

COMMUNITY BOARD 9
890 NOSTRAND AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11225

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 27, 2012
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225

Board Members Present

Robert Agyemang
Robert Ambrose
Stuart Balberg
Rev. Phyllis Brown
Negous Clark
Aldith Clarke
Veta May Clarke
Josette Coicou-Brioche
Edmund Fanning
Shelia Foster-Golding
Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Ruby Hodge
Brenda Hutto-Lucas
Maurice Jean-Baptiste

Board Members Present

Yaakov Katz
Samuel Marmulzsteyn
Carl Morgan
Dwayne Nicholas
Rosemarie Perry
Myrtle Roberson
Karlene Robinson
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
Gwen Carter
Michael Cetera, AIA
Geraldine Dease
Charlene Gayle
Theopia Green
Aron Hershkop
Demetrius Lawrence
Frank Nicholas
Gerald President
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Chanina Sperlin

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present

Hon. Mathieu Eugene	Hon. Walter Mosley
Hon. Olanike Alabi	Debra Lesane – Kings County Hospital Center
Andrea McKoy – Hon. Karim Camara	William Boone – Medgar Evers College
Arna Lipkind – Hon. Darlene Mealy	Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Eric Adams

PUBLIC SESSION:

Representatives from the Brooklyn Public Library will present the most recent plans for the Central Library's Materials Handling and the Leon Levy Information Commons construction projects.

Mr. Heinrich Spillman, Project Manager to Capital Planning, Facilities and Maintenance, Brooklyn Public Library, informed that since the Brooklyn Public Library is a landmarked building, projects have to go before the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The Library is requesting a letter of support from the Community Board.

There are two areas that we need to present to Landmarks Preservation: (1) Plans showing how materials will be moved in and out of the building (a drawing of the enclosed walkway for moving materials was shown) (2) The placement of the air conditioning and heating systems on top of the roof. A drawing was shown indicating that the only view of the system will be from Mount Prospect Park. They cannot be seen from the front of the building or from the street.

Landmarks Preservation Commission asked the Library to come up with a master plan for the next ten years. The master plan shows the setback to the roof, elevated to the wall and into the parapet.

Mr. Jessie Montero informed about the Leon Levy Information Commons space. This space will provide more seating, more classes and workshops; places to meet, and a dedicated training facility. The central area will provide seating for about 70 laptop users and for other different types of activities. Neighborhood organizations can also use the space for meetings. The area will be sound proof. There will be thirty-six labs for information workshops. There will also be a centralized space for the workers. The project is subsidized and financed by the Levy Foundation.

How will organizations get access to the space? A – The policies are not yet in place.

District Manager Pearl Miles-Lee informed that due to the fact that the letter of support from the Community Board needed to be submitted for the March 20, 2012, hearing before Landmarks, she had prepared the letter and submitted it prior to the Community Board meeting. This is not the first time the Library has been before the Board with this ongoing project and has received the Board's support.

Mr. Spillman expressed his gratitude to Ms. Miles for her timely response on behalf of the Community Board.

Introduction of the new Parks Manager, Ronald Taylor.

Mr. Ronald Taylor, the new Parks Manager was introduced. He is responsible for the parks in Community Districts 8, 9 and 3.

Representatives from the New York Road Runners Club will inform of their plans to expand the Brooklyn Half Marathon from within the confines of Prospect Park to neighborhood streets. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, 2012. Proposed street closings include: Eastern Parkway; Washington Avenue; Empire Blvd; Flatbush Avenue; Grand Army Plaza; Ocean Avenue; Parkside Avenue. The route also includes Prospect Park; Ocean Parkway to Surf Avenue to Coney Island Boardwalk. Also invited to address any related questions that may arise are representatives from the Department of Transportation and the Police Department.

Mr. Phillip Santora, New York Road Runners Club, informed that the New York Road Runners Club is widely known as the organizers of the New York City Marathon. This organization is focused on health and fitness. They work with schools in the city that do not have Physical Education programs. The programs are in collaboration with the Department of Education. This is their thirty-first year of operation.

In 2009 the course of the marathon was reversed from Coney Island to Prospect Park; instead it is now from Prospect Park to Coney Island. Over the years they have worked with the Brooklyn Borough President, Marty Markowitz in bringing economic support and stimulation of business to Coney Island. He is happy to report that in ten hours they signed up over nineteen thousand spots. Anyone who would like to participate or know any group that would like to participate please let them know. They are working with hotels, the Borough President's office, and other entities; each year they hope to expand.

Mr. Nat Schwartz informed that the Brooklyn Half Marathon is on the 19th of May, at 7:00 am. They are working closely with the city agencies to minimize the impact on the communities. They are trying to see how close they can keep to the schedule. They will start on Washington Avenue by the Museum to Empire Blvd; Flatbush Avenue to Ocean Avenue and Parkside Avenue to Prospect Park, down to Ocean Avenue to Surf Avenue. They will be off Flatbush Avenue between 8 am and 10 am in the morning. The course will not be long through this district.

Chairman Goldstein – I am a runner, the marathon is on a Saturday that will exclude many people who cannot participate on a Saturday. A - We will be happy to look into other days in the future.

Inaudible question. A – The last thing that a runner is to go out and socialize in the community. As far as the runners are concerned they are looking for collaboration with the businesses. They are looking for a weekend to sit with the businesses to see how they can get some kind of discount at their stores perhaps not for the day of the marathon but later on.

We have a lot of construction on Washington Avenue how will that impact the runners? A- They are working with Department of Transportation. The runners will run around the construction. The construction is expected to be completed in June.

What will be the impact of the marathon on vehicular traffic? A – They will keep the race on one side of the street. They are working with the New York City Police Department. There will be no parking on the west side from 4:00 am to 7:00 am. There will be no parking around the circle beginning at 3:00 am.

Tim Thomas – On Saturdays starting in April, there will be a market around the plaza, will the marathon impact the market? A – No, there will not be an impact.

Pearl Miles – What time will the runners come to the starting location? A – They will converge around 5:30 am. Since this will be a Saturday people will park their vehicles for the weekend. When will they be told that they cannot park in a particular area? A – They will be notified in time.

What will happen, will they be towed? A – New York Police Department will move them to another location.

Where is the money going? A – The money is invested in the Youth Services such as the 300 schools that they are involved in.

Ruby Hodge – What about the market? A – The market starts at 10:00 am after the race.

Has the Department of Transportation looked at the potholes? A – Yes, they have gone through the course and examined the area.

Chairman Jacob Goldstein thanked the representatives for their presentation.

Mr. Rudolph Delson, Organizer of the Parkside Prize and resident of Community District 9, will showcase the competitions winning entries. The ultimate goal is to stimulate a dialogue among residents, businesses, elected officials, and city agencies that will result in the revitalization/rejuvenation of this blighted portion of the district.

Mr. Delson showed pictures of the area to be developed are Parkside Avenue and Flatbush Avenue. Pictures of what it looks like now: the deteriorating subway station; blank wall at Duane Reade Pharmacy; the apartment

building that was being planned for a twenty four hour hotel; store front buildings, and others. Mr. Delson also showed designs that were submitted to transform the area. Mr. Delson expressed his gratitude to Senator Eric Adams for providing the \$1,000.00 prize money for the contest of how Parkside Avenue and Flatbush Avenue should look. There were about 22 submissions from colleges, organizations etc, submissions were judged according to seven different criteria, including beauty, business improvement, traffic safety, and greening.

Mr. Delson also thanked Community Board 9 for voting down the building which was slated for the 24 hour hotel. Councilmember Mathieu Eugene would like to see a start to revitalization of the area, Mr. Delson says now that the community has seen how the area could look; the next step is the money to build. Councilmember Eugene has been working with the Department of Transportation. We need Community Board 9 to join in and we need to apply for grants.

Do you know who the developer of the Caledonia Hospital is? A – No, if anyone knows the developer please put us in contact with them.

Have you reached out to the landlords? A – Most of the benign neglect is from the landlords.

Stuart Balberg – “As a kid there were numerous killings in that area. Once for the summer is good.” How will the project incorporate young people who have nowhere to go? A - The two problems respond to each one.

Roosevelt Rose – We all have a problem with having no community center in the district.

Mr. Delson invited the community to look at the winning art work on display.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Delson for the concern to revitalize Parkside Avenue and Flatbush Avenue and promised that Community Board 9 will work with him on the project.

BUSINESS SESSION

The Business Session began at 8:35 pm with 33 members present.

Minutes of the February 2012 Meeting

The minutes of the February 2012 Community Board Meeting was presented for correction and adoption. Motion was made by Roosevelt Rose, seconded by Rosemarie Perry to accept the minutes as presented.

