



FRED R. GUINTA.
CHAIR

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Community Board 2
BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND

Regular Monthly Meeting of Full Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 16, 2023 - 7:00 P.M.
Joan & Alan Bernikow JCC of Staten Island
1466 Manor Road
Staten Island, New York 10314
https://youtube.com/live/Hjq_A2fihAA

Chair Fred R. Guinta opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. with a pledge to the Flag of the United States of America.

Secretary Shawn Abraham – attendance roll call. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Shawn Abraham, Igor Baboshkin, Rosanne Clift, Benjamin D’Amato, Simone DiTrapani, Roy J. Garlisi, Anselmo S. Genovese, Fred R. Guinta, Jordan Hafizi, Dr. Mohammad Khalid, Diane L. McNamara, Mendy Mirocznik, Gerard J. Ruggiero, Steven J. Zboinski.

Board Members Absent: Olu A. Ajayi, Dr. Deborah Cognata, Benjamin D’Amato, Zafer Durmaz, Julie Freeman, Gurdev S. Kang, Dr. Allan B. Perel, Dr. Ramanathan Raju, Dr. donna Seminara, Stephen W. Zaderiko

Staff: Debra A. Derrico, District Manager.

Representatives of Elected Officials Present:
Bonita Sussman for Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo
Jennifer Miller for the NYC Parks Department
Annmarie Calitri for the NYC DOT
Francesca Galleli for District Attorney Michael McMahan
George D. Adams, Assistant DA for DA Michael McMahan
Nirmel Sing Kang, Assistant DA for DA Michael McMahan

Guests:

Star Kent of United Activities Unlimited , Andrew Guido of NYPL. FDNY EMS James McCue, Jean Prabhu, Starr Kent, Sudhakai Prabl, Meg Zimm, Puneet Singh, Kari Bailey, Aali Khan, Noel Byfield, Star Kent.

Chair Guinta called for a motion to accept the proposed agenda. Motion was made and seconded. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Chair Guinta called for a motion to accept the April 18, 2023 Full Board Minutes. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Board Officers' Reports:

Chair - Fred R. Guinta: refer to YouTube.

First Vice-Chair: Gerard J. Ruggiero – No Report

Second Vice-Chair: Rosanne Clift – No Report

Third Vice-Chair: Ben D'Amato – No Report

Secretary: Shawn Abraham – No Report

Treasurer's Report: Roy J. Garlisi – The Treasurer's Report is on file in the Board office.

Public Session: (speaking time is limited to two minutes)

Francesca Galleli representing District Attorney Mike McMahon announced the following:

- Last week we met with the DSNY Commissioner Tish, and we had a very productive conversation, mostly about illegal dumping, areas that we have on Staten, Island; cases that we're currently investigating, as well as graffiti and other quality of life, issues that we're seeing and you may notice. If you're driving home tonight on Victory Boulevard, you will see that we've cleaned up several locations - - the King's Pizzeria, Continental, Cleaners, Sylvester's Deli and several other private fences.
- And this summer we have many more quality of life initiatives and cleanups that we're doing throughout Staten Island. If you have any concerns, feel free to relay those locations to us and we will work with DSNY to take care of them.
- I also want to bring up another concern that we're seeing right now on Staten, Island and throughout the city, and that is vape shops. These unlicensed illegally owned vape shops that we see across Staten Island. Right now, we are investigating several locations, and last month we were able to conduct two busts in accordance with NYPD and we were able to seize 75 pounds of marijuana and other illicit drugs at a location in Great, Kills and Port Richmond.
- We are aware of two locations right now on Victory Boulevard that we are working with and that are under investigation and I will be sure to give you guys updates as soon as we have them pending.
- We had our catalytic converter etching event last month and we were able to etch 150 cars from Staten Island, so this is a great Improvement and a great movement forward, because this is still the greatest crime that we're seeing on Staten Island right now. This is a spike that has been over a hundred percent and we're working with all four precincts and Patrol borrow Staten Island to make sure that we are keeping your vehicles. Your personal property, safe and I will say, though, the majority of cars that are stolen are because 65 percent of them people had left their keys in the car, so I urge you I beg of you, please lock your cars. Please take your belongings with you. This is the best way to protect yourself right now.
- We know that there are rings of criminals who are coming in from Newark. They're, taking the Goethals Bridge and the Outer Bridge in, and they are specifically targeting your cars in your driveways, especially and we've seen it a lot throughout the local neighborhoods here in Community Board 2. And another concern that I know that we're all worried about are the rise in commercial burglaries that we're seeing on the island and I know we've seen a string of them on Victory Boulevard and specifically Williams Eyeworks as well, and we've been in touch with all of those business owners. We've met with every single business district on Staten Island and those Merchant Associations to make sure that they are doing that. We are working with them and seeing that they have all the safety precautions in place to keep them safe. We've worked with NYPD to make sure the 120 and the 121 Precincts are safely patrolling those business corridors, especially on Forest Avenue and Victory Boulevard. I just have one last update for you tonight time, but the New York State budget has recently passed in the last two weeks and what I wanted to share with you is that you will hear from Governor Hochul and the other four District Attorneys in New York City, that this is a great Improvement, that we are moving in the right

