



The City of New York
Community Board 3, Queens
82-11 37th Avenue, Suite 606
Jackson Heights, NY 11372
Tel: 718.458.2707 Fax: 718.456.3316
www.CB3QN.NYC.GOV

Vasanthrai Gandhi, Chairman
Reid, DM

Giovanna

BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, January 18, 2007
School**

**at: I.S. 227, The Louis Armstrong
32-02 Junction Boulevard
East Elmhurst, N.Y.**

PRESENT

Patrick Beckles
Earline Berry
Cristina Borrero
Emma Brandt
Ann Brown
Shiv Dass
Howard Dent
Vivian Dock
Margaret Dozier
Vasanthrai Gandhi
Judy Grubin
Darryl Hoss
Joyce Hucless-Julian
Lorraine Kresse
Stephen Kulhanek
Grace Lawrence
Marta Lebreto
President
Thomas Lowenhaupt
Martin Maier
C.A.U.
Lisa Mesulam
Office
Ralph Moreno
Michael Anthony Nardiello III
Alfonso Quiroz

ABSENT

Khaleeq Arshed, M.D.
Mizanoor Biswas
Charles Castro
Richard Cecere
Annette Hicks Gill, Esq.
Luis Gomez
Norma Jimenez
Ana Lopez
William Salgado, Esq.
Felicitia Santiago
Patricia Thomas
Orlando Tobon

GUESTS

Hon. Helen Marshall, Borough

Hon. Karen Koslowitz, Deputy B.P.
Phillip Goldfeder, Mayor's Office,

Jeff Simmons, NYC Comptroller's

Juan Osorio, Municipal Art Society
Meadow Manor Tenants Assoc.
Dorie Miller Co-op Council

Joseph Ricevuto
Leoncio Romero
Edmund Rosenbaum
David Rosero
Dr. Arturo-Ignacio Sanchez
Jimmy Smith
Arthur Teiler
Hamlett Wallace
Edwin Westley
William Young
Jorge Zamora

Ismene Speliotis, N.Y.A.H.C.
Veta Brome, District Leader
Barbara Jackson, District Leader
Ivonne Garcia, B.P.O.

Giovanna Reid, District Manager
Irene Voss, Recorder

***PLEASE NOTE: THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2007 – 7:30 P.M.
I.S. 227, The Louis Armstrong School
32-02 Junction Boulevard, East Elmhurst, N.Y.***

The Chairman, Vasantrai Gandhi, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and opened up the Public Participation segment. He introduced Teresa Booker, a long-time resident of Meadow Manor Tenants Association.

With great sadness, Mr. Edwin Westley announced the passing of Mr. Phil Saccone on January 12th. Phil was a great community leader and the founding head of the Jackson Heights Neighborhood Association. The Board and the community will greatly miss him.

Public Participation

Ms. Booker advised that the tenants of Meadow Manor are very concerned about preserving the beauty of Hinton Park, located on 113th and 114th Streets between 34th and 37th Avenues. The newer residents, many of them dog owners, are posing a problem to this beautiful neighborhood park. She requested from the Community Board, that a “curb your dog” sign be posted. The dog owners must be made aware that that they are violating the law. Ms. Booker added that there are dog runs in the area that are easily accessible.

Mr. Gandhi advised that Meadow Manor Tenants Association submit their request in writing to the Community Board. He introduced Mr. Juan Osorio from the Municipal Art Society, representing the City Youth Program.

Mr. Osorio advised that a selection of on screen maps were set up by the map technician. The maps will locate each property under discussion. If needed, additional information, i.e. zoning, land use, etc. will be demonstrated. Mr. Osorio further advised that there is an opening for a map technician. It is a paid internship through the Municipal Art Society to prepare maps for the full Board and Land Use Committee meetings. The training is free and applications are available.

Mr. Rodolfo Herrera spoke about a non-profit computer school that he founded, located at 79th Street and Roosevelt Avenue. He recognizes the lack of Hispanic and minority participation in the field of technology. The training school receives funds from the City and State of New York and the Department of Justice. The school is in operation three years and has over 80 computers. It compares with DeVry, PCI or any well-known technical institute. The school specializes in work-force development and training, such as copper wire and fiber optics.

Ms. Bridgett Edwards, President of the Board of Directors of Dorie Miller Co-op stated that the residents are up-in-arms about the proposed redevelopment on the north side of Northern Boulevard on 112th Street. The residents are opposed to the building of a hotel on this site. Why weren't the residents informed? Further, how is it decided that condominiums should be built on the south side of Northern Boulevard and 111th Street, the site of a former gas station?

Another resident of Dorie Miller Co-op was concerned about the building of a proposed condominium on the south side of Northern Boulevard and 112th Street, a former gas station.

Depending on the height of the structure, sunlight and view would be blocked out from apartments facing the site of the proposed condo.

Public Information

Queens General Assembly – Yvonne Plummer, Alumni Member and Joyce Hucless-Julian, Alumni Member

Board Member Joyce Hucless-Julian stated that she was privileged to be selected by the Borough President to serve on her Assembly. It was a great experience – a universal round-table of many cultures to discuss and exchange issues that are a part of our every day lives.

For those interested in joining, two candidates are selected from each Community Board. Notify Susie Tannenbaum at Borough Hall to start the process. The Assembly meets once a month for a term of fifteen months.

Yvonne Plummer stated that the purpose of the Queens General Assembly is to promote understanding amongst all of us in this very diverse borough. The Assembly is made up of every conceivable ethnic, age, professional and non-professional group and the importance of understanding everybody's culture at the local level. The members came together not knowing much about each other but, left knowing each other, respecting each other and being able to talk and iron out differences. Ms. Plummer thanked Susie Tannenbaum for her guidance.

Mr. Philip Goldfeder -- Mayor's Office – Community Assistance Unit

Following the Mayor Bloomberg's State of the City Address, Mr. Goldfeder briefed the Board on some of the points he touched on:

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- City Hall is currently working on a new “sustainability plan” (Plan YC) proposal – looking at the future of New York City over the next 25 years. By 2030, our city will add nearly one million more people. After 9/11 our city has recovered and is stronger than ever.
- By 2030 we'll be relying on infrastructure networks completed nearly a century ago.
- We face the growing impact of lack of green space, i.e. parks, and the thousands of acres of land that remain severely polluted. If we plan now we can protect and preserve our city.
- In the next few months the Mayor will go out to the 59 Community Boards/groups to talk about what that particular community's needs are. Information and ideas will be exchanged on the best way the “Plan YC” proposal can be implemented in that particular community.

Mr. Goldfeder urged members of the community to take advantage of the city's website @ www.nyc.gov/2030 to look at the “Plan” and give their input. Informative supplement brochures were distributed at the meeting.

Mr. Goldfeder further reported:

- The Mayor will cut property taxes by 5% in the next year
- Crime in New York is down 20%. More training will be added for police officers. The Fire Department is now training for 23 weeks, instead of 13 weeks.

Mr. Gandhi thanked Mr. Goldfeder. He introduced and welcomed Queens Borough President, Hon. Helen Marshall.

Ms. Marshall awarded gifts to Board Members, Judy Grubin, Jimmy Smith and Ed Westley, for having perfect attendance in 2006. She congratulated and thanked them for their service to the community.

In reciprocation and as a token of Community Board #3's appreciation, gifts were awarded to Hon. Helen Marshall, Hon. Karen Koslowitz and Mr. Phillip Goldfeder.

Hon. Helen Marshall

Ms. Marshall stated that she formed the Queens General Assembly ("Marshall Plan") because she represents the most multi-ethnic county in the world. The principle of the Assembly is to bring people together, from all ethnic backgrounds, to exchange culture, ideas and iron out differences. Ms. Marshall commended Susie Tannenbaum for the superb job that she has done to make this wonderful program work so well.

Ms. Marshall advised that the main reason for attending tonight's Community Board meeting is the Northern Boulevard and 112th Street redevelopment of a proposed hotel. She stated that she is totally opposed to the erection of a massive building at that location and she will vigorously challenge it. She plans to call a meeting with the developer and C.B. #3 to discuss the proposal at length. Ms. Marshall further advised that she has asked the City Planning Commissioner to thoroughly go over the proposal. She stated that she will keep the Community Board apprised every step of the way.

Helen Marshall welcomed everyone to her State of the Borough Address. Some of the projects that she will address are:

- P.S. 19 Elementary School which has been so overcrowded for many years. At last, relief has come for P.S. 19.
- All Queens Community Boards will have computer networks installed. Con Edison will be funding the installation.

Hon. Karen Koslowitz, Queens Deputy Borough President

Ms. Koslowitz reported that she is visiting all of the great Community Boards in Queens. She

commended Community Board #3's Chairman and District Manager for their hard work and dedication to the Board.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ms. Ismene Speliotis, N.Y.A.H.C. (New York Acorn Housing Company)-- 37-60 98th Street -- A proposal by New York Acorn Housing Company, Inc. for the rehabilitation of a 9-unit apartment building.

In conjunction with the Department of Housing Preservation & Development, N.Y.A.H.C. is proposing to redevelop 37-60 98th Street from a nine-unit into a six-unit building, affordable to low-income families. The new apartment distribution will be – 3 one-bedroom and 3 two- bedroom apartments. Five of the nine apartments are presently vacant because they are uninhabitable. The present living conditions are horrible -- the building necessitates a

substantial rehabilitation. Existing residents will be temporarily relocated -- Acorn will assist in applying for Section 8 housing. The residents may return upon completion of the renovation. The proposal will come before the ULURP process shortly.

Discussion ensued:

Jimmy Smith – Will the displaced tenants actually be able to come back and afford the rents? What guarantee will they have that they can return to the building?

Ms. Speliotis – Yes, absolutely -- the rents will not exceed more than 30% of their income.

The tenants will sign a commitment agreement.

Ralph Moreno – Who owned the building and what is the building's purchase price?

Ms. Speliotis – The building is city-owned and was purchased for \$1.

S.L.A. Liquor License Applications

(Shiv Dass, Arthur Teiler, Co-Chairs -- Business Economic Development Committee)

Mr. Gandhi informed the Board that two additional applications for liquor licenses were added to the Agenda:

- **“Temptation Night Club Bar Corp.”, 37-74 103rd Street (New Liq. License)**

The applicant attended the committee meeting but could not present sufficient documentation. Committee requested that he the application be reviewed at the February Board meeting.

- **“Northern Mediterranean Café Corp.”, 86-09 Northern Blvd. (Upgrade, Liq. License)**

The owner of this establishment is also the owner of “Uncle Peters” Restaurant/Bar on Northern Boulevard that opened in 1983. Opportunity has presented itself to allow him to open another restaurant/bar, (“tapas bar”) on Northern Boulevard. All approved documentation was presented to Committee.

- **“H & C Coffee Shop Corp.”, 37-66 103rd Street, Corona (New Liq. License)**

Despite repeated telephone calls and letters, the applicant was a “no show”. Committee denied the application.

Discussion ensued:

Martin Maier stated that “Uncle Peters” is one of the best restaurants in Queens.

Q. -- What are the hours of operation of the “tapas bar”?

A. – The hours are from 12 Noon to 1:00 a.m.

Arturo Sanchez stated that Mr. Ernesto is a business icon and a first-rate neighbor. He has gone out of his way to serve the community -- we welcome the new establishment.

Edwin Westley stated that Mr. Ernesto is an outstanding businessman and has given back to the community many times.

Judy Grubin stated that she knows the owner for many years. He has always been a part of the community. The application for a liquor license upgrade should be granted.

Motion #1 – 2007 -- Adoption of the January 18, 2007 Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Shiv Dass, seconded by Grace Lawrence and unanimously carried, the amended Agenda was adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman opened Executive Session with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Board Officers

(Richard Cecere, Chairman, Nominating Committee)

Richard Cecere was unable to attend. Emma Brandt conducted the election; she stated that nominations will be accepted from the floor. She read the slate of officers:

Chairperson - Vasantrai Gandhi
1st Vice Chair - Grace Lawrence
2nd Vice Chair - Norma Jimenez
Arthur Teiler, Treasurer
Darryl Hoss, Secretary

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For Chairman, Joseph Ricevuto nominated Ralph Moreno from the floor; seconded by Margaret Dozier.

At-Large Members:

Howard Dent; Luis Gomez; Stephen Kulhanek; Edwin Westley

Ralph Moreno informed the Board that he has been working for the community for 35 years. He is a member of Community Board #3 for 20 years. In the past, he served as member-at-large, treasurer, secretary and second vice-chair. Mr. Moreno is the founder and executive director of the Jackson Heights Action Group.

Chairman's Report

As stated in his monthly newsletter, "The View", Mr. Gandhi strongly believes that in a democratic society elections should be contested rather uncontested. He welcomed Mr. Moreno's candidacy as Chairman.

Due to recent expenditures incurred, Arthur Teiler, Treasurer, suggested that Board members contribute \$10.00 to the "sunshine" fund.

Motions by Committee

Business Economic Development

Northern Mediterranean Café Corp., 86-09 Northern Blvd.

Shiv Dass reported that Committee recommended approval of the liquor license upgrade.

Motion #2 – 2007

Upon motion duly made by Shiv Dass, seconded by Edwin Westley to approve the liquor license upgrade was unanimously carried.

District Manager’s Report

Giovanna Reid wished everyone a “Happy New Year”. She stated that there is much to be accomplished in the coming year.

Community Board #3 is in the process of putting together a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Volunteers are wanted – Board members, as well as residents can sign up. Judy Grubin is organizing the team. It is very important that we put this emergency team in place.

Giovanna Reid further advised that the N.Y.C. Dept. of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) is seeking advisory board members. There is very little representation on the DYCD Youth Board in our area. Residents and Board members can contact the Community Board office or Marta Lebreton, Co-Chair of the Youth Services Committee.

Giovanna Reid advised, for those members of the community who did not have an opportunity to speak on the construction of a proposed hotel on Northern Boulevard and 112th Street, are invited back next month to voice their concerns and make recommendations. The Borough President and the Community Board are looking into the proposed plans in this matter.

Adoption of the December 14, 2006 Monthly Minutes

Page 4 – Network Neutrality – Under “Discussion ensued:” Tom Lowenhaupt requested that an important statement made by Ralph Moreno be included:

“Network Neutrality is important to all communities. It is necessary to communicate with other Community Boards and get their support.”

Page 4 – Para. #6 – Capital Projects Ad Hoc – Environmental / Flushing Bay & Creek

Pat Beckles, Co-Chair, reported that D.E.P. and other committees will be **talking** with us to review , instead of *meeting* with us.

Alfonso Quiroz reported that although he was present at the November 2006 Board Meeting, he was listed as absent.

Motion # 3 – 2007

Upon motion duly made by Darryl Hoss, seconded by Judy Grubin and unanimously carried, the amended December 14, 2007 Minutes were adopted.

Election of Board Officers

Vasantrai Gandhi, Chair turned the meeting over to Emma Brandt, acting Nominating Committee Chair, who conducted the election of Board Officers. Ms. Brandt reported that the following officers were re-elected:

- Chairperson, Vasantrai Gandhi
- 1st Vice Chair, Grace Lawrence
- 2nd Vice Chair, Norma Jimenez
- Arthur Teiler, Treasurer
- Darryl Hoss, Secretary

At-Large Members:

Howard Dent; Luis Gomez; Stephen Kulhanek; Edwin Westley

Committee Reports

Education

Lisa Mesulam, Co-Chair, reported that a meeting was held in December with principals from public schools in our district. The Community Board acts as a liaison between the schools and the elected officials by keeping an open-door policy. Some concerns were broken windows that are not getting fixed, missing rugs, computers, security systems. Another meeting will be set up soon.

Ms. Mesulam further noted that parents have been notified that a sex offender has moved into the area. For more information the website is www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us.

Landmarks

Martin Maier, Chair reported that Committee met. The Committee and a couple of local citizens attended a Landmarks hearing on the property at 83-09 35th Avenue. In the past six months a lot of work has been done without LPC permits. Landmarks final recommendation was that the contractors restore the metal lighting fixtures, wrought iron fences, the terra-cotta dolphins and other landmark items. No work can continue until all landmark items are replaced and permits are in place.

Parks

Grace Lawrence, Chair, reported that a joint meeting will be held with the Land Use and Traffic Transportation Committees on January 23, 2007. The agenda for this meeting is a proposal for a dog-run site at 69th Street and 35th Avenues. If anyone is interested, it is important to visit the site before the meeting and see if it is appropriate for a dog-run.

Immigrants – Newest New Yorkers

Dr. Arturo Sanchez, Co-Chair, reported that Board Member, Orlando Tobon has just written a book entitled, *Jackson Heights A Chronicle—When Crossing The Border is Not Enough*. The book is based on his life. Orlando is also co-producer of the film, *Maria Full of Grace* which was nominated for an Academy Award in 2004. He is a very well-respected individual in both the community and nationally. There will be a book-signing event at LaGuardia Community College on January 24th. The book is also available at Amazon.com.

Capital Projects Ad Hoc -- Environmental/Flushing Bay & Creek

Pat Beckles, Co-Chair, reported that there are many problems with the environment, i.e. global warming and rising waters. Despite that, nothing has been done with Flushing Bay. Congressman Crowley has funded money towards this project -- Congressman Ackerman is also working adamantly. The Airport will proceed in Flushing Bay only if they are instructed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Although money has been received from the Port Authority, the marina is losing money because the dredging is not being done and the dock is crumbling. We need to get rid of the toxics and let the water flow freely.

Mr. Beckles requested that the Board call upon the Borough President to arrange a meeting with the Port Authority and the Army Corp of Engineers to begin work.

A unanimous hand count was taken by Pat Beckles that such a meeting be arranged.

Legislators Report

Jeff Simmons, Press Secretary, N.Y.C. Comptroller's Office reported that the Mayor will be releasing his financial report for the coming fiscal year and the out years. The Comptroller's office will be carefully scrutinizing the report. Next month the Comptroller issues his analysis of the Mayor's report. Particular attention will be paid to any proposals of service cut-backs. To advise of any issue that might impact your neighborhood, the Comptroller's telephone number is (212) 669-350

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New Business

Tom Lowenhaupt requested that a Budget Committee meeting be set up to evaluate office staffing.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,