



**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., May 24, 2023

**Time:** 7:00 P.M.

**Loc.:** Zoom

**PRESENT:**

Lucy Mujica Diaz  
Dionne Brown  
Marion Cleaver  
Susan Flaschenberg  
Linda Harrison  
Angela Kravtchenko  
Mark Merynk  
Robbin Wright Paraison  
Sabina Pirmukhamedova  
Jeff Sanoff  
Michael Silverman  
Jack Suben  
Edita Volovodovskaya

Zunera Ahmed  
Patricia Brown  
Julia Daniely  
Olga Fort  
Queenie Huling  
Yelena Makhnin  
Allen Newman  
Nodira Pirmukhamedova  
Milagros Quiles  
Fran Schwartz  
Pat Singer  
Barbara Teitelbaum  
Annette Wesley

Lakeisha Bowers  
Sonji Cephas  
Lolita Divilova  
Selina Grant  
Yuriy Krasner  
Minnie Mankita  
Pat O'Brien  
Emil Purisic  
Sam Rinkovsky  
Tatyana Segal  
Evelyn Strasser  
Gregory Vayngurt

**ABSENT:**

Joe Corace(exc)  
Perez Siddiqui(exc)  
Mario Caggiano  
Dennis Vourderis

Erum Hanif(exc)  
Joann Weiss(exc)  
Michael Russo  
Svetlana Zelinskaya

Amarilys Herrera(exc)  
Asad Dandia  
Sheila Smalls

**GUESTS:**

Lucille Stivaletto, Sasha Revels, Karla Wheeler-Williams, Arkin Nasser, Jeanette Knowles, Sandra Iacullo, Olga Fiore(SS Jessica Spanton), Eric Thomann, Ron Greenberg, Judi Barreca, Jennifer Dublin, Aida Leon, Craig Hammerman, Maggie Mays, Ida Sanoff, Terry Feuer, Christopher Greif, Dr. Selena Marbury, Maria Arno, Emmett Sklar(Public Advocate), Brian Fisk, Priscilla Fisk, Anastasia Yaskova(CAU), Miriam Padilla, Sergey Chuprik(Comptroller), Michelle Argus

**OFFICE STAFF PRESENT:**

Eddie Mark, Dist. Mgr., Hanna Glikman, Community Associate, Lucia Knizhik, Community Assistant, Barbara Santonas, Community Coordinator

Eddie Mark, District Manager opened the May meeting of Community Board 13 at 7:05 p.m. Our Chairperson, Lucy Mujica Diaz, welcomed everyone and introduced the staff. She announced a problem with an individual, Maggie May, who has tried to get on the meeting a total of 43 times. The staff is monitoring this situation. Lucy announced that since the incident at our April Meeting, Eddie has made changes to the procedure. In order to get into the meeting, a person must register prior to entering the meeting. Hopefully, this will ensure that the incident in April never happens again.

Lucy mentioned there will be an “in person” meeting for the June 28, 2023, board meeting. It will be held at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. There will be no meeting in July and August.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

Christopher Greif – He announced that there will be additional MTA Bus Redesign open pop-up sessions. Check website for dates/locations. There is no information as of this date when there will be a Public Hearing about possible fare hikes. The fare hikes have been proposed, they have not been finalized. The weekly Omni fares will have changes.

Craig Hammerman – He wished our Riegelmann Boardwalk a very Happy Birthday – it just turned 100 years old on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The following is his statement. “I moved to the beach because it’s a special healing place for me. The amount of garbage, especially plastics, that either wash up or are left behind by human and wildlife visitors. But mostly, it saddens me to watch our boardwalk fall apart because of poor asset management decisions. I can’t let it go and must speak on it. Truth to power.

Everyone wants a safe and inviting boardwalk. And we want it right now. We want it and we deserve it. But I want a safe and inviting tomorrow too. I want one next week. I want one 100 years from now. Driving heavy vehicles across the boardwalk is the single-most destructive force that’s responsible for the boardwalk falling apart. The people making asset management decisions about the boardwalk have no plan to stop driving these vehicles. They are condemning the boardwalk’s future. All for their convenience. They are creating a situation where what they fix today will have to be fixed 5 years from now instead of 25 years from now. This is a supreme waste of precious tax-payer dollars. Other municipalities have found ways to respond to emergencies and maintain their boardwalks without the use of heavy vehicles. Don’t we deserve the same consideration? This is not an unsolvable problem.

I’ll end by asking this: can we simply agree that the way this asset has been managed is wrong? It is not in the best long-term interest of our communities for management to continue this way. Remember, the community is the victim here. And the management decisions at the Parks Department are the source of the abuse. That is what needs to change. I believe we all want the Parks Department to change. To do that, we need to break the cycle of abuse first. Otherwise, we will continue to experience more of the same with no promise of change or hope for the future of our boardwalk. This is the message our leaders need to amplify and support. We deserve these changes.

