

COMMUNITY BOARD #1 VIRTUAL FULL BOARD MEETING – MARCH 9, 2021 –
6:00pm

Ms. Victoria Munro, Executive Director of the Alice Austen House, Katherine Cooper, Worthless Studios and Elizabeth Massella from NYC Parks presented a temporary art installation by Tony Di Bernardo and coordinated by Worthless Studios on their Plywood Protection grant which will be coming to the Alice Austen House from May 2021 – June 2021.

Roll call attendance taken, quorum present.

Motion made seconded and approved to accept February 2021 Full Board Minutes.

Ms. Anna Shats and Jennifer Brumskine spoke of testing for COVID and vaccine and testing sites.

Loria Raiola - NYC Guidance Counselor and mother. West Brighton resident. Reported to NYPD. Selling vapes to underage children. Police went in. Said they would be reported. Bement and Bard Avenue, 3 smoke shops. One block from PS 45. Vape stuff and bong in the window. I complained about it and they took it down. Please call it in if you hear anything. The NYPD are willing to go to the store and take care of it. Loretta said she will send her the website for the Civic group. It would be helpful.

Lisa Thompson of DA Mike McMann's office - Community Survey to help us access the communities needs. I will have a link for you by the next meeting. We are cohosting with Soroptimist, a Career Mentoring Program called Dream It, Be It. For girls 13-19 and other age we can accommodate them too. It's every other Saturday morning from 10am to 11am. Flyer will be in the chat box. Thursday, March 11th, the DA, along with our partners at the Family Justice Center, Central Family Life Center, True to Life and NYPD are co-sponsoring an information Webinar on Domestic Violence 101. It will cover ways to report abuse safely and confidentially. How to make a safety plan for you and your loved one and the type of resources that are available to anyone facing domestic abuse at home. Information in the chat.

Mario Buonviaggio - Long term issue on Trantor Place regarding missing sidewalks. The remaining properties along that strip are owned by NYC DOT. It appears the NYC agencies are not required to the same rules the citizens of this city. For years, the long strip of no sidewalks were ignored. We should send you a letter, DOT and you should fix it. We are giving the DOT until July 4th to get this done. Until then, we will make everyone accountable. We want CB1 to come up with some kind of course of action.

We learned there is another social services opening up in another part of Port Richmond at 214 Heberton. In the process for about a year. Apparently CB1 made no issues about it with zero input. The failure of representation of Port Richmond. I have a letter from the Executive Director of the facility stating that she mailed it to you and we were never notified. It's almost a year in the process.

Frank Fontana, Dept. of Buildings - Local Law 152, Periodic Gas Inspection extension until June 30th. Through the five boroughs, anything larger than a 2-family dwelling have that time to hire someone with time allowance to make any corrections to the property.

Business signs. There was a moratorium on any business owners who received a violation for a sign after 2017, we are waiving the penalty. If you paid the penalty, we would give a reduced payment on your permit. The City Council will extend the moratorium for two years. Any business owner or doesn't have a legalized sign, they are two years to get that in order by hiring an architect or licensed sign hanger. Follow the proper permits to legalize the signs they had or install a new sign.

There are two links on our website on the bottom left that allow you to sign up for job updates and DOB newsletters.

Martha Bromelmeier - I live at Bay Street Landing. Is there an existing plan or community concern regarding the road conditions and the immediate environment surrounding Murray Hobert Avenue from Hannah Street to Front Street, along the water from Lyons Pool to Urby. It is terrible. I believe it was created during the water tunnel project. The area floods and then freezes. Not properly grated. Filled with potholes, metal grates, no bike path. Concrete barriers along the road. Salt trucks on it all the time. Trucks cross the center line and speed around the curve. Any plan to fix the road that leads to the new Cromwell Center? Very dangerous.

Joe Schwartz - Graniteville Wetlands. I know the Community Board and Councilwoman Rose have supported the project to build a BJ's on the Graniteville Wetlands. I'm urging you to reconsider your position on it. We have learned from Hurricane Sandy and others that we need as much wetlands that we can. BJ's will increase the flooding. It will make the homeowners insurance go up. The solution should be the city and state get involved. BJ's should be built next to the UA Theater. Already developed. A wetlands could stay the way it is. Can you withdraw your support.

