



COMMUNITY BOARD No. 3, Q.
82-11 37th Avenue, Suite 606
Jackson Heights, New York 11372
Telephone: (718) 458-2707 Fax: (718) 458-3316
Website: queenscb3.cityofnewyork.us
Email: communityboard@queenscb3.cityofnewyork.us

March 16, 2023

ATTENDANCE

Pat Beckles
Ann Brown
Elba Buendia
Mark Buhrmester
Haiko Cornelissen
Sonya Davis Roberts
Michael De Valera
Vivian Dock
Margaret Dozier
Rhoda Dunn
Renetta English
Oscar Escobar
Ulrick Gedeon
Pastor Peter Herron
Larinda Hooks
Kevin Hughes-Noboa
Edward Kiernan
Stephen Kulhanek
Marta Lebreton
Andre Maloy
Lisa Mesulam
Richard Mullings
Laverne Nimmons
Theresa Parson-Jones
Dorothy Phelan
Jairo Rodriguez
Leoncio Romero
Tammy Rose
Edmund Rosenbaum
David Rosero
Lobsang Salaka
Fahad Solaiman
Frank Taylor
Arthur Teiler
Shanel Thomas-Henry
Hamlett Wallace
Edwin Westley

ABSENT

Muquith Choudhury
Shiv Dass
Abdur Rahim Howlader
Joyce Julian
Violeta Morales
Nuala O'Doherty
Potrirankamanis Queano Nur
Megan Rockwell
Fausto Rodriguez
Dawn Siff
Jimmy Smith
Marlene Tapper

Guest

Anthony Sama, Flushing Meadows Park
Jason Chen, Rep., DOS
DI Altaheri, 115th Precinct
Rep., Qns Boro President's Office
Rep., Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez
Jonathon Arias, Rep., Congresswoman
Meng
Dan Brown, Rep., Qns DA Katz
James Mongeluzo, Rep., NYC Comptroller
Evelin Vasquez, Rep., CM Cruz
John Bahia, Rep., Assy. Steven Raga

Please Note: The next Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

March 16, 2023, Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

Chairman Frank Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:15pm. Chairman Taylor welcomed all in attendance to Community Board's in person meeting at The Louis Armstrong School.

Mr. Taylor thanked Peter Previti for setting up the livestream for Community Board 3 residents.

Mr. Previti said that on behalf of the Principal Helen Ponella they would like to thank Community Board for uplifting the community.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

DSNY – Community Affairs Liaison

Jason Chen, NYC Department of Sanitation Liaison, reported that starting April 1, 2023, waste in a container of 55 gallons or less with a secure lid should be placed outside after 6:00pm. Waste in garbage bags should be placed at the curb after 8:00pm. To ensure collection, all waste must be set out by midnight.

Board Member Leoncio Romero asked why the changes.

Mr. Chen said because the waste sitting outside for a long time attracts rats.

Deputy Inspector Jamiel Altaheri – 115 Precinct

Deputy Inspector Altaheri thanked all in attendance for holding him accountable as the Commanding Officer of the 115th Precinct. "It's nice to know there are people who really do care. Thank you for giving me a great experience and welcoming me to your homes."

Mr. Taylor announced that DI Altaheri is leaving the 115th Precinct for a promotion at One Police Plaza.

Presentation on FMCP Wayfinding - Anthony Sama – FMCP Administrator

Anthony Sama, Executive Director of Flushing Meadows Corona Park gave a presentation on the Wayfinding project.

