



COMMUNITY BOARD No. 3, Q.
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May 19, 2022

ATTENDANCE

Pat Beckles
Ann Brown
Elba Buendia
Mark Buhrmester
Muquith Choudhury
Sonya Davis Roberts
Michael De Valera
Vivian Dock
Margaret Dozier
Rhoda Dunn
Renetta English
Oscar Escobar
Ulrick Gedeon
Pastor Peter Herron
Larinda Hooks
Abdur Rahim Howlader
Kevin Hughes-Noboa
Edward Kiernan
Marta Lebreton
Andre Maloy
Lisa Mesulam
Richard Mullings
Laverne Nimmons
Nuala O'Doherty
Theresa Parson-Jones
Dorothy Phelan
Potrirankamanis Queano Nur
Megan Rockwell
Fausto Rodriguez
Jairo Rodriguez
Leoncio Romero
Tammy Rose
Edmund Rosenbaum
Lobsang Salaka
Dawn Siff
Fahad Solaiman
Marlene Tapper
Jimmy Smith
Frank Taylor
Arthur Teiler
Hamlett Wallace
Edwin Westley

ABSENT

Haiko Cornelissen
Shiv Dass
Joyce Julian
Stephen Kulhanek
Violeta Morales
Marco Munoz
David Rosero
Shanel Thomas-Henry

Guest

NYC Mayor Eric Adams
CM Shekar Krishnan
Jason Banrey, Rep., DOT
Emily Weidenhof., Rep., DOT
Michelle Luna, Rep., Congresswoman
Ocasio-Cortez
TaQuoia Jones, Rep., CM Moya Office
Lili Pioche, Rep., Assy Aubry Office
Jeannine Agard, Rep., Qns Boro Pres

Please Note: The next Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

May 19, 2022 Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

Frank Taylor, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken at that time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Shelly Brevda, co-founder The Renaissance Charter School, said she is upset with the firing of the superintendent of District 30, Philip Composto. She asked that Community Board 3 join the teachers, parents and Elected Officials in rallying to Dr. Composto's defense.

A resident said that the lights at the BQE under path needs to be turned on and there are potholes on the west side. He asked DOT representative for later discussion, if there will be infrastructure going to be put in to prevent flooding.

A resident announced that starting July 1, 2022 is the opening of a Dog Run at Travers Park. It's a pilot program for one year thanks to the help of Council Member Shekar Krishnan.

Andrew Sokolof, 89th Street Tenants Unidos Association, reported that there are still 30 displaced families in need of apartments since the fire on April 6, 2021. They really want to go back home to their apartments but feel HPD needs to pressure the landlord for repairs. Mr. Sokolof said the tenants are looking to find what kind of financial support they are entitled to. He thanked Community Board 3 for their support.

A resident expressed his concerns about the illegal vending that is causing sanitation problems. Small businesses are taking a hit by paying private waste management companies to pick up their garbage. He added that homelessness is more visible, crime is surging, there are traffic problems, prostitution on Roosevelt Ave and Junction Blvd. He said that Community Board 3 should be the intermediary for Elected Officials and agencies for quality life issues.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

DOT Presentations

Astoria Boulevard Capital Improvement Project

Casey Gorrell, Senior Project Manager for NYC Department of Transportation, gave a capital update presentation on Astoria Boulevard Capital Improvement Project. Mr. Gorrell reported that the presentation will focus on background, past work, current and upcoming capital improvements.

Astoria Blvd Background:

- Request from then Councilmember Ferreras-Copeland for safety enhancements
- DOT hosted workshop in April 2015 to identify priority and issues for eastern portion of corridor
- DOT hosted subsequent workshop in December 2015 with then Councilmember Constantinides to discuss western portion
- DOT proposed an in-house safety project to CB3 in April and May of 2015 and installed in 2016 and 2017
- Project made intersection improvements and lane markings changes on the eastern and western ends of the corridor
- PM rush hour lane was removed on the south side, reducing highway-like feel to the boulevard

Astoria Blvd In-house Project:

- 10,000 sq. ft. of concrete work
- 5 New Crosswalks
- 2 New Signals
- 7 New Street Trees
- 1 New LPI
- 78 Upgraded Pedestrian Ramps
- 180 Parking Spaces added in PM
- 9% Reduction in crashes with injuries
- 28% reduction in pedestrian injuries