Kywnn Hogan - Graniteville Wetlands is detrimental to our Staten Island. Clearing was going on despite not having proper fencing up. Walkthrough on Sunday with evidence found of clearing dozens of cut, plowed and destroyed trees, evidence of human tampering, and survey markers for a construction fence but no fence. This is extremely unsafe for residents and they are not following the proper DOB code protocols. One single tree absorbs 100 gallons of water per day. As in Hurricane Sandy, this is extremely important and for how many trees we are going to lose, it's going to expand the flood area. Trees also filter air, toxic chemicals such as the ones that come from the New Jersey Chemical Processing Plant. Just across the water from Mariners Harbor, that is already an economically and environmentally sensitive area. I oceanic scientist agreed on two separate occasions that these wetlands saved us during Hurricane Sandy and if it were to be developed, flooding would only increase. City Planning Flood Risk Mapper also stated that as of 2020, we are currently at risk for more flooding. According to the study from the Alliance of Small Business owners in Mariner's Harbor

will result in 300 jobs minimum, contamination risk of 100,000 gallons of fuel stored by the new Super Gas Station and will close a number of small businesses. We would like CB#1 to revoke its support of this development, City Council and Debi Rose revoke their support until a proper Environmental Impact Survey conducted by the State is released. As a compromise we would urge City Council to look at the movie theater for development there. My information is in the chat.

Jermaine Williams, Department of Social Services - A lot of people are applying for Social Services since the Pandemic. One being getting there EBT card. Card used to access your benefit allocations. Please call 888-328-6399 and you can make a request for a new EBT card. If you're in a financial situation and you need your benefits sooner rather than later, we have a location at 201 Bay Street, Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm and pickup a Vault Card which is a temporary 90-day card until you get your original benefit card in the mail. Also go to access.nyc.gov to apply for social services such as food stamps and cash assistance and utility help. We are trying extremely hard to get waivers for recertification. If you had one from January 1st to March 31st, they have been waived for 6 months. If your case was closed and you're not sure why, call 718-557-1399. Please be patient as it's the only number we have to speak with a live person.

Lastly, we opened up our Pay It Off Program through child support. If you have a problem paying child support, they will match the funds up to \$300. Go to nyc.gov/payitoff for more information. Thank you and stay safe.

Concludes Public Session.

Roll Call

Motion to accept the minutes

Nick S. for BJ's - When we received the application we were waiting for the Environmental Impact. Joe said the board voted and not the majority. There were a number of abstentions, we sent the recommendation to City Planning as an opposition. The City Council approved the plan and a series of tests were done and it was signed off. They checked the hydrology and impact. All agencies approved the project and moved it forward. The vote passed numerically but with so many abstentions. Vinny said the application before us was a zoning application and the layouts. The Environmental impact was not included. That falls under the state. They have to come up with the restoration plan and other. It is a commercial developer that is putting a shopping center with BJ's as the main store. You can reach out to BJ's and tell them about the adjoining property available. We reached out to the state to purchase the property which didn't materialize. Nick S. yes they were going to put a gas station too. Vinny said they said a large retention site was planned with dry wells on the property. Nick S. said we wanted to address it, sometimes our hands are tied.

Guest Speaker:

Tony DiBernardo, Artist

Elizabeth Massella, Senior Public Art Coordinator from NYC Parks - Permits temporary art works on parkland throughout the city. They are on view for up to a year. Most for a few months. The Artwork we are speaking about will be installed on the grounds of Alice Austen House. Victoria Munro is also here from Alice Austen House. Katherine could share her screen and show some visuals. It takes the form of a stage with programming at Alice Austen. These temporary Artworks are permitted through our office. The artist funds the full amount of the project. Our programming does not receive any funding. They're responsible for maintenance, transport, installation and site restoration at the end. They provide general liability insurance for the duration of the exhibition and are required to maintain it as well. Katherine will show you some images of the work.

