



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., April 27, 2022

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

Loc.: Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lucy Mujica Diaz
Dionne Brown
Mark Davidovich
Susan Flaschenberg
Queenie Huling
Pat O'Brien
Shimon Rinkovsky
Tatyana Segal
Jack Suben
Gloria Watkins

Zunera Ahmed
Patricia Brown
Lolita Divilova
Olga Fort
Bernard Kaufman
Milagros Quiles
Jeff Sanoff
Michael Silverman
Barbara Teitelbaum
Joann Weiss

Lakeisha Bowers
Joe Corace
Wanda Feliciano
Ronald Greenberg
Yelena Makhnin
Michael Quinn
Fran Schwartz
Pat Singer
Edita Volovodovskaya
David Wynn

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Shirley Aikens
Nadine Dabney(exc)
Selina Grant
Joseph Packer
Pervez Siddiqui
Annette Wesley

Mario Caggiano
Brian Gotlieb
Erum Hanif
Michael Russo
Evelyn Strasser
Kumali Zairee(exc)

Marion Cleaver
Brian Granoff
Amarilys Herrera
Priscilla Santos
Dennis Vourderis

GUESTS PRESENT:

Tova Chazinoff (CM Vernikov), Marcus Galloway(New Destiny), Rob Burstein, Jennifer Dublin, Samantha Ross(CM Kagan), Sergei Chuprik(Comptroller's Off.), David Yep(DOT), Craig Hammerman, Ken Lazar (DOB), Sandra Sanchez(FDNY), Anastasia Yaskova(CAU), CM Ari Kagan, Zimfira Batalova, AM Mathylde Frontus, Molly Olsen(New Destiny), Allen Newman, Mohamed Kahn(DOT), Mark Merynk, Ida Sanoff, Chief Thomas Patrissy(FDNY), Alexandra Silversmith(Alliance), Priscilla Fisk, Brian Fisk, Stephanie Shaw, Robbin Paraison, Bobby Ferazi

STAFF PRESENT:

Eddie Mark, Dist. Mgr., Hanna Glikman, Community Associate, Barbara Santonas, Secretary

Lucy opened the meeting with the announcements about being careful of what is put in the chat room, if there is a FOIL request the chat will be part of it. The meeting is being recorded and can be viewed on U-tube. She introduced the 2nd Vice President, Zunera Ahmed, who will run tonight's meeting.

Zunera welcomed everyone and introduced Molly Olsen, Regional Director of New Destiny Housing of Brooklyn and Queens who will discuss Raven Hall Apartments, located at 2006 Surf Avenue.

Molly Olsen explained that this is the first project New Destiny has done in Coney Island. They are mostly in the Bronx, one building in Jamaica and one in Bedford Stuyvesant. The project is basically housing for women in domestic violence situations. In this project will be housed in the Raven Hall Apartments there are 77 domestic violence apartments, and the other half will be rented via lottery. This project has support services which include counseling for adults and children, employment coaching, family activities and referrals to various agencies. They appreciate the way they have been welcomed into the community.

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UPDATE ON AMPHITHEATER:

Allen Newman – Property Manager, Seaside Park Community Arts Center/Amphitheater, Child's Restaurant and adjacent parking lot. He reported that the amphitheater will be hosting six to ten paid shows through Live Nations and six free shows through Summer Stage/City Parks Foundation/Istar. The venue will be used for 32 graduations, middle school, junior high school, high school, and college in South Brooklyn through the end of June. Live Nation will begin their shows on July 9th through September. The Summer Stage website will have a list of the free shows at the Amphitheater.

The restaurant has been closed while looking for a new operator. One may have been found and they will try to open the restaurant somewhere between Memorial Day and July 4th. There will be two venues in the restaurant. The rooftop, Broadway and Vine, which will be opened during the summer season, and the larger, indoor venue which will be opened year round with a separate menu and shorter business hours. There will be two kitchens to accommodate both venues.

Lucy asked if Allen could disclose the new operator. Allen said that they are in negotiation with operator of first class 3-4 star restaurant in Manhattan. They will have casual as well as fine dining. Hopefully the contract will be signed by May 1st.

Barbara Teitelbaum asked if Coney Island schools have priority for use of the amphitheater for graduation. Allen said he works with all schools, many are from south Brooklyn. He does the best he can to accommodate as many as possible.

