

COMMUNITY BOARD #18 MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 18, 2023

ATTENDANCE

Rosamond Alvaranga
Felina Backer
Sallie Bennett
Barbara Bieber
Ernest Borno
Sharon Borno
Greg Borruso
Gardy Brazela
James Buchanan
Terri Cadet-Donald
Salvatore Calise
Lucina Clarke
Donald Cranston
Gil Cygler

Malynda Jordan-Dandridge
Amar Dyal
Reeves Eisen
Joshua Fassu
Maria Garrett
Ian Gaynor
Denise Gordon
Denise Gourdine
Stuart Heier
Tomas Hernandez, Jr.
Naomi Hopkins
Michael Ien
Jibreel Jalloh
Kenny Jean-Baptiste

Frank Naccarato
Judy Newton
David Price
Patrick Jayson Reyes
Yolaine Ridore
Violette Roberty
Michelle Sealey
Frank Seddio
Nancy Walby
Valerie Woodford
Grace Zwillenberg

GUESTS:

Christina Caputo
Diana Abrams
Dolange Donacien
Heather Joseph
J. Hamilton
Kathleen O.
Linda Steinmuller
Maxine E. Lewis
Naudia Salvodon
Russell Pinsker
Sergey Chuprik
Alison Murray
Amy Zeng
Arlene Perkins
Beverly Crooks
Briana L.
David John
Gerard Brewster
Jada Camille
Kim Robinson
Lisette Lugo
Andrew Zibell
Nicole Alford
Rose Cherubin
Roxanne Need
Shawana Stewart
Widmark Valme
Yehudda Schupper

Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Brooklyn Public Library
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Representing NYC Comptroller Brad Lander
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Utica 2 Flatbush
Schneps Media
Area Resident
Volunteers of America
Volunteers of America
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Representing Assembly Member Helene Weinstein, 41st A.D.

Ian Girshek	Representing Assembly Member Jaime Williams, 59 A.D.
Kevin Duran	Area Resident
L. Faustin	Area Resident
Mitchell Partnow	Area Resident
Nadine Sylvester	Area Resident
Sabine J.	Area Resident
Vaughn Browne	Area Resident
Peter Cipolla	Marine Park Community Association
Jim Tobin	Marine Park Community Association
Paul Curiale	Mill Basin Civic Association/Millennium Development
Harriet Wieber	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Howard Rubenfeld	Midget Squadron Yacht Club
Kwame Mack	C'Zen Restaurant
P.O. Thomas Podd	63 rd Precinct
Michael Benjamin	Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud, 19 th S.D.
Mark Partnow	Area Resident
John Palazzola	Area Resident
Josephine Politi	Mill Basin Civic Association
Diana Soriano	NYC DOT
Rob Muzeuchin	Marine Park Community Association
Johnny Arcenteles	TAHIBA
Alexander Altskan	NYC DOT
P.O. Samuel Maria	69 th Precinct
Hon. Farah Louis	Council Member, 45 th Council District
Sabrina Dieujuste	Rep. Council Member Farah Louis, 45 th Council District
Hon. Mercedes Narcisse	Council Member, 46 th Council District
Elsa Roberts	Area Resident
Maria C. Willis	Area Resident
Judith Destin	Representing Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez
Norine Medas	Rockaway Parkway Merchants Association
Rebecca	Area Resident
Carline Jean	Area Resident

7:13 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

Chairperson Michael Ien introduced the Executive Board, 1st Vice Chair Greg Borusso, 2nd Vice Chair Maria Garrett, Secretary Barbara Bieber and staff, District Manager Sue Ann Partnow, Assistant District Manager Dorothy Paul, and Community Assistant Gail Fazio.