Katherine Cooper, Managing Director for Worthless Studios which is a Not for Profit Arts Organization based in NYC. Showing a picture of a piece of wood. The project is called the Plywood Protection Project. Our founder is an artist named Neil Hamamoto born in NY. With the tough year we had, he walked around NY and seen all this plywood boarding up the businesses. As an artist he thought this is valuable material and the cost increased. He thought why can't we turn this into something beautiful. We hosted an open call. We collected 200 Plywood boards. We asked people what should be made out of these boards. From all five boroughs, Jenna Amozo was very helpful from Staten Island to circulate the proposal and Scott Van Campen from Make a Space was one of our jury members. Why now? It's been hard to go to a museum the last year. When we connected with the Alice Austen House, we thought it was a good fit. Tony's art will be there for two months. He builds sets in the theater and was out of work. We were excited to support him. It is a stage built with this plywood with different colors and textures. Use this as a platform to show Staten Island talent. Installing in May and deinstalling end of June.

Victoria Munro, Executive of the Alice Austen House - It has been a pleasure to work with everyone. Provides an opportunity to give a platform to Staten Island groups with our staff. Watch this space for you all. We will have DJ's and performers when this project kicks off in all boroughs on weekends. Starting on May 15th. Juneteenth programming with people with color. Followed by Friends and family Latinx, The Unicorns for the first time in 2019. More activations will happen. Yoga programs, etc. The stage is an archway and transparent. Thank you for your support. This is a wonderful project.

Anna Shats, NYC DOHMH - We are going to talk about testing and tracing. With a presentation. Current cases and percent positivity, stopping the spread, etc. If you test positive, immediately go to: nyc.gov/covidtest or call 212-COVID19 (212-268-4319). Updated face covering guidance, wearing two masks. a cloth mask over a disposable mask. Vaccinations by numbers, vaccine delivered, distributed one dose and distributed second dose. Adults vaccinated by race, ethnicity and age. Adults vaccinated by zip code. NYC Vaccine for All. Focusing on equitable distribution, history, current experiences of racism and bias in healthcare, and communities significantly impacted by COVID-19. Led by the Vaccine Command Center, and interagency operation with NYC Health Dept., Health and Hospitals, Test & Trace Corps, NYC

Emergency Mgmt. and other city agencies. Vaccine Basics: They are safe, undergone rigorous testing. Does not alter DNA. Three vaccines, Pfizer, Moderna and the Johnson & Johnson. Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccine which requires two vaccines and Johnson & Johnson which requires only one vaccine. After getting vaccinated, continue wearing face coverings, keeping physical distance and limiting gatherings.

How does the vaccine get to NYC: Federal government manages distribution of the vaccine to states. For list of eligible groups: nyc.gov/covidvaccinedistribution.

Enhancing Access and Building Confidence: Successful and equitable distribution, enhancing access and building confidence. Expanding site and ensuring distribution to pharmacies and local providers as supply increases. Appointments can be made online at vaccinefinder.nyc.gov. or calling 877-VAX4NYC (877-829-4692). Transportation options available to seniors who need them through the call center. Language access for City vaccination sites is available on website and hotline, as well as on-site. Building Vaccine Confidence: Trusted messengers, community leaders to help spread accurate information and help navigate the process. Outreach from Town Halls, Community Conversations, etc.

Graybrj spoke: We are reaching out to churches, knocking on doors, etc. Distribution center if an organization needs masks, hand sanitizer, etc.

Tim from Health and Hospitals: Gotham Health. Vanderbilt site. 165 Vanderbilt Avenue. We are network of care services for the entire family. We provide a wide- range of services. Cancer screenings, ultrasounds, mammograms, Pediatric services, etc. Gotham Health Works: Encourage business owners to improve the health of their employees. The Vanderbilt site does testing as well as vaccines. There is a lack of vaccination sites in Staten Island. I am trying to bridge that gap. Our vaccines are 24/7. I will put the link in the chat. We offer an electronic app called My Chart.

Nick S. - Do we have general questions?

