

**COMMUNITY BOARD 17
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 13TH, 2022**

Attendance

J Lewis
Audrey Henderson
James Richmond
Allyson Martinez
Gabriel Herrera
Mechelle Brunson
Dion Quamina

Adele Bennett
Mark Benschop
Sulu
Kamara Swaby
Hazel Martinez
Derrick G. Arjune

The meeting of the Transportation Committee was called to order by the Chairperson, Mr. Dion Quamina. Mr. Quamina asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Chairperson's Report

- Car Share program was presented at the General Board meeting.
- Met with representatives of DOT and elected officials, and will keep the committee up to date

Presentation – Street Co-naming – Utica Avenue from Eastern Parkway to Avenue H – “Guyana Avenue”

Mr. Quamina said 20 pages of signatures from residents and businesses on the strip and eight letters of support from the elected officials was submitted.

Mr. Derrick G. Arjune greeted the Chairperson of the Transportation Committee and the guest. He sated the following:

- The realization of the goal would be a celebration for the Guyanese community achievement and attachment to the wonderful borough.
- The life and times of Shirley Chisholm embodies this affinity, her father was a Guyanese.
- She was the 1st black woman to be elected to the United States Congress representing the 11th congressional district
- 1st Black women to serve in the House rules committee
- 1st black to see the presidential nomination in a national election
- She became the courageous and tireless voice for women and minorities, and the poor introducing over 50 bills.
- There's also Wesley McDonald Holder, an outstanding political activist
- He gained the name of “The Dean of Broken Politics”
- Other outstanding Guyanese in the political arena Senator Roxanne Persaud and Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman
- Other outstanding Guyanese in educational institution in and around Central Brooklyn, produced fine students and responsible citizens, thereby continuing the tradition of service.

Mr. James Richmond also emphasized Guyanese contribution to the social and religious fabric of Brooklyn since the early twenties and thirties.

Evident in the churches and numerous homes they have established and purchased contributed to a strengthening of the community. There are several Block Associations and service Organizations such as the Lions Clubs populated by Guyanese. Houses of worships, God's Battalion of Prayer, Restoration Temple Assemblies of God, Full Gospel Assembly, St. Paul's, all have a large and vibrant and vital Guyanese contingent in the congregation.

Many Guyanese and their descendants are active in the social, religious and political affairs, also, as it headquarters of CARICOM which foster unity prosperity amongst the members, state of the Caribbean region similarly. Guyana has also made its way into the rich cultural scenario of the community at large where several talented singers both local and international acclaimed, like Deborah Cox, Rhianna whose grandmother and mother are of Guyanese birth and several actors and actresses have gain success on the world stage , Derek Luke Ponder and Leticia Wright of the black Panther. Guyanese are reporters, dentist, doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, providing much needed skills in the central Brooklyn area.

Mr. Mark Benschop said the Guyanese business community has made a positive impact on the community, they have contributed tremendously in the area of job creations and other areas as mentioned by the prior Committee team members.

Comments

Ms. Allyson Martinez said she's not a committee members and cannot vote, however, she supports and appreciate the expansion of the origin stories being told in the community and the places that are recognized. She said it would be great to see more opportunities for this to move forward with the Guyana Avenue, but also to work to see what other islands can also celebrate the history of the people, to build more opportunities for support. There has been other countries co-naming so there needs to be an expansion for other groups.

Mr. Rodrick F. Daley, Chairperson of the Board said East Flatbush Is known as the Caribbean Mecca of New York City, all cultures are found in the City and has been recognized. He said he would like to see more, He also made mentioned of Bob Marley Boulevard. He said he would like to see more signage that reminds people of their Caribbean heritage.

There were questions regarding the various proposed sections and the City Council areas.

Ms. Fraser said the various City Council members office was contacted and the request was sent to CB 9. 17 and 18.

Community Forum

Mr. Quamina said due to the many complaints reported during meetings, it's time to get feedback from the community and a sense of what the Transportation issues are. Therefore, he would like to schedule a Forum and invite the elected officials, DOT and MTA. He asked members for their input.

Members suggested, the agency address double parking issue, especially traffic around the Precinct house, Bike lanes, have some of the representatives talk about programs available for seniors, also electric charging

stations in the district, the issues with the subways, the car-share program, etc. A suggestion was made to include companies that do smart parking apps, since parking is one of the biggest issue in the community

Mr. Gabriel Herrera said it might be a good idea to agree on the specific issues and get a consensus on what the Committee wants to achieve, since all issues cannot be addressed at one forum. He said the committee can look for the things where one intervention can solve multiple problems, e.g, double parking and trucking. Those are both an enforcement problem, therefore, that can be pursued.

Ms. Fraser suggested compiling a list of all the issues and forward to the office. She said the agency reps need to attend the Forum, prepared to answer most of the complaints as opposed to waiting until the Forum to share all of the complaints.

There were questions regarding location , time and date, the consensus was the end of January or beginning of February.

Mr. Quamina said he will work on reaching out to the various agencies. A decision was made to have the Forum on Tuesday, January 31st, 2023, from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.. The members were asked to submit any complaints they may have and proposed location for the Forum. It was also noted, the agency representatives must be in a decision making position.

New Business

Jay Sorid spoke of the proposed Kingsbrook project and the effects it could have on parking.

Ms. Hazel Martinez said several requests were made regarding truck signage, a number of heavy tractor trailer traffic on residential blocks. She said, recently, there was a watermain broke, walls on residential homes are cracking due to the increased tractor trailer traffic on residential streets. Also, on Farragut road corridor is a constant. There has been no enforcement from DOT or the 67 precinct.

Questions were asked about the Car-share program

Mr. Quamina said they are rental cars that can be used from an app or phone. They are seeking to take a number of parking spots in the district. The agency said they did their research in CB17, Manhattan and the Bronx. The agency said they wanted to focus on clean energy consumption. The proposed locations are scattered around the community.

Old Business

The Bike expansion network is being revisited. It was presented approximately one year ago, and because of the feedback from the community the program was halted. During the meeting, they proposed new lanes that are standard bike lanes and shared bike lanes.

Members expressed their concerns regarding the bike lane installation, it needs to be more of a balance approach and more thoughtful. Some streets are narrow. Members also expressed, DOT need to visit the community, walk the streets and talk to residents and listen to the people to get a better understanding of the community.

Mr. Quamina said during a meeting, the Chairperson of the Board and Councilmember Louis voiced their concerns regarding certain areas that did not fit the community, such as Nostrand and Utica Avenues.

Shirley Chisholm Recreational Center

There were conversation regarding DDC presentation at the General Community Board meeting. Residents asked for the public to be allowed to ask questions. Residents who participated in the feasibility studies, wanted to ensure some of the amenities asked for during the study are included in the plan. Those in attendance voiced concerns regarding notification to the public especially when matters of such importance to the community are on agenda.

Adjournment

Mr. Quamina thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms Sue Sula made a motion to adjourn and Gabriel Herrera second.