Chairperson Michael Ien called the meeting to order and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Board meeting held on December 21, 2022. Board Member Donald Cranston made a motion that the Minutes be accepted as written. Board Member Valerie Woodford seconded the motion. The motion passed with 30 Yes Votes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Michael Ien introduced Transportation Committee Chair Gil Cygler who explained that the NYC Department of Transportation provided a presentation to the

Transportation Committee on the Kings Highway to Avenue K to Ocean Avenue Capital Improvement Project. The NYC Department of Transportation will present the changes and upgrades to the full board this evening. Alexander Altskan of Transit Development at the NYC Department of Transportation provided a presentation on the Capital Improvement Project. Some proposed features will include median landscaping and beautification, ADA-accessibility upgrades for median bus stops, curb extensions, pedestrian islands, and other pedestrian safety improvements. Board Member Violine Roberty stated that at the Transportation Committee Meeting she mentioned that we lost a teenager at the intersection of Avenue K and Kings Highway. Crossing that street and driving at that corner is dangerous and asked what DOT is doing about lighting at that corner. Another concern was the maintenance of the overgrown weeds on Kings Highway and maintenance on Avenue K where the bus turns and at Flatlands Avenue. He responded that the maintenance contract does not cover that area. Board Member Roberty inquired as to what will happen to the rest of Kings Highway going towards Avenue I, and Glenwood Road when the bushes grow high, and people throw garbage in them. Alexander Altskan explained they are looking at concerns regarding the maintenance and possibly expanding the contract. Also, the correct amount of lighting will be introduced to bring it up to standard. Board Member Violine Roberty asked if he could detail the pedestrian safety plan for the corner of Avenue K and Kings Highway because they lost a child there. Alexander Altskan explained about white line painting and street measurements for pedestrian safety. Board Member Barbara Bieber asked if the DOT will be adding center medians on Flatlands Avenue in Canarsie. Alexander Altskan answered and said that they're not adding medians or discontinuing any lanes on Flatlands Avenue in Canarsie. Council Member Farah Louis stated that she saw their estimated timeframe for the bidding process. She asked how long it will take and are they going to share that information with the community to ensure that NWBE will be part of that process. Alexander Altskan stated that the bidding is handled by the NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC) and not by the NYC Department of Transportation. There is a preference for NWBE Contractors, they get priority in terms of who gets selected. They also look at who offers the lowest reasonable cost price. Those responsible bidders win. The public is not involved in the selection process of the contractor. Once a contractor is selected, they are introduced to the community and community liaisons. Council Member Louis asked if the new changes only address traffic safety and expressed a need for pedestrian safety. Speeding down Kings Highway is the reason the young boy lost his life. She understands there are some safety measures that are being taken but not enough to address pedestrian safety concerns. Alexander Altskan explained this is a pedestrian safety and bus service improvement project. Most of the improvements you see along the entire corridor were made with pedestrian safety in mind. Diana Soriano, Representing the NYC DOT stated that curb extensions and medians give people enough time to cross the street. Board Member Denise Gordon asked if Flatlands Avenue at the intersection of Avenue J part of the proposal is since the select bus doesn't stop there. Alexander Altskan said it may not be part of this capital project and that he will alert DOT. An Area Resident asked what the estimated cost of this project is. Alexander Altskan responded that the estimated cost is probably around \$60,000,000. He encouraged everyone to go on the DOT website and look up the B82 SBS Capital Project. He thanked everyone for coming and allowing him to speak and requested a letter of support for the project so that they could bring it to the NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC).

Chairperson Michael Ien introduced Council Member Mercedes Narcisse who greeted everyone and provided information on programs, updates, upcoming community events and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Chairperson Michael Ien introduced Council Member Farah Louis who greeted everyone and provided information on the B41 Select Bus Service Proposed Plan by the NYC Department of Transportation and the MTA and the plans effects on parking spaces. She also provided information on discretionary funding, programs, updates, upcoming community events and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Chairperson Michael Ien introduced P.O. Thomas Podd, 63rd Precinct, and P.O. Samuel Maria, 69th Precinct who greeted everyone and provided precinct crime statistics, meetings, and event updates. Board Member Malynda Jordan Dandridge stated that the NYC Sheriff can't monitor Smoke Shops because so many have popped up. There are concerns that they are selling marijuana to minors in the back of these stores. She asked what the Police are doing to combat the situation and keep kids out of emergency rooms due to vaping. We have a big problem when Smoke Shops outnumber Liquor stores and Churches. P.O. Samuel Maria explained that Smoke Shops are like SLA establishments, they are subject to inspections and must comply with local law. If they are not in compliance and authorized to sell things they are not licensed for, they can issue summonses. NYPD's interagency collaborations with the Better Business Bureau or Buildings Department is more effective in controlling Smoke Shops. The NYPD uses outreach at local schools as an effective tool to teach children about all kinds of smoking products and their dangers.

