

**COMMUNITY BOARD 17
VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING AND GENERAL MEETING
APRIL 20TH 2022**

ATTENDANCE –CB17 MEMBERS

PRESENT

Gail Grandison
Dion Quamina
Dr. Carol Raneau
Kwame Afreh
June Persaud
JL James
Joan Bakiriddin
Janice Reid
Jorge Tait
Victor Jordan
Pearlene Fields
Marguerite Vigilante
Rodrick Daley
Vladimir Dorgely
Orlando Ross
Frantzy Luzincourt
Hassan Bakiriddin
Jessica Welch
Mary Bell-Downes
Rose Graham
Cecilia Belyn
Theresa Brereton
Barrington Barrett
Joseph Cobourne
Hilary Joseph
Terrance LaPierre
Sabrina Samedi
Antoinette Smart
Rodney Pepe Souvenir
Kenrick Wescott

ABSENT

Aaron Ampaw
Herminia Brown
Caren Charles-Defreitas
Asshur Cunningham
Allison French-Kenton
Charles Galbreath
Adlin Gallimore
Rachelle Goodfriend
Bernice Hay6nes
Johnny Prescod
Patricia Reddock
Ambrosia Johnson
Lisa Highland

ELECTED OFFICIAL/AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE

Sabrina Dieujuste – Liaison, Councilmember Louis
Juvanie Piquant - Liaison, Councilmember
Caren Crawford – Liaison, District Attorney’s
Mr. Chinua Duke – Liaison, Senator Parker
Yolette Toussaint – Liaison, Assemblymember Weinstein
Ezra Pean – Liaison, Councilmember Mealy
Portia Edwards – Senator Myrie
Brian Cunningham – Assemblymember

PRESENTER(S)

Julien Sneck, Urban Design Division, Department of City Planning
David Mandel, Community Liaison, Public Art NYC Department of Cultural Affairs.

VISITORS

Magda Guillaume
Kim Woods
Ruth Guillaume
Ann Rose Plenty
Synique Wilson
Anthony Petricevich
Tania Laroche
Nadine
Adam Anuskiewicz
Rose
Angela DeFillppis
Paul Keen e
MP
Diana Nelson
Charles Alabvre
Taylor Disco
John Williams
Donnette Riker

Vanessa Quashie
Eileen Grant
David Mandel
Allyson Martinez
Sydney Rollock
Leonie Logan
Hazel Martinez
Judit Aarons
Rocco Defranco
Beatrice Alben
Ts Candili
Elishia Diallo
Joanne
Rachelle
Ryan La Barrie
Terri Simmons
Ms. M. Cook
Sareve

Michael LeeYow
Charlene Briscoe
Deon M Weise
Purcha Edwards
Antoinette
Keira Sutton-Agnew
Larissa Larrier
CK Price
Debbie
J Mc
Jermaine McIntosh
Keagan Mays-Williams
David B
Jason M
Pauline Forbes
Tamara

The General Community Board meeting was called to order by the Chair of the Board, Ms. Joan Bakiriddin:

Chairperson’s Report:

- Attended the Funeral of Kate Ashton Tylor Lewin, 12 year old murdered in the community
- City Planning released an equitable development data tool that can be used to assist with facilitating difficult conversations about housing. The Commissioner is available to attend CB17 Land Use meeting to make a presentation.
- Heat Flash cool Smart Brooklyn group that presented at the Borough Board meeting. The program is funded by the Borough President and a New York State energy research and development authority that address climate change.
- In response to the February resolution,. A rezoning Town Hall meeting, via WebEx is planned for Saturday, April 16 and Friday 6 April 29th. Land Use Chair will give an update on the 1st rezoning meeting
- CB17 Election Committee selected to start the election process. Ms. Grandison will chair the committee

District Manager’s Report:

- Change the format of the General Board meeting agenda to comply with the city charter
- Attended meetings with a group of managers, who focus on the future of Community Boards. Met with the Borough President to discuss resources and the lack thereof, training and best practices for CB’s . There were emphasis on Administrative support and other issues that impacts community boards and managers. A request for special baseline funding to assist in certain areas.
- Meeting was held with Office of Management and Budget. Concerns were voiced regarding the city agencies consistent responses to Community/budget needs. Managers are seeking a middle ground to improve better participation from agencies.
- Proposed New Location – a presentation was made to the Department of Citywide Administrative Service on March 30th 2022 and the Notice of Intent to acquire the space at 350 Clarkson Avenue was submitted to the agency.
- Discretionary funds allocated to the committees are being processed as the committees submit their request. Additionally, the Office remains open, members and residents are encouraged to utilize the services the office has to offer.

