



MINUTES OF A REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14 April 17, 2023

A meeting of Brooklyn Community Board 14 was held on Monday, April 17, 2023, at East Midwood Jewish Center, 1625 Ocean Avenue.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Waqil Ahmed	Yvette Clairjeane	Mordechai Husarsky	Nina Sabghir
Gregory Alvarez	Steven D. Cohen	Manzoor Hussain	Joel Siegel
Hindy Bendel	Elizabeth Denys	Naomi Lipnick	Gail L. Smith
Jo Ann Brown	Joe Dweck	Donald Loggins	Abraham Treff
Mechelle Brunson	Yehuda Eckstein	Ephraim Nierenberg	Deborah Valentin
Edward Cen	Sofia Francis	Eric Ost	Corazon Valiente
Karl-Henry Cesar	Moussa Hassoun	Edward Powell	Dawn-Marie Walker
Florencia Chang-Ageda	Mehdi Pourpeikari Heris	Barden Prisant	

DISTRICT OFFICE

Shawn Campbell, District Manager
Patricia Olender, Community Coordinator
Sarah Sklaw, Community Coordinator

BOROUGH HALL

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

CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Farah Louis (45th CD)
Troy Olson, Office of Councilmember Inna Vernikov (48th CD)

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Judith Destin, Office of Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez

STATE ASSEMBLY

Yehuda Schupper, Office of Assemblymember Helene Weinstein (41st AD)

CONGRESS

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

OTHER GUESTS / REPRESENTATIVES

Inspector Bruce Ceparano, 70th Precinct, NYPD
P.O. Michael Joseph, 70th Precinct, NYPD

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Jo Ann Brown called the April meeting to order at 7:06 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 March 13, 2023 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 Youth Conference and thanked everyone who was involved in it. It was a very successful and fun event. Particular thanks were given to staff members Sarah Sklaw and Patricia Olender.

The DM thanked Moe Razvi and COPO for an excellent Ramadan kick-off event. She noted that Chand Raat will take place on Coney Island Avenue on Thursday. The DM encouraged participants to visit. She thanked DSNY for helping with the beginning of Passover and dedicating an additional 50 trucks to the effort.

A fruitful District Service Cabinet meeting was held and the DM thanked the Mayor's Office for helping to make sure that DYCD and HPD are regular attendees at meetings. There will be a robust committee meeting schedule as we round out the meeting season. The DM encouraged everyone to look out for the calendars and join us for as many meetings as possible as we head into the summer.

The CB14 district office is also embarking on a large project to digitize Land Use files. The DM reported that the project will exceed \$10,000.

IV. CHAIR REPORT – Jo Ann Brown:

The Chair recognized elected officials. She invited Inspector Bruce Ceparano, Commanding Officer, 70th Precinct to address those assembled. He encouraged those mailing checks to mail them at the post office and not drop them in mailboxes.

The Chair recognized those celebrating or who had celebrated Passover, Easter, and Eid. She thanked Florencia Chang-Ageda for offering to be a representative on the Brookdale University Medical Center's community advisory board. She also thanked Karl-Henry Cesar, Duane Joseph, and the staff of CB14 for their work on the Youth Conference. The Chair recognized and thanked Gail L. Smith for her wisdom, institutional knowledge, and service on the executive committee.

The Chair reported on the Tuesday April 4, 2023 Borough Board Meeting. Presentations included the Borough President's Comprehensive Plan, delivered by Erin Buchanan, Deputy Director, Land Use, BP's office. The following presentation was about the education workshop series administered by the Civic Engagement Commission, which was delivered by Benjamin Solotaire, the Community Board Advisor for CEC. There was additional discussion about the Borough Board's bylaws. The Chair had previously reported on the 1977 bylaws, but a newer version from 2007 was subsequently found and authenticated by a long-term Borough Board member. It is anticipated that a Bylaws Committee will be appointed to review the proposed changes to the document.

V. TOPICAL COMMITTEES – REPORTS AND ITEMS:

A) **Youth Services, Education and Libraries – Co-Chair Karl-Henry Cesar** reported on the 16th Annual Youth Conference held on April 3 at Brooklyn College. There were 54 organizations and over 400 young people in attendance. He thanked Brooklyn College for the use of the facility, everyone who attended the event, CB14 staff, the organizations, and students themselves. He thanked Councilmembers Rita Joseph and Farah Louis for participating in the mock interviews. It was a very successful and productive event. He announced that the next meeting for Youth Services, Education and Libraries will take place on Monday, May 1. It will focus on recapping the Youth Conference and discussing CEC's Why Vote Now and Next Gen.

B) **Community Environment, Cultural Affairs and Economic Development – Co-Chair Barden Prisant** reported on the meeting on March 28, at which DSNY revisited the new trash set out times. The presentation is available on CB14's YouTube channel. There were still numerous concerns and DM Campbell wrote a letter to Commissioner Tish expressing them. Mr. Prisant highlighted key points in that letter, including the area's dead-ends, buildings having to pay staff for later hours, the burden on local businesses, enforcement matters, and religious holidays. The meeting members revisited the tobacco and cannabis sales issue and Edward Cen, DWCP, returned to follow up on his previous presentation. The result was a draft resolution.

Chair Brown noted that the resolution was sent to Board members along with the minutes. The Chair opened the floor to changes, comments, or corrections to the resolution. Board Members provided suggested changes which were discussed and clarified.

On a motion duly made it was resolved (31-0-0) to adopt the resolution as corrected at the Board meeting. The resolution passed.

Co-chair Prisant noted that the planned agenda item on public restrooms by the Public Bathroom Working Group had been rescheduled for a future committee meeting.

The Chair recognized Councilmember Farah Louis (District 45). The Councilmember thanked the Board for passing a resolution on illegal smoke shops. She noted that the Council has been having a difficult time with OCM, and drafted bills pertaining to this issue. She spoke about transportation issues in the district and discussed bills to change rules around SCRIE and DRIE to increase the eligible income amount. She thanked CB for the opportunity to be a peer Mentor during the Youth Conference.

C) **Housing and Land Use – Co-Chair Gregory Alvarez** announced the upcoming April 18 meeting. Agenda items will include a report by Borough Hall's Land Use unit on the Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan. William Cooch, CB14 planning fellow, will report on his work on the affordable housing inventory in CB14.

D) **Human Services – Co-Chairs Nina Sabghir and Joel Siegel** noted that a joint committee meeting is planned for May 24. This meeting will include CPR and Narcan training. The Co-Chairs also announced the Love Your Mind and Body event on April 22, hosted by the Carmel Depression & Anxiety Wellness Foundation and Holy Innocents RC Church.

E) **Community Safety – Co-Chair Hindy Bendel** noted that the Human Services committee had just reported on their joint meeting for May 24. The meeting will be in person at the CB14 District Office.

F) **Transportation – Co-Chairs Steve Cohen and Ed Cen** noted that DM Campbell performed a walkthrough with DOT of the Cortelyou and Coney Island Ave intersection. The next Transportation committee meeting will take place in early June (date TBD). DOT will attend and will hopefully discuss that intersection as well as the bike network. He noted that there will be an in-person meeting for the

Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign on Tuesday April 25 from 3-6pm at the Flatbush Ave/Brooklyn College 2/5 Station.

VI. AD HOC COMMITTEES:

- A) **CB14 Flatbush African Burial Ground Task Force** – The Co-Chairs not being present, Chair Jo Ann Brown announced that on Monday, April 24 at 6:30 via Zoom, NYC Parks is holding a Virtual Input Meeting to discuss ideas for design of the FABG. Participants must register beforehand. On Thursday April 27 the CB14 FABG Task Force will meet at 6:30 via Webex. All are invited. Parks will be in attendance to continue discussions to memorialize the burial ground.

Chair Jo Ann Brown expressed appreciation to Wayne Rosenfeld from the East Midwood Jewish Center for hosting CB14's meeting and thanked Mark Moss for livestreaming the meeting.

VII. PUBLIC SESSION

1. William Lewnes, Brooklyn Public Library, reported that proposed budget cuts to the library were increased from \$10 million to \$15 million. He noted that cuts would severely impact BPL's services and expressed hope that they will not be so severe. Mr. Lewnes announced programs at the Kensington Library on 18th Avenue.
2. Robert Mishaan, Brooklyn Lifelong Learning, explained that theirs is a continuing education program affiliated with Brooklyn College. They are doing hybrid programs, with some online via Zoom and some at Brooklyn College. They offer a variety of interactive classes on multiple topics that change by semester. They also offer museum trips, walking tours, luncheons, theater trips, and other activities.
3. Eli Slavin, community liaison for Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, congratulated CB14 on the Youth Conference. He noted the Congresswoman's listening tour with CB14 on Thursday May 4. He also announced three virtual tax clinics.
4. Kenya Cummings, program manager for I am CaribBeing, a multi-disciplinary venture showcasing Caribbean culture, film, and art, announced the Trees of Little Caribbean exhibit at Brooklyn Botanical Garden and the opening of the CaribBeing house at Governor's Island.
5. Troy Olson, Office of Councilmember Inna Vernikov, announced services provided by their office as well as upcoming events including the Benjamin Schaeffer street co-naming at Ave N and East 15.
6. Judith Destin, DA Eric Gonzalez's Office, announced events including a gun buy-back program and a prescription Rx take-back event.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:17 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

Brooklyn Community Board 14 Resolution
April 15, 2023

ERIC L. ADAMS
Mayor

ANTONIO REYNOSO
Borough President

JO ANN BROWN
Chair

SHAWN CAMPBELL
District Manager

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DUANE JOSEPH
First Vice-Chair

STEVEN D. COHEN
Second Vice-Chair

JOSEPH DWECK
Third Vice-Chair

HINDY BENDEL
Secretary

SHAHID KHAN
Member-at-Large

KARL-HENRY CESAR
Member-at-Large

ALVIN M. BERK
Chairman Emeritus

Whereas, Community District 14 has witnessed a proliferation of new cigarette, electronic cigarette, and cannabis product “smoke shops”; and,

Whereas, the city must consider the health implications of this proliferation, especially as they pertain to minors, and, as well, the public safety implications; and

Whereas, the city and state must support the businesses which wish to follow the rules by shutting down those retail establishments which do not; and

Whereas, the lead New York City and New York State agencies have seemingly been unable to craft a coherent plan to address the issue, be it therefore

Resolved that Brooklyn Community Board 14 makes the following recommendations:

Nuisance abatement proceedings need to be rationalized, or a more expeditious and enforceable padlock procedure needs to be introduced; and

The ability to hold building owners accountable for illicit activities on their premises should be more vigorously explored; and

A way to prevent companies from simply switching business names to avoid enforcement needs to be explored; and

The weights and amounts of unlicensed products must be adjusted to a new retail standard; and

Products that can be purchased by a minor – such as soda and snacks – should be sold in separate establishments from “smoke shops”

Explore expanding zoning group designations along commercial corridors to further specify use and limit the incongruity caused by “smoke shops” near schools, houses of worship, congregant housing, etc. Example: Community facilities (Group 3,4), ordinary retail (Group 6) vs. tobacco/cannabis products (new zoning group); and

A re-evaluation of city and state resources dedicated to the enforcement and adjudication of these businesses is required; and

The penalties for selling products that are unlicensed by the city should include disqualification from seeking cannabis licenses from the State of New York.