

**COMMUNITY BOARD 9
890 NOSTRAND AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 25, 2013
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, 11225**

Members Present

Amy Albert
Pastor Robert Ambrose
Stuart Balberg
Simone Bennett
Warren Phillip Berke
Michael Cetera, AIA
Aldith Clarke
Veta May Clarke
Josette Coicou-Brioche
Shirley Dor
Edmund Fanning
Shelia Foster-Golding
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein
Theopia Green
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Ruby Hodge
Myra Holmes
Brenda Hutto-Lucas

Members Present

Laura Imperiale
Daniel Igvoidstad
Maurice Jean-Baptiste
Demetrius Lawrence
Samuel Marmulzsteyn
Carl Morgan
Frank Nicholas
Dwayne Nicholson
Rosemarie Perry
Gerald President
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Roosevelt Rose
Brenda Scott
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Victoria St. Clair
Timothy Thomas
Jacqueline Welch
Evelyn Williams

Members Absent

Fred Baptiste
Rev. Phyllis Brown - sick
Flavia Francis
Charlene Gayle
Cedieu Gouin
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Aron Hershkop
Jacqueline Love
Diana Richardson
Karlene Robinson
Chanina Sperlin
Yvonne Straker - sick

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present

Honorable Mathieu Eugene
Debra LeSane – Kings County Hospital
Val Henry – Downstate Medical Center
Arna Lipkind – Hon. Darlene Mealy

Charles Jackson – Hon. Yvette Clarke
Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Eric Adams
William Boone – Medgar Evers College

PUBLIC SESSION

Medgar Evers College of the City of New York – Library Expansion Project - Mr. John Haynes, Assistant Director, CUNY Office of Design, Construction and Management; and Mr. Joe Tattoni, Principal of the Architectural firm Ikon 5, will make a presentation on the expansion project for the library at Medgar Evers College.

Mr. John Haynes, Assistant Director, CUNY Office of Design, Construction and Management presented an update of the Medgar Evers Library Expansion Project. Mr. Haynes informed that the project already in

progress, will be undergoing a \$2.4 million state of the art upgrade, renovation and expansion which will transform the space and improve the efficiency of the library services. It is expected that the project will be completed in eighteen months. What are the benefits of the project?

1. To expand space by fifty percent from 24,156 square feet to 36,472 square feet. This will increase the user seating from 203 seats to 281 seats.
2. It will increase the collection capacity from 120,000 to 140,000 volumes.
3. The project will increase technology work stations from 24 to 58; and increase the group study rooms from one room to seven rooms.
4. There will be added programs such as Emerging Technology and Information Literacy classrooms.

What are the goals for the new library? The goals of the new library located at Bedford Avenue and Montgomery Street at the south west corner of Medgar Evers College are to transform the library into a vibrant learning commons; to increase the square footage of the old space; and to improve the layout and furnishings. Mr. Haynes pointed out that the overall furnishings are from the 1980's; the library needs to be more attractive. There will be an added welcome center to the library. There will also be group study rooms.

The circulation area as proposed will be changed to a reference area. On each floor there will be a general collection area; also dedicated archival space will be added for the College's collection, as well as a storage area. The second floor of the library will be the periodicals, etc. This floor will be a more private, quiet space for reading.

There are two exterior renovations to improve access and security to the building. There will be an added vestibule to the right and a welcome center to the left. The welcome room is bright, with casual seating and a view of Bedford Avenue. The welcome center will provide open and transparent view.

The library has been relocated temporarily to the Carroll Street building on the fourth floor, during the construction; frequently requested books will be kept on campus, other books that are stored off-site can be requested.

The end product of the external improvements will be the new welcome center and the changes to the entrance to the Bedford building making it more welcoming and showing the activities within.

Questions and Answers:

Theopia Green: "I can't envision the new building. Are you using the space on Bedford Avenue?" Answer: "We are using the Plaza."

Community Resident: "How did all of these beautiful changes come about?" **Chairman Goldstein** "It was a capital budget request. They saw a need for it and its being done."

Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Haynes for his presentation.

Mr. Gregory Haas, Department of Transportation, will present the "Flatbush Avenue Congested Corridor Project (a study begun in 2010) to improve safety and relieve congestion on Flatbush Avenue from Ocean Avenue/Empire Boulevard to the Nostrand Avenue Junction – Includes portion of Community District 9.

