Metro Area. We work with Staten Island University Hospital who is part of the Northwell Health System. Our goal is to save as many lives as possible. There are approximately 10,000 people in the New York/Metro area that are waiting for a transplant. There are more than 300 in Staten Island. Only 43% of New Yorkers are registered to be organ donors. Most

states have 60% of their population. If you are in need of a transplant in our area, you wait twice as long as any other state in the country. April is Donate Life month. It's the month to Nationally educate the public on the importance of donation. If you are interested in getting more involved and having us at one of your events, we would love to be a part of it. My information is, 917-806-4115, kcummings@liveonny.org. Thank you.

Carmen Torres - This is the second time I am speaking to you. I am currently pursuing my PhD in Homeland Security. I want to help St. George, Staten Island as well as other areas. Some of emailed me with your concerns about personal safety with the homeless loitering and occupying the neighborhood along Stuyvesant Street dealing narcotics and harassing citizens. I have been working with NCO Adam McNab. He assured me that they are aware and are concentrating in this area in order to get rid of this persistent problem. I'm not sure if any of you on this call have been helping with this situation? Thank you.

Lisa Crosby said the inspector answered and was looking into it.

Kevin Squires, Assistant Director for MetroPlus Health, Staten Island - squiresk@metroplus.org, 646-634-4586.

My colleague Patricia Walton was going to present today but she had another engagement. Major event will be having this year. Shout out to the women representing this wonderful day which ties into our event, Health & Beauty Inside & Out. On April 9th, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, at Snug Harbor Cultural Center. It will be hosted by MetroPlus along with Phenomenal Women Association. There will be dozens of free, friendly workshops, free community events with health screenings, raffles, giveaways. If you are interested in tabling, please get in touch. There will be a workshop on how to create Vegan food at an affordable level. There will be pharmacy information sessions on vaccines, chair yoga and dance and a ton of partners out there. We encourage everyone to come out to this event. If you want a flyer, please email me.

Secondly, I want to talk about, what's up at MetroPlus? It is a city agency health plan. It's been around for 30 years but in Staten Island for 6 years. We will be connecting with Fatherhood Matters workshops on a series of Saturdays, March 19th & 26th, 10am to 2pm, April 2nd & 16th, 11am to 3pm, April 23rd & 30th, 1pm to 4pm and for Mothers' Day as well. We will be giving away children's books, clothes for parents, pampers, etc. We have many partners but are always looking for more to get resources into the community at 238 Port Richmond Avenue.

Mario Buonviaggio, Port Richmond Strong - portrichmondstrong@gmail.com - I haven't been here for a couple of months. We worked with the city attorneys, buildings and the fire department to finally shutter 95 Park Avenue. We are in communication with the owners. They are not budging on their design of the new construction inside this SRO. We will keep you updated. Along with the Department of Health and DOI we shutdown basement apartments. There were two in Port Richmond, one in Mariner's Harbor and one in West Brighton. There were some basements with one window, no access door

and missing concrete. Some of the landlords were receiving above market rate for an apartment. One was collecting \$700 from each individual which was \$2,100 a month for an apartment with an exposed toilet, sewer gases, and missing concrete. The Health Department asked the homeowners where they got the vouchers from. They were told it was a city voucher negotiated with Project Hospitality. We forwarded all the documents to the NYS Attorney General's office.

We caught another illegal dumper at 28 Port Richmond Avenue. The DA squad, Detective Kelly at the Department of Sanitation. They are in the process of confiscating the vehicle. Another illegal dumper was caught at West Street and Castleton Avenue. We have the camera footage. We shut down an illegal tire shop on Clove Road and Delafield Avenue. It was compromising safety for the neighboring homes at that intersection. It wasn't properly zoned for it.

We recently had a meeting with the Park's Department in regards to Veteran's Park and rehabbing. We had questions about the trees coming down. Three magnificent trees were taken down, they did an exam on them to find out why. We are trying to get an answer for that and implement new seedling trees for Veteran's Park to respect the name that it has in regards to our military. Thank you.

David Pena, Councilmember Kamillah Hanks Office - Thank you to those who came out to the Safety Town Hall. We hosted with FDNY and the American Red Cross about a week ago. We want to thank them for giving their time. If you were unable to attend you can get information from the Red Cross. Please stay safe. Energy will be going through the roof now the the summer is coming, whether it be an AC unit for a fan. You can check with the Red Cross for safety measures.

Secondly, March is Women's History Month and today International Women's Day. I want to recognize all the amazing women on this call as well as our community. Our office will be hosting our First Women in Business Expo at the Pavilion on the Terrace on March 26th. We invite everyone to join. The flyers will be in the chat. Thank you.

Frank Fontana, Department of Buildings - Updates. Homeowners Relief Program. This applies to 1-2 family homes. If there is a 1-2 family home that doesn't receive a violation, instead of getting a penalty amount, they will allow you 60 days to correct the condition before you receive that penalty. There are some exceptions like an illegal conversion, if you haven't received a violation in the last 5 years, that will qualify for that program. The link is https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/buildings/pdf/bsa_property_profile_flag_sn.pdf.

Today, it was announced about BSA approvals. If there is any property that has had some kind of BSA decision since 1998, that will be flagged on the company profile about the decision on that property. Thank you.

Public session concluded.

Nicholas Siclari thanked Friday Ogbewele.

Officers' Reports

First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino -No report.

Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth - No report.

Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewele - No report.

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell - No report.

Treasurer, Larry Beslow - Report is in the packet.

