



Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA)
www.OANA-NY.org

OANA minutes
February 15th 2017

The meeting commencement began with a few announcements:

- 1) OANA is recruiting more volunteers for committees – focusing on specific issues, such as cultural, transportation, fundraising, etc.
- 2) Traffic signal on 31ave and Vernon Blvd – D.O.T. will often will not approve a light but instead remove parking. Still undecided on final choice.
- 3) There was a brief mention about rebuilding the seawall around Astoria Houses - including design completion and construction which is set to begin in the spring.

Citywide ferry service with hornblower and EDC began the presentation with Justine Johnson. The commence is set for summer 2017, and once service begin, it will operate 7 days a week and a year round service – from 6:30am-10pm and transfer to other vessels will be free. 21 landings have so far been confirmed. It will be accessible to all new Yorkers, including wheel chaired passengers, strollers, bikes, etc. Restrooms will be available on the ferry as well. The boats will have a capacity of 149 passengers; will have particular locations for bikes rakes and wheelchairs and strollers. The noise level (horn) will be going towards the water instead of the outland, making it less disturbance for the residences that live nearby. A question that arose was the testing of the water and currents at different weather conditions, HSSQET(Health Safety Security Quality and Environmental Team) and other independent safety teams are said to be involved with the safety and training in all the different conditions that may arise. The routes that were essentially picked were also in question, basing it on where people were more densely going to for work – such as Wall Street, and future landings will be made based on



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ridership necessity. Jobs in the community were also in question – responding that they are working with the department of small business services and working with local workforce. In the following weeks, more updates will be available about some of the job opportunities, from deckhands to captains, guest service staff, etc. Concession stands were also mentioned to be on board the ferries, but not the ferry landings. For more updates - including pictures and progress regarding the citywide ferry, check out their official website - www.Citywideferry.nyc.

Councilman Costa Constantinides said a few words about some things that were being worked on in the community. The zip codes - 11101, 11102, 11106 – have above average (compared to the rest of the boroughs) ER visits and hospitalization for asthma. The focus has been placed on Big Allis, local power plant, and recent findings were discovered that they were burning number 6 oil in their plants, which has the most nitrous oxide and bad for the lungs. 15 million gallons of number 6 oil was burned over a two year period (2014, 2015) at Big Allis. Costa is making a case that New York should phase out number 6 and 4 oil by 2020. Next, a project will be started for 2018 to add an elevator to the Astoria library and projected to be finished by 2019. This will make it more accessible for people with limited mobility. It is unsure yet if the construction will close the library during that period. A design for the eco dock is also in the process, and additionally, the Hallett cove playground is also set to be renovated – even make a new soccer field. Man operated boats – like Kayaks, were also spoken about and set to be under construction. There will be a kayak launch, launching service in 2017 – installed a few years after. The team will be doing community outreach and design process, in order to design the kayak launch. Several meetings with the recreation boating community have been held, and hornblower is working with them to make sure that safety is taken into account and have a positive relationship when on the water.



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Keith Dumanski, from the Durst Organization, presented next. He spoke about building 1 being under construction. The second part of the projects were said to be delayed, due to problems in Albany (421a Tax Abatement) , and confident to be fixed soon. He spoke about one of the key components about the project; the wastewater treatment (Blackwater Recycling) and reuse system, which takes waste water that's been generated by the building and goes through a biological process to clean it and can be reused for other purposes, like irrigation. The supermarket is set to be at the base level of building one and parking will be available for the shoppers. Building one is set to be completed by summer 2018. Phase 2 and 3 are pending for the 421A and hoping to be done by 2020. He said that Durst is working with urban outbound at local hiring, looking for people with all kinds of construction specialties, trying to bring many as they can for the project. They are currently accepting resumes and holding job fairs, even accepting unskilled labors who are interested in getting involved in construction. Other things mentioned were the Durst Organization which acquired the clock tower site at Queens Plaza and are excited to see its potential use for the future.

The meeting concluded with a few pictures and thanking everyone for attending.