



**Queens Community Board 13**  
219-41 Jamaica Avenue  
Queens Village, NY 11428  
718.464.9700  
Fax: 718.254.2739  
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**

**March 27, 2017**

**NEW GREATER BETHEL MINISTRIES, INC.  
215-32 JAMAICA AVENUE  
QUEENS VILLAGE, NY**

### **Attendance**

#### **Present:**

Angela Augugliaro; Isa Avery; Corey Bearak; Alain Berrouet; Verdell Boncoeur; Kyle Bragg; Jacqueline Campbell; Tanya Cruz; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Samuel Elliott; Charles Farruggia; Seymour Finkelstein; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Robert Glover; Felice Hannah; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Mohamood Ishmael; Antony Kuncheria; Kangela Moore; Michael O'Keefe; Tameka Pierre-Louis; Celeste Powers; Nagassar Ramgarib; Anup Ramnauth; Peter Richards; Mathew Thomas; Wilson Thomas; Derrick Warmington; Clive Williams; Jackie Wilson; Jerry Wind

#### **Absent:**

Terence Banks; Bryan Block; Daisy Carew; TerryL Ebony DeMendonca; Vernal Holder; Bonnie Huie; Rhonda Kontner; Jonathan Logan; Davon Lomax; Marcia O'Brien; Ashok Satkalmi; Sanu Thomas; Pritpal Singh Walia;

Angela Augugliaro, First Vice Chair (FVC) called the meeting to order. She notified everyone that the meeting is being "Live Streamed" on Facebook.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

The District Manager, Mark McMillan, reported that he spoke to the Bryan Block's (Board Chair) mother in the morning, and she said he was scheduled to have a procedure done, and at this point he is in the hospital and doing ok.

Pastor William Boyd welcomed everyone to his church.

FVC Augugliaro thanked him for allowing the Community Board to use his church for the monthly meeting.

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

The District Manager's Report is included in the Sentinal. He explains what the Community Board Office tries to do with the Sentinal each month in terms of useful information, upcoming events, etc.

### ***The Board Secretary took the roll call.***

### **Presentations**

#### **Nicholas Circharo, Community Affairs Liaison, DSNY:**

- Dumping in city-owned lots; if a Department of Health issue they can get a warrant.
- Derelict vehicles; no license plate, but with value – NYPD jurisdiction, old cars get crushed.
- Illegal postering – added a 12-day delay on ticketing:
  - \$25 per poster
  - No 12-day warning period
  - Best plan of attack – just take it down.
- Donate NYC – 40-50 non-profits will come and get the stuff you no longer want that serves their mission.
- Safe event – looking to partner with elected officials need a space – for e-waste.
- Expanding organics program (composting, food scrapping) – not yet in QCB13, but we should get familiar with this program as it is expanding.
- Overflowing litter baskets – City Council members can provide additional funding for various ways to deal with this issue like more baskets, additional pickups, weekend service; focus more on service level rather than additional baskets.

Q: BM DeBetham: Postering?

A: The offender gets a 12-day warning and then gets fined \$25 per ticket.

Q: How can civic associations work with DSNY to know who has been ticketed?

A: Reports will come back to the main office on who was fined along with the location.

Q: BM Williams: As a cyclist, he takes the signs down. Why can't DSNY hire young people (who do not have jobs) to remove these flyers on weekends This has the benefit of making them civic-minded.

A: This decision is higher than his pay level.

Q: BM Berrouet: Snow removal...the shoveling by business owners is not adequate. How do we get business owners to clear more snow?

A: Business owners do not have to clear the whole sidewalk; only a passable lane.

Q: FVC Augugliaro: What about clearing the crosswalks?

A: There are 13,000 crosswalks in NYC. They can only do so much, especially given the conditions at any time.

BM Delaney: The SW corner of 257 Street and Hillside Avenue needs a litter basket.

Q: BM Richards: There is lots of dumping at 99 Avenue to Hempstead Avenue...is there some way a video feed can be set up? Also dumping along the LIRR line.

FVC Augugliaro asks BM Richards to speak with Mr. Circharo privately...

Q: BM Moore: The community needs to be educated on the benefits of the organics program.