The Signage and Wayfinding Strategy will:

- Enhance the arrival experience
- Inform park-goers about the rich history and natural features of Flushing Meadows Corona Park
- Increase the connection to the community
- Make the Park easier to use by ensuring information is provided when and where people need it
- Create a sense of place
- Inform users of full Park offerings

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Creating a mental map of the Park is challenging due to its scale
- Directions or maps to key destinations and resources are hard to find
- Information is either lacking or poorly organized
- Due to the Park's location to surrounding roadways, entrances and transitions between sections of the Park are welcoming and unclear
- Pedestrian and vehicular paths are not clearly identified or differentiated from one another

Strategic Goals:

- Amplify Entrances
- Encourage Confident Exploration
- Prioritize Information Hierarchy
- Promote Discovery

March 16, 2023, Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

Expanded Park Signage:

- Passerelle Plaza Gateway Logomark Signage
- Passerelle Gateway Banners
- Vehicular Gateway Pylon
- Pedestrian Gateway Pylon
- Street/Path Identification Signage

The Public Design Commission has reviewed all the standard signage protocol. The project is in 90% completion. Installation for the project should begin summer 2024.

Board Member Pat Beckles asked about signage for cyclists.

Mr. Sama said that there is a project advocating for funding for a protective Greenway through the park.

A resident asked about job opportunities within the community.

Mr. Sama said that interested parties should inquire about job opportunities through the City agency.

Board Member Hamlett Wallace asked if the signs are illuminated.

Mr. Sama said none of the signs are illuminated.

A resident asked if the signs would have QR codes.

Mr. Sama said that in the future there might be QR codes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Land Use - Hamlett Wallace, Muquith Choudhury, (Co-Chairs)

BSA -1122-81-BZ; 105-14 Astoria Boulevard - Extension of the term of an approved variance, to allow for an existing metal supply establishment (UG17) contrary to use regulations.

The applicant said that they are going in front of BSA in one month and are looking for support from Community Board 3. They are looking for an extension for another 10 years. There is not going to be any work done on the site.

Hamlett Wallace, Land Use Committee Chair, opened the floor for questions from the audience.

Board Member Ulrick Gedeon asked what they are going to do about double parking.

The applicant said that he will have a conversation with the branch manager and operations manager.

A resident asked what kind of company it is.

The applicant said that they are a Distribution Company that does roofing, siding, etc.

The resident asked if there was any type of loose material that can cause dust in the air.

The applicant said no because they do metal roofing.

Bus. Eco. Develop. - Edmund Rosenbaum and Edwin Westley, (Co-Chairs)

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

Cielito Lindo Taberna - 88-11 Roosevelt Ave. Jhs. Hgts. (New - Full Liq.)

Not present.

March 16, 2023, Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

Café 593 Corp. - 37-64 103rd Street, Corona (New – Tavern Wine)

Co-Chair Edmund Rosenbaum, reported that the applicant is seeking a Tavern Wine license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Café 593.

The owner said that her restaurant will be opened from 8:00am – 11:00pm daily with food service at all times.

107 Dominica Corp. – 107-07 37th Ave, Corona (New – Wine/Beer/Cider)

Co-Chair Edmund Rosenbaum, reported that the applicant is seeking a Wine, Beer and Cider license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of 107 Dominica Corp.

The representative spoke for the owner who was present. The family style restaurant will serve Dominican food.

Moon Cheese Pizzeria Inc. - 88-11 31st Avenue, E. Elmhurst (New - Wine/Beer/Cider)

Co-Chair Edmund Rosenbaum, reported that the applicant is seeking a Wine, Beer and Cider license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Moon Cheese Pizzeria.

The representative said the restaurant is a small place that offers various selections. The owner said that the Colombian American Fusion establishment has been opened for three months. It's a fun restaurant that will have activities for kids to get involved.

Board Member Ed Westley asked if the restaurant focus is on families and children why does it need to stay open until 2:00am.

The owner said that in the three months the restaurant has been opened until 1:00am. A lot of customers come from LaGuardia airport to eat. There are not a lot of restaurants opened around that location at that time.

Homemade Taqueria VIII LLC - 75-03 Roosevelt Avenue, Jhs. Hgts. (New - Full Liq.)

Co-Chair Edmund Rosenbaum, reported that the applicant is seeking a Full Liquor license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Homemade Taqueria.

