

COMMUNITY BOARD #18 MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 15, 2023

ATTENDANCE

Rosamond Alvaranga
Felina Backer
Barbara Bieber
Ernest Borno
Sharon Borno
Greg Borruso
Gardy Brazela
James Buchanan
Terri Cadet-Donald
Salvatore Calise
Lucina Clarke
Donald Cranston
Amar Dyal
Reeves Eisen
Maria Garrett
Ian Gaynor
Joan Gilbert

Denise Gordon
Denise Gourdine
Stuart Heier
Tomas Hernandez, Jr.
Naomi Hopkins
Michael Ien
Jibreel Jalloh
Kenny Jean-Baptiste
Judy Newton
Elaine Reid
Patrick Jayson Reyes
Yolaine Ridore
Viole Roberty
Michelle Sealey
Frank Seddio
Robert Tracey
Raphael Treitel

Nancy Walby
Valerie Woodford
Grace Zwillenberg

GUESTS:

Herbert Fair
Taahira Maynard
Derrick Arjune
Sherif Fraser
Mark Partnow
Evette Simmons
Paul Curiale
Lt. Justin Simms
P.O. Samuel Maria
P. Cipolla
Johnny Arcenteles
Michael Benjamin
Linda Steinmuller
Sabrina Bonne Année
Det. Ronette Benjamin
P.O. Thomas Podd
P.O. David Belkin
P.O. Paul Alva
P.O. Tricia Navarro-Caraballo
P.O. Jonathon Perez
P.O. Felicia Grant
Yvette Mc Lawrence
Tremayne Mc Lawrence
Hon. Farah Louis
Ruth Guillaume
Naomi Lehrer
Steve Pelman

Brooklyn Public Library
Area Resident
Guyana Avenue Committee
Community Board 17
Area Resident
Area Resident
Mill Basin Civic/Millennium Development/CB 18 Advisor
69th Precinct
69th Precinct
Marine Park Civic Association
TAHIBA
Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud, 19th S.D.
Canarsie Courier
Area Resident
63rd Precinct
63rd Precinct
63rd Precinct
63rd Precinct
63rd Precinct
63rd Precinct
63rd Precinct
Area Resident
Area Resident
Council Member, 45th Council District
Rep. Council Member Farah Louis, 45th Council District
Area Resident
Area Resident

David Isaac	Area Resident
Andrew Libell	Volunteers of America
Saye Joseph	Rep. Council Member Mercedes Narcisse, 46 th Council District
Steve Smith	Area Resident
Miles Stennett	Area Resident
Richard Schweed	Area Resident
Patrick Agard	The Xperience Coffee House & Juice Bar
Yahya Shakh	Kings Plaza Canarsie Kiwanis Club
Michael Piccininni	Kings Plaza Canarsie Kiwanis Club
Mark Pohl	Kings Plaza Canarsie Kiwanis Club
J&S Skahik	Kings Plaza Canarsie Kiwanis Club
Joseph Girganti	Kings Plaza Canarsie Kiwanis Club
Joseph Roggiero	Area Resident
Cindy Jalany	Area Resident
Doodley Plaisival	Area Resident
Norine Medas	Rockaway Parkway Merchants Association
Sal Calise	Bergen Beach Civic Association
Harry Rattan	Area Resident
Dianne Rattan	Area Resident
Lenis Rondinaella	Area Resident
Kathy Marcario	Area Resident
Joan Byrnes-Daly	NYC Department of Sanitation DSNY

7:03 P.M.

Board Member Jim Buchanan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

REGULAR MEETING

Chairperson Michael Ien called the meeting to order and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on February 15, 2022. Board Member Sal Calise made a motion that the minutes be accepted. Board Member Rosamond Alvaranga seconded the motion. The motion passed with 26 Yes Votes.

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

7:10 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Michael Ien opened the Public Hearing for a brief discussion on the proposed co-naming of Utica Avenue to “Guyana Avenue”. Chairperson Ien explained there was a presentation at last month’s meeting from the Guyana Avenue Committee. The Committee requested that Community Board 18 vote to co-name the portion of Utica Avenue that falls within the confines of CB18 to “Guyana Avenue”. Our Community Board would take in the area from Foster Avenue to Avenue H. There were questions and no vote was taken on the co-naming. Some Board Members asked for time to consider the request. Board Member Amar Dyal stated that Senator Roxanne Persaud asked him to convey that she supports this initiative. Board Member Violine Roberty asked why the two blocks of Community Board 18 were so important. Sherif Fraser, District Manager of Community Board 17, and part of the team that is spearheading the co-naming of Utica Avenue greeted

