

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABUL HASNAT
ALAN DUBROW
ANNA CALI
AVROHOM WOLFSON
BERNARD FREILICH
CHESKY BLAU
DAVID FRIEDLANDER
DAVID SHLOMOVICH
EDGAR GLUCK
ELLIE KASTEL
JACOB ASKAL
JACOB DASKAL
JACOB EISDORFER
JACQUE FRIEDMAN
JEFFREY DWECK
JOHN TALMADGE
JULES FLEISCHER
LILY MARINELLI
MAMNUNUL HAQ
MIRIAM HERSKO
MORDECHAI KATZ
MORTON PUPKO
MORRIS SENDEROVICH
NAFTALI TESSLER
ROCHELLE ZAMI
SAM STOBER
SHARON FUCHS
SHLOMIE RIEGER
SHLOMIE ITZKOWITS
SOL WAHBA
YAAKOV KAPLAN
YIDEL PERLSTEIN
YONAH MOSES
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ADAM COHEN
AVI GREENSTEIN
DOUGLAS JABLON
JACOB HASS
JOSEPH GROSS
LARRY JASON
MAYER WEBER
MENDEL REINER
MONIQUE WALLACE
PETER REBENWURZEL
SAHIBZADA SHABIR AHMAD
YECHIEL MALIK
YERUCHIM SILBER
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITZ

STAFF PRESENT

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER
GITTEL FEKETE- COMMUNITY
COORDINATOR
ANN MARIE HONAN- COMMUNITY
ASSISTANT

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES

COUNCILMAN KALMAN YEGER
TONYA CANTLO, REP. BP ERIC ADAMS
PINNY RINGEL REP. MAYOR DE BLASIO
PINNY HIKIND REP. COMPTROLLER
STRINGER
SHARON FUCHS, REP. SENATOR FELDER
SOL REIGER, REP. AM EICHENSTEIN
ANTHONY LOUM, REP. BROOKLYN PUBLIC
LIBRARY
VALERIE LEVEILLE, REP CONGRESSWOMAN
YVETTE CLARKE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL BY DM BARRY SPITZER

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

- The Chairman welcomed all to the board meeting and thanked them for joining.
- He reminded everyone that it was voting day and that polls would remain open until 9:00 pm.
- He made a brief statement:

“On May 25th through the barbaric actions of a police officer in Minneapolis, George Floyd died. For 8 minutes and 46 seconds the officer had his foot on his neck as Floyd begged for his life, cried for his dead mother, passed out and then died. Police brutality is a stain on the great democracy of our country. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr said, ‘injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere’ and so we must all work together to eradicate the injustices in our society. The death of George Floyd sparked nationwide protests which turned to rioting and various other dangerous activities. While anger is justified, lawlessness and criminality are not. The first amendment protects the rights of everyone to peaceably assemble- it does not protect the right to damage property or shoot off fireworks at night.

We recognize that while some police officers are bad actors, the overwhelming majority are not. We at CB12 have always had a special connection with our precinct and I want to assure them of our continued support. It is reprehensible that the criminal acts of some police officers is leading to an attack on our brothers in blue. We stand with you; we thank you for your service and we join your call to rooting out the officers who besmirch the uniform.”
- The chairman offered deepest condolences to board member Jacob Haas on the passing of his brother.
- He welcomed newly joined board members:
 - Sahibzada Shabir Ahmad
 - Yitzchok Moskowitz
 - Shloimy Itzkowitz
- **The latest coronavirus numbers were reviewed:**
- As of Monday, June 22 the most recent data showed there were 8 new cases of COVID 19 reported in NYC with 0 deaths. Total NYC deaths to date was 17,636.
- NYC entered Phase 2 of reopening. Salons, barbershops, in store retail, outdoor dining for restaurants and offices could reopen at limited capacity, with face coverings. Real estate services would be permitted once again. Playgrounds reopened which was a big deal for the district.
- June 4 was an important day in NYC Coronavirus news. It was the first day since March that there were no new deaths in the city. At the time, NYS hadn't had such a day.
- New York City, and CB12 in particular, had been through a lot with Coronavirus. He called attention to the news regarding the push our elected officials played in getting the playgrounds open. As of June 23, the parks were open. However, he urged the reopening of summer camps. Children have been out of schools since mid- March. The emotional and mental toll this played was immense. It is time that the city and state face the reality we are dealt with and open up completely- of course, doing so in a safe manner.
- On this note he strongly urged the governor to open up the summer camps. This statement joined the call of Assemblyman Eichenstein, Councilman Yeger, Senator Simcha Felder and all leaders

