

Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225

Minutes of the Community Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, March 25th 2014
Middle School 61 Auditorium
400 Empire Blvd, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Attendance: (Please verify your attendance is correct, thank you)

Board Members Present

Amy Albert
Simone Bennett
Shirley Dor
Ed Fanning
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Daniel Ingvoldstad
Frank Nicholas
Rosemarie Perry
Brenda Scott
Shelia Foster-Golding
Jacqueline Welch
Victoria St. Clair
Veta May Clarke
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Stuart Balberg
Laura Imperiale
Chanina Sperlin
Brenda Hutto

Board Members Present

Fred Baptiste
Warren Berke
Josette Coicou-Brioche
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Aron Hershkop
Demetrius Lawrence
Dwayne Nicholson
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Timothy Thomas
Diana Richardson
Aldith Clarke
Myra Holmes
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Theopia Green
Yvonne Straker
Roosevelt Rose
Maurice Jean-Baptiste
Evelyn Williams

Board Members Absent

Rev. Robert Ambrose
Gerald President
Ruby Hodge
Jacqueline Love
Michael Cetera, AIA
Samuel Marmulzsteyn - sick
Rev. Phyllis Brown - sick

PUBLIC SESSION:

Review application submitted by Mr. Shalva Kvitall, President, Michael's Car Service, 311 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, to the Taxi and Limousine Commission for the renewal of their Base License

Mr. George Berko represented Michael's Car Service. Mr. Berko informed the meeting that he has been serving the community with distinction for almost 22 years. They have not had any problems over those many years. Tonight he is asking the board for approval to renew their license.

Review application submitted by Mr. Onyebuchi Okigbo, President, Norwood Car and Limo, Inc., 3122 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, to the Taxi and Limousine Commission, for the relocation of the for-hire base to 590B New York Avenue, Brooklyn, within Community District 9

Mr. Onyebuchi Okigbo apprized that he is relocating his taxi service to 590B New York Avenue. For many years he worked his business from the Fulton Street location. It is a Spanish community; the community was not good for his business because of the language barrier. When calls come in they don't understand; and they can't communicate with the customers, so business was not good. That is why he is moving.

Mr. Ed Fanning, Transportation Committee Chairperson, said that Mr. Okigbo met with the committee and provided the documents that the District Manager had requested to be presented. The committee was satisfied with the documents provided by Mr. Okigbo.

Mr. Rudy Delson will present updates on the exciting plans to be implemented at the Parkside Plaza Project

Mr. Delson informed that two years ago the Parkside Plaza project was presented to Community Board 9. The project is located in the south-western portion of the district. There was a contest; the winner of the contest was a group of architects living on Parkside Avenue. They want to green the area making it beautiful as you enter Prospect Park. After the contest they tried to make their vision a reality. We worked on the proposal for two years; slides were shown to the community.

The group found out that the Department of Transportation had a plaza project in Manhattan with chairs and tables. DOT is willing to support developing such plazas throughout the city if someone will maintain them. In Times Square the businesses maintain the plaza. In Brooklyn we do not have businesses of that strength; as a result we are trying to find ways that we could go about maintaining the project. In Cho and Tim Chou, artists, came up with the following design. On Parkside Avenue there are blocks of concrete; we are trying to make the location friendlier for people coming in from work. We need to clean up the graffiti; clean up the trash, etc., to make Parkside Avenue more inviting. It would cost ten to fifteen thousand dollars to maintain the plaza each year.

Instead of concrete blocks there would be trees planted by the Keyfood Supermarket. The subway station is undergoing renovation and should be completed by July 2014. The work on the plaza is broken up into two phases – the first one is to plant the trees by the supermarket then build out the plaza; then when the subway project is completed install the benches. In December trees went into the location by the supermarket for the first time with tree guards. There are now five trees on Parkside Avenue with tree guards. In January we had 30 volunteers come out to build the tree guards out of wood; and, with shovels and spades, they were installed. Now if you walk down Parkside Avenue during the day you will see people sitting on the blocks enjoying the trees. The plaza doesn't have benches yet; we would like to have benches installed.

I would like to say again tonight that the city will build the plaza if we can maintain it. Raising the \$15,000 a year from people who use the plaza will be difficult; we need the support of our elected officials to do this. We put in an application through Friends of Community Board 9 to Council member Mathieu Eugene for \$3,500 for the planting of the trees.

