



**MINUTES OF THE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021
COMMUNITY BOARD VIRTUAL MEETING
VIA WEBEX**

In Attendance:

Members Present: Felicia Alexander, Anthony Buissereth, Monique Antoine, Ivy Gamble-Cobb, Evelyn Collier, Taina Evans, Marc Abou-Faissal, Carroll “Rusty” Fields, Richard Flateau, Sharon Forbes, Keith Forest, Gregory Glasgow, Shia Greenfeld, Mary Jemison-Head, Abitzel Robinson-Hobson, Oma Holloway, Everett Hughes, Victor Iroh, Keisha Jerryman, Edna Johnson, Dr. Kerliene Johnson, Lisa Lewis, Hardy “Joe” Long, Ellen Miller, Kenneth Mbonu, Melissa Plowden-Norman, Christine Parker, Santana Payton, C. Doris Pinn, Simone Pratt, Robert Providence, Annalee Reid, Karen Rhau, Carolyn Richburg, Miari Roberts, Wendy Robinson, Suzette Sheppard, Jamella Swift, Douglas Williams, TJ Wilson

Members Absent/Excused: Babatunde Awoke, Dr. Kim Best, Michael Catlyn, Dr. Debra Lamb, Dovie Matthews, Alicia Walton, Rev. Dr. Robert Waterman

Elected Official/Reps: Hon. Jabari Brisport, Hon. Stefani Zinerman, Candice Julien – Hon. Eric Adams, Naomi Hopkins – Hon. Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Nadeen Gayle – Hon. Latrice Walker, Shelton Jones – Hon. Eric Gonzalez

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Richard Flateau

Chair Flateau read the agenda into the record.

- The Mayor has mandated that all City workers return to work today. The Personnel Committee met regarding the reopening. He informed the audience that in order to visit the office, one must make an appointment. We will continue to observe social distancing and all visitors must wear face coverings.
- He gave an update on the status of Amour Cabaret located at 566 Nostrand Avenue. He stated that he testified at the hearing on July 16th and is awaiting the decision of the Administrative Judge.
- He announced the passing of Michelle Gamble-Watson, the sister of Board member Ivy Gamble-Cobb.
- On August 16th, he received an email from Marion Little who resigned from the Board effective immediately.
- Michael Catlyn was elected the new Executive Secretary at a special meeting on June 28th.
- As of August 27th, the following members were appointed to committee leadership positions: Karen Rhau is the new Chair of Civic & Public Safety, Douglas Williams will remain Vice-Chair. Keith Forest is the new Chair of Economic Development and Abitzel Robinson-Hobson is the 2nd Vice Chair of Economic Development, Marc Abou-Faissal will remain the 1st Vice Chair. TJ Wilson is the new Chair of Parks, Arts & Culture and Wendy Robinson is the new Vice-Chair.
- He attended a Street co-naming for Jacqueline Berrien Way on Decatur between Lewis and Stuyvesant Avenues. She was a prominent Civil Rights Attorney
- NYC School Construction is offering an Opportunity Academy. It is a one-year paid training and internship program. For more information and instructions, please email your resume to opportunityacademy@nycsca.org or call 718-752-5385.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Nicole Bryan – Brooklyn Public Library, Gregory Anderson – Bridge Street Development Corp., Lynette Battle – Bedford Stuyvesant Gateway BID

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT – Henry L. Butler

- Mr. Butler reiterated that everyone (public and members) must make an appointment to come to the office and must wear a mask
- All meetings will be virtual
- He informed the audience that the Economic Committee will be meeting on September 23rd, and Landmarks will meet on September 15th.

I. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

A. Health & Social Service Committee:

Rev. Samuel Phillips gave a brief description about the services that Concord Nursing Home offers. Concord Nursing Home is located at 300 Madison Street between Marcy & Tompkins Avenues. He stated that the nursing home was founded in 1975 to provide care for an aging population. It is a 17-bed ventilation unit that offers physical therapy, speech, and occupational therapy. They specialize in respiratory care. They provide activities such as bingo, chair aerobics, and Tai Chi. For more information, please call 718-636-7500.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Health & Social Service Committee:

Dr. Torian Easterling, MD, MPH, First Deputy Commissioner & Chief Equity Officer, NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene gave an update on the Covid-19 Vaccines and the COVID-19 Delta Variant.

Dr. Easterling informed that on average the daily rate in New York City is 1400 death per day and hospitalization is 100 per day. He state that the Delta variant is more transmittable and has caused more severe illness. Vaccination is key. The MU variant have been detected in New York since spring however, the dominant variant in New York is the Delta variant.

The City is providing increase access through pharmacies, mobile vans and City run sites. In-home vaccination is also being offered to anyone that is eligible (12 years and older). Proof of vaccination is required for indoor dining, entertainment, and gyms. The City is currently offering a \$100 incentive to get the vaccine. City workforce is mandated to get vaccinated or get tested on a weekly basis. People who are immunocompromised should het the additional dose. There is not enough data for those who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Questions & Answers

Nicole Bryan: Are children vaccine doses supplied differently that adults?

Dr. Easterling: No, they are receiving the Pfizer vaccine.

Douglas Williams: I received the first and second shot, should I get the booster shot also?

Dr. Easterling: No, there are no official recommendation yet

Question: If someone received both Pfizer vaccine, when the booster become available, can they mix and match?

Dr. Easterling: The recommendation is to stick with the same brand that you received the first and second shots.

Shelton Jones: Is the flu vaccine available and recommended?

Dr. Easterling: Yes, it is recommended but you will need to wait 28 days after getting the COVID vaccine to get the flu vaccine.