who understood that tacking on another 2 months in which children have nothing to do as inconceivable.

- The NYC Department of Education had not yet issued any direction on how or if schools will open in September. There was a questionnaire distributed indicating schools may operate in shifts to allow for proper social distancing. All this was speculation at the time.
- June 23rd was primary day. The Chairman hoped everyone took advantage of the absentee voting that Councilman Yeger demonstrated at the May Board meeting. Polls would be open until 9:00. He explained that since New York is overwhelmingly democratic- it is these primaries that determine who elected officials will be, specifically congressional representatives. The general elections in November do not hold as much sway- though the importance of that should not be diminished either. The community board is a non-partisan office and does not endorse any candidates.
- The chairman took some time to urge everyone who was healthy and able, to donate blood. New York blood banks were reporting a drop in blood supply to dangerously low levels. Many blood drives were canceled because of the virus, and blood drives that do operate cannot do so at full capacity because of social distancing requirements. It takes a few hours of your time, but it saves lives. Please reach out to the New York Blood Center to see where you can donate. The number to call to find a drive near you and to schedule an appointment is 800-933-2566 the website is nybloodcenter.org. If anyone has questions or wants further information they can reach out to the community board staff. The staff works every day and is available to assist. They have recently donated and can give you specific details about the process.
- The Chairman emphasized the importance of participating in the Census and urged everyone to please go and fill out the census.

PRESENTATION TO DEVELOP TWO GROUP HOMES for HASC

- 4913 19th Avenue
- 1821 53rd Street
- Due to technical difficulties, Rabbi Shmiel Khan from HASC was unable to present the details for the 2 proposed group homes. All Board members had received an email with site information and particulars on the two proposed group homes. Naftali Tessler from Hamaspik, being familiar with this process as his organization had previously been through it, explained the presentation so an informed vote could be had.

Naftali Tessler- Board Member.

- HASC was asking the board to issue a recommendation so that OPWW could fund these proposed group homes. The board has voted on similar projects in the past.
- The sites would both be supervised around the clock, 24 hours. The residents would attend school during day. The homes are intended for individuals from the community whom it is advantageous to be housed within the community they are from. In the past the community has benefited from these homes.
- The Chairman and District Manager verified that there haven't had any issues with such homes in the past.

Motion to recommend development of 2 group homes, one at 4913 19th Ave. and one at 1821 53rd St.

Motion was made by Naftali Tessler who also urged everyone to vote in favor.

Motion seconded by Anna Cali.

The motion, voted on by voice vote, passed with unanimous consent.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Dana Triwush- resident:

- Ms. Triwush said she has lived in the neighborhood for four years. Per Boro President Eric Adams website, a purpose of the community board is to collect complaints. She wanted to hear what sort of mechanism is used for collecting feedback from the community.
- She also wanted to get a sense of what sort of complaints are prevalent in the district.
- The Chairman responded that while detailed information can be explained offline, there is a system from the city that the district manager would expand on.
- The District Manager explained that complaints are put into a constituent services tracking program. The board reaches out to the appropriate city agency and depending on the complaint, the issue may or may not get resolved. Regardless, the staff remains in contact with the resident throughout the process to provide updates.
- Most complaints, during non- COVID times considering Coronavirus complaints outliers not the norm, are sanitation related complaints. Various sorts of sanitation complaints; missed pickup, street sweepers not cleaning streets, workers throwing things about, and unfair sanitation violations being issued. Other very common complaints are traffic related, including; lack of parking, illegal street closures, and the regular over-congestion of traffic. Most complaints are quality of life complaints.

