

COMMUNITY BOARD 9
890 NOSTRAND AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11225

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 25, 2011
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN NY 11225

Board Members Present

Robert Agyemang
Robert Ambrose
Stuart Balberg
Rev. Phyllis Brown
Gwen Carter
Aldith Clarke
Leslie Davis
Brian A. Dean
Ed Fanning
Shelia Foster-Golding
Shawn Francis
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein
Theopia Green
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Edu Hermelyn
Aron Hershkop

Board Members Present

Ruby Hodge
Maurice Jean-Baptiste
Yaakov Katz
Demetrius Lawrence
Samuel Marmulzsteyn
Carl Morgan
Dwayne Nicholson
Rosemarie Perry
Karlene Robinson
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Brenda Scott
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Victoria St Clair
Yvonne Straker
Denise Thomas
Jacqueline Welch
Evelyn Williams

Board Members Absent

Jenay Alejandro
Dion Ashman
Michael Cetera, AIA
Julian Daniels
Geraldine Dease
Brenda Hutto-Lucas
Jannie Johnson – sick
Dr. Marco Mason
Frank Nicholas
Eleanor Rollins
Myrtle Roberson
Roosevelt Rose
Chanina Sperlin

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives

Hon. Darlene Mealy – Arna Lipkind
Hon. Eric Adams – Reuven Lipkind
Hon. Letitia James – Alfred A. Chiodo
Hon. Yvette Clarke – Ron Thomas

Brooklyn Public Library – Steven Schechter
Kings County Hospital – Debra Lesane
Medgar Evers College – Dr. William H. Boone
Hon. Karim Camara – Samuel Light

PUBLIC SESSION:

Public Hearing on the application submitted by Moshe Friedman, P.E., for the reopening of BSA Cal. No. 216-97-BZ to allow the conversion of additional cellar storage space for the expansion of an existing medical office at 1384 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, an R@ zone, previously granted under Cal. No. 216-97-BZ.

Rabbi Goldstein read the report from the ULURP Committee. The Committee met and reviewed the application presented by Mr. Friedman, in which he described the project as an enlargement of the existing medical office within the confines of the existing building. There will be no external changes to the existing building as the project consists solely of converting existing adjacent interior space to extend the existing medical office of Dr. Rosen. The recommendation of the committee is to approve the application.

Representing Dr. Rosen was Mr. Friedman, P.E. Mr. Friedman described the project as an expansion of an existing medical facility of General Practitioner Dr. Rosen who has been at the same location for over ten years, in the cellar at 1384 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, at the corner of Kingston Avenue. The entrance to the medical office is on Kingston Avenue. All that is to be done is to take some of the cellar space, in order to do this they have to come back to the community board. The expansion is less than fifty percent of the existing building. This will provide additional patient rooms. A plan for the layout of the space was presented showing where the building is located and the areas that were going to be used for additional patient rooms.

Questions and Answers

The Chairman opened the hearing for testimony. At this point the hearing was interrupted by Joyce Stewart who demanded of the Chairman, who are you? What is your name? I want to write it down. I am Joyce Stewart president and founder of 320 Sterling Street Tenants Association and my question is we have founded the 320 Sterling Street Tenant Association and this question goes way back.

Chairman Goldstein – we are in a hearing we cannot entertain 320 Sterling Street at this time.

Joyce Stewart – so when can this be entertained.

District Manager Pearl Miles – we are in a hearing related to 1384 Carroll Street at this time. We can only entertain comments on this matter at this time. You can send a letter to the Board requesting a hearing on your matter at a later date.

Joyce Stewart – let me explain one thing to you, I am going to take over this meeting now. You can't tell me I cannot ask questions about 320 Sterling Street. We were put out of 320 Sterling Street because of Board 9. For years I have been fighting this community, she (Pearl Miles) cannot sit there and tell me I can't talk about 320 Sterling Street. Call the police because I am telling you, you will have to hear what I have to say. I clean up this community so don't come and tell me that I cannot speak." Turning to Chairman Goldstein – "what are you going to do about this. Chairman Goldstein – "nothing, nothing."

Stewart – you live in your house, people live outdoors. We have been living in this building since 1980. You all are heartless son of a gun. Putting us out of the house, for what? Money, and this sucker you see sitting down there call Pearl Miles, we put her into office and this woman is putting out everybody and she doesn't live in Brooklyn, she live in Long Island. How come she can represent everything in Brooklyn when she live in Long Island. Don't start with me. I clean up 320 Sterling Street. You and everybody couldn't walk down there. I clean up the shit and now you are putting me out. All I am saying give me a date when I can talk about 320 and I will hush up.

Chairman Goldstein – see me after the meeting and I will discuss it with you.

Stewart – a wretch like Pearl Miles getting people put out their community. Go back to Long Island where you belong. Go back to Guyana.

The Chairman continued the meeting with questions and answers.

Where will the expansion be? Goldstein – the expansion is internal in the doctor's office.

Theopia Green – will they open any walls? Goldstein – no they will push further into the basement for the expansion.

Joyce Stewart interrupted the hearing again.

Chairman Goldstein – I am conducting a public hearing, I don't want any back and forth discussion other than what concerns the hearing.

Stewart – “all of you trying to sell my building under my nose. You all should think about that before you did it. I will fight you tooth and nail.”

Goldstein – go ahead. Most of the traffic is foot traffic.

In what regards is it helping the community? It is a doctor's office, people go there when they want to see the doctor.

Dwayne Nicholson – what is the zoning? Does it matter? Goldstein – you can have one zoning on one side and an R zoning down the block and then an R2 further down the street (it doesn't make sense, you are right) because of that they have to come before the board.

How will this office be of service to this community? Dr. Rosen – we have people coming to the office who are Medicare and Medicaid patients.

Ruby Hodge – if I have a choice to go to your office, I think I would go.

Mr. Friedman – the picture doesn't give justice to the building. If you look on the Kingston Avenue side there is a wide ramp, it is accessible to ambulances, etc.

What type of doctor are you? Dr. Rosen – I am a family practitioner.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Friedman and Dr. Rosen for their presentation and informed that the voting will take place in the business session.

Presentation by Mr. Steven Schechter, Director, Government and Community relations, Brooklyn Public Library on the Library's plans to install a 500KW emergency diesel generator in the middle of the Central Library's roof, above the Grand Lobby; as well as the 2010 installation of a new air-conditioning cooling tower to replace an existing unit that was beyond its useful life, near the same location. The Library is seeking the Board's support for these plans.

Mr. Steven Schechter, representing the Brooklyn Public Library informed that in January, a letter was sent to the community board advising that there were two installations to be done, one that is already completed and one that is planned to be done, both on the roof of the Brooklyn Public Library at Grand Army Plaza. The building is a landmark therefore any changes to be made to the exterior of the building must be approved by the Landmark Preservation Commission. They have asked that we come to the Community Board and make this presentation and ask for the Board's support.

At this time the Central Library does not have an emergency generator. They are relying on Con Ed's power except for the back-up power available for the computer servers. Some of that power too, is off-site. They are hoping to install a five hundred kilowatt emergency generator on the building's roof so that in the case of loss of power, they will be able to supply electricity to the fire alarm systems, for emergency lighting, to the elevators, and some additional computers that are not currently equipped with back-up power.

Landmarks has asked them to map out where this generator is visible. It is not visible from the Flatbush side of the building; it is visible from parts of Mt Prospect Park; parts of Eastern Parkway, almost down to Washington Avenue. It is visible from Grand Army Plaza. These generators can only be seen in the winter when there are no leaves on the trees. Landmarks has asked that this presentation be made because according to them they are visible.

The presentation will show that the cooling tower is in place. It is very shiny, so it is reflective. It can be seen in the sunlight. It is hoped that over a time it will get dull and therefore cannot be seen. The tower does not exist as yet. The project has been designed. The top of the generator has been designed on the roof with yellow construction matting which can be easily seen. The design shows where the generator can be seen, where the air conditioning tower can be seen and where both can be seen. All of these facilities are necessary. The air conditioning has been constantly upgraded in the library. He believes that the emergency generator is critical and should be installed to make sure that in the absence of power from Con Edison, the building will be safe and safely evacuated.

Mr. Schechter further informed that three community boards border this location. Traditionally Community Board 9 has the jurisdiction because the library itself is in Community District 9. The information has been shared with Community Boards 6 and 8.

Chairman Goldstein said that the Library has done good things off site; at the Crown Heights branch, flowers have been planted as well as shrubs. They have done nice things to beautify and enhance the property. He believes that this can only be an asset.

Questions and Answers

Stuart Balberg (inaudible) Steven Schechter – these are not fancy structures, they are functional structures. The generators are more shinier than the cooling tower. If it were going to be visible and public then they would enhance the block, on the contrary they are only functional objects not beautification objects.

Mr. Howard (inaudible) Detroit and other cities are doing solar paneling, what are you doing in that area? Schechter – we do work with the New York Power authority and the Dept of Citywide Administrative Services on initiatives.

Has anyone done an alternative study or research on this plant before deciding to go ahead, as far as green technology is concerned since we are now in the era of going green? Schechter – I think the goal here is a 500 kilowatt generator that will serve the needs during an emergency. It is power that will only be used in case of an emergency. Our main power source is the New York Power Authority which does multi hydro power from upstate which they bring down here to supply to the city.

Chairman Goldstein – the government buildings both city, state and federal, actually use the Con Ed lines, for example, the hospitals. It is all purchased not directly from Con Ed but uses Con Ed's transmissions. Their power is not green it is hydro-driven and therefore cheaper.

Ruby Hodge – wedding pictures are usually taken in the park near the library, will these structures be visible? Schechter – no, they are not visible from Flatbush Avenue, it is only as you go east on Eastern Parkway that certain parts will be visible. It has to be some distance away. Nothing will be done to interfere with the façade.

There have been problems with the gas coming out of generators. The cooling systems has to be cleaned to prevent Legionnaires disease. A – the funding has been cut. The city council and the mayor's office have restored \$17M to the budget. While this library is doing better than others a very big cut has been placed on the budget. \$4½ M to the Brooklyn Public Library alone in the current fiscal year and the Mayor has proposed an additional cut of \$800,000 for next year. Funding is low right now about \$80M from the City, that is about a \$5½ M cut for next year, plus it has been reported in the press that there will be an 8% cut on top of that. The council restored \$17M to our budget last year. That money is not back in the budget for this year. Overall we are facing over a \$23M cut out of our \$80M budget or a 25% of the city's funding.

Mr. Schechter said he will be back to inform the Board of some new initiative that he will be doing online as well as other areas in raising funds for the library.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Schechter for his presentation.

Ruby Hodge – I read that the city council has money for certain projects in their districts, can we write letters requesting monies for the funding of the library. Answer – yes.

Public Hearing on the agencies' responses to Community Board 9's FY 2012 Capital and Expense Budget Requests contained in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget.

The Chairman said that the budget will be ready for the hearing at next month's meeting – March 22nd.

BUSINESS SESSION:

The business session began at 7:55 p.m. with 34 members present.

Minutes of the January 2011 Meeting

The minutes of the January 2011 meeting was presented for correction and adoption. Ms. Ruby Hodge informed that her name was left off of the attendance at the meeting (she was neither present nor absent) although her comments at the meeting were recorded in the minutes. The chairman apologized for the omission. Motion to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections was made by Ruby Hodge and seconded by Carl Morgan. The minutes were adopted.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Pearl Miles explained that the reason why we could not have the hearing at this month's meeting is because the Mayor released the Preliminary Budget on Wednesday, which only gave us two days to prepare and Monday was a holiday. Preparation for the hearing not only involves scheduling the hearing and having it published in the City Record, but also to prepare a statement from the board about the responses we received to our requests. This statement will be sent to let the agencies, mayor and city council know how the community feels about what they said.

Ms. Miles said that the board has already begun work on the budget requests. A meeting with the committee chairs, the district manager and our three local council members was arranged. The meeting was attended by Council member Letitia James and Council member Mathieu Eugene. The budget requests were discussed with them and we asked for their commitment of funds where feasible. The Board will also get an opportunity to testify before the City Council.

