



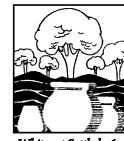
# COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

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HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS  
CHAIR

DONOVAN RICHARDS  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CHRISTINE NOLAN  
DISTRICT MANAGER

## CB 6 MEETING MINUTES

### SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

#### PRESENT

HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS, CHAIR	SALUA BAIDA, SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION
PETER BEADLE, 1 <sup>ST</sup> VICE CHAIR	L.T. CIACCIO, SECRETARY OF FINANCE
KEITH ENGEL, 2 <sup>ND</sup> VICE CHAIR	JOHN DERESZEWSKI, PARLIAMENTARIAN
MARK LASTER, 3 <sup>RD</sup> VICE CHAIR	

E. ALFONSECA

S. JAIN

P. RODRIGUEZ

D. ARONOV

M. LASHLEY-KABORE

M. SALTON

R. ASHE

K. LY

D. SCHANTZ

J. AVILA

DR. R. MEHARRA

H. SCHONHAUT

K. BATRA

P. MORGAN

A. PRATAP SHAH

H. BIRNBAUM

S. MUNAWAR

M. TUCKER

H. CHAIN

N. PIENKOWSKA

B. WINSTEAD

L. DAVIS

J. POORAN

E. ZAKRY

T. GAVRIELOF

J. PRATT

B. GROSSBERG

D. RACHNAEV

K. IMAS

#### ABSENT

A. AYON\*

S. ROLNICK

G. CHEN\*

G. SANDOVAL

K. CLARK

E. SHVARTSMAN\*

M. FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG\*

J. SILVA

E. WONG

\*EXCUSED ABSENCE

#### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

CHRISTINE NOLAN

DISTRICT MANAGER

ASSEMBLYMAN SAM BERGER

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN

AMPARITO ROSERO

OFFICE OF QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

JONATHAN ARIAS

OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

GIANNA VALENTE

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI

HENRY YAM

OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES GENNARO

JAVIER FIGAROA

OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ

SEAN McCABE

OFFICE OF SENATOR JOSEPH P. ADDABBO

KEVIN McALEER

OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN

This meeting was held in person with a limited virtual option via Webex for individuals with extraordinary circumstances. The following CB6 Members joined the meeting via Webex: Dr. Renee Mehrara, Pat Morgan, Diana Rachnaev, Marcelle Lashley-Kabore and Sarina Jain. The meeting will be recorded and posted on YouTube. Community Board meetings are posted on YouTube.com for transparency to the public ([www.tinyurl.com/cb6youtube](http://www.tinyurl.com/cb6youtube)).

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **GOOD AND WELFARE**

### **CB 6 MEMBERS**

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis reported for Board Member Heidi Chain:

- 112<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 18th at 7:30pm at American Legion Hall.

Mark Laster:

- Breaking Bread Building Bonds- our next Breaking Bread Building Bonds luncheon is this Sunday, September 15th at 12pm. We currently have 40 people signed up to attend. If anyone is interested in joining us, you can see me or email me at [fhgtinc@gmail.com](mailto:fhgtinc@gmail.com) before 10am tomorrow morning.
- The Forest Hills Green Team will most likely be re-opening their food scrap drop-off site by Commonpoint Queens within the next few weeks. We are partnering with Big Reuse who will be hauling our food scraps. As soon as we confirm our opening date, we are planning to have a press conference to announce. As you know all the compost sites were shut down due to budget cuts. The compost sites are starting to reopen. Grow NYC will not reopen at the Forest Hills Farmers Market, due to not enough funding.
- The Save Our Compost coalition successfully advocated for funding for Community Composting for \$6.25 million. This money is coming directly from the City Council, and it provides community composting with much more flexibility as to how we organize this program City-Wide. The coalition has been meeting over the summer and we will be meeting tomorrow with Councilmember Abreu to review what plans are for this funding. If anyone is interested in learning more about this and/or wants to get more involved, please see me or email me at [fhgtinc@gmail.com](mailto:fhgtinc@gmail.com).
- B-HEARD and Mental Health Crisis Response oversight hearing at the city council is scheduled for Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10am. There will be a rally before the hearing at 9am.
- Mark thanked Assemblymen Hevesi and his staff member Gianna Valente for helping him with a problem that his co-op was having.

Herb Schonhaut reported that the last stop signs on the entire stretch of 108 Street were at 65 Road and these were just changed to traffic lights. The most important result of this is that pedestrians can now cross busy 108 Street safely. Chair Dimitriadis thanked Herb for following through on this for years with CB6 staff and DOT. She asked that as members of the Board, everyone should be mindful if they see something to call 311 and then call the CB6 office to give the complaint number, so that staff can follow up.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported that the board is going to move into the public comments. We have 10 public speakers. Peter Beadle will keep time and Chair Dimitriadis will call the public speakers in the order they signed up.

### **Jonathan Rinaldi**

*First, I'd like to say that the nation can survive by its fools and even the ambition, but it cannot survive treason within. What I have here is a list; the Queens GOP has put no candidates to run. When you talk about the City of Yes, the community boards and the civic associations said no to the City of Yes but Donovan Richards said yes. We don't want it. We don't have anyone running in opposition. Assemblymember Hevesi and Council Member Lynn Schulman doesn't attend this meeting. Our country is built from the bottom up not from the bottom top. The local government is the power structure of our country. This is the reason why our voices don't get heard because they don't want anybody in these positions. There is seat after seat, state senators, the assemblymembers in these election in November, the ones that are voting to take away your first amendment rights. Your protections from religious exemptions gone because of Senator Addabbo. Assemblymember Hevesi passes bills like 6781 which removed all the parents' control of their child. The child's education, medical decisions it's an attack on our way of life and of our system. The reason why we are in this mess and the reason why no elected officials show up and give anyone respect because of the failure of the leadership that we have. This is so important to the local community boards, the civics association we are not heard. Donvan Richards said he is for the City of Yes, all of us don't want it. I'm not going to allow any of that to happen anymore.*

Chair Beers Dimitriadis corrected Jonathan with the statement "that Assemblymember Hevesi and Councilmember Schulman doesn't attend our meeting" for the record that Assemblymember Hevesi and Councilmember Schulman have attended our meetings.

