

Long Island City Alliance

Minutes 8-12-08

People attending: 7

Meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM

- I. Martha Ayon, the liaison from NYC Comptroller Bill Thompson's office assigned to Queens, gave a community update. She gave information about flood claims for the parts of Queens effected, which has been a major focus of the Comptroller in Queens. When asked, it was explained that the Comptroller has not taken a position on the overdevelopment that LICA is opposing as it is not in their jurisdiction. The Comptroller's office also has no jurisdiction over the Con Ed/Fed Ex land transfer deal. The Comptroller does sit on BIDS (Business Improvement Districts). The Comptroller can also audit the way formulas are used to calculate costs of things affordable housing. Several documents and reports were discussed that are located on the Comptroller's website at comptroller.nyc.gov
- II. The minutes from the May (which had been tabled) and the July meeting were approved. The Secretary then moved that LICA save paper by only printing about 3 copies of the minutes as most members are able to see the minutes when they are sent to the LICA email list. This will conserve the amount of paper used. Ann also recommended that less paper be used for the printing of the agenda by printing several of them on one page and just cutting them out from the pages to avoid having to waste over 10 pages of paper by only using 1 to 2 pages for the printing of the agenda.
- III. We discussed the current plan to change LICA's status. More information is needed and this will be brought up again at a future meeting.
- IV. The Secretary read an email sent by the Treasurer Georgina Young-Ellis about a grant she received from Councilman Vallone for her program that teaches English to immigrants. LICA is acting as an umbrella for the program as it improves the quality of life for our community residents by providing means for immigrants to learn English.
- V. It was discussed that LICA got more signatures at the National Night Out event. LICA will also be submitting our petitions to Councilman Vallone in October as that is when we will be completing our petition drive. LICA will be tabling at the September 28th street fair on Broadway. LICA will also do petitioning on October 4th.
- VI. The Secretary gave a report on the status of the Coalition for a Better Astoria and our battle against the Con Ed/ Fed Ex land transfer. We explained that we have obtained a copy of the Environmental Assessment Statement conducted by Steel Equities and it will be emailed to our

members soon. The Coalition will be staging a rally on September 6th at 12 PM to 2 PM in front of the Fed Ex/Kinkos on Steinway. Maureen requested that LICA gather signatures for our petition at the rally. The Coalition will also be making signs and posters for the rally on August 20th at 6:30 PM at the 4th floor of the Quinn Building.

VII. The March Against Hate rally was discussed, which is being planned in response to hate crimes committed against some LGBT youths and the priest that helps them. The rally will be on September 7th at 2:30 PM and will begin at Atlas Park.

VIII. The LICA forum “What is the Future of Astoria?” was discussed. We will be moving the date and time to October 14th at 7:30 PM pending approval from the Lutheran Church on 37th Street and 31st Avenue. Andrew moved that we invite the group Greenshores. The idea was also brought up by Maureen of possibly using powerpoint, though some had concern that may not yield interest from those attending the forum. LICA will hold its next meeting on September 16th (as September 9th is primary day) and will be inviting anti-overdevelopment Councilman Tony Avella as a special guest speaker and also invite Council candidate/Bayside political activist Steve Behar.

IX. Other Business- Andrew gave us an update on the Hunter's Point situation by showing us a few articles on the issue.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

Steven Beard
Secretary
Long Island City Alliance