

**Community Board #1 Virtual Full Board Meeting, December 14, 2021 -
6:00 PM**

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

Members

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

Guests

Ruben Sibri, Assemblyman Charles Fall's Office
Donald DeRosa, NYC Comptroller's Office
Lisa Thompson, DA McMahon's Office
Troy McGhie, Councilwoman Debi Rose Office
Elena Brady, Rep. Councilman Matteo
Nicole Brooks, Parks
Frank Fontana, DOB
Joe Helferty, DCP
Jermaine Williams, SI Comm. Amb. CCRB
Liz Branch
Mary Bullock, Pres. Port Richmond Strong
Paul Casali
Computer Sam
Janet Dugo, SI Chamber of Commerce
Cathy Berntsen
C. Ferrara
Roy Fischman
Giovanni Gioia, Goldman Harris
Sarah Gowell
Mark Anderson, Westerleigh Improvement Society
Andy Levison
Priscilla Marco
Michael Morrell
Jason Price
Tony Riccobono
Marsha Russell
Christopher Vecchiarelli
Patricia Walton
Everett Wattley
Adam Beckerman
Justin Wood

Office Staff

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

Chairman Siclari called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary Loretta Cauldwell took roll call attendance

Justin Wood, a resident of St. George and a member of Transportation Alternatives. . Mr. Wood wanted to make sure everyone is aware of our campaign that a lot of residents have been working to get the new ferry, to go to Brooklyn. Mr. Wood posted the link to the petition in the chat and is also available to be e-mailed by the Community Board #1 Office. The petition has over 3,700 signatures asking the Mayor and the NYC Economic Development Corporation to please have a route that links our island to Brooklyn. It would be a huge benefit for our economy. It will give people access to jobs and education. It would alleviate a very long bus or car trip. We have been working hard on it and we've gotten a response from the new EDC's new representative of the ferry. They said they will meet with us in 2022. My ask of Community Board 1 is if you can send a formal letter to the EDC, the new Mayor and the new Borough President asking that this be done as soon as possible. Also, maybe asking specifically for a meeting with the new EDC representative.

Joseph Carroll added that Nick Zvegintzov already proposed this route when the initial routes were being discussed and EDC "deep-sixed" it. They wanted no part of it. It's a good thing there is a larger constituency arguing for it. I thank you for that.

Mr. Carroll said Mr. Zvegintzov was on the panel who reviewed the proposed routes. Mr. Zvegintzov and I went to all the meetings and he argued for this, but he was rebuffed. A letter was sent already

Jason Price a Stapleton. I'm a former candidate for City Council, 49th District. One of my main concerns are small businesses. The other is the super small businesses, the pop-up jobs that are hurting a lot due to Covid and the vaccinations. How can the Board accommodate with getting the word out for the small businesses, the pop-ups to try to promote for them to bring awareness to the community? A lot of people are losing their jobs and are hurting.

Mary Bullock, President of Port Richmond Strong stated they had our Holiday Event Part 1. The rebirth of the Christmas Tree Lighting at the Reformed Church on Wednesday, December 8th. There were 75 people and one Jolly Old Elf. We had a lot of kids and one playful dog. We had music, hot chocolate and pastries from Cafe Con Pan and Renato's. The tree was lit by Port Richmond Community members, a small business owner, homeowner and after 10 years of investment and hard work, a proud U.S. Citizen, Mr. Miguel Lopez. The American Dream is alive and well in Port Richmond. Port Richmond Holiday Event Part 2, The Birth of a New Tradition Holiday Banners and Light Show in Veteran's Park. That's coming this Friday, December 17th inside the park. It starts at 5 o'clock and goes on to who knows when. Hot chocolate and pastries will be served inside the park and Port Richmond High School will sing holiday songs. There is more for children and families. The 121st Precinct partnered with Port Richmond Strong for this event. Northfield Bank underwrote the banners and solar lights. We hope to make this an annual event. The weather promises to be mild. Come join us. Everyone is welcome.