### **Uma Hardeo, Teen Advocators**

*Good evening, everyone. My name is Uma Hardeo, the founder of a youth organization named Teen Advocators. Our organization serves to amplify youth voices, advocate for change, and serve the community. We were founded in July 2023 and have made tremendous progress since then. We offer various programs such as outreach, event organizing, social media, journalism, where we can apply teens' talents into advocacy. In the past year, we have hosted 5 community service events, including 4 cleanups in various Queens parks such as Forest Park and one gardening event in Bowne Park. We have worked on four issues so far; the Dhaka Protests in Bangladesh, KOSA (Kids Online Safety Act), Maui wildfires, and currently Seclusion and Restraint. We have signed and written petitions in support of the students protesting in Dhaka against the new-to-be quota system as well as raising awareness through our social platforms. We have raised awareness of the past harms of KOSA, how it can affect the mental exposure of a child and creates white lines in the bill. We have also written a petition for this issue. The Act was revised and now poses as a safety act rather than a harmful one. In terms of the Maui Wildfires that took place in the summer of 2023, we have gained support and donations from the public to help raise funds for families in Maui. Currently, we are working on preventing seclusion and restraint. In schools and facilities around the US, children who "act out" are sometimes subjected to harmful practices like physical restraint with handcuffs or ropes and seclusion in locked rooms for extended periods. This often results in physical abuse and trauma. Furthermore, more than 50% of victims experience physical and/or mental harm from these practices, and over 85 have died or committed suicide following such events. Disabled children, who make up 80% of the victims, are particularly affected due to reduced control over their behavior. Despite a bill aimed at banning these practices, it was denied, and no state has taken further action. We are working to raise awareness, promote safer disciplinary methods, and advocate for a ban on these practices. In New York and across the U.S. We have been creating partnerships with disability rights and disability service organizations as well as non-profits and youth organizations in order to gain the support needed to educate people on the issue through different mediums like events and social media campaigns, create workshops in schools and facilities as well as training to implement safer disciplinary actions, and hopefully work on the aforementioned bill. We have been raising awareness through our socials such as Instagram posts and podcasts on YouTube as well as in-person events and created a petition to ban the practice. We have also done fundraising events to raise funds to continue our fight. We have raised \$200 since July. We are hoping to get the community board to support us in creating these projects like training and workshops that I mentioned as well as the bill so that we can create a safer environment for children, especially those who are disabled. Our contact email is [tadvocators@gmail.com](mailto:tadvocators@gmail.com), if you would like to further get in contact with us about questions or concerns. Thank you all for your time.*

### **Daniel Solow, Central Queens Micromobility**

*My name is Daniel Solow, a 3-year resident of Forest Hills and a public member for the Transportation Committee. Tonight, I am representing Central Queens Micromobility. Our volunteer run group is interested in creating a welcoming space for our neighborhood's growing population of micromobility users. We organize beginner-to-intermediate bicycle rides, social events and advocate for improvements to our streets with protected bike lanes and city/statewide legislation. Thanks to the extension of the Queens Boulevard bike lane to Hillside Avenue in Jamaica, the number of people who are choosing micromobility in Queens CB6 has mushroomed. Tonight, I would like to use this time to thank the leadership of this board for supporting universal daylighting. It is because of your concern for street safety that the City Council passed its own version of daylighting adding protection to 100 intersections per year. DOT this summer has added daylighting to 108th Street. As a driver myself I can already see the improvements in behavior. Drivers now have greater visibility to observe pedestrians and bicyclists crossing or waiting to cross the street. However, given the vast scale of our city and the dizzying number of intersections within it, 100 intersections a year is a drop in the bucket. We need more protection for every intersection in every community. Our most vulnerable road users such as children, seniors and people with mobility limitations are often unseen behind parked and idling motor vehicles. New York City should not be exempt from state law. I urge you all contact your state legislators to have them support Assembly Bill A9985A sponsored by JoAnne Simon S9769 sponsored by Brad Hoylman-Sigal. Center Queens Micro Mobility also has some upcoming events. This Saturday we have a bike ride to Prospect Park which includes a picnic. We will also have a Biketober Picnic next month in Forest Park. All the information will be available on our website and social media outlets. For more information about our group and our activities, I can provide a small flier which contains QR codes you can use by scanning with your smartphone. Alternatively, you can also visit us at [centralqueensmicro.wordpress.com](http://centralqueensmicro.wordpress.com).*

### **Peter Vovsha**

*I want to bring up this issue of the tennis stadium and this open-air concert one more time, but I would like to tackle it from a different place. Rather than talking about opinions, who loves the music, who doesn't love the music, I would like to ask a simple question. It's yes or no question. And to my surprise, for almost a year, I have not been able to receive any intelligent answers, not even a contact at the associated business. And the question is very simple. I am a professional in transportation and planning with multiple international recognition publications. Next week, I'm going to Europe for a European Transportation Conference, and environmental protection is an integral part. I am a principal scientist of a company that develops software. We serve multiple clients around the world, who calculate different aspects of transportation and urban planning and evaluate them and help people with decision making. So, there is a simple document; I found only one and I'm familiar with it. It's in New York City noise code that clearly sets a simple threshold of noise in decibels. According to our measurements and asking people independently, the noise that comes from the stadium, which is right in the middle of the residential area, exceeds it. It reaches the level sometimes 75 to 80 decibels, which by our professional assessment (and it's all recorded, you can go to and see it), it is harmful to the health. It's not a matter of opinions. So, I'm asking a simple yes or no question. Is there any other backup supporting documentation? Who makes these decisions? I would like to see how, who authorizes these events? And how is this due diligence? You can see acoustic walls around the highways, they cost a lot of money. Why do people do it? Because anything in this work, any engineering solution, any event requires an environmental due diligence. So, I would like to ask you, is there any documentation you could share with us? Maybe we don't understand anything that authorizes this event. If your answer is NO, there is NO other documentation, it renders all this activity illegal. Please I would like again at this point I'm just asking a simple question. Is there any documentation, local, national, whatever authorize this event and says we can have 75 or 80 decibels.*

