COMMUNITY BOARD #18 MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING - MARCH 20, 2024

ATTENDANCE

Barbara BieberRoy HolderNancy WalbyGreg BorrusoNaomi HopkinsValerie WoodfordRoosevelt BoursiquotMichael IenGrace Zwillenberg

Eugene Burshtein Lyndon Inglis
Salvatore Calise Rob Mazzuchin
Jamaal Carryl Omeil Morgan
Lucina Clarke Doodley Plaisival
Paul Curiale David Price

Marie Delus Patrick Jayson Reyes
Maria Garrett Wilton Ricketts Jr.
Joan Gilbert Violine Roberty
Denise Gordon Michelle Sealey
Denise Gourdine Frank Seddio
Stuart Heier Victoria Stennett
Aryanna Holder Jerry Toussaint

GUESTS:

Danielle Goldfarb **NYC Parks** Jacob Glazer **NYC Parks** Jose Santos Area Resident Tomi Marshall Area Resident Wayne Clarke My Time Inc. Naomi Lehrer Area Resident Dr. Jacky Cody Area Resident **Cherry Williams** Area Resident

Michael Benjamin Representing State Senator Kevin Parker, 21st S.D.

Frank Naccarato Area Resident Linda Steinmuller Canarsie Courier

Saye Joseph Representing Council Member Mercedes Narcisse 46^{th,} C.D. Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud, 19th S.D.

Dashaun Simmons Dashaun Simmons Team
Alejandra Mancia Dashaun Simmons Team
Jason Rampe Dashaun Simmons Team

Det. Ronette Benjamin 63rd Precinct P.O. Thomas Podd 63rd Precinct Marvel Delva Area Resident

Tatyana Nurse Brooklyn Lifestyle Athletic Club Kayla Blenman Brooklyn Lifestyle Athletic Club Sihon Wu Brooklyn Lifestyle Athletic Club

Andrew Zibell Volunteers of America-Legacy Family Residence

Roshelle Nelson Rep. Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman, 58th A.D.

Liberty John Area Resident
Michelle Valinolti Area Resident
Josephine Paliti Area Resident
Semilla Thompson Area Resident

Daniel Abramson Representing Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso

Julius Stukes Area Resident
David Phillip Area Resident
Antoinette McKain Area Resident
Kimberly Coke Area Resident

Kevin Guscott Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Norine Medas Canarsie Merchants Association

Orlando Ross Representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, 9th C.D. Sabrina Dieujuste Representing Council Member Farah Louis, 45th C.D.

Sharon Borno Area Resident
Maria C. Willis Area Resident
Keisha Sydney Sesame Flyers
Michael Trotta Bergen Beach Civic
Guerline Morency Area Resident
Chris Smith Area Resident
Anthony Williams Area Resident

Rob Muzeuchin Marine Park Community Association

A. Calise Area Resident Averil Fraser Area Resident B. Lawrence Area Resident Cassandra Tennyson Area Resident Area Resident Christina Caputo Clifford Young Area Resident David John Area Resident Dayatra Emmanuel Area Resident **Donald Cranston** Area Resident Area Resident Ian Gavnor Joanne Caton Area Resident Kathleen Ohara Area Resident Ketsia Saint-Fort Area Resident L. Chin Area Resident Area Resident Lesley Bruno **Lorraine Sanders** Area Resident Michael Condon Flatlands Library

Noreen Nuff
Rose Cherubin
Russell Pinsker
W. Richards
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident

Yolette Toussaint Representing Assembly Member Helene Weinstein, 41st A.D.

Calvin Sennon Trinijam BK Roti Bar & Grill

Cateshia Ledee Area Resident

Harold Jones Canarsie Community Development Inc. (CCDI)

Margot Perron Area Resident
Pietro Baio Area Resident
Yona Suval Area Resident

7:11 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

7:13 P.M.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – Sue Ann Partnow

District Manager Partnow greeted and thanked everyone for being here this evening.

I WAS HAPPY TO JOIN OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING CB18 AT THE FOLLOWING

63rd Pct. Community Council, Mill Basin Civic, Mill Island Civic, Bergen Beach Civic, Marine Park Association and Sector A-63rd Pct. Build a Block meetings – thank you Presidents Greg Borruso, Paul Curiale, Sal Calise,

Ike Sinesi, Rob Mazzuchin and P.O. Belkin

Council Member Mercedes Narcisse – Overview of her accomplishments and spoke on future initiatives for the district.

South Brooklyn Health – formerly known as Coney Island Hospital Legislative Forum. A future look at the expansion of the hospital

69th Pct. Valentine's Dinner – rescheduled due to snow was a big success despite the rain.

