

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2016

Saint Clare Catholic Academy Auditorium
137-35 Brookville Boulevard
Rosedale, NY 11422

Attendance

Present:

Angela Augugliaro; Terence Banks; Corey Bearak; Bryan Block; Verdell Boncoeur; Kyle Bragg; Jacqueline Campbell; Daisy Carew; Tanya Cruz; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Terryl Ebony DeMendonca; Samuel Elliott; Charles Farruggia; Seymour Finkelstein; Anthony Greene; Edward Harap; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Vernal Holder; Bonnie Huie; Mohamood Ishmael; Rhonda Kontner; Antony Kuncheria; Jonathan Logan; Marcia O'Brien; Tameka Pierre-Louis; Celeste Powers; Nagassar Ramgarib; Anup Ramnauth; Peter Richards; Ashok Satkalmi; Mathew Thomas; Sanu Thomas; Pritpal Singh Walia; Clive Williams; Jackie Wilson; Jerry Wind

Absent:

Isa Avery; Alain Berrouet ; Robert Glover (S); Lloyd Hicks (R); Davon Lomax; Kangel Moore; Wilson Thomas; Derrick Warmington

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 7:42 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

The Board Chair took the roll call.

The Chairman's Report

The Board Chair reported on the events he had attended since the previous month's General Board meeting. A motion was made to accept the Board Chair's Report; it was seconded and unanimously approved.

February 2016 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to accept the February 2016 Minutes. Two corrections were made – the spelling of Anthony Iuliano's last name and a correction on who asked a question to the Department of Health, Vernal Holder, not Verdell Boncoeur - and was unanimously approved with the corrections.

Elected Officials

The Chair called acknowledged the representatives from the elected official's office:

Amir representing SS Leroy Comrie, spoke of events the office was sponsoring:

- Child Support
- Free Tax prep at the Hollis Library
- Abundant Life Seminar

Jihan Joseph representing SS James Saunders, spoke of events the office was sponsoring:

- Youth Economic development Panel
- Sexual Assault Defense Training
- Artist's Circle

Jessica Douglas introduced herself as Mayor de Blasio's Queens Area representative, and explained her purpose was to push the Mayor's special initiatives. She spoke about:

- Free tax prep for those earning less than \$62K (NYC Free Tax Prep)
- Initiative to prevent homelessness for survivors of domestic violence

District Manager's Report

The DM stated his written report was included in The Sentinel package. He also went through the package of enclosures document-by-document and closed by asking those board members who have not been attending committee meetings to do so because that is where the "real work" of the board is done.

He closed by thanking BM Marcia O'Brien and Imel Stephen for allowing the Board to have its meeting in Rosedale at the St. Clare Catholic Academy Auditorium.

A motion was made to accept the DM's Report, seconded and unanimously accepted.

Presentations

Universal Pre-K

Mary Daniel, from the Department of Education, spoke about this free full-day program. Child participants in Pre-K were 5 times likely to be later classified as "gifted." In addition, children enrolled in this program learned 1,000 new vocabulary words.

Diabetes Health & Product Fair – Northwell Health

Dr. Renee Bachman from Northwell Health initially spoke about the Health Fair being held the following Saturday at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. She went on:

- Statistics indicate those who get diabetes most often are minorities, and New Yorkers in general
- Distinguishes the difference between Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes
- Unlike in the past, many children are getting diabetes resultant to being overweight which is caused by an improper diet and no physical exercise
- When a doctor says you are a “borderline” diabetic, that is really called “pre-diabetes”
- The proper meal looks like this: ½ plate of vegetables; ¼ fish or chicken; ¼ starch...NO FOOD MOUNTAINS!
- Exercise is very important in keeping one’s weight down

NYPD

The new Commanding Officer of the 105 Precinct, **Deputy Inspector Jeff Shiff**, spoke:

