

Board Meeting – April 24, 2014



COMMUNITY BOARD No. 3, Q.
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BOARD MEETING

Thursday April 24, 2014

Jewish Center of Jackson Heights
 37-06 77th Street, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

ATTENDANCE

Patrick Beckles
 Emma Brant
 Ann Brown
 Elba Buendia
 Shiv Dass
 Vivian Dock
 Margaret Dozier
 Vasantrai Gandhi
 Joyce Hucless-Julian
 Norma Jimenez
 Stephen Kulhanek
 Grace Lawrence
 Marta Lebreton
 Martin Maier
 Bill Meehan
 Ralph Moreno
 Laverne Nimmons
 Philip Papas
 Ladisla Perez
 Dorothy Phelan
 Jessica Ramos
 Fausto Rodriguez
 Jairo Rodríguez
 Leoncio Romero
 Edmund Rosenbaum
 David Rosero
 Arturo-Ignacio Sanchez
 Jimmy Smith
 Arthur Teiler
 Shanel Thomas
 Pat Thorpe
 Hamlett Wallace
 Edwin Westley

ABSENT

Kelit Brown
 Sonya Davis Roberts
 Jorge D. Fanjul
 Andrew S. Kim
 Brunilda Leon
 Lynda McDougald
 Caridad Mak
 Lisa Mesulam
 Jose Rodriguez
 Sam Schiralli
 Cheryl Tse

Giovanna A. Reid, District Manager
 Sabrina McGinley (Recorder)
 Mayra Ramierz

Guests

Yessika Giraldo, Rep., CM. Daniel Dromm
 Joel Trinidad-Santos, Rep., CM. Julissa Ferreras
 Lillie Pioche Rep., Assem. Hon. Jeffrion Aubry,
 Juan Antigua, Rep. Assem. Hon. Francisco Moya
 Gary Gilbert, Rep. Assem. Hon Michael DenDekker
 Deanna Foote Rep., Senator Hon Jose Peralta
 Barbara Jackson, Rep., Congressman Joseph Crowley
 Lisa Atkins, Rep., Borough President's Office

Please note: The next Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2014 at 7:45PM.

Stephen Kulhanek, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:45PM and welcomed all in attendance.

Stephen Kulhanek, Chairman, held a moment of silence for Darius Flecher, Jada Monique Butts, Crystal Gavely and Jaleet Furtado who lost their lives in a car accident at Astoria Creek. He said that they were residents of East Elmhurst, 19 to 21.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

New York Foundation for Senior Citizens

Kevin Queen, Vice President / Director of Programs, NY Foundation of Senior Citizens, said that they are a city wide not-for-profit agency which is dedicated to helping seniors within the five boroughs.

Kevin Queen, Vice President, mentioned the three main programs they provide:

- **Respite Care Program:** provides affordable, privately pay in-home care for elderly persons whose caregivers require short-term relief from their responsibilities. Trained Home Attendants provide temporary care for the frail elderly in need of services when their caregiver becomes ill or is away on a business trip, vacation, attending to personal needs, etc. Services provided include: personal care, meal preparation, shopping, escort services, assistance with light housekeeping and laundry. Respite Care can also assist seniors who require temporary help with hospitalization. Home Attendants are closely supervised by a professional social work staff. Basic respite care is available at the affordable rate of \$8 / hour. Applicants must be 60 years of age and older who require assistance with activities of daily living who reside within New York City's five boroughs.
- **Minor Home Repair:** the program helps assist with minor home repairs including hanging pictures, assists in correcting facilities, and help find assistance with major home repair issues.
- **Home Sharing Program:** the program matches compatible persons throughout New York City's five boroughs in shared living arrangements in dwellings rented or owned by one or more of the participants. The program carefully screens and matches persons for whom sharing of living arrangements will enhance their financial and or social well-being, promote companionship and relieve feelings of loneliness and isolation. There is no charge for this service. Prospective hosts are persons, who own or rent apartments or homes within New York City and wish to share their dwelling with another compatible guest. One of the match mates must be age 60 or over. The program also serves adult hosts 55 years of age or older, who wish to share their dwelling with a developmentally disabled adult guest capable of living independently. Hosts must be willing to make financial and social arrangements and have homes with private bedrooms that are suitable and safe for the placement of guests.