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Current Capital Improvements:

108th Street and Astoria Blvd

- Capital project in construction
- Project will close slip lane from 108th Street to Astoria Blvd.
- Part of citywide pedestrian safety project (HWPEDSF5)
- This site funded by former CM Ferreras-Copeland

Upcoming Capital Improvements:

- \$12.9M Project (\$300K from former CM Constantinides)
- 3 Locations
- Interest from Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez as part of Federal Community Project Funding

Upcoming Capital Improvements:

- Pedestrian Safety Enhancement
- Pedestrian Accessibility Improvements
- Bus Stop Improvements
- Vehicular Safety Improvements
- 2018 – Project Scoped
- 2020 – Project Funded
- 2022 – Project Initiated/Design Kickoff
- 2023 – Preliminary Design – Community Presentation
- 2024 – Final Design
- 2025 – Construction
- Approximately 2027 – Completion

Improvements:

- New left turn bay
- Bus Bulb at 82nd Street
- Curb extensions at 82nd Street
- Widen median on 82nd Street to add pedestrian refuge
- Curb extensions at 24th Avenue and 83rd Street to create continuous pedestrian path
- Extend median at 88th Street for pedestrian refuge
- Bus Bulb at 88th Street
- Close slip lane to 25th Avenue
- Curb extensions at 89th Street to create continuous pedestrian path
- New sidewalk along 25th Avenue
- Close slip lane from Astoria Blvd. to eastbound 25th Avenue
- Expand triangle and green street at 90th Place

Mr. Gorrell noted that the location is heavily dependent on grading and may be subject to change. Goal of improvement is to create a continuous pedestrian path along Astoria Blvd.

Improvements:

- Curb extensions at 29th Avenue and 102nd Street to create direct pedestrian crossings
- Widen median on Astoria Blvd to create pedestrian refuge
- Curb extensions at Humphrey's Street slow turns

Chairman Frank Taylor said that Community Board approved the project with an amendment that DOT do the entire Astoria Blvd.

Updated Street Design for 34th Avenue Open Street

Emily Weidenhof, Director for Public Space Unit, reported that "Paseo Park" plan was developed in conjunction with Council Member Krishnan and local input. It's a 1.3 mile transformation of 34th Avenue corridor with a real focus on enhancing safety, accessibility and creating new vibrant public spaces that are centered at the schools along the corridor. Ms. Weidenhof said there were surveys available in six languages. From the survey 93% responses, that came from Jackson Heights, 77% wanted permanent pedestrian and bicycle

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improvements on the 34th Avenue corridor. 34th Avenue is in a Vision Zero Priority area. Since Open Streets crashes involving pedestrians have gone down. DOT is looking at the transportation network. Besides considering the bus lines they are looking at the volumes of who is actually using the street.

Ms. Weidenhof continued with a presentation on 34th Ave "Paseo Park" Design.

Traffic Diversion:

Most Obvious Diversion is to Northern Blvd

- Changes in Traffic Volume on Northern Blvd. 2019 – 2022
 - AM Peak hour +7%
 - PM Peak hour -1%
- Ongoing Adjustments to Surrounding Streets Beyond 2022
 - 34 Avenue Proposal
 - End of COVID
 - Congestion Pricing

The ground will be pedestrian epoxy gravel, there be movable furniture, planters and wave delineators which will help separate cyclists from pedestrian areas. Along with other agencies DOT is making sure to preserve driveways, have access to fire hydrants, and maintain access for delivery, access for sanitation and emergency vehicles. Along all the diverter blocks there will be one barricade at every entry.

PS 398 school will have a full plaza block and shared street blocks that will have bike connections to the west. Parking will be maintained on portions of the shared block. There will be frequent and regular neighborhood loading zones.

On the east IS 230 will have a full plaza block in front of the playground. DOT is preserving the ada access.

Travers Park will have the largest portion of fully pedestrianized space along the corridor. A full plaza block in front of IS 145 where is the green market block.

Part of the proposal is to convert 78th Street to a two way to allow access for parking garages. Vehicles will be able to get in and out as well as access the parking garage but there won't be truck access and no standing at any time on that block.

