



Community Board 12

The City of New York

Borough of Queens

Jamaica, Hollis, St. Albans, South Ozone Park, and Springfield Gardens

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Melinda Katz
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Rene Hill
CHAIRPERSON

Vicky Morales Casella
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY BOARDS

Yvonne Reddick
DISTRICT MANAGER

COMMUNITY BOARD 12, QUEENS
September 19, 2018

MINUTES

General meeting of Community Board 12 was held on Wednesday, September, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

- **PRESIDING:** Rene Hill, Chairperson
- **PRESENT:** Amir Abbady
Maxine Allen, Treasurer
Melvin Artis
Yasinul Ashraf
Nigel Barker
Jacqueline Boyce
Geraldine Taylor-Brown
Kenny Carter
Manuel Caughman
Brittany Chambers
Clifton Stanley Diaz
Barbara Duncan
Alexandra Dyer
Daniel Englander
Mabel Everett
Joan Flowers, 1st Vice Chair
Marcia Francis
Nadi Ghaness
Thomas Greenaway
Glenn Greenidge
Dora Grizel
Ian Harris
Nurul Haque
James Heyliger
Rene Hill, Chairperson

Derek Irby
Khondokar Tarikul Islam
Audrey Lee Jacobs
Celeste James
Clementine James
Aiysha Jaggassar-Johnson
Bilal Karriem
Michele Keller
Michelle Kirkland
Rev. Edward McKay
Gregory Mays
Tunisia Morrison
Jean Phelps
Rodney Pride
Kamal Saleem
Florence Simmons, 3rd Vice Chairperson
Yvette Sledge
C. Princess Thorbs McGee, 2nd Vice Chairperson
Toni Totten
Benjamin Wright, Jr.
Richard Hogan
Kemar Newman
Bryan White

ABSENT:

I. CORRESPONDENCE

Announcements were read by Rev. Princess Thorbs.-McGee, 2nd Vice Chairperson

II. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

- Welcomed everyone to the September CB 12 board meeting.
- Board members are volunteers, some with other jobs and some with other community commitments. As the By-Laws state they are here to study, investigate, deliberate, evaluate community services, plans, and they have oversight on community matters under their jurisdiction. They are their communities' voice and partner; and are not elected officials.
- Members must walk and ride around the community with their eyes open and ears to the ground; if there is a problem they need to help with solutions. As a board member they cannot just sit once a month in the meeting and not do anything. We need to help with solutions and need to be sensitive to the community.
- If a community board member cannot give at least three (3) days a month to the Board in order to serve their community, then those that do work ask that you find another way to serve our community.
- There is a lot to be done as far as making sure our community gets what it needs and deserves; it takes time and energy.
- Thanked the Board members that volunteer for the committee Chairpersons positions. New Committee Chairs were appointed during the summer, Clifton Stanley Diaz is now the Public Safety Chairperson, Kenny Carter is now the Land Use Chairperson, Celeste James is now the Good and Welfare Chairperson, and Manny Caughman is now the Area 6 Chairperson.

- Thanked the Board Officers, Committee Chairs, and Board Members that held meetings and worked with Community Board 12 during the summer. Thanked the community for their support and their passion and activism, which cannot be ignored.
- Thanked Ms. Reddick, Pat, Celeste, and Kesheena, staff of the District Office, for all of their assistance to the community and to the Board Members.
- As we move forward we need to fill a few more seats, we have the Executive Secretary position that is now open. We also have the following Committee Chair positions: Health, Environment, Senior Citizen, and three area Chair positions.
- The upcoming matter occurring tomorrow is the Charter Revision Commission in the Borough. The Commission is deciding on whether there should be term limits for board members. The vote will take place in November regarding the changes in the City Charter.
- The website to vote on the charter is www.nycfb.info and then go to NYC votes.

Elected Officials and their Representatives were acknowledged by the Chairperson.