I hope 100 years from now our children’s childrens children will look back in gratitude, thanking us for taking care of this most cherished asset, as much as we look back now and thank Brooklyn Borough President Edward J. Riegelmann for gifting us with it 100 years ago. Happy birthday boardwalk. Long may you stand.” (side note – when anyone protects and praises the work of the Parks Department specifically with regard to their mismanagement of the boardwalk, they are enabling our abuser to continue to gaslight our community. That is unacceptable. To move forward we need to break the cycle of destruction and abuse before trusting them with money and before trusting them to make long-term decisions on our behalf. I’ve asked before and will keep asking, please do not give the Parks Department a blank check).

Erica Turner – representing CM Ari Kagan – She reported that the smoke shop located on Mermaid Avenue and W. 31<sup>st</sup> Street was raided. The CM is working with NYPD and the Sheriff’s Office to get these businesses closed. The CM stands with the NYC retirees who are opposed to changing health insurance coverage.

Sasha Revels – representing CM Inna Vernikov – She reported that the CM has relocated her office to Gravesend Neck Road. She has worked with DSNY to clean Brighton 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Boardwalk. Also to repair the gates at that location so homeless cannot gain access to area under the boardwalk. CAU and DHS have been doing homeless outreach.

Fran Schwartz – She remarked to Sasha Revels, representing CM Vernikov, that she called their office several times about the Brighton Beach Municipal Parking Lot, and no one has helped. She spoke to everyone in their office, including the CM herself and no one has helped, why can't she get any satisfaction. Chairperson Lucy Mujica Diaz said she would try and set up a meeting with Fran, herself, Eddie and the CM to discuss this problem.

Assemblymember Alec Brook Krasny – He reported that the budget is finally done. It is not the greatest budget. Money is being given to SUNY, CUNY and \$34 million to public education. \$1 million to childcare State programs. Some money is being given to New York City. Formed Office of Holistic Care. Needs more work. New program Mothers of Coney Island. If anyone is interested, please call his office. He was able to get additional funding approved for elevator installation. He is still trying to get more assistance for seniors and the disabled. Lucy again thanked the Assemblymember for always taking time to come in person and listening to the issues of his constituents.

Ida Sanoff – She is very concerned about the boardwalk. When they had more carpenters there was funding to maintain the boardwalk. Now there are not enough carpenters or monies for the necessary repairs.

Olga Fiore – representing State Senator Jessica Scarcella Spanton – The SS is having an event on Saturday, Maternal Resource Fair. All are invited to attend.

Zunera Ahmed – representing State Senator Iwen Chu – Announced their new office is located at 6605 Fort Hamilton Parkway. Looking forward to working with the community.

Eric Thomann – Green Thumb – He works for the Dept. of Parks and is involved with the Green Thumb Project. He has been working with the three Green Thumb Community Gardens in Coney Island; Santos, W. 23<sup>rd</sup> St. and Surfside, Each of the gardens are trying to recruit new members. They have cleaned up the Gardens and DSNY has removed the rubble.

Minnie Mantikas – She is a resident of Coney Island and was on the boardwalk today and saw three large Parks Dept. trucks. What can be done about this.

#### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

Marion Cleaver made motion, seconded by Mark Merynk to approve the minutes of the April, 2023 board meeting as submitted.

VOTE: In Favor: 32      Opposed: 0      Excused: 5      Absent: 6

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

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

Chairperson Lucy Mujica Diaz was happy that our Board finally has 50 members. For those new members who were not at Orientation, we will schedule a phone conference with them to go over information. She has made some changes in committees. Added Co-Chairs to the Economic Development Committee – Allen Newman, Environment and Sanitation Committee – Mark Merynk and Interfaith Committee-Michael Silverman. Going forward Street Co-Namings will be handled by the Transportation Committee. Thank you to Lakeisha Bowers for gathering the community on the migrant situation at P.S. 188. Had to stay on top of the issue. Mayor Adams changed his mind every 5 minutes. Thank you to Jeff for sending the letter to Mayor Adams. Lucy attended the public forum in front of the school along with Eddie. Finally, the letter to the Mayor gave locations in our community board that could be used if the migrants were brought back to our area. There was no response by the Mayor. Lucy discussed the importance of members attending meetings. The Borough President is very concerned with members attendance. If a member is absent for three consecutive or 25% of meetings in a six month period, the member is subject to removal from the board. Try not to arrive late or leave early. Reminder about members taking gifts. Members are considered public servants. If any questions, please contact Conflict of Interest Board.

**DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT:**

Eddie reported that we have three meetings in June. Licensing, Land Use to discuss Carbon Neutrality, Coney Island Phase 3 to show plans for building on W. 17 to West 19<sup>th</sup> St. and Joint Sanitation/Economic Development to discuss outdoor dining and disposal of garbage. Discussion about DCWP, DSNY and NYPD handling crowds, illegal vendors. Task Force came to BB/C.I. to address these issues. Unfortunately, there will not be enough lifeguards. She is strongly advocating for additional lifeguards. Lucy announced that Lucia is starting maternity leave in June. The office is looking for a P/T person on a temporary basis, as a consultant, to work until she returns. The person will have to pay their own taxes and will receive no benefits.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Shimon Rinkovsky

Brighton 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Playground – Virtual Scoping Meeting Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Official Beach Opening – Boardwalk & West 10<sup>th</sup> Street 11 a.m. Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> .

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

Land Use Committee:

Marion Cleaver/Shimon Rinkovsky, Co-Chairs

Brooklyn Comprehensive Plan from the Borough President’s Office. This explains what he wants to do for the community. Nothing to do with City Planning. Possible Rezoning – Shore Towers 2940-3000 Ocean Parkway. Possible infill of parking lot and building of 25 story building with 560 units and 270 additional parking spots. Board believes more information on the project is needed.

Co-Naming of Street in Memory of Rev. Sylvester and Georgia McEddy – Location would be West 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Neptune Avenue. Dr. Marbury, the applicant, was told that she should email CM Kagan and explain the date they want to use and the reason for needing that specific date.

Vote: In Favor: 33                      Opposed: 0                      Abstention: 1      No vote(no camera) 5  
Motion carried (quorum present) Roll call on file at CB office.

Jt Transportation & Public Safety Committee:

Lolita Divilova, Chair Transportation  
Joann Weiss, Chair Public Safety

(See Minutes of Committee Meeting)

Since the letter to the MTA requesting shuttle bus service for the F train, was sent out after being voted on in committee, Lucy asked Michael Silverman if a vote from the entire board was necessary. Michael said the letter should not have been sent without board approval. Lolita stated it was done in the interest of time. Michael reiterated that a committee cannot act for the full board. Going forward, we cannot do that again. What could have been done was request the Chair to send the letter and then no vote needs to be taken.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**GOOD & WELFARE:**

Angela Kravchenko announced that on June 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a Ukranian Festival at Guardian Angel Church from 1-4 p.m. All are invited to attend. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Friends of Asser Levy Park is sponsoring a Family Yoga Class, gtom 10-11 a.m. suitable for all ages. State Senator Jessica Scarcella Spanton is having her mobile office at Ocean Parkway and Brighton Beach Avenue on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and at Asser Levy Park on June 11<sup>th</sup>. She is sad to hear about the lack of lifeguards from W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street to Brighton 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Perhaps having lifeguards on alternate Bays would help the situation. There are a total of 25,000 vacancies throughout all City agencies.

Lakeisha Bowers announced a Resource Fair at Liberation High School on June 1<sup>st</sup> from 4-8 p.m.

Michael Silverman announced Coney Island/Warbasse Blood Drive, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 12-6 p.m.

Lucy Mujica Diaz reminded every to please submit information for C.B. 13 Newsletter before 2 p.m. on Friday.

**LICENSE COMMITTEE:**

Yelena Makhnin/Olga Fort

New full liquor license application for AASA group dba Back Stage, located at 3052 West 21<sup>st</sup> St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11224. Motion to approve made by Olga Fort, seconded by Evelyn Strasser. The vote from committee was 7 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals. Motion carried (quorum present). Roll call on file at C.B. office.

There was lengthy discussion about the business hours 7 days a week. The hours differ from rooftop to first floor inside dining room. Sunday thru Wednesday 9 a.m. to 12 midnight; Thursday 9 a.m. to 1 a.m.; Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 a.m.(last call one hour before) The rooftop closes one hour before. Security – 8 p.m. to closing daily. There will be DJ, live music and scheduled live performances. Stipulations were received in the office yesterday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Allen Newman asked if performances would be inside the restaurant or on the rooftop. Mr. Nassir said they would be inside the restaurant. Allen asked if the restaurant was currently serving alcohol. Yelena said she could not answer that and asked Mr. Nassir. He said alcohol is being served and he has an event license for days when alcohol is served. Lucy asked that a copy of the event license be forwarded to the board office. Mr. Nassir said the license is under American Whiskey.

VOTE: In Favor: 25 Opposed: 7 Abstain: 4 No Vote (no camera): 4  
Motion carried (quorum present) Roll call on file at C.B. office

There being no further business. Motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Barbara Santonas, Community Coordinator