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April 15, 2021

ATTENDANCE

Kham Bhatta
Ann Brown
Elba Buendia
Mark Buhrmester
Vicky Chan
Muquith Choudhury
Haiko Cornelissen
Shiv Dass
Sonya Davis Roberts
Michael De Valera
Vivian Dock
Margaret Dozier
Renetta English
Ulrick Gedeon
Pastor Peter Herron
Larinda Hooks
Kevin Hughes-Noboa
Edward Kiernan
Stephen Kulhanek
Marta Lebreton
Lisa Mesulam
Richard Mullings
Marco Munoz
Veronica Ng
Laverne Nimmons
Nuala O'Doherty
Dorothy Phelan
Fausto Rodriguez
Tammy Rose
Edmund Rosenbaum
David Rosero
Lobsang Salaka
Dawn Siff
Jimmy Smith
Fahad Solaiman
Marlene Tapper
Frank Taylor
Arthur Teiler
Shanel Thomas-Henry
Hamlett Wallace
Toi Washington-Simon
Edwin Westley

ABSENT

Vasantrai Gandhi
Abdur Rahim Howlader
Joyce Julian
Ralph Moreno
Ladislava Perez
Megan Rockwell
Jairo Rodriguez
Leoncio Romero

Guest

NY Sen. Jessica Ramos
CM Daniel Dromm
Madelene Chan, Dist. 24 Superintendent
Maroua Righi, CCRB
FDNY
Victor Lee, Rep., Metro Plus Health
NYC Parks Department
Jessica Schabowski, Rep., Mayor's Office
Max Weprin, Rep., Qns Boro Pres Office
Michele Hernandez, Rep., Congresswoman
Ocasio-Cortez
Mary Jobaida Rep., NYS Sen. Ramos
James Mongeluzo, Rep., NYC Comptroller
TaQuoia Jones, Rep., CM Moya's Office
Qibin Ye Rep., CM Dromm's Office
Lili Pioche, Rep., Assy Aubry's Office

Please Note: The next Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Teleconference.

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

PUBLIC INFORMATION

State Senator Jessica Ramos

New York State Senator Jessica Ramos reported on some of the \$212 billion dollar budget highlights:

- \$2.4 billion for rental assistance program
- A bill to fund excluded workers
- \$1.4 billion for public schools
- Property tax rebate
- \$1 billion for small businesses
- Community violence intervention act

Sen. Ramos reported that on April 6th there was an AirTrain Town Hall Meeting that was attended by Board Members Frank Taylor, Elba Buendia and Nuala O'Doherty and that in a couple of days, the FAA should issue the final Environment Impact Study. Sen. Ramos said they have been doing everything possible to be heard and if anyone wants to get involve, they should contact her office.

DOT will install bike corrals at P.S. 398, Travers Park, St. Marks Church and maybe P.S. 149. Sen. Ramos said to stay on the lookout for DOT workshop participation regarding Open Streets on 34th Avenue. She will also be attending a DOT briefing regarding improvements on Northern Blvd.

Sen. Ramos said that her office has stayed in touch with the Red Cross, HPD (Housing Preservation & Development) and DCR (Design & Construction Resources) to make sure the residents of the 89th Street fire can maintain their tenancy in the building. She said, with support from Assemblywoman Jessica González-Rojas, Council Member Daniel Dromm, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, they are trying to work on getting an extension for temporary stay at the hotels for the displaced families.

Board Member Nuala O'Doherty asked if there is money in any of the bills for families to apply for rent assistance and excluded worker programs – especially if they are undocumented.

Sen. Ramos said that there is money although with the excluded worker program there is a lot of work to do. The Department of Labor will work with local community organizations to help the people. The Senator's office will also be able to assist. She advised everyone to listen to the news for updates.

Margaret Flanagan, resident, asked what agency is responsible for the highway along the interstate.

Sen. Ramos said that the DOT is responsible. Her office recently did a cleanup with DOT and volunteers along that area.

Board Member Dawn Siff asked about new legislation regarding street vendors. She expressed concern about the vendors being hassled.

Sen. Ramos said there is no new legislations, but the City Council passed a bill to lift the number of street vendor permits. She pointed out that street vendors do get inspected by DOH (Department of Housing) regularly.

District 24 Superintendent – Madelene Chan

Madelene Chan, District 24 Superintendent, reported that she is in charge of 39 schools from Pre-K to 8th grade, which has 44,000 children. She said that District 24 is the largest District in the City.

Supt. Chan gave a PowerPoint presentation on the new middle school that is going to open in September 2022:

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District 24 Mission Statement:

“Team 24’s mission is anchored in an individualized approach to meeting the needs of all District 24 stakeholders. We pride ourselves in the fidelity of work, supporting all for the good of the students and the high expectations we set forth for ourselves and on another.”

In light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic, District 24 will be emphasizing student and parent support through culturally responsive education. This is to ensure that all stakeholders have a voice and feel empowered through engagement as well as in their individual and group learning settings.

