

**Community Board 9  
890 Nostrand Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11225**

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON MARCH 22nd, 2016  
AUDITORIUM, MIDDLE SCHOOL 61  
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

**Board Members Present**

Patricia Baker  
Stuart Balberg  
Fred Baptiste  
Yaacov Behrman  
Simone Bennett  
Warren Berke  
Augustine Blackwell  
Ben Edwards  
Sheila Foster-Golding  
Dr. Zorina Frederick  
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein  
Rabbi Nochum Gross  
Tessa Hackett-Vieira  
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales  
Kyra-Lee Harry  
Daniel Ingvoldstad  
Demetrius Lawrence

**Board Members Present**

Francisca Leopold  
Avi Leshes  
Mattijs Limberger  
Denise Mann  
Carmen Martinez  
Scott Novelli-Mathews  
Patricia Moses  
Beverly Newsome  
Pia Raymond  
Unella Rhone-Perry  
Hector Robertson  
Chanina Sperlin  
Ada Terry  
Timothy Thomas  
Jacqueline Welch  
Eve-lyn Williams

**Board Members Absent**

Rev. Douglas Banks  
Rev. Phyllis Brown  
Veta May Clarke  
Milton Ellis  
Aron Hershkop  
Louis Johnson  
Michael Liburd  
Maria Molina  
Musa Moore  
Riel Peerbooms  
Mary Blackett-Rollerson  
Roosevelt Rose  
Kenya Sollas  
Rabbi Joseph Spielman  
Lorraine Thomas

**Elected Officials / Agency Representatives Present**

Hon. Laurie A. Cumbo  
Hon. Olanike Alabi  
Hon. Shirley Patterson  
Brian McLaurin – Hon. Letitia James  
Dale DeGale – Hon. Yvette Clarke  
Kathleen Daniel – Hon. Eric Adams

Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Jesse Hamilton  
Melinda Alexis-Hayes – Hon. Ken Thompson  
Arna Lipkind – Hon. Darlene Mealy  
William H. Boone – Medgar Evers College  
James Goelz – FDNY Battalion 38

---

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Demetrius Lawrence (DL) called the meeting to order at 7:12pm. He welcomed attendees and read the Community Board 9 Rules of Conduct into record.

**Applications for NYSLA Licenses within Community Board 9:**

**Three Star Productions, Inc.; 482 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203**

DL: Applicant was scheduled to present at the last Public Safety Committee meeting, but the presentation did not occur. The Board will not consider the application until the applicant first meets with the Public Safety Committee.

**Boucan NYC Café, LLC; 467 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225**

Board Introduction: Applicant seeks license for wine and beer. Boucan, which will be a Hatian fusion restaurant, is located where another restaurant once operated and where there were no violations or other issues with the surrounding neighborhood. The Public Safety Committee found no reason to deny license.

Applicant Statement: Boucan, which means to roast fish, will be both a restaurant and bar.

Audience Questions & Comments:

Audience Question: Is this the applicant's first business?

Applicant: Yes.

Audience Question: When will the restaurant open?

Applicant: The restaurant will open in the middle of April.

Audience Question: Will there be any outdoor space?

Applicant: No, the sidewalk is too narrow.

**2122 Beekman Bar, LLC d/b/a Erv's on Beekman; 2122 Beekman Place, Brooklyn, NY 11225**

Board Introduction: Applicant seeks liquor, beer and wine license renewal; sidewalk license renewal; and permission to renovate and expand to adjacent space for additional seating. Applicant has not had any violations with police or the fire department. One neighbor made a noise complaint about one year ago.

Applicant Statement: The current bar is small – 284 square feet – that would like to expand to adjacent space. To address noise complaint, restaurant now employs security.

Audience Questions & Comments:

Audience Question: Do you only serve drinks?

Applicant: The bar does serve some food and will expand offerings once the adjacent space is converted.

Audience Question: Is there any outdoor space?

Applicant: Yes, about 10 feet.

Audience Question: What are the hours?

Applicant: The bar closes at midnight during the week and at 2:00am during the weekend. However, the outdoor space closes earlier. A priority for management is to address noise issues.

**Cup Cakes by Brenda Grill, Corp. d/b/a Taqueria El Patron Mexican Grill; 51 Lincoln Road, Brooklyn, NY 11225**

Board Introduction: Applicant seeks new license for beer, wine and liquor. Applicant has had no issues with police or the fire department.

Applicant Statement: We have been operating for a year. The restaurant is owned and operated by two sisters. The food is homemade. The restaurant is happy to be in the neighborhood.

Audience Questions & Comments:

Audience Question: What is the connection to cupcakes?

Applicant: Cupcakes is included in the corporate name because there is baking, but not in the name of the restaurant itself.

Audience Question: Any intention for outdoor seating?

Applicant: No, everything connected with the restaurant is indoors.

Audience Question: How close are the nearest bars?

Applicant: Erv's on Beekman is one block away, almost certainly 800 feet away.

**Public Comment Period**

DL: After last month's Public Comment Period, it must be emphasized that speakers kindly respect all groups in attendance and not take a hostile tone. If respect is not shown, speakers cannot continue their comment.

Yaacov Behrman: In response to an email conversation that included many in attendance, all in the community should maintain solidarity and resist divisions. Gentrification is not about race and all are affected by changes in the neighborhood.

Alicia Boyd: The proposed upzoning does not include the Jewish community, which shows bias on the part of stakeholders, even if not initiated by them. The black community needs to maintain solidarity. The Executive Board should operate with greater transparency.

DL: Rabbi Jacob Goldstein told not to use noisemaker to disrupt Alicia Boyd's comment.

Cliff Haworth: Regarding the District Manager Search Committee: Has the Committee chosen three candidates? If so, who are the candidates? Is the hiring process being delayed deliberately?

Karen Fleming: Regarding community issues, we need to figure out who is part of the problem and solutions in solving community issues.

Rabbi Jacob Goldstein (RJG): Need to be aware of anti-Semitic comments made to the Board and leadership should be more proactive in responding to accusations. High-rise developments will be a problem for all in the community, regardless of the group.

DL: All of the Board and meeting attendees should be treated with respect. Leadership does not support intolerant and accusatory statements made by some at the March Board Meeting. To avoid voting issues, Board Members must remember to sign in before the Business Session.

Elected Official & Government Agency Comments:

DL: Recognizes distinguished community members and elected officials present at the Board Meeting.

Captain Norman Grandstaff, 71<sup>st</sup> Precinct Community Officer

- Just joined precinct two weeks ago and was previously in Canarsie. Has been on the force for 18 years, mostly serving in Brooklyn. The 17 shootings in the district last year was an all-time low. The community has been a great source for acclimating and encourages a partnership going forward.

Reuven Lipkind, representative of Jesse Hamilton, New York State Senator, 20<sup>th</sup> District

- Working to encourage businesses to use social media more.
- Partnering with the Urban Justice Center to provide a family law clinic on April 4.
- Summer youth program will be held in District.
- Register to vote by March 25 to be eligible to vote in the upcoming primary election.

James Goelz, New York Fire Department Battalion 38

- Use smoke detectors at home, replace batteries often and be aware of defective units.
- Natural gas related calls have increased from 2,700 in 2013 to over 50,000 in 2015.
- FDNY trucks that cross red lights with sirens on and that turn off afterwards are usually going to emergency, but then told that emergency over (a "1020").
- No smoke detector giveaway planned, but they are cheap to purchase.

Dale DeGale, representative of Yvette Clark, U.S. Congressperson, 9<sup>th</sup> District of New York

- "Get Alarmed" event on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to encourage home detectors; seniors have an opportunity to make appointment for installation.
- Lien Sale Outreach session on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Shirley Patterson, District Leader, 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District

- Make sure to register to vote for the upcoming primary.
- Make sure to complete absentee ballots if so required.

## **BUSINESS SESSION**

### **Roll Call**

Roll was duly taken, with 32 Board Members present, comprising a quorum.

### **February 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the February 23, 2016 Community Board 9 meeting minutes was duly made by Francisca Leopold, seconded by Dr. Zorina Frederick and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

### **Committee Reports**

Economic Development Committee – Warren Berke & Pia Raymond, Co-Chairs (Also see minutes from March 7, 2016 Committee meeting)

- Primary focus of Committee is to attract business and create jobs. Smorgasburg, which takes place in Prospect Park and just received Board support for an SLA license, will provide space for business within Community Board 9, including food merchants.
- Another focus is to fill empty storefronts. International House of Pancakes is considering opening a restaurant within Community District 9, which could employ 30-40 people.
- Regarding the Armory, the ULURP Committee will handle initial review process, but then each committee will have the opportunity to contribute.

- Urban Justice Center has programs that will assist with mental disability matters and housing matters. Contact Senator Hamilton's office for more information.
- Pop-up merchant events will take place soon, with focus being on artists.
- Social media for business event: will promote local businesses to use social media to expand presence.

Housing Committee – Carmen Martinez & Beverly Newsome, Co-Chairs (Also see minutes from March 9, 2016 Committee meeting)

- The Board was scheduled to hear from Joyce Stewart, President of the 320 Sterling Street Tenants Association on the ongoing issues with 320 Sterling Street. However, Ms. Stewart was hospitalized. At the Housing Committee meeting, Ms. Stewart gave a compelling presentation on 320 Sterling Street, the record of which Board Members are greatly encouraged to read. If possible, the Committee would like to facilitate a community meeting where 320 Sterling Street can be discussed in more detail with organizations and individuals involved in the dispute. The Committee would like to begin preliminary preparations for this meeting.
- On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9am to 3pm, there will be a Housing Education Forum. Online registration begins tomorrow. This will be an open discussion with elected officials and other stakeholders about housing matters and upcoming agendas.

RJG: Encourages the landlord from 320 Sterling Street to be invited to the event, as it might allay legal conflicts.

Public Safety Committee – Avi Leshes, Chairperson (Also see minutes from March 16, 2016 Committee meeting)

- State Liquor Authority license map available for view to get sense of bar proximity.
- All SLA applicants up for consideration were approved and Board encouraged to also approve said applicants.

Joint Education & Youth Services Committee – Dr. Zorina Frederick & Ada Terry, C-Chairs (See minutes from March 1, 2016 Committee meeting)

Health & Social Services Committee – Francisca Leopold, Chairperson (See minutes from March 3, 2016 Committee meeting)

### **Voting on Agenda Items**

Motion *that the Board support Boucan NYC Café's application to the New York State Liquor Authority* was approved by a vote of 28 in favor, 2 opposed and 2 abstained. Motion passed.

Motion *that the Board support 2122 Beekman Bar, LLC d/b/a Erv's on Beekman application to the New York State Liquor Authority* was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Before the following vote, Board Member Chanina Sperlin signed in, increasing attendance to 33 Board Members.

Motion *that the Board support Cup Cakes by Brenda Grill, Corp. d/b/a Taqueria El Patron Mexican Grill's application to the New York State Liquor Authority* approved by a vote of 30 in favor, 2 opposed and 1 abstained. Motion passed.

## Chairman's Report

DL: There have been reports of homeowners, especially seniors, being harassed by developers. Please contact CB9 if anyone knows about such occurrences. Information will be passed along to the Brooklyn DA's Office.

DL: Hopes that Joyce Stewart quickly recovers from her illness.

DL: CB9 currently has 49 Board Members. The application period for new and renewing Board Members who wish to be on the Board this year has passed.

DL: Recognizes new Board Member, Scott Mathews-Novelli, who has taken on the role of Board Meeting note-taker after Stuart Balberg resigned from his position as Secretary. An ad-hoc Nomination Committee should be created to handle the appointment of a new Secretary, but, given more pressing priorities before summer break, it makes more sense to wait for the annual Nominating Committee to form and consider all officers for the 2016-2017 session. As such, Scott Mathews-Novelli should continue on as temporary Secretary until the end of the term.

RJG: Per CB9 Bylaws, a Board Member cannot hold an officer position until after one year of being a Board Member. To avoid possible challenges, Bylaws should be followed.

DL: It has been difficult to find an accurate note-taker who wants to serve in the role. Scott Mathews-Novelli can remain as temporary Secretary until a Nomination Committee forms soon and considers all positions, including Secretary.

*Motion that Scott Mathews-Novelli serve as temporary Secretary until the Nominating Committee forms and the Board elects new officers for the 2016-2017 session was duly made by Warren Berke, seconded by Augustine Blackwell and unanimously approved. Motion passed.*

Scott Mathews-Novelli: Thank you for this opportunity and for your support. While new to the Board, I hope that everyone accepts my contributions.

