



MINUTES OF A REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14 June 12, 2023

A meeting of Brooklyn Community Board 14 was held on Monday, June 12, 2023, at East Midwood Jewish Center, 1625 Ocean Avenue.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gregory Alvarez	Steven Cohen	Duane Joseph	Barden Prisant
Hindy Bendel	Elizabeth Denys	Naomi Lipnick	Bazah Roohi
Binyomin Bendet	Derrick Donald	Donald Loggins	Nina Sabghir
Jo Ann Brown	Sabina Dorvile	Sasha Maslouski	Gail L Smith
Edward Cen	Joseph Dweck	Ephraim Nierenberg	Abraham Treff
Karl-Henry Cesar	Lee Harman	Eric Ost	Deborah Valentin
Florencia Chang-Ageda	Mordechai Husarsky	Susan Phillip	Dawn-Marie Walker
Yvette Clairjeane	Nodica Johnson	Edward Powell	Glenn Wolin

DISTRICT OFFICE

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

CITY COUNCIL

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

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Nancy Lulu, Office of Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez

PUBLIC ADVOCATE

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

STATE ASSEMBLY

Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn (42nd AD)
Lisa Derrick, Office of Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn (42nd AD)

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

P.O. Michael Joseph, 70th Precinct, New York City Police Department
Lauren Collins, Flatbush Avenue BID

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Jo Ann Brown called the June meeting to order at 7:12PM. 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 May 15, 2023 meeting were approved with an edit. Copies are on file at the CB14 District office and available on the CB14 website.

III. DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT – Shawn Campbell:

The District Manager announced the CB's annual reception on June 21, 6-9PM at the East Midwood Jewish Center. She reminded Board Members to submit their Committee Preference Forms and discussed the Public Hearing held by Borough Hall regarding the Borough President's Guidelines on rules pertaining to Community Boards. She reminded those assembled that the District Office will be open throughout the summer and highlighted recent and future art installations in the district.

IV. CHAIR REPORT – Jo Ann Brown:

The Chair wished those assembled a happy Caribbean Heritage Month, Pride Month, Juneteenth, Father's Day, and Eid al-Adha. She shared her thoughts on the role of the Board Members in the community. She encouraged members to use the summer hiatus for local outreach and reminded Board Members of their responsibility to represent the area's 165,000 residents. She encouraged ongoing discussion about how issues are framed in committee meetings.

The Chair recognized representatives from the offices of elected officials and other special guests. She invited Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn to address the assembly. The Assemblymember reported on the recent legislative session in Albany. The Assembly passed the Clean Slate Act, the New York State Community Commission on Reparations, and the All-Electric Buildings Act. The Assembly also approved Lunar New Year and Diwali as new school holidays. The Assemblymember noted the passage of bills she had sponsored. She also shared information about previous and upcoming events.

The Chair reminded attendees that, due to the summer recess, the Board will meet only if notified of an item that requires timely action. This enables the Board to satisfy its quorum requirements during the summer months. She brought forth a resolution empowering the Committee of the Whole to act on behalf of the full Board.

On motion, duly made, it was:

RESOLVED (28-0-0) to empower the Committee of the Whole.

The Chair announced that the Committee of the Whole would meet to discuss the City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality Zoning Text Amendment.

The Chair reported on the public hearing held on the June 12, 2023, regarding BK Exotic Outlet LLC's application for an adult-use retail dispensary at 1056 Flatbush Avenue. A recommendation was made that the license be approved.

On motion, duly made, it was:

RESOLVED (24-3-1) to recommend approval of the license.

The Chair also made note of an additional recommendation by the Board, independent of this applicant's merits, calling on the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) to expand its list of sensitive sites requiring a buffer distance to include supportive housing and treatment sites.

On motion, duly made, it was:

RESOLVED (25-1-2) to call on OCM to expand its list of sensitive sites requiring a buffer distance.

The Chair reported on a separate hearing with the OCM, at which testimony was heard on the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA), which creates a comprehensive regulatory structure for cultivation, production, distribution, sale, and taxation of cannabis and hemp in NY State.

On motion, duly made, it was:

RESOLVED (28-0-0) to submit public and Board Member comments and questions about MRTA to OCM for the Public Record during the comment period.