Clove Road - The change order for Clove Road is completed. Hopefully, if it should ever stop snowing, the project for the archaeological dig can start this spring.

Committees' Reports

Housing Committee – Gwen Carter (see written report)

Ms. Carter reported that the Housing Committee met on Tuesday, January 15th 2011. Discussion focused on the FY 2012 Budget Request for the Dept of Housing Preservation and Development regarding the development of housing on the grounds of Kingsboro Psychiatric Center.

Economic Development Committee – Jenay Alejandro (see written report)

Ms. Alejandro reported the discussion on the role of the committee in identifying the needs of local businesses and merchants in the community. They plan on inviting the merchants to a meeting of the committee to discuss those needs.

Youth Services Committee – Dion Ashman (see written report)

Mr. Ashman reported that the members present introduced themselves and gave a background on their involvement with the community.

The District Manager advised members regarding their role on the youth committee to address issues pertaining to the youth in the community as well as the city's budget process which has a direct bearing on improving the quality of life of the residents in the district. The committee will continue to work on the items on the agenda at future meetings.

Chairman's Report

Rabbi Jacob Goldstein observed that this winter has been treacherous. People were people who were confined to their homes for days due to the snowfalls this winter. The chairman encouraged residents to be neighborly especially in helping older residents to dig out from the snow. Sanitation has been trying their best.

Three of our members are not well – Dr. Marco Mason is in the hospital; Leslie Davis' husband, Gary Marshall (a former board member) is in the hospital; Ms. Myrtle Roberson had Carpal Tunnel surgery. Please keep them in your prayers.

Voting Items

Visuals of the plans for the voting items were available and were presented to the meeting (1) showing the interior of the cellar of 1384 Carroll Street, indicating no changes to the exterior of the building. (2) showing the library, what the roof was before, what it looks like now with the installation of the air conditioning/cooling system; and the proposed location of the generator right next to the cooling system on the roof of the library; as well as the different angles from which they could/could not be seen.

Calendar No. 216-97-BZ

The ULURP Committee recommendation is for approval of the application. Motion seconded by Ed Fanning. Discussion – none. Voting: Yes – 34, No – 0; abstentions – 0. Motion carried.

Brooklyn Public Library

Motion was made by Ruby Hodge to support the request from the Brooklyn Public Library and also to take into consideration recommendation discussed at this meeting as part of the project to be undertaken. The motion was seconded by Gwen Carter. Discussion – none. Voting: Yes – 34; no – 0; abstentions – 0. Motion carried.

Acknowledgements

Chairman Goldstein acknowledged the following persons: Reuven Lipkind representing Senator Eric Adams; Ron Thomas representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke; Debra Lesane representing Kings County Hospital; William Boone representing Medgar Evers College; Alfred Chiodo representing Council Member Letitia James; Arna Lipkind representing Darlene Mealy; Samuel Light representing Assemblyman Karim Camara.

Mr. Lipkind informed that Senator Adams wanted to hear from the community. The Senator's contact information is eadams@senate.ny.us. The website is www.adams.nyssenate.gov Please visit the website, email the Senator. Senator Adams is working on stronger regulations to regulate and stabilize rent control. He is working with other senators on regulations that would ensure that landlords are not able to just do whatever they want.

Ron Thomas reported that Congresswoman Clarke is hosting a job fair on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm, at Madison Square Boys and Girls Club, 2245 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, between Erasmus Street and Snyder Avenue.

Arna Lipkind reported that Council member Mealy had vouchers for flu shots at Walgreens; free tax preparation by Community Tax organization 646-200-5080; Back on Track Services 718-250-2298; monthly advisory meeting at St. Anthony's Baptist Church, 425 Utica Avenue, corner of Utica and Empire Blvd, March 5th from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. For information call 718-953-3097. Neighborhood housing Services will discuss foreclosure prevention, home improvement loans, free legal services, Monday – Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Grandparents or other support groups are available for counseling.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Carl Morgan and seconded by Sam Marmulzsteyn. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Shelia Foster-Golding
Secretary
March 18, 2011**