

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

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, December 16, 2008
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

Board Members Present

Dion Ashman
Stuart Balberg
Gwen Carter
Michael Cetera, AIA
Aldith Clarke
Geraldine Dease
Shelia Foster-Golding
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Aron Hershkop
Ruby Hodge

Board Members Present

Jannie Johnson
Samuel Marmulzsteyn
Allan Martin, Jr
Carl Morgan
Dwayne Nicholson
Rosemarie Perry
Myrtle Roberson
Eleanor Rollins
Roosevelt Rose
Brenda Scott
Rabbi Joseph Speilman
Denise Thomas
Brenda Hutto

Board Members Absent

Mary Allman
Jacinta Blackburn
Rev. Phyllis Brown – sick
Chaz Crowder
Joan Gill – sick
Theopia Green
Stanley Harwich – sick
Denise Mann
Gary Marshall
Dr. Marco Mason
Alice Mitchell
Frank Nicholas
Romania Roachford
Karlene Robinson
Yvonne Straker
Jacqueline Welch

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present

Hon. Mathieu Eugene – Member NYC Council
Ann Marie Adamson – Hon. Marty Markowitz
Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Eric Adams
Mary Bishop – Hon. Yvette Clarke
Denise Peterson – Kings County Hospital Center
Isiah Hall – Hon. Darlene Mealy

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Serge Francisque, along with other representatives from the Department of Design and Construction, will present to the community, plans for the reconstruction of Kingston Avenue. Community Residents are encouraged to attend this meeting to have their questions answered and anticipated issues addressed.

Mr. Bahman Pour-Azar, Director of Infrastructure Division at the Dept of Design and Construction oversees all the construction projects in house. Mr. Pour-Azar informed that the Kingston Avenue project will be a six block improvement. In May 2008 he met with CB9, at that time the design was very conceptual, we had some concern from the board, we had something in our minds to have a basic survey done, no design was done. We went back worked it out and implemented some of the physical comments. Some of the comments we could not make, so now we come back to the board with the design. Tonight the project will be presented. We know many have concerns. It is their job to get the community concerns and comments. We will look at the major ones, we will get them, look at them and implement the feasible ones.

The project runs from Eastern Parkway to Empire Blvd. The existing condition is not good. The sidewalks are deteriorated, the pavements are cut, lots of utility cuts. The catch basins are not in the right locations. The grading is so bad that it affects the drainage. The street seems to have been reconstructed about thirty years ago and since then it seems there has been no resurfacing of any kind.

The first thing we did after the survey, which is routine for every project, is to come out and survey it because of all these difficulties. Because of the drainage we did a TV sewer inspection to see if the sewer was cracked, we have asked DEP to tell us what they want to do with the water mains, etc. it doesn't have a lining. We did all these investigations, we studied the track, we studied the timing on the traffic signals, inspected the sidewalks, some of the areas have under sidewalk works, etc. Our job there are three or four things that are important to us: 1) the safety of motorists; 2) the safety of children; 3) drainage – if drainage is bad you will have ice on the ground, people fall down, cars hit each other, etc; 4) the Disability Act – some of the sidewalks curbs are missing.

It is not only us, there are different divisions of duty, the unit of pedestrians, the unit of safety, the unit of street lights, unit of traffic signals, many, many more. Parks Dept is involved they walked through the entire project to see where else we can work with the trees. There are very beautiful trees densely planted, there is some criteria that has to be considered when you put in a brand new tree, the distance from each other, the distance from the intersection, distance from a fire hydrant. All this was done since the last time we met with the board.

Almost 98% is done with the project, we have met with all the utilities and agencies three or four times, we have reviewed with them all that was necessary to be done. During the whole entire design, Kingston Avenue has a lot of encroachments, e.g. the private homes are encroached into the right-of-way of DOT. They have improved this entire street without any encroachments. We are not interfering with anybody's encroachments, whatever you have will remain there.

Mr. Pour-Azar used the drawings to explain the scope of work. The existing curb line will be maintained, brand new water mains will be installed throughout the entire job. There is no crack in the sewer lines, the problem is the catch basins. Most of the catch basins at this time are in the middle. That is not the standard, you have to catch the water before pedestrians cross the street. Every corner has one catch basin here. We have to introduce some new manholes to take care of the water. The grading is improved significantly as much as we could to lower the grade. The sidewalk should be 2%, some that I have seen is like a 4% slope, that is not good for kids and the elderly people.