Chair Dimitriadis answered Mr. Vovsha's question as to who gives the sound permits. The sound permit is licensed by the NYPD at the local 112<sup>th</sup> Pct. The stadium works with the 112<sup>th</sup> Pct. The community board doesn't have that document, you must go to the 112<sup>th</sup> Pct. to ask for the sound permits for the concerts they had. If they don't give them to you, you must file for a FOIL (freedom of information law).

### **Irina Vovsha**

*Ladies and gentlemen, I represent 900 people who signed my petition to stop the illegal activity at the Forest Hills Stadium. In fact, 8000 people live in the adjacent area of the stadium. 900 of them express their anger over the illegal activities that take place next to our houses. In fact, 40 concerts are being held next to our houses this season. The concerts take place every day of the week, when children need to do their homework or sleep. The concerts are being held in violation of many*

laws: residential area, noise code, property trespassing, property and tenants right to live in a quiet environment. People chose this Forest Hill's residential area to raise their kids in a safe place, and to restore their health after a long working day among many other reasons. The unbearable noise and crowds of concert goers disrupt the essential requirement of the citizens. The noise code, which by law is 42 decibels is violated by virtually every concert. The unbearable noise of a construction site (75 decibels, allowed by some NYPD commissioner) is a serious violation of the noise code. It leads to serious health problems such as high blood pressure, hearing loss, heart problems, children's learning disabilities, stress relating diseases and many more. In fact, the next morning after the concert a seven-year-old child and an adult, the mother of two teenagers had profound nosebleeds. Children can't sleep, cancer-stricken citizens are forced to endure the noise for the last days of their lives. We demand the board to take measures, pass the resolution to stop this madness. It's a violation of all the laws I have mentioned. If you are human and have a soul, please react and do something to stop this madness.

#### **Kuen Lee**

Hello, my name is Lee. I am a resident living just a few houses away from Forest Hills Stadium. I want to emphasize that I support the concerts and events held at the stadium; they bring vibrancy and excitement to our community. However, I have growing concerns about the noise levels during concert days. The music often reaches volumes that seem well above 85 dBA equivalent to the noise of a blender or heavy traffic and at times, it feels closer to 90 or more dBA, which is similar to a lawnmower or a shouting conversation. Imagine that 40 times a year. I have a 7-year-old daughter who has experienced random nosebleeds, and I am concerned that the excessive noise could be a contributing factor. Additionally, the loud bass from the music causes our house to shake, and I've noticed small cracks forming on my walls and ceiling, which raises further concerns. Prolonged exposure to high noise levels is well-documented to cause various health issues, including high blood pressure, stress, and sleep disruption. I believe this is a preventable issue that event planners and performers can easily address by lowering the sound levels. After the concerts, I frequently find leftover beer bottles, cups and garbage scattered along our block and in front of my house. It would be immensely helpful if we could have public trash cans available during events or hire cleaners to maintain the area afterward. I urge our elected officials to uphold their commitment to our community by enforcing existing regulations that ensure the safety and well-being of all residents. The concerts should be seen as a bonus to our lives. So, with proper measures, we can continue to welcome concerts and events at Forest Hills Stadium while protecting our neighborhood's peace and quality of life. Show me how to we can do ourselves to enforce the laws.

#### **Jasmine Kitts**

I saw on-line there is going to be a lot of opposition to the Forest Hills Stadium. I wanted to come as a resident, I live about a block from the stadium. I think it is a really good part of our neighborhood, I think that the concerts bring a lot, I like having them. I think it is a really good reason that people move to the neighborhood. I personally haven't experienced within the last three years any disruption that was significant. If anything, we could add more city trash cans in the nearby streets.

#### **Marty Levinson, Concern Citizens of Forest Hills**

Good evening members of Queens Community Board 6. I am Marty Levinson, a member of the Concerned Citizens of Forest Hills. Once again, I am here to remind you, as if you needed reminding, of the negative impact the stadium concerts are having on our community. Contrary to what has been reported, we are **NOT** asking that the concerts be stopped. Our main concerns are excessive and harmful noise, the frequency of concerts, traffic and continued observation of a 10pm curfew. We are also very disturbed by events scheduled on religious holidays, school nights and lasting for more than four hours. We want the noise from the stadium not to exceed the legal decibel levels in the NYC noise code. We want regular follow-ups by the Department of Environmental Protection. Did you know that each time inspectors were at a concert they found a violation of the noise code. I repeat, each time inspectors were at the concert, they found a violation of the noise code. Ideally, we would help that DEP inspectors would impose fines and immediately shut down the performance of code violators in the same way that the Department of Health padlocks filthy restaurants. One should hold the promoters responsible. Aren't they the ones making the big bucks? Now to a more contentious issue. The number of concerts. Is there no limit on the number of concerts? A few summers ago, there were under a dozen. This season there are almost 30 events planned. Thirty events in a season, thirty events equal greed. I have heard that 30 events or more is what the promoter wants to do every year. These events make our life unbearable. There are road closures, traffic jams, people urinating on lawns and in driveways; and at the end of the concerts often

*until midnight, people honking their horns and screaming on the streets. There should be moderation and compromise. Many of these problems might have been resolved with good faith negotiations among the stakeholders. Isn't it sad that some of these issues have to play out in the New York State Supreme Court. Why is the promoter and his associates unwilling to sit down with the Concerned Citizens of Forest Hills and the Forest Hills Gardens Corporation and work out some reasonable restrictions? Close to 1,000 residents have signed a petition protesting the concerts. These are active, motivated and angry local voters- they vote. Think about them. Thank you for listening.*

### **Tommy Patchell**

*As a resident of 68-29 Burns Street, Forest Hills. I am also in opposition to the concerts. I'm not in opposition to the stage nor am I not in opposition to music. I'm just in opposition to the number of concerts that we have. The garbage, the drug use in the neighborhood after the concerts, the yelling and screaming at 10pm or 11pm. When they are coming out of the concert, I can't even walk down the sidewalk without being pushed off of the sidewalk. I have to wear headphones in my own apartment because of the noise level and the tenant law is being violated as well. Every New York City resident has a right to a quiet habitation that says his right from tenant hall. The promoters and the tennis club they are unwilling to do anything to make the situation better. I am forced to walk in the street. The other night I came home from the supermarket, I was pushed into the street. I couldn't walk on the sidewalk that is going to happen 50 times again next year. No, 900 people have been fed up. People's foundation has been affected; people health is being affected. There is nothing being done; there's too much money being spread around. That is how politics works unfortunately, its greed, it's corruption and a whole number of things that we see the worst in people. This is usually what happens when we have opposition to something or in favor. I came here in 2015; it was only 15 concerts a year. Why in God's name would you put a venue in the middle of a residential area. A concert in the middle of the residential area, 13,000/15,000 people coming out of that concert. You can't find a parking spot; all the streets are blocked up. It is ridiculous, I say no to these concerts. I'm not in opposition of the stadium or the music it's just the concert atmosphere is intolerable. Why should I have to wear headphones in my own apartment, that's ridiculous. I pay taxes and we all should be treated better than this.*

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis closed the public forum and reminded the public that tonight's meeting isn't a town hall and won't be taking further comments or questions from the community.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes for the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting have one correction, the final page of the voting sheet. Mark Laster was marked as a "yes" vote instead of a "no" vote on the motion to table sending the Governor a letter regarding congestion pricing. His "no" vote; didn't impact the final action. The vote total in the minutes at the very bottom does reflect Marks vote. It just was recorded incorrectly. Mark Laster made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction, Salua Baida seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **ASSEMBLYMEMBER SAM BERGER**

I am Sam Berger for District 27, I represent a very small portion of CB6, a little slice of Forest Hills. Assemblymember Sam Berger spoke about the Gittel law that he has put together for the governor to sign off on. The reason why he put this law together is because when mental health patients meet with their counselor and are abused by their counselor it wasn't technically rape in a classic sense. Back in 2000 when they defined what is a mental health care provider, they defined it as the licenses that existed at the time. The language doesn't address this situation. We would create new licenses. In 2002, and 2004 we created license mental health counselor, license managed family therapist and several other ones. This seems to be a commonsense policy for the district. The bill received 80 Democrats to co-sponsor with Republicans. We were able to pass the bill and is hopeful that the governor is going to sign it into law.

Another bill that the Assemblyman was able to pass was to put in place different protections for out-of-state transactions online for SNAP and EBT. This would prevent skimming and other issues that come up with these types of EBT. Over a weekend many people had approximately \$150,000 in EBT and SNAP had their benefits stolen, leaving them not being able to put food on the table. The FBI and DA got involved in getting justice, at

the same time people can't put food on the table. Assemblyman Berger went to the agencies that handled SNAP benefits there wasn't much in place for theft prevention.

The Assemblyman ended and said no matter how small the area he represents, if you have a problem to reach out to him. If you don't know who represents you, Google "Who represents Me NYC" and input your address you will see who represents you.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis reported on the Family Rego Park Shelter. In June the Community Advisory Board went to visit the facility for the Family Transitional Housing Shelter. It is well-equipped and designed in a meaningful way so that families can live together in privacy. Each apartment will include a private bathroom, kitchen and bedding. This is really what family transitional housing should be. They haven't opened up yet. There is a beautiful mural on the side of the building near the post office.

The MTA bus redesign project wrapped up its hearings in July and is waiting for the next step.

Chair Dimitriadis thanked Heidi Chain for putting together Night Out Against Crime, and thanked Barbara and Maria for helping to table at the event.

The Borough President has been paying a lot of attention to the overgrowth and garbage on the medians. In August, District Manager Christine Nolan and Chair Dimitriadis stood with the Borough President and other Queens Community Board leaders to call on Sanitation and DOT to clean the medians throughout the borough and come up with a plan. We have been assured by Sanitation we are on the list to clean up the medians.

Chair Dimitriadis also thanked Edwin Wong, Martha Tucker, Latrice Davis, Peter Beadle, Mark Laster and Daniel Solow for participating in the Austin Street clean-up. She also noticed that when a cleanup happens the community notices.

Chairs will be meeting to discuss budget priorities on Tuesday, September 17th at 7pm. Materials will be sent out to the Chairs in advance for you to review. Two items will be sent out one from the rankings from Survey Monkey and the results of the community survey that the city conducted on our behalf this summer.

PS 174 completed the addition to their building, which the school has more capacity and more seats. The boiler project at Russell Sage is now completed, and the Beacon Program is going back to Russell Sage.