Giovanna Reid, District Manager, asked if the program screens the potential hosts and candidates.

Kevin Queens, Vice President, said yes, all parties are screened beforehand, and they do home visits to make sure the apartments meets the standards for living. During screening and interviews they also require three professional references. After a match has been made a license agreement is offered for the host and guest to sign which outlines all the conditions of the living arrangements. The guest is not put on the lease and do not have rights for the home.

Emma Brandt, Board Member, asked if the guest can cook for you or are they living in the home for company purposes.

Kevin Queen, Vice President, said that in certain circumstances a service exchange is offered. If the host is looking for someone who is willing to help with daily chores, food shopping, laundry and etc., for a reduced amount paid each month for services offered.

Arturo Sanchez, Board Member, asked if there are income requirements.

Kevin Queen, Vice President, said that the Minor Home Repair is the only program which has an income requirement.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Karen Ellis, DEP, said that lien sales started in February this year. Ninety day and sixty day notices were sent out to homeowners and the list was published in the newspaper for those who have outstanding water charges, property taxes or HPD loans for emergency repairs done. May 16th is the final date for homeowners to enter a payment plan with the Department of Finance, Department of Environmental Protection or Housing Preservation Development. Homeowners can come into the DEP office and sit with a representative to discuss options available. Their office is located at 59-17 Junction Blvd, 17th Floor and 96-05 Horace Harding Expressway. They are open from 9AM-7PM. If you have any questions or concerns about your water bill please contact customer service at 718-595-7000 and speak to a representative.

Dorothy Phelan, Board Member, said that even though notifications are sent, some renters don't know how to read or speak English Since housing is fundamental. Is there any effort to make home visits before the situation becomes extreme?

Karen Ellis, DEP, said that they cannot go onto the properties to deal with those situations. Any outstanding debt is the responsibility of the property owner not the tenant. She suggests in a situation with an absentee landlord that the tenants call HPD.

Arturo Sanchez, Board Member, asked if there is an early warning program to reach out to owners before it's too late.

Karen Ellis, DEP, said that the warning signs are the late notices received. She said you can also go online and create a My DEP account to monitor how much water is being used and see what it should be. If there are problems she asked that you call the agency.

Emma Brandt, Board Member, said that water bills are too expensive.

A Resident asked how to access the DEP box outside of their homes.

Karen Ellis, DEP, said that you can access that information by creating a My DEP account. You can check your consumption three times a day and sign up for early leak detection.

Karen Ellis, DEP, said that the New York City Water Board has proposed an increase 3.35% for this fiscal year. Hearings will be held on May 20th. The location will take place in Rockaway. She said any written testimonies should be sent to the New York City Water Board at 59-147 Junction Blvd, prior to the hearing. They are proposing a program for senior to get a minimal bill charge. She said that a lot of sewer backups are a result of pouring grease down the drains. She said that grease can be disposed through trash.

Leoncio Romero, Board Member, asked who will approve the rating and how many members are on the Water Board.

Karen Ellis, DEP, said that the Water Board sets the rate and there are ten members. They are appointed by the Mayor.

Ed Westley, Board Member, said that one of the problems with the water rate is that we pay for the consumption of water and capital improvements. This is unlike any other utility where there is a capital budget which is funded.

Karen Ellis, DEP, said that they are mandated by the State and Federal government to do mandated programs that are not funded by capital projects. She said if there are any additional questions or comments to please call her at 718-595-3496.

Make Queens Safer

Christina Furlong, Make Queens Safer, said that they founded the group to raise awareness for pedestrian safety throughout Queens. They organized a march called Three Children Too Many on behalf of the children who lost their lives in the area due to reckless or distracted driving. A few weeks after, three more children lost their lives as well. They did a march in November and created a group called Families for Safe Streets which is advocating across the State for heavier penalties for distracted driving. She said that the Mayor shared his Vision Zero to have zero pedestrian deaths. He plans to initiate this through education, raising awareness and street redesigns.

