



BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 13
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ANTONIO REYNOSO
Borough President

LUCY MUJICA DIAZ
Chairperson

EDDIE MARK
District Manager

**COMMUNITY BOARD 13
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Loc.: Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lucy Mujica Diaz
Mario Caggiano
Wanda Feliciano
Selina Grant
Queenie Huling
Milagros Quiles
Jeff Sanoff
Pat Singer
Barbara Teitelbaum
Dennis Vourderis

Zunera Ahmed
Marion Cleaver
Susan Flaschenberg
Ronald Greenberg
Yelena Makhnin
Shimon Rinkovsky
Fran Schwartz
Jack Suben
Edita Volovodovskaya
Annette Wesley

Shirley Aikens
Nadine Dabney
Brian Gotlieb
Erum Hanif
Pat O'Brien
Michael Russo
Tatyana Segal
Gloria Watkins
Joann Weiss
David Wynn

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dionne Brown
Brian Granoff
Michael Quinn
Michael Silverman

Patricia Brown
Amarilys Herrera
Priscilla Santos
Kumali Zairee

Olga Fort
Joseph Packer
Evelyn Strasser

GUESTS:

Brad Lander(Comptroller), Gayle Mandaro, Chief Michael Mandala(FDNY), Christopher Greif, Frank Noriega, Judi Barreca, Cristina Mejia Cancelledo, Sergei Chuprik(Comptroller's Office), Sandra Sanchez(FDNY), Lan Hu, Mark Merynk, Bobby Ferazi, Arthur Melnick, Yvette Knight, Anthony Batista Perez, Steven Gonzalez(SCA), Tova Chazinoff(CM Vernikov), Craig Hammerman, Robbin Paranson, Mike Petrosino, Zeeshan OTT(SCA), Inna Guzenfeld(BP Office), Lucia Marquez Regan, Priscilla Fisk, Brian Fisk Maria Navarro

OFFICE STAFF:

Eddie Mark, District Manager, Hanna Glikman, Community Associate, Barbara Santonas, Secretary

NYC Comptroller Brad Lander was happy to visit our board meeting. He was in Brighton Beach last week to show his support for the Ukraine. C.B. 13 shows that working together the people can build a peaceful, inclusive world. If everyone works together and supports each other they can build a safe world. He will be holding Town Hall meetings to discuss trash issues, property taxes, Item 421A(1.8 billion for private development that no one can afford with an eye to claiming the boardwalk).

Barbara Teitelbaum remarked that another issue is the 4 legged animals (rats). She would like the Comptroller to speak with the Sanitation Committee Chair to try and put into effect the new pilot program. Zunera Ahmed asked the Comptroller about fully funding parks and keeping all parks as a safe environment for the residents.

Ida Sanoff is very concerned about the situation with the boardwalk repair. The Parks Department wants to do concrete decking over plastic on the boardwalk. She is upset about the process, no thought is being given as to what might happen during a storm event, with this type of repair. The community input is out of the process. The City agencies are making decisions without input from the community.

PUBLIC SPEAKING:

Chief Michael Mandala – He reported on a highrise fire on West 25th Street. It is still under investigation, but the main problem seems to be the fact that many of the occupants left their doors open when they exited their apartment, and this caused several fatalities. If the fire is on your floor, do not exit your apartment, place towel by the door frame to keep out the smoke. Yelena reported that there was a fire on Brighton 4th Street today, she asked what information could be given. (The Chief was off today, will find out and advise Yelena).

CM Inna Vernikov – She was happy to meet the community board members, she has not met prior to this meeting. She apologized for taking so long to attend a board meeting. She has been in office for four months and has assembled a great team. Tova and Mary are an incredible team. They are working very hard and trying to get everything running smoothly. The staff has assisted 900 constituents with various issues. She has been working on the funding for the discretionary budget and working to partner with the Ukraine for immigration. Ukrainians with TBS status can stay for an additional 18 months and during that time cannot be deported, can come on tourist visa. The office is currently a drop of center for any donations to be sent to the Ukraine. The office has been taking care of many complaints. DOS has been very responsive. They have increased litter collection and added baskets on Brighton Beach Avenue. The office has a good relationship with Yelena from BBID. CM Vernikov is working with MTA to discuss the communities transit needs. The train stations need to be handicapped accessible. She has also met with the Mayor and his team and discussed the homeless situation, community safety and COVID 19 mandates. If a constituent is aware of a homeless encampment, please send the location to the office. It is major work to get rid of these encampments. The office took care of the issue at Wise Café where there were two dumpsters that had not been cleaned. Many complaints about odor. She was able to have them removed. She has a newsletter that is done twice a month. Call the office to be placed on the email list.

Erum Hanif said that when she has food pantry at Apna, there is no person who speaks Russian/Ukrainian. She asked that the CM's office have someone there who can assist. CM Vernikov suggested that she coordinates with Tova. There is an event on Sunday sponsored by the Brooklyn DA to get immigrants registered for TPS. Fran Schwartz brought up the illegal parking problem at the municipal lot adjacent to the boardwalk in Brighton Beach. There are many illegally parked vehicles and no enforcement is around to ticket. Tova stated that the previous administration was not receptive to multiple calls on this situation. She will try to reach out to the new administration. Pat Singer from BNA discussed the problem seniors are having with Section 8 reapplications. The applications are being sent and are getting lost. The excuse is that the agency is working remotely. Pat will send email to the CM explaining the entire situation.

Christopher Greif – Seniors and disabled New Yorkers will be switched to OMNI instead of half are card. The must fill out application as to whether wants card or to use OMNI.

Cherine Anderson-Community Engagement Brooklyn TACAS (DOE) – She said she works with high school students with IEP's to assist them in getting a job through SYEP. Parents who have children with IEPs should apply to her office. She tries to connect the students with business in the area where they live, who would take on an intern. The program is for 6 weeks from 7/5-8/12/2022. The students get paid \$15 an hour. It is paid through the DOE, not the businesses.

Craig Hammerman – He thanked C.B. 13s Environmental and Sanitation Committee for hosting a public forum with the EPA on February 24th. (These are his comments in their entirety) It should come as no surprise to anyone that the EPA yet again confirmed that the creek is a toxic, contaminated waterbody. I understand that the meeting may have set a new record as one of the best attended meetings of that committee. Bravo to the leadership of the board, especially to the committee chair, Jeff Sanoff, for running an excellent meeting. Everyone who attended had a chance to contribute to the meeting and the community walked away with good information they might not have otherwise had access to. Second, later on your agenda tonight you'll be considering a resolution to support the nomination of the Coney Island Creek as a Federal Superfund site to remediate the contaminants which continue to pose a risk to the community. But what do we mean when we say "community"? The EPA has a tool on their website called EJSCREEN, which enables users to retrieve demographic data for Environmental Justice communities. According to EJSCREEN, 6700 people live in the area bounded by the Belt Parkway to the north, W. 37th St. to the west, Neptune Avenue to the south and Stillwell Avenue to the east. Many of them live in NYCHA's Gravesend Houses. Of those 6700 people, 39% are Black, 25% Hispanic, and 15% Asian-for a total of 79% people of color. 27% are households earning under \$15k, with 66% earning under 50k. Only 52% are English speaking households, 55% are not in the labor force. This is what our Environmental Justice community looks like. These are the people at greatest risk. These are your friends and neighbors who suffer from mysterious respiratory illnesses, who breathe bad air, and whose primary source of open space and recreation, Kaiser Park, sits adjacent to a compromised waterbody. The Coney Island Creek is

silently and invisibly robbing our community of its vitality and health. Remediation of the creek is the only option. I hope you'll support this resolution to send that strong message to the EPA, to the other governmental agencies, and to our elected officials, that we won't wait any longer to get our creek cleaned. Our friends and neighbors' futures depend on it. Now is the time. Let's get this done".

Anthony Perez – representing AM Frontus – He reported that the Assemblymember was able to obtain \$1 million in Capital funds. \$500m for Parks, \$250,000 for maintenance and \$250,000 for P.S. 127. Both the Coney Island and Bay Ridge office are opened. Any resident for needs assistance with Section 8 should contact the office.

Lan Hu – He asked for update on C.I. ferry. The ferry's proposed location should be removed or suspended until we find out about the timing for Superfund. Maybe get injunction to suspend the ferry.

Jeff Sanoff – He stated that this is an ongoing issue. The EPA will send their findings to NYS EDC.

PRESENTATION: School Construction Authority – Proposed Dewey Middle School Annex at 74 Avenue X Steven Gonzalez of the School Construction Authority explained that this project will be for a middle school on the John Dewey Campus, it will house 553 middle school students. The preliminary presentation was made recently to C.B. 13's Education Committee. The comment period is until April 18th. Zunera Ahmed asked how the area will look after the construction. Mr. Gonzalez said there are no design details to share as of now. Brian Gotlieb asked if funding was in place. Have the neighbors been made aware of this project? (They will be made aware. The construction, when it is started, will be during the daytime.) Mr. Gonzalez said the funding is in place and they are moving ahead with the design phase. It is in the Five Year Capital Plan. It is being authorized as a line item.

MINUTES:

Motion made by Joann Weiss, seconded by Lucy Mujica Diaz to accept the minutes as submitted:

VOTE: In Favor: 33

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried unanimously. (Roll call on file at C.B. Office)

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Lucy reported that this past month Jeff had attended most of the meetings, so he will report on them. Thanks to Jeff, Eddie, and the staff. Shirley Aikens and Nadine Dabney have decided not to reapply for board membership. They will truly be missed. Today will be Shirley last meeting. Nadine will remain until the new list is received (May 1st). Wanda will remain as a member of the Transportation Committee, but not Co-Chair, until the new members are appointed. The office is still accepting resumes for the Community Assistant position.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Lucy stated that twelve board members had signed up to be on the Nominating Committee. Susan Flaschenberg will be the Chairperson. According to our revised By Laws, the Chairperson can pick the Nominating Committee. The members chosen must be in good standing on the board. The committee will be comprised of Susan Flaschenberg, Joann Weiss, Marion Cleaver, Barbara Teitelbaum, Gloria Watkins, Alternate: Michael Russo and David Wynn. Joann stated she had not requested to be on the committee. Lucy replaced her with Wanda Feliciano. Email will be sent to all board members, asking if they are interested in running for office. This memo will also be sent to current executive board members, asking if they want to run again for a position. At April's board meeting slate will be announced. In May nominations can be taken from the floor and in June, if necessary, candidates will have 3 minutes to make presentation and then vote will be done.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Meetings: Illegal vendors meeting – still no enforcement. They are relying on city agencies who are not suppose do enforcement. Attended meeting in SeaGate with ACE about the sand problem. ACE saw a huge mound of sand 30' high. They said they will return and excavate with the help of the Parks Department and Sanitation. Ferry Update: Trial run of ferry in the Creek. We will ask the Ferry Company to come to future meetings. C.B. 13 staff is going to refresher training for FOIL. Board members can also take this course. 4/2-Opening Day for Luna Park. 4/10 Blessing of the Rides at Deno's. Next week I will attend ribbon cutting at Raven Hall on West 20th St. & Surf Avenue. Track work is being done on Brighton Beach Avenue. It has been put off since last summer. There will be no parking on certain streets between Brighton 1st Road and Brighton 5th Street. Between 3/26 and 5/1. Flaggers will be there to assist. There will be a Public Safety Committee on 3/28. Joann said the meeting will update us on what to expect this summer.

There will be a meeting with the Environmental Committee, ACE and HATS about the proposed seawall. Eddie said that any correspondence received by the members from the office should be kept to themselves for dissemination through the community.

STREET CLOSING COMMITTEE:

Yelena Makhnin, Chair

Brighton Jubilee Event ID 615224 – Sunday, Aug. 28th Brighton Beach Avenue between Coney Island Ave. and Corbin Place. It was passed in committee: In Favor: 4 Opposed: 0 Abstention: 0 Recusal: 1 Last year there were some issues at the end of the Jubilee. These issues were discussed at a meeting with the 60th Pct & BNA. Pat is planning to hire a Marshall to be there until the end of the event. Approval of the event with conditions as stated. Pat Singer will send letter to C.B.

Vote: In Favor: 30 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 Recusal: 1

Motion carried. (quorum present) Roll call on file at C.B. office.

Mermaid Parade Event ID 620332 – Saturday, June 18th. Surf Avenue between West 22nd and West 10th St.- applying for Stillwell Avenue between Surf Avenue and the Boardwalk. It was passed in committee: In Favor: 3 Opposed: 1 Absentions: 0 Recusals: 0. Motion: Street Closing Committee of C.B.13 approves this application as submitted by Coney Island USA as long as Parks Dept. and NYPD approves the application.

Vote: In Favor: 30 Opposed: 2 Abstentions: 2 Recusals: 0

Motion carried: (quorum present) Roll call on file at C.B. office.

LAND USE COMMITTEE :

Marion Cleaver/Shimon Rinkovsky, Co-Chairs

Cropsey Scrap Metal-2994 Cropsey Avenue. Renewal of SOC(Stipulated Order of Continuance) application to The Board of Standards and Appeals concerning 112-11-BZ. This company has been in the area for three generations. There is no opposition. They are very respectful of the community. When discussing this, sometimes there seems to be a problem when cars try to make right from Home Depot. Selina agreed with sometimes having a problem when making the right. Frank Noriega, attorney for the owners said he will discuss with the owners and see if additional flagmen are needed at the entrance to the property. He was not aware of this. It was not mentioned at the committee meeting.

Vote: In Favor: 31 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 Recusals: 0

Motion carried unanimously (quorum present) Roll call on file at C.B.Office.

EDUCATION & LIBRARY COMMITTEE:

Lakeisha Bowers/Annette Wesley, Co-Chairs

At the Committee meeting, presentation was made by SCA (similar to what was done this evening) for a middle school to be constructed on the John Dewey High School Campus. The SCA is in need of a letter of support from the Community Board.

VOTE: In Favor: 32 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 Recusals: 0

Motion carried unanimously (quorum present) Roll call on file at C.B. Office.

ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE: Jeff Sanoff, Chairperson

Jeff reported that this meeting was very informative and well attended with over 70 participants. The process of evaluating Coney Island Creek for Superfund status is slowly moving forward. Superfund is basically a pool of federal money used to evaluate and potentially clean up sites where there is legacy contamination. Legacy contamination means that the companies that polluted an area are no longer around or in business. Coney Island is an environmental justice community. The EPA did preliminary testing at numerous locations around the Creek in April 2021, results are now under review by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation. After review, decision will be made about whether or not more testing is needed and what agencies should be involved. This is a multi-year process. We need a Resolution that will be discussed under New Business.

Background Info for Resolution: In January, 2017, CB 13 passed a resolution asking the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation to include the Creek on the NYS Superfund list. We went through NYS because if they accepted, the process would be a little easier than going through the federal government. But DEC said it had to go through the federal Superfund process, which is now underway. Several community members met with Congressman Jeffries staff and the Congressman has been supportive of the investigation. Proposing a resolution – basically the same resolution that was passed in 2017, only difference is that the wording for “state” has been changed to “federal”.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Selena Grant asked for update on the request for a Stop sign on West 37th St. & Surf Avenue. Hanna will look into the status of this.

Pat Singer – BNA has testing kits and masks for anyone who needs them.

Marion Cleaver – Shorefront Toys for Tots has their Annual Fundraiser at Siricos on April 7th. One of the honorees is Susan Flaschenberg.

Joann Weiss – BB/CI Kiwanis is having their Everyday Hero event at Garguilios on May 11th.

Michael Russo – New mural being done on the wall on Stillwell Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion made by Joe Corace, seconded by Joann Weiss to approve the following Resolution:

Resolution: Brooklyn Community Board 13 resolves that Coney Island Creek must be evaluated for inclusion as a federal Superfund site by the U.S.EPA, with the support of our Congressman, Hakeem Jeffries.

VOTE: In Favor: 32 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 Recusal: 0

Motion carried unanimously (quorum present). Roll call on file at C.B. Office.

Barbara Santonas, Secretary