III. PRESENTATION

- Sandy Anagnostou from the office of Gerald J. Caliendo, RA, AIA, Architects representing the property owner for 115-58 Dunkirk Street.
- Application is for an extension of term of variance which expired on June 18, 2013 for the existing storage warehouse (use group 16) and manufacturing (use group 17) building.
- This is an existing one-story manufacturing ware house building located on Dunkirk Street which is an R32 zoning district. Although it is zoned residential there are many existing manufacturing uses on this particular block front.
- The building has a long history of having this type of use, it was originally constructed in 1960 as a bowling alley and it operated that way for about 6 years. The bowling alley moved out and it was converted to a warehouse. They filed for a variance application because by that time the 1961 zoning resolution was adopted.
- The prior usage of the warehouse were the manufacturing of vacuum cleaning bags, floor polishing products, cable wire manufacturing, and most recently it was a warehouse and manufacturing of upholstery furniture for Castro Convertibles.

IV. BUSINESS SESSION

Rev. Thorbs-McGee, 2nd Vice Chair, 38 members present at roll call; quorum pronounced

I. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:** Motion to accept June 20, 2018 minutes was made by Bilal Karriem, seconded by Amir Abbady; the motion passed.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nomination Committee: Represented by Yvette Sledge, Chairperson

- As announced at the June 20, 2018 meeting there is a vacancy for the Executive Secretary position. Nominations can be taken from the floor. The individual would only be in that position until December 2018; at which time there will be a vote for Secretary.
- Aiysha Jaggassar-Johnson was nominated for the position of Secretary; in which she accepted the nomination. Vote was unanimous in electing Ms. Johnson for the position of Secretary.
- This year the Board will be electing for the offices of Chairperson, 2nd Vice Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian.

- The eligibility requirements are you have had to be appointed to the Board by the Borough President of Queens, have served on the board for at least 1 year prior to running for office, and you must have 70% attendance at the General Board Meeting.
- Letters of Interest will be accepted in October 2018, the Committee will interview candidates in November, and the election and installation will be held in December. Members must be present at the meeting in order to vote in the election.
- Letters will be sent to all members regarding the rules of the election.

Economic Committee: Represented by Glenn Greenidge, Chairperson

- Artimus Development is working with HPD to acquire another property on 94th Ave to develop 500 additional affordable apartment units.
- As part of the DRI, Greater Jamaica Development Corporation has established a Restaurant loan program funded with up to \$500,000 to support and attract new restaurant to downtown Jamaica. The loan sizes are anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000; this is to assist individuals who have no more than two locations that are looking for a second or third location to move into downtown Jamaica.
- Boston Market Restaurant opened in Jamaica on 165th Street and Jamaica Ave
- As part of the ongoing MWBE, there was a Community Board 12 partner with York College Small Business Development Center, there was a presentation on alternative financing; the highlight was new market tax credit.
- The opportunity zones were something made available to the tax law that was just passed; there is not a lot of clarity in terms of how it will be administrated, there will be webinar October 10, 2018 as a follow-up. This will bring money to the area, the only thing is that it will empower gentrification.
- The Port Authority has organized the JFK redevelopment Community Advisory Council, this Advisory Council is going to support the Community Benefits package.
- Proposed Southeast Queens Federal Credit Union is meeting every 2nd Saturday. The last 2 meetings have been held at African Center for Community Empower located at 111-20 Farmers Blvd St Albans. Meeting starts at 9:30 am – 12 noon.

Transportation Committee: Represented by Michele Keller, Chairperson

- The Architect opened the discussion with an overview of the Atlantic Avenue Extension Project and its modifications update. The site is located on the Van Wyck Service Road between 94th 95th Avenues. There will be a new park containing a Viewing Park, Sitting Park and Playground.
- The Viewing Park Modifications will be as follows:
 - Simplify Grading and Planting
 - Remove custom fence, remove retaining walls, remove custom lighting, remove irrigation systems & remove median planting
 - Add canopy trees
 - Add ground hydrants
 - Add curb around perimeter
- Playground Modifications will be as follows:
 - Remove interpretive signage and table
 - Replace poly slide with stainless steel
 - Replace coated chain with steel chain
 - Enhance accessible play options
 - Revise play equipment colors

- Replace 7" ht., fence with 4' ht. fence
- Revise curb limit of playground planting area, remove irrigation
- Add canopy trees, add ground hydrants, add maintenance path & gate
- Access to adjacent planting area

*Playground equipment colors have been changed from navy, brown and black to green, taupe and black.

