

Brooklyn Community Board 17
4112 Farragut Road, Brooklyn NY 11210
Public Hearing and General Board Meeting
May 16th, 2024
SUNY DOWNSTATE AUDITORIUM
395 LENOX ROAD, BROOKLYN NY 11203

***Audio issues in the beginning of the meeting, could not clearly hear the full Chairperson's report.**

Call to Order: This meeting of the Public Hearing and General Board was called to order by Chair Rodrick Daley.

Chairperson's Report:

- Basketball on Wednesday's and Sundays with Sesame Flyers for the youth. Tournament at the end of the summer.
- Met with the new 67th Precinct Deputy Inspector, could not attend tonight's meeting but she will be here in June.
- Last month there was a vote on whether or not you need to be a resident of the community to run for an office. An email was sent to the senior legal counsel and responded that the amendment failed because there were only 12 votes in favor, 7 against and 5 abstentions and we needed 13 in favor for it to pass.
- Some issues with the budget, the goal was made in the March special meeting, but it was a bit late in terms of funding for OMB. Moving forward all chairs should make sure that they begin the process of figuring what they need for a budgetary concern.
- Again, I'm asking for community supports for events that are happening.
- Parks and Beautification has an event on June 21st at Paerdegat Park, please come out and support.
- Juneteenth is a federal holiday, and it falls on the third Wednesday, so our general board meeting has been moved to June 18th.
- June 6th and 7th there will be no school.
- On the personnel change, Chair Graham and I had a meeting with the union and borough hall last week regarding our staff. Member Ms. Lyons.
- Please when you get a chance offer condolences to Chair Reid for the loss of her stepson.

District Manager's Report:

- Welcome to all our newly appointed members.
- Thank you for allowing my absence at last month's meeting due to a personal matter. I would like to say on record that out of the 20+ years I have been serving the board of this community, last month was the fourth time I have ever been absent.
- Upgrade our technology and other platforms that will allow the community to interact with the board.

- We are having some issues with our funding due to the lateness of the submission.
- Today I will send an emergency letter out to the comptroller's office because I was notified by the office of management and budget that the funding will not be available until after the 15th of June and after the 15th of June would not be able to submit any contracts on behalf of this board.
- We lost the space for the office, so we have to start that process again.
- We have 69 applications that need to be reviewed.
- Working on getting rid of the abandoned trailers and vehicles and there have been several cleanup operations.
- There also has been issues with the yellow buses, please inform us to add to the list.

Committee Reports:

***Audio Issues throughout the reports.**

Budget: Daniel McCabe:

- Focusing on ideas for the Capital Budget and Funds
- Changing in the neighborhood where the community wants to go with the future and all that needs to be updated. So, anyone who's on various committees who wants to be part of the committees. That's where a lot of that conversation is.
- Submit forms by early October

Commerce: June Persaud

- Could not hear chair due to audio issues in the meeting.

Youth and Education: Gail Grandison:

- May 18th is our spelling bee at IS 285, more info will be sent out to the board.
- Essay writing competition will be in June.
- Youth Happening is Thursday August 4th.
- Will be having their awards so if you have a child that is in school ask the principal to send out nominations and the community board will ensure that school gets awarded.

***Could not hear meeting due to online members discussing that they also cannot hear the meeting and audio issues during the meeting.**

Communications: Tamara Thomas:

- First of all, just want to say welcome to the new members. It's great to have more hands-on deck. We can use all the help we can get from all of you. So please sign up for committee.
- We finally after 2 years have gotten social media. We've got our accounts back online so if you are a, a chair or committee, please reach out to the assistant district manager for access so that you can post about your events or what's happening in our community.
- I am still very much looking for volunteers to help me put together a community newsletter.

Zoning: Julia James:

- I'm very delighted to inform you that on June 27 we will be holding a town hall meeting. So please put it on your calendar so that you can attend bring your friends, bring your neighbors. So, we can discuss issues face in our community.
- We need to be advised that when you have abstained from a vote it essentially counts as a no, because in order for a resolution to pass it has to be a majority of votes cast.
- I would like to invite on May 30th to the rezoning committee is meeting with that will be discussing any questions about housing.

First Vice Chair: Asshur Cunningham:

- We have been thinking about doing an event and end of year event for the board members, so I just wanted to inform you of the dates that is June 25th, so please write that down in your calendars.
- Save the date seven thirty to ten pm. This will be the end of year mixer, and just an event where we will all get together to do a year and review and also to mix and meet each other.

Agency Report:**Councilmember Banks:**

- In regard to the City of Yes whatever the position is taken that is in the right direction to benefit our communities. And I've made a commitment to all of our movements that what's the direction the board direction, the reality is that we have to make sure that we protect the characters about of our district.
- Engage in community involvement and decision-making processes regarding the city plan
- Send a message to the mayor and city council about community desires regarding the city plan because it seems that all the communities I represent do not agree with this plan.

67th Precinct – Lieutenant:

- We are down 7% in rapes and 17% in grand larcenies.
- Perpetrators are targeting vehicles breaking in windows and stealing from them.
- The commercial burglaries are targeting the same car dealerships, so breaking in them and stealing money.
- Don't forget if you have a commercial establishment or commercial location, secure the register always keep it closed and secure the roof and windows and doors. Have an alarm system
- Big rise in package theft, try to use amazon lockers.
- Year to date there has been 67 firearms recovered.
- There have been 167 vehicles towed and last week we recovered more vehicles.
- Plenty of events, there will be a game night that's going to be from every Sunday at 2 to 6 pm for the youths.

Brooklyn Public Library Branches: Tanya Evans

- last month Mayor Adam's executive budget, released indicating almost 6 Million dollars in library funds, including 16.5 that would impact funding for the public library, which would mean reduction of days that we are open and many of the branches will be reduced from 6 to 5 days.
- Shared some programs that the library is doing, all info is on the BPL website.

Brooklyn Outreach for the New York City: Venus Bantledry

- We are a city agency that independently investigates meetings and administrative meeting, prosecute allegations of police misconduct.
- Historically we have been severely understaffed, which had the outcome of that some of our jurisdictions have been relinquished back to the NYPD. We asked the city council for 15 Million additional funding to help fulfill all the hiring agencies.
- And as well, as we can ensure that we can investigate both cases efficiently, we appreciate the council for calling on the administration to increase our funding. And lastly, I outreach. So, if any schools community centers, any places that people that need this information about this please reach out to me, we do know your advice workshops that go over basic encounters. My number is 917-742-4098 .

Community Session:

Project Echo:

- We are anti-gun violence organization dedicated to effective change in, in our neighborhood in this neighborhood, and also reducing gun violence in our area.
- Community based violence prevention, we provide legal support and job training, education and resources recruiting services and mentors.
- Our office is located at 887 Utica Avenue between Church and Snyder.

Brooklyn Level Up: Allyson Martinez:

- We are a community development corporation, supporting small businesses and working on environmental justice issues.
- We are also a partner to the New York City engagement commissions people's wedding project this year the focus is on their part. You can actually go in the back and vote on what you'd like to see implemented in Brooklyn.
- The ultimate abundance for light healthy habits with workout session, which will be held at the Rugby library for the 5 Saturdays occurring in June.
- There's a paid internship, so young people that are making it exclusively in economy jobs and learn about the community.
- We have a survey where we're asking for the development division. What is important for community? What buildings are the types of sites are available.
- Flatbush Burial Ground, this June from June 22nd, there is a volunteer opportunity where people are committed to be part of making history by taking part in the ground.

5Boroughs: Ron:

- For the past 3 months, I have been going through the community boards in this city and I've been highlighting local business and if you know of a small business in your neighborhood or somewhere else, anywhere, in the 5 boroughs, that is that's been there a while and at the lease is being renewed or the landlord is trying to rent hike the rent and they have to move. I would like you to please let me know. I'm forming a coalition city wide for real brand protections for small businesses. Email is 5borough@gmail.com

Little Haiti Nonprofit Organization: *Audio was unclear

- Will share info with the board.
- We will also have some entertainment, but this event would just be food coffee, water and cleanliness between 2nd we have a workshop which is a partnership with the Brooklyn Chamber of commerce.
- The last big thing we're doing is waiting to be part of the 31st. We'll be celebrating the Brooklyn graduates from CUNY schools that either live in the little Haiti BK area, or of Haitian descent and want to celebrate with them.

Outreach coordinator for East Flatbush Village Inc:

- We are a new community-based organization from the services that we do provide are on re-entry program, the parent-teacher check in for mental health that is going to be a zoom on Friday night, game night on Saturday, finance literacy, food pantry on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.

Vanessa Quashie:

- I came out this evening to represent the online meeting that you see at the on screen. I came out because we couldn't hear what was going on. So, if we can do a little bit better pay attention to what's going on in the chat as on-board members, it would be a pleasure for that to have that opportunity to hear what's going on and that is something that's being problem.

MOTIONS:

- **Rodrick Daley makes a motion to allow the city council member Chris Banks to speak before agency report.**
Member seconded the motion.
MOTION CARRIES.
- Approval of February & April 2024 Minutes.
Rodrick Daley makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes for February & April 2024 minutes.
Member seconded the motion.
MOTION CARRIES.

- **Rodrick Daley makes a vote to include parking mandate in the presentation to the developers.**
Member seconded the motion.
YES: ALL but one NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 1
MOTION CARRIES.

Presentations

City of Yes Housing Opportunity:

Community concerns about City of Yes:

- Main concerns include parking, having smaller apartments and shared apartments.
- All comments and community input to be sent to the chairs by July.
- The areas that are zoned 1 through 5 are in the bullseye for this city of yes. These are some of the most beautiful neighborhoods in the city, Staten Island, parts of Brooklyn and parts of Queens and it would deprive these neighborhoods and hurt their property values.
- **Kwame Afreh:** We invited them to this meeting today to have the initial presentation. We will have a follow up conversation on our June 6 Land Use Meeting and then a final meeting at the June general board meeting.
- **Presenter:** The city planning commission has not yet voted on the proposal. We will do so at a public hearing in July, we want to get all of your comments in over the next few months before the city planning commission officially folks.

Legislative Sessions:

Council Member Darlene Mealy

Dalton Robinson Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman's Office

Paurcha Edwards: District Director for State Senator Murray's Office

Bianca Stepheson: Community Board Coordinator for Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynosa

Sydney Renwick from AM Cunningham's Office

Karen Davis from Senator Persaud's office

Adjournment:

Motion made to adjourn by Monzurat Oni

Seconded by board member.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:38pm.m

ROLL CALL:

***Unsure of everyone who was present, but quorum was established.**

Present:

Absent:

Rodrick Daley

Asshur Cunningham

June Persaud

Sherif Fraser

Tamara Thomas
Kwame Afreh
Tiffany Anderson
Julia James
Kendrick Westscott
Brandon Alfonso
Berlotte Antoine
Celia Berlin
Theresa Brereton
Lewis Brown
Hermina Daniels
Kayla Draghine
Natasha Duncan
Natalie Ferguson
Lenna Fenidson
Alison French Kenton
Charles Galbreath
Rose Grahman
Michael Hill
Gail Grandison
Trisha Louison
Ozni Lewis
Brandon Mathurin
Edith Mark
Najla Austin
Khadijat Oluwo
Monzurat Oni
Rodney Pepe-Souvenir
Janice Reid
Daniel McCabe
Dr. Carol Reneau
Simone Sylvestor
Menachem Sanowitz
Antoinette Smart
Jorge Tate
Aaron Roth
Marguerite Vigliante
Jessica Welch
Ivor Wood