Finally, great news from Trantor Place. The installation of a new widened sidewalk and curb is underway. Complaints to our City Council person started in 2017 with zero results. Everett Wattlely, a Community Constituent, had concern for the handicapped, seniors, pregnant mothers with children and strollers, and school children who were walking in the street with traffic. When he came to us, Port Richmond Strong started the notifications and communications with the individuals we knew would get this done. We worked closely with DOT, Borough Commissioner Rosanne Caruana, the NYC Department of Buildings, and with NYS Senator Diane J. Savino to make this happen.

Priscilla Marco wished everyone happy holidays. I'm asked to speak about an event the Van Duzer Civic is doing in Stapleton, in Tappan Park on Saturday, December 18th, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. They are doing our first annual Tree Lighting Ceremony in conjunction with and supported by the following community organizations. Historic Tappan Park Community Partnership, La Colmena, First Central Family Life Center, UAU, and Assemblymen, Charles Fall is also a sponsor of this event. Also, a community organization called Five Boroughs that is also sponsoring our Toy Drive. They will be giving out toys community members. There is a posting on Facebook. There is a 16-foot Christmas Tree in Tappan Park right now. We worked with NYC Parks to get it installed and it will be lit at approximately 4:45 PM on Saturday. Please look on social media for Van Duzer Civic, the St. George neighborhood by the ferry and other community sites if you want to have families register to get a toy. If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you.

Lisa Thompson, Richmond County District Attorney's Office wished all a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season. I know Covid cases are going back up again, be safe.

A couple of things from District Attorney, McMahon. He wants to thank Community Board 1 for sending condolences. As you know the DA lost both his mother and his father in a very short time span and many of you have reached out with cards of sympathy, phone calls and text messages. In his regard, I want to thank you all for being there in his time of need.

There has been a lot of news about gun violence happening at our high schools. In New Drop and Wagner High School, there have been a couple of incidences. There has been an arrest in one of the incidences. That investigation is still unfolding. There will be more information on that in the coming weeks. We are working closely with NYPD. If anyone has concerns, you can reach out to us. We will do all we can to make sure you and your families feel safe. Emanuel Camaro is the next speaker but he was unable to join us tonight. Have a Happy Holiday Season. Thank you.

Janet Dugo, Staten Island Chamber of Commerce wanted to share some resources for the small business community. There has been a lot of things instituted during the Pandemic and the chamber is "spearheading" it on Staten Island. We are part of the Small Business Resource Network which is a five-borough initiative headed by the Chamber of Commerce of each borough. We are able to provide a whole host of services to small businesses. I will include the link in the chat. I would highly recommend if you know any small businesses, have them sign up for this network. It allows us to access needs and direct people to the resources. There are things like grants and loans, and a special digital marketing program where people are provided with free website design. All free services provided by the government or donors. They can help with business planning, lease negotiations and things like that. Step one would be to sign up. There is no downside to it.

Under that, there are two specific grants that are available. One is through New York State and the other is through New York City. The criteria is if you have a 25% reduction in your gross revenue in 2020 as compared to 2019. You may be able to get funding based on how much you lost. The New York City Grant that was released last week, is a flat \$10,000 Grant. It is very easy to apply for. It is very straight forward. We are technical assistance providers on these programs. We can walk you through it step by step for eligibility and to help with the application. We've already helped a number of businesses get this funding. One more program. There is a Commercial Lease Assistance Program. Free legal help for any small business to check over their lease situation. There are Pro Bono Attorney's providing their assistance. Please reach out.

Lastly, there is a Verizon Digital Ready Program. It is an online course series where a business can learn about marketing, business planning and many other topics. If you sign up for it, you can be eligible for more grant funding. Thank you. Happy Holidays.

Patricia Walton, Metro Plus Health Insurance Plan wanted to let everyone know they are here to support the community and provide health insurance for those who are not insured or some who are underinsured. They have an office in the Port Richmond area. They have the ability to help people sign up for Healthcare through the phone as well.

