

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

**Minutes of the
Community Board Meeting
Held on December 22, 2009
Middle School 61 Auditorium
400 Empire Blvd, Brooklyn, NY 11225**

Board Members Present

Stuart Balberg
Rev. Phyllis Brown
Gwen Carter
Michael Cetera, AIA
Aldith Clarke
Leslie Davis
Geraldine Dease
Shelia Foster-Golding
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein
Theopia Green
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Aron Hershkop
Maurice Jean Baptiste
Jannie Johnson

Board Members Present

Demetrius Lawrence
Denise Mann
Allan Martin, Jr
Carl Morgan
Dwayne Nicholson
Rosemarie Perry
Romania Roachford
Myrtle Roberson
Karlene Robinson
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Roosevelt Rose
Brenda Scott
Rabbi Joseph Speilman
Yvonne Straker
Jacqueline Welch

Board Members Absent

Jenay Alejandro
Dion Ashman
Julian Daniels
Joan Gill – sick
Ruby Hodge - sick
Brenda Hutto
Yaakov Katz
Samuel Marmulzsteyn
Gary Marshall
Dr. Marco Mason
Frank Nicholas
Eleanor Rollins
Chanina Sperlin
Victoria St Clair
Evelyn Williams

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present

Hon. Karim Camara
Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Eric Adams
Ron Thomas – Hon. Yvette Clarke

PUBLIC SESSION

Review the proposed change to the direction of the flow of traffic on Malbone Street between Clove Road and New York Avenue, from one-way east bound to one-way west bound

District Manager Pearl Miles addressed the meeting by explaining that earlier this year the residents on Malbone Street requesting assistance in getting the street changed from one-way east bound to one-way west bound. They wanted the change because currently they had to drive several blocks out of their way to get onto their street. Changing the direction would allow them to make a left from New York Avenue onto their street. Ms. Miles requested the Dept of Transportation to do a study of the location to determine the feasibility of making the change. That study was done and the agency is prepared to make the change with the support of the board.

Malbone Street resident, Mendy Dahan, spoke on behalf of the residents. Mr. Dahan said that he has lived on Malbone Street for many years; there are a total of 36 residents on the block. To get from Empire Blvd, one

has to drive up New York Avenue to Crown Street to Nostrand Avenue to Montgomery Street, make a right on Clove Road then a left onto Malbone Street. If someone makes a left from New York Avenue they sometimes get a ticket because it is illegal to do so. They would like to do it legally.

Chairman Goldstein said changing the direction would make it easier.

Representatives from the Dept of City Planning will present information on Application #N100139ZRY – Residential Streetscape Preservation Text Amendment which will preserve and enhance the streetscape character of residential neighborhoods. The purpose of the amendment is to clarify, revise and introduce new regulations for residential buildings that affect streetscape elements including front yard planting, location of parking spaces and curb cuts in Residence, Commercial and Special Mixed-Use districts

Mr. Christopher Gorman, Dept of City Planning, said that he was new to the agency, about 7 or 8 months. Mr. Gorman explained that the Streetscape Preservation Text Amendment is a part of the City Planning Commission's project which was in response to community boards and elected officials across the city who have had concerns about curb cuts, parking in front yards, as well as maintaining the streetscape character of the neighborhood.

The goals of the proposal are as follows:

- To strengthen the front yard planting requirements to beautify our districts. This text amendment will help to clear up previous gaps which have developed.
- Apply to the strengthening requirements for curb cuts at front yards in R3 and R5 districts; this would facilitate on street parking. A lot of homes are creating curb cuts which lead to fewer parking spaces; this would help regain some of the parking that has already been taken.
- To enforce the original text of the zoning regulations affecting parking rules and address court fines for new and existing buildings
- To introduce new curb cut rules to preserve streetscape characteristics, parking, etc.
- To add streetscape characteristics to streets
- To ensure adequate parking in buildings that are pre-1961

The community board has until January 26th to provide a formal recommendation of the text amendment. We would be very happy to receive any correspondence in support of this matter.

Questions and Answers

Chairman Goldstein expressed that in this district there are curb cuts which in many cases are illegal.

Denise Mann – is this new legislation that will go into effect? Answer – it is a new proposal from City Planning. It went out in November to the Borough President and the Borough Board to review. We are hoping to get some correspondence from the Borough President and the Community Boards in order to help us make the potential changes, but ultimately we will go to the City Council for adoption.

Pearl Miles – this is a problem we are having in this community where the whole aesthetics of the residential streets are changing.

Chairman Goldstein – one just has to look at the streets between Rogers and Nostrand Avenues where the sidewalks are cut and opened up. This is not only in this district but we can see it also in Board 16, 14, all over. This will address the issue.

Michael Cetera – can you give an example of a curb cut? Answer: certainly, if you open up the sidewalk by cutting into the curb.

Allan Martin – is it that pre-existing homeowners should have lawns in front of their homes? Answer – yes. There are some specific rules within this text amendment that will apply to maintain a continuous streetscape.