We call this a total reconstruction, that is brand new sidewalk, brand new curbs, brand new roadway base and structure, brand new water mains, brand new sewer (you don't have sewer but you have the connection,) brand new catch basins, brand new parking meters – everything is new as well as tree planting.

Some of the streets have different crossings, these are the units of safety for DOT, they identify what areas you have a school and where kids cross at what intersection. Based on that they come up with which corners to improve, which pedestrian crossings should be high visibility. The second thing is that for you and I it might be easy but for kids it would be safer if the street width would be shorter if they wanted to cross. The traffic signals will be modified and timing will be changed, they will be synchronized. Some of the intersections have what is called a neck down, this has to do with the curb line both sides will not have parking as it is now.

The street has been designated by DOT as a bike lane, there is parking on both sides and on the east side there will be a bike lane. The timing on the traffic signal, because it is a bus route, should work out, there should be

a buffer, this will work out, parking cars should not affect the traffic if we have the traffic signals and the lane in the middle that is working it will work out.

There is a rule regarding existing trees, if you cut down the tree you must replace it with a new tree. The total to be replaced will be sixteen trees. There is no room to put the sixteen trees because of restrictions. The restrictions are: how far away from the bus stop, how far away from a driveway. According to what is there, we will have to go outside of the project limit. Therefore whatever cannot be planted on the streets from where the trees are removed, we go back and see within a 500ft radius where the trees can be planted.

Every block will have a bike rack for bicycles. It will not be if there is a residential area. It will be on the commercial area. The bike rack to be constructed is the one that won the national award for 2008, they will be implemented all over New York.

We will be getting rid of the parking meters, they are the ugliest in the world and they can be dangerous for children walking in the street. Every block will have Muni meters.

Questions and Answers:

Chairman Goldstein – what do you anticipate as the start date for the project and what is the total project time? Answer – the project is scheduled for 2011, depending on the money. If I am able to push it, it could be for FY 2010, which means the construction could start in July next year. If we get everything done we will try to push the budget for it to start July 2009. If this goes on the construction of the project could be one year max. If it doesn't work out this way and lots of requests come up due to the lack of budget, paper work, etc, this would delay the project.

How will this impact traffic? Answer – a traffic study was done, traffic signal timing was done, they look at the number of pedestrians, they look at the number of deliveries, they then identified the bus stops. After all the signals are modified, delivery trucks cannot double park. They have a choice of parking a block away and using dollies to make their deliveries.

Yossi Stern – you did a traffic study that the kids will have a shorter travel, explain. Answer – the distance between the curb and pedestrian crossing will become a distance of about 6ft shorter and this will enable pedestrians to cross safely.

Ruby Hodge – Kingston Avenue between Eastern Parkway and President Street, the street is narrow. How can they get there dolly into the stores? Answer – this is what is being done in other places, check out Houston Street in Manhattan, from the Bowery to Vesey Street, if they don't do that they are working against the law.

Chairman Goldstein – what Ruby Hodge is saying is the fact that these blocks are very small, they are the narrowest streets around, she is making a valid point that if a delivery truck is going to park over there then no one will get through in less than a half hour, the truck will be sticking out two thirds of the roadway. Answer – they can park in the block before he gets there.

Pearl Miles – double parking is illegal. Answer – with respect to that – you need a better street, better traffic, safer pedestrians and motorists, it will not be easy for the person delivering the goods. Chairman Goldstein – I agree with Ruby, there is a serious economic issue that has to be discussed further. This is a very important issue, it is serious, if the truck driver has to drag his goods a block and a half away, then he is not coming back. Answer – I will make a suggestion – give your concerns to the district manager and the chairman, they will put it in writing and send it to us.

Sam Marmulzsteyn – some sidewalks are heated, how will that be addressed? Answer – you will have to point out to us where these heaters are – they will have to fit into the drawing, you will have to let us know.

Inaudible question. Answer – regarding the bike lane, I would recommend that you write a letter to CB 9. If the majority is against it write a letter to the Commissioner at DOT and express your concern that you do not want a bike lane in this district.

Chairman Goldstein – at 8:00 am Kingston Avenue has a huge flow of traffic. Putting in bike lanes the traffic will be backed up all the way to Kings County Hospital. Answer – is it that you do not want a bike lane. It is not that we do not want bike lanes but having a bike lane will have a terrible impact on the traffic in the area.

I appreciate all that is being said, however, we want to make sure that National Grid replaces the gas mains on Kingston Avenue.

Is it possible to have nice flower beds along Kingston Avenue? Answer – who is going to maintain them? Who is going to pay for them? Perhaps the merchants association could do the project.

Chairman Goldstein – the merchants are the apple seed of this community. There is one businessman who travels the community to identify what is missing. Wherever a tree is missing he identifies the area and passes it on to the Community board. This is how we have so many trees planted in the community. I thank him for his concern for the neighborhood.

Pearl Miles – the Dept of Business Services was invited to the meeting but unfortunately they are not here. They were invited because I anticipated that there would be more concerns from the business people on Kingston Avenue. However, if there are further concerns a meeting can be arranged.

Michael Cetera – are there any amenities planned for this project, such as benches? Answer – for you to get amenities you have three things: the money. The only thing we have is tree planting and tree trimming. For you to have benches the sidewalk is not wide enough, this would delay the project. You will have to get approval. There is no problem if you have the money all you have to do is let us know how much money you have, we will send it to OMB and OMB will have to approve it.

Yossi Stern – are there amenities for new lamp posts? Answer – yes, they will be brand new, they will not be decorative, they will be standard ones. Anything that is decorative will be considered amenities.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Pour Azar for his presentation and informed him that the board will vote on the matter in the business session.

Presentation/discussion on Zoning for Bicycle Parking – N080078ZRY – the Department of City Planning is proposing a citywide text amendment to the Zoning Resolution to require indoor bicycle parking in new multi-family residential, community facility, and commercial buildings. The purpose of the proposed amendment is to promote bicycling as a sustainable form of transportation, which is part of the Mayor’s PlaNYC 2030 proposal

Mr. Winston Von Engel informed that they were there to briefly speak to the community regarding the proposal set forth by the Dept of City Planning. The DCP has proposed a citywide text amendment to the zoning resolution to require indoor bicycle parking in new multi-family residential community facilities and commercial buildings. This is part of the mayor’s PlaNYC 2030 agenda to make our city more sustainable and

greener. It does not in any way impact existing buildings it is only for new buildings that are being constructed. All that has to be done is to provide some space for bicycles.

Ms. Sanmati Naik informed that the proposal will provide better health for New Yorkers, this will encourage people to use bikes for work instead of cars. These bicycles will also need storage when not in use. Therefore the city would like to have indoor parking secured for bicycles. The requirements apply only to new large buildings residential and commercial. Residential units with 10 or less may not be considered.

The bicycle parking area must be enclosed and secured by a locked door. Bicycle parking could be in various locations especially in the ground floor of the building, in the cellar or in a parking garage. It could be allowed behind a building where the zoning allows garage parking. There is a lot of flexibility in the location. The City Planning Commission will be able to authorize a reduction or a waiver of bicycle parking spaces when substantial adverse conditions are below ground in the infrastructure where bicycle parking would not be feasible. This will not provide a hardship for the owners. This parking will be different from DOT parking.

Questions and Answers

Myrtle Roberson – will the owner of the bicycle have to register for their parking space? Answer – it depends upon the building. If you want to park your bicycle you would go to the manager or super. If they charge a fee then you would have to pay the fee. The requirement is to provide the space. Many buildings already do it.

Will there be municipal parking for bicycles? Answer – if it is like a residential community you will apply as if you were applying for a garage.

Has DOT worked out for example taking one car space, how many spaces it would be for bicycles? Answer – inaudible. Balberg – inaudible. Answer – it has to be a secure indoor space.

You mention that there is a 16% increase in bikes, if you don't have a reduction in cars how will it work? Is this parking for bikes or motor bikes? Answer – no only for bicycles not motorized vehicles.

Pearl Miles – I know that the parking proposal deals with apartment and commercial buildings and community facilities. Medgar Evers College in our community is expanding their campus, those plans are already approved, they are just building in phases. Could this be incorporated in their plans seeing as how they have a lot of students. Answer – if they want to they can do it. However, their plans are already adopted they do not have to do it.

Pearl Miles – there is a problem in the community especially on Crown Street where parking is limited. The residents compete for parking with the students attending the college. This could be something that we could advocate for Medgar Evers College since a lot of students drive to work. If they had bicycle parking on campus it might help.

Dion Ashman said that he would like something to be done regarding the parking of cars in our community because this has become a great problem for the residents.

BUSINESS SESSION

The business session began at 8:15 pm with 26 members present.

Minutes of the November 2008 Meeting

The minutes of the November 2008 meeting were presented. Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Allan Martin, Jr and seconded by Gwen Carter. The minutes were adopted.

District Manager's Report

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz would like to encourage everyone living in Brooklyn to shop Brooklyn. This would mean more revenue for the borough of Brooklyn. You can go to www.ishopbrooklyn.com and it will list all the stores in Brooklyn which are participating.

The Menorah lighting will take place on Monday December 22nd at Borough Hall; the New Year's Eve celebration will be held at Grand Army Plaza, all are invited.

Martin Luther King, Jr celebration will be held at Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) on Monday, January 19th .

Anyone interested in supplying warm coats can drop them off at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Proposed cuts to the NYC Transit budget (depending on a possible infusion of funds all might not happen) they will include service cuts, fare hikes and maybe layoffs. For train service – lettered lines (A,C, J, etc) will operate on a 10 minute headway on the weekends. For all trains – on the weekends between 2:00 am and 5:00 am trains will have a 30 minute headway. Bus service – B14 – overnight service cut; B48 – overnight and week end service cut; B-16 – overnight and weekend service cut. There will be a hearing on January 28, 2009 at the Brooklyn Marriot.

Update on Clove Road – on December 4, 2008 a meeting was held at the community board office to discuss the archaeological dig for Clove Road (in our district,) representatives from various agencies were present. Council Member Letitia James participated in the meeting via telephone. The council member reconfirmed her allocation of \$200,000 for the archaeological dig. Another meeting with additional agencies will be held on December 17th .

Ms. Miles wished everyone happy Chanukah, Kwanza and Christmas.

Committees' Reports

ULURP Committee – Michael Cetera, AIA – see written report

Youth Committee – Dion Ashman – committee is working on a youth speak out for young men and women.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Rabbi Jacob Goldstein acknowledged representatives of the following elected officials and agencies: Isiah Hall – Hon. Darlene Mealy; Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Eric Adams; Mary Bishop – Hon. Yvette Clarke; Ann Marie Adamson – Hon. Marty Markowitz; Denise Peterson – Kings County Hospital Center; Neil Harmon – Dept of Parks and Recreation; Ben Kramer – Dept of Parks and Recreation

The Mayor's budget cuts will have a great impact on services to our community. The board office as of January 2009 will no longer mail out information as a result of the budget cuts. Board members will receive

email communications and information can be downloaded from the board's website www.communitybrd9bklyn.org the board's email address is bk09@cb.nyc.gov

Board member Yankel Wice moved out of the district and has submitted his resignation from the board. He has a new job working for a New York State Senate representative.

He has appointed Denise Thomas as the new chairperson of the Education Committee.

Announcements

Councilman Mathieu Eugene said that he wanted to personally come and extend his best wishes for a healthy holiday season. He looks forward to continuing to be of service to the community in the new year.

Neil Harmon, former liaison to the board from the Dept of Parks has been reassigned to Community District 1 in Williamsburg. He introduced his replacement, Mr. Ben Kramer. Mr. Harmon said that although he no longer works in the district he would still make himself available if needed. Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Harmon and expressed his appreciation for the work he did with the parks in our district. He will be missed.

Isiah Hall representing Council Member Darlene Mealy announced that the council member's Christmas party will be held at 1756 Union Street between Utica and Rochester Avenues. Anyone needing applications for affordable housing can call the office at 718-953-3097.

Reuven Lipkind representing Senator Eric Adams extended an invitation to join members of the Adams Team in celebrating an outstanding 2008 and a prosperous New Year on Saturday, December 20, 2008 from 4:00 to 9:00 pm at the district office, 572 Flatbush Avenue between Midwood Street and Beekman Pl. Refreshments will be served.

Voting Items

Reconstruction of Kingston Avenue

A motion to accept the plans as presented was made by Eleanor Rollins and seconded by Myrtle Roberson. Discussion on the motion – the District Manager pointed out that many views were expressed by the audience which would not be reflected in the motion. She suggested an amendment to the motion. Ruby Hodge requested that the amendment to the motion should include that all matters discussed at the meeting. The amended motion was seconded by Eleanor Rollins. Voting: yes – 16; no – 6; abstentions – 4. Motion carried.

Zoning for Bicycle Parking – N080078 ZRY

Eleanor Rollins reported that members met with the District Manager at the board office to discuss the matter. The consensus was to recommend board support for the text amendment. A motion to support the proposed zoning text amendment was made by Eleanor Rollins and seconded by Gwen Carter. There was no discussion on the motion. Voting: yes – 17; no – 7; abstentions – 2. Motion was carried.

Chairman Goldstein wished all a safe and happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year. He invited all to stay for the holiday refreshments following the meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Denise Thomas and seconded by Jannie Johnson.

Respectfully submitted
Shelia Foster-Golding
Secretary
January 14, 2009