



COMMUNITY BOARD No. 3, Q.

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Stephen A. Kulhanek, Chairman
 GIOVANNA A. REID, District Manager

MELINDA KATZ, Borough President

Ann Brown- First Vice-Chairperson
Hamlett Wallace-Second Vice-Chairperson
Lisa Mesulam-Treasurer
Edmund Rosenbaum-Secretary
Marta E. Lebreton- Past Chair

BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 15th, 2015

The Louis Armstrong School
 32-02 Junction Blvd. East Elmhurst, N.Y.

ATTENDANCE

Emma Brandt
 Ann Brown
 Sonya Davis Roberts
 Vivian Dock
 Margaret Dozier
 Vasantraj Gandhi
 Arturo Ignacio Sanchez
 Shiv Dass
 Joyce Hucless-Julian
 Elba Buendia
 Stephen Kulhanek
 Marta Lebreton
 Martin Maier
 Caridad Mak
 Lisa Mesulam
 Laverne Nimmons
 Philip Papas
 Ladisla Perez
 Dorothy Phelan
 Jessica Ramos
 Fausto Rodriguez
 Leoncio Romero
 Edmund Rosenbaum
 Jimmy Smith
 Arthur Teiler
 Hamlett Wallace
 Edwin Westley

ABSENT

Patrick Beckles
 Kelit Brown
 Andrew S. Kim
 Grace Lawrence
 Brunilda Leon
 Lynda McDougald
 Bill Meehan
 Ralph Moreno
 Jairo Rodriguez
 Jose Rodriguez
 David Rosero
 Sam Schiralli
 Shanel Thomas
 Pat Thorpe
 Cheryl Tse

Giovanna A. Reid, District Manager
 Mayra Ramirez (Recorder)

Guests

Michael Mallon, Rep., CM. Daniel Dromm
 Yessi Giraldo, Rep., CM. Daniel Dromm
 Lillie Pioche Rep., Assem. Hon. Jeffrion Aubry,
 Gary Gilbert, Rep. Assem. Hon Michael DenDekker
 Deanna Foote Rep., Senator Hon Jose Peralta
 Barbara Jackson, Rep., Congressman Joseph Crowley
 Dev Awasthi, Rep. Comptroller Scott Stringer
 Cheyenne Aguayo, Rep. Councilmember Julissa Ferreras
 Lisa Atkins, Rep., Borough President's Office

Please note: The next Meeting will be held on Thursday, February, 19 2015 at 7:45PM.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

So Yoon Sim of Grameen VidaSana Health Program invited everyone to their open house that will be held February 10, 2015 at 82-11 37th Avenue.

Vasantrai Gandhi, Board Member, informed the community that Burger King settled a class action lawsuit where they will have to pay out up to \$8.5 million for violating the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA). Burger King sent out or attempted to send advertisements via fax from March 2009 through Nov. 17 2014. Claimants can receive a maximum cash benefit of up to \$500 per fax received with a maximum of eight faxes. If you received a fax and wish to file a claim it must be done by March 9, 2015.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

NYC Council Member, Julissa Ferreras thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. She reminded the members of the Board who are up for renewal to submit their renewal applications ASAP. Should they have questions, please visit or call her office.

Council Member Ferreras reported on the following:

Astoria Boulevard

CM Ferreras said that at 99th Street and Astoria Boulevard, near the senior center, the streets have serious defects and is also very difficult for pedestrians to cross. She is working with DOT to upgrade the location and create a "Complete Street".

Affordable Housing

As part of the Willets Point Plan for affordable housing, in late 2015 or early 2016 74 units will be constructed in Corona and will be available to residents of District 21.

Participatory Budgeting

CM Ferreras invited the community to help decide on how to spend \$1 Million Dollars for community improvements such as the construction of parks, schools, libraries, streets and more. The next meeting will be January 28, 2015 at 7:00PM, for additional information call or visit her office.

SCRIE

She informed the board that the state has increased the qualifications for the SCRIE. She urged everyone to take advantage of the program.

Bulletproof Vests for NYPD

CM Ferreras also announced that she, Councilman Vincent Gentile, and CM. Vanessa Gibson secured \$7 million in funding to purchase new bulletproof vests for the NYPD.

The councilwoman announced that The Park Alliance of Flushing Meadows Park's Alliance is looking for members to serve on their board. She encouraged everyone to consider being part of the conservancy. Lastly, she reminded the board that her State of the District will be held in mid-February and that applications for discretionary funding for Not-For Profit Organizations is now open.

A resident asked if speed bumps can be installed on Ditmars Boulevard between 25th Avenue and 31st Avenue. The CM responded that she is working with DOT and looking at various ways to address speeding.

Council Member Ferreras thanked the board for inviting her and her staff for doing an amazing job.

