

**Community Board 1 Virtual Full Board Meeting, January 10, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.**

**Nicholas Siclari, Chairman**

**Members**

Joe Ahlstrom  
Anjail Ameen-Rice  
Larry Beslow  
Joseph Bird  
Allison Brown  
Telee Brown, Absent  
Christopher Campbell  
Sandy Carles, Absent  
Loretta Cauldwell  
Andre Ciprut, Excused  
Kathleen Coen  
Christopher Corbo  
Anthony Cosentino  
George Doyle, Excused  
Claudette Duff  
Linda Eskenas, Absent  
Samir Farag, Absent  
Omar Ferreira, Absent  
Timothy Forsyth  
John Guzzo  
Celeste Holmes  
Robert Holst  
Vincent Innocente  
Sunny Jain  
Linda Juarbe  
Lillian Lagazzo  
Peter Lisi  
Ali Mir Masum, Excused  
John McBeth  
Friday Ogbewe  
Ernest Paige, Absent  
Mohan Radhakrishna  
Francine Reali  
Chris Rooney  
Catherine Schiavone  
Anthony Scutari  
Anthony Sgarlato  
Sean Sheil  
Nicholas Siclari  
Jaclyn Tacoronte  
George Turner, Excused  
James West, Excused  
Daniel Williams  
Siyda Williams  
Steven Williams  
Camille Zarrelli, Excused  
Nicholas Zvegintzov

**Guests**

Edward Jackson, Mayor's Office - CAU  
Marie LaFrancesca, Borough President's Office  
Sherry Diamond, Rep. Nicole Malliotakis' Office  
Viomo Emmanuel, AM Charles Fall's Office  
David Pena, CM Kamillah Hank's Office  
Hanane Dbajat, AM Tannousis' Office  
Nick Robbins, AM Sam Pirozzolo  
Elena Brady, CM David Carr's Office  
Glomely Barton, NYC Commissioner's Office  
Agnes McBeth, RCDA  
Taylor Goodspeed, ADA  
Roseann Caruana, SI Borough Commissioner, DOT  
William Deutriell, DOT  
Prince Cobbina, NYC CCRB  
Nicole Brooks, Parks Department  
Diana Switaj, Government & Community Relations, NYCEDC - Presentation  
Gregory Hohmann, Project Manager, Hunter Roberts-Presentation  
Andy Levison, SICTV  
Kelly Yim, Manager, Stapleton Library  
Michael Morrell, Westerleigh Improvement Society  
Mary Bullock, Port Richmond Strong  
Equisha Pierre  
Mr. Olsen  
Bruce Lauria  
Charlene Burke  
Everett Wattlely  
John Felci  
Jose Figuereo  
Karl Hartig  
Linda Daller  
Marsha Russell  
Matea Cene  
Miriam Arnold  
Ms. Ballard  
Sarah Gowell  
Stacey Wertheim, CB3  
Daniel Lefkowitz

**Office Staff**

Joan Cusack, District Manager  
Linda Maffeo, Community Associate

Meeting to Order 6:32 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call attendance, Loretta Cauldwell – Quorum Present

Chairman Nicholas Siclari said the logistics of meeting in January with so many people out sick whether it's Covid-related or virus is why we are not meeting in person. Deacon John McBeth is doing a great job online.

John McBeth asked for a moment of silence for the loss of a police officer in the 121 Precinct died by suicide.

#### **Public Session**

Agnes McBeth, RCDA – Our hearts go out to the members of the 121 Precinct regarding the officer who took his life on Tuesday. According to the DA's Newsletter/Report, Staten Island is the safest borough in NYC. Gun arrests are up and gun crimes are down. There was a carjacking on the South Shore yesterday and our Men and Women in Blue continue to keep us all safe. Be vigilant. Lock your cars, keep in well-lit areas. Pet Calendars are still available. Send your mailing address to get one.

Taylor Goodspeed, ADA – Introduced himself. Is a Prosecutor for two years. In the Domestic Violence Bureau. Any concerns I will be here on the call.

David Pena, CM Hanks' Office – Keeping the officer from the 121 Precinct in our prayers. Budget season is open until the middle of February for funding if you know any non-for-profits. Contact our office.

Matea Cene – Real Estate Broker on Staten Island, regarding the Storm Water Act. Working with an investor who has a parcel of land which falls under the MS4 zoning/Block 354 Lot 8. Areas, Jewett Avenue, Gordon Street, Lauren and Warren. Submitting a prospectus to be approved. We have to find out if the city will take on this project or if someone has already subcontracted the job out.

Jermaine Williams, NYPD Ambassador SI – Thank you for your condolences. Reach out to friends and family and see how they're doing. You never know what a person is going through. Good to see everyone and Happy New Year!