Q: Audience: Hotel manager complains that they were ticketed for clearing the sidewalks when they were in the process of clearing the sidewalks... A: This sounds strange...we can talk on the side. Follow-up Q: No action on 311 Reports

A: This is a common complaint. The main thing about 311 is registering the complaint for the quarterly reports. These complaint totals are important for overall agency funding.

Q: Abandoned cars - confusion between NYPD and DSNY responsibilities...

A: It depends on the quality of the car. If has no plates but the car is otherwise usable, it is NYPD. If it is junk, DSNY steps in.

The District Manager asks for a Moment of Silence to acknowledge the passing of former Queens Borough President Helen Marshall.

BM Wilson Thomas announces his resignation from the Board.

**Inspector Jeffrey Schiff, Commanding Officer, 105 Precinct:**

- Crime down YTD down 11%.
- Past month down 13%.

- No shootings or homicides in the past 28 days.
- Arrest in the After Dark Club shooting, all three perps in custody.
- Night Life Meeting held at the precinct, 60 clubs were invited, 25 showed up. There will be a second meeting for the 35 who did not show up April 3 at 7:00 PM.
- Gave specifics of tire and rim crimes and their locations.
- Identity theft still a big problem.
- Theft of unattended property left in public view in cars.
- There was also case of extortion.

Q: How many cars were Hondas?

A: Hondas are very popular – number 1 on the hit list – for tires, rims, vehicle accessories, etc.

Q: BM Cruz: Young people recently arrested...{inaudible}

A: He instructed his officers to go back and look into this...

Q: BM Delaney: Was Off the Hookah at the Nightlife Meeting?

A: No. However, they are on our radar. They are aware of the noise coming from the back at that location. It has not reached the threshold of getting a summons yet.

Q: BM Berrouet: Last meeting you spoke of no quotas, rather performance standards. What is the difference?

A: A quota is you have to generate "x" number of summonses or "x" number of something in a given time period. Performance standards are based on his experience and equal certain number of summonses based on number of hours worked. The time they are out on patrol with so much going on there should be something to show via summonses.

Q: You mentioned that a guy with 4 prior robberies...what is going on? Is this light sentencing?

A: This is not for him to judge.

**FVC Augugliaro acknowledges the representatives of elected officials present.**

### **Presentation**

FVC Augugliaro introduces Jessica Douglas, Mayor's Queens Liaison to introduce the second presenter.

## **Ajeya Yusuf, Office of the Mayor, Community Affairs, speaks about "Immigration Issues in 2017"**

- His job is Community Organizer: he mobilizes people to fight for their rights and insure that immigrant communities know what resources are available to them.
- He attends meetings and organizes workshops to do the same.
- Federal Executive Order to build a southern border wall. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reorganizes immigration enforcement priorities. The 3<sup>rd</sup> refers to the Muslim Travel Ban (two iterations) which prevents foreign nationals from 6 middle eastern countries from traveling into the US for 90 days and went into effect on March 16. A judge from Hawaii put a stay on this. Also, an Executive Order to suspend the refugee admission program for 120 days with a cap on numbers.
- NYC has its own Executive Orders: #34 and #41 when asking for city services, no one will ask about your immigration status. If the info is given out, it will be protected; it will not be shared. #120: When seeking city services, you can receive them in your native language.
- City Resources available (call 311):
  - IDNYC – NYC agencies accept this as a valid id card. Other benefits with cultural institutions, discounts, etc. Available to everyone.
  - Healthcare – available to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, at all public hospitals.
  - Emergency food and shelter.
  - Public Safety – if you were witness or a victim of a crime. NYPD will not ask you about your immigration status, and if know, will not reveal it.
  - All New Yorkers are guaranteed against being discriminated against.
  - NYC provides free legal help to all immigrants. (Flyers on the table.)

Q: Mike Augugliaro: Why are you teaching people how to go around the laws? The Mayor is breaking the law... We are a land of laws.

A: I can respond to you later on a one-on-one basis. However, you are misinformed.

Q: BM Finkelstein: He heard the Federal government is cutting funding for all sanctuary cities. And whenever something is free, someone is paying for it. I worked for the city for 31 years, and I will tell you that when some is getting free healthcare everyone in this room is paying for it.