The Chair reported on the public hearing for the City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality Zoning Text Amendment. The Department of City Planning (DCP) has referred the application to Community Boards for a 60-day comment period. CB14 held a preliminary meeting with DCP about the amendments in September 2022 and subsequently hosted a City of New York Planning Fellow who studied the potential impact of the amendments on CB14 and presented her findings to committee on May 10, 2023. Interested Board Members voted to table the matter so further review could be undertaken. The Borough Board will discuss the zoning text amendments at its July Meeting.

On motion, duly made, it was:

RESOLVED (26-2-0) to table the matter until it could be reviewed by the Committee of the Whole in August.

A second recommendation was made to compile a placeholder statement with comments from the public hearing, findings by Planning Fellow, Morgan Ruther, and other concerns to bring to the July 17 Borough Board hearing on this matter and submit to the DCP comment portal before July 3.

On motion, duly made, it was:

RESOLVED (26-1-1) to compile a placeholder statement to bring to the Borough Board hearing and submit to the DCP comment portal.

The Chair further noted that DCP continues to introduce proposals that require Community Board input without accounting for the CB calendar.

The Chair reported on the June 6, 2023 Borough Board meeting. The Prospect Park Alliance presented on plans for pergola reconstruction; DCP presented on the City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality Zoning Text Amendment; and the Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI) presented on the installation of 5G towers.

The Chair noted that she attended Congresswoman Clarke's May 19, 2023 Energy Roundtable. She referred those interested to the New York League of Conservation Voters' consumer guide on environmental rebates and credits.

V. TOPICAL COMMITTEES – REPORTS AND ITEMS:

- A) **Community Safety and Human Services – Co-Chairs Hindy Bendel and Florencia Chang-Ageda** of Community Safety and **Co-Chairs Nina Sabghir and Joel Siegel** of Human Services reported on the CPR and Narcan trainings held jointly by both committees on May 24. Dynamic Youth Community and FDNY provided training on how to deploy these life saving strategies. The co-chairs implored Board Members to attend future trainings.
- B) **Community Environment, Cultural Affairs and Economic Development – Co-Chairs Barden Prisant and Duane Joseph** reported on the May 31 and June 8 meetings. At the May meeting the Committee heard presentations from OTI on 5G towers and proposed installation in the district. The second presentation was by Julie Chou of the Public Bathroom Taskforce. She discussed proposals to increase the number of comfort stations and bathrooms that are accessible to the public. Discussion of a possible resolution was tabled until the Fall. The final presentation was on the Shirley Chisholm monument slated for the Parkside entrance of Prospect Park. The Committee decided to write a letter of support for the monument, with some additional considerations relating to education and transportation. The Chair noted that all infrastructure questions will be matters for the Prospect Park Alliance but can remain in the letter of support. A motion was put forth for a letter of support. The motion passed.
- The Co-Chairs also reported on their June 8 meeting at which the Parks Department presented plans for the restoration of Umma Park. There is a \$3 million budget for the renovation, sponsored by Councilmember Rita Joseph. Board Member Edward Powell put forth a motion to honor the late James Burn, a co-founder of Umma Park, at the renovated playground. The motion passed.
- C) **Transportation – Co-Chairs Steven d. Cohen and Edward Cen** reported on their June 6 meeting. (Addendum 1)
- D) **Youth Services, Education and Libraries – Co-Chair Karl-Henry Cesar** had no report.
- E) **Housing and Land Use – Co-Chairs Talisha Sainvil and Gregory Alvarez** had no report. Chair Brown noted that she, Ms. Sainvil, Mr. Alvarez, and DM Campbell submitted extensive responses to the Borough President's Comprehensive Plan. Chair Brown applauded the committee for its excellent work.

VI. AD HOC COMMITTEES:

- A) **CB14 Flatbush African Burial Ground Task Force – Co-Chairs Duane Joseph and Talisha Sainvil** had no report.