everyone and explained that this is a co-naming with a purpose. She explained that it will bring SEED money and resources to the area and to the small businesses. Board Member Sal Calise asked why they would need SEED money when co-naming an avenue. Board Member Barbara Bieber asked whether this SEED money be distributed equally to all cultures within the area. Sherif Fraser explained that Guyanese people along the Utica Avenue strip have contributed to the business district, but no businesses will be left out. Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald asked whether this still can be done without co-naming Utica Avenue. Sherif Fraser explained that whenever there is a co-naming the original name remains on the strip and the co-name goes up parallel to the original name. Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald asked why they need such a long strip through three Community Boards. Sherif Fraser stated that they are still asking that their original request be considered and that it's incumbent upon the Board to make that decision. Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald stated that enough time has been spent on this subject, she proposed that a vote be taken. Board Member Tomas Hernandez Jr asked if they thought about applying as a Business Improvement District for the entire strip. The businesses can benefit from city funds. Sherif Fraser responded by explaining that the Department of Small Business Services, Council Member Farah Louis, and Council Member Rita Joseph are working to bring funding to this strip. Board Member Naomi Hopkins stated that this sounds like a multiphase plan that's contingent upon the co-naming. Sherif Fraser responded and said that this is only the beginning of the plan. The name needs to be in place first and then the money will come. Board Member Lucina Clarke agreed with Board Member Tomas Hernandez Jr about creating a BID to offer resources. Council Member Farah Louis will support the co-naming of Utica Avenue to Guyana Avenue but not if it trickles into an area that people don't want. She had the same issue with Little Haiti when there were areas where people didn't want it and stated she will always stand with her community. Board Member Denise Gordon expressed that she's glad to hear what Council Member Louis just said. There's enough division in the country right now and when co-naming streets we need to be considerate of the multicultural communities that contribute to our neighborhoods. Board Member Joan Gilbert stated at last month's meeting the Guyana Avenue Committee shared that they received the approval of the two other Community Boards involved. She hoped that those Board Members were a diverse group and made their voices heard. There being no further questions or comments Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald made a motion that the board approve the Street co-naming of Utica Avenue from Eastern Parkway to Avenue H or better yet Utica Avenue from Foster Avenue to Avenue H which encompasses Community Board 18 to "Guyana Avenue". Board Member Sharon Borno seconded the motion. The motion was not approved with 5 Yes, 27 No, and 2 Abstention Votes.

7:42 P.M.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – Sue Ann Partnow

District Manager Partnow greeted and thanked everyone for being here this evening and informed the board that as District Manager, she represented the community board at the following meetings and events to show support for local organizations and elected officials. She attended the following:

1. 63rd Pct. & 69th Pct. Community Council Meetings, Mill Basin Civic, Mill Island Civic, Marine Park Civic & Bergen Beach Civic. Thanks Presidents Greg Borruso, Gardy Brazela, Paul Curiale, Saul Needle, Rob Mazzuchin & Sal Calise.
2. Cure Violence – Thank you Council Member Mercedes Narcisse and Board Member Jibreel Jalloh for bringing Man Up to work with the tenants at Bayview Houses

3. B41 designated bus lane on Flatbush Avenue - discussion with affected CB 8, 9, 14, 17 and of course 18
4. Borough President Reynoso's cabinet meeting. We discussed the importance of attendance. The spread sheets the CB office fills out reflecting your attendance for the year is scrutinized by the BP's office. As per the BP's office, Members with poor attendance whose term is up and have reapplied are being denied. They also want to remind members that there are no excusals for meetings. You are either present or you are not, but a courtesy call is always welcomed if you cannot make a meeting.
5. 48th Block Association Meeting - I gave a presentation about CB18 and encouraged participation at our meetings
6. Proposed Casino in Coney Island – Coney Island Community is opposed; hearings begin in the Spring.
7. MTA Bus redesign proposal to improve the Brooklyn bus network by strengthening routes, creating new connections, and sizing the distance between bus stops.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CB 18'S CABINET MEETING

DDC (Dept of Design & Construction) – Bergen Avenue Construction Project completed with minor last-minute adjustments.

FDNY – Winter season is fire season. Caution when using lithium batteries.

63rd Pct. – Capt. Kosak – uptick in drug store theft of over the counter drugs, diapers etc. Keeping a close eye on 13 smoke shops. Continuing tag & tow operations. Extra patrols at P.S. 312 playground due to unruly behavior and Marine Park due to vandalizing the park bathrooms.