Metro Plus will be having a New York City Residence Career Fair and Health Awareness Event on January 15th at the JCC. We are partnering with the Policy Research International Jobs Plus and Muslim Sisters of Staten Island to offer resources to the Community and providing information about immigration and how to become a citizen. We have a flyer we have been sharing and posting. Thank you, Lisa, for posting it on the Community Board 1 page. Thank you for the opportunity to share this information.

Frank Fontana, Department of Buildings wo announcement there is a live Q&A Session DOB has for any property owners and homeowners, it is every two weeks we have a session with a private advocate. It is in Webinar form and live. I will share the link in the chat. The one coming up is January 4th and the next would-be January 18th at 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM. If you have any questions about permits, CO's, anything related to construction, etc. just come on and we will answer them.

Secondly, records requests for any property owner that would like to request records. A lot of permits are being utilized now with DOB. After the request, you can have the records within 24-48 hours. DOB will send you an email and you can come to the borough office at 10 Richmond Terrace, 2nd floor to pick them up. This is our new systems. Please check BIS and DOB Now for the job applications. A lot are being filed now. In the future, they will all be transferred to DOB Now but for now check both systems. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

PUBLIC SESSION CLOSED

Secretary Loretta Cauldwell announced a quorum was present.

Chairman Siclari asked for a motion to accept the minutes. George Doyle made a motion to accept. Motion seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Nick Siclari said a lot of questions were answered. Janet Dugo put everything in the chat. I would officially like to get that letter out from the Community Board.

Reverse roll call. Does anyone oppose sending the letter to NYC EDC requesting the Staten Island to Brooklyn Ferry? Does anyone abstain?

We will add our voice to that. I ride the fast ferry every day You get a little spoiled. It is a great resource for Staten Island. It's time to reach out to the other boroughs. Lisa, we will send that letter.

Officers' Reports

First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino -

Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth -

Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewele - No report.

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell - No report. I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and Healthy New Year.

Treasurer, Larry Beslow - Excused. The report is in the packet. It was emailed to everyone today in the packet.

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari - I'm excited for next month in person but we will have rules. I'm sure Lisa and Joe will talk about it. It will be at Salem Church. Please arrive a little earlier. There will be temperature checks and vaccination cards. Lisa Crosby and Joe Carroll said the rules are in the chat. Chairman Siclari said as we get closer, we will reiterate those rules. Zoom is great. We've been using it for 2 years now but it's so much easier when we see everybody in person.

District Manager, Joseph Carroll - I just wanted to congratulate Dan Singleton who was awarded The Maniscalco Award by the Borough President. It's the boroughs highest civic award. He's the Principal of P.S. 31. I wanted to welcome the new President of CSI, Dr. Timothy Lynch. I wanted to wish everyone a very safe, happy, and joyful holiday. Don't forget to read those rules in the chat because we have to hold everyone to them.

Functional Committee Reports

Land Use, Vincent Accornero – Chairman Siclari said Vincent Accornero can't wait to be in person. I can see him walking in with his huge folder and grabbing everyone's attention. Mr. Accornero said he doesn't know about the huge folder, but I will be excited to be there in person. I also look forward to our new administration. I was ready to resign about 6 months ago for the way we were treated by the city. I was told let's wait it out and see what happens with the new Mayor. Hopefully that will be the case with the new administration.

Regarding Land Use, we have one application. Mr. Rooney chaired the meeting because I couldn't get on with my phone. I was driving at the time. I was finally able to hear but I wasn't able to run the meeting. Thank you, Mr., Rooney. The agenda item is a renewal of an authorization for a development project at 125 Edgewater. It is a project that we looked at about 5 years ago. A redevelopment project that would allow a mixed-use development of commercial and residential along with waterfront public access in concert with the variance that was granted and the rezoning items that were connected to the project. There were authorizations to allow for phased development of the project, and this application is for renewal because that authorization expired in May. Because of all the conditions surrounding Covid and the economy, the developer had not been able to initiate any development prior so they have resubmitted for a renewal for the authorization which would allow the phased development to go forward. That's a long explanation then just saying they want to expand the time that they would have to develop at the site of 125 Edgewater. It had been approved by the City Planning Commission, City Council and we had conditions of them doing the public access during Phase I, but in their negotiation with City Council and the City Planning Commission, they were allowed to have the phased development and do the waterfront access in phase III. So, this is a renewal of that authorization that was passed unanimously by the committee and I submit it for your discussion.