Christina Furlong, Make Queens Safer, said that she worked with elected officials to host town hall meetings and support bills to make penalties stricter when you kill someone while hitting them with a car. She said failing to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk is the biggest crime and offense. She said that the proposed Slow Zone would help prevent pedestrian fatalities.

Stephen Kulhanek, Chairman, said that DOT will come before the Board in May or June to present the proposed Jackson Heights Slow Zone.

Emma Brandt, Board Member, said that slow zone does not prevent drivers from speeding.

Christina Furlong, Make Queens Safer, said that Slow Zones need to be enforced. She said that her organization is working hard on educating drivers, adults and children on traffic safety through various organizations. She said Northern Blvd is a main priority for the Mayor's Vision Zero initiative.

Resident, thanked the organization for their hard work in educating members of the community. He asked if education has been done with the NYPD enforcing jaywalking tickets. He said many undocumented people avoid getting summons.

Christina Furlong, Make Queens Safer, said that many undocumented people rarely document any accidents. She said they hardly ever file a police report or make a hospital visit.

David Rosero, Board Member, said that education and enforcement is key because pedestrians do not follow and obey traffic signs.

Patrick Beckles, Board Member, said that pedestrians don't understand and listen to traffic signals. He said that there are too many commercial vehicles near Flushing Bay.

PUBLIC HEARING

(Business / Economic / Development – Arthur Teiler, Edmund Rosenbaum, Co-Chairs)

Kitchen 79 Inc. – 37-70 79th Street, Jackson Heights, NY (New – Wine/Beer)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Co-Chair, called upon the representatives of Kitchen 79 Inc.

The representative, stated that his establishment will operate as an authentic Thai restaurant. He said that he hopes to get the support from the community for his new, wine / beer license.

Jessica Ramos, Board Member, complimented the owner for the new renovations being done on the property.

Northern Blvd. Billiard Bar Corp. – 102-09 Northern Blvd., Corona, NY (New – Wine/Beer)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Co-Chair, called upon the owners of Northern Blvd. Billiard Bar Corp.

The owners were not present.

There were no questions / comments from the public.

Executive Session

Stephen Kulhanek, Chairman, opened Executive Session with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion # 14 - Adoption of the March 20, 2014 Agenda

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

Motions by Committee

(Business / Economic / Development – Arthur Teiler, Edmund Rosenbaum, Co-Chairs)

Kitchen 79 Inc. – 37-70 79th Street, Jackson Heights, NY (New – Wine/Beer)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Co-Chair, informed the Board that the committee recommends that the application be approved.

Motion # 15 Kitchen 79 Inc. – 37-70 79th Street, Jackson Heights, NY (New – Wine/Beer)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Ed Westley, to approve the application for a new, wine / beer license, was unanimously passed.

Northern Blvd. Billiard Bar Corp. – 102-09 Northern Blvd., Corona, NY (New – Wine/Beer)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Co-Chair, informed the Board that the committee recommends that the application be disapproved.

Motion # 16 Northern Blvd. Billiard Bar Corp. – 102-09 Northern Blvd., Corona, NY (New – Wine/Beer)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Ralph Moreno, to disapprove the application for a new, wine/ beer license, was unanimously passed.

Chairman's Report

Stephen Kulhanek, Chairman, announced that Jorge Fanjul and Ladisla Perez are the newest members to the Board. He announced that there will be a Community Board Breakfast on Saturday, May 10th at Bruno's on the Boulevard from 9AM-1PM.

Stephen Kulhanek, Chairman, said that new and reappointed Board Members should have received a letter in the mail regarding a mandatory training held at the Hall of Science on May 8th from 5:30-9PM.

District Managers Report

Giovanna Reid, District Manager, thanked the Jackson Heights Jewish Center for accommodating CB3 this evening. She thanked all the Board Members for coming out this evening. She urged residents who were attending the Board Meeting for the first time to make sure to sign up to receive Community Board mail. She informed the Board the June 19th meeting will be held at Diversity Plaza.

Ms. Reid, District Manager, said that she has been in communications with the department of buildings regarding the five alarm fire at the Brunson Building. The area with the greatest damage is bordered up. Unfortunately the small

businesses on the first floor are closed. She hopes that repairs will be made expeditiously so they can be up and running soon.

Ms. Reid, District Manager, said she attended a town hall meeting in regard to Vision Zero, where the chair of traffic transportation, Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez held a public hearing. Members of the community had an opportunity to speak to the DOT Commissioner regarding traffic safety issues. Two additional Town Hall Meetings will be held in Queens. She strongly suggests everyone attend these meetings. As you all know the Community Board is surrounded by Roosevelt Avenue, Astoria Blvd., Northern Blvd. and 114th Street at the Grand Central Parkway and Whitestone Expressway exits which has high fatalities and car crashes.

Ed Westley, Board Member, said that Franks Pharmacy is up and running.

Ms. Reid, District Manager, said that Small Business Services are currently working with the businesses affected by the fire.

Ms. Reid, District Manager, informed the Board that Arthur Teiler and Edmund Rosenbaum celebrated their birthdays this month.

Vasantrai Gandhi, Board Member, complemented the NYPD and Fire Department for all they did during the fire.

Motion # 17 - Adoption of the March 20, 2014 Monthly Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Stephen Kulhanek, seconded by David Rosero, to adopt the March Monthly Minutes, was passed unanimously.

Committee Report **Health & Social Services**

Vivian Dock, Chair, informed the Board that the Health / Social Services Committee has been meeting in regard to the planning of the Leon Von Holden Memorial Health Care Expo 2014 which will be held on Saturday, June 14th at the Corona Health Center at 34-33 Junction Blvd from 10AM-3PM. She thanked committee members, office staff and district manager for the progress made so far.

Ms. Dock, Chair, said that all Board Members are expected to participate in the event by either or all of the following: donating time, refreshments, breakfast or lunch items for health care providers and volunteers, items for raffles , give-a-way items for Board table or to lend a hand in whatever way possible.

Ms. Dock, Chair, thanked everyone who contributed so far. She said every Board Member will receive a volunteer form to be filled out and returned as soon as possible to the Board office. Forms are also available to community residents who wish to participate.

Newest New Yorkers

Arturo Sanchez, Chair, said that his committee met with Queens Neighborhood United, a group that deals with the issues of the 82nd Street B.I.D. which will run along Roosevelt Avenue from 82nd to 103rd Street. Northwest Queens residents are going through a process of economic reconstruction. The redevelopment of

Willets Point, new stadiums in Flushing Meadows Corona Park and with the rezoning that's occurring, the community is being transformed. The expansion of the BID will be a part of the ULURP process which means it will have to go through the Community Board for recommendation.

Legislators Report

Yessika Giraldo, Representative, Council Member Dromm, congratulated the new members of the Board. She said the Council Member will be hosting a shredding event on May 17 from 10AM-1PM in front of the Jackson Heights Post Office. She said that she doesn't have an update for the fire at the Brunson Building. She is thankful that there are no fatalities. The city has officially turned the building back over to the owner. It is currently being boarded up to make sure no one sneaks into the building and gets hurt.

Keyana Reaves, Representative, Council Member Julissa Ferreras, said that their office offers free immigration services on Monday and Thursdays from 10AM-3:45PM, domestic violence services every fourth Wednesday from 9:30AM-2:30PM, HRA screenings every third Thursday from 10AM-3PM and NYS Health Care Navigators on Fridays from 10AM-4PM.

Motion # 18 Motion to Adjourn

Upon motion duly made by Stephen Kulhanek, seconded by Martin Maier to adjourn the meeting, was passed unanimously.

The meeting was closed at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Sabrina McGinley