



COMMUNITY
BOARD #14

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
333 BEACH 90 STREET
ROCKAWAY BEACH NY, 11691**

PRESENT

Lailah Boyd, Kimberly Comes, Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston, John Cori, Jac Epter, Menashe Friedman, Jeanette Garramone, Eugenia Gibson, Yitzch Goldstone, D. Brian Heffernan, Samuel Jaroslawicz, Felicia Johnson, Alisc Kase; Paul King, Damara Lee, Betty Leon, Denise Lopresti, Linta Lyon Nancy Martinez, John McCambridge, Nyjeri Norman, Isaac Parsee, Dolore Orr, Vernell Robinson, David Rood-Ojalvo, David Shelborne, Colin Smith Karen Sloan-Payne, Chris Tedesco, Jose Velez

ABSENT

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Danielle Barker, Ebony Beaty, Natasha Carter Louis Caucig, Dr. Gerald David, Iona Folkes, Chamaine Gibbs, Avionn Gumbs-Cummings, Shanell Harper, Richard Knotts, Caren Lee, LuQua Lloyd, Annette Lord-Cohen, Rosalyn Mason, Jonathan Mack, Dr. Soni Moise, Helen Montero, Dr. Harold Paez

GUESTS

Jason Greenberg-Rep. Assembly Member Stacy Pheffer-Amato, Dan Brown - Rep. Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, Jose Reina-Rep. Congresswoman Gregory Meeks, Kahleel Bragg-Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Sonja Webber-Bey-Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Rena Taylor - Rep. City Council Member Selvena Brooks- Powers, Margaret Powers-Rep. City Council Member Joanne Ariola, Jennifer Lantzas - Rep. NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation, David Tanis-Rep. Resorts World Casino
The Chair opened the meeting at 7:10pm. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Completion of June 13, 2023 Agenda

1. Approval of April 11, 2023 minutes

Betty Leon made the motion to approve the April minutes. Felicia Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Approval of May 9, 2023 minutes

Brian D. Heffernan made the motion to approve the May minutes. David Shelborne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Completion of September 12, 2023 Agenda

1. Approval of June 13, 2023 minutes

Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston made the motion to approve the June 2023 minutes. Karen Sloan-Payne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ORIGINAL

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2. Parks & Public Safety Committee

Jose Velez, Co-Chair of the committee reported that the committee had a meeting on August 9, 2023. The agenda item for discussion was regarding the replacement of the compass mosaic at Tribute Park.

Mr. Velez informed all that neither CB#14 or NYC Parks Dept was involved in the original creation or installation of this artwork or any of the other art objects installed at Tribute Park. The work was led by the Rockaway Chamber of Commerce at the time. The park was designed and commissioned in 2004/2005, completed in 2006.

On October. 29 2012 Superstorm struck NYC and damaged many areas of the city, but not all the damage was visible in the immediate aftermath. Tribute Park was identified for FEMA funds in 2015 and a capital design project was established and went out for bid which did not include any of the art pieces in Tribute Park. After this the mosaic started to deteriorate at a rapid pace.

Jonathan Kuhn – Director of Art & Antiquities for NYC Parks. sent his conservator out to visit the site on March 7, 2020 just before the pandemic hit. The conservator was of the opinion that the mosaic as it was constructed and in its current setting would not be able to survive and . CB#14 at that time recommended Rebuilding the mosaic in alternate, more durable materials with permission of the artist Patrick Clark.

Jonathan Kuhn stated that he is aware of the importance of this artwork and has reached out to the artist several times, but the interactions have not always been productive. Patrick Clark had suggested an outside conservator and Steven Miotto, with more than 30 years of experience was retained.

Mr. Miotto agreed with the assessment of the previous conservator.

Patrick Clark believes that a local group of 9/11 families should be involved in making the decisions regarding the mosaic. In addition, he does not think that Steven Miotto is qualified to decide the fate of his design as he has never seen anything like it and usually works in a different art form. He feels that the community should decide what the fate of the design should be. Patrick Clark also stated that Friends of Tribute Park should have responded to his suggestions. Dan Mundy has said that he did do the work to care for the mosaic (Vice President of Tribute Park) and a professional was hired.

Jonathan Kuhn stated that a group already exists that helps maintain the park therefore to add another group might slow down the rebuilding. Friends of Tribute Park works in consultation with the Parks Department and does not make any major decisions regarding the park.

