



MINUTES OF A REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14 January 9, 2023

A meeting of Brooklyn Community Board 14 was held on Monday, January 9, 2023, via Webex.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gregory Alvarez	Elizabeth Denys	Donald Loggins	Nina Sabghir
Darlene Bowers	Joe Dweck	Walter McQueen	Talisha Sainvil
Jo Ann Brown	Sofia Francis	Ephraim Nierenberg	Moshe Schonfeld
Mechelle Brunson	Moussa Hassoun	Boris Noble	Joel Siegel
Edward Cen	Mehdi Pourpeikari Heris	Eric Ost	Abraham Treff
Karl-Henry Cesar	Mordechai Husarsky	Tzvi Plotsker	Deborah Valentin
Florencia Chang-Ageda	Duane Joseph	Edward Powell	Corazon Valiente
Yvette Clairjeane	Shahid Khan	Barden Prisant	Glenn Wolin
Steven D. Cohen	Naomi Lipnick	Bazah Roohi	

DISTRICT OFFICE

Shawn Campbell, District Manager
Patricia Olender, Community Coordinator

BOROUGH HALL

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

CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Farah Louis (45th CD)
Sabrina Dieujuste, Office of Councilmember Farah Louis (45th CD)
Joel Desouve, Office of Councilmember Rita Joseph (40th CD)

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Anastasia Yaskova, Office of Mayor Eric L. Adams

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Judith Destin, Office of Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez

STATE ASSEMBLY

Lisa Derrick, Office of Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn (42nd AD)
Kayla Osbourne, Office of Assemblymember Brian Cunningham (43rd AD)
Naomi Ritter, Office of Assemblymember Brian Cunningham (43rd AD)
Mary Kay Seery, Office of Assemblymember Robert Carroll (44th AD)

CONGRESS

Eli Slavin, Office of Representative Yvette Clarke (9th CD)

OTHER GUESTS / REPRESENTATIVES

Detective Scott Nuzzi, 70th Precinct, NYPD

Lauren Collins, Flatbush Avenue BID & Church Avenue BID

Leslie Velazquez, NYC Small Business Services

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Jo Ann Brown called the January meeting to order at 7:03 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 December 12, 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 DM wished the assembly a happy new year and congratulated the 70th Police Precinct and Community Council on a packed holiday celebration for women and their children in shelter.

District Manager Campbell reported on the Brooklyn Bus Redesign town hall and noted that very few community members were in attendance. Given the expansive changes proposed, she encouraged more people to attend the next meeting and to weigh in online. Access to the plan is posted on CB14's website.

The District Manager also attended the Umma Park redesign meeting. Community members provided great ideas and spoke about how the space is utilized. The rehabilitation of Umma Park has been on CB14's budget priority list for over a decade and the DM expressed excitement that Councilmember Rita Joseph had allocated the necessary funding to finally bring the project forward. The Department of Parks and Recreation will present preliminary plans to CB14 in the spring of 2023.

As per CB14 Bylaws, Section XI, C the DM announced that Sarah Sklaw accepted the position of Community Coordinator and would be starting as soon as Brooklyn Borough Hall processes HR requirements. The hire was already approved by OMB. The District Manager also announced that Patricia Olender's schedule would be increased from three days a week to four with a modest hourly increase. This was approved by OMB on December 15th but was still pending at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

IV. CHAIR REPORT – *Jo Ann Brown:*

A) The Chair recognized Councilmember Farah Louis and invited her to address the audience. The Councilmember spoke about City Council hearings and upcoming discretionary funding workshops. Chair Brown recognized the representatives of elected officials, and other guests in attendance.

- B) The Chair reported on the public hearing held on January 9, 2023, regarding the merger of the Flatbush Avenue and Church Avenue BIDs as proposed by NYC Small Business Services.

On motion, duly made, it was:

RESOLVED (35-0-0) to recommend approval of the merger of the Flatbush Avenue and Church Avenue BIDs

- C) The Chair reported on the public hearing held on January 5, 2023, regarding a special permit filed pursuant to Section 73-622 of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York, as amended, to request a special permit to allow the enlargement of a single-family residence located in a residential (R2) zoning district at 1492 East 24th Street, Block 7677, Lot 2, BSA# 2022-91-BZ.

On motion, duly made, it was:

RESOLVED (35-0-0) to recommend approval of the Special Permit

- D) The Chair reported on the Borough Board meeting held on January 3, 2023. A public hearing was conducted regarding capital projects in Prospect Park including: path resurfacing, new fencing, bioswales and improved ADA accessibility. These four projects will be funded with discretionary funding and participatory budgeting funds. The Borough Board voted to support the plans. The Landmark and Preservation Commission will be next to consider the proposal. The next item on the Borough Board agenda was a discussion about encouraging the NYS legislature to amend the Public Officer's Law in order to allow public bodies, such as Community Boards, to meet electronically and conduct business and ratify proposals thusly. This was followed by a discussion about Brooklyn Borough Hall human resources policy to ensure Community Board autonomy in personnel matters as per the NYC Charter. The Law Department indicated that they were reviewing HR matters. The Borough Board discussed proposed rules changes to codify BP appointments to Community Boards and to clarify board training support. The Chair noted that CB Bylaws might need to be updated to address such changes. However, the proposed changes would be written to sunset at the end of the current Borough President's term.
- E) Appointment of Nominating Committee. The Chair appointed:
- Region 1 - Melissa Minnich,
 - Region 2 - Corazon Valiente,
 - Region 3 - Donald Loggins,
 - Region 4 - Abe Treff,
 - At Large - Naomi Lipnick
- F) A motion to Invoke Section IV, A-2 of CB14's bylaws in order to allow the Chair to run for a third term was made by Florencia Chang-Ageda and seconded by Joseph Dweck. The Chair claimed her ineligibility to vote. All others were in favor.

V. TOPICAL COMMITTEES – REPORTS AND ITEMS:

- A) **Housing and Land Use Committee – Co-Chair Gregory Alvarez and Talisha Sainvil** reported on their December 15th meeting. The agenda included a presentation by Bryon Todman and Tyrone McDonald from Neighborhood Housing Services regarding programs and services for homeowners, landlords and tenants. Lucy Block from Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development,

presented on ANHD's Displacement Alert Portal (DAP) and demonstrated how to use this valuable tool. In addition, Morgan Reuther, CB14's FCNY Planning Fellow, provided a preliminary report on her zoning text amendment research project and asked for input from those in attendance in order to focus the project to the district.

- B) **Transportation Committee – Co-Chairs Steve Cohen** urged everyone to attend the February 23rd Brooklyn Bus Redesign public session. He reported on the Transportation Committee's January 5th meeting. The New York City Department of Transportation presented a preliminary proposal to install dedicated bus lanes on Flatbush Avenue. This was presented by Philip Betheil, AICP, Deputy Director, Bus Priority, DOT, and Nick Roloson, Assistant Director, Government and Community Relations, MTA. Co-Chair Ed Cen reported on DOT's update on the B82 Kings Highway capital project. Dustin Khuu, Senior Project Manager also presented. The committee asked the Board to endorse a letter of support for the landscaping aspect of the plan, which was granted without objection. For the record, there was a question as to why DOT did not have to go through the ULURP process which could not be answered at the time. Because there is no change in use, ULURP is not required.
- C) **Youth Services, Education and Libraries Committee – Co-Chair Karl-Henry Cesar** reminded the public that the deadline for the AI Shanker UFT scholarship for high school seniors is February 28th. He mentioned NPower's programs in training and career development. Mr. Cesar encouraged community members to join the next committee meeting on Thursday, January 12 to help begin planning for the 16th Annual Youth Conference.
- D) **Human Services Committee – Co-Chair 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, which will be held on February 9th. **Co-Chair Nina Sabghir** added details regarding the program for the 2023 roundtable and encouraged board members to attend.
- E) **Community Safety Committee – Co-Chairs Florencia Chang-Ageda and Hindy Bendel** had no report. She encouraged the assembly to review Community Safety meetings on the CB14 YouTube channel for important safety information, especially for the winter season.
- F) **Community Environment, Cultural Affairs and Economic Development Committee – Co-Chairs Duane Joseph and Barden Prisant** did not have a report but noted a plan to invite Lauren Elvers Collins back to the committee to speak in greater detail about the merger of Flatbush and Church Avenue BIDs.
- G) **VI. AD HOC COMMITTEES:**
- a) **CB14 Flatbush African Burial Ground Task Force** – No report. Co-Chair Duane Joseph reminded the assembly that the last update included the plan to transfer the space to the Department of Parks and Recreation. He asked the District Manager to check on the status of that transfer.
- b) **Steet Co-Naming Working Group – Jo Ann Brown** announced that a meeting to review street co-naming criteria is scheduled for January 31, 2023.

VII. PUBLIC SESSION – 8:37 PM

- A) Emily Chingay, Community Outreach Coordinator for Open Plans spoke about advocacy for open space at the local level. She also spoke about the Open Plans campaign focusing on community boards and offered model resolutions on the OpenPlans.org website. The organization also holds CB Information sessions for potential members.
- B) Alexis Spiegel, Flatbush Community Theater spoke about moving in the direction of becoming a nonprofit organization in the community with the Flatbush Theater Project.
- C) Narinderpal Chawla, Branch Manager, Flatbush Branch, Brooklyn Public Library announced that the FCC provides a \$30 credit to offset broadband cost. The library assists with applications on Tuesday and Thursdays. He announced that BBL has been acknowledged by the national *Library Journal* for their work protecting books from being banned. He encouraged community members to apply for the Culture Pass for access to many city amenities. He reminded community members that the library offers hotspot and laptop loan programs, in addition to several other ongoing daily programs and services.
- D) Eli Slavin, Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke brought greetings from Representative Clarke and offered support for all matters related to the federal government such as immigration and passport issues.

Chair Jo Ann Brown concluded by reminding board members and members of the public that the Brooklyn Borough President's deadline for board membership applications is February 14th.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:17 P.M.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.