

COMMUNITY BOARD #18 MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 19, 2023

ATTENDANCE

Rosamond Alvaranga	Denise Gordon	Nancy Walby
Felina Backer	Denise Gourdine	Valerie Woodford
Sallie Viola Bennett	Stuart Heier	Grace Zwillenberg
Barbara Bieber	Tomas Hernandez, Jr.	
Ernest Borno	Michael Ien	
Sharon Borno	Jibreel Jalloh	
Greg Borruso	Kenny Jean-Baptiste	
Gardy Brazela	Sharon Nedd	
James Buchanan	David Price	
Terri Cadet-Donald	Elaine Reid	
Salvatore Calise	Patrick Jayson Reyes	
Lucina Clarke	Yolaine Ridore	
Donald Cranston	Violine Roberty	
Malynda Jordan-Dandridge	Michelle Sealey	
Reeves Eisen	Frank Seddio	
Maria Garrett	Robert Tracey	
Joan Gilbert	Raphael Treitel	

GUESTS:

Paul Curiale	Mill Basin Civic/Millennium Development/CB 18 Advisor
Harriet Wieber	Holy Trinity Church
Christopher Francis	Area Resident
Mark Partnow	Area Resident
Fitzgerald Salomon	Area Resident
Michael Benjamin	Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud, 19 th S.D.
Laura	Area Resident
Naomi Lehrer	Area Resident
Maria Saddler	Area Resident
Terri Carta	Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy
Elizabeth Stoehr	Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy
Scott Middleton	Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy
Linda Steinmuller	Canarsie Courier
Rob Muzeuchin	Marine Park Community Association
Lauren Cosgrave	National Parks Conservation Association
J. Fraser	Area Resident
Angela	Area Resident
Sgt. Brian Maher	69 th Precinct
Michael Martin	Area Resident
Michele Harris	Area Resident
Norine Medas	Rockaway Parkway Merchants Association
C. Medas	Area Resident
Martine Saint Charles	Area Resident
Hugh Hollingsworth	Area Resident
Nigel Dupree	Breukelen Houses
Stacey Thomas	Area Resident

P.O. Thomas Podd	63 rd Precinct
Sgt. Joseph Piscatella	63 rd Precinct
P.O. David Belkin	63 rd Precinct
P.O. Felicia Grant	63 rd Precinct
P.O. John Triano	63 rd Precinct
P.O. Alexander Castillo	63 rd Precinct
Doodley Plaisival	Area Resident
Ruth Guillaume	Rep. Council Member Farah Louis, 45 th Council District
Saye Joseph	Rep. Council Member Mercedes Narcisse, 46 th Council District
Sal Calise	Bergen Beach Civic Association
Harold Jones	Canarsie Community Development Incorporated (CCDI)
Wayne Clarke	Area Resident
Vivienne Bent	Rep. Assemblywoman Monique Chandler-Waterman, 58 th A.D.
Allison	Area Resident
Andrew Zibell	Legacy Family Residence/Volunteers of America
Arlene Perkins	Area Resident
Audrey Julien	Area Resident
Brenda Lawrence	Area Resident
Chris	Area Resident
David Phillip	Area Resident
Elba Melendez	Area Resident
Felicia	Area Resident
Heeja Pang	National Grid
Jacqueline Hamilton	Area Resident
Jim Morris	NYC Parks
Johnny Arcenteles	TAHIBA
Karla Ayala	National Grid
Kyra Cuevas	NYC Department of City Planning
Lisa Callendar-Wilson	Area Resident
Naudia Salvodon	Area Resident
Noreen Bhola	Area Resident
Robin Marion	Area Resident
Rose Cherubin	Area Resident
Russell Pinsker	Maimonides Medical Center
Sabrina Dieujuste	Rep. Council Member Farah Louis, 45 th Council District
Susan Best	Area Resident
Venus Scantlebury	Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB)
Dee Washington	Area Resident
Yolette Toussaint	Representing Assembly Member Helene Weinstein, 41 st A.D.
Orlando Ross	Representing Congress Woman Yvette Clarke. 9 th C.D.
Rob Gibbs	Area Resident
Sharene	Area Resident
Angelo Lubatti	Avenue L Bagels, Inc., Sunset Bagels Cafe

7:16 P.M.