It was suggested that Patrick Clark approve his design being used and recreated with more durable materials to withstand the elements of the park's location.. Jonathan Kuhn stated that he had reached out to Patrick with the same question but never received a response. And once again Patrick said that the community should be involved in this process.

Jonathan Kuhn stated there have been too many delays in this project and it needs to move ahead. A recommendation was made to host a public meeting, another was to have the public and 9/11 families submit written requests/recommendations for the tribute park. The CB14 Parks Committee did not have a quorum.

John Cori made the motion for CB#14 to write a letter to the Parks Commissioner as in a list of projects completed/need to be completed in addition to suggesting that perhaps the board can produce a list of issues for each agency to address. Also letter should express that the Tribute Park be restored not replaced. Seconded by Brian Heffernan. Dolores Orr recused herself. Betty Leon seconded the motion. Motion carried by a vote of 21 YES, 7 NO, 1 Abstention and 1 Recusal.

OCTOBER 10, 2023 AGENDA

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Dolores Orr, Chair announced that the district office has received notification from ACQC (Aides Center of Queens County) that the organization is moving forward to install the vending machines. community. The Chair reminded all that at the Board's June 2023 meeting ACQC, which is located in Far Rockaway, gave a presentation to the board regarding NYC Department of Mental Health and Hygiene release of a RFP for a pilot Public Health Vending Machine program that could be used in the area as a tool to reduce overdose death and HIV transmission rates. After the presentation the board expressed several concerns regarding the pilot program including the location of the vending machine being very close to elementary and junior high schools.

NYPD/ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS JR.

Khaleel Bragg introduced himself as the new director of Community Boards. He can be reached at 718-286-2974 or by email: kbragg@queensbp.org.

CONGRESSMAN GREGORY MEEKS

Jose reported there is a backlog for passport applications including renewal

of passports. Please contact him at the office for assistance with passports for traveling at 718-725-6000.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER STACEY PHEFFER-AMATO

Jason Greenberg reported that the office received a call from concerned residents in Broad Channel requesting assistance regarding several cats and a dog abandoned in a unoccupied house. the office provided assistance and as an update most of the cats have been adopted. Mobil/extended office hours will be on Thursday.

Public Speaking/Participation

The Chair opened the floor for public speaking. 11 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. Public speaking was closed.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Budget Committee

Dr. Gerald David reported that at the last board meeting the board agreed to make the requested changes/updates and additions to the draft FY2025 Capital & Expense priority list.

Public Hearing – BUDGET for FY2025

The Chair open the floor for public participation regarding the draft FY2025 Capital & Expense priorities. No one signed in to speak. The Chair closed public participation.

Denise Lopetri made the motion to accept the changes to the draft FY2025 Capital and Expense Budget priorities. Kimberly Comes seconded the motion. The motion carried:

Old/New Business

- Brian Heffernan made a motion for the board to communicate to the Parks Department that Rockaway's Park Administrator is not responsive to the requests of the community. John Cori seconded the motion. The motion carried with a hand vote in favor of the motion. 1 No and 1 abstained.

- Kimberly Combs, President of Redfern Resident Council requested board member's support to stop the expansion of the cement business located across the street from the Redfern Houses.

- Alison Kase representing Campaign against Hunger invited all to come out and celebrate their 25 year anniversary at the Beach 44 Street Farm located along Beach Channel Drive.

- Isaac Parsee stated the need for police enforcement presence along Beach 20 Street from Mott Avenue to Cornaga Avenue between the weekday hours of 3:00pm to 3:30pm.

- Lailah Boyd announced to bring awareness of the negative traffic conditions that have been ongoing for years that effect Far Rockaway High School in the morning and in the evening at dismissal that occur at Beach 25 Street, Cornaga Avenue and Rockaway Freeway. Residents, teachers and parents have been requesting the need for crossing guards at the locations.

- Chair Dolores Orr advised that a letter from CB#14 will be sent to the local precinct and DOT requesting that safety measures be placed around the school as soon as possible.

- Jack Epter informed all that seniors can take transportation to and from the the Rockaway Ferry for the low fare of \$1.35.

- Samuel Jaroslawicz, on behalf of the local fire department stated the need to resurface Beach 20 Street from New Haven Avenue to Plainview Avenue. The street has been uneven and caving in on one side which has been a hazard to and from St. John's Hospital for a long time.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourned meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning