



The City of New York Brooklyn Community Board 15



ERIC ADAMS
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

BILL DE BLASIO
MAYOR

THERESA SCAVO
CHAIRPERSON

LAURA SINGER
DISTRICT MANAGER

Monthly Board Meeting - Minutes **February 25, 2020**

OFFICERS
RONALD TAWIL
FIRST VICE –CHAIRPERSON
RAISA CHERNINA
SECOND VICE-CHAIRPERSON
JACK ERDOS, ESQ
TREASURER
ALLEN POPPER, ESQ
SECRETARY

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm, by Chairperson Theresa Scavo. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairperson Scavo introduced the representatives from Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Eva Lynch, Assistant Director of Environmental Compliance Outreach (ECO), Andrew Sokolof Diaz, Environmental Compliance Outreach Unit Associate, and Robert Oliveri, Chief Community Liaison Coordinator who presented DEP's program on "Cutting the Grease". Their new campaign slogan is, "Trash it. Don't flush it." A map of the District was presented, highlighting the problem areas in dark green. DEP plans on going door to door to educate the public on proper grease disposal to avoid serious clogs or "fatbergs" in the sewer system. They are asking residents to please bag cooled down grease and dispose of it in their regular trash receptacles. Brochures and re-useable shopping bags were provided on the back table with more information about the program.

Questions from the floor asked: Where are these clogs occurring? DEP explained ultimately a residential clog can impact the main sewer lines. The questions of restaurant grease problems came up, DEP stated that they do have an inspection program that visits restaurants to make sure they have proper and working grease traps in their establishments. Complaints were brought up about storm drains being clogged by leaves and debris, especially at corner catch basins in the District. Lastly, concerns about the increase in new development came up, asking how are the sewer mains keeping up with the growing demands? DEP representatives spoke of several sewer projects going on in the District to upgrade old infrastructure pipes. New buildings will have to apply to DEP for approval on plans. Certain criteria must be met with water abatement and green initiatives installed. A Board Member countered that there are no real checks and balances going on, so new construction is not heeding to these guidelines.

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DEP Representative, Robert Oliveri, stated that if the Member provided an address to the Board Office on who was noncompliant, he would be happy to investigate the claim further. The DEP representatives ended their presentation by emphasizing that grease can be thrown in with regular trash for pick-up by sanitation and to not “flush it.”

PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairperson Scavo introduced the first registered speaker.

Mr. Stanley Kaplan spoke about the upcoming plastic shopping bag ban going into effect this Sunday March 1, 2020 making observational statements regarding bag quality. He brought with him different quality plastic shopping bags he had received from a variety of local stores pondering whether such a variety would now be made available for paper bags. Mr. Kaplan noticed that some stores offered better quality bags, allowing one good bag to do the job, while some markets used double bags because of the flimsiness of their product. It was a food for thought commentary.

Mr. Martin Gangursky spoke about the unfairness of the plastic bag tax being implemented in March and feels the community should fight to get it reversed. According to Mr. Gangursky, we have enough taxes and the bag tax is unnecessary. He spoke about issues with subway services shutting down and how he was happy he successfully advocated to keep the local R train service running.

Mr. Christopher Greif representing the New York City Transit Rider’s Council announced a new interim New York City Transit Authority President, Ms. Sarah Feinberg, who was second in command under former New York City Transit Authority President, Andy Byford. She will continue his legacy. Also mentioned, reduced-fare Metro-cards are still in effect, despite the launch of the “OMNY” Metro-card program. Lastly, he stated, “you can update your information online if need be, but updated photos still must be done in person”.

The Guest Speakers:

Ms. Leah Moses, representing Councilman Mark Treyger’s office stated he was sponsoring a celebration of Black History Month Event on February 26th, 2020 from 6:00pm-8:00pm at Liberation High School at 2865 W 19th Street at 6pm. Councilman Treyger’s is also co-sponsoring, in conjunction with State Senator Diane Savino, an event for Women’s History Month on March 5, from 6:00pm-8:00pm. The event will be held in the Gallery Room of MCU Park, 1904 Surf Avenue in Coney Island. It will celebrate local

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women and the important contributions they have made to the community. Lastly, she stated the Councilman co-wrote an article with Councilman Justin Brannan outlying the importance of storm resiliency.

Mrs. Mariyah Markh, representing Mayor DeBlasio's Office of Community Affairs, spoke about the new Small Business Initiative the Mayor's office just rolled out, allowing first time violations written against a business owner to be dropped and easily remedied. She also spoke about the upcoming Census and we should all be receiving a mailing about it shortly.

Ms. Nancy Lulu from District Attorney Eric Gonzalez' Office sent greetings from the Brooklyn DA. She again mentioned that anyone enduring a quality of life or public safety issue to call the Action Center at 718-250-2340 or the DA's website at www.brooklynda.org. Ms. Lulu also shared the Hate Crime Unit number 718-250-4949.

Ms. Reeves Eisen, representing Senator Andrew Gounardes' office spoke about the Senator's upcoming sponsored concerts, approximately five this summer with the popular Regina Opera included, dates will follow. They are being held in Marine Park. She also mentioned that Senator Gounardes will be hosting free tax preparation for the remainder of February and the entirety of March. You can make appointments by calling the office at 718-238-6044. Lastly, Ms. Eisen stated there will be an event for waste disposal on Saturday, April 25th, also held in Marine Park.

Ms. Liana Alaverdova, the Managing Librarian from the Kings Bay branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, began by speaking about the importance of participating in the upcoming 2020 Census. She said that the Brooklyn Public Libraries would be instituting certain measures, such as free guest passes, to boost Census participation. She also said that there will be many services offered at the main branch library, such as help with student loans, small business issues, and tax preparation. It was announced that the library won first prize in the Robotics competition that was held on February 22, 2020. Ms. Liana left a calendar of upcoming events hosted by the Brooklyn Public Library for both adults and children for those interested on the back table.

Chair Scavo recognized Doug Luback, Past President of the Gerritsen Beach Property Owners in the audience.

Ms. Julia Bartholoewski from the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), spoke of a current recruitment BAM is working on for a performance piece on Brooklyn called, "100% Brooklyn." They are looking for 25 more members of the Brooklyn Community, at large, to add to the 75 that have already committed. 100 people are needed to work on a mosaic piece about

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Brooklyn. There will be 10 rehearsals and a stipend of \$600 paid to each participant. Other examples of this performance art can be found online, you can google “Rimini Protokoll 100% City” to find other productions.

Mr. Michael Benjamin from State Senator Roxanne Persaud’s Office reiterated the importance of the Census and that it is a Federal offense to decline participation in the Census. He stated that Senator Persaud will be hosting several ongoing events and services, such as tax preparation, and more information can be obtained by calling the District Office at 718-649-7653. Mr. Benjamin also mentioned the importance of checking consumer product safety reports for product recalls. He left pamphlets on the back table on various issues that the Senator is working on.

Ms. Lisa Lashley, Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Farah Lewis started by saying the Councilwoman has recently instituted several pieces of legislation regarding issues of domestic violence. She also said, “if you haven’t already, you will be receiving a notice in the mail about real estate assessments. The Councilwoman’s office recently moved to its’ new location, 1434 Flatbush Avenue. You can seek assistance, if needed, with immigration and/or housing services. The office number is 718-629-2900.

Chair Scavo recognized Police Officer Tran in the audience.

Sam Chuprik from Congressman Hakeem Jeffries office spoke about internships available in government this summer if you know of any young people that would like to participate, they should reach out to the Congressman’s office. Before ending, Sam asked that the Board put their invitation requesting the Congressman’s attendance in writing, Chair Scavo said that a request would be sent.

Mr. Fred Ardolino, who owns the Atlantis docked in Sheepshead Bay, spoke of his concerns for the new proposed protected Bike Lanes on Emmons Avenue. He felt it will seriously hamper his business as well as all the businesses along Emmons Avenue. As a Vision Zero Initiative, the Community Board is not given input regarding this project. It was advised that he should reach out to his local elected officials with his concerns.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A Roll Call Attendance was taken by Secretary Allen Popper; with a Quorum present, Chair Scavo asked for a motion to adopt the Minutes of the General Board Meeting from January 28, 2020.

A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Pearl Siegelman and seconded by Howard Katz.

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

On behalf of Stephania Cleaton, Government Liaison for Kingsborough Community College, who had a conflict and was unable to attend the meeting, Chair Scavo was asked to please share this information which stated that on Monday, March 23, 2020 at New York City College of Technology in the New Academic Complex located at 285 Jay Street Brooklyn, New York 11201 at 4:30pm, there would be a City University of New York Board of Trustees borough hearing to receive testimony and statements from concerned individuals about university issues. In order to register to speak at the hearing:

1. Persons wishing to speak are asked to please notify the Office of the Secretary via email at hearings@cuny.edu prior to 4:30 P.M., Friday, March 20, 2020.
2. Speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. No substitution of speakers will be permitted. Written statements are recommended. These statements may be any length.

“LIQUOR LICENSES”

RENEWALS FOR LIQUOR, WINE, BEER AND CIDER LICENSE:

BBKM Associates LLC
Mirage Diner
717 Kings Highway
LSN: 1124683
EXP: 02/29/2020

Milinna's Homemade Food Inc.
Milinna's Homemade Food
813 Avenue U
LSN: 1149665
EXP: 04/30/2020

Goldmaker Inc.
Estelle
1824 Avenue U
LSN: 1103669
EXP: 03/31/2020

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G 13 Project Inc.
Tsob-Tsobe!
2817 Coney Island Avenue
LSN: 1280598
EXP: 04/30/2020

Chairperson Scavo encouraged everyone to reach out to the office with any complaints on problematic locations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Consumer Affairs:

Mr. Edmond Dweck, Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee reported that the Community Board received a renewal for the use of bumper car rides at the Land- O- Fun Amusement at 2955 Coney Island Avenue.

Mr. Dweck informed the Board that the business had all its' insurance and paperwork in order. It had been previously approved by the Board in 2014, as well as Councilman Deutsch. He was told by members of the community that it is a well-run establishment. It was reported that the Consumer Affairs Committee voted to approve the renewal application.

Mr. Dweck requested a Motion to Approve which was made by Debra Greif and seconded by Rabbi Burg. By a show of hands, the Board voted unanimously to approve the application.

Ms. Raisa Chernina, Chair of the Environmental Protection and Sanitation Committee, reported the Committee met on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. They spoke with the Brooklyn Solid Waste Advisory Board regarding organic waste. Greg Todd, Coordinator of the organics Committee and Rhonda Keyser, Member and Outreach Director with Cafeteria Culture were at the meeting and they addressed issues of not recycling enough organic materials in the Community. This could one day result in sanitation fees, in the future, due to unnecessary heavy carting of compostable waste, which is predominantly composed of water. Other Countries and some States are already charging monthly fees to dispose of waste.

Ms. Chernina stated the Committee met again on February 13th, 2020 to discuss the DDC sewer project occurring from Coney Island Avenue to Ocean Avenue, between Avenue S and Avenue W. There will be water shutdowns in these areas affecting businesses and homes. Notifications will go out to both residents and businesses. They are replacing very old water

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mains and pipes in the area. A map was provided on the front table as to the location effected.

Raisa also mentioned that her Foundation the “Be Proud Foundation” had its’ 19th Annual Goddess Grandmother event, which was documented by a French Television station, who will be broadcasting her event during the Paris Fashion Week.

Health Committee:

Chairperson Dr. Alan Ditchek discussed some facts and concerns about the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus, a respiratory disease that has been spreading, worldwide, since December 2019. He spoke about how the Coronavirus is a zoonotic virus, in that it jumped species from animals (in this case bats) to humans. He said that the primary health strategy for preventing the spread of this virus is: Containment. He also stated that universal health precautions, such as washing hands, covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough, and avoiding people who could potentially be ill would also help prevent the spread. Dr. Ditchek spoke about how, as a healthcare provider, his hospital Mount Sinai instituted the “3 I’s” with their physicians, which are; 1. Identify those with symptoms of the Coronavirus, 2. Isolate contaminated individuals, and 3. Inform the administration about any and all public health risks. Questions raised; how does one know they are affected? The doctor stated it must be confirmed by a test. Can the disease live on surfaces? Yes, it can, and the amount of time is unclear. Is there a cure? Right now, they are working on developing a cure, however this particular strain mutates very quickly and it’s hard to keep up with all the changes. He closed with this statement, “It’s not will the Coronavirus pandemic reach New York, it’s more of a matter of when?”

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Allen Popper and seconded by Pearl Siegelman at 8:26 P.M.