

Queens Community Board 13

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Sharon Lee
Acting Borough President

Angela Augugliaro
Acting Chair

Vicky Morales-Casella
Chief of Staff

Mark McMillan
District Manager

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 22, 2020

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Present:

Angela Augugliaro; Corey Bearak; Bryan Block; Barbara Clements; Sylvia Cothia; Tanya Cruz; Bess DeBetham; Derrick DeFlorimonte; James Delaney; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Robert Glover; Richard Hellenbrecht; Vernal Holder; Fay Hill; Mohamood Ishmael; Rhonda Kontner; Antony Kuncheria; Andy Laine; Michael Mallia; Sophia Mighty; Kangela Moore; Marcia O'Brien; Deepa Patel; Cinnamon Paltoo; Anup Ramnauth; Patricia Robinson; Ashok Satkalmi; Perminder Thiara; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick; Pritpal Singh Walia; Jermaine Washington; Nantasha Williams; Jackie Wilson; Jerry Wind

Absent:

Isa Avery; Alain Berrouet; Kyle Bragg; Delroy Dawkins; Samuel Elliott; Charles Farruggia; Seymour Finkelstein; Bonnie Huie; Franck Joseph; Jonathan Logan; Curlene Nelson; Michael O'Keefe; Deepa Patel; Tameka Pierre-Louis; Celeste Powers; Nagassar Ramgarib; Peter Richards; Steven Taylor; Mathew Thomas;

Meeting called to order at 7:27 PM.

Board Chair Report

(Virtual) Meetings attended:

- May & June 2020 Borough Board Meetings
- Grand Rebbe Commemoration Planning Meeting
- Queens Borough President's General Assembly Meeting
- Parks and Environment Committee Meeting
- Senator James Sanders – "Vital South East Queens" (Wellness Power)
- District Service Cabinet Meeting
- Northwell Health Webinar on Psychological Issues of COVID-19
- Transportation Committee Meeting
- Contact tracing/testing – virus still strong
- HIPPA law issue

Introduction of New Board Members 2020:

- Michael Mallia
- Sophia Mighty
- Cinnamon Paltoo
- Patricia Robinson
- Jermaine Washington

BM Patricia Robinson: Broadcast media Vice President, Human Resources, radio stations WBLS & WLIR; Colin Kappernick Leadership Team; Know Your Rights; Adjunct professor at Westchester Community College

BM Cinnamon Paltoo: Queens Village resident; Executive Team with MTA Buses

- Bus redesign outreach
- President in PTA Council

BM Mike Mallia: 6-year-old; architect; member of Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

BM Jermaine Washington: Lifelong Queens resident; Marine Corps Veteran; 100% Queens; 113 Pct. Community Affairs Officer, NYPD

BM Sophia Mighty: Lifelong Queens resident, North Shore Towers resident, educator in Far Rockaway; runner, Cunningham Park Road Runners; lived for 2 years in South Korea

Elected Officials:

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

- Collen Barb – Executive in charge of Community Engagement
 - Representative from DA's office attending every:
 - Community Board Meeting
 - All Civic Associations Meetings
 - Precinct Council Meetings

- Changed
 - Bail laws twice
 - Discovery laws twice
- Virtual meetings
- Proud to join in some protests
- No prosecutions for protests, social distancing, curfew
- 100% virtual except arraignments
- All ADA's have laptops
- No Grand Juries

- Conviction Integrity Unit
 - ADA; Investigators where defendant has valid claims of innocence
 - We know justice system is not perfect
 - Can apply online
- Housing and Worker Protection Unit
- Shootings have gone up in South East Queens
- Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau
 - Guns brought into Queens will be gone after
- Hate Crimes Bureau formed
 - 190 languages and 200 countries
 - Any protected class will be defended
- Far Rockaway Incident with Police officer
 - Declines to prosecute perp
 - Cannot discuss ongoing investigation
- Thanks for best wishes when she had COVID

BM Sylvia Cothia: Congratulates DA Katz.

BM Vernal Holder: Thanks her for her service.

BM Ashok Satkalmi: Member of Queens DA Advisory Committee. Wants this committee to continue.