Joe Carroll: The island doesn't have sufficient sites. Amy, Cathy, Loretta and I have been meeting trying to get more sites. We have been "spinning our wheels". It's not happening. The support for these communities are not sufficient. Vaccine doses are not sufficient.

Anna Shats - We understand and acknowledge it. We know of the concern. It is based on supply. In the next few months we hope to have it everywhere.

Claudette - Is there any plan for the homebound?

Anna Shats - Last week the Mayor announced a soft launch with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The initial phase will be homebound seniors and will extend as the program expands.

Anthony C. - I heard some of the vaccine on Staten Island has been spoiling. We lost some of that vaccine. Is that true?

Anna - I will have to get back to you on that.

Nick S. - I know it's a work in progress but we have to do a better job in Staten Island.

Lily - Vaccines for most vulnerable. I'm working with ambulette organizations so they can get to these people. I left the contact information in the chat.

Committee reports:

1st Vice Chair, Tony Consentino: Waiting for the Mayor to have his final Budget report by June 30th. By that time we will know exactly what we have or don't have.

2nd Vice Chair, Timothy Forsyth (excused).

3rd Vice Chair, Friday Ogbewe: No report.

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell: No report.

Treasurer, Larry Beslow: Report in the packet.

Nick S. - Debi Rose' long-term partner, Manny Braxton passed away. Please extend our condolences.

District Manager, Joe Carroll: Mario, the sidewalks in Port Richmond is a struggle. We just scheduled a meeting with the new DOT Commissioner and this will be a primary agenda item. You are right, it's a condition that shouldn't have been allowed to go on this long. Once we get some feedback, I will let you know what her thinking is on what the suitable repairs should be. That street has been there forever. Not part of the water project. We can try to get the street resurfaced. No sidewalks will be installed until and unless the HPD project, at the end of the homeport, is finally certified and begins to be built. I wouldn't be optimistic about sidewalks but we can certainly get sanitation to take care of the garbage and DOT to fix the potholes.

I said my piece about the vaccines. I want to thank Amy for getting many of our folks vaccinated on her own. She's been able to get appointments for people, get people into sites. The whole appointment process is a nightmare. Unfortunately, Amy is in the hospital right now undergoing major surgery, so let's all say a little prayer for her. Norman is also in the hospital and Camille is recovering from Covid. Other than that, the rest of us are all doing good. Thank you.

Nick S. - Thank you Joe. Amy did a terrific job. Anyone need a vaccine, let us know and we will do our best to help with scheduling until a popup site becomes available.

Vincent Accornero, Land Use:

I will just say I saw someone with a concern that I mentioned BJ's was a private site. I wasn't inferring that we had no input into the development of the site or into the actions that were

required. I was just saying it was being developed privately and by a developer and BJ's will be a tenant of that developer. If that developer chose not to develop that site, that's their choice but to be mandated not to develop it, would require the city or state to purchase that land. We did discuss that and did a request of the state at the time. They probably had a little bit more cash at that time but with the state of affairs fiscally at this point, I don't think there is any extra cash unless there's something in the Covid relief bill to purchase the land. Maybe we can ask Lily from Congresswoman Malliotakis' office to see if there's some cash available. Nick joked with Lily to just write a check.

Three agenda items: Two of the three were tabled because there were many unanswered questions.

235 Oder Avenue by Stueben Street. General City Law 35. Build in the bed of a mapped street. It was discussed that the adjoining property did respect the widening line of Steuben and this one did not. Mr. Farinacci volunteered to go back and review the existing street and we are in contact with DOT to get some further information. We also need to get clarification because it's been this board's policy in the past, that we put the responsibility on the developer. If the city decided to expand that area, widen that street, that the owner would incur the cost to remove the structure. We want some clarification from the city of what the standard operating procedure is and what would be enforceable as far as that onus being on the property owner. That application was tabled. We requested a postponement from the Board of Standard and Appeals and that was granted.

