

# **Mount Sinai Civic Association Minutes of 5/5/14**

Pledge of Allegiance 8:00 pm

Minutes of 4/7/14 provided by Lisa Pfeffer

**Board members present** - Ann Becker, Brad Arrington, Saranto Calamas, Jennifer Roth, Lisa Pfeffer

**Members present** – 13 (plus 3 guest speakers)

**Election of Board Members** - Voted on the following slate:

Ann Becker - President

Brad Arrington – Vice President & Corresponding Secretary

Saranto Calamas – Treasurer

Jennifer Roth – Membership Secretary

Lisa Pfeffer – Recording Secretary

Motion to accept slate – 1<sup>st</sup> by Mr. Pronzo & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Frank Bosio. Executive Board voted in and approved with no challenges.

**Guest Speaker** – George Jimenez from PSEG

Discussion included:

\*PSEG took over from LIPA on January 1, 2014. LIPA holds the contracts and PSEG works for LIPA.

\* Mission Statement – Exceptional customer service. Best in class reliability & storm response with a strong involvement in the community.

\*Goal – to be in top quartile in 5 years in JD Power Rating w/ a 3 year rate freeze.

\* Q&A

1. Member asked about the difference between being in top decile in nation for least outages & being in the top JD Power Survey. JD Power is a customer satisfaction survey.

2. Member asked about contribution to schools. Approved & doing a safety program for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Working on developing an energy audit contest for families & schools.

3. Brad Arrington asked about the balanced billing and PSEG is looking at improving it.

4. Member asked about the 4 hour outage in Mount Sinai a few months ago. Customer service said that PSEG was making improvements.

5. Member asked what the price is in relation to the rest of the country. The answer is at the top and a lot of that has to do with the Shoreham debt that is adding 20% to the bill (7 billion dollars). If you take that away it is at about the middle of the country's average.

6. Brad asked about Green Power, Solar Power rebates. PSEG has different money saving programs listed on website.

7. Ann asked if you can still have an energy audit with PSEG and the answer was yes.

**Guest Speaker** – Omar Groark, owner of the Valero Gas Station and his attorney, Don King are requesting support from the board regarding adding a convenience store on the property. Ann said that we need to address the town's issues.

\*Members asked about the specific covenants on the land and variances. They are asking for special variances. They need 500 feet from the Community Center. They are asking for 0. They need 25ft from curb cut and they are asking for 3ft. They need 20 feet from east side buffer and are asking for 3 feet. Town wants 50 feet of landscaping on the front of the property and they are asking for 0. Town requires 20 feet from west side buffer and they have 2 feet now.

\*Brad asked how the construction happened if this all was not in compliance. Who approved it to begin with? Mr. King will find the history of the property for the Civic.

\*The original plan had the store further back.

\*Member asked what the parking requirements were and they are required to have 13 spaces and they do not interfere with the pumps.

\*Member asked which side deliveries were made on and the answer was on the western side.

\*Lori Murphy said that there were multiple issues that the town is working on and that she will have the town send us the chronology since this pre-dates Jane Bonner.

### **Additional business:**

\*Amsterdam has pulled out of the CRCC. Warburg plans to purchase the property. Ann has sent an email to Amsterdam requesting they continue maintaining the property and mowing the lawn.

\*\* Member asked why Amsterdam pulled out and Ann said she only spoke to the new group and they have no idea.

\*Sign Ordinance was brought up and the fact that Brookhaven Town has a new code against putting signs on public property.

\*Mary Jo Bosio asked if there were any plans for improvement for the businesses between King Kullen & the Community Center. There are a lot of community members that would like to see something happen. Brad has been working on a corridor study and that it will take some time. There is not a big buffer between 25A and businesses because they widened 25A. Might be able to see if we can get medians in that area.

\*Mr. Pronzo asked what was happening with the strip by the Lotus East Restaurant. The fire has left some vacancies. Possibly insurance related.

\*Frank Bosio asked if there will be a street light installed by Thomasville. Civic is unaware of one and that it would be up to the Dept. of Transportation.

\*Mr. Bosio asked what happened to the village center that was to be built by King Kullen. Lori Murphy from Jane Bonner's office said that upon his last renewal for conditions, he has a year to decide to sell or build.

\* Ann brought up the request to have lights installed on the ball fields at the Heritage Park. The Civic and the Heritage Trust are not interested in that and the Civic's position is that there will be no lights. It would change the park. If there's a desire in the community, then we would take a poll. No member at the meeting cared to install lights on the fields.

\* Jane Bonner will swear in members of board at the June meeting.

\*Lori Murphy said that there will be a land usage meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned was accepted by Frank Bosio and seconded by Mr. Pronzo.