



**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
JUNE 13, 2023**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
333 BEACH 90 STREET
ROCKAWAY BEACH, NY 11693**

PRESENT

Lailah Boyd, Louis Caucig, Kimberly Comes, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston, Jack Epter, Iona Folkes, Jeanette Garramone, Yitzchok Goldstone, Avionne Gumbs-Cummings, Samuel Jaroslawicz, Alison Kase, Paul King, Richard Knott, Caren Lee, Damara Lee, Betty Leon, Nancy Martinez, John McCambridge, Sonia Moise, Nyjeri Norman, DIsaac Parsee, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold Paez, Vernell Robinson, David Rood-Ojalvo, David Shelborne, Colin Smith, Karen Sloan-Payne, Chris Tedesco, Jose

ABSENT

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Danielle Barker, Ebony Beaty, Natasha Carter Menashe Friedman, Eugenia Gibson, Chamaine Gibbs, Shanell Harper, D. Brian Heffernan, Felicia Johnson, Luquan Lloyd, Denise Lopresti, Annette Lord-Cohen, Linita Lyons, Jonathan Mack, Rosalyn Mason, Helen Montero,

GUESTS

Margaret Powers – Rep. City Council Member Joanne Ariola, Dan Brown – Rep. Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, Jason Greenberg – Rep. Assembly Member Stacey Pheffer-Amato, Sonja Webber-Bey – Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Renae Taylor – Rep. City Council Member Selvena Brooks- Powers, Jose Reina – Rep. Congressman Gregory Meeks, Inspector N. Moore-Rep. NYC Transit, Lucille Songhai -Rep. MTA Scott Middleton-Rep. Jamaica Bay Roxanne Anderson – Rep. NYC Dept. of Health Hygeine, Chloe Forge – Rep. ACQC, Erika Vasquez – Rep. ACQC, Maura Taway-Rep. ACQC

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:22pm.

Report of the Chair

The Chair gave the following updates:

-The NY Project & Partnerships RIDECIRCUT received a grant to provided alternate transportation (in electric cars and vans) to neighborhoods on the peninsula where public transportation is not available. FRANC has been the point of contact and will be giving the community board updates on the new transportation alternative for Rockaway.

- Some good news for residents of Arverne in terms of airplane noise. The Chair advised that the JFK Airport Committee had requested a modification to take/landing routes nearly 5 years ago. The Port Authority has finally approved the change. It has now gone to the FAA for approval, If approved this modification would allow rerouting planes at night to reduce noise and is estimated to positively affect 12,000 families in Arverne.

COMMUNITY
BOARD #14

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City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

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-RDRC applied for a grant through the state and now there is a Downtown Far Rockaway Forward Planning Committee. The grant was for \$4.5 million dollars and money can't be used for expenses. The meetings for community input would be held every month.

- New York State announced that as of June 19, 2023, that there Sunshine rules for open public meetings have been reinstated so remote meetings are no longer permitted.

CORRESPONDANCE

- Letter was received QBH regarding the Board's letter send a board member who applied for re-appointment and was not reappointed. The letter from the general council and Senior Policy Adviser for QBP Donovan Richards stated that public policy to disclose the substance of any reason for appointment or reappointment to a Community Board is not permitted.

- Letter sent to Sue Donohue, Commissioner of NYC Parks & Recreation from CB#14 at the request of board on May 9, 2023, regarding fairness and equity on the beaches adjacent to the Edgemere community from Beach 38 - Beach57 Streets and must be opened for use and staffed for the summer. The Edgemere community beach has been closed for years and it is the belief that it is not for the protection of the endangered Piping Plover but an excuse for NYC Parks to direct staffing to the western end of the peninsula.

Report of District Manager

A reminder to everyone that mosquito season is going to start and as always contact the office to report vacant lots or any location that has standing water that could be a breeding ground for mosquitos.

NYPD

100 POLICE PRECINCT

Lt. Howell reported the following major crime stats for May – June 2023:
- Murders 0, Rapes 0, Robbery 2 compared to last year's Rapes 4 and 8 Robberies. All together crime is down 28%. Other crime stats are the following: Felonies 7, Burglaries 2, and Vehicle Theft 3.

101 POLICE PRECINCT

Captain George EO reported that the precinct has received 30 plus officers that will be placed at chronic locations along Beach 20 – Beach 22 Streets in Far Rockaway on Fridays and Saturdays from 3:00pm to 2:00am. The officers will also patrol staircases and roof tops of the Redfern and Edgemere Houses

NYC TRANSIT POLICE

Captain Akhter reminded all that when riding on transit protect and secure your belongings. He advised that last week there was a robbery on transit at Beach 36 Street in which a knife was used and the suspect was arrested.

Officers have increased removing sleeping passengers from trains.

US POSTAL INSPECTORS OF POSTAL SERVICE

We were informed that inspectors are responsible for detecting and investigating criminality when there is a crime involving the mail. Additionally, Inspectors work along with Secret Service, District Attorneys and appear in court to testify in mail theft cases.

As a reminder to prevent theft when purchasing a money order please keep your stub in case the money order gets stolen. Also, all residents can sign up for delivery notification of all mail being delivered to you each day.