Mr. Douglas: Are all seniors considered immunocompromised?

Dr. Easterling: No, there are conditions like cancer, auto immune deficiency disorders, age in addition to chemotherapy steroids and other medications. There is a list that I can provide.

Monique Antoine: If you have anti-bodies, should you get vaccinated and why?

Dr. Easterling: Yes, studies show that there is better protection especially against the Delta variant

Question: What are some of the known side effects of the vaccine?

Dr. Easterling: Some people have suffered headaches, fever, and chills, after the first shot, and headaches, fever, body aches and rare allergic reaction after the second. The Johnson & Johnson there is also a rare case related to blood clots

B. Housing & Land Use Committee:

Leroy Branch, Department of Transportation and Jesse Hiramawa, City Planning gave a combined presentation on the Permanent Open Restaurants Text Amendment.

DOT is proposing to make the sidewalk and roadway cafes permanent. This program will give restaurants the option of sidewalk and roadway seating and balance the need. As a result of COVID, the Open Restaurant Program was created suspending existing rules through an Emergency Executive Order. Since the program started 11,000 restaurants participated. The program was free and easy to access however, there were some challenges with the rollout of the programs in terms of the rules and enforcement. In the new program, DOT will enforce the barriers by making sure there is a clear path and ADA compliance, NYPD will enforce noise and DSNY will enforce the garbage disposal.

In order for the permanent program to become a reality the locational prohibition must be removed through zoning; DOT is working with City Council to enact legislation to update laws governing sidewalk cafes. The emergency program will be in effect until 2022 which will give restaurants ample time to transition into the new program. All restaurants with ground floor space will be allowed apply providing that the roadway setup is in the parking lanes except in prohibited zones, maintain public safety, and access to hydrant. Please go to the website at www.nyc.gov/openrestaurants to give your feedback.

Jesse Hiramawa stated that the Zoning Text Amendment would remove the entirety of Chapter 1, Article 4 of the Zoning resolution related to special district and sidewalk cafes. The

In 2020, over 2,500 restaurants participated in outdoor dining that would not have been eligible previously. This zoning proposal will allow these businesses in the restricted areas to be eligible. to be participate. There are three types of cafes: enclosed cafes which have removeable tables, chairs and barriers, small cafes cannot extent more than 4 feet from the building and can only be one row of tables and chair, and unenclosed.

In Community District 3 cafes are allowed on Fulton Street, Bedford avenue and Tompkins avenue. Eugene & Co on Tompkins & Jefferson Avenues is an example of a pre-COVID café. The review period community boards and Borough President will end on September 27th.

Concerns:

Jamila Swift suggested that the Economic Development Committee should have been included in the conversation.

C. Doris Pinn stated that this sounds like an expansion for restaurants. Regarding the 4½ feet of the sidewalk, what happens when there is a tree on the other 4½ feet, that limits the sidewalk space. Mr. Branch also stated that sanitation will continue pickup of garbage.

In response: they are looking to make this program seasonal. In terms of footage, DOT is looking at an 8-foot clearance. Sanitation will do the enforcement.

T. J Wilson expressed concerns about the City considering for residents with cars and how this is going to affect them

The owner of Chez Oskar voiced her concern on behalf of the restaurant coalition.

III. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nicole Bryan announced that the library is seeking a part-time staff member and an Associate for the African American Heritage Center. Adult Literacy classes are still being offered at the Bedford Branch.

Gregory Anderson announced the 2021 Tax Lien Sale will be held on December 14, 2021. It will be based on Property Tax only. Currently there are 484 properties in the Bedford Stuyvesant District on the list.

In addition, Bridge Street is collaborating with Foot Soldiers on an Adopt-a-Block Pilot Program and is seeking candidates between the age of 18-59 years. The position pays \$20.00.

Oma Holloway announced the last day for TAMA Sundays will be October 3rd. She add that TAMA Sundays won the first Alfresco NYC 2021 Award.

Lynette Rogers announced the upcoming Annual Bed Stuy Alive event will be held on October 9th, and the Annual House Tour will be held on October 16th. The house tour will be virtual again this year.

Chi Osse introduced himself as the candidate-elect for the 36th Council District.

IV. ROLL CALL

There were 40 members present and 7 members absent.

V. COMMITTEE UPDATES & RESOLUTIONS

Monique Antoine – Education & Youth

On October 22nd, there will a Community Day event at Restoration from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Anthony Buissereth asked to committee chairs to submit their budget requests.

Landmarks & Preservation

The committee will be hosting the 50th Anniversary of the Historic Stuyvesant Heights District on Saturday, September 18th.

Karen Rhau introduced herself as the new Chair of Civic & Public Safety

Cynthia Pinn informed that the Housing & Land Use Committee will be meeting on Thursday, September 16th, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss 270 Nostrand Avenue.

VI. ACTION ON THE PUBLIC HEARING

A. Open Restaurant Text Amendment

Ms. Pinn informed the members that this vote is ONLY for the Amendment of the Zoning Text for sidewalk cafés. A motion to accept the committee's recommendation was made by Gregory Glasgow and seconded by Taina Evans.

VOTE: 21 – FOR; 6 – AGAINST; 11 – ABSTENTIONS

[Vote for Open Restaurant Text Amendment.pdf](#)

VII. CHAIRPERSON REPORT'S – Richard Flateau

VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF THE JUNE 7th and JUNE 28th, 2021 MINUTES

The minutes were tabled.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made Douglas Williams and seconded by Gregory Glasgow. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Beryl Nyack
September 24, 2021