



COMMUNITY BOARD No. 3, Q.
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April 17, 2019

ATTENDANCE

Ann Brown
Elba Buendia
Muquith Choudhury
Haiko Cornelissen
Shiv Dass
Sonya Davis Roberts
Vivian Dock
Margaret Dozier
Renetta English
Vasantrai Gandhi
Ulrick Gedeon
Pastor Peter Herron
Larinda Hooks
Abdur Rahim Howladar
Kevin Hughes-Noboa
Nabaraj Kc
Stephen Kulhanek
Marta Lebreton
Carlos Andres Lopez
Bill Meehan
Richard Mink
Ralph Moreno
Veronica Ng
Laverne Nimmons
Nuala O'Doherty
Philip Papas
Estepan Peralta
Megan Rockwell
Fausto Rodriguez
Jairo Rodriguez
Leoncio Romero
Tammy Rose
Edmund Rosenbaum
David Rosero
Lobsang Salaka
Jimmy Smith
Marlene Tapper
Frank Taylor
Hamlett Wallace
Toi Washington-Simon

ABSENT

Joyce Julian
Edward Kiernan
Lisa Mesulam
Richard Mullings
Ladislav Perez
Dorothy Phelan
Arthur Teiler
Shanel Thomas
Pat Thorpe
Edwin Westley

GUEST

Assy Michael DenDekker
Kathleen Cassino, USTA
Arshiya Ahsan, Chhaya
Yoselin Genao-Estrella, NHS
Maureen Allen, Rep., Assy. DenDekker's
Office
Lisa Atkins, Qns Boro President's Office

Please note: The next Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 7:30pm

April 17, 2019 Community Board 3 Full Board Meeting

Renetta English, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30pm and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken at that time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Grow NYC

On Sundays, Grow NYC has been approved for a full street closure on 79th Street during the Farmer's Market hours of operation.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

NYS Assembly Member Michael DenDekker

NYS Assembly Member Michael DenDekker reported that on Saturday, May 18th there will be a paper shredding event at the Northern Playground.

Saturday, July 27th there will be a paper shredding from 10:00am – 2:00pm and an E-Waste event from 10:00am – 4:00pm at the Jackson Heights Shopping Center.

On April 18th there will be a seminar at Louis Armstrong Middle School from 7:00pm – 8:00pm for those who want to start their own childcare business.

On May 11th there will be a Mammogram event at the Jackson Heights Shopping Center.

Assy DenDekker is collecting old books in order to set them up on tables around the District so that anyone can pick up a book to read. He said, "We are going to be like a Public Library in your corner." Assy DenDekker's office is accepting books at the office. The office can make arrangements for pickup if in close proximity.

Assy DenDekker spoke about the Budget:

- Money received from the Budget for Education
- Cash Bail Reform passed
- Congestion Pricing was passed

Assy DenDekker noted that just because Congestion Pricing is going to go into effect, it does not mean the buses and trains are going to run on time. Assy DenDekker pushed for half of the Congestion Pricing money to go toward operating expenses so they can hire more bus drivers and get more buses running. But, the money from Congestion Pricing is going to be used for the 2024 Capital improvement.

Assy DenDekker said he wants to propose a bill to put a 3 cent tax on beer, 2 cent tax on a glass of wine and 10 cent tax on a shot of liquor. He said that would raise \$260 million. He is also advocating for changing the street lighting system for pedestrian safety.

Board Member Tammy Rose asked what is going to be done to protect residents of the area while the MTA removes lead paint from Roosevelt Ave overhead 7 train station.

Assy DenDekker said he will check with MTA to see what they are doing to protect residents.

Board Member Marlene Tapper asked if the MTA is taking away Q49 and Q33 buses.

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Assy DenDekker said he does not know but the MTA is going to have workshops in the future that may answer questions and concerns.