District 24 Community Education Council (CEC):

- Monthly Community Education Meetings
- <http://www.facebook.com/CEC24>
- Cec24@schools.nyc.gov e-mail
- The next CEC 24 Meeting will be held on April 20th. The new middle school will be discussed at that meeting. For the meeting link, please contact Janet Kregler at jkregler@schools.nyc.gov

What Percentage of Students are Learning through Blended Learning Compared to Students Learning Remotely?

- K-8 - 49% Blended and 51% Remote
- High School – 37% Blended and 63% Remote

New Middle School (Q419):

- Q419 is a new Middle School in District 21
- The school is projected to open in September 2022
 - The opening date was extended one year due to COVID
- Building Q419 is located at 111-10 Astoria Blvd.
- The building will have a capacity of approximately 646 seats, including 96 seats for District 75 students
 - Approximately six classes in a grade
- The school was built and designed to alleviate the overcrowding in nearby Middle Schools (Q061, Q311, Q005, Q073)

Q419 – Rooms:

- Play yard in the rear of the building with two half basketball courts
- Exercise Room
- Science Lab
- Music Room
- Art Rooms
- Gymnasium
- Cafeteria
- Library

The Naming of Q419:

- Chancellor’s Regulation A-860 governs the process for naming buildings
- Typically, the school community, SLT and students collaborate on the naming of a building
- The principals and SLT will then work with the CEC and District Office to submit the name for approval to the Chancellors Office

James Leahy, Operation Liaison, continued with the presentation.

Q419 Enrollment, Zoning & Rezoning:

- Rezoning is a collaborative process where the geographic areas of zones are changed and/or new zones are created, as governed by Chancellor’s Regulation A-185
- The CEC votes on zoning proposals for their respective Community School District
- The Office of District Planning (ODP) and the superintendent develop zoning/rezoning plans in partnership with the CEC and impacted school communities

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- Q419 is currently un-zoned and the CEC is looking at all available options
- Parent outreach has already started with School Leadership Team meetings at Nearby overcrowded middle schools Q061, Q005, Q073, Q311

Rezoning is an important lever for improving educational access and learning conditions:

- Improve educational access
- Increase access to high quality schools
- Increase diversity and integration in or around zones
- Improve learning conditions
- Alleviate overcrowding
- Reduce waitlists and capping
- Reduce overutilization
- Balance utilization across buildings

Seat Need and Overcrowding in the Area:

- There are four middle schools within three miles of building Q419 that are either overcrowded or close to full capacity. Three of the four middle schools are over 100% utilized; I.S. 5, I.S. 61 and I.S. 73 and the fourth one I.S. 311 is 94% utilized
- One way to address the overcrowding in these schools is to create a zone for the new middle school and to draw new, slightly smaller zones for these four schools through a rezoning
- Therefore, the DOE would like to consider a potential rezoning for the new middle school in partnership with the CEC, school communities and broader D24 community

Q419 Parent Outreach and Transportation:

- District 24 will reach out to parents of elementary students starting in September 2021 to align with the Middle School application process for school starting in 2022
- Bussing and transportation is based on individual needs of the students: IEP driven, Students in Temporary Housing (STH) or distance

Mr. Leahy said that when it comes to bussing, it will be student-dependent and has to do a lot with how the CEC votes whether or not the school should have a zone or be open enrollment. If it is a zone school, there won't be a need for a lot of bussing because the students will live within a half-mile radius and can walk to school. Depending on grade level and distance, some students will either travel by school bus or get a MetroCard.

Q419 Traffic and Safety:

- When a new school is constructed the NYCDOE works with NYPD, NYCDOT, FDNY and OPT to collaborate on plans
- Precautions and signage will be discussed with all stakeholders prior to the school opening
- The District Office frequently works with DOT and we have an excellent relationship with the stakeholders
- If needed, bus parking will also be allocated

Q419 Branding and Partners:

- District 24 partners with numerous CBOs and community organizations
- As of now, Q419 will partner with The of Science & Queens College
- The principal will collaborate with students, staff and families to develop a theme/area of concentration for the school

Mr. Leahy said regarding branding, someone has to submit an application to the Office of New Schools asking to start a new school. Since it was a new building there was no application.

Supt. Chan added that there are two reasons why new buildings are built. One is because a leader wants to propose a building and has a theme in mind or to alleviate overcrowding.

Diversity in D24 Schools (Students & Staff):

- Diversity of all groups is a priority in District 24 and we will adhere to the Chancellor's core values in order to create a diverse population for this new middle school

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- The hiring of staff will be overseen by the new principal along with a committee of various stakeholders at the school level

The health and safety of students and staff is a primary concern:

- District 24 schools have adhered to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Department of Health (DOH) and NYCDOE guidelines to ensure the safety of all
- We will continue to implement all safety measures and modify our plans as new guidance is released

In order to support COVID-19 Learning Loss, District 24 schools have taken the following steps:

- Trained staff on distance learning and virtual small group instruction
- Conducted ongoing formative assessments
- Provided small group afterschool programs virtually and in person

District 24 will continue to address the social and emotional needs of students in the following ways:

- Student Check-ins, Counselor & Teacher Office hours, student clubs and afterschool activities, mentoring programs, Fun Fridays, Advisories...
- Ongoing parent workshops on Mindfulness and Wellness, Social/Emotional Learning (SEL), Culturally Responsive Instructions aligned to students individual needs
- Turn On Your Camera initiative, SEL Lunch, NYS SEL Benchmarks training

Supt. Chan pointed out that the District Leadership Team which is made up of parents, staff and administrators created a survey to determine if they are meeting the mark for social/emotional learning support. The survey was given out to parents and students. The reviews were positive.