Prince Cobbina, CCRB – Condolences and prayers for our brothers at the 121 Precinct and Jermaine and his staff. Our next public board meeting, tomorrow, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in person and virtual (Hybrid) at the Harlem Hospital, 506 Lenox Avenue.

Equisha Pierre – Public Health Solutions - NYC Smoke-Free – Talks to schools, churches, community centers, etc. about the ill effects of commercial tobacco and vaping. We can come out to organizations and major employers to do presentations to adopt smoke-free policies. Next month, going to Albany to meet with local elected officials. Staten Island is the highest in smoking than all the other boroughs.

Chairman Nick Siclari made a motion to accept the minutes with one correction. Under the report for Loretta Cauldwell, Loretta did not ask the Parks Department about holding meetings, the CB1 office did.

#### **PRESENTATION:**

Diana Switaj, Government & Community Relations NYCEDC & Gregory Hohmann, Project Manager, Hunter Roberts – Capital Improvements/Upgrades to the 9/11 Postcards Memorial and Lea, EDC Asset Management Division, Jose from Design and Construction Division. There are repairs needed and upgrades. Will be reviewed by the Public Design Commission for review in February. We've been speaking to the Borough President's Office and the Councilwoman's Office. We have gotten a lot of support for the project.

Gregory Hohmann, Project Manager, Hunter Roberts – Capital Improvements – This holds a special place in my heart. My father was a firefighter on 9/11 who passed away. A Power Point Presentation was shown. Originally built in 2004, Hurricane Sandy in 2012 damaged this memorial. Replacing lighting, cement, fix exposed rebar and want to loop the survivor tree to the area. New walkway which will be ADA accessible and more plantings, information sign upgraded etc. First responders'

memorial grows adding names. Timeline: design is being finalized. Continual walkway? can't create an exit on a sloped surface. Parking in restricted areas will be enforced. No lighting by the tree to highlight it presently. Prevailing wage contract. Dead construction site to the left where the wheel was supposed to go? EDC will support the rest of the waterfront and are working on many projects within the next 6 months to the year. We will recommend a letter from CB1 next month.

#### **Officers' Reports**

**First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino** – No report.

**Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth** – Regarding oversight of Functional Committees specifically transportation, I am cautioning about putting comments on reports that goes into the public record characterizing ferry service as disastrous. Captain Garvey is a professional mariner and public officer. A near-disaster was clearly averted by the efforts of the captain and his officers.

**Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewe** – No report.

**Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell** – Happy New Year. No report.

**Treasurer, Larry Beslow** – Happy New Year. Report in the packet.

**Chairman, Nicholas Siclari** – Recognizing board member Kevin Washington resigned as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. He was instrumental in our District Manager search. This is a labor of love where we don't get paid. He thought 10 years was enough and want to thank him for his service. We have a new place on Castleton Avenue, St. Mary's Church. We will try different places and see what the feedback is. 10% of our board members are either sick with Covid, Flu or Virus. January and February are tough. John McBeth has done a great job with Zoom. Next month our regular board meeting meets on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> due to Valentine's Day. Finally, three letters to approve. Two are from George Doyle who is sick with Covid. Please reach out. One is for the need of a Fentanyl Task Force going to the Governor. Fentanyl deaths are up over 500%. Second letter is for our input in what becomes of Bayley Seton Hospital. We can't find who owns the place. Another letter about the Mary Cali Dalton Recreation Center in Tompkinsville. We asked for construction impacts on access, Bay Street Landing Apartments for Emergency vehicles, businesses deliveries and traffic. Need for more than 31 parking spaces. Reverse roll call. When we meet in person, we go back to a 7:00 PM start.

**District Manager, Joan Cusack** - We are the most active community board looking for space. Linda and I have been receiving great ideas from our board members and researching each and every one of them. Brighton Church was suggested. The problem there might be the parking. We are looking at ADA compliance, size and comfort of the room and air quality. If we see something we will tell Chairman Siclari and whomever wants to go and see it, can. Everything else in the office is moving forward. The paperwork is finally done. The IT person Mike who is working with us is wonderful. Linda and I are working together and it's a great relationship.

Chairman Siclari added we need a place to meet that is centrally located and costs no more than \$250 per month. Board member mentioned Bethany Lutheran Brethren Church on Westcott Blvd. Someone asked if the meetings will be Hybrid? John McBeth said we may but the people on virtual will not be able to fully participate. They can put questions in the chat.