PUBLIC SESSION:

CM Ari Kagan – He sent his condolences to the Firefighter who lost his life in the Queens fire. CM Kagan reported that in the seven week since he took office he contacted all the Commissioners of City agencies to see what they can offer to Southern Brooklyn. He met with Commissioner of Economic Development to discuss issues: Coney Island ferry, Shore Theater, Abe Stark Ice Skating Rink. There is a great deal of sand around the area of the ferry. More dredging needed than has been done. He wants to set up a Town Hall meeting in Coney Island so the community can ask all the questions about Coney Island. He found that the Shore Theater is own privately. He needs to find out the status. At the site of the Abe Stark Rink he would like a multi-level, multi-purpose community center to be built. Once he finds out the cost, he will return and push it with the Administration. He met with Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Marty Maher and the new Parks Commissioner. Yesterday he had meeting with Commissioner Maher on the boardwalk and while they were there he spoke to the carpenters. Mark Treyger had placed money in the budget for additional carpenters. The \$1.14 million has been finally approved to be placed in the budget for the Brooklyn Parks Department. CM Kagan and CM Vernikov will go to Rockaway on Monday for a site visit to see their boardwalk. NYCHA Commissioner will come to the suites and speak to the residents. He wants C.B. 13 District Manager and Chairperson to be at the meeting as well.

Ida Sanoff – She is very concerned about the private meetings on shoreline issues. Just agencies and elected officials. Having a Town Hall meeting after the fact is not the same as having Community Board representation at the original meetings. It is important to have studies of how different materials react to storm surges. Community people have been in front of all the issues that have come before this community. Ida also so that when she spoke up about a situation, she received phone call, just short of threatening, about what she had said. CM Kagan said he wants any decision that are made to come from the community.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Rob Burstein – He remarked that for the past 6-7 years there has been an increase in board walk repair issues and the community has been asking to have input in resolving these issues. Years ago, there had a meeting at the “Y” even though reconstruction of a portion of the boardwalk had already begun. Why couldn’t the Community Board be invited. On Monday, our elected Councilmen, Ari Kagan and Inna Vernikov will tour Rockaway Boardwalk with a representative of the Parks Department. Our boardwalk must be restored, members of the community should reach out to the Parks Department, Mayor Adams and anyone else who will listen.

Yelena Makhnin – She stated that CM Kagan said that some monies have already been allocated and he was going to discuss what needs to be done. If the money had already been allocated, wasn’t it for a specific project? CM Kagan said that this money, \$114 million, was allocated for planning and design. Before the project can go forward, it must be brought before the community board to discuss .

Jeff Sanoff – He reminded everyone that last month, the Community Board resolved that Coney Island Creek should be approved as a Superfund site. This was after it was discussed with EDC. CM Kagan supports our Resolution for a Superfund site.

Angela Kravacenko – She was concerned that people who complain, get shaken down. No one should be punished for speaking up. She said that our boardwalk connects two districts. There is a need to have a meeting with the seniors who need the boardwalk repaired. CM Kagan said he will talk to people who can make decisions and will explain to them the urgency. He said he is trying to push as hard as possible to get things done.

Lucy thanked CM Kagan for publicly saying you will try to bring someone from the Community Boards to important events, if you are able to. It is very important for us to stay involved.

AM Mathylde Frontus – She thanked everyone for their good wishes. She is feeling stronger every day. She asked Allen Newman how schools were chosen to use the Amphitheater for graduation. She said that one of the schools located three blocks from the Amphitheater was able to rent the venue. Allen explained that there are costs associated with the use of the Amphitheater. The assembly member will speak to him privately. She did a walking tour of Gravesend Houses. Her office is working very closely with Coney Island For Oceanside Ferry to schedule a Town Hall meeting. She wants the community to show that something wrong was going on during the planning, etc. She gave a “shout out” to her staff member Anthony Battista for helping so many Coney Island residents with problems.

Lucy said that it is great to have a Town Hall meeting on the ferry situation. It will show that you and CM Kagan can work together for the community to get the situation taken care of.

Update on West 5th St. Fire – Chief Thomas Patrissy reported on the March 29th fire at 2932 West 5th St. The occupant of the apartment passed away due to smoke inhalation. As of today there has been no determination as to cause of fire. The Chief suggested if there is a fire in your building, but not in your apartment, keep the door closed and stay in your apartment.