Supt. Chan introduced part of her team that were present:

- Lourdes Pena, Administrative Assistant
- Eleanor McNamee, Family Leadership Coordinator
- Susana Santacruz, Family Support Coordinator

She said they are a small staff but a mighty staff.

Supt. Chan can be contacted at 718-592-3357 or MChan2@schools.nyc.gov. Website: csd24.com

Board Member Nuala O'Doherty asked how the students will be safe when the school is at the entrance of a highway.

Supt. Chan said that they discuss safety every day and they will continue to have many sit-downs with school construction.

Mr. Leahy added that they are in communication with school Safety Officers, DOT and talked to NYPD about getting School Crossing Guards. He added that the back school yard could play a role.

Board Member Ed Westley asked how many students they anticipate going to the school that live north of Astoria Blvd.

Mr. Leahy said that they will know where the students are coming from when the CEC decides on zoning.

Mr. Westley asked if the back school yard could be opened to the public when school is not in session.

Mr. Leahy said he would have to ask the Director of Facilities and School Construction Authority if it has been designated as an open school yard.

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Board Member Dawn Siff asked what is being done for students that were affected by the 89th Street fire.

Supt. Chan said that there were three children in the area affected and were given tablets to continue remote learning.

Mr. Leahy said that they have been in constant communication with the parents. The students were also given new books and materials for school.

CCRB – Outreach Coordinator – Maroua Righi

Maroua Righi, Outreach Coordinator, reported that the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) is the nation's largest independent oversight entity of the largest police force in the country. The CCRB investigates, mediates and prosecutes complaints of misconduct against members of the NYPD. The CCRB is staffed entirely with civilian employees who are primarily investigators and attorneys.

She said that they are governed by a 15-member board. The members are selected by the Office of the Mayor, New York City Council, NYPD Police Commissioner, NYC Public Advocate's Office and Joint Mayor/City Council.

The NYPD has strict rules by which Officers carry out the duties of their job. These rules are outlined in the NYPD's *Patrol Guide*. The NYPD *Patrol Guide* is used when the CCRB conducts an investigation.

Ms. Righi gave a presentation about the NYC Civilian Complaint Review:

There are four types of allegations within the CCRB's Jurisdiction:

- Force – Excessive or unnecessary use of physical force, including with a baton or Taser:
 - Punch, kick, slap, push or grab
 - Impact weapons like nightstick, pepper spray and Taser
 - Use of a firearm
- Abuse of Authority – Misrepresenting power or influence to gain compliance:
 - Stops, questions and frisks of persons & stops of vehicles
 - Searches of persons vehicles and residencies without sufficient cause
 - Improper entry
 - Refusal to provide name and shield number
 - Threatening to call ICE
 - Forcible removal to a hospital
- Discourtesy – Speaking, gesturing or behaving rudely:
 - Foul language
 - Use of profanity
 - Discourteous conduct
 - Discourteous gestures or actions
- Offensive Language:
 - Racial and religious slurs
 - Language that inappropriately refers to race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability

4 Facts about the Right to Know Act:

- Changes in local law may affect your interactions with New York City Police Department Officers. As of October 19, 2018, during certain frisks, searches, at sobriety checkpoints and other encounters, Officers should:
 - Identify themselves by providing their name and other information such as their rank, command and shield number
 - With some exceptions, explain the purpose of the interaction
 - Inform you of your right to say “no” when asking for your consent to search your person, property, vehicle or home
 - Offer a business card with the Officer's information that explains how to comment or complain about an interaction with the NYPD. Civilians may request a business card in all interactions

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Ms. Righi said that if someone is stopped by a Police Officer and English is not their first language or are deaf, the Officer should provide Language Access Services.

The CCRB is now able to investigate complaints of police misconduct that are submitted by any party who witnesses the encounter from a social media post or on a news media broadcast. The complainant no longer needs to be a relative of the victim or a witness that was at the scene of the occurrence.

The intake unit receive the initial complaint, review it and determine whether the allegation is in the jurisdiction. CCRB investigators follow-up on the information provided to them by the intake unit. Officers must cooperate with the investigation and give a sworn statement. Mediation might be offered so that the complainant and officer can discuss the incident with a trained mediator. Civilians report a high level of satisfaction with mediation.

Outcomes of Investigation:

- Substantiated – Misconduct occurred
- Unsubstantiated – Unclear if misconduct occurred
- Unfounded – Incident did not happen
- Exonerated – Conduct occurred and was lawful

If anyone feels their encounter with an NYPD Officer did not follow the guidelines, file a complaint with the CCRB: nyc.gov/ccrbcomplaint or call 1-800-341-2272

Board Member Ed Westley asked what the number of monthly complaints are and how many staff members work on the complaints.

