



Antonio Reynoso
Borough President

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD 12**

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Yidel Perlstein
Chairperson



Barry Spitzer
District Manager

**COMMUNITY BOARD 12
FEBRUARY MINUTES**

**HELD ON
TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

**VIA ZOOM
& IN-PERSON
AT AMICO SENIOR CENTER
5901 13TH AVE. 3RD FLOOR
BROOKLYN, NY 11219**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ALAN DUBROW
ANA CALI
AVROHOM WOLFSON
BENJAMIN THEODORE
BETH SLEPIAN
CHESKY BLAU
DAVID FRIEDLANDER
DOUGLAS JABLON
ELLIE KASTEL
JACOB ASKAL
JACOB HASS
JOHN TALMADGE
JUDITH OJO-DIAZ
JULES FLEISCHER
LOUIE LIE
MAMNUNUL HAQ
MARIA ARETTINES
MIRIAM HERSKO
MORDECHAI KATZ
MORRIS SENDEROVICH
NAFTALI TESSLER
NICK BERGHALL
SAM STOBBER
SHARON FUCHS
SHLOMIE RIEGER
SOL WAHBA
WIL FISHER
YAAKOV KAPLAN
YERUCHIM SILBER
YIDEL PERLSTEIN
YONAH MOSES

STAFF PRESENT

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

APPROXIMATELY 20 RESIDENTS PRESENT

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

AAMAH KHAN
ALEXI SHALOM
AVI GREENSTEIN
BERNARD FREILICH
DAVID SHLOMOVICH
EDGAR GLUCK
JACQUE FRIEDMAN
JEFFREY DWECK
JOSEPH GROSS
PETER REBENWURZEL
ROCHELLE ZAMI
ROMINA FERNANDEZ
SAHIBZADA AHMAD SHABIR
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO
YECHIEL MALIK
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITS

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES

JACOB EISDORFER, REP. BP ANTONIO
REYNOSO
JACK PLUSHNICK, REP. CONGRESSMAN DAN
GOLDMAN
PINNY HIKIND, REP. COMP. BRAD LANDER
JAMES NEIMEISTER, REP. CM ALEXA AVILES
YECHIEL LANDAU, REP. SEN. KEN PARKER
SOL REIGER, REP. AM. EICHENSTEIN
MUS LAMIA, REP. CM SHAHANA HANIF
SHARON FUCHS, REP. SEN. SIMCHA FELDER
LENNY MARKH, REP. SENATOR SENATOR
IWEN CHU
ORLANDO ROSS, REP. CONGRESSWOMAN
YVETTE CLARKE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

ADOPTION OF JANUARY MINUTES

The January minutes were adopted.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS –YIDEL PERLSTEIN

- Good evening. It is great to see all of you here.
- I am sad to report the loss of one of our own, Officer Adeed Fayaz of our own 66 precinct who was shot and killed during an off-duty robbery. This senseless murder is heartbreaking. He is survived by a wife and two children. Please stand for a moment of silence.
- The state of antisemitism in this country is very sad. But we are very grateful that the anticipated National Day of Hate did not pan out. We thank the NYPD for their vigilance and working closely with us to make us feel safe.
- Next week is Purim, please remember to drink responsibly and have a Freilichen Purim.

PUBLIC HEARING

Dr. Dilshad Fakhruddin– Resident.

- There is an issue with the Ambulance sign that is in front of the facility. Specifically, the car repair business next door constantly violates it. They also moved the signpost.
- The repair shop also violated their allowed occupancy. They were issued a summons by DOB for illegal occupancy, yet they are still functioning. Outside medical facility. Serious issue outside the office.
- She asks the board to speak to DOT to have the sign moved to its original position. Leroy Branch said it would have to be moved. Then he said that the engineer said it is not possible because of the business next door, but that business does not have the right certificate of occupancy.

Sara Gluck- Branch Manager of the Boro Park Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library.

- She is the new manager at the Boro Park Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library and wanted to update the board on available library services. She emailed flyers.
- Ready set kindergarten- is a program to get kids ready for kindergarten.
- They are starting English conversation classes. In this vein, the library is fighting to get ESOL classes. Anyone interested should reach out.
- There is homework help for 3rd graders and up. This program is available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-6.
- There is a Knitting circle on Thursdays.
- There is a teen movie program also on Thursdays.
- The library has tax forms available.
- They have a community room available.
- This week is Library Advocacy Week, they are talking to state representatives and would like support from the board.
- The library welcomes any thoughts or ideas for programming.

Anthony Loum-Branch Manager at the Mapleton Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library.

