

COMMUNITY BOARD #1 VIRTUAL FULL BOARD MEETING JANUARY 12, 2021

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

MEMBERS

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

GUESTS

Hon. Debi Rose
Christine Johnson, Chief of Staff Councilwoman Rose
Troy McGhie, Rep. Hon. Debi Rose
David Hernandez, Rep. Hon. Debi Rose
Vincent Gragnani, Rep. Hon. Debi Rose
Donald DeRosa, Rep. Hon. Scott Sringer
Elena Brady, Rep. Hon. Steven Matteo
Hanane Dbajat, Rep. MOA Michael Tannousis.
Lilly Zafaranloo, Chief of Staff Congresswoman Malliotakis
Frank Fontana, Department of Buildings
Steve Gonzalez, School Construction Authority
Michael Cona, School Construction Authority
Joan Cusack, Exec. Director Dept. of Social Services
Nicole Brooks, NYC Parks & Recreation
Reuben Sibri, Rep. Hon. Charles Fall
Mark Anderson, President Westerleigh Improvement Society
Diana Caughell, Non-Board Member Land Use
Sarah Gowell, Bay Street Landing
Mary Bullock, Port Richmond Strong
Ifraan Ahmed, Mayors Fund to Advance NYC
Mario Buonviaggio, Port Richmond Strong
Ernie Seletto, Non-Board Member Land Use
Sam Schiff, Non-Board Member Land Use
Winsome Mosses
J. Peccarelli
Martha Bromel
Steven Majett
Kathlee Sforza, Northfield LDC
Roy Fischman
Martha Birmetmeirer
Daneen Ausby
Larry Cicillo
Michael Morrell, Westerleigh Improvement Society

OFFICE STAFF

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

Chairman Nicholas Siclari called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Nicky Siclari led the Pledge of Allegiance.

George Doyle made a motion to accept December 2020 Full Board Minutes, John McBeth seconded. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Debi Rose spoke about the process and approval for honorary street name signs. In terms of an issue that has been getting a lot of press on social media lately. I need to clear some things up. Misconceptions and misinterpretations about the street naming process. It has taken on a life of its own recently. People not pleased with the process. Recently my office submitted the names of 12 worthy North Shore residents. The City Council and the speaker's office vets it. We get requests from family, friends, people who think one is worthy. We get documentation and we submit it to the NYC council. It goes through a vetting process. Where the speaker's office determines which individuals will get a street name in memorial to that person. We get the list back with who the city council chose and didn't choose. Four were selected out of twelve. This process goes through the NYC Legislative office. In the 12 years I have been in this office, we have submitted every request, we advocate for it, but the final determination is made elsewhere. It's not a process where I have anything to say about the final selection. Some are not given the honor the first time around. We resubmit it. We try to get additional information that may qualify that person. Street naming is not an entitlement, but it is very proud to be a part of. There seems to be some problems and I wanted to clear that up. There are two families or two groups that have taken issue with the selection and we have resubmitted their request and let it go through the process again and we will advocate for them.

Take advantage of the vaccines when they are available. Gotham Health Center is a Health and Hospitals Facility and it usually is a very smooth process. There will be Mega center at the Empire Outlets.

PUBLIC SESSION

Mary Bullock, Port Richmond Strong s - Despite the pandemic we have been ticking along in Port Richmond. We revamped our website. Go to Portrichmondstrong.com or visitportrichmond.com. We have a lot of new and interesting information on there. We instituted bi-monthly small business meetings to speak of concerns and how to promote and attract businesses. We have a code on the websites for discounts for veterans and senior citizens at Port Richmond businesses. Port Richmond Clean: We are adopting more bins and expanding our cleanup to go from Richmond Terrace to Dixon Avenue. Reintroducing the Veterans Banner Project which we had to suspend due to the Pandemic and expanding our U.S. Flag Project on Port Richmond Avenue and Decker Avenue. Best news: We have a gorgeous 4 story Douglas Fir in the cemetery at the Reform Church and it's going to be Port Richmond's Christmas tree. It's going to be the largest tree in 2021.

Mario Buonviaggio - I'm asking for a Letter of Support for Port Richmond legendary business co-owner of Brother's Pizzeria, Bart Giove. We received frustrating news on Christmas Eve morning. Bart's resume is he's an Italian immigrant with a passion for food. He invested in the area over 45 years ago using his own funds. No loans, grants, or handouts. He worked 12 hours a day and served hundreds of thousands of people in Port Richmond in Staten Island and beyond. He did give back. He gave when people did not have. He responded to nonprofits. He employed approximately 300 people, and some are still employed for 25 years. Because of his business, he was a victim of a crime, twice and was shot in one of the

occurrences. Both times, he returned back to Port Richmond. When asked we were told he did not fit the criteria. I was frustrated to say the least by that response. Let us be clear, Bart is a symbol of small business, Italian immigrant seeking the American Dream. He is a gateway into the Port Richmond Community. He stands for what Port Richmond is all about today. We would like Community Board 1's support in a Letter of Approval for Bart, his family and for the Port Richmond Community.

