# Brooklyn Community Board 4 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 6pm

#### Zoom

Chairperson: Robert Camacho District Manager: Celestina León

Meeting Start: 6:04pm

Celeste called the meeting to order and announced the first public hearing item.

## **Public Hearing:**

1) Chad McNeil, Architecture Project Manager and Rebecca Byrnes, Architect, Jim Morris, NYC Parks Director of Capital Projects - Brooklyn Operations – presenting on the Portland Loo presentation (i.e., bathroom) for placement inside Irving Square Park.

Delivered by Jim Morrison (Director of Capital Projects, NYC Parks) and Julie Fisher (Architect, NYC Parks), the presentation introduced the Portland Loo, a prefabricated, single-occupancy, accessible public restroom unit being piloted in Irving Square Park, Brooklyn.

#### **Key features of the Portland Loo:**

- Durable, stainless steel, graffiti-resistant construction.
- Single-occupancy, fully accessible with a flushing toilet and exterior handwashing station.
- Connected to city sewer, water, and electric, with heat-traced water for year-round use.
- Privacy louvers for airflow and safety (feet visible from outside), and a dormitory-style lock for privacy and staff access.
- Blue light for nighttime use, and a baby changing table inside.

The unit will be located in a visible, well-lit area near utilities for safety and ease of maintenance.

The Parks Department will clean and maintain the unit as part of its regular comfort station route, and it will be locked overnight with a robust lock.

The project is a response to the high cost of traditional comfort stations, aiming to provide a more affordable and flexible restroom solution for parks.

The pilot will collect usage data and community feedback to evaluate its success and inform future installations.

The unit is purchased (not rented) through a competitive bid process.

The presentation addressed community concerns about safety, hours of operation, child safety, plumbing durability, lack of cameras, and the impact on park funding and classification.

#### Q&A/Discussion

**Barbara Jackson** (Committee Chairperson): Asked about the security of the lock and hours of operation.

**Response** (Julie Fisher, Parks Architect): The lock is robust, industrial-grade, and ADA-compliant, providing privacy and security. It can only be locked from the inside during use, and staff use a more robust lock at night.

**Response** (Jim Morrison, Parks Director): The Loo will be opened and closed on the same schedule as other comfort stations, with specific times available if needed.

Felix Ceballos: Asked about restroom security and privacy.

**Response** (Julie Fisher): The louvers provide privacy but allow feet to be seen for safety. The lock ensures privacy and security while in use.

**Cassandra Leveille**: Asked if this is a pilot program and how success will be measured. **Response** (Julie Fisher): Yes, it is a pilot with one Loo in each borough. Success will be measured by usage data (flush counts) and community/staff feedback.

**Barbara**: Asked if the Loo will be open seven days a week and who will clean it. **Response** (Jim Morrison): Yes, it will be open every day and cleaned by the Parks Department's Maintenance and Operations Division, on the same route as other comfort stations.

Joanna Fuentes-Singh: Asked about child safety, lack of cameras, and plumbing durability. Response (Julie Fisher): The lock is manual and unlocks automatically when the door is opened, so a child should not get stuck. The Loo is similar to other comfort stations in terms of supervision. The plumbing is durable (stainless steel) and has clean-outs for maintenance. Response (Jim Morrison): Parks does not have the infrastructure for cameras; NYPD sometimes installs cameras outside parks, but not inside.

**Sarah Senator**: Asked if the local precinct was consulted about safety, and if the Loo changes the park's classification or funding.

**Response** (Jim Morrison): The precinct was not formally consulted, but Parks has its own enforcement patrol. The Loo does not change the park's classification, but increased amenities can attract more attention and potential funding.

Other questions addressed the cost (about \$200,000, much less than a traditional comfort station), purchase process (competitive bid, not rental), and maintenance.

These questions and responses addressed community concerns about safety, privacy, maintenance, child safety, cameras, plumbing, precinct involvement, funding, and cost.