680-684 Van Duzer Street. Impact on the drainage patterns of that site. That site is on a downward slope and absorbs a good amount of water. There is already a flooding problem in that area. Is there enough mechanisms in place to take care of water runoff that would be coming down the incline from that property and not create a stronger flooding issue. This was tabled and put in a request to City Planning. They have extended the hearing date for two weeks which gives us the time to get more information until next month's meeting.

250 Westervelt Avenue, third application is a variance application that we came to a finality on. Allow construction of a single family detached home. Waiver of front yard requirements. It is a corner lot so there are actually two front yards which causes an issue of the front yard requirements. There was a discussion on the motion and it was deemed to be like most homes in the area. Other than one member who is ineligible because he has business dealings with the applicant, that passed unanimously at 12-0 and one ineligible.

23 Yes, 1 abstention and 1 ineligible.

Vinny said if in fact there is construction for Cromwell that would come into the roadway. The city would be required to be to redevelop. Joe said the Cromwell construction would not be there, it would be on the other side. John McBeth said it would be at the S-curve going towards Edgewater. Joe said it's exactly where the Navy Base was.

Health and Human Services, Amy Poirier: Nick said as Joe said, Amy is under the weather. She had surgery done but she did do a terrific job making sure that all vaccine that was provided to the North Shore of Staten Island was used.

Waterfront, Olaf Olsen: On business.

Public Services, Sunny Jain: Sanitation did a great job with the snow. On Front Street, Nick and I can meet anytime and see if there any issues.

Nick S. - At 5am there is a convoy of tractor trailer trucks coming from the Terrace, some split up on Bay Street and some go to Front Street. They are destroying the road. It is an issue. Not sure where the material is coming from. Nick Z. said they may be salt trucks. Nick S. said maybe they are coming out empty and going back full. Nick Z. said they go out Front and Murray Hobart because they don't like the traffic lights. We just got one more traffic light on Bay street opposite the Clifton train station so I guess it's only going to get worse.

Ernest Paige: Away.

Rules and Legislative, Chris Rooney: No report.

Budget & Finance, Tony Consentino:

Transportation, Nicholas Zvegintzov: I just want to make a comment on two things of public session. Trantor Street, no sidewalks. We are taking notice of it and try to get the DOT to answer some questions. Murray Hobart Road, I agree with Joe, this is an intensely a political piece of road. I will try to put it on the agenda to bug the DOT. My list is getting longer and longer. It is more unresponsive than I've seen it before. It is discouraging but we will pay some attention to it.

Nick S. - We have a new commissioner so we will put them to work.

Labor Committee, Robert Holst: We had an issue that we discussed. The transit authority is going to get money to cover their expenses. They are talking about raises tolls and raising fares. The vote will be at the end of the week. Our concern is they have a program that brings young people into the transit authority to get skilled trade jobs. They don't want to keep that because of the expense. After some research, the money is not in the bank until the federal government passes the legislation. Can we send a letter to the elected offices and Chair of the MTA about this contingent that it's passed. It's good for these kids. If you are willing to ok this, I will write the letter. Joe asked if Robert can include Staten Island kids in that letter. Robert said I can do that but I'm not sure where these kids are coming from. There could be a deal with other places like the housing authority. I will find out and make sure Staten Island can maybe be included. Vinny said if it's a NYCHA related program we can include Staten Island. I think it's a worthwhile program either way, not to wait for Federal Funding. Robert said I can write a different letter if we don't get the funding. Larry said he agrees with Vinny. I would not concur with it if it doesn't involve Staten Island. Robert said if they put the paperwork up and no kids apply from Staten Island, then what? What do we want them to do for Staten Island more so

than they would do for any other borough. John Guzzo said you all have points. We've been discussing this on Staten Island. When Sun Chemical was going to be used, we talked about it. If we are hearing about this now, Staten Island has not heard about it. There isn't the amount of outreach on Staten Island. Robert said I'm more than happy to dig a little deeper. John McBeth said it's just a matter of availability because you're coming from Staten Island. Robert said I understand John Guzzo wants to raise awareness for Staten Island. Robert said let's have an approval now and I will write the letter if all goes through.

The letter passes unanimously.

