

COMMUNITY BOARD #1 BOARD MEETING, MARCH 11, 2008 – 8:00 P.M.
ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 2329 VICTORY BLVD.

Sean Sweeney, Chairman

MEMBERS

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

GUESTS

Victoria Larsen, Rep. Mayor Bloomberg
 Jason Razefsky, Rep. B.P. Molinaro
 Priscilla Marco, Rep. Sen. Savino
 Annette Hernandez, Rep. Comptroller's Office
 Mark Zink, Rep. MOA Titone
 Susan Tirotta, Rep. MOA Hyer-Spencer
 William Taitt, Rep. Councilman McMahon
 Jacky Monteresso, Rep. Councilman Oddo
 Jan Klucevsek, New York Public Library
 Michael Morrell, Pres. Westerleigh Improv.
 Patricia Schwimer, Clove Lake Civic Assn.
 Chris Beatty, Gordon Place
 Kevin Branciforte, Clinton Avenue
 Kiawana Rich, SI Advance

OFFICE STAFF

Joseph Carroll, District Manager
 Lisa Crosby, Community Associate

Chairman Sean Sweeney called the meeting to order at 8:05 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary Camille Zarrelli took roll call attendance.

A quorum was present.

Motion made and seconded to accept February 2008 Board Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

The Elected Officials representatives present introduced themselves.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

FIRST VICE-CHAIRWOMAN, SHEILA MCGINN – The minutes of the meeting are in the packet. Two letters will be sent out on behalf of the Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh Area Committee not supporting renewal of a beer license for MBQ Superette at 956 Richmond Avenue and a liquor license for Danny Boy's Tavern located at 1815 Victory Blvd. The letter which is sent to all applicants for new and renewal licenses inviting the applicant to the respective area committee meeting will be tweaked to make it more friendly and to the applicants benefit to attend the area meetings.

Since there was not a quorum at the Mariners Harbor/Port Richmond area committee meeting all motions made at the meeting will be sent via letter.

1. Invite the Department of Health to the next area committee meeting.
2. Letter to the Department of Investigation asking them to examine the process by which the health code violations are reviewed by the DOH in order to determine whether or not there are unfair practices taking place.
3. A request will be made to the Department of Health asking for a Department of Health Building on S.I. or at the very least have the Department of Health hear health code violations on Staten Island at least once a week. Health Code violations have to be heard at 66 John Street.
4. On a separate topic, a letter is to be sent to local representatives: Assemblymen Matthew Titone and Michael Cusick, and Senators Diane Savino and Andrew Lanza to request the NYS Parks Department take over and maintain the Graniteville Quarry because the land is not maintained properly by the NYC Parks Department. The letter should include a request for a better fence and lighting.

Page three of the Mariners Harbor/Port Richmond Area Committee Minutes were not included in the packet.

The school that is mentioned under the Clifton/Concord/Stapleton Area Committee of the Steering minutes in reference to the 500ft. law is Immaculate Conception not Emmanuel Lutheran School.

SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN, JOHN VITUCCI – No report.

THIRD VICE-CHAIRMAN, GEORGE WONICA, JR. – No report.

SECRETARY, CAMILLE ZARRELLI – There was an Executive Committee Meeting prior to the Board Meeting tonight. The minutes will be included in the packet next

month. Ms. Zarrelli reminded the members, if they are unable to attend a meeting area, functional or board meeting please e-mail the office and the chairperson of the committee. It is important to know if there will be a quorum at the meetings.

CHAIRMAN, SEAN SWEENEY – At this time, Community Board #1 does not have a Treasurer. Daniel McOlvin resigned last month.

Next month a Call for Candidate Form will be mailed with the April Meeting notice. If anyone does not receive a form, please call the Board Office. Nominations will take place at the May Meeting. Anyone who has been a member for one year and a member in good standing can apply for a position on the Executive Committee. Chairman Sweeney urged anyone who wants to run for any of the Executive Committee positions to submit their name.

Community Board #1 and its members have accomplished many things over the last year. Chairman Sweeney announced:

The first K-8 school is being built on Regis Drive and will be named the Charles A. Langere School.

Mr. Beslow and the Clifton/Concord Stapleton area committee can boast about an early childhood learning center in Stapleton.

The Public Services and Land Use committees are proud of a new building and location for the 120th Pct. on Hill Street.