Board Member Sal Calise led the Pledge of Allegiance.

REGULAR MEETING

Chairperson Michael Ien called the meeting to order and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on March 15, 2022. Board Member

Maria Garrett made a motion that the minutes be accepted. Board Member Sal Calise seconded the motion. The motion passed with 22 Yes Votes.

Chairperson Michael Ien reminded everyone that we are now Live on YouTube and welcomed those viewing our meeting via cable. He then proceeded to introduce the Executive Board, 1st Vice Chair, Greg Borruso, 2nd Vice Chair Maria Garrett, Secretary Barbara Bieber, District Manager Sue Ann Partnow, Assistant District Manager Dorothy Paul, and Community Assistant Gail Fazio.

7:19 P.M.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Terri Carta, the Executive Director for the Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy, provided a brief presentation on their vision for activating Floyd Bennett Field as a hub for education, recreation, workforce development, and sustainability research. She informed the board that JBRPC is a non-profit public private partnership that was established in 2013 to improve the 10,000+ acres of public parklands throughout Jamaica Bay and the Rockaway Peninsula for residents and visitors alike. They were formed on the heels of Super Storm Sandy and grew the recovery efforts by improving parkland, community connections, and stewardships to those parklands and natural areas for the last 10 years. Floyd Bennett Field at 1300 acres is the largest open space in Brooklyn and Queens. It is the size of Central Park and Prospect Park put together. There's already hiking, kayaking, and fishing in Floyd Bennett Field. The conservancy's focus is on the historic buildings 26, hangar 3 and hangar 4. Rehabilitating these historic structures and activating Floyd Bennett Fields as a premier urban park will bring programs and partnership opportunities to the surrounding communities. After surveying stakeholders and elected officials, they found that people want open spaces, jobs opportunities, workforce development programs, ecological resilience, and improved transportation to Floyd Bennett. There were also requests for agriculture labs, arts and culture, a floating classroom, historical storytelling, biking, sports fields, solar and solar demonstrations, and underwater robotics. These are preliminary efforts seeking input and ideas that will continue at another open meeting tomorrow at Brooklyn College Student Family Center building. They have a community planning event scheduled from 6-8 PM. Board Member Malynda Jordan-Dandridge asked how people are going to get to the location since public transportation is a big issue. Board Member Tom Hernandez asked if they foresee this area becoming a semi commercial land use strip or airport again. Terri Carta responded that they are considering different means of transportation. She went on to say that she can't speak for the National Parks Service but would imagine the answer to the second question is no, in terms of a commercial land use strip. Board Member Sal Calise asked what they are doing about security. Terri Carta said that security will be part of the plan. First Vice Chair Greg Borruso asked if the buildings they are working on renovating are historical landmarks and whether there is a limit to what they can and cannot do there. Terri Carta responded that they are part of the landmarks historical district, and the rehabilitation will take the building back to its look and feel of the original architecture. The interior will remain within the guidelines of the NYC Parks Service. Michael Benjamin, Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud's Office, said that the Q35 bus that travels down Flatbush Avenue. Terri Carta stated that they'll see about increasing the service for the Q35. Board Member Frank Seddio asked if there are any plans to renovate the Canarsie Pier area since it is in tremendous disrepair. Terri Carta stated that a lot of that is coming back now through the Floyd Bennett Field Revealed Program Series that they are relaunching with the National Parks Service. Board Member Denise Gordon asked about the timetable for the restoration. Terri Carta stated that the National Park Service is hoping they will get a significant amount of funding for the exterior rehabilitation of the hangars in the Presidents Fiscal '24 budget. There is a line item which still needs to be passed by Congress. Funding for exterior rehabilitation of Hangars 3 and 4 would be the beginning of 2025. Paul Curiale,

Representing Mill Basin Civic Association, thanked Terri Carta for her work with Brooklyn Greenway and acknowledged Laurie Cosgrove of MPCA. He gave a shout out to Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald and her work with the after-school archery program. Last week Millennium Development Corp. brought 400 kids to Floyd Bennett Field for outdoor activities. Second Vice Chair Maria Garrett asked if these activities are going to be free for the students and the community. Paul Curiale responded yes; these are funded programs.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Michael Ien opened the Public Hearing and introduced Parliamentarian and By-Laws Chair Frank Seddio to conduct the Public Hearing on the two-lane roadway on the BQE section between Atlantic Avenue and Metropolitan Avenue for a vote. At last month's meeting he discussed the two-lane roadway on the BQE section between Atlantic Avenue and Metropolitan Avenue because Eastern, Southern and Western Brooklyn are being trapped into a situation that must be addressed. He explained that he will be visiting each community board and asking that they vote in favor of keeping three lanes of traffic on the Brooklyn Queens Expressway. He is proposing that we support the institution of three lanes of traffic on the Brooklyn Queens Expressway. Board Member Frank Seddio made a motion that the board oppose the current plans to change the roadway on the Brooklyn Queens Expressway to two lanes and to keep it a three-lane roadway. Board Member Sal Calise seconded the motion. The motion passed with 30 Yes Votes.

Board Member and Bylaws Chair Frank Seddio mentioned that some board members asked for an extension to review recommendations that were submitted for changes to the Bylaws. The extension ended a few days ago and the Bylaws Committee will be meeting tomorrow night to review the recommendations. A Special Meeting of the board will be held on April 26 to discuss the recommendations. Changes to the Bylaws requires the vote of two thirds of the board members. It is very important for everyone to attend that night. If we don't get the two thirds of the board members' vote, we stay with the old Bylaws. There have been some great recommendations that have been made. All board members will receive copies by Monday, and we will discuss and vote on the changes on April 26.

Chairperson Michael Ien introduced Council Member Mercedes Narcisse who greeted everyone and thanked Terri Carta the Executive Director for the Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy on the plans for Floyd Bennett Field. She also informed everyone that there were \$90 Million of underground infrastructure upgrades at Floyd Bennett Field prior to this partnership with conservancy. Council Member Narcisse provided information on programs, upcoming events, board member applications, attendance, and engagement.

8:04 P.M.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – Sue Ann Partnow

District Manager Partnow greeted and thanked everyone for being here this evening and informed the board that as District Manager she represented the community board at the following meetings and events to show support for local organizations and elected officials. She attended the following:

1. 63rd Pct. & 69th Pct. Community Council Meetings, 63rd Pct. Sector A Build a Block, Flatlands Civic Association, Mill Basin and Marine Park Civic Associations. Thanks Presidents Greg Borruso, Gardy Brazela, Joan Gilbert, Paul Curiale & Rob Mazzuchin, and P.O. Belkin.
2. Canarsie Lions Breakfast-President Jean Joseph and her Board did a beautiful job of

bringing the Community together

3. Job Fair sponsored by 69th Pct. Community Council, Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, Senator Roxanne Persaud, Council Member Mercedes Narcisse, Assembly Members Jaime Williams & Monique Chandler-Waterman and the HES. The event drew hundreds of people who hopefully found their dream jobs.
4. Spring Arts & Crafts at Marine Park – Thank you Council Member Mercedes Narcisse and staff for entertaining our neighborhood kids during the holiday.
5. Millennium Development Corp. – Spring Fling at Floyd Bennett Field. Thank you, Paul Curiale, Council Member Mercedes Narcisse and Millennium staff.
6. The Eggstravaganza at Amersfort Park – Thank you Council Member Farah Louis and staff for a fun day.
7. Easter Egg Hunt at Seaview Park – Thank you Senator Roxanne Persaud and staff for great activities and for bringing the Easter Bunny to Seaview Park.
8. Borough President Reynoso’s cabinet meeting. DEP was featured and explained how their funds are distributed and used. They also tackled issues plaguing each Community Board.
9. I visited P.S. 236 with Council Member Mercedes Narcisse – Council Member Narcisse read a book on being a good citizen because she knows that these children are the future of our district.

