

COMMUNITY BOARD 9  
890 NOSTRAND AVENUE  
BROOKLYN, NY 11225

MINUTES OF THE  
COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON JANUARY 24, 2012  
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM  
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225

**Members Present**

Robert Agyemang  
Robert Ambrose  
Dion Ashman  
Stuart Balberg  
Phyllis Brown  
Michael Cetera, AIA  
Negous Clark  
Aldith Clarke  
Josette Coicou-Brioche  
Geraldine Dease  
Edmund Fanning  
Charlene Gayle  
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein  
Theopia Green  
Rabbi Nochum Gross  
Tessa Hackett-Vieira  
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales  
Aron Hershkop

**Members Present**

Ruby Hodge  
Brenda Hutto-Lucas  
Maurice Jean-Baptiste  
Samuel Marmulzsteyn  
Carl Morgan  
Frank Nicholas  
Dwayne Nicholson  
Rosemarie Perry  
Karlene Robinson  
Mary Rollerson-Blackett  
Roosevelt Rose  
Brenda Scott  
Rabbi Joseph Spielman  
Yvonne Straker  
Denise Thomas  
Timothy Thomas  
Jacqueline Welch  
Evelyn Williams

**Members Absent**

Gwen Carter  
Shelia Foster-Golding  
Yaakov Katz  
Demetrius Lawrence  
Gerald President  
Myrtle Roberson  
Chanina Sperlin  
Victoria St Clair

**Agency Representatives/Elected officials**

Alfred Chiodo – Hon. Letitia James  
Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Eric Adams  
Hon. Olanike Alabi  
Arna Lipkind – Hon. Darlene Mealy  
Ramona Somaia – Hon. Mathieu Eugene  
Debra Lesane – Kings County Hospital Ctr  
William Boone – Medgar Evers College  
Charles Jackson – Hon. Yvette Clarke  
Hon. Walter Mosley  
Portia Dyrenforth – Department of Parks  
Jason Fries – Department of Parks

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**PUBLIC SESSION**

Representatives from the State University Construction Fund will present the plans for SUCF Project No. 14A91, New Academic Building, State University of New York Downstate Medical Center. The proposed action will construct a 117,000-GSF School of Public Health on the northern portion of SUNY Downstate Medical Center campus. Construction on the project is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2012

In introducing the speakers, Chairman Rabbi Jacob Goldstein said that he has a personal bias for SUNY Downstate Hospital because both his son and daughter-in-law graduated as doctors from that hospital. Chairman Goldstein introduced Mr. Michael Harrell, Government Relations, SUNY Downstate Medical Center; and Mr. Tim Herzog who will make the presentation.

Mr. Tim Herzog informed that he grew up in Brooklyn. He sprained his ankle once and went to Kings County Hospital and was patched up. What he never knew about was what was across the street. Now, as an architect, he has the privilege of working with the people at Downstate Hospital, especially with the people in the School of Public Health. What he is doing for the hospital in essence is to improve the quality of life.

Mr. Herzog noted that it was important for one to understand that Downstate Medical Center is actually a destination for many in the metropolitan area. Downstate is a positive force in the community and as it grows it adds even more positivity to the community. This project is separate from the Medical Center.

**Mr. Herzog** used PowerPoint to give the audience a visual of the proposed project. The new building will be on the grounds of the campus in front of the existing building. The entrance will be in the middle of the block with a generous entry plaza. The building of four will be like three different boxes. The reason for forming it this way is because public health has three major components. The box will be for research laboratories trying to find the next break-through in health care. The middle box is mainly offices for the faculty of the School of Public Health; the lower box is for classrooms for the medical students. Included in the project is lighting that will illuminate the plaza

He would like the community to be aware that the institution is committing a great deal of money to improve the landscape and they welcome feedback from the community.

### **Questions and Answers**

**Question was inaudible.** Answer: Literally, what we are doing is putting a building right here on the campus. This is where the building will be going – New York Avenue.