Chairperson Michael Ien introduced Ian Girshek, Representing Assembly Member Jaime Williams who wished everyone a Happy New Year. He informed the Board about complaints that they received about water issues in Marine Park, which DEP attributed to a recent fire in the area and the use of fire hydrants. He encouraged residents to call 311 or their office at 718-252-2124.

Chairperson Michael Ien introduced Sergey Chuprik, Representing NYC Comptroller Brad Lander, Michael Benjamin, Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud who provided information on programs and upcoming community events.

7:54 P.M.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Michael Ien

Chairperson Ien informed the Board that the Guest Presentation for tonight, The Home Sharing Program, will be rescheduling at another time.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – Sue Ann Partnow

District Manager Partnow greeted and thanked everyone for being here this evening and informed the board that she attended the following meetings representing the Community Board to show support for our organizations and update the attendees about issues facing our community:

- Some of our Local Elected Officials continued their Toy Giveaways right up until Christmas. Thank you, Assembly Member Jaime Williams, and Council Member Farah Louis for ensuring the children in CB 18 had a great holiday.
- Thank you to the Marine Park Alliance for hosting Chanukah and Kwanzaa celebrations.

- An unexpected 63rd Pct. Community Council Meeting just before the New Year reminded everyone that issues don't take a holiday. Thanks President Greg Borruso.
- Haitian Independence Day with traditional Soup Joumou which was distributed and shared with the community by Council Member Mercedes Narcisse.
- Chairperson Michael Ien and I attended Brooklyn Borough President Anotnio Reynoso's State of the Borough Address on his visions for Brooklyn. Happy to see Board Members Valerie Woodford, Lucina Clarke, and Council Member Narcisse in attendance. The BP gave a shout out to Community Boards in his speech.
- NY Blood Center Blood Drive was held over the weekend - Thank you Millennium Dev. Corp., Paul Curiale Director, Flatlands Volunteer Ambulance Corp., Knights of Columbus #14269, and Marine Park Alliance.
- A Winter coat and accessories distribution is a nice way to keep CB18 residents warm in the Winter. Thank you, Council Member Mercedes Narcisse.
- The Army Corp of Engineers used CB 18's facility yesterday for their afternoon & evening Coastal Storm Risk Management Outreach. For those of you who were unable to attend in person or virtually, please visit their website www.nan.usace.army.mil/NYNJHATS. Climate changes and sea levels were only some of the topics they discussed. The team is looking for ideas and community input. Please visit their website.

