

COMMUNITY BOARD 9
890 NOSTRAND AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11225

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MAY 22, 2012
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225

Board Members Present

Robert Agyemang
Robert Ambrose
Stuart Balberg
Aldith Clarke
Josette Coicou-Brioche
Shelia Foster-Golding
Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein
Theopia Green
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Ruby Hodge
Maurice Jean-Baptiste
Demetrius Lawrence

Board Members Present

Carl Morgan
Frank Nicholas
Rosemarie Perry
Karlene Robinson
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Chanina Sperlin
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Victoria St. Clair
Yvonne Straker
Denise Thomas
Jacqueline Welch
Evelyn Williams

Board Members Absent

Rev. Phyllis Brown
Gwen Carter
Michael Cetera
Negous Clark
Veta May Clarke
Geraldine Dease
Edmund Fanning
Charlene Gayle
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Aron Herskop
Brenda Hutto-Lucas
Samuel Marmulzsteyn
Dwayne Nicholson
Gerald President
Myrtle Roberson
Roosevelt Rose
Brenda Scott
Timothy Thomas

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present

Samuel Pierre - Hon. Michael Bloomberg
Andrea McKoy – Hon. Karim Camara
Arna Lipkind – Hon. Darlene Mealy
Charles Jackson – Hon. Yvette Clarke

Debra Lesane – Kings County Hospital Center
William Boone – Medgar Evers College
Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Eric Adams
Kevin Parris - Hon. Marty Markowitz

PUBLIC SESSION:

Representatives from the Department of Design and Construction will present plans for the School Safety Project HWCSCH3H-1, involving traffic safety measures at the intersections of Eastern Parkway and Brooklyn Avenue – Oholei Torah Elementary School, and, Eastern Parkway and Kingston Avenue – Arista Prep School.

Mr. Albert Yam informed that the Department of Transportation had done a study of conditions around all the schools in the city and recommended safety improvements that should be implemented to make the areas safe for the children. Two phases had already been implemented at schools in the district. In this phase two schools have been targeted for safety improvements: Oholei Torah Elementary School located on Eastern Parkway between New York and Brooklyn Avenues; and the Arista Prep School located on Kingston Avenue between Park Pl and Eastern Parkway.

Safety improvements for the Oholei Torah Elementary School will include a sidewalk extension at the northeast corner of Eastern Parkway west bound service road and Brooklyn Avenue; as well as the addition of a raised median island on the west side of Eastern Parkway intersection with Brooklyn Avenue. For the Arista Prep School, safety improvements will include the addition of a raised median island on the east side of Eastern Parkway intersection with Kingston Avenue.

Questions and Answers

Chairman Goldstein – these areas are high accident areas with injuries, I am glad this is going to take place.

Rosemarie Perry – Are you going to install a countdown clock? Mr. Yam - we will look into it.

Denise Thomas – will you be doing the north side and the south side because the children cross over from one side to the other side? Mr. Yam - If we do that the trucks and buses will not be able to turn.

Chairman Goldstein – The north side and the south side should be a part of the construction even if you have to waste two parking spaces. Mr. Yam - we will look into it.

Ruby Hodge – Safety comes first we need to do the right thing.

Chairman Goldstein thanked the representatives for their presentation.

Representatives from the Hunger Free Communities Consortium (HFCC) will present information on government and private nutrition assistance and anti-poverty programs for vulnerable populations with children, working poor, and senior citizens. HFCC is a collaboration among City Harvest, AARP Foundation, Met Council on Jewish Poverty, NYC Coalition Against Hunger, NYC Department for the Aging, Public Health Solutions, and United Way NYC.

Ms. Rebecca Darugar, Hunger Free Communities Consortium (HFCC) informed that the HFCC is a project working toward the creation of a hunger free New York City, with a particular focus on aiding the essentially vulnerable populations of households with children, working poor, and senior citizens. One goal of the project is to increase participation in government and private nutrition assistance and anti-poverty programs such as food stamps, WIC, school and summer meals, EITC as well as emergency food from food pantries and soup kitchens.