Kathleen Sforza from Northfield LDC. I'm here to tell you about our Housing Counselors. They are available to help anyone with any housing issues especially with foreclosure. In the coming weeks, we are partnering with SI Legal Aid, a meeting (Webinar) on Foreclosure and free advice. I will put the flyer in the chat and on our website, northfield.ldc.org and on social media pages of Facebook and Twitter. Invite family and friends who are having a problem at this time with their mortgages. Happy New Year.

Nicole Brooks - NYC Parks - Happy New Year. Virtual Community Input meeting for the North Shore Recreation Center on January 21 at 6pm. You will hear from the Borough Commissioner, Elected Officials, Parks Planning and Capital Project Teams as well as Recreation. You can ask questions and submit feedback on programming. Please attend. Registration is required.

Michael Tannousis New Assemblyman mentioned he is happy to be in office. We took over Nicole Malliotakis seat. Any issues or concerns, please reach out to our office. Ms. Hanane Dbajat is the Chief of Staff and will be attending the Community Board Meetings on his behalf.

Troy McGhie - Happy New Year. Quick updates from the Councilmembers office. As previously mentioned by Nicole Brooks from Parks, please come on and give your input for the design of the New Cromwell Center. Vaccine hubs in Clifton at Gotham Health on Vanderbilt Avenue, in Mariners Harbor at the Beacon Christian Community Health Center on Forest Avenue, in Sunnyside at the Advantage Care Center on Clove Road and in Port Richmond, at Port Richmond High School. You can be vaccinated if you meet the criteria and category of 1A and 1B. Budgeting applications for CBO's discretionary funds have gone live for the fiscal year of 2022. If you know a CBO who is looking for an expense application, those deadlines are February 16th at 5pm. Noncapital funding applications, those deadlines are February 25th at 5pm and for Capital Fund Projects through City Council or DCLA, application deadlines are March 25th at 5pm. You can find those applications: [Debirose.nyc/](https://debirose.nyc.gov/) (noise?) We are also offering a Budget Workshop for help in filling out the applications on January 28th at 6pm. To sign up for that, go to: icortez@council.nyc.gov.

Gwenn Hogan - Environmentalist, Activist, Community Member. Graniteville Wetlands Issue, out passed the Home Depot on Forest Avenue and the movie theater, leased by BJ's. Many have supported this in the past. A lot of natural real estate being bought out by non-native Staten Islanders and huge corporations. Where is the transparency? Where can concerned members voice their opinion. Concerned about Environmental Impact Statements and Community Impact Statements. Any information please let me know.

Margaret (Maggie) Flanigan, Waterfront Alliance - Invitation to a public workshop about the Waterfront on the Northeast Shore of Staten Island. Other aspects of our work at Waterfront Alliance, thank you Debi Rose for your support on our Estuary Explorers Education Program. We were able to partner on waterfront sites including Lighthouse Museum, Urby and Alice Austen House. Another project we are working on is through an REDC Partnership with Economic Development for a feasibility study,

revitalization working waterfront resilience needs on a strip of the northeast shore of Staten Island between Clifton Station and the Verrazano Narrows Bridge and Fort Wadsworth. We have been speaking to people but would like to have an open public workshop on January 28th at 5:30 PM by Zoom, registration required. Also created a Google survey online for anyone who can't make it that day. Send us your ideas through the survey. First half of this year will be our timeframe and I would come back to tell you the results. Info in the chat.

Hanane Dbajat representing Assemblyman Michael Tannousis thanked the Board for welcoming the Assemblyman earlier and as he stated our office is open and we are available for all.

Lilly Zafaranloo, Chief of Staff Congresswoman Malliotakis introduced herself to all. The Congresswoman's Office is open to all.

Michael Cona and Steve Gonzalez from the School Construction Authority made a presentation on the plans to purchase the old St. Mary's School located at St. Mary's and Bay Street and Virginia Avenue 252 seat early childhood center. 52,485 square feet. Two parcels. Frontage on Bay Street and Virginia Avenue. 2nd parcel, East side of Virginia Avenue, frontage on Virginia Avenue. 4 parcels total. There is no timeline at this time.

