

COMMUNITY BOARD 9
890 NOSTRAND AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11225

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2012
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN NY 11225

Board Members Present

Robert Agyemang
Robert Ambrose
Stuart Balberg
Gwen Carter
Aldith Clarke
Veta May Clarke
Josette Coicou-Brioche
Edmund Fanning
Shelia Foster-Golding
Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein
Theopia Green
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Aaron Hershkop
Ruby Hodge
Brenda Hutto-Lucas
Negous Clarke

Board Members Present

Maurice Jean-Baptiste
Demetrius Lawrence
Carl B. Morgan
Frank Nicholas
Rosemarie Perry
Myrtle Roberson
Karlene Robinson
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Roosevelt Rose
Brenda Scott
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Victoria St. Clair
Yvonne Straker
Denise Thomas
Timothy Thomas
Jacqueline Welch
Evelyn Williams

Board Members Absent

Dion Ashman
Rev. Phyllis Brown – sick
Michael Cetera, AIA
Geraldine Dease
Charlene Gayle
Yaakov Katz
Samuel Marmulzsteyn
Dwayne Nicholson
Gerald President
Chanina Sperlin

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives

Alfred Chiodo – Hon. Letitia James
Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Eric Adams
Andrea McKoy – Hon. Karim Camara
Charles Jackson – Hon. Yvette Clarke
Arna Lipkind – Hon. Darlene Mealy

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives

Ann Marie Adamson – Hon Marty Markowitz
Hon. Shirley Patterson
Hon. Walter Mosley
Debra Lesane – Kings County Hospital
William Boone – Medgar Evers College

Representatives from the Department of Transportation will present plans for the Senior Safety Project – incorporating changes at the following streets: Clarkson Avenue, Winthrop Street, Montgomery Street, Crown Street, East New York Avenue, Lefferts Avenue and Utica Avenue; making them safer for senior citizens

Representing the Department of Transportation was Deputy Borough Commissioner Keith Bray, Ms. Claudette Workman, and Ms. Megan Quirk. Ms. Quirk explained that the agency's main goal is to prevent traffic accidents and fatalities. Since the 1990's they have lowered the rate by about 6%. New York City has identified five pilot areas with twenty additional areas in the five boroughs, of which East Flatbush is one. The way these areas are selected is by taking a map of New York City and looking at the areas which have the most

fatalities. Community residents were interviewed and research was done to determine these areas. Many of the issues raised related to not enough time to cross the streets, speeding vehicles, missing or broken pedestrian ramps, missing street markings, and parked vehicles.

Proposed improvements: In the areas where the streets are extremely wide, especially Clarkson Avenue, medians will be placed in those areas; installation of parking strips and painted center medians along roads with excess capacity, example, Clarkson Avenue and New York Avenue; count-down signals wherever possible; adding benches at bus stops that does not have benches and shelters – a number of them were seen on Utica Avenue; modifying the signal crossing so that there is adequate time for crossing. This will lower speeding by up to 20%. The first example is from Utica Avenue and Montgomery Street. Montgomery Street right now is 35' wide, one lane, one-way. At Utica Avenue and Montgomery Street there is a high visibility crosswalk. On Clarkson Avenue where it is two-way a center median will be added. The project is scheduled for late fall or early spring.

Chairman Goldstein said that he would like to thank the City of New York for trying to make the community safer, especially for seniors. He thanked Ms. Quirk for her presentation and the work which went into the project.

Questions and Answers

Will there be speed humps on these streets? Give us the locations and we will look into them.

Rosemarie Perry – curb cuts are great but sometimes wheel chairs can fall into them. Where necessary we will try to fix them.

What about Clarkson Avenue? Clarkson Avenue will have painted medians and stripes.

The traffic on Clarkson Avenue and New York Avenue is terrible, what can be done about this? We can look into that location too.

Chairman Goldstein thanked the representatives for their presentation.

Representatives from the Department of Transportation will present plans for the implementation of traffic calming measures at Parkside/Flatbush/Ocean Avenues – project funded by Council Member Mathieu Eugene

Representing the Department of Transportation – Deputy Borough Commissioner Keith Bray; Claudette Workman; Ann Marie Daughtry; Megan Quirk; and Jessie Mintz-Roth – Mr. Mintz-Roth gave a PowerPoint demonstration of the project. He explained that they were invited to a meeting in May 2011 by Council Member Mathieu Eugene and members of the community, which was held at the Full Gospel Pentecostal Church, regarding concerns about the intersection of Parkside/Flatbush/Ocean Avenues. At the meeting they were asked to present the community with a proposal. In December they returned one proposal.