• HIGHLIGHTS FROM CB 18'S CABINET MEETING

- BROOKDALE HOSP. – Update on Holiday Toy Distribution to neighborhood kids and children in the hospital wards. Coat distribution for men, women & children. The hospital has addressed the cyber - attack issue that they faced and most of the hospital areas are back on secure lines. They are hosting a Food Giveaway on Friday, January 13th and hospital construction is under way.
- DDC (Dept. of Design & Construction) - Down time for construction on the Bergen Avenue Project. Work will resume in the Spring. Work order #1 has completed 71 Pedestrian ramps in Canarsie. Right now, they are working on a pinch list – dropping soil, cleaning and caulking due to Winter slow down. Work order #2 will begin in the Spring and will upgrade Pedestrian ramps in Northern Canarsie and the Flatlands area.
- 69TH PCT. CAPT. – No incidents on New Year's. Smoke Shops being watched for violations. 69th Pct. Community Council Christmas toy giveaway was a success. January 31st next 69th Pct. Community Council Meeting at 8 pm at the HES 9502 Seaview Ave.
- MILLENNIUM DEV. CORP. – Paul Curiale – Gave some background on Millennium's 9 Senior Centers. He will be working with the FDNY, senior centers and schools on fire safety. Millennium is sponsoring a blood drive on Sunday, January 15th from 11 am – 3:30 pm at Marine Park's Carmine Carro Center.
- 63RD PCT. – They reported that last week a male jumped from the top parking lot of Kings Plaza to his death and a female jumped from her house's roof. She fortunately survived. There were 26 cars towed this month. The 63rd Community Council's meeting is January 25th at 7 pm at the Malone Ctr. 2335 Bergen Ave
- MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CAU (COMMUNITY AFFAIRS UNIT) – Offered updates on upcoming Mayoral events.
- DOB (DEPT. OF BUILDINGS) – Reminded everyone about the Homeowners Relief Program and that they have moved to 345 Adams Street.
- FDNY – Winter season is fire season due to space heaters and keeping stove tops burning to give off heat. Education is key, please go on the FDNYSMART.org website
- SANITATION – Continuing the tag and tow with the 63rd Pct. Surveying commercial strips to make sure that stores are keeping their sidewalks clean.
- DOT – Requested traffic signal on Veterans Ave. & E. 69th St. may not be in the Bergen Beach construction project. They will check on it and update us.

- CON ED – Please check out their programs for seniors and affordable energy programs. Just type into your search engine, special services-Con Edison
- NYC AGING – Formally known as Dept for the Aging (DFTA) They are increasing their outreach with TV commercials and billboards to encourage older adults to join centers. They have seen a slight uptick in membership and more and more people participating in virtual classes. You can find more information on www.nyc.gov forward slash aging.
- Sabrina Dejuiste Representing Council Member Farah Louis shared information about their busy holiday season. She also brought up an issue with the Dept of Buildings about a Gas Station at 4801 Kings Highway and the possibility of curb cuts and traffic from the gas station onto East 48 Street.
- Ian Girshek Representing Assembly Member Jaime Williams' gave an update on events and programs.

IN & AROUND CB 18

- Requested the Dept. of Buildings inspect the Flea Market at 8018 Flatlands Ave. The Flea Market was closed immediately but left garbage and debris that can cause a fire and rodent issues. I have the Dept. Of Buildings going back for another inspection and to request that the stacked boxes and garbage are disposed of.
- Lights in Sledge Park, E. 95th Street between Avenues L & K weren't working. Called Parks Dept. and DOT. The lights were turned back on, including the flood lights in the park.
- Report of illegal car repair on E. 54 St. between Aves. J & K was investigated by the 63 Pct. The area will be monitored.

GOOD & WELFARE

- Congratulations to Michael Ien, Greg Borruso, Maria Garrett & Barbara Bieber on your election to the Executive Board. We look forward to working with all of you.
 - Get well wishes to Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald
 - Our condolences to Board Member Judy Newton on the passing of her father
- Congratulations to Assembly Member Jaime Williams on her appointment as the Chair of the Real Property Tax Committee
- Congratulations to Board Member Tom Hernandez on the upcoming marriage of his daughter.
 - Happy Birthday to our own Dorothy Paul.
- On January 16th, we celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. As the great Dr. King said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others." He went on to say that "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy". Kudos to the organizations and the community residents who volunteered on Martin Luther King Jr. day for a day of service and giving back. We also want to acknowledge our Board Members for volunteering their time throughout the year to make our community a great place to live.

8:27 P.M.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LIBRARIES & EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Sallie Bennett, Chairperson

Chairperson Bennett provided the following information:

On Saturday, February 4th, 2023 the Brooklyn Central Library at 10 Grand Army Plaza will be hosting a Family Community Day. There will be games, raffles, arts and crafts, face painting,

balloons, giveaways music and more. This awesome event will help you choose a summer camp for your children.