There is an organization called Neighborhood Plaza Partnership. It is a new organization; they recently received a grant from Citybank to do low cost maintenance to plazas like ours. We would like to ask all Brooklyn elected officials to support the plaza through the Parks Department or the Department of Transportation. We would like to see the public plaza program supported by public funds.

It is my hope that this is the last time I will be coming to the Community Board on this issue. When this plaza is built, it will be a public space. There are so many youth groups, artists and cultural groups that will be able to make use of this plaza. Things like fashion shows, artworks, dances, we want them to come and use the space. Mr. Delson concluded by asking anyone who knows about such groups to contact him at (718) 675-9103 or delson@gmail.com.

Chairman Goldstein said that the community was fortunate and thankful that we have community people like Mr. Delson. The Chairman thanked Mr. Delson for his foresight and energy to get things done. We thank you for your hard work.

Questions and Answers

Pat Jackson – do you live in the community? Mr. Delson – yes, I live on Winthrop Street. Pat Jackson – so you want to improve Parkside Avenue because you are a resident and nothing else besides that? Delson – yes.

Fred Baptiste – I remember this presentation before; didn't you say you would have vendors? Who will be managing it? Delson – Friends of Community Board 9. In the long run we will have cultural events; we could give licenses for using the plaza, but how much will we get from that?

Who is Friends of Community Board 9? Delson - It is the organization that we are working with; the Parkside Committee of Friends of Community Board 9 will be the group in charge of the plaza in the long term. It is my hope that the Parks Department will have the money to maintain it; I have no desire to run that aspect of it; hopefully someone will step up to the plate instead of us.

Inaudible question; Delson – yes the merchants association on Flatbush and Parkside is very helpful; they are the ones who host our meetings; they are a great group; ten years from now they will be a fantastic group.

Theopia Green – who is Friends of Community Board 9? Delson – this is the organization that we operate under. Friends of Community Board 9 was formed as a 501c3 to raise money and conduct its business.

Chairman Goldstein – Rudy, thank you again for all that you are doing; my question is, have you approached the Botanic Garden? Delson – yes; we will have to talk about it.

Review a summarization of the views/concerns/wishes expressed at “Listening Forum on Land Use” held at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden on Monday, March 17, 2014. This summary will be the basis for the Community Board’s request to the Department of City Planning to immediately address the community’s needs and begin a zoning study of Community District 9

Presenting the summarization report is **District Manager Pearl Miles**. Ms. Miles informed that last year and the year before there was much talk on what was going on regarding land use in the district. People had concerns that projects that were being proposed were not in keeping with the community. There were other areas in the community where people had other needs regarding where they live; while other parts of the community had their ideas of what they wanted. To really get a sense of what everyone’s needs and concerns were, a forum was held on March 17, 2014 at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden; the district was divided into four quadrants to facilitate the discussion. There was a huge turnout of residents. I am not sure how many people here tonight were present at the forum. Persons wanting to speak were given the opportunity to do so. They were able to say how they felt about the community they live in, how they wanted to see it develop to raise their children. A summary was compiled out of what was said at the forum; a resolution was also formulated; that is the document that was distributed tonight. About 100 copies were made, board members had their copies emailed to them. If you have a copy please share with someone who doesn't.

Tonight we will listen to your response to the summary and the resulting resolution. If this is not what was expressed at the forum; or if something has been left out you are invited to stand up and say so, so that what you said may be included. The resolution that was prepared for the Board will go, along with the summary, to the Department of City Planning to say to them that we would like them to take action in this district; other districts have had their turn regarding land use; it is now time for the agency to focus on this district. So anyone wanting to speak please do so; three persons have registered to speak; anyone else wanting to, please feel free to speak.

Leslie Gulick – I am a member of PPEN; I would like to amend the resolution by the Community Board as follows: And be it further resolved that in light of the emergency that exists in the R7-1 blocks substantially contiguous to Prospect Park, that the City Planning Commission add the following text to change to its zoning designations: “special height and setback regulations for certain sites in Community District 9, Borough of Brooklyn; within the boundaries of Community District 9 in the Borough of Brooklyn, all buildings located in the R7-1 district north of Clarkson Avenue, south of Empire

Blvd, west of Bedford Avenue, and east of Ocean Avenue, shall be developed or enlarged pursuant to the Quality Housing Program.