Mr. Irfan Ahmed and Mr. Paul Jeffries showed a power point presentation: They are a 5-year initiative, building soccer fields across the City of New York. Initiated in 2016. They are in the final year of the initiative. They have built 37 fields across the city. We have 13 more to go. Sponsors of the project is the Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC, US Soccer Foundation, NYC Football Club, Adidas and Etihad Airways. All charitable donations, not public money. \$3 million project. Total \$3 million six hundred thousand, \$3 million for the field and \$600,000 for the maintenance. Partners are NYC Parks, NYC Housing Authority, and NYC Department of Education. Program Components, Soccer for Success, a free after-school soccer program which includes 1 uniform and ball, 75-90 minutes play per day, 3 days per week to 24 weeks per year. That is only one program. Paul - Free in school and out of school programs promoting health and education. Healthy lifestyles with a workbook. Soccer Robotics Program. P.S. 49, we donate robots and teach children how to build the robots, code them and compete. SI Life Program, though COVID-19 shut us down, we engage virtually. High crime times like Saturday nights, they work with mentors for college and career pathways. We had a tournament in Astoria, Queens between IS72 and IS49 and Staten Island is the current champions. Ahmed - Discussed more components: Proposed space for a Mini-Pitch at PS57. Have put sites at other locations. Ready to start as early as summer with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Letter of Support from the school was shared on the presentation.

Mr. Rueben Sibri, representing Assemblyman Fall Ruben S., we are getting the ball rolling with vaccines. 65 years and older are eligible as well as frontline workers. Links in the chat for locations and information, call us anytime. If you need PPE, or any other issues. Assemblyman is back in Albany. Update on Homeless Shelter Bill, the Assemblyman helped get passed. Signed into Law. Originated because of the location at 44 Victory Blvd. Communities have a say and input before the city comes in and places something in their community. Not an anti-homeless law.

PUBLIC SESSION CLOSED

OFFICERS' REPORTS

FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN, ANTHONY COSENTINO – No report, happy New Year.

SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN, TIMOTHY FORSYTH – No report, stay safe.

THIRD VICE-CHAIRMAN, FRIAY OGBEWELE – No report, happy New Year.

SECRETARY, LORETTA CAULDWELL – No report.

TREASURER, LARRY BESLOW – The Treasurer's report was e-mailed to all members with the packet.

DISTRICT MANAGER, JOSEPH CARROLL – At the Borough Board Meeting last week, I did have a "brawl" with the Department of Health regarding their lack of Staten Island sites. Hopefully that argument with them is starting to pay off because their initial reaction was bias. We had our budget cut once this year and then it was cut again and will be cut for the next fiscal year. Maybe we'll take Troy's offer and apply for one of Debi's grants. Thanks to Lisa and Linda we have been able to manage our budget in such a way so we will not in any way, shape or form lose constituent services this fiscal year nor next fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN, NICHOLAS SICLARI – Mr. Siclari thanked Joseph Carroll and Lisa and Linda for all the work they have been doing throughout this pandemic.

FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

LAND USE, VINCENT ACCORNERO -- The following items were heard at a Public Hearing on January 6, 2021:

This application was removed from the agenda at the applicants request and will be placed on the February Land Use Public Hearing Calendar. An application has been submitted to the Board of Standards & Appeals Application No. 2020-82-A to 2020-83-A for an appeal pursuant to General Law 35 to permit construction of 2- one-family homes that will be located within a portion of the bed of a mapped but unbuilt street at 51 & 52 Cortlandt Street.

An application has been submitted to the Department of City Planning Application No. N 210142 ZAR to authorize modification of topographic features on a Tier 1 site to facilitate development of a single-family home with a swimming pool and detached garage at 71 Harborview Place in a Special Hillside Preservation District.

Roll call vote taken, vote passed 31-1-0.

An application has been submitted to the Department of City Planning Application No. N210111ZAR, N210112ZAR to request authorizations for the development of 1 -one family home on a steep slope at 285 Stanley Avenue within a Special Hillside Preservation District.

Roll call vote taken, vote passed 28-2-1.

An application has been submitted to the Department of City Planning Application No. N210217ZAR, N210218ZAR to authorize modifications of grading controls to facilitate development of a two-family home at 279 Stanley Avenue within the Special Hillside Preservation District.

Roll call vote taken, vote passed 28-2-1.

Request a letter to the Department of City Planning to postpone the Special Districts hearings until we are able to have in person meetings.

No objection to sending the letter.

George Doyle asked inspection of the construction fence at 44 Victory Blvd. it is blocking the sidewalk. Mr. Frank Fontana from the Buildings Department was present and said he would send an inspector out.