direction to really change and make New York City safer. The District Attorney does not feel that way.

- We do not believe that the current changes in the bail are going to move the needle on crime, specifically because it doesn't make any more felonies bail eligible and it doesn't allow the judges the same judicial discretion.
- Should somebody be rearrested on a separate charge once they were already released. So, this is something that we are still working with. We still have judges here in Staten Island who will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law for felonies. We're going to prosecute for commercial burglaries and violent crimes.
- I want to thank the state representatives who are here with us tonight who have been working very carefully on this, because I tell you that the State Assembly members and the State Senators on Staten Island deeply care about this issue, and they are some of the only elected officials in New York City who care about this issue and I'm sure you will hear from them tonight as well and I want to make sure that you know that and are aware that we are working with them. They are fully aware-and this is something we're trying to do together as a community to make Staten Islanders safer.

Bonnie Sussman, representing Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo reported that the barrel giveaway is closed for new reservations. At this time, demand has far exceeded supply, but we are setting up a wait list. If they're interested, they can call us at 718-370-1384. We will have an open house on Thursday June 14th from 3 to 6 p.m. at the office on Victory Boulevard. We will be welcoming those from the community and honoring achievements of some of our constituents. All are welcome and invited.

Hanane Djabat, Chief of Staff to Assembly Member Mike Tannousis spoke about a very successful rain barrel give away event that Council Member David Carr and Assembly Member Tannousis had hosted. Hanane stated that Assembly Member Tannousis want to do about two or three cleanups and welcomes suggestions for locations.

Bill Matarazzo, Chief of Operations to Senator Lanza reported that Senator Lanza was the prime sponsor of legislation that went out that would require Community Board approval and owner approval with the siting of Link5G Cell Towers within 250 feet of a business or residence in cities of one million or more, which is New York City. It is S5123. It is something that the Senator strongly believes in.

Puneet Singh, introduced himself. He is the new Community Liaison for Community Board 2 with the Department of City Planning. Puneet announced that a Citywide Zoning Text Amendment for Carbon Neutrality is coming up in June. He said if anyone has questions, feel free to reach out to him. If he can't answer your questions, he will find someone who can.

Captain James McCue, FDNY Commanding Officer for Station 22 located at 460 Brielle Avenue reported that they have one of the largest Geographic response areas in the city. They're trying to do a lot of community outreach. They've been bringing some of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scout Troops up to do CPR and first aid training. Station 22 also has a good working relationship Grace Foundation, where he will bring in Special Needs classes to do tours of our facility, because nobody ever comes and say hi to EMS unless it's the worst day of their life right, so he wants to try to make the children and the other populations on Staten Island comfortable. Station 22 also has rescue paramedics on Staten Island. They have two EMT Ambulances and one Paramedic Ambulance in Staten Island. Captain McCue said his door is always open so please feel free to stop by to say hello.

Guest Speaker: Odette Wilkens, President and General Counsel of Wired Broadband, a non-profit located in Forest Hills, Queens. Wired Broadband focuses on safe technology for the public. Odette spoke to