### **DISTRICT MANGER'S REPORT**

District Manager Christine Nolan reported the following:

Starting next month, we will have a company providing tech support for our meetings. They will provide sound, video, etc. Please be aware of your surroundings when you enter the room. This will make our meetings more accessible for those attending on Webex due to extraordinary circumstances, to the public that are watching via Webex, and it will take a huge burden off the staff. When you arrive, the equipment is all set up and ready to go but we currently transport all the equipment here and bring it back to the office after the meeting. This is an exciting improvement and with everyone's cooperation, it will be amazing.

CB6 was selected to receive a Neighborhood Support Team this year, which is an interagency task force set up by the Mayor's Office to address an issue in the community. The issue we submitted was the tractor-trailers that park behind Forest Hills High School and along the Grand Central Parkway Service Road. Attempting to solve this issue (which has been ongoing for many years) will take a collaboration between DOE, DOT, DSNY, and NYPD. So far, DOE has taken over the property behind Forest Hills HS and will be fencing it in as a parking

lot for faculty. We are now working on ways to keep the trucks that were parking on this vacant land from adding to the trucks that already park on the service road. DOT will look into some Daylighting on the Service Road as well as clearly defining the lanes to deter trucks from parking in a travel lane.

We were proud to Co-Sponsor a backpack giveaway along with CM Schulman, Cong. Meng, DA Katz and many other community groups. Thank you to the members who contributed supplies for the event. There were over 100 children in attendance, and we were happy to help them start their school year off.

The Logo Competition deadline was extended to Sept. 30. Share with anyone you know who would like to design the next logo for Community Board 6.

All establishments that had outdoor dining setups in the Temporary Program had to apply for the new permanent program by August 3. If you didn't apply, you must remove your setup immediately. DOT has started inspecting these and issuing summonses. DOT is currently going through the applications. They don't send it to the Community Board unless it meets their standards. If an application doesn't meet their new standards, they meet with the applicant and see if it can work. Once we receive it, we have 30 days to comment on a roadway dining structure and 40 days to comment on a sidewalk dining structure. Given this short turnaround, it is unlikely that we have a meeting scheduled in time to put it on the agenda for a vote. Therefore, we send it to the Consumer Affairs, Cultural Affairs, Economic Development Committee and the Transportation, Public Transit, and Street Safety Committee for feedback. CB Feedback isn't necessarily about the design as this has already been approved by DOT but rather the establishment's use of the structure in the temporary program, or things about that specific location that DOT might not know. To date, we have received 1 sidewalk dining application, 1 roadway application, and 1 for both.

## **COMMITTEE OVERVIEW**

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis thanked all the outgoing chairs on the committees Jean Silva and Dr. Renee. The new chairs are Bruce Grossberg, Aging/Social Services/Disabilities, Mark Laster, Budget Reconciliation/District Needs, Latrice Davis Committee For Those Without Shelter, Gladys Sandal and Brently Winstead, Consumer Affairs/Cultural Affairs/Economic Development, Shari Rolnick, Education and Youth Committee, Matt Salton Environmental Protection, Kandra Clark and Diana Rachnaev, Health/Mental Health/Substance Abuse, Keith Engel, Land Use/Housing/Landmark, John Dereszewski, Law/By-Laws, Kavish Batra and Martha Tucker, Parks & Recreation/Libraries, Eugene Shvartsman, Public Relations/Social Media, Peter Beadle and Edgar Alfonseca, Transportation/Public Transit/Street Safety, Edwin Wong, Veterans Affairs/Public Services, Keith Engel, Select Committees On Rockaway Beach Right of Way.

As we start this year, it is really important that board members attend committee meetings it is part of the By-Laws. The By-Laws state that you are to serve on a minimum of two committees. Service requires your participation and attendance at meetings. Our goal this year is to have a quorum at every committee meeting. This has been a struggle from time to time. This is why we combined certain committees and looked at how things are being handled. This is very important especially when you have to vote. Should you not be able to attend a meeting, let your Chair know in advance. We have to find space, for now, we are getting space for free, but we might have to pay. If the meeting is getting an agency presentation, we want to make sure everyone is here. If your committee meeting is a public hearing that is very important. The public is coming out to hear from us and we need to hear what they are saying. Those meetings are very important that all board members should attend to hear what the public has to say. You will need to vote on that topic at the next board meeting. When possible, at the virtual meetings if you could turn your camera on, it would be appreciated. Please prepare for committee meetings by reading the agenda in advance, your input is very important. Please answer emails promptly, some issues are time-sensitive (E.I. if agencies need input). Committee meetings are open to all board members regardless if you are on that committee. You can ask



questions but cannot vote, this will help when you need to vote at the Community Board Meeting. If you feel you are getting overwhelmed with your schedule let the District Manager and Chair know.

## **PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION AND QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY REGO PARK LIBRARY UPDATE**

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis acknowledged Former Councilmember Karen Koslowitz for allocating money for the construction of Rego Park Library. The chair also introduced from DDC Anna Killian, Outreach Coordinator, Communication and Policy who introduced the rest of the team, Ari Gershman, Assistant Director, Communicator and Policy, Candacy Joris Chan, Senior Project Manager, Public Buildings and Mosammet Chowdhury, Junior Project Manager, Public Buildings. A copy of tonight's presentation will be available in the Friday updates.

Luisa Benedetto, Director of Government Affairs at Queens Public Library thanked DDC and the team along with elected officials who supported the project, the mayor, the borough president, the councilmembers, and Councilmember Karen Koslowitz who advocated for this project.

Matthew Ferraro, Principal with Weissman, Manfredi Architects presented with his colleague Jackie Krasnokutskanya.

In the current phase we're in construction procurement with the design done and are ready to build.

- Construction start is going to be in the Spring of 2025. For the bidding and the reviews.
- Overall project duration from this point forward will be approximately 3 years.
- The construction project budget currently at \$46.3 million.
- The library is located at the intersection of 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive and Austin Street.