The pedestrians' safety concerns were that at the intersection with Prospect Park it was very busy. In 2008 or 2009 there was a community concern regarding the subway station and the crosswalk to Prospect Park. It is a busy intersection, lots of traffic, there were fifteen concerns about the intersection. There was also concern about the crosswalk between the subway station and the park regarding cars that are turning left at the crosswalk. It is dangerous because of the wide intersection. The main issues are wide fast turns and conflict with pedestrians walking across the wide intersections.

During construction the East Drive northbound will be open week days from 7:00 am to 9:00 am. It will be open to construction vehicles to 3:00 pm. The entrance to the park will be closed; the intersection will be tightened and the crosswalks will be realigned.

On Parkside Avenue the issue is with the layover of the B12 bus that blocks Ocean Avenue northbound lane. The bus layover area will be moved to the subway stop which is infrequently used. The taxi stand and parking will be there as well as loading for businesses during the day.

Additional improvements will consist of lengthening the eastbound left lane. They have seen a decrease in the volume of vehicles using the Parkside and Ocean Avenue entrance to the park. There are 360 vehicles per week day from 7:00 am to 9:00 am that use that entrance. There will be, in two hours, an additional 200 vehicles that would be added to the northbound Ocean Avenue entrance.

The benefits to the proposal: there will be a 50% decline in crashes and injuries - at least 10 injuries per year could be avoided. It will dramatically improve safety with minimal effect on traffic. And it doubles the layover bus traffic.

Questions and Answers:

Chairman Goldstein – how long will the construction take? About three weeks. There will be signage and markings, not actual construction.

How far back will the “no parking” be? About three parking spaces. Will this be an in-house project? Yes.

Tim Thomas said that he had been concerned about this issue for some time. One concern is the plan to close the entrance in the evening. It is a rough corner. This will be a real significant change for the location

Karlene Robinson – what are you going to do with the trucks? That will not be a problem. What about installing railings on the corner? This is not something that DOT does anymore; this was done before when we had double crossings?

Ruby Hodge (inaudible) – Answer – the two parking spaces at McDonalds will no longer be there, instead they will be parking on Parkside Avenue.

Jannie Johnson – the buses at McDonalds will now move to Parkside Avenue, what will happen to the other two buses which park on Parkside for about four minutes? Will there be four buses moving to Parkside? Where will there be space for four buses at one time? There is a fire hydrant near the location. We are planning to get four buses at the location on Parkside Avenue.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Council member Mathieu Eugene for initiating the project and the community residents for following through with the agency; and finally to the Department of transportation for making the proposal a reality.

Public Hearing on the agencies’ responses to Community Board 9’s FY 2013 Capital and Expense Budget Requests contained in the Mayor’s Preliminary Budget

District Manager Pearl Miles explained the budget process. The budget negotiations are between the Mayor and the City Council. They negotiate to determine who gets what funded. The responses in the preliminary budget are to the requests submitted by the board on behalf of the community. This public hearing is giving

the community and the board an opportunity to respond to their response. How do you feel about what they said? You might want to thank them for requests that were approved; the ones that did not receive positive responses, you might want to know why; or you can disagree with the response. Ms. Miles explained the tracking code and the priority numbers. Board members should sit with their committees, determine the requests that are of high priority, take the opportunity to sit with your city council representatives and let them know how important these items are and ask for their provision of funds. You might also want to write to the Mayor outlining your cause, providing justification for why a project should be funded.

For example, select the top ten priorities and negotiate for those items with the elected officials. This negotiating process will continue until there is an adopted budget in June, to be in place by July 1st. You might be able to get the project partial funded, where the project can be implemented in phases.

Ms. Miles informed Tim Thomas that the Parkside Avenue station, as well as the Prospect Park Station, while not approved for the reconstruction that the Board is asking, will undergo some repairs on both sides of the stations – Manhattan and Coney Island – platforms, walls, columns, ceilings, etc.

Ruby Hodge – it hurts to see that the roof on the fire station on Rogers Avenue cannot be replaced. **Pearl Miles** reminded members that a few years ago she had recommended to the Board to work with all three of our council representatives for funding for the fire house, the precinct and the sanitation garage, which serves all of the district and constituencies.

Ms. Miles also invited the members to tour the Precinct to see for themselves the deplorable conditions there – Council member James gave \$200,000 for the precinct's outdated phone system; and \$50,000 for a new roof on the fire house (the agency has estimated that a new roof will cost \$800,000) The budget process is a year long process, as well as a continuous process – “we have to keep fighting and working with our elected officials to get things done.”

Expense Requests

Vouchers for day care centers – agency response – this cannot be done in FY 2013, re-submit for FY 2014.