**How many people born and how many people die at Downstate?** Chairman Goldstein explained that these representatives are not doctors, they are Architects. That is a question to pose to those involved with the medical aspect of Downstate Hospital. Mr. Herzog let me make it clear; while we are affiliated with the hospital, we are not the hospital. We train doctors. Your question should be directed to the hospital.

**Where does the money come from?** The money comes from the State of New York. All our tax dollars are going into this; the hospital has separate monies.

**Inaudible question;** Answer: We cannot make express service like that; we have taken everything into account the best way we can so that everybody will be safe. Rabbi Goldstein: before we go any further I would like for everyone to understand; this is a presentation about a construction project. It is not about medical related things, nor safety related; it is about building a facility.

**Inaudible question;** Answer: that is a good question. Construction will take about two years. This will not disturb parking. Material will come through Clarkson Avenue. The contractor will have flagmen to make sure traffic flows on Clarkson Avenue. Parking will be from here to here (on PowerPoint)

**What about hiring people from the community to work on the project?** Answer: The contractor who is chosen for the job will be responsible for adhering to hiring procedures.

**Chairman Goldstein** thanked the representatives for their presentation and invited them to return to bring us up to date on the project as it progresses.

**Representatives from the Department of Design and Construction will present School Safety Project HWCSCH3EI – PS/MS 375 Jackie Robinson School, 46 McKeever Pl, Brooklyn – the installation of traffic calming measures in the vicinity of the school**

**Mr. Andrew Mason**, Department of Transportation, informed that they were there to tell the community what they plan to do to slow down traffic and to make the area safer for the students and community.

The curb, corner and crosswalk will be redesigned in an effort to make it easier for pedestrian traffic. The redesign will include neckdowns which narrows the corners and slows traffic down. At Montgomery Street and Franklin Avenue there will be a half neckdown; at McKeever Pl and Montgomery Street there will also be a half neckdown. Please note that the recording on this portion of the meeting was barely audible.

### **Questions and Answers**

**Ruby Hodge – inaudible question –** Answer: Chairman, I would suggest that you look into that right hand turn. People are always making that left hand turn.

**Community resident -** first of all the comments about Sullivan Pl, and Montgomery Street where McDonalds is across the street, that is where you have calming traffic. The kids come in yellow school buses, MTA and walking; I don't know

where you get your statistics from, but most of the children I see there are walking to school, either walking or on the MTA, I don't see many school buses there.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Mason for his presentation and the efforts to make the streets calmer.

## **BUSINESS SESSION**

The business session began with 36 members present.

### **Minutes of the December 2011 Meeting**

The minutes of the December 2011 Community Board meeting were adopted on a motion by Ed Fanning seconded by Brenda Hutto.

### **District Manager's Report**

District Manager Pearl Miles made the following announcements:

- The Citizens Committee has grants for community improvement projects. Application deadline was January 31, 2012. If you are interested and still want to apply the deadline has been extended to February 7<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested should call the Citizens Committee at 212-822-9580 or 212-822-9568 to request the extended deadline. Grants are between \$500 and \$3000. If your grant application is approved, Citizens committee will provide assistance in planning the project. For further information visit the Citizens Committee website at [www.citizensnyc.org/grant](http://www.citizensnyc.org/grant)
- The Citizens Committee also has two scholarships to high school students from this district. The deadline for the application is February 26<sup>th</sup>, review of applications begins on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 2012. For further information visit the website at [www.citizensnyc.org](http://www.citizensnyc.org). The District Manager had two applications on hand if anyone in the audience was interested.
- Get your income taxes done for free – the location is the Flatbush Dutch Reform Church at 890 Flatbush Avenue corner of Church Avenue – on Saturdays, starting February 11<sup>th</sup> and continuing every Saturdays through April 14, between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

## **Committees' Reports**

### **Environmental Protection Committee – Timothy Thomas**

Tim Thomas reported that the committee discussed the matter of dirty sidewalks in the community – the committee would like homeowners and businesses to be reminded to clean in front of their homes and businesses. It was agreed that a friendly letter should be sent out informing that the community board would like to help see a cleaner community.