- He started his career in the NYPD late – he was 29 years old. He remembered saluting a 28 year-old Lieutenant.
- The first precinct he worked was the 103 Precinct...this was a tough precinct.
- This July, he will have had 15 years as a supervisor
- He has lots of experience in Brooklyn...his experience taught him that with shootings, they generally emanate from house parties.
- He is going to be attending the Peace management Institute –a course under the Columbia Business School on business and management
- All of his previous experience in NYPD has led to this job as CO of the 105 Precinct – his last.
- He started Twitter in NYPD...his idea was to quickly get information out to the public. “Everybody has a pair of eyes; I am deputizing this community.”
- He is in the process of creating a website for the 105 Precinct: 105precinct@nypd.org for reporting criminal intelligence (for emergencies, please still dial 911).
- The 105 will be sending out information to civic associations on those who are multiple recidivists
- 50% of crime comes from residents in the area.
- Electronic “WANTED” posters will be sent out.
- The Command wants to collect residents’ email addresses to more effectively disseminate this information.
- The 105 Precinct Community Council will be starting a Facebook page.
- The website will have information on arrests made in the 105 Precinct.

- The Satellite precinct (in Rosedale) does not handle administrative work.
- The NCO Program (Community Policing) is not coming to the 105 Precinct anytime soon; the NCO brings in 100 officers and additional cars and is reserved for areas with large ongoing crime.
- The new wave of crime is identity crime; this is something cops on patrol cannot deal with. Rather, officers on patrol are more effective with traditional crime.
- Police in his view are there to (1) prevent crime, (2) displace crime, (3) save lives, and (4) create an air of safety.

A question from a resident of Warnerville about patrols around the Holiday Inn on Rockaway Boulevard...DI Shiff responded that all patrol cars have GPS, and he is going to begin analyzing where the cars have been (patrol patterns) to take a look at where resources are deployed with an eye toward "response time."

BM Terence Banks stated that technology is good, but what the community wants is more police officers...DI Shiff responded that he wants nine (9) "Community Partners" who can introduce officers to the neighborhood. In addition, he stated that response times go down if officers are on foot.

BM Clive Williams stated he went to the 105 Precinct and was treated "shabbily" when he went in...DI Shiff asked if he filed a CCRB complaint stating that is the only way to know when any of his officers are not doing a professional job.

Public Hearing

JFK Industrial Business Improvement District

Land Use Committee Chair Richard Hellenbrecht described exactly what this JFK IBID is, and then introduced Barbara Cohen, the IBID consultant, who detailed the governmental process required for its official formation. The Committee Chair stated that the Land Use Committee recommends approval of the JFK IBID...a motion was made to approve, seconded, and unanimously approved by the full board by voice vote.

BSA Items

BSA No. 1129-64-BZ

(Auto Supply store at 147-36 Brookville Boulevard, Rosedale -This item was held over from the previous General Board meeting so the owner of the store could attend a Rosedale Civic Association meeting)

BM Marcia O'Brien stated the owner came to the Rosedale Civic Association meeting, joined the civic association, and the civic was recommending to the Board approval of the BSA item.

BM Jaqueline Campbell said she saw customers making repairs in the parking lot and saw it is not a good reflection on the community.

BM Marcia O'Brien stated the owner stated he will work to remain in compliance.

Committee Chair Hellenbrecht stated this condition would be put in the letter of approval.

BMs Clive Williams and Kyle Bragg, along with Rosedale Civic Association Chair Imel Stephen all disagreed with holding this random allegation against this business.

A motion was made to approve, seconded, and unanimously approved by a vote of 36 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

Public Speaking Time

A resident from the Warnerville/Meadowmere area spoke about the issues they were having which includes excess garbage; flooding (with the added objection to NYS DEC pulling down a [flood] retaining wall), huge cranes parked in yards, and dumpsters left there. He spoke of how it is zoned M-1 but there are many residents who have homes there. He spoke of CM Richards telling them of a park that is to be constructed across from the Holiday Inn, and that his community is against this as it will provide a congregation area for more potential crime.