Mr. Loum advised of BPL's Outreach Services:

- Working with the City's Action NYC program, the library provides free immigration legal screenings and representation in your language. There is a waitlist for this program, but our staff will refer anyone in need to other partners too.
- BPL's popular Senior Debate series is coming back in March. Seniors who would like to join this debate club, which meets virtually and at our Central Library, can find out more at bklynlibrary.org/olderadults.
- The Mapleton Branch in partnership with Prep2Love will host a Community Health Fair in an effort to raise and promote Public Health Awareness. There will be free HIV Rapid Testing and Giveaways. The event is on Friday, March 31 from 1:30-3:30.
- He is sorry to have missed the event with the congresswoman, there was a miscommunication.

Julie Vega- Resident

- There is an abandoned Funeral home on Fort Hamilton between 42nd and 43rd. Someone smashed glass there and she notified police, but it was not boarded up and people can still go in and out. She asks that the place is boarded up so that it doesn't become a problem.
The Chairman said he would bring it to NYPD attention at the next meeting.

Karen Chan- Resident

- She wanted to bring to the board's attention the real problem that the recklessness of bikers brings. They don't obey traffic rules and she almost got hit. A biker came up on the left side of her car and when she sped up to get away from him, she got a camera speeding ticket. She reached out to Councilman Hanif's office but got no help. Gittel connected her with the proper person at the Department of Finance, but they want her to prove her case with images. Which means she would have had to take pictures while driving. These situations are spontaneous, and she was only thinking about being safe. Can we do something about bikers, people are getting hurt.
The Chairman explained that this is a citywide problem. There are often news items on the dangers of these motorbikes. He will raise this issue at the next PD meeting.

Mujahid Hussain - Resident

- He has an issue with the 66 pct. He is also from the medical facility on Coney Island between Avenue C and Cortelyou. They own the building, but at every encounter NYPD they are asked if they own the building. They serve the public. They should not be treated hostilely; they should be treated as a healthcare facility. The neighbor who parks on the sidewalk and blocks their sidewalk does not own the building.
- They want higher ups from the NYPD to not treat them as hostile just because the neighbors make the police treat them as hostile.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman: there are NCO's that are assigned to areas they will be told to look into this.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – MIRIAM HERSKO:

Miriam Hersko- Chairman of the Nominating committee delivered the nominating committee report.

- The committee met on February 13 to discuss a slate to serve as the executive board for a period of 1 year term. After a discussion, the committee voted to nominate the current slate as follows:

- Yidel Perlstein as chairman
- Yaakov Kaplan as first vice chair
- Yeruchim Silber as second vice chair
- Anna Cali as secretary

Ms. Hersko opened the floor to nominations.

- Being that there were none, nominations were closed as per article 8 §3 of the bylaws, in the event the slate or any candidate is unopposed the chairman shall direct one vote to be cast.
- The Chairman directed Rabbi Gluck to cast a vote.

Rabbi Gluck- Board Member said he is very satisfied with the work of the chair and the executive slate, so he voted in favor.

- Miriam Hersko thanked her colleagues; Jacob Askal, Shloime Rieger, Bernard Freilich and Naftali Tessler and congratulated the reelected executive officers and wished them success in their new terms.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman: He thanked the committee and the board for the opportunity. He thanked everyone who comes to meetings and participates and thanked them for their service.

- He thanked the Nominating Committee Members for volunteering their time.
- The chairman explained that one of the main reasons committees haven't been assigned is because committees weren't meeting during Covid. Now the board is getting back to normal, and they also have the ability to do hybrid meetings.
- The chairman asked to be notified of committee preferences but only a few members reached out.
- The committee formations will be done by the end of the week. And assignments will be sent out to the board members so everyone can see which committees they are on. Anyone who wants to move to a different community should notify no later than March 24.

LETTER OF COMMENT ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET – Delivered by District Manager Barry Spitzer

- By NYC charter, the board is required to send a response to the preliminary budget. As always, most of the items requested aren't being funded. This year instead of addressing all of the items individually, we are sending a letter asking why we go through the whole process if it will just be ignored.
- If the board approves the letter, we will send it to elected officials, OMB, the borough president and the Department of City Planning.
The District Manager opened the floor to comments from the board.
- Beth Slepian- Board Member thanked the chair for bringing up committee assignments.
- She was wondering if there can be a list of what committees are and what they did in the past. The Chairman said the committee assignments will be discussed later, now the letter on the preliminary budget is being discussed.

Beth Slepian- Board Member- She appreciates the sentiment of the letter, but the district needs aren't the needs of the community, considering the process by which the needs are actually compiled. She tried to speak up at the October meeting. The needs are compiled by taking into account phone calls that come in and people who come to the meetings. If you look at how neighbors compile this information at other boards, they send out surveys and they have public hearings directly related to the district's needs.

- She understands the frustration of feeling we aren't being heard. And on the opposite side of this are the powers that be that are reading almost the same statement.
- She does not want to just write off the district needs as something the city dismisses. If we do it differently, then maybe we can get better responses. She urges the board to consider that.

Wil Fisher- Board Member-

- He looked at the letter the board compiled and agrees with what Beth said. He used to work for the city for 8 years and part of his function was to respond to requests like this include in the district needs. He was responding to these request without being empowered to make any changes. The letter is quite appropriate being that those who respond can't do anything. It was frustrating to go through the motions without being able to properly respond to it.
- The process doesn't really square with the reality of what goes into it. A lot of people spend a lot of time putting in requests that will get rejected.

Beth's suggestion is helpful about getting feedback from the people.

Barry Spitzer District Manager-

Beth's ideas are great and we can solicit ideas. The entire year when people have funding ideas, they can call us and we always collect ideas.

The other boards that do this process differently don't have better outcomes. The outcome is not going to change if the process is different. I speak to my colleagues, and they are similarly frustrated. One of the District Manager's colleagues submitted a one-line response. The way it is structured – they make us go through the process we actually work on this the entire summer. It is also frustrating that they tell us to go to elected officials to fund items when it is not the elected official's job to fund essential city services.

Yidel Chairman- Chairman- proposed a motion to adopt the letter of comment on the preliminary budget.

- The motion passed with only Beth Slepian opposed based on process.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Delivered by District Manager Barry Spitzer

- There are several updates.
- This is the last reminder we can give at a board meeting before the deadline. March 15th is the deadline to apply for or renew, if needed, for property tax exemptions. As a reminder, Senior Citizen's Homeowner's Exemption needs to be renewed every two years. Please look at the Notice of Property Value you should have received in January to make sure that you have all exemptions you are entitled to. And if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our office.
- Another reminder, anyone with food stamps will get less money in March. This isn't a NY State or City change. This change comes from congress. The Emergency Allotment that gave all families more funding during Covid has ended. Please spread the word so it doesn't come as a shock when Pesach shopping is in full swing.
- DSNY wanted to come to our board meeting to announce their new setout times which start on April 1st. The new time is bags at 8:00 and in receptacles at 6:00. I asked about Fridays. There wasn't a clear communication that the courtesy will continue. I told DSNY that we can't have them come to our meeting before we agree on this issue and get a commitment from the department. This is the unofficial agreement the city gives to a few districts that have Shabbos observing residents.

- They were not willing to commit to this so there will be a conversation with the commissioner. And maintenance companies that have supers- will have to have their workers come at night. They will have to pay more. So we are in touch with the dept. and will update.
- Mobile street containers- we are in the process of finalizing the pre- Pesach mobile containers. We try our best to balance the needs of our residents who need parking space and the needs of our businesses who require more space to serve our residents before Pesach. This is a very delicate balancing task, and we know it inconveniences many. We ask for your patience and understanding. And if there is a mobile container that is not being used responsibly, please let us know.
- Summer Youth Employment (or Youth Corp.) applications are open until March 31. To apply, visit application.NYCsyp.com. If you have any questions about this, feel free to reach out to our office. (The local CBO that is contracted to be a provider is COJO of Flatbush)
- Update on Bobov construction. Last week the construction took place at night, and we are happy to report that there were no complaints. I would like to publicly thank Bobov 45 for cooperating with us on this. It was a major benefit to the community. We didn't get any complaints, so we assume it went well.
- Due to the Department of Transportation's (DOT) response to Local Law 168 of 2021, they are now installing five loading zones annually in each neighborhood tabulation area (NTA) that meets the methodology. This is to pick up and drop off passengers and deliver. The idea is to decrease traffic. Supposedly they sent the locations, but this was not included as they said it was CB11. Don't know what we can do about it, but we will see. This is the only loading zone they put in BP area, the other areas are in more commercial places.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES & AGENCIES

Jacob Eisdorfer- representing Boro President Antonio Reynoso

Pinny Hikind, representing Comptroller Brad Lander

- The Comptroller is looking at language access. Many people try calling agencies and there is a language barrier. If CBO's or Community Boards have issues with language access they should please inform them of this.
- Happy Purim.

Orlando Ross, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke

Sol Rieger, representing Assemblymember Simcha Eichenstein

- He congratulated the executive board.

Lenny Markh, representing Senator Iwen Chu

- He introduced himself as the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Senator.
- He congratulated the Executive board.
- He advised that the Senator is in Albany advocating for the needs of her constituents, but he has been listening and taking notes. She senator's office can be reached at iwenchu@nysenate.gov or 718-333-0311

Mus Lamia, representing Councilmember Shahana Hanif

Jack Plushnick, representing Congressman Dan Goldman

- He introduced himself as the new representative for Community Board 12, Borough Park and the Lower East Side, that is all the Southern part of the congressional district.
- The Congressman is in DC doing work for the people.

- The office is in Park Slope at 340 89th Street, however is currently under construction, but they are taking phone calls at 718-312-7575.
- The congressman has some legislative priorities to share. He is a Co-sponsor on HELAP, the holocaust education antisemitism lessons act. This act will be responsible for ensuring all public schools are providing education on holocaust studies.
- The Congressman is on the Homeland security committee and the subcommittee for homeland security grants. There should be more info coming up on grants for nonprofits and houses of worship.
- A Freilichen Purim.

Rabbi Yechiel Landau, representing Senator Ken Parker

- He congratulated the executive board on their reelections and wished the board a Freilichen Purim

James Neimeister, representing Councilmember Alexa Aviles.

- He congratulated the executive board.
- He wished a Happy Purim to everyone.
- He asked to see a copy of the budget letter. He said that the feedback CB12 got on the budget is similar to the stuff he hears from others. The same needs go unmet. Many times, they are told the requests are too complex and out of ability to solve. But people know what they need, and it is offensive to get the same response year after year.
- The councilwoman has a job fair coming up in Red Hook Saturday 10-4. There are 30 employers lined up, and they hope to be able to do this again.
- Lastly- sanitation is always one of the issues that keeps coming up. They did a walk-through on 61st and 62nd Streets from 8th to 12th Avenues. There is a lot of trash there and rats. Folks who have complaints should please let them know.

Chairman Yidel Perlstein

- He acknowledged the presence of Rabbi Gluck.
- He acknowledged the presence of his son in law Benny Obstfeld.
- He congratulated Barry Spitzer on the birth of his grandson.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS:

Old Business:

Jacob Hass- Board Member:

- DOT keeps trying to come up with different ways to serve the community. The board should put in a request to have bus timers installed so people can see when the buses are supposed to come. It almost doesn't pay to get a car and having timers would be a huge help for our community.

New Business:

Beth Slepian- Board Member

- She is on the Participatory Budgeting Committee for Council District 39. Vote week is coming up March 25-april 2. They are looking for volunteers to help at polling sites. For anyone interested in volunteering, please reach out to her.
- Speaking of communication, she would love to propose a motion for the board to propose a platform for the board to communicate with each other. While she is happy to make announcements at board meetings, she could also have sent these announcements via an email. It may surprise people to hear that board members don't have a means for direct communication with other members outside of the board meetings.

- She understands there has been history of people not wanting to receive communication. But, from personal experience, she believes in bringing the community into community board. She would like to help with things like committees. And she doesn't even know what the committees are so she would like more information.
She hopes others will join her in calling for a way for the community board to communicate.
- One last thing she hopes we can have more conversations on this, she would like to bring up the bylaws that haven't been updated since January 2008. If we are considering committees, we might consider such a committee. And perhaps a committee to deal with district needs as well.
- She proposed a motion to have means for board members to communicate.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman- said he is always excited to hear new ideas.

- He will send a list within a week of committee appointments and people should get back to him before March 24th if they want to change their committee assignments.
- Regarding the motion for communication. That motion is out of order. The board does not and cannot prohibit board member communication, nor can we compel sharing information. The only policy the board has is not to share email addresses and phone numbers. In the past, people have used this information as a tool for harassment and this decision arose from a lawsuit in that instance.
- If a member wants to start a google group or some type of communication, all they need to do is announce it and anyone who wants to join is free to do so.
- Additionally, we will check with OTI to see if it is possible to add a private portal to the website to see if people can log in that way and have some communication.
- Regarding the bylaws request, by the end of March or April we will appoint a bylaw review committee. The committee will be tasked with reviewing and recommending changes. This is expected to be done over the summer so the board can review the recommendations after the summer.

Ana Cali- Board Member- She agrees with Beth for the need for some intra-board communication. Sometimes there are things happening in the community that we would like to include others on the board, for example the congresswoman came to Mapleton Library and she would have liked to reach out to several people from the board. If Beth wants to start a group, she would love to be in it.

Barry Spitzer- District Manager- if any member gives permission to the board to share their email address and contact information with other board members, we will gladly do so.

Maria Arettines- Board Member- She agrees with Ana and Beth and fully supports sharing communication.

- She joined the board in 2021 and expressed interest in joining committees so she is glad that this will be happening.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete