MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 20, 2016
AUDITORIUM, MIDDLE SCHOOL 61
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225

Board Members Present
Patricia Baker
Stuart Balberg
Fred Baptiste
Rabbi Yaacov Behrman
Simone Bennett
Warren Berke
Augustine Blackwell
Jillian Drummond
Ben Edwards
Rosemarie Evering
Shelia Foster-Golding
Dr. Zorina Frederick
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Bishop Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Kyra-Lee Harry

Board Members Present
Aron Hershkop
Francisca Leopold
Mattijis Limberger
Carmen Martinez
Scott Mathews-Novelli
Musa Moore
Patricia Moses
Beverly Newsome
Riel Peerbooms
Pia Raymond
Unella Rhone-Perry
Chania Sperlin
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Ada Terry
Debbie Timothy
Eve-Lyn Williams

Board Members Absent
Rev. Douglas Banks
Rev. Phyllis Brown
Veta May Clarke
Maria Hernandez
Daniel Ingvoldstad
Louis Johnson
Demetrius Lawrence
Linda Lawson
Michael Liburd
Maria Molina
Hector Robertson
Menachem Roitblat
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Roosevelt Rose
Rabbi Menacham Shagalov
Lorraine Thomas
Jacqueline Welch (Excused)

Elected Officials / Agency Representatives Present
Darryl White – Public Advocate Letitia James
Jamal Pollard – Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams
Karen Chambers – Acting Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez
Mathew Pitt – Council Member Laurie Cumbo
Leticia Theodore-Greene - Kings County Hospital Center
Xiomara Wallace – Kings County Hospital Center

PUBLIC SESSION

Call to Order

Chairman Musa Moore called the meeting to order at 7:17pm and welcomed attendees.

First Chair Dr. Zorina Frederick read the Community Board 9 Rules of Conduct into record.

Breaking Ground (f/k/a Common Ground) Proposed East Flatbush Safe Haven Transitional Facility; Kingsboro Psychiatric Center

Housing Committee Interim Chair Beverly Newsome introduced the presentation. On 12/14, the Housing Committee met with Breaking Ground to discuss the planned facility with Breaking Ground’s representatives.
Claire Sheedy & Doug Becht presented on behalf of Common Ground. Common Ground (aka Breaking Ground) has 3,000 units across 20 buildings that provide services to homeless New Yorkers to stabilize their lives and seek long-term homes. There are two “safe havens” in operation and another in the Kingsboro campus. There are also homeless veteran services in Westchester County. The program aims to support homeless with New York with continuous care. Common Ground works with the city. The East Flatbush Safe Haven Transitional Facility will partially occupy building 3 and 9 on the Kingsboro campus. 50 staff will serve 100 people, who are recruited from the street and not shelters. When in facility, the aim is to obtain permanent housing. Staff on-site will have a medical clinic, services and transitional support. There will be security and special entrances for clients. Clients, who are voluntarily present and engaged in the process, will be screened, fed and engaged with activities. There are transportation services available for clients who have appointments. Common Ground is aware of the community concerns and want to engage with community organizations, hire from the community and make sure that all neighbors – old and new – are treated with respect.

**Audience Questions & Comments**

**Audience:** How does outreach work? How does the turnover work?

**Presenter:** For weeks and months, Common Ground develops a relationship with a client. The average length of stay at the safe havens is 9 months. People on the street are identified as having potential for transition and brought to the home.

**Audience:** How will program operate differently than the shelter on Kingsboro campus?

**Presenter:** A big difference is that Common Ground has more proactive services and encourages the clients to make a home and personalize the space.

**Public Safety Chair Patricia Baker:** In the 90s, there were similar programs created that supported homeless rehabilitation. Now, it is a nuisance and did not keep its promise to the community that it will be respectful. The neighborhood is oversaturated from similar programs and the community was not notified earlier in the process. This will also restrict the other Kingsboro patients from accessing the entire ground.

**Presenter:** The Safe Haven on the Bowery has resulted in getting a home for 70 people. Other Community Boards have commended Common Ground’s work. Common Ground notified the Community Board in November 2016, as soon as was possible. Common Ground is committed long-term to find permanent housing. There is little disengagement in the process.

**First Chair Frederick:** Other neighborhoods do not have the same degree of programs operating near the campus and it makes people feel unsafe. People cannot be forced to stay inside and there is a public danger to loiter. If there are problems, they are directly addressed and resolved.

**Audience:** There are nearby psychiatric support programs nearby and there is a substantial oversaturation. Who pays for housing?

**Presenter:** There are various public assistance options that are utilized to obtain permanent housing.

**Audience:** Why is no lease finalized yet and how does that affect continuity?

**Presenter:** Before a contract is signed, there must be a budget approved. Common Ground is awaiting final approval before being able to formally sign the lease. Common Ground is working with the State to finalize the lease.
Applications to the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission

Nadia Bishai & Hisham Modine; 143 Fenimore Street

Board Chair Moore introduced the applicants, who are seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness to legalize work done without proper permit, obtain permit to complete exterior siding replacement and make other concessions required by the LPC.