BP Cabinet meeting - Creation of Neighborhood Support Teams through the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

Meeting to select a new Commanding Officer of the 63rd Pct. Two captains from other precincts presented their bios and answered questions.

Police Office Recognition Day for the 69th Pct. – Congratulations to all the Police Officers that were honored.

Join in the fun this weekend on Saturday, March 23rd at Canarsie Park for Senator Roxanne Persaud's Easter Egg Hunt and at Amersfort Park for Councilmember Farah Louis's Family Fun Day. On Sunday, March 24th at Marine Park for Assembly Member Jaime Williams Easter Egg Hunt in partnership with Senator Kevin Parker & Councilmember Mercedes Narcisse. Check CB 18's Look What's Happening for all the information.

COMMUNITY BOARD 18 MARCH CABINET MEETING

<u>DEP</u> – There were 298 complaints, which have been down since last month in CB 18. Water mains, hydrant leaks, cracked pipes and clogged sewers were addressed. Make your complaints to 311 first and then call the CB with your 311-reference number for follow-up.

<u>DDC</u> – The construction for the B82 Select Bus Service along Kings Highway is continuing with the replacement of water mains and temporary overhead electrical wiring for traffic signals and catch basins to collect water. DDC apologizes for any inconvenience due to water shutdowns and is working with the contractor to alleviate any issues. The construction on the medians along Kings Highway will begin with a planter design for safety.

<u>DDC-Rehabilitation of Pedestrian Ramps</u> -The remaining corners in Mill Island are being completed and all the corners in Canarsie are completed.

<u>69th Pct.</u> – Towed over 15 cars in February and another tow operation is being planned for the end of March. Police Office recognition day for the officers of the 69th Pct. will take place at Berraca Church on Flatlands Ave. The NYPD recommends that owners of Hyundais and Kias update the software on the cars.

<u>Parks</u> – Easter Egg Hunts at Canarsie Park & Marine Park. Hickman Playground will have a new design, Marine Park Oval & Canarsie Comfort Station are in progress. At Amersfort Park & Remsen Park drainage issues are being addressed. Ideas to stop the double & triple parking at Canarsie Park are being explored. Seasonal operations at parks are on hold due to staff shortages. Bathroom facilities at parks are 8am – 4 pm and from Memorial Day to Labor Day 8am – 7pm.

<u>DFTA</u> – March is Older Adult Employment Month. Many of the 1.77 million NYC residents are over the age of 60 and would like to be considered for employment. Visit their website for caregiver support and respite programs. They are in the process of reviewing proposals for delivered meals and legal assistance providers.

<u>DOB</u> – Reminded everyone that Buildings after hours is the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month from 4pm – 7pm at 345 Adams St. I inquired about the property at E. 66th St. & Dakota in Mill Island, no work permits have been issued.

Jennifer Horseford representing Senator Roxanne Persaud, Mike Benjamin representing Senator Kevin Parker and Donald Cranston representing Assembly Member Jaime Williams gave updates on events and programs offered to the community.

IN & AROUND CB 18

The installation of traffic signals or multi stop signs have been approved for Avenue J & E. 59th St., Avenue P & Hendrickson St., Ave. I & E. 51st St., and Ave. M & E. 52 St.

OCM – the Office of Cannabis Management is investigating smoke shops that are selling cannabis illegally. We have gotten several calls from residents that we sent to OCM. Remember, there was only one store in Brooklyn that received a cannabis license and that was on Coney Island Ave. No shops have been approved for licensing. If you see something or hear something, say something and we'll contact OCM.

Thank you, Sanitation, for coming to the aide of CB 18 to clean up unlawful dumping and garbage.

We've gotten several complaints about trees being planted in front of homes. It is up to the Parks Dept to plant trees where they are needed. The homeowner cannot choose to decline.

GOOD & WELFARE

Happy Birthday to Senator Roxanne Persaud
Happy Birthday to Board Member Terri-Cadet Donald
Happy 8th Birthday to 1st Vice Chair Maria Garrett's grandson
Happy 3rd Birthday to my grandson Ethan

Congratulations to Board Member Sallie Bennett who was honored earlier today at Gov. Hochul's Women's History Month Luncheon

Congratulations to Board Member Tom Hernandez on his daughter's graduation from New Orleans Culinary & Hospitality Institute

National Women's History Month's roots go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions. International Women's Day was first observed in 1909, but it wasn't until 1981 that Congress established National Women's History Week to be commemorated the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. To the dedicated women in our office and on our Community Board, thank you for all you do in our community every day.

Happy St. Patrick's Day, Happy Ramadan, Happy Purim, and Happy Easter Whatever holiday you celebrate, enjoy in good health with family and friends.

7:13 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

Secretary Barbara Bieber called the roll. A quorum was present to begin the meeting.

Chairperson Naomi Hopkins asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Regular Board Meetings held on February 28, 2024. Board Member David Price made a motion that the minutes be accepted. Board Member Aryanna Holder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7:17 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Naomi Hopkins introduced The NYC Department of Parks and Recreation who provided a presentation on the design for the reconstruction of Hickman Playground (Ave N & East 66th St). Questions from Board Members and the public about the proposal consisted of where the entrance to the park will be, how many receptacles, and materials for tabletops and what materials will be used for tabletops explained that the entrance to the park will be moved to the corner of East 68th Street, and that there will be

several receptacles throughout the park, a variety of material for tabletops will be considered, and trees and flowers will be planted around the playground. The project will also have slides and jungle gyms painted in bright colors. There will be disability swings but no balance beams to avoid tripping hazards. After questions and a lengthy discussion, Chairperson Hopkins asked for a motion and vote for a letter of support for the reconstruction and design of Hickman Playground. Board Member Grace Zwillenberg made a motion to accept the reconstruction of Hickman Playground (Ave N & East 66th St). Board Member Paul Curiale seconded the motion. The motion passed with 29 Yes votes recorded.

7:26 P.M

GUEST PRESENTATION

Dashaun Simmons' team conducted a Q&A on his company's proposal to create a new website for Community Board 18. Board Members had questions about the initial cost, maintenance, changes, additions. projected costs going forward, and an idea of what Community Board 18 can expect each year. Dashaun Simmons responded by explaining that ongoing maintenance cannot be established. His team is talking about creating a community email, hyperlinking events to access information, populating events, calendars, social media and posts. It all depends on where we land in the first phase. Simmons said that he's not sure we can confidently say that right now they know about the budget for this initiative. Some Board Members supported spending the initial \$15,000 dollars for the proposed website, while other Board Members wanted more clarification. Chair Hopkins reminded the board members that is incumbent of them to check their emails and be informed about content before attending board meetings and voting. There is a motion on the floor to table the vote since some members had more questions. A few members felt that postponing the vote would mean the budget would expire by June 30th and wanted to know what the board is saving it for. Chair Hopkins explained that the monies can be put back into the community by planting in our parks and along our business corridors. It can be used for food distributions, job fairs, family fun days and partnering with local organizations. The discussion continued as area residents expressed their concerns about spending that amount of money when Community Board 18 already has a website, while others asked more technical questions about WordPress, Cloudflare and a staging server. Board Member Eugene Burshtein made a motion to table Dashaun Simmons' proposal to create a Community Board 18 website. Board Member Paul Curiale seconded the motion. The motion did not pass with 9 Yes, 21 No, and 1 Abstention votes recorded. Chair Hopkins closed the discussion and asked for a motion. Board Member David Price made a motion to approve Dashaun Simmons' proposal to create a Community Board 18 website. Board Member Frank Seddio seconded the motion. The motion passed with 23 Yes, and 5 No votes recorded.

8:10 P.M.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SLA & CANNABIS COMMITTEE – Paul Curiale, Chairperson

1. State Liquor Authority Applications Received - Vote

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

Ari Val LLC, Ari Val, 6001 Strickland Avenue, 11234

CLASS CHANGE APPLICATION FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER:

Kosher Gourmet House Inc., Chateau Yaffa, 6214 Avenue U, 11234

Chairperson Paul Curiale introduced the owners and counsels of the SLA New and Temporary Retail Permit Application received from Ari Val LLC, Ari Val, 6001 Strickland Avenue, 11234. He informed the board that the SLA/Cannabis Committee met with the owner. Chairperson Curiale stated that the SLA/Cannabis Committee recommends that the board approve the SLA New and Temporary Retail Permit Application received from Ari Val LLC. Board Member Sal Calise made a motion to approve the application. Board Member Nancy Walby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 15 Yes votes recorded. Chair Curiale made a motion to table the application received from Kosher Gourmet House Inc., Chateau

Yaffa, 6214 Avenue U, 11234. Board Member Sal Calise seconded the motion. The motion passed with 15 Yes votes recorded.

<u>Chairperson's Report</u> – Naomi Hopkins, Chairperson

City of Yes, Canarsie is Sinking, Events, Suggestions:

City of Yes Economic Development is over for us—for now. After CB 18 voted and commented, DCP reworked and updated the plan; it passed its own commission and should go before the New York City Council for a vote. We did our part, and we were heard, but the concerns of CB 18 alone are not enough to stop a citywide rezoning. I have shared on numerous occasions that while I agreed with some and even understood the intention behind much of the up and rezoning, I didn't agree with it as a blanket over the entire City. Further, I believe communities in a proactive process should have led the conversation as opposed to others telling us what changes would be best for our community. We, the people, are the community. Our behaviors, cultures, dreams, habits inform who we are and what we need. Lastly, the presentation was full of jargon and complicated for everyday people. It is unfair to ask people to vote on professional urban plans without some level setting. If you require additional information, updates or want to continue advocacy regarding this portion of C.O.Y., then I encourage you to reach out to your New York City Council representative and let them know your concerns. There are 51 members of the City Council, it only takes 26 representatives to make changes. Next up is the City of Yes Housing plan, DM Partnow and I have seen the preliminaries. I will request a preview for our Housing Committee and send it to the Board Members to prepare questions immediately. The first two draft plans of C.O.Y. showed us that there could be some room for negotiation, or at the very least space to make our desires heard.

Canarsie is Sinking

Last month, the mayor learned for the first time that Canarsie is sinking. As we look to a new commissioner of DEP, CB 18 will host another town hall (this spring) to address this issue.

In these past two months, I've observed a lot and borrowed excellent ideas from other community boards. I want to share ideas that will increase our ability to be a resource to the community. I've shared these items with Treasurer David Price and expect that we will be able to have dates and budgets available for April's meeting.

Event Ideas

- 1. Local hiring event for catering halls and restaurants. Appointing Tomas Hernandez., Eugene Burshtein, and Victoria Stennett.
- 2. Planting and beautification of local parks and gardens. Appointing Maria Garrett, and Nancy Walby
- 3. Spring Fling. Appointing Terri Cadet-Donald and taking volunteers.

Suggestions

If there are suggestions or requests about how the Board can be more supportive to the community, please don't hesitate to call. Let's work together to maximize our time here and be great.

Attendance

If any members have circumstances that prohibit meeting attendance, please let me know. We must have 26 members present to conduct business. If we know ahead of time that we won't get there, we can amend our agenda and change the flow of the meeting. Not showing up, blowing off committee meetings or not participating keeps us from completing the business of the day.

Sadly, I've watched members leave mid-way through a meeting. I am of the mindset that a meeting does not have to be three hours long to be productive. As Chair, it is my job to keep us on task and flowing appropriately, which may require a reminder and enforcement of our procedures:

Board Members speak first during Comment. Members of the public may or may not be given the same pleasure. All comments are addressed to the Chair, not to the person who spoke before you, not to the person who inspired you to speak, not to a person who you KNOW doesn't agree with you. You are only allowed to speak once during comment and debate unless everyone else has spoken. Comments are limited to two minutes. It is my job to quickly evaluate passion, protest and purpose and the implications all will have

on the meeting. I have and I will interrupt comment if it is disruptive or violates the policies and procedures that we follow. If we have a public hearing with the magnitude of City of Yes, I will sit here until midnight until every resident within the confines of CB 18 has spoken—because where else will they get the opportunity? But I will not allow rudeness, abuse, blaming and the like. The general board meeting is for action items that are the manifestation of the previous month's committee work. Not all committees report every month. Almost weekly, correspondence comes from this office announcing events. Dozens of flyers are on tables at any given time. Our general board meeting is a business meeting. Business starts at committee except for ongoing business, all new items should be first brought to the corresponding committee chair. The committee will meet, receive presentations, deliberate and report at the general meeting. This is the time and place to ask questions, make suggestions and negotiate for a vote passage. When an item is ready for full board consideration, the committee chair should inform District Manager Sue Ann Partnow of their desire to proceed with a recommendation in any direction. If a committee does not believe an item is ready for consideration, it never has to come before the board. By the time a committee makes a recommendation for a vote, board members can question the committee about their recommendation before voting. I'm convening the Executive Board every two months. I am in constant communication with board staff, I listen to calls, concerns and do my best, with top-notch level support from the district staff.

Virtual Attendance:

Every month I must deny requests from members to participate virtually. On May 3, 2023, Governor Kathy Hochul signed into Law Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2023. This law, in part, provides for the exemption from meeting participation requirements of individuals with disabilities who are members of public bodies as defined in the full text of the Open Meetings Law. While keeping standards with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 this current law was also expanded to include extraordinary circumstances. Four days' written notice is required, cameras must be on, and full names must be visible on screen. Extraordinary circumstances will not count toward a quorum, but they do count for attendance and voting. By resolution in June of 2023, Community Board 18 adopted a resolution that specified that sickness counts as extraordinary circumstances. As per President Biden and the CDC, the Coronavirus Pandemic is over therefore virtual participation in public business is greatly diminished.

