

COMMUNITY BOARD #1 BOARD MEETING, MAY 10, 2011 – 8:00 P.M.
ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 2329 VICTORY BLVD.

Leticia Remauro, Chairman

MEMBERS

Vincent Accornero
Anjail Ameen-Rice
Larry Beslow, Excused
Jeannine Borkowski
Marilyn Brown
Arthur Cappabianca
Loretta Cauldwell
Ajmal Chaudhry, Leave
Anthony Cosentino
George Doyle
Linda Eskenas
Grace Ferranti, Leave
Timothy Forsyth
John Guzzo
Jeanne Hogan, Bd. Business
Sunny Jain
Wilma Jones
Lisa Lattanzio
Priscilla Marco
Vincent Mecca
Jeffrey Mohlenbrok
Friday Ogbewe
John Pabone
Ernest Paige
Vincent Pompa
Ernest Paige
Vincent Pompa
Leticia Remauro
Majorie Ryan
Christopher Rooney
Richard Salhaney
Nicholas Siclari
George Sona
John Strandberg
Sean Sweeney, Excused
Ken Tirado
Harold Wagner
Curt Ward
George Wonica, Jr., Excused
Camille Zarrelli
Richard Zichettello, Excused

GUESTS

Hon. Daniel Donovan, District Attorney
Robert Turbiak, Chief Investigator, DA's Office
Jason Razefsky, Rep. BP James Molinaro
David Hernandez, Rep. Councilwoman Debi Rose
Jeannette Beck, Rep. Councilman James Oddo
Julie Lanza, Rep. Senator Andrew Lanza
Mark Zink, Rep. MOA Matthew Titone
Tom Olsen, Rep. MOA Nicole Malliotakis
Susan Fowler, City Harvest
Michael Rieser, GrowNYC - Recycling Challenge
Michael Morrell, Pres. Westerleigh Improv. Society
Marsha Russell, Bay Street Landing
Sarah Gowell, Bay Street Landing
Peter Lisi, SI Paramount Theatre
Grace Klepacka, TimeBanks NYC
Rameshwar Koirala, TimeBanks NYC
Yi Yu, Rosebank Resident
Gerard Ghiraldi, Westerleigh Resident
Vincent Sapone, US Postal Service
Kathleen Bielsa, Northfield LDC

OFFICE STAFF

Joseph Carroll, District Manager
Lisa Crosby, Community Associate
Annemarie Alyone, Intern
Tytianna Fonville, Intern

A Land Use Public Hearing and meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M. to hear an application submitted to the Board of Standards and Appeals Special Permit Application No. 33-11-BZ – restore the previous variance to continue operating a two-story (with cellar) animal hospital with accessory caretaker’s apartment. At 1050 Forest Avenue, between Clove and Manor Roads.

Mr. Eric Palatnik explained the application is to restore a previously existing variance to allow for an existing two-story (with cellar) animal hospital with accessory caretaker’s apartment which is unoccupied.

The building has been an animal hospital since 1976, neighbor James Chin said “there has never been a problem with the animal hospital; it is primarily commercial use in that area.”

A motion was made to approve the application as submitted. Roll call vote taken of the Land Use Committee. Vote passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Leticia Remauro called the Board Meeting to order at 8:10 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Nicholas Siclari took roll call attendance and announced a quorum was present.

Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the April 2011 Board Minutes.

PUBLIC SESSION

Michael Rieser, GrowNYC - Recycling Paper Challenge – Last quarter Community Board #1 took first prize and received a check for \$6,000 to use for anything they would like in a north shore park. This quarter, all of the Boards have fallen behind, including Community Board #1. Mr. Reiser is available to go to large Civic Organization Meetings if anyone would like him to attend. Mr. Reiser brought recycling stickers, rules, and asked all in attendance to put their names on the list to get information mailed to their homes regarding recycling events such as electronic recycling, shred fest, etc. The next award will be given at the July 7, 2011 SI Yankee Game, Mr. Reiser is hoping the award will be presented once again to Mr. Sunny Jain on behalf of Community Board #1.

Mr. Vincent Spano representing Local 300, mail handlers expressed his concerns over the US Postal Services consolidation of services. All of Staten Island Mail would be sent to Brooklyn or Manhattan, even if a piece of mail is being mailed to another Staten Island address. The Manor Road Post Office will have an increase in employees since the USPS is targeting closing Port Richmond, Mariners Harbor, West Brighton and possibly St. George Stations. They would make the Manor Road Post Office the hub, bringing in more employees, which means more traffic and congestion in that area and, mail delays to all Staten Island businesses and residents.

Kathleen Bielsa, Northfield Local Development Corporation spoke of the North Shore Community Coalition that is working with the EPA on idling hot spots. If anyone knows of locations that are hot spots for idling trucks or cars you can contact Ms. Bielsa at northfieldldc.kbielsa@yahoo.com or 718-442-7351 Ext. 226.

Ms. Susan Fowler, City Harvest announced events that are going to be held in Tappen Park, Stapleton, such as Youth Market and the US Navy Band. For information on any event or if anyone is distributing flyers at any event contact Susan Fowler at Sfowler@cityharvest.org.

Mr. Peter Lisi spoke of the candlelight vigil that was held for the Tompkinsville store owner who was robbed and later passed away, the trouble that has occurred at I.S. 49 in Stapleton re: bias incidents with students, robbing a pizza delivery person and, the rally that was held by the community to implore the principal to do something to stop the violence. Mr. Lisi said he has contacted the Bd. of Education which is investigating the incidents. Lastly, the new buildings at the homeport and the Stapleton Municipal Parking lot is a good thing for the neighborhood but the need for additional parking needs to be addressed.

Hon. Daniel Donovan was invited to discuss his efforts to demand jail time for repeat offenders. District Attorney Donovan is trying to add legislation where if you have been arrested say 5 times for anything, you would have to serve a felony mandatory term of one- year in jail. The same people are committing petit crimes over and over again.

DA Donovan also reported that New York is the safest Big City in America and Staten Island is the safest borough in America. It is not only through the efforts of the Police it is with the efforts of the community, the people. The DA asked the SI Advance to list the 15 most wanted people in the Borough, mainly through tips 10 have been captured, 1 turned himself and the others also through tips are close to being captured.

Also, the DA talked about domestic violence It is important for community involvement, if you know of anyone being abused you should urge them to contact the District Attorney's Office, will help them, they will insure their safety, counselors, mostly volunteers to help find them a place to stay if children are involved, get them situated in a school. They will help victims, who are in abusive relationships, with children who are afraid to leave because they have no money or no place to go and, are just afraid. The majority of cases the abuser has to wear a monitoring bracelet, this insures the safety of the victim(s).

The District Attorney spoke of other initiatives and legislation he is trying to change, the biggest is establishing a centralized computerized prescription plan. Prescription drugs are the largest drug problem consumption on the Island, especially by teens. If there was a centralized computer system across the country Joe Shmo could not get a prescription filled in CVS on Staten Island, go over to Walgreens, then cross the bridge and visit Duane Reed or any local pharmacies.

Questions were asked and answered.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN, LETICIA REMAURO - Chairwoman Remauro thanked Board Members personally who have chaired committees, took on special projects, represented the board at meetings, press conferences, etc.

Mr. George Sona is going to be representing Community Board #1 at the 120th Community Council Police Meetings.

“We are still pushing to get many things accomplished with the support from our Elected Officials such as the relocation of the Sanitation District 1 Garage, the Pedestrian Ramp at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal, the Lighthouse Museum, the Esplanade and many other items.”

DISTRICT MANAGER, JOSEPH CARROLL - Mr. Carroll reminded everyone that Fleet Week will be starting on the 25th of May at coming into the Stapleton Homeport and to the New York Harbor. The ships will be here until the 31st of May. You can tour any ship in the afternoon from noon until 5:00 P.M. The USS New York will be docked at the Stapleton Homeport, it has 7 ½ tons of the World Trade Center built into the ship. There will be other ships as well to tour.

There is going to be a lot of activity coming up on Front Street, the reconfiguration of Front Street to provide an infrastructure to the buildings at the homeport, work at the homeport will begin and the siphon project. It is going to be very busy and is much needed.

Curtis High School has proven to be successful once again in providing Community Board #1 with 2 interns, Annemarie Alyone and Tytianna Fonville who have worked in the office and have worked with the Youth Committee with Marilyn Brown. They both will be graduating in June and going off to college.

FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN, ANHTONY COSENTINO – No report.

SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN, CHRISTOPHER ROONEY – Mr. Rooney announced a change to the CLARO program. It is now being held Thursday Evenings once a month 6:00 -8:00 P.M. usually the third Thursday of each month at 927 Castleton Avenue, second floor. This program was announced by Mr. Rooney last month; Judges Minardo and Straniere have endorsed this program where former Board Member Sheila McGinn and other volunteer attorneys help people when they are being brought to court in respect to consumer debt issues. Free legal advice is given to prepare defendants to represent themselves.

THIRD VICE-CHAIRMAN, FRIDAY OGBEWELE – No report.

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

SECRETARY, NICHOLAS SICLARI – All current Executive Committee Members submitted their names to run for office in their same positions: Leticia Remauro, Chair, Anthony Cosentino, First Vice-Chairman, Christopher Rooney, Second Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewele, Third Vice-Chairman, Larry Beslow, Treasurer, and Nicholas Siclari, Secretary.

There were no other “Call for Candidate Forms” submitted. Mr. Nicholas Siclari took nominations from the floor and called each position three times before closing the position.

In June one ballot will be cast for each of the above current executive committee members for the current positions they are serving.

FUNTIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

LAND USE, VINCENT ACCORNERO – A Land Use Public Hearing was held prior to the Board Meeting, an application submitted to the Board of Standards and Appeals Special Permit Application No. 33-11-BZ – restore the previous variance to continue operating a two-story (with cellar) animal hospital with accessory caretaker’s apartment. At 1050 Forest Avenue, between Clove and Manor Roads.

A motion was made to approve the application as submitted during the Land Use Committee Meeting, the vote passed unanimously.

Motion made and seconded to approve the Special Permit application No. 33-11-BZ, 1050 Forest Avenue. Vote passed 29-0-0.

PUBLIC SERVICES/HUMAN SERVICES, SUNNY JAIN AND LISA

LATTANZIO – The minutes of the meeting are in the packet. If there are any Civic Associations or anyone knows of schools that would like presentations regarding recycling please speak to Sunny Jain and he will arrange it. All 3 Boards are behind in recycling this quarter during the paper challenge.

YOUTH SERVICES, MARILYN BROWN – The PUSH Citation is being prepared to mail to schools to select students who have made improvement through the year – certificates will be mailed to the schools for the students.

RULES AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – Chairwoman Remauro announced Priscilla Marco will be chairing the Rules Committee.

BUDGET & FINANCE, ANTHONY COSENTINO - No report.

WATERFRONT, CURT WARD – Minutes of the meeting are in the packet.

TRANSPORTATION, JEANNE HOGAN – The minutes and motions were included in the packet. The following motions were read which were presented by Transporation Alternatives at the Transporation Meeting.

Transporation Resolution

Modernized electronic barcode technology system to identify illegal parking placard

Whereas, there is rampant illegal use by motorists in the Community Board #1 Staten Island district of bogus parking placards placed on vehicles’ dashboards and often laminated to look official to get away with parking free in no-parking zones; and,

Whereas, this problem extends way beyond Community Board #1 boundaries, e.g., in 2007 a study by Transporation Alternatives found that 77% of placards are used illegally citywide; and,

Whereas, the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) traffic enforcement agents often have difficulty distinguishing between official legal parking placards and these fraudulent ones, which hinders enforcement and deprives the City of thousands of dollars of revenue; and,

Whereas, those who use these illegitimate placards largely experience immunity from the law, a situation that encourages added congestion; and,

Whereas, New York City is now moving more and more towards the use of modern technology, such as electronic scanning and barcodes to track vehicular and other activities;

Be it resolved that: Community Board #1 urges the New York City Department of Transportation and the New York Police Department to work toward developing a barcode technology that quickly identifies illegal parking placard use and facilitates enforcement; and,

Be it further resolved that: Community Board #1 recommends investigating the development of a technology with a computerized database that enables the barcodes of both vehicular license registration stickers and parking placards to be electronically scanned and compared (preferably several all at once, such as on an entire street) to identify and ticket those that do not match and are therefore illegitimate.

AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS

Whereas, Community Board #1 is fully committed to reducing the number of roadway deaths and injuries; and

Whereas, in 2009, 63 people were killed and 2,150 people were injured as the result of speed-related crashes in New York City; and,

Whereas, pedestrians and cyclists are at a heightened risk of injury in speed-related crashes: If a pedestrian is hit by a car at 40 mph there is a 70% chance the pedestrian will be killed, but if the driver strikes a pedestrian at 30 mph there is an 80% chance the pedestrian will survive; and,

Whereas, speeding is the number one cause of deadly crashes in New York City, claiming more lives than drunken driving and distracted driving combined; and,

Whereas, in 2009 cyclists and pedestrians were killed on New York City's roads; and,

Whereas, law enforcement agencies, with increasing responsibility and without commensurate increases in staffing levels, are considering technologies to improve their efficiency; and,

Whereas, automated speed enforcement cameras, when used in conjunction with traditional means of traffic enforcement and public education complement law enforcement's traffic safety efforts; and enforcement programs; and furthermore,

Whereas, automated speed enforcement cameras have been shown to reduce all crashes by 14-72% and injuries and fatalities by 40-45% and,

Whereas, the new York State Senate and Assembly will introduce legislation which would authorize the city of New York to use camera technology to enforce the City of New York to use camera technology to enforce existing speed limits and support the efforts of the NYPD; and

Be it resolved that: Community Board #1 fully supports A 7744 and S4393 and calls on the respective houses to pass as quickly as possible this legislation and for the Governor to sign it and furthermore, for both the New York City Council, Mayor Department of Transportation and Police Department to fully support this legislation; and

Be it further resolved that: automated speed enforcement must be deployed in high-collision locations and without regard to fine revenues; must be free from undue vendor influence; must be extraordinarily.

Both motions were discussed and tabled until the June Steering/Rules Meeting.

LABOR, NICHOLAS SICLARI – The minutes of the meeting are in the packet.

AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS

MARINERS HARBOR/PORT RICHMOND, ANJAIL AMEEN-RICE – The minutes of the meeting are in the packet.

SILVER LAKE/SUNNYSIDE/WESTERLEIGH, KEN TIRADO – The minutes of the meeting are in the packet. Mr. Sunny Jain and other members of the Board will be meeting with the owners of On the Rocks on Forest Avenue on Thursday to discuss complaints that have arisen from area residents.

ROSEBANK/FT. WADSWORTH, JOHN GUZZO – The minutes of the meeting are in the packet.

WEST BRIGHTON/ST. GEORGE, SEAN SWEENEY – The minutes will be included in next month's packet.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairwoman Remauro announced that the liquor license Excel Spreadsheet that was made will be e-mailed to all members in June. Please look at the sheet, make notes, if you notice an establishment that is under another name or closed etc., you see a license that should be in another area, or borders on 2 areas, let the office know about it.

NEW BUSINESS

First Vice-Chairman Anthony Cosentino announced \$174 was collected for Community Board #1 sunshine club.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