A: DA agrees. Working to create same and additional task forces.

BM Tanya Cruz: Thanks DA Katz for her promise to look back at cases. Mentions issues with dirt bikes. Working with Manhattan DA office.

A: They would not necessarily prosecute. Now allowing pleas. Trying to get to cashless bail. Need more programming for the youth.

- Certain crimes mitigated at the Justice Center which allows for community input.

NYS Senator John Liu

- Joined by Barbara Baruch
- Glad to see everyone
- George Floyd laws need to go further than before
- COVID-19 is still here, continue with safety measures.

NYS Senator Leroy Comrie

- Joined by Deputy Chief of Staff Tayler Jackson
- Thanks everyone for doing what they do in the community
- Can get PPE
- Important to stay diligent
- Vote tomorrow (June 23, 2020)

Vieso (Cambria Heights): Ohel pilgrimage bringing hundreds of people to Cambria Heights.

Senator Comrie: The messiah at this place for this sect of Jews. Analogous to going to a religious site for other religions. Cannot wall off Cambria Heights. Community Board has coordinated meetings. No RVs. No overnight sleeping. Proper social distancing and masks required. Police presence enough to manage these protocols. Wants neighborhood to be protected and safe. There is no way to put walls up to stop the pilgrimage.

BM Nantasha Williams: Is NYPD enforcing policies in other constituencies? Wants assurances. Brooklyn has had issues...

Inspector Gilbert: Several planning meetings. Parameters and personnel put in place. Entry from cemetery.

BM Sylvia Cothia: Rephrasing safety protocols.

Inspector Gilbert: June 24-25.

Senator Comrie: Assures all precautions have been made.

BM Vernal Holder: Fireworks... hitting my block until 1-2 AM. Last night was extremely bad. Took over 135 Ave.

105 Precinct Report, Inspector Neteis Gilbert

- Crime down 13% (7 major)
- 5 shootings
- Domestic violence down 42%
- Quality of life (fireworks)
 - A concern for everyone, affects sleep, pets
 - Put out information on social media
 - Need accurate information (specific location)
 - Officer will respond but emergencies are prioritized
 - ??? those distributing and selling fireworks

Annette McTear: Piggyback on Vernal's comments. 60-70 young men on grass in front of her home. Called 911 four times and it took more than 1 hour for a response.

Inspector Gilbert: What time?

Annette McTear: Started at 8:30 PM. Young men had boxes and boxes of fireworks.

Inspector Gilbert: Will look into it personally.

- Cars are not dispatched from the precinct. Call 311 or 911. Speak to NCO. Will modify tours to address this problem. Need location to have...

BM Marcia O'Brien: What steps would officers take when they arrive at fireworks scene?

Inspector Gilbert: If they were young, confiscate the fireworks. Adults would be spoke to.

- Auto theft going up. Leaving car running even if you have key fob, the car can still be driven

Roll Call

Transportation Committee

- Jamaica/ Springfield safety improvements by NYC DOT

Parks and Environment Committee

- Bellerose Playground redesign
- PPE litter on the streets
- Joe Ottemenelli (DSNY)
 - Brookville Park
- Springfield Park needs more service
- Wedding/church service

BM Kangela Moore: Complaint for discarded PPE and high grass at Brookville Park. Park manager is aware of it as of last Thursday. No park groups. Social Distancing Ambassadors. Grass under the benches.

BM Sylvia Cothia: Parks with lakes and streams need to be cleaned.

Susan Seinfeld, Council Member Barry Grodenchik's Office

- School Survey about returning to school
- Parents discuss workshop
- Restaurants opening out into parking lanes
- Answer the Census

Shurn Anderson, Queens Borough President's Office

- Welcomes all new Board Members
- Thanks members for service to the Community
- Census
- Vote tomorrow (June 23, 2020)

April Minutes

- BM Pritpal Walia motion to approve
- BM Ashok Satkalmi Seconds

Board Chair: Summer Soiree

Nominating Committee Statement

BM Vernal Holder: Motion to adjourn

BM Jerry Wind: Second

Meeting adjourned 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark McMillan
District Manager
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