

The City of New York
Brooklyn Community Board 15



ANTONIO REYNOSO
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

THERESA SCAVO
CHAIRPERSON



ERIC ADAMS
MAYOR

LAURA SINGER
DISTRICT MANAGER

Monthly Board Meeting - Minutes

November 21, 2022 -Webex Conference

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm, by Chairperson Theresa Scavo. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairperson Scavo introduced Nick Roloson and Howie Levine from the MTA to give the Board an update on MTA Accessibility. MTA has made a commitment that 95% of the subway stations will be accessible by 2055, settling two lawsuits with accessibility advocates. Currently, Mr. Levine stated 140 stations across every borough are accessible. Accessibility goes beyond elevators and ramps, it is also ADA boarding areas with minimized gaps between the station and the train, tactile warning strips, braille signage and accessible station agent booths. They are counting on funding promised from congestion pricing to come through to assist in paying for these projects. He stated our 2020-2024 Capital Plan commits to making 70 stations accessible. Even with Covid-related delays, 23 projects are in construction, with 13 additional projects to start by the end of 2022. He assured that ADA remains a priority and we are seeking all possible funding streams to pay for it, but future projects could be at risk because of budget concerns. On their upcoming list for accessibility in our community are the Sheepshead Bay Road Station B/Q lines, Kings Highway F line and in our neighboring community Neptune Avenue, F line. Mr., Levine went on to discuss Auto Gate Access for All. A means of swiping your MetroCard or Omny access to allow for a gate to open to pass through for those who may have difficulty navigating a turnstile. He discussed the Bus Open Stroller Pilot, allowing those with baby strollers access to the B-1 bus (their pilot program) with a dedicated section to park an open stroller. They chose the B-1 bus route to launch the pilot because it connects to numerous other bus and subway lines, as well as serving schools, playgrounds and beaches. Their goal he explained is to keep as many seats as

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possible while creating space to safely park a stroller. They are designed to create no overlap between wheelchair/priority seating areas and stroller space. They are utilizing various types of buses with different areas for an open stroller, including flip up seats. They are currently working to test the use of stroller space through customer feedback, gauge customers reactions to new seating configuration and compare the different options. Ultimately, they are hoping to determine operational constraints, concerns and feedback from customers. For more information, please review their website at mta.info/stroller. Lastly, he spoke briefly about the OMNY program and how it is here for reduced fare customers as well, after taking 12 paid trips, with the same device, you'll automatically ride free the rest of the week through Sunday. Every week with OMNY you are eligible for free travel after paying for 12 trips in that week. He spoke about 24/7 digital assistant to get set up with OMNY.

Questions from the floor expressed concern for the fact accessibility in most stations is 33 years away in 2055. Without congestion pricing, how will they pay for it? Mr. Levine agreed 33 years is a long time and they don't like to think what would happen should the funding stream not come from congestion pricing. Someone asked if everyone was eligible with OMNY for the fee cap of 12 paid rides per week and they were assured yes for both full paying and reduced fare customers. Someone asked how braille on the train stations works. The MTA tries to keep the stations consistent in which they place braille signage, but phones now have apps that can read coding out loud to sight impaired customers. A question about having more than 1 stroller aboard a bus was discussed. Lastly, which side of the Sheepshead Bay station would be ADA compliant the Sheepshead Bay Road side of the train station, or the Voorhies Avenue side of the station? They would have to research that matter further was answered. They were thanked for their clear, concise and thorough presentation.

ZONING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Chairperson Scavo introduced Mr. Ronnie Tawil, Chair of the Zoning Committee, who would run this part of the meeting:

Mr. Tawil explained the procedure for the Public Hearing and proceeded to call the representative.

BSA 2022-85-BZ / 257 Coleridge Street

Special permit pursuant to ZR 73-622 to enlarge an existing one family home contrary to the FAR (23-142); lot coverage (23-142); open space (23-142);

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side yards (23-461a); and rear yard (23-47) requirements of the underlying R3-1 zoning district.

The Board received 0 letters of support and 0 in opposition. There were no questions from the floor.

A motion was made to approve by Allen Popper and seconded by Morris Dweck.

A Committee Vote was taken, 10 yes, 1 no and 0 abstention. The motion passed the committee. A full board vote would take place in Executive Session

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

PUBLIC HEARING / PUBLIC SESSION:

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

Anastasia Yaskova, Brooklyn Borough Director – Community Affairs Unit was leaving a turkey distribution, stated she had no updates to give at this juncture or anything to report but she is in constant contact with the Board Office. She sent greetings from Mayor Adams for a Happy Thanksgiving!

Stephannia Cleaton, Government Relations Manager for Kingsborough Community College, sent greetings from the President Dr. Claudia Schrader. Nothing to report but wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season.

Nancy Lulu sent greetings from Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez and announced she wanted to share a recent press release with us, even if it wasn't in our district, thirty-two alleged members of two rival gangs in Brownsville were charged with 108 counts, including conspiracy to commit murder. They were involved in 19 shootings, two of them fatal, 14 total victims, several were innocent bystanders including a 3-year-old girl and a 62-year-old man. 27 firearms were recovered. The DA's office has been very busy keeping our communities safe. If you have a question or concern, please call the DA's hotline at 718 250-2340. She wished everyone a blessed Thanksgiving Holiday.

Leah Moses representing Councilman Ari Kagan stated she had several updates to share:

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- 1) Councilman Kagan recently held a hearing of his Resiliency and Waterfront Committee, of which he is Chair, to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Super Storm Sandy. The goal is to bring in more Federal, State and City dollars to fund our impacted communities to make them more resilient to protect our shorelines, from future storms.
- 2) He is working on legislation to ban firms for fraudulently charging students to clear their student loan debt. Some unscrupulous firms are promising students to help them get debt free but with hidden unnecessary fees. These firm are to disclose they are charging for a free federal loan forgiveness program and must disclose their fees upfront. Failure to do so will result in fines starting from \$300 and rising to \$2000 for repeat offenders.
- 3) Councilman Kagan wanted to thank the Board for their approval of street co-naming Kings Highway and East 2nd Street for Lou Jerome, a World War II veteran and beloved business owner. The corner now reads Lou's Deli Way, because that was his business, a well-loved deli. A special thank you to Chairperson Scavo for attending the event.

Troy Olson representing Councilmember Inna Vernikov, had nothing to report tonight, but would be standing by in attendance should someone require their assistance. He placed his email in the chat Tolson@council.nyc.gov

Corina M. Lozada, Esq. – Council to the Brooklyn Borough President Deputy General Counsel sent greetings. She stated that Community Board Member Applications are now opened and if your term is expiring 2023, you should have received an email with the link to reapply. Only those applying will be given consideration. You must, be 16 years and up live, reside or have business dealings in the community to be a Board Member. The form is available and on the Borough President's website brooklyn-usa.org. You can fill it out online or download the pdf version of the form and mail it back to them no later than 2/14/23 to be considered. She shared her contact information in chat corina.lozada@brooklynbp.nyc.gov or call 718 802-3883.

Yehuda Schupper, Director of Communications for Assemblymember Helene Weinstein stated she's happy to still be in office. They have the Metro bus every second Tuesday of the month, otherwise nothing else to report currently. He wished all a Happy Thanksgiving! Please call their office

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to be added to their email newsletter at 718 648-4700 or email them at weinsth@nyassembly.gov with “e-newsletter” in the subject line.

Ed Jaworski stated that Madison-Marine-Homcrest Civic Association’s filled up three SUV with food to donate to the local St. Simon Church to help those less fortunate for Thanksgiving. Since no one from his organization is a current member of the Community Board they did not receive any holiday sanitation notices and would appreciate a Facebook posting of such notices in the future. Their next meeting will be held on Thursday 12/15/2022, at 7:00pm at the Carmine Carro Community Center, located at 3000 Fillmore Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11234.

Stephanie Laine, representing Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse announced in the chat that the Councilwoman’s office has moved to 5827 Flatlands Avenue.

Tyler Reynolds Construction Liaison for the upcoming Manhattan Beach Sewer project, that will be replacing old water mains from 1917, over 100 years old are shoring up the trees with bracing along the construction route. If you have any question or concerns, he shared his contact information in chat bed819ccl@gmail.com

Raisa Chernina announced all are welcome to attend the Toy for Tots celebration being held on Monday December 19, 2022, from 6:00pm-8:00pm at Sheep by Barashka located at 1223 Avenue U. Children will receive a special gift from Santa.

Resident Natasha Lherisson shared her concerns about the growing rat problem in Sheepshead Bay where she resides. She said she was speaking with District Manager Laura Singer who has been very helpful but wanted to know what more can be done. The problem needs to be reported to 311, it was explained we need to have it on record. If they are seen on public streets and reported to 311, we can make the Department of Health aware. Anything on her building’s property is considered private property and would be the coop’s responsibility to take care of.

Resident Juliet Silveira stated she was upset that election campaign signs have been abandoned all over Ocean Parkway. She wants them cleaned up. She too was told to reach out to 311 and report the locations to the representative and Department of Sanitation will collect them or the Parks Department depending on the locations she reports. She can also call the Board Office with the 311 complaint numbers if the locations she reports are not cleared away in a timely manner.

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Resident Tali Bozaglo stated she was seeking support for legislation that would accurately disclose the amount of sugar in soft drinks, especially at fast food restaurants. She wants to educate the public about the dangers of these sugary products and proper labeling disclosing the dangers such high sugar content can cause would be an excellent start. The bill is number 2540 and it would make manufactures place a warning label on these sugary drinks targeted for sale to lower income and young people.

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 October 25, 2022, minutes was made Pearl Siegelman and seconded by Ed Chalom.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chair Scavo announced it's that time of year again when we donate to the Toys for Tots Charity. For those who would like to donate, please make your check payable to the: Be Proud Foundation and mail to my address (which she placed in chat) Theresa Scavo 2035 East 9th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11223.

NOVEMBER 21, 2022 / LIQUOR LICENSES

New Application Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

El Palenque 3 Gallos Restaurant Corp.
816 Avenue U
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Irza NY Inc.
2027 Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Corporate Change

Jizz Bizz Inc.
Café Gallery
2801 Coney Island Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Renewal Application Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

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Liman Restaurant Inc
2710A Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

MSR Baku International
Baku Palace
2001 Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

New Application and Temporary Retail Permit Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

NYC Food Group Corp.
My House Burger & Shakes
1650 Sheepshead Bay Road
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Chair Scavo stated if you know of any issues with any of these establishments, please let the office know so that we can reach out to the State Liquor Authority.

Environmental Committee Report:

Chairperson Raisa Chernina reported; On Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 6:00pm via Webex, the Environmental Committee met with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Representing DEP was Charles Sturcken, a sewer back-up expert. His specialty is how grease put down toilets, sinks or corner catch basin causes sewer back-ups. DEP has begun an education program for the public called Trash it...don't flush it!! They are concentrating on Community Boards 13 and 15. They will be contacting residential, as well as business owners. They believe education is the answer.

Public Safety Report:

Our Public Safety Committee meeting was conducted via Webex on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at 5:00pm. Representing the 61st Police Precinct was its Commanding Officer, Captain Derby St. Fort. Also present was Detective Sam Shaya from the 61st's Community Affairs office. Presented now is the 61st Police Precinct's CompStat Report for the week October 31 through November 6, 2022. Pursuant to the seven (7) major crime categories, year to date, comparing 2022 with 2021, the 61st Police Precinct was up 60.8%. 4 murders have been recorded, compared to 1 murder in 2021. Rape, 0% increase, Robbery up 96.7%; Felony Assault up, 8.5%; Burglary up, 54.5%; Grand Larceny, up 74.3%, and the last major crime category, Grand Larceny

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Auto, up 102.5%. In a sub-category of Hate Crimes, the 61 is up 171.4% - that's 19 hate crimes in 2022 compared to 7 in 2021 year-to-date.

It was asked if Chair Pallotta could find out what Hate Crimes are occurring in the neighborhood to better understand what groups are being targeted in the community. Chair Pallotta stated he would try to get that information from the Captain at their next meeting.

Our committee continues to monitor and report to the 61 the many quality-of-life concerns within the sectors.

Zoning Committee:

BSA 2022-85-BZ / 257 Coleridge Street

Special permit pursuant to ZR 73-622 to enlarge an existing one family home contrary to the FAR (23-142); lot coverage (23-142); open space (23-142); side yards (23-461a); and rear yard (23-47) requirements of the underlying R3-1 zoning district.

A motion to approve was made by Debra Greif and seconded by Al Smaldone. The vote was 27 Yes, 1 No. The motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Chair Scavo wished everyone a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving!

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Allen Popper and seconded by Ozzie Heymann. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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