

**COMMUNITY BOARD 9
890 NOSTRAND AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 22, 2013
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

Members Present:

Amy Albert
Rev. Robert Ambrose
Stuart Balberg
Fred Baptiste
Aldith Clarke
Veta May Clarke
Josette Coicou-Brioche
Shelia Foster-Golding
Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Daniel Ingvaldstad
Maurice Jean-Baptiste
Demetrius Lawrence

Members Present

Samuel Marmulzsteyn
Carl B. Morgan
Dwayne Nicholson
Rosemarie Perry
Jen Phillip
Gerald President
Diana Richardson
Brenda Scott
Chanina Sperlin
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Victoria St. Clair
Timothy Thomas
Jacqueline Welch

Members Absent

Rev. Phyllis Brown – sick
Michael Cetera, AIA
Negous Clark
Shirley Dor
Edmund Fanning
Flavia Francis
Charlene Gayle
Theopia Green
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Bishop Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Aaron Hershkop
Ruby Hodge
Brenda Hutto-Lewis
Jacqueline Love
Frank Nicholas
Hilary Papineau
Karlene Robinson
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Roosevelt Rose
Yvonne Straker – sick
Evelyn Williams

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present

Charles Jackson – Hon. Yvette Clarke
Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Eric Adams
Hon. Shirley Patterson
Alfred Chiodo – Hon. Letitia James
Arna Lipkind – Hon. Darlene Mealy
Hon. Eric Adams

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Jon Orcutt, NYC Department of Transportation will introduce to the Board a proposed pilot for a “Pedestrian Wayfinding Program” to be implemented in the district. The locations have not yet been confirmed; community input is welcomed

Mr. Orcutt informed that he’s from the Dept of Transportation and he has been working on the idea of the pedestrian way-finding program for some time. There is signage posted through-out the city, every corner, every block. Information is also posted in the subways as well as other areas of travel. These signs are part of the orientation process to get people wherever they want to go throughout the city.

The program is not solely in Community District 9 or 8 or 6; they are working with Brooklyn organizations and business improvement districts. Mr. Orcutt used a map to illustrate the different areas of signage and the areas of important that they would like to work with.

Questions and Answers:

Timothy Thomas – this map looks like a map that was shown to us previously for the bike system. Our community seems left out. We have various traffic and foot traffic on Flatbush Avenue; he hasn't seen that indicated on the map. Then there is the bus route on Nostrand Avenue, which he has not seen on the map. He would like to see these places as designated areas on the map.

Stuart Balberg – believes it would be more logical to move the project two blocks over to incorporate Utica Avenue.

Mr. Orcutt – we want to do more if we are able to proceed further with the project. In the detailed map addresses can be seen to mark designated areas of interest in the communities.

Community Resident – what is the timetable in terms of the signs? **Mr. Orcutt:** we hope to start in May.

Amy Albert – we live in a diverse community, how does this project include everyone? How will everyone understand this signage? **Mr. Orcutt** – the language is not directed to any one group. We are using pictorial language. Places like Medgar Evers College will be on the final map; also the museums and libraries.

Ed Fanning, Chair, Transportation Committee – requested that the presentation be made before the Transportation Committee. Mr. Orcutt will come before the committee.

Community Resident – what is a pilot project? **District Manager Pearl Miles** explained that a “pilot project” is usually the introduction of something new, with a specific budget allocation – if it works the project will be extended/funded and hopefully all the places like hospitals, libraries, colleges will be included.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Orcutt for his presentation. The Transportation Committee will meet with Mr. Orcutt to more fully review the project and report back to the Board.

Public Hearing on application from Sherrand McLean Hawker to the New York State Liquor Authority for a wine and beer only license; as well as the licensing of outdoor space (garden) for Camsha Place, located at 230 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225. Ms. Hawker will present the plans for the outdoor space to the Board

Ms. McLean Hawker informed that she is seeking a wine and beer only license as well as a licensed outdoor space for Camsha Place, a lounge, at 230 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn, between Carroll and President Streets. Ms. Hawker noted that at the last community board meeting the board requested that she present drawings for the proposed lounge and outdoor space; she is there tonight to present those drawings.

