

Bayswater Breeze



71st Year

BAYSWATER

June 27, 2016

BAYSWATER OPEN MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2016 AT 8:00 PM

BAYSWATER JEWISH CENTER, CORNER HEALY AVE. & DICKENS ST.

Guest Speaker: ELENI BOUTINARIS

**Senior Project Manager for Government and Community Relations,
Economic Development Corporation**

BAYSWATER CONCERNS

Meetings make us leave our comfort zones, leave our homes at assorted hours which are not always convenient, and listen to various people telling us what is going to be done for our own good. The meeting notices always ask for our input which may or may not be listened to, usually not.

However, meetings are quite often important for what we learn. We all, as the residents of Bayswater, Far Rockaway and the Rockaway Peninsula, need to know that we must attend these meetings and voice our thoughts regarding the topics at hand. There are times that it is important to write letters or go online, or go to a rally. How else will our elected representatives and agency representatives know what we think?

A meeting was held by Community Board #14 on May 4th at Bayswater Jewish Center regarding downtown Far Rockaway. Happily, there was a good number of attendees because we had to say over and over again that the wider sidewalks, the benches, the trees, etc. were lovely to have in downtown Far Rockaway except that the agency representatives forgot that meeting after meeting had people asking for parking space, and, once again, they had to be reminded that they had not bothered with parking space.

The point was made that one can not rely on only commuters to increase the fortunes of the area. The residents of the surrounding

communities are needed also. If there is no parking space for them, then there is no reason to utilize what the town offers. There are other areas for shopping that offer parking whether up the peninsula or in the Five Towns.

***This is why you as members of Bayswater are needed to both at these meetings and to be members of the BCA so be said that you are being represented by it and it can ou.

inus of QUEENSRAIL was at the CB#14 meeting joke very forcefully against accepting the city's proposal for Far Rockaway if it did not address our issues. He is also quite concerned with the Select Bus Service (SBS) that the Board of Transportation wants for the Rockaways and along Crossbay Boulevard which will act detrimentally to the needs of Rockawayites both drivers and commuters.

The community board decided to accept the proposed plan with one caveat: that the problem of parking in the downtown area be addressed.

Tuesday night, May 10th, is the time when the entire CB#14 will meet and this proposal is on the agenda. Your civic association will be there to hear and comment on the parking-related proposals. (Written on May 10th)

Readers will find in the following reprint some of what occurred at previous meetings which led up to the meeting of May 4th.:

(Con't. on pg. 2)



THE BAYSWATER BREEZE

Published By
BAYSWATER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

President, Board of Directors.....Enid Glabman
Secretary.....Leatrice Soloway
Treasurer.....Harvey Rudnick
Editor and Circulation.....Phyllis Rudnick

BAYSWATERCIVIC.ORG - CONTACT US

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The season is changing. We are expecting many changes in downtown Far Rockaway. We are hoping for changes to improve mass transportation. An Army Corps of Engineer's plan for flood prevention is coming by fall. Many public meetings have been and are taking place to keep you informed and invite your suggestions. Your Bayswater Civit Association tries to keep you abreast of all that is happening. There will be voting for the President and Board of Directors at this meeting.

ONLY PAID UP MEMBERS MAY VOTE.

Are you with us?

OPEN MEETING June 27th.

BAYSWATER CONCERNS (Con't. from pg. 1)

Email - CCHIN@DOT.NYC.GOV. Displays of downtown Far Rockaway were everywhere along with boards for listing your ideas and colorcoded dots to put on the maps to show problem areas. What did we learn? The sidewalks on some of Mott Avenue are too narrow so they will be made wider. Parking will be reduced so bike lanes can be fitted onto the streets. No one seemed to know that there are many medical and therapy offices on Beach 20th Street or that there is a hospital as they want to take away parking from one side of that street and add, you guessed it, bike lanes. No one in the DOT realized how essential parking is in that area or that the streets around are completely parked on all day long. In fact, regarding parking, no space was being added.

No one in DOT understood that the crowding of Beach Channel Drive contributed to the crowding of roads because the lanes had been reduced. No one in the DOT knew that there was no public transportation in Bayswater so that we needed cars to make use of downtown Far Rockaway. This is much like the incompetency in developing the Select Bus Service (SBS) for the peninsula and the narrowing of Cross Bay Boulevard and Woodhaven Boulevard, and the removal of some bus stops on the peninsula.

The money is there for the improvement of Downtown Far Rockaway.

WE ASK THAT THE MONEY BE SPENT WISELY, NOT TO OUR DETRIMENT.

The second meeting that BCA board members attended was the Community Board #14 monthly meeting on November 10th.

The largest rebuttal of the night from both the community board and the residents/observers came when NYC Planner Brendan Pillar spoke about the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) that Mayor de Blasio is talking up in his plan to create 200,000 apartments for low-to middle-income New Yorkers. Everyone declared that the Rockaways and Far Rockaway especially are inundated with low-income housing and nursing homes. They declared, "We have done our share. Give us something that will uplift the area, that will bring in money to spend which would bring in a better selection of businesses for the community to shop in.

BAYSWATER CONCERNS

(Con't.)

Even as this is being fought, the building on Beach 45th Street and Rockaway Beach Boulevard of a dwelling consisting of 101 units of mixed housing which includes studio, one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments, and affordable to very low and low-income households is going up. The building is being called Beach Green North. The Queens and Bronx borough boards - made up of community boards - have voted down the proposals. Mayor de Blasio said in a November 15, 2015 article that he is resolute and the community boards aren't the final decision makers; it is the mayor and City Council who will decide.

THIS IS YOUR WORLD.

YOUR JOB AS RESIDENTS OF BAYSWATER?

GO TO A MEETING.

WRITE A LETTER.

MAKE YOUR THOUGHTS KNOWN.

JOIN THE BAYSWATER CIVIC ASSOCIATION.

OPEN MEETING - MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2016

MEMBERSHIP VOTING

It's that time of year. Time to relax and enjoy the pleasures of summer. But, before you do, we request that you attend one more meeting - the Bayswater Civic Association Open Meeting.

DUES PAYING MEMBERS ARE BEING ASKED TO VOTE ON TWO PROPOSALS AT THIS MEETING.

*One vote is for the proposed constitution which the BCA Board voted on and approved. It was on the agenda for the open meeting last June, and on June 23, 2014. It was presented for your examination at that meeting. The Board is now presenting it to the membership for adoption.

*The other vote is for the election of the new slate of officers for the BCA for the next two years, the next election being in the June of the next even-numbered year, 2018. At the March Open Meeting, President Enid Glabman invited all members of two years standing or more to offer themselves for consideration for the BCA Board. No names were offered.

The slate for the Officers of Bayswater Civic Association for July, 2016 through June, 2018 is as follows:

President - Enid Glabman

Vice President - Norman Silverman

Corresponding Secretary - Phyllis Rudnick

Recording Secretary - Rosemary Creelman

Treasurer - Harvey Rudnick

Board Members

Victor Aguerre

Rev. Alfred Cockfield

Beverly Champion

Steve Cromity

Eugene Falik

Michael Gliner

Joseph Hersh

Sonia Kennedy

Marvin Raff

Edward Raskin

Jason Shtundel

Deborah Smith-Ashby

Sheldon Soloway

IT'S 2016! THANK YOU FOR YOUR DUES

We need each other. YES, I'll send my dues!

Bayswater Civic Association

1022 Bay 24th Street

Bayswater, New York 11691

YES, I will join my neighbors for the betterment of Bayswater.

Enclosed \$25 for the year 2016

Do you have a skill BCA can use? Join us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Print clearly, so we can send messages!

Yes, we have been sending messages.

FAR ROCKAWAY AND OUR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

We are not sure that we are happy with plans that seem to be coming out of NYC's Department of Transportation (DOT) which will affect our bus and car traveling.

Had you been at our open meeting with Philip McManus (PhilAMcManus@gmail.com), you would have heard that DOT wants to make some changes to the Rockaway bus routes which may include removing some bus stops via Select Bus Service (SBS) also known as Bus Rapid Transit. DOT also wants to change Cross Bay Boulevard and Woodhaven Boulevard by having a dedicated lane for Select Bus Service, effectively cutting down lanes for cars and trucks along with eliminating left turn lanes making traffic very slow and difficult to negotiate. Emergency vehicles will use only the dedicated bus lanes, but what will happen if there are buses and there's no room to maneuver by other traffic on the roads. How will SBS buses pass local buses on the peninsula with traffic lanes already reduced? SBS also plans to space the bus stops further apart so reducing them while causing more walking. It behooves us to get all the facts and write or email our councilmen, DOT, Queensborough President M. Katz, etc. to voice our opinions and needs.

QUALITY OF LIFE CONCERNS

Vandalism, illegal parking, noise, etc.
Let's make our community better together.

Join the 101st Precinct Idea Scale Community - an online forum where you can tell us about neighborhood issues, and also help determine where and how police resources are directed.

It's anonymous!

To sign up, visit:

nypd101.ideascale.com

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COMMUNITY BOARD #14 AND DOWNTOWN FAR ROCKAWAY

At the CB #14 meeting on May 10th a DOT representative said that the downtown area is of extreme importance to city planners as a transportation hub in case of another major storm. With reference to the lack of planned parking and that there is not enough parking now CB14 voted to support the proposal with the caveat that conditional on-street parking be located, including but not limited to uni-meters, along 19th Street and from Smith Place to Foam Place.

FLOODING AND THE ROCKAWAYS AND JAMAICA BAY

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will present a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Rockaway/Jamaica Bay Reformulation Study for viewing in June, 2016 with a 30-day public comment period to follow.

At a Jamaica Bay Task Force meeting on May 5, Mr. Dan Falt, the USACEA project manager for this study gave an update on the plans for residents on the bay side of the Rockaways. Following is the WAVE article written by Daniel Offner concerning this study:

In March, Falt told The Wave that the Army Corps was considering a combination of its "Perimeter Plan" and "Inlet Barrier" proposals.

According to Falt, the first, known as the "Perimeter Plan," would cost approximately \$5.2 billion to construct a flood gate that would stretch 44 miles from either, Kingsborough Community College to Breezy Point, or somewhere closer to the Marine Parkway Bridge. The second, which is referred to as the "Inlet Barrier" plan, would cost \$2.8 billion and calls for smaller flood gates to be placed from Coney Island Creek to East Rockaway inlet.

"Even though we're spending this money, we're getting benefit/cost ratios of \$2.6 [billion]," Falt said. "So, we're getting very positive benefit calculations." Hurricane barriers were originally authorized for construction in 1964, when the Army Corps realized they needed to do additional testing to truly weigh the cost and benefit of the gate.

"So when we get this feasibility report out and it's a go, we're still going to need to go to plans and spec and do a ton more research to make sure we don't do any irreparable harm to the bay," Falt said.

Right now, Falt said the Army Corps is proposing a swing gate for the navigation channel and lift gates for the rest of the length of the barrier.

MOSQUITOES AND YOU

The Health Department conducted its first aerial larvicide application operation to marsh and other non-residential areas of Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx from May 12th to May 14th.

The Health Department monitors mosquitoes that carry the West Nile virus and could carry the Zika virus, and applies pesticides to their breeding grounds when appropriate throughout the summer. During warm weather, mosquitoes can breed in any still water standing for more than four days. The most effective way to control mosquitoes is to eliminate any standing water, mosquito-proof homes, and take precautions when spending time outdoors.

The Health Department uses naturally occurring and environmentally friendly larvicides to kill infant mosquito eggs before they grow into adults. Altosid XROG® or VectoBac® GS all containing naturally occurring bacteria being used are products approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and will be used on mosquito-breeding sites throughout the mosquito season.

Reducing Exposure to Mosquitoes

Use an approved insect repellent containing picaridin, DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus (not for children under 3), or products that contain the active ingredient IR3535.

Make sure windows have screens and repair or replace screens that have tears or holes. Eliminate any standing water from your property and dispose of containers that can collect water. Standing water is a violation of the New York City Health Code.

Make sure roof gutters are clean and draining properly.

Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs. Keep them empty or covered if not in use; drain water that collects in pool covers. Report standing water by calling 311 or visiting nyc.gov/health/wnv.