Mr. Accornero mentioned the lease agreement of the Richmond County Savings Ballpark. SI Yankees removing themselves, etc. We have a stadium without a team. The operator has been lackluster on this. The EDC is negotiating with the current tenant for assignment of the lease. This should be a ULURP application. EDC likes to work in darkness. This is a city owned property, and the tenant is a tenant of NYC. We need to be included in this. Nick S. said it should be a vaccine site at the very least. Vinny said the major issue of sites is the refrigeration component. Cathy said the Pfizer vaccine needs to refrigerate in -40 degrees. Moderna less refrigeration. When you open the vial, it is a multi-dose. Once opened, you have to use it all. It is taking so long. Nick S. said it's so surprising. Cathy said they are looking for volunteers but it's forms, licenses, no pay to do it. All going through health and hospitals. The issue is the appointments. I do think it will open up. Put some pressure on them. RUMC used 100% of their vaccines. Chris Rooney has an appointment with the VA this Saturday morning. John Guzzo said using the ballpark is an excellent idea. Any site would have to have freezers brought in anyway. There is enough room to bring it in. Adequate power. Cathy said they are using City Field. Nick S. let's get the lady that was on last month. She was very informative. Joe Carroll said he will contact the health commissioner that I spoke to last Wednesday and give these notions

Mr. Rooney mentioned a proposed Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to requiring a racial disparity report for certain land use applications Mr. Rooney reviewed the proposed legislation and does not be a zoning text amendment.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AMY POIRER – Previous discussion was held on vaccine and sites to distribute.

WATERFRONT, OLE OLSEN – No meeting, no report.

PUBLIC SERVICES, SUNNY JAIN - We had one snow last month with numerous conference calls. It went very smooth. Hopefully no more snow. They have liquid spread and were more prepared this time. I checked the main streets, and they were clean. Side streets are always an issue.

YOUTH SERVICES, ERNEST PAIGE – Mr. Paige and his wife Debbie Ann lost their son Eric Lenn Michael Paige on January 11, 2021. He suffered a stroke December 15, 2021. He was living in Brazil. Mr. and Mrs. Paige are in the process of trying to bring his remains home. Our Prayers and thoughts go out to the Paige family.

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

BUDGET & FINANCE, ANTHONY COSENTINO – As Joseph Carroll previously mentioned all of the Community Boards had their budget cut for this fiscal year and the next fiscal year. That is pretty much the same for all City Agencies, so basically all of the capital and expense items that we submitted were not funded.

TRANSPORTATION, NICHOLAS ZVEGINTZOV – No meeting, no report.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

LABOR, ROBERT HOLST - Someone called me about 44 Victory Blvd. The workers there are non-union workers. I can't say how the conditions are. Happy New Year. Remember Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We don't remember he was a labor giant, and he was supporting workers in Tennessee when he was killed.

Chairman Siclari mentioned at this time there are only permits issued for foundations.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS, PEARL MINSKY – Ms. Minsky has been staying with her daughter in Long Island and is on a leave from the Board.

PARKS & RECREATION, NORMAN LIGHT – There will be a Virtual North Shore Recreation Center Community input meeting on Thursday December 14, 2020. You must register prior to the meeting at <https://www.nycgovparks.org/reg/community-input-meetings/10365>

AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS

WEST BRIGHTON/ST. GEORGE, LORETTA CAULDWELL – There have been no meetings. Ms. Cauldwell urged all members and the public to look at the meeting notices that are mailed out, on Sunday, SI Advance and on Facebook for Land Use items that may pertain to the area.

SILVER LAKE/SUNNYSIDE/WESTERLEIGH, TIMOTHY FORSYTH/CAMILLE ZARRELLI – No meeting, no report.

ROSEBANK/FT. WADSWORTH/SHORE ACRES, JOHN GUZZO – No meeting, no report.

MARINERS HARBOR/PORT RICHMOND, JOHN MCBETH – A virtual meeting was held last month, minutes are not ready. If any Area Chairperson would like to hold an area committee meeting, they should contact Mr. McBeth and he will help host a meeting.

CLIFTON/CONCORD/STAPLETON, LARRY BESLOW – No meeting, no report. George Doyle had questions and previously gave sites not to put bikes in Stapleton. Mr. Doyle would like them to come back to a meeting to ask where the locations are. They are going into operation in March.

NEW BUSINESS

Chris Rooney made a motion to support the application for the Soccer pitches. The British word pitch means playing field. Letter of support. No objections to sending a letter of support.

Chairman Siclari made a motion for the two gentleman the city council rejected for street naming to send letters for support for Bart Giove from Brother's Pizzeria and for Ken Scanlon.

Mr. David Hernandez from Councilwoman Rose's Office mentioned that the vetting process is sent to City Council. Sometimes there are things in people's past that we are unaware of. This results in a negative determination. I am not saying it's your dad. Megan said that is not an issue. David said we submit everyone's submission. For some there is not enough of the contribution to society at large. There are many reasons. This became a heated discussion back and forth.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion to adjourn, meeting adjourned.