DEP – Department of Environmental Protection

New York City's Green Infrastructure Program is a multiagency effort led by the Department of Environmental Protection. DEP and agency partners design, construct and maintain a variety of sustainable green infrastructure practices such as green roofs, rain, gardens, and Right-of-way Bioswales on City owned property such as streets, sidewalks, schools, and public housing.

Green infrastructure promotes the natural movement of water by collecting and managing stormwater, runoff from streets, sidewalk, parking lots and rooftops and directing it to engineered systems that typically feature soils, stones, and vegetation. DEP is building green infrastructure in compliance with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) requirements to reduce combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges into New York City's waterbodies. Green Infrastructure also beautifies City Streets and neighborhoods while improving air and water quality.

Chairperson Stephen Kulhanek asked if CB3 is first Board to participate in the program?

She responded by saying that they get back to the Board regarding locations.

Edmund Rosenbaum, Board Member said that he had noticed that there are four blocks with green markings; He asked if they are going to be used for that purpose? The representative responded by saying that in some cases, yes.

Edmund Rosenbaum also asked if bioswales would be put near religious institutions.

DEP responded that everything is based on DOT requirements.

Marta Lebreton, Board Member asked if bioswales are going under the 7th train? DEP said no, not under the 7th train.

Ed Westley, Board Member asked if DEP is the only agency using green marks on the sidewalks? She said yes.

Arthur Teiler, Board Member asked if these plants will grow with salt water?

DEP responded, they have select plants that are tolerable to salt and resistant to other conditions.

Jessica Ramos, Board Member asked who is installing the Bioswales? DEP said that a contractor has been hired to do the installation.

A resident – asked how often will the bioswale be cleaned since owners are not going to be responsible? Will the project affect the foundation of private properties?

She said that DEP has maintenance crews that will clean three times a week. In regards to the proximity to basements and foundations; they work very close with their utility partners.

Laverne Nimmons, Board Member asked what is the idea of the green roof?

DEP said that it's a vegetarian layer on top of a roof wall which collects water for a short or long period of time. Depending of the loading capacity of the roof sometimes they can actually grow fruit.

Fausto Rodriguez, Board Member asked how much does it cost to build a bioswale? What is the time frame to see the results?

The cost is \$16,000. Typically it takes a month during the summer time to actually see results.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Tanjila Rahma informed the community about the several services that DCA offers. Right now their main focus is to educate and to empower New Yorkers about the preparation of taxes. Many people don't know where to file their taxes or some don't know about certain credits. If you earned income you could qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the NYC Child Care Tax Credit (NYC CCTC), which could result in a refund of up to \$10,000.

January 31, 2015 is Awareness Day. In each of the five boroughs New Yorkers are being encouraged to get their taxes done at a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site (VITA).

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Marta Lebreton, Board Member informed the Board that Dorothy Phelan and Margaret Dozier are part of the Cert Team. CB3's team has 17 active members that work with the Office of Emergency Management, the team goes out to do presentations. If you need someone to do a presentation at your civic association, not profit organization, etc... to please contact her.

PUBLIC HEARING

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

The King of Tacos. – 90-17 31st Avenue, East Elmhurst, NY 11369 (Class Change – Full Liq.)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Co-Chair, called upon the owner of the King of Tacos.

The owner Juan Rivera stated that he has over 20 years of experience in the restaurant business as a chef. He has been operating his own restaurant for over

a year and a half with no problems. He lives in the neighborhood and currently has a beer and wine license. It's a very small Mexican restaurant that only seats 48 people. He opens for lunch and dinner from 11:00AM-12 midnight.

Emma Brant, Board Member asked how many bars or liquor licenses are near his restaurant.

They are aware that there is one near his establishment; they have been told that it's a problematic location. But that those problems occurred during the hours when his restaurant is closed.

Sonya Davis-Roberts, Board Member asked if they will have full dishes?

Representative said yes, they will have full dishes.

Jessica Ramos, Board Member asked if "El Cafetal Bar" is the only bar on that block and if the stipulations includes closing at 12 midnight?

Representative said yes it's the only one and yes the closing hours are in the stipulation letter.

El Manantial Rest Bar. – 104-21 Roosevelt Ave, Corona, NY 11368 (New-Full Liq.)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Co-Chair, called upon the owner of El Manantial Rest Bar. Mr. Rodriguez representative informed the community that restaurant is an Ecuadorian and Italian restaurant owned by Mr. Jose Calle. There hours will be from Sunday thru Thursday from 9:00AM-1:00Am and Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 AM-3:30PM. The last call will be at 3:00AM and will be playing soft music

Jessica Ramos, Board Member, asked the owner if they are planning to use the unlicensed cellar for 68 people?

The representative said they will use the cellar if the restaurant gets crowded. Then will probably be using the cellar for baby showers with no dancing, since they have signed a stipulation letter.

Emma Brant, Board Member mentioned that if the cellar will be known as the "party room"?

The representative said that it will be an extension of the restaurant and if they need the additional space they will accommodate people there.

Dorothy Phelan, Board Member asked how many exits does the cellar have?

The representative said two.

Jimmy Smith, Board Member asked if the license will cover the cellar too?

The representative said yes it will cover the cellar.

Sonya David, Board Member asked how many other establishments have liquor licenses? The representative was not sure how many.

**Rinconcito Mexicano Bar Rest. – 96-07 37th Ave, East Elmhurst, NY 11369
(New – wine/beer)**

Edmund Rosenbaum, Co-Chair, called upon the owner of Rinconcito Mexican Bar Rest.

The owner said that he is applying for a wine and beer license and that currently he has been operating with no problems.

Executive Session

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

Motion #1 – Adoption to include proposal from housing committee.

Chairman amended the agenda to include proposal from housing committee.

Upon motion duly made by Stephen Kulhanek, seconded by Marta Lebreton, to adopt the amended agenda from housing committee.

Elections of Board Officers

Vivian Dock, Board Member welcomed all in attendance and thanked the following people for their effort and participation in the nomination process; Emma Brant, Sonya David-Roberts, Marta Lebreton, Fausto Rodriguez and David Rosero.

She informed the Board that the Nomination Committee met on December 15, 2014 and December 18, 2014 and submitted the names of the candidates. All candidates prior to the Board meeting on December 18, 2014 and accepted their nomination for office.

Stephen A. Kulhanek, Chairman
Ann Brown – First Vice-Chair
Hamlett Wallace – Second Vice-Chair
Lisa Mesulam - Secretary
Edmund Rosenbaum – Treasurer

Members at-Large

Margaret Dozier
Caridad Mak
Bill Meehan
Jairo Rodriguez

Vivian Dock, informed board members that officers are elected for one year term, no officer may serve more than a three year term in the same office and will not be eligible for re-election in the same office for a period of two years.

Vivian Dock opened the floor for nominations. There were no nominations from the floor and therefore was closed.

Motions by Committee

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

The King of Tacos. – 90-17 31st Avenue, East Elmhurst, NY 11369 (Class Change – Full Liq.)

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

Motion #2 The King of Tacos. – 90-17 31st Avenue, East Elmhurst, NY 11369 (Class Change – Full Liq.)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Marta Lebreton, to disapprove the application for a full liquor license was **not passed**, with a vote of 7 in favor, 17 opposed and 4 abstention.

Jessica Ramos, Board Member asked if The King of Tacos meets the criteria for saturation?

Arturo Sanchez, Board member asked how he defines saturation?

Edmund Rosenbaum said that the residents who reside on 31st Ave from 89th to 92nd Streets submitted a petition to the board requesting that no new liquor licenses be issued. The community feels that their neighborhood is oversaturated.

Jessica Ramos, Board Member asked if the owner is sincerely committed and if he had signed a stipulation stating that he would be closing at midnight, would he be contributing to the agreements that were expressed in the petition by homeowners?

Leoncio Romero, Board Member asked who calls saturation?

Edmund Rosenbaum responded, the State Liquor Authority is the one who decides whether there is saturation.

Lisa Mesulam, Board Member, said that he will be a restaurant and closing at midnight, the owner has been punished simply because the other bars in that area.

Jimmy Smith, Board Member asked if there were any complains with this establishment?

Edmund Rosenbaum said that there are no complaints for this location.

Abstentions were explained as follows:

Elba Buendia, Board Member said the owner is trying to make a living. He should not be punished for the other bars that are open until 4 in the morning.

Vasantrai Gandhi, Board Member, said there is no reason for denying this application since there is no definition of saturation and no complaints against this establishment.

Lynda McDougald, Board Member, said she didn't see that he was going to be a problem but understands that there is saturation in that area.

Martin Maier, Board Member, said he feels that we are putting restrictions.

El Manantial Rest Bar. – 104-21 Roosevelt Ave, Corona, NY 11368 (New– Full Liq.)

Edmund Rosenbaum, Board Member informed the Board that the committee recommends that the application be disapproved.

Motion #3 - El Manantial Rest Bar. – 104-21 Roosevelt Ave, Corona, NY 11368 (New– Full Liq.)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Marta Lebreton, to disapprove the application for a new full liquor license was passed with a vote of 23 in favor, 3 oppose and 2 abstention.

Vasantrai Gandhi, Board Member, abstained saying that there is no definition of saturation.

Martin Maier, Board Member abstained no reason was given.

Rinconcito Mexicano Bar Rest. – 96-07 37 Ave, East Elmhurst, NY 11369 (New – Wine/Beer)

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

Motion #4 - Rinconcito Mexicano Bar Rest. – 96-07 37 Ave, East Elmhurst, NY 11369 (New – Wine/Beer)

Upon motion duly made by Edmund Rosenbaum, seconded by Edwin Westley, to approve the application for a wine/beer license was passed with a vote of 26 in favor and 2 oppose, 0 abstentions.

Housing Committee

Dorothy Phelan, Board Member informed the community that The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) has a proposal to lease some land on their campuses to private developers because NYCHA is experiencing a large deficit. The developers plan to build at market rate and reserve 20% for affordable housing. She said that there is desperate need for low, middle income and affordable senior housing. She proposed that Community Board 3Q to send a letter to The New York City Housing Authority and the Mayor expressing our concerns about giving away City property for market rate development.

By hand count, the proposal to send a letter to NYCHA and the Mayor opposing the proposal to lease City Property to market rate developers was passed.

Chairman's Report

Stephen Kulhanek, Chairperson, requested that members who are up for re-appointment this year, to please return their renewal forms to their City

Councilmember or Borough Hall. The dateline for renewing your membership is Friday, January 23, 2015.

Motion #5 – Adoption of the December 18, 2014 Monthly Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Stephen Kulhanek, seconded by Vasantrai Gandhi, to adopt the December 18, 2014 minutes, was passed unanimously.

Committee Report.

Lisa Mesulam, Board Member stated that on Thursday, January 8th, 2015 she attended the Town Hall sponsored by Council Member Daniel Dromm. Approximately 100 participants convened to tell the state that 6 billion dollars are owed to New York City schools.

These monies should have been dispersed after the law suit in 2007. She said that if anyone is interested in participating, sign the petitions and write letters to the elected.

Lisa Mesulam, asked for a resolution to write a letter to elected officials, the Mayor and the Police Commissioner to hire more crossing guards for our area schools. Some of the schools that need crossing guards are, P.S 212 on 35th Ave and 82nd Street, P.S 222, I.S 227, 228, P.S 230, P.S 329 and many more.

By a hand count, the request to send a letter to the Mayor, Police Commissioner and elected officials to hire additional crossing guards was passed.

Youth Services Planning Committee

Marta Lebreton, Board Member reported that the Business Youth Convention is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2015 from 4:00-7:30 PM and will be held at the I.S 227 School. Flyers will be distributed as well as volunteer forms. Tables and chairs will be provided by I.S 227. The next Business Youth meeting will be on February 5, 2015 at 6:30pm at the Community Board office.

Legislators Report

Deanna Foote, Senator Jose Peralta made several announcements about upcoming events. She also mentioned that there will be a Fire Safety Workshops held at Lefrak City. On January 22, 2015 there will be a Town Hall meeting – A Community discussion about the Bruson Building. February 26, District Manager, Giovanna Reid will be honored at the Senator's African American Heritage Celebration.

Borough Presidents Report

Lisa Atkins, Queens Borough President's office said that there are 20 Board Members that are up for renewal this year. She urged them to send their application to Borough Hall immediately.

In addition, she said for those board members who have received the extenuating circumstance letter for more than four absences, she urged them to respond ASAP and no later than February 4, 2015

Legislator's Report

Cheyenne Aguayo Councilmember, Julissa Ferrera's office, free tax preparation services are being offered from January 22, 2015 until April 15, 2015.

Barbara Jackson, Congressman Crowley wished everyone on behalf Congressman Crowley a Happy New Year.

Maureen Allen Chief of staff for Assemblymember Michael DenDekker, mentioned that crossing guards are vital for the safety of our kids. Last year, Assemblyman Michael DenDekker introduced a bill requiring every single school to have a minimum of four crossing guards on each corner of the school. In the case of I.S 145, they will require at least six crossing guards. She urged the community to write to their elected officials to support the assemblyman's bill.

Elections of Board Officers

Vivian Dock, Board Member congratulated the newly re-elected officers.

Stephen A. Kulhanek, Chairperson
Ann Brown – First Vice-Chair
Hamlett Wallace – Second Vice-Chairperson
Lisa Mesulam - Secretary
Edmund Rosenbaum – Treasurer

Members at-Large

Margaret Dozier
Caridad Mak
Bill Meehan
Jairo Rodriguez

Ms. Dock thanked Ms. Barbara Jackson, Liza Atkins, Lillie Pioche and Gary Gilbert for tallying the votes.

Chairman, Stephen Kulhanek said that he appreciates all the support received from the membership and looks forward to 2015.

District Mangers Report

District Manager, Giovanna A. Reid congratulated all the newly re-elected officers. She informed the board that Grace Lawrence, who was in rehabilitation at Regal Heights, is now home. Ms. Reid asked Board Members to give Grace Lawrence a call or send her a card, it will really be appreciated.

Motion #6 – Motion to Adjourn

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

The meeting was closed at 10:15PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Mayra Ramirez