USTA – Overview of 2018

Kathleen Cassino, Manager, Community Relations & Special Events for USTA, presented an overview of 2018 PowerPoint:

- Spring/summer quarterly Newsletters coming soon
- Special meetings with the community held throughout the year
- ACES/PACES Program – Gives children the opportunity to experience the game of tennis through education and exposure
- On April 26th Community Board Members can RSVP to have a tour of USTA and experience a tennis lesson on the new Louis Armstrong Stadium
- Balls person's tryout – 100 out of 288 were Queens residents
- Job Fair coming soon in July
- 2019 Anthem Singer Tryouts is online. Go to USOpen.org to submit audition video
- USTA on social media
- List of Queens hotels that visitors stay
- Kelly Clarkson performed at opening night ceremony
- New Louis Armstrong Stadium ribbon cutting on Queens Day
- Queens Day 2019 – USTA looking for local performance
- Queens Kiosk provides information on Queens for visitors
- Arthur Ashe Kid's Day – Free tickets given to recommended organizations
- ACEing Autism during the year
- Community Service – Earth Day, Park Cleanups and other events
- Say Yes to Tennis, No to Violence – Partnered with District Attorney for kids from Far Rockaways
- Kew Gardens Job Fair – USTA available to table at Job Fairs.
- Saturday, October 26th is Light the Night Walk for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- Volunteer – City Harvest, NY Cares, Coat Drives
- USTA visited Elmcot Senior Center
- USTA participated at the Leon Von Holden Memorial Health Fair in 2018 and will again on Saturday, June 8, 2019

Board Member Nuala O'Doherty asked if USTA can help fund some of the cleanup in the park.

Ms. Cassino said that USTA does contribute funding parks.

Board Member Tammy Rose asked if they thought of giving back more to the schools like for graduation.

Ms. Cassino said that they are willing to talk more about graduation but there are a lot of factors.

District Manager Giovanna Reid asked if the USTA has done comparisons of the services of the local businesses.

Ms. Cassino said to let her know of the businesses and she will look into it.

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Chhaya – Commercial District Needs Assessment

Arshiya Ahsan, Small Business Program Manager, reported on Chhaya's Commercial District Needs Assessment. Chhaya is a HUD approved community based non-profit organization. They provide programs that focus on immigrants and underserved communities. A survey was conducted from merchants and consumers from 72nd to 82nd Streets in Jackson Heights. The surveys indicated that merchants and consumers were most worried about rent. Half of the merchants lived in the Jackson Heights area. In February 2019, out of the 1000 store fronts surveyed, 48% were vacated. More store fronts have closed since.

Ms. Ahsan said they learned from the survey that the merchants would like to see more community homes and community events. The consumers wanted more punctual buses, increase in sanitation pickups, pedestrian only areas and more festivals.

Ms. Ahsan concluded, that the data will help Chhaya develop more programming and community engagement. The final report will be concluded in the fall.

Neighborhood Housing Services

Yoselin Genao-Estrella, Executive Director of Neighbor Housing Services, announced that on October 5, 2019 there will be a Spruce Up event in East Elmhurst. NHS is looking for 15 homes in the East Elmhurst area that is in need of repair. NHS is looking for candidates that fall into the categories of low-to-moderate income, seniors and veterans for the Spruce Up event. The goal is to help residents stay in their neighborhoods. Ms. Genao-Estrella said that volunteering at last year's Spruce Up event was a very rewarding experience. "It's not about helping one homeowner. It's about continuing to rebuild our community." Volunteers and sponsors are needed for the Spruce Up.

Miriam Martin, Program Director Homeowner Services, announced that on May 8th there will be an Estate Planning seminar for owners in risk of losing their home that has been in the family for more than 60 years. NHS offers many programs for homeowners who are seniors or low income. Contact: 718-457-1017 Ext:05

To sign up to volunteer for Spruce Up call: 718-457-1017 Ext: 4 or email: info@nhsofqueens.org

(Bus. Eco. Develop. –Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair)

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

Restaurant De La Mora - 84-19 Northern Blvd., Jackson Heights

(Method of Operation Change)

Chair Edmund Rosenbaum, reported that the applicant is seeking a Method of Operation Change. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Restaurant De La Mora.