Q: BM Bragg: I respectfully disagree with the past two statements. The crime is not giving people pathway to citizenship in this country. When there was immigration from Europe it was all good. Unless you are an American Indian, you are descendants of immigrants. Now you want to change the game for one group of people, that is not the way of America. America is supposed to embrace everyone. I want to stand firmly with this Mayor who is trying to protect those most vulnerable in this city.

BM Williams: Sanctuary city has been happening for many years. This came about because people who have relatives here or came here for a better life and they are being denied the rights of becoming citizens of this country you and your forbearers had. We are appealing to your compassion. These people from these 6 countries banned have done nothing wrong. And that most here illegally came here on legal visas were invited to the US because of their valuable skills. Please give the respect to the presenter we give to everyone else.

Q: BM Moore: What is the process given to children in public schools with respect to their rights?

A: ICE has discretionary rights not to go into schools, hospitals or houses of worship. The Mayor says the city agencies will not cooperate via handing over information to city and state agencies. Education is guaranteed to all children in NYC regardless of immigration status.

### **Voting Issues**

Land Use Chair Rich Hellenbrecht introduces:

- Community-based Residence located at 209-61 112 Road, Queens Village.
- Community Options New York, Inc., presents to the Board on its experience and approach, as well as the four individual residents who will be living there.

Q: During the day will they be going to workshops?

A: Yes.

Q: Do any of the residents have a criminal background?

A: No.

The staff is on 24/7 and is trained in crisis managements.

Q: Do these individuals have a propensity for violence, and if not, how do you know that?

A: They have been with us for over 10 years and that has never been an issue.

Q: Bobby Shearer: The community he represents lives next to Creedmoor. The only criteria for stopping a Group Home is if the community is "oversaturated." Is this the best choice, to put this in Queens Village? And through the involvement with the 105 Precinct, over 10% of all their calls involve issues with people from Creedmoor like panhandling, urinating in public, exposing themselves...

A: Clarification – our residents do not come from Creedmoor. That is for the mentally ill. Our residents are mentally disabled; they do not have psychiatric disorders. And before looking at home, we research the saturation issue and it has to be 2.5 miles from a home (not a hospital) that is 14 beds or less.

Q: Do you presently have any plans for any more homes in Queens Village?

A: Not presently. And we would have to deal with the saturation law.

Q: BM Richards – For the Land Use Committee – Did you have a meeting on this issue?

A: BM Hellenbrecht – Yes they gave a presentation and it was discussed at the March 14 meeting.

BM Richards – I do not remember knowing about that meeting.

BM Hellenbrecht – We voted on it. Speaks about the 2.5-mile guideline, enumerates the number of group homes in the board. The committee vote was 5 to 1.

BM Ramgarib - He doesn't think anyone knew about the 2.5-mile guideline.

Q: Are there any other uses of this home other than already spoken about?

A: Only to be used as a home; staff does not live in the home.

BM Bragg – Motion to move the vote.

BM Cruz – No, I have a question. What are the certifications of staff?

A: They have crisis intervention and prevention; they get medications. They are CPR and first aid, anything specific if diabetes, seizures, wheelchairs, etc. A PhD psychologist gives any necessary training. They participate in several professional development trainings throughout the year.

A motion to move the vote.

BM Avery: The organization never contacted the civic association. But now coming into the community. Why did you not contact the civic association?

BM Hellenbrecht: that is the purpose of the Community Board.

District Manager: You were contacted by Maxine about this and you said you would tell the civic association. You are the Board Member in this civic. No one attended the Land Use committee.

BM Avery: If your communications is not correct don't blame us for that. We need to table this issue so you can inform the community on what is going on.

Audience: Someone wants to speak!

Q: What's going to happen to children? What about the safety of our children? The children are going to be nervous...The older children are going to tease them.

A: We do this all the time.

Q: You do not know our block. This is disrespectful. No one notified me!

A: We notified the Community Board.

Q: Are they dangerous? There are so many group homes? We are over saturated with Group Homes.

BM: Hellenbrecht: When does your civic association meet?

A: The entire neighborhood will come out about this.

