

**Minutes of the Property Owners' Association of Garden City Estates  
Held on Wednesday, May 12, 2010, at Stratford School  
Auditorium at 8:00 p.m.**

**Executive Session**

The Board of Directors met in Executive Session on May 12, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. to consider filling the vacant post of Treasurer. John DeMaro, the prior Treasurer, was elected President by the Board of Directors at the March, 2010 meeting. John DeMaro filled the President's post vacated by Brian Daughney when Brian was elected as a Village Trustee in the March 2010 election.

The Board of Directors unanimously elected John Skramko to fill out the unexpired term of John DeMaro as Treasurer, with John Skramko's term as Treasurer running through May of 2011. The Directors present and voting in favor of the election of John Skramko as Treasurer were Bill Slattery, Manny Velez, Michael Holland, Joanne Adams, Susan Eigl, James Shurgue and Kathleen Auro.

**Regular Meeting**

The Regular Meeting commenced at 8:10 p.m. President DeMaro called the meeting to order and led the assembly of some 35 residents present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Treasurer's Report**

John DeMaro gave the Treasurer's Report. We currently have \$34,076.69 in our account. \$12,990 in dues were received from some 630 to 700 dues paying members this year.

**Library Committee**

Randy Colahan advised that one person who had been causing a disturbance at the Library has been permanently banned from the facility, although that person is still sending complaint letters to various public officials.

**Recreation and Cultural Events Committee**

Pat Manley reported that the Village is seeking a way to make the tennis bubble self-sufficient. There is a Recreation Committee meeting to be held on May 25, 2010.

## **School Budget**

Colleen Foley, Chairman of the School Board Trustees, reported on the school budget. A presentation was put together by all of the Property Owners Association on May 4, 2010. Colleen reported that the administrative staff, one of the four unions with whom the Board of the Trustees is negotiating, has agreed to a zero percent increase for the 2010-2011 school year and a 2% increase for the 2011-2012 school year. This represents a commitment by all administrative staff of the District to contain expenses during the upcoming school year. Negotiations with the three other bargaining units are ongoing. Ms. Foley as well as President DeMaro encouraged everyone to vote in the school board election to be held on May 18, 2010. If the school budget is voted down, there will be a second vote held in June. If an austerity budget is adopted, as required under state law, the Board of Education would lose control over the spending. The teachers would still have their step increases which they are entitled by contract but other ancillary programs in the school system would have to be cut.

## **Village Matters**

Trustee Brian Daughney and Mayor Robert Rothschild were both present and briefed the assembly on developments in the Village. The former Social Services building is still vacant and Nassau County is considering relocating the Family Court there. The Village is opposed to any rezoning which would allow the Family Court to be relocated.

The vacant lot at 7<sup>th</sup> and Franklin is being developed and shovels will go into the ground in the very near future.

The Verizon Building will be tested for noise by an independent consultant firm chosen by the Village of Mineola.

The Police Union has filed a demand for non-binding mediation. According to Trustee Daughney, the Police Union and the Village are "worlds apart" on the latest contractual demands.

## **St. Paul's**

The Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the consultant previously hired by the Board of Trustees, who was the low bidder on the project, is inadequate in some respects and will have to be supplemented. It is anticipated that the total cost of preparing the Environmental Impact Statement will be \$80,000, almost double of what was previously initiated. Mayor Rothschild said that the initial decision of the Board of Trustees to hire the cheapest consultant turned out in the end not to be the best solution. The Environmental Impact Statement is inadequate. Mayor Rothschild stated that we need a

very accurate Environmental Impact Statement because the Village is likely going to be sued if the Village makes any decision to take down St. Paul's buildings.

### **Lighthouse Project**

Mayor Rothschild has discussed with County Executive Ed Mangano the possibility of a casino at the Lighthouse project. Mayor Rothschild said that he personally did not think a casino was a wise idea but this is one of the options for the site that is being considered by Mangano.

### **Next G**

The Company has found new locations for 10 of the 15 accoutrements that it is going to put on public utility fixture poles. 10 of the 15 locations are now located behind houses and not on the street. In the remaining 5 locations, it is believed that these are in industrial rather than residential areas.

### **Curbs and Sidewalks**

There is an extensive road work project being done Newmarket Road and sidewalks are being repaired. The Village will advise homeowners where sidewalks need to be repaired. Either the Village can do the repair work or the homeowner is free to retain his own contractor to do the work. If the homeowner retains his own contractor, a permit is required from the Village. Mayor Rothschild stressed that the Village does not make a profit on having the Village contractor do the cement work.

### **LIRR**

Bill Slattery advised that the Third Rail project has been derailed permanently.

### **Website**

President DeMaro indicated that we are in process of updating the website to put more information on it. We are negotiating with the webmaster to provide us with a blast e-mail twice a month which would go out to all residents and advise them of developments as well as scheduled meetings.

### **Residents Concerns and Issues:**

#### **Request for Proposals (RFP) for Village Legal Work**

The Bond issue has recently passed and construction work for various projects around the Village is going to be bonded. One resident expressed a concern that a request for proposal for legal services rendered to the Village has not been put out. Trustee

Daughney explained that if a request for proposal was put out, then the Board would lose the accumulated wisdom of the Cullen & Dykman firm and Gary Fishberg who has been the attorney for the Village for many years. Trustee Daughney explained that the Village does not use Cullen & Dykman exclusively and that when litigation is commenced, the Board of Trustees asks Cullen & Dykman to review the matter and then determines whether to have the matter handled by Cullen & Dykman or some other law firm. Mayor Rothschild stated that experience in doing this type of municipal work is extremely important and he meets with counsel Fishberg before every Village meeting to review items on the agenda.

### **Contracting Out**

One resident raised the possibility of contracting out police services. Mayor Rothschild reported that given the Nassau County police contract, it would be more expensive for Garden City to have Nassau County police protection rather than the police protection currently afforded by the Garden City Police Department.

### **Fire Department**

Fire Commissioner and Trustee Brian Daughney reported that it is not cost effective to consider contracting out fire department services at the present time or to have them provided on a purely volunteer basis. The Volunteer Fire Department, which is excellent, wants the paid firemen to remain in place. In response to one resident's suggestion these services could be performed by volunteers since there had only been one major fire in the Village in the last several years, Mayor Rothschild pointed out the numerous protection activities which were performed by the Fire Department that led to the very low number of fires within the Village.

### **User Fees**

The issue of charging groups such as the GCAA, the Thunder and PAL Lacrosse for use of fields in the Village was discussed. The issue was raised last year and it was decided that the residents were not in favor of it.

### **Town Justice**

Alan Mathers reported that a magnetometer will be installed in the Municipal Building and people going into the Village Court will be required to pass through it.

### **Nominating Committee**

Manny Velez, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that on March 23, 2010 the Nominating Committee recommended nominations of Joanne Adams, Bill Slattery, Michele Harrington, Cathy Wood and Mike Holland for Directors for a three year term

expiring in May of 2013. The motion to elect these five persons as Directors was made, seconded and was approved by the members present.

The meeting was concluded at 9:35 p.m.

The next meeting of the Property Owners is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9, 2010 at the Stratford School Auditorium at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Holland  
Secretary