Mr. Rooney said the specific application is for the renewal of the waterfront access authorization. The rest of it did not have a time limit or the time limit on the rest of it has not expired.

Mr. Zvegintzov asked if there was any activity that caused us to get this request to renew it?

Mr. Accornero said the authorization has expired so that is the impedance for us to review and renew.

Mr. Zvegintzov asked if City Planning sent this to renew? Who prodded us to get into action here?

Mr. Accornero answered that the applicant resubmitted because they had been granted the authorization by City Planning which had an expiration of 4 years. They were not able to initiate development in that time, so they resubmitted it. It's like having a building permit that expires. You can resubmit for an extension on that permit. This would be an extension of the authorization for a period of 3 years.

Mr. Guzzo asked if this was one of those projects that was the abutter of the abutter that was stretching out into Rosebank from Stapleton?

Mr. Accornero said it is behind the Board Office founded by Silverton.

Mr. Carroll said they moved the Stapleton waterfront regulations into Rosebank and changed the rules.

Mr. Guzzo said so now they can overbuild and make the building higher and all that. The same circus act they tried through the de Blasio administration and they got away with pushing it through City Planning.

Mr. Accornero said as Mr. Rooney mentioned, this application is specific to the phase development authorization. It is not for the entire application.

Ms. Poirier asked if the reason they didn't go forward because there were hopes the zoning may change or why didn't they go forward? If we don't grant, what happens to the project?

Mr. Accornero said their answer was due to the Pandemic and Economics. The zoning was changed by the application so there's no other rationale that would cause them to wait. The application itself allows them to do the mix use development in a previous manufacturing zone only and use the parameters of the special Stapleton District. If they weren't granted by the City Planning Commission which I find highly. Unlikely, they would have to do everything in one continuous construction. They wouldn't be able to do it in phases which would include the development with the public access, etc. It wouldn't shut down the project.

Mr. Washington asked if the rezoning is approved already through the City Council, what exactly are we voting on now?

Mr. Accornero said everything was approved back in 2017. The specifics to an authorization for a phased development was separate from the rezoning and was an authorization granted by the City Planning Commission. That authorization only had a 4-year expiration which expired May of this year.

Mr. Turner said if City Planning gave them the approval. Any special permits from BSA, we have voted on these things before. It's like the gas station thing. They give you a period, some sort of relief from parking for instance. They give that 5-10 years. All these things have different time limits on them. But it's already accepted by the City Planning Commission and whatever BSA issues they had. It is up to us when it is revisited it. Get told that in their agreement what the timeframe is and they must renew it. I have renewed plenty of BSA issues that have expired. They don't usually rescind the approval.

Mr. Accornero said the original approval stipulated that the majority of waterfront improvements would be completed by the end of phase II and all the construction and development would be completed by phase III.

Mr. Guzzo said this was an unfriendly plan to Staten Island from the beginning. Nobody wanted this. This was an overreach in every way. The community wasn't behind it. This was a de Blasio thumb in the eye to Staten Island pushing this through. De Blasio was pushing to take over the Staten Island waterfront. Hopefully this new administration might not be so unfriendly to Staten Island.

Mr. Zvegintzov said he agrees with Mr. Guzzo. It was an earlier version of the same thing we had on Hamilton Avenue which was to add themselves into the Special Stapleton Waterfront District and they managed to add extra height. It was exactly that same maneuver and certainly wasn't acceptable to the community. It was railroaded through. I'm for voting no on this and remember that we opposed the whole thing.

