

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

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON APRIL 28, 2009  
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM  
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

**Board Members Present**

Dion Ashman  
Stuart Balberg  
Gwen Carter  
Aldith Clarke  
Sheila Foster-Golding  
Joan Gill  
Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein  
Theopia Green  
Rabbi Nochum Gross  
Tessa I. Hackett-Vieira  
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales  
Aaron Hershkop  
Ruby Hodge  
Brenda Hutto  
Maurice Jean-Baptiste  
Jannie Johnson

**Board Members Present**

Denise Mann  
Samuel Marmulzsteyn  
Allan Martin, Jr  
Dr. Marco Mason  
Carl B. Morgan  
Frank Nicholas  
Dwayne Nicholson  
Rosemarie Perry  
Romania Roachford  
Myrtle Roberson  
Karlene Robinson  
Brenda Scott  
Rabbi Joseph Speilman  
Yvonne Straker  
Denise Thomas  
Jacqueline Welch

**Board Members Absent**

Rev. Phyllis Brown - Sick  
Michael Cetera, AIA - Sick  
Chaz Crowder  
Geraldine Dease  
Gary Marshall  
Alice Mitchell - Sick  
Eleanor Rollins  
Roosevelt Rose

**Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present**

Hon. Marty Markowitz – Ann Marie Adamson  
Hon. Karim Camara – Wanda Gebrehinot  
Hon. Hakeem Jeffries – Wayne Keith Williams  
Hon. Eric Adams – Reuven Lipkind  
Hon. Darlene Mealy – Isiah R. Hall  
Hon. Yvette Clarke – Ron E. Thomas  
Brooklyn Public Library – Brenda Bentt-Peters  
Department of Parks and Recreation – Portia Dyrenforth, Ben Kramer, Ned Shalanski, Ilan Kutok

Hon. Mathieu Eugene  
Hon. Mathieu Eugene – James Richmond  
Hon. Letitia James – Alfred A. Chiodo  
Kings County Hospital Center – Denise Peterson  
Kings County District Attorney’s Office – Judith Destin  
Hon. Olanike Alabi  
District Leader 57<sup>th</sup> AD – Walter T. Mosley

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**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Ms. Portia Dyrenforth, Capital Projects, Department of Parks and Recreation, will present the design for the reconstruction of PS 92 Playground, Parkside Avenue, between Rogers and Bedford Avenues, Brooklyn.**

Ms. Dyrenforth informed that City Councilmember Mathieu Eugene has allocated over 1.3 Million dollars for the reconstruction of the Parkside (PS 92) Playground. She then introduced Mr. Ned Shalanski.

Mr. Shalanski informed that his position is to discuss and present the design of the Parkside (PS92) Playground which is bounded on the north by Winthrop Street, on the south by Parkside Avenue, on the west by Bedford Avenue, and on the east by Rogers Avenue.

The characteristics of the neighborhood show that there are not many open green spaces. The playground services many blocks especially to the north. This will be a special park, one that will service a lot of people within and around the neighborhood. It is known as a JOP playground which means Jointly Operated Playground. During the daytime the schools operate one half of it while the Parks Department operates the other half of it. The Gates are open to the community during after school hours. As seen at present the school yard is largely asphalt, which is not in very good shape. The other half, the western half which is the community half, will have play equipment, a beautiful collection of large trees, a retaining fence and a sprinkler shower.

What we are hearing from the community is to make the park greener. Besides the trees there are no other plants at the park. Adult seating will be provided as well as an educational sustainable feel to it. These are some of things that will be incorporated into the scope and design of the park, as discussed at the scope and design meeting. 1.3 million dollars is allocated to the reconstruction project which leaves enough money to construct the community half of the park which is the western half that is open to the community during the day time. Some of the keywords for the reconstruction of the P.S 92 Playground are green, exciting, colorful, nice spray shower, seating area.

