

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

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 24, 2017
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
Shelia Foster-Golding
Dr. Zorina Frederick
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Kyra-Lee Harry
Maria Hernandez
Aron Hershkop
Louis Johnson
Linda Lawson
Francisca Leopold

Board Members Present

Michael Liburd
Mattijs Limberger
Carmen Martinez
Scott Mathews-Novelli
Musa Moore
Patricia Moses
Beverly Newsome
Riel Peerbooms
Unella Rhone-Perry
Hector Robertson
Chanina Sperlin
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Ada Terry
Lorraine Thomas
Debbie Timothy
Jacqueline Welch
Eve-Lyn Williams

Board Members Absent

Rev. Douglas Banks
Rev. Phyllis Brown
Veta May Clarke
Ben Edwards
Rosemarie Evering
Rabbi Nochum Gross (Excused)
Bishop Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Daniel Ingvoldstad
Demetrius Lawrence
Maria Molina
Pia Raymond (Excused)
Menachem Roitblat
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Roosevelt Rose
Rabbi Menacham Shagalov

Elected Officials / Agency Representatives Present

Dale DeGale – Congresswoman Yvette Clarke
Ryan Lynch – Borough President Eric Adams
Reuven Lipkind – State Senator Jesse E. Hamilton, III
Joseph Yanis – Assembly Member Walter T. Mosley
Nefititi – Assembly Member Diana C. Richardson
Matthew Pitt – Council Member Laurie Cumbo

Firefighter James Goels - FDNY Batt. 38
Xiomara Wallace – Kings County Hospital
Melissa Walters – Kings County Hospital
Dr. William H. Boone III – Medgar Evers

PUBLIC SESSION

Call to Order

Board Chair Musa Moore called the meeting to order at 7:30pm, welcomed attendees.

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

Chair Moore recognized members of the public attending their first Community Board 9 meeting.

Brooklyn Borough President's Capital Budget Overview

Director of Capital Budget & Special Assistant to the Deputy Borough President Bennett Baruch presented on the Brooklyn Borough President capital budget for fiscal year 2016 and 2017. There are two areas where elected officials can provide funding to local non-profits: capital, including buildings and movable property, and expense funding, which go to organization programs. The mayor allocates capital to city agencies, councilmembers and borough presidents (5% to borough presidents, based on geography and population).

Brooklyn and Queens borough presidents receive the most capital budgets of the boroughs. Brooklyn has received between about \$15mm and \$60mm over the past three years.

Nonprofit organizations are eligible to meet capital funding awards if they meet certain qualifications, such as existing operating contracts with the city and a level of spending. The goal for this upcoming year is to increase participation from those who are from areas not receiving funding or organizations who have not received funding. The intention is to create more equity among Brooklyn neighborhoods.

Currently, the Borough President's Office is receiving applications. Applications are accepted by the Borough President's Office until February 5, 2017 and, for Office of Management and Budget (OMB), February 14, 2017. After the deadline, the Borough President's Office works with other agencies to determine funding. Applicant organizations are notified of funding after July 1, 2017.

The biggest division between applicants is between schools (49%) and non-schools (51%). Both groups received roughly similar total budgets. The Brooklyn Borough President's Office takes a number of matters into consideration when reviewing applications, including need, impact, feasibility, and political support.

Areas of support include cultural organizations, parks, schools, affordable housing and economic development. In Fiscal Year 16, Community Board 9 received over \$5mm in funding, 154% of the community board average within Brooklyn.

For more information, visit www.brooklyn-usa.org/capital-budget, call 718-802-3890 or email bbaruch@brooklynbp.nyc.gov.

Audience Questions & Comments

Audience: Do you have access to the Community Board 9 budget and can you distribute it to the public?

Bennett Baruch: I do not deal with budgeting matters concerning this topic.

Audience: What is the accountability once the funding is distributed?

Bennett Baruch: Funding comes from OMB and they disburse the money to nonprofits as reimbursements for work performed. Once the application is approved, the agency and recipients must negotiate the terms of the agreement. During this process, the agency performs a great deal of due diligence, which results in a Certificate to Proceed. Once the project is fully complete, the recipient must provide receipts on expenses before the City (via OMB) reimburses the recipient.