VII. PUBLIC SESSION

1. Nancy Lulu, Office of Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, reported on the DA's recent indictment against multiple local gang members. She also shared information about upcoming events hosted by the DA's office.
2. Lauren Collins, Executive Director, Church Ave and Flatbush Ave BIDs, announced that the City Council had approved the merger of the two BIDs and thanked CB14 for its assistance with that process. She shared information about upcoming events, including the Flatbush Avenue Street Fair.
3. Sabrina Dieujuste, Office of Councilmember Farah Louis, announced events including the CM's Juneteenth Celebration. She reminded attendees that CM's office provides housing and immigration services.
4. Eli Slavin, Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, thanked CB14 for participating in the Congresswoman's recent events. He reminded attendees that the office helps with federal issues, including immigration and passports. He noted that there is a large backlog for passports.
5. Paurcha Edwards, Office of State Senator Zellnor Myrie, reported on the passage of multiple pieces of legislation in the State Senate. She announced summer events including "Senator on Your Block" programming.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:31 P.M.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

ADDENDUM 1

June 6, 2023 Transportation Committee Meeting Summary Prepared For June 12, 2023 CB14 General Board Meeting

Submitted By Committee Co-Chairs Edward Cen and Steven D. Cohen

- DOT provided an update on the expansion of CitiBike stations in CB14.
 - This was a follow-up from the presentation at our March Transportation Committee meeting, at which DOT had shared its initial proposal for new CitiBike locations.
 - CitiBike wants to locate stations every few blocks (3-5 minute walk) in order to accommodate folks who arrive at a docking station where there is no available bike or available dock
 - DOT had street ambassadors to get feedback, there was an online map where people could request where to put stations, there were virtual stakeholder meetings, and 615 comments were collected
 - DOT used street ambassadors, an online map, and virtual stakeholder meetings to collect additional feedback. Six hundred fifteen (615) comments were collected. Changes also accommodated the MTA's Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign on Beverley Rd.
 - Install is scheduled to begin in June and July.
 - There are 21 planned stations in CB14 spanning as far north as Parkside and as far south as Cortelyou: Parkside & Parade Place; Parkside & Ocean Ave; Caton Ave by Church Ave subway; Caton Ave & Flatbush; Linden Blvd & Bedford; E 18th & Church Ave; E 21st & Church Ave; Ocean Ave & Tennis Court; Albemarle Rd & Rugby Rd; E 21st & Albemarle; Westminster & Beverly Rd; Rugby & Beverly Rd; E 17th and Beverly Rd; Beverly Rd & E 19th; Beverly Rd & Flatbush; Bedford Ave & Beverly Rd; Matthews Court & Coney Island Ave; Cortelyou Rd & Stratford; Cortelyou Rd & Argyle; E 16th & Cortelyou; Cortelyou & E 19th.
 - DOT said it would be responsive to feedback after station installation and consider making changes thereafter. DOT cautioned that there probably wouldn't be any changes made within the first 6 months after installation.
 - CitiBike stations replace approximately 2-3 parking spaces when they are placed in the roadbeds
 - Members of the public expressed concerns regarding some of the specific locations of the CitiBike stations.
 - Some members of the public expressed a desire to extend CitiBike stations further south, including Newkirk Plaza. DOT said that members of the public who want further expansion should submit their requests to the DOT.
- DOT shared a preliminary report on its efforts to expand its Bike Lane Network with existing connections to the southern portion of Prospect Park and additional east-west routes in sections of Ditmas Park and Midwood.
 - CB14 has been identified as a Priority Bicycle District due in part to the high number of bicyclists being killed or seriously injured. 38 cyclists were killed in CB14 between 2016-2020.
 - DOT had come to the Transportation Committee in 2021 with an initial proposal for bike lane expansion. The current proposal incorporates additional feedback, including feedback collected from online and in-person surveys.
 - DOT statistics show that protected bike lanes result in a 34% reduction in risk of injury, standard bike lanes result in a 32% reduction in risk of injury, and shared lanes result in an 18% reduction in risk of injury. Protected lanes result in a 15% drop in all crashes with injury and a 21% reduction in

- pedestrian injuries. The stats do show a small increase in cyclist injuries after implementation of protected bike lanes of 3% but that's in the context of a 61% bike volume increase.
- DOT noted that, currently, the 2 main paths to the Parade Grounds lack bike pathways. This proposal is designed to address that by installing a midblock signal on Parkside at the entrance to the Parade Grounds, installing enhanced crossings on Parade Place at Crooke Avenue, and upgrading ramps and installing bike crossings on Caton and Argyle.
 - The current bike network does not include any shared, standard, or protected lanes south of Avenue H in CD14. The current bike network also does not include many east-west lanes, only on portions of Beverley, Clarendon, Avenue H, and Campus Road.
 - The proposal planned for 2023 would add proposed shared lanes along and through the parade grounds, a westbound standard lane on Cortelyou, an eastbound standard lane along Dorchester stopping at Flatbush Avenue, an eastbound standard lane along Foster, an eastbound standard lane along Farragut, a westbound standard lane on Avenue I between Rugby and CIA, on Avenue I between E17 and Bedford a lane that starts as shared and then becomes standard east of Ocean Ave, an eastbound lane on Avenue J that starts as shared and then becomes standard at E. 16th, a westbound standard lane on Avenue L, an eastbound lane on Ave M that starts as standard and becomes shared at Ocean Ave., between Ave. I and Ave. P northbound lanes at E. 12th and E. 18th and southbound lanes at E. 13th and E. 17th

Note: *The previous bullet point reflects the report provided at the meeting. However, upon further review, the following information was reported to be inaccurate by Board Members Steven D. Cohen and Elizabeth Denys. Below is the corrected paragraph; changes are highlighted with italics and deletions between brackets.*

“The proposal planned for 2023 would add proposed shared *paths* along and through the parade grounds, *an eastbound* standard lane on Cortelyou, *a westbound* standard lane along Dorchester [stopping at Flatbush Avenue], *a westbound* standard lane along Foster, an eastbound standard lane along Farragut, *an eastbound* standard lane on Avenue I between Rugby and CIA, on Avenue I between E17 and Bedford a lane that starts as shared and then becomes standard east of Ocean Ave, *a westbound* lane on Avenue J that starts as shared and then becomes standard at E. 16th, a westbound standard lane on Avenue L, an eastbound lane on Ave M that starts as standard and becomes shared at Ocean Ave., between Ave. I and Ave. P *southbound* lanes at E. 12th and E. 18th and *northbound* lanes at E. 13th and E. 17th”

- Importantly, there is no parking spot loss or travel lane loss under the current proposal
- DOT is also working with the Department of Parks and Recreation to improve access through the Parade Grounds
- DOT sought feedback for the possibility of adding protected bike lanes along 18th Ave/Ditmas and Dorchester, though it cautioned that a protected bike lane on Ditmas would require making it one-way eastbound and that would require further a feasibility study. Dorchester would be between CIA and Flatbush while 18th/Ditmas would go from Ocean Pkwy to Flatbush. There would also be some parking loss at corners in order to maintain adequate visibility (~1-2 parking spots per block). Making 18th Ave one-way would also require rerouting the B8 buses from 18th Ave.
- Alternatively, the DOT raised the possibility of adding a protected bike lane and keeping traffic 2-way on Ditmas/18th Ave but removing all parking along Ditmas.
- DOT said that they would come back to the Board with a concrete proposal for protected bike lanes before implementing anything. The earliest date would be approximately a year from now.

- Council Member Yeger expressed reservations regarding this expansion, citing DOT's lack of enforcement and mitigation to address current traffic conditions and specifically expressed opposition to installing bike lanes on Avenue J and Avenue M at E.12th, E.13th, and E.18th for expressed logistical and practical reasons. After further comment from a community member, DOT appeared open to the possibility of modifying the Avenue J and M proposals.
- Although it was not part of the presentation, there was some discussion about the potential of alterations to Ocean Ave. south of Farragut to accommodate a potential bike lane
- Summary of meeting held by Yvette Clarke on May 19th regarding the Inflation Reduction Act. The Congresswoman discussed potential infrastructure projects to address flooding issues. Additionally, the Inflation Reduction Act's (IRA) Electric Vehicle tax credit provides up to \$7,500 for new EV purchases and up to \$4,000 for used EV purchases, though there are some restrictions. There will also be \$1 billion invested in clean, heavy-duty vehicles, including zero-emission school buses, garbage trucks, and buses with a focus on communities with poor air quality.