

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

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON APRIL 24, 2018
AUDITORIUM, MIDDLE SCHOOL 61
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

Board Members Present	Board Members Present	Board Members Absent
Stuart Balberg	Musa Moore	Taungela Ambroise
Fred Baptiste	Vivia Morgan	Patricia Baker
Warren Berke	Patricia Moses	Rev. Douglas Banks
Augustine Blackwell	Beverly Newsome	Simone Bennett
William H. Boone, III	Riel Peerbooms	Greg Darby
Ben Edwards	Pia Raymond	Henry Greenidge
Rosemarie Evering	Unella Rhone-Perry	Aron Hershkop
Rabbi Nochum Gross	Rashidah Siddiqui	Daniel Ingvaldstad
Tessa Hackett Vieira	Rabbi Chanina Sperlin	*Louis Johnson
Bishop Hamilton-Gonzales	Rabbi Joseph Spielman	Michael Liburd
Olushgun Holder	Debbie Timothy	Mattijs Limberger
Linda Beth Lawson	Eve-lyn Williams	Rabbi Menachem Shagalov
Francisca Leopold		Aishah Smith
Carmen Martinez		Joyce Stewart
Scott Mathews-Novelli		Ada Terry

Elected Officials / Agency Representatives Present

NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer - Josh Pierre
Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams - Ryan Lynch
Kings County District Attorney – Karen Chambers/Karen Varriale
NYS Senator Jesse E. Hamilton, III – Reuven Lipkind
NYS Assemblywoman Diana C. Richardson – Tavia Mapp-Deterville
NYS Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley – Joshua Board
NYC Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo – Arna Lipkind
NYC Councilman Mathieu Eugene - Ramona Cabreja/Soumia Chraibi
71st Precinct Community Council – Karl Cohen

PUBLIC SESSION

Call to Order

Chair Musa Moore called the meeting to order at 7:24pm and welcomed attendees.

Executive Secretary Scott Mathews-Novelli read the Community Board 9 Rules of Conduct into record.

Brooklyn Public Library (Brett Robertson, Vice President of Finance and Administration, Brooklyn Public Library)

The Brooklyn Public Library Central Library is seeking 1) enhancements to the library and 2) a change to the exterior that requires landmark change. Landmark approval will be supported by a letter of support from Community Board 9.

The Brooklyn Public Library serves millions of people per year and provides access to books and media as well as services, such as employment and passport assistance. Throughout the entire library system, there will be improvements and rebuilding to one third of the total buildings in the system.

Upcoming and planned enhancements to the Central Library: improve infrastructure and add new services (phase 1). Books will once again be a focal point by bringing more to the foreground, with increased space for community engagement and organizations. There will also be improvements to esthetics (phase 2). There will also be storage space that is opened to the public (phase 3). Finally, the library will be linked to Mount Prospect Park (phase 4). There is \$35MM for the first phases and hopes for funding of \$100MM the remaining phases.

Along the Flatbush Avenue wing, the library seeks to take the underutilized space and make a “civic commons” for IDNYC, passport services and other programs occurring. It is currently a book processing center. The ideal is to have door entry, signage and lighting on Flatbush. This will require landmarks approval. The library would like Community Board support for these changes.

Questions & Comments

Question: Did Major Owens’ family challenge the proposed changes?

Answer: No.

Question: What is the application status?

Answer: It has been submitted and is pending the letter of support.

Question: How will parents with strollers be addressed as an obstruction?

Answer: The children’s wing will not move, but will be renovated.

Question: Is there an entryway to the side of the building in addition to the new window?

Answer: Yes, there will be multiple access points.

Question: The application is not pending with the Landmarks Commission. Is this true? (A copy of an application to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.)

Answer: There are two pending applications: 1) plaza repairs and 2) an application with staff that is not yet with Commissioners. (The copy of the landmark application provided by the member of the public was for plaza repairs and did not address the matter before the Board.)

Question: How will future phases be funded?

Answer: There is hope that \$30MM in funding will become available from the City. However, without this funding.

Question: What other renovations have occurred since it was first built?

Answer: There have been some changes, including roof repair. There have been other privately funded programs.

Question: Is Michael Liburd on the Brooklyn Public Library board of directors?

Answer: Yes.

Applications for NYSLA Licenses

4 Campbell, d/b/a Toast – 1130 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

New application for liquor, wine, beer and cider. There will be some food served, with toast being the focal point. There will be no live music. The location is about a block away from St. Francis Church. No issues with FDNY or law enforcement.

El Castillo De Jagua Ramirez Corp – 679 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Renewal application for wine, beer and cider. There were no issues with FDNY or law enforcement.

No representative was present to address questions to the Board.

Esther Hadassa Corp d/b/a IX Restaurant – 43 Lincoln Road, Brooklyn, NY 11225

New application for wine, beer and cider. Traditional Guatemalan cuisine.

No representative was present to address questions to the Board.

Public Comment Period

Public Comments

Lashaun Ellis: Community Board 9 did not hire while there was a pending lawsuit regarding the District Manager employment process. There were issues with a position description and candidate assessment process. The Search Committee did not follow a pending motion made by the Board. This reflects a lack of adherence to the law.

