



BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 13
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ANTONIO REYNOSO
Borough President

LUCY MUJICA DIAZ
Chairperson

EDDIE MARK
District Manager

**COMMUNITY BOARD 13
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

Date: Wed., Oct. 25, 2023

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Loc. Education Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lucy Mujica Diaz
Allen Newman
Nodira Pirmukhamedova
Lolita Divilova
Jeffrey Sanoff
Edita Volovodovskaya
Angela Kravchenko
Sheila Smalls
Erum Hanif
Michael Silverman
Sabina Pirmukhamedova

Zunera Ahmed
Minnie Mankita
Robbin Paraison
Patrick O'Brien
Fran Schwartz
Linda Harrison
Mark Mernyk
Sonji Cephass
Amarilys Herrera
Jack Suben

Annette Wesley
Gregory Vayngurt
Dionne Brown
Milagros Quiles
Tatyana Segal
Yuriy Krasner
Emil Pursic
Pat Brown
Pervez Siddiqui
Joann Weiss

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Svetlana Zelinskaya
Queenie Huling(exc)
Barbara Teitelbaum
Marion Cleaver(exc)
Susan Flaschenberg(exc)
Pat Singer(exc)

Mario Caggiano(exc)
Yelena Makhnin(exc)
Julia Daniely
Joe Corace(exc)
Shimon Rinkovsky
Gloria Watkins(exc)

Selina Grant(exc)
Dennis Vourderis
Lakeisha Bowers
Olga Fort(exc)
Michael Russo
Asad Dandia

GUESTS: Craig Schatzman(STFT), Emmitt Sklar(Public Advocate), Yvonne Vasquez, Bobby Feraz, Mirta Santos, Znz Vargas, Erica Koyfman(CMVernikov), Troy Olson(CM Vernikov), Ayanna Williams(CMKagan), Debra Greif, Christopher Greif, James Faybal, Robert Peah, Linda Leahy, Carlo Muraco(Margarita Island), Dr.Louis Dulanoll, Twan Evans, Howard Weiss, Lisa Muraco, Ron Greenberg, Sergey Chuprik(Comptroller), Larisa Boas, Daniel Murphy(Alliance)

OFFICE STAFF

Eddie Mark, District Manager, Hanna Glikman, Community Associate, Gabriel Blinder, Community Assistant Consultant, Barbara Santonas, Community Coordinator

**Community Board 13
Meeting
Minutes
10.25.2023**

pg 2

Community Board Chair Lucy Mujica Diaz called to order the October 25, 2023 meeting of Community Board 13 at 7:05 p.m. She announced we have a short agenda and hopefully will adjourn the meeting by 8:15 p.m. She reminded everyone that the meeting is being recorded and anything said at the meeting, including in the chat can be FOILED, if requested.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Linda Leahy - representing the Coney Island YMCA. She announced that a 3K has been opened at the Y. It is staffed by certified teachers. She reminded everyone that the Y is very community oriented and invited any interested residents to come in and check out the programs.

Dr. Louis – Founding Director JCCGCI Recovery Center – She announced that this Center was established because of increased violence in the community. It provides psychotherapy with group work and practical experience in how to apply for food stamps, Medicaid and even sometimes apply for housing. It is very important to help people who have practical needs, so they can focus on their other issues, not worry about day-to-day needs. All therapists are culturally adapt. She hopes that The Recovery Center will effectuate changes in the community. Next month Dr. Louis will make an extended presentation at the Health Committee meeting.

Christopher Greif – MTA Accessibility – There is an app for Access-A-Ride to schedule a ride or track the ride. He reminded everyone to sign up for OMNI. The Website is OMNI.info. Christopher thanked C.B. 13 for giving a list of stations where installation of an elevator is needed. If the community wants stations to have an elevator, send a letter of request/support to the MTA and the elected officials. Also, fare-to-fare will be upgraded in the next few months.

Olga Fiore-representing State Senator Spanton – Olga announced that flu shots will be given tomorrow from 10-1 p.m. at the Senator’s Office 1906 Mermaid Avenue. On Nov. 4th there will be a Catalytic Converter information event at Kingsborough Community College. There will be a NYS Hiring Hall Event on Nov. 6th from 11-3 p.m. at the Mermaid Avenue branch of the Library, located at 1901 Mermaid Avenue.

Ayanna Williams - representing CM Ari Kagan. She announced there will be a Fall Festival at Kaiser Park on Sunday, Oct. 29th from 11-3 p.m.

Erica Koyfman – representing CM Inna Vernikov - She introduced herself. She is a newly hired staff member at the CM’s office. Erica announced that the CM funded \$3.3 million dollars for refurbishing the Brighton 2nd Street Playground. There will be a new Pickleball and Volleyball court, as well as a new fitness center with 5 types of equipment.

Emmett Sklar – representing Public Advocate Jumaane Williams – Emmett reported that the City Council passed dyslexia screening for prisoners in the City jails, this is one of 21 Bills passed from the Public Advocate’s Office. This is the highest number of bills passed from this office. The Public Advocate will be giving away turkeys for Thanksgiving, information will be forthcoming. The Public Advocate now has a text spot. Check the website for further information.

