



BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 13
1201 Surf Avenue—3rd Fl., Brooklyn, NY 11224
(718) 266-3001 FAX (718) 266-3920
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/bknxcb13>

ANTONIO REYNOSO
Borough President

LUCY MUJICA DIAZ
Chairperson

EDDIE MARK
District Manager

**COMMUNITY BOARD 13
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

Date: Tues., Dec. 20, 2022

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Loc.: Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lucy Mujica Diaz
Mario Caggiano
Joe Corace
Susan Flaschenberg
Erum Hanif
Yelena Makhnin
Robbin Wright Paraison
Sam Rinkovsky
Tatyana Segal
Pat Singer
Barbara Teitelbaum
Edita Volovodovskaya
Joann Weiss
Svetlana Zelinskaya

Zunera Ahmed
Mario Caggiano
Asad Dandia
Olga Fort
Amarilys Herrera
Allen Newman
Nodira Pirmukhamedova
Michael Russo
Pervez Siddiqui
Evelyn Strasser
Fanya Vasilevsky
Dennis Vourderis
Annette Wesley

Lakeisha Bowers
Marion Cleaver
Lolita Divilova
Ronald Greenberg
Cynthia Leveille
Pat O'Brien
Milagros Quiles
Jeff Sanoff
Michael Silverman
Jack Suben
Gregory Vayngurt
Gloria Watkins
David Wynn

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dionne Brown (exc)
Queenie Huling
Boris Pincus(exc)
Kumali Zairee

Patricia Brown(exc)
Doyin Isaac
Michael Quinn(exc)

Selina Grant
Bernard Kaufman
Fran Schwartz(exc)

GUESTS:

Ida Sanoff, Judi Barreca, Christopher Greif, Alonso Espinoza, Eric Palatnick, Erica Turner, Linh Ho, Craig Hammerman, Assemblymember Mathylde Frontus, Anastasia Yasakova, State Senator Elect Iwen Chu, Ken Lazar, Mark Mernyk, Miriam Padilla

Board Chairperson Lucy Mujica Diaz opened the December, 2022 meeting and welcomed everyone.

ELECTED OFFICIALS/REPRESENTATIVES

Assemblymember Mathylde Frontus – She wished everyone a Happy & Healthy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

State Senator Elect Iwen Chu, SD17 – She explained that she is the Senator Elect from the newly formed Asian District which encompasses parts of Bensonhurst, Bath Beach, McDonald Avenue to Avenue V to Bay 50th Street. She is former Chief of Staff of Assemblyman Peter Abbate. She was also a member of Community Board 11. Her District Director will be Zunera Ahmed. She wished everyone a Happy & Healthy Holiday Season.

Erica Turner – representing CM Ari Kagan – She remarked that their office is opened and the staff has been helping people in the community. The CM is currently working on Intro 10643, to shorten the time for a traffic study. Now the wait for information after the study is completed is at least 18 months. He is also working on a Cafeteria enhancement experience, having more healthy foods in the school for lunches. There will be free ice skating from Tuesday, Dec. 27th to Friday, Dec. 30th. The sponsors are Brooklyn Borough President Reynoso, Emblem Health, Happy Toys and Starbucks.

Assemblymember Elect – Alec Brook Krasny – He wished everyone a Happy, Healthy Holiday Season. He is looking forward to working with the members of the Community Board to find out what the community needs. He always is concerned with safety of the community and he also wants to work to get a trade school, get the ferry issue restarted, wants to make sure that boardwalk is maintained and safe for the community and for the tourists.

Ida Sanoff – She brought up the fact that she was told that the Assemblyman-Elect was on Russian radio talking about making the public beach in front of Ocean Dreams private. She said a few years ago this issue came up when elected officials wanted to make the beach in front of the Oceana. It never came to fruition. If this privatization of the public beach was done, it would not only happen here, it could happen anywhere along the shoreline. The Assemblymember said that was not what he was talking about on the radio show. He meant it would be nice to have rental of umbrellas or beach equipment. It would insure that people who come to the beach would be more comfortable.

Christopher Greif – He announced that in the near future there will be a Customer Service Center at the Stillwell Avenue Terminal and the Atlantic Terminal. The Comment Period for the Bus Redesign Project is currently opened.

Heidi Gomez- LYFE Coney Island – Early Childhood Center at Gravesend Houses. She runs a nursery/pre-kindergarten program at Gravesend Houses for children 2.9 to 4.9 years old. The program is under enrolled. The Mayor may cut funding for early childhood programs and they may have to close. She wants to build community partnership. They are planning to start a little library outside of the facility in conjunction with Parachute Books. They want to get the registration increased so they won't have to close. Lakeisha Bowers asked the exact location of the program. It is located at Gravesend Houses on West 33rd Street and Neptune Avenue. Lakeisha will touch base with Heidi for more information.

Craig Hammerman – He wanted to thank all of the board members who show up regularly to volunteer their time to serve the community. There's no pay, the job is pretty thankless, and there's often a lot of arguing going on. As a resident and advocate, he wanted to acknowledge the special role the board members play and thank them for investing their time in their community.

He also wanted to share a few year-end thoughts. First of all, it's been a pretty incredible couple of years. People are still pretty stressed out whether it's a byproduct of the pandemic or politics or something personal. We have no idea what the person sitting next to us is going through. We can't see what other people are thinking or feeling. It costs nothing to be kind. The American Dental Association recommends that adults spend two minutes brushing their teeth twice a day. That's four minutes of dental care a day. In 2023 he hopes we all spend more time each day committed to our mental health than our dental health. Meditating 10 minutes a day can make a world of difference-he would be happy to talk off-line to anyone who might be interested.

His second hope for 2023 is for our elected officials and community leaders to adopt a compassionate mindset when addressing neighborhood issues. The best solutions to public policy problems are when everybody wins. Sometimes it takes longer and costs more to get there, but our community is well worth the investment. For example, when there is an actual casino proposal for us to respond to, I hope every single discussion about it begins and ends with what the neighborhood's needs are. Compassion will help us to understand and respect each other's needs so we can work together toward solutions for all.

And, lastly, his third hop for 2023 is for us all to spend more time being present. Studies have shown that we spend half our time and attention either in the past or the future. We worry about the future. We ruminate about the past. We lose sight of where we are. So we might completely miss that beautiful sunset, the starry-night sky, a bird song, or the laughter of a child. Being present allows us to see the joy and beauty in each moment. I suffer from the same frustrations and disappointments when my life isn't how I'd like it to be. When we are present, we have a chance to find the joy and beauty in every moment-accepting things as they are without judging them. We have a chance to live with an open heart. The more we practice this, the less stressed we become and the easier and sweeter life gets. So to review, One, more daily time for mental health than dental health. Two, a compassionate mindset where everybody wins. Three, being present and living with an open heart. These are his hopes for the new year. Let the New Year begin right now. Because why should we ever defer our happiness. Happy New Year and much love to all!

MINUTES:

Motion made by Joe Corace, seconded by Evelyn Strasser to approve the minutes of the November Board meeting as submitted.

VOTE: In Favor: 39 Opposed: 0 Abstention: 0

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

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Lucy Mujica Diaz, Chairperson

Lucy stated that the Mayor will hand down tomorrow his decision on whether to extend the Executive Order on returning to in person meetings. She reported that she, Eddie and Michael Silverman met to discuss the issue on 58 Nixon Court. Any recommendation from committee must have "Committee of the Whole" (entire board) vote at a full board meeting. She wished everyone Happy Holidays. There was a meeting of the Public Safety Committee where there was a presentation by the Office of Cannabis Management on Smoke Shops, and sale of cannabis. If anyone has knowledge of illegal stores, please contact the board office with any contact information. The request to OATH to remove board member Ronald Greenberg from the board has been denied. He will remain a board member. We have requested to appeal the decision, and we are awaiting OATH's approval.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Eddie Mark, District Manager

We have had Christmas Caroling two times. Both times were very successful. The Annual Polar Bear Plunge will take place on Sunday, Jan. 1st beginning at 1 p.m. Happy Holiday to All.

COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE: Shimon Rinkovsky

- Build A Block Sector Charlie – Thursday, Dec. 21st 5:30 p.m. 458 Neptune Avenue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parks Committee

Barbara Teitelbaum/Susan Flaschenberg, Co-Chairs

There was a discussion on a request by a constituent to convert one of the basketball courts at the Brighton 2nd Street Playground to a volleyball court. The constituent speaks little English, so Hanna brought the request to the Committee on his request. At the meeting, Laurence Majors was in attendance and since the request was just to remove the hoop and backboard, with approval of Commissioner Mahr, this could be done. There was discussion that this could be done on a trial basis and one court could be converted for a specified amount of time which was decided for a two year period. Letter of Support to be given.

Vote: In Favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 Motion passed unanimously.

At the Board meeting, Pat Singer stated that this is a historic site. Crowds of people come each year. That court should not be converted. People have been coming there to watch games for decades, maybe seats should be constructed. Barbara Teitelbaum stated she feels a volleyball court should be placed there. People change and if there is a need, it should be done on a trial basis. Yelena Makhnin also believes that one court should be converted on a trial basis. Jeff Sanoff said that if a basketball tournament is scheduled and the court is needed, a request could be made. Alec Brook Krasny that playing volleyball on the beach is different then playing on a hard surface. It really is two different types of sport.

Vote: In Favor: 31 Opposed: 6 Abstentions: 0
Motion carried, quorum present. Roll call on file at C.B. Office

Land Use Committee

Marion Cleaver/Shimon Rinkovsky, Co-Chairs

Street Co-Naming for Victor Topaller at Brighton 1st Road. This was brought to the board, by Board Member Boris Pincus. At the committee meeting, it was decided that there was not enough information to vote on the issue. Motion was made by Joann Weiss, seconded by Michael Russo to table until February when committee meeting would be scheduled. Vote to table was 7 in favor, 4 opposed. Mr. Pincus was to forward the letter in favor of the co-naming, which he said he was in receipt of and also the petition from community people. Subsequent to the committee meeting, the CM sent email advising she would rely on the community board to make a decision and the petition was never forwarded by Mr. Pincus to the board office.

ULURP Application Block 7237 Lot 61,63,64,65 – At Committee, motion was made by Gloria Watkins, seconded by Joann Weiss to approve the application.

Vote was 3 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstentions, 0 recusals. Motion was denied. There was no discussion on this denial.

Yelena stated that there was a presentation to the full Board at the November Board meeting and 2650 Ocean Parkway was included in the ULURP map. An alternate option for Block 7237, Lots 63,64,65 – 58 Nixon Court as well as Block 7238, Lot 115 (the Rezoning Area) near the intersection of Shore Parkway and Ocean Parkway in the Gravesend area of Brooklyn Community District 13.

The proposed zoning map amendment would amend the Rezoning Area from R5 to R7A and R7A/C2-4. In addition, a zoning text amendment would make the Rezoning Area applicable as a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) area (the "Proposed Actions"). The Rezoning Area is also in the Special Ocean Parkway District. If this is approved, it would give 2650 Ocean Parkway room for enlargement. There will be a vote from the full board. If you agree with the committee's recommendation, vote No. If you don't agree with the committee's recommendation, vote YES.

Michael Silverman explained that on the phone call with the City's Legal Department, along with Chair Lucy Mujica Diaz and DM Eddie Mark, it was stated that according to the City Charter, specifically all **ULURPS** must be brought before the full Board (even if voted down in committee), since our approved By Laws are silent on the issue, and does not allow the Land Use committee with 11 members to speak for the entire board membership (50), as it would effectively give the committee more power than the full board. Craig Hammerman stated that the information the members were given is incorrect. Lucy suggested that Craig call the Borough President's Office in the morning. She thanked him for his input, but she will stand with the Parliamentarians' and NYC Legal Department's explanation.

Public Safety Committee: Joann Weiss/Gloria Watkins, Co-Chair
Representative of the Office of Cannabis Management made a presentation. There are 15 smoke shops in the community, none can legally sell cannabis. Crime Prevention Officers from the precinct are working to teach the owners how to have a secure their shop. If there is a problem, constituents can call the board office. Will have a follow up meeting once more information is obtained. Zunera Ahmed stated that it was a good meeting, but she wanted to know in order to have a store shut down, after the complaint is made is the community made aware of the status of the investigation. Jeff Sanoff stated that during the committee meeting he had asked the OCM representative the number of people in the Sheriff's office. She did not have the number and was going to get back to us.

License Committee: Yelena Makhnin, Chair
The meeting was held on December 15th. There were two new licenses: Brooklyn Tennis, 2781 Shell Road d/b/a Matchpoint and Anyway Beach Café, 201 Brighton 1st Road. The stipulation form for both businesses
Motion: To approve licenses for both businesses No discussion on either application.
Vote: In Favor: 36 Opposed: 1 Abstention: 0
Motion carried, quorum present. Roll call on file at C.B. office.
Request for letter of no objection for Georgetown Management, Inc. d/b/a United Car Service, 424 Brighton Beach Avenue. Applicant did not attend meeting, even though he was contacted many times.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Palatnick explained the revision to R7A zoning. He said that after the Committee meeting he realized that there was several problems that the committee brought to his attention. This was discussed with the owners and several substantial changes were made. The original number of floors, 7-1/2 were decreased to 7. Additional parking spaces were added. There was concern that construction would block entrance to Belt Parkway. There will be no blocking of entrance to the Belt. Commercial use on bottom floor will have community input.

Marion then shared what City Planning told her and wanted her to share with Board. City Planning spoke to the applicant, and they will change from R7X to R7A as an alternate option and Councilmember could opt to change this zoning later in the process. No certification is needed.

This ULURP will be brought back to committee for discussion in January. The Councilmember will be in attendance so he can hear what the community wants.

Gloria Watkins – Discussed the fact that she is against board members receiving harassing phone calls from other board members. She wants to know how the board member in question got her phone number. This board member has called her phone several times asking questions. Board members must stand together against this sort of action. Pat O'Brien suggested that she call out the specific board member. She said she was told not to do this. Lucy suggested that if this harassment continues send her an email and she will forward to the Borough President's office. Also suggested Gloria call 911 or the Community Affairs Officers at the 60th Pct. we have a good rapport and will assist in this situation.

OLD BUSINESS: None

GOOD & WELFARE:

Barbara Teitelbaum wished everyone a Happy & Healthy Holiday. Peace to All.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Barbara Santonas, Secretary