Tova Chazinoff – representing CM Vernikov thanked the Chief for the update on the fire and sent condolences and prayers to the family of the firefighter who passed away in the line of duty. She reported that the office is working with the Mayor’s Office to rid the community of the illegal vendors on BBA. She thanked Yelena and the Community Board for their partnership on issues. The CM is working with DHS to get homeless into dignified housing. If anyone knows of areas where homeless are, let her office know and they will report it to the Mayor’s office. The Mayor’s office helped to get a homeless site cleaned up on Brighton 6th St. and BBA. Their office partnered with Apna for Halal food distribution. Bullying – The CM met with Inspector King and he assigned youth officer to patrol the park. Nothing has been happening at the park since. The CM is having an CPR community event on May 17th at the Shorefront Y at 6 p.m. Joann remarked that that date was the day of the 60th Pct Community Council meeting. She asked if their date can be changed. Tova will double check and let Joann know.

Queenie Huling- She previously asked for the name of the owner of the smoke shop near her home. She stated that there are several of these shops in the area.

Alexandra Silversmith – A new mural is being painted on the wall opposite the terminal on Stillwell Ave. It is being sponsored by Tom's Coney Island, Brooklyn Cyclones, Mermaid Pharmacy and Pizza On the Run. In two weeks we will have a Work Force I event for employment.

Craig Hammerman – (His Statement) When Parks came before CB 13 last year to present their plans project to reconstruct the W24-W27th Street section of the boardwalk, CB13 voted to unconditionally approve Parks plans as presented even though those plans were not subject of a scoping meeting beforehand and they were incomplete that night. I asked Parks that night, very intentionally, what materials they intended to use at the W27th Street fire break since the original design had special interlocking block pavers. I was concerned that Parks did not intend to restore any of the unique historic design elements to the boardwalk. The Borough Commissioner said that they had not completed the fire break position of the design yet, then deferred to DDC representatives at the meeting who backed up the Borough Commissioner. It's all in the video of the meeting for anyone to verify.

Months later, Parks returned to CB13 to present their plans to build a vehicular on-ramp at W.27th Street which will be used for them to transport vehicles from the street to the beach by driving them across the boardwalk on the fire break. The vehicular on-ramp is being built strictly for the convenience of the Parks Department which currently uses the W25th Street slip entrance or the W37th St direct beach access to bring their vehicles onto the beach. They do not need to build a vehicular on-ramp. They want to build one.

Parks Department lied to the community at the first meeting when they withheld information about how they conceptualized redesigning the fire break. They knew they wanted to build a vehicular on-ramp, but they intentionally withheld that information from the community. They concealed vital information from us. They lied to all of us. Straight to our faces.

Our new Councilmembers Kagan and Vernikov have been invited by the Parks Department to see how they have managed the boardwalk in the Rockaways post-Sandy. Parks is offering our new Councilmember the same Kool-Aid they already tried to get us to drink. I don't trust the Parks Department to responsibly manage our boardwalk. Parks Department wants to fix our boardwalk, but they are not willing to commit to stop destroying it with their heavy vehicles, with the sand they used to fill in under the deck, and with the chronic under-budgeting of maintenance resources that has allowed it to fall into such a dramatic state of disrepair.

Please, Councilmembers, do not give Parks a single cent of our taxpayer's Capital money to fix the boardwalk without having ironclad assurances that they will stop destroying it, specifically (1) that they will abandon their vehicular on-ramp project and cease and desist from driving their heavy vehicles on it, (2) that they will restore the sand levels under the boardwalk to the heights established by the Army Corps of Engineers when they did their beach replenishment project years ago, and (3) that they will give us more than two part-time seasonal carpenters to maintain the 2.7 miles of boardwalk and provide sufficient ongoing funding for maintenance. We need to stop rewarding Parks' bad behavior. This would not be tolerated in other communities. We cannot tolerate it here either.

MINUTES: Motion made by Lucy Mujica-Diaz, seconded by Jeff Sanoff (Prior to the vote, board member Queenie Huling stated that at the March meeting she reported about there being 3 smoke shops in a 3 block radius. She asked for the name of the owner and the hours of operation of the newest store. Joann Weiss said that she brought up this subject at the Public Safety Committee meeting, not at the March board meeting. Queenie said she had brought it up at both meetings. Lucy added to the motion that the motion was approved with the correction. (The video of the March meeting was checked and there was no mention of the situation stated by Queenie.)

VOTE: In Favor: 29

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

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

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Lucy reported that there was a meeting at the board office with herself, Eddie, Jeff and Patricia Lynch representing Thor Equities. Ms Lynch reported that Thor was deciding on either building a luxury apartment building complex or a casino. Either project would be built "as of right". We explained that currently the luxury apartment complex, Ocean Walk, built by Catsimatidis is only partially rented. Ms Lynch had explained that she was also meeting with NYCHA Tenant Leaders, Alliance for Coney Island and the elected officials. If and when we get any updates from Ms Lynch, we will let the board members know. We are awaiting more information about how cannabis licenses will be given out. Might be like liquor license, coming through community board. The Governor is lifting the mandate on OML effective June 8th. After that, Zoom meetings will end. There is discussion of hybrid meetings. Specifics remain to be worked out. The District Managers will have a meeting and discuss the situation. Once we go in person/hybrid, in order to do business, we must have a quorum of board members "in person".

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Eddie will be meeting with other district managers to see how they will hold meetings after June 8th. Eddie attended the Annual Alliance Interagency meeting. Summer detail was discussed. As in previous years, there will be about 80 additional officers during the summer. Also discussed how illegal vendors will be handed. DCWP will try to have extra people in the area on the weekend to assist. The illegal parking lot on the corner of W. 12th St. & Surf Avenue has been padlocked. Eddie will try and schedule a Community Advisory Board meeting for the WINN Shelter. There was an initial advisory board meeting had a tour and quarterly advisory board meetings was promised. EDC will come to the May board meeting to discuss the status of the ferry. Rady is no longer with EDC, Tara is taking his place. There will be no F trains to Coney Island on the weekends until June 17th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety Committee

Joann Weiss/Gloria Watkins, Co-Chair

Joann thanked Barbara for the minutes. Chief Mandala, FDNY had discussed the fire in the high rise building on West 5th Street. Sandra Sanchez will put together flyer with tips about fire safety and get them to the board office.

Eddie asked Melissa Farley, MTA about the Mayor's Plan for the homeless as it will be at the Stillwell Avenue Terminal. Melissa will follow up and send the information to the board office.

Joint Environment/Resiliency Committee

Jeff Sanoff, Chair Environment & Sanitation Committee

Jack Suben, Chair Resiliency Committee

Jack thanked Barbara for the minutes. He reported that ACE presented and reviewed the options that were presented two years ago. This project from Hurricane Sandy which lost funding has been refunded. He said that everyone is waiting for updated information. Jeff added that ACE is waiting for NYS DEC to get updated numbers. They will return when all numbers are received.

Nominating Committee

Susan Flaschenberg, Chairperson

Susan reviewed information. Elections for all positions will take place at the June board meeting which will be held on June 22nd. Each position is for a two year term which begins on July 1, 2022. The reason that this Nominating Committee was put together is to identify members of the board who might want to run for a position on the Executive Board.

Lucy asked Susan to review the names of the members who currently have said that they wish to run. Chairperson – Lucy Mujica Diaz, 1st Vice Chair, Jeff Sanoff, 2nd Vice Chair, Zunera Ahmed, Secretary, Shimon Rinkovsky and Treasurer Dionne Brown. Also running for Treasurer is Tatyana Segal.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Licensing Committee: Yelena Makhnin, Chairperson

Yelena explained that in December, 2020 we received and unanimously approved an application for a full liquor license for this establishment, Arbor Mouse, LLC dba Pizza Brook, located at 1215 Surf Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. at our February, 2021 full board meeting. The applicant did not file within the 9 month window and now wish to change from full liquor license to a wine, beer and cider license. They need to apply again and also want a 30-Day Waiver.

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Lucy made motion, seconded by Jeff Sanoff to approve the application for wine, beer and cider, with 30 day waiver, for Arbor Mouse LLC dba Pizza Brook.

VOTE: In Favor: 29

Opposed: 1

Abstention: 0

Motion carried. Quorum Present. Roll call on file at C.B. office.

Motion to adjourn made and seconded.

Barbara Santonas, Secretary