about the Link5G Cell Towers that are being put on the streets of New York City. There's a lot of concern about these towers, particularly with respect to long-term health effects. These towers can be placed anywhere near your home, your school medical facilities, any structure, there's no setback requirement, so these are three-story high towers that pose a number of issues. They pose safety issues and public safety issues. Community Board 1 is scheduled to get 117 Towers in Community Board 1 and Community Board 3 is scheduled to get 77 Towers. There are none scheduled yet for Community Board 2. These structures are 32 feet three stories high and they have five Bays for Antennas - two on the top are 5 G, two are 2 are 4G, and the bottom is for Wi-Fi. In terms of the health effects, The World Health Organization indicated back in 2011 that wireless radiation is a class 2B carcinogen. So, it's a possible carcinogen. Senator Blumenthal called in the Telecom Executives to Washington to ask them if they have you been doing any kind of long-term health studies. They said, no. So, then we're flying blind here as far as health and safety is concerned, and that's exactly what is going on now. The major Telecom carrier, T-Mobile did a study back in 2000 and the scientists found that there were high risks of tumor cancers, neurological disorders, cognitive impairment and many other things. There have been a number of residents in New York City, who have suffered tremendously from 5 G exposure and are permanently damaged. So, this is something that I would like you to consider. Many Community Boards have voted for disapproval and a moratorium against these 5 G Towers because there hasn't been transparency in terms of the health effects and other things related to these towers. So, my request in my recommendation is that there be a moratorium or a request for a moratorium set for these cell towers until your questions are answered.

Standing Committee Reports:

Land Use: Ben B'Amato announced the first item on the agenda.

City Planning Application Number: N 230236 ZAR

37 Farview lace – Block 894, Lot 318

Special Natural Area District (NA-1), Staten Island

Project Brief: Application seeks authorization pursuant to Zoning Resolution 105-421 to authorize modification of topographical features on Tier 1 site to facilitate construction of new residence at 37 Farview Place within the Special Natural Area District.

May 2, 2023 Vote: 12-In Favor of approving; 0-Opposed; 0-Abstained; 0-Not-Entitled

May 16, 2023 Vote: 14-In Favor of approving; 0-Opposed; 0-Abstained; 0-Mot Entitled

Ben B'Amato announced the second item on the agenda.

Landmarks Preservation Commission Docket #: LPC-23-03141

209 Flagg Place Block 891, Lot 1 Staten Island, N.Y. 10304

Continued - Landmarks Preservation Commission Docket #: LPC-23-03141

209 Flagg Place Block 891, Lot 1 Staten Island, N.Y. 10304

Project Brief: Restoration and alteration to the historic villa. No work at the 1957 addition. Removal of non-historic siding, windows, roof materials, railings, and masonry pointing with replacement/restoration. Alterations include enlargement of some window openings and dormers, new garage doors at east wing cellar level's east facing facade, and reconfiguration of roof lines at east wing. Also, installation of new HVAC and plumbing.

May 2, 2023 Vote: 12-In Favor of Tabling Application; 0-Opposed; 0-Abstained; 0-Not-Entitled

May 16, 2023 Vote: 14-In Favor of opposing drawings; 0-Opposed; 0-Abstained; 0-Not Entitled

Dr. Khalid suggested that the application be tabled. He said he and the Todt Hill community would like the buyer and architect of 209 Flagg Place to meet with the community to talk to his/her future plans for the building.

Land Use Chair Ben D'Amato explained that we need to take a yay or nay vote. Ben suggested that the board vote no on the drawings.

Jean Prabu, a resident of Todt Hill said she has gone over the plans and the Estate has not been addressed in the drawings/plans. They also didn't address the fact that it's an Estate and that the whole estate is landmarked. There is no as-of-right building there without landmarks. It's all landmarks. They didn't even tell you what they're going to do with the remainder of the landmark. So if you want a reason to vote no, besides the fact that we have this mystery buyer, that's not very nice, they're not very neighborly, not very kind, but aside from that, the plans themselves are deficient.

Board Member Mendy Mirocznik stated that he concurred with Dr. Khalid. He said I suppose we must vote on the plan, but the plan is not inclusive. It doesn't discuss the full use of the property. The landmarking is important, so until we have full disclosure of what the intended every inch of that land and that property, we have an issue. It wouldn't be fair. I wouldn't like what happens to this community here to happen to any section.

Board Member Diane McNamara stated, "if the buyer wanted to make any changes to the Estate, they would have to present the changes to the board, correct?" Isn't that what the architect is speaking to?

Ben D'Amato: Okay, with that, if there are no more questions, we're going to take a vote to either approve or oppose the drawings that were submitted.

Aging: Dr. Donna Seminara – Absent.

Capital & Expense Budget: Roy J. Garlisi – No Report

Environmental Protection and Parks: Stephen W. Zaderiko – Absent

Health: Dr. Ram Raju – Absent.

Law, Legislative Review & Ethics: Mendy Mirocznik – No Report

Traffic, Transportation & Public Service: Gerard J. Ruggiero – No Report

Youth Services: Simone DiTrapani – No Report.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted.

