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Brooklyn Community Board 15



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Monthly Board Meeting - Minutes

June 21, 2022 -Webex Conference

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm, by Chairperson Theresa Scavo. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chair Scavo welcomed new Board Members, Nasim Almunster, Naomi Harris, Boris Kogan, Stanley Ng and Polina Solovyeva.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairperson Scavo invited Ms. Yvette Knight Senior Manager, External Affairs NYC School Construction Authority (SCA) to present. Ms. Knight stated that the SCA has identified a school in our district P.S./I.S.206 that is in need of an addition to accommodate approximately 540 more seats. As part of their process to move forward with construction on this site, the SCA is required to present to the Community Board. The proposed addition will be constructed on a portion of the existing campus whose address is 2200 Gravesend Neck Road, in the Sheepshead Bay section of Brooklyn. A 45-day public comment period on the site commences on June 21st and ends August 5th. Today's presentation will focus on the site itself (rather than specifics about the school facility) – she explained they do not have any design details to share as of yet. Comments on the site can be emailed to sites@nycsca.org or mailed to New York Construction Authority 30-30 Thompson Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101 Attn: Gayle Mandaro. Other questions on ongoing project contact: Yvette Knight 718 472-8199.

Ms. Knight introduced Superintendent for District 22 Julia Bove. Ms. Bove spoke about the school being at 150% capacity and that is why this addition is merited. It is a wonderful school, but it's become overcrowded. A rezoning that took place 5 years ago eliminated some of the neighborhood's outer blocks, so children residing in those areas were no longer zoned in and eligible to attend the school, however it would be a serious disservice to the Community to look at rezoning again and eliminating more blocks. Currently, the school has forfeited office space, science labs, and art rooms to accommodate students and would like to expand to see those vital classrooms

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returned to the students. In addition, they would like to create a larger more accommodating cafeteria to better serve their students. They considered eliminating the middle school, but it is a popular feature in this neighborhood and their elementary school students are best served in moving onto middle school in a building they are most comfortable in. The solution was made to expand this site to better accommodate their growing student body and the community it serves.

A question from the floor asked how the Board of Education at P.S. 206 is handling elementary school and middle school children's safety. With a new addition they plan to add an Assistant Principal, more security staff, and more teachers. Principal Ellen Quigley added that the middle school is currently housed on one floor and only accepts students currently from their own K-5 elementary school division who are aging up to 6 through 8 grade educations. Currently they have a total of 1498 students with 450 of them being from their middle school, so they are encouraging families to remain in the area and in their neighborhood school. It was asked if the property they are expanding on is City owned. The answer was yes. A question was asked if they need to rezone because of the expansion? The answer was no. Concerns were expressed about disruption to students and schoolwork. The answer was that minimizing any disruptions is of high priority and they pride themselves are carrying out this work with no disruption of classes or impacts to students. They sighted their success of minimalizing any disruptions with the expansion of neighboring school P.S. 254, another popular school that required an addition as well to accommodate a growing student population. Someone asked about the courtyard serving as an area for the addition. It was reiterated that no plans have been drawn up yet and that this meeting was just for pure transparency to alert the community to their plans. Student accessibility was discussed and again they sighted P.S. 254 as an excellent example of incorporating accessibility into their plans to better serve students. Lastly, a time frame was discussed, and their goal was to be completed by 2026. A Board Vote to offer support for this site's expansion would be taken during Executive Session.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Chair Scavo opened the floor and invited Elected Officials, their representatives, Agencies representatives and community members to Speak:

Chair Scavo called upon Kim Robinson, Director of Community Engagement for Council Member Mercedes Narcisse. Ms. Robinson sent greetings from the Council Member, belated Father's Day wishes to all the dads in the meeting and wishes for a safe and prosperous summer.

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Chair Scavo called upon Troy Olson from Council Member Inna Vernikov's Office who placed his contact information in chat (TOlson@council.nyc.gov)

Nancy Lulu brought greetings from District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's office and reiterated a belated Happy Father's Day to the dads on the meeting. She spoke about the DA's commitment to combating gun violence and spoke of a Bed Stuy event he hosted recently to engage and educate our young people on gun violence in our communities. The DA believes education is the key to reaching our young people. He has been sponsoring gun buy-back events and advocating for legislation to tweak our current bail reform program to reduce recidivism and give judges more discretion in their decisions. Recently, they held a successful Cannabis Town Hall to educate the public on knowing their rights when it comes to the new NYS Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act and new economic opportunities this Act provides. On June 29, 2022, the DA is holding a Senior Safety Summit to educate our seniors about scams that target older adults and tips on how to keep our seniors safe. The event will take place at Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street from 9:00am-12:00pm. A continental breakfast will be served. RSVP is required, email CommunityAffairs@Brooklynda.org or call 718 250-3888 to reserve your spot. She ended by providing the DA's Action Center Hotline 718 250-2340.

Chris Greif from the New York City Transit Riders Council stated that the reduced fare OMNY card is coming. They are working on step 1, please log on to make sure your information is correct and updated. You can also choose to receive a card or the app. You can click <https://reducedfare.mta.info/omny-registration/> Any questions you can email Chris at chrisgreif@yahoo.com

Raisa Chernina from the Be Proud Foundation announced that National Night Out will be held on Tuesday August 2, 2022, from 4:00pm-7:00pm at the 61st Precinct, please come out to support our men and women in blue.

Jahi Rose, Director of Outreach for the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), stated if anyone has a complaint or experiences an officer who has abused their authority, spoke inappropriately, or acted unethically to please reach out to his office to report it. They are also actively seeking opportunities to volunteer in the community, so please feel free to reach out 917 208-9320 (cell) or jrose@ccrb.nyc.gov

Hassan Chaudhary, Community Liaison for Brooklyn Borough Hall sent greetings from Borough President Reynoso, and he welcomed the new Board

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Members. He stated Board Member orientation will be taking place on June 23rd and July 12. He discussed how non-profits may be eligible for discretionary funding from Borough Hall. He stated a lot of times these funds largely go unused when they are designed to help organizations increase their capacity to serve their communities <https://www.brooklyn-usa.org/departments/budget/>

He shared his contact information: hassaan.chaudhary@brooklynbp.nyc.gov

Lenny Markh, Chief of Staff to Assembly Member Steven Cymbrowitz, stated Summer Stroll is back and invited everyone to come down this Sunday June 26, 2022, from 12:00pm-5:00pm along Sheepshead Bay Road from East 15th Street to Emmons Avenue.

Lenny can be reached via email MarkhL@nyassembly.gov or to reach their office call at 718 743-4078 or email cymbros@nyassembly.gov

Mariya Markh representing Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein's office stated that the Assembly Member is sponsoring a Shredding Event on September 15th, at Roosevelt Savings Bank (call for time). There will also be a Rain Barrel giveaway, TBD to RSVP, please call their office at 718-648-4700. Also please join us for the Metro Van on Tuesday, July 5th from 10:30am-noon at 3520 Nostrand Avenue.

Stanley Kaplan stated as Community Board 15's longest attending "non-Board Member" I wish everyone a good summer.

Ed Jaworski, Executive Vice President of the Madison-Marine-Homecrest Civic Association asked that the new Board Members state their names and their community affiliations during roll call.

Flore Baptiste from the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence headphones were malfunctioning, so she placed her information in chat. We provide free services for victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, sex trafficking and gender based violence. Our center is located at 350 Jay Street on the 15th floor. It's a walk in center. The number is 718 250-5113. Her email is fbaptiste@endgbv.nyc.gov

Kerri Malave, Community Relations Director, from Assemblywoman Jaime Williams office in chat wished everyone a safe and happy summer. She added that the Assembly Member wants to remind everyone to drink plenty of water, use sunscreen and to be safe in the heat. Tomorrow night at 7:00pm their concert series starts in Marine Park; she emailed the Board Office a flyer, but she will share it directly with you if you inquire via email. They are also sponsoring Yoga in the park as well. This Sunday June 26th from 1:00pm-3:00pm they are hosting a health fair at St. James Church on

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Gerritsen Avenue. She shared her contact information 718 252-2124. Their office is located at 5318 Avenue N. Please reach out with any questions or concerns. Email is malaveK@nyassembly.gov

Anthony Besada stated he is still experiencing quite a bit of quality of life issues with local businesses not being good neighbors. He has one restaurant who has doubled in size on Avenue U and West 6th Street not disposing of their garbage properly, obstructing the sidewalk for pedestrians and upsetting his tenants. The tenants on the first floor are threatening to move and stated he will not be able to re-rent under these conditions. His tenants aren't comfortable enough with the English language to complain directly, so he is doing it for them. He wanted to share his screen with pictures but was having some difficulty, so he will keep on reaching out and advocating to correct these issues.

Chair Scavo asked if anyone else would like to speak? With no one coming forward she moved on to Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A Roll Call Attendance was taken by Chair Scavo, with a Quorum present, a motion to adopt the May 24, 2022, minutes was made by Pearl Siegelman and seconded by Al Smaldone.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

A motion to approve the SCA proposed site to expand P.S./I.S. 206 was made by Ronnie Tawil and seconded by Jennifer Faucher, it was approved unanimously by a show of hands, with one abstention.

JUNE 2022 LIQUOR LICENSES:

Corporate Change Wine, Beer & Cider

485 Kings Corp
485 Kings Highway
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Corporate Change Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

SELFIE Group, LLC
2775-79 Coney Island Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Renewal Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

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16th Street Tavern
1602 Gravesend Neck Road
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Alteration Add Rooftop Bar

AMGP Restaurant Corp
Db a Next Door / Yiasou Esitorio
2003 Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

New Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Knapp Street Pizza
261 Avenue X
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Chair Scavo stated if you know of any issues with these establishments, please contact the Board office.

Public Safety Report:

Our monthly Public Safety Committee meeting was held via Webex on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at 5:00pm. Representing the 61st Police Precinct was its Commanding Officer, Captain Derby St. Fort. In attendance from 61st Community Affairs office was Detective Sam Shaya and Police Officer Lauren Au. Here now is the CompStat report of the 61st Police Precinct for the week dated 5/30/22 through 6/05/22. Here's the year-to-date statistics, comparisons January 1, 2022, through June 5, 2022, with the same time period during 2021; Overall the 61 is up 73.39% in the seven major crime categories. The breakdown is as follows: there was 1 murder thus far in 2022; 2 rapes in 2022, compared to 5 rapes in 2021; robberies up 73.8%; felony assaults, up 14.3%; burglaries, up 35.2%, grand larceny, up 107%; and grand larceny auto, up 178.6%. To the sub-category of hate crimes, the 61 is up 140%, with actual numbers being 12 hate crimes committed in 2022 compared to 5 in 2021.

Our committee continues to actively monitor and report to the 61st its many quality-of life- issues with the purpose of seeing meaningful enforcement, Captain St. Fort indicated that although officers have "discretion" in issuing summonses and confiscating fireworks, it is his hope that we'll see improvement over last year's 4th of July Holiday. They will resume Public Safety Committee Meetings in September 2022.

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Allen Popper asked if Chick Pallotta could get a clearer breakdown of the Hate Crime Statistics as to what group was being targeted. Chick Pallotta stated that when they resume in September, he would try to get a more definitive breakdown.

A discussion on bail reform was brought up and Nancy Lulu reiterated that DA Gonzalez agrees and wants changes to be made, but they have to be made at the State Legislative level. She stated they should be speaking with their electeds about tweaking the Bail Reform laws. Al Smaldone stated the rise in crime even has trickled down to the 61st precinct's communities which are relatively safe communities. As a store owner for over 30 years, he is frustrated in reading about perpetrators being arrested, just to be released back into society to commit similar crimes. He spoke with the precinct's officers and in many cases, they stated their hands are tied. He like to get a letter campaign together to let our Elected Officials know they need to fix the bail reform laws and he encouraged when voting to see where a candidate stands on this issue before casting your vote. If our elected officials won't fix these laws, then we need to collectively vote them out. Morris Harary pointed out that a majority of New Yorkers and Electeds feel these bail reform measures are equitable and just, but what we really need to do is educate the judicial branches on how to implement them correctly, it is all in the interpretation of these laws and the problem lies in that they are being misinterpreted and therefore not being executed correctly.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Scavo wished everyone a wonderful, safe summer and reminded all that our District Office remains open, we are working and reachable by phone or email should you require anything.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mitchell Shpelfogel and seconded Pearl Siegelman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

This is not a verbatim account of the meeting but a synopsis of the main points.