Theopia Green – you're a member of this community, yes? What is your organization? Gulick – Prospect Park East Committee.

Suwen Cheong – I would like to address the part of the resolution which to reflect the fact that many residents in Section C feel that the areas of Ocean Avenue and Nostrand Avenue and Clarkson Avenue corridor in Section C, many residents feel that they are concerned with high existing densities between the Flatbush-Ocean corridor and our priority is to preserve affordable housing as opposed to high density.

Amy Albert – are you asking that including Empire Blvd? Would that exclude Flatbush Avenue? Suen – yes. Amy – so my question was, given that portion about the commercial corridors, including Empire Blvd specifically, I am wondering that it would address her concern if we were to say that that does not include Flatbush Avenue, that is the part in Section C that she is referring to, and that satisfies my concern.

Tim Thomas – the first speaker was referring to a text change. How many know what a text change is, raise your hand. Essentially, instead of changing zoning, the City Planning Commission has allowed some parts of the city the opportunity to insert a little bit of text which says all development has to be in a certain area, have to conform to something which is called quality housing. Is this the shortest way to say this, it keeps to context of the current neighborhood in place and if you have that text change in say an R7 district like Flatbush you couldn't have a 23 story building. The problem we have waited too long. As I was talking to Kenya about the area along Nostrand Avenue, which is R7, everybody is snatching up the area right and left. Just today I've learned about a brand new giant apartment building coming at the corner of Nostrand and Clarkson Avenues, and over the coming months we are going to see more and more, we are going to see more and more developers coming into the area. So without the quickest remedies for areas they are looking to build tall towers we will come back next year at this time and there will be at least half a dozen buildings, tall buildings going up. Will we have affordable housing, probably not, so this is an emergency and the reason that PPEN is here talking about. Text change is something we can ask City Planning Commission alongside with zoning text to areas that are particularly vulnerable.

So when you hear these things I just want you to remember we have a consensus on a lot of things, we do not want them to overbuild our areas with luxury houses and make it unaffordable to people who already live here. So that's really why we are here. It sounds like we are throwing a lot of jargon at you, but we are all trying to come up to see and learn how the city speaks when it is time to address the issue, so I hope all of you stay in this fight because it will be a fight.

Theopia Green – my concern about this issue is that I was not notified and I would like to know how long this notification was extended and how far reaching was it. Also I would like to know about the meeting on March 17, how many people attended and what records do you have to show how many people attended. Pearl Miles – Theopia, we only had people sign in who wanted to speak. The Botanic Garden auditorium was filled with people. How were people notified? We announced at last month's meeting that this forum was going to take place on that date; we sent emails, we mailed information, we posted it to our website. It was advertised. We have a website where we post events; we encourage people to go and look at our website. We put all our meetings, every meeting, every month on the website. The address is www.communitybrd9bklyn.org.

Diana Richardson – good night Board 9. We need to do something for Nostrand Avenue. Could we have the same texting to protect us on Nostrand Avenue as well and anywhere else in our community we have the R7 zoning. Let us do a texting service for that, that it must come through the board if they want to go higher than that we need to know.

Pat Jackson – who are giving these people the right. Rabbi Goldstein, interrupted, who are these people? **Jackson** – the developers; the right to come into our neighborhood, for one this is a residential area to build high rise houses. I want to know who is giving these people the right to come into our neighborhood to build these big buildings at the corner.

Chairman Goldstein – Pat how long has the building been on the corner? **Jackson** – I don't know, someone had to okay it.

Chairman Goldstein – let me explain quickly; if there is a building that goes up that does not come before the community board, it is being built "as of right." The zoning for that plot is from the City, the existing zoning as it stands there, a developer comes in and puts up a 3 story building, that's what the zoning allows. Therefore, they don't have to come to the community board for permission. In the case of the Flatbush Avenue 23-story building, it is going up as of right, and this is what the talk is all about here now. To prevent that type of construction from happening in the future, not just there but other parts of the community district.

