



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., Mar. 22, 2023

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Loc.: Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lucy Mujica Diaz
Dionne Brown
Marion Cleaver
Susan Flaschenberg
Ronald Greenberg
Cynthia Leveille
Pat O'Brien
Sam Rinknovsky
Fran Schwartz
Pat Singer
Barbara Teitelbaum
Edita Volovodovskaya
Joann Weiss

Zunera Ahmed
Patricia Brown
Lolita Divilova
Selina Grant
Amarilys Herrera
Yelena Makhnin
Nodira Pirmukhamedova
Michael Russo
Tatyana Segal
Evelyn Strasser
Fanya Vasilevsky
Dennis Vourderis
Annette Wesley

Lakeisha Bowers
Mario Caggiano
Olga Fort
Erum Hanif
Queenie Huling
Allen Newman
Milagros Quiles
Jeff Sanoff
Michael Silverman
Jack Suben
Gregory Vayngurt
Gloria Watkins
Svetlana Zelinskaya

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joe Corace(exc)
Olga Fort
Robbin Wright Paraison
Kumali Zairee

Susan Flaschenberg(exc)
Bernard Kaufman
Pervez Siddiqui

Asad Dandia
Michael Quinn
David Wynn

GUESTS:

Miriam Padilla, Charlton Williams, Judi Barreca, Priscilla Fisk, Mark Merynk, Gabe Schneider
Olga Fiore, Zevi Friedman, Bobby Ferazi, Pat Lynch, Ethan Diamond, Adriana Mitchell,
Arthur Melnick, Charisse Johnson, Ida Sanoff, Craig Hammerman, Troy Olson (CM Vernikov),
Erica Turner(CM Kagan), Anastasia Yasakova(CAU)

OFFICE STAFF:

Eddie Mark, District Manager, Hanna Glikman, Community Associate, Lucia Knizhik,
Community Assistant, Barbara Santonas, Community Coordinator

PRESENTATION:

Surfpoint Recovery Center – 2316 Surf Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Zevi Friedman, CEO, gave an overview of the changes that were made to the facility. The Center was opened in October, 2022. Their objective is to treat clients with Substance Abuse Disorder. They give the highest quality of care in a friendly, accommodating environment. Many of the residents are both Medicare and Medicaid eligible. Surfpoint is a medication assisted treatment for detox and rehabilitation facility under OASIS. They now have 40 clients in house. Their total capacity is 150. The clients are treated with Methadone and/or Savoxtone. Three floors have living quarters, and the first floor has offices. Each client has special needs and is treated as an individual. They have a contract with a specialty food company to provide meals and snacks. They are now instituting an Alumni Program, where graduated clients come back to speak to the inhouse residents. They have also hired several graduates to work within the program.

Lakeisha Bowers asked if Surfpoint was still looking to hire additional staff. Mr. Friedman said they were. Tomorrow, Eddie will make a connection with Lakeisha and Mr. Friedman. Adrienne Mitchell from the Brighton Beach Branch of the library said that they are hosting a social program, "Brooklyn Supports". They are looking for partners for outreach and information who would like to get involved with the BBPL. She was wonderful if Surfpoint Recovery would like to join. Milagros Quiles, Pastor of Iglesia Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ on West 21st St. said she would like to tour Surfpoint.

The presentation from UNS was cancelled for tonight and will be scheduled at a later date.

ELECTED OFFICIALS/REPRESENTATIVES:

Olga Fiore – representing State Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton. The Senator sends her regards. She is currently in Albany working on the budget. She hosted two Black History Month events. They still do not have a Brooklyn office and are working at different mobile sites. The Senator is active on social media, facebook and twitter. Feel free to email her with any problems. Recently she had two Public Safety bills passed. Wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

Assemblymember Alec Brook-Krasny – The AM was on from his office in Albany. He is working on a \$232 Billion budget. He is trying to bring as much money as he can to the neighborhood and CBOs. He is working closely with all factions on both sides of the isles. He is working with Senator Spanton. They may share an office in our area, and they will set an example as a bi-partisan community office. There are a great many things happening in the community, and he is glad to have the Community Board as a forum for the casino. There are important changes coming. He doesn't think Coney Island will be able to get the casino license, only time will tell.