A new 121th Pct. is going to be in the Mariners Harbor Area.

Mr. Beslow single-handedly worked on a temporary but working fix for the flooding in Park Hill on Osgood Avenue. We are working on a permanent repair.

With the help of Ken Tirado and Chief Marra, we have gotten approval to have traffic control agents along Clove Road for the endurance of the Clove Road sewer project.

Dominick Lambert, Linda Eskenas and Daniel McOlvin got the train rolling for us that is now known as the north shore freight line.

With the help of Curt Ward and Terry Player we have approved new cranes for Howland Hook.

Vincent Accornero, Chris Rooney and Curt Ward have been instrumental in the development deal that saves the Lighthouse Museum.

With the help of Land Use led by Vincent Accornero, Chris Rooney and Leticia Remauro we have attached LEED requirements to all land use projects.

Debi Rose and Lisa Lattanzio have worked together and have been helpful in bringing to fruition two Federally Qualified Health Care centers, one in Port Richmond and one in Mariners Harbor.

Curt Ward and the Mariners Harbor Area Committee are pressing for an agreement to have the new mega cement importer improve Richmond Terrace and Morningstar Road.

John Guzzo the Chair of the Rosebank Area Committee and the advocate who never says no to his community has represented this board at one brownfield clean up and one natural disaster this past year.

Anthony Cosentino stepped to the plate with the Jersey Street Sanitation Garage. Now, if we could get our City's finances in order he will be there to free that neighborhood of its decades old burden.

West Brighton Area Chair Megan Delmar has met with the anger of commuters who rely on the MTA with a positive response and continued efforts on their behalf.

Chairman Sweeney thanked all the Area and Functional Chairs for their silent but great work.

To the new members who are no longer rookies and are slowly finding their voices, thank you and don't give up.

“Tonight I am pleased to say that I have a major announcement. We have heard much talk about a website for Community Board #1 and now we are about a week or two away from its launch. We have asked DOITT for their help and they have responded. I have asked a few members to be the core WEB committee and they are: Marilyn Averett, Ken Tirado and Camille Zarrelli. Combined they are a force. They will assist Leticia Remauro with decisions about content and design. The website will assist the office staff by having a 24-hour presence for our community. We will post minutes and the CB1 by-laws to further our transparency on the north shore. The site will have links to all City and State Agencies. I will be asking the Youth Committee to host a photo contest for children of the north shore. Winners will have their photographs posted on Community Board 1's new Website.”

Mr. James Powell, Vice-President of Patient Services, Staten Island University Hospital was asked to speak last month in honor of Black History Month but, due to the weather last month, we have asked Mr. Powell to speak tonight. Chairman Sweeney introduced Mr. Powell.

Mr. Powell thanked the Board for having him. Mr. Powell told a story of a man named Sam.

“Sam was raised by his mother and grandmother. To this day Sam has never seen his father, nor has anyone ever communicated to him about his father. In the early years, Sam never saw the inside of a school; he was the man of the house because he was the oldest of three brothers. At 12 years old Sam worked in the field as a sharecropper alongside men twice his age from sun up to sun down. Sam did not want to work in the field; he wanted to go to school. Sam's mother sent him to live with his aunt in New York City. Sam went to school on a regular basis and reached out to the other students for help because he lacked the knowledge needed to excel.

Sam got a part-time job in a drug store. He delivered medicine to the town's people. When he was not working at the drug store, he was unable to go into the store and buy a fountain soda because of the racism that existed. The owner of the drug store cared a lot about Sam and constantly said if people are nice to you then there is something in it for them. He said "go forth young man and get as much education as you can. There is only one person standing in the way of what you want and that is you." Sam graduated from High School and landed a job at Chock full of Nuts. While working at Chock Full of Nuts he met Jackie Robinson. He developed a relationship with the famous Jackie Robinson. Sam's license plate will forever have Jackie Robinson's number of 42. Jackie Robinson urged Sam to enroll in college. Sam took that advice and after a few years he received an associate degree in hotel technology.

While Sam was getting his shoes shined one day in the Terrace hotel lobby at 125th Street and 7th Avenue, Malcolm X sat beside him. Sam spoke with Malcolm X. Sam did not believe many of the beliefs of Malcolm X and did not join his Temple, but, Malcolm X told him you can not love others before you love yourself.

Sam landed a job as a Supervisor in a New York Hospital, while attending College for his Masters Degree.