Mr. Haas presented the Flatbush Avenue Congested Corridor Project focusing on Lincoln Road, Flatbush Avenue and Rogers Avenue in Community District 9. Mr. Haas pointed out that Lincoln Road is wide enough to construct two lanes on both sides. The two lanes will then merge into one lane from Flatbush Avenue. The reason for doing this is that the constant lane changes cause a lot of accidents on Flatbush Avenue. There will be one lane with parking; this will improve the travel speed on Flatbush Avenue. The Department of Transportation has proposed to clear the eastern curb with "No Standing" signs Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and also on the north side. The south bound in the afternoon is not as bad as in the morning.

The question is where will the merge take place? Where and how do you narrow it from one to two lanes?

Proposed: From Empire Boulevard going south will be wider lanes; from Church Avenue it will merge into one lane, south bound straight through.

Proposed: North bound lane flares into two lanes. Ban the east bound left from Lincoln Road to Washington Avenue. Extend the island for better alignment.

- Flatbush Intersection: Improvement at Flatbush and Parkside Avenues will create a loss of five parking spaces for the proposed right turn bay on the west side to accommodate the right turn volumes.
- Flatbush Avenue and Church Avenue will lose three parking spaces.
- Flatbush Avenue and Rogers Avenue – the north bound lanes will shift toward the curb. There will be unique signage for north bound right lane, from 7AM to 10AM it will be two lanes.
- Empire Boulevard intersection and Washington Avenue. Proposed: Thinking of closing Franklin Avenue south of Empire Boulevard.

Questions and Answers:

Chairman Goldstein: Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Haas for coming to the community to talk about all these changes. His question was: "Is it going to take forever?" **Mr. Haas** "This project will take within a year."

Chairman Goldstein: "I am glad that you finally acknowledge the disaster from Washington Avenue to Ocean Avenue. We hope you plan to give out flyers in advance so that people can know what is happening. I hope also that you will come back with the finished plans."

Timothy Thomas: "I have seen something is going to be done on Flatbush Avenue, we are grateful, will this help pedestrians?" Answer: "Yes, it will. We don't want to make traffic unbearable."

Laura Imperiale: "Has D.O.T. spoken to the people on Flatbush Avenue?" Answer: "We are going to speak with them tomorrow with a kind of question and answer. In two weeks we will have a follow up."

Laura Imperiale: "Inaudible" Answer: "The plan is not written in stone."

Laura Imperiale: “Have you taken into account the dollar vans. Have you done any study on the volume of traffic when it is down to one lane? Answer: “Yes, you can see in the bars shown on the graph. This is with the “No Standing” from 7AM to 10AM.

Rosemarie Perry: “Did you think about synchronizing the lights?” Answer: “Yes, we have looked at the problem areas.”

Stuart Balberg: “Thank you for getting rid of the island; shouldn’t you have a light there?”

Val Henry: “How is double parking going to affect traffic when there is one lane?” Answer: “People will double park less when there is one lane.

Question: “The plan is to start at Flatbush Avenue and Nostrand Avenue, will there be two lanes? Answer: “Yes, it will be wider.”

Community Resident: “Have you taken into account the handicap placard?” Answer: “Yes, it will take away three spaces.”

Community Resident: “I understand that there will be improved traffic flow. Did you consider the merchants where people might be taking something to their cars, or buying something and in the process they get ticketed? Please take this into consideration.” Answer: “Yes, we are reaching out to the merchants.”

Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Haas for his presentation.

Presentation by Ms. Ann Marie Walker on New Yorkers for Parks’ Parks Platform 2013.

Ms. Walker informed that New Yorkers for Parks is the citywide independent organization championing quality parks and open spaces for all New Yorkers in all neighborhoods. The organization does everything relating to parks. They are park advocates. The reason for her presentation is to seek the approval of Community Board 9 in the wake of budget cuts to parks and open spaces.