At PS 212 there will be shared street block on both sides. The large space will be closed for events and programming.

PS 149 will have a full plaza in front and shared street blocks between 93rd and 94th Street

Next Steps:

- April – Presented to CB3
- May - Coordinate Final Design Details Scheduling & Notifications
- June to Fall – Implementation
- Fall – Public Space Evaluation & Survey
- 2023+ - Additional Public Space Improvements Capital Visioning

A resident complained that no one cares about noise and air pollution due to the proposal. The resident asked why is DOT so afraid to conduct a paper survey so that the thousands of residents, including seniors that do not partake in social media can have their voices heard.

Jason Banrey, Queens Deputy Borough Commissioner, replied that the survey was one of the most popular surveys in DOT's history. Nearly 3,000 people participated. He said they are working on another survey.

Ms. Weidenhof added that there are teams out in the streets talking to people and collecting paper surveys

Margaret Flanagan, resident, asked why the Compromise group not a partner.

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Mr. Banrey said that they are in touch with the Compromise group via social media.

Ricardo Pacheco, President of Jackson Heights Alliance, said that no one seems to care that 26 blocks is going to cause more traffic congestion on Northern Blvd. He asked if DOT can conduct another survey so that people's voices could be heard.

Mr. Banrey asked all in attendance to spread the word about the upcoming survey.

Board Member Edwin Westley said approximately 147 parking spots will be removed on 34th Avenue. He asked how does DOT expect the neighborhood to absorb that. He said there is only going to be ada space between 73rd and 74th Street. Mr. Westley also asked what the plan for the median on 34th Avenue is.

Ms. Weidenhof said the ada at IS 230 was mentioned because she wanted to point out that it would be preserved. The medians will be preserve.

Mr. Westley noted that there was no response from DOT about the removal of parking spaces.

Russell Katz, resident, asked when is there going to be enforcement on E-bikes on 34th Avenue with E-bikes. He also asked about signage for homeowners with private driveways on 35th Avenue.

Mr. Banrey replied that they are going to address the E-bikes by going door to door to the businesses and more educational outreach. "This new project is going to force cyclists to weave in a chicane style which is going to force them to move a little bit slower. There's also going to be vertical elements that maintain them within that space as they transition block through block." In regards to signage, the 115th Precinct should be contacted.

Board Member Edward Kiernan asked how they will maintain access for people with disabilities who are unable to move the barricades.

Edmund Asiedu, Accessibility Coordinator at NYC Department of Transportation, replied that they are currently searching for barricades that can be easily removed. DOT is open for suggestions.

A resident asked how much money is being spent between DOT and 34th Avenue Open Streets Coalition.

Ms. Weidenhof replied that there are a couple of different resources available to 34th Avenue Open Street partners citywide. Applicants are given a bucket of funding that they use for different services.

Board Member Fahad Solaiman said that business owners are suffering with revenue going down 35% because of no parking spaces. He asked if the DOT has a plan to build a parking lot.

Mr. Banrey said that they do not have a plan to build a parking lot anywhere in New York City.

Bill Bruno asked about the program to suggest drop off zones.

Ms. Weidenhof replied that they worked with schools and freight teams at DOT.

Luz Mercado, resident, asked when the plan is going to be implemented.

Ms. Weidenhof responded that in June they will start at Travers Parks.

Shelly Brevda, resident, asked how a fire truck is going to enter the plaza.

Ms. Weidenhof responded that they review all the street designs with the Fire Department to make sure emergency vehicles can gain access.

Board Member Mark Buhrmester asked how much is the budget.

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Ms. Weidenhof replied that they would have to get back to the Board with how much the budget is.

Board Member Muquith Choudhury said he is representing Bangladeshi business owners who are opposed to the 34th Avenue Open Streets because of the removal of parking spaces. It is effecting their businesses. Mr. Choudhury said that they are being treated unfairly.

Mr. Banrey said he is willing to meet with the Bangladeshi business owners.

Board Member Larinda Hooks stated that the open streets is not feasible going from 94th to 114th Street. This will cause a problem for homeowners who are responsible for garbage left in front of their homes.

Board Member Dawn Siff asked why is the DOT concerned about preserving free storage of private property when it seems like those spots might be better served as loading zones so that accessorize can get through.