The design shows the front of the building and also shows both the inside and outside of the premises. Entering the door through the main corridor, which looks like a tunnel but it is not, really, leads into an open space where there is a large closet for coats; there are also male and female bathrooms. Further into the space there is the bar; behind the bar there is a work space; then a door which leads out into the backyard. In the backyard there is space to seat approximately 20 to 25 people at tables and chairs.

Ms. Hawker reminded that at the last meeting there was a question as to whether or not the outdoor space was enclosed space with a roof; as you can see it is not. In addition, there are not any neighbors in close proximity to the outdoor space to be disturbed by the outdoor patrons. Ms. Hawker is hoping that the Board will give its support so that she could put her plans into motion.

Questions and Answers

Community resident – what will you serve? **Ms. Hawker**, wine and beer, coffee, juices, no hard liquor. Will you have something to eat? Yes, we will have something to eat, but remember this is not a restaurant. We will offer things like cheese and crackers, patties, sandwiches, etc.

Diana Richardson said that she lives on President Street between Nostrand and Rogers Avenues. Ms. Richardson thinks that this is a wonderful idea and asked for the times of operation. **Ms. Hawker** – we will operate from Wednesday through Sunday. Opening hours on Wednesday are from 3:00 pm to 2:00 am; Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 3:00 pm to 2:30 am and Sunday from 4:00 pm to 1:00 am. Ms. Hawker said that there is no place like this in the community; she feels that having a place like this would give people time to catch up with friends, read a book, use their computers, etc., just a place to go and relax..

Community Resident – as a young person I think it is a good idea, especially for students like me who are nursing students at Medgar Evers College. Instead of going to Park Slope and downtown Brooklyn this could be a welcomed site for us. How many people can you seat? **Ms. Hawker** – about 80 people, this is an estimated number, it will depend on the Fire Department.

Chairman Goldstein – Since it is beer and wine, my son who likes beer, a special type of beer, this would also be a good idea. The Chairman thanked Ms. Hawker for her presentation. The Board will take a vote during the business session.

BUSINESS SESSION

The Business Session began at 7:55 pm with 25 members present.

Minutes of the December 2012 Meeting

The minutes for the December 2012 meeting were presented for correction and adoption. The minutes were accepted and adopted as presented on a motion by Dwayne Nicholson and seconded by Pastor Ambrose.

District Manager's Report – Pearl R. Miles

District Manager Pearl Miles reported the following:

- Wishes for a healthy and happy new year.
- Council member Mathieu Eugene has agreed to install the signage for the co-naming of Washington Avenue at Lincoln Road in honor of the late Councilmember Mary Pinkett. Council member Pinkett was one of the first black members of the City Council; she was a strong supporter of the community, especially our parks and Medgar Evers College. This co-naming was passed by the City Council about seven years ago but a sign was never installed; now it will be thanks to Council Member Mathieu Eugene. The Council Member would like everyone to attend; more info will be provided.
- The City disposes of many items all the time; before there used to be an internal procedure for disposing of city-owned property; now that procedure has changed and the city is disposing of items by online auction. The auction is open to the public. One can bid on items for as low as \$2.00. Community Board 9 put a credenza on the site; it is listed at \$1. There are many different items on the site from cars to desks, to cabinets, etc. The website is: www.publicsurplus.com

Chairman Goldstein said that the late Councilmember Mary Pinkett was dear to him; she was a great friend and a great lady who did a lot for this community. He hopes when the time comes in April that members of the Board and the community will come out in her honor and have a good time.

COMMITTEES' REPORTS

Joint Transportation and Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee – Ed Fanning and Michael Cetera, AIA

The committee reviewed the following:

- Proposal and process for the refurbishing of the “Flatbush Trees” located at Empire Blvd and Flatbush Avenue. Councilmember Mathieu Eugene has offered to fund the project.
- Draft alternative proposal for the reconstruction of Clove Road and Malbone Street
- DOT’S solution to the danger posed by cars entering the BP gas station at Lefferts and Washington Avenues – the installation of granite blocks.
- Council member Mathieu Eugene reporting that he allocated \$300,000 for cameras on Nostrand Avenue

Environmental Protection – Tim Thomas

- The committee reviewed an ambitious proposal presented by Mr. Rosario DeMedici for a vertical farm in the district. The idea of space farming was very interesting and at the same time of great concern regarding the well-being of the neighborhood.
- More efforts to improve compliance with sanitation codes on Flatbush Avenue. Businesses will be sent letters regarding their responsibility to hire a carting company for their garbage; follow-up on compliance.