Parks & Recreation, Norman Light:

West Brighton/St. George, Loretta Caudwell: No meeting, no minutes but as issues come into the office, we are handling them.

Silver Lake/Sunnyside: Camille Zarrelli/Timothy Forsyth: No Report.

Rosebank/Fort Wadsworth, John Guzzo: No report.

Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond, John McBeth - No report. We did have a meeting and we are meeting next week as well.

Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Larry Beslow: No report but starting Thursday in April we will start meeting at the Family Life Center.

Old Business:

New Business:

Vinny said he mentioned a couple of months ago but it's also new. Obviously, NYC restaurants were able to open at 35% but outside of NYC and elsewhere in NYS, they are able to open to 75%. I called on the Board to encourage city and state government to relax some of the restrictions on NYC businesses because we have seen the impact of so many businesses closing and some barely hanging on. They are basically playing with peoples livelihood. They say follow the science but Connecticut is opening to substantial capacity. Why is it safer in Albany? Why only up to 10pm? There is a lot of inconsistencies that are really not science-based. Both City and State Government need to release some of these restrictions. We are getting bailed out by the Federal Government this time around but the City and State need a steady stream of income and without businesses, this is going to fall on homeowners. The Feds keep writing these ridiculous checks. People are going across the bridge in New Jersey especially when NYC wasn't open at all. Now there is limited capacity. It doesn't make sense. Tony said if the Mayor and Governor sat down at the same table, we may see some results. Vinny said that's for a WWF Slamdown. John Guzzo said what a lot of people don't realize, if a restaurant opens they incur a cost. They're paying rent, gas, electric, food cost, salaries, refrigeration, etc. Making only a certain percentage, restaurants can't survive. Chris said the percentages should be higher which was Vinny's point. John Guzzo says then Door Dash then takes a percentage.

George Sona asked why we don't have a 24 hour vaccination site. Lisa said we do at the Gotham Health Center. Joe agreed with Lisa. George said we should have more. The more people get vaccinated the more go out. Vinny said no, they're not allowing people to go out. It should be our choice to go out, take out, etc. Free market. George said you can open all you want, but if people don't feel safe, they're not going to go anywhere. Vinny said a lot of people are traveling over bridges to go out because they need to and they're going to NJ, CT, PA, etc. Nick S. said we can write a letter. Asked Vinny for what percentage. Vinny said for 75%. Everyone said they seconded the motion. Tony said he is on board but we should get Board 2&3 to join us. Chris said not sure about Board 3. Joe said the infection rate is higher in Board 3. Robert said what are we basing this on? We don't have proper health care. We have discussed this. We don't have enough hospitals if this gets bad. Now the variants. Is the vaccine going to work with the variants? Are we doing this because we need to? Joe said the tristate area has less restrictions. Robert said it's not the same as Albany. We know more than the CDC? We are going to stake our claim as a Community Board? We are supposed to look out for the Community.

Nick S. said we opened up a huge debate. George Sona asked for increase of vaccinations to start. Can't do one without the other. Lisa said we have already been complaining to the Health Department about more us needing more sites. Claudette said she doesn't feel comfortable about this. Let's get someone from the sciences. Vinny said if you don't agree, vote no. If you are in the Bronx and you can walk to Westchester which is 5 minutes away. You can have 75% in Westchester but only 35% in the Bronx. George asked how many are walking across? Chris said my son-in-law had a party for my daughter in Hoboken because he couldn't have it here for 37 people.

Vinny said there is no relief for the businesses themselves. They are telling them they can open but there's no relief. The city is still looking for 100% payment for their commercial property tax whether you're open for business or not. Where is the equity there? If the government is saying you can't be open because of the science, they should say we won't collect any property tax.

Nick S. said we are going to have to do an official letter. Vinny, the motion is on the floor. The letter should request that NYC businesses should be open as the rest of the state. We will start from there. Everybody agrees? We can't do reverse roll-call.

14 yes, 5 no, 2 abstentions and 0 ineligible.

Nick S. - Please say safe.

Motion to Adjoin.