Ms. Weidenhof said that they will continue to monitor it.

Mayor Eric Adams

NYC Mayor Eric Adams reported on the concerns of Community Board 3. He said that affordable housing, economic recovery and development, public health facilities are on Community Board 3's needs list. He noted that an additional \$5 billion is going into housing. The City is working on getting back on track. He said the heart of economic recovery and development is public safety. If the City isn't safe it won't be a multi-billion dollar tourism industry. People will not want to ride the subway system. People will not feel comfortable to go back to office spaces.

Mayor Adams said that children are being killed by gun violence. His office and NYPD are aggressively going after the proliferation of guns but at the same time being proactive. He said 30% of inmates are dyslexic. That is why they are doing dyslexia screening in every school so the students can get the insistance they need early. The Mayor said they are thinking outside the box when it comes to hate crimes by having a system in school celebrating diversity. At the same time, keeping young people busy with 100,000 summer youth employment jobs and paid internship program.

Mayor Adams was extremely frustrated when he was Brooklyn Borough President. He saw the lack of responsiveness from City agencies. He said there is a covenant between citizens and agencies. The agencies have not been supplying services as they should. The District Managers should not have to go through a difficult period of interacting with the City agencies as they provide services to their constituencies. The Mayor said they are going to create an entirely new relationship with the District Managers and Elected Officials. When a call is placed to the agencies, they are going to respond because the calls are coming based on the needs of the people who the Community Boards represent.

Mayor Adams said he looks toward defeating COVID and proving that New York City is resilient. Community Board 3 has been very stable and very active. He thanked Community Board 3 that is representative of what is great about the City, engaging in conversation during difficult days.

Council Member Shekar Krishnan thanked Mayor Adams for his support for 34th Avenue Open Streets.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

Business Economic Development. - (Co-Chairs Edmund Rosenbaum and Edwin Westley)

S.L.A. New Wine/Beer & Liquor License Applications:

Julieta Restaurant Corp. - 37-63 81st Street, Jackson Heights (New - Full Liq.)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Full Liquor license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Julieta Restaurant Corp.

The representative spoke for the owner who was present. The owners own Cositas Ricas, Pollos Marios and a bakery in Jackson Heights. They been in the community for over 30 years.

Board Member Mark Buhrmester said that he knows of the other restaurants and is glad the owners want to open another restaurant.

Board Member Pat Beckles asked why are the hours open to 4:00am.

The owner said in order to compete with other restaurants are open until 4:00am

A resident expressed concerns of the volume of noise at restaurants.

Viva Ceviche Corp. - 88-15 37th Ave, Jackson Heights (New - Wine/Beer)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Wine, Beer & Cider license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Viva Ceviche Corp.

The representative spoke for the owner who was present. The restaurant is small with a small menu with ceviche products.

J. Nazca Corp. dba Nazca Palace - 35-14/16 Junction Blvd., Corona (New - Full Liq.)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the applicant is seeking a Full Liquor license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Nazca Palace.

The representative spoke for the owner who was present. The restaurant will have security and play background music. The representative noted that the restaurant is sound proof.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Frank Taylor, Chairman, opened Executive Session with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion # 25 - Adoption of the Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Frank Taylor, to adopt the agenda, was passed unanimously.

Motions By Committees:

Business Economic Development. - (Co-Chairs Edmund Rosenbaum and Edwin Westley)

S.L.A. New Wine/Beer & Liquor License Applications:

Julieta Restaurant Corp. - 37-63 81st Street, Jackson Heights (New - Full Liq.)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for an on-premise Full Liquor license for this applicant provided a stipulation was been submitted. The stipulation was submitted.

Motion # 26 - Julieta Restaurant Corp. - 37-63 81st Street, Jackson Heights (New - Full Liq.)

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Rosenbaum, seconded by Frank Taylor, the motion to **approve** the application was passed with 24 in Favor, 11 Opposed and 1 Abstentions.

Viva Ceviche Corp. - 88-15 37th Ave, Jackson Heights (New - Wine/Beer)

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Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for an on-premise Wine, Beer, & Cider license for this applicant provided a stipulation was been submitted. The stipulation was submitted.