Joint Youth Services and Education Committees – Amy Albert and Hilary Papineau

- First baby sitting training class completed on Sunday, January 20th.
- Proposal for a summer playstreet in the district
- Pilot mentorship program
- Weed and Seed is a program of the Department of Justice – these programs support law enforcement in the areas of crime prevention; and focused specifically on improving youth and police relationships.

Chairman Goldstein liked the idea of the mentorship program

Health and Social Services – Rev. Robert Ambrose

The committee discussed the health related issues in the community – obesity, asthma, diabetes. Also discussed were health related issues in the schools – lack of gymnasiums, healthy food programs in schools; as well as issues related to the health of senior citizens. The committee will work on spreading the work and increasing public awareness of health care issues and resources to deal with these issues.

Chairman’s Report

Chairman Goldstein asked that we be cognizant of our neighbors; knock on doors to make sure they are all right, they have heat, etc. Any problems, please contact the Board office or call 311 immediately.

Anyone desirous of becoming a board member can download the application from www.brooklyn-usa.org.

The chairman congratulated parents for bringing their young ones to experience the board meeting.

Chairman Goldstein acknowledged Reuven Lipkind representing Senator Adams; Arna Lipkind representing Councilmember Mealy; Charles Jackson representing Congresswoman Clarke; Alfred Chiodo representing Councilmember James.

Voting Items:

Application from Sherrand McLean Hawker for a Wine and Beer only license as well as a licensed outdoor space at Camsha Pl, 230 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Motion to recommend approval of the application was made by Timothy Thomas and seconded by Stuart Balberg. Voting: 25 Yes; 0 no's 0 abstentions.

Pilot Mentorship Program sponsored by Community Board 9

Motion to approve the implementation of the Pilot Mentorship Program was made by Diana Richardson and seconded by Demetrius Lawrence. Voting: 26 yes, 0 no's, 0 abstentions.

Removal of Board Members: Negous Clark and Roosevelt Rose

Chairman Goldstein reported that outreach was made to the two members via letters and personal contact with no response from the members. The Executive Committee met and recommended the removal of Negous Clark who has been absent from six consecutive meetings of the board; and Roosevelt Rose who has been absent since May of 2012.

Motion to remove was seconded by Dwayne Nicholson. Voting: 25 yes, 1 no, 0 abstentions.

Chairman Goldstein introduced Senator Eric Adams.

Senator Adams stated that a year ago they found out that the high capacity magazine guns were sold in Arizona. You can purchase a rifle outside the borders of New York City with only a driver's license. He spoke to his colleagues and found out that these magazines were never banned in New York City. After the Connecticut shooting all the elected officials came together to accept two parts of his bill to ban the high capacity magazine and the assault rifle. Last week the bill was passed by the Assembly and Governor Andrew Cuomo has signed it into law; now it is banned throughout the entire New York State.

We should all be happy. However, we cannot simply stop there. Our problem is not that someone in a deranged state of mind will go into a classroom and shoot off a large number of rounds; but rather we have a proliferation of handguns in our streets. Most of the hand guns used come from the southern parts of the country, from Virginia and other areas. We have to do something to stop the problem that allows people to go into other states, buy guns and bring them into New York. This is what the President is trying to do, to stop guns illegally going from one state to the next.

We have to help the President to push through these laws. We need the community to rev up the situation, for example, marching over the Brooklyn Bridge, etc, to bring attention that it's time to do something about this problem.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Senator Adams. He believes it is time to do something about these senseless gun violence. There is no reason why one needs a high capacity magazine; his belief is that only law enforcement should have these weapons.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Carl Morgan and seconded by Rabbi Gross. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelia Foster-Golding
Secretary
February 22, 2013