Audience: Are records kept of applicants who are rejected to see if they apply often?

Bennett Baruch: Yes, there is an application tracking system to see trends in requests and applicants. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to apply on a consistent basis.

Audience: You can visit the Independent Budget Office for more information on the overall budget process.

Audience: What is being done with the Bedford Union Armory?

Bennett Baruch: There have been no applications in connection with the Bedford Union Armory.

Audience: Are school air conditioners eligible?

Bennett Baruch: No, but the related wiring is eligible. The minimum requested amount is \$35,000 and have a 5-year lifespan. Air conditioners are not presumed to have a 5-year lifespan.

Audience: What are examples of funded projects?

Bennett Baruch: Fiscal Year 2017 projects in Community Board 9 includes computer labs, tech-mobiles, Vision Zero senior projects, Maple Street Garden acquisitions, sidewalk extension, and Prospect Park entrance improvements.

Audience: Who makes final decisions on applications? Can you clarify how schools receive funding?

Bennett Baruch: The Borough President has discretion, but can seek input from others to consider other important factors. Borough-wide equity is vital. The Borough President received over \$100mm in applications last year and could not fund everything. Schools technically do not get funded directly; the School Construction Authority has actual control.

Audience: Have you ever funded Community Board 9 directly?

Bennett Baruch: Community Board 9 has not recently received funding. Community Boards need to find projects to request.

Audience: For Medgar Evers College Preparatory School, how often have they asked for money and is it possible to receive funding soon?

Bennett Baruch: Public schools received \$26mm last year. The Borough President has been focused on STEM education lately to encourage youth professional development. Schools can apply for anything, but 98% of school funding projects has to do with STEM and tech.

Application for NYSLA Licenses

Rogers Electra LLC; 225 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Public Safety Committee Chair Patricia Baker stated that applicant seeks a renewal application for liquor, wine, beer & cider license. The owner did attend the most recent Committee meeting. They have been in business for two years and are seeking a renewal. There is an outdoor space that closes at a reasonable time. There are no complaints by public safety or law enforcement.

Christopher Buckley, Rogers Electra Managing Agent, provided some background on the applicant bar. Branch Office, a bar and cocktail lounge, opened in February 2015. The bar is open from 3pm to 3am, Monday; Friday, 3pm to 4pm; and Sunday 3pm to 2am. There is community engagement by offering poetry readings and inviting food vendors to serve at the bar.

Public Comment Period

Elected Officials & Agency Representatives

Chair Moore recognized elected officials and other representatives who are present at the meeting.

Rewen Lipkind, New York State Senator Jesse Hamilton, [District]

- Senator Hamilton is proposing an end to trying 16 and 17 year-old youth as adults in criminal courts and instead placing them into juvenile facilities. The Bill has not been considered by committee yet, but will be soon.
- Other events include property workshop to discuss property value.

Dale DeGale, United States Assemblyperson Yvette Clark, [District]

- Free tax preparation at Brooklyn Public Library on Fridays and Saturdays every week until the tax deadline.

Ryan Lynch, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams

- Ryan Lynch is a new Policy Director, from Brooklyn Borough President Adam's Office; will be Brooklyn Borough President's point of contact for Community Board 9. For questions, contact ryanlynch@brooklynbp.nyc.gov.

Joseph Yanis, New York State Assemblyperson Walter Mosley, [District]

- Upcoming events: youth job fair and resume workshop.

Matthew Pitt, Cith Councilmember Laurie Cumbo, [District]

- Free tax prep is available at the office until the tax deadline. Contact the office to make an appointment.

James Batt, New York Fire Department, Station 38

- Station 38 had 3,200 runs last year; 2,200 were emergencies; 634 structural fires (many kitchens). Station 38's area is high in structural fires. In 2016, there were only 48 fire deaths in New York City. Try not to burn candles, or at least make sure that they are on a solid base and away from animals. If you have a fire in an apartment, especially highrises, make sure to shut the door before leaving the building, as it prevents toxic smoke and spreading of fire. Fewer fires are arsons as compared to previous eras.