Vincent Accornero said just to put it in prospective, and I'm not speaking for or against particularly, but our original recommendation and motion was as follows:

Whereas the existing Special Stapleton Waterfront District provides for design controls including street wall provisions and a low building height to frame the public park, respect the character and scale of the upland portion of the neighborhood; and

Whereas these conditions were imposed upon the adjacent Stapleton Waterfront District including Urby Development; and

Whereas any higher development would be above the stack of the New York Power Authority Power Plant and could have potential adverse impacts from emissions; and

Whereas the area is underserved by mass transit being resolved that Community Board 1 approves the application with the following conditions:

The building height be restricted to 8 stories. 1 parking space be required for each residential unit developed. Every effort to use Union workers in all construction aspects and the maintenance of the buildings once they are completed and the entire Esplanade be completed with the construction of Phase I. That was the motion forwarded by this board.

Mr. Guzzo said yes, it was forwarded by the board because we knew no matter what they were going to push over us. I want to point out once again, this whole thing was done as a hostile takeover to our community. De Blasio was hostile to our waterfront.

Mr. Jain said since we are advisory, even if we said no, City Planning can still overrule us. If this builder is using the Pandemic as one of the reasons and economic, obviously he will have a better chance of getting the extension from City Planning.

Mr. Cosentino asked if they made any movement towards accepting our conditions?

Mr. Accornero said as far as being completed in Phase I, no, because it is predominantly being completed by Phase II. I don't know if I have the information on the parking spaces.

Mr. Accornero said this was just a review of why it wasn't completed and should they be granted the additional time to do the development.

Mr. Rooney asked what City Planning did with the original recommendations and conditions?

Mr. Accornero said he didn't know if they put the parking requirements on or if they limited it to 8 stories. The application was for a zoning map change. A variance that was connected to a particular set of plans. That change was specifically a manufacturing zone to an R6/C2 zoning which would allow the mix use in the Stapleton District. We don't know if they even submitted plans to go along with those parameters.

Mr. Guzzo said we stand a better chance with the new administration than with the old one. If they are going to keep using this abutter rule, the next thing that would be said is that Clifton is now Stapleton and

Rosebank is now Clifton and Stapleton. Is South Beach going to be Stapleton soon if it suits them because they want to build there. This is what we are allowing to happen by agreeing with them and we need to dig our heels in.

Radhakrishna Mohan asked if this can be tabled for next month.

Mr. Accornero said no because we would be out of compliance.

Amy Poirier asked about after construction having union jobs. Would the job be union? Have they started any work and were unions used?

Mr. Accornero said we requested both. We can't bind them to use union labors. It could only be a request. There has been no work at the site.

Mr. Turner said I haven't heard anything about the bids to use union workers. I don't know how far along they are on their planning process but there has been no overt conversations about that property.

Mr. Accornero asked if there was a discussion at the Land Use meeting on where they are in the planning of it. Do they have plans that they've submitted?

Mr. Rooney said they asked about that but there are no specific plans. They are probably still looking for financing.

Mr. Accornero said this is a conceptual project.

Anthony Scutari said one of the biggest concerns is the power plant from the power authority. Once that plant comes online, you're not going to want to stand next to it let alone live next to it and with this project I think we determined that plant was going to be online just to supply the power. That jet engine that's in that building can fly a 747. It is loud. Did the developer speak to the power authority?

Mr. Guzzo said that was brought up and the power authority and they said they wouldn't be in favor of it although the builder that came to the meeting said he had their approval and we found out that was a lie.

Mr. Consenting said I think we used our better judgement in deciding we were going to lose anyway so let's try to get a couple of things in our favor with our loss. However, at this moment I'm going to agree with John Guzzo and vote no because I think it's time with the new administration coming in, for a push back now. We have to wait and see.

Mr. Accornero said he wanted to point out is that the motion on the floor was to approve so if there is a consensus of denial of this extension would benefit in us renegotiating the project, then you would vote down this motion and a new motion would be framed that would illustrate the reason we are denying the extension and what we would hope to accomplish by it. If you believe the project in its entirety is flawed and should be reviewed and this would be the mechanism to do so, then you can vote no to this motion extend that term for the authorization and then a new motion be made to request a review of the project.