69th Pct. – Deputy Inspector Abdulah – Crime down, Grand Theft Auto on the rise. Don't leave personal property in cars – wallet, cell phone etc. and don't leave your car running, not even for a minute while you run into a store. 11 smoke shops were issued summonses.

Community Construction – 103 pedestrian corner ramps completed. Numerous cars were towed from these construction sites for not obeying parking rules while construction was ongoing.

Sanitation – New times for garbage to be put at the curb for both residential and commercial.

Brookdale Hospital – Getting ready to start the long-awaited reconstruction of the waiting room and ER area.

DOB (Dept. of Buildings) – Small Business Support Team for alterations assistance on construction projects from the City's small business community.

NYC AGING – Pilot program launched at 13 Brooklyn High Schools to curb discrimination against city's older adults. Teaching students' tolerance and compassion for older citizens.

Michael Benjamin representing Senator Roxanne Persaud – thanked all the agencies for their hard work and went on to say that the Senator continues to work closely with the other elected officials and organizations throughout Community Board 18.

Ian Girshek representing Assembly Member Jaime Williams – gave information on upcoming events, such as – pet adoption, composting and rain barrel giveaways

IN & AROUND CB 18

1. The 63rd Pct. has been removing orange cones from residential blocks because people are saving parking spots in front of their homes. They continue to monitor the situation.
2. The Green Infrastructure Construction Project will begin in the next few months. The Project will capture heavy rain runoff from streets and sidewalks and prevent sewers overflowing from Ave. J to LIRR Bay Ridge Line (just before Clarendon Rd.) from Rockaway Pkway to Ralph Ave.
3. DOT recently completed a study and additional traffic controls will be installed at the following locations-Ave. I & E. 35 St., Ave., J & E. 39 St., Foster Ave. & E. 58 St.
4. Demolition of the residence at 2743 Whitman Dr. will begin as soon as all the necessary permits are in place.
5. As per section 2801 of the NYC Charter, meetings and hearings will be available for broadcasting and cablecasting. Beginning at our April 2023 meeting, we will be broadcasting live on YouTube.

GOOD & WELFARE

Happy Birthday to Board Members Sharon Borno and Terri Cadet-Donald

Congratulations to Board Member Grace Zwillenberg on the engagement of her son, Dr. Marc Zwillenberg to Dr. Katharine Pelletier

Happy Birthday to my grandson Ethan who is turning 2 this month.

Hope you enjoyed a festive Purim.

Happy St. Patrick's Day & Happy St. Joseph's Day

This month we also honor Vietnam War Veterans & Thank them for their service.

Since 1995, Presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month." These proclamations celebrate the contributions women have made to the United States and recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields. Kudos to all the woman that serve our community and in particular, the women of CB 18.

Daylight savings time began this past weekend and Spring begins on Monday. Our days are getting longer, hopefully our meetings are getting shorter.

Thank you, Board Members Terri Cadet-Donald, & Jim Buchanan for taking the time to set up coffee & tea for all.

Chairperson Michael Ien introduced Joan Byrnes-Daly, Representing NYC Department of Sanitation DSNY at the Bureau of Community Affairs who provided a brief presentation on the new DSNY published final rules that change waste setout time for residential and commercial properties beginning April 1st. The new rule will reduce the time trash will be out on the curb, making our streets cleaner and reducing rat infestation. Residents have two options to set out their trash, recycling, and composting. If you put the trash in a container with a lid you can set the garbage out after 6:00 pm in a container that is 55 gallons or less. If you use black garbage bags you can put them at the curb after 8 PM. There is another alternative for residential buildings of 9 or more units where every January, they'll be able to opt into a set out time between 4 AM and 7 AM. You can find applications at www.nyc.gov/multiunitsetout. This also impacts businesses as the District Manager mentioned in her report, they must place waste at the curb either an hour before closing if it's in a container with a secure lid or after 8 PM if it's in a black bag at the curb. This doesn't apply to businesses who use a loading dock for their waste.

They are conducting outreach at community board meetings, hosting info sessions virtually, sending out mailers to residents, property managers, and businesses. They're making calls to 10+unit buildings, various civic associations and they're running a paid media campaign. Board Member Denise Gordon asked if there's any change in the time for putting out recycled trash. Joan Byrnes-Daly said the times and rules are the same as regular trash. Bundled cardboard can stay bundled, it doesn't need to be in a bag or a container.

Chairperson Michael Ien introduced Saye Joseph, Representing Council Member Mercedes Narcisse who greeted everyone and provided updates on upcoming events and information on budget and tax season programs. She also said that the Council Member has been receiving phone calls and emails about the Brooklyn bus redesign. Council Member Narcisse will be scheduling a District walk through with MTA President Richard Davey. Parts of our District are a transportation desert, and we need to be assessed differently. The Council Member encourages her constituents to keep the comments coming via email or phone calls.

Lt. Justin Simms, 69th Precinct, P.O. David Belkin, 63rd Precinct, P.O. Paul Alva, 63rd Precinct, P.O. Tricia Navarro-Caraballo, 63rd Precinct, P.O. Jonathon Perez, 63rd Precinct greeted everyone and provided precinct crime statistics, meeting info, event updates and answered questions.

Ruth Guillaume, Rep. Council Member Farah Louis greeted everyone and provided information on programs, and upcoming community events.

8:22 P.M.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS COMMITTEE – Nancy Walby, Chairperson

- 1. Ecology Park Spring Awakening, Friday, 4/7/23, 10am – 11am. Meeting place: Ecology Park Gate at Bergen Avenue & Ave T.** This event is part of the Stewardship Program to protect the forested and natural areas in our parks. Space is limited and registration is required (see more info below).
- 2. Marine Park Forest Restoration, Saturday, 4/08/23, 10am – 1pm Meeting place: Avenue U & East 36th Street.** Volunteer with the Stewardship Team to protect the forested areas in our parks. Come dressed in sturdy boots or shoes, long pants, and clothing that can get dirty. Face masks may be worn at your discretion. Space is limited and registration is required. Volunteers under 18 must be accompanied by a chaperone. For more information and to register call 311 or go online to nyc.gov/parks/stewardship or send an email to stewardship@parks.nyc.gov.
- 3. NYC Parks Department needs lifeguards this summer!** For more information on this job opportunity and how to sign up to take a test call 311 or go online to nyc.gov/parks/lifeguards. NOTE: Currently there are no tests scheduled but you can sign up to be notified when they are.
- 4. 2 Capital projects in CB18 should be completed this Spring:**
 - a) Salt Marsh Nature Center construction is listed on the NYC Parks website as being 82% complete and should be finished this month. (Ave U & East 33rd Street)
 - b) Sunners Playground construction is listed as being 75% complete and should be finished by the end of May. (Kings Hwy, Ave H, & East 49th Street)

Remember to check the NYC Parks website on a regular basis to get updates on events, programs, jobs, and business opportunities citywide.

YOUTH COMMITTEE – Terri Cadet-Donald, Chairperson

1. For those who have children or grandchildren in kindergarten or first grade there is a college savings program called New York City Kids Rise. For those of you that may have children or grandchildren going into kindergarten in September the information is available on the table.
2. This Saturday Millennium Development is having an Archery Jamboree. Millennium Development has the only middle school archers in the 5 boroughs. If you are interested in watching the kids get ready for their competition at the Archery Jamboree, please join us at Marine Park Junior High School from 12:30 PM to 3 PM. Paul Curiale will be there, and he would love to have some of you come down to see what Millennium is doing with the kids.
3. This summer, Millennium Dev. will be registering children for fencing in Marine Park. There was a typo on the flyer, the ages are 7 to 12 and you must register in advance. The program is free, and we would love to have your children take part in it. This is a great opportunity for kids to take part in fencing and archery.
4. In Marine Park on Wednesday, April 5th there will be an Arts and Crafts event for Passover and Easter at Carmine Carro Center from 3 PM to 5:30 PM. You will have to make reservations by calling Millennium Development for the information.
5. Summer jobs – Summer Youth Employment applications are available for ages 14 to 24. If you have children or grandchildren, encourage them to apply. If they are 18 or over, Millennium is looking for summer camp workers, for their 18 different sites throughout southern Brooklyn, Rockaway, and Ozone Park Queens. If anyone has any questions, comments, or concerns please call Millennium Development.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE – Tomas Hernandez, Jr., Chairperson

1. State Liquor Authority Application Received - Vote

NEW APPLICATION AND TEMPORARY RETAIL PERMIT FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER:

- The Xperience Coffee House & Juice Bar LLC, The Xperience Coffee House & Juice Bar, 1454 Rockaway Parkway – 11236

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

- GBS Food Inc., Lenny & Johns Pizza, 2034-2036 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 Police Precincts about the SLA New and Renewal Applications received from The Xperience Coffee House & Juice Bar LLC, 1454 Rockaway Parkway, 11236, and GBS Food Inc., Lenny & Johns Pizza, 2034-2036 Flatbush Avenue, 11234 and no objections were received. Chairperson Hernandez asked if any applicants were present. Patrick Agard, Representing the Xperience Coffee House & Juice Bar was present. Chairperson Hernandez Jr thanked him for attending the meeting this evening. Chairperson Michael Ien inquired as to why a juice bar would be selling alcoholic beverages. Patrick Agard explained that the desserts they will be selling are infused with alcohol. Second Vice Chair Maria Garrett asked what the operating hours are. Patrick Agard stated that the business would open at 5:00 AM but the alcohol will not be sold at that time. He will be closing at 7 PM for now and in the warmer weather will close at 9 PM. Board Member Barbara Bieber asked if there is an I.D. requirement for the alcohol infused desserts. Patrick Agard explained that it's an adult only coffee

house, but ID's will be checked by a scanner. There being no further questions or comments Chairperson Hernandez asked for a motion to approve the SLA Applications received from The Xperience Coffee House & Juice Bar LLC, 1454 Rockaway Parkway, 11236, and GBS Food Inc., Lenny & Johns Pizza, 2034-2036 Flatbush Avenue, 11234. Board Member Maria Garrett made a motion to approve. Board Member Sharon Borno seconded the Motion. The Motion passed with 30 Yes votes.

Chairperson Hernandez also explained that a motion was made at last month's meeting to table the SLA application received from Eko Lounge Inc. until the 75th Pct. replies with a position. The 75th Pct. checked out the location and found that it was still vacant. We spoke to the Lawyer for Eko Lounge and was told that they have not yet begun to renovate the property. Since the Community Board and the 75th Pct. have no information on the type of establishment – bar, restaurant etc. , the Planning and Zoning Committee will meet with the Lawyer and owner of the proposed Eko Lounge so that we can make a recommendation to the Board before we vote on the SLA application.

Chairperson Ien introduced Ian Girshek, Representing Assembly Member Jaime Williams who greeted everyone and provided information on programs, and upcoming community events.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – Frank Seddio, Chairperson

Chairperson Frank Seddio informed the Board that the Bylaws Committee met this past Monday and finalized recommendations that will be presented to the Board Members in April. The Bylaws will be sent out to all members giving everyone adequate time to review the submissions. We would like to give one final opportunity for anyone that might have recommendations after they see the Bylaws, to submit those recommendations by April 10th.

Chairperson Seddio also discussed the project on the Brooklyn Queens Expressway below the Brooklyn Promenade. The people of Brooklyn Heights are in favor of cutting that portion of the BQE down to two lanes. This roadway is an extremely important roadway for traffic and for truck traffic for the movement of goods, Seddio said. This also affects those of us who are in the Southern part of Brooklyn and the Eastern border of Brooklyn, eliminating a traffic lane would be an absolute disaster. He would like to make a motion tonight that Community Board 18 oppose the current plans for a two-lane roadway of the section BQE between Atlantic Avenue and Metropolitan Avenue. He asked that the motion be tabled so our members have more time to explore the proposal. Board Member Bob Tracey seconded the motion to table for a discussion at the next CB18 meeting. All members were in favor. Motion passed. Chairperson Seddio was pleased to inform everyone that exploration of a location for the 63rd Precinct will be in the budget this year. The site for a new station house will hopefully be across from Kings Plaza on Flatbush Avenue and Hendrickson Place. The budget will include the initial funding to allow for the exploration of the location and any set plans. This project, if approved, can take up to five years.

Yolette Toussaint, Representing Assembly Member Helene Weinstein, 41st A.D., Jaukia McConeyhead, Representing State Senator Kevin Parker, 21st S.D., Vivienne Bent, Representing Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman, 58th A.D., Sergey Chuprik, Representing NYC Comptroller Brad Lander greeted everyone and provided information on programs, and upcoming community events.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mark Pohl, Representing Kings Plaza Canarsie Kiwanis Club informed the Board that they will be meeting on Wednesdays at 7 PM. He explained how the Kiwsanis Club is involved in the Community and local schools and invited everyone to join.

Area resident Steve Smith stated his concerns about the numerous abandoned cars parked around his house. Board Member Frank Seddio informed Steve Smith that he should be making 311 complaints and calling the CB18 office for assistance. He continued to say that the only way to resolve this is by empowering the NYPD, NYC DOT, DSNY and city traffic agents. P.O. Felicia Grant explained that they have towed in his area and will be doing another tow operation there. She offered to meet him outside his home to check out the abandoned cars.

Noreen Medas, Representing Rockaway Parkway Merchants Association, greeted everyone and thanked Community Board 18 for their support. She provided further information on programs and upcoming community events.

There being no further business or discussion, Chairperson Michael Ien made a motion to adjourn the meeting of Community Board 18. Board Member Michelle Sealey seconded the Motion. The motion passed with 30 Yes votes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 P.M.

End....