Ms. Walker addressed the Bloomberg legacy on Parks and that the Bloomberg Administration will perhaps be most remembered for its “legacy parks”. Her concern however is on the issue of private funding of parks and question what will happen to parks which are not privately funded, those which do not attract private (funding) dollars; and how do we ensure that private funding doesn’t lead to privatization or commercialization of our public spaces. The organization would like:

1. Overhaul how the Department of Parks and Recreation is funded.
 - a) The Parks Department should have its own discretionary capital budget.
 - b) The Department of Parks and Recreation’s maintenance budget should be increased, and funding should be baselined – meaning automatically renewed – in its annual expense budget;
 - c) The Department of Parks and Recreation provides an essential city service and should be staffed accordingly.
2. Increase the transparency and efficiency of the Department of Parks and Recreation to ensure equitable distribution of resources.

- a) The Department of Parks and Recreation should know the cost to maintain every City park, as well as the amount of public and private funding that supports each;
- b) The Department of Parks and Recreation should adopt the best practices of other capital project agencies to improve its own process;
- c) Organizations in public-private partnerships with the Department of Parks and Recreation should report annual revenues, expenses and other critical financial information in a simple, consistent manner to be shared on the Department's website;

3. Strict and Strongly Regulate the Privatization of Parkland.

- a) Parkland alienation should not occur unless no other land is available to serve an essential public need;
- b) State and local laws regulating parkland alienation should be strengthened to require earlier and broader notification of alienation actions, and to mandate acre-for-acre replacement of lost parkland;

4. Integrate Parks Planning Into Neighborhood, Citywide and Resiliency Planning.

- a) Parks are part of a broad network of public spaces, and City agencies should collaborate to maximize neighborhood open space and citywide environmental benefits;
- b) The City should be more proactive in involving neighborhood residents in their parks, both as volunteer stewards and in planning for the future.

Ms. Walker hopes that Parks Platform 2013 provides some answers. They are looking to all the candidates for public office and ultimately to the next Mayoral Administration, Parks Commissioner and City Council to embrace these ideas on behalf of all New Yorkers whose health and quality of life are enhanced everyday by parks and open spaces. Ms. Walker is trying to have as many endorsements as possible. She invited the community to the rally to be held in August.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Ms. Walker for the work the organization is doing and advised her to send the Board, written information on the rally.

Michael Cetera, AIA, Chairperson of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee, will introduce the Artist, Mr. Kenichi Hiratsuka, and present a proposal for a unique artwork /historic marker for installation as part of the Clove Road Reconstruction project.

- **Mr. Cetera will also propose that the Board apply for Clove Road to be included on the National Register of Historic Places, as per recommendation by the 2002 DOT commissioned Archaeological Document Study of Clove Road, endorsed by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.**

Michael Cetera informed that the organization New Yorkers for Parks made a presentation at the Parks Committee meeting held June 19, 2013. The committee voted to endorse their platform.

On the topic of Clove Road, Mr. Cetera informed that we are working to improve Clove Road with parking signs, curbs, etc. and the installation of a historic marker on the site, in the form of a boulder. The Board will need to vote on the boulders. Mr. Cetera then introduced Mr. Kenichi Hiratsuka, Architectural Designer who will work on the Clove Road project.

Artist, Kenichi Hiratsuka informed that he grew up in Japan. He has done work on this type of project. He has designs all over the world. He met with Michael and Michael has asked him to design a historic marker for Clove Road. He has the history of Clove Road and is ready to move forward.

Mr. Hiratsuka showed some of his designs and artwork, including a piece he did in Kenya. Michael Cetera informed that the marker will be along the lines of Mr. Hiratsuka's artwork. He is hoping that the Department of Environmental Protection will give us the stone for Clove Road. Kenichi will work pro bono.

Mr. Solomon Neubort, resident of Clove Road informed that he has two letters that were sent to him from Community Board 9, one dated July 12, 2000; since that time the residents of Clove Road and Malbone Street have been trying to get Department of Transportation to resurface the streets. The problem is Community Board 9 voted on changing the structure of Clove Road. Since that time according to the Department of Transportation the cost has risen five times the original cost. His advice to the Board is not to vote on the proposal of changing the structure of the area.

Mr. Cetera pointed out that while it is true that the project has been delayed, there were reasons for the delay. For example, the deaths of Councilwoman Mary Pinkett a pioneer of the project as well as Councilman James Davis, who followed in her footsteps.