Sam currently works as Vice-President of Patient Services in a very well known Staten Island Hospital."

"I am Sam."

Chairman Sweeney introduced the Susan Wagner High School Dispute Resolution Team.

Mr. Anthony George a teacher explained the program is a peer conflict resolution program and one of the first things the students are taught when they enter the program is find your voice, use your words, you have choices in life. The students are in the program for three years, from their sophomore year until they graduate. The team has performed at Day Against Hate at Petrides, and at the U.N. The team will be performing again tomorrow at the U.N.

The students attending tonight are: John Doyle, (George Doyle's grandson), Deanna Norbiga, (Sean Sweeney's niece), Jessica Livan and Eric Held.

The students expressed gratitude to the program and the things they have learned and accomplished such as being able to communicate with their family, their peers. The program has taught them to be tolerable to stand up for themselves and not to sit idly by amongst other things.

FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRANSPORTATION, ANTHONY MARRA – Anthony Marra is the new Transportation Chairman. The minutes of the meeting are in the packet. The next meeting will be on March 27, 2008. Mr. Marra thanked the board for naming him the Transportation Chair.

RULES & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, LETICIA REMAURO – The minutes are in the packet.

SANITATION GARAGE SITING COMMITTEE, ANTHONY COSENTINO – Mr. Cosentino reported the board office is going to send an e-mail to Mr. Dan Klein, Director of Real Estate, Department of Sanitation for a complete update of the new Sanitation District 1 garage in light of the recent article in the S.I. Advance that the money has been cut for the new garage.

YOUTH SERVICES, LARRY BESLOW – Ms. JoAnne Pentangelo chaired the Youth meeting last month Youth Services Meeting. The Board Office has been having a problem with the e-mail and the minutes were not included in the packet. Well wishes were sent to Mr. Beslow who will be having surgery and will be out for about two months.

PUBLIC SERVICES, LLOYD BACCHUS – The minutes of the meeting are in the packet. There is a flyer in everyone's packet. The New York City Department of City Planning and the Economic Development Corporation are sponsoring a "West Shore Open House" which will be held on March 13, 2008 starting at 6:30 with a presentation at 7:00 P.M.

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

BUDGET & FINANCE, TERRY PLAYER – No report.

LAND USE, CHRISTOPHER ROONEY – The minutes of the Land Use Committee are in the packet.

Mr. Bill Taitt, representing Councilman McMahon, said the Councilman has not taken a position on the development at the Stapleton Municipal Parking Lot.

"The plan must be very closely scrutinized, to ensure that there is adequate parking not only for the prospective residents but also for the public.

The Councilman is deeply concerned with the way the City conducts business in regard to the development of affordable housing projects under the Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Private developers are normally granted tax-breaks by the City in exchange for developing affordable housing units; however, these developers do not have an official contract with the City of New York and therefore not obligated to pay prevailing wage during construction. The Councilman believes this is a bad precedent that needs to be addressed, which is why he has requested legislation in the City Council that would require developers who receive any kind of city subsidy to pay prevailing wage to all workers."

The Stapleton SIRT Station needs to be analyzed by an engineer to any potential impacts on the operations of the railroad. More importantly, the Stapleton train station desperately needs an upgrade, and currently it is not a priority of the MTA for renovation. The Councilman has made several requests to the MTA for renovation of the Stapleton train station, and will continue to advocate for priority renovation.

The following motions were read and voted on:

MOTION

Community Board #1 approves the proposed dormitory for Wagner College on Campus Road on the Baseball diamond as presented.

Roll call vote taken. Vote passed 33-6-2.

MOTION

Community Board #1 approves the proposed revisions for Stapleton Court at the Stapleton Municipal Parking Lot as presented.

Roll call vote taken. Vote passed 40-0-0 (1 ineligible).

Mr. Rooney asked the board members opinion on a Board of Standards & Appeals Land Use Application, which was voted on and approved for 130 Montgomery Avenue. The applicant had to submit plans for a 30-day authorization to City Planning because it is in the Special Hillside Preservation District. Mr. Rooney asked the members if they wanted to re-hear the application. It was decided that the application would be heard and voted on again.

HUMAN RESOURCES, LISA LATTANZIO – The minutes will be included in the packet next month.

AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS

ROSEBANK/FORT WADSWORTH/ShORE ACRES, JOHN GUZZO – The Minutes are not in the packet.

Mr. Guzzo made a motion that any new flag poles/cellular antennas that are planned for the north shore must first notify Community Board #1.

Discussion ensued as to how will the Board be notified and by who? There are many private cellular companies. If a homeowner or a business wants to put a cellular antenna on their property, they are allowed to do so.

Mr. Guzzo withdrew his motion and asked the Public Services Committee to review the cellular and antenna placements.

On a separate matter, over the last few months the Rosebank Committee had been dealing with the removal of banners that were placed on poles in the area. Mr. Guzzo read the following motion.

MOTION

Community Board #1 requests the Department of Transportation not issue any permits for banners on the north shore of Staten Island without first seeking Community Board #1 approval.

Hand Vote taken. Vote passed unanimously.

WEST BRIGHTON/ST. GEORGE, MEGAN DELMAR – The minutes of the meeting are in the packet.

MARINERS HARBOR/PORT RICHMOND, DEBI ROSE – The minutes of the meeting are in the packet. Page 3 was not included in the packet. If anyone would like a copy of the complete set of minutes, please contact the Board Office. Ms. Rose thanked Ms. Anjail Ameen-Rice for preparing the minutes.

CLIFTON/CONCORD/STAPLETON, LARRY BESLOW – The minutes of the meeting are in the packet.

SILVER LAKE/SUNNYSIDE/WESTERLEIGH/WILLOWBROOK, KEN TIRADO – The minutes of the meeting are in the packet. Mr. Tirado explained two liquor licenses were not approved at the meeting. Neither applicant came to the meeting. One of the licenses lacked information and one applicant Mr. Tirado claimed had prior complaints. The two establishments are listed under the First Vice-Chairwoman's report.

OLD BUSINESS

The contractor for the Clove Road Sewer Job held a meeting for the merchants who will be affected during the course of the sewer project. The Roadhouse was gracious enough to allow the meeting to be held at their establishment. There will be water and gas turn-offs during the project, it can not be helped. The contractor also attended the Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh Area Committee Meeting to inform the residents of the project.

Mr. Ward asked that a letter be sent to the contractor doing the Clove Road Sewer Project. There have not been any complaints and they are doing a wonderful job and should be commended.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade was a great success this year, the 120th Pct. should be commended, they did a great job.

Detective Tierney responded the success was due to 100% cooperation from the residents in the area, the sponsors of the parade, the local businesses and the patrons of the businesses.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Anjail Ameen-Rice asked Detective Kevin Tierney about the two cameras that have appeared on Port Richmond Avenue in places where there is nobody outside.

Detective Tierney was not able to respond to the cameras on Port Richmond Avenue, he is going to look into it. There are locations that have had cameras installed by the Police Department such as Jersey Street and Victory Blvd. and Jersey Street and Richmond Terrace.

Chairman Sweeney announced:

All Saints Episcopal Church will be holding a St. Patrick's Day Dinner on March 15, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. The standard dinner of corned beef & cabbage will be served. Beer and soda will be available. The Church hosts the Board Meeting here each month and it

would be nice if we the Board Members gave back a little something to the church. For further information please call 718-698-1338.

The Manor Road Post Office will be hosting a meeting on March 19, 2008 at 5:00 P.M. to address what they have done and what they will be doing in the future to address the concerns of the residents on Raymond Avenue. If you are going to attend please contact the Board Office.

Mr. Wonica asked the area chairs to discuss at their next meeting holding an area clean up. It could be in a park, corners in the community that are need of being cleaned, wherever the community feels it is needed. Spring is around the corner; it would be nice if every area committee pitched in to beautify their neighborhood.

Jacob Massaquoi, III runs the African Refuge program in Park Hill. The program benefits the African Community. It was burglarized last month, eight laptop computers were stolen. JoAnne Pentangelo's son played at the Muddy Cup with his band to benefit the program. Any help anyone can give Mr. Massaquoi will be helpful.

It was suggested that the April Board Meeting be held at Clove Lake Health & Rehabilitation Center on Fanning Street which will afford board member Dominick Lambert the ability to attend.

Chairman Sweeney asked Ms. Victoria Larsen, Rep. the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit, if we would be able to hold the Board Meeting at that location since it is outside of the Board #1 area?

Ms. Larsen responded she did not think it was a problem for one meeting and under the circumstances.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 P.M.