Lucy thanked the Assemblyman for attending all our meetings. It is nice to see that our officials make time to attend the Community Board meetings.

Charlene Batts – representing Councilmember Justin Brannan – She brought wishes for Happy Holidays. They have free tax and immigration services. Call office, if needed.

Troy Olson – representing Councilmember Inna Vernikov – The Councilmember is busy with preliminary hearings on the budget. They have moved their office to 1711 Gravesend Neck Road Suite 100.

Erica Turner – representing Councilmember Ari Kagan – The Councilmember is having a Women In History event on Wednesday, March 29th. Their office was able to get the lights back on in Surfside Gardens.

PUBLIC SPEAKING:

Craig Hammerman – (His comments, verbatim) “You may or may not have heard me talk about the Army Corps’ study, their HATS study, which is proposing flood protection measures for all of the coastlines throughout our region. And you may or may not know that they are Proposing a Tidal Gate, levees, seawalls and flood walls at Coney Island Creek. I don’t know about you, but I haven’t found one person who thinks that raising the boardwalk is a good idea or even makes sense to do. In fact, Ida was quick to point out that they could probably accomplish the same flood protection by building seawalls and covering them in sand dunes instead of radically changing the boardwalk experience and changing access to the beach. Several groups that I’m part of think this is a better idea, and we’re encouraging the Army Corps to study it. I think CB13 should consider adding its voice to the conversation too, and I’ve sent some thoughts around to most of you for your consideration.

But why is this so important? Well, the way these Environmental Impact Statements work is that the first thing the agency does when they want to build something is they tell you what they are going to study. If it doesn’t get studied, it doesn’t get built. They have to study a variety of options, everything from building different variations or alternatives to what they want to build, to building nothing at all. Once they decide what they are going to study, they can’t go backwards later and say they’re going to study something different. Right now they are settling on the scope of what they will be studying moving forward. So if we don’t tell them we want them to study something other than the Elevated Promenade at the boardwalk, or the Tidal Gate at the creek, then they will sink even more resources into these options and not give us any other options down the line. This is the time we need to tell them what we want them to study. This is the time to tell them to study, then they may just end up spending our share of the estimated \$53 billion budget for this project building things we don’t want, when they should be building things we want and need.

We will get to comment on the actual designs as they move through the process. So this isn’t the last we’ve seen from the Army Corps. But let’s send them off to study options that we prefer, things we think will accomplish their goal providing flood protection while preserving what’s important to us – especially protecting the boardwalk experience and getting the creek cleaned once and for all. If we don’t tell them what’s important to us, then they will only consider what’s important to them”.

Charlisse Johnson – Liaison DOMH-Bureau of Mother and Infant Reproductive Health. This is a Mayoral Initiative, a home visit program on the mother’s pre and postnatal journey. It is free, voluntary and not income based. They would like assistance from our community board with community mapping to help locate these families.

Ida Sanoff: She stated that what was said at the Parks/Environment Joint Committee meeting was misquoted and difficult to follow. What was quoted was taken totally out of context. She said that the USACE study showed that a community that has sand dunes has less chance of damage than areas that had no sand dunes at all. She said that the Parks Department has been given a free ride. They talk, we listen, they are not held accountable. There seems to be a contradiction with the ACE and Parks recommendation. The bottom line is the situation is a mess. Hurricane season begins in June, no protection, no accountability.

Ida apologized again that the committee minutes were so confusing. A great deal of information was given at that meeting. Lucy asked Ida to send the edits to the office and the minutes will be amended.

Jeff made a motion, seconded by Joann Weiss –

Community Board 13 write a joint letter to the Parks Department and Army Corps of Engineers requesting that any material proposed for the boardwalk other than wood should be evaluated for exacerbation of storm surge impacts and heat island impacts. The letter should also include a request to provide sand dunes along the entire beach.

Vote: In Favor: 38

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 0

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

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: (no vote – camera not on)

Motion made by Marion Cleaver, seconded by Joann Weiss to accept the minutes as submitted.

Vote: In Favor: 34

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

“No” Vote: 4

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT:

Eddie reported that we co-hosted a meeting with the Borough President about the proposed casino. About 300 residents attended and feedback was sent to his office. On April 19th there will be another in person meeting with the developers at which time they will be submitting updates on their proposal. Each resident/speaker will be given approximately 1-3 minutes, depending on the number of speakers, to give their opinion. For those residents who wish not to speak, they can email their comments directly to The New York State Gambling Commission. We are still fighting the proposed bus cuts. Demonstrations have been done and will continue to be done. If you want to make a comment about these cuts, call the office for the email address to contact the MTA. DCWP will no longer be handling the illegal vendor issue. Effective April 1st, The Department of Sanitation will be the City agency handling this problem. Emails have been sent to several board members them that the Borough President’s Office is looking carefully at member’s absences. Some members may be called.

Joann asked if residents had to register to speak on April 19th. Eddie said “No”.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT:

Eddie reported that DOT will be working on Bay 53rd Street and Cropsey during the month of April. He reminded them about the upcoming April holidays and the opening of the rides. There will be no interference with those events.

There is an issue with sand on Bayview Avenue. He notified the Parks Department to remove the sand. They said they will work on doing that.

CEC 21 hosted The Chancellor's Town Hall meeting at P.S. 212. Chancellor Banks discussed the quality of schools and how to improve the schools. He wants to expand on programs for children with Special Needs.

The amusement area will have a soft opening on Friday and Saturday, March 31st and April 1st. The official opening/Blessing of The Rides will take place on Palm Sunday, April 2nd at 11 a.m. at Deno's. Everyone is invited to attend.

COMMUNICATION & CORRESPONDENCE: Shimon Rinkovsky
Salt n Sea Mission is having the Blessing of the Rides at Deno's on Sunday, April 2nd at 11 a.m. Register online.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Parks & Environment Committees Barbara Teitelbaum/Susan Flaschenberg Co-Chairs
Jeff Sanoff, Chair Environment Committee

Co-Chair Barbara Teitelbaum thanked Barbara for the minutes. She reported that Parks Commissioner Marty Maher was at the meeting and discussed the \$105 million Phase I Boardwalk Repair. Additional carpenters to do boardwalk repair have been hired. The 100th Anniversary of the Boardwalk will be celebrated during the beach opening.

Jeff Sanoff, Chair of the Environment Committee stated that the USACE Flood Control Project has been discussed at numerous meetings, both Zoom and in person. The proposed bilevel boardwalk has numerous problems and our community/committee has had "no seat at the table" when discussing this proposal. If it is allowed to proceed, there will be a waste of taxpayer's money.

Ida remarked that the Parks Department has not done studies on the impact of storm surge. This must be addressed. She suggested that the Board write a letter to Parks and to ACE about this situation.

License Committee Yelena Makhnin, Chair

Yelena reported there were four new applicants for licenses.

#1 – **Olympus Catering** – 3152 Br. 6th Street (Site of Little Tatyana). There was no discussion. Committee voted 6 In Favor, 0 Opposed.

Motion: To approve the license application.

Vote from Board: 33 In Favor, 5 No Votes (cannot see their face)

#2 – **Pancakes of Coney Island (IHOP)** – 1019 Surf Avenue – License wine, beer cider
Committee voted 6 in Favor, 0 Opposed.

Motion: To approve license application.

Vote from Board: 33 In Favor, 5 No Votes (cannot see their face)

#3 – **Day Party LLC** – 3030-3050 Stillwell Avenue – Full liquor, wine, beer, cider. Stipulations asked for music until midnight. In Committee agreed music until 10 and venue will be cleared and closed by midnight. Asked for updated stipulations to be notarized for this part. Yelena asked for new stipulations, as they have not been received. Barbara Teitelbaum suggested that this item be tabled until next month. If the stipulations are not received by then, turn it down. Joann Weiss stated that this venue (Coney Art Walls) has always been a problem,

music was problematic, vulgar in nature. She would like to have a Public Safety Committee meeting and have the new owners, not Tommy, come and discuss their plans for this venue.

Lucy said Public Safety meeting is not necessary, there is nothing to discuss. Lucy said we should vote, but not to submit to SLA until we receive the stipulations. Lucy amended the motion to read that unless stipulations are submitted to the board by March 24th, we will deny.

