



**Queens Community Board 13**

219-41 Jamaica Avenue  
Queens Village, NY 11428  
Telephone: (718) 464-9700  
[www.qcb13.org](http://www.qcb13.org)

Melinda Katz  
Borough President

Vicky Morales-Casella  
Director of  
Community Boards

Bryan J. Block  
Chairman

Mark McMillan  
District Manager

**GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**December 21, 2015**

**BELLEROSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

**240-15 HILLSIDE AVENUE, BELLEROSE, NY**

**Attendance**

**Present:**

Angela Augugliaro; Corey Bearak; Bryan Block; Verdell Boncoeur; Kyle Bragg; Jacqueline Campbell; Daisy Carew; Tanya Cruz; Delroy Dawkins; Samuel Elliott; Charles Farruggia; Robert Glover; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Mohamood Ishmael; Rhonda Konter; Antony Kuncheria; Jonathan Logan; Kangela Moore; Tameka Pierre-Louis; Celeste Powers; Nagassar Ramgarib; Anup Ramnauth; Peter Richards; Mathew Thomas; Sanu Thomas; Wilson Thomas; Clive Williams; Jerry Wind

**Absent:**

Isa Avery; Terence Banks; Alain Berrouet ; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Terry/ Ebony DeMendonca; Seymour Finkelstein; Anthony Greene; Edward Harap; Lloyd Hicks; Vernal Holder; Bonnie Huie; Davon Lomax; Marcia O'Brien; Ashok Satkalmi; Pritpal Singh Walia; Derrick Warmington; Jackie Wilson

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

The Chair called Council member Barry Grodenchik to the stage:

- The CM stated it was day 28 of his service, and spoke about his visits to two public schools, PS 115 and PS 109. The children at both schools performed both singing and dancing. He sees the public schools as the heart of the community.
- The CM remarked on the recent stories in the news about homeless being sheltered on the Creedmoor campus. He called the Governor's Office and was given 99% assurance that it would not happen. He also was at Queens Borough Hall and the Borough President spoke directly to Governor Cuomo. The Governor assured her that before anything that occurs on the campus all stakeholders will be consulted. He stated that shortly after New Year's, there will be a briefing.
- CM Grodenchick thanked all who attend his Swearing-In Ceremony; he also thanked community leaders for supporting the principal at Martin Van Buren High School.
- The CM said there would be no more permits issued to vendors.
- CM brought the DOT Commissioner to the intersection of GCP and Little Neck Parkway to show the need for a left-turn signal. The Commissioner will be sending engineers out to redesign this intersection.
- The CM introduced a staff member, Spencer Nelson, who will be coordinating the participatory budgeting process.

There were no questions from those in attendance for the CM.

Council member Barry Grodenchik swears-in the Executive Board of Queens Community Board 13.

The Board Chair speaks about his remarks to a newspaper reporter requesting a statement on the possibility of homeless people being put on the Creedmoor campus. He states that this Board will not support any such action.

***The Board Chair took the roll call.***

A motion was made to accept the November 2015 Minutes. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

## Guest Speakers

Charles Stucker, Director of Economic Development for the Department of Environmental Protection, presented a PowerPoint on "Cease the Grease."

### Highlights:

- Many sewer backups are caused by dumping of residential grease; no one ever sees what it looks like in the sewers and how this grease buildup diminishes the opening for water to flow
- 62% of all flooding in the US is caused by grease buildup in the sewer systems; in the sewer system grease coagulates and becomes rock hard with other debris
- DEP has enforcement authority with commercial establishments as all businesses are required to have grease traps
- DEP is trying to get BIDs and commercial establishments to go to workshops to inform and educate on the issues with grease; DEP is seeking Community Boards to sponsor
- Grease backups in sewers are tracked by "grid"
- Three giveaways – jar opener with message "Cease the grease"; biodegradable bag (not plastic, made from corn); a DEP brochure on flooding
- There was a short video from inside of a sewer showing a clear passageway and one that had grease buildup
- Do not dispose in the toilet: paper towels, baby wipes, floss, female sanitary pads

### Q&A:

- Food vendors must go to a licensed commissary; Department of Health inspects commissaries
- If a vendor does not go to a commissary, call DOH and give the vendor's location
- Call 311 if you spot someone disposing grease in a sewer; DEP can issue violations
- Proper disposal of grease is putting paper in a plastic bag, pour the grease in and dispose in the trash.

## Public Hearing

DSBS Application #C160097PPQ – JFK Flight Center Hotel  
Applicant - Department of Small Business Services

Hardy Edasco of EDC summarizes the gist of the application: this is a vote on the City of New York having the authority to lease extend through 2120 if the City is unable to renew the lease with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in 2050.

The developer showed a PowerPoint of various aspects of the proposed hotel including the exterior and interior, size and materials being used. He also put the landmarked TWA Building in the context of the time it was built and the prestige of the world-renowned architect who designed it.

#### Q&A:

- Construction MWBE – 30% skilled; 40% unskilled
- Development partners – MCR Development; NYC Small Business Services; NYC Economic Development Corporation
- The projected room rates will range from \$250-290 per night
- Development costs: \$65M rehabilitation of TWA landmark structure which includes concrete, new windows, HVAC and asbestos removal
- Organization for New Non-traditional Employment for Women has been contacted
- Projected opening date – 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2018
- Board member Tameka Pierre-Louis gets details on MWBE registration
- Mike Augugliaro asks about parking... Answer: many people fly in and out of the airport requiring an overnight stay but do not need parking... however, the adjacent yellow garage connects underground to the blue garage which combined contains 3700 parking Spaces
- Developer expects this hotel to not only be for lodging but as a destination
- Yes, there will be jobs for non-union workers
- Yes, there will be a vegan restaurant
- Yes, there will be employee parking (\$10 per day), though they will be looking to hire from neighboring communities where the Airtrain can be utilized to go to and from work at a minimal cost
- All local elected officials and the Community Board will be informed of job opportunities
- Barbara Brown requested a “Needs Assessment”

There were no statements for or against. A motion was made to accept the ULURP which was seconded.

The vote was in favor, 27 yes, 2 abstentions. The motion carried to mild applause.

The Board Chair recognized elected officials or their representatives: District Leader Jacqueline Boyce; representative of Assembly member Ed Braunstein; representative of Assembly member Barbara Clark; Queens Borough President representatives Shurn Anderson and Jeong-ah Choi; Andy Laine, rep for Council member I. Daneek Miller; Jordon Gibbons, rep for Council member Donovan Richards; Jihan Joseph, rep for State Senator James Sanders; Casey Lajszky, rep for Assembly member David Weprin

## Chairman's Report

The Board Chair listed the events he attended since the last meeting, including a visit to the Capital, pursuant to an invitation by Congressman Gregory Meeks, to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

A motion was made to accept the Chairman's Report, seconded, and unanimously passed.

State Senator Leroy Comrie came in and was asked to speak.

- The Senator stated he was caught off guard by a New York Post reporter who asked him for comment the homeless being put on the Creedmoor campus. He stated, "...that is news to me!"
- He spoke of a facility called the "Marcy Houses" which is a self-contained supportive housing with amenities and social services where the occupants get rehabilitation and their lives restructured
- He spoke of how he is fighting the Mayor on a homeless facility on Hollis Avenue; he has filed a lawsuit and gotten an injunction; the city was attempting to put 90 people in the facility; there are no restaurants or even bars near the location; no facilities for the homeless at this site; no room in the buildings to have "supportive housing"
- Board member Angela Augugliaro asks if the NY Post misquoted him... Senator Comrie said, "No." He was against a Bernard Feinstein type facility. Not to a health facility. Yes to something like the Marcy Houses facility he just described. The State Senator stated that there needs to be a restructuring of how the homeless and HRA work with communities where they are placing the homeless. The facilities must be conducive to healing, not just holding.
- State Senator Comrie was asked about his position on a soccer stadium at Belmont Racetrack parking lot... Senator Comrie stated that he had been in meetings with local Nassau County officials and Congressman Meeks; that the town of Elmont was divided; that he understood that Queens Village would be affected; and that a meeting of all stakeholders was needed to get a consensus; State Senator Jack Martins wants it for the job opportunities; that he will consult with the Governor on this issue; that the stadium would hold between 30,000-50,000 people for 30 dates, the rest being potential concert opportunities

## District Manager Report

The District Manager itemized each packet attachment:

- 1) Meeting Minutes from the November 2015 Meeting.

- 2) DM Report for the past month. Please send me whatever information you may have or may gather from your respective communities on the bullet point items listed. I would also appreciate any pictures you feel are a nice representation of your community as I gather content for the new website.
- 3) Travel Advisory from NYSDOT regarding the split on the Northbound Van Wyck and vehicle accessibility to the Queens Boulevard exit.
- 4) Notice to participate in "Citizens Preparedness Corps Program" sponsored by Governor Cuomo and our local elected. **You must register in advance** at [prepare.ny.gov](http://prepare.ny.gov) listed on the announcement flyer.
- 5) Press release for the TWA Flight Center Hotel.
- 6) NYC DOHMH is sponsoring a free course on Mental Health First Aid. More information at: [sahmed8@health.nyc.gov](mailto:sahmed8@health.nyc.gov). The back page has dates for training at the DOHMH Long Island City office with a map.
- 7) FDNY fire safety tips for the winter and holiday season.
- 8) The 3 CB 13 Council districts with statistical data centered on Parks.
- 9) NYC DOHMH "Health Profile" for CB 13 (Called Queens Village). Data included shows all of the factors used to assess the health of this community – RED - with comparison to the best performing community – GREEN – with Queens as a whole – PURPLE – and all of NYC – BLUE. To compare CB 13 data profile with any of the other 58 community board profiles, go to [profiles@health.nyc.gov](mailto:profiles@health.nyc.gov).
- 10) 105 Precinct Alert on tires and rims.

### Seniors, Special Needs Committee

Committee Co-Chairs, Kangel Moore and Jerry Wind spoke about:

- The Awards they gave at the November General Board meeting
- This committee would be acknowledging awardees every other month
- They would be acknowledging centenarians at senior centers and group homes in the community
- Co-Chair Wind stated he had identified a centurion at the quarterly Creedmoor Senior Center meeting he attends
- Judy Boyce of HRA was acknowledged for her contribution and extensive handouts when she spoke at the last committee meeting
- The next meeting will be held on January 7, 2016 with a New year's toast
- A June event is being planned along with some elected officials
- A flyer entitled, "Be a Savvy Senior" was posted on the qcb13 website

A motion was made to accept the report and it was unanimously approved.

## Youth & Education Committee

Committee Co-Chair Rhonda Kontner spoke:

- This committee was partnering with CB 12 to present a “Youth Summit” at the Eagle Academy for April 2, 2016
- Activities would go on all day
- The committee was looking for volunteers to do workshops consisting of resume writing, workplace skills and etiquette
- There are targeting 100 youngsters to participate
- Looking to also identify small businesses to take part

A motion was made to accept the report and it was unanimously approved.

## Parks & Environmental Committee

Co-Chair Fay Hill reported:

- The Parks Tour (Springfield Park, Brookville and Idlewild) followed a mixer with Board members at the Idlewild trailer was an excellent day
- The tour of all CB13 parks, playgrounds and Greenstreets given by Joe Block to Board members Fay Hill, Anup Ramnauth and the District Manager.
- At the December meeting there was discussion about the environment, alternative usage of ballfields, art and monuments in Parks (as suggested by Board member Tameka Pierre-Louis)
- The committee Chair attended a meeting at Queens Borough Hall where Parks Commissioner Silver spoke about the Mayor’s \$50M “Parks without Borders” initiative: \$40M allocated to new projects in 8 parks, lowering fences and replacing them with shrubs
- There is an upcoming “Parks Roundtable Meeting” at the Harvest Room for Community Boards 12 & 13 that she will be attending
- The Board Chair also attended the Queens Borough Hall meeting with Commissioner Silver and asked about the [lack of] presence of Park Police in Board area parks...he instructed the District Manager to look into this and determine how to get enforcement actions for violation of park rules
- The Committee Co-Chair spoke of how for the second consecutive year the Christmas tree in Springfield Park has been vandalized; and that marijuana is being smoked in the Park House by high school students before and after school

- Jacqueline Boyce, Chair of Roy Wilkens Park, remarked that she has never seen the Park Police in that park

A motion was made to accept the report and it was unanimously approved.

#### Economic Development Committee

Committee member Tameka Pierre-Louis spoke on behalf of Committee Chair Clive Williams (who had to leave early for personal reasons):

- This committee is reaching out to all other committees of shared interests; by example partnering with the Youth & Education Committee with the Youth Summit to attempt to deal with youth unemployment; she has contacted Damon John and the other founders of FUBU to be Keynote speakers at the summit
- There is a start to organize a “Merchants Association for Laurelton and Rosedale” which came out of a Tri-Community meeting held by CM Donovan Richards; the first meeting being held at Pa-Nash EuroSoul Restaurant in Rosedale on January 14, 2016

A motion was made to accept the report and it was unanimously approved.

#### Public Speaking Time

- Board member Sam Elliott stated that the night before a car was stolen across the street from Board member Marcia O'Brien's house; her car had the tires and rims stolen the month before as it sat in the driveway.
- Board member Mohamood Ishmael read a written statement, and because it is so profound and personal, its full text attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McMillan  
District Manager  
Queens Community Board 13