District Manager Pearl R. Miles adding to Michael Cetera's explanation of the delays, said that there were other reasons; since the street is qualified for landmark status at the federal level, we did not want to just do a routine reconstruction project. To say that the Community Board delayed the project is simply not true.

Community Resident: All the people living on Clove Road want Clove Road fixed. They did the dig; they didn't find anything later than the 1930's. According to the Department of Transportation, they have not found the things that Community Board 9 said they have found there. They are told that they will lose the funding if they do not have the area fixed.

Pearl Miles said that this area was a dump before Community Board 9 started the project. We had the area cleaned up.

BUSINESS SESSION

The Business Session began at 8:45 pm with thirty-five members present.

Minutes of the May 2013 Meeting

The minutes of May 2013, were presented for correction and adoption. Correction – Demetrius Lawrence was present at the May meeting. Motion to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections was made by Carl Morgan and seconded by Victoria St. Clair. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

District Manager's Report

The District Manager reminded members about the orientation for new and reappointed members on Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at 5:30 pm, at Borough Hall. All new members are required to attend.

Councilmember Mathieu Eugene

Councilmember Mathieu Eugene thanked the Community Board for the work they are doing for the community. He invited the community to the Health Fair to be held at St. Marks Methodist Church on June 30, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Flyers are on the table at the back of the auditorium.

COMMITTEES' REPORTS

Parks, Recreation and Culture: Michael Cetera, AIA - Chairman (see written report)

Health and Social Services: Rev. Robert Ambrose - Chairman (see written report)

Planning for the Health Fair scheduled for September 21, 2013. Proposed location Crown Street between Nostrand Avenue and Dearborn Court. Participants include: Kings County Hospital and Downstate Medical Center. Topics include: Cancer, heart disease, obesity, kidney disease, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, mental health, liver disease and other related topics.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Jacob Z. Goldstein reported on the 71 Precinct Picnic, held on June 2, 2013. The community was well represented. Everyone had a good time.

Voting Items

Historic Marker for Clove Road

Motion by Michael Cetera for the installation of a historic marker for Clove Road (boulder), seconded by Rosemarie Perry; no discussion. Voting: 25 yes; 6 no; 2 abstentions. Motion carried.

Landmark Designation for Clove Road

Motion by Michael Cetera that the Board submit an application to the New York State Department of Parks for landmark designation for Clove Road, motion seconded by Theopia Green; no discussion. Voting: 29 yes; 2 no; 3 abstentions. Motion carried.

New Yorkers for Parks' Parks Platform 2013

Motion to support New Yorkers for Parks' Parks Platform 2013 was made by Michael Cetera and seconded by Theopia Green. Voting: unanimous. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee – Chairman Maurice Jean Baptiste

The following slate was presented for Community Board 9's 2013 Election of Officers

Chairman	Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein - unopposed
First Vice Chairperson	Michael Cetera, AIA – unopposed
Second Vice Chairperson	Demetrius Lawrence – unopposed

Secretary	Shelia M. Foster-Golding – unopposed
Treasurer	Carl Morgan – unopposed
Members-at-Large	Rosemarie Perry – incumbent
	Karlene Robinson – incumbent
	Shirley Dor – challenger
	Evelyn Williams – challenger

The candidates for Member-at-Large were presented to the Board, each candidates were asked to briefly introduce themselves and to say why they were seeking the office, as well as their service in the community. Following this, board members were given ballots to vote for two of the candidates. The voting results were as follows:

Rosemarie Perry – 29
 Evelyn Williams – 23
 Shirley Dor – 7
 Karlene Robinson – 0

Committee Chairman, Maurice Jean-Baptiste, cast one vote for Shelia Foster-Golding for the Secretary. The Secretary then cast one vote for Chairperson; one vote for First Vice Chairperson; one vote for Second Vice Chairperson; one vote for Treasurer.

The newly elected Executive Committee members are:

Chairman	Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein
First Vice Chairman	Michael Cetera, AIA
Second Vice Chairman	Demetrius Lawrence
Secretary	Shelia M. Foster-Golding
Treasurer	Carl Morgan
Member-at-Large	Evelyn Williams
Member-at-Large	Rosemarie Perry

Chairman Goldstein thanked the Nominating Committee for their work.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Rosemarie Perry and seconded by Frank Nicholas. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelia Foster-Golding, Secretary
August 28, 2013