I want to remind people that 16 or 17 years ago there was another issue here about a possible construction on Franklin Avenue and Montgomery Street next to the Spice Factory. They said that they can build as of right, and if someone buys that property, they can build as of right. The issue was brought to the Board by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden; a rezoning was done with the Department of City Planning and a rezoning of Washington Avenue was conducted. So we have dealt with these issues that come up. So now we are looking at the big picture; we are trying to address the entire district where home owners and businesses and community people can selectively live together. This is a good resolution.

Community Resident: in requesting text changes, how do they work? **Goldstein:** here is how it will work; we will take a vote on the issues, and I dare say that it will take an 18 to 24 month process; because it goes up and it comes down; and that is the reality when we live in a big city.

Kendra: there was a meeting not too long ago with the committee regarding R2 and R4. It was also brought to consider downsizing and downzoning R7, and that is nowhere on here. It just says to conform to prevailing uses and density. It says no incremental expansion of homes in R2 and R4 districts, which is interestingly the first priority, but at the same time there was a concern that Nostrand Avenue to Utica was addressed and as we see now it is not on the map requesting that R7 be also included as a possible down zoning and I don't see that anywhere down here, because Diana Richardson asked that it be taken into consideration. Texting, but why can it be specific the same way. R2 and R4 are in number 1.

Goldstein: Mr. Thomas spoke about contextual zoning specifically addressed to this area and so it includes the R7.

Pearl Miles: The concept is to limit high rises; it is the very first item in #1. **Kendra:** but it doesn't say R7. **Pearl Miles:** Ms. Gulick mentioned R7 in her statement; we are looking at what, if anything, should be included in the resolution.

Pearl Miles: the Department of City Planning will be doing the study of the district. They are the ones who will help us with what gets changed and what doesn't get changed based upon what we say we want to see. We are specifically saying we do not want high rises. Ms. Gulick gave a specific parameters for R7 in the district. The Board is saying R7 where-ever it exists.

Kendra: where does it say that? **Pearl Miles:** Ms. Gulick just said that. **Kendra:** inaudible. **Pearl Miles:** we have a resolution here tonight, that is what we are talking about now, that we want to present to the Department of City Planning. She has already said what you are raising and what we have in the resolution. She is asking that what she said be included in the resolution that we will vote on.

Kendra: What I am saying is why isn't it added to the text resolution. **Miles:** that is what we are considering here tonight.

Goldstein: Let me read what Ms. Gulick read in her statement to be added to the community board's resolution: "within the boundaries of Community District 9 in the Borough of Brooklyn, all buildings located in the R7-1 district north of Clarkson Avenue, south of Empire Boulevard, west of Bedford Avenue, and east of Ocean Avenue, shall be developed or enlarged pursuant to the Quality Housing Program" that is very specific. Do you know what the Quality Housing Program is?

Kendra: if that is the case why can't you say specifically to downsize R7-1 Chairman Goldstein: This is what the district manager has already said in the resolution: prevent limit/out of context (high rise) in the district. We will send a resolution to City Planning to begin a study, based upon these concerns from the community. City Planning will come back to us with something to look at; it does not happen the first time that is why it is an ongoing process. The resolution should work for everybody because it addresses all the concerns expressed at the forum.

Fred Baptiste: at the ULURP meeting we already put into motion and now we should be doing the review (inaudible)

Goldstein: Fred, let me do this for everybody. We want to take this resolution to City Planning now that we have something on paper. Thank you. This is not the final process it is only the beginning of a long process.

Imperiale: why are we doing the resolution and not through the ULURP Committee. Goldstein: it does not have to go through ULURP, it is not land use.

Goldstein: It will go to City Planning, they will begin a study based upon what we have; they have planners, the whole nine yards; they will come back to us to say what makes sense, what is doable, what does not make sense, this will take a two-year period before it is finished.

Tim Thomas: Everybody is raising a good point. Let me say something. When we talk about the needs for our community we set up a listening session. That was the process. What Pearl did, which is incredibly helpful is to take all these comments and put them into one document. What I think we should be discussing here tonight is the wording of the resolution exactly how we want it to be, and if it does not do justice. This is the process; that is what we should be discussing tonight, to move forward. Instead of sending it back to ULURP; we move it forward to the City Planning as quickly as possible. So if you have something to change about the resolution we should do it tonight.

Jacqueline Welch: It should go back to the ULURP Committee.

Tim: No, why I think so, if we send it back to the committee it will be a whole month. Should it go back to the committee? Then people have a right to do so, but they will only be slowing down the process. I think it shouldn't. Why? Because right now on Flatbush one building is going up; I am sure there are others in the works and before you turn around others will be going up. So if we as a community want to slow that process up then send it to ULURP. We do not need to send it back; in the meantime the builders are moving forward.

Goldstein: I just want to give you an idea; has anyone driven on Rogers Avenue in the last week? On Rogers Avenue between Crown and Carroll, there is a famous church, St. Ignatius, well, that church has been sold to a developer. It is a Catholic church and I happened to see it and looked up the name of the developer and happened to see on the website as it was sent to me that they are putting up an 8-story building.

People all speaking at the same time; confusion!

Pearl Miles: We are done. We will take Ms. Gulick's statement and make it a part of the Community Board's resolution. She mentioned a specific area, however, we can incorporate what she wrote to include the R7-1 over here; the R7-1 over there, and the ones that are here on Nostrand Avenue to satisfy all the R7-1 that people have questions about. We will amend what is already said and add it to the resolution. Where we don't want high rises we will state it clearly and distinctly, along with the information from the forum on March 17th

Fred Baptiste: inaudible. Goldstein: then don't vote Fred when we take it to the vote.

Community resident: I am particularly concerned about how the town hall meeting was conducted. I look around the room and lots of people are not represented. I think we should send out meeting notices to all the people living in crown Heights. I think we need to communicate better, there are major changes taking place and they need to be communicated so that participation of the community is fully involved.

Kendra: this is the request for the first priority where it says down zoning R7-1 and that's it? Miles: that is what we are saying.

Kendra: that is not priority #1 of the resolution. Goldstein: there is no priority #5 could be #1, #4 could be #3; this is not a priority thing; it is simply a document stating our needs.

Jeanine Nickles – I've lived in the community about one year. I am new to the community. I went to the meeting at the Botanic Gardens. I would like to suggest in the resolution whereas of the resolution two things that were remarkable to me – that the zoning application was sent to City Planning since 2009 to down zone and now it is 2014, and that this is the only one in the city facing this, that it is not authenticated.

Goldstein: Let me answer this, the park is surrounded by four community boards, we are only one of the four boards. Lots of people think that we own the park; when I get calls about the park I have to explain, that is on the board 14 side or the board 7 side, and all are responsible for the park.

Community resident: I think it is important that we pay attention to some of the people who are pointing out the vagueness in the writing of this proposal. These people are not professionals and they can see the holes in it. The people who are the professionals will see the holds much quicker and exploit it and we will be back here to do the same thing in far less time. We are in an age when there is a difference between two words. We must be contractual if we are not then somebody can hold us to the details. We may consider it cumbersome or taking too long, but I think we pay attention to the details.

Pearl Miles: This is only the beginning of the process.

Goldstein: this is not the final document. This is not even the baby step; this is only the beginning of the process and this document is just letting the City know what we are concerned about so that they will pay attention to it when they begin the study of the district. City planning will be the ones doing the study for us; they will come back and engage us in discussion; but we need to give them something to start with to show them what we are thinking. They must do the study with community input.

BUSINESS SESSION

The Business Session began at 8:40 p.m. with 36 members present. Chairperson Goldstein informed that Jacqueline Love sent in her resignation; the board now has 43 members.

Minutes of the January 2014 Meeting

The minutes of the 2014 meeting was presented for correction and adoption.

Corrections: Dwayne Nicholson, made the following corrections

- His name was spelt incorrectly – Dewayne instead of Dwayne

- Page 8 – this is what he said “we don’t need to do spot zonings we need to have a comprehensive plan that covers the whole community board. Everyone is feeling pressure from developers. Community Board 8 has done 3-4 down zonings since 2005 and we need to look at what they did and do something similar.

The minutes were adopted with the corrections on a motion by Warren Berke and seconded by Edmund Fanning.

Minutes of the February 2014 Meeting

A motion was made by Amy Albert and seconded by Shirley Dor to table the minutes of the February 25th meeting, to the April meeting.

District Manager’s Report

District Manager Pearl Miles reported the following:

- The Department of Transportation will have a public workshop on the Franklin Avenue corridor. They are doing a study on traffic safety on the stretch from Atlantic Avenue to Empire Boulevard. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 2nd, 2014 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Medgar Evers College, President’s Conference Room, 1650 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.
- Council member Laurie Cumbo will be holding a Vision Zero Town Hall meeting on Thursday, March 27th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Borough Hall.
- Borough President Eric Adams, along with council members will also host a Vision Zero Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, April 1st from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Brooklyn Borough Hall.
- Crown Heights spring soccer for children ages 3-14 years sponsored by Seeds in the Middle. Applications are available for children to register starting April 5th. For further information call 917-756-4202.
- Councilmember Darlene Mealy, together with DEP, DOF and HPD will be doing a Lien Sale Outreach Session for property owners. Discussion will be on property tax exemption for seniors and disabled veterans, tax liens, water and sewer tax bills, etc. The session will be held on Wednesday, March 26th 2014, from 4:30 to 7:00 pm, Calvary Fellowship AME Church, 790 Herkimer Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233 (between Rochester Avenue and Suydam Place)
- Assemblyman Karim Camara and District Leader Jessie Hamilton will be hosting a Women’s History Month celebration in recognition of women who are making a difference. The presentation will take place at Kings County Hospital, T building auditorium, 451 Clarkson Avenue, 2nd floor, march 27, 2014, at 7:00 pm.
- Medgar Evers Prep School Parent-Teachers Association is having a legislative breakfast on Friday, April 11th from 8:00 am to 10:00am, 1186 Carroll Street corner of Nostrand Avenue. To RSVP email mecpta@gmail.com. There will be opportunity to meet and greet public officials, community activists, and a tour of the school conducted by seniors.
- A new organization formed known as the Community Armory Committee was established for the development of the armory.
- A meeting on how to organize your building will be held on Wednesday, March 26th at the Atrium, Center for Nursing and Rehab, 727 Classon Avenue at Prospect Place. If you are experiencing problems with the landlord, being overcharged, etc, you could get help at this forum.
- Funeral services for Rochard Charles, the student from Jackie Robinson School, who was killed at Empire Blvd while crossing the street with his mother. The viewing is this Friday, March 28th at Lisa Dosier Funeral Home, 169 Empire Blvd, between Bedford and Rogers Avenues, from 7:00 pm. Burial will take place on March 29th at the Cypress Hills Cemetery. The school is taking donations for the family. If anyone is interested contact the Guidance Counselor, Mr. Mathews or Ms. Rose at 718-693-6655 or by email: bmatthe@schools.nyc.gov.

Chairman Goldstein explained that the child lived across the street from where he was hit; it was a hit and run accident, the driver left the scene, but then returned. The driver was charged with vehicular homicide. Everyone needs to take the initiative to keep our streets safe. If lights are out call, if street lights are missing please call. This

is a safety issue, lives are always on the line when street lights are out or street lights are missing. The Chairman then called for a moment of silence in memory of the passing of young Richard.

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday, April 29th instead of the 4th Tuesday, April 22nd in observation of Passover.

There are people who live on your block who received letters from the City regarding their real estate taxes. This is really important; not because you have paid off your mortgage, does not mean that you don't have to pay your taxes or water bills. Water is not free. If you are owning the city taxes for any reason so and negotiate payment plans with them. Councilmember Mealy is holding a session on tax liens, go to the meeting to find out more about tax liens. You can lose your house for tickets from sanitation or water bills.

Committees' Reports

Public Safety Committee - Rosemarie Perry (see written report)

Highlights: the community is concerned about asthma and pollution and traffic congestion from Medgar Evers College closing off of Carroll Street and Bedford Avenue for campus use. They need to conduct a new traffic study on public safety issues, the concerns that the NYPD monitor the area when the college is closed, etc.

Housing Committee – Laura Imperiale (see written report)

Highlight: planned housing workshops; roll out series of events on housing, affordable housing, housing workshops in June. The committee would like to be informed about ULURP items concerning housing so that a joint meeting can be held. The committee chair and Dwayne Nicholson have been attending meetings at Borough Hall.

Economic Development Committee – Warren Berke

Highlight: Warren Berke spoke about the Lefferts Community Food Co-op opening soon in the community; it will be at 323 Empire Boulevard, they will be opening in July. Their mentor is the Park Slope Food Co-op. Membership is on a sliding scale; also members must work for the co-op. We need to educate people about why there is a fee to buy food; the fee is about \$5 for members.