Cuts to Community Boards – The boards are slated for a huge cut to their operational budget. Ann Marie Adamson said that this is an across the board cut for all the community boards which will severely impact the boards in carrying out their functions.

Announcements

- Ms. Ann Marie Adamson – it's reappointment time, there are twenty-five members up for re-appointment. Ms. Adamson reminded members about the importance of attending board and committee meetings. Non-attendance will result on removal from the board. Deadline for reappointment applications is February 27th. The application must be notarized. Applications can be downloaded from the internet.
- Reuven Lipkind reported that the office of Senator Adams has moved from Flatbush Avenue to 1669 Bedford Avenue, corner of Montgomery Street, across from Medgar Evers College.
- Arna Lipkind announced that not for profit organizations can apply for City Council funding to cover the cost of providing useful programs or services (expense funds) or for capital projects. These activities must serve a city purpose and be available to the general public. Organizations with a 501c3 and

registered with New York State Charities Bureau may apply online: <http://council.nyc.gov/html/budget/pdfdiscretionaryfundingpoliciesfy12.pdf> training session will be held on Monday night, March 5th.

- Woman's day is March 23rd 2012
- Community meeting will be held on Saturday, March 3rd 2012 at the Council member Mealy's office. Legal services will be provided at that meeting.
- Walter Mosley informed that the political calendar for this cycle will be as follows: April 24th – NYS Presidential Primary; June 26th Congressional Primary; September 11th NYS Primary; November 6th General Election. He continued to say that what is odd about this cycle is that there are four election cycles. For the June 26th primary petitioning will be March 20th; for September 1st primary will begin the first week in June, petitioning will be done on June 26th.
- Charles Jackson reminded the audience that they could bring their concerns to Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's office. Do not hesitate to call, if they cannot help they will refer you to someone that can until your concern is addressed.

BUSINESS SESSION:

The business session began at 8:40pm with 35 members present.

Minutes of the January 2012 Meeting

The minutes of January 24th 2012 meeting was presented for correction and adoption. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Roosevelt Rose seconded by Denise Thomas.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Pearl Miles announced the following items:

- Bike Share Community Planning Workshop will be held at Medgar Evers College, President's Conference room, B108, 1650 Bedford Avenue, at 6:00 at 7:00 p.m. Join Community Boards 8 and 9, Council members Letitia James, Albert Vann, and NYC DOT to help plan the system for our districts.
- The New York Aquarium will have its Purim Dress Up on Sunday, March 4th 12-2pm, at the Aquarium on Surf Avenue and West 8th Street, Brooklyn. Flyers are in the back of the auditorium with coupons which will allow you a discount on the ticket.
- The senior housing development at 600 Albany Avenue, is now accepting applications from seniors with Section 8 housing. Applications can be picked up at 600 Albany Avenue.

COMMITTEES' REPORTS

Public Safety – Rosemarie Perry (see written report)

Sargent Kelly reported on the various crimes – robberies, gang activities, murders, and arrests within the 71 Precinct, especially the breaking up of a gang in the Ebbets Field apartments by the Joint Task Force of the FBI and the 71 Precinct.

Also discussed were the deplorable conditions in the 71 Precinct building; the need for flagpoles to be placed in front of the building to be hoisted on special occasions; additional lighting for the back of Kings County Hospital.

Transportation Committee – Ed Fanning (see written report)

Mr. Fanning reported that members will conduct the sidewalk survey using the criteria set forth by the committee for identifying faulty sidewalks in the district.

Education Committee – Demetrius Lawrence

Demetrius Lawrence said that the committee did not meet in January and February; the next meeting will take place on March 13th there are many things taking place in our schools. The committee will consider a resolution from Senator Eric Adams concerning sagging pants showing undergarments in school.

Voting Items

Senior Safety Project – Motion by Ed Fanning, seconded by Rosemarie Perry to accept the proposal for Safe Streets for Seniors. Voting: yes-33; no-1; motion carried.

Traffic Calming measures at Parkside Avenue – motion to support the project as proposed made by Timothy Thomas, seconded by Edmund Fanning. Voting: yes-33; no-0; motion carried.

Voting for Member-at-Large

Only one member indicated an interest in running for the member-at-large position on the Executive Committee – Rosemarie Perry. Chairman Goldstein asked Secretary Shelia Foster-Golding to cast one vote to elect Rosemarie Perry member-at-large. The secretary cast one vote to elect Rosemarie Perry to fill the vacancy for member-at-large.

Friends of Brooklyn Community Board 9 Bylaws

Chairman advised that there was no need to vote on the bylaws. He also advised that the organization's bank account had been set up.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Gwen Carter and seconded by Brenda Hutto; the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Shelia Foster-Golding
Secretary
March 27, 2012