

COMMUNITY BOARD #1 FULL BOARD MEETING – OCTOBER 9, 2019 – 7:30 P.M.

SNUG HARBOR BUILDING P

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

MEMBERS

Vincent Accornero
Joseph Ahlstrom
Anjail Ameen-Rice
Larry Beslow, Excused
Joseph Bird, Absent
Telee Brown
Sandy Carles
Loretta Cauldwell
Anastasia Ciluffo
Anthony Cosentino
Megan Delmar
George Doyle
Claudette Duff, Absent
Linda Excused, Excused (Religious)
Timothy Forsyth
Victoria Gillen
John Guzzo
Celeste Holmes
Robert Holst, Excused
Sunny Jain
Lisa Lattanzio, Absent
Norman Light
Ali Mir Masum
John McBeth
Pearl Minsky, Excused (Religious)
Friday Ogbewe
Ole Olsen, Excused
Ernest Paige, Excused
Catherine Paradiso, Excused
Amy Poirer
Fran Reali, Excused
Christopher Rooney
Mohan Radharkrishn
Marjorie Ryan, Absent
James Samuels, Excused
Anthony Scutari
Nicholas Siclari
George Sona, Absent
Hakan Tale, Absent
George Turner
Kevin Washington
Daniel Williams
Camille Zarrelli
Bob Zion
Nicholas Zvegintzov

GUESTS

Roland Stewart, Rep. Borough President Oddo
Victoria Giordano, Deputy Commissioner SI DOT
David Northmore DOT
Kevin Elkins, Rep. Congressman Rose
Hanane Dbajt, Rep. MOA Nicole Malliotakis
Joan Cusack, Director HRA
Lisa Thompson, Rep. District Attorney
George D. Adames, ADA
Nicole Brooks, NYC Parks Recreation
Mary Bullock, Port Richmond Strong
Daniel Remroe, Re: Harborlights Court
Barbara Sanchez, Save Mount Manresa
Equisha Pierre, Health Solutions
Elsabet Andemicael, Health Solutions
Neil Pisane, Re: Harborlights Court
Mario Maselli, Harborlights Court resident
John Garcia, Re: Harborlights Court
Jack Bolembach, Mount Manresa
Carol Donovan, Richmondtown & Clarke Ave. Civic
Sarah Gowell, Bay Street Landing resident
Miriam Arnold, Occident Avenue resident
Gabriella Velardi, Ward Avenue resident
Marsha Russell, Bay Street Landing resident
Denise Boyd, Mariners Harbor resident
Joanne Maviglia, Arrochar resident

OFFICE STAFF

Joseph Carroll, District Manager
Lisa Crosby Community Coordinator

Chairman Siclari mentioned a quorum was not present, the meeting would officially be called to order when a few more members arrive.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Victoria Giordano, Deputy Commissioner SI Department of Transportation and David Northmore announced that a power point presentation was given at a joint meeting with the Transportation and Mariners Harbor/Port Richmond Area Committee regarding the Goethals Bridge Bike and Pedestrian Path. By the end of the year, the Elizabeth side will be completed.

PUBLIC SESSION

Ms. Barbara Sanchez, Ms. Mary Bullock, and Ms. Phyllis Zito all spoke opposing the proposed 169 homes to be built on the former Mt. Manresa property. It was noted the builders should have to go through the ULURP process and not build private roads. In addition, Savo brothers have done work on the property without appropriate permits such as inappropriate removal of buildings that contained asbestos, removal of trees; and, inefficient bating on the property, there are rats running rampant throughout the adjoining streets from the property.

Jack Bolembach submitted written objection to both Land Use Applications for the proposed homes on Mt. Manresa property and the proposed building of homes at Harborlights Court.

Mr. John Garcia, Mr. Neil Pisane, Mr. Daniel Remine all spoke against the proposed homes on Harborlights Court. All spoke of the destruction it will cause to the hillside, the disruption of the Serpentine Rock. Mr. Mario Maselli also spoke who is the adjoining homeowner of an easement agreement between lots 40, 30, 34 and 36 which prohibits more than 2 homes from using the easement. In addition, access to the cellar door will be eliminated due to the new grading and one of the new homes.

Mr. Kevin Elkins, District Director representing Congressman Max Rose spoke of the opposition from Congressman Max Rose regarding the proposed homeless shelter at 44 Victory Blvd. There are no plans for security, WIN is depending on SI Elected Officials to clean up Tompkinsville Park. The Congressman has strong concerns of the neighborhood in general for their safety, for the decline in property values.

Congressman Rose is also in opposition to building 169 homes at the former Mt. Manresa site.