Brooklyn Borough President - Borough President Antonio Reynoso- greeted those in attendance. He expressed his thanks to the community and his excitement to be the new BP in his capacity to assist community Boards to the level where they feel their participation in community boards is valuable and meaningful. There are high expectations for community boards.

He said he is aware of limited resources for the board and will ask the mayor to increase the funding for community boards, to increase staffing and allow boards to do the work that is very important and necessary in the city.

The BP promised to focus on land use projects and planners to assist community board in navigating land use matters. Assistance from the borough president’s office will be extended to community boards.

He said there will be training and information as the office continues to work with community boards. Opportunities will be available to those interested in growing and educating themselves in certain areas of community board work. Training on zoning, text amendment, planning and other courses, such as education communication, health care, transportation, policing etc.

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso thanked the Board for having him.

Question: Will there be training for Board members, what to do and what to expect, etc.

Answer: Yes, there will be an orientation on the basis of the charter mandated responsibilities of community board members.

Question: Is there any plans to standardize the bylaws where the community boards across Brooklyn are utilizing one set or Boards will continue to use their individual by-laws

Answer: That’s a question for the General Counsel to answer. However, community boards are all independent individual organizations that are allowed to set their independent and individual By-laws.

The Borough President encouraged community residents to sign up via his email to keep up to date on community events.

Roll Call

Adoption of Minutes – Sabrina Samedi moved to adopt the March General Board meeting minutes and Ms. Marguerite Vigliante second.

PUBLIC HEARING

- Plenty’s Paradise – 992 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226 – Renewal – Liq. Wine. Beer Cider

Vote - 22 Yes – No Abstention

- Co-naming of East 56 Street between Linden Boulevard and Church Avenue - “Kade Ashton Tyler Lewin Way”

Vote – 25 Yes – No Abstention

- Terri Simmons – 362 East 25th Street, Landmark Door Installation

Motion made by Mr. Kwame Afreh “I would like to make a motion to approve a letter of recommendation from MS Terry Simon's landmark door replacement on a recently landmarks, um, property on East 25th street. Motion was second by Ms. Marguerite Vigliante

Vote – 25Yes – No Abstentions

- Letter of Recommendation – 67th Precinct’s Project Walkway - ADA Compliant

After a lengthy discussion regarding the addition of a ramp to the primary entrance for greater convenience to individuals with disabilities. A request was made to add a stipulation to the letter for a ramp to be installed to allow wheelchair users, strollers, carts, or other wheeled objects to more easily access the entrance of the building.

A motion was made by Mr. Kwame Afreh “I'd like to motion to approve a letter of recommendation for the 67th Precinct project walkway. Um, which is trying to bring them up to ADA compliance and also add, added stipulations and concerns to that letter of recommendation”. **Motion was second by Mr. Rodrick Daley.**

Vote – 19 Yes 4- Abstentions

- LandUse Expansion of Authority – to handle landmark approvals, denials and/or Abstentions at the committee level without Board’s approval.

There were concerns regarding giving the committee power over the Body (the Board) will set a very bad precedent.

Mr. Kwame Afreh made a motion to expand the Land Use Committee powers to handle future approvals, denials and extensions related to landmark related renovations without board approval with limitations to doors and limited to doors and Windows.

With no one seconding the motion, the motion was defeated.

Agency Update

Lt. Myrthil along with the Community Affairs officers had to leave due to emergency matters – time noted, they left at 9:35 P.M.

Ms. James asked for consideration to have representatives from emergency agencies placed at the top of the agenda.

Stephanie Sinn- Brooklyn Public Library – Updates - Rugby Branch Library.

Technology programs for adults and indoor programming for children has resumed, such as story times for children as well as grab-and-go, crafting, etc.

- COVID tests kits distributed for free
- Library Laptop loan program has started, need a library card to take a laptop to use in the library
- Outdoor seating will be placed on the sidewalk in front of the building – approximately 4 tables and chairs on either side of the door to be used while waiting for the library to open.
- Wi-Fi has been extended to the outdoor tables, and can be used when the branch is closed.
- Summer reading returned for all ages, commences on June 4th
- Summer meals will be served after school ends, to ages 18 and younger free of charge

Naomi Ritter – Assemblymember Brian Cunningham – greeted everyone. She said the Assemblyman is available for greetings when appropriate.

Caren Crawford - District Attorney's office – brought greetings from the DA's office and asked anyone with issues or concerns to call the DA's office (718) 259 4877. She also asked agencies interested in partnering with the DA's office to reach out to her.

Committee Report

Mr. Orlando Ross – Contextual Zoning meeting was held. A survey will be circulated throughout the community to get a better understanding what the community would like to see as it pertains to rezoning. Everyone was asked to participate.

Community Session:

John Williams – Requested a letter of Support for Island Of Flatbush Diabetes Task Force. The project was extended to the Central Brooklyn Diabetes Taskforce partners with the Borough president where hundreds benefited from the programs.

He is in the process of launching a campaign and need the support of the Board.

Leonie Logan, Vice President of the 67th Precinct Community Council, on behalf of President Patricia Reddock – All were invited to the virtual general zoom meeting on April 21st at 7:00 p.m. Information in the chat

Ms. Keira Sutton-Agnew from Brownsville health action center reported, on May 11th, they will be hosting a mental health awareness event at the action center, located at 258 Bristol street from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 P.M. Event consist of meditation group movement, Individual Sessions, some handouts on medical health providers in the community, cleansing and a few other activities. All invited, information in the chat.

Ms. Kamara Jackson Executive Director of Elite Learners announced 2 spring festivals in partnership with Councilmember Louis, on May 24th,. Additionally, Healthy eating initiative, by way of the community pantry is held every Tuesday at 11:00 am. Fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs. More information in the chat.

Mr. Tyrone McDonald – Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn made the following announcements:

- Home repair grant program for disabled Brooklyn veterans. Up to \$20,000 that can be used to assist veterans to do repairs to their homes to make it more comfortable and accessible.
- Property Management program to assist landlords with the management of their property. Must live in the catchment District.

Ms. Diane Nelson, Executive Director - Hope Center Development Corporation – a community based organization located at E 409 East 95th Street with a weekly food pantry and soup kitchen serving over 74,000 clients over the last year.

Request for a letter of Support as the Church endeavor to renovate and utilize a building that formerly house the Gail Academy daycare center, to provide a larger space for the distribution of food supplies, in doing so, the community will be intentional about addressing the need of hunger in the district. The space is also wheelchair accessible.

Questions were asked as to why the presentation was not made, first to the Social Services committee in addition to program located next to a one family structure on a residential block.

The Chairperson said the request will be addressed during the Special Report section.

Rodney Pepe-Souvenir, Board of Elections – the former Assembly member Nick Perry is now honorable ambassador to Jamaica, for the United States, as a result, his seat is now vacant and in the process of preparing for a special election.

There are three location for early voting, voters could also visit the Board of Elections Website to determine their voting location.

Esther Debbie Lewis made the following announcement:

- Working with the Mayor’s office of Immigrant Affairs and the civic engagement commission on a series of Civic One-on-One courses. Courses will be held at the Evangelical Crusade Fishers of Men on April 30th.
- Translation services will be available
- Mother’s Day “Sip and Pamper” event with Elite learners. Stay tuned for more information

Legislative Session

Sabrina Dieujuste – Councilmember Louis’s office made the following announcements:

- Two Spring Festivals planned for Saturday at Paerdegat Park and Amersfoort Park. Will include festivities, goodies and a bunny.
- COVID pop-ups at various locations, call the Councilmember’s office.
- Multicultural projects planned for April, contact the office or the community board for more information.

Ms. Yvette Toussaint Representing Assemblymember Weinstein’s office announced the office has two scheduled shredding events and she will email all information to the Board’s office.

- May 3rd, senior half-fare van will be at the office. Seniors are encouraged to visit with an ID to get a temporary card and the original will be sent in the mail.

Giovanni Piquant – Council Member Rita Joseph made the following announcement:

- Pop-up event with City Agencies that provides resources to the community. Residents and Businesses will have an opportunity to sign up for services.
- “Youth Talk” – Scheduled to be held at Boys and Girls club. Youths will be allowed to voice their concerns about public safety education and all related matters.

The Councilmember’s office is open Monday – Friday. Residents were encouraged to call the office with any issue they may have.

Ezra Pean – Councilmember Darlene Mealy’s office announced:

- Monthly Advisory Board meeting – Residents encouraged to attend and share their community concerns
- The office remains physically closed, however, the Staff can be reached by via email or telephone, all contact information will be posted in the chat. The Staff will return to the office on April 25th.
- The office distributes food, mask and other supplies at ---- Avenue and will be there while supplies last.

Residents may contact the office with any questions and/or concerns.

Assembly Member Brian Cunningham reported:

- He was recently elected to the Assembly and was successful in getting to Albany and passing a late budget.
- Staff member Naomi will bring everyone up to date on the office hours including Saturdays and Sundays. The office is located at 330 Empire Boulevard and has the same telephone number as the former predecessor. There may be a shift in the office location in July.

Ms. Portia Edwards – Senator Zellnor Myrie reported the Senator is in the District this week and he has been very busy. She also made the following announcement:

- A “Know Your Public Utility” session was held. The cost of Public Utility went up at the beginning of the year. The session focus on how to protect your right as a consumer. Anyone experiencing a surge in their bill make a complaint to the Public Service Commission – 800-342-3377. Residents are encouraged to register their complaint so the laws in place can be changed.
- There are a few laws in the City Council under consideration that the Senator supports.
- The office has a community litter pick-up. The office would like to collaborate with CB17 for the next initiative.

The office continues to give-away test kits, anyone interested, stop by the office Monday through Thursday between 10:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. multiple kits are also available. On Fridays, the office is closed to constituents. The office number is 718-284-4700.

Presentation – David Mandel, Community Liaison, Public Art NYC Department of Cultural Affairs.

Mr. Mandel informed the everyone, he will be presenting on the upcoming public artwork commission that will be coming to CB17’s District as part of the Shirley Chisholm Tourism recreational center capital project. Also, on hand were representatives from the Department of Design and Construction attending on behalf of the Parks Department. They were there to answer questions regarding the larger project.

The community could be involved in the public artwork aspect of the center. The law states 1% of capital funds for newly constructed or reconstructed city building must be allocated for works of art. This helps to employ artist as part of the construction process in New York City, which ensures art is distributed amongst our neighborhoods.

Two panelist were established to review the work of artist. Panelist are representatives from the various agencies and cultural affairs with expert knowledge in public arts in communities where projects are located.

Anyone interested in participating on the panel could contact the community board.

Special Report – Board Members

Ms. Janice Reid followed up on the two items brought before the Board:

- Letter of Support for Hope Center.

Ms. Janice Reid made the following motion: “I would like to put a motion to the floor that a letter of Support be granted to Hope Center Development Corp. to submit the grant application to renovate the church owned building located at 410 East 95th Street. The motion was second by Ms. Mary Bell-Downes.

There was a question regarding residents on the block being notified of the proposed new location.

With the absence of Ms. Nelson at the meeting and unable to answer the question, the members voted - 3 - Yes and 16- Abstentions.

The Chairperson said the motion failed to past.

Ms. JL James asked for the BP’s office to be contacted. She said the motion was passed. Abstentions do not count.

- **Letter of Support** – New Creation Community Health Empowerment Inc. (NCCHE)

Ms. Janice Reid made the following motion: I would like to make a motion to grant a letter of support to New Creation Community Health Empowerment Inc. to conduct the National Diabetes prevention workshop sites within the community.” The motion was second by Ms. Mary Bell-Downes.

Vote -19 Yes

Unfinished Business -

Mr. Rodrick Daley announced A Child Sexual abuse panel being held on 369 New Lots Avenue. All information will be placed in the chat.

Mr. Daley said he had requested an emergency meeting to discuss the OMB item regarding the District Manager.

Ms. James said she highly recommend the Board reach out to the Precinct and extend an apology for them having to leave, due to the number of items on the agenda.

She also informed the Board she will be filing an Article 78 against the Board, in particular the Chair. She said she submitted a FOIL request and she has not received the information. She said if not received within the next five days, she will be filing an Article 78 Proceeding against the Board.

Adjournment

At 11:01 the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Carol Reneau and seconded by Mr. Jorge Tait.