## **Special Guest Speakers from PS 376 (not on the agenda)**

Two students, Liam Carollo and Jada Medina, from class 504 at PS 376, presented their class project on community improvement, introduced by their science teacher, Miss Salchi.

- The project centers on identifying and addressing litter and cleanliness issues in Bushwick.
- The class conducts monthly walks to observe changes in the community and is organizing a community cleanup event on April 30, 2023, inviting the entire community to participate.
- The students emphasized the negative impacts of trash, such as clogged storm drains and flooding, and the need for collective action to prevent harm and improve the environment.
- They encouraged attendees to complete a survey (via QR code or chat link) to help identify the dirtiest corners in Bushwick.

The students expressed hope that their efforts would inspire others to join in cleaning and caring for the neighborhood.

#### **Q&A/Discussion**

Cassandra Leveille: Asked for the date of the community cleanup event.

Response (Student): The cleanup will be held on April 30, 2023.

**Robert Camacho** (Chairperson): Asked for more details so he could participate and encouraged community involvement.

Response (Student): Thanked him and welcomed his participation, promising to provide more details.

**Reverend Steward**: Asked if his church could be included as a cleanup site and how to get involved.

**Response** (Student): Said it could be possible if the location is provided and suggested filling out the survey to coordinate.

Zulma Novoa: Asked about accessing the survey (QR code or link).

**Response** (Student): Confirmed the link is available in the chat for those unable to scan the QR code.

**Assemblywoman Maritza Davila**: Congratulated the students and their teacher, praised their work, and expressed excitement for the project's outcome.

Other board members and attendees also offered praise and encouragement to the students for their civic engagement and leadership.

2) Leah Archibald, Executive Director, Evergreen Exchange, Elizabeth Canela, Vice President, Project Management, Totem Brooklyn, and other project team members – presenting on the 1160 Flushing Avenue Project (ULURP).

The presentation was delivered by representatives from Totem (Liz Canela, Tucker Reed) and Evergreen (Leah Archibald, Stephen Fabian).

The project proposes the rezoning and redevelopment of 1160 Flushing Avenue into a mixeduse building with ground-floor retail, upper-floor industrial and office space, and a pedestrian alley connecting Flushing and Jefferson.

## The primary goals are to:

- Preserve and expand industrial and commercial space (no residential conversion).
- Support small manufacturers and local businesses with affordable, flexible spaces.
- Align with the Bushwick Community Plan's goals of protecting industrial corridors and fostering economic development.
- Create up to 40 industrial jobs and promote local hiring, including opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses.
- Incorporate sustainability features and community amenities such as green infrastructure, street furniture, and bicycle parking.

Evergreen will play a key role in designing, tenanting, and overseeing the industrial spaces to ensure they serve small manufacturers.

Presenters responded to board questions about zoning, market risks, the balance between commercial and industrial uses, and the long-term vision for the site.

#### Q&A/Discussion

**Stephanie Anderson**: Asked about adding trees, plants, and seating in the alleyway. **Response** (Tucker Reed, Totem): Agreed and said these features are envisioned, including street trees, planters, and a green roof plaza.

Felix Ceballos: Asked about parking and truck traffic.

**Response** (Tucker Reed): No on-site parking required, but a loading dock will improve truck traffic. (Leah Archibald, Evergreen): Truck loading will be off Flushing Avenue to improve safety.

**Ben Tocker**: Asked about a DOT traffic safety measure at Stewart and Flushing. **Response** (Tucker Reed): Willing to work with DOT to pay for a traffic light if desired by the community.

**Joshua Brown**: Asked about the impact of rezoning on adjacent businesses and risk of future residential conversion.

**Response** (Tucker Reed & Leah Archibald): Rezoning does not allow residential use; adjacent businesses are unlikely to be affected.

**Cassandra Leveille**: Asked about adapting to changing office/retail market conditions. **Response** (Tucker Reed): Spaces are small and affordable for local businesses; flexible design. (Leah Archibald): Manufacturing demand remains strong.