The representative spoke for the owner who was present. He said the owner is asking for the hours to be extended until 4:00am. The menu is not changing. There is music but no dancing. A DJ is going to be added. There is security at the premises.

Board Member Jairo Rodriguez asked why not add dancing while applying for Method of Operation Change.

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Board Member Bill Meehan asked if the committee had no dancing added in the Stipulation.

The representative said that the restaurant is too small to have dancing.

(Land Use – Hamlet Wallace, Chair)

BSA#: 316-73BZ – 31-02 68th Street

Hamlett Wallace, Land Use Chair, reported that the owner of the property at 31-02 68th Street is seeking a variance for an additional 10 years.

Hiram Rothkrug, representative, said that location has been in existence for 40 years. They have to reapply every 10 years for a variance. There will be no changes made and continue to operate 24/7.

Board Member Ralph Moreno asked if they have a Coffee shop.

Mr. Rothkrug said the location is too small for a Coffee shop.

Board Member David Rosero suggested that the owner think about beautifying around the Gasoline Service Station and provide handicap service.

Mr. Rothkrug responded that there are planters at the location for beautification. He said that unfortunately the location is too small for handicap service.

BSA#: 2019-22 BZ – 24-47 95th Street

Hamlett Wallace, Land Use Chair, reported that the owner of the property is looking to build a two story one-family semi-attached building at the north side of the yard.

Frank Noriega, representative, said in 2011 a variance was approved by the BSA for the same building. The applicant had to come back because the zoning was changed to R3X.

Board Member Marta Lebreton said that they should make sure to do pest control before, during and after construction.

Board Member Muquith Choudhury asked if they were going to build a frame house or brick house.

The representative said it will be a frame house.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Renetta English, Chair, opened the Executive Session with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion # 27 - Adoption of the Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Renetta English, seconded by Kevin Hughes, to adopt the agenda, was passed unanimously.

Motions By Committees:

(Bus. Eco. Develop. –Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair)

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

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Restaurant De La Mora - 84-19 Northern Blvd., Jackson Heights

(Method of Operation Change)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economics, reported that the committee recommends approval of an application for a Method of Operation change for an on-premise Full Liquor license for this applicant provided that a stipulation has been signed. Mr. Rosenbaum said the stipulation was received.

Motion # 28 - Restaurant De La Mora - 84-19 Northern Blvd., Jackson Heights

(Method of Operation Change)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Jimmy Smith, to approve the application, was passed by 38 in Favor, 2 Opposed and 2 Abstentions

(Land Use - Hamlet Wallace, Chair)

BSA#: 316-73BZ - 31-02 68th Street

Hamlett Wallace, Land Use Chair, reported that in the matter of an application regarding, 31-02 68th Street, Jackson Heights, New York, 31-02 68th Realty Corporation – Owner of Record, is seeking extending terms of an existing variance in a R4 Zoning District, Use Group 16b for the operation of an Gasoline Service Station on the southwest corner of 68th Street and 31st Avenue.

The Owner is requesting an application for: Extension of the term of the variance for an additional period of ten (10) years - (Current Expiration Date: January 8th, 2019).

Resolution:

The Land Use Committee after review of this matter recommends the application for the extension of a variance for an additional 10 years be approved.

Motion # 29 - BSA#: 316-73BZ - 31-02 68th Street

Upon Motion duly made by Hamlett Wallace, seconded by Frank Taylor, to approve the application, was passed unanimously.

BSA#: 2019-22 BZ - 24-47 95th Street

Hamlett Wallace, Land Use Chair, reported that in the matter of an application regarding, 24-47 95th Street, East Elmhurst, New York, Savitat Ramchandani – owner, is seeking a variance under BSA Cal. No. 2019-22 BZ, [BSA Cal. No 147-11-BZ(the “Prior Grant”)] to permit the construction of a single-family, semi-detached residence in a R3X zoning district, contrary to ZR Section 22-12(a)(1).

Including:

1. Permit the proposed FAR to exceed maximum allowable
2. Permit the maximum floor area to exceed 923 sf (Proposed 1236 sf)
3. Permit 0 ft. north side yard and a 5 foot south side yard
4. Removal of accessory onsite parking requirement

Resolution:

The Land Use Committee after review of this matter recommends the application for the construction of a single-family, semi-detached residence in a R3X zoning district be approved.

