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The City of New York
Brooklyn Community Board 15



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Monthly Board Meeting - Minutes

October 25, 2022 -Webex Conference

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm, by Chairperson Theresa Scavo. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairperson Scavo introduced Tracy Gard representing the Jewish Board to discuss their application to become a new OASAS provider of an Article 32 outpatient Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment program at the Jewish Board's Brooklyn Midwood Hub, 1007 Quentin Road, Brooklyn NY 11223. Ms. Gard stated the Jewish Board has operated out of that location successfully for a quarter of a century. In 2020, they were designated a certified behavioral health center and are currently treating people who have identified as needing substance abuse help. Currently, they are unable to provide that specialized care at this location without this OASAS designation. She added that there are also hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal grant money available that they would qualify for as an OASAS provider.

Deborah Zicht, Senior Director of the Center reiterated how limited they currently are in helping those with substance abuse problems and having this application approved would allow them to receive the funding they would need to have group/peer counseling and offer the specialized support individuals need instead of having to refer them out. Currently they see about 400 patients and 14 % have stated they also suffer from substance abuse issues. They currently, do not offer specialized care and cannot meet those needs.

Councilman Kalman Yeger reminded the Board, that the Jewish Board came before this Board nearly a year ago with the same proposal and was denied

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because of the concerns about that location and has again failed to do their due diligence in hearing the community's concerns in possibly finding an alternate location. He stated there is a lot a federal funding out there and they are looking to get that money and haven't identified a true problem or customer base here but will bring the substance abusers with their problems to this location where thousands of children attend the various schools that are located in close proximity to this location. They had a chance over the year to locate a better location and so I ask the Board to create a resolution to, once again, reject this proposal.

Mr. Irwin Shamah the administrator for the Yeshiva which has several locations in close proximity to this proposed program explained that the children in his programs range from ages 3-18. They mostly travel locally on foot or bike to school with some classes for the older students going into the evenings. He stated his students don't carry cellphones should a need arise to call for help, putting them at a great disadvantage should this program attract substance abusers to the community. He doesn't want this program at this location for the safety of the children he oversees. He asked the Board to please deny this request.

Questions asked if the Jewish Board considered looking for another location. They said having been established 25 years at this location they felt this was the best place to run such a program. Another question asked if Mental Health and Substance Abuse are commonly treated together? The answer is that is become a common practice to do so and many providers are treating both. It was stated that it is not an absolute and therefore not necessary to treat both under one roof.

Chairperson asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to take a full board vote on this item with a motion to support. It was seconded by Ronnie Tawil.

Chairperson stated the Board received letters of opposition for State Senator Simcha Felder, Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz, Councilman Kalman Yeger, Yeshiva Ateret Torah and Agudath Israel of America.

The Full Board vote was taken, with 1 yes and 36 no and 1 abstention for cause. The motion did not pass. A letter of opposition from the Board for this application will be sent.

Chair Scavo introduced the next Public Hearing matter:

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National Grid: briefing on Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), where the state is in the process and what National Grid is doing to ensure a fossil free future.

Representing National Grid was Raziq Seabrook, Corporate Affairs Manager. Mr. Seabrook discussed the future of gas usage in NY. The Climate Action Council has come up with a very ambitious plan to decrease emissions and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

He added the 4 things to remember:

- 1) What we “National Grid” have to do to achieve this goal? Reminding all that this stems beyond the environment.
- 2) Feasibility - Can this be achieved?
- 3) Reliability – Will this prove to be a reliable energy source?
- 4) Affordability? What will this change actually cost the community? The people on fixed incomes? Low income? Non-Profits?

He pondered “ How do we do what we need to do”? NYC’s density makes it 20% difficult to electrify, but rural upstate NY may prove 100% difficult to electrify. To add to it they have been given 7 years to try and achieve this energy goal, which is extremely difficult. Especially with all the growth and zoning changes taking place throughout NYC. By 2030-2035, customers won’t be able to get new gas hook-ups and when your existing gas stove is no longer functioning you won’t be able to replace it with another gas model so choices will have to be made. He discussed concerns for heating pumps and reliability in being able to provide what the people need. National Grid isn’t a development company, they are a transmission firm. They need options, currently there is no alternate plan to meet efficiency goals. They need a hybrid approach to source the load. They are working to add New York State into a 7 States proposal with NYSEERDA. They need reliability. They need a realistic timeline and a diverse suite of solutions. He added affordability does drilldown to the customer. What will it cost? Will there be job loss?

Questions for the floor brought up the National Grid work taking place in Manhattan Beach, but that is a DDC project. Mr. Seabrook wasn’t familiar with that work but would look into further if need be. They asked about alternative energy sources which National Grid is looking into, like geothermal and hydrogen pilot programs. Someone asked would this all

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remain necessary if NY State elects a Republican Governor. If the Administration changes National Grid is still committed to seeking greener, cleaner means of transmitting electricity, so they will stay the course.

ZONING HEARING:

Chairperson Scavo introduced Mr. Ronnie Tawil, Chair of the Zoning Committee, who would run this part of the meeting:

Mr. Tawil explained the procedure for the Public Hearing and proceeded to call the representative.

BSA 2022-65-BZ / 2505 Coney Island Avenue

An application is filed pursuant to Section 73-19 of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York, as amended, to request a special permit to allow the construction of a religious school (yeshiva) partially located in a C8-1 zoning district.

The Board received 2 letters of support and 5 in opposition.

A question from the floor from the neighbor directly behind the proposed Yeshiva asked what the overall height of the completed school would be? The answer was 62 feet, but the rear portion closer to his home will only be 23 feet in height. He asked where the garbage will be stored? They stated in a designated area inside the school before it is put out for collection. Lastly, he asked about how they plan to use the lot lines and the answer was the school will use the entirety of its lot lines when its new building is completed. The attorney reminded everyone that the proposed zoning is "as of right", it is the "use" as a school they are seeking permission from the Board for tonight. Another neighbor was concerned about the traffic the school will cause and the attorney for the property stated they would address any issues that may arise and possibly create a designated bus drop off zone during school hours if needed.

Michael Jemal, President of the Yeshiva asked to speak and stated he heard the concerns expressed tonight and will heed them. The school once built will be a safe haven for his students who will no longer need to travel in and out of multiple buildings to attend classes because with this new construction it will now be under one roof. He assured the community having students under one roof is not only safer for their growing student population but will give the school administrators better control on their student's impact to the neighborhood.

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A motion was made to approve by Mitchell Shpelfogel and seconded by Al Smaldone.

A Committee Vote was taken, 11 yes, 0 no and 3 abstentions for cause. The motion passed the committee. A full board vote would take place in Executive Session.

BSA 2022-64-BZ / 2021 East 5th Street

Pursuant to ZR 73-622, this special permit seeks to allow the enlargement of a single-family home at the premises within an R2X zoning district contrary to ZR 23-141.

The Board received 0 letters of support and 0 in opposition.

Questions from the floor asked about the size of the rear yard, which was 20 feet. Any existing obstructions? A greenhouse which is in the plans.

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

A Committee Vote was taken, 13 yes, 1 no and 0 abstention. The motion passed the committee. A full board vote would take place in Executive Session.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

PUBLIC HEARING / PUBLIC SESSION:

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

Nancy Lulu sent greetings from DA Eric Gonzalez and announced their office has been very busy keeping our communities safe. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. To report an incident of Domestic Violence please call 718 250-3300, for Family Services call 718 250-5113 and if you have a question or concern, please call the DA's hotline at 718 250-2340. We are always looking to partner with our communities. For more information, press releases or events please visit our website at <http://www.brooklynnda.org>

Corina M. Lozada, Esq. – Council to the Brooklyn Borough President Deputy General Counsel sent greetings. She stated that in person constituent services

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will resume on Wednesdays 9:00am-3:00pm at Borough Hall. Borough President Reynoso in partnership with Council Member Lincoln Restler, and Public Advocate Jumaane Williams supported 3 bills in regard to congestion pricing. They want to see fewer trucks on our streets, less emissions and better air quality for our residents. The Borough President recently sponsored a Hispanic Heritage Event to launch Hispanic Heritage Month and in September hosted a Georgian Event at Borough Hall. A lot more happenings are on the horizon, so she encouraged all to sign up for the Borough President's newsletter or follow him on Facebook and Twitter.

Leah Moses representing Councilman Ari Kagan stated in the spirit of giving the Councilman gave \$4.5 million dollars to the NY Aquarium for Capital Needs and Jobs. In sponsorship with Councilmember Inna Vernikov, Council Member Kagan gave \$600,000 for security and service improvements for patients to Coney Island Hospital. He awarded \$2.5 million dollars to Gravesend Library located at 303 Avenue X and \$1.2 million to the firehouse located at 901 Avenue U for a state of the art generator for the firehouse and community in case of a Blackout. The Councilman who is the Chair of the Committee on Resiliency and Waterfronts is hosting a committee meeting for the 10th Anniversary of Super Storm Sandy and is inviting the Army Corps of Engineers to testify regarding the \$52 Billion needed for recovery and resiliency.

Ed Jaworski stated that Madison-Marine-Homcrest Civic Association's is once again sponsoring their Annual Thanksgiving Drive, look for donation boxes at local stores and they will have a table set up collecting donations on Saturday November 12, 10:00am-2:00pm at the Key Food located at Gerritsen Avenue and Avenue U. Checks can be made payable to Madison-Marine Civic Association and sent to Elizabeth Morrissey, President MMCHA, 2056 Stuart Street, Brooklyn, NY 11229. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 11/17/2022, at 7:00pm at the Carmine Carro Community Center, located at 3000 Fillmore Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11234.

Kim Robinson, Director of Community Engagement representing Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse announced the Councilwoman would be sponsoring a shredding event on Saturday 11/05/22 at Gerritsen Beach & Seba Avenue from 11am-2:00pm. She also shared that Councilmember Narcisse has sponsored legislation to ensure that all NYPD officers receive training to assist them in recognizing and responding to individuals with Autism. Councilmember Narcisse has recently visited Jacobi Hospital to listen firsthand and address concerns that our hospitals are facing. She shared

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her contact information in the chat: Our office can be reached at 718 241-9330 and my email is krobinson@council.nyc.gov

Stephannia Cleaton, Government Relations Manager for Kingsborough Community College, sent greetings from the President Dr. Claudia Schrader. On October 4th, Kingsborough Community College expanded and opened its first annex location at Chestnut Commons in East NY Brooklyn. The student union renovations on campus are completed. In January through funding from Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz they will be renovating their Holocaust Memorial Center. Tomorrow they are having a softball game at 4:00pm with faculty and staff in pink to support breast cancer awareness, all are welcome.

Lenny Markh, Chief of Staff to Assembly Member Steven Cymbrowitz, stated the Assemblyman is sponsoring flu shots tomorrow Wednesday October 26th from 4:00pm to 7:00pm in his office, please call for an appointment at 718 743-4078 or email cymbros@nyassembly.gov The Assemblyman's office is located at 1800 Sheepshead Bay Road and is operating by appointments only Monday through Friday 9:00am-5:00pm. The Assemblyman will also be hosting a free shredding event on Thursday October 27, 2022, from 4:00pm-7:00pm in the parking lot of the Ridgewood Savings Bank at East 17th Street and Avenue Y.

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 Chair Scavo, with a Quorum present, a motion to adopt the September 20, 2022, minutes was made Ed Chalom and seconded by Morris Missry.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

OCTOBER 25, 2022 / LIQUOR LICENSES

Renewal Wine, Beer, and Cider

E SUSHI II Inc.
2971 Ocean Avenue
Brooklyn NY 11235

City Ice Sports Inc.

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760 Oriental Blvd.
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Renewal Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Verussb Inc
DBA Terra Café
1716 Sheepshead Bay Road
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Dessert Palace Bose Inc.
DBA Emmons Palace
2265 Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Oriental Boulevard 111 Food Corp
DBA 111
111 Oriental Boulevard
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Rocca Café Lounge
2712 Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Cipura Inc.
DBA Patrizia's Sheepshead Bay
1901 Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

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.

Public Safety Report:

Our Public Safety Committee meeting was conducted via Webex on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 5:00pm. In place of its Commanding Officer, Captain Derby St. Fort, representing the 61st Police Precinct was Detective Sam Shaya and Police Officer Lauren Au from the 61st's Community Affairs office. Here now is the 61st Police Precinct's CompStat Report for the week October 3 through October 9, 2022. Pursuant to the seven (7) major crime categories, year to date, comparing 2022 with 2021, the

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61st Police Precinct was up 61.8%. 2 murders have been recorded, compared to no murders in 2021. Rape, up 16.7%, Robbery up 92.5%; Felony Assault up, 9.3%; Burglary up, 40.5%; Grand Larceny, up 84.1%, and the last major crime category, Grand Larceny Auto, up 95.9%. In a sub-category of Hate Crimes (10-17 through 10/23/22), the 61 is up 171.4% - 19 hate crimes thus far in 2022 compared to 7 in 2021.

Our Committee continues to monitor the many quality-of-life concerns of our community. We seek enforcement of these concerns.

Zoning Committee:

BSA 2022-65-BZ / 2505 Coney Island Avenue

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A motion to approve was made by Mitchell Shpelfogel and seconded by Robert Gevertzman. The vote was 30 Yes, 0 No, 7 Abstentions for Cause. The motion was approved.

BSA 2022-64-BZ / 2021 East 5th Street

Pursuant to ZR 73-622, this special permit seeks to allow the enlargement of a single-family home at the premises within an R2X zoning district contrary to ZR 23-141.

A motion to approve was made by Edmond Dweck and seconded by Pearl Siegelman. The vote was 34 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstentions for Cause. The motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Chair Scavo announced that our November Board meeting will be held on Monday November 21, 2022 via Webex at 6:00pm. To please note the date change!

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Allen Popper and seconded by Pearl Siegelman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

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

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