**Desmonde Monroe**: Asked about building ownership.

**Response** (Tucker Reed): The team has a long-term leasehold with Saul Goldman.

**Desmonde**: Asked about how commercial rents subsidize industrial rents and what happens if commercial rents are not achieved.

**Response** (Tucker Reed & Leah Archibald): Financing is based on a blend of uses; industrial rents are set with Evergreen and are not directly dependent on commercial rents. Other incentives may help.

**Millie/Milagros Sandoval (chat)**: Asked about residential presence and building height. **Response** (Tucker Reed): The area is zoned for manufacturing, not residential, and the building height is consistent with the neighborhood.

#### **Regular Meeting:**

#### 1) First Roll Call

**Board members in attendance**: Isa Abney, Stephanie Anderson, Jo-Ena Bennett, Joshua Brown, Robert Camacho, Felix Ceballos, Andrew Choi, Elvena Davis, Joanna Fuentes-Singh, Christopher Graham, Barbara Jackson, Virgie Jones, Nicolas Kaplan, Cassandra Leveille, Imini Mitchell, Zulma Novoa, Raul Rubio, Eliseo Ruiz, Milagros Sandoval, Vernedeaner Shell, Barbara Smith, Maria Soler, Annette Spellen, James Steward II, Benjamin Tocker, Jerry Valentin, Carlotta Williams

Excused: Melissa Carrera-Solano, Anne Guiney, Luisa Jose-Olea, Acire Polight

**Absent**: Grace Aytes, Rawle Brown, James Fitzgerald, Freddy Fowler, Hadiyah Harrison, Tanesha Honeygan, Kweighbaye Kotee, Mary McClellan, Desmonde Monroe, Kyle O'Rourke, Dustin Sonneborn, Tashawna Wade

28 board members were present, which constitutes a quorum.

#### 2) Acceptance of the Agenda

Raul Rubio made a motion to accept the agenda. It was seconded by Robert Camacho. All were in favor, so moved.

# 3) Acceptance of the Previous Meeting Minutes

The district manager asked for a motion to table the previous meeting minutes as they were not completed due to the office still being short-staffed. Robert Camacho made a motion to accept the previous meeting minutes. It was seconded by Raul Rubio. All were in favor, so moved.

# 4) Chairperson's Report

Delivered by Robert Camacho, the Chairperson's Report provided a comprehensive update on recent board and community activities.

#### Key highlights included:

- Recap of numerous meetings and events attended, such as local elections, community workshops, precinct meetings, youth summit planning, and city agency engagements.
- Updates on public safety issues, including concerns about e-bike fires, illegal parking, and the need for increased police resources.
- Discussion of ongoing community challenges, such as mobile food vendors, trash, rodent problems, and the impact of new shelters for asylum seekers.
- Updates on the board's bylaws revision process, including proposed amendments for remote attendance, executive board responsibilities, and public member appointments.
- Reminders about board member attendance requirements, the importance of committee participation, and the upcoming board elections.
- Encouragement for board members to stay engaged, report community issues, and support neighborhood improvement efforts.

#### **Q&A/Discussion**

**Question** from Raul Rubio (Second Vice Chair): Asked about the age group for the upcoming youth summit and whether the students who presented earlier (fifth graders, age 10–11) could participate.

**Response** from Robert Camacho: Clarified that the youth summit is for ages 12–19, but the younger students can still share information and possibly be involved through information sharing or other means.

The report reflected the Chairperson's active involvement in community affairs and emphasized the board's commitment to addressing local concerns and improving governance.

See the March 2023 Executive Board Report.