IN & AROUND CB 18

1. DOT has approved the installation of a traffic signal at Farragut Rd. and E. 88th Street.
2. Monday April 24th & Tuesday April 25th East 94th Street between Farragut Rd & Foster Ave. will be closed due to a crane operation. This closing was approved by DOT, and NYPD & FDNY were duly notified.
3. The streetlight at Avenue T and Stuart St. was replaced.
4. Wires were down at Seaview Avenue & East 80th Street. Verizon was responsible and fixed them.
5. 4/17/2023 MILLING EAST 88 STREET from CHURCH LANE - FOSTER AVENUE
6. 4/21/2023 MILLING EAST 31 STREET from AVENUE N - AVENUE L
7. After numerous complaints from Paerdegat residents, I visited Paerdegat Avenue to see the bike racks that were installed along Paedegat Avenue. I contacted DOT and explained the residents would like to have more parking spots, not bike racks. They understood the importance of parking for constituents, and DOT will assess and explore potential solutions that can address both issues in a satisfactory manner.
8. There is another issue that we are working on with the 69th Pct. There is an event hall at 1663 Ralph Avenue that is operating without a Liquor License. I spoke with the SLA and there is no license for that establishment on file with them. They offered to assist the 69 with the matter.

GOOD & WELFARE

Congratulations to Board Member Tom Hernandez who sold his business and will be retiring this summer.

Congratulations to Board Member Michelle Sealey who has recently entered Citizens Police

Academy through the 69th Pct. Her next stop is the Auxiliary of the 69.

Congratulations are in order for Board Member Michelle Sealey's nephew Manolo Louis who is graduating from the Uncommon Preparatory High School in South Shore with all A's. We wish him good luck on the college of his choice.

Condolences to Board Member Frank Seddio and his family on the untimely passing of his daughter Toni Ann.

Condolences to Greg Borruso and his family on the passing of his father in-law

Get well wishes to Jim Buchanan

Welcome back to our Assistant District Manager Dorothy Paul after shoulder surgery.

I hope that everyone enjoyed a restful holiday whether you celebrated Passover, Easter or Ramadan.

Thank you, Board Members Terri Cadet-Donald, & Jim Buchanan for taking the time to set up coffee & tea for all the members.

8:13 P.M.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE – Tomas Hernandez, Jr., Chairperson

1. State Liquor Authority Application Received - Vote

NEW APPLICATION AND TEMPORARY RETAIL PERMIT APPLICATION FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER

1. Avenue L Bagels, Inc., Sunset Bagels Cafe, 5607-5611 Avenue L – 11234

RENEWAL APPLICATIONS FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER

1. JP Canes Inc., Bill's Bar, 6326 Avenue N – 11234
2. Gerardo Camarda, Da Gerardo Corp/Salvi Restaurant, 4220 Quentin Road – 11234

Chairperson Tomas Hernandez Jr stated that the Community Board notified the Board Members, the local elected officials, civic associations and the 63rd Police Precinct about the SLA New and Renewal Applications received from Avenue L Bagels, Inc., Sunset Bagels Cafe, 5607-5611 Avenue L, 11234, JP Canes Inc., Bill's Bar, 6326 Avenue N, 11234, and Gerardo Camarda, Da Gerardo Corp/Salvi Restaurant, 4220 Quentin Road, 11234 and no objections were received.

Chairperson Hernandez asked if any applicants were present. Angelo Lubatti, Representing Avenue L Bagels, Inc., Sunset Bagels Cafe was present and spoke briefly about the business. He also informed the board that they took over the store next door to them for extra seating and a small party room and that's why they're requesting a liquor license. Board Member Malynnda Jordan-Dandridge stated that since they're open 24 hours is the party room going to be open 24 hours as well. Angelo Lubatti responded no and that's not their intention. They're just going to be open during the day and close that portion of the Bagel Cafe around 10 PM. Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald stated that she lives on Avenue L and knows he runs a respectable business but is concerned about a party room. Angelo Lubatti explained that it's not going to be open to the public so it's not going to be that kind of party room. Board Member Felina Backer expressed concern about them having a liquor license and underage parties in the same area. Angelo Lubatti explained liquor is not going to be displayed but if they do have an adult party, they would like to be able to offer beer and wine. Board Member Felina Backer stated that his intentions aren't clear enough