Mr. Ogbewe said he is not supporting or against the project, but I want to raise an issue. I believe this application is about the whole development. It is concerning about the implementation of the waterfront public access area. Improvements on the zoning line. If we are against the whole project, then like Vinny said, we kill the whole project.

Mr. Rooney agreed with Friday. The waterfront access is the only part of the project where the time limit has expired.

Mr. Accornero said it would be a stretch for a denial of this extension of authorization to trigger a review but if you feel strongly of the project in its entirety, despite our previous recommendation is flawed and might be reviewed under a new administration. I'm not even sure of the legality on that because the rezoning has occurred. I don't know what that would entail. It would entail the Department of City Planning submitting a new application to reverse the zoning. I don't know what the effect would be. I want you to be clear on that. I'm not saying it could not have any effect, but it would have some impact they don't get the extension.

Joseph Helferty said to go back and change the core of that project, that would require a new application submitted by an entity, whoever that maybe, to undo this. Someone would have to administer a land use change to the commission.

George Doyle asked to call a question.

Motion to approve the application which would be an extension of the authorization for a period of 3 years for phased development at 125 Edgewater.

Roll call by Loretta Cauldwell.
Motion passed 13-10-4.

Mr. Accornero asked if there is a definition on how abstentions are counted in the vote? 'We always counted abstentions in the no column.

Mr. Carroll said that was our error.

Mr. Rooney said abstentions reduce the total count. You take those people out and from the remaining you count the yes' against the no's. They don't affect the Quorum.

Ms. Cauldwell said I hope people know they should say ineligible when they are not eligible to vote. It's not necessarily an abstention.

Chairman Siclari said we need to get the rule book. If you abstain and you have no active participation in the project, you're wasting your vote. If you're ineligible that means you have something to do with the project in question.

Health and Human Services, Amy Poirier - Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. Happy Kwanza. Happy past Hanukkah.

Waterfront, Ole Olsen – There will be a meeting next month via zoom with EDC for update on the Tompkinsville Esplanade and pier. The meeting will be held jointly with West Brighton/St. George.

Public Services, Sunny Jain - We are very lucky so far. The weather has been extremely well. Looks like Sanitation did an excellent job last year and we really expect the same. There plans are at the same as last year so we should be good. Hopefully it doesn't snow. Happy Holidays to you all.

Ms. Cauldwell asked about the leaves being picked up. They are saying pails and paper bags. There are a lot of plastic bags out there.

Youth Services, Ernest Paige – No report.

Rules and Legislative Affairs, Christopher Rooney - No report other than the abstentions rule.

Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino - We have submitted the Budget and it went to the Electives and OMB. Now we just wait.

Transportation, Nicholas Zvegintzov - Since we are not getting the wheel on the waterfront, the transportation committee decided to bring you the “squeaky wheel”. The squeaky wheel gets the oil. We thought we should run down all the projects that the taxpayers’ dollars should be going to help transportation in our area. The transportation Committee is going to hold two public hearings in the next year. One is about Transportation Infrastructure and how to get those dollars. The other is service on the Staten Island Ferry. We will be meeting with Joe and Lisa on how to hold these public hearings. We are looking for your input. Things you would like to see built and things you would like to see the Staten Island Ferry do in the New Year. Since we have all these new administrators, it’s a good time to blame all their predecessors and start out on a much better foot. With respect on spending the taxpayer dollars, it doesn’t have to be transportation. We will have to discover how these things are allocated. We would like to share that with anybody who has other projects they want to put on the menu. We are hoping that the new year brings us many goodies under our tree. We will see you then.

Mr. Rooney said he has two projects to be considered. One is a smart light on Clove Road where the Urby Center is on the west side and so that the smart light would only go red for Clove Road when there is somebody there and the traffic doesn’t have to stop for 30 seconds when there is nobody on either side. The second is Martling Avenue and Manor Road. West bound on Martling. Somehow coordinate that light with the light at College Avenue and Manor Road so that the traffic on Martling does not backup from Manor Road all the way back to Brookside because those lights are not coordinated. Especially in rush hour in the evening. Maybe the new administration Transportation Department can revisit it.