District Manger’s Report

District Manager Pearl Miles reported the following:

- Ms. Miles received a call from a representative at Brooklyn Greenbridge. They are applying for a Brown field grant for Parkside Avenue to Eastern Parkway. We hope they are successful.
- Representative Edolphus Towns and Representative Yvette D. Clarke present Academy Night. Academy Night will be held at St. Francis College, 182 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11201, (between Court Street and Clinton Street). Learn about the various educational opportunities in our nation’s service academies. Representatives from every branch of our United States Military will be available to discuss and answer your questions concerning enrollment, eligibility and the academic requirements for

admission. For more information or to RSVP contact Ms. Krista Braeburn, Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke's Office, (718) 287-1142, Krista.braeburn@mail.house.gov.

- May 19, 2012 will be "It's My Park Day."
- Clean and Green Brooklyn Parks Anti-Litter Program. Partnerships for Parks present Clean and Green Anti-Litter Program. Community volunteers take charge of a local park or playground and volunteer to do regular cleaning for a few hours on the same day each week. May 26 through September 3, 2012 is Clean and Green Program season. Space is limited. To receive volunteer group registration form, you can email Martin Maher at Martin.mahar@parks.nyc.gov.
- Safe Surrender will be at Mount Pisgah Baptist Church located at 212 Tompkins Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, 11216 on April 6 and April 7 at 9:00 am. The Court and Defense Attorneys will be available to resolve any outstanding summons and warrants you may have.
- The New York Aquarium has applications for summer interns. May 18, 2012 is the deadline for applications. If interested, call the office for a copy of the application.
- There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on March 31, 2012 at Wingate Park, Brooklyn. The Easter Egg Hunt is sponsored by Councilmember Mathieu Eugene.

Councilmember Mathieu Eugene

Councilmember Mathieu Eugene thanked the members of Community Board 9 for the job they are doing. He apprised the community of the closing of hospitals in Brooklyn. This is a very important issue, already one hospital in Far Rockaway is closed, people will be laid off; call your state elected officials and tell them how you feel about the closing of the hospitals. The Councilmember wants the community to advocate with him against the closing of hospitals in Brooklyn.

Council member Eugene also informed that he had appropriated \$2.5 million to Kings County Hospital cardio vascular equipment. He is also asking the Congress and Senate to pass the Dream Act. It is not fair that young people who are not residents cannot attend college; we are putting them in a position to go the wrong way.

His Mothers Day Celebration will take place on Saturday, May 12, 2012 at Public School 89. For further information call (718) 287-8762.

Committees' Reports

Environmental Protection – Timothy Thomas, Chairperson (See written report.)

There are jobs in composting - the separation of the organic matters from the rest of the household garbage which eventually is turned into rich soil, suited for gardening and farming.

Plans are underway to coordinate community wide planting day; the effort will focus on beautifying tree pits on Flatbush Avenue from Parkside Avenue to Grand Army Plaza; there will also be a community-wide clean-up day working with the merchants and businesses to clean the streets and sidewalks. Community Board 9 will be asked to send the letters to all the merchants in the district.

Public Safety – Rosemarie Perry, Chairperson (See written report.)

Shooting at 285 Hawthorne Street between Rogers Avenue and Nostrand Avenue. The perpetrator captured. The victim is in Kings County Hospital.

Thefts on iphones are up, primary locations are Parkside Avenue and Flatbush Avenue, Crown Street and Carroll Street and the Kings County Hospital area. Please be watchful.

Housing – Gwen Carter, Chairperson. (See written report.)

The committee discussed Community Board 9's Capital requests relating to Department of Housing Preservation and Development; and Department of Building. Capital Budget request #11 to the Department of Housing Preservation and Development for the development of property on the grounds of Kingsboro Psychiatric Center; also Expense Budget requests 20 and 22, to the Department of Buildings and the Department of Housing Preservation for more inspectors.

The Hearing on the FY 2013 Preliminary Budget before the City Council Committee on Governmental Operations is on March 29, 2012, 1:15 pm, 14th floor Committee Room, 250 Broadway, New York, NY.

Chairman's Report

Rabbi Jacob Goldstein reported on the following:

- He would like the Board to support the Environmental Protection Committee's request to send letters to the businesses in the community. The chairman further informed that the dates for the cleanup are Saturday and Sunday, April 28th and 29th, rain dates are May 5th and 6th.

Ruby Hodge requested that the letters be sent out to schools as well.

Voting Items

Community Board to send letters to businesses regarding the cleanup campaign. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Rosemarie Perry and seconded by Rabbi Nochum Gross. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted
Shelia M. Foster-Golding
Secretary
May 22, 2012