Parks Committee, Represented by Amir Abbady

- The Parks Committee has been meeting over the summer, the last meeting was in September when they were joined by some representatives of the Parks Department and the Assistant Director of the Southern Queens Parks Association.
- The Parks Department prepared a comprehensive report on the inventory of parks' resources in the community.
- The Permit holders that get annual renewals because of their basketball tournaments or baseball games that they have seasonally, and the discussed Parks Enforcement of Quality of Life concerns and illegal permit use in the parks
- Discussed quality of life issues associated with Roy Wilkins Park. Roy Wilkins Park is run by the Southern Queens Park Association, but managed by the Parks Department. NYC Park Enforcement and their work to supplement the NYPD in and non-emergency matters in the park
- The next meeting will be October 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Roy Wilkins Recreation Center

Public Safety Committee, Represented by Clifton Stanley Diaz

- There was a CERT meeting at York College, approximately 200 in attendance, encouraging individuals to enroll in the CERT Programs, "GO" Bags are given out.
- Informed there is a gang in the Rochdale area, they collected \$97,000 worth of checks from individuals in the local community. The gang members erased and enter names on the checks; the police were able to confiscate the checks and will do an investigation.
- Another concern is that after school children are entering the store in mobs and are trying to rob the stores.
- A Public Safety meeting will be coming up, looking to find another location to meet because the district office location is not convenient because of the parking.
- Would like for the young man from Citizen App to attend one of the public Safety meetings.

Education Committee: Represented by Geri Taylor-Brown, Chairperson

- Today was Dads Take Your Child to School Day; at one school in District 29, P.S. 33, 250 fathers showed up.
- The Committee meet at Roy Wilkins Park on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.; the next meeting will be on October 16, 2018.
- They had a twelve page information package, the first thing the committee did was to review all of the meeting dates of the districts that are in the community; District 27, 28, and 29. Each one of the districts have community education council and the committee will be posting meeting dates on Board's web site as well.
- The Committee looked at English Language Arts exam form 2013-2016, the lowest

percentage rate of meeting the standard was 22% of the children in grades 3 – 8. But from 2013 – 2016 it did increase to 43%.

Land Use Committee, Represented by Kenny Carter, Chairperson

- The BSA item discussed for an extension of term of variance which expired on June 18, 2013 for the existing storage warehouse (use group 16) and manufacturing (use group 17) building.
- The address is 115-58 Dunkirk Street, westerly side of Dunkirk Street, 80 feet north of Newburg Street, (Block #1252, Lot #3).
- The owner allowed the lease to lapse where they had to get it renewed; it was a ten year renewal, however the renewal process started in 2013. From 2013 up until 2018, it has only been 5 years.
- The Committee Recommended the 5 year extension because the facility is a warehouse.
- The Committee will be looking at Community Benefit Packages for future properties that wish to be erected in our community so the community can benefit in some shape, form, or fashion form allowing certain structures to be erected in the community.

*The full Committee reports were provided to all members and is on file at CB 12's District Office

III. VOTE ON BSA APPLICATION #207-68-BZ, 115-58 DUNKIRK STREET

Voting Results: 35 Approvals; 2 Opposition; 0 Abstentions

V. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Thomas – over the holiday he was harassed by high school kids that came to his home and sat on the stoop and smoked marijuana. When he asked them to leave they refused. Commander Sullivan and his group of NCOs at the 113th Precinct came to his rescue.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.