Ms. Lisa Thompson, representing District Attorney Michael McMahon spoke of the "Protect Your Pets Calendar"—If anyone has a pet that would like to be in the calendar the deadline has been extended. There will be a shredding event on October 19th from Noon-3:00 P.M. at Blessed Sacrament. Cars are being broken into on Gordon Street – You should not leave valuables in your car, always lock the doors and never leave your car running unattended. A suspect was arrested on Prospect Street. A robbery occurred at a restaurant on Forest and Richmond Avenues, a suspect was arrested and awaits sentencing.

There are classes to teach about anti-theft, point out vulnerabilities, etc. Please contact Ms. Thompson for further info.

Lastly, Ms. Thompson introduced AFA George Adams.

Mr. Colin Vautrinot from the West New Brighton Branch Library spoke of events that are happening at the libraries. Flyers were left, for further information contact Mr. Vautrinot at colinvautrinot@nypl.org.

Ms. Equisha Pierre and Elsabet Andemicael spoke of the impact of tobacco, vaping, and menthol use by the youth and community on Staten Island. For further information or to have a presentation made on the ill effects of use contact epiere@healthsolutions.org or eandemicael@healthsolutions.org.

PUBLIC SESSION CLOSED

Chairman Nicholas Siclari called the meeting to order since a quorum was now present.

Motion made seconded and unanimously approved to accept September 2019 Full Board Minutes.

Amy Poirer presented a certificate of recognition to Watson Kawacki ("Dr. Clown") Scoutmaster of Troop 76 and a full-time employee at Sloan Kettering, as Dr. Clown where he helps cheer up the sick children. Father Trevor of Christ Church where Mr. Kawacki meets with Troop 76 was there in support.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN, ANTHONY COSENTINO – The FY 2021 Budget requests will be voted on under Budget & Finance committee reports.

SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN, TIMOTHY FORSYTH – No report.

THIRD VICE-CHAIRMAN, FRIDAY OGBEWELE – No report.

SECRETARY, LORETTA CAULDWELL – No report.

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

CHAIRMAN, NICHOLAS SICLARI – No report.

DISTRICT MANAGER, JOSEPH CARROLL – Mr. Carroll reminded everyone of the half marathon on Sunday October 17, 2019 streets will be closed from 2:00 A.M – 4:00 P.M.

On October 20, 2019 is "Making Strides for Breast Cancer" this is the annual walk on the boardwalk. Registration begins at 8:00 A.M. the walk starts at 11:00 A.M.

LAND USE, VINCENT ACCORNERO – Public Hearing was held at Labetti Post minutes are in the packet.

The following motions were made discussed and voted on as follows:

Board of Standards & Appeals Cal. Nos. 2016-4302 to 4326 A; 2016-4355 to 4462-A; 2017-107 to 120 A and 2019-51 to 57-A – Cupidity Drive, Fourberie Lane, Avidita Place – Proposal to apportion the current tax lot – lot 120 (239 Fingerboard Road into 169 tax lots. The application pertains to 163 zoning lots (6 lots are as of right) proposal is to develop on each tax lot one-family dwellings. Homes will either be three-story homes with a two-car garage and 121 two-story with exterior parking. A total of 473 parking spaces will be provided. – Relief is sought as the proposed residences will front only on Cupidity Drive, Avidita Place or Fourberie Lane, proposed private roads that are not duly placed on the official map of NYC. Properties are located at Mount Manresa.

Whereas, the scope of this application apportions one existing tax lot (lot 120) into 169 new tax lots and affects 163 zoning lots; and whereas,

The relief sought would allow 163 units to be developed fronting (3) proposed private roads that are not duly placed on the official map of NYC, and,

Whereas, the development of the proposed 163 units and the creation of the proposed (3) private roads would require the creation of an HOA, which historically have had numerous issues including a) failure to collect maintenance funds (dues adequately, b) failure to afford necessary infrastructure maintenance and/or repairs, c) failure to provide enforcement of parking regulations to maintain safe and proper access for service delivery and emergency apparatus, and; d) failure to provide adequate trash and snow removal, and;

Whereas the proposed (3) private roads would not be built to the same DOT standards as roads placed on the official map of NYC, and;

Whereas, the proposed 163 units not fronting on a mapped street would substantially alter and affect the surrounding community by nature of the impacts on traffic, storm waters, sanitary sewer, and, school seats;

Be it hereby resolved: Community Board #1 categorically opposes this application and recommends any development on this site which requires apportioning of the existing tax lot or the creation of internal roads be submitted as a ULURP application, so the proposed roads have a complete multi agency review and EAS, to be placed on the official map of NYC, and;

Be it further resolved: Community Board #1 rejects the applicant's claim for a procedural hardship waiver for the complete application since such a claim results in avoiding the process required to properly plan for the appropriate legal roadway design, as we are sure a purchaser with the development history of this applicant would be aware of the complexities of appropriate development of this environmentally sensitive site.

