

COMMUNITY BOARD 9
890 NOSTRAND AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11225

MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225

Board Members Present

Jenay Alejandro
Dion Ashman
Stuart Balberg
Rev. Phyllis Brown
Gwen Carter
Michael Cetera
Aldith Clarke
Julian Daniels
Shelia Foster- Golding
Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein
Theopia Green
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa I. Hackett-Vieira
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Maurice Jean-Baptiste
Jannie Johnson
Yaakov Katz
Yvonne Straker
Denise Thomas

Board Members Present

Demetrius N. Lawrence
Denise Mann
Samuel Marmulzsteyn
Allan Jr. Martin
Dr. Marco Mason
Carl B. Morgan
Frank Nicholas
Dwayne Nicholson
Romania Roachford
Myrtle Roberson
Karlene Robinson
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Eleanor Rollins
Roosevelt Rose
Brenda Scott
Chanina Sperlin
Victoria St. Clair
Jacqueline Welch

Board Members Absent

Leslie F. Davis
Geraldine Dease
Joan Gill – sick
Aron Hershkop
Ruby Hodge – sick
Brenda Hutto – sick
Gary Marshall
Rosemarie Perry
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Evelyn Williams – sick

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present

Hon Michael Bloomberg – Carolyn Sanders-James
Hon Marty Markowitz – Ann Marie Adamson
Hon Eric Adams – Reuven Lipkind
Hon Yvette Clarke – Ron Thomas
Medgar Evers College - William H. Boone

Kings County Hospital Center – Debra Lesane
Hon Mathieu Eugene
Hon Darlene Mealy – Christopher James
Hon Letitia James – Alfred Chiodo
Dept. of Transportation – Rhonda Messer

PUBLIC SESSION

Representatives from the Dept of City Planning will present information on Application #N100139ZRY Residential Streetscape Preservation Text Amendment which will preserve and enhance the streetscape character of residential neighborhoods. The purpose of the Amendment is to clarify, revise and introduce new regulations for residential buildings that affect streetscape elements including front yard planting, location of parking spaces and curb cuts in Residence, Commercial and special Mixed- Use districts.

Chairman Jacob Goldstein informed that this was the second presentation that will be made by the Dept of City Planning. December 2009 meeting they presented the Streetscape Preservation Text Amendment and they are here once again to give a visual presentation on the application #N100139RZY.

Ms. Sanmati Naik, Dept of City Planning thanked the Board for having them. Ms. Naik said that the amendment was initiated in response to concerns by elected officials and community boards complaining about inappropriate curb cuts which interrupt the residential streetscape character.

The text amendment also closes loopholes to satisfy front yard planting. The text satisfies new parking requirements for two and three family units in old as well as new residential buildings. The text amendment will also satisfy front yard text for old buildings and new buildings, and buildings prior to 1961. This is a citywide text amendment which will enhance the streetscape character and the landscaping of residential neighborhoods and apply to Community District 9.

- Strengthen the front yard parking requirements, this applies to the R2, R4, R5 areas in District 9. This rule will ensure that these areas are maintained and that they contribute to proper landscape in streetscape areas. This action modifies an earlier regulation from 2008 which required only a certain space to be landscape.
- This is really a matter of the sidewalk, as well as planting areas and driveways. The new regulations will ensure that planting areas be at least one foot wide, the front area driveway will not be counted for planting as well.
- Another requirement of the existing regulations which apply to the same lot the planting areas were combined and added to the new regulations because there were no regulations with regards to the location and placement for those areas. The new rules will fix other issues requiring that the front lawn which applies to individual buildings will instead comply with the zoning laws. This will lead to landscaped areas that are in harmony with larger extensive landscape areas which will lead to a traditionally friendly streetscape.
- Clarifies the meaning of the development as it applies to all buildings existing as well as developing. This was initiated last year which designed the development of new buildings where you can remove front yard and restore a driveway or garage instead of losing the character of the street and building in the areas of landscape areas as well as street parking. This rule fixes issues with the development of land used in other parts, and introduces the new resolution to reinforce the extent of City Planning. The existing rule applies to development as well as existing buildings.
- To introduce streetscape where none exist right now in order to provide the streetscape character and street parking which apply to the R6, R7, R8, areas in District 9. Since these areas do not exist in R6, R7, R8 areas as well as commercial and residential districts. This could lead to loss of on-street parking spaces, elevation of landscapes, front yards, it can lead to potential vehicular conflict as well as loss of value to real estate in commercial and mixed-use districts. This rule will fix the loophole by including rules that will create wider sidewalks instead of more landscape areas.
- In the case of commercial and residential areas the rule would prevent curb cuts on a wider street. This would lead to maintaining the street free of clogging and will channel all the parking traffic to the side or to another street.