The overall design of the project

- It's a square site and the design has two bars with a central spine. One bar is for the staff and the other larger bar by the corner near the intersection is for the public.
- The entry opens up on Austin Street.
- The design is within an upgrade in zoning for libraries. The building will be a little taller than traditionally allowed.
- The children's reading room is on the top floor, adult reading room is on the main floor, teens on the lower floor. All rooms will be acoustically isolated for privacy.
- Thinking about the brand and looking at the neighborhood, doing a historical analysis it is masonry neighborhood, with a lot of greenery both through the vegetation of the trees. This is a play on historic material and color. The idea is that it translates into the material of the building.
- The materials of the building are going to be a glaze brick and it's going to have a sheen. A large variation in the green just like leaves.
- The idea of this building is to look at the historical context and think about the Queens Botanic Garden.

Jackie Krasnokutskanya, Weissman, Manfredi Architects spoke about the plans of the library.

- Ground floor, you walk in on the north side and there is the main staircase with the elevator next to it. That goes to the upper floor to the children's reading room or down to the teen reading room.
- The main floor has the adult reading room. On the west side is the main staff office along with the book return room. There is also a second fire staircase.
- Adult reading room, a warm pallet of wood and carpeting that you will see throughout all three reading rooms, throughout the public areas of the library with highly acoustic materials. This should keep the loud sounds down.
- The three floors will visually connect with each other through light and views between each level. There will be separation using glass walls for each room.

- The children's reading room will have a carpeted area, will have two smaller multi-purpose rooms, restrooms and a staff lounge.
- The teen reading room is on the basement level but will have natural light and natural views on this level. There will be a reading room, a quiet room, a large multipurpose room that can be open for various programs and will have two whiteboards on the walls, a storage room, restrooms and mechanical and electrical rooms. The material pallet is similar to the rest of the floors.
- In the main area there will be a pixelated way creating imagery of trees and plants that are traditionally used for paper making, Mulberry, Paperus and Flax. The plants will be screen printed on paper. Every project gets 1% for artwork.

The following questions were asked and answered:

Councilmember Karen Koslowitz – when do you intend to break ground?

**Response:** We are looking at Spring 2025. When the contractor will get a notice to proceed. It will take some time for the contractor to mobilize, set up the trailer. It is a rough date.

Councilmember Koslowitz reminded the agencies and the board of the history of this project and how long we have waited for this project to be completed. She expressed concern that other libraries were built in the years that we just waited. This project began in 1993.

Is the green roof going to be accessible to people or just for show?

**Response:** It isn't accessible due to height limitations of the property within zoning. The green roof isn't for show, it is part of Local Law 97 and part of all energy compliances that are required. The façade is designed in a way that has more capacity. It is strategic and specific with fenestration to allow natural light in.

How many elevators are in the library?

**Response:** There is one elevator in the library. It is a small compact building; the elevator is to the left of the stairs when you enter the building. Near the staff support space. There will be a stroller parking area just north of the elevator in addition to the front of the community room.

When construction starts, what is going to be the impact with the traffic on 63<sup>rd</sup> Street and Austin Street which is a one way eastbound. A lot of traffic is turning off of Austin onto 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive heading toward Woodhaven Boulevard. There is also a bus stop in front of the library and across 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive where the Shalimar Diner use to be. That construction is finishing up. Once construction starts what impact will it have on mass transit on Austin Street it is a narrow street.

**Response:** DDC will give a minimum of 72-hour notice to the public letting them know any impacts that we are aware of. If we have to close the street potentially temporarily, we will redirect the traffic or move the bus stop, we will let you know at least 72 hours.

Once the contractor is starting to make the plans for traffic safety, we will come back and speak to that with more specifics. That will be around springtime. The contractor is legally responsible for making those plans.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis told the board the District Manager holds a cabinet meeting monthly with all our agencies, should there become a problem. We had a watermain capital project, Ari Gershman work with us on that capital project. We won't have any problems. We had advance notice of all of that work.

It seem that three years is a long time to build a small structure and \$46 million seems to be a lot of money. Regarding the finances \$46 million, is that including just construction or also the interior, books, electronic equipment. What happens to financing if the contractor runs out of money, or three years later we need an extra \$10 million that we don't have.

**Response:** It does sound like a long time, dealing with the City and City Agencies with all the requirements. DDC builds, repairs libraries all across the city. Three years is a typical time for a brand-new building, it is an estimated time on realistic experience and based on the contract. The \$46 million is for the DDC construction cost, doesn't include furniture, and things of that nature. The cost involved in the whole project is going to be \$56 million. There are extra funds for those things.

It was mentioned about the library located a half of block from the Long Island Railroad. Is there a difference in the treatment for this library for the acoustics to shield when a train comes by?

**Response:** It takes that into account, it is a party wall, the south façade that faces the railroad. It is a completely solid brick wall, 12+ inches in thickness with acoustic. The material itself brick is a dense material that absorbs sound. The glazing on this project is double glazed system that has a series of gaskets that helps mitigate the noise from outside.

Will there be another location when the Rego Park Library is under construction that people can go?

**Response:** There will not be a swing space, we will have a mobile library to service the community.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported that she and the District Manager met with Councilmember Bob Holden to ask about a swing space. He said he would try to find a way to finance a space, should one become open. We will continue to reach out to the councilmember to see what is feasible in that area.

Is the adult reading room one open layout? Is there going to be a quiet room space?

**Response:** Yes, the first floor is an open space, there is computer stations tucked into the alcove that's adjacent to the double height space that looks down to the teen area. The quiet room is down on the teen level it is anticipated that adults will be down there. Something that was discussed at length during the design was to have adult and teens mixing on the same floor.

Having to deal with Local Law 97 and green roof compliance Local Law 9492. Is certification base on LEAD with things like that?

**Response:** We are not applying for Well Building Standards, although Well and LEAD (Leadership Ethics, Achievement, and Development) tend to overlap in their requirements. We are doing a minimum of LEAD silver but we're shooting for LEAD gold. It is an environmental design, there is platinum, gold, silver and bronze. Contractly we were asked to reach for silver, but we are reaching for gold which is a very hard benchmark. LEAD goes through revisions every couple of years, so we are reaching for a high goal.

Is there going to be a gender-neutral bathroom?

**Response:** Yes

Will there by construction five, six or seven days a week?

**Response:** We can answer that question when we have a contractor on board.

Are we looking at union labor and MWBE for this labor?

**Response:** Yes, both are required.

Will there be trees outside?

**Response:** Yes

## **CONSUMER AFFAIRS / CULTURAL AFFAIRS / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary License Application:**

Curaleaf NY, LLC, 107-18 70th Road, Forest Hills

On September 5th, the committee convened a meeting with three members of the management team of Curaleaf NY, LLC at the Rego Center Mall - Community Room.

Curaleaf has been operating as a medicinal cannabis dispensary in our community for several years. Throughout this period, they have maintained a positive presence with no significant issues or concerns raised by the community or 112th Precinct.

Questions and comments were answered by Benjamin Duke, Peter D'Agostino and D'nise Rebelle from Curaleaf.

The committee asked Curaleaf for some clarification on how Curaleaf plans to advertise their business now that adult cannabis will be included in your business?

At the committee meeting a board member asked, he heard on the radio advertising Curaleaf, if that for their New York or Connecticut business? It was for Connecticut. For advertising for the store, we have the benefit of being open for six years in the community. Many people know where we are. We have a window cling on the front notifying people that it is now open for adult use. We have done some advertising online on cannabis focussed websites like Leafly and Weed Maps. Those audiences are 21+ and are interested in the brand.

The following questions were asked and answered:

On page five, what is the number of security guards and their working hours? It says one security guard working from 9am to 8pm. Is it twenty or five people splitting shifts? Is it all security guards.

**Response:** There are two additional security guards, that serve as delivery drivers for deliveries and medical patients. If the main security guard is out to lunch or take a break, then one of those delivery drivers would take his place.

After a follow up question, the response was clarified:

In the store there are seven to ten actively employed by Curaleaf, one person would work in the store, two people running the delivery service to medical patients. When they are not out on a delivery run, they would be in the store. The people that are doing the deliveries are security people licensed by the state, each person can do each other's job.

There is a rule that a cannabis store needs to be 200 feet from a house of worship. There are two houses of worship within one block.

**Response:** We did check this against the state mapping, which shows where the houses of worship is, there were not two on the same block.

What percentage do you think your adult cannabis use will be compared to your medical dispensary?

**Response:** Currently adult use is about half compared to medical patients. It is about two to one medical patient to adult use consumers.

How does Curaleaf ensure responsible prescribing practices of medical cannabis? What measures are in place to promote responsible sales of the recreation cannabis?

**Response:** All medical dispensing activities are overseen by a state licensed pharmacist that has taken additional course work in cannabis. They are on-site at all times that medical dispensing is occurring. Staff at Curaleaf undergo training regarding the adult use consumers on compounds in cannabis, how to give advice if a consumer wanted it for a specific purpose. There are state limits on how much you can purchase in a given

day. No cannabis is allowed to be dispensed to anybody that appears to be under the influence. It is a 30-day supply, and the tracking is done through Curaleaf electronic system.

Is there any free educational programming around your products?

**Response:** Yes, locations in New York for Curaleaf, we hold Medical Saturdays from 12 – 4pm, we also welcome people to come in any day.

Your giving back to the community, it says you provide local programming. If a community organization wants to reach out and request funding for local programming. What is the best way to do so and is their parameters around what you would support in local programming?

**Response:** We run everything through our compliance department, we like to work organically with the community. You can call or come into of our locations and speak with one of our team members. We also support anything that they may be involved in the community as well.

Are all security guards trained in de-escalation techniques?

**Response:** Yes, all staff members are trained in de-escalation techniques. It is something we take seriously at the store. The staff is trained through training programs through Curaleaf through a program called Cura Campus. They also do weeks in training where they actively act out situations in where de-escalations may be required.

The committee recommendation was to approve this application for Adult Use Retail Cannabis Dispensary. The motion passed on a roll call vote, 32 in favor and 2 against.

### **Liquor License Applications**

CB6 received the following new liquor license applications:

New Liquor License Applications:

1. Nadezhda, 64-06 108th Street, Forest Hills  
*Shish-kebob restaurant. Owners have no prior history in the restaurant business.*
2. Antiochia Grill, Inc., 104-02 Metropolitan Avenue, Forest Hills  
*Turkish restaurant. The applicants have several years of experience in the restaurant business. This premises has been operating for four years without a beer and wine license and was previously licensed for liquor under different ownership.*
3. Kantu Peruvian Cuisine, 105-07 Metropolitan Avenue, Forest Hills  
*Not a new application, but an alteration to add the adjacent space with a connecting door.*
4. Shake Shack, 71-26/28 Austin Street, Forest Hills  
*Not a new restaurant, but applying as a new applicant due to a corporate change.*
5. Desert Rain Lounge, Inc., 107-29 Metropolitan Avenue, Forest Hills  
*Not a new application, but applying to change their license from beer and wine to beer, wine, and liquor.*
6. Mighty Quinn's Barbecue, 108-22 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills  
*Transfer application to a new owner. The restaurant will continue to operate as Mighty Quinn's Barbecue with no changes in operation. The new owner operates multiple locations and has extensive industry experience.*
7. KK Hospitality Group, 9 Station Square, Forest Hills  
*Pizzeria and bar. The applicant has four years of managerial experience.*

CB6 received the following renewal liquor license applications:

1. Lowkey, 70-15B Austin Street, Forest Hills
2. Narita Japanese Restaurant, Inc., 107-08 70th Road, Forest Hills

3. Mito Asian Fusion, Inc., 64-18 108th Street, Forest Hills
4. Lime & Salt Bar Restaurant, Inc., 98-102 Queens Blvd, Rego Park
5. Moca Asian Bistro, 107-18 70th Road, Forest Hills
6. Beer Obsessed, LLC, 110-64 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills

The 112 Precinct didn't have any issues/complaints with these establishments.