The program helps to feed people in churches, schools, summer programs and mosques. The community is invited to become part the ground breaking effort which includes: Receiving outreach materials to distribute to the community; hosting representatives from project partners to perform on-site pre-screenings and/or application assistance. People can call to find out if they are eligible for the program. Call the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty at (212) 453-9655. The program is written in different languages.

Rabbi Goldstein – What about Yiddish? Ms. Darugar said that she would look into whether the information was available in Yiddish.

Seeds in the Middle – Nancie Katz

Ms. Nancie Katz gave an update on the organization “Seeds in the Middle” and the work they are doing in the community. She informed that the project came about out of the need to create a healthy environment for children “It is a project to keep our school children healthy”. The organization applied for a grant from the

state and they were turned down. Seeds in the Middle has developed soccer teams. It is a project for harmony. This program is in honor of Gerald's son, 15 years of age, who's iPod was stolen and he lost his life because no one helped to prevent it. Every time teams compete in Soccer for Harmony they usually get good coverage. Ms. Katz is looking for sponsors. The organization is a 501c3 organization. They can use all the help they can get. There is also a food/vegetable market, where the community can buy fresh products.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Ms. Katz for providing this kind of service to our community.

BUSINESS SESSION

The business sessions began at 8:10 PM with twenty-five members present.

Minutes of the March 2012 Meeting

The minutes of March 2012 Meeting was presented for correction and adoption. A Motion to adopt the minutes as presented was made by Ruby Hodge and seconded by Carl Morgan; motion carried.

Minutes of the April 2012 Meeting

The minutes of April 2012 meeting was presented for correction and adoption on a motion by Victoria St. Clair, seconded by Jacqueline Welch; the motion was adopted with corrections.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Pearl Miles welcomed Richard Vilabrera, Jr., Community Board 9's former intern from the Municipal Art Society. Richard was responsible for facilitating the PowerPoint presentations at our community board meetings. He just completed his first year in college and has returned and immediately volunteered to help at this meeting. The District Manager also made the following announcements:

- Tuesday May 29, 2012 at 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm there will be a meeting with elected officials at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, 331 Hawthorne Street, between Nostrand Avenue and New York Avenue, issues to be addressed are noise pollution, crime, public safety, block parties, policing etc.
- State Senator Eric Adams is hosting a Job Fair at PS 375, McKeever Place between Montgomery Street and Sullivan Place. Among the participating businesses are Chase, Staples, Met Life Insurance, Prudential Insurance, etc. Bring resumes and dress business-like.
- All the dates for block parties are taken except for the month of September. Check the Community Board's website for the available dates.
- Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz will sponsor the 7th American-Caribbean Heritage month on June 21, 2012 at Borough Hall.

Committees' Reports

Nominations Committee – Maurice Jean-Baptiste

Mr. Maurice Jean-Baptiste, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee informed that all members of Community Board 9 were polled as to their desire to run for office on Community Board 9. Based upon the polling results, the following members were placed in nomination:

Chairperson - Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein
First Vice Chairperson – Gwen Carter
Second Vice Chairperson – Demetrius Lawrence
Secretary – Shelia Foster-Golding
Treasurer – Carl Morgan
Members at Large – Rosemarie Perry and Karlene Robinson

Housing Committee – Gwen Carter – (see written report)

Ms. Carter encouraged the members to participate in the budget process, which is quite interesting.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman encouraged everyone to call the Board office to report missing stop signs, street lights that are out, and potholes; also cracked sidewalks, which are dangerous. Please notify Community Board 9 of the exact locations.

The Chairman acknowledged the following representatives: Charles Jackson representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke; Sam Pierre representing Mayor Michael Bloomberg; Romana McCoy representing Councilmember Mathieu Eugene; Arna Lipkind representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy; Rueben Lipkind representing Senator Eric Adams; Kevin Parris representing Borough President Marty Markowitz; Debra Lesane representing Kings County Hospital; William Boone representing Medgar Evers College.

Chairman Goldstein thanked the Nominations Committee members for their work in presenting the names of candidates for office on Community Board 9.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Carl Morgan seconded by Victoria St. Clair. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelia Foster-Golding
Secretary
June 26, 2012