Motion # 27 - Viva Ceviche Corp. - 88-15 37th Ave, Jackson Heights (New - Wine/Beer)

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Rosenbaum, seconded by Arthur Teiler, the motion to **approve** the application was passed with 31 in Favor, 5 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.

J. Nazca Corp. dba Nazca Palace - 35-14/16 Junction Blvd., Corona (New - Full Liq.)

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the committee recommends **disapproval** of an application for an on-premise Full Liquor license for this applicant due to the problematic history of the location, applicants' lack of experience and unclear method of operation for a large venue.

Motion # 28 - J. Nazca Corp. dba Nazca Palace - 35-14/16 Junction Blvd., Corona (New - Full Liq.)

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Rosenbaum, seconded by Edwin Westley, the motion to **disapprove** the application was passed with 35 in Favor, 2 Opposed and 1 Abstentions.

Chairperson's Report

Frank Taylor, Chairman, reported that he was on Bangladesh TV representing Community Board 3. He also attended a vigil in Harlem for the mass shooting in Texas.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Giovanna Reid announced that on Tuesday, May 24th is training for new Board Members.

Ms. Reid announced that Community Board 3 will march in the Jackson Heights Pride Parade on Sunday, June 5, 2022.

Ms. Reid invited all in attendance to the Leon Von Holden Memorial Healthcare Expo that will be outside of the Corona Health Center On Sunday, June 11, 2022.

Motion # 29 - Adoption of the April 21, 2022 Monthly Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Lobsang Salaka, seconded by Ed Westley, to adopt the April 21, 2022 Minutes, was passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Immigration Committee

Lobsang Salaka, Chair of Immigration Committee, announced that there will be an Immigration Resource Fair in September. He will be reaching out to community organizations and Elected Officials. More information will be provided closer to the date.

Land Use Committee

Hamlett Wallace, Co-Chair of the Land Use Committee, reported that the committee held a meeting regarding Chick-fil-A located at 68-01 Northern Blvd. There were concerns from the committee regarding traffic and LGBTQ issues. They will come back to address the issues at a future meeting.

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Legislators' Report

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Michelle Luna, representative for Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, reported on past and future events.

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To submit a legislative comment or casework request:

<https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact>

View this year's Community Project Funding requests:

<https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/congress/fy23-community-project-funds>

Twitter, Instagram, or Youtube: @RepAOC

Contact: 917-301-7084 or Michelle.Luna@mail.house.gov

Council Member Francisco Moya Office

TaQuoia Jones, representative for Council Member Francisco Moya's office, announced that any constituent who needs assistance can contact their office.

Email: Tajones@council.nyc number: (646) 895-1459

Council Member Tiffany Cabán's office

A representative for Council Member Tiffany Cabán's office, announced that on June 15, 2022, CM Cabán is co-hosting with CM Julie Won and the NYCLU, a *Know Your Rights* workshop.

The winners of the participatory budgeting process:

<https://twitter.com/CabanD22/status/1526260199811698688?s=20&t=qXP7IC3- jqabL2t5UxQCiA>

Any constituent who needs assistance can call 718-274-4500 or email at

district22@council.nyc.gov.

Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry Office

Lili Pioche, representative for Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry Office, announced that any constituent who needs assistance can contact their office.

Call 718-457- 3615 or email: Aubry Piochel@nyassembly.gov

New Business

Board Member Larinda Hooks announced that *Family Day* is on June 4, 2022 at 25th Avenue between 97th and 100th Street.

Board Member Ed Westley announced a *Historic Weekend* on June 11, 2022 from 10:00am – 4:00pm.

Board Member Mark Buhrmester asked if the Community Board could write a letter of support on behalf of the 89th Tenants Association to HPD and the Mayor's Fund.

Board Member Dawn Siff suggested there could be a faster way to vote for liquor Licenses. She asked how she can make suggestions to Committee Chairs.

Chairman Taylor said to Ms. Siff that she should email the Chairs and copy him to make suggestions.

Board Member Marta Lebreton requested that the CM Krishnan be contacted to attend a Parks Committee Meeting to address the new Dog Run. She understood that when Travers Park was redesigned that it was not going to be a Dog Run.

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Motion # 30 - To Adjourn

Upon motion duly made by Lobsang Salaka and seconded by Hamlett Wallace, to adjourn the meeting, was passed unanimously. Adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Clara Colon*