**Council Member Sandy Nurse's Remarks** 

- Announced a virtual "rat academy" with Council Member Gutierrez on March 21 to educate the community about rodent mitigation.
- Provided updates on the city budget process, including hearings on sanitation and proposed education cuts.
  - She hopes to see community members at the hearings.
- Shared news about new e-bike legislation: The City Council passed a bill to end the sale of uncertified lithium-ion batteries, and additional legislation is being developed for battery disposal and education with Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez.
- Highlighted a recent town hall about Broadway Junction, noting \$500 million in new investments, including seven new elevators and pedestrian safety improvements.
- Announced that Callahan Kelly Playground (outside of Bushwick) will be opening next month with significant new infrastructure.
- Provided an update on participatory budgeting:
  - Voting will be held March 25–April 2, with several Bushwick projects on the ballot (auditorium upgrade for Bushwick High School, street tree planting on Wyckoff, sanitation cameras, gym upgrades for PS/IS 45).
  - o 50 projects total were submitted across the council district.
  - Encouraged community members to vote and to start thinking about future capital funding ideas.

#### Assemblywoman Maritza Davila's Remarks

- Provided an update from Albany on the ongoing \$242 billion state budget negotiations, with a focus on securing funding for schools, safety net hospitals, and capital projects.
- Addressed quality of life concerns in Bushwick, particularly the increase in clubs and food trucks on Wyckoff Avenue, leading to excessive foot traffic and garbage.
  - Suggested forming a task force with business owners to address these issues.
- Raised concerns about opioid use and discarded needles in tree pits.
  - Announced a new program with la Nueva Esperanza to provide containers for safe needle disposal, offering \$5 for every 10 needles returned, and connecting users to support services.
- Expressed concern about a proposed roller skating/rollerblading venue for 1,000 people operating until 4 a.m. with alcohol, especially in a congested area.
- Updated the board on the relocation of approximately 600 asylum seekers to 455 Jefferson Street in Bushwick, following the closure of the Brooklyn Navy Yard shelter.

- Emphasized that this was not a local decision and highlighted the need for information, regulation, and programming for the new arrivals.
- Reassured the board that she and other elected officials are working to ensure the process is managed carefully and the community is kept informed.
- Invited questions and thanked the board for their ongoing work.

#### **Q&A/Discussion**

## Joanna Fuentes-Singh:

**Question/Comment**: Commended the needle exchange program and suggested including information about help and support services in the containers.

**Response** (Assemblywoman Davila): Confirmed that the program will connect users to support services, including HIV nutrition, drug counseling, and safe haven resources. Promised to provide information on where and when containers can be picked up and encouraged partnerships.

#### Joshua Brown:

**Question**: Asked for Assemblywoman Davila's input and voting direction on the 1160 Flushing ULURP project.

**Response** (Assemblywoman Davila): Stated she could not comment or take a position as she had not reviewed the project in detail due to her obligations in Albany, but trusts the community board's judgment.

Jo-Ena Bennett (Parliamentarian) asked for a point of clarification. The sound cut out and those on Zoom missed Josh's question. Joshua responded and repeated his question.

#### Zulma Novoa:

**Question/Comment**: Expressed concern about the lack of communication regarding the relocation of asylum seekers to 455 Jefferson Street, especially since the building owner knew before local leaders. Asked about balancing the new shelter with an existing family shelter nearby.

**Response** (Assemblywoman Davila): Shared the same concern about the lack of notification, explained that the city often does not inform local leaders in advance, and reassured that she and other elected officials are working to ensure the process is regulated and the community is informed and protected.

Robert Camacho (Chairperson) responded to the discussion about the new asylum seeker shelter at 455 Jefferson Street by expressing frustration over the lack of information from the mayor's office. He stated that the board called the mayor's office but did not receive any details about what would happen at the site, emphasizing concern about the lack of transparency and communication with local leaders.

Celeste (District Manager) expanded on this issue, explaining that both the Health and Hospitals Corporation and the Office of Emergency Management were contacted for information, but they were referred back to the mayor's office and still did not receive any answers. She advised community members to email their concerns and questions to the board, so these could be documented and used to advocate for greater accountability and transparency from city agencies. Celeste stressed that the board is not opposed to helping those in need but wants to ensure the community is informed and included in the process.

#### Introduction of elected officials and representatives:

Brooklyn Borough President's Office Name: Lacey Tower, Legislative Director (Contact info to be put in chat; not explicitly stated) 209 Joralemon Street, (718) 802-3700

Brooklyn District Attorney's Office

Name: Jonathan Pomboza Address: 350 Jay Street Phone: 718-250-2340

Senator Julia Salazar's Office

Name: Maria Valdez

Address: 212 Evergreen Avenue

Phone: 718-573-1726

Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez's Office

Name: Johnathan Betancourt Address: 266 Broadway, Suite 201

(No phone provided)

Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez's Office

Name: Juan, Community Organizer

Address: 244 Union Avenue

(Contact info to be put in chat; not explicitly stated)

244 Union Avenue, (718) 963-3141

NYC Public Advocate's Office

Name: Emmett Sklar, Brooklyn Borough Advocate

Address: 1 Centre Street, #15

(Constituent service team contact to be put in chat; not explicitly stated)

(212) 669-7670

Assemblywoman Maritza Davila's Office

Name: Evette Lopez, Communications Director (Contact info to be put in chat; not explicitly stated)

249 Wilson Avenue, (718) 443-1205

Assemblyman Erik Dilan's Office

Name: Pablo Rivera, Community Liaison

Address: 366 Cornelia Street

Phone: 718-386-4576

# Introduction of agency/other representatives:

NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board

Name: Venus Canterbury, Brooklyn Outreach Coordinator

Address: 100 Church Street, Lower Manhattan, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10007

Phone: 917-742-4098

# 83rd Precinct Commanding Officer's Report:

There was no report from the 83rd Precinct Commanding Officer at this meeting. The district manager indicated that she was informed the Executive Officer/Captain from the 83rd Precinct was unable to attend the meeting.

# 5) District Manager's Report

Delivered by Celeste, the district manager, the report highlighted that the district office is currently short-staffed, with only two people (Celeste and Kim) working. Sharon's last day is March 22, and the process to fill the vacant position will begin soon.

Celeste thanked board members and non-board committee members for their support during this period of limited capacity.

Key meetings and initiatives included:

- Attending the City Council Government Operations Committee hearing on community board support and diversity.
- Participating in the Landmarks Preservation Commission hearing for the proposed Linden Street Historic District, with strong advocacy from local residents.
- Meeting with the Bureau of Brooklyn Neighborhood Health about the rehabilitation of the Bushwick Public Health Office at 335 Central Avenue, which will offer expanded community health resources.
- Joining a 311 community walk to identify and report neighborhood issues, encouraging community participation in this initiative.
- Meeting with Assistant Chief Scott Henderson to discuss safety concerns, especially illegal commercial vehicle parking, and advocating for more resources for the 83rd Precinct.
- Touring the Perelman Performing Arts Center, which aims to be inclusive and is
  offering job opportunities to the community.
- Participating in the Bushwick Neighborhood Coalition for the citywide participatory budget process.

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The report concluded with an invitation for questions, but none were raised.

Read the full report.

#### 6) Committee Reports

# <u>Economic Development + Permits and Licenses</u> - Desmonde Monroe and Melissa Carrera

The committee meeting was held the day before the board meeting and reported by Celeste, as Melissa was excused.

Four main business applications were reviewed:

- 1. BK Cafe, Inc. (247 Suydam): Thai restaurant seeking a wine, beer, and cider license. Approved with stipulations—no outdoor space, no amplified music, and no alcohol sales past 12am on Sundays.
- 2. 942 Flushing, Chiang Mai Diner and Bar: Thai restaurant seeking a full liquor license. Approved with stipulations—outdoor space closes by 10pm, no amplified music, and no alcohol sales past 12am on Sundays.
- 3. 48 Cypress Avenue, Cypress LLC dba Vacations: Bar/tavern seeking a full liquor license. Approved with stipulations—outdoor space closes by 10pm, no amplified music, and no alcohol sales past 12am on Sundays.
- 4. Xanadu/Star LLC (262 Star Street): Roller rink with bar and food seeking a full liquor license. The committee found the application insufficient, especially regarding security and community integration, and asked the owner to return next month with more details.

The committee also discussed the Bushwick Jobs Board, encouraging all applicants to post job openings for local residents.

All applicants were encouraged to maintain contact with the 83rd precinct and local nonprofit organizations.

The committee recommended approval of the first three applications with the stated stipulations and tabled the roller rink application for further review.

# <u>Environmental Protection/Transportation/Sanitation + Parks and Recreation</u> - Barbara Jackson

The committee meeting was held on February 22 and reported by Barbara Jackson.

Main topics included:

- 1. The Parks Department's Portland Loo proposal for a new public restroom facility (previously discussed in detail earlier in the meeting).
- 2. Review and recommendation for the renewal of SOA's car service license.
- 3. 440 Car Service did not attend for their renewal.
- 4. Discussion of parks soccer teams, field usage, and related community concerns.

The committee recommended approval for the SOA renewal and the new facilities license.

Robert Camacho added details about field usage, issues with dog owners using ball fields as dog parks, and the need for better enforcement to keep fields clean and safe for youth sports.

The committee also made recommendations regarding field permits for local leagues, taxi/limousine renewals, and the Portland Loo, with stipulations for safety and security measures.

# **Housing and Land Use - Anne Guiney**

Desmonde briefly outlined the committee discussion as Anne Guiney was excused from the meeting. The district manager noted Anne was recently injured, although she's on the mend. She also thanked Christian Celeste Tate for his help taking excellent notes for the meeting report.

The main focus of the report was the 1160 Flushing Avenue project, which proposes a mixed-use building with industrial, commercial, and retail space.

The project aligns with the Bushwick Community Plan's goals, specifically:

- No manufacturing-to-residential rezoning.
- Preservation of manufacturing along Flushing Avenue.
- Support for economic development and job creation in the neighborhood.

The committee highlighted the project as an opportunity for economic growth and job creation, while also retaining manufacturing uses in the area.

Concerns were raised about market uncertainty, long-term financing, and the need for ongoing community oversight to ensure the project meets its intended goals.

The committee recommended support for the project, incorporating feedback from both the committee meeting and the full board.

#### 7) Recommendations

## Parks Field Permits (Soccer/Baseball Leagues)

Mr. Camacho outlined the spring field permit schedule for local youth sports leagues.

Motion to approve: Ben Tocker Seconded by: Elvena Davis Abstained: Isa Abney

Motion carried.

Eliseo Ruiz noted that the people with permits have to be responsible for the mess on the fields/in the parks.

#### **Taxi Limousine Renewal**

The committee made a recommendation to provide a CB4 letter of "no objection" to the TLC for Community Car Service Priscilla Corp., Maristel Castro, President – located at 896 Wyckoff Ave Suite 2, Brooklyn, NY 11237.

Motion to approve: Barbara Jackson

Seconded by: Felix Ceballos

All in favor, so moved.

# Portland Loo Approval (with safety stipulations)

The board made an amended recommendation in favor of the Portland Loo (i.e., bathroom) for placement inside Irving Square Park with the stipulation of addressing safety concerns.

Motion to approve: Isa Abney Seconded by: Mr. Camacho

Abstained: Raul Rubio

Motion carried.

# **Economic Development/Permits and Licenses (Blanket Vote for Businesses)**

Motion for blanket vote: Ben Tocker Seconded by: Desmone Monroe

Abstained: Elvena Davis, Jo-Ena Bennett, Raul Rubio, Zuma Novoa

Motion carried.

**Motion to approve committee recommendations** for approval with the standard stipulations and hours (see committee report for details) except for Xanadu at 262 Starr Street as the applicant was asked to further engage the community and come back to the committee in April.

Motion: Robert Camacho

Seconded by: Desmonde Monroe

Opposed: Raul Rubio

Abstained: Zulma Novoa and Elvena Davis

Motion carried.

# Housing and Land Use (1160 Flushing Avenue Project)

The committee made a recommendation for approval of the 1160 Flushing Avenue project, contingent on incorporation of feedback from the full Board.

Motion to approve committee recommendation: Andrew Choi

Seconded by: Robert Camacho

Opposed: Joshua Brown

Abstained: Raul Rubio and Annette Spellen

Motion carried.

#### 8) Old Business

None

#### 9) New Business

None

# 10) Announcements

#### Johnathan Betancourt (Congresswoman Velasquez's office)

- Announced the introduction of the Landlord Accountability Act to ban discrimination against tenants with rental assistance vouchers and penalize warehousing of apartments.
  - It will also prime property owners \$100,000 every month that they're found to deliberately warehouse an apartment.
- Discussed new legislation for lithium battery fire safety and funding for anti-violence and hospital initiatives.
  - The Congresswoman held a press conference regarding the use of lithium battery fires.
  - She was joined by Council Members Jennifer Gutierrez and Sandy Nurse as well as Mr. Camacho and RiseBoro.
  - The purpose of the press conference was to build her new legislation which directs the United States Department of Transportation to create grants for local governments to install publicly accessible safety charging and storage stations for these bikes and any other mobility devices.
  - To help reduce violence in North Brooklyn, the Congresswoman will be presenting a \$1 million check to the North Brooklyn Anti-violence Coalition.
  - This will be followed by a \$2 million check to Woodhull hospital for a new colorectal cancer unit.

#### Juan Mayancela (Council Member Gutierrez's office)

- Shared news about the introduction of a universal childcare bill.
- Noted ACE's removal of 15 pounds of trash in the district.
- Announced a joint rat academy event with Council Member Nurse on March 21 from 2pm to 4pm.

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# Lacey Tauber (Brooklyn Borough President's office)

- Provided updates on community board applications and interviews.
- She has been having a lot of fun interviewing applicants, and the board should get new members very soon.
- Mentioned advocacy for community board needs at city council hearings.
- Announced a rat academy event on March 23 at the main branch of the Brooklyn Public Library and a Women's History Month event at Borough Hall on March 30.

# **Venus Scantlebury (NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board)**

- Explained the CCRB's function in investigating police misconduct.
- Announced an upcoming city council hearing on body-worn camera footage access.
  - One of the items on the agenda is body worn camera footage that would really help our investigations.
- Invited the community to the CCRB's Brooklyn Borough board meeting on May 10, 2023, at 6:30pm at Restoration Plaza.
- She thanked the board and wished everyone Happy Women's History month.

# 11) Second Roll Call

**Board members in attendance**: Carlotta Williams, Jerry Valentin, Ben Tocker, James Steward II, Annette Spellen, Vernedeaner Shell, Milagros Sandoval, Eliseo Ruiz, Raul Rubio, Zulma Novoa, Desmonde Monroe, Imini Mitchell, Cassandra Leveille, Nicolas Kaplan, Barbara Jackson, Christopher Graham, Joanna Fuentes-Singh, Freddy Fowler, Elvena Davis, Andrew Choi, Robert Camacho, Joshua Brown, Jo-Ena Bennett, Stephanie Anderson, Isa Abney,

**Excused**: Acire Polight, Luisa Jose, Anne Guiney, Melissa Carrera-Solano

**Absent**: Tashawna Wade, Dustin Sonneborn, Maria Soler, Barbara Smith, Kyle O'Rourke, Mary McClellan, Kweighbaye Kotee, Virgie Jones, Tanesha Honeygan, Hadiyah Harrison, James Fitzgerald, Felix Ceballos, Rawle Brown, Grace Aytes

#### 12) Adjournment

Barbara Jackson made the motion. Raul Rubio seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15pm