Communication:

Board members' contact information is confidential. Feel free to ask a member for their phone number at meetings but the district staff cannot share it. I rely on district staff to relay information. If you have a message that should be circulated to the Board, please send it to the bk18 e-mail for distribution. The district staff works for the district. While the Executive Board and full body work in tandem, the district staff do not work for us. Sue Ann, Dorothy, and Gail are accommodating, they are in service to the district, but they are not servants. I am asking that we consider tones when speaking to and e-mailing them.

PARKS COMMITTEE - Nancy Walby, Chairperson

Here are some FREE activities in our parks to enjoy...

- <u>Tick Talk,</u> Saturday, March 23rd, 11:00am 12:30pm, at the Salt Marsh Nature Center (3301 Avenue U) in Marine Park. Join the Urban Park Rangers for this educational talk about ticks in NYC. Learn more about protecting yourself and your pets as you enjoy the outdoors.
- Easter Egg Hunt with Senator Roxanne J. Persaud, SD19, Saturday, March 23rd, 11:00am 2:00pm, in Canarsie Park (Seaview Avenue at East 88th Street). Join the Senator and her staff for a free Easter Egg Hunt for the families and children of the community.
- 3. Marine Park Alliance Presents: Erin Go Bragh! Saturday, March 23rd, 2:00 3:00pm, at the Carmine Carro Community Center (3000 Fillmore Avenue) in Marine Park. This celebration combines Women's History Month with St. Patrick's Day, as women of Irish descent are recognized. The program will include a talk, trivia, and intricate steps from the O'Malley Dance Academy. Come get some Luck of the Irish!
- 4. <u>Easter Bonnet Competition & Egg Hunt with Assemblywoman Jaime Williams</u>, Sunday, March 24th, 1:00 3:00pm, in Marine Park (3000 Fillmore Avenue). Hop on over and join the

Assemblywoman and her staff for fun games and activities, face painting, and an Easter Bonnet competition. Prizes will be awarded. Bring your own basket.

- 5. **Spring Meditation Hike.** Saturday, March 30th, 11:00am 12:00noon, in Canarsie Park (Seaview Avenue at East 88th Street). Join the Urban Park Rangers for a stroll through Canarsie Park and the ultimate way to enjoy the outdoors.
- 6. **NYC Parks has Seasonal Jobs** available which start this Spring and continue to the Fall. Check out the full list of jobs available at www.nyc.gov/parks and click on the link "Jobs at Parks".

Remember to check out all the other fun activities and programs in our NYC Parks by calling 311, going online to www.nyc.gov/parks, and sign up for Parks Email Newsletters

7:39 P.M.

Chairperson Hopkins introduced the family spokesperson for the Street Co-naming of 2-year-old Nasir Carter Parris who was brutally beaten and subsequently murdered by someone who was entrusted to care for him. Nasir Carter Parris resided at 2125 East 68th Street and it was his residence at the time of his death. The family is requesting that the corner of East 68th Street and Avenue U be co-named for him. Several members found the request for a Street Co-naming unusual for a two-year-old. They suggested naming a park or playground for him. After a discussion and some further ideas to memorialize this young victim, Chair Hopkins asked for a motion and a vote. Board Member Greg Borruso made a motion to approve the Street Co-naming. Board Member Grace Zwillenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed with 20 Yes, and 1 Abstention votes recorded.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Daniel Abramson Representing Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, Michael Benjamin Representing State Senator Kevin Parker, 21st S.D., Saye Joseph Representing Council Member Mercedes Narcisse 46^{th,} C.D., David Shaeffer Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud, 19th S.D., Roshelle Nelson Rep. Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman, 58th A.D., Orlando Ross Representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, 9th C.D., Sabrina Dieujuste Representing Council Member Farah Louis, 45th C.D., Yolette Toussaint Representing Assembly Member Helene Weinstein, 41st A.D., and P.O. Thomas Podd 63rd Precinct, Keisha Sydney, Sesame Flyers, Norine Medas, Canarsie Merchants Association greeted everyone and provided information, programs, and upcoming community events.

There being no further business or discussion, Board Member Aryanna Holder made a motion to adjourn the meeting of Community Board 18. Board Member Violine Roberty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 P.M.

End....