

Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
BOARD OFFICE
HELD THURSDAY, January 2, 2020

Committee / Board Members Present

Amy Pinkerton, Committee Chair
Becky Celestina, Community Member
Virginia Bechtold, Community Board 9
Alicia Boyd, Community Member

Committee Members (CM) / Community Members Absent

Lucas Woods, Community Member

Meeting called to order 7:30 pm

This meeting continued our main topic of discussion, the Spice Factory Development project at 960 Franklin Avenue (aka "960 Franklin"). The project developers have filed initial paperwork with the city and are currently working on its required environmental impact study. The ULURP process has not yet been initiated but is anticipated to begin in early 2020.

Committee discussion centered on the following:

- **Community Forum – Information and Discussion: Confirm the Event Format / Date / Location: Tuesday, March 3, 2020**
 - Confirm planned date (3/3/2020) location availability (Medgar Evers per suggestion of CB9 Chair) with Assistant DM Mia Hilton
 - Prepare 1-pager proposal for CB9 Board Chair / Co-Chair with planned details of event (including any proposed budget)

- **Decide on event structure: What are we providing? What format? POV? Topics and approach**
 - Understanding the development of city places impacts every aspect of the environment: land use, infrastructure, transportation, housing (and housing costs), quality of life issues, utilities, etc.
 - Event will provide information on the city development process / areas of impact / players involved / and the timeline for action (time line of development process)
 - Focus discussion on a small number of Big Issues we can galvanize community interest around
 - Provide the framework in which development takes place: Zoning / ULURP process
 - Speakers proposed (4 speakers) will each discuss a different aspect of the development process from current area zoning to the ULURP process, to gentrification, to the community's part / engagement in the development process
 - Limited time for event but topics are very large – striking the right balance between issues presented and the depth of the discussion (Q&A us a major component to the event)

- **Speakers – Topics / POV**
 - Since our last meeting, the Committee has reached out to the following groups, with some confirmed / some unconfirmed:
 - LaShaun: Speaker to discuss current zoning / zoning plan implemented in 1991(CONFIRMED)
 - Professor Emeritus / Ex-City Planning: Tom Angotti: Speaker to discuss ULURP process: How it unfolds, groups involved; timeline of actions (CONFIRMED)
 - Samuel Stein (Author): Speaker on his *Capital City: Gentrification and the Real Estate State* book's topics (NOT CONFIRMED)
 - Representatives (TBD) from Inwood Re-Zoning Project: Representatives from the Inwood community that challenged the city over its re-zoning plan for a large swath of the Inwood community's residential neighborhood (Legal Representatives – CONFIRMED)

- **Collaboration – Out Reach to Other Committees / Groups**
 - Event topics overlap with multiple CB9 committees – possible collaboration. Will submit our proposal for event to Board Chair for input and feedback on committee collaboration
 - Brooklyn Botanic Gardens is holding an upcoming Community form on its “Fight for Light” campaign (January 12th)
 - This presentation will provide a good source of information and provide an opportunity to gather community members' contact information
 - Environmental group will plan to attend the BBG session and engage in community limited outreach (handing out “save the date” flyers)
 - Prepare a “Save the Date” flyer for our event's date (3/3/20). Need approval from Chair – will follow up and confirm before the BBH event day 1/12/20.

Action Items for Next Meeting:

- Prep BBG Save the Date flyer
- Draft event proposal for Board submission
- Attend BBG event (1/12/20)
- Continue research on topic (relevant newspaper articles / online posts / archived documents)
- Continue outreach to speaker (and think of additional ideas that we should share)

Meeting closed 9:15 pm