Election For Vacant Executive Board Positions

Re: 4th Vice Chair Election took place by ballot. Candidates were: Gerald David and Nancy Martinez. By majority vote Nancy Martinez was elected 4th Vice Chair.

Public Speaking: The Chair opened the floor for public speaking. 8 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. Public speaking was closed.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

1. ACQC—Re: Public Health Vending Machine For Far Rockaway

Erika Vasquez Program Coordinator for ACQC informed the board a about Public health vending machine would be installed in front of 1600 Central Ave and is requesting feedback from the community board.

This vending machine will expand 24/7 access to lifesaving public health supplies, including naloxone, fentanyl test strips, safer sex kits, sterile syringes, wellness supplies, and more. These machines have been successful at reducing overdose death and HIV transmission rates outside of the US for several decades. The first machine launched on June 5, 2023 (1676 Broadway, Brooklyn), with plans for three other machines to launch in the coming months.

WHY FAR ROCKAWAY? Neighborhoods experiencing high rates of overdose death, in addition to limited access to harm reduction services,

were prioritized for PHVM placement. This analysis identified zip code 11691 to be the highest priority neighborhood for a PHVM, across all neighborhoods in Queens. Anyone can use the machine - individuals will simply enter their New York City ZIP code followed by the numerical code listed below the product.

During the Q & A from Board members concerns were expressed including proximity to a school, loitering, vandalism of machine, thief of supplies and generally did not support the location.

2. Jamaica Bay/Rockaway Parks Conservancy- Re: Floyd Bennett Field Development Plan

Scott Middleton, Partnership Planner representing JBRPC, informed the board that Floyd Bennett field has a world-class institute with a physical presence at Jamaica Bay, SRIJB will transform Building 26 into the Urban Futures Hub. At the location students, scientists, managers, policymakers, and community leaders will come together to exchange information on issues of coastal and urban resilience relevant to cities around the world based on research completed at Floyd Bennett Field. The building will serve as an on-site field station for researchers from 25 CUNY institutions and other partners.

CUNY's Science & Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay SRIJB, a consortium of academic institutions hosted at Brooklyn College, is dedicated to producing integrated knowledge that increases biodiversity, well-being, & adaptive capacity in coastal communities & waters around Jamaica Bay.

3. MTA - Rockaway Resiliency Rehab project

New signal tower at Beach 105th St./Rockaway Freeway

A new Signal Tower facility will ensure that signal and communication systems serving the A/S subway lines can operate in the event the facilities at Rockaway Park Yard are rendered inoperable by a storm or flood.

This will add redundancy to the system and construct a backup terminal to avoid future Sandy-like impacts to subway service in the Rockaways. Carrying over 9,000 passengers a day, the A/S Line is a critical connection for Rockaway residents. Its proximity to Scholars' Academy understandably brings up many questions and concerns for the Scholars' Academy community. MTA has been meeting with Scholars' Academy and BCHS Campus Administrator to discuss the impact on the schools during this construction. MTA created a FAQ for distribution to both schools that includes the scope and purpose of the work and explains steps taken to prioritize student safety around the job site and minimizing impacts to

student learning. Construction will begin in Fal/Winter 2023 and will last an estimated 34 months. **The MTA is developing a webpage dedicated to this project.**

COMMITTEE REPORT

Transportation Committee

Chris Tedesco, Chair of the committee reported that a meeting was held on: May 31, 2023. The agenda item for discussion was regarding the Future safety capital project by DOT - reconstruct BCD /B35th/Freeway/Seagirt intersection. Casey Gorrell & Andrew Arcese representing DOT presented redesign of the section on the Edgemere/Bayswater border. The full presentation can be found at:

<https://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/bayswater-beach-35-st-may2023.pdf>. The project is labeled as "Pedestrian Improvements" but will aim to give the intersection better traffic flow, as well as mitigate recurring flooding issues on BCD between 35 - 37th streets.

Concerns from the committee included: Raised bike lanes proposed on BCD, unusually long timeline (projected completion 2029). Timing of construction during other large scale construction projects in surrounding neighborhoods. Closing shortcut loopholes, and not creating new ones. Lack of bike lane usage statistics DOT does not expect to return with a project update until 2024, but we did receive a response from Andrew the day after the meeting to address a few of the points raised during the meeting.

From Andrew Arcese: Regarding timeline and schedule - NYC DOT agrees with the comments regarding the timeframe for the project and will work with DDC to accelerate the project as much as possible. NYC DOT encourages the community board and elected officials to also make this request to NYC DDC to ensure the project moves at an appropriate pace once the project is initiated by NYC DDC. DOT will share a more detailed schedule once it becomes available. Please note that DDC is only going to be receiving this project now, and it's still very early in the process.

Regarding studying traffic - NYC DOT investigated historical traffic data and was not able to find recent bike counts at the project location.

This project will upgrade those existing lanes to have better protection, without removing parking or travel lanes. The project is not adding lanes to the city's total bike lane mileage. Regarding construction timing - NYC DOT will ensure the traffic study and construction staging/timeline will consider the surrounding developments, as well as the request from the community that heavy construction not occur during peak summer season.

Meeting was adjourned after 10:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning