

COMMUNITY BOARD #1 FULL BOARD MEETING – DECEMBER 10, 2019 – 7:30 P.M.
SNUG HARBOR, BUILDING P

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

MEMBERS

Vincent Accornero
Joseph Ahlstrom, Excused
Anjail Ameen-Rice
Larry Beslow
Joseph Bird, Absent
Telee Brown, Absent
Sandy Carles
Loretta Cauldwell
Anastasia Ciluffo
Anthony Cosentino
Megan Delmar, Excused
George Doyle
Claudette Duff
Linda Eskenas
Timothy Forsyth
John Guzzo, Absent
Celeste Holmes
Robert Holst
Sunny Jain, Excused
Lisa Lattanzio, Absent
Norman Light
John McBeth
Ali Mir Masum
Pearl Minsky
Mohan Radharkrishn
Friday Ogbewe
Ole Olsen, Excused
Ernest Paige
Catherine Paradiso
Amy Poirer, Excused
Fran Reali, Excused
Chris Rooney
Marjorie Ryan, Absent
James Samuels, Excused
Anthony Scutari
Nicholas Siclari
George Sona, Excused
George Turner
Kevin Washington
Daniel Williams
Camille Zarrelli, Excused
Bob Zion, Excused
Nicholas Zvegintzov

GUESTS

Patrick Lewis, Rep. Mayor DeBlasio
Rowland Stewart, Rep. Borough President Oddo
Donald DeRosa, Rep. Comptroller Stringer
Saman Mahmood, Rep. Congressman Max Rose
Troy McGhie, Rep. Councilwoman Debi Rose
Joan Cusack, Director, Human Resources Admin.
Jermaine Williams, Human Resources Admin.
Robert Johansen, NYC Dept. of Probation
Veronica Waite, NYC Dept. of Probation
Michael Morrell, Westerleigh Improvement Society
Eric Patterson, Westerleigh Resident
Mario Buonviaggio, Port Richmond Strong
Dennis Alestra, Divine Wood Furniture
Kelly Vilar, NY Urban League
Gavin Pantoei, Plumber/ New gas inspections
Frank Fontana, Buildings
Desiree Rodriquez, Resident

OFFICE STAFF

Joseph Carroll, District Manager
Lisa Crosby, Community Coordinator

Chairman Nicholas Siclari called the meeting to order at 7:34 P.M.

Roll call attendance taken, quorum present.

Motion made seconded and approved to accept November Board Minutes.

PUBLIC SESSION

Ms. Kelly Vilar announced: the Brighton Heights Christmas Concert on December 14, 2019 – at 5:00 P.M.

On December 21, 2019 at 2:00 P.M. at Snug Harbor the Brighton Heights Youth Orchestra will perform Disney music.

Also, on December 21st at 5:00 P.M. The Friends of Tompkinsville Park will have a tree lighting and music celebration.

Si Urban League is now located at 208 Bay Street.

Ms. Vilar recited her annual holiday poem.

Mr. Troy McGhie representing Councilwoman Rose mentioned the Councilwoman is looking for delegates to help vet the many proposals that were received to award monies out of the discretionary capital funds.

Richmond Terrace Park is now opened at Van Name and Van Pelt Avenues, enjoy the waterfront and, happy holidays.

Mario Buonviaggio asked that the liquor license renewal for 350 Port Richmond Avenue to not be renewed. The Police have responded 12 times in the last year. Mr. Buonviaggio claimed that there were assault weapon possessions and drugs in March and summonses were received from the Fire and Health Departments. Patrons have been victims of crimes when leaving the establishment.

Mr. Jermaine Williams, Human Resources Administration, mentioned the Mayor signed a bill "Heart Island: for public burials in the future for residents in need.

The Department of Social Services have added another 5 zip codes. There is now a total of 25 for legal assistance for tenants facing eviction. New in 2020 for Staten Island anyone needing free legal assistance for eviction can call 718-577-1379 Monday through Friday or -mail Civiljustice@hra.nyc.gov

Ms. Saman Mahmood representing Congressman Max Rose left copies of the Congressman's Newsletter and flyer for Veteran Service Days. If anyone knows any Veterans that need services claims can be processed in the Congressman's Office.

There are a few bills in Congress that are waiting to be passed by the Senate, Fentanyl and Robo Calls.

Mr. Donald DeRosa representing Comptroller Stringer spoke of audits to the Department of Corrections – it costs \$300,000 a year to incarcerate one person for one year.

The MTA – NYC Transit is investing billions to buy new subways; Staten Island will be delayed in getting new trains.

Dennis Alestra from Devine Wood Furniture 153 Port Richmond Avenue complained of no parking due to a movie shoot around the holidays and on the Black Friday. Mr. Alestra paid a lot in advertising and customers are unable to park.

In addition, new sewers and paving on Park and Grove Avenues are ongoing where deliveries are usually made to the store.

Lastly, a storage unit was burglarized.

Mr. Gavin Pantoei spoke of new NY Local Law 152 requiring all buildings other than 1 or 2 families have their gas lines inspected. This is a new law starting in Community Boards #1, #3 and #10. This

must be done with a licensed Master Plumber with an ID card given by the City of New York. The plumber must be certified. This is due to illegal gas connections causing accidents.

PUBLIC SESSION CLOSED

Probation Officers Wade and Johannsen from the Probation Office spoke of various events held. Here are some as follows:

Clothing closet at Probation Office at 3340 Bay Street – nutrition kitchen Wednesdays from 9:00 A.M. – Noon for the public closed all other times are only for clients.

Tuesdays – Fidelis and Metro Health Plus Wednesday – well care – Thursday – Bright Point. There was a sign in sheet available for anyone to sign up to receive information.

Mr. Frank Fontana Community Affairs, Staten Island Building Department spoke of Outreach Local Law 196 – As of December OSHA Requirements are there needs to be 30 hours of safety training – this is the first year that has been a decrease in construction deaths. As of September 2020, the training will increase to 40 hrs.

The Building Department has been working with business owners to legalize signs. There will be no violations issued for storefront signs. If anyone receives a violation it can be waived.

Homeowner and customer service night, you can talk to an architect at Borough Hall every Tuesday from 4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

OFFICERS REPORTS

FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN, ANTHONY COSENTINO - Mr. Forsyth wished everyone a happy holiday.

SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN, TIMOTHY FORSYTH – Happy holidays.

THIRD VICE-CHAIRMAN, FRIDAY OGBEWELE – No report, happy holiday.

SECRETARY, LORETTA CAULDWELL – No report, happy holidays.

TREASURER, LARRY BESLOW – The report is in the packet.

CHAIRMAN, NICHOLAS SICLARI – Chairman Siclari asked everyone to save the dates for the Bread of Life Food Drive on April 3rd and 4th at Monsignor Farrell High School.

DISTRICT MANAGER, JOSEPH CARROLL – No report, happy holidays.

LAND USE, VICNENT ACCORNERO – There was one item tabled from November as follows: Extension of the term of a variance which expired July 24, 2009 for ten years for accessory off-site parking facility. Same is used exclusively for eating and drinking establishment on the opposite side of Richmond Avenue known as 1745 Forest.

It was asked for clarification since variance expired in July 2009 a new variance would need to be submitted. The architect was going to ask for the new variance to start from current date, if denied would apply for a new variance.

MOTION

Motion to approve with the condition that the lot is closed to vehicle and pedestrian access when restaurant is not open.

Roll call vote taken, vote passed 26-0-0.

Mr. Accornero mentioned we have requested that a requirement be made that the Board of Standards would notify applicants when their variance is coming up for expiration.

We have received the Lease Agreement between NYC EDC and the Richmond County Savings Bank Ball Park. Mr. Rooney and Mr. Accornero are reviewing since the lease is set to expire soon.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AMY POIRER – No report.

WATERFRONT, OLE OLSEN- Mr. Olsen has been holding some meetings and speaking with different Elected Officials and the Power Authority for Wind Turbine and using the Navy Pier as a staging area.

YOUTH, ERNEST PAIGE – There was a possibility of holding the meetings at the Everything Goes Book Café at 208 Bay Street – (Unfortunately the space is not handicapped accessible and will not be able to hold meetings at that location.

PUBLIC SERVICES, SUNNY JAIN – No report.

RULES AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, CHRISTOPHER ROONEY – No report.

TRANSPORTATION, NICHOLAS ZVEGINTZOV – The following motion was presented and voted on:

Motion re North Shore Bus Rapid Transit Terminal

CB1 supports the Staten Island North Shore Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project to enhance community development and reduce existing commute times but argues for using the existing St. George Station as the BRT Terminal.

In view of the following:

creating six (and, with turn-lanes, seven) lanes of traffic flow along Richmond Terrace, adding two traffic flows between Richmond Terrace, Bay Street, and the Ferry Terminal, and using the existing bus lanes for the BRT Terminal.

2. This:

- increases instead of decreases transit times
- eliminates parking, bus stops, and the bike lane
- adds to traffic obstruction
- impedes access to civic buildings, commercial establishment, public facilities, public parking, and the Ferry Terminal
- adds the staging and loading of several lines of rapid buses with 5-minute headway to the existing 15-minute headway bus lanes.

3. The new developments on the shoreline have been designed to preserve a two-lane right-of-way separated from all existing traffic as far as the St. George station under the St. George Ferry Terminal.

4. The plan dismisses all alternatives for using the last half mile of this right-of-way, apparently because of jurisdictional objections perceived as insoluble.

5. The plan as presented offers no alternatives, nor arguments for or against them.

Accordingly, CB1:

1. Urges the MTA's BRT design team to disclose alternatives for using the existing off-street right-of-way and the existing St. George station site and environs for the BRT Terminal.
2. Urges all organizations with jurisdiction over the St. George station site and environs to work together to enable the full and productive use of the transit hub opportunities of this site.
3. Stands ready to join the Elected Officials and administrations at all levels of government to evolve a solution to jurisdictional obstacles.
4. Offers the attached routing proposal North Shore Bus Rapid Transit Terminal.pptx as an example (among several others that members of CB1 proposed) of a feasible solution. [This presentation will be expanded with captions etc.]

Reverse roll call vote taken, vote passed unanimously.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION, NORMAN LIGHT – On November 26, 2019 there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Richmond Terrace Park on Richmond Terrace and Van Pelt Avenue. Mr. McBeth and Mr. Light will be attending, everyone invited to attend.

On December 2, 2019 Mr. Carroll and Mr. Light met with Borough Parks Commissioner Lynda Ricciardone and the Chief of Staff, she has an open-door policy and staff is always available to answer questions. The conversation included funding needed from Elected Officials and volunteers needed.

Mr. Forsyth made a motion which was seconded to send a letter requesting that the Penn league remain, which includes the SI Yankees. There is a proposal to do away with the Penn League.

There was a brief discussion on no Union for the players, only about 1,000 people attend the games, it is now a part of Staten Island and would be a very big loss to not have the league.

VETERANS, BOB ZION – No meeting, no report.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS, PEARL MINSKY – Ms. Minsky reminded the Board that we will be honoring Carolyn Clark, SI Philharmonic and a former Woman of Achievement recipient at the January Board Meeting.

LABOR, ROBERT HOLST – A discussion was held on wage increases and productivity gains for the MTA. A Discussion was also held regarding buses putting stress on the lines of the Goethals bridge, getting more information.

Conversation held on adding more buses and security for buses.

Ongoing talks about organizing Amazon – warehouse is dangerous.

AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS

WEST BRIGHTON/ST. GEORGE, LORETTA CAULDWELL – Minutes of the meeting are in the packet, no meeting in December.

SILVER LAKE/SUNNYSIDE/WESTERLEIGH, TIMOTHY FORSYTH/CAMILLE ZARRELLI – Minutes of the meeting are in the packet, no meeting in December.

ROSEBANK/FT. WADSWORTH, JOHN GUZZO – Minutes of the meeting are in the packet.

MARINERS HARBOR/PORT RICHMOND, JOHN MCBETH – Mr. McBeth apologized he had a family emergency and did not make the area committee meeting. There will be a meeting in December.

CLLIFTON/CONCORD/STAPLETON, LARRY BESLOW – Minutes of the meeting are in the packet, no meeting in December.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made to adjourn.