Jeff said that the applicant is not here and they haven't sent the paperwork. Motion to rescind Michael Russo said discussion is mute if the SLA approves. The motion is either approved or denied. No one seems to be taking this issue seriously. Dennis Vourderis stated that the music is still outdoors and goes everywhere. His ride operators can't hear people screaming on the ride. Some discussion of decibel levels. Some more discussion on motions. Michael Silverman said that committee can rescind the motion or the board can vote against the committees recommendation. The vote can be brought up again when the applicant does their do diligence. Lucy suggested that the board takes Michael Silverman's recommendation and we should move on with the vote.

Motion: To approve the recommendation from the License Committee regarding the new application for a full liquor license for Day Party LLC.

Vote: In Favor: 2 Opposed: 32 Abstention: 1

Motion denied. (quorum present)

#4 Hook & Reel Cajun Seafood & Bar – 1217 Surf Avenue, Brooklyn – Change method of operation.

Jason, the General Manager was in attendance. Lucy said she spoke to Skylar about certain changes which he agreed to. Can Jason agree to it as well, so we can go forward. Jason said "yes". Originally, Lucy requested that the Committee oppose the license. Lucy explained the background of the situation. In October, 2022 it was found that Hook&Reel was having parties. It was discussed with Skylar that what he was doing was wrong and he was told to come into the office and change the method of operation. She wants the Board to hear the amendments from the original application.

Motion: Add these amendments to the original application. No liquor on the second floor patio. No music on the patio. Stop selling liquor at midnight, close at 1 a.m. They must hire Security. Keep music inside to a minimum level not to disturb the public. Motion made by Lucy. Second by Joann Weiss.

Vote: In Favor: 34 Opposed: 0 Absention: 1 No Vote:(camera not on) 3

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

Vote is pending receipt of stipulations by Friday, March 24th.

Land Use Committee

Marion Cleaver/Shimon Rinkovsky, Co-Chairs

Lucy stated that the committee met on March 16th to discuss tentative guidelines for Co-Naming of Streets in Community Board 13 area. This draft of the guidelines will not be presented tonight. A draft of the guidelines has been sent to the Land Committee members and elected officials for their input. Once we receive their input, the committee will review and bring the Guidelines to the full board for a vote.

Minutes

03.22.2023

OLD BUSINESS:

Selena Grant wants the Stop Sign on West 37th Street and Surf Avenue moved. Eddie asked that she call 311 and get complaint number and then call the office and give the complaint number to them.

Fanya asked why the guidelines were sent to the elected officials before the full board can tweak.

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD & WELFARE:

Barbara Teitelbaum – She wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Zunera Ahmed – She reported that the Community Advisory Committee for the WINN Center will be meeting tomorrow.

Yelena Makhnin – Brighton Beach BID is starting a Cleaning Project with graffiti removal and general sprucing up of the area. The project is funded by a Grant from the Mayor’s Office.

Eddie Mark – Blessing of the Rides – Sunday, April 2nd at 11 a.m. at Deno’s. There will be a soft opening of all rides in the amusement area on Saturday, April 1st, if the weather holds.

Michael Silverman – Warbasse is having a Blood Drive after the Blessing of the Rides, from 12-6 p.m. at 545 Neptune Avenue Community Room 5C. The blood that’s donated at this event, stays within our community.

Lakeisha Bowers – There will be a Resource and Job Fair on Wednesday, March 29th from 4-8 p.m. at Liberation High School.

Lucy stated that at a prior board meeting, the board voted that while the State of Emergency exists in the City, both committee and general board meetings will be via Zoom. She would like to have the June 2023 meeting in person so that the Board can recognize members who have decided to leave us and those who were not reappointed. Specifically she is talking about Bernie Kaufman who has been a Board member for 45 years.

Motion made by Lucy, seconded by Joann Weiss.

Vote: In Favor 35 Opposed: 0 Abstention: 0 “No Vote” 3 (no camera)

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

Barbara Teitelbaum asked if the meeting could be hybrid. Lucy said she will try.

Motion to adjourn 9:05 p.m.

Barbara Santonas, Community Coordinator