



MINUTES OF A REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14 February 13, 2023

A meeting of Brooklyn Community Board 14 was held on Monday, February 13, 2023, via Webex.

MEMBERS PRESENT

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Waqil Ahmed | Yvette Clairjeane | Naomi Lipnick | Talisha Sainvil |
| Gregory Alvarez | Steven D. Cohen | Donald Loggins | Moshe Schonfeld |
| Hindy Bendel | Elizabeth Denys | Melissa Minnich | Joel Siegel |
| Jo Ann Brown | Joe Dweck | Ephraim Nierenberg | Gail L. Smith |
| Mechelle Brunson | Sofia Francis | Boris Noble | Abraham Treff |
| Edward Cen | Moussa Hassoun | Tzvi Plotsker | Deborah Valentin |
| Carmen Cerio Belle | Mehdi Pourpeikari Heris | Edward Powell | Corazón Valiente |
| Karl-Henry Cesar | Duane Joseph | Barden Prisant | Dawn-Marie Walker |
| Florencia Chang-Ageda | Shahid Khan | Nina Sabghir | Glenn Wolin |

DISTRICT OFFICE

Shawn Campbell, District Manager
Patricia Olender, Community Coordinator

BOROUGH HALL

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

CITY COUNCIL

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

COMPTROLLER

Pinchus Hikind, Office of New York City Comptroller Brad Lander

PUBLIC ADVOCATE

Emmit Sklar, Office of the New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

STATE SENATE

Paurcha Edwards, Office of State Senator Zellnor Myrie (20th SD)

CONGRESS

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

OTHER GUESTS / REPRESENTATIVES

Alvin Berk, Chairman Emeritus, Brooklyn Community Board 14

Deputy Inspector Bruce Ceparano, 70th Precinct, NYPD
Detective Scott Nuzzi, 70th Precinct, NYPD
P.O. Michael Joseph, 70th Precinct, NYPD

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Jo Ann Brown called the February meeting to order at 7:00 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 January 9, 2023, meeting were approved with a correction. Copies are on file at the CB14 District office and available on the CB14 website.

III. DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT – *Shawn Campbell:*

The District Manager expressed her thanks to Chair Brown, Co-Chairs of the Human Services Committee, Joel Siegel and Nina Sabghir, as well as Duane Joseph, Karl-Henry Cesar, Eric Ost and Barden Prisant for their participation and assistance with a very successful Nonprofit Roundtable. She acknowledged the board members who were there representing other organizations to which they are dedicated, including Florencia Chang-Ageda, Bazah Roohi, and Corazon Valiente. The DM also thanked Wayne Rosenfeld for East Midwood Jewish Center's hospitality.

District Manager Campbell reported on meeting the new Commanding Officer of Patrol Borough Brooklyn South, Deputy Chief Charles McEvoy, who gathered district managers from Brooklyn South to introduce himself and express his enthusiasm for working together. The District Manager also attended the Umma Park local outreach event in the park and expressed her appreciation for an honest and vigorous effort being made to include local input in this long-awaited playground redesign project. Ms. Campbell expressed her dismay that the Childrens' Rescue Fund still had not held a single Community Advisory Board meeting despite a commitment made by the Department of Homeless Services approximately a year ago. A meeting was announced in December and again in January but did not come to fruition.

The District Manager took part in a meeting led by the State Office of Cannabis Management and expressed her desire to bring them to present directly to CB14. She noted that the policies in place are complicated especially in their interaction with city policies that pertain to tobacco and e-cigarettes, which were often conflated with cannabis sales, most of which are not permitted in the city at this time.

IV. CHAIR REPORT – *Jo Ann Brown:*

- A) The Chair recognized representatives from the offices of elected officials and other special guests. She invited Deputy Inspector Bruce Ceparano to address the assembly. The Commanding Officer of the 70th Police Precinct spoke about ongoing concerns related to an uptick in grand larceny. Many of these crimes are preventable if people would practice removing valuables from their vehicles. He spoke about ongoing efforts to address shoplifting in the precinct and cautioned people to not send checks through the mail and to use the interior boxes at post offices to avoid increasing mailbox mail thefts.
- B) The Chair expressed condolences at the loss of Police Officer Adeed Fayaz, who served in our neighboring 66th Precinct and whose services were held at Makki Mosque the previous Thursday. She also congratulated Captain Krystin Suarez, who will be serving as the Commanding Officer of the 72nd

Precinct. As Executive Officer at the 70th Precinct, Capt. Suarez twice served as acting Commanding Officer through two different leadership transfers. Police Officer Noemi Osoreo will also transfer to the 72nd Precinct and she wished them well. She welcomed Captain Jared Badillo, the new Executive Officer at the 70th Precinct.

- C) The Chair reported on the public hearing held on February 13, 2023, regarding the Citywide Statement of Needs (SON), which took place just prior to the Board meeting. The primary focus of the hearing was on the 70th Precinct House, which appears in the SON for the first time in decades.

On motion, duly made, it was:

RESOLVED (35-0-0) to recommend approval of CB14's responses to the Citywide Statement of Needs.

- D) The Chair reported on the Borough Board meeting held on February 7, 2023. A public hearing was conducted regarding capital projects in Prospect Park including \$40 million allocated to the Vale, which includes the Children's Pool. The Rose Garden will also be improved. The Borough Board voted to support the plans. The Landmarks Preservation Commission will be next to consider the proposal. The next item on the Borough Board agenda was a continuation of discussion regarding a resolution for the NYS legislature to amend the Public Officers law in order to allow public bodies, such as community boards, to meet electronically and conduct business and ratify proposals thusly. The Borough Board's bylaws were discussed as the most recent amendments were in 1977. Borough Hall's General Counsel will review the bylaws to determine which sections need to be updated and will then form a bylaws committee.
- E) Nominating Committee Report. The Chair thanked the follow board members for serving on the Nominating Committee: Region 1 - Melissa Minnich, Region 2 - Corazón Valiente, Region 3 - Donald Loggins, Region 4 - Abraham Treff and At large - Naomi Lipnick. The committee selected Donald Loggins as chair and Mr. Loggins announced the committee's slate of nominees: Jo Ann Brown - Chair; Duane Joseph - First Vice Chair; Steven D. Cohen - 2nd Vice Chair; Joseph Dweck - 3rd Vice Chair; Hindy Bendel - Secretary; Shahid Khan - Member at Large; Karl-Henry Cesar - Member at Large. The Chair invited nominations from the floor for each officer. There were no further nominations. Gail L. Smith spoke about her decision to step down from the Executive Committee but assured the Board that she would still serve as a board member. She noted the storied past of CB14, the importance of institutional memory and her wish to see newer members in leadership positions to complement experienced members. Chair Brown expressed her gratitude for Ms. Smith's leadership, dedication, and mentorship.
- F) Chair Brown reminded members that the due date for board applications is February 23 and noted that some members who were appointed in the midterm and would have to reapply even if they had only served for one year.

V. TOPICAL COMMITTEES – REPORTS AND ITEMS:

- A) **Youth Services, Education and Libraries Committee – Co-Chair Karl-Henry Cesar** reminded the public that the deadline for the Al Shanker UFT scholarship for high school seniors is February 28. He announced an Inner-City Handball Tournament on February 28 and the deadline for the First Tech Fund on April 1. Mr. Cesar announced that the Summer Youth Employment Program application period had opened and would run through March 28. Mr. Cesar also reminded the assembly that CB14's 16th Annual Youth Conference is scheduled for Monday, April 3 at Brooklyn College's SUBO building and invited all to join the next committee meeting on February 27 to help plan the event.
- B) **Human Services Committee – Co-Chair Nina Sabghir** reported on the committee's January 19 meeting, which included presentations from Morris Heights Health Center about their new services in

the CD14 community, followed by HHC's Test and Treat Corps, and encouraged people who did not feel well to use the mobile unit services so they could be tested for Covid, RSV or the flu. She also added thanks and spoke about the 2023 Nonprofit Roundtable and all the great organizations serving our community. **Co-Chair Joel Siegel** added his thanks as well.

- C) **Community Environment, Cultural Affairs and Economic Development Committee – Co-Chair Duane Joseph** noted the presence of Co-Chair **Barden Prisant** and reported on the upcoming February 23 meeting, encouraging all to attend to hear Lauren Elvers Collins speak in greater detail about the Flatbush and Church Avenue BIDs merger. Edward Cen will be representing the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection to talk about the city's licensing and enforcement responsibilities as they pertain to tobacco and e-cigarette products. He will also speak about free tax preparation.
- D) **Community Safety Committee – Co-Chairs Florencia Chang-Ageda and Hindy Bendel** had no report and encouraged the assembly to watch for their upcoming agenda and to join the next meeting once scheduled.
- E) **Transportation Committee – Co-Chair Steven Cohen** urged everyone to attend the February 23 Brooklyn Bus Redesign public session. He noted the CB14 Community Environment, Cultural Affairs and Economic Development Committee meeting was also taking place that day and hoped that people could make both if time allowed.
- F) **Housing and Land Use Committee – Co-Chair Talisha Sainvil** reported on the February 1 meeting at which the Brooklyn Borough President's Comprehensive (land use) Plan was discussed. A discussion of Borough Hall's existing conditions report and goals to link land use to social determinants of health took place and resulted in CB14's preliminary comments, which were submitted to Borough Hall for consideration. In addition, William Cooch, CB14's FCNY Planning Fellow, introduced himself and his CD14 affordable housing research project.

VI. AD HOC COMMITTEES:

- A) **Steet Co-Naming Working Group – Jo Ann Brown** reviewed the co-naming criteria discussed by the working group at their January 31, 2023 meeting. There was consensus to recommend that: (1) the honoree has shown commitment to the community and/or historical significance to the community; (2) that there be no minimum requirement for the number of years of such service; and (3) that all proposals, without exceptions, should be subject to a formal application process, i.e., all applications are to be given equal hearing. There was one item on which consensus was not reached and the Chair invited discussion, on how community members in greatest proximity to the street would be notified. The result of the discussion was to require that 51% of residents within a one-block radius must sign a petition supporting the proposal. There was unanimous consent on these guidelines, which will be presented in full to the Board in the form of a resolution.
- B) **CB14 Flatbush African Burial Ground Task Force – Co-Chair Duane Joseph** reported on the confirmation of the transfer of the space and funding to the Department of Parks and Recreation. The design of the memorial will be undertaken by DPR with robust community input. Corazón Valiente asked if updates about volunteer efforts, such as lot cleaning, could be presented during the Task Force reports. The DM asked that concerns about lot maintenance be brought to the attention of the District Office in order to report conditions to DPR.

VII. PUBLIC SESSION – 8:37 PM

- A) Anthony Carrión, Community Engagement Specialist, Civic Engagement Committee, spoke about Get Out the Vote efforts, poll site interpretation, the Democracy NYC program and participatory budgeting as well as CEC's hope to provide more in-depth presentations at upcoming committee meetings.
- B) Katherine Belka, Community Affairs, DSNY, spoke about new set-out times for collections: 6:00 pm for containers with lids; 8:00 pm for bags. Businesses must put out their private carting no more than one hour before closing if using containers or at 8:00 pm for bags. Concerns about larger buildings, and religious accommodations were raised.
- C) Rakhi Bhattacharya, Brooklyn Public Library, spoke about the renewal of *Ready, Set, Kindergarten* and the many valuable programs offered for all community members at our local BPL branches.
- D) Emmitt Sklar, Brooklyn Borough Advocate for Public Advocate Jumaane Williams introduced himself, spoke about voter registration deadlines and other upcoming events.
- E) Shakima Grant, Memorial Medical Care PC spoke about the comprehensive care and specialty care offerings in partnership with the NY Cancer and Blood Specialist at their new center located at 2236 Nostrand Avenue. They plan to hold an open house sometime in April.
- F) Geoffrey Thomas, Flatbush Streets for People, spoke about the proliferation of 53-foot trucks and the group's efforts to document improper use of streets.
- G) Venus Scantelbury, Civilian Complaint Review Board, spoke about how to file a complaint regarding police misconduct and the work of the CCRB.
- H) Eileen Mullaney Newman, Office of Borough President Antonio Reynoso, reminded the assembly that board membership applications were due on February 23, 2023 and announced Black History Month events, including an art exhibit at Borough Hall, and invited the public to take part.
- I) Paurcha Edwards from Councilmember Zellnor Myrie's Office noted a bill passed by the State and on the Governor's desk, S159, which is intended to provide clarity regarding cannabis sales and enforcement. She announced upcoming events and constituent services.
- J) Sabrina Dieujuste, Constituent Services Director, Office of Councilmember Farah Louis, spoke about public concerns regarding the bus network redesign. She encouraged the public to contact their office for help with TPS applications and mentioned other upcoming events and services.
- K) 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. He encouraged everyone to take advantage of information on their website.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:39 P.M.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.