



**Queens Community Board 13**  
219-41 Jamaica Ave.  
Queens Village, NY 11428  
Telephone: (718) 464-9700  
Fax: (718) 264-2739

**Melinda Katz**  
Borough President

**Barry Grodenchik**  
Deputy Borough President

**Bryan J. Block**  
Chairman

**Lawrence T. McClean**  
District Manager

**BOARD MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 24, 2014**  
**MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**112-46 SPRINGFIELD BOULEVARD**  
**QUEENS VILLAGE NEW YORK 11429**

**Attendance:**

Present: Isa Avery, Terence Banks, Corey Bearak, Alain Berrouet, Bryan Block, Kyle Bragg, Jackie Campbell, Tanya Cruz, Bess DeBetham, Terryl Ebony DeMendonca, Samuel Elliott, Jack Friedman, Robert Glover, Anthony Greene, Richard Hellenbrecht, Lloyd Hicks, Fay Hill, Vernal Holder, Mohamood Ishmael, Rhonda Kontner, Antony Kuncheria, Kangelia Moore, Marcia O'Brien, Nagassar Ramgarib, Anup Ramnauth, Peter Richards, Sanu Thomas, Mathew Thomas, Derrick Warmington, Jackie Wilson, Jerry Wind.

Absent: Angela Augugliaro, Verdell Boncoeur, Daisy Carew, Delroy Dawkins, Bruno DeFranceschi, James Delaney, Seymour Finkelstein, Andrea Foy-Eaton, Edward Harap, Bonnie Huie, Rhonda Kontner, Ashok Satkalmi, Pritpal Singh Walia, Clive Williams.

**Elected Officials/ Representatives of Elected Officials:**

Michael Stinson representing Congressman Steven Israel, Jerry LaMura representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Tri Hinds representing Councilman Donovan Richards, Anthony Lemma representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Shurn Anderson Borough Presidents Office, Andy Laine representing Councilman Daneek Miller, Maylene Thurton representing Assemblywoman Barbara Clark.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Bryan Block.

Mr. Block acknowledged that while at the District Service Cabinet meeting Fay Hill's name came up. Ms. Hill received a city-wide award for the Borough of Queens, the Golden Trobe. She is a member of the Volunteers of Springfield Park, and received the volunteer award for her service

The June Minutes were read and accepted. Jackie Campbell said that she mentioned that the new Board Members were not aware of the voting process, and would like this added to the June minutes.

Motion was made by Bess DeBetham and seconded.

**Chairman's Report:**

On October 27<sup>th</sup> Mr. Block attended the 105 Precinct Community Council Meeting.

On November 10<sup>th</sup> he was at the Cambria Heights Library, the library has opened a teen center on the lower level.

On November 11<sup>th</sup> Mr. Block attended the 103 Precinct Community Council meeting.

On November 22<sup>nd</sup> He attended a breakfast "Our Brothers Guardian Inc." a mentoring program, the young people were fixing breakfast.

On November 17<sup>th</sup> Mr. Block attended the Queens Borough Board at the Borough President's Office. Mr. Block mentioned the Parks Initiative, in the past Queens never got their fair share, Mayor DiBlasio started off with \$19,000,000 to make sure that Queens is getting their fair share. Unfortunately the Parks chosen in Queens were not in Board 13.

Mr. Block also attended the 113 Precinct Council, they have been trying to get a turn signal light at the intersection of Linden Blvd. and Farmers Blvd for quite some time.

Mr. Block said that he also chaired the District Service Cabinet Meeting. Mr. Block stated that Commercial vehicles cannot be parked in residential areas, landscaping trucks, and anything with commercial plates. This is handled by the Dept. of Buildings, not the 105 Precinct.

Mr. Hellenbrecht said that he thought they could park during the day for three hours, Mr. Block said that the office would check this out.

Charles Farruggia asked about the TLC plates and livery cabs, does this rule apply to them as well.? Mr. Hellenbrecht said that the word Commercial had to be on the license plate. Mr. Block said that we would get further clarification on that.

Starting in January 2015, the City will be issuing Municipal I.D's. This is not citizenship, You can go to the Jamaica Library, or your nearest library. This would allow free admission to Cultural Centers, but its only for identification purposes.

Mr. Hellenbrecht motioned that Mr.Block's report be approved, it was seconded by Charles Farruggia.

Jerry LaMura reported that the Heap Office is open to those who qualify.

**Committee Reports****Transportation:**

Bess DeBetham reported that the first Tuesday of the month will be their regular meeting. Robert Glover is the Co-Chair on this committee.

Ms. DeBetham spoke of a No Parking sign requested in front of Mr. Moorehead's home in Rosedale. She spoke to Mr. Gippetti from DOT and he said they would never put this type of signage up. The request was denied.

They had Dr. Joby speak about the Motor Parkway Eastbound. Ms DeBetham said it would be a safe area to ride bikes and walk, She said that the Commissioner supports the idea of the parkway.

Daniel Solo spoke on behalf of the Vanderbilt Motor Project. This will be connecting Nassau County and Queens County. Jack Friedman described the area this encompasses. The routes for the parkway are open for discussion at this time.

Tanya Cruz gave a description to Jerry LaMura about the location and funding. If this is approved it would connect and run 26 miles from Suffolk County to Fresh Meadows, Queens. This does not involve Eminent Domain.

Ms. DeBetham said she would give Mr. LaMura a copy of the plans and the history of the roadway.

Jack Friedman made a motion to accept the report, it was seconded by Jerry Wind.