about rentals for the board to vote. Board Member Barbara Bieber replied and said it's no different than someone going to a restaurant and the parent sits there and has a glass of wine with their meal while their kids are sitting there as well. Angelo Lubatti replied yes and there will be someone there monitoring underage children. Chairperson Michael Ien asked if his establishment is a place where he can walk in off the street and order a rum and coke or something like that. Angelo Lubatti replied no, it is not a bar. Board Member Sal Calise raised concerns about JP Canes Inc., Bill's Bar, 6326 Avenue N, 11234 where there were many times 311 had to be called. He deferred to P.O. Belkin regarding the issues at Bill's Bar. P.O. Belkin informed the board that summonses were issued for underage drinking, and fake ID's. Once the police cracked down on the establishment, they haven't gotten any complaints. Paul Curiale Representing Mill Basin Civic Association stated that it's sad since Bill's Bar has always been a reputable establishment. He also said that on behalf of Mill Basin Civic they want to say that Avenue L Bagels, Inc., Sunset Bagels Café has been a great attribute to our Mill Basin Civic and to our community. Board Member Barbara Bieber asked P.O. Belkin how many times Bill's Bar can break the law before they are shut down. P.O. Belkin explained that it's not up to them to shut them down and take their liquor license away and that decision would be made by the State Liquor Authority. Board member Sal Calise asked if we should vote or table the application Bill's Bar based on the information that was heard this evening and see if the applicant will come to the next meeting to explain themselves. Board Member Sal Calise made a motion that Community Board 18 table the application received from JP Canes Inc., Bill's Bar, 6326 Avenue N, 11234. Board Member Michelle Sealey seconded the motion. The Motion passed with 30 Yes votes. There being no further questions or comments Chairperson Hernandez asked for a motion to approve the SLA Applications received from Avenue L Bagels, Inc., Sunset Bagels Cafe, 5607-5611 Avenue L, 11234, and Gerardo Camarda, Da Gerardo Corp/Salvi Restaurant, 4220 Quentin Road, 11234. Board Member Sal Calise made a motion to approve those applications. Board Member Sallie Viola Bennett seconded the Motion. The motion passed with 29 Yes, 2 Abstentions, 0 No Votes. Chairperson Hernandez Jr thanked Angelo Lubatti for attending the meeting this evening.

YOUTH COMMITTEE – Terri Cadet-Donald, Chairperson

1. Shirley Chisolm State Park offers free public and private programming for all ages. They offer guided hikes, fishing, and more.
2. Gateway National Recreation Area has free, fun, and educational programs. Kayaking is scheduled at Floyd Bennett Field, Riis Park, and Canarsie Pier
3. Bayview Community Center – Real Talk on Gun Violence Saturday, April 29th from 12-2 PM. They are looking for teenagers to offer solutions to the rise in gun violence.

PARKS COMMITTEE – Nancy Walby, Chairperson

Board Member Nancy Walby made a motion to approve the October 2022 PowerPoint Presentation on the second phase of the proposed design of the Reconstruction of Power Playground. Board Member Sharon Borno seconded the Motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

1. Ecology NYRR Open Run: Canarsie Park and Marine Park. FREE! No registration required. NYRR Open Run brings free, 5K weekly community-led runs to neighborhood parks across the greater New York City area.
 - a. Canarsie Park: Saturdays, at Canarsie Park House, Seaview Ave. & E. 88th St., 9:00am – 12:00pm

- b. Marine Park: Sundays, at Carmine Carro Community Center, Fillmore Ave. & Marine Parkway, 9:00 – 12:00pm
2. Celebrate Earth Day Hike: Marine Park on April 22nd. FREE! No registration required. Join the Urban Park Rangers at the Salt Marsh Nature Center, Ave. U & E. 33rd Street, Saturday, April 22nd, 11:00am – 12:00pm. Learn the history and significance of Earth Day and how important it is to protect and conserve our parks and environment.
3. Spring Tree and Plant ID Hike: Marine Park on April 30th. FREE! No registration required. Join the Urban Park Rangers at the Salt Marsh Nature Center, Ave. U & E. 33rd St., Sunday, April 30th, 11:00am – 12:00pm. Search for different tree and plant species and learn some ways to identify them during the changing seasons.
4. Update on 2 Capital projects in CB18:
 - a. Salt Marsh Nature Center construction is listed on the NYC Parks website as being 100% complete.
 - b. Sunners Playground construction is listed as being 85% complete and should be finished by the end of May. (Kings Hwy, Ave H, & East 49th Street)

Remember to check the NYC Parks website on a regular basis to get updates on events, programs, jobs, and business opportunities citywide.

Chairperson Michael Ien informed the board that Library Committee Chair Sallie Viola Bennett has no report this evening but encourages everyone to take a copy of the Jamaica Bay Library Calendar on the table or check out the CB 18 Look What's Happening for programs and events.

Sgt. Brian Maher, 69th Precinct greeted everyone and provided precinct crime statistics, meeting info, event updates and answered questions. Board Member Kenny Jean Baptiste asked what the Mayor's office is doing in regard to people wearing ski masks in the summertime. Sgt. Brian Maher explained that he cannot comment on the Mayor's policies. As far as enforcement in the city there is no enforcement about masks and ski masks.

P.O. Belkin, 63rd Precinct, greeted everyone and provided precinct crime statistics, meeting info, event updates and answered questions. Board Member Joan Gilbert raised concerns about people doing mechanical work on East 56th Street and Avenue I. She also provided pictures of the men working. Fitzgerald Salomon stated that he has been in contact with the P.O. Grant, and Council Member Mercedes Narcisse concerning unbearable amounts of abandoned vehicles on East 59th Street between Flatlands Avenue and Avenue J, or simply vehicles that are parked there for months. Therefore, the residents are requesting street signs and meters on the block targeting the commercial side of the block where parking is restricted to no more than two hours and no overnight parking.

Chairperson Ien introduced Michael Benjamin, Representing States Senator Roxanne Persaud, 19th S.D., Donald Cranston, Representing Assembly Member Jaime Williams, 59th A.D., Sabrina Dieujuste, Representing Council Member Farah Louis, 45th C.D., Orlando Ross, Representing Congress Member Yvette Clarke, 9th C.D., who greeted everyone and provided information on programs, and upcoming community events.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Chairperson Ien introduced 2nd Vice Chair Maria Garrett who informed the board that she is

the Parks Steward and loves nature but she's here to speak about Play Fair which is sponsored by New Yorkers for Parks and has been a member for over four years. They help advocate for funds that elevates parks and open space issues in NYC for the Parks Department. The Mayor usually gives 1% of the city budget for NYC Parks but this year he's trying to take that budget from them. Covid proved how important our parks are to us. She asked everyone to sign the petition which will be taken to the City Council asking for the 1% back. She also provided information on her upcoming Clean Ups.

Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald asked if State Senator Kevin Parker or a representative will ever attend one of our meetings. District Manager Sue Ann Partnow responded that all our elected officials are notified about the meetings.

Board Member Nancy Walby informed the board that April is National Volunteer Month.

Board Member and Co-Founder of My Time Inc. Lucina Clarke informed the board that April is also Autism Awareness Month and provided information on upcoming community events.

Board Member and Founder of Making the Impossible Possible Felina Backer provided information on upcoming community events.

Noreen Medas, Representing Rockaway Parkway Merchants Association, greeted everyone and thanked Community Board 18 for sharing all their events and information. She provided information on programs and upcoming community events.

Nigel Dupree, Representing Breukelen Houses, expressed concerns about the murder that took place in Bayview Houses recently and elected officials need to invest in mental health.

On behalf of Board Member Felina Backer, District Manager Sue Ann Partnow reminded the board that Friday is the end of Ramadan so there is no school on Friday.

There being no further business or discussion, Chairperson Michael Ien made a motion to adjourn the meeting of Community Board 18. Board Member Violette Roberty seconded the Motion. The motion passed with 31 Yes votes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 P.M.

End....