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari - As you can see in Public Session, the world is opening up and It looks like we will finally be seeing in person at Salem Church next month. The city has come to their senses in a lot of ways. We have a board member that we have not met in person yet, Steven Williams and I look forward to meeting.

I would like to mention that two board members stepped up and are taking over two positions from people that we miss who we lost, Norman Light and Pearl Minsky. Norman Light's good friend Anthony Cosentino will be taking over as Park's Chair. The other is Anthony Scutari, appropriate for this meeting, will be taking over Cultural Affairs. If anyone is interested about what David Mandel was talking about helping pick out the art for our new recreational center, please see Tony and he will get you in touch with the proper people.

Zoom is great and it's been over two years. Salem Church has a beautiful space. The city is more relaxed. You can go to restaurants, etc. Last week there were 80 people out of 12 million with new cases. I look forward to seeing all of you in April.

District Manager, Joseph Carroll - I want to remind everyone that it's Spring ahead this weekend. That is a good omen.

Functional Committee Reports

Land Use, Vincent Accornero - Chris Rooney took over for Vincent Accornero who was excused. In your report packet, there is a two-page report from the Land Use Meeting that was held last week. We had two issues discussed and only one we have to take action on which was the Hillside application. The other was an informational presentation.

Department of City Planning Application Nos. N 220190 ZCR, N 220191 ZAR, N 220192 ZAR 34 Cedarcliff Road, which is a Special Hillside Preservation District application seeking various City Planning Commission authorizations and a certification to subdivide an existing lot and construct two single family homes.

**Motion to approve as submitted.
Roll call vote taken, vote passed 25-1-0.**

Sister's of Charity, the Monadnock and the Master Group made a presentation for informational purposes only for 360 Affordable residential units with 90 off-street parking spaces on Front Street at Stapleton Site A.

A letter will be sent with the Board's Concerns about the non-existing seawall which will undermine the buildings, safety concerns for the residents, need for increased parking and additional disabled parking, need for supportive mental health wellness offered to the homeless individuals and how they will be integrated into the building. Unsafe working conditions on projects in NYC and the protection of fair wages to the workers. Isolation of the facility and lack of public transportation.

John Guzzo mentioned: Weren't we opposed to this because they were overreaching on the zoning and this was part of the deBlasio push with all the over-height buildings

Robert Holst said this was not the same project. It's two projects now. You're speaking about the St. George project.

Chris Rooney said the whole board opposed it. We are proposing a letter to the appropriate agencies for these various issues to be taken into the account.

Reverse roll call vote taken, vote passed 26-0-0.

Nicholas Siclari said thank you Chris Rooney for filling in for Vincent Accornero.

Budget & Finance - Anthony Cosentino - Response Letter to Mayor for Preliminary Budget FY 2023.

Reverse roll call vote taken, vote passed 26-0-0.

Transportation, Nicholas Zvegintzov - We had a public hearing on February 22nd which was a new venture. The committee felt we need to figure out what all the projects are in our area that need funding. We need to get information what stage they're in and how to push them forward. We listed 9 projects. One was the Verrazzano Bridge, three MTA projects, the North Shore Bus Rapid Transit, the West Shore alternatives and a total network redesign of Staten Island's connections. A couple of DOT projects. St. George access which is getting the BRT under the ferry terminal. The Staten Island Gateway, Three projects from the EDC, two projects where they built something a lot of them fall in disrepair, the St. George Esplanade and Pier 1 and finally the ferry to Brooklyn.

We asked two questions which were what is the status of this project and what would move it ahead? We did get all representatives from all the agencies and I thank them for being ready to step up. The MTA and DOT were very responsive and knew what they were talking about where the EDC and Bridges and Tunnels didn't. Most of the projects are at some stage. The next stage was determined by the budget.

Request letters letters to NYS Governor Hochul and NYC Mayor Adams and NYC EDC President Kimball (as appropriate) to budget infrastructure funding to various transportation projects benefiting our District, including North Shore Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), West Shore Alternatives, Stapleton Train Station, St. George Station Access, Staten Island Gateway, St. George Esplanade, Pier One at Lighthouse Plaza, and NYC Ferry to Brooklyn with copies to electeds as appropriate.

Motion to send these letters.

Reverse roll call vote taken, vote passed 27-0-1.

West Brighton/St. George, Loretta Cauldwell - No meeting. No minutes.

Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh, Timothy Forsyth & Camille Zarrelli - No meeting, no minutes.

Rosebank/Fort Wadsworth, John Guzzo - No meeting. No report. We will be having Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast this year. I will give dates shortly.

Public Services, Sunny Jain -

Marine's Harbor/Port Richmond, John McBeth - We had a meeting but no report to submit. We will be meeting next week virtually. We will be looking for a place soon to return to in person. Anthony Cosentino asked for a link.

Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Larry Beslow - No meeting. No report..

Old Business

New Business - Lisa Lattanzio asked about meeting in person.

She asked if a vote was taken on it. They are not saying we can't meet on Zoom. It doesn't matter if you have a card. You can still give Covid to someone. We are not in the clear. I guess it's a personal choice.

Nicholas Siclari said there was a vote in March. We signed a lease with Salem Church. We have the ability to social distance. It will be safe.

Joseph Carroll said board members have to have their vaccination cards.

Anthony Cosentino answered a question Lisa Lattanzio had earlier. He said the bikes on the ferry can be electric but must have pedals.

John Guzzo said the vaccines maybe poison.

Nicholas Siclari stated he had two vaccines and the booster and I'm pretty good. Meetings will start at 7:00 pm but please arrive at 6:30 pm.

Lisa Crosby said temperature will be taken. Please send in your cards and you won't be asked at the door.

Motion to Adjourn.