**Parks :**

Fay Hill, co-chair reported

**Currently in Procurement**

Springfield Park Field House – repairs to Field House \$500,000 ( Borough President ) pending rebid for contractor

**Springfield Park North Comfort Stations**

Reconstruction of comfort station to include new interior upgrades and ADA accessibility \$700,000 ( Borough President ). Pending rebid of contract.

**Idlewild Site B**

Construction of a parking lot and trails - \$1,333,000 (Mayoral )

Contractors selected, Pending Award

Anticipated Construction Spring 2015

**Brookville Playground**

Remove and replace safety surface - \$159,500 ( Mayoral )

Pending Bid Opening October 2014

Anticipated Construction Spring 2015

**Pat Williams Playground**

Replace play equipment and safety surface. Color seal coat seats. \$700,000 ( City Council )

**Future Projects**

Laurelton Playground \$250,000 ( City Council '14 ) \$350,000 (City Council FY '15 ) Design to begin pending staff availability.

**Idlewild Site B Phase II**

\$1,600,000 (Mayoral) Scope to be determined

**Springfield Park**

\$100,000 (City Council) Scope to be determined

**William Gunn Playground Expansion**

\$500,000 (City Council)

Underfunded ( Dead End Street )

New Projects, Green Teen Recycling, tree care for youth between 13-17. There will be workshops and enrollment for volunteers.

Tree and Sidewalk Program in its embryo stage..

## **Youth and Education**

Terrence Banks- Co-Chair

The tape did not pick up Mr. Banks voice clearly.

Mr. Banks did refer to an internship with Air-train that Mr. Block wanted further information on.

There was a brief discussion following Mr. Banks report.

Alain Berrouet spoke on friends he has lost, and spoke on Ferguson, Mo. He stated that he has a passion and a sense of urgency in these matters.

Jacqueline Boyce thanked the Board for inviting her to speak. Ms. Boyce spoke on the South Queens Partnership Association. They are located in the middle of Roy Wilkins Park.

Ms. Boyce read the Mission Statement for the SQPA:

The SQPA is a unique human service agency, which combines its stewardship of the 54 acre Southern Queens-Roy Wilkins Park, with its mission to provide and coordinate comprehensive programs to children ,families, adults and seniors residing in Southeast Queens.

It was founded in 1976, and is one of the leading human service agencies in Queens. The SQPA's youth and educational programs are located at four sites in Southeast Queens. The Out of School Time Program at the Roy Wilkins Park Family Center, The Beacon Program at Middle School 8, The After School Corporation (TASC) Program at Public School 118 and the Cornerstone Program at NYCHA's South Jamaica Houses. They serve children from kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, adults and seniors.

They also have the responsibility of maintaining the park along with the Parks Department.

In Roy Wilkins Park they have organized football, basketball, baseball, soccer and cricket leagues, as well as track and field, lacrosse and martial arts. The NYC Parks also provides additional recreational services such as swimming, weight training and fitness classes.

Ms. Boyce introduced Deborah Young, director of Adult Literacy.. Ms Young oversees space rentals and she spoke on events that are held there, they are the home of the UniverSoul Circus.

Ms. McCardle spoke on the after school programs, and the art show they will have from March 6<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>.

Kangela Moore- Chair of the Aging and Special Needs Committee

Mr. Block said that this committee would be added as an Ad Hoc committee, Kyle Bragg seconded that.

Mr. Block stated that we have city agencies that deal specifically with seniors.

Jack Friedman said that the Economic Development Committee has not been very active and now with the revitalization of Jamaica, Jack said he would like to revitalize the Economic Development Committee. He would like to have a meeting in January.

Mr. Block stated the major problem with attracting chain businesses

Such as Red Lobster or Starbucks is parking and the issue has been dicussed at various community meetings.

Jack Friedman said that our nail salons need upgrading.

Mr. Block discussed the Budget Priorities that were on the agenda last month. Mr. Block went to Manhattan and sat with OMB. The first 22 items are our budget priorities, # 23 was added on ( the Bellerose Playground ). These are to be considered, nothing is written in stone. Mr. Block stated that he knew Alain Berrouet was concerned about the need for a Youth Center. Mr. Block said that the only plot of land that we had has been sold. Mr. Block suggested that Mr. Berrouet speak with the Rosedale Civic Association and get further information on that, the location is 138-10 Brookville Boulevard opposite St. Clares.

Marcia O'Brien said she would speak to Councilman Richards and Senator Sanders about this piece of property.

Mr. Block told Mr. Ramgarib that Jamaica Avenue was on the priority list., he told Mr. Warmington that the 147 Avenue Bridge is also on the list. Mr. Delaney's concern about the Bellerose Playground is going to be city and state money.

Mr. Block said that we still need another precinct, he spoke to area residents and they feel the additional precinct is needed. This is a decision that the Mayor will have to make. Peter Richards stated that the new precinct should not be considered a number one priority anymore since it has not been addressed by the city to date. Kyle Bragg, Corey Bearak Esq. and Bess DeBetham disagreed. Kyle Bragg stated that there is nothing more important than public safety and the request for a new precinct must stay as our number one priority. If you move it down to a lower priority it sends the wrong signal.

Tanya Cruz asked what the responses were for last year's submissions. Mr. Block stated that OMB reviews our submissions and comes back with their recommendations.

Kangela Moore asked when the ponds in the local parks will be excavated and done over.

Bess DeBetham stated that the Councilmember and the City Agency have talks as to how the money gets spent.

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Motion was made to accept the Budget priorities by Richard Hellenbrecht and seconded by Kyle Bragg.

Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Richard Hellenbrecht and seconded by Nagassar Ramgarib.

Respectfully submitted



Stephanie Rainkie  
Community Coordinator

