

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

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District Manager



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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Executive Committee
Wednesday, March 27, 2024 - 6:30 PM
This meeting was conducted via Zoom.**

MINUTES

Community Board Members Present: Bill Angelos, Elizabeth Ashby, P. Gayle Baron, Michele Birnbaum, Taina Borrero, Alida Camp, Anthony Cohn, Lindsey Cormack, Felice Farber, Ed Hartzog, David Helpern, Sahar Husain, Craig Lader, Valerie Mason, John McClement, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Abraham Salcedo, Will Sanchez, Judy Schenieder, Robin Seligson, Marco Tamayo, and Chuck Warren.

Total Attendance: 23

Members of the Public: 8

Chair Valerie S. Mason called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

1. Chairperson's Introductory Remarks

- (a) Not every co-chair needs to attend these meetings, one co-chair is sufficient.
- (b) Borough Board Updates
 - (i) It is interesting to see how issues we are dealing with are dealt with at other Community Boards.
 - (ii) Cannabis -- Other Boards are noticing the following:
 - (A) OCM licenses are being granted to those operating illegal shops
 - (B) Lack of effective enforcement even when legal shops are open
 - (C) OCM is not notifying Community Boards directly which shops are coming online
- (c) CB6 wants to put together a task force with neighboring Community Boards regarding the esplanade.

2. Discussion on Attendance

- MBPO wants all Boards to be closely monitoring attendance of Board Members, this is a factor in the re-application process.
- Co-Chairs -please track attendance; Committee members should alert the committee chairs if you are not attending in advance of the meeting; this is extremely important for determining quorum.

3. Open Dining Updates

- Thank you to all Board members who participated in the webinar yesterday, it was a very good turnout.
- There is a potential disconnect between notifications to Community Boards of new applications and need to act on the applications, within 30 days in the case of sidewalk cafes and 45 days in the case in the road applications. We will have to work with our DOT liaison, so as to insure a meaningful review and input.

Abraham Salcedo, Co-Chair of the Street Life Committee mentioned that Street Life Committee resolutions have, infrequently in the past, been sent directly to SLA when we come up against this type of deadline mismatch.

- There will be a second webinar on the Open Dining program, and we will distribute it when we receive it.

4. District Needs Statements

-- Each Committee should take the primary responsibility for preparing its portion of the District Needs Statement. Our committees are the experts on your subject matter areas. Committees should be, as applicable, reaching out to the city agency or agencies that cover their subject matter area regarding priorities for us to champion in our District Needs Statement. The statement is to be submitted at the end of October. We need committee input by our spring break, consequently, each committee should be starting their discussions soon about what we should be prioritizing and sending recommendations to the Budget Committee. Please start inviting agencies, local stakeholders, and subject matter experts to your meetings to gain input and then make your recommendations regarding, for example, impacts we can have on roadways, parks, esplanade, and our schools. Board staff will send around the existing narratives to be updated as to statistics, as well as other items.

-- Felice Farber Co-Chair of the Budget Committee remarked that the more specific our recommendations the better it is for each agency to respond. For example, we shouldn't just ask for more affordable housing generally, we should define what we think affordable housing is, and what specific asks to we have to accomplish our goals. Do we want something from HPD, what tax incentives might be appropriate. The more data we can provide, and pinpointing to specific programs and recommendations, will facilitate our holding city agencies accountable for helping us achieve our goals.

The Budget Committee will want to have discussions with each committee in early September so that we can avoid a crunch in October.

Let's try and send out our community survey earlier in the spring, perhaps May and get some press as well when we send out the survey to encourage more community participation. We received 400 responses last year, which was more than the year before but certainly a much larger response is desired.

All of the foregoing will make our District Needs Statement more impactful.

(d) Standard Non-Monthly Meeting Dates for Certain Committees.

We want to establish a non-monthly meeting schedule for certain of our committees; we believe this will take pressure off of committees to have meetings when they are not ready and open up the schedule to be able to have timely meetings on issues as they arise. Please let us know if your committee might be amenable to this type of schedule. Please get back to us in the next two weeks, as we want to implement this plan as soon as possible.

(e) Future Executive Committee Meeting Dates.

For now we do not envision any additional meetings through June however, please note that if we do need them the fourth Wednesday of the month, at 5:30 will be the assumed day and time.

(f) Questions for the Borough President Office

If you have general questions about board procedure, please let us know, we are happy to forward those questions to the MBPO for a response.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 PM

Valerie S. Mason, Chair