Kathleen Daniel, representative of Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams

- Borough President Adams has participated in anti-displacement efforts since 2015.
- In conjunction with Brooklyn Legal Services, a "Know Your Rights" housing forum will take place at Grace Reformed Church on March 24.
- Slashings are increasing. Beverly Newsome at Ebbets Field will host a community meeting to address the issue on April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Ebbets Field Apartments Community Room.
- Borough President Adams wants a review of the 2008 Tenant Protection Act to see its effects.

DL: Board Members should not be distracted by emails circulating and should instead focus on CB9 governance. Rather than engage in emails, Board Members with specific concerns should address issues with the Executive Committee.

DL: District Manager Search Committee Chairman Hector Robertson has worked hard on the District Manager hiring search. The District Manager Search Committee convened for 13 total meetings, where candidates' resumes were reviewed. The Committee suffered from lack of members' attendance. Without proper attendance, it is inappropriate to vote on candidates' resumes. The Committee needs to reform with new members and consider resumes already on hand.

RJG: A quorum is only required for final votes and not for all committee meetings. Was there a quorum at all meetings or at only the final meeting?

District Manager Search Committee Chairman Hector Robertson (HR): The Committee worked hard to review and vet candidates. As legally required, the Committee chose three candidates for final consideration. Neither the law nor Board Bylaws designate a detailed process for District Manager searches, meaning that aspects of the process needed to be created to fulfill Committee function. A quorum was never a requirement for resume reviews and transparency was emphasized. Everything performed by the Committee was according to Board Bylaws.

Board Member Question: What is the candidate selection status?

HR: There are three candidates: two candidates have served on other Community Boards and the other's candidate's experience is very substantial.

Board Member Question: After 13 Committee meetings, why is the Committee not able to continue its process?

DL: The Search Committee should have had better attendance to ensure that the resumes were fully reviewed by all Committee Members. Without review, Committee members cannot make a proper assessment of the candidates.

Board Member Question: Should a new Search Committee be created?

DL: Current Board Members need to participate in the process with better attendance and review resumes once again.

Board Member Question: There have been allegations over email about Search Committee proceedings and the Board should participate in the final vote.

DL: The full Board has the right to make the final vote, but the Search Committee needs to consider resumes.

WB: The selection process was proper. The Search Committee did well, but should have had more participation. A proper process selected 3 candidates, as required.

*Motion that the Search Committee distributes candidate information to the Board, the candidates meet with the Board, and then the Board vote on the 3 candidates at the April Board Meeting made by Warren Berke and made open for Board discussion.*

DL: Disagrees with Motion. After reviewing Search Committee attendance records, attendance was poor. Appointed members need to be in attendance, but the Search Committee should not start over from the very beginning of the process by requesting new applicants – only existing resumes should be considered. A new Search Committee should be appointed to consider candidates.

Patricia Baker: Disagrees with Motion. The vetting process is important. The results are not accurate. It is premature to conduct the final vote at the next meeting. In speaking with legal counsel, it appears that attendance is necessary to maintain proper procedural compliance.

Fred Baptiste: Disagrees with Motion. There are no meeting minutes and the Board does not understand the decision-making process.

HR: The minutes from the last Search Committee Meeting were recorded, reflecting Search Committee attendance. However, again, attendance was not necessary.

Tim Thomas: The process does not look good and the Search Committee needs to complete its work and have sufficient minutes. The Search Committee should complete its work.

Board Member Question: What about the minutes from all of Search Committee meetings?

Dr. Zorina Frederick: I've had extensive experience in the hiring process and I can tell you that in order for proper vetting to be done, the Search Committee Members should have participated in resume review and interviews. The Search Committee Members cannot only vote at the end of the review but not actually participate in the entire review.

*Motion to table Warren Berke's Motion until the April 2016 Board Meeting and, in the meantime, compel the District Manager Search Committee to disclose its minutes and attendance records* was duly made by Fred Baptiste, seconded by Ada Terry and approved by a vote of 26 in favor, 5 opposed and 2 abstained. Motion passed.

*Motion to adjourn the Board Meeting* duly made by Warren Berke, seconded by Augustine Blackwell and unanimously approved. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:17PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Mathews-Novelli  
Temporary Secretary  
April 6, 2016