The owner said he and his partners started a restaurant in Long Island City. They want to open another one in Jackson Heights.

Diwan's Restaurant Inc. dba Jackson Diner - 37-40 74th Street, Jhs. Hgts. (New - Full Liq.)

Co-Chair Edmund Rosenbaum, reported that the applicant is seeking a Wine, Beer and Cider license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Diwan's Restaurant.

The owner said he is moving across the street with same hours of operation from 11:00am – 10:00pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Frank Taylor, Chairman, opened Executive Session with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken by the Secretary.

Motion # 18 – Adoption of the Agenda

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

Motions by Committees

Land Use – Hamlett Wallace, Muquith Choudhury (Co-Chairs)

BSA -1122-81-BZ; 105-14 Astoria Boulevard

Hamlett Wallace, Co-Chair of Land Use Committee, reported that in the matter of an application regarding, 105-14 Astoria Boulevard, East Elmhurst, New York, NCBP East Elmhurst LLC – Owner of Record, is seeking 1) an Extension of the term of an previous approved variance for additional 10 years, that expired on November 9th 2022, to allow for an existing metal supply establishment (U.G. 17) contrary to use regulation and 2) extension of time to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy, wavier of the rules.

March 16, 2023, Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

Resolution:

The Land Use Committee after review of this matter recommends this application for extending the Term of a Variance for a term of 10 years and Extend Time of C of O be Approved with the following provisos:

- Keep all building supplies located on the adjoining property below fence height and debris and refuse free
- Signage regarding no double parking shall be maintained and adhered too
- Fencing at all locations of the property shall be kept in good repair and appearance
- All graffiti must be enthusiastically removed on consistent bases
- Create and provide scheduling for incoming deliveries for pedestrian sidewalk safety and prevention of double parking of all types of trucks at the curb facing Astoria Boulevard
- Community employment opportunities from Community Board 3Q should be focus on during periods of hiring
- New Castle Building Products as a local community business shall be more engaged in community participation and supportive of community activities.

Motion # 19 - BSA -1122-81-BZ; 105-14 Astoria Boulevard

Upon motion made by Hamlett Wallace, seconded by Ed Westley, to **approve** the application was passed unanimously.

Bus. Eco. Develop. - Edmund Rosenbaum and Edwin Westley, (Co-Chairs) S.L.A. New Wine/Beer & Liquor License Applications:

Cielito Lindo Taberna - 88-11 Roosevelt Ave, Jhs. Hgts. (New - Full Liq.)

Tabled until March Full Board Meeting.

Café 593 Corp. - 37-64 103rd Street, Corona (New - Tavern Wine)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Co-Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for an on-premise Tavern Wine license with the provision that the hours of operation will be 8am to 10pm daily, there will be food service at all times and background music only. The stipulation was signed.

Motion # 20 - Café 593 Corp. - 37-64 103rd Street, Corona (New - Tavern Wine)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Ed Westley, to **approve** the application was passed with 35 in Favor, 1 Opposed and 0 Abstention.

107 Dominica Corp. - 107-07 37th Ave, Corona (New - Wine/Beer/Cider)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Co-Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for an on-premise Wine, Beer & Cider license for this applicant.

Motion # 21 - 107 Dominica Corp. - 107-07 37th Ave, Corona (New - Wine/Beer/Cider)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Kevin Hughes-Noboa, to approve the application was passed with 35 in Favor, 1 Opposed and 0 Abstention.

Moon Cheese Pizzeria Inc. - 88-11 31st Avenue, E. Elmhurst (New - Wine/Beer/Cider)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Co-Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for an on-premise Wine, Beer & Cider license for this applicant provided that a stipulation has been signed stating the hours of operation will be 11am to 12 midnight from Monday To Thursday, & 11am – 2am from Friday To Sunday, alcohol service will end one hour prior to closing Friday To Sunday, & there will be food service at all times. The stipulation was signed.

