



## **MINUTES OF A REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14 May 15, 2023**

A meeting of Brooklyn Community Board 14 was held on Monday, May 15, 2023, at East Midwood Jewish Center, 1625 Ocean Avenue.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gregory Alvarez	Marc Cohen	Mordechai Husarsky	Barden Prisant
Hindy Bendel	Steven Cohen	Nodica Johnson	Nina Sabghir
Binyomin Bendet	Elizabeth Denys	Duane Joseph	Talisha Sainvil
Christopher Bromson	Derrick Donald	Shahid Khan	Joel Siegel
Jo Ann Brown	Sabina Dorvile	Donald Loggins	Gail Smith
Mechelle Brunson	Joseph Dweck	Melissa Minnich	Corazon Valiente
Karl-Henry Cesar	Yehuda Eckstein	Ephraim Nierenberg	Dawn-Marie Walker
Florencia Chang-Ageda	Lee Harman	Ornella Parker	

### **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**

Avrohom Malachowski, Office of Councilmember Farah Louis (45th CD)

### **COMPTROLLER**

Pinchus Hikind, Office of New York City Comptroller Brad Lander

### **PUBLIC ADVOCATE**

Kashif Hussain, Office of the New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

### **STATE SENATE**

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

### **STATE ASSEMBLY**

Mary Kay Seery, Office of Assemblymember Robert Carroll (44th AD)

## **CONGRESS**

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

## **OTHER GUESTS / REPRESENTATIVES**

Inspector Bruce Ceparano, 70th Precinct, New York City Police Department

P.O. Mohammad Zubair, 70th Precinct, New York City Police Department

P.O. Noah Elrowmeim, 70th Precinct, New York City Police Department

Kenneth Lazar, New York City Department of Buildings

## **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Jo Ann Brown called the May meeting to order at 7:03PM. 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 April 17, 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 opening of an emergency shelter in the district, which is currently housing sixty-seven (67) families. Their children are attending local schools. She thanked Moe Razvi of COPO and Assemblymember Robert Carroll's office for their assistance to the families living at the shelter and noted that additional donations of items can be provided to Assemblymember Carroll's office and COPO. Additionally, the Community Board office will accept donations of unopened hygiene products and is working to put legal assistance and language services into place. The DM asked board members for suggestions for asylum-focused legal service providers. She noted that Community Coordinators Sarah Sklaw and Patricia Olender have created and translated a resource manual for families at the shelter.

The DM reported that the men's shelter operated by Black Veterans for Social Justice has become operational. The District Office received this information on the day the shelter became operational, and the DM updated community stakeholders. The DM expressed confidence that the shelter will expeditiously establish its Community Advisory Board. She expressed high hopes for the shelter and the 200 men who will be housed there.

The DM reported on the first Community Advisory Board meeting for the Children's Rescue Fund shelter and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work more collaboratively with this shelter.

The DM highlighted the Community Board's new website, created by Patricia Olender, and encouraged board members to review it and provide feedback. She also spoke on the digitization of the office's land use records dating back to 1979. She thanked Sarah Sklaw for her work and the board for supporting this expenditure.

The DM reported that the CB's Annual Reception will be held on June 21 from 6-9PM. Members of the community will be recognized for their dedication. She reminded those in attendance that the Brooklyn Marathon will take place on Saturday, May 20 and urged everyone to check street closures.

#### **IV. CHAIR REPORT – Jo Ann Brown:**

The Chair recognized elected officials and their representatives. She congratulated Bruce Ceparano, Commanding Officer, 70<sup>th</sup> Precinct, on his promotion to Inspector and invited him to address those assembled. He reported on the Chief of Patrol's citywide initiative to confiscate illegal motor and dirt bikes.

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.

The Chair acknowledged that May is Haitian Heritage Month and Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. She wished a happy Mother's Day to all who celebrate and thanked Community Safety Committee co-chairs Florencia Chang-Ageda and Hindy Bendel for bringing Mother's Day baskets to women in a family shelter in our district. She further recognized Joe Dweck and other board members for facilitating these donations.

The Chair welcomed new Board appointees: Binyomin Bendet, Lee Harman, Christopher Bromson, Derrick Donald, Sabina Dorvile, Nodica Johnson, Sasha Maslouski, Ornella Parker, Marc Cohen, and Susan Phillip. She extended congratulations to Board members who were reappointed and acknowledged outgoing board members, Sophia Francis, Darlene Bowers, Manzoor Hussain, and Walter McQueen, for their service and dedication to the community. The Chair noted that new Board Members would receive committee preference forms over the summer and encouraged them to contact Bianca Stephenson for confirmation of their appointment length.