Xiamora Wallace & Melissa Walters, Kings County Hospital Center

- NYC Health and Hospital does not discriminate based on immigration status.
- There is a support group, "café", that meets on Wednesdays from 5-7pm for family members or caretakers of mentally ill clients

Nefititi, New York State Assemblyperson Diana Richardson

- There are community events to encourage community leaders to engage in discussions on local issues. These are happening monthly.

Public Comment Period

Tyrone McDonald: Update on Neighborhood Housing Services in supporting homeowners. February events include new landlord support and a home-buying seminar.

Maxine Barnes: Board Member Carmen Martinez has been improperly representing herself as District Manager even though she has been limited by court.

Alicia Boyd: Community Board 9 is improperly participating in a rezoning application as a co-applicant with the Fenimore Block Association.

Aboubacar Okeke-Diagne: Speaking in support of the Renewable Energy Initiative. Largest line item for electric bills is delivery charge. Solar panels have a great value in providing energy. Qualifying homes in area could be eligible for solar panel subsidies in addition to future City and State initiatives to support this growing area.

Heidi Woo: Planning "Flatbush Fest" for community to unite with one another. Proceeds will benefit local organizations. Visit www.flatbushfest.com for more information. This will create further empathy between neighbors who do not yet know and relate to one another. Location is as-yet determined.

David Robinson: BUSJ has been in the community for around 37 years. Veterans are served for their various needs. Programs include post-homelessness reintegration, supportive services and employment support.

BUSINESS SESSION

Roll Call

Roll was duly taken, with 34 Board Members present, comprising a quorum.

December 20, 2016 Community Board Meeting Minutes

After requests for comments on the draft meeting minutes, Board Member Unella Rhone-Perry asked that her name be corrected on the attendance list.

Motion to *approve the December 20, 2016 Community Board 9 meeting minutes, as amended*, was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Economic Development Committee – Pia Raymond, Chairperson (See minutes from January 9, 2017 Committee meeting)

Executive Committee – Musa Moore, Chairperson (See minutes from January 17, 2017 Committee meeting)

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Committee – Warren Berke, Chairperson (See minutes from January 18, 2017 Committee meeting)

Transportation Committee – Fred Baptiste, Committee Chair (See minutes from [DATE] Committee meeting)

- The Department of Transportation sent a letter to Community Board 9 regarding the proposed Flatbush Ave renovation. The Transportation Committee had reservations the planned renovation, as it did not take stated community concerns into consideration. The Committee recommends reengagement with the Department of Transportation as well as elected officials concerning reservations. This includes a loss of parking, inconsistencies with statistical data, over-inclusion of green-space and ingresses on local businesses. Considering potential rezonings also under consideration, it is not really appropriate for the Department of Transportation to move on this issue with so much uncertainty. If reengagement does not work, the Board may need to consider other methods to voice the community's reservations.

Board Members had a general discussion about possible courses of action with regards to the Department of Transportation matter, as many board members feel that previous votes and actions have been fruitless.

Committee Chair Baptiste emphasized that the letter will aim to engage with many stakeholders to ensure that the community is not overlooked in the process.

This matter—whether or not to write a letter to reinitiate dialogue—will be voted upon later in the meeting.

Voting on Agenda Items

Applications for NYSLA Licenses

Motion that *the Board support Rogers Electra LLC's application to the New York State Liquor Authority* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 33 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstained. Motion passed.

Votes on Other Items

One Board Member departed and was not present for the following vote.

Motion that *the Board request that DOT meet with CB9, the community and local elected officials to address the outstanding questions and concerns with proposal HW779* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 32 in favor and 1 opposed. Motion passed.

Chairman's Report

Chair Moore stated that he hopes to keep meetings to less than two hours, which was almost achieved tonight.

Chair Moore stressed that staffing has been an issue with the Board. Board Members have been assisting in keeping the office open, which has been essential. The Executive Committee met with applicants for full time staff and has since extended offers. Responses are expected this week.

Chair Moore stressed that the Board will succeed in such a diverse community by working together. The community needs to work with the Board. It is counterproductive to focus on infighting while many problems persist and worsen in the community. If you live in the community, you are a part of the Board; community issues will be addressed in some way.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to *adjourn the Board Meeting* was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:24.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Mathews-Novelli
Executive Secretary
January 29, 2017