Motion # 22 - Moon Cheese Pizzeria Inc. - 88-11 31st Avenue, E. Elmhurst (New - Wine/Beer/Cider)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Andre Maloy, to approve the application with stipulation was passed with 32 in Favor, 4 Opposed and 0 Abstention.

Homemade Taqueria VIII LLC - 75-03 Roosevelt Avenue, Jhs. Hgts. (New - Full Liq.)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Co-Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for an on-premise Full Liquor license for this applicant.

March 16, 2023, Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

Motion # 23 - Homemade Taqueria VIII LLC - 75-03 Roosevelt Avenue, Jhs. Hgts.

(New - Full Liq.)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Tammy Rose, to approve the application was passed with 33 in Favor, 3 Opposed and 0 Abstention.

Diwan's Restaurant Inc. dba Jackson Diner - 37-40 74th Street, Jhs. Hgts. (New - Full Liq.)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Co-Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for an on-premise Full Liquor license for this applicant.

Motion # 24 - Diwan's Restaurant Inc. dba Jackson Diner - 37-40 74th Street, Jhs. Hgts.

(New - Full Liq.)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Ed Westley, to approve the application was passed with 34 in Favor, 2 Opposed and 0 Abstention.

Chairperson's Report

Chairman Frank Taylor announced that NYS Governor Kathy Hochul has abandoned plans to build a light-rail link to La Guardia. He thanked Gov. Hochul, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, NYS Senator Jessica Ramos, District Leader Hiram Monserrate, DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez and senior faith adviser at the Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnership Fernando Cabrera for supporting the community.

Mr. Taylor announced that Shelly Brevda will be the first resident Traffic Transportation Committee Member.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Giovanna Reid reported that Board Member Vivian Dock went on a walk-through of the area subway stations that are scheduled to be upgraded. Ms. Dock reported back that the stairs, floor and mezzanine are all in serious need of replacement. On March 17, 2023 the upgrade will start at 111th Street Station. At certain times the 7 train will not stop at that station.

Ms. Reid reported on the Top Ten 311 Complaints for Community Board 3. The Top three on the list were blocked driveways, blocked hydrants and noise complaints.

Ms. Reid announced that March is Women's History Month and acknowledged Board Member Vivian Dock for her 35 years of service on the Community Board.

Motion # 16 - Adoption of the February 16, 2023 Monthly Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Frank Taylor, seconded by Ed Westley, to adopt the February 16, 2023 Minutes, was passed, unanimously.

Committee Reports

Health and Social Services Committee

Vivian Dock, Health and Social Services Committee Co-Chair, reported that the Health and Social Services Committee meeting originally scheduled for March 14th has been rescheduled for March 22, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Laverne Nimmons and seconded by Ed Westley, to send a letter of support for signage modifications at Flushing Meadows Corona Park, was passed unanimously by a show of hands.

Kevin Hughes-Noboa, Co-Chair of Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that he attended a meeting held by Flushing Meadows Corona Park. The Guardians of Flushing Bay made a presentation about the history and a briefing on various environmental concerns specifically on the sewage in the bay. They discussed the role of floodplains in alleviating floods into people's homes. The Guardians of Flushing Bay and the Park Association are working on resiliency planning process regarding underwater Waterway.

March 16, 2023, Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

Mr. Hughes-Noboa said that there was discussion of Willets Point becoming a district for affordable housing and Flushing Waterfront District being a Downtown City District with more luxury housing. There wasn't a lot of details regarding the upcoming Casino project. The Guardians of Flushing Bay will be presenting the Casino project at an upcoming Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting.

Housing Committee

Dorothy Phelan, Co-Chair of the Housing Committee, reported that on March 22, 2023 there will be a committee meeting. Sam Rabiya, Journalist for *The City*, will speak about the status of rent stabilized housing and decline in number of apartments.