The Chair reported on the Tuesday May 2, 2023 Borough Board Meeting. Presentations included the Department of City Planning on Community District Needs and Civic Engagement. DCP heard concerns pertaining to District Needs Statements and indicated that the system for submitting District Needs Statements will be overhauled to allow more detailed responses by agencies. The following presentation was from Carbon Free and Healthy School Initiatives, a campaign to use federal money to modernize city schools by updating heating and cooling systems, lighting systems, and adding solar power to those DOE buildings that are eligible for installation. It will also offer union, apprentice, and pre-apprenticeship jobs by working closely with organized labor. The Chair noted that the initiative reflects quite a few of the goals put forward in Borough President's Comprehensive Plan. During new business several CB Board Chairs raised concerns about this year's process of appointment notifications for new Board members. Borough Hall notified appointees first in lieu of notifying Boards in a timely fashion. The Chairs agreed that Boards should receive the roster before appointees are notified.

Chair Brown reminded attendees that the Executive Committee would meet on Thursday, May 18, via Webex and that the meeting will be preceded by a hearing with New York State's Office of Cannabis Management.

#### **V. TOPICAL COMMITTEES – REPORTS AND ITEMS:**

- A) **Housing and Land Use – Co-Chairs Talisha Sainvil and Gregory Alvarez** reported on the April 18 and May 10, 2023 meetings. At the April 18 meeting, Brit Byrd, Planner, Brooklyn Borough President's Land Use Office, presented on the Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan: Health and Housing. The BP Office is seeking input on the plan from Board members and the public. Those who would like to comment can find the link on the CB14 website, comments are due May 31. William Cooch, Fund for the City of New York Planning Fellow for CB14, also presented on housing trends and affordability in CB14. The

committee also held a meeting on May 10, 2023, where they heard from two CB14 planning fellows. Morgan Reuther, Fund for the City of New York Planning Fellow, presented on the City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality Text Zone Amendment, which requires Board input before summer adjournment. Lucy Phillips, Fund for the City of New York Planning Fellow, researched Newkirk Plaza and jurisdictional problems about the Plaza. The Co-Chairs thanked the fellows for their invaluable research and contributions. The Co-Chairs announced a meeting on June 8 to further discuss the City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality Amendment with a guest from the Department of City Planning.

- B) **Youth Services, Education and Libraries – Co-Chair Karl-Henry Cesar** reported on the May 1 meeting. Members of the New York City Youth Agenda presented a mini-workshop where high school students asked questions and gave feedback on youth engagement and Community Boards. They discussed potential barriers to youth engagement and offered suggestions on how to increase youth participation and improve mentoring. The Civic Engagement Commission presented on Youth Engagement for Community Boards and Participatory Budgeting. The CEC emphasized that voter turnout is still very low. The voting period for participatory budgeting is open from May 10 to June 25 with voting online or in person. Residents can vote on borough specific and neighborhood specific projects. Committee members also held a post-event discussion about the 16th Annual Youth Conference.
- C) **Human Services– Co-Chairs Nina Sabghir and Joel Siegel** noted that a joint committee meeting with the Community Safety Committee is planned for May 24 at the CB14 Office, 810 East 16<sup>th</sup> St. The meeting will include CPR training from FDNY and Narcan training. Registration is required.
- D) **Community Safety – Co-Chairs Hindy Bendel and Florencia Chang-Ageda** reiterated the information about the joint CPR and Narcan training meeting with the Human Services Committee. The co-chairs reported that they had provided Mother’s Day baskets and flowers to 35 women at a family shelter in the community. The Co-chairs thanked Board Member Joe Dweck, Congresswoman Yvette Clark, and Target for providing donations. They also announced the Build the Block meeting for Sector B on Monday May 22, at 7pm at the YMCA Flatbush.
- E) **Community Environment, Cultural Affairs and Economic Development – Co-Chairs Barden Prisant and Duane Joseph** reported that the meeting scheduled for May 31 at 6:30 will include a presentation on NYC’s policy on 5G installations by NYC OTI and Citybridge, a report on expanding access to public restrooms, and a presentation on the Shirley Chisholm monument planned for Prospect Park with representatives from DCA and the artists. The Co-Chairs noted that the DEP has extended the deadline for the water bill amnesty plan to May 31. Additionally, NYC Small Business Services is celebrating Small Business Month in May, and many of CB14’s small businesses are highlighted. Co-chair Joseph also reminded attendees that the Summer Youth Employment Program is accepting applications for worksites.
- F) **Transportation – Co-Chair Steve Cohen** noted the upcoming meeting on Tuesday June 6 to hear from DOT regarding Citi Bike and bike lane expansion. He also announced that the Prospect Park Alliance is seeking community feedback on a safety study for Prospect Park drive.