- Insures that adequate parking is in use to units added to existing buildings as well as older buildings before the parking resolution go into effect. These rules relate to maximum parking space.
- For more information visit our website – www.nyc.gov/planning

Chairman Goldstein, in summing up, explained that we have extensive curb cuts in our district. People were getting tickets when they should not because someone decided to do a curb cut. We are happy that the City is finally taking this to task so that we can end all these curb cuts in the district. He thanked the representatives for their presentation and said that the city was finally taking the “bull by the horn.”

Questions and Answers

Gross – if you comply with the zoning code and the city accepts it, will you have to go back and do it over? It will go to the City Council and then to a Public Hearing, then down the line. Chairman- If it is landmark you have to go back and fix it. You can go to the website for your answer. www.nyc.gov/planning.

What do you mean by a one-family or two-family? Example, new dwelling units are added to an existing home. Whatever parking space is required it has to be divided, i.e., if a two-family house is converted to a three-family house there has to be added parking according to the parking regulations.

In respect to small business in the community would there be any concession for us because there are parking meters in the area? Chairman- This is City Planning for help with this call the board office.

Inaudible question. Chairman- there is no happy medium. This is designed to give the neighborhood character and some space at the same time. This enhances some of the issues we have had here in the past.

Thomas - once this text goes into effect will illegal curb cuts be eliminated? That falls under the Department of Buildings. This amendment is for all the new construction. Jacob Goldstein - if there are illegal curb cuts or someone decides to dig out and deface the sidewalk, call 311.

Cetera- In the past there were no requirements for planting. It was open space. Last year an amendment was passed on open space. They are now fine tuning that amendment. This regulation is not something that is one to one sweeping throughout the community, it depends on the ratio.

Shalom Goldstein – For our community can you send us the requirements? On Montgomery Street and Troy every house built a garage in front. There is no parking on that side of the block. They are not adding a house; they are making a curb cut which is deep. With the old construction there was the garage in the back. It is now worst not better. Some of the regulations apply to higher density districts where you have larger buildings.

Shalom Goldstein - we are hoping that things will get better in our community, my question is how fast can we pass these laws? This depends on how fast the city moves.

Chairman Goldstein thanked the representatives for their presentation.

Representatives from National Grid will discuss the scope of work that will be undertaken on Kingston Avenue from Eastern Parkway to Empire Boulevard – Capital Construction Project #HWK 1180.

Ms. Renee McClure, said that she represents National Grid in all of Brooklyn. Mr. James Hall is the project manager for Kingston Avenue, but he is not here tonight, instead, Mr. Howard Golden, Engineer, was here to answer questions.

Ms. McClure said that the purpose of the project is to improve the infrastructure in the area. There will be other utilities coming behind National Grid. They had a meeting with the Community Board, the Dept of Design and Construction, and the Dept of Transportation They are here to give an update of that meeting to ensure that there will be minimal impact on homes. Ms. McClure said that they will work with Community Board 9 and Rabbi Cohen of the Jewish Community Council for the duration of the project.

Engineer Howard Golden referenced the community advisory notice which basically dealt with the layout of the work on Kingston Avenue and the working hours from 7AM to 6PM Monday to Friday and 8AM to 4PM on Saturdays. There will be a change to that schedule to accommodate the needs of the religious community.

The major part of the work is being conducted on the main strip on Kingston Avenue Monday to Thursday. Weekends will be clear. There will be no machinery, material or work conducted on the weekend. Weekend work will be shifted to side streets out of the way of major traffic on weekends.

There will be a time where new services to the new main will replace the old services. This will cause a brief interruption in the gas service for a few hours. This also will be conducted Monday to Thursday. There will be no gas interruption on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Shabbos starts at sundown on Friday and ends at sundown on Saturday. You need to use the stove to prepare food for Friday and Saturday and also keep the stove in a low degree to keep the food warm for the weekend. That is why he advised the company that the gas should not be interrupted for the weekend.

Chairman Goldstein said that he would like to add that there is no gain without pain. What was reported here tonight came out of the meetings. He personally recommended certain things and they have taken it a step further. They have taken into consideration the makeup of the community and have adjusted the work times.

Questions and Answers

Mr. Sperlin – inaudible. Chairman Goldstein – the point of contact for this entire construction project is the board office. National Grid will be working with the Board office and Rabbi Cohen.

Stuart Balberg – inaudible. 24-hour notification would be given for gas cut off.

Theopia Green – inaudible. No that is outside work not inside.

Rhonda Messer said that she works for the Department of Transportation. She is not aware of the scope of the project as yet. She cannot speak to that.