Provisos:

1. The family dwelling’s front yard may not be paved over to prohibit open green space

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2. Provide pest control prior and after construction.

Board Member Sonya Roberts Davis asked if the owner agreed to the pest control.

Mr. Wallace said yes, the owner agreed to it tonight.

Motion # 30 - BSA#: 2019-22 BZ - 24-47 95th Street

Upon motion duly made by Hamlett Wallace, seconded by Fausto Rodriguez, to approve the application, was passed by 38 in Favor, 0 Opposed and 1 Abstention.

Chairperson's Report

Renetta English welcomed the new Board Members; Muquith Choudhury, Haiko Cornelissen, Urlick Gedeon, Abdur Rahim Howlader, Megan Rockwell and Tammy Rose. Ms. English said she looks forward to seeing them participating in committees and at the monthly Full Board Meeting.

Ms. English said that Community Board 3 was proud to be one of the co-sponsors of the Jackson Heights/East Elmhurst NYC Comptroller Town Meeting held on April 17, 2019.

On May 1, 2019 from 10:00am – 3:00pm there will be a Census 2020 Job Fair at Queens Borough Hall. There will be 4 offices opening in Queens with jobs paying \$25 an hour.

Ms. English told all Board Members to make sure they put in an order for Community Board 3 Jackets. The \$5 donation goes into the Sunshine Fund.

On June 24th all Board Members are invited to a special meeting at Bruno's on the Boulevard at 6:30pm.

Ms. English said to all the Board Members, "A reminder at all meetings to be respectful of our fellow Board Members and anyone we interact with, regardless of race, culture, gender, faith or sexuality. You represent the City of New York and Queens Community Board 3."

District Manager's Report

District Manager Giovanna Reid welcomed all the new Board Members. On Monday, May 13th there will be an orientation for the new Board Members at the Community Board 3 office at 7:30pm. She suggested that the Board Members attend all of the committee meetings to get a sense of what is happening in the community. They will also see what each committee does. Ms. Reid told the Board Members to expect a number of emails about issues that are affecting Community Board 3. "Be prepared to roll up your sleeves. This is an active Board."

Motion # 31 -Adoption of the March 21, 2019 Monthly Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Renetta English, seconded by Kevin Hughes to adopt the March 21, 2019 Minutes, was passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Airport Committee

Bill Meehan, Co-Chair of Airport Committee, reported that on April 16th there was a round table discussion with Port Authority that was attended by Ann Brown, Board

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Members and community leaders. The discussion centered on a layout of a timeline of the Environment Impact Study. The timeline will begin scoping various alternatives. There is a value system they use to see which of those will actually be considered. Mr. Meehan said that they listed a possibility of a train from Astoria to the Airport. Ferry services and Express Buses were also discussed.

At the meeting there were concerns about more overcrowding on the 7 train when travelers bring their luggage. Mr. Meehan said that there has to be discussions about Union jobs and salaries that enables people to be able to support themselves.

He said it is a two-year process and nothing will be determined until the end of 2020. He encouraged everyone to continue resistance and conversations to get things done. There will be a chance for public input at a future Public Hearing.

Ann Brown, Co-Chair of Airport Committee, reported that there was a lot of concern from neighbors and community leaders. She noted that Larinda Hooks, President of the East Elmhurst-Corona Civic Association expressed her concerns. As well as Frank Taylor, President of the Ditmars Boulevard Block Association, was also vocal at the meeting. Ms. Brown encouraged everyone to attend the meetings and be vocal about what they believe in.

Board Member Nuala O'Doherty asked who is going to provide the transportation options.

Mr. Meehan said what was heard was new and yet to be discussed.

Board Member Frank Taylor said there is going to be a website with information.

Mr. Meehan said that he is expecting a PowerPoint from the Port Authority that he will forward to Board Members as well as his Airport Report.

