

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

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON March 22, 2011
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN NY 11225**

Board Members Present

Robert Ambrose
Rev. Phyllis Brown
Gwen Carter
Michael Cetera, AIA
Aldith Clarke
Leslie Davis
Geraldine Dease
Ed Fanning
Shelia Foster-Golding
Shawn Francis
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein
Theopia Green
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Ruby Hodge
Brenda Hutto-Lucas

Board Members Present

Maurice Jean-Baptiste
Jannie Johnson
Yaakov Katz
Demetrius Lawrence
Samuel Marmulzsteyn
Carl Morgan
Dwayne Nicholson
Rosemarie Perry
Myrtle Roberson
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Eleanor Rollins
Roosevelt Rose
Brenda Scott
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Victoria St. Clair
Denise Thomas
Jacqueline Welch
Evelyn Williams

Board Members Absent

Robert Agyemang
Jenay Alejandro
Dion Ashman
Stuart Balberg
Julian Daniels
Brian Dean
Edu Hermelyn
Aron Hershkop
Frank Nicholas
Karlene Robinson
Chanina Sperlin
Yvonne Straker

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives

Hon. Eric Adams – Reuven Lipkind
Hon. Letitia James – Alfred A. Chiodo
NYC Comptroller's Office – John Berman
Hon. Walter Mosley III – NYS Committeeman/District Leader 57th AD

Hon. Mathieu Eugene – Carline Keil
Hon. Darlene Mealy – Arna Lipkind

PUBLIC SESSION:

Public Hearing on the agencies' responses to Community Board 9's FY 2012 Capital and Expense Budget Requests contained in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget.

District Manager Miles informed that the hearing was open to everyone. The information was put on the website for a month. The responses were emailed to Community Board 9 members a month ago. The Board's response was also sent to board members for review.

Eleanor Rollins - we have been seeing these requests year after year, based on these requests which ones do you think we will get? Chairman Goldstein – we know from experience that we need to resubmit requests that are important to the community until they are funded.

District Manager Pearl Miles - we prioritize the items. The way we ‘get” things or requests we put in the budget is by advocating for them. That is why there are public hearings where you say how you feel. You have the opportunity to say what you feel about the agencies responses and to work with the elected officials on funding the requests.

Questions and Answers

Q: Why is money given by Department of Education to private schools rather than using the money to fix the public schools? A. District Manager Pearl Miles – the Department of Education gives money to Charter Schools, Charter Schools are not private schools. We must also look at the fact that our schools did not get the way they are overnight, so it’s not a quick fix, parents need to get themselves involved. In our budget we have requests to fix the infrastructure of the schools in our district, to improve the learning environment for our children. For example, in the summer if there no air conditioning; or no heat in the winter, or if there are no labs, gym etc., these are some of the things that we are advocating for in our schools.

Q: Looking at what the agencies are saying, why don’t they tell us what parts they will fund? Pearl Miles – as soon as we become aware of what the agencies will fund, we will get the information out to you.

How will you communicate it to us? District Manager – we will put it on our website, post it, and discuss it at the meetings.

Theopia Green- I would like to know how many people have downloaded the information? District Manager – I don’t know. I emailed/mailed and posted the information to our website. Emails/mail have not come back to us, and this means that they were received. What upsets me is that I spend hours and hours doing the work, commenting on items that we want funded by agencies in the hope that someone would read them and comment on them at the meeting.

Ruby Hodge- we are constantly hearing about the closing of so many schools, how can we address that? District Manager Pearl Miles- those schools are not in our district.

Chairman Goldstein- we have to show our interest in these budget cuts. We cannot give up. Perhaps there could be a windfall one year where they decide to fund certain items. We just can’t give up, we must show our interest. There are no school closings in our district, it is most likely the senior centers and childcare facilities.

Edward Fanning- we need to tell the agencies to tell us what they will fund, or what they are going to do, rather than to tell us what they will fund in parts. Chairman Goldstein- There are cuts all over, however this doesn’t negate our job to do what we have to do. Anyone knows about Section 8 certificates will tell you that the city has planned to cut 40,000 recipients of Section 8 housing certificates, or if you live in a Section 8 building the funding will be cut.

Eleanor Rollins – have there been any success stories of things that have been done in the last year? Chairman Goldstein – yes, places like the Botanic Garden and the Libraries, they have done a beautiful job on the Maple Street Library and the Central Library at Grand Army Plaza.

Jannie Johnson- regarding Section 8 the cutting will be done in parts. The first part to be cut is recipients who have had certificates for 2 or 3 years. They will be the first to go.

Have there been any schools for which we advocate for repairs and the repairs have been done? District Manager Pearl Miles- yes, Wingate High School, MS 2, Jackie Robinson Junior High School and Medgar Evers High School.

Presentation by Ms. Nancie Katz, Founder/Executive Director, Seeds in the Middle, Inc., to inform the community about the work the organization is doing to bring awareness to elementary school children in Community District 9 about developing healthy eating habits.

Unfortunately Ms. Katz is ill and could not attend the meeting. She hopes to make the presentation at the April meeting.

Presentation by Lisa Spitzner, Project Coordinator for the American Lung Association, on Intro 0332-A, a local law that will make all New York City Public parks, beaches and pedestrian plazas smoke free. The legislation was signed into law on February 22, 2011, by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and will become effective from May 23, 2011.

In presenting the information, Ms Spitzner back tracked on the importance of tobacco control methods to the communities and the city as a whole and to our health. Currently this is a 15% decrease in smoking. That is the lowest it has been on record. Between 2002 and 2009 the smoking rate fell at a rate of 27%, during that time there were several anti-smoking measures in place, for example, in bars and other public places. The more we invest in these measures the better our health will be.

In spite of this decline, however, unfortunately tobacco smoking still remains the number one problem cause of health issues. This is not only in New York but within the United States. We need to continue doing what we are doing but we know that there is still more work to be done.

Second hand smokers, which are non-smokers, over 2000 die each year because of tobacco smoke. A survey shows that 60 percent of New Yorkers who are non-smokers have a high elevated level of nicotine in their blood. Nicotine comes from tobacco smoke. We are finding that non-smokers are highly exposed to second hand smoking.

New York City is highly populated, because of this we like to create an outdoor environment where people can go and not to have to come in contact with tobacco smoking.

The Surgeon General has declared time and time again that there is no safe level of exposure to second hand smoking. It is best that areas designated for public activities should be set aside for that reason, and that they should not be exposed to tobacco smoke in such areas. New York City is not the first city to do this, there are other cities such as Chicago, Santa Monica, Los Angeles, and Seattle that have implemented these kinds of legislation regarding public non-smoking areas. We are confident that once this legislation is passed, New

Yorkers will feel confident in these areas that are designated for non-smokers. Records in 2009 show that 2 out of 3 people in New York City approve this legislature. The law will go into effect on May 23, 2011, where all city parks, beaches, and boardwalks will become designated non-smoking areas. Smokers will be able to smoke on sidewalks, outside the parks and also on median strips. There will be a fine for not observing the law on non-smoking in these areas.

Questions and Answers

Chairman Goldstein – I have a problem on the job where I work, once you step out of the office you are bombarded with tobacco smoke. It is difficult to control that area

What about other areas which are polluted? We are working on that. We know that tobacco is the number one killer. We want to create an outdoor environment where people can go and smoke, but one that is away from the public.

Why is tax on cigarettes fall on the consumer? Does the tobacco company pay for cancer treatment?

Ruby Hodge – what about the dirty streets caused by the snow and the dirty sidewalks that we have to live with. The American Lung Association is looking into clean air and other initiatives to stop pollution.

Mr. Hassan, the representative from COPO, explained that there have been changes that have been overlooked regarding cigarettes and its advertisement to the public. Cigarettes are found in areas such as places where there are drugs for asthma patients and other patients who are affected because of tobacco. Why is this so when we know that 75 percent of smokers die from cigarettes? We need to correct this action too.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Ms. Spitzner and Mr. Hassan for their presentation.

Michael's Car Service-Renewal of License

Mr. Fanning, Transportation Committee Chair, informed that Michael's Car Service also known as Union Limousine, located at 311 Union Street, Brooklyn, is applying for a renewal of their license to continue to operate as a for-hire base in the district. Mr. Fanning noted that Michael's Car Service has been operated from that location for over 18 years. They have had no problems with the law or the community; there is no loitering of cars at the location. The Committee recommends that the license should be renewed.

BUSINESS SESSION:

The Business Session began at 8:05 pm, with 33 members present.

Minutes of February 2011 Meeting

Motion to accept the minutes as presented with the necessary corrections was made by Eleanor Rollins and seconded by Carl Morgan. The minutes were adopted.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Pearl Miles reported:

1. That she had distributed copies of a leaflet "Know Your Community Board." The Community Board, she said, does not mean coming here for two hours a month, ten months a year. It is far more than that. People, especially board members need to know their responsibilities to this district as a whole. They need to know the community they represent; know the community's needs, attend committee meetings where you discuss those needs and put forward solutions. Board members need to know city process, they need to know land use, budget, which agency is responsible for what. They need to attend meetings related to the board's responsibilities. She encouraged all to be active participants to make our community a better place to live and raise families.

The board office telephone number (718) 778-9279; the website is www.communitybrd9bklyn.org; the email address is bk09@cb.nyc.gov.

2. Ms. Miles attended a meeting last week at the Department of Transportation where she learned that many years ago former Congressman Major Owens had earmarked five million dollars for the Empire Boulevard reconstruction project. Community Board 9 was not informed of that money at the time it was earmarked. Now the Department of Transportation wants to give this money to another district. I think this money should remain in Community District 9 and go towards another project in the district. We need to write the Dept of Transportation a letter regarding keeping the money in our district. Also we should discuss it with Major Owens successor Congresswoman Yvette Clarke advising how that money can be used for a project within our district.
3. Councilmember Mathieu Eugene requested that I recommend the names of three women to be honored in the district as part of Women's History Month. I recommended: Rev. Phyllis Brown, Nancie Katz and Jannie Johnson. The Councilmember will be along shortly to present the citations.
4. This afternoon March 22, 2011, Ms Miles visited the Clove Road Archaeological dig which has began. We are very excited in what is happening. The dig will last two weeks. So far, they found artifacts from after the 1900s. The things found from around 1905 are interesting. We are hoping they will find artifacts from the 1800s.
5. New York State Assemblyman Karim Camara's Health Fair will take place on Saturday, March 2, 2011. For further information call (718) 953-0587.

Committees' Reports

Environmental Protection Committee – Brain Dean.

Mrs. Leslie Davis reported that the committee meeting was held on March 14, 2011 and they discussed how they could better identify, assess and prioritize the district needs, problems and challenges. Some ideas may include green roofs for water run-off, planting more trees in public areas, sanitation garage too close to our hospitals. Some key areas identified for prioritization are: Green infrastructure, Grant Projects, Block beautification program (planting trees in public areas, phasing out dirty heating oil use in our community, and rodent problems.)

Health and Social Services Committee – Dwayne Nicholson (see written report)

Transportation Committee – Edmund Fanning (see written report)

The committee reviewed the application submitted by Michael's Car Service doing business as Union Limo and Car Services to renew its license to operate a Livery Base Station at 311 Kingston Avenue Brooklyn within Community Board 9. The committee recommended that the Board support the application for the renewal of the license.

Public Safety Committee – Rosemarie Perry (see written report)

The Committee Chairpersons met with Council members James and Eugene. Unfortunately Councilmember Darlene Mealy was absent. The committee discussed the responses to the Capital Budget items presented here this evening. This was an educational meeting for all the committee chairs in attendance at this meeting.

At the Transportation Committee meeting, Battalion Chief Schaaf spoke about the impact the budget is having on the Battalion, the fifth man out, as well as the generators that are necessary to do the job in combating fires in the district.

Parking for 71 Precinct vehicles was discussed. Sgt Falk informed about the snatching of cell phones at the train station at Parkside and Flatbush Avenues. This is ongoing, please be aware of it.

Next meeting will be held on April 5th at the Community Board office. All are welcome.

Presentation of Awards – Council Member Mathieu Eugene

Councilmember Mathieu Eugene thanked all for their services to the community. This evening he would like to honor three women. He would like to thank them for their services. Women are great. His achievements are due to love and interest from his mother. If it were not for his mother, he could not have come all the way from Haiti to the United States to become the first Haitian in the City Council of New York. Because of all that his mother has done for him, has caused him to love all women. We as a society must do everything to help mothers raise their children. We must do everything to encourage and to teach children to respect their mothers. There are mothers doing things for their children which they would not do for themselves, just because they want them to have a better life. We as a society should teach children to respect and obey their mothers. The question is what are we doing for our children eleven years and older out in the streets at 12:00 o'clock at night? The best environment for our children is the family unit. We must do everything to pressure the family unit to keep our children from drugs and crimes. Help our children to respect the law and to be the best they can.

Councilmember Eugene then presented the Rev. Brown and Jannie Johnson with their certificates.

Chairman's Report

- Chairman Goldstein expressed the fact that tonight was a difficult night for him because he had lost a dear friend Dr. Marco Mason who passed away earlier this month. The service was conducted at St. Gregory the Great Roman Catholic Church. It was a beautiful tribute to someone who had done so much for the community. He fought to the end. The Chairman asked for a minute of silence as we pray for God's mercies for Dr. Mason and his family.

- Congratulations to Myrtle Roberson on her 90th birthday and still going strong. We wish her many successful, healthy and productive years. She has given a lot to the field of Nursing. The audience sang Happy Birthday to Ms Roberson.

Voting Items

Monies allocated by former Congressman Major Owens for the Empire Boulevard project should remain in the district to be used on projects for the district.

Motion was made by Ruby Hodge that Community Board 9 write a letter to the Department of Transportation advising them that the money which was allocated for Empire Boulevard reconstruction in Community District 9 should remain in Community District 9 and be used for a project in Community District 9. The motion was seconded by Gwen Carter. Voting: Yes = 34, No = 0

Community Board 9's Written Comments on the Responses contained in the FY 2012 Preliminary Budget

A motion was made by Michael Cetera and seconded by Jannie Johnson that we accept the written comments on responses contained in the FY 2012 Preliminary Budget. Voting: Yes = 32, No = 0, Abstention = 1

Renewal of the For Hire Base License for Michael's Car Services

Motion was made by Edmund Fanning and seconded by Jannie Johnson. Voting: Yes = 32, No = 0

Open nomination from the floor for position of 1st Vice Chairperson

Chairman Goldstein advised that the Nominating Committee will preside over nominations for Dr. Mason's replacement as First Vice Chairperson of the Board, the voting will take place at the next meeting in April.

The Chairman read article 6.3 of the Bylaws which was distributed to members, as follows, "upon the death, resignation, termination of board membership or removal of any officer, the vacancy created shall be filled by the Board. The election to fill such a vacancy in office shall take place no later than the second regular meeting following the creation of the vacancy. Any officer elected to fill a vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the unexpired term, and until a qualified successor is elected."

Following this, the Chairman asked the Nominating Committee to take over the meeting. Board members can nominate himself or herself or someone else. The following names were placed in nomination for First Vice Chairperson:

Gwen Carter nominated by Shelia Foster-Golding

Rosemarie Perry nominated by Maurice Jean-Baptiste.

The nomination was then closed by Mr. Maurice Jean-Baptiste, Chairperson of the Committee. Voting will take place at the April 2011 meeting,

Announcement

Jannie Johnson announced that she might be absent for some of the monthly meetings, this is because she was diagnosed with lymphoma cancer. The doctors have caught it in time. They informed her that everything

is looking good. She will be absent sometimes due to the fact that she will undergo chemotherapy. We wish Jannie a speedy recovery.

Acknowledgements

The following representatives from the various elected officers were acknowledged – Reuven Lipkind, representing Senator Eric Adams; Alfred Chiodo representing Councilmember Letitia James; Carline Keil representing Councilmember Mathieu Eugene; Arna Lipkind representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy; John Berman representing Comptroller John Liu; Ron Thomas representing Congress member Yvette Clarke; and Hon. Walter Moseley, District Leader 57th AD.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Jacqueline Welch and seconded by Carl Morgan. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelia Foster-Golding
Secretary
April 21, 2011