## **VI. AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

- A) **CB14 Flatbush African Burial Ground Task Force – Co-Chairs Duane Joseph and Talisha Sainvil** reported on the April 27 CB14 African Burial Ground Task Force meeting with Davey Ives and Emmanuel Thingue from the Parks Department. This was a follow up to the townhall with Parks and Councilmember Rita Joseph’s Office. The townhall had focused on community outreach and engagement. Community board members asked if DPR would amend their input process or contract a vendor who could improve community outreach and engagement with the descendant community. CM

Joseph committed to ensuring that Community Boards 9 and 17 are included in all future discussions. DPR noted that they will involve an archeologist at all stages of the process. Co-chair Sainvil solicited recommendations for potential vendors to work with the Parks Department.

## **VII. PUBLIC SESSION**

1. Eli Slavin, Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, thanked Board members for attending the Congresswoman's listening tour stop at Brooklyn College. Mr. Slavin noted that the Congresswoman's Brooklyn office provides assistance with federal issues including passports, immigration, veterans' affairs, and housing. He noted that on Friday May 19 the Congresswoman will hold an energy round table at SUNY Downstate Medical.
2. Kenneth Lazar, New York City Department of Buildings, announced that the DOB has a new commissioner, James Otto. He also announced that every Tuesday night from 4-7pm DOB hosts Buildings After Hours, now at 345 Adams Street. This free service allows homeowners, building owners and others to meet with an inspector or plan examiner to resolve issues. Additionally, he announced that Local Law 152, the gas piping law, requires homeowners to have their gas piping inspected every 4 years, and 2023 is CB14's turn. Between Jan 1 and December 31, 2023, all buildings except those classified as R3 occupancy (1 and 2 family homes) must have a plumber inspect their gas piping.
3. Antonia Bramble and Narinder Chawla, Brooklyn Public Library, noted that libraries are still facing cuts in the city's budget and asked attendees to urge city officials to reverse any potential cuts. Ms. Bramble celebrated the one-year anniversary of Books Unbanned, a national campaign to fight against book censorship and protect the right to read. She announced the Branches in Bloom program related to environment and nature.
4. Mary Kay Seery, Office of Assemblymember Robert Carroll, announced that, through DEP, the Assemblymember has flood barriers available for pickup. Constituents can also sign up for rain barrels, which will be distributed sometime in July. The MetroCard Bus will be at the AM's office on July 31.
5. Kashif Hussain, Office of New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, announced State of the People week. On Wednesday, May 17 there will be an event at Foley Square on electric micro-mobility. On Thursday, May 18, the Public Advocate will give his State of the People address, discussing his office's accomplishments and vision going forward.
6. Virginia Donalds, Taste of Sounds, announced that Taste of Sounds provides programming and events for the Caribbean community in Brooklyn. Taste of Sounds is creating a music development center for the teen center at BPL-Kings Highway.
7. Paurcha Edwards, Office of State Senator Zellnor Myrie, announced the passage of the Fair Compensation for Crime Victims bill. She also announced that CUFFH is at their office on Wednesdays from 12-6pm to assist with housing issues. She also announced a summer internship program for high school students and that the Bridge Project is currently accepting applications from new moms who need financial assistance.
8. Avrohom Malachowski, Office of Councilmember Farah Louis, announced several events and initiatives. Additionally, he encouraged residents to sign up for the office's block party package. The Office also offers in-person housing and on-line immigration services.
9. Brittany Hale, NYC Smoke-Free at Public Health Solutions, spoke on the proliferation of tobacco and vaping imagery in youth media and efforts to encourage the Attorney General's office to address this imagery. NYC Smoke-Free is encouraging CBs to sign onto a resolution regarding this issue.
10. Eileen Mullaney-Newman, Office of Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, welcomed the new Board Members. She noted the May 18 public workshop on the Comprehensive Plan. The Office is also celebrating AAPI Heritage month with an event on May 25.

11. Ruby Charles, Sanctuary for Families, discussed the organization's work with survivors of domestic violence and sex trafficking. Sanctuary for Families provides legal services, a food pantry, DV shelters, and a rapid rehousing program. The rapid rehousing program pays rent for 20 families for up to 24 months. She encouraged landlords to participate in the program.
12. Jasmin Smith, COVID Advocacy Initiative and Mandate Masks New York, announced free K-94 mask distribution on May 21 as part of a week of advocacy to keep mask use in use in healthcare facilities.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:31 P.M.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.