Housing Committee

Renetta English, Chair, stated that Dorothy Phelan, Chair of Housing Committee will have her report next month. On May 14th at 7:30pm, the Housing Committee meeting will meet at the Community Board 3 office. On the agenda: Complete Review of Rent Regulation Renewal Legislation.

Youth Services & Education Committees

Renetta English, Youth Services Committee Chair, reported that Youth Services/Education Committee met on Monday, April 1st at 6:30pm. There were two guest speakers from the Mayor's Office, Saloni Sethi and Alaina Long of The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence. The speakers spoke about Youth and Human Trafficking Forum and shared the many works shops held by The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence.

Also discussed at the meeting, 2019 Community Gift Giving Project and Community Board 3 Projects with schools. In June volunteers from schools will participate in beautification projects along Northern Blvd.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 13th at 6:30pm. The topics: Youth Service – Schools for the Healthy Relations and Human Trafficking. NYPD is invited. The committee will also follow up with community schools.

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Dr. Laverne Nimmons, Education Committee Co-Chair, reported that the Education Committee is looking forward to looking at new schools in Community Board 3 and extending the Bike Share Program to High School and Middle School students. The Committee will also discuss the NYC ID Program and various After School Programs.

Health & Social Services

Vivian Dock, Health & Social Services Chair, stated that on Thursday, April 4th, the third planning meeting was held for the annual “Leon Von Holden Memorial Health Care Expo 2019”, which is to be held on Saturday, June 8th at the Corona Health Center, 34-33 Junction Blvd, Corona, NY 10:00am – 3:00pm.

Health Care Providers/Participants are beginning to respond to our Letters of Invitation to Participate and Needs List sent out by CB3 Office Staff.

Donations are needed for the following:

- Volunteer Times on Day of Event
- Refreshments (breakfast and lunch items)
- Give-a-ways for Board Table
- Raffle Items (gift cards preferred)
- Monetary Donations (to be used where needed on the above)

A Volunteer-Assignments and Donations form is being distributed to all Board Members, Office Staff, Co-Sponsors, Community Residents and Youth Volunteers.

Entertainers are invited to participate. Refer them to CB3Q office.

The mass flyer distribution will be in May.

Other Community Board (3) Members, Community Residents and Youth Volunteers are invited to come and join-in on planning this event.

The next (2) meetings are scheduled for May 2nd and May 23rd, at 6:30pm at the Board Office.

Borough President’s Report

Lisa Atkins, representative for Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, reported that on April 30th at 5:00pm there will be the annual training for new and reappointing Board Members. The training will take place at the Helen Marshall Culture Center located at Queens Borough Hall. Ms. Atkins encouraged the new Board Members to visit each committee. “It’s the life and blood of our Community Boards. They help to keep us moving and on point. You learn, you grow, and you really become engaged in your community.”

Legislators’ Report

Council Member Daniel Dromm Office

Carolyn Tran, representative for Council Member Daniel Dromm Office, reported that on April 20th “Songkran” event will be celebrated on Woodside Avenue between 75th and 77th Street between 12:00pm and 6:00pm.

On May 4th there will be a rain barrel event. Call the CM Dromm’s office to RSVP.

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On April 29th at 1:00pm there will be a “Motown on the Plaza” event at Diversity Plaza.

On April 29th at 1:00pm the Finance Committee is having a Public Hearing on parking issues at City Hall. One of the bills being introduced is CM Dromm’s bill requiring the Department of Finance to report on the parking violations Bureau.

Assemblyman Michael DenDekker Office

Maureen Allen, Chief of Staff for Assy DenDekker, welcomed the new Board Members and said, “Everyone benefits from Community Boards. You’ll have fun and do lots of good things that is great for the community.” Ms. Allen announced that after 43 years she is retiring. She will still be active in the community and thanked all the Board Members for their service.

Motion # 32 - To Adjourn

Upon motion duly made by Renetta English and seconded by Kevin Hughes to adjourn the meeting, was passed unanimously. Adjourned at 10:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Clara Colon

Reviewed and Edited by
Kevin Hughes-Noboa, Board Secretary