Alicia Boyd: There were improper procedures, disclosures and votes made with regards to the Bedford Union Armory application and the pending Brooklyn Public Library. There are conflicts of interest on the Board that affects its ability to do business.

Y. Castillo, Civilian Complaint Review Board: The Board will host a public event on May 9. (Secretary note: details and location were not heard, but clarification was not sought because the event is before the release of these minutes.)

Denise Mann: Brooklyn Clear CLARO assessments. For low level possession claims resulting in a desk appearance ticket (misdemeanor as a top charge), there will be attorneys available to make assessments and get support in getting assistance with treatment. This will assist people with avoiding the criminal justice system and assist people with addiction issues. There are a number of treatment resources available for people who qualify.

Elected Official & Government Agency Comments¹

Josh Pierre, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer

- Comptroller Stringer and representatives visited the Board district 3 times in April: meeting with tenants regarding an elevator issue, hosting an event in the community, and a rally on tenant rights.
- There are new initiatives to protect renters and people hoping to purchase homes.
- There is a community action center regarding issues with pensions and agency issues (no number provided).

Mattheu Eugene, NYC Councilmember, 40th District

- There have been increases in hundreds of affordable housing units in recent months as a result of programs supported by the Councilmember. You can contact the office to learn about these opportunities.
- There are new fitness equipment at parks within the District.
- On June 15, there will be a free legal assistance program available. Contact the district office for more information.

¹ Elected Official & Government Agency comments are only included in the minutes when speakers discuss matters involving the agenda, specific issues in the community or events taking place following the likely passage of these Minutes at following month's meeting.

Ryan Lynch, representative of Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President

- The Borough President introduced a resolution to remove cancer-causing foods from schools, including processed meats.

Reuven Lipkind, representative of NYS Assemblymember Jesse Hamilton, 43rd District

- Immigration and youth legal services monthly. Call the district office at 718-284-4700 for an appointment.

Joshua Board, representative of NYS Assemblymember Walter Mosley, 57th District

- The state budget passed, with funding set aside for education and housing. The budget included legislation on sexual harassment policy and domestic violence prevention. The criminal justice reforms were not included, but remains a priority this session.
- There is work to preserve W.E.B. Du Bois High School at its current location, but it may involve a name change. The Assemblymember is attempting to challenge this.

Arna Lipkind, representative of NYC Councilmember Laurie Cumbo, 35th District

- Participatory Budgeting resulted in 4,000 votes on projects proposed by the community. There are opportunities to propose for funding through the 2019 participatory budgeting in August 2018.
- Summer youth programs: ConEd Summer Energy Academy, Carnegie Hall Summer Educators Workshop

BUSINESS SESSION

Roll Call

Roll was duly taken, with 25 Board Members present, comprising a quorum.

March 27, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion to *approve the March 27, 2018 Community Board 9 meeting minutes* was adopted as submitted.

Committee Reports²

Housing Committee – Beverly Newsome, Chairperson

² Mentions of meetings and forums taking place before the next Board Meeting may not be included in these minutes.

- Landmark proposal to include handicap access to the home. The Committee did not have a quorum, so this did not go to the Board.

Transportation Committee – Debbie Timothy, Chairperson

- The Brooklyn half marathon will take place in May. The Committee has spoken to organizers and hope that there will not be issues in the community.
- There will be community walks planned with the Committee. Dates pending.

Search Committee – Unella Perry, Chairperson

- On April 20, 2018, the Committee submitted a letter to the Chair stating that it would not comply with the motion brought by the Board. The Committee sought counsel from Borough President legal department; Ms. Perry asserts that their legal interpretation supports noncompliance.

Chair Moore read a letter from Borough Hall legal department, which stated that if the Board does not approve the candidates as presented, they may either reject the candidates as presented or constitute a new Search Committee.

The Board discussed the District Manager issue. Suggestions were brought to delay the vote until June. It was mentioned that using unemployment as a basis for not hiring is discrimination. There was no statement with regards to specific next steps in this process.

Applications for NYSLA & DCA Sidewalk Café Licenses

One additional Board Member appeared, making 26 Board Members in attendance.

Motion that *the Board support 4 Campbell's application to the New York State Liquor Authority* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 23 in favor, 1 opposed and 2 abstained. Motion passed.

Motion that *the Board support El Castillo De Jagua Ramirez Corp's application to the New York State Liquor Authority* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 21 in favor, 2 opposed and 3 abstained. Motion passed.

Motion that *the Board support Esther Hadassa Corp's application to the New York State Liquor Authority* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 18 in favor, 5 opposed and 3 abstained. Motion passed.

Voting on Agenda Items

Motion that *the Board submit a letter to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission in support of the Brooklyn Public Library's application to introduce a new doorway, windows and electronic sign to the rear Flatbush Avenue façade of the Central Library* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 24 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstained. Motion passed.

Chairman's Report

Nomination Committee members for the 2018-19 session:

- Rosemarie Evering
- Rabbi Nochum Gross
- Bishop Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
- Riel Peerbooms
- Rashidah Siddiqui

Chair Moore stated that he will not run for the 2018-19 Chair position, but is happy with the progress the Board has made during his tenure.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to *adjourn the Board Meeting* duly made, seconded and unanimously approved.
Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:38.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Mathews-Novelli
Executive Secretary
May 6, 2018