Land Use Committee voted to deny application unanimously.

Roll call taken of Full Board, vote passed 28-1-0 to deny.

Department of City Planning Application Nos. N 190217 ZAR, N 190218 ZAR and N 190221 ZAR – 20, 23, 25 and 40 Harborlights Court in the Special Hillside Preservation District. -Requested City Planning Authorizations would facilitate the development of four single family homes.

Motion made to approve as submitted Land Use Committee voted 6-2-0 to approve.
Long discussion held. Question called, vote failed. 7-21-0.

The following motion was made to deny:

Department of City Planning Application Nos. N 190217 ZAR, N 190218 ZAR & N 190221 ZAR
20, 23, 25 and 40 Harborlights Court in the Special Hillside Preservation District to facilitate the development of four single family homes.

Community Board #1 recommends DENIAL of the application based on:

Significant alteration of the steep slope having a negative impact on lots below;
Questionable legality of widening road into the easement of 265 Howard Avenue and, the legality of access of the easement for more than 2 homes for 265 Howard Avenue;
Grading of the street blocking the back door of existing homes.

Roll call vote taken, vote passed to DENY the application 25-3-0.

Mr. Accornero made the following motion:

Whereas, the site known as Mount Manresa has been historically a minimally-developed, primarily natural area and,

Whereas, this large site is a failure of government to protect via appropriate zoning and,

Whereas, there has been support from local, city, state and federal officials to negotiate with the current owner to preserve this site and,

Whereas, all development plans proposed by the owner of this site would greatly impact the adjoining community with traffic, storm water runoff, sanitary sewer capacity and take from future generations the environmental gift that this site can and should be.

Be thereby resolved, Community Board #1 calls upon all elected officials to propose an environment domain action for the taking of this property with fair market compensation, for use as parkland only.

Reverse roll call vote taken to send a letter to all SI Elected Officials. Vote passed 28-1-0.

Lastly, Mr. Accornero called for a hand vote to send a letter requesting the current lease agreement which will expire in January 2020 between the operator of the Richmond County Ballfield and the NYC Economic Development Corporation as follows:

Whereas, the Richmond County Savings Bank Ballpark is an asset of the City of New York, sited in Community Board 1, and;

Whereas, the ballpark operates under a lease agreement between the City of New York, under the jurisdiction of the NYCEDC and the current operator and;

Whereas, the current lease is set to expire, 10/2020 and;

Whereas, Community Board 1 is a charter mandated agency of the City of New York and;

Whereas, Community Board 1 is concerned with the future operation of the ballpark;

Be it hereby resolved, Community Board 1 requires the NYCEDC to provide the Board with the existing lease agreement between NYCEDC and the Richmond County Savings Bank Ballpark operator.

Reverse roll call vote taken, vote passed unanimously.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AMY POIRER – Ms. Poirer read a letter to be sent to Richmond University Medical Center regarding patient to staff ratio and other points relating to patient care at the facility, this was discussed at the September Board Meeting, Chairman Siclari asked Ms. Poirer to have her committee bring forth a letter.

We believe that one unit at a time, Richmond University Medical Center has the potential to become a state-of-the-art medical facility. Your hospital has departments that are ranked among the top in the nation. That, in and of itself, shows the point that the potential is there. In many ways there has been such great steps forward and that reflects your leadership. We sincerely thank you for your commitment.

However, Richmond University Medical Center, at this current time, has what the community believes to be an unacceptable patient to nurse ratio. As a result, the patients suffer and the nurses that do their job with a passion become frustrated and feel unsupported. This ratio must be brought down to a much smaller ratio and one that allows patients to receive the nursing support they medically require.

In addition, we understand that the air-conditioning unit(s) have broken down and may not be repaired until next year due to budget constraints. There are photos of stagnant water, signs prohibiting temperatures, closures of operating rooms, and even mold growth in the NICU, where some of the most

vulnerable are receiving treatment. This must be corrected immediately for the health and well-being of all.

Further, while we congratulate you on Richmond University Medical Center's recent reinstatement of its "Level 2" trauma status, we want to express our strong belief that the hospital must do whatever necessary to be reinstated with its "Level 1" trauma status.

In closing, we want to reiterate that we strongly believe that one department at a time, Richmond University Medical Center can and will be a state-of-the-art medical facility. We believe in the work that is being done; however, there is great concern for the current issues at hand.

Reverse roll call vote taken, vote passed unanimously to send the letter.

WATERFRONT, OLE OLSEN – No meeting, no report.

PUBLIC SERVICES, SUNNY JAIN – There is a snow plow plan for tis coming winter.

YOUTH, ERNEST PAIGE - Report is in the packet. Mr. Vincent Accornero reminded the Youth Committee to investigate sending a letter about cutting the gifted program from schools.