BM Hellenbrecht: Can this item be laid over? There are 3 things a Community Board can do: support; suggest an alternative site; object because the character of the community will be substantially changed.

BM Avery makes a motion to table.

Community Coordinator Maxine Brannon states that every Community Board Member who lived in Queens Village was personally notified by phone about the Land Use Committee meeting. She called them back a second time if they did not call the office back. This is the office mode of operation and we do it for every land use item.

Motion to table vote.

If no vote, it will be past 40 days and it will automatically be approved.

Secretary Wind: There must be a vote tonight (because filed on February 15, 2017). Motion to table cannot go forward because of the timing.

BM Bragg wants to vote on the motion.

Secretary Wind: if they do not vote down the motion to table, they automatically get the approval.

BM Hellenbrecht: If you vote yes to table, the Board loses its opportunity to vote on the issue because of the filing date.

BM DeBetham: There is point of order – The community wants us to table the vote. They understand that if it is tabled they can proceed. We should vote on the item.

BM Hellenbrecht: The motion to table takes precedence over the motion to vote.



BM Avery: I want you to vote as if you had to live next door to the Group Home that you were not made aware of until tonight. We have to protect our communities from years of saturation. I withdraw the motion to table.

BM Bearak: Whatever the vote is, can we get a commitment from the agency to meet with civic directly?

A: Agency – Yes. We will even have an open house. We will personally knock on the neighbor's doors and give them personal cell phone numbers. We will do that for this residence as we do for others.

BM Bragg and BM Hellenbrecht discuss what the motion is to vote on.

BM Bragg: Motion to approve the [Group] home.

FVC Augugliaro: Will the agency make a commitment to meet with the civic?

Agency: Yes.

Roll call vote: 21 yes; 7 no; 2 abstain.

Audience: There will protests! You really do not know the block!

➤ BM Hellenbrecht: No voting necessary on the Zoning Text Amendment.

### **FDNY Recruiting for Upcoming Test**

**Firefighter Sykes** speaks about the FDNY Recruiting initiative for the upcoming test. There is an emphasis on having more diversity. **La-Tis Williams, FDNY Queens Borough Manager**, speaks about the outreach on getting more diverse communities to take the test.

BM Williams: In Nassau and Suffolk they incentivize people to become to become part of the fire department. How do you reach the young people? You are not spending the money or creative outreach?

A: We go to supermarkets, Borough and District Service Cabinet meetings; we go to schools.

BM Williams: What is the incentive – what is the carrot?

A: We go to schools with gear and become part of their gym classes. We have buses that take young people to the FDNY facility on Randall's Island. We try to expose them to what firefighter's do. Anyone can pass a written exam; it's the physical component that s so hard. We have barbeques in parks.

BM Moore: Thanks FDNY for helping with the [Brookville Park] tree lighting.

A: We are here not just for fire scenarios, but to be partner with the community to educate our children on fire safety and prevention, as well as the recruitment initiative presently going on.

FVC Augugliaro asks the Board if they want to pass on the Committee Reports because of the lateness of the hour. There is a unanimous "yes."

**Public Speaking**

**BM O’Keeffe:**

- Three civics in the Bellerose area will be holding a meeting at PS18, on Tuesday May 9,2017 at 7:00 PM with featured speakers dealing with issues of Opioids, Substance Abuse and Mental Illness.

**Daniel Sobu - The Laurelton Greenway:**

- We are grassroots organization focused on active transportation. On May 6, at the Laurelton Playground, they educating the community on Laurelton Greenway and Sunrise Highway.

**Stephanie Caban - Reading Partners:**

- Recruit volunteer tutors to teach children to read.

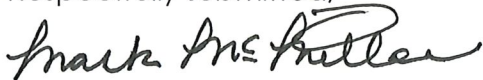
**BM Alain Berrouet:**

- It is too late for my presentation because of the hour and I want everyone to be able to go home and have dinner. I have some sensitive issues that I have to present. I want to have some time for presentation on which I have worked very hard. I would like time at the next meeting before the elected officials so I may present this information. I appreciate the Executive Board considering my request.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark McMillan  
District Manager  
Queens Community Board 13