Mr. Carroll said the sad truth is that’s DOT’s idea of coordination. They did that knowing what was going to happen.

Mr. Zvegintzov said he will consult with Chris Rooney and Joseph Carroll and see how this goes.

Mr. Sona said in a nutshell, the buses are full at 2:00 pm. With the virus the MTA should be running more buses. The 98 and 96 during this time. The kids coming home from school, the bus is packed. Let them do a study from the ferry. There will be evidence, and nobody can change it.

Mr. Zvegintzov said to put the request in the chat. He asked George to please write it down for us in the chat.

Mr. Carroll said we have been trying to get the MTA to have intermediate starting points for these buses, but they will not do that. The reason why they are so crowded is that they all start at the same spot and by the time they get to where the kids are, they are packed. If they stagger the starts of the buses, none of the buses would be that crowded.

Mr. Accornero is asking about the ferry route to Brooklyn. The fast ferries are run by a private enterprise. They are subsidized.

Mr. Zvegintzov said yes, it’s a private enterprise by a contract from EDC.

Mr. Ahlstrom said all the routes are approved by EDC.

Mr. Accornero asked if we should reach out to EDC to see if they have any input, recommendations, ideas on ridership.

Mr. . Zvegintzov said EDC is one of the great conduits for the taxpayer's money. They are on our list to follow-up with but are opaque unfortunately.

Mr. Ahlstrom said it's New York City Ferries which is a subsidiary of Hornblower.

Mr. Accornero asked if they would have some data that would be beneficial to make the argument to create the Brooklyn route. Regarding taxpayer fee I would recommend seeing what cash he runs out the door with.

Mr. Zvegintzov said we should write a letter to EDC.

ADHOC Committee Reports

Labor, Robert Holst - Happy Holidays to you and your families. Be well.

Parks, Norman Light – Mr. Cosentino said Norman Light is going to attend a special parks event tomorrow morning. Bobby Lewis Park. Norman came into the conversation and said he will be attending a Ribbon cutting for the Bobby Lewis Playground at 9:00 AM. It's on Richmond Terrace in Mariner's Harbor. Lt. Lia Park at St. Mark's Place and Belmont is going to get a \$6 million dollar grant under Mayor de Blasio's Community Parks Initiative. It's one of a 100 sites within the city helping 10 sites a year for 10 years. Lt. Nicholas Lia Park between St. Mark's and McKee and Belmont. I take this personally because I knew Nick. We went to Curtis High School together. He was a year ahead of me and I knew him from P.S. 16. They haven't had anything done in this park since the early 90's so I very glad they are doing this.

Mr. Accornero asked where the Playground was. Nicole Brooks said it was Mariner's Harbor Playground on Harbor Road. They are just renaming it.

Area Committee Reports

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

Ms. Crosby said there will be a meeting next month with Land Use and West Brighton for the West Brighton houses. They will be doing some updates there.

Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh, Timothy Forsyth & Camille Zarrelli - No meeting, No minutes. Hopefully next year we will have our meeting. Have a Happy and Healthy Holiday.

Rosebank/Fort Wadsworth, John Guzzo - No meeting, no minutes. I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. Be safe.

Marine's Harbor/Port Richmond, John McBeth - Nick Siclari said John McBeth is celebrating his daughter's birthday.

Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Larry Beslow - George Doyle said no meeting, no minutes. Happy Holidays to everybody.

Old Business -

New Business

Chairman Siclari said he just wanted to remind everyone that Joe, Lisa, and Linda are all available via emails and cell phones. If any needs arise during the month, please feel free to contact them. Please check the rules for January and I look forward to seeing everybody. Have a wonderful holiday.

Mr. Carroll reminded everyone to check the rules in the chat please.

Chairman Siclari asked for a Motion to Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.