

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD #7

MARCH 16, 2016

Capt. Perez reported on several programs which the 72nd precinct is working on and gave an update on the Neighborhood Community Officers program. He invited everyone to several meetings that were scheduled for the Month of March. Captain Perez requested feedback from the community regarding any issues.

Ms. Shah requested that the officers reach out to the community so a relationship can be developed.

Mr. Zuniga suggested a meeting scheduled with the community and the officers of the Neighborhood Community program. This would be an introduction to the officer to the residents of the areas they are assigned to.

It was also suggested that the officers be educated on Cultural Competence. This would assist the officers working with the different ethnicities represented in the community of Sunset Park.

Ms. Smith from Bike N.Y. spoke about the 5 Boro Bike Tour scheduled for May 1st and provided a list of street closures. She mentioned the need for volunteers at the event. Ms. Smith spoke about their centers. Bike N.Y. conducts bike education and demonstrations of how to assemble bikes at local schools. There was a discussion on the many services that they provide.

Ms. Ellis from DSNY spoke about the Organic Collection Program. She provided fliers and information on their program.

Ms. Walker from the Red Hook Community Justice Center (RHCJC) spoke about what their center is currently working on. She mentioned RHCJC take referrals from the board and the community. Ms. Walker talked about their Peace Makers Program. All "Peace Makers" are trained by Navajo Nation Peace Makers. The purpose of the program is to help resolve issues that people have. There was a discussion on how they go about resolving issues.

A quorum was reached. Mr. Laufer made a correction to the agenda, under Public Safety Committee, it should read as "liquor license for Uncle Sam" instead of the same as the Executive Committee.

Mr. Bissel made a motion to accept the agenda with the correction and was seconded by Ms. Ruiz. Ms. Ruiz made a motion to adopt the board meeting minutes of March 16, 2016 and seconded by Mr. Zuniga.

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation

Mr. Jasie reported on the committee's meeting of 2/23/16. A presentation by the NYSDOT was made to the committee. NYSDOT presented on the repair contracts for the Gowanus Expressway. NYSDOT has repaired 1.7 million square feet of concrete deck. There have been dramatic repairs and improvements made to the HOV lane and the entrance ramp to the Prospect Expressway. Mr. Jasie commented on what still needs to be repaired and how it will be another 3 years of work. The project was split into 2 contracts; one for 52 million dollars and the other for 55 million dollars. Mr. Jasie stated that one contract will run from 2016-2018 and it will commence from 48th Street to 6th Avenue and from 56th Street to 65th Street. The second contract will run from 2016-2019 and it will be from 48th Street to Clinton Street. The work will only affect 3rd Avenue. He stated that the committee voiced their concerns and talked about how it's going to be a big deal for the residents and businesses along 3rd Avenue. He also commented that they will be planting over 85 trees along 3rd Avenue. Mr. Jasie mentioned that the committee requested NYSDOT place signage announcing the work and what can be expected.

There was a discussion on how long the community would expect this work to go on before it was completed.

Mr. T. Murphy said he recommended NYSDOT paint in other locations. The response was NYSDOT had no extra monies for further repairs and painting. NYSDOT reported on how the monies are being used.

Mr. Zuniga stated that if we want to have schools built along 3rd Avenue this will become an issue and everyone should contact their State representatives, inform them of their concerns about the work, to apply pressure. He stated that this has become a safety issue.

Mr. Acevedo asked if the contractors can move their trucks from under the highway along 49th and 50th Streets. Mr. Laufer's response: the trucks are supposed to be moved every year. Mr. Acevedo said they have not been moved in years.

Mr. Jasie stated that all these points will be taken and a resolution drafted for next month, and forwarded to NYSDOT upon approval.

Parks & Environment

Mr. Swinton reported on the meeting of 3/17/16. The Butterfly Garden's issue was tabled. Mr. Swinton reported on a new project to improve fencing and paths. The new improvement project will be for fencing along and near the 5th Avenue side of the park and stairways leading

into the park. There will also be new benches and paths along the 6th Avenue promenade. Funding for the project was provided by Borough President Adams and Councilman Menchaca.

There was a motion to approve the Sunset Park fencing and benches path. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Mr. Swinton also reported on the children's shower. The showers are scheduled to open Memorial Day and run until Labor Day. All the showers will be operational. Additional work is required on the controls for the water features to allow the showers to turn on electronically. This work will not impede use of the entire spray shower area. He also stated that the drainage issues have been resolved. Mr. Swinton updated the board on status of the children's playground. Construction will begin on 4/1/16 for 1 year. The new expanded playground will have separate areas for younger and older children. DPR also promised additional activities and staff during construction. The contractor selected is Deltec. Mr. Swinton commented that people have asked about the playground in a box. Parks stated the playground in a box will be made available. He stated that there was discussion about the need to have signage in multiple languages stating to keep clear during construction. Parks requested of the board the wording in the various language for posting.

Mr. Swinton also reported that the committee discussed concerns that several residents made about people bringing boom boxes to the park as early as 6am and dance in groups as large as 300. Their main concern is the music is played very loud. They have been told to turn off the noise or leave by police and park officials, but often return. There have been discussions with the Pct. to try to come up with a resolution. There have also been concerns with smoking and consumption of alcohol being used near the children's area of the park. Parks stated they will look into it and inform the board.

He also reported on the discussion of ball playing at PS1 Pena-Herrera Park. He stated that there was concern of the balls flying over the fence breaking windows and hitting cars. Some of the resolutions discussed by the committee included to have Bush Terminal open for longer hours, to close the park at certain hours and have someone in the community open and close it. There was also a discussion on bathroom signs posted on the hours open and closed. Mr. Laufer stated that Parks has already addressed this.

Ms. Ruiz said it would be a shame to have the people stop doing the dancing. Mr. D. Murphy stated that the Pct. will try to work with them to alleviate the noise complaints.

Public Safety

Ms. Rey reported that the committee met on 3/10/16 to address the liquor license for Uncle Sam's Bar located at 885 4th Avenue. She stated that the Pct. had concerns because they had previous violations. Some were citations related to the license and some safety violations. There was an arrest for selling liquor to a minor and another arrest for another issue. Ms. Rey commented that there was testimony from the owner, the Pct. and several constituents. Most of the concerns were about the cleanliness in the front and back of the restaurant. Ms. Rey

stated that the committee determined they will vote in favor of renewing the liquor license with some caveats. The first: the manager of the location improve their supervision to ensure no misunderstanding to the selling of liquor. Second: The committee requested management improve the cleanliness of the outdoor area. The committee recommended that the owner and residents engage in some type of mediation in order to better communicate.

Ms. Botti asked how long they have been in business. Ms. Rey stated 14 years. Ms. Rey stated that the Pct. did not make a recommendation.

Mr. D. Murphy commented on several options discussed at this meeting including not taking a position. The discussion was changed after hearing from the owner and several residents including a board member that lives near the bar. The committee decided to make the recommendation for the liquor license be granted with certain conditions.

There was discussion as to why the committee decided not to go with not taking a position. Mr. Acevedo stated that he had commented that he did not feel comfortable with not taking a position. Mr. Peers stated the State Liquor Authority never takes the board's recommendation.

There was a motion for the board to support the committee's recommendation and approve the liquor license application for Uncle Sam Bar with the stipulations presented.

Motion Passed: 24 – Approve; 0 – Opposed; 2 – Abstentions (1 For Cause)

Site Selection

Ms. Botti reported on the committee's meeting of 3/14/16. The main reason for the meeting was to continue the conversation of their last meeting. At that meeting they discussed potential sites. She commented that the committee had come up with 3 new sites and that some of the sites on the list had been voted on several years ago. Ms. Botti stated that the Power House Building on 58th Street Pier, 4901 2nd Avenue from 49th Street to 50th Street and 5201 2nd Avenue from 52nd Street to 53rd Streets would be good locations for a Maritime Middle School. She reported that there are currently 30 sites on the list.

Ms. Ruiz asked if OLPH is willing to part with their lot. Ms. Botti stated that it has been on the list for several years and if they can negotiate with the School Construction Authority than it may be possible. Ms. Ruiz also asked if there was a church on the North side of 37th Street bet. 4th & 5th Avenues. Mr. Laufer stated the church is on 36th Street.

There was discussion on how properties are acquired.

Mr. Zuniga thanked Ms. Botti for her work in putting together the list. Mr. Zuniga inquired about a site on the odd side of 8th Avenue. Ms. Botti stated that the site is on the Community Board 12 side.

Ms. Gonzalez asked why the fire houses on 5th & 7th Avenues were not placed on the list. Mr. Laufer stated that the one on 5th Avenue is a Fire Department communication facility and the one on 7th Avenue is now an EMS facility.

Ms. Botti read the motion that was on the floor: **Community Board #7 supports the list of potential school sites proposed by its' Site Selection Committee and will share notation with the Board of Education and the School Construction Authority.**

Motion Passed By Unanimous Vote.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Ms. Fiorillo from the Office of the City Clerk reported on the Lobbying Bureau and the regulation and enforcement of NYC Lobbying Law. She stated that the Lobbying Bureau offers training and assistance on the law and its filing requirements. She commented that there were pamphlets available if anyone wanted further information.

Ms. Chiraco from the Comptroller's Office announced that the Comptroller will be hosting a breakfast on 3/22/16 at 8:30am and the Comptroller would be present. She also reported on an audit done on HPD's vacant lots. The report shows Brooklyn has the most vacant lots. The Comptroller's office is recommending these lots be turned into affordable housing. Ms. Chiraco also stated that 30% of these lots have been vacant for over 50 years.

Ms. Gonzalez commented that some of these lots are too small to build on.

Mr. Abramson from the Mayor's Office wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and announced the Mayor will be marching for the first time in the parade. He also spoke briefly about the new council's plan for affordable housing for the homeless.

Mr. Estrada from Councilman Menchaca's Office reported they received notice from the 66 Pct. On a knife attack on a woman. His office is circulating fliers with information in Spanish, English and Chinese. He announced funding is available from the Councilman to provide alternate indoor and outdoor activities for the children during the reconstruction in Sunset Park. He also commented that there will be a voter's registration event for high school students at the Sunset Park High School on 3/18/16.

Mr. Peers inquired about the Councilman's loss of a family member. Mr. Estrada confirmed that Councilman Menchaca did in fact lose a cousin who was in law enforcement to a drunk driver.

Mr. Ardila from Councilman Lander's Office briefly spoke about the Participatory Budget. He also spoke about other issue the councilman was working on.

Mr. Fazio from Assemblyman Abbate's Office reported that the Assemblyman was in Albany trying to increase the education budget by 2.5 billion dollars. He stated that in the past 6 weeks

NYS has adopted 2 additional Fair Housing categories. The new categories are for victims of domestic violence and gender identity. These categories including the other 14 categories cannot be denied housing.

Mr. Martinez from Assemblyman Ortiz's Office reported that the assemblyman will host TB screenings at PS169 on 3/19/16 from 12-4pm. He also spoke about other issues that the assemblyman is working on.

Mr. Jonas from Senator Montgomery's Office reported that the Navy Yard is offering an internship program for the summer. He also spoke about a bill that is up for vote. Mr. Jonas stated that the Senator is working to find a location for their Harbor Middle School.

Mr. Acevedo spoke about the Sunset Park's history with maritime programs and how stated that the school should be placed in Sunset Park.

Ms. Granshaw from Borough President Adam's Office reported on several events that the Borough President held the previous month. She spoke about the "Know Your Rights" Tenants hearings to be held in several Brooklyn locations. The BP's office is looking to schedule one for Sunset Park sometime in April. Ms. Granshaw also announced that their newsletter has more events that are coming up. She also reported that they are working with the Councilman to fill the vacant seats on the board and that the reappointments will be out soon. She thanked the board members for all their hard work on the board.

Mr. Wiley from Congresswoman Velazquez's Office reported that the e-newsletter was available. He also reported that the Dept. of Labor Secretary will be at the Navy Yard on 3/18/16 at 2:30pm to host a town hall with businesses to discuss minimum wage. Mr. Wiley commented on other items that the Congresswoman was currently working on.

There was a discussion on the BSA timeline.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Laufer reported that the board along with Councilman Menchaca will be putting together a town hall meeting to discuss homeless programs and services in Sunset Park. It will be held on 3/30/16 at 6:30pm. DOH & Samaritan Village will be attending and HRA has been invited. He also reported that the BPO has a new Adopt a Storm Drain Program. The community board will be adopting 2 storm drains. Mr. Laufer stated there were fliers available for anyone who was interested in getting more information.

Mr. Laufer reported that the office received 4 liquor licenses renewals and the Comp Stats were on the back table. He also commented that the crime numbers were up that month.

Mr. T. Murphy asked what the future of the board building is. Mr. Laufer stated the information was not public yet.

CHARIPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. D. Murphy reported that the Executive Committee met to discuss the board's office rehabilitation capital funding. He stated the committee is hoping that at least the bathrooms get renovated. He also reported that they are going to request further funding from our Councilmen for further rehabilitation of the board office. Mr. D. Murphy stated he has requested a tour of the entire building.

Mr. D. Murphy announced that he along with Mr. Laufer met with Ms. Sun from EDC. Ms. Sun is the representative for the Sunset Park Waterfront properties. Mr. D. Murphy stated he asked Ms. Sun questions regarding the SBMT bids. She was unable to provide information.

He also met with Industry City to discuss their future and on how they will work with whoever gets the SBMT contract. They also discussed how Industry City should put hotels within their properties.

Mr. D. Murphy commented that everyone should attend the homeless town hall meeting and how important it is to represent your community.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Zuniga asked that the Economic Development Committee Chair schedule a meeting to discuss and address the street vendor issues.

Mr. T. Murphy stated that normally NYCDOT does not know what NYSDOT is doing and how NYCDOT should be kept informed as to what is happening with the Gowanus project.

Mr. Garcia asked if there were any policies when it comes to vendors on the Avenue. Mr. Laufer stated that there is a zero tolerance policy regarding vendors since 1998.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT

P.O. Martin spoke about the Youth Police Academy. She stated that the academy runs from 7/5/16 – 9/16/16 for youth aged 10-16 years. The academy teaches them about life skills. She announced that there were applications on the back table.

Mr. Velez, representative from BAN spoke about his organization and announced that there will be a Press Conference and Community Speak Out on 3/30/16 at 12pm at Borough Hall.

Ms. Gonzalez spoke about how several business owners along 5th Avenue are taking out their merchandise and placing them out on the sidewalk and by the curb, making it difficult for pedestrians to walk by. She wanted to know why this is being allowed to happen. She felt that

it was not lawful. Ms. Gonzalez requested that the Capt. come to the board and answer questions regarding this problem.

Mr. Mak commented that this same problem is also occurring along 8th Avenue.

Mr. D. Murphy made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Bissell seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted

Patricia Ruiz
Secretary