Check out the daily and weekly calendars for our Libraries by visiting www.bklynlibrary.org for more information.

She thanked and wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE – Tomas Hernandez Jr, Chairperson

1. State Liquor Authority Application Received – Vote

METHOD OF OPERATION APPLICATION FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER:

- Blueprint 265 Management LLC., C'Zen Restaurant, 4410 Avenue H, 11234

RENEWAL APPLICATIONS FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER:

- J.J. Mariners Inn, N/A, 3501 Avenue S, 11234
- Midget Squadron of Jamaica Bay Inc., Midget Squadron of Jamaica Bay Inc., The Foot of Seaview Avenue-Paerdegat Basin -11236

RENEWAL APPLICATIONS FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR WINE, BEER & CIDER:

- Karabinis Diner Corp, Oasis Diner, 2132 Flatbush Avenue 11234

Chairperson Tomas Hernandez Jr stated that the Community Board notified the Board Members, the local elected officials, civic associations and the 63rd and 69th Precincts about the SLA Applications received from Blueprint 265 Management LLC., C'Zen Restaurant, 4410 Avenue H, J.J. Mariners Inn, N/A, 3501 Avenue S, 11234, Midget Squadron of Jamaica Bay Inc., The Foot of Seaview Avenue-Paerdegat Basin, 11236, and Karabinis Diner Corp, Oasis Diner, 2132 Flatbush Avenue 11234. Chairperson Hernandez asked if the applicants were present and thanked them for attending the meeting this evening. There being no questions or comments Chairperson Hernandez asked for a motion to approve the SLA Applications received from, J.J. Mariners Inn, N/A, 3501 Avenue S, 11234, Midget Squadron of Jamaica Bay Inc., The Foot of Seaview Avenue-Paerdegat Basin, 11236, and Karabinis Diner Corp, Oasis Diner, 2132 Flatbush Avenue 11234. Board Member Greg Borusso made a motion. Board Member Sal Calise seconded the Motion. The Motion passed with 36 Yes and 1 No votes.

Chairperson Hernandez explained that at the December 21, 2022 Board Meeting the SLA Method of Operation Application received from Blueprint 265 Management LLC., C'Zen Restaurant, 4410 Avenue H, 11234 was tabled. The meeting of the Planning and Zoning Committee convened on Monday, January 9, 2023 to consider the SLA Method of Operation Application for Blueprint 265 Management LLC., C'Zen Restaurant. The meeting included the owner of C'Zen Restaurant, surrounding neighbors, and the local civic. After a lengthy discussion, staunch opposition from the residents and the civic about C'Zen Restaurant changing their Method of Operation by extending their hours until 4 AM, using the back patio after 9 PM, and having a DJ/Live Music. There being no further discussion, Chairperson Hernandez made a motion to deny the SLA Method of Operation Application received from Blueprint 265 Management LLC., C'Zen Restaurant. Board Member Jim Buchanan seconded the Motion. The Motion passed with 35 Yes and 1 No votes.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairperson Michael Ien explained that there was a motion made at last month's meeting by Board Member Frank Seddio to table a motion made by Board Member David Price to add a