ADOPTION OF MAY MINUTES

Minutes adopted with no changes

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES

- **Boro President Eric Adams was represented by Tonya Cantlo.**
 - Ms. Cantlo informed that so far during COVID 19 the Boro President distributed over 3,000 meals, more than 20,000 gloves and over 192,000 facemasks.
 - The Boro President has also been advocating the expansion of telehealth services.
 - She reminded everyone that both state and federal taxes were due July 15.
 - The Boro Presidents Message of the Month which is usually distributed at the community board meeting is now available online.
 - The Boro President's website also has some helpful links, including; a link for requests such as for PPE, COVID testing, etc.
 - On behalf of the Boro President and herself, she wished everyone a good summer.
- **Senator Simcha Felder was represented by Sharon Fuchs.**
- **The Brooklyn Public Library was represented by the Mapleton Branch Manager Anthony Loum.**
- **Comptroller Scott Stringer was represented by Pinny Hikind.**
 - Mr. Hikind conveyed the Comptroller wishes to everyone to have a happy healthy and safe summer. He hoped to see everyone back in September

Mayor Bill deBlasio was represented by Pinny Ringel.

- Mr. Ringel wished everyone happy and healthy summer.

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke was represented by Valerie Leveille.

Councilman Kalman Yeger representing the 44th Council District.

- The Councilman publicly thanked Senator Felder and Assemblyman Eichenstein for acting in unity to reopen the parks and restore them to the people. As of Monday, the day before the board meeting, all playgrounds were supposed to be open. His position was that it wasn't

considered breaking into parks as it was following the directives of the governor. Governor Cuomo allowed parks to reopen, subject to local government- and there is no government more local than community board, city councilman, state senator, and assemblyman. If anyone sees a park still in chains, they should notify the community board or the councilman's office. It is also essential to report it to 311.

- The councilman explained the importance of reporting complaints to 311 in addition to local elected officials. Frequently when complaints are brought to the community board or the councilman's office- they are attended to immediately. But they aren't reported to 311 and therefore not recorded in the city data. It is important to aggregate this data so that issues that are not only specific to one person or one time are recognized. It becomes more difficult to track if it isn't recorded. The week of the board meeting, the councilman and district manager spent hours working on an issue where a DSNY worker was targeting a resident with unlawful summons. Eventually this complaint will be referred to the Department of Investigation.
- Fireworks- some blocks don't have any fireworks noise and some are terrible. There is not much the councilman's office can do as they can't tell the offenders to stop. The councilman urged everyone who hears noise to pick up the phone and call 911. And if the NYPD says to call 311, then to do so. Fireworks are a crime and ought to be reported to the police. Currently, the NYPD are overworked and have been attacked politically and physically, but it is essential to provide data in order to see trends of what's happening and frequencies.
- Any criminal activity observed should be reported, don't rely on the property owners of damaged property to report it, they may not know of the crime. If anyone sees a DSNY employee hurls garbage, it is important to not only tell the local government – such as the community board and the councilman's office. It is equally important to notify 311. Garbage being thrown is a frequent occurrence in CB 12. The Councilman said that he represents 4 other boards and has discussed this with colleagues and can clearly say that this issue is only within BK 12. There is a systematic problem in this garage
- The councilman commented on the minor good news that NYC was in phase 2 of reopening, though in reality the community was in 15 or 20.
- Phase 2 means that restaurants were allowed outdoor dining. The councilman commented that some indoor dining should be allowed and the fact that it is not is hurting business. But in regards to outdoor dining, the process for approval by the city is a very simple application that is almost always automatically approved. Essentially it involves telling the city the restaurant's EIN and liquor license information, if there is one. Restaurants are permitted by right to have outdoor dining in front of their restaurants as long as they are 15 feet away from hydrant and 8 feet away from crosswalks. These restrictions do cut some out. It is important to do this the lawful way. The city needs to monetize violations and will be on the hunt for restaurants that don't apply the proper way. It is common knowledge that when the city needs to issue violations their first stop is always CB12. The residents here don't get violent or make any problems. If anyone wants to avail themselves of this option they can call the councilman's office, CB12 or visit nyc.gov.
- The councilman urged all to stop ordering from amazon and instead to shop local. Local stores did the right thing by shutting down at the outset of the COVID outbreak, but they are suffering. While it is very easy to buy anything on a computer, it is important to take the time and rather shop from a local store.
- While parks and playground are open, they are filthy. This is because PARKS fails to clean parks. If anyone sees garbage in parks that are all over the place and it looks like it isn't being taken care of they should call 311 and then the councilman or CB12 office.
- Alternate side parking resumes Monday, June 29 for one week, but with a change. If a side has two days of cleaning- it will be reduced to one day of cleaning. There aren't such locations in CB12, however.
(The District Manager expanded on this that the commissioner wanted to institute twice weekly cleanings, but after a pushback from the district, this was avoided.