The playground will be divided into areas, two to five and five to twelve year old children. The main entrance to the park will be on Winthrop Street. The two to five area will be in a more shaded area, also a lot of greenery and educational learning activities on the western area of the park, there will be the swings area. The playground itself will be so arranged as to create a lot of movement. It will be like a circular movement with the seating area in the middle. The two to five year old area will have the sprinkler, and spray shower tying the park together will be like a ribbon of cherry trees which will line the park and make it more colorful. There will be furnishings for the park; nice seating, spray shower and thick and helpful rubber surfacing for the children's area. The equipment will consist of contemporary urban field, swings, and also handicapped equipment.

**Rabbi Jacob Goldstein** – This is long overdue, the playground will be nice and attractive, a great asset to the community. What will be the estimated cost for the other half? Answer: another 1 million dollars. Does the Board of Education consider this an important project for the school? What will it take for us to get the Board of Education to do it? **Ms. Dyrenforth** believes it will take strong community voice, maybe some letters and meetings.

**Rabbi Jacob Goldstein** – we have two councilmembers' representatives present. I think we might have to ask our councilmembers to intervene. Councilmember Eugene has already given the 1.3 million dollars.

**James Richmond** – representing Councilmember Mathieu Eugene informed that the councilmember realizes that the community lacks green spaces. He has the vision to ensure that he will provide such facilities. He has a long term plan and part of that plan is to allocate more money. This is a project that he wants to come to fruition.

**Councilmember Mathieu Eugene** – addressed the Community Board. Before becoming a City Council Member he was a member of Community Board 14 for many years. He knows the wonderful job Community Board 9 is doing and he is proud. The community will be better because of you the people. He considers the park his baby. He wants to spend everything that he has to make the reconstruction of the park a reality. There are not enough parks in the district that the children can play. He met with the Parks and Recreation Department and

told them that we will create a new park at PS 92 for people to go and sit quietly. When he was in his country the park was a place he enjoyed going, sitting, practicing karate. The park is important to him. He will put the rest of the money to complete it.

**Rabbi Jacob Goldstein** – As a community we can only benefit from hard work and collaborative efforts between the city agencies, our elected officials and our communities. We tell them what we need and they in return tell us what they can do to make it happen.

The chairman thanked Councilmember Mathieu Eugene and the presenters from the Parks and Recreation Department for putting forth what is now becoming a reality in our district.

### **Questions and Answers:**

**Jannie Johnson** – at the entrance of the park there is a tree where the cobble stones are. What will be done with that area? Answer: we will make a green border on each side. It will be made a more attractive entrance.

**Rabbi Jacob Goldstein** - again thanked the representatives for their hard work, a great job and he knows that the children will have a good time. To Councilmember Eugene thanks for what you are doing for the community.

**Ms. Brenda Bentt-Peters, Government Affairs, Brooklyn Public Library, will share information with the community about the Library's Support our Shelves (SOS) Campaign. The SOS Campaign is to raise public awareness and generate support for sustaining the essential resources the library provides to the public.**

The Campaign began on March 1<sup>st</sup> of this year and will continue until the end of July. The Project is like a three-fold campaign: (1) it is to encourage more people to sign up for Library cards, (2) awareness of the services provided at the Library from the first five year programs to very tiny toddlers, (3) Programs for children, teens and the elderly.

Books will be sent by mail to the homes of senior citizens. They are added to the programs because of the economic crisis. People come into the Library looking for job information, changing careers, workshops, etc. The Library can be turned as a living room away from home. There are bands within the 60 libraries throughout the Borough, all for free. This is good for people who cannot afford to go to Broadway to hear this type of music. Why this campaign when the Library is supported by tax dollars? The Library does not get enough money especially when considering all the budget cuts.

The goal is to raise \$300,000. It is open to everyone no matter ones income level. One can give \$100.00 or \$1,000.00. A child emptied her piggybank with about nine dollars and gave it to self-ish (that is the slogan). Every dollar goes to the branch as requested. Out of the blue someone donated \$10,000. We are grateful whatever one can give will be welcomed. It is tax deductible. You can adopt a branch and get your friends to join in. All the branches in this community have been adopted. By the end of May there will be four book mobiles. All four have been adopted. Having a library card gives access to online catalogs, research, and download books.

The last part of the campaign is to let our elected officials know how much we value our libraries. There is a postcard which everyone is asked to sign their name and address so that we know your district. Drop off the card at the library which will be forwarded to the right councilmember.

Ms. Bentt-Peters hopes that everyone will support the library. It is for a good cause.

## Questions and Answers:

**Pearl Miles** – What is the goal for our branches? Answer: Crown Heights goal is \$5000.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Ms. Bentt-Peters for the information.

### **Application for the renewal of the For Hire Base License for Michael’s Car Service/Union Car Service, located at 311 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, within Community District 9.**

**Mr. Kuita Shalva** representing Union Car Service informed that the car service has been in operation for over seventeen years. It is one of the oldest car services operating in Crown Heights. The service because of its location might seem to service the Jewish community but this is not so. It provides services for the entire Crown Heights community. All kinds of vehicles are used on this company. There are cars, Lincoln Town Cars, Cadillac’s and stretch limos, SUV’s etc. There are also special occasion services as requested. The telephone number is (718) 771 – 3000.

Chairman Goldstein informed that the NYPD, had no problems with this site.

**Samuel Marmulzsteyn** – where do you keep the cars? Answer: The cars are kept in a garage on Atlantic Avenue between New York and Brooklyn Avenues.

### **Application for the renewal of the For Hire Base License for Transportation Unlimited Car Service located at 1226 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, within Community District 9.**

**Mr. Keith Marriott**, President of Transportation Unlimited informed that the car service location has been the same for over thirty years, and services the community at hospitals, schools, supermarkets, etc. Anywhere necessary they will be there. The service operates 24 hours a day. There has not been any complaints from the community. It is hoped that he can get the license renewed. The office is located at 1226 Nostrand Avenue between Hawthorne and Winthrop Streets. The telephone number is (718) 363-1000 or (718) 778-5555.

Chairman Goldstein informed that the police report is negative.

## Announcements

**Councilmember Mathieu Eugene** announced that on May 3, 2009 from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm at the Erasmus High School at 911 Flatbush Avenue, he will host a function tribute for all mothers. There will be free refreshments and entertainment. For further information contact the District Office at (718) 287-8762. Flyers are also on the table at the entrance to the auditorium.

**Ms Denise Peterson**, Kings County Hospital, reported that there will be low cost mammograms and Pap smears for ladies – “Give mom the Gift of Good Health Campaign”. This is for women 40 years and older. The campaign or the services will be provided on Saturday, May 2, and May 16, 2009 at 8:00 am – 2:30 pm in the S. Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at Kings County Hospital Center. The Annual Health Fair is Saturday, June 20, 2009 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, on Clarkson Avenue between East 38<sup>th</sup> Street and Albany Avenue. Our main activities are Health Information Booths, Free Health Screenings, etc. See Flyer. Vendors are accepted at a cost of \$50.00 per table.

**Wanda Gebrehinot** representing Assemblyman Karim Camara, **announced** that on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 the Assemblyman will give his third state of the district address at SUNY Downstate at 6:00 pm. Please come out and hear the issues the assemblyman is addressing on behalf of the district. Feel free to call the office at (718) 756-1776.

## **BUSINESS SESSION**

The business session began at 8:10 pm with 30 members present.

### **Minutes of the March 2009 Meeting**

The minutes of the March 2009 meeting was presented for correction and adoption. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Carl Morgan and seconded by Dr. Marco Mason. Discussion of the Minutes – None. The minutes were adopted.

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

Ms. Miles made the following announcements:

1. The deadline for the Summer Youth Employment Program is May 15, 2009. To apply go to [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd).
2. Free summer activities with the Fresh Air Fund, registration will be at the first Baptist Church of Crown Heights, 450 Eastern Parkway at Rogers Avenue. Registration takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. To make an appointment call Mr. Isiah Jennings at (347) 240-9123.
3. Filming of "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" is taking place at the Armory on President Street between Bedford and Rogers Avenues until May 15. This will impact parking in the vicinity. This permit is issued by the Mayor's office of Film, not from the Community Board office.
4. Carroll Street and Bedford Avenue will be closed on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, due to a crane in operation at 1087 Carroll Street.