Nadia Bishai & Hisham Modine presented, stating that they purchased the house and would like to make renovations as it was in bad shape. There are leaks in the roof and other problems that require exterior work. Landmarks issued a violation because the work did not properly reflect the historical condition. The district is landmarked, but not the house itself. Department of Buildings approved the internal work. Outside features will be restored to historical aesthetic once the stop-work order is lifted and work can be completed.

Audience Questions & Comments

Audience: What is the Community Board’s responsibility?

Applicant: The Board only needs to support the changes.

Dr. Danielle Phillips, Phillips Pediatrics; 1917 Bedford Avenue

Board Chair Moore introduced the applicants, Dr. Phillips, who is seeking approval to retain a sign advertising her pediatrics practice in the front lawn in a mixed residential and commercial building (with one office space) built in 1910.

Dr. Phillips presented on the issue. Opened a practice and posted a sign in 2014 to notify the community and patients of the pediatrics practice. After asking the landlord, it seemed ok to post, but the property is in a landmarked district.

Audience Questions & Comments

Audience: What is the Community Board’s role in this process?

Board Member Carmen Martinez: Minor changes can be approved at a staff level while Landmarks Commission hears greater changes at a hearing. Before the hearing, the Board must hear the presentation and vote for or against supporting the petition to the Landmark Committee.

Applicant for New York State Liquor License

TAMS Indian Corp. d/b/a King of Tandoor; 600 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Committee Chair Baker introduced the applicant, who is seeking a Change in Class application for liquor, wine, beer and cider license; change from Restaurant Wine Liquor License to On-Premises Liquor License. Restaurant serves Indian fare and wishes to expand menu to include cocktails. Applicant has 12 tables and 32 seats, with no backyard or live music. Applicant hires from the community. There are 2 other licensed establishments within 500 feet that serve liquor, wine and beer. No negative reports from NYPD or FDNY, although there had been a 311 complaint in 2014 for violation of posted parking sign. Hours are 12:00PM-10:30PM.
Jian Du and Applicant presented on the restaurant. The restaurant opened in 2009. There is no live music. The president or vice president is present on the premises at all times.

Sidewalk Café License Application Update

Union Franklin One, Inc; 829-835 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Committee Chair Baker provided background on the matter. The application was submitted to the Department of Consumer Affairs to open a sidewalk café. CB9 sent a letter to Union Franklin One asking that they attend the Public Safety Committee meeting in September 2016. The property is on the corner of Union Street and Franklin Avenue, a heavily trafficked area. There are two other establishments on the block that serve food and wine. There are residents on the premises who have found the establishment a nuisance. Last week, the Department of Consumer Affairs approved the application. The Community Board needs to show its opposition to the sidewalk café and the Community Board should actively work against it opening.

Update on LinkNYC WiFi Kiosks Placed within Community Board 9

First Chair Frederick presented on newly proposed WiFi kiosks: 988 Nostrand Avenue (Sullivan & Empire); 1053 Nostrand Avenue (Lefferts and Sterling); and 299 Winthrop Street (Winthrop and Nostrand). There will be 7,500 kiosks throughout the city and more within the Board’s jurisdiction. The Community Board has 60 days to provide a response.

Audience Questions & Comments

Audience: Have the business owners in the area been made aware?

Audience: Objections?

Board Members gave the following objections: There must be limited access for children. The kiosks are too big for Brooklyn sidewalks and may be overused. LinkNYC should communicate complete and long terms plans for kiosk placement within Community Board 9.

Elected Official & Government Agency Comments

Darryl White, representative of Public Advocate Letitia James
- The office has been working on gender wage gap issues; more information available on the website.

Jamal Pollard, representative of Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams
- Past work: new investments from FY17 budget; met in Crown Heights to talk about housing issues in public housing.
- Brooklyn Ambassador program: Ambassadors communicate with the Borough President, contact Ms. Chapman 718-802-3884.
- Future Events: look at newsletter.
- Ryan Lynch will be new CB9 liaison starting next month.

Karen Chambers, Kings County District Attorney’s Office
- Immigration forum held previously to address passport and citizenship issues.

Matthew Pitt, representative of Laurie Cumbo, NYC Councilmember, 35th District
- Holiday toy drive at office this month.
Leticia Greene, Community Affairs Director, Queens County Hospital Center
- Hospitals hosted community forums throughout Brooklyn to discuss health care needs. Responses involved needs for clinics and mental health support. There will be a strong focus on mental health (as well as youth and LGBT needs) in 2017 to improve an already-strong program.