## **Functional Committee Reports**

**Land Use, George Turner** – Excused.

**Waterfront, Joseph Ahlstrom** – Nick Zvegintzov sent out minutes. Meeting on 1/24/23 at 7:00 PM at the Board Office. Captain John Garvey, Deputy Commissioner of Ferries will be in attendance. Fire on the Sandy Ground Vessel anchored, 800+ passengers evacuated and caused by an oil leak. The Engine Department put out the fire before any other services got there. The vessel was anchored off Bayonne. Mr. Ahlstrom seconds Mr. Timothy Forsyth in sending out a letter commending the engine crew for putting out the fire and evacuating the passengers. Nicholas Zvegintzov agrees. Waiting for the full report from the NTSP and Coast Guard. SI Borough Commissioner, Roseann Caruana said we should not be speculating about what happened until the report comes back. Joan Cusack, District Manager said when we write the letter, we should include everyone that helped, NYPD, FDNY, EMT. Etc.

What happened New Years' Eve was not good. Controlled chaos is not the solution. If you can't ride safe, cancel the ferries.

Looking forward to meeting with Parks regarding Mary Cali Dalton Recreation Center and Esplanade which would be great for Staten Island. It was mentioned about the engineers not having a contract. Losing 80-90 people and short on personnel. Training people will not solve the problem. Commissioner Caruana said she was also frustrated about the contract issue. Mr. Ahlstrom said some of his students are working with 2009 wages.

**Public Services, Sunny Jain** – Happy New Year. He said we are lucky with no or very little snow so far.

**Youth Services, Ernest Paige** – Absent.

**Rules & Legislative, Chris Rooney** – Minutes in the packet. Two motions from the Rules & Legislative Committee Meeting on 12/29/22.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Motion**

The definition of ineligible (i.e., any Board member who is related to, employed by, does business with, or could receive any benefit from the person or party that is the subject of a motion if the motion is approved) should be read by the Community Board Secretary prior to the first vote of the Board's year and at any subsequent meeting when a new member is sworn in and participating for the first time as an official voting board member.

Vote: 4-0-0 Motion Passed

There was some discussion about what precipitated this motion and asked if By-Laws can be added.

Christopher Corbo said to make it clear, this is not any changes to the community board, this is a policy we plan to follow whenever new board members are sworn in or start of a voting session. Chris Rooney said there was a gap in the By-Laws and it can be edited for the community board.

Jaclyn Tacoronte said because of the recent vote, one of our board members wants to propose this? You have to be mindful about the terminology for our future children and grandchildren.

Chairman Siclari said when he was appointed to the Board we used to have an Orientation which consisted of meeting at CSI, getting a manual and the Borough President would be there. This hasn't happened in many years.

Joe Bird said we are not making up this definition, this is coming from the Conflicts of Interest Boards Guidance for all Community Boards.

Peter Lisi said it's great that we all know about ineligible. I know why this is being presented. Maybe it should be all around the board, not just targeting new members.

Catherine Schiavone said you can't look at Rules & Legislation in a form of a vacuum. It seems out of context.

Sunny Jain said this is not something new. We are not changing or amending. You are clarifying.

Siyda Williams asked why isn't it just read when you have new membership come in. She said it was explained to her. Chris Rooney said it's not in the By-Laws now. We are trying to cover a gap.

Anthony Cosentino said he would start a training session.

Joe Bird said there should be more training. We are not reinventing anything. We are all operating under these restrictions.

Vote: 15 yes, 16 No, 3 Abstentions

The second discussion on whether newly appointed board members, who have been sworn in, should be permitted to vote on old board business during their first meeting as an official board member. Old board business is defined as any topic that was previously discussed at any meeting prior to the newly appointed board member being officially appointed and sworn in.

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion

New community board appointees cannot vote on an old matter (old board business) during their first board meeting attending as an official voting board member. This includes discussions on controversies and previously tabled issues.

Vote 3-1-0 Motion Passed

Christopher Corbo with Corporate Council 585 Comment – When a Borough President appoints a community board member after the start of the term of office, the appointment is effective from the day of the Borough President appointment. From the time of appointment once the term of office has begun, board members are counted towards the majority necessary for a Quorum regardless of whether they've received notice of appointment or notice of meeting.

Chairman Siclari said this motion would be illegal or not hold any weight. Some board members said they would table this until investigated.

Chris Rooney said for future meetings, we are going to discuss and explore the definition of emergency in regard to designating property for homeless shelter development. The city can declare an emergency for things that have been in existence for 4-5 years.

Chairman Siclari said we will have 50 copies to all board members of the Handbook for Community Board Members. As far as training sessions, it would have to be for all three community boards.

Lillian Lagazzo said, the city council introduced new legislation. The city can't come and say "as of right" without input from the community.

**Budget & Finance. Anthony Cosentino** – Preparing the Statement of Needs for the Budget process to be presented next month.