The District Manager reported that she had a meeting with the Department of Transportation on April 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss traffic calming initiatives for the entire district. A traffic calming study was done for the Board several years ago, that study is probably no longer relevant since the statistics have changed since then. This new study will cost money. Ms. Miles requested the agency to submit a cost estimate for the project. When the board receives that we can continue to work on acquiring the necessary funding. Currently we get requests for speed humps for various locations throughout the district. There is no organized planning to it. We need to get back to the planning we began some years ago.

The agency plans to do traffic calming on Empire Boulevard from Utica Avenue to Flatbush Avenue. What they presented at the meeting was a resizing of the lanes to allow for a middle lane with striping. Empire Boulevard is the "gateway" to our cultural district and cultural institutions. We requested that the agency look at traffic islands as opposed to striping, and to beautify the islands with plantings of shrubs and flowers. We need colors. We also asked them to look at Empire-Flatbush-Ocean for implementation of traffic calming details. We need to think of what will be best for the community.

We are working on a proposal in response to an RFP released by Design Trust. The proposal is for designing a master plan for Clove Road. The proposal includes information on the significance of Clove Road and what we envision Clove Road to become – historic designation providing passive open space, educational opportunities for the community. We received many letters of support including from Cooper Union, Medgar Evers College, Councilmember Letitia James, Assemblyman Karim Camara, we are waiting on Senator Eric Adams, and the Parks Department. We hope we will be successful with the RFP, we have many partners willing to work on the project with us.

Community Board 9 has established a blog on our website for input from the community. We hope to begin with comments for the Empire Blvd project, Clove Road. We would like to hear from the community their thoughts on these and other projects that will come up from time to time.

**Rabbi Jacob Goldstein** – As a community we are looking forward to the opening of Empire Boulevard. That is a great step. Anyone needs to see how a street can be calm, take a ride down Vanderbilt Avenue. They transformed Vanderbilt Avenue over night. It did not cost large sums of money. It is like we are in a different city, when traveling on that street. The same can be done for Empire Boulevard.

### **Committees' Reports**

#### **Housing Committee – Gwen Carter, Chairperson**

Ms. Carter reported that there were a few things that are sensitive that she hopes the Board will vote on tonight:

1. On Tuesday May 5 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am there will be a town hall meeting at Borough Hall. The topic is “Tenants Rights”. The discussion will be centered on tenants rights, landlords responsibility, advocacy and mediation resources and the NYS Housing Legislation.
2. The Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush and the Erasmus Federation have entered into a partnership to address the issues of foreclosures and mortgage defaults in Central Brooklyn. They have created a Preventive Foreclosure Taskforce comprised of community residence, religious leaders, community based organizations and business representatives. Community Boards are also invited including Community Board 9. The Housing Committee is recommending that Community Board 9 join the taskforce and that members of the Committee attend the meetings on behalf of the board.

#### **Education Committee – Denise Thomas, Chairperson**

Ms. Thomas informed that only three members attended the meeting due to inclement weather. The Committee discussed a letter that was sent regarding bringing back Art Education into the public schools. The Committee recommended that the Community Board support the request. The Capital and Expense Budget was also discussed as related to the Education committee.

We discussed writing letters to our elected officials to meet with them to see how we can better serve the schools in our districts. It is hoped that all the members will be present at the next meeting so we can discuss the issues pertaining to education.

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

Mr. Ashman reported on the mentoring program on going at Medgar Evers College Prep School. The program is in its tenth week, and is about to be completed. This week will be the last session at the Medgar Evers Prep School, 1180 Carroll Street and Nostrand Avenue. On May 8<sup>th</sup> the awards ceremony will take place. Certificates will be awarded to 15 students at the Brooklyn Cultural Center on Bedford Avenue and St. Marks Avenue. The final activity for Friday, May 1, the boys will learn how to tie a necktie, how to dress to impress. They will be given a job package on how to seek out job opportunities. Two of the young men in the program will be selected to leadership. There are other people from different organizations and businesses that work with us on the project.