Environmental Protection Committee – Timothy Thomas (see written report)

Youth Services Committee – Amy Albert

Amy Albert said that there was one thing from her report that she wanted to bring before the board that a vote is needed. A couple of weeks ago she spoke about Youth on Board and about legislation to allow 16 and 17 year olds to become board members. The committee was impressed with the gentleman who came to their meeting; the organization would like Community Board 9 to support the legislation.

Transportation Committee – Ed Fanning

Ed Fanning reported that there were two applications for renewal of base licenses to the Taxi and Limousine Commission on which the board needed to vote.

The need to invite DOT to come in and review what is going on with Flatbush Avenue and Parkside as far as turns on Lincoln Road, it's a concern, they need to look at the turn signals; we will continue to monitor.

Chairman's Report

The District Manager sent out emails with testimony she submitted on behalf of Community Board 9 in support of the HHC and CAMBA's housing proposal. He received three phone calls from senior executives of the hospital telling him how great the testimony was and they graciously thanked me that it was delivered. Ms. Laray Brown, personally thanked me and the District Manager. The fact is we have a first rate hospital in our community and a top notch trauma center.

Voting items

Parkside Plaza Project – Transportation Committee's recommended support for the request from Mr. Rudy Delson for the Board's support for the installation of three benches for the project. The motion was seconded by Edmund Fanning – voting was unanimous.

Norwood Car and Limo to relocate to 590B New York Avenue, Brooklyn, within Community District 9 – application was reviewed and supported by the Transportation Committee. Motion to support the application was made by Ed Fanning and seconded by Fred Baptiste – voting was unanimous.

Michael's Car Service, renewal of base license at 311 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn. Motion to support the application for renewal was made by Ed Fanning and seconded by Dwayne Nicholson – voting was unanimous.

Resolution to Dept of City Planning to do an immediate zoning study of Community District 9

Tim Thomas – I move that we accept the resolution, but we also accept the changes that were brought up at the meeting, one that Kendra made and also PPEN and others on down zoning R7-1 in the community; seconding the motion is **Demetrius Lawrence**.

Fred Baptiste – I move that this resolution be tabled and sent back to the ULURP committee. Motion seconded by Roosevelt Rose.

Discussion on the motion:

Fred Baptiste - we do not have enough information to vote on this. We only had one meeting, we need more community input. (end of tape)

Tim Thomas – this will only delay the process, it does not have to go back to committee.

Goldstein: a vote yes is to table; a vote no is not to table. **Voting: Yes – 12; No – 24; Abstention – 0. Motion defeated.**

Vote on accepting the resolution with the necessary changes: Yes – 26; No – 7; Abstention – 2 motion carried

Motion to support the legislation to allow 16 year olds to become members of community Boards; discussion: Stuart Balberg – there is a call for us to make changes to the City Charter. Voting: Yes 10; No – 20; Abstention – 2 motion defeated.

Community Board 9 Treasurer

Chairman Goldstein said that last month the process for electing a Treasurer for Community Board 9 was not done correctly. The voting will take place at next month's meeting.

Diana Richardson – Pearl had it on the agenda October, November, December, no one came forward; now that I accepted to serve it was not put on the agenda. Last week I went to the office to see the files. I was shown the files

that I could look at; there was no treasurer's report for the board. I went into a cabinet drawer that I was not supposed to see and you wouldn't believe what I found! I had the check book; I wasn't supposed to see this. There is no treasurer's report, no report on spending the board's money; that is on you Jake.

Note from Secretary: At this point in the meeting it became very disruptive with board members yelling and screaming and pointing accusatory fingers at the District Manager, insinuating malfeasance with the District Manager; using very unkind words. Also blaming the secretary for things not recorded verbatim when they are not picked up by the tape. There was no way that amidst all of this screaming and yelling and disruption of the meeting that I could possibly record the very shameful goings on at the meeting. Along with that the Custodian asked us to leave because we had overstayed the time allowed on the permit.

The meeting ended amid this chaos at 9:50 pm on a motion by Evelyn Williams; I did not get the seconder's name.

Respectfully submitted
Shelia Foster-Golding
Secretary
April 29, 2014