



## **Queens Community Board 13**

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**Melinda Katz**  
Borough President

**Leroy Comrie**  
Deputy Borough President

**Bryan J. Block**  
Chairman

**Lawrence T. McClean**  
District Manager

### **Board Meeting**

**March 24, 2014**

**Maranatha Baptist Church**

**112-50 Springfield Boulevard**

**Queens Village NY 11426**

#### **Attendance:**

**Present: Angela Augugliaro, Isa Avery, Bryan Bearak, Verdell N. Boncoeur, Kyle Bragg, Daisy Carew, Tanya Cruz, Delroy Dawkins, Bess DeBetham, Bruno DeFranceschi, James Delaney, Samuel Elliott, Charles Farruggia, Seymour Finkelstein, Andrea Foy, Jack Friedman, Robert L. Glover, Anthony Greene, Lloyd Hicks, Fay Hill, Bonnie Huie, Mohamood Ishmael, Rhonda Kontner, Antony Kuncheria, Marcia O'Brien, Nagassar Ramgarib, Anup Ramnauth, Peter Richards, Ashok Satkalmi, Pritpal Singh Walia. Jackie L. Wilson, Jerry Wind**

**Absent: Corey Bearak, Matthew Chacko, Edward Harap, Derrick Warmington, Clive Williams, Helene Zaro.**

**Excused: Richard Hellenbrecht, Sanu Thomas**

#### **Elected Officials/ or Representatives:**

**Michael Stitson representing Congressman Steven Israel, Jerry LaMura representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Councilman Donovan Richards and Jahnelle Edwards, Dara Bragg representing Senator James Sanders, Anthony Lemma representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Maylene Thurton representing Assemblywoman Barbara Clark, Andy Laine representing Councilman Ruben Wills.**

**Staff: Lawrence T. McClean, District Manager, Stephanie Rainkie, Community Coordinator, Maxine Brannon, Community Associate.**

**Mr. Block, Chair of Community Board 13 introduced Councilman I. Daneek Miller. The Councilman thanked everyone for their work in Government Services. The Councilman stated that he will be hosting a "meet & greet" within the next few weeks. The address of his office is 172-12 Linden Boulevard, St. Albans, phone number is 718-776-3700.**

**Councilman Miller said that he has met with the agencies that provide service to the communities in his District. Sanitation has done a good job, and DOT is working diligently to fill potholes, now we need resurfacing.**

**The Councilman said that he had held workshops of Discretionary Funding ( deadline is now over ).**

**He stated that beginning next Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, the Q77 bus connecting northern and southern Queens will begin service and also Sunday service on the Q31 that runs between Bayside and Jamaica.**

**Councilman Miller stated that there would be a meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup> at IS59 on co-locations.**

**Bess DeBetham asked the Councilman what was happening with the Budget for the Boards. He stated that money has been brought back but not to the point they were looking for. They are still working on getting the Chairs back their Parking Permits.**

**Jack Friedman praised the Councilman for his accomplishments in only three months.**

**Mr. Block stated that the Commissioner of CAU, Marco Carrion, had a meeting with the District Managers and the Board Chairs, The first question asked was in reference to the Parking Passes. The Commissioner stated that they will be looking into this matter. The Commissioner also stated that this administration is more Community Board friendly. There was a brief question and answer period.**

**Brian Connell from the Civilian Complaint Review Board was the next speaker. Mr. Connell explained that they are there to bridge the gap between the Police Department and community. They are an independent agency staffed by civilians. The Review Board is made up of 13 members, five are appointed by the Mayor, five are appointed by the City Council and three are appointed by the Police Commissioner. Mr. Connell explained that their investigators go out and check complaints against specific officers. There are complaints that refer to Force, Abusive Authority, Discourtesy and Offensive Language. They handle 6000 complaints a year and 50% of them are substantiated.**

**Mr. Connell explained what to do if you are stopped by a Police Officer.**

*St* **Stay calm, keep your hands visible and still, speak respectfully, do not resist arrest, carry ID at all times, pay attention to details like the officers name and badge number.**

**Mr. Connell stated that the police are allowed to approach people and ask for information when there's a reason for doing so.**

**If you think you've experienced or witnessed police misconduct file a complaint with the Civilian Complaint Review Board 1-800 341-CCRB. They will investigate and mediate complaints about misconduct by NYPD officers. The CCRB is NOT part of the police department. There were a few questions asked at the end of Mr. Connell's presentation.**

**Councilman Donovan Richards was the next guest to speak. Councilman Richards said they are doing a Southern Queens Homeowners Forum in Rosedale at PS 195 on April 8<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30pm to 8pm. The last time they did this they had 200/300 people, every City Agency comes out, Parks, Buildings, Transportation etc. This is a good forum to bring your complaints.**

Many boulevards get people who dump their home garbage in the public receptacles. The Councilman said that the Queens Chamber of Commerce is organizing merchants along Merrick Boulevard .

The Councilman spoke of the air quality in New York City, he stated that we have some of the poorest air quality. They will be starting to look at JFK International Airport for the air quality and noise pollution. He stated that JFK could plant more trees at the airport and also use less vehicles, they could use electric cars this would help the pollution and noise problems. The #1 complaint that 311 receives is noise complaints.

The Councilman said that he sits on the Land Use, Zoning & Franchise, and General Welfare committees.

Councilman Richards said that Community Boards 12, 13 and 14 are overwhelmed with shelters and he said that there are other places that deserve to get some "love" too. He said that these communities have been over-saturated, and there must be a better process with the community board. There must be a better notification process.

Mr. Block stated that Springfield Gardens has no library, the Councilman said that they have to find space for a library to be built. Mr. Block said that the prior administration turned down all our "Slow Zone" applications. The Councilman said that he can raise this with the Commissioner. He said that the Commissioner will be at the Town Hall Meeting and the community should come out to voice their concerns.

There was a question and answer period.

Jerry LaMura from the Queens Borough Presidents Office introduced Shurn Anderson, she works with the Economic Development Department. She is working with the Director and together they are working to implement the Borough President's aggressive agenda for economic growth and job development. Mr. LaMura said that they were also there to thank Jack Friedman who provided an important venue for the Borough President to announce and make public her economic agenda. Mr. LaMura said that a few months ago Mr. Friedman extended an invitation to all the Board Members to attend the Queens Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting that was held February 11<sup>th</sup> at the LaGuardia Marriott Hotel. The Borough President was able to bring her Queens Cabinet members, and on behalf of the Borough President, Mr. LaMura extended a thank you to Mr. Friedman. It was a very successful event.

Mr. Block called the roll, we had a quorum. The February minutes were approved with one correction. Verdell Boncoeur was present at the February Board meeting. Angela Augugliaro made a correction on page 6, it should have read, Attorney General's office not Secretary General's Office.

Motion was made by Kyle Bragg to accept the minutes and seconded by Daisy Carew. Mr. Block acknowledged the elected officials or their Representatives who were present.

#### **Chairman's Report**

On February 26, Mr. Block attended the 105 Pct. Community Council Meeting

**March 10, Queens Borough President's Borough Board Meeting, the Borough President has put as one of her priorities the "116<sup>th</sup> Precinct". This has not been approved, but it has been made a priority.**

**March 13<sup>th</sup> – Mr. Block and Mr. McClean along with other Boards attended a meeting with the Commissioner of CAU, Marco Carrion. There is a Bill that states that Community Board meetings have to be video taped. The concern of the District Managers was who was going to pay for this equipment. This will happened sometime in the future. Bess DeBetham asked how they could pass a bill that would cost all this money, 59 Community Boards in the City of New York, did they vote to give the Community Boards additional funding to pay for this? Mr. Block could not recall who sponsored this Bill, but it passed. The money has not been allocated to fund this. It was determined that Jim Vacca from the Bronx was the sponsor, it's an unfunded mandate.**

**Motion was made to accept Mr. Block's report by Jack Friedman and seconded by Bess DeBetham.**

#### **District Manager's Report**

**Mr. McClean discussed an issue, on March 6<sup>th</sup> he met with the Department of Buildings about a new storage warehouse on Jericho Turnpike. This project encompasses four lots, they haven't gotten the permits to demolish the old TNT buildings yet. They were invited to both the Land Use and Board meetings, but had conflicts this month.**

**On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Mr McClean attended the Borough Cabinet Meeting at the Queens Borough President's Office. Mr. McClean requested that a procedure be put into place to handle calls on gas leaks, throughout the Borough. Jerry LaMura had gotten everyone concerned with that type of request to come to the meeting. Mr. McClean discussed this. March 13<sup>th</sup>, meeting with Commissioner Marco Carrion. Mr. McClean stated that the Commissioner wants to work with Community Boards as he feels we are a vital service.**

**Mr. McClean stated that we have received a request for a taxi stand at 247-07 Jamaica Avenue ( Jericho Turnpike) for Foxes Car Service. He said that we called the Queens Colony Civic Association and gave them a copy of the letter. The Civic was opposed to this application because of lack of parking in the area. Mr. McClean said that he sent to TLC opposing this application.**

**The Anniversary of the Rebbe's death is July 1<sup>st</sup>, a planning meeting is being set up.**

**Mr. McClean spoke about a proposed liquor store on Union Turnpike across from the library. The office has received many complaints about this considering the location is next to McDonalds and Dunkin Donuts and across from the library. According to the State Liquor Authority a liquor store does not have to notify the Community Board but they do have to notify other liquor stores in the area.**

**Mr. Block said this could be discussed at the next Public Safety Committee Meeting. Mr. McClean stated that he called Mohammed Hack in the Borough Presidents Office because we received a complaint about the Mandir on Hillside Avenue. There are many cars double parking and many near accidents. Mr. McClean wanted to set up a meeting with the head of this mosque to discuss the problem.**

**Motion was made to accept Mr. McClean's report with no objections.**

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Peter Richards – Chair of Parks Committee**

**Mr. Richards said that they had a Parks Committee on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the FAA runway extension was approved.**

**The Parks Committee is going to organize a tour of all the Parks in Community Board 13. We will keep Board Members and Civics informed of the Date.**

**National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, at Cabell Park in Cambria Heights.**

**Kangela Moore said that Macy's did a Campaign for Parks and Brookville Park and Cunningham Park were chosen to get funding.**

**Fay Hill stated that on March 27<sup>th</sup> there would be a Budget Hearing for Parks at City Hall at 3 p.m.**

**Motion was made to accept the Parks Committee reports by Lloyd Hicks and seconded by Verdell Boncoeur.**

### **Jerry Wind – Land Use Committee**

**Mr. Wind said that they invited the people from the proposed storage facility to come to the meeting but they couldn't make it. The main concern is access to their driveway. Mr. Wind said there is no way to enter that premises from eastbound Jericho Turnpike. They would have to make a curb cut in the center median on Jericho, there is already a curb cut further west that goes into CVS/Staples. The only other way to do that is to make a "U-Turn" at Little Neck Parkway, that's a five way intersection now. They also found out that there will be 31 parking spaces, the building is supposed to be 42,000 square feet, but the Committee isn't sure if this is a fact.**

**Mr. Wind stated that they also discussed the ICCC. Mr. Wind personally attended both the BSA hearing on February 25<sup>th</sup> and the Borough President's hearing on March 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Chair of BSA said in addressing the ICCC lawyer was that they suggested you go back to the drawing board and put together something that blends with the community.**

**Mr Wind said that he testified, Bob Freidrich testified.**

**They found out that this so-called affordable housing would cost \$2700 a month to live in.**

**Mr. McClean testified as well as other speakers from Mr. Wind's Civic.**

**At the Borough Presidents Hearing it was basically the same although the ICCC lawyer stated that he had no presentation to make, because their whole project is under review under the direction of the BSA.**

**The Borough President did want to hear about this project, so the ICCC supporters spoke of the need so senior housing.**

**The most important thing was that Borough President Katz questioned the ICCC lawyer about the financing of this project. One of the things that were said was that financing was not a problem but if they do have a need for extra money they can get it through HUD. The Borough President said that if they do go through HUD then there would be a lottery**

system to determine who gets the apartments. The investors in this project were promised apartments, so if they do accept money from HUD, those investors will be out of luck. The next BSA hearing is scheduled for May 20, 2014. It is not known at this point when the Borough President will have her meeting.

Angela Augugliaro said that in regards to the storage facility, the State just finished the center divide on Jericho Turnpike, they did a concrete treatment that looks like brick work. So if they do put a curb-cut with a "U-Turn" it will be a traffic hazard because the people making U Turns may be driving small trucks such as a U Haul. So they wouldn't only have to do a curb-cut but also do something about additional traffic controls. On the opposite side of the street from Bellerose Commons, where CVS/Staples is, they have a Dollar Tree and there have been two accidents coming out of Dollar Tree.

Shasha from Resorts World said that they are having a Disco Inferno on Saturday night and Evelyn "Champagne" King will be there. On April 12<sup>th</sup> there will be a Gospel Concert. Bruno DeFranceschi asked why we were advertising Resorts World. Mr. Block said that Sasha had signed up for Public Speaking time.

Kangela Moore said that on April 12<sup>th</sup> at Brookville Park they will be having their park beautification, this is their 3<sup>rd</sup> year with NEW YORK CARES. They need volunteers to come out and help with a little painting.

May 10<sup>th</sup> is IT'S MY PARK DAY at Brookville Park, there will be another beautification project as well. There will be many events as we go through the summer and the Board will try to keep everyone informed.

Jack Friedman said that on May 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a Small Business Expo at Citi Field And on May 18<sup>th</sup> they will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World's Fair in Flushing Meadow Park to celebrate the 1964 and 1939 World's Fairs.

Rasheed spoke next and said that on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM Senator Malcolm Smith will be holding his Annual Budgeting Town Hall at Alpha Phi Alpha Senior Center on Linden Boulevard.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephanie Rainkie  
Community Coordinator