Ms. Righi said it varies by month. She said there are annual reports on the CCRB website, and that there are hundreds of investigators working on different cases.

Carolyn Tran, resident, asked what authority the CCRB has to ensure that the recommendation is implemented.

Ms. Righi said the recommendation is made to the Police Commissioner. It is up to the Police Commissioner to implement it or not.

Board Member Sonya Davis-Roberts asked if numerous substantiated complaints affect an officer's promotion opportunities.

Ms. Righi said it is up to the Precinct Commanding Officer.

Metro Plus Health

Victor Lee, Queens Director for Metro Plus Health, announced that there are financial counselors on the Gotham Health staff who will assist people with signing up for NYC Care as well as other insurances. NYC Care is a health care access program that guarantees no-cost and low-cost services to New Yorkers who do not qualify for or cannot afford health insurance.

FDNY

FDNY representatives reported on the April 6th fire at 89th Street. Units were able to get to the fire in less than 3 minutes. Unfortunately, the occupant left their apartment door open when exiting the unit, which had a tremendous effect on the spread of the fire followed by a delay in calling 911. The Red Cross is still helping tenants with housing and other needs. The FDNY representative said that Community Board 3 has also been doing a good job in giving support to the residents.

The FDNY warns that most common fires are:

- Kitchen fires (i.e., leaving food unattended while cooking)
- Electrical fires
- Smoking

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“Sound the Alarm” is in partnership with the Red Cross to provide and install smoke detectors in everyone’s home that requests it. Requests can be made through the Red Cross. The FDNY will install the alarms. Contact 1-877-RED-CROSS.

FDNY is promoting the “Close the Door” campaign to inform the public that when there is a fire to close the door behind them. That will keep the fire inside. If doors are left open, the flames and smoke can travel quickly.

“Think of the fire as a bad guy chasing you out of your apartment. You want to slow him down. If there is a fire keep closing each door behind you as exiting and call 911 immediately.”

For more information, call 718-281-3870 or email at firesafetyeducation@fdny.nyc.gov

Board Member Dawn Siff asked about tenants from 89th Street retrieving documents from their apartments.

The FDNY representative said that Emergency Management has taken control over the building. OEM has let some of the tenants retrieve property over the weekend.

Kevin Hughes-Noboa, Secretary, asked a question from a resident. The resident wanted to know if “Sound the Alarm” is only for apartments or is it for homeowners as well.

The FDNY representative said that “Sound the Alarm” is for homeowners as well; however they are not for NYCHA residents.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Department of Parks & Recreation – (Marta Lebreton, Chair)

Marta Lebreton, Parks & Recreation Chair, introduced a representative from the Department of Parks to give a presentation on Passerelle Improvement Project.

Parks Department representative said that both of the sites are associated with the AirTrain but the presentation is on the Passerelle and the World’s Fair Marina Relocation. There is an agreement between the City of New York and The Port Authority to protect the City’s interest. The agreement includes Port Authority funding, designing and constructing the World’s Fair Marina operation relocation. Port Authority is designing and reconstructing the Passerelle with City of New York funding.

Prior to the AirTrain project, the City had allocated \$124 million for the Passerelle based on a 2014 structure study. The design goal was to create a functional bridge and replace the wooden boardwalk with concrete because of the shorten lifespan associated with a wooden boardwalk and related maintenance issues. The City began design and then learned about the AirTrain plan to connect from the Long Island Railroad and Willet Points station. They coordinated with the Port Authority to have the Passerelle design and built by them with City funding as part of the overall AirTrain project with Parks, The City and DOT oversight approval. The Passerelle is a historic sight and Parks is focused on retaining or emulating the historic character elements of the Passerelle to the greatest extent possible. The project has been reviewed and requires approval from the New York State Historic Preservation Office. The project is also going through the typical Parks capital review process and must meet City standards.

A presentation was given on both projects:

Goals:

- Reconstruct the Passerelle Overpass in relation to the new AirTrain Guideway/Terminal
- Maintain and/or restore historic World’s Fair elements
- Provide security lighting
- Provide ADA complaint ramps
- Integrate Passerelle with the AirTrain Terminal/LIRR Station

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Exterior Building Masonry Project Goals:

- Provide state of good repair of exterior envelope (roof topping slab and masonry veneer)
- Additional goals to be added upon developed assessment (in progress)
- Evaluate overall conditions and approach to the project
- Evaluate specific masonry areas and extents of work
- Evaluate three exterior stairs
- Evaluate concrete coping / historic railing
- Evaluate pole lighting
- Evaluate wall flag poles

World's Fair Marina Operations Relocation:

The representative for Parks reported that as Parks learned more about the AirTrain, it became evident that the current Marina boat storage area would be limited by the AirTrain guideway. The Marina's operations will be impacted, including use of the boatlift as well as boat storage. Some boats are taller than the guideway clearance. The guideway columns will limit the total boat storage space. The work for the World's Fair Marina Relocation project includes relocating the boat storage, the pier and boat lift. As well as building in a new office for the Marina operations.