- The councilman provided a brief budget update; the city is completely broke and the budget that will be passed is sure to be terrible. The councilman voted against the budget the previous 2 years and would do so again if the budget is not acceptable. In previous years, he voted against the tax portion of the budget and voted yes on the operation portion- besides for the city council operating budget, which he voted against. When it comes to the budget- If it's bad for his community he will vote no.
- As this was the last meeting of the year he wanted to voice appreciation to the board for all they do. The District manager and councilman work together on an almost daily basis for the community.

He thanked the Community Board's professional staff. He congratulated the newly appointed members and thanked all board members for their volunteerism. The councilman said that since he served on a board for 18 years he has a special affinity for community boards.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REMARKS:

Barry Spitzer- District Manager:

- Mr. Spitzer expanded on the Chairman's previous mentioning that the city is opening up. Along with the reopening comes the same old problems such as illegal street closures. Hallen, a repeat offender, blocked a street illegally and made a total mess. The street they blocked, New Utrecht Avenue, 12th Ave. between 50th St. and 49th St., is already a very congested street. And while Hallen's permit called for two 11 foot lanes to remain open, they disregarded this stipulation. Mr. Spitzer told the foreman to open the street up. The Hallen foreman objected claiming they needed full street closure to do the work. The office sent emails to Hallen, DOT and National Grid. The councilman got involved and told the DOT commissioner that he would allow complainants of the broken traffic system to reach out directly to the source, the DOT commissioner, via his personal cell phone number. This unfortunately is an ongoing problem. We will remain vigilant.
- The District Manager reminded all that Saturday, July 4th would be Independence Day, a national holiday. There would be no garbage collection of any kind. Those scheduled for regular collection on Saturday should place their garbage out on Sunday at 4 pm for collection on Monday. Those with recycling collection scheduled on Saturday will have recycling collected the next week Saturday, July 11.
- He reminded everyone that Community Board 12's office is open and is here for anyone that needs help, the phone number is 718-851-0800.
- The District manager thanked the professional staff, Gittel and Ann Marie, for working from home even with kids around, which is not easy.
- He ended off by wishing all board member and residents a happy and healthy summer. He looked forward to seeing everyone in September.

David Friedlander- Board member:

- Mr. Friedlander, on behalf of his non-profit organization, thanked Councilman Yeger for providing CPR classes.

Chairman- Yidel Perlstein:

- The Chairman reminded all that there was still time to vote. He also reiterated the importance of participating in the census.

NO OLD BUSINESS

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete