

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

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 27, 2017
AUDITORIUM, MIDDLE SCHOOL 61
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

Board Members Present

Taungela Ambrose
Patricia Baker
Stuart Balberg
Fred Baptiste
Rabbi Yaacov Behrman
Simone Bennett
Warren Berke
Augustine Blackwell
William H. Boone, III
Greg Darby
Ben Edwards
Rosemarie Evering
Henry Greenidge
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Bishop Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Aron Hershkop
Louis Johnson
Linda Beth Lawson

Board Members Present

Michael Liburd
Mattijs Limberger
Carmen Martinez
Scott Mathews-Novelli
Musa Moore
Vivia Morgan
Patricia Moses
Beverly Newsome
Pia Raymond
Unella Rhone-Perry
Rashidah Siddiqui
Rabbi Chanina Sperlin
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Joyce Stewart
Ada Terry
Debbie Timothy
Jacqueline Welch
Eve-Lyn Williams

Board Members Absent

Rev. Douglas Banks
Rev. Phyllis Brown
Maria Hernandez
Olushegun Holder
Daniel Ingvaldstad
Francisca Leopold
Riel Peerbooms
Rabbi Menacham Shagalov
Aishah Smith

Elected Officials / Agency Representatives Present

Tahirah A. Moore – Mayor Bill de Blasio
Darryl White – Public Advocate Letitia “Tish” James
Dale DeGale – U.S. Representative Yvette Clarke
Ryan Lynch – Borough President Eric Adams
Karen Chambers – Acting Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez
Reuven Lipkind – Senator Jesse E. Hamilton, III
Nefertiti Macaulay – Assembly Member Diana C. Richardson
Lucien Allen – Assembly Member Walter T. Mosley
Ashley Thompson – Council Member Darlene Mealy

PUBLIC SESSION

Call to Order

Chairman Musa Moore called the meeting to order at 7:30pm, welcomed attendees. Executive Secretary Scott Mathews-Novelli read the Community Board 9 Rules of Conduct into record.

Applications for NYSLA Licenses

StreetSweeper, 594 Rodgers Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Michael Casas, Owner: Application for a new liquor, wine, beer and cider license. Following an electrical fire in the kitchen, the restaurant is reopening. There have been no violations. There have been complaints from the community about backyard noise, but Mr. Casas met with members of the community and resolved the matter amicably. The backyard is not part of the application, so the stipulation terms agreed-upon will not apply at this time.

Honey Badger, 67 Fenimore Street, Brooklyn, NY 11225 (Between Flatbush and Bedford)

Fjolla Sheholli, Owner: Application for a new liquor, wine, beer and cider license. Opened in December. Farm to table restaurant, with many self-grown plants and seeds. Just recently opened. Lots of experience in the restaurant business. Obtained petition signatures very quickly. Hours are 5PM-12PM. Seats 30 people. Possibly some classical music, but not any loud music. Plans to have a sidewalk café, but may have to apply to the Department of Consumer Affairs. Owners live in the community. Does not want to have a bar atmosphere.

Audience Questions & Comments

Audience: How will you handle music, as there has been loud music in the past?

Applicant refused to address the question due to a personal issue with the audience member.

Public Safety Committee Chair Patricia Baker emphasized that this was not the forum to address disputes that do not relate to the application.

PD Mario Restaurant, 851 East New York Avenue/434 Schnectady Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Gene Anton, Owner: Application for a new wine, beer and cider license. Will be a Hispanic-American restaurant. Seats 20-30 people. Hours of operation are 7AM-12AM during the week and 7AM-2AM on weekends. The owner's family also owns a grocery store on the block and has lived here for some time. Space previously contained Bajan Café, which had environmental violations. The storefront is being renovated with fire systems and a new storefront. The Committee requested pictures of the completed renovations by the June 27 Board meeting. Will hire from the community; planning to hire about 4 people. There will be tables outside on the sidewalk, which will require a DCA permit. No violations or complaints, but still awaiting notice from NYPD. There is a school nearby, but it is at the opposite end of a large block.

Landmarks Preservation Commission Application Presentation

Brooklyn Museum; Block 1183, Lot 86, Brooklyn, NY

Angel Ayón: Application to alter the rear façade of the building. When first built in 1894-1924 and altered in 1936, only the front façade was built in an Eclectic-Roman style. After many renovations, the back of the building remains dark; the rear wall will be modified with glass and metal to create more natural light. The application was approved by the Landmarks Committee on the condition that the metal will be painted with a specific color to ensure that it remains true to the style.

Audience Questions & Comments

Audience: How will this affect the community financially?

Applicant: It will increase attendance and open the space visually, so it will directly and indirectly have a financial impact.