BUDGET & FINANCE, ANTHONY COSENTINO - The following items were changed from the FY 2020 Capital and Expense Budget Requests for the FY 2021 Budget the remaining items on the FY 2020 will be carried over to FY 2021 with the changes. (Full copy on file at the Board Office)

New Expense

Fund the On Your Mark and Eden II Theater programs will replace 19 on the capital expense.

Capital –

remove item 9, new school being built on Targee Street

remove item 15, included in Bay Street Corridor funding for sewers

item 21 should read: Pave and stripe the PS 21 school yard which has crumbled

new request: build a stand-alone gymnasium for PS 21

Item 24 should read provide padding to the auditorium pillars at PS 21 to provide a multi-purpose room

Remove item 25, DOT has reconfigured streets by Howland Hook

Item #17 is changed to read Since the North Shore Bluebelt was scrapped, sewers are needed from Broadway between Forest Avenue to Richmond terrace, including Delafield Avenue from N. Mada to Kissel Avenue and all the streets parallel to Forest Avenue.

Remove item 30, Snug Harbor HVAC in progress

Remove item 33, include in Bay Street Corridor money for infrastructure upgrades

Remove item 38, equipment upgrades for Snug Harbor in progress

New request: reconfigure the Innis Street/Nicholas Avenue intersection since there have been multiple pedestrian casualties there

Capital Item #5 to be changed to purchase property (parking lot) behind St. Mary's School for Rosebank Library.

CS2 North Avenue sewer in progress

Ms. Poirer questioned the status of P.S. 21 requests since Mr. Cosentino's son is Principal there; however, CB#1 Rules Chairman advised Ms. Poirer if Mr. Cosentino abstains from voting on the motion there is no conflict.

Requests are to be made to DOT for study of traffic signal timing at Martling/Manor and College – traffic backs up on Martling due to the light on College Avenue.

Ms. Amy Poirer pointed out that Mr. Cosentino's son is the Principal at P.S. 21 and is not comfortable that this is the only school on the list 3 times. Mr. Cosentino is going to abstain from the vote.

Mr. Siclari asked Amy Poirer to be the Chair of the Education Committee to find out what is needed at the schools.

Reverse roll call vote taken vote passed 26-1-1.

TRANSPORTATION, NICHOLAS ZVEGINTZOV – Mr. Zvegintzov reminded everyone that we voted and sent a letter regarding the Bus Rapid Transit turn around difficulties – the first scoping meeting on the Environmental Impact Statement will be on October 17th at Snug Harbor Lower Great Hall from 6:00 -8:00 P.M.

I will be presenting to the Staten Island Democratic Association “The Politics of Transportation” at Oriental Plaza on October 15, 2019.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

CULTURAL AFFIARS, PEARL MINSKY – No meeting, no report. Mr. McBeth mentioned they put on a great show with very talented people such as Pearl at Temple Emanuel on Post Avenue.

LABOR, VICTORIA GILLEN – Ms. Gillen is resigning from the Board she has bought a home in New Jersey. Nicholas Siclari thanked Ms. Gillen for her service and announced that Mr. Holst is the new labor Chairman.

CIVIC, VICTORIA GILLEN – If anyone is interested in chairing the Civic Committee please speak to Chairman Siclari.

PARKS, NORMAN LIGHT – In June the Stapleton Waterfront Park was tabled until September where the Stapleton Area Committee can review. A joint meeting was held and the following letter supporting the Stapleton Waterfront Park which was presented at the Parks Committee Meeting and the Stapleton Area Committee Meeting of Community Board #1.

Reverse roll call vote taken. Vote passed unanimously.

AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS

ROSEBANK, JOHN GUZZO – The committee met jointly with Land Use, minutes are in the packet.

MARINERS HARBOR/PORT RICHMOND, JOHN MCBETH – Minutes are in the packet.

STAPLETON/CLIFTON/CONCORD, LARRY BESLOW – Minutes of the meeting are in the packet, the Stapleton Waterfront Park was reviewed and reported on under the Parks Committee Report.

ST. GEORGE/WEST BRIGHTON/NEW BRIGHTON, LORETTA CAULDWELL – The committee met jointly with Land Use, minutes are in the packet.

SILVER LAKE/SUNNYSIDE/WESTERLEIGH/WILLOWBROOK, TIMOTHY FORSYTH/CAMILLE ZARRELLI – Minutes of the meeting are in the packet.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS – George Doyle thanked the members for the thoughts and basket.

Mr. McBeth thanked Ms. Gillen for her time and hard work with the Board.

Mr. Rooney who is the Board's Representative for Snug Harbor mentioned Snug Harbor will be holding the Winter Lantern Festival again, last year did not run well this year they are coordinating the 120 with a 15-page parking and traffic management system. They are proposing shuttle service from the Ballpark.

Motion to adjourn.