Chairperson Goldstein added that the commercial strips in the district are simply filthy sites, from Utica on over to Flatbush Avenue, stretching from Eastern Parkway to Clarkson Avenue. It would be nice to be reminded that cleanliness is next to Godliness.

### **Economic Development – Charlene Gayle (please see written report)**

Ms. Gayle reported that safety was a main concern for the merchants. The merchants would also like to learn more about potential procurement opportunities with the government.

### **Parks, Recreation and Cultural Committee – Michael Cetera – (see written report)**

The meeting was well attended by residents living on Malbone Street. The committee discussed and agreed to design concepts to be presented to the Board for incorporation into the design for the Clove Road/Malbone Street reconstruction project, including the closure of a portion of Clove Road to traffic. Full details of the design concepts are contained in the committee report.

## **Youth Services Committee – Dion Ashman**

The committee plans to work on various projects in 2012 on behalf of the youth in the district.

### **Chairman's Report**

- **Chairman Goldstein** said he is announcing as a proud grandfather that his oldest son Usher became a father. Congratulations!
- The Chairman acknowledged the following individuals: Alfred Chiodo representing Councilmember Letitia James; Reuven Lipkind representing Senator Eric Adams; District Leader Olanike Alabi; Debra Lesane representing Kings County Hospital; William Boone representing Medgar Evers College; Arna Lipkind representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy; Ramona Somaia representing Councilmember Mathieu Eugene; NYS Committeeman Walter Mosley; Carolyn Sanders-James retired from the Mayor's office and a friend of Community Board 9.
- Board members up for re-appointment are reminded to complete their re-appointment applications and return them to the Borough President's office.
- A meeting was held with the committee chairpersons prior to the new year. At the meeting it was suggested that the Community Board meetings be moved around the community, instead of having it always at the present location – MS 61. The caveat to this would be (1) when, and (2) must be public space, and (3) no cost for usage of the space.

### **Voting Items**

#### **School Safety Project HWCSCH3EI – PS/MS 375 Jackie Robinson School**

Motion to accept the proposed plan for traffic calming in the streets surrounding Jackie Robinson School was made by Ed Fanning and seconded by Dion Ashman. Vote: yes – 30; No – 3; Abstentions - 0. Motion carried. A letter will be sent to the Department of Transportation.

#### **Design Proposal for the Reconstruction of Clove Road/Malbone Street**

Motion to support the design proposal from the Parks, Recreation and Culture/197a Committee for Clove Road/Malbone Street was made by Michael Cetera, AIA and seconded by Timothy Thomas. Vote: Yes – 36; No – 0; Abstentions – 0. Motion carried. Letter will be sent to the Department of Transportation.

#### **Friends of Brooklyn Community Board 9 Bylaws – required to file the 1023.**

What is in the bylaws? Chairman Goldstein said the bylaws were sent to the members; they are based upon Community Board 9's Bylaws. The Chairman asked how many people have read the bylaws. Suggestion was made to table the bylaws. Chairman Goldstein – we will table the bylaws until next meeting.

#### **Holding Community Board Meetings at different locations in the district**

Motion made by Timothy Thomas to move Community Board meetings at least twice a year to different locations in the district if space is available; seconded by Ed Fanning.

#### **Discussion:**

**Dion Ashman** – permanency is the foundation of the Community Board. That is important. We need to know where we are going to meet and the permanency of the location. I don't think the meetings should be moved.

**Chairman Goldstein** – there are not many places in the district that are available.

Medgar Evers College was suggested. Chairman Goldstein said they will not do it for free. This school is free to the Board.

Chairman Goldstein said that the matter will be table for discussion at the next meeting. Motion seconded by Stuart Balberg.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Dion Ashman, seconded by Rosemarie Perry; the meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

**Respectfully submitted**

**Shelia Foster-Golding**

**Secretary**

**February 28, 2012**