Audience: What is the funding source?

Applicant: There are public and private sources of funding. This project will not result in a loss of funding to other programs related to the museum.

Audience: How will this affect education programs?

Applicant: There will be relocations of certain services to address any spatial loss.

NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission Application Presentation

Board Introduction: On June 14, the Transportation Committee reviewed and voted on the following applications. The Committee approved both applications.

Norwood Car & Limo, Inc.; 590A New York Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Onyebuchi Okigbo: Renewal application of For-Hire Vehicle Base License. The service assists people who need automobile transport, from the hospital to the airport.

Brooklyn Van Lines, Inc.; 1799 Bedford Avenue, Suite 1B, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Sulaiman Haqq: Application for additional vans in the Borough of Brooklyn. In business for over 20 years.

ULURP / Land Use Application Presentation

Presentation by BFC Partners on their Plan for Bedford Union Armory

Michael Liburd, ULURP Committee Chair: BFC and EDC have been working on the Bedford Union Armory project for some time. ~~This month's Committee meeting contained the same plan that has not~~ substantively changed, despite opposition; the Committee voted unanimously against the project (15 total votes). On June 19, there was a public hearing where attendees could speak. Today, the Board votes on the presentation. After this, the Borough President, the City Council and the Mayor's Office considers and votes on the plan. BFC can modify the proposal during this process. Since this continues the process, the Board will vote today. With these votes in mind, the Executive Committee will prepare recommendations for those voting at a later time.

Audience Questions & Comments

Audience: Why is the time to speak limited?

Committee Chair Liburd: There was an opportunity to address this in depth on June 19. The public comment period should remain.

Audience: Why should the Board vote no with the potential opportunity?

Committee Chair Liburd: The value of the recreation center does not outweigh the cost of other aspects of the plan. There is a higher level of scrutiny for such tradeoffs.

Audience: When will the community know about the Executive Committee recommendations?

Committee Chair Liburd: Information will be on the Community Board 9 website about dates and deadlines. The ULURP Committee will also provide input based on its recommendations, which will include the public scoping documents prepared earlier this year.

Audience: Why is BFC the only bid under consideration?

NYC Economic Development Corporation Representative: This was a part of a competitive RFP where there were many applicants. Community input was taken into consideration during the process. They were chosen because they met the City and local community interests. After the City Council vote, the Mayor can accept or reject the project (with City Council veto-override power).

Audience: When considering financial benefit, whose benefit is truly considered?

NYC Economic Development Corporation Representative: Financially feasible meant the pragmatics of completing delivering on the project. The EDC is working with stakeholders to meet needs of the public, but must consider overall expense. There were public requests for recreation services, among other services, and those costs were offset by proceeds of condo sales.

Public Comment Period

Public Comments

Ede Fox: The Armory should be solely affordable housing. The Board should vote no without any recommendations.

Alicia Boyd: The Armory was wrongly sold for \$1, with terrible terms and no transparency about the financial information. The property should remain with the public. Councilmember Cumbo did not properly negotiate the agreement. There will be mobilization to involve the courts and continue community engagement.

Lorenzo Cortelli: I am in favor of the project. It will further integrate the community and improve the quality of life, including education. Voters should think outside the box.

Victor Moses: Chair Moore has lobbied on behalf of real estate industry, which might pose a conflict of interest in his capacity as Chair.

Chair Moore responded that his participation with real estate only reflects a small portion of his work in politics and his community participation is much more significant. His professional background has not bearing on his commitment to the Board.

Jean: Opposition should continue to engage with elected officials to maintain pressure. The focus should be on science and technology training.

Sabrina Lewis, Kingsbrook Medical Center: There are upcoming programs for health and wellness, domestic violence awareness and CPR. Call 718-363-6610 for more information.

Margaret Walton, Brooklyn Children's Museum: One Crown Heights Festival on July 9th.

Victoria Phillips, Urban Justice Center: There will be a health event July 15 at the Urban Justice Center, which will also focus on organizing and strategy.

Dr. Zorina Frederick: Happy to have been a part of the Board for the past two years as Education Chair, Interim Chair and First Vice Chair. She believes that she was removed from the Board under improper circumstances and was asked to perform inappropriate tasks. Although having applied to remain on the Board, the application appears not to have been considered.

Elected Official & Government Agency Comments

Chair Moore recognized elected officials and representatives present today.

NYC Councilmember Laurie Cumbo, 35th District

- This process started as a discussion about a community center, but is now in this situation over years. This project will create essential affordable housing and recreation that has not taken place for some time. The current proposal is not acceptable and looks forward to changes. There must also be indefinite access to recreational facilities and non-profit office space, among other aspects that meet the community needs. Recommends that the Board and Borough President's Office vote against the proposal.

