

COMMUNITY BOARD #1 FULL BOARD MEETING, MARCH 10, 2009 – 8:00 P.M.
ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 2329 VICTORY BLVD.

Anthony Marra, Chairman

MEMBERS

Vincent Accornero
Anjail Ameen-Rice
Marilyn Averett
Lloyd Bacchus, Excused
Larry Beslow
Jeannine Borkowski, Excused
Loretta Cauldwell
Ajmal Chaudhry
Anthony Cosentino
Megan Delmar
George Doyle
Linda Eskenas
Timothy Forsyth
Grace Ferranti
Rajiv Gowda, Excused
John Guzzo
Jeanne Hogan
Sunny Jain
Wilma Jones
Dominick Lambert, Med. Leave
Lisa Lattanzio, Excused
Adena Long
Anthony Marra
Jacob Massaquoi, II
Sheila McGinn
Mary Mitchell, Med. Leave
Friday Ogbewe
John Pabone, Absent
Joseph Pancila
Joanne Pentangelo, Absent
Terry Player, Leave
Leticia Remauro
Christine Reese
Christopher Rooney
Debi Rose
Nicholas Siclari
John Strandberg, Jr.
Sean Sweeney, Excused
Ken Tirado
Harold Wagner, Excused
Curt Ward, Excused
Mark Washington
George Wonica, Jr.
Camille Zarrelli
Richard Zichettello

GUESTS

Deputy Inspector Denesopolis, C.O. 120 Pct.
Tom Aiello, Rep. Governor Patterson
Jason Razefsky, Rep. Borough President Molinaro
Julie Firestone-Levine, Rep. Senator Lanza
Annette Hernandez, Rep. Comptroller Thompson
Jeannette Beck, Rep. Councilman Oddo
Frank Carcaterra, Rep. NYC Parks Department
Michael Loscalzo, Todt Hill Library
Michael Morrell, President Westerleigh Improv. Society
Christopher Avitabile, United Activities Unlimited
Laura Liberto, Staten Island EDC
Melissa Budsock, Howard/Stein-Hudson
Paul Sullivan, Systra Consulting Inc.
Regina LaCaruba, Systra Consulting Inc.
Artie Cappobianco, Decker Avenue Civic Assn.
Joseph Ficara, Westerleigh Improvement Society
Edmund Kauinowski, Oswego Street
Joe Margolis, St. George Developer
Charles Sorrentino, Westcott Blvd.
Gene Guerra, Cannon Avenue
Pat O'Reilly, Foster Road
Vincent Polimieri, Union
Kiawana Rich, SI Advance

OFFICE STAFF

Joseph Carroll, District Manager
Lisa Crosby, Community Associate

Chairman Marra called the Board Meeting to order at 8:15 P.M. immediately following the Land Use Public Hearing.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call attendance taken. A quorum was present.

George Doyle made a motion to accept February 2009 Board Minutes, Linda Eskenas seconded the motion. Minutes accepted.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN, ANTHONY COSENTINO – Mr. Cosentino attended a meeting with the Parks Department with representatives from the SI Touch Tackle League, who asked for Community Board #1's assistance at last month's Board Meeting in helping them obtain permits to use Turf fields for their touch tackle football season. The Parks Department is allowing them use to use the fields on Fr. Capodonna Blvd. and others. The Steering Committee minutes are in the packet.

SECOND VICE-CHAIRWOMAN, LETICIA REMAURO – No report.

THIRD VICE-CHAIRMAN, FRIDAY OGBEWELE – No report.

SECRETARY, DEBI ROSE – No report.

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

DISTRICT MANAGER, JOSEPH CARROLL – Mr. Carroll congratulated Mr. Wonica who is the President Elect of the Staten Island Board of Realtors. He is the youngest person to ever hold this position. Mr. Wonica is also the President of the State Appraisal Society.

You may have read in the SI Advance, Congressman McMahon announced Mariners Harbor received \$1.3 million in stimulus money for a 2-year clinic in Mariners Harbor, the same building as the Post Office. The Federal Government felt it would be a very good way to start the health care stimulus. The clinic, run by Dr. Kim which, as the Congressman said this is the first step to improve the conditions of the health care on Staten Island. The clinic offers preventative services. The more of these clinics that are developed the fewer trips are taken to the emergency rooms and fewer hospital beds needed. Lisa Lattanzio and Debi Rose were very big advocates of this clinic and should be commended. It is a bittersweet day for Ms. Lattanzio, she is not here tonight, her father George Price passed away, the wake is tonight.

Chairman Marra introduced representatives from the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation and consultants from Systra Consulting Inc. who did the study for the West Shore Light Rail.

Mr. Paul Sullivan of Systra Consulting Inc. showed a power point presentation outlining the findings of their study.

The study assessed the feasibility, benefits and costs of developing light rail transit serving Staten Island communities, as a way to address present and future traffic congestion and reliability problems, which are expected to worsen in the future.

The light rail is an electric system able to operate a single car or multiple cars along exclusive rights-of way.

Trains would run across the Bayonne Bridge, along the Martin Luther King Jr. Expressway to the Staten Island Expressway, westbound, before continuing south along the median of the West Shore Expressway.

The tracks would connect to the Staten Island Railway to the south, and potentially could offer a connection to a revitalized North Shore rail line.

The first phase of the project that would run trains between Bloomfield and Elm Park with 10-minute headways could draw nearly 9,900 riders per day. Of those riders, nearly 1,500 would get on and off within the borough, the rest would travel over the Bayonne Bridge to and from New Jersey, with links to the PATH train to Manhattan.

