

COMMUNITY BOARD #1 VIRTUAL FULL BOARD MEETING -NOVEMBER 10, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.

NICHOLAS SICLARI, CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS

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

GUESTS

Edward Jackson, Rep. CAU Mayor DeBlasio
Victoria Gillen, SI Assistant Commissioner
Donald DeRosa, Rep. Comptroller Stringer
Joe Helferty, Dept. of City Planning
Barry Fisher, Dept. of City Planning
Joan Cusack, Department of Social Services
Robert Gibbs, New York Public Library, St. George
Troy McGhie, Rep. Councilwoman Rose
Elena Brady, Rep. Councilman Matteo
Lisa Thompson Rep. District Attorney Michael McMahon
Hanae Dbjat
Janice Monger, Executive Director SI Museum
Urijah Johnson, NYC Housing Preservation and Development
Kevin Paris, NYC Housing Preservation and Development
Kate Ward, NYC Economic Development Corporation
Frank Fontana, Dept. of Buildings
Kathleen Sforza, Northfield Local Development Corporation
Daneen Ausby, American Red Cross
Will Fisher, NYC Economic Development Corp.
Nicole Brooks NYC Parks Department
Mark Anderson, President Westerleigh Improvement Society
Michael Morrell, Westerleigh Improvement Society
Kelly Vilar, SI Urban League
Victoria Gillen, Elm Park Civic
Mario Buonviaggio, Port Richmond Strong
Mary Bullock, Port Richmond Strong
Ernie Sellitto
Sam Schiff
Marsha Russell, Bay Street Landing
Sarah Gowell, Bay Street Landing
Andrew Dorman
Eric Paterson, Westerleigh
Additional Guests on File at the Board Office

OFFICE STAFF

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

Chairman Nicholas Siclari called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

Nicky Siclari, the Chairman's son lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance
Secretary Loretta Cauldwell took roll call attendance, quorum present.
Motion made seconded and approved to accept October 2020 Board Minutes.

PUBLIC SESSION

Donald DeRosa representing Comptroller Stringer mentioned the Comptroller has initiated a State-wide review of the NYCHA ventilation system.

The Comptroller sent another letter today to re-start the NYC Capital Program which would inject money into the city for infrastructure and other important programs.

Lastly, the Comptroller has put out a survey in order to allow for broader and balanced work from home City Employees.

City Comptroller Scott Stringer's Workplace Flexibility and Family Survey:

[https://comptroller.nyc.gov/2020-work-and-family-survey/?utm_source=Media-](https://comptroller.nyc.gov/2020-work-and-family-survey/?utm_source=Media-All&utm_campaign=3c8fa82c9c-)

[All&utm_campaign=3c8fa82c9c-](https://comptroller.nyc.gov/2020-work-and-family-survey/?utm_source=Media-All&utm_campaign=3c8fa82c9c-)

[EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_05_31_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7cd514b03e-3c8fa82c9c-141571729](https://comptroller.nyc.gov/2020-work-and-family-survey/?utm_source=Media-All&utm_campaign=3c8fa82c9c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_05_31_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7cd514b03e-3c8fa82c9c-141571729)

Mr. Robert Gibbs from the St. George Branch of the NYPL spoke of expansion of programs.

Information regarding expanded Library service at the St. George Library Center, Todt Hill-Westerleigh Library and Richmondtown Library: <https://www.nypl.org/about/grab-and-go/expanded-services>

For additional information, you can call the St. George Library Center during operating hours 718-442-8570. Hours are Monday-Tuesday 11-6, Wednesday 12-7, Thursday 11-6, Friday and Saturday 11-5. (Note: The Library is closed tomorrow for Veterans Day).

Mr. Troy McGhie representing Councilwoman Debi Rose was pleased to announce naming of the Stapleton Park for Rev. Dr. Maggie Howard.

Mr. McGhie reminded everyone to wear their masks, wash their hands and stay safe.

Mr. Frank Fontana, NYC Department of Buildings spoke of outdoor heating for restaurants – propane heat is regulated by the FDNY.

By the end of the year all Gas Safety Inspections must be made as per Local Law 152 gas inspections must be made to multiple dwelling units and businesses. A copy of Local Law 152 can be obtained from the Building Department or the Board Office can send a copy.

Ms. Janet Monger, Executive Director of the Staten Island Museum stated the museum is open. Programs are offered monthly inside and outside. You can visit the website for the list of all the programs and to register: www.statenislandmuseum.org

Ms. Victoria Gillen, Elm Park Civic spoke of the Army Corps. of Engineers proposal to for improvements dredge the Arthur Kill – all information can be found:

The Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (Draft FR/EA) for the New York New Jersey Harbor Deepening Channel Improvements Navigation Study (HDCl) are posted at:

<https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/New-York-New-Jersey-Harbor/NY-NJ-HDCI/>

and is available for 45-day public review ending December 19, 2020.

Comments should be sent to HDCI_FREA_Comments@usace.army.mil.

Ms. Gillen urged everyone to video and have date stamped pictures of their property, their foundations and homes. Many residents had damage to their homes when they dredged a few years back.

Mario Buonviaggio, Port Richmond Strong asked for the Board's support in putting speed bumps Catherine Street between Port Richmond Avenue and Decker Avenue.

Ms. Kathleen Sforza, Northfield Local Development Corporation spoke of programs that they offer in a variety of languages such as helping with foreclosures, hurricane preparedness training etc. For further information: <http://northfieldldc.org/housing/> and our website link to all programs <http://northfieldldc.org/>

Ms. Daneen Ausby from the American Red Cross provided the following and information services that are available through the American Red Cross:

On the website www.redcross.org/hurricane, we have 1-page hurricane checklists in multiple languages that provide tips and lists of materials you should have before a hurricane hits. To schedule a Citizen Preparedness Corps or Pillowcase Project presentation please visit www.redcross.org/GNYprepare where you can schedule a presentation using our on-line registration forms or sign up for an existing session.

You can find the Red Cross Emergency app in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to redcross.org/apps.

If you are looking for ways to help prepare and respond in your community, join me at the Red Cross! Additional information is available at www.redcross.org/volunteertoday.

The American Red Cross is operating a virtual Family Assistance Center (FAC) to provide comfort and support, information and referrals for New York State families that have lost loved ones to the COVID-19 Coronavirus, as well as essential employees and first responders. To access the FAC you can visit www.redcross.org/vfac or call 585-957-8187.

Ms. Lisa Thompson representing District Attorney Michael McMahon thanked Board and community members who have been participating in the monthly Community Convening Meetings with District Attorney the next one will be Thursday at 5:00. Anyone interested in participating can get the information from the Board Office of from Ms. Thompson.

PUBLIC SESSION CLOSED

Ms. Urijah Johnson, Jeong Choi and Kevin Paris from NYC Housing Preservation and Development and Kate Ward from NYC Economic Development Corporation showed a power point presentation on meetings that were held for a proposal for housing at the Stapleton Homeport. The project is many years away and, would come before the Land Use Committee and the full Board for a vote.

For more about the project and to review previous and future content, please visit the project website on the HPD website: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/services-and-information/stapleton-site-a.page>

To reach out about the Stapleton Site A development project, please contact the HPD project team at STAPLETONARFP@hpd.nyc.gov

OFFICERS' REPORTS

FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN, ANTHONY COSENTINO – No report.

SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN, TIMOTHY FORSYTH – No report.

THIRD VICE-CHAIRMAN, FRIDAY OGBEWELE – No report.

TREASURER, LARRY BESLOW- The Treasurer's report was e-mailed to all Board Members today with the packet.

SECRETARY, LORETTA CAULDWELL – No report.

CHAIRMAN, NICHOLAS SICLARI – Chairman Siclari wished everyone a Happy Veteran's Day. Chairman Siclari thanked Loretta Cauldwell and Catherine Paradiso who attended with him the BEAM signing of the Richmond University Medical Center new Emergency. Lastly, Chairman Siclari thanked Transportation Chairman Nicholas Zvegintzov for meeting jointly with Community Board #2 on the rehabilitation of the Bradley Avenue overpass which will be presented under the Transportation Committee report.

DISTRICT MANAGER, JOSEPH CARROLL – Mr. Carroll mentioned that a few of the Board Members attended the Stapleton Homeport Meetings that were held virtual. Ole and Mr. Carroll stressed to them that this was not an ideal site to build, the seawall would have to be secured and there is not adequate public transportation among a host of other drawbacks. Our Waterfront Chairman has been pushing back against Brooklyn for wind access. This is extremely important to Staten Island it would create a massive number of jobs. Today is the Marine Corps Birthday and, tomorrow is Veteran's Day so Happy Veteran's Day to all the men and woman who are and who have served.

FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

LAND USE, VINCENT ACCORNERO – There was no Land Use Meeting in November. There will be a Land Use Public Hearing in December.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AMY POIRER – Ms. Poirer reported that she has been working with a family whose two children are hemophiliacs. There was a problem with receiving treatment at Staten Island University Hospital. Ms. Poirer has been working with RUMC and now the hospital has a hemophilic program. Ms. Poirer commended RUMC for stepping up within 24 hrs. There are currently 10 people on SI that are hemophiliacs.

WATERFRONT, OLE OLSEN- There is a lack of investment, lack of infrastructure and lack of bulkhead to and for the proposed development at the Stapleton Homeport. Joe Carroll and Lisa Crosby are in the process of putting together a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the deepening of the Kill van Kull. The project is to begin in 4 years and could last 14 years.

Offshore wind is coming, there is one location on SI that is viable, we are working hard to get them here, this would provide over 1,000 jobs, a lot of union jobs. Other parts of the City have been pressuring their Elected Officials for offshore wind.

PUBLIC SERVICES, SUNNY JAIN – Mr. Jain has been speaking with Office of Emergency Management and Sanitation on their winter snow plan, schedules have been posted on Facebook.

YOUTH SERVICES, ERNEST PAIGE – There was no meeting due to Election Day.

RULES AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, CHRISTOPHER ROONEY – No meeting, no report.

BUDGET AND FINANCE, ANTHONY COSENTINO – There was no meeting. We are still waiting to receive responses for our FY' 2022 Capital and Expense Budget Requests. The City is in a huge deficit, it is unlikely that anything will be funded.

TRANSPORTATION, ANTHONY COSENTINO – A joint meeting was held with Community Board #2 regarding improvements to the Bradley Avenue overpass. The power point presentation is available if anyone would like to receive a copy contact the Board Office. Request for a letter approving the project be sent and include the following:

Support NY State DOT plan for local circulation during rehabilitation of Woolley Avenue and Bradley Avenue Bridges over the Staten Island Expressway, taking into account comments expressed during the NYS DOT presentation to the CB1 and CB2 Transportation Committees on November 2, 2020:

-Better bus stop placement.

-Control congestion at Bradley Avenue in rush hours (e.g., ramps to / from Expressway): - traffic --control agents

- better orient the traffic lanes

There was no objection to sending the letter.

Port Richmond Strong has submitted a request to **Support for speed reducers on Catherine St. between Decker Ave. and Port Richmond Ave.**

There was no objection to sending a letter to the Department of Transportation supporting the request.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

VETERANS – Happy Veterans Day.

LABOR, ROBERT HOLST – The Labor Committee sent out a letter regarding Liberty Towers. Although the Board does not have a position on the project. We sent a letter out urging if this is built that it should be done right, with union workers, maybe some youth workers etc. The letter was sent to Councilwoman Rose. We are hoping that she will work on these issues if this is built like she included with Empire Outlets. We also included the need for resiliency, building green with solar panels etc.

Frank Fontana announced all new buildings must be built with either a green roof or solar panels.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS, PEARL MINSKY – No meeting, no report.

PARKS AND RECREATION, NORMAN LIGHT – No meeting, no report.

AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS

WEST BRIGHTON/ST. GEORGE, LORETTA CAULDWELL – There was no meeting, no report. On December 2, 2020, a joint Public Hearing will be held with Land Use regarding a proposal on Elm Street.

SILVER LAKE/SUNNYSIDE/WESTERLEIGH/WILLOWBROOK, TIMOTHY FORSYTH, CAMILLE ZARRELLI – No meeting, no report. If anyone has any issues reach out to the Board Office.

ROSBANK/FT. WADSWORTH/SHORE ACRES, JOHN GUZZO – There was a meeting last month, there will be no meeting in November.

George Doyle said that National Grid is ripping up streets on Vanderbilt Avenue and Tompkins Avenue to Fingerboard Road. They are not putting the roadway back to the way it was. The Board Office will reach out National Grid.

MARINERS HARBOR/PORT RICHMOND, JOHN MCBETH – The minutes of the October Meeting were e-mailed to all members today and are available by contacting the Board Office. The next meeting is on Tuesday the 17th, we will be touching on the subject of the deepening of the Kill van Kull he asked Ms. Gillen and Mr. Olsen to join the meeting. Also bike locations will be brought up.

CLIFTON/CONCORD, LARRY BESLOW – Everyone wished Mr. Beslow a Happy Birthday!!!
No meeting, no report.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Doyle asked about the status of the homeless shelter at 44 Victory Blvd.

Mr. Carroll reported that all efforts to stop the shelter have failed.

Mr. McBeth said he has seen plans for the building and will be taking up most of the property.

Mr. Fontana, Department of Buildings reported that there are permits for foundation work.

Ms. Leticia Remauro mentioned the Downtown Staten Island Alliance has been watching the status of 44 Victory Blvd. very closely. The Downtown SI Alliance is still planning to bring a lawsuit. The Attorney advised us that we should wait until building plans are filed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Anjail Ameen-Rice wanted to announce today was Testing Tuesday in Staten Island since there is a big up rise in COVID-19 on Staten Island. You can also go to nyc.gov/covidtesting.

Mr. Holst asked about sending a letter to RUMC to insure the hospital has enough beds and most importantly staff since there is a spike in COVID-19 cases.

It was noted that this is a private hospital, Amy did receive information regarding COVID-19 there were currently 8 patients. They were not forth coming on what the staff was and on new patients. Ms. Anjail Ameen-Rice noted that Staten Island University hospital has 2 floors for COVID-19 patients.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