Sergei Chuprik – representing Comptroller Brad Lander- Sergei reminded everyone to check their monthly newsletter. This month the website will talk about the health of the NYC Economy. Erum suggested that when the Comptroller does an audit, they should audit the accuracy of translations used.

Daniel Murphy - Executive Director Alliance for Coney Island

Halloween Children’s Parade will take place at Maimonides Field on Saturday, Oct. 28th at 12 noon. There will be activities for the children at the field and then the children will parade on the boardwalk to Luna Park where they will be allowed to ride for free.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer should contact Dan. The Coney Island Brewery will be closing for good on Nov. 9th. It was a decision by the corporate office of Boston Brewery. It is very sad that we are losing them. The Alliance is determined to find another business oriented towards the Coney Island community as the Brewery was.

They will search for the best possible business to occupy the property. There will be a Turkey Give Away on Nov. 17th. If anyone in need of a turkey contact Dan. Garguilios will be having their Annual Dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 22nd from 1-5 p.m.

Craig Schatzman – President of Shorefront Toys for Tots. – This organization has been working with many parts of the South Brooklyn community for years. He thanked everyone who donated a toy. If more information is needed go to STFT1995.com. Lucy said that next month we will be collecting toys for Kiwanis.

MINUTES:

Motion made by Zunera Ahmed, seconded by Joann Weiss to approve the minutes of the Sept. 2023 Board Meeting.

VOTE: In Favor: 28 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

Motion carried unanimously (quorum present) Roll call on file at C.B. office

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT:

Lucy reported that Gloria Watkins has stepped down as Co-Chair of Street Closing Committee, but she wishes to remain on the committee as a member. Evie Strasser has resigned from the Board after 27 years as a board member. Lucy explained that at this month’s meeting of the 60th Pct Community Council there were two presentations. Lucy asked Joann, President of the Council, to explain what the presentations were. Joann said that one presentation was from Ida G Israel Medical Ctr, a part of South Brooklyn Medical Center. It was on the Use of Narcaine. The presentation is online and if anyone wishes to see it, contact her and she will forward. The other presentation was done by Dr. Louis from JCCGCI. Next month there will be a presentation from the FDNY on the Dangers of Lithium Batteries.

Lucy explained the email that the board members had received on the procedures for voting on line. For a committee meeting the committee member who attends on line can be excused. The Legal Department said there must be extraordinary circumstances or disability for the person on Zoom to be excused and to be allowed to vote. This can be done at the discretion of the Chair. If the person is on an approved leave from the board, they can attend through Zoom and **can** vote.

The Borough President is going to keep asking about excused absences. They are still considered absences.

Lucy stated that the board office has received 7 license applications for Cannabis Dispensaries. All are for different locations. The committee will review all of them. She stated that C.B. 8 in Manhattan has received 70 applications. In the past several weeks we have received conflicting information on the applications. Need to follow SLA rules, don't follow SLA rules, applicant must show lease, applicant does not have to show lease. We are passing all information received to the License Committee.

Perez Siddiqui stated that there is a store near APNA that opened as a bodega and now he feels is illegally selling pot. Lucy said that the Board is working with the precinct and the Sheriff's Department, so if we have the address, we can forward to the Sheriff's office for their investigation.

Zunera remarked that C.B. 7 in Brooklyn has voted for a 90 extension on cannabis applications because of the time needed to notify and listen to the board members and the community. Lucy said we automatically asked for 60 day extension, which we receive. May consider asking for 90 days.

The November Board meeting scheduled for Nov. 20th has been changed to November 29th due to the Mayor having a Town Hall meeting in our community.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Our District Manager reported that many things had taken place during the month of October. He attended a NYC Housing Connect Workshop in reference to opening the application process for 1515 Surf Avenue. Applications from 11224, 11235 will be given priority in the lottery process. In November, 2023, the application for the lotter for the building at 1607 Surf Avenue will begin. There will be another workshop, in November, prior to the beginning of the application process. State Senator Spanton has become part of the Environmental Bond Act where \$4.2 billion dollars has been allocated for New York State to use for resiliency work. She would like our community to be given a piece of the money. Coney Island Beautification partnering with Cornell University will have a workshop on December 2nd to beginning putting a plan together. Our community should also be aware the Department of City Planning has a 2 year plan for a resiliency study. Our Environment & Sanitation Committee along with our Resiliency Committee will meet and find out about this plan (Shoreline Protection).

In November, our By Laws Committee will have another meeting on Monday, Nov. 27th at 7 p.m. at the board office, and our Licensing Committee will also meet. (Date to be announced). We will also start to work on the next Text Amendment on economic opportunities. A 600 paged report has been put out. There will be no Public Hearing just a committee meeting (Date to be announced).

Thank you to the 60th Pct for their towing initiative. Forty cars have been towed this past week.

Eddie went over the fact that he had presented the District Need Statement which included our list for Capital and Expense Budget Items FY2025 and the board had discussed it. We have even included the use of drones in requests for NYPD, FDNY, and Parks Dept. There were no further questions or discussion on the District Needs.