Committee Reports

Land Use: Committee Chair Hellenbrecht spoke about the changes he saw in the Keren Peulos (aka Ohel Chabad) resubmission to the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA). The applicant told the Board that this was necessary to fulfill a format change in the application from the BSA. The Committee Chair saw some differences in the numbers stated about how many students and buses would be coming into the Cambria Heights community on a daily basis. The CB reached out to the Keren Peulos to come to a second Land Use Committee meeting to explain this discrepancy in numbers, and they refused stating that nothing had changed from the first application and the second submission simply reflected a new format requirement.

The Committee Chair reported on a meeting he attended given by SS Sanders with the owners of a new hotel being constructed on 147th Avenue and Guy R. Brewer Boulevard. This 50 unit hotel will have 4 parking spaces, no restaurant, no pool and no gym. The owners assured the community members in attendance they would be available and responsive to community concerns, and this was going to be a hotel geared toward travelers.

He stated there is going to be a new Hindu Temple built on 264 -12 Hillside Avenue. The Community Board has already received a Notice of Remediation for this site.

Transportation: Committee Chair Bess DeBetham reported on site visits with the DM to various locales in Springfield Gardens and Rosedale, pursuant to constituent complaints.

She reported many speed bump requests had been approved by DOT, with the Community Board writing letters of support. Next steps were again on DOT for installation with presently no clear time frame on when this would occur.

Finally, she spoke of the discussion at the Committee meeting of pedestrian safety...walking and texting is dangerous.

Parks & Environment: Co-Chair Fay Hill reported on how informative the "Grease" PowerPoint presentation given by DEP at the Committee meeting was. They provided information on the daily use by gallons of water per person in NYC, proper grease disposal, and an array of other facts important to educate the community about.

Health Committee: Co-Chair Bonnie Huie reported the committee had 4 community members at its last meeting: 1 intern from NYU, a nurse doing her community service and 2 doctors. She was pleased that other organizations are recommending joining this committee. She stated planning begins for the Community Board at committee meetings, and that all board members need to join and participate in a committee.

She thanked BM Daisy Carew for speaking to a school and trying to find out the health issues they encounter. She also thanked the DM for being a catalyst and so supportive at the committee meetings.

Youth & Education: Co-Chair Rhonda Kontner reported on collaboration with the Seniors & Special Needs Committee on a June 4, 2016 event at Emblem Health Center where an speaker/advocate will inform parents of Special Needs students what services are available to them.

She reported on a meeting she attended at the Queens Borough President's Office where the SCA 5-Year Capital Plan has no new seats for School District 29. Perhaps there needs to be a school utilization study...

She stated Co-Chair Terence Banks had summer and part-time job opportunities he can make available for youth 14-18 years of age with UPS, Walmart and Red Lobster.

Public Safety: Chair Clive Williams on a field trip being planned to the SLA office in Harlem on April 20, 2016 for committee members and certain other invitees who have expressed concerns in their communities. A private van, paid for by the Community Board, will provide transportation there and back.

Economic Development: Chair Clive Williams reported on an Economic Summit held by SS Leroy Comrie to explore industries in southeast Queens. Some of the focus will be a careful inventory of city-owned properties, a look at the manufacturing sector, and pushing for vocational schools for youth.

Seniors & Special Needs: Co-Chair Jerry Wind reported "Reel Abilities", an organization that shows movies about individuals with disabilities. These films are shown in various venues around the city. This committee has decided to partner with this organization and is shown as a supporter on its website.

The program to honor outstanding seniors and centenarians (100 years old or more) is ongoing. The next group of honorees will be finalized at the April meeting. The committee was also seeking nominations from board members of those in their neighborhoods.

All committee reports were unanimously accepted.

The Chair announced the April meeting location was going to be at Long Island Jewish Hospital, and would be on the 3rd Monday, not the 4th Monday, because of the Passover holiday.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark McMillan
District Manager
Queens Community Board 13