Chairman Goldstein – what he is asking is does it apply to places that already had cement, Answer – you only have to do that if you make a change to your front yard. Currently if your front yard happens to be paved over, you do not retroactively have to do it over. But if your lawn is large enough for a curb cut, according to the zoning and you are making a change to that front yard, you will have to comply not just with the curb cut requirements but with the minimum requirements. You don't have to do anything if there is no curb cut.

Jacqueline Welch – is there a website to get information on this? Answer – www.nyc.gov/planning.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Gorman for coming out to inform the community on this proposed text amendment. The chairman apologized for not having the equipment for the visual presentation and asked would City Planning come back in January to do the presentation again, to which they agreed. The chairman also welcomed back Winston Von Engel who used to be our liaison to City Planning many years ago. The chairman said he was happy to see Mr. Von Engel and wished him well. This matter will be heard again in January in a power point presentation.

BUSINESS SESSION

The business session began at 7:40 p.m., with 28 members present.

Chairman Goldstein welcomed the audience and said that he hoped that some members had enjoyed the holiday (Hanukkah.) The chairman advised that because of the bad weather outside he was not sure what the attendance would have been so he rescheduled the after meeting holiday celebrations to the January meeting.

Minutes of the November 2009 Meeting

The minutes of the November 2009 meeting was presented for adoption. Motion to accept the minutes with any corrections was made by Jannie Johnson and seconded by Gwen Carter.

Rabbi Nochum Gross said that his name had been left off of the October 2009 minutes – he was neither present nor absent. He would like the minutes to reflect that he was present at the October 2009 meeting. He was not at the November meeting so could not correct it at that time. Rabbi Gross was assured that the attendance would be corrected.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Pearl Miles reported the following:

- Senator Eric Adams and Senator Velmanette Montgomery would be having a toy give-away tomorrow, Wednesday, at 3:00 pm at 482 Halsey Street, between Lewis and Stuyvesant Avenues. The senators are inviting churches to attend and bring 10 children, 5 boys and 5 girls, each will receive a toy. For further information call Senator Adams' office at 718-284-4700.
- Councilmember Darlene Mealy will be having an open house for Christmas at her office Union Street and Utica Avenue, from 5:30 pm., tomorrow, all are welcomed.
- Borough President Marty Markowitz has formed a coalition to get the word out on Census 2010. April 1st is Census Day, so from now up to and beyond April he has asked everyone to join him in ensuring that Brooklyn gets counted correctly.

The District Manager said that everyone should understand the importance of being counted in the census and Community Board 9 has joined that effort to encourage people to be counted. Ms. Miles said the census is not concerned with whether someone is here legally or illegally. The census is about getting the correct count of the number of people living in the United States. This number makes the difference between whether New York will get its fair share of federal dollars.

Ms. Miles asked everyone to join in the effort to encourage their neighbors, their families and friends to be counted. We need to be counted so we can get funds for transportation, day care, schools, police, hospitals, etc.

Ms. Miles wished all a merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza and Happy New Year.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Goldstein acknowledged **Assemblyman Karim Camara**. Assemblyman Camara wished everyone a happy and joyous holiday season. He congratulated the district manager on being honored by the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council and thanked her for her leadership.

The chairman said, referring to the census, that the City of New York and the State of New York gets what is known as community development dollars. Everyone of those dollars given to the city/state is based upon body count. If the count shows we have one million people but in actuality we have more we would be shortchanging ourselves and get less money, it all depends on an accurate count. The same goes for services. We wonder sometimes why some states have more than others, this is due to the census count.

The Bureau of the Census is hiring people for the short term. The jobs depend on your educational abilities and your skills. Call the board office for the number if you are interested in jobs with the census.

Stuart Balberg – inaudible; community resident – inaudible.

Carolyn Sanders-James, Mayor's office said thanks for re-electing the Mayor for another four years and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Chairman Goldstein also acknowledged Reuven Lipkind representing Senator Eric Adams and Ron Thomas representing Congress member Yvette Clarke.

Voting Item - Malbone Street – change from one-way east to one-way west

Dwayne Nicholson – why couldn't the street be made a two-way street? **Pearl Miles** – This will be looked at again as part of the Clove Road/Malbone Street reconstruction project. Right now the folks living on the block are the ones requesting this change, it does not really impact upon anyone else at this time only the people living there.

Motion was made by **Michael Cetera** that the direction of Malbone Street be changed from one-way east bound to one-way west bound entering from New York Avenue. The motion was seconded by **Rabbi Joseph Speilman**. Voting was unanimous – 30 yes. Chairman Goldstein advised the residents not to remove the sign, but to wait for the city to do so.

The chairman wished all a happy and safe holiday season.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by **Gwen Carter** and seconded by **Rosemarie Perry**.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Shelia Foster-Golding
Secretary
January 20, 2010