

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

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2015
AUDITORIUM, MIDDLE SCHOOL 61
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, 11225**

Board Members Present:

Patricia Baker
Stuart Balberg
Fred Baptiste
Yaacov Behrman
Simone Bennett
Veta May Clarke
Ben Edwards
Milton Ellis
Shelia Foster-Golding
Dr. Zorina Frederick
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Aron Hershkop
Daniel Ingvaldstad
Louis Johnson
Demetrius Lawrence
Francisca Leopold

Board Members Present

Michael Liburd
Mattijs Limberger
Denise Mann
Carmen Martinez
Musa Moore
Beverly Newsome
Riel Peerbooms
Pia Raymond
Unella Rhone-Perry
Hector Robertson
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Roosevelt Rose
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Ada Terry
Timothy Thomas
Nevon Watson
Jacqueline Welch
Evelyn Williams

Board Members Absent

Rev. Douglas Banks
Warren Berke – sick
Augustine Blackwell
Rev. Phyllis Brown – hospitalized
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa Hackett Vieira
Kyra-Lee Harry
Avi Leshes
Maria Molina
Patricia Moses
Kenya Sollas
Chanina Sperlin
Lorraine Thomas

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present

Tahirah Moore – Hon. Bill DeBlasio
Jamal Pollard – Hon. Eric Adams
Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Jesse Hamilton
Edu Hermelyn – Hon. Diana Richardson
William Boone – Medgar Evers College

Brian K. McLaurin – Hon. Letitia James
J. Watkins – Hon. Kenneth Thompson
Joseph Yanis – Hon. Walter Mosley
Hon. Olanike Alabi

Applications for SLA Licenses, businesses within Community District 9:

At 7:30, Chairman Demetrius Lawrence called the meeting to order. He mentioned the locations of the new wine and beer license applicants: 539 Flatbush Ave., 451 East New York Ave., 103 Empire Blvd., 713 Flatbush Ave., and 570 Albany Ave.

He read into the record the Rules of Conduct for meetings.

The first agenda item was an application certifying compliance with zoning for: Fresh Supermarket, pursuant to its prior approval in June 2009. Ron Mandel spoke for the proprietor. The premises are at 31 Lincoln Rd.

They will offer organic and non-organic food. They will target employment at 50% from the local residents. The location was chosen because of proximity to Fort Green and Clinton Hill which are huge consumers of organic foods. They will have local fish and a kitchen and will cook for the customers. They will have a large bulk food section. They currently operate at Park and Flushing Ave., South Williamsburg. They brought a food sample platter for the public. They stated that they are the only premises on the block offering organic foods.

A speaker objected and declared that there is already a Western Beef, a Green Market diagonally across Flatbush Ave., a wholesaler, 7 small groceries, and a Seaman's, and that there are too many commercial eateries in the area, and asked, why another?

The spokesman said that this would provide 6,000 feet of store which provides what it serves. It is not a variance they seek, but permission to operate beyond the building line, to sell perishable and fresh produce legally supplied, and at a height of 16 feet, which is above the 14 feet previous limit. So they are asking for certification from the Dept of City Planning, this is not a ULURP matter. They seek a recommendation in support.

(Tim Thomas) This question is not as to whether he can have the extra 9 feet beyond the building line, but as to whether he complies. We already have given support as a Board to the Zoning approval.

(Owner) We will have a grocery on the first floor.

(Balberg) How many net jobs will be provided?

(A) 25 to 30.

(Q) How many local jobs for management?

(A) This includes cashiers, Assistant Manager, etc. first we will check the applicants' skills and then we will be able to evaluate the openings.

(Fred) What is the pricing for the food?

(A) The food is high-quality, including grass-fed organic meat, fresh hummus, international cheeses, and wild fish, for which we will try to have for 25% cheaper than comparable stores, but the traditional foods will be approximately the same as for Key Foods.

(Q) I find I have to go to Church Ave. for fresh foods and some of the West Indian owned stores have rotten food.

(Q) Will you provide job training for those without all the skills?

(A) We can do this for cashiers but not for professional butchers, where the State-required standards are much stricter. You need much more experience for butcher jobs. Of course, for those jobs that are trainable, we will prefer local residents because of the better punctuality and easier transportation.

(R. Rose) Does "grass fed" include corn and wheat?

(A) No. Actual grass, which is better.

(R. Perry) Could you provide apprenticeship for the butchers?

(A) First you need to be certified. Then we can elevate the skill level through training.

(Q) Please consider opening up on Nostrand Avenue. We need one.

(A) In the future, we may. We were considering a convenient location ant the Lincoln and Flatbush worked for us. It is convenient for the subway and the park.

(Q) Opening date?

(A) We are targeting one year from now.

(M. Liburd) It is smart to train for these high-school jobs. We would like this job-training element put on the recommendation.

(A) We are doing that for everything from stock to cashiers to management to cutting cheese.

(Suki) I represent residents of Prospect Lefferts Gardens – Lincoln Road and recommend that you not approve the height increase because it is 50% higher than the 80 feet, and we should first forward our Environmental Impact Statement that the 10 feet blocks the shadows. Many other stores inbcluyding supermarkets are no benefit, as they have high prices for food. Board 9 put us into the fresh zone and we want to remove that and the construction.

(A) This is a new idea.

D. O. T. PROPOSED MODIFICATION FOR OCEAN-PARKSIDE AVENUE

To ban a southbound left, add a pedestrian lane, and ban westbound left turn. It would provide new signaled turning to protect pedestrians crossing from the southwest to northwest corners of that intersection. For the West pedestrian crosswalk, a right red arrow controlling right turns, and for the North pedestrian crosswalk, a red left arrow controlling left turns. The result is that the obtuse-angle turns from Parkside Ave. along the park to Ocean Ave. along the park would be slowed down by reducing the number of passing cars per minute. The crosswalk would also eliminate 8 parking spaces in the early morning (the parked cars would have to move away at 7 AM). Eastbound and westbound turns would be timed slower, but allowed.

(Spielman) What was the original request last meeting? The north crosswalk island. Now, when you add these changes, you protect both the north and west crosswalks. But this is the only way you drive to and from Bensonhurst. This will make the congestion worse. Not just worse traffic, but focusing on slowing turning vehicles. Why pick on those who have to get from Crown Heights to other neighborhoods?

(A)But they will turn on a bald green, and thus will have to yield to pedestrians. This will give them less time to yield to pedestrians. There will also be a resurface request.

(Balberg) Unlike the Kingston Ave. proposal, where you did a flow study video, you failed here to do the math. The slowed lights combined with the narrow lanes and park closings will have a devastating effect on the slowed Ocean Ave. traffic. Why were you afraid to check this? This is too much of a burden on cars to support pedestrians. Cars should come first.

(A) No. We will not cut sidewalks.

(Tim Thomas) This board should consider all four elements equally: Driver, pedestrian, Bus, and Bike.

(Bernette) When will this be implemented?

(A) Around Thanksgiving.

(Q) Why 8 spaces. Even 6 will be an imposition.

(A) This was carefully modeled. We even considered 5, but with less than 8, the vehicles would block the through lane.

(Tim) The transportation committee voted unanimous to recommend in support of the changes.

The following public officials were recognized: Assemblywoman Dianna Richardson; T. Moore, representing the Mayor's office; Reuven Lipkind, representing State Sen. Jesse Hamilton; Arna Lipkind, representing Councilwoman Darlene Mealy; Alan Boone, representing Medgar Evers College.

Quorum count: 44 present.

Vote to adapt March and June (corrected) minutes: Unanimous with 1 abstention (Baptiste)

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Budget consultations are slated for September 25th. She met with Assemblywoman Richardson, National Grid and the Red Cross. She applied for an intern, proposal was for mapping bike lanes.

We are in receipt of 30 applications for demolition and 7 for excavation.

(Q) Wifi locations? (A) There is not a set number and DOT will determine where.

There is no current contract for the installation of bike racks as per DOT.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Carmen Martinez (Housing): We have knocked on doors at 265 Hawthorne St. to attempt to get the requisite 85% tenants approval for intervention by Pratt Institute.

(Goldstein) Since 265 is tenant-run, it is not protected by subsidized housing rules.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

(Chair) The vote for the ULURP study had been 15 yes and 14 no and 1 abstention, and was recorded as passed and requires a majority yes as per the City charter, so we referred it for research, so I told Mr. Sorid that I await a decision on Sorid's question.

(At that point, several committee chairs read their reports into the record: Ulurp, Education, Health, Economic Development, Youth.) (There was no representative for the Public Safety committee, though the matter of liquor permits was on the basis of that committee.)

Present at the meeting were Inspector George Fitzgibbons and Detective Vincent Martinos, of the 71st precinct.

On the matter of the application for 600 Flatbush Ave., an attorney was present representing the owner.

The record showed one Fire Dept. call for the kitchen, which was unfounded. The premises had a bad rating from the 71st precinct.

(Denise Mann) I was at the committee meeting, and we did not object. There had been 2 unfounded complaints, and in one, a guard found a gun, stopped the perpetrators, and called 911. That is not a derogatory type of complaint. And the others were fights outside. Why a "no" on the first request? Because I wanted something in front of us so we knew we are at the saturation point.

(Goldstein) We need to approve because there is a time limit in which to get Avi (Leshes') minutes.

(Miles) There is not much in the order of negative. We should ask the Liquor Authority for an extension.

(Q) What is the problem with the New Keg Lounge? Lounge have it and the others ask for an extension?

(A)The owner has Alzheimer's and the SLA doesn't deny to any applicant who wants to apply and I asked them to appear. Let the proper people apply.

(Q) Was the committee armed with this information and were there comments?

(A) the fact that the applicant doesn't come should be regarded as a sign. They should get a delay. Let's not rush to judgment.

The document should have been given to the committee.

(Tim) Motion to table and ask SLA for a delay

Voice vote carried.

DOT proposal vote: 33 yes, 1 no, carried.

The Chairman called on committee members in the future to attend their committee meetings, and called on them to attend the budget consultation meetings.

(Olanike Olabi) We are finally turning the board around.

Adjourned 9:33 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Balberg,
Secretary
October 26, 2015