Legislator's Report

Queens Borough Presidents Office

A representative for the Queens Borough President's Office announced that there is a Period Product Drive from March 1st through 31st. Items can be dropped at the lobby at Queens Borough Hall.

There is a virtual Parent's Advisory Board Meeting on March 20th from 6:00pm – 8:00pm.

On March 21st from 6:00pm – 8:00pm there is a Women's Health Fair and Resource Fair with a panel discussion.

On March 30th there is an E-Commerce Business webinar from 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Office

A representative for Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez announced that there will be a student services fair at the Renaissance High School in the Bronx. It will give students a chance to find out about resources available to them.

Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez hearings can be viewed on social media. She spoke on the use of facial recognition technology which has been shown to be racially discriminatory.

The IRS has hired 4000 new staff members to improve taxpayer's services.

The office is looking to hire summer interns. Anyone interested contact the office.

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz's Office

Dan Brown, representative for Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, reported that DA Katz, Mayor Eric Adams and NYC Police Commissioner had a press conference to announce the indictment of 23 Crips gang members. They are charged with an 85 count indictment with conspiracy murder, attempted murder, weapons possession and other crimes. The arrest was part of a two-year investigation that began after the death of a young mother who was struck and killed by alleged gang member shooting.

DA Katz is working closely with the NYC Sheriff's Office to shut down illegal cannabis sellers in Queens. Stores and other outlets are selling marijuana illegally. Customers should know that the marijuana being unlawfully sold has not been tested by New York State.

In order to right a wrong following the conviction of a con artist who swindled a veteran and his family out of their home. DA Katz took legal steps to have the property returned to the owner. It was the state's first-ever use of the law State's Criminal Procedure Law 420.45 enacted back in 2019 to protect victims of deed fraud.

Mr. Brown can be reached at: 718-286-6592.

Assembly Member Steven Raga Office

John Bahia, representative for Assembly Member Steven Raga Office, reported that a bill was passed that allows for Federal funds to provide care for eligible residents of adult care facilities who receive hospice and Assisted Living Program services. There was a bill that waives the ability of government agencies in New York to claim copyright protection aside from some exceptions.

March 16, 2023, Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

On March 25, 2023, there will be a *Women in Distinction Award* ceremony for Assembly District 30 at the Queens Public Library in Elmhurst at 2:00pm.

In the coming months, there will be a free rain barrel giveaway and shredding events.

Contact the office at 718-651-3185.

Assembly Member Catalina Cruz Office

Evelin Vazquez, representative for Assembly Member Catalina Cruz Office, announced that the office held a *Homeowners Information Session* with the Department of Finance and a *Customer Service Day* with Con Edison.

On March 18, 2023, they will have their first Jackson Heights Cleanup with the Beautification Group from 10:00am – 12:00pm at 73-01 37th Avenue.

The office is open from Monday – Thursday 10:00am – 6:00pm and Fridays until 2:00pm. Contact the office at: 718-458-5367.

NYC Comptroller Brad Lander's Office

James Mongeluzo, representative for the NYC Comptroller Brad Lander's Office, reported that the office has updated their dashboard on the Department of Corrections that tracks different situations at Rikers Island. The City is far from limiting the incarnation population to just 3,300 people. More information is available on the website.

There is a report on the cost of the Asylum seekers crisis in the City. As of March 2023, there has been \$694 million spent. They expect that the spending will be close to \$4 billion by next fiscal year.

There is a report on the audit of how much the City is spending on car collisions. In the last six years there has been a decrease, but the payouts have been higher. The payouts have been higher because of larger vehicles like SUVs for example like the NYPD. Larger vehicles do more damage.

Congresswoman Grace Meng Office

Jonathon Arias, Congresswoman Grace Meng Office, announced that on March 19, 2023, there is a Passport Event from 9:00am – 3:00pm.

Motion # - To Adjourn

Upon motion duly made by Frank Taylor and seconded by Pat Beckles, to adjourn the meeting, was unanimously passed. Adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Clara Colon