

The City of New York  
**Queens Community Board 3**

82-11 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 606  
Jackson Hts, New York 11372

**BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, January 20, 2005**

**School**

**PRESENT**

Patrick Beckles  
Mizanoor Biswas  
Cristina Borrero  
Emma Brandt  
Richard Cecere  
Shive Dass  
Howard Dent  
Vivian Dock  
Margaret Dozier  
Vasantraï Gandhi  
Luis A. Gomez  
Darryl D. Hoss  
Joyce Hucless-Julian  
Norma Jimenez  
Capers Johnson  
Grace Lawrence  
Thomas Lowenhaupt  
Martin Maier  
Lisa Mesulam  
John Moran  
Ralph Moreno  
Mayo Peralta  
Thomas Raffaele  
Joseph Ricevuto  
Leoncio Romero  
David Rosero  
Arturo-Ignacio Sanchez  
Jimmy Smith  
Arthur Teiler

**at: I.S. 227  
The Louis Armstrong**

**32-02 Junction Boulevard  
East Elmhurst, N.Y.**

**ABSENT**

Jose Bernal  
Blanca Fonseca  
Ann Hicks Gill  
Judy Grubin  
Edward Kiernan  
Lorraine Kresse  
Stephen Kulhanek  
Marta Lebreton  
Ana Lopez  
Beryl Major  
William Salgado  
Stuart Sears  
Augusto Tiongson

**GUESTS**

**Tony Nunziato, C.B. #5**

Patricia Thomas  
Orlando Tobon  
Edwin Westley  
Hamlett Wallace  
Beninnida Yagual  
Jorge Zamora  
Giovanna Reid  
Irene Voss

Ellen Raffaele, Borough President's Office  
Maureen Allen, Rep. Hon. Ivan Lafayette  
Shams Tarak, Rep. Hon. John Sabini  
Rep. for Hon. Hiram Monserrate  
Barbara Jackson, Rep. Hon. Joseph Crowley

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Richard Cecere opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. He sadly informed the Board of the sudden passing of Rose Rothschild, District Manager of Community Board #4. Rose worked closely with C.B. #3 -- she will be sorely missed.

The Chairman updated the Board as follows:

- Praise goes to the Jackson Heights Merchants Association for doing an enormous job in collecting over \$30,000 for the Tsunami relief effort.
- Grace Lawrence is hosting the 53<sup>rd</sup> annual East Elmhurst/Corona Civic Association's fund raiser. It will be held on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at Dante's and tickets are \$60. You may contact Grace Lawrence or Jimmy Smith.
- St. Joan of Arc Men's Club will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day gathering at the Cavalier Restaurant on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Contact Joe Ricevuto for further information -- (Tel. # 718 651-7745).

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

Richard Cecere introduced Dr. Arturo Sanchez, Board Member and Professor of Urban Studies at LaGuardia Community College. Dr. Sanchez advised that Community Board #3 is involved in a new "college community collaboration" initiative. He updated the Board as follows:

The "collaboration" consists of four partners – LaGuardia Community College, Community Board #3, New York Public Research Interest Group—(technical advisors for C.B.#3's mapping project last year) and the Queens Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Initial funding of \$8000 was received to observe and survey three G.I.S. commercial mapping strips in C.B. #3, i.e. Roosevelt Avenue, 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Northern Boulevard. It is a two-year project and it will commence in four phases. The survey will involve students from LaGuardia Community College gathering data from the businesses on the three commercial strips -- i.e. the type, size, ethnicity and ownership patterns of the businesses.

Two economically developed central business districts that encase C.B. #3 are Downtown Flushing and Long Island City. A so-called “planning anchor comparison” will be implemented; C.B. 3 will study and compare data compiled from these two communities.

Lastly, Dr. Sanchez underscored the importance of getting as many C.B. #3 members as possible involved in the Project. It will open up a window for them to become actively involved, learn new technical skills and bring this community forward with a common vision.

### **The Cross-Hudson Tunnel Project**

Richard Cecere introduced Tony Nunziato, a Community Board #5,Q Board Member.

Mr. Nunziato advised that \$23,000,000 of our tax dollars has already been spent on the “Cross Harbor Project”and Congressman Gerald Nadler of Manhattan has proposed the “Maspeth Inter-Model” project. The concept is to build a tunnel from New Jersey to the East River, run freight train cars through Brooklyn and into the neighborhoods of Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood / Glendale, and back up into Maspeth. Hundreds of rail cars per day would be unloading cargo onto trailer trucks that will then transport it through the neighborhoods of Queens. Mr. Nunziato stated that extensive research was done and an environmental impact study was conducted by the Maspeth “task force” on the “Maspeth Inter-Model Project”. The study showed that the unloaded freight would reach heights of 20-stories and housed at a cost of six billion dollars. It is estimated that there will be between 16 to 25,000 additional displaced tractor trailers per day, increasing engine emissions into our Queens neighborhoods. Mr. Nunziato stated that the Maspeth task force is reaching out to Community Boards to call and write letters to Congressman Nadler and to ask our elected officials for their help in opposing the project. He added that Queens does not want to be a service area for midtown Manhattan -- further, it’s a total waste of taxpayers’ dollars, he said. The project is not only a problem for Maspeth, but for all of Queens.

Tom Raffaele questioned whether the project would create more jobs in Queens for truckers – Mr. Nunziato stated that more jobs for truck drivers will not be created, but will remain at the same level.

Ralph Moreno stated that he had a conversation with Ms. Chen of the City Economic Development Corp. It seems that this project is not going to take place because the federal government has other priorities and does not have enough funding available for it, he said.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Chairperson opened Executive Session with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jimmy Smith stated that Board Members are requesting more insight into Dr. Sanchez’s proposals for present and future initiatives. Mr. Smith suggested that it be discussed at the upcoming Executive Committee Meeting.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

**Motion #1 – 2005**

Upon motion duly made by Grace Lawrence, seconded by Tom Raffaele and unanimously carried, the January 2005 Agenda was adopted.

The Chairperson, Richard Cecere, turned the meeting over to Tom Raffaele, Nominating Committee Chairman, who conducted the election of Board officers.

**ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS**

Tom Raffaele read the names of the proposed nominees for a slate of officers:

- Chairperson                      Richard Cecere
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair                    Augusto Tiongson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair                    Ralph Moreno
- Secretary                         Grace Lawrence
- Treasurer                         Visantrai Gandhi

**At Large:**                         Norma Jimenez  
    Margaret Dozier  
    David Rosero  
    Howard Dent

Mr. Raffaele advised that the floor is open for any additional nominations for office. He further advised that each Board member will be given a paper ballot indicating the slate that the Committee developed. He noted that Community Boards are a part of New York City Government and that the election of officers are public votes. The election results will be announced this evening -- Board members and community residents may inspect the ballots which are on file in the district office.

There being no nominations from the floor, it was moved that the nominations be closed.

**Motions by Committees**

Richard Cecere advised the Board that the Landmarks Committee motion has been withdrawn.

Ralph Moreno noted that the December 2004 Minutes did not include the fact that he invited Lt. Torillo of the N.Y.C. Fire Department to make the fire safety presentation. Mr. Moreno further noted that he was on the scene of the fire that morning, which took lives and critically injured others, among them children.

**Motion #2 – 2005 -- Adoption of the December 16, 2004 Minutes**

Upon motion duly made by Grace Lawrence, seconded by Capers Johnson and unanimously carried, the amended December 16, 2004 Minutes was adopted.

## District Manager's Report

Giovanna Reid wished everyone a Happy New Year. She also thanked those who offered their prayers and support to her and family members on the passing of her mother.

## Committee Reports

### Airport

Mizanoor Biswas, Airport Committee Co-Chair, stated that a lot has happened since the Committee last met -- he updated the Board as follows:

- As part of the Airport Lease Agreement, twenty million dollars will be disbursed every year for the next five years. At this time, the details and guidelines for the disbursement of the monies has not been ascertained.
- The Airport Advisory Committee is composed of 10 City Council Members, headed by C.M. Saunders. C.M. Helen Sears and C.M. Monserrate are among the ten members.
- The Mayor's Advisory Board has eight appointees - Helen Marshall is one of those members. This Board will approve and allocate monies to community boards to pay for capital and economic development projects within the various community boards.

Commodore Beckles stated that the East Elmhurst community is inundated with pollutants and other health and welfare elements that are not in the best interest of its residents. Further, there is a major need for capital projects in the community, such as libraries and at the same time receive the benefits of economic development.

Richard Cecere noted that there was a tremendous turn-out at the Public Hearing where recommendations were made for projects that will be underwritten by Port Authority funds. Testimony was given -- the common thread was health issues. The focus now is not only on capital projects but, also at rehabilitating the community. He advised that the community should really stay on top of this issue.

The meeting was turned back to Tom Raffaele, Nominating Committee Chair, who reported the results of the election. Mr. Raffaele advised that the counting of votes was completed and resulted in a unanimous vote to re-elect the nominees on the ballots, as follows: Chairperson, Richard Cecere; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Augusto Tiongson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Ralph Moreno; Secretary, Grace Lawrence; Treasurer, Visantrai Gandhi; **At Large:** Norma Jimenez; Margaret Dozier; David Rosero; Howard Dent.

He congratulated Chairman Richard Cecere and the other members on their re-election. Mr. Raffaele also thanked the Committee members who worked with him – Shiv Dass, Vivian Dock, Jimmy Smith and Orlando Tobon.

Richard Cecere thanked Board members for their vote of confidence. "Community Board #3 has come a long way – it is the most competent, progressive and technically aware Board in Queens and is getting better all the time", he said.

## **Landmarks**

Martin Maier, Chair, advised that the Committee met on January 20<sup>th</sup> and reviewed an application for 35-27 87<sup>th</sup> Street. The applicant was not aware that she was in a landmarks district and went ahead and converted the front yard from greenery to stone. She was advised that a permit is required and needed to go before the Landmark Commission for approval.

Martin Meyer further advised that C.B. #3 is receiving more responses from people in the community who have concerns about Landmarks' standards and criteria. For example, L.P.C.'s regulation that all fences in the district are to be 28 inches high. Many residents have put up fences, without permits, that are 3 to 3 ½ feet high – all are L.P.C. violations. Mr. Maier stated that putting aesthetics aside, the major factor for higher fences is security. The district office now has a copy of the original Landmarks Commission Report. Copies can be made available to anyone who wants it. We are also asking L.P.C. for copies of the original pictures that are based on Landmark standards that was set back in 1993. Lastly, he added that informative brochures are readily available in English and Spanish. Homeowners who live in a Landmarks district are responsible for knowing L.P.C. regulations.

John Moran noted that he is taken aback by how many unsightly meters have been installed in front of homes/buildings rather than to the side. He added that Con Edison doesn't care about the appearance of our communities.

## **2012 Olympic Impact**

Dr. Arturo Sanchez, Chairman, reported the following:

- City Council approved the rezoning of the West Side – the proposal for the stadium and the extension of the Javits Center. Convention centers across the country are being used as models of Economic Development. It is being looked at as a problem of bulk and capacity. Incentives are being devised by knocking down prices.
- The #7 subway is a crucial element and will have an inordinate impact on our community.
- The bulk of the venues for the Olympics in Queens are overwhelmingly within Flushing Meadow/Corona Park.
- Olympic Housing will also have an overwhelming impact.
- Data is now being generated that will allow our community to connect with the overall progression.
- In July 2005 the Olympic Committee will make the final determination on the venue. In order for New York to be in the bid game, two pre-conditions are necessary -- the West Side Stadium and the expansion of the #7 train.

Tom Raffaele noted that the Governor's recently submitted budget does not include monies to allow for the #7 train extension to the West Side.

Ralph Moreno stated that more participation is needed from the Community as a whole. He further stated that Community Board 3's Olympic Impact committee, as well as the Jackson

Heights Action Group, were invited to a meeting hosted by the Municipal Arts Society regarding the 2012 Olympics. Mr. Moreno stated that, at that time, the representatives from Community Board 3's Olympic Impact Committee did not welcome his recommendations and input. He added that he believes everyone has a right to say what they want when it is in the best interest of the community.

### **Borough President's Report**

Ellen Raffaele invited all to attend the Borough President's "State of the Borough Address" on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. at the Colden Center. She further advised that the Borough Board Budget Hearings will be held on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. It's an opportunity for individuals and organizations to testify about programs and projects that are in need of funding. The Borough Board is made up of Queens City Council Members and all Community Board Chairpersons.

### **Legislators Reports**

Maureen Allen, representing Assemblyman Ivan Lafayette, congratulated the newly elected officers. She reported that sessions have just begun on the Governor's budget. The legislators will be fighting hard for the communities, she said.

Shams Tarak, Director of Communications, representing Senator John Sabini, stated that the Senator and his colleagues will be briefed on the budget next Monday. It is a complicated budget and the Senator will be fighting on behalf of the communities to bring more money for New York City.

Mr. Tarak further reported that Senator Sabini is a member of the Consumer Protection Committee. People need to be aware of the legitimacy of contributions made to organizations for the Tsunami "relief effort". Before making a contribution, Senator Sabini's office can be contacted should a question or concern arise as to the trustworthiness of a group or organization.

The representative for Councilman Monserrate extended an invitation for a Tsunami Relief Committee event at the World's Fair Marina. It will be held on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. It will be chaired by C.M. Monserrate and Honorable Jimmy Meng.

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

Richard Cecere thanked all in attendance and closed the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Voss, Recorder