Motion made by Joann Weiss, seconded by Jeff Sanoff, to approve the District Needs Statement FY2025 as presented,

VOTE: In Favor: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 Recusal: 0
Motion carried unanimously (quorum present) Roll call on file at CB Office.

Eddie introduced our new, part time staff member, Gabriel Blinder who will be with us while Lucia is on maternity leave. Lucy announced that Gabriel had just passed the NYS Bar exam and she congratulated him on behalf of the board.

CORRESPONDENCE: In Shimon's absence, Eddie gave the report on correspondence. C.I. Beautification Project will participate in a Day of Service honoring the Anniversary of SuperStorm Sandy. They will meet on West 29th St. and do some planting. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be a Gun Violence Seminar sponsored by Congressman Jeffries and Senator Spanton on Monday, Oct. 30th. There will be some traffic delays on W. 8th Street on November 4th and 5th due to construction.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dionne Brown, Treasurer
The report for the 1st quarter of this Fiscal Year was given by Dionne Brown. After reviewing the report, the Treasurer found that the budget is point and no changes are necessary at this time.

Zunera asked about the \$2,000 that CM Vernikov had given the board last year and we were going to use for stipend to members if parking for our board meeting was paid by members. Lucy reminded that we did not use that money for parking and so the money was used at the June meeting for an end of the year meeting and event honoring Bernie Kaufman. Lucy asked Eddie to contact the CM office to see if we have been given the money again for this year.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Land Use & Zoning Committee: Jeff Sanoff (in the absence of Co-Chairs Marion Cleaver and Shimon Rinkovsky)

Jeff asked all the read the minutes. He then briefly discussed the committee mtg and asked that the full board vote by acclamation on the recommendation from the committee to support the project to expand the Seaside Park and Community Art Center (C.I. Amphitheater), as presented with the comments made at the committee meeting, by the committee members. There was no objection to a vote by acclamation. Allen Newman recused himself, Lucy Mujica Diaz, voted to approve and Milagros Quiles abstained.

Executive Committee: Lucy Mujica Diaz, Chairperson

Lucy explained the situation with changing Barbara Santonas, Community Coordinator from Part Time to Full time. She explained that Barbara was changed from Secretary to Community Coordinator several months ago, to allow her to receive merit increases.

She had received only a \$1.00 increase in the past, due to her being at the top for her title.

Barbara had now requested to change to a F/T position, which is only seven additional hours a week, so that she could receive sick leave, comp time and vacation time. Items she had never received in the past.

The Executive Committee had approved this at their committee meeting with vote of 12 in favor, 0 objections and 0 abstentions. In addition, the vote to get her a merit increase was tabled until FY 2025 because with her change from P/T to F/T, there would be a significant pay increase.

Vote by the members of the board to approve her change of status from part time to full time was done by acclamation with both Allen Newman and Milagros Quiles voting Yes.

By Law Committee: Michael Silverman, Chair

Michael discussed the fact that this meeting is a starting point to review the By Laws and make changes to follow more the Borough President By Laws. At the first meeting the committee reviewed about one-third of the By Laws and that a quorum is needed to do any business at committee meeting. It is important, if you are on a committee, you try your best to attend when a meeting is scheduled.

The Committee will discuss revising the term limits of the Executive Board, which will change the dynamics of the committee. We will also update the language of the By Laws. Michael explained the process. When the committee is ready, they will present the proposed changes at two monthly board meetings and listen to the feelings of the members about the changes. At the third meeting a vote will be taken by the full board with a quorum in attendance.

If any board member has suggestions for changes, they can submit them to the office for discussion at the committee meeting. There will be no vote at tonight's meeting.

The fact that a quorum is necessary to do business whether at a committee or general board meeting. The Education Committee meeting had to be cancelled for this reason, because neither the Chair or the Vice Chairs were available to attend. It is obvious if the Chair or one of the two Vice Chairs of the Board are not in attendance, the quorum may not be met and the meeting could not be held.

Michael said that the Chair and two Vice Chairs are ex-officio members of every committee. Robert's Rules state that they may vote at a meeting, only to break a tie, but do not count as part of quorum.

Lucy said after speaking with Michael about this, she did not want to be member of each committee and contacted Jeff and Zunera, they also do not want to be listed as members of each committee. Lucy said that they will only be put on as members of the By Law Committee.

**Community Board 13
Board Meeting
Minutes
10.25.2023**

pg 7

Parks Committee: Jeff Sanoff (in the absence of Co-Chairs Barbara Teitelbaum and Susan Flaschenberg)

The meeting was held on October 18th to update the committee on additions to the Brighton 2nd Street Playground. There will be an additional pickleball court added and also basketball court and volleyball court. Bushes and trees and other nice amenities will be added. The committee reviewed the design and a motion was made to approve the project with the caveat that changes discussed will be taken into consideration. Recommendation from committee to approve the project. Vote was by acclamation, and all were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

Barbara Santonas, Community Coordinator