

The City of New York
Brooklyn Community Board 15



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Monthly Board Meeting – Minutes

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Tuesday March 26, 2024, 7:00pm

Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY
11235, Faculty Dining Room U112

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm, by Chairperson Theresa Scavo. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chair Scavo, asked that everyone remain standing for a moment of silence for World Peace.

PUBLIC HEARING / PUBLIC SESSION:

ZONING COMMITTEE:

Chairperson Scavo introduced Mr. Ronnie Tawil, Chair of the Zoning Committee, who explained the procedures for this part of the meeting. The representative for 1933 East 23rd Street was called up to present.

BSA-2024-05-BZ 1933 East 23rd Street

This Application is filed pursuant to Section 73-622 of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York, as amended, to request a special permit to allow the enlargement of an existing single family residence located in a residential (R3-2) zoning district.

The Board received 1 letter of support.

A motion was made to approve by Morris Dweck and seconded by Robert Gevertzman.

A Committee Vote was taken, 9 yes, 0 no and 0 abstention. The motion passed the committee. A full board vote would take place in the Executive Session.

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Presentation from SBH Community Network, Inc (Sephardic Bikur Holim): on a grant they received to build capacity for their Counseling Center to evolve into a Certified Community Behavioral Clinic (CCBHC) at 425 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11223. In order to fully implement this program, they are required to obtain certification from the NY State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to gain outpatient clinic status. This presentation is for informational purposes.

Janet Abed, Chief Operating Officer, of SBH and Elise Slobodin, Director of Mental Health Operations presented. They stated they have a successful 50 year history of serving the community. They have been operating a Mental Health Clinic since 2007. The SBH Counseling Center had been growing over the last several years, but over the last two years, the growth has been astronomical, reflecting the nationwide mental health crisis. The Counseling Center applied for and was awarded a highly competitive Federal grant from SAMHSA to build capacity for their Counseling Center to evolve into a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). As a CCBHC, they are required to provide a full range of behavioral health services and among those core services they are required to address the needs of those dealing with alcohol and other substance use disorders (SUD). In order to fully implement this program, they are required to obtain certification from NY State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to gain outpatient clinic status. They plan to treat those who are already enrolled in their care and accept other referrals as required by regulation. They do not intend to do widespread outreach outside their existing program and they recognize the excellent work already being done in the Syrian Jewish Community by organizations such as SAFE and in no way see this program as competition. Their foremost initiative is addressing alcohol and other drug use by those already in their care.

Questions from the floor asked how patients arrive at the clinic and it was explained they are accessible by nearby train and bus routes, and no special accommodation need to be made. The types of substance abuse they are seeing, which is predominantly alcohol and marijuana abuse. A senior mentioned what a wonderful senior program they run and she enjoys participating.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Chair Scavo opened the floor and invited Elected Officials, their representatives, agency representatives and community members to speak:

Martin Gangursky shared his concerns about the MTA. He recently attended the Congestion Pricing Town Hall and is in support for implementing

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Congestion Pricing, but only if the MTA is held accountable as to where every penny they receive from it goes. He feels MTA is mismanaging their finances and it can't be solely blamed on fair evasion, which he stated also needs to be addressed. He is upset that train lines are constantly being suspended for maintenance. He feels they need to be more accountable to their ridership.

Stanley Kaplan spoke about the influx of squatters and the detrimental impact on homeowners, referencing the recent murder that was perpetrated by squatters in Manhattan. He wants to know why Elected Officials are not doing more to protect homeowner's rights and creating laws to address this issue. He also spoke about the need for dredging in Sheepshead Bay. He stated that if Sheepshead Bay is to ever have a commuter ferry service the ferries would be unable to keep a schedule and service the area on a consistent basis because the waters are unnavigable unless it's high tide.

Nefanel Nemet, President of Student Government of Kingsborough Community College, stated the students would like to see the Kingsborough Beach reopened. Currently, if they venture near the water, they are ushered away by campus security guards. He would like to get volunteers together to clean the beach to open it back up for the students. It was explained to Nefanel that the Community would love nothing more than to reopen the beach, however, it has been closed for many years and needs professionals with machinery to churn the sand and do the work that is necessary to rehab the beach. There is also liability at stake since its city property. It also requires the hiring of lifeguards. Kingsborough does not have the funding at this juncture and the Community Board was quoted by the Administration of Kingsborough that it would require \$70,000 to do the maintenance work alone to rehabilitate the beach. It was suggested that he petition the local Electeds to get discretionary funding for this purpose.

Chair Scavo acknowledged Chris Greif from the Transit Rider's Council.

Solomiya Momot representing Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's Office stated the Senator is back in Albany and very busy as the Chair of both the Homeland Security Committee and Veterans Affairs Committee. As the wife of a Veteran, the Senator is working on legislation to assure Veterans receive the benefits they are entitled to and is working for their rights academically within CUNY and SUNY school systems. They have also been receiving complaints on EBT scams, if you are a victim or know someone who is a victim in our community, please reach out to their office for assistance. We are located at 1906 Mermaid Avenue and our phone number is 718 484-3216. We are open business hours Monday through Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm. Lastly, the Senator is also sponsoring a No Cost Mammography Screening, Saturday,

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April 20, 2024, from 9:00am-4:30pm at 3679 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11229 for women ages 40-79. You must schedule an appointment in advance at 718 484-3216. She left flyers on the front table for those who are interested.

Nancy Lulu, representing Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez sent greetings from the DA. She stated Public Safety is a shared responsibility. If you need assistance, perhaps with the squatter concerns that were mentioned earlier please inquire with their office who may be of some help with the issue. She provided the DA's hotline number for any concerns, 718 250-2340. She encouraged everyone to visit the DA's website at BrooklynDA.org to learn more about the initiatives and the work his office is doing and follow them on Facebook and Social Media platforms for updates.

Troy Olson, from Council Member Inna Vernikov's office wished everyone a Happy Purim and Easter on behalf of the Council Member. He stated they are located at 1711 Gravesend Neck Road, Brooklyn, NY 11229. Phone number 718 368-9176. On Wednesdays the Council Member has a Social Worker on hand to help constituents with any issues they may be experiencing. She is also working on Veterans issues and legal claims. The Council Member is seeking to introduce legislation to get an actual financial accounting of what the migrant crisis is costing New York each day. She is working on towing legislation for those who have been towed to be able to locate their vehicles in a more efficient manner. She also wants accountability for City Fleet vehicles utilizing ion batteries to be properly labeled so those responding to an issue, such as a first responder, clearly know that the battery is present.

Irena Khlenver, Deputy Director of Constituent Services, for Councilmember Mercedes Narcisse, spoke about the many services and events the Councilmember is sponsoring in her office and throughout the community. She provided a booklet of flyers on the front table and welcomed all to partake. She reiterated that Constituent Services is a priority to Councilmember Narcisse. Their office is available to assist during business hours 9:00am-5:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Chair Scavo asked if anyone else would like to speak? With no one coming forward she moved on to Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A Roll Call Attendance was taken by Secretary Allen Popper, with a Quorum present, a motion to adopt the February 27, 2024, minutes was made by Dr. Alan Ditchek and seconded by Debra Greif.

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chair Scavo read the Liquor and Cannabis licenses the Board received:

Liquor Licenses for March 2024:

Renewal Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

The Draft Barn on X, Inc.
317 Avenue X
Brooklyn, NY 11223

James J Buckley Restaurant Corp
Dbu Buckley's Restaurant & Caterers
2926 Avenue S
Brooklyn, NY 11229

G-13 Project Inc.
Tsob-Tsobe!
2817 Coney Island Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Temporary Retail Permit, Wine Beer & Cider

Tacos El Jaguar LLC
158 Avenue U
Brooklyn, NY 11223

New Application and Temporary Retail Permit for Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

DRG HBNY INC
Papi's Cantina
2129 Knapp Street
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Renewal Beer & Cider

Angel Café Restaurant Café & Lounge
A-cherry Restaurant Café & Lounge
2425 Coney Island Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11223

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Cannabis Licenses for March 2024:

Retail Dispensary

Simone Wint
241 Avenue X
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Chair Scavo stated if you know of any issues with any of these establishments, please let the office know so that we can reach out to the State Liquor Authority.

Education Committee:

Dr. Alan Ditchek stated the Education and Environmental Committees met on Webex Monday March 18, 2024, at 6:00pm at the request of Professor Thomas Greene who runs a program out of Kingsborough Community College, teaching elementary age children about Global Warming and Ecology through lab work. They learn to take water samples and read pH levels. They study the impact this has on our environment. Professor Greene wanted the Community Board to solicit our local Elected Officials on his behalf to encourage the Department of Education to have schools in the district take field trips to his program to study science. Professor Greene was told by Community Board 15 Members that he would have to be the one to directly promote his program to both the Department of Education and the local Electeds if he was seeking support for this work.

Public Safety Report:

Public Safety Chairperson, Frances Chick Pallotta, prepared a report for Chairperson Theresa Scavo to present. She stated that the Public Safety Committee meeting was conducted via Webex on Tuesday, March 13, 2024, at 5:30pm. Representing the 61st Police Precinct was its Commanding Officer, Captain Joseph Antonio. In attendance from the 61st's Community Affairs office was Detective Lauren Au and Police Officer Colleen Abbate. Public Safety Committee members were forwarded the link to the 61's CompStat Report (Volume 31, Number 10), covering the week of March 4 through March 10th, 2024. Based on the 7 major crime categories, a year to date, comparison with 2023, overall, the 61st was down 6.13%. We have had no murders in 2024, compared to 1 murder in 2023; 3 rapes have been recorded thus far in 2024, compared to 2 rapes in 2023. We've had 41 robberies in 2024, compared to 34 robberies in 2023, that's up 20.6%. With respect to Felony Assaults, year-to-date, we've had 53 in 2024, compared to 40 Felony Assaults in 2023, that's up 32.5%. Burglaries we've had 29 so far in 2024, compared to 48 in 2023, that's down 39.6%. Grand Larceny, we're

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down 16.1% with 125 reported in 2024, compared to 149 in 2023. And the 7th major crime category, Grand Larceny Auto, the 61 Precinct is up 11.1%. In the category listed as “Hate Crimes”, we’ve had 6 in 2024 thus far compared to 1 in 2023.

Public Safety Members brought to the Captain’s attention a number of areas where there are parking violations that need to be addressed. And he said that he would. The Traffic Enforcement Division of the NYPD continues to assist the 61 with respect to parking enforcement.

Zoning Committee:

BSA-2024-05-BZ 1933 East 23rd Street

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A motion was made to approve by Debra Greif and seconded by Robert Gevertzman.

A Full Board Vote was taken, 33 yes, 0 no and 0 abstention for cause. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Debra Greif and seconded by Dr. Alan Ditchek. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

*This is not a verbatim account of the meeting but a synopsis of the main points. *