Karen Chambers, Kings County District Attorney's Office

- Call 718-250-4877 for community concerns.

Nefertiti Macauley, representative of New York State Assembly Member Diana Richardson, 43rd District

- Civic Minded, a community engagement event, takes place every last Saturday of the month at 400 Empire Boulevard. Topics include affordable housing, transportation and other community issues.

Ashley Thompson, representative of City Council Member Darlene Mealy, 41st District

- Attend the Advisory Board meeting. There are also immigration legal services on Thursdays and general legal assistance on Wednesdays.

Reuven Lipkind, representative of New York State Senator Jesse Hamilton, 20th District

- The Bedford Armory project should only serve members of the public who need housing. There will also be an outdoor movie.

BUSINESS SESSION

Roll Call

Roll was duly taken, with 37 Board members present, comprising a quorum.

May 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Motion to *approve the May 23, 2017 Community Board 9 meeting minutes* was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Transportation Committee – Fred Baptiste, Chairperson

- Committee met earlier in the month. The Board considered the applications up for vote. The Committee also heard a proposal for changes to Eastern Parkway. There have also been changes to parking meters on Kingston to accommodate those who observe the Sabbath.

Public Safety Committee – Patricia Baker, Chairperson

- There will be a forum in September that focuses on knowing-your-rights.
- Next year, the Committee will focus more on public safety matters in addition to licensing.

Youth Services Committee – Ada Terry, Chairperson

- For info on cyberbullying, go to SoulBehindThatScreen.org.

ULURP Committee – Michael Liburd, Chairperson

- There is an application from All My Children daycare center for a renewal application that may be considered in the summer. The Committee would like this to be considered by the Executive Committee over the summer.
- There will be deed restriction application by a church under consideration.

Environmental Protection Committee – Rabbi Yaacov Behrman, Chairperson

- Department of Sanitation has made a 3-day trial to stop Saturday street cleaning on Eastern Parkway.

Voting on Agenda Items

Applications for NYSLA Licenses

Motion that *the Board support Streetsweepers' application to the New York State Liquor Authority* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 35 in favor and 2 opposed. Motion passed.

Motion that *the Board support Honey Badger's application to the New York State Liquor Authority* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 31 in favor, 5 opposed and 1 abstained. Motion passed.

One Board member left the meeting at this time, making 36 present.

Motion that *the Board support PD Mario Restaurant's application to the New York State Liquor Authority* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 31 in favor, 3 opposed and 2 abstained. Motion passed.

Votes on Other Items

Motion that *the Board support the Brooklyn Museum's Landmarks Preservation Commission application* was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Motion that *the Board support Norwood Car and Limo, Inc.'s For-Hire Vehicle Base License application* was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Motion that *the Board support Brooklyn Van Lines, Inc.'s van increase application to the Department of Transportation* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 34 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstained. Motion passed.

Motion that *the Board support BFC Partners' land use application for the Bedford Union Armory development project* was duly made, seconded and failed by a vote of 0 in favor, 35 opposed and 1 abstained. Motion defeated.

Nominating Committee's Report

Nominating Committee Chair Rabbi Yaccov Behrman stated that First Vice Chair is the only contested race.

- Chair:
 - o Musa Moore
- 1st Vice Chair
 - o Patricia Baker
- 2nd Vice Chair
 - o Patricia Moses
 - o Mattijs Limberger
 - o Simone Bennett

- Executive Secretary
 - o ~~Scott Mathews-Novelli~~
- Treasurer:
 - o Warren Burke
- Members at Large:
 - o Eve-lyn Williams
 - o Jacqueline Welch

Second Vice Chair Candidate statements:

Simone Bennett: Looking forward to working with new leadership.

Mattijs Limberger: Experience as a teacher and an active participant in many committees. Hopes to serve the community as Second Vice Chair.

Patricia Moses: Served as interim Vice Chair and interim Chair, reflecting a great deal of experience.

Election of Officers

In the first round, Mattijs Limberger received 6 votes, Patricia Moses received 12 votes and Simone Bennett received 17 votes. Per the bylaws, there must be a runoff election between Patricia Moses and Simone Bennett.

For Second Vice Chair, Simone Bennett received the most votes with 23 votes and Patricia Moses received 12 votes.

Executive Secretary Scott Mathews-Novelli cast single votes for all unopposed candidates, except for Executive Secretary, where Second Vice Chair Patricia Moses cast a single vote.

Chairman's Report

Chair Moore: Have a great summer, everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to *adjourn the Board Meeting* duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:28pm.

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Respectfully submitted,
Scott Mathews-Novelli
Executive Secretary
August 12, 2017