**Transportation, Nicholas Zvegintzov** – The Transportation Committee in conjunction with the Waterfront Committee are meeting on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Board Office. I thank Tim Forsyth for advertising the Transportation Report. I put into the report an explanation of what we do at the Transportation Committee. We listen to people coming from small residential streets upset with getting through traffic. Keeping the “squeak” in the “squeaky wheel”. The committee is down to four members plus myself. If any new members want to join let me know. There is a structural problem, even if the ferry was totally staffed there would be overtime in the holiday period. There were 16 nights in December where there was an hourly ferry. John Garvey explained why this arises. The sooner we can get that new contract the better.

Commissioner Caruana said they were getting numerous call outs from employees. We really needed to get service for people so they weren't stranded on NYE. How do you tell thousands of people that there will be no ferries for five hours.

Mr. Zvegintzov said as the Transportation committee we should thank the crews for getting everyone off safe.

Chairman Siclari asked the Board members about picking Functional Committees that they would be interested in.

**Labor, Robert Holst** – No official report. Going forward. There are big plans for more affordable housing. Office buildings are vacant, people are working from home. Taking some of that space and make it residential in the five boroughs. The Governor is also committed to building affordable housing. North Shore of Staten Island is a very desirable place. A lot of people will be interested in getting their hands on this land. Construction in NYC is one of the most dangerous jobs in the country. Workers die. OSHA training has changed nothing. The commitment to build cheap, fast and dangerously goes on. If it were any other industry people would be in an uproar. It is an underground economy, people are paid off the books, undocumented workers. People don't want to talk about it because they have to pay workers. We will see big changes that will go on after we're gone. Look out for the vulnerable people.

**Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino** – No report.

**Cultural Affairs, Anthony Scutari** – Happy New Year. I personally have gone to two plays. Music Man and Funny Girl. They were great.

**Health & Human Services, Fran Reali** – New emergency room is on its way. I will be calling a meeting in February. I would enjoy a group of people that are interested in what is causing health issues or concerns. Please text me.

**West Brighton/St. George, Loretta Cauldwell** – One matter of business. The ballpark, Legends Hospitality, LLC, we've heard no problems from PD however on their renewal they have they will be doing occasional concerts with live music. No objections, we will go ahead and let them have their liquor license.

**Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh, Timothy Forsyth & Camille Zarrelli** – No meeting, no minutes. We are handling liquor license renewals via email.

**Rosebank/Fort Wadsworth, John Guzzo** –

**Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond, John McBeth** – Minutes in the package. We are delving deeper into liquor licenses. There is no longer be a situation where “bad actors” will not be renewed or given a license. We don't want to put people out of business but don't want to have our community destroyed. We can say no. We are meeting next week. Any members in the areas who want to join us, please do. You can also sit in if you have an interest or just to listen. Next Tuesday at 7PM.

Chairman Siclari said John McBeth never missed a meeting during the pandemic.

**Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Larry Beslow** – No meeting, no report.

**Old Business:** Anthony Scutari said we need for another hospital in the North Shore. UrgiCare is not the answer. They send you to the hospital. Hospitals weren't staffing and promise to staff. The aids are underpaid. If the ferry accident was a major crisis, we would be in trouble.

Chairman Siclari said Fran Reali will have a meeting in February and you can discuss that subject. Can anyone make a 6:30 Meeting in person? I'll do a poll email.

**New Business:** Joe Bird said he is getting calls from the PTA at Petrides. Intersection of Renwick and Little Clove Road. Spoke to 120 Precinct. Need traffic enforcement officers in the morning, 7:30AM and 8:30AM, with the three schools located at the Petrides Campus. We have parents that are cross-blocking for an hour and this is dangerous. Crossing guard is stationed there crossing between illegally blocked cars.

Jermaine Williams said to send him the cross streets. Also, Steven Hernandez was the officer who we lost. He was on the force 5 years.

Chris Rooney said we need to add new members to Rules & Legislative Committee.

Anthony Scutari said Notre Dame Food Drive will be April 1<sup>st</sup> at Farrell High School.

Joe Ahlstrom said St. John's University that is closing on Howard Avenue, meeting tomorrow night at 7:00 PM. The Borough President will explain what will be done with the land.

Anthony Sgarlato said a lot of NYC Retirees were affected by the City trying to change their health benefits to a Medicare Advantage Plan. They lost. There's a clause in the City By-Laws 12-126, the city is required to have free healthcare for retired city employees. The mayor's office is trying to get the assembly to vote to change that. We should reach out to our elected assembly people to vote not to change the law. If they do change the law, anyone that has Medicare and GHI would be switched to a Medicare Advantage Plan and the quality of Health care will decline. Chris Rooney asked to have that sent to him and he will get a response.

Lillian Lagazzo said the city council had a hearing yesterday and they are trying to do it at the city level. Trying a 2-tier process. The three council members are trying to stand firm to protect those rights.

Meeting ended at 8:31 P.M.