Goals:

- Relocate boatyard, boat lift dock and marina offices to accommodate new AirTrain path
- Restore existing boatyard site to functioning parking lot
- Construct marina office building to meet current climate resiliency design guidelines
- Provide safe pedestrian access within the site and adjacent promenade

A resident from East Elmhurst asked if they are waiting for the AirTrain in order to bring the bridge up to code.

The representative for the Parks Department said that the project was going to happen because it was funded in 2014 and will be brought up to code.

Margaret Flanagan, resident, asked about plans for restrooms.

The representative for Parks said that there are no plans for restrooms.

Board Member Vicky Chan asked what will be done to prevent road blockage and how will the historical design be preserved.

The representative for Parks said that the Passerelle will not have any impact on traffic because it's the same thing reconstructed. The Parks Department will be working with New York State Historic Preservation Office for approval.

Board Member Frank Taylor stated that if they change the wooden boardwalk with cement, it will not be historic anymore.

The representative for Parks said that there was a structural study. The requirements for building and maintaining the boardwalk lead to pursuing a concrete structural.

Traffic Transportation - (Steven Kulhanek, Co-Chair, Ed Kiernan, Co-Chair)

Street Co-Naming - Steve Knobel Way - 77th Street from 37th Ave - 37th Road

Ed Kiernan, Co-Chair of Traffic & Transportation, called upon Council Member Daniel Dromm who made the request for this co-naming (and the immediately following co-naming) to the Board.

CM Dromm said Steve Knobel was known as the "Mayor of Jackson Heights" and was the President of the Jackson Heights Jewish Center. Under his leadership, it has become a Community Center that welcomes all faiths and LGBTQ groups to have meetings in the center. Mr. Knobel believed in multicultural diverse community.

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Traffic Transportation – (Steven Kulhanek, Co-Chair, Ed Kiernan, Co-Chair)

Street Co-Naming – Joseph Ricevuto Way - 86th Street from 35th Ave – 37th Ave

Ed Kiernan, Co-Chair of Traffic & Transportation, called upon Council Member Daniel Dromm to continue his recommendation.

Council Member Daniel Dromm said that Community Board 3 should remember Joseph Ricevuto having served as a Board Member for many years. Mr. Ricevuto was a hairdresser and owned a shop on 86th Street and 37th Avenue. He was also a member of the Jackson Heights Beautification Group and ran the Men’s and Women’s Club for seniors.

Following his recommendations for street co-naming, CM Dromm went on to thank the FDNY and all agencies for their response to the 89th Street fire. He expressed his thanks to the Jackson Heights community for coming out and showing support to the families that were affected by the fire. CM Dromm is currently working with Board Member Tammy Rose to get eyeglasses for the residents.

CM Dromm said that HPD, OEM and DOB will be determining when the residents, who have yet to gain access, will be able to get into their apartments to retrieve their property.

CM Dromm also reported that he is working on the budget and that Mayor Bill de Blasio has proposed a \$92.5 billion budget.

CM Dromm announced that on April 20th, there will be a “Virtual Pop-up Court” from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Board Member Lobsang Salaka asked CM Dromm about his plans for after he leaves the City Council.

CM Dromm said that he might go into Education or Criminal Justice.

Margaret Flanagan, resident, asked what agency is responsible for the cleaning on 69th Street under the BQE.

CM Dromm said that the NYS DOT is responsible for that area. He said that his office has been working with the Jackson Heights Beautification Group to put chicken wire behind the fence. CM Dromm also sent ACE workers to that area and is working with Community Board 3 to change the alternate side cleaning day to have an extra Sanitation pickup on Saturdays. CM Dromm said that they have also been in touch with TLC regarding the drivers who leave garbage behind.

Land Use – (Hamlett Wallace, Chair) BSA CAL No. 548-69 BZ – 107-10 Astoria Blvd.

Hamlett Wallace, Land Use Chair, reported that the application is to extend the term for a previously granted variance for the continued operation of a gasoline service station, BP North America, for an additional 10 years. Mr. Wallace called upon the applicant.

The representative for the applicant said that the application has been in front of the BSA since the 1960s. All they are asking is to get a 10-year extension. The gas station will remain the same with minor upgrades that will be reviewed by the FDNY.

Board Member David Rosero said that there should be someone to help seniors and handicap pump gas.

The representative said she will make the suggestion to the owner.

Business Economic Development. – (Edmund Rosenbaum - Chair)

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

Altamira Food Corp. d/b/a Juarez Rest. Bar – 93-13 Roosevelt Ave, Jackson Heights (New - Full Liq.)

Not Present.

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Esquina 96 Inc. d/b/a La Kuchara Ecuá Rest. Bar – 95-07 31st Ave, East Elmhurst (C. Change-Full Liq)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the applicant is seeking a Class Change. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Esquina 96 Inc.

The representative, who spoke for the owner that was present, said that the owner has been in business since March 2016 and is looking for a Class Change.

Tibetan Japanese Rest. – 75-26 37th Ave, Jackson Heights (New – Wine/Beer/Cider)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the applicant is seeking a Wine/Beer/Cider license. Mr. Rosenbaum called upon the owner of Tibetan Japanese Restaurant.

The owner said that the restaurant has been welcomed by the Jackson Heights neighbors and would like to be able to serve alcoholic beverages with meals.

Board Member Mark Buhrmester said he lives across the street and it's a wonderful restaurant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Board Member Mark Buhrmester called for a motion to amend the agenda so that the residents who were affected by 89th Street fire could speak.

Ms. English said that the agenda will be followed in order to conduct Board business.

Board Member Marlene Tapper objected because it was 9:50 p.m. and that they have not gone into Executive Session yet.

Board Member Tammy Rose said the Community Board should allow the community to express their concerns.

Ms. English said they were going to keep the agenda as is. Anything that is not on the agenda can be taken up in New Business.

Motion # 23 - Adoption of the Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Renetta English, seconded by Stephen Kulhanek, to adopt the Agenda, was passed.

Department of Parks & Recreation – (Marta Lebreton, Chair)

Marta Lebreton, Parks & Recreation Chair, reported that on April 8th there was a Parks Committee scoping meeting regarding the Helen Marshall Playground. There are plans to do a reconstruction. One of the items discussed was a synthetic field. Ms. Lebreton said the Committee agreed that natural grass would be better. She asked the Board to send a letter to NYC Parks insisting that the field should be natural grass.

Board Member Shanel Thomas Henry asked if Helen Marshall's family has been contacted for input on the park.

Ms. Lebreton said that the NYC Parks has not contacted the family. She said that a letter will be requested to be sent to the family for notification.

Ms. Lebreton asked for a motion to send a letter to NYC Parks to put natural grass at the Helen Marshall Playground and contact Helen Marshall's family, seconded by Lobsang Salaka. The motion was passed unanimously.

Department of Parks & Recreation – (Marta Lebreton, Chair) - Passerelle Improvement Project

Ms. Lebreton said that NYC Parks is asking for a letter that the presentation was shown to Community Board 3. The Parks Committee felt that it's better to put conditions in the letter.

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Board Member Tammy Rose said that they should see the report before sending a letter. The letter was referenced in the presentation.

Ms. Leberton said they will go back to NYC Parks and ask for the study before sending out a letter.

The matter was tabled until next month.

Department of Parks & Recreation – (Marta Lebreton, Chair) – World’s Fair Marina Operations Relocation

The matter was tabled until next month.

Traffic Transportation – (Steven Kulhanek, Co-Chair, Ed Kiernan, Co-Chair) Street Co-Naming – Steve Knobel Way - 77th Street from 37th Ave – 37th Road

Ed Kiernan, Traffic & Transportation Co-Chair, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of the Street Co-Naming.

Motion # 24 - Traffic Transportation – (Steven Kulhanek, Co-Chair, Ed Kiernan, Co-Chair)

Street Co-Naming – Steve Knobel Way - 77th Street from 37th Ave – 37th Road

Upon motion duly made by Ed Kiernan, seconded by Frank Taylor, to **approve** the application, was passed unanimously.

Traffic Transportation – (Steven Kulhanek, Co-Chair, Ed Kiernan, Co-Chair)

Street Co-Naming – Joseph Ricevuto Way - 86th Street from 35th Ave – 37th Ave

Ed Kiernan, Traffic & Transportation Co-Chair, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of the Street Co-Naming.

Motion # 25 - Traffic Transportation – (Steven Kulhanek, Co-Chair, Ed Kiernan, Co-Chair)

Street Co-Naming – Joseph Ricevuto Way - 86th Street from 35th Ave – 37th Ave

Upon motion duly made by Ed Kiernan, seconded by Tammy Rose, to **approve** the application, was passed with 34 in Favor, 0 Opposed and 1 Abstention.

A resident requested to speak. Ms. English said that they are in Executive Session and only Board Members can speak.

Board Member Tammy Rose said that she would like to speak for the neighbors that are hurting.

Ms. English made clear that the agenda will be followed.

Land Use – (Hamlett Wallace, Chair) BSA CAL No. 548-69 BZ – 107-10 Astoria Blvd.

Hamlett Wallace, Land Use Chair, reported that in the matter of an application regarding, 107-10 Astoria Boulevard, East Elmhurst, New York, BP Products North America Inc. – Owner of Record, is seeking an Extension (in a C2-3/R6B zoning district, Use Group 16) of Term for a previously granted variance for the continued operation of a Gasoline Service Station (BP North America) property bounded by, Southeast Corner at 107th Street, Southwest corner at 108th Street and Astoria Boulevard. The present variance will expire on May 25, 2021.

The Owner is requesting application for an extension of the terms of the variance for an additional period of 10 years.

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 # 26 - Land Use – (Hamlett Wallace, Chair) BSA CAL No. 548-69 BZ – 107-10 Astoria Blvd.

Upon motion duly made by Hamlett Wallace, seconded by Frank Taylor, to **approve** the application was passed with 34 in Favor, 0 Opposed and 1 Abstention...

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A resident requested to speak. Ms. English said only Board Members can speak during Executive Session and they will continue to follow the agenda.

Business Economic Development. – (Edmund Rosenbaum - Chair) **S.L.A. New Wine/Beer & Liquor License Applications:**

Altamira Food Corp. d/b/a Juarez Rest. Bar – 93-13 Roosevelt Ave. Jackson Heights (New – Full Liq.)

Tabled for the May Full Board Meeting.

Esquina 96 Inc. d/b/a La Kuchara Ecuia Rest. Bar – 95-07 31st Ave. East Elmhurst (C. Change-Full Liq)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of a Class Change application for an on premise Full Liquor license for this applicant provided that a stipulation has been submitted. The Stipulation was signed. Mr. Rosenbaum noted that the Board voted for approval in September 2018.

Motion: # 27 - Esquina 96 Inc. d/b/a La Kuchara Ecuia Rest. Bar – 95-07 31st Ave. East Elmhurst (C. Change-Full Liq)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Frank Taylor, to **approve** the application, was passed with 19 in Favor, 15 Opposed and 1 Abstention.

Kevin Hughes-Noboa, Secretary, asked Board Member Shanel Thomas-Henry if she would like to explain her abstention.

Board Member Shanel Thomas-Henry proposed that they move New Business up on the agenda.

Ms. English said they are not changing the agenda.

Board Member Tammy Rose made a motion to suspend Executive Session.

Ms. English said no to Ms. Rose's motion.

Ms. Rose said to Ms. English, "Renetta, you have to listen to us. Just because you are the Chair doesn't mean that you are the only voice. I would like to make a motion to suspend Executive Session because you not listening to the members of your Board nor to the members of our community. Right now we had an eight alarm fire in our community".

Ms. English said that she will speak about it during the Chairperson's report.

Board Member Marlene Tapper made a motion to stick with the agenda.

Ms. English said that the Board has to vote on agenda items. She asked Secretary Hughes-Noboa to continue with the agenda.

Tibetan Japanese Rest. – 75-26 37th Ave. Jackson Heights (New – Wine/Beer/Cider)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Chair of Business Economic Committee, reported that the committee recommends **approval** of an application for an on-premise Wine & Beer license for this applicant. Mr. Rosenbaum noted that the Board passed the motion in May 2018 but one of the partners backed out.

Motion: # 28 -Tibetan Japanese Rest. – 75-26 37th Ave. Jackson Heights (New – Wine/Beer/Cider)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Frank Taylor, to **approve** the application, was passed with 32 in Favor, 2 Opposed and 1 Abstention.

Kevin Hughes-Noboa, Secretary, asked Board Member Shanel Thomas-Henry if she would like to explain her abstention.

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Board Member Shanel Thomas-Henry said same as usual but she will wait until the Chairperson Report.

Chairperson's Report

Ms. English said she was very concerned when she first heard about the fire at 89th Street. *"The first thing that I did was send an email to the 89th Street Tenants Association to express concern from the Board and if there was anything we can do. I also followed up with an email to all Board Members encouraging you all to remember the families that had suffered. I encouraged you to donate, not only through Gofundme, but also donate items to the families that were in need."* She said they had to get their Board business done. It was critical.

Renetta English, Chairperson read her report:

*Generosity - - "It is the heart that does the giving; the fingers only let go." —Nigerian proverb
As we entered the month of April, the Queens Community Board 3 community has shown their continued generosity by donating to the families that have been displaced by the devastating fire at 89th and 34th Avenue. Please continue to remember that our neighbors need our continued support.*

Welcome to the new members of Queens Community Board 3, Vicky Chan, Michael De Velera, Marco Munoz, Dawn Siff and Fahad Solaiman who will be generously giving their time to serve the community in their new role. As new members we look forward to you attending monthly board meetings, actively participating in your chosen committees (minimum of 2) and participating in the community activities that we have planned for 2021.

Congratulations to the 24 members that have been re-appointed to the Board. Your generosity of time and active participation on the Board is truly appreciated.

On Saturday, May 1st from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Community Board 3 will be participating in the Flushing Bay Promenade Cleanup.

Sponsored by Community Board 3, Guardians of Flushing Bay, Riverkeeper , Councilman Francisco Moya, Ditmars Boulevard Block Association, East Elmhurst Corona Civic Association, Inc., Elmcors Youth and Adult Activities, Inc., Regal Heights Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Forte Preparatory Academy, Guardians of Flushing Bay, Dominico-American Society of Queens, Our Lady of Sorrows, NYC Department of Sanitation and NYC Parks Department.

Finally, Thank You to Councilman Costa Constantinides for his service to our community, passionate fight for climate change and 4.5 million dollar investment in Gorman Playground.

Ms. English called for a motion to leave Executive Session in order to let Andrew Sokolof, President of the 89th Street Tenant Association, speak.

Upon motion duly made by Renetta English, seconded by Kevin Hughes-Noboa, to exit Executive Session, was passed unanimously.

Andrew Sokolof, President of the 89th Street Tenant Association, said he understands that Community Board 3 has an agenda and there was Board business to take care of, but the residents of the 89th Street crisis should have been the main priority. He said it's the worst fire in Jackson Heights' history.

"Community Board 3 is the first immediate entity on the City level. We have a City issue. The residents of 89th Street are facing permanent displacement from our community."

Mr. Sokolof said they need for the Board to demand the City not forget the 500 residents of 89th Street by treating it like a regular fire. The residents need the City to extend hotel stays for as long as possible until everyone is finally back home.

Mr. Sokolof said the community has gone beyond and above with donations. He thanked all for the generosity, love and coming to the site to show support.

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Board Member Dorothy Phelan said Mayor Bill de Blasio takes calls on Fridays on The Brian Lehrer Show on WNYC. She suggested that is a good way to reach the Mayor directly.

Upon motion duly made by Renetta English, seconded by Kevin Hughes-Noboa, to return to Executive Session, was passed unanimously.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Giovanna Reid informed the Board Members that as soon as Community Board 3 found out about the fire the first thing they did was to get in contact with the 89th Street Tenants Association. Numerous emails were sent to Board Members advising about the fire and requesting donations for the residents.

Community Board 3 has put the residents affected by the fire at the forefront of the Elected Officials. The Community Board has been actively working on the issue behind the scenes. Ms. Reid said, "I think you know Community Board 3's reputation. We are hardworking and dedicated. Our hearts are with the community. Always has been and always will be."

Ms. Reid explained that the items on the agenda have deadlines and requires the Community Board's response or they will miss the opportunity to weigh in on the applications.

She also said that attendance is important because without a quorum the Board cannot vote.

Ms. Reid announced that on April 19th there will be a swearing in ceremony and training conducted by the Queens Borough President's Office. More information is provided in the folders sent to all Board Members. If there are any questions about the ceremony, Board Members can contact the Community Board office or Queens Borough President's Office.

Community Board 3 will hold its own training. Ms. Reid welcomed the new and renewed Board Members and looks forward to working together.

Motion # 29 - Adoption of the March 18, 2021 Monthly Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Renetta English, seconded by Dorothy Phelan, to adopt the March 18, 2021 Minutes, was passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Airport Committee

Ann Brown, Chair of the Airport Committee, reported that the FAA has not rendered a decision yet but should be coming out soon. A copy of the report is in the Google Drive folder.

Traffic & Transportation Committee

Stephen Kulhanek, Co-Chair of Traffic & Transportation Committee, reported all Board Members can access the Committee report in the folder in the Google Driver.

Queens Borough President's Office

Max Weprin, representative for Queens Borough President's Office, announced that on Wednesday, April 21st there will be a virtual "Fire Safety Presentation" at 6:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, April 20th there will be a Virtual "Anti-Asian Hate Crime & Bias Town Hall" at 6:30 p.m.

On Monday, April 19th will be the virtually "Swear In for Community Board Appointees" at 6:00 p.m.

On Saturday, May 15th BP Richards and AM Rozic will be hosting a "Bicycle Jamboree" for children ages 5 to 12 years old at Queens Borough Hall parking lot at 12:00 p.m. All children must be accompanied by an adult and have a bicycle with them. If they do not have a bicycle, contact the Borough President's Office. First 100 people that RSVP will receive a free bike helmet. Activities include bike safety lessons, free bike repair and a raffle to receive a free refurbished bicycle.

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Mr. Weprin reported that the Borough President's office has been in close contact with the Red Cross, HPD, 89th Street Tenants Association, Elected Officials and various organizations to make sure the residents have all the resources they need.

For more information contact: Mweprin@queensbp.org

Legislators' Report

NYC Comptroller Office

James Mongeluzo, representative for the NYC Comptroller Office, announced that anyone can access reports at:

<https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comptrollers-fy-2022-preliminary-budget-presentation/>

Claims Report - <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/annual-claims-report/>

Contact info: 646-689-6509 or jmongel@comptroller.nyc.gov

Mayor's Office

Jessica Schabowski, representative for the Mayor's Office, reported that FDA and CDC guidelines asked that New York City pause on the Johnson and Johnson vaccine pending investigation of blood clots. The vaccine for the homebound has been suspended until they get clearance. The City expanded the number of vaccinations site for adults 75 years or older. Anyone accompanying a senior can be vaccinated too.

Ms. Schabowski reported that the office has been working with the 89th Street Tenants Association and connecting them to resources.

New Business

Board Member Frank Taylor asked for a motion to write a letter of support to the City of New York to keep the residents that were affected by the fire on 89th Street in Jackson Heights so that they won't be displaced. Board Member Dawn Siff seconded the motion. All Board Members voted in favor unanimously.

Board Member Dorothy Phelan stressed that the letter needs to be sent immediately because the residents have only two days left at the hotels.

Motion # 30 - To Adjourn

Upon motion duly made by Renetta English, and seconded by Elba Buendia, to adjourn the meeting, was passed unanimously. Adjourned at 11:04 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Clara Colon*

*Reviewed and Edited by
Kevin Hughes-Noboa, Board Secretary*