A line that would include all nine stations, also with 10-minute headways, could draw nearly 13,000 riders the study showed. Nearly 2,800 of those riders would use the train just to make trips within Staten Island.

A four-station line ending in Bloomfield would cost about \$1.2 billion, while building the full nine-station length of the line to Richmond Valley, where it would meet the Staten Island Railway would cost about \$1.8 billion.

Base stations would be located at Elm Park, Richmond Avenue, Bloomfield near the Staten Island Corporate Park, Huguenot Avenue and Richmond Valley. Additional stations could be located at Forest Avenue, Victory Blvd. Sharrots Road and the Pleasant Plans and Park & Ride ride near the Outerbridge Crossing.

Before construction, an Environmental Impact Statement will be required and the Bayonne Bridge issue will need a solution. The Bridge options are: a tunnel, a new bridge or a higher deck.

It was noted that the MTA has a proposal for the median of the Staten Island expressways as a bus only lane.

Questions were asked and answered.

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Jacob Massaquoi, II thanked Deputy Inspector Denesopolis the Commanding Officer of the 120th Pct. who has agreed to hold sensitivity training for the Officers of the 120th Pct. to better the relationship with the African Immigrants in the Parkhill community.

Mr. Ian Rasmussen showed the plans for the proposed automotive service station at 2294 Forest Avenue.

Ms. Jean Crisson, Secretary of the Arlington Civic Association spoke opposing the proposed automotive service station at 2294 Forest Avenue. The intersection is already heavily congested. Cars are lined up on South Avenue to make the right turn on Forest Avenue sometimes for six traffic light cycles. Bringing a business of this size with a convenience store and a car wash at this location is going to make the traffic situation worse.

FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

LAND USE, VINCENT ACCORNERO – Mr. Accornero announced the Land Use Public Hearing was held prior to the Board Meeting this evening. The following item was discussed and voted on as follows:

Board of Standards & Appeals Application No. 14-09-BZ – A special permit is requested for a proposed service station with accessory convenience store and accessory car wash at 2294 Forest Avenue.

It was noted that the car wash is not an automated car wash.

MOTION

Motion to approve the Board of Standards & Appeals, special permit application No. 14-09-BZ, 2294 Forest Avenue with the following conditions:

The applicant will cede the property at the northwest corner of the site for the purpose of developing a right-turn only lane for northeast bound South Avenue, traffic;

The removal of the proposed curb cut at the northwest location of Forest Avenue, and;

Requiring the following improvements: Along the Wemple Street frontage, construct new curbs and sidewalks, asphalt paving as necessary and internal landscaping buffer.

Roll call vote taken. Vote passed 24-9-0.

At the April Land Use Public Hearing, the Statement of Needs will be addressed. There is not any specific item for the Community Board #1 area.

TRANSPORTATION, SEAN SWEENEY – The Transportation Committee met jointly with the Land Use and Waterfront Committees in February. The next Transportation Committee Meeting will be held on March 26, 2009, 8:00 P.M. at the Board Office.

HUMAN RESOURCES, LISA LATTANZIO – Ms. Lattanzio had an excused absence due to the passing of her father. Deepest sympathy is sent to Ms. Lattanzio and her family.

WATERFRONT, CURT WARD – The Waterfront Committee met jointly with the Land Use and Transportation Committees in February. The next Waterfront Committee Meeting will be held on March 23, 2009, 7:00 P.M. at the Board Office.

PUBLIC SERVICES, LLOYD BACCHUS – No meeting, no report. The next Public Services Committee Meeting will be held on March 23, 2009, 7:30 P.M. at the Board Office.

YOUTH SERVICES, JOANNE PENTANGELO – No quorum, no report.

RULES & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, LETICIA REMAURO – No meeting, no report. The next meeting will be held on March 23, 2009, 7:30 P.M. at the Board Office.

BUDGET & FINANCE, TERRY PLAYER – No meeting, no report.

AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS

MARINERS HARBOR/PORT RICHMOND, DEBI ROSE – Ms. Debi Rose thanked Ms. Anjail Ameen-Rice for chairing the Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond Meeting. Ms. Ameen-Rice announced the minutes are in the packet. The next meeting will be held on March 17, 2009, 7:00 P.M., 250 Park Avenue.

CLIFTON/CONCORD/STAPLETON, LARRY BESLOW – The minutes of the meeting are in the packet. The next meeting of the Clifton/Concord/Stapleton Area Committee will be held on March 19, 2009, 7:30 P.M., 59 Wright Street.

SILVER LAKE/SUNNYSIDE/WESTERLEIGH, KEN TIRADO – The minutes of the Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh Area Committee minutes are in the packet. The next meeting will be held on March 18, 2009, 7:30 P.M. at the Silver Lake Tennis House.

ROSEBANK/FT. WADSWORTH, JOHN GUZZO – Mr. Guzzo questioned the Walgreens, which is being built on Tompkins Avenue, and Hylan Blvd. Mr. Guzzo said, "there were foundations for homes on the property which were removed and now a commercial establishment is being built." The Rosebank/Ft. Wadsworth Area Committee will be meeting on March 17, 2009, 7:30 P.M. at 36 Amity Street.

WEST BRIGHTON/ST. GEORGE, MEGAN DELMAR – The minutes of the meeting are in the packet. The West Brighton/St. George Area Committee will meet on March 17, 2009, 7:30 P.M. at the Walker Park Tennis House, 50 Bard Avenue.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