Standing Audit Committee. Board Member Price gave his opinion as to what an Audit Committee does and his reasons as to why he feels CB18 should have one. Board Member Frank Seddio spoke on the motion and believes that there is no need for an Audit Committee. He explained that we have a very small budget, and an Audit Committee is not necessary. He stated that our budget is almost entirely that of payroll with a small amount left over to run the office and building. Board Member Barbara Bieber also said she sees no need for an Audit Committee because City agencies already oversee the budgets of all Community Boards. Board Member Gil Cygler pointed out that he's an Audit Committee Member of two significant organizations. An Audit Committee just double checks and works with the accountants preparing financial statements for the financial submission. He disagreed with Board Member Price on the functions of an Audit Committee. He explained that an Audit Committee has nothing to do with the interpretation of the Bylaws of the Community Board. Board Member Cygler agreed with Board Member Seddio that an Audit Committee is not necessary since CB18 does not have a huge budget or fundraising. Board Member Rosamond Alvaranga said an Audit Committee is unnecessary because it would mean we will only be checking ourselves. Board Member Seddio moved the motion and clarified that a Yes vote means that an Audit Committee would be created, and a No vote would be to not create an Audit Committee. Board Member Sal Calise seconded the Motion. There being no further questions or comments a vote was taken with the results as follows: 13 Yes, 24 No, and 1 Abstention.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member and By-laws Chair Frank Seddio informed the Board that the By-laws Committee is scheduling a meeting in February. He encouraged members to submit recommendations to the District Manager. The first By-laws Committee meeting will be a review of all the recommendations with discussion in March and an opportunity for comment from the membership of the Board in April and a final vote in May. He reminded everyone that the CB18 By-laws are available on our website or by contacting the District Manager. Board Member Felina Backer inquired about placement on committees and that her application to CB18 with her skills weren't considered. Board Member Seddio responded to Board Member Backer telling her the applications are submitted to the Brooklyn Borough President's Office. He suggested that if any Board Member is interested in serving on a particular committee, please let the Chairperson and the District Manager know. District Manager Partnow explained that the applications go directly to the Borough President's office. The CB18 office staff has no information on appointees' interests and skills. Community Boards only receive from the Borough President's office the names, addresses, phone numbers and emails of those appointed. As discussed at the last meeting a survey will be sent out this Spring to get an idea of which committees Board Members would be interested in serving on. Board Member Barbara Bieber suggested to embrace the committee you're assigned to and make it a learning experience.

8:48 P.M.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Board Member Jibreel Jalloh expressed his sadness to the Board about the young man in our community that was shot to death yesterday. He felt the Community Board should give appropriate attention to this tragedy. He suggested that all 50 board members sign a letter to all the elected officials for more funding for anti-gun violence initiatives. Board Member Frank Seddio asked Board Member Jibreel Jalloh to make a motion so that a vote can be taken, and the Community Board can send a letter on behalf of all of us to our elected officials. Board Member Frank Seddio made a motion that the board send a letter to our elected officials to increase funding

for anti-gun violence initiatives in our community. It was noted that this is the third time in the last 12 months that someone was shot and killed in Canarsie. Board Member Valerie Woodford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. District Manager Partnow stated that it's great everyone agrees on this motion and a letter will be sent out on behalf of all Community Board 18 Members.

Board Member Maria Garrett asked the outcome of the motion of the previous discussion about sharing Board Member emails. District Manager Partnow stated that a motion is not required, it is up to the individual if they want to share emails with each other. The Community Board office staff, under the New York Privacy Protection law, cannot give out private information without consent. A consent form was emailed to all Board Members the information of the members that consented was shared with fellow members.

Area Resident Kevin Duran has lived in the community for 41 years and has a business on Utica Avenue for 10 years. He asked for clarification on some of the votes and wanted to know how someone becomes a Community Board member. District Manager Partnow explained that he can obtain an application on the Brooklyn Borough Presidents website.

Judith Destin, Representing Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's Office greeted everyone and provided information on programs, updates, upcoming community events, and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Board Member Denise Gordon expressed concerns about communication and cohesiveness among Board Members. Area Resident Carline Jean stated that CB18 Board Members need to stay focused on Community issues.

Sabrina Dieujuste, Rep. Council Member Farah Louis, 45th Council District greeted everyone and provided information on programs, updates, and upcoming community events.

Board Member Malynda Jordan-Dandridge asked of District Manager Partnow could provide the Red Cross information on smoke detectors.

District Manager Partnow reminded everyone to check their emails from CB18. The office sends out information on meetings and events in the community.

Board Member Felina Backer informed everyone about Assembly Member Monique Chandler - Waterman's inauguration taking place on January 28th, please attend.

There being no further business or discussion, Chairperson Michael Ien made a motion to adjourn the meeting of Community Board 18. Board Member Maria Garrett seconded the Motion. The motion passed with 31 Yes votes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 P.M.

End....