

Community Board Ten Board Meeting Attendance
Meeting Held on Zoom Platform – Livestreamed on YouTube
Monday, May 18, 2020

Board Members Present: (41)

Tracie Britton
Jaynemarie Capetanakis
Shirley Chin
Judith Collins
Doris Cruz
Ida D'Amelio
Richard Day
Michael Devigne
Ann Falutico
Carmen Feliciano
Michael Festa
Barbara Germack
Dianne Gounardes
Ruth Greenfield Masyr
Judith Grimaldi
Daniel Hettix
Justin Hyatt
Jill Infantolino-Hajjar
June Johnson
Brian Kaszuba
Stella Kokolis
Marty Lentz
Nikolaos Leonardos
Stephanie Mahaney
Ryan Mahoney
Anthony Marino
Nicholas Massab
Iris Mulé
Nick Nikolopoulos
Susan Pulaski
Dean Rasinya
Joseph Sokoloski
Lawrence Stelter
Henry Stewart
JanaTaoube
JulieThum
Sandy Vallas
Barbara Vellucci
Lori Willis
Michael Xie
Edward Yoo

Absent: (4)

Yasmin Dwedar
John Heffernan
Adam Rosatti
Ali Taoube

Excused (5)

Steve Griffith
Stephen Harrison
Habib Joudeh
Dr. Husam Rimawi
Giuseppe Tulumello

COMMUNITY BOARD TEN GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 18, 2020 - LIVESTREAM LINK <https://youtu.be/QBCScIb4ZBQ>

Chair Willis called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and invited Nick Nikolopoulos, Board Member, to lead the Honor of the Pledge. Chair Willis thanked BM Nikolopoulos and said a few words about his service to Community Board 10 since June of 2014 including serving as Environmental Committee Chair, Parliamentarian as well as a member of the Traffic and Transportation Committee and the Police and Public Safety Committee. She mentioned that BM Nikolopoulos is always fair and brings up good points and stated that he is generous and giving to the community through his business, Bay Ridge Bakery and through his volunteerism with BRAVO. She is sad to see him part ways with Community Board Ten.

BM Nikolopoulos thanked the Board and mentioned that he enjoyed serving. He spoke about how much he learned about his community and about Community Board Ten. He believes everyone should become a Board Member at some point in their lives. BM Nikolopoulos stated that it was an amazing experience and he always tried to be fair. He noted that he was first appointed by Council Member Gentile and continued under Council Member Brannan and is thankful for the opportunity. He announced he has started another business in New Jersey and it's getting a bit too much. He thanked everyone again for everything. The audience applauded him.

Chair Willis asked for a motion from the floor to adopt the Agenda. Motion by BM Sokoloski, second by BM Stelter. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chair Willis asked for a motion from the floor to adopt the Minutes from the April 20, 2020 General Board Meeting. Motion by Board Member Judith Collins second by Board Member Sokoloski . All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC SESSION

Assemblywoman Malliotakis thanked Community Board Ten for all their efforts and commitment to carry on with routinely scheduled meetings. She thanked Community Board Ten and other organizations including BRAVO and local hospitals. Assemblywoman Malliotakis stated that she was excited to work closely with these organizations and trying to get them supplies. She voiced that if anyone is still having trouble contacting the Department of Labor regarding unemployment, they should contact her office. She said her office has helped approximately 400 people with unemployment insurance. She announced that the State of New York has set up a Mental Health Hotline for those who might be stressed, have anxiety and/or depression and they can be contacted at 844-863-9314. She said that there have already been a couple of suicides and we want to try to avoid additional cases by getting the word out on social media networks and asked that everyone to please post this information. She has been working for the last couple of weeks on specifically trying to get essential surgeries back on the calendar. She stated that if anyone has a story they would like to share with her that she can forward to the Governor regarding the impact of not having surgery to please reach out to her office via email at nysassembly60@gmail.com. She also has been trying to get dentistry reopened. She noted State Senator Gounardes' advocacy in this effort. She is looking for ways to reopen the economy safely and getting people back to work. Chair Willis thanked Assemblywoman for her work.

Assemblywoman Mathylde Frontus stated that it was nice to see everyone on the Zoom Platform. She echoed what was said before her by Assemblywoman Malliotakis that it has been difficult for everyone to understand how things have changed over these last few months. She expressed her condolences and asked for a moment to remember anyone in the audience who may have lost a family member, loved one, or close friend to the Corona virus. Assemblywoman Mathylde Frontus gave an update that her office has been helping those in need. They identified that many were having an issue of food insecurity especially for seniors in the district. She explained that her staff has been busy signing up seniors to ensure meals are being delivered to them from the NYC program adding that if anyone knows of a senior in need of food to contact her office for assistance. She said that she has been delivering PPE door-to-door giving out thousands of masks and received another 2000 masks from the Mayor which she is currently distributing. She mentioned that in a couple of days she will be tabling

out in Bay Ridge and to look for that information on her social media page. She mentioned that she created an email for the 46th District which is helpad46@gmail.com for anyone who needs her assistance. She announced that she will be having a telephone Town Hall tomorrow morning at 10:00 am for seniors. She asked that DM Beckmann post the flyer on the Community Board10 website. Assemblywoman Frontus thanked Bay Ridge Cares, Grandma's Love, Marianne and Todd from the Bay Ridge Center, and Union of Arab Women who have been ensuring food deliveries to seniors within Community District Ten. She pointed out that in the last two weeks her office has helped almost 350 people with their unemployment insurance claims. She stated that anyone who needs assistance can call her office at 718-266-0267 and leave a detailed message and she will return the call.

Councilman Justin Brannan stated that he is doing everything he can to help as many people as always and that no problem is too big or too small for him. He mentioned that it looks like the State of New York is coming down the other side of the mountain related to Covid-19 cases, and everyone is doing what they can. He spoke about important legislation to help our local small businesses and he is doing everything he can to try to support them to make it through this tough time. He is sponsoring mask giveaways in addition to whatever City Hall is doing to ensure the people working on the front lines still have masks. He announced that Bay Ridge is getting a public testing site starting the week of May 25, 2020 that will be located at 86th Street and 5th Avenue, the first floor below the municipal parking lot. There is no appointment necessary you can just walk in. A lot of residents have been asking about testing for COVID-19 and City MD, ProHealth, and urgent care places are also offering testing. City MD is offering it for free, but if you have insurance, they will bill your insurance, and if you don't have insurance you can still get tested. Councilman Brannan spoke about the need for testing to figure out opening up beaches and street fairs. It doesn't look like it's going to be happening, but he voiced that everyone needs to think creatively, because even though restlessness is not a metric that the CDC follows, people are out and about on the streets. He expressed that he is around if anyone needs him and advised all to hang in there.

State Senator Gounardes said it was nice to see everyone again. He stated that this is almost the third month we are entering with COVID-19. He voiced the need to start thinking about guidance for the next couple of months and putting good protocols in place. This is to help allow people have the space they need in order to enjoy the outdoors especially the summer months, but also to keep everyone safe. He mentioned that Community District Ten is in dire need of food and it is a shame that people unable to purchase food have wait on lines up to three hours for food. He spoke about unemployment and if anyone needs his assistance to contact his office and they will help in any way they can. State Senator Gounardes voiced concern about businesses needing to reopen and how to stay open. He wished everyone to stay healthy and said he is here for everyone.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning and Land Use Committee Report and Recommendation was rendered by ZALUC Chair Doris Cruz. See Attached.

Motion: CB 10 to adjourn BSA application number 2019-278-BZ, for a Special Permit pursuant to section 73-44 of the NYC Zoning Resolution to permit the reduction of accessory parking spaces for a proposed building with uses in parking requirement category B1 at 9201 5th Avenue until July or August after the representative, Mr. Dale, gets back to Community Board Ten's District Manager Josephine Beckmann on availability of the developer and architect.

38 in favor; 1 recusal – BM Stelter. Motion carried.

Committee Chair Cruz stated that if anyone was confused and wanted some clarity regarding this topic to please email her or contact the District Office and they will go over it with them.

CHAIR'S REPORT – See Attached

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – See Attached

BM Cruz mentioned that during their Committee meeting the representative for the developer said he was impressed with the efficiency of Community Board Ten in keeping to their scheduled meetings via Zoom platform as he has noticed in Manhattan they haven't.

TREASURER'S REPORT – See Attached

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS COMMITTEE

Parks Committee Chair Gounardes rendered the Committee report. See attached.

Motion: CB 10 to approve the proposed construction design presented to the Department of Parks for the Shore Road Park Dog Run.

Discussion followed.

BM Cruz expressed that there is little maintenance in Cannonball Park and she would not like to see maintenance for the dog park be diverted from other parks' maintenance. She is concerned that there should be a friends group supporting Community Board Ten prior to proceeding with this plan.

DM Beckmann responded that she spoke to Chris McCreight who is Councilman Brannan's Chief of Staff regarding the concern of forming a friends group. Mr. McCreight informed DM Beckmann that he currently has a list of residents who advocated for the dog run and are supportive of forming a friends group. DM Beckmann said that they both are committed to working to form a group and will reach out to Partnership for Parks to organize in advance of the dog run opening.

BM Sokoloski questioned the time the lights would be on in the park for the dogs.

Committee Chair Gounardes replied that the lights would operate during evening and early morning hours.

BM Stelter inquired about the three red arrows at the entrance of the park and the double gate.

Committee Chair Gounardes answered that the three red arrows indicate pedestrian entry into the park and the locked double gate is for maintenance vehicles to enter the park. She mentioned that she was unsure if the gates would be locked at all times.

DM Beckmann responded that she believes the gates would be locked and only opened by Parks Department when needed.

BM Hetteix clarified the layout of the plan. He said that the other gates are to the pathway of either going to the big dog run for larger dogs or to the small dog run for smaller dogs and he was unsure if those gates would be locked at certain times since it's within Shore Road Park.

BM Thum asked what the building in the photo seen on the screen is when the report from Committee Chair Gounardes was being given.

Committee Chair Gounardes answered that it was just an example. She voiced that she thinks that the hours should be restricted.

BM Hetteix said that they were discussing hours of operations with the Parks Department and he asked if the lighting would be sufficient enough to fill the entire space. He stated that lights would be located at the upper portion near the path. They said the lights they would be installing were high capacity LED lights. This would keep the entire area brightened even off hours to see if anyone was in the park. He expressed that it would help keep people safe, because it goes off to mostly grass and it's easier to spot someone.

BM Vellucci questioned in addition to the hours of operation and lighting, would there be security cameras to record in the event of something happening.

Committee Chair Gounardes replied that they didn't make any type of recommendations to install cameras.

Chair Willis voiced that she doesn't believe that is something that the Parks Dept. is going to implement, due to their budget. She is glad to hear that the park will be well lit, because she knows that area well and it gets very dark. It has been fenced in and the park was in a state of dilapidation for years. She believes the lighting will make it safer.

Committee Chair Gounardes inquired if the dog run at 68th Street had cameras installed. Chair Willis replied that they do not have cameras installed.

Committee Chair Gounardes voiced that that area is not as secluded as this proposed area.

DM Beckmann stated that the Parks Department is asking for the endorsement of the design as it was presented. She expressed that the hours of operation and other concerns can be addressed when the Parks Committee jointly with Councilman Brannan's office meets to discuss forming a friends group. This has been done in the past with other dog runs within Community District Ten.

BM Hetteix announced that he was glad to see so much attention being given to the southern part of Shore Road Park currently even with the new ramp being installed north of this area. He added that this southern part of Shore Road Park has been dark and a bit desolate and the dog run improvement will help attract more people to this area making it a bit less sketchy.

BM Grimaldi asked if she could make a friendly amendment to include surveillance in this area. Committee Chair Gounardes stated that it was not in the budget. BM Grimaldi responded that if the Board doesn't ask we won't know if it would have been approved or not and states that the Board can ask as a recommendation.

Committee Chair Gounardes said she has no objection if BM Grimaldi would like to make a friendly amendment to please do so.

BM Grimaldi made a friendly amendment to include surveillance at the area that is secluded. Motion: CB 10 to approve the proposed construction design presented by the Department of Parks and to request surveillance cameras for safety reasons be installed in the area of the Shore Road Park Dog Run that is isolated. Discussion followed.

BM Cruz pointed out that the topic currently being discussed is the design. She inquired if maintenance and other issues will return to the Board, and if so will it proceed with other issues before it goes back to the Board, after the design is approved.

Chair Willis commented that this would be worked out with the friends group meeting held with the Department of Parks. As of now, they are only asking the Board about the design. Regarding the hours of operation, she was unsure what that would be and she believes that it would depend on the friends group and the Department of Parks and what their rules and regulations consist of.

DM Beckmann added and agreed with Chair Willis that once the friends group is organized then they can set up the hours of operation if that is what is agreed upon with the Department of Parks. She noted that there would definitely be a follow-up meeting and that the construction should be completed in 2022. She assured the Board that they are going to establish a friends group in advance of the Dog Run being completed.

BM Falutico asked who would be monitoring the cameras.

DM Beckmann answered that generally, the cameras wouldn't be monitored, footage would only reviewed by the NYPD in the event of an incident that had occurred. BM Grimaldi noted that if someone sees that cameras are installed they might think twice before committing a crime.

BM Stelter questioned the resilience of the synthetic turf.

BM Hetteix replied that the Department of Parks noted that it is specifically designed for dog parks and dog runs.

Motion: CB 10 to approve the proposed construction design presented by the Department of Parks and to request surveillance cameras be included for safety reasons since this area of the proposed Shore Road Park Dog Run is isolated.

37 in favor; 1 opposed – BM Cruz; 1 abstension - BM Greenfield Masyr. Motion carried.

BM Jana Taoube mentioned that she was going to have to leave the meeting early. She announced that she is tutoring students in Elementary, Middle, or even High School, and if anyone needed her to tutor their child to please reach out to her.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominating Committee Chair Grimaldi rendered the Committee report. See attached.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

BM Vellucci stated that she was perplexed on how bars are considered essential during the pandemic. She also pointed out that bars are able to serve a drink to go and people are taking their drink and congregating in the street. She asked if the 68 Precinct had any plans for enforcing public drinking in the street. Chair Willis said that she has not heard anything regarding this matter within Community District Ten and asked DM Beckmann if she was aware of any complaints. DM Beckmann replied that the office of Community Board Ten hasn't received any complaints regarding this topic, but she will reach out to the Commanding Officer tomorrow and advise the Board of his response. She indicated that she will ask if they had complaints regarding this issue, and if so how will the 68 Precinct continue to handle this going forward.

BM Vellucci stated that just this past weekend it was occurring in Manhattan and with the holiday approaching next week it's something to be aware of. She pointed out that her friend had seen a person walking with beer in a cup on 3rd Avenue. DM Beckmann expressed that to her understanding that is not permitted.

Chair Willis mentioned that as establishments begin to open up it is a good question to inquire about and maybe the 68 Precinct can give some guidance. She expressed that she realizes that new things are developing quickly and it's good to have a plan.

BM Cruz mentioned that she was on a Zoom platform meeting with the homeowners association for Fire Island and this topic was presented and their recommendation was to have the Suffolk County Police Department enforce the rules and regulation designed by the State Liquor Authority (SLA) that no open containers of liquor are permitted outside.

BM Rasinya echoed what BM Vellucci raised and that the regulation is for On-Premise consumption and that the old rules still apply. He shared that more enforcement is needed. BM Vellucci noted that the Mayor and Governor are saying to allow this.

Chair Willis stated that she has not seen or heard any Executive Order pertaining to this. Mark Moss noted that he is not a Board Member but knows that liquor is permitted to be sold and taken away, not to be consumed on the street.

BM Capetanakis said that there has always been a problem with the park at 67th Street between 3rd Avenue and 4th Avenue that has a growing homeless environment, especially now, during COVID-19, and she just wanted to share that concern with the Board. She asked if the Board would be able to assist and contact any Outreach Program that might be able to help.

DM Beckmann responded that she spoke to Captain Conwell in reference to this issue and that they are aware that this is going on in the northern part of the park. She noted that the 68 Precinct is working with DHS and outreach programs. She will advise Captain Conwell of this specific area as well.

BM Kaszuba inquired about street activity within Community District Ten. He expressed that he would like to see people enjoying open streets in Bay Ridge, especially with the weather getting nicer.

Chair Willis answered that Community District Ten has a lot of parks and as of now there hasn't been any proposal to have open streets, but that doesn't mean they aren't considering it.

DM Beckmann noted that she spoke to the Department of Transportation today regarding this topic. She was advised that there must be an applicant and there was one application for open streets at Marine Avenue, but this area is a bus route and the application did not meet criteria. If any applications submitted the Department of Transportation are shared with the District Office, she will advise the Board.

BM Kaszuba mentioned that Community District Ten has a lot of great parks and he is concerned that too many people from other areas will start coming to our parks creating a situation where the community doesn't have a lot of space.

BM Grimaldi voiced that maybe Shore Road Park attracts people from the immediate surrounding areas and if there is no place to absorb all those additional people they will spill out of the park which will be impossible to control and may end up with closing them. She questioned if a portion of the park could extend out, because it's going to get overwhelming.

BM Cruz mentioned long-term when the city reopens it would be helpful to have streets closed for additional pedestrian and bicycle traffic, so people feel safer traveling once the city is open for business. She expressed this so everyone can think about it including the Elected Officials.

BM Hetteix said that he agrees with both BM Kaszuba and BM Cruz and that it would be sad to have a summer in Bay Ridge where there hasn't been a stroll of some kind. Even if it would not be an organized stroll, because we have to enforce social distancing. Just to open up one of these avenues during the summer or multiple

avenues to have people walk and enjoy the nice weather even for extended periods of time while maintaining social distancing. Let people see how special Bay Ridge really is.

BM Gounardes inquired that if Shore Road was closed would the Department of Transportation reroute the buses including the express bus, etc. to possibly Ridge Boulevard or Narrows Avenue? She noted that Narrows Avenue doesn't go completely through and it might not be a consideration. She agreed with BM Hetteix that it might be a good idea to support the local small businesses and she would be in favor of something like that.

Motion to adjourn by BM Hetteix, second by Sokoloski. With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. Chair Willis and Board Members wished BM Nikolopoulos all the best.