John Dereszewski made a motion to accept the new and renewal liquor licenses and was seconded by Peter Beadle. A voice vote was taken 32 in favor and 2 not in favor.

## **REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPRESENTATIVES**

### **QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS**

Amparito Rosero reported the following:

- 2024 Community Board Demographic Report is available on our website. The report gives a summary of this year's class of appointees and gives a full explanation of the demographic breakdown throughout the borough.
- Tuesday, September 17th at 6:00pm: Mexican Independence Day Celebration at Queens Borough Hall.
- Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm: Queens Climate Expo at the Hall of Science.
- Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm: Young adult professional mixer at Keiko Studios.
- Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm we will have a Queens Highschool Fair to wrap up the month.
- You can always RSVP to these events on our website at [queensbp.nyc.gov](http://queensbp.nyc.gov)

### **QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ**

Javier Figueroa reported the following:

- Finalized her RFPs (request for proposals) for her Youth Development and Crime Prevention Program to keep the youth out of the criminal justice system through social, recreational, academic or career activities.
- Gave \$50,000 to Chabad Rego Park to implement to develop various youth programs.

### **COUNCILMEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN**

Kevin McAleer reported the following:

- Fiscal year 2025 budget negotiations were restored for community composting.
- We received a grant to install an irrigation system at McDonald Park.
- Saturday, September 14, from 11–2:30pm Free Helmets at Russell Sage Playground.
- Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at dusk Wizard Oz movie at Yellowstone Park.
- Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 10am, rain date October 13<sup>th</sup> Health Fair at Memorial Drive Forest Park.

### **NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER ANDREW HEVESI**

Gianna Valente reported the following:

- The Assemblymember wrote a Bill A247 to make the application for parking permits process easier for disabled individuals. This bill has passed, Governor Hochul signed it in July.
- Secured \$25 million for non-public school safety equipment.
- Secured \$350 million from the Empire State Child Tax Credit.
- Thanked everyone for participating in the Austin Street Clean Up.
- Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am clean up on Metropolitan Avenue, sponsored by Metro Village of Forest Hills, Councilmember Schulman Office, Senator Addabbo Office.

#### NEW YORK CONGRESSMEMBER GRACE MENG

Jonathan Arias reported the following:

- Secured \$70 million additional dollars for a total of \$190 million, along with Councilmember Schulman, Councilmember Cortez to combat flooding.
- Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 10-2pm located at Haspel-Staab VFW Post 551, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Queens.

#### COUNCILMEMBER JAMES GENNARO

Henry Yam reported the following:

- We haven't received to many complaints about the Men's Shelter, the Councilmember toured the facility.
- Allocated funding to the Department of Sanitation for more pickups at the Rego Center Mall.
- Playground 62 began construction.
- Two events for senior month, one in September and one in October, will send flyers to the Community Board Office.
- Breast Cancer Screening in October, need to sign up at our office. For women between 40–75 years old living in New York City and hasn't had a mammogram in the past twelve months. This is being sponsored by the Italian American Cancer Center.

<b>CB 6 VOTING SHEET 9-12-24</b>	<b>CANNIBIS DISPENSARY APPLICATION CURALEAF 107-18 70TH ROAD, FH</b>	<b>NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION</b>	<b>RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION</b>	
EDGAR ALFONSECA	Y			
DAVID ARONOV	Y			
ROBERT ASHE	Y			
JULIETH AVILA	Y			
ANISIA AYON	absent		absent	
SALUA BAIDA	N	A		A
KAVISH BATRA	Y	L		L
PETER BEADLE	Y	L		L
HOWARD BIRNBAUM	Y			
HEIDI CHAIN	absent	W		W
GINA CHEN	absent	E	absent	E
L.T. CIACCIO	Y	R		R
KANDRA CLARK	absent	E	absent	E
LATRICE DAVIS	Y			
JOHN DERESZEWSKI	Y	I		I
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS	Y	N		N
KEITH ENGEL	Y			
TAMARA GAVRIELOF	Y	F		F
BRUCE GROSSBERG	Y	A		A
KAREN IMAS	Y	V		V
SARINA JAIN	Y	O		O
MATT FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG	absent	R	absent	R
MARCELLE LASHLEY-KABORE	Y			
MARK LASTER	Y			
KEVIN LY	Y			
DR. RENEE MEHARRA	Y			
PAT MORGAN	Y			
SABAH MUNAWAR	Y			
NATALIE PIENKOWSKA	Y			
JESSICA POORAN	Y			
JOI PRATT	N			
DIANA RACHNAEV	Y			
PEDRO RODRIGUEZ	Y			
SHARI ROLNICK	absent		absent	
MATTHEW SALTON	Y			
GLADYS SANDOVAL	absent		absent	
DAVID SCHANTZ	Y			
HERBERT SCHONHAUT	Y			
AMIT PRATAP SHAH	Y			
EUGENE SHVARTSMAN	absent		absent	
JEAN C. SILVA	absent		absent	
MARTHA TUCKER	N			
BRENTLY WINSTEAD	Y			
EDWIN WONG	absent		absent	
EPHRAIM ZAKRY	Y			
<b>TOTALS:</b>	32 YES 2 NO			



