



MINUTES OF A REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14 December 12, 2022

A meeting of Brooklyn Community Board 14 was held on Monday, December 12, 2022, at East Midwood Jewish Center, 1625 Ocean Avenue.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hindy Bendel	Joe Dweck	Melissa Minnich	Abraham Treff
Jo Ann Brown	Sofia Francis	Boris Noble	Deborah Valentin
Mechelle Brunson	Moussa Hassoun	Eric Ost	Corazon Valiente
Edward Cen	Mordechai Husarsky	Barden Prisant	Dawn-Marie Walker
Karl-Henry Cesar	Duane Joseph	Nina Sabghir	Glenn Wolin
Florencia Chang-Ageda	Shahid Khan	Talisha Sainvil	
Steven D. Cohen	Naomi Lipnick	Joel Siegel	
Elizabeth Denys	Donald Loggins	Gail L. Smith	

DISTRICT OFFICE

Shawn Campbell, District Manager
Patricia Olender, Community Coordinator

CITY COUNCIL

Sabrina Dieujuste, Office of Councilmember Farah Louis (45th CD)

BOROUGH HALL

Eileen Mullaney-Newman, Office of Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Judith Destin, Office of Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez

STATE ASSEMBLY

Naomi Ritter, Office of Assemblymember Brian Cunningham (43rd AD)

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Jo Ann Brown called the December meeting to order at 7:09 PM. The Chair read the opening statement outlining the policies and procedures pertaining to Board meetings under the applicable statutes of New York State, the Charter of the City of New York, the Board's Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order. Quorum was present.

II. MINUTES:

Minutes of the November 14, 2022 meeting were approved. Copies are on file at the CB14 District office and available on the CB14 website.

III. DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT – *Shawn Campbell*:

The District Manager reported on the District Service Cabinet meeting that took place via Webex on December 7. There were helpful reports and updates from city agencies, public utilities, representatives from elected officials and organizations. Matters of interagency concern were addressed.

Ms. Campbell noted a correction on the December calendar pertaining to the 70th Precinct Community Council meeting, which was changed from the fourth Wednesday to Thursday, December 22. She encouraged the community to participate and join the holiday party directly after.

The District Manager provided a shelter update including that the Department of Homeless Services was working on a January Community Advisory Board (CAB) date for the Kenilworth women's shelter. She noted that the CAB was significantly past due given that it was supposed to be initiated as soon as the shelter opened in the Spring of 2022. The men's shelter on Duryea Place is scheduled to open in February and the DM stated that she had reached out to DHS and the Black Vets for Social Justice to hold a stakeholder meeting prior to the opening of the shelter. She expressed her hope that a Community Advisory Board would be timely for this shelter.

IV. CHAIR REPORT – *Jo Ann Brown*:

- A) Chair Brown recognized elected officials, their representatives, and other guests in attendance. She invited Deputy Inspector Bruce Ceparano, Commanding Officer of the 70th Police Precinct to address the assembly. The CO spoke about some positive changes in crime numbers and efforts to address ongoing concerns.
- B) The Chair reported on the public hearing held on December 12, 2022, regarding a special permit filed pursuant to Sections 73-03 and 73-622 of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York to request a special permit to enlarge an existing home in an R2 zoning district at 1258 East 29th Street, between Avenue L and Avenue M, Block 7646, Lot 69, BSA Calendar No. 2022-80-BZ.

On motion, duly made, it was:

RESOLVED (13-3-4) to recommend approval of the Special Permit

- C) The Chair reported on the Borough Board meeting held on December 6, 2022. Since no quorum was reached, acceptance of the minutes and agenda were tabled. There was a presentation about Public Bank NYC, whose mission is to advocate for the divestment of public deposits to commercial banks and the creation of a public bank where public money will work for the public goods, services and programs and will serve as part of a broader vision for economic and racial justice.

There was a second presentation by the NYC Nature Conservancy about the Million Trees Campaign which is a citywide, public-private program with a goal to plant and care for one million new trees across the City.

- D) The Executive Committee met on November 29th to discuss the Board's role in street co-namings. There was a consensus that despite inconsistent requests for hearings among council districts we

would continue to participate as called upon to facilitate a public discussion of these applications. The committee and interested board members recommended forming an ad hoc Street Co-naming working group to draft an internal set of application requirements.

On motion, duly made, it was:

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to form an ad hoc Street Co-naming working group.

The Chair appointed the following board members who were in attendance of the executive committee meeting: Florencia Chang-Ageda, Karl-Henry Cesar, Steven Cohen, Elizabeth Denys, Moussa Hassoun, Barden Prisant and Deborah Valentin.

- E) The Chair introduced a resolution pertaining to how CB14 general board meetings, committee meetings and public hearings will be conducted as per changes in the Open Meetings Law. Committee members and interested board members came to consensus that based on NYS open meeting law the general meetings should be conducted in-person in order to reach a binding decision and committee meeting shall remain remote to maximize public engagement. When there is no longer a declaration of state, city emergency in place committee shall refrain from voting on recommendations but rather will seek consensus among those in attendance. The report of consensus or division shall be reported out to the full board in the following general meeting where the matter can be further deliberated and voted upon.

On motion, duly made, it was:

RESOLVED (27-2-0) to adopt the resolution (attached as addendum).

V. TOPICAL COMMITTEES – REPORTS AND ITEMS:

- A) **Community Safety Committee –Co-Chairs Florencia Chang-Ageda and Hindy Bendel** reported on their November 22 meeting. Capt. Rocco, from the FDNY Fire Prevention Unit provided safety tips specific to the cold weather and holidays. FDNY provides smoke and CO detectors. Information can be found on the FDNY website or by contacting the board office for assistance. DI Bruce Ceparano, CO, 70th Pct, also participated in the committee meeting and provided an update on the state of the precinct. He expressed concerns about home invasions but assured the assembly that resources were dedicated to this pattern. He also shared crime prevention and safety tips for the holiday season and beyond.
- B) **Community Environment, Cultural Affairs and Economic Development Committee – Co-Chairs Duane Joseph and Barden Prisant** presented on the December 8th meeting. Mario Bruno, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection, provided information on their Rainfall Ready and Cloudburst Management programs. Raziq Seabrook from National Grid presented on capacity and timing concerns pertinent to the NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). There was also a presentation from Deborah Kirschner from the Prospect Park Alliance about the many programs and projects taking place in Prospect Park and the Parade Ground. The Co-Chairs made an announcement and encouraged public participation in the Umma Park visioning meeting. Mr. Prisant spoke about a meeting by the Brooklyn Solid Waste Advisory Board which focused on rodents. He encouraged community members to bring arts organizations to the attention of the board office.
- C) **Youth Services, Education and Libraries Committee – Co-Chair Karl-Henry Cesar** encouraged community members to join the committee meeting on January 12 to help begin planning for the 16th

Annual Youth Conference. He also announced the Al Shanker scholarship opportunity and encouraged high school students to apply by February 28, 2023.

- D) **Housing and Land Use Committee – Co-Chair Talisha Sainvil** announced that there would be a committee meeting on Thursday, December 15. The agenda includes a presentation by Bryon Todman and Tyrone McDonald from Neighborhood Housing Services regarding programs and services for homeowners, landlords and tenants. The agenda also includes a presentation by Lucy Block from Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development, about that organization’s displacement alert portal (DAP). In addition, Morgan Reuther, CB14’s FCNY Planning Fellow, will present on her zoning text amendment research project.
- E) **Human Services Committee – Co-Chairs Nina Sabghir and Joel Siegel** announced their January 19 committee meeting. There will be a presentation by Morris Heights Health Center about their new services in the CD14 community. That will be followed by HHC’s Test and Treat Corps. There will also be a planning discussion for the nonprofit roundtable. Ms. Sabghir announced that Coney Island Hospital received an award that recognized their nursing care.
- F) **Transportation Committee – Co-Chairs Steve Cohen and Ed Cen** announced that the Brooklyn Bus Redesign meeting would take place the following evening and encouraged everyone to attend and to review their local lines. They invited everyone to participate in their committee meeting on January 5, 2023, regarding DOT’s preliminary proposed dedicated bus lane on Flatbush Avenue and on the Kings Highway capital improvement plan. Mr. Cohen also noted that the committee meeting would be preceded by a special permit public hearing.

VI. AD HOC COMMITTEES:

- A) **CB14 Flatbush African Burial Ground Task Force** – No report.

VII. PUBLIC SESSION – 8:37 PM

- A) William Lewnes, Brooklyn Public Library, Kensington Branch, announced that those with library cards could sign out computers and hot spots and encouraged everyone to take advantage of this new provision.
- B) Fred Riccardi, of the Medicare Rights Center announced that the New York State legislature passed an expansion of the Medicare Savings programs and urged community members to apply, even if they did not previously qualify.
- C) Sabrina Dieujuste brought greetings from Councilmember Farah Louis and provided updates on community events and legislative efforts.
- D) Eileen Mullaney-Newman from Borough President Reynoso’s office invited community feedback regarding the comprehensive plan to include public health outcomes in land use planning. She also announced that the State of the Borough will be held on January 10th and invited the public to attend. She also announced that Borough Hall was accepting board member applications.
- E) Judith Destin, Office of Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, brought greetings from the DA, spoke about the DA’s gun buy back program and clothing drive.

F) Naomi Ritter brought greetings from Assemblymember Cunningham and announced their office's many events and town hall gathering.

G) Duane Joseph, Board Member, encouraged the assembly to shop locally.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:46 P.M.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14
FLATBUSH–MIDWOOD COMMUNITY DISTRICT
810 East 16th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11230

ANTONIO REYNOSO
Borough President

JO ANN BROWN
Chair

SHAWN CAMPBELL
District Manager

**Resolution to Conduct In-Person General Meetings and Remote Topical Committee Meetings
During and Post Disaster Emergencies in the State and in the City of New York**

December 12, 2022

Whereas, The New York State Open Meetings Law was amended on September 15, 2022 to clarify a public body's use of videoconferencing during in-person public meetings once the New York State or the City of New York Disaster Emergency expires and,

Whereas Brooklyn Community Board 14 will return to in-person general board meetings, as feasible and prudent, concurrent with any declaration or renewal of a state of emergency and,

Whereas Brooklyn Community Board 14 topical committee meetings will remain remote to maximize public attendance and engagement. Procedurally, recommendations by way of majority vote among those board members in attendance shall continue concurrent with any declared or renewed state of emergency and at such time where there is no standing state of emergencies, a recommendation among board members shall be reached by consensus only and,

Whereas, Brooklyn Community Board 14 will endeavor to add a hybrid option to full board meeting, if and only if, additional funding is provided to support this purpose, adopted procedures regarding attendance, quorum and voting rights of board members for hybrid videoconferencing shall be followed,

Be it therefore resolved that Brooklyn Community Board 14 intends to meet in-person for general board meetings and public hearings where practicable, while topical committee meetings shall meet remotely.