Karl Cohen, President, 71st Precinct Community Council
- Meetings occur the third Thursday of month.

Public Comment Period

Felice Robertson: Cornell Realty Management has completed application to rezone Franklin Avenue. Zoning is for 6A, but Cornell wants rezoning to 16 to 17 floors. The Brooklyn Botanical Gardens supported the 6A zoning with lower heights to promote plant growth. The community needs to prevent this.

Bernadette O’Connor and Beatrix McCleod, Queensboro Psychiatric Center: On behalf of CSEA and staff at Queensboro Psychiatric Center, opposing new shelter of the Center. There is a need for shelters in the City, but there was no community engagement in choosing property. There is a shelter on Clarkson and Albany Avenue and not right to have more in the area. The potential for more traffic as well as threats to personal safety on premises creates more dangers in the community.

Bridgette Davis: Property owner near the Queensboro Psychiatric Center. There are already three transitional units on the campus. There will be an increase in robberies in an already high-crime area.

Alicia Boyd: People should talk to local representatives about issues with the Common Ground; accountability is important. Regarding the Empire Boulevard redevelopment, there are claims that there are bait and switches. There was Community Board resistance then and further support from elected officials to threaten unprotected land. There are upwards of 20 stories possible with rezoning. There is a spot rezoning possible by City Councilmembers.

Hannah Njoku: New community newspaper, Community Life, is starting publication. After living in community for 5 years, wants to create a newspaper for Crown Heights so that people know what is going on within the community, both in terms of politics, culture and business.

BUSINESS SESSION

Roll Call

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

November 22, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Board Member Debbie Timothy asked that her name in the Meeting Minutes be corrected.

Motion to approve the November 22, 2016 Community Board 9 meeting minutes was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Economic Development Committee – Pia Raymond, Chairperson
- December 10-11 was major local shopping event with sales and incentives. There is a Facebook group available to interact with local business as well as music and other events.

**Transportation Committee – Fred Baptiste, Chairperson**

- Met last week to get a sense of community needs. Beverly Newsome mentioned a speeding on Eastern Parkway. Another concern is fading street signs in area, so trying to identify signs that need replacement. Also a letter asking for clearer signage near construction. There should be a comprehensive plan for the area that is disclosed with the community. There is a DOT hearing on December 29th regarding to a change to the rule for timers on walking signs, but that there also needs to be greater education and outreach on safe street walking.

**Public Safety Committee – Patricia Baker, Chairperson (See minutes from December 8, 2016 Committee meeting)**

- Over the past few months, the Committee has been formalizing the process for liquor license applicants to complete forms to inform the Committee about their proposed operations before the attend the meeting. The Committee reviewed forms from other Community Boards and created a questionnaire to create greater applicant accountability. After speaking with legal counsel, the stipulation forms have become incorporated into NYSLA licenses, giving greater enforcement power to all stakeholders. There are also notices and petitions for the business owner to use to inform and show local support. The Committee would like the Board’s support in using the forms.

**Joint Education & Youth Services Committee (See minutes from the December 6, 2016 Committee meeting)**

**Voting on Agenda Items**

Chair Moore indicated that CB9 will partner with CB17 to host a townhall meeting to inform the community on variables affecting Breaking Ground. All stakeholders are invited to become better informed.

The 143 Fenimore Street application was discussed. Board Members spoke in support of the application, stating that there was unknown damage and fires affected condition and not their fault.

Motion that the Board support the Certificate of Appropriateness for 143 Fenimore Street to legalize work done without a permit was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Motion that the Board support Phillips Pediatrics’ retention of its sign in front of 1917 Bedford Avenue was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

**Applications for NYSLA Licenses**

Motion that the Board support TAMS Indian Corp’s application to the New York State Liquor Authority was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Regarding the Public Safety Committee forms under consideration, Executive Committee members requested revisions regarding the pages being numbered, “if applicable” being added to the stipulations and clarity on a question about stipulation enforceability.

A Board Member made a Motion that the Board table motion under consideration until revisions have been formally completed, the Motion was seconded and failed by a voice vote.

One Board Member departed the meeting, making attendance 31 Board Members.

Motion that the Board approve the Public Safety Committee liquor license forms with applicable revisions was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 28 in favor, 2 opposed and 1 abstained. Motion passed.
Motion that the Board support proposed rule changes with regards to countdown lights with further pedestrian education on rights and responsibilities was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Chairman’s Report

Chair Moore thanked Community Board 9 members for their support. The Board is making changes to the website to make more user friendly. Discussions are occurring with Medgar Evers College about internships for public administration students. Biggest issue for the board is staff – resumes will be reviewed after the New Year. There is a holiday party on December 21st. There is a need for the community to engage with the Board, and vice-versa. Input is important.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Board Meeting was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Mathews-Novelli
Executive Secretary
January 9, 2017