### **Health and Social Services Committee – Myrtle Roberson, Chairperson**

Ms. Roberson would like the District Manager to write a letter to Dr. Dees who is highly qualified on giving lectures on heart diseases, cholesterol and how to live a good healthy life.

**Reuven Lipkind**, State Senator Eric Adams office reminded about the Property Tax Lien. One may be at risk if you owe the city money. You have until this Friday to rectify it. On Monday they will sell the liens. Your liens will go up tremendously. Call to make payment plans to avoid a sale on the lien on your property.

### **Chairman's Report**

#### **Acknowledgements – Elected Officials and/or their Representatives**

The following officials and representatives were acknowledged: Wanda Gebrehinot representing NYS Assemblyman Karim Camara, Wayne Keith Williams representing NYS Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries, Reuven Lipkind representing NYS Senator Eric Adams, Ron Thomas Representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Judith Destin from Kings County District Attorney's Office, Hon. Olanike Alabi, Ann Marie Adamson from Borough President Marty Markowitz Office, Alfred Chiodo representing Councilwoman Letitia James, District Leader Walter Mosley, Isiah Hall representing Councilwoman Darlene Mealy, and Denise Peterson from Kings County Hospital Center.

Chairman Goldstein clarified that come Monday morning at 9:00 am if you haven't met with the city to work out a deal concerning a payment plan, the city will then put up your house at auction. Different types of fees are attached to the property by the City. If after that and you didn't pay you will lose your house. If you own a house and you get tickets, parking tickets, sanitation tickets, and do not pay, the city will then put a lien on your house. There is no way around it. Therefore, if you owe the city please pay.

Mr. Lipkind informed that for more information call Senator Eric Adams Office at (718) 284-7200.

**Pearl Miles** – reported that she is working with Michael Cetera on the RFP for Clove Road. It is not completed as yet. When it is completed she will email it to members. Tonight she would like the members to vote for submitting the proposal in response to the RFP.

Chairman Goldstein announced the Nominating Committee for Community Board 9. The committee members are as follows: Maurice Jean-Baptiste, Samuel Marmulzsteyn, Frank Nicholas, Gwen Carter, and Yvonne Straker. These members will canvas the entire Board Members regarding their interest in positions on the executive committee. They will also take nominations from the floor at the May meeting. Those who would like to serve in the various offices are welcomed to put their names in nomination.

### **Voting Items**

**Department of Parks and Recreation – design for the reconstruction of PS 92 Playground located at Winthrop Street between Parkside and Rogers Avenues.**

A motion was made by Rosemarie Perry and second by Ruby Hodge that Community Board 9 support the design presented by the Parks Department for the reconstruction of PS 92 Park. Voting: Yes - 30, No - 0, Abs - 0.

**Michael’s Car Service/Union Car Service located at 311 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, renewal of the For Hire Base License.**

Motion was made by Dr. Marco Mason and Frank Nicholas that the For Hire Base License be renewed, based upon the positive discussion on the hearings. Voting: Yes - 31, No - 0, Abs - 0.

**Transportation Unlimited located at 1226 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, renewal of the For Hire Base License.**

Motion was made by Frank Nicholas, and seconded by Jannie Johnson that the For Hire Base License be renewed based upon the positive discussion on the hearings. Voting – Yes = 31, No = 0, Abs = 0.

**Community Board 9 proposal in response to the Design Trust 2009 RFP**

Motion to submit the proposal in response to the RFP was made by Allan Martin, Jr, seconded by Gwen Carter. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Housing Committee’s Recommendation for Community Board 9 participation on the Neighborhood Housing Taskforce**

Motion to accept the recommendation was made by Gwen Carter, seconded by Rosemarie Perry. Voting: Yes - 31.

**Education Committee’s Recommendation that Community Board 9 support the restoration of Art Education in Public Schools**

Motion to accept the recommendation as presented by Denise Thomas was seconded by Carl Morgan. Voting: Yes - 31. Letters will be sent to the Mayor and City Council.

**Adjournment**

Since there was no further business for discussion the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Ruby Hodge, seconded by Denise Thomas.

Respectfully submitted  
Shelia Foster-Golding  
May 26, 2009