Mr. Shane Ojar, Department of Design and Construction, said that the project was an 18-month project. It will start in the summer of this year. There has not been award of the project, it is being worked on.

In the summer work will be primarily on water mains and sewer, then the resurfacing will be done. At the end of the project there will be the roadways and a bike lane. Once there is a contract in place they will come back to the Community Board with a specific start date. There will be times where the water will be shut off to install new replacement mains.

Chairman Goldstein – we were told that a bike lane would not be installed. Now I see a bike lane in the scope. Once the contract is awarded, we would like to see the contract team before the Board to give a presentation and a timeline of events. Kingston Avenue is a major north bound street to Brooklyn. Right now traffic cannot move on New York Avenue.

Audience member – as far as the bike lane I do not know if it is two or one. There is a lot of in and out parking on that street. We are worried about pedestrians and children crossing the street. We are trying to make it so that they are not impact by cars turning into streets. That is a major issue. Another need to look at is the fact that there are over three hundred preschoolers that are picked up every day.

Chairman Goldstein reiterated we will not discuss this issue of the project until we have the scope and design before the Board.

Dr. Marco Mason – we need input from the transportation Committee. Even though the design and planning has been submitted and approved already there is still room for amendments. When we hear from both sides we will hear from the committee and then deliberate on the matter.

Jacqueline Welch – what about deliveries; How will it impact deliveries? Goldstein- Deliveries can be done. I am sure that will be a major issue, but from my experience they go to the side streets, they eliminate a few parking spaces and set up for no parking for a certain amount of time. The vendor will have to go around the corner to deliver his goods. On the main street there will not be any deliveries.

Community Board 9 has joined the United States Census Bureau in the campaign to encourage everyone to be counted. Representative from the Census will be providing valuable information to help us understand why it is important to be counted in the 2010 U.S Census.

Chairman Goldstein expressed his concern that the Census counting impacts a great deal on our lives. The city gets congressional dollars from the federal government. This means less money if all are not counted. Less money for healthcare, education, etc, everything that impacts our lives.

Census Representative Mr. Irwin Clare reminded us that “the Census is in our hands”. It is because you are going to be the one to make a difference rather than the Census Bureau in the community of Brooklyn. We have suffered from dismal response to the census over the years and as such our community has not only been undercounted but has not got its fair share of resources.

The plan this year as the Census is launched is to make Brooklyn Count; we are establishing a base to date of eighteen hundred partnerships of faith based organizations, community boards and anyone willing to participate. We are talking about money. At the end of the year when the president takes account of the people of the United States, Brooklyn has a responsibility, an obligation to ensure that its population is counted. The number that has been represented in the past is not accurate. We have the opportunity to correct history and to make history.

In the middle of March one hundred and thirty four million people in the US will receive questionnaires. You must not discard it. We are demanding that you count everyone in your household. This will ensure that everyone in Brooklyn is counted. If we don't we will be stuck for the next ten years.

We need more hospitals in our community. We need better schools in our community, better roads. If we don't count everyone, we are not giving an accurate account of Brooklyn. Let us make sure that 5 million people be counted. The Census is the Federal means by which money is appropriated to the city. We can make

a difference. The information collected is confidential. It cannot be used against anyone, whether you are documented and undocumented. All is asked is asked is statistical, no social security is needed. There ten questions which can be answered in ten minutes.

Jobs with the Census are available. There is a test you will be placed in a pool of employees that will be selected for the enumeration process. These are not career oriented jobs. These are jobs that pay from \$13.00 to \$ 21.00 per hour. To find out about the testing sites call 866-861-2010 or go to the website.

For the Census Questionnaires locations will be needed; that is a place where a box can be placed to house questionnaires so that people can go there and get the questionnaire. There will be a questionnaire center where someone is trained and hired, for 15 hours per week. This will last for four weeks. This is a place where the information can be confidential. It can be a store front as long as it has a desk where people can come and drop off their questionnaire. The hiring will be done from people within the community, those who know the community best.

If you don't fill out the questionnaire, then we will come knocking on your door. We want to reduce that. This is a challenge for all of us. Again if you have a space in the community please let us know. We will come and inspect it. Call 212-356-3100. There is a supply of palm cards with Dr. Martin Luther King as well as other literature.

Questions and Answers

Will you send to one family if it is a two family house? All the addresses have been coded so that they should receive two.

Next week Tuesday there will be the kick off for the new phenomenon the Census Road Show. There is our champion who had been at the forefront, our borough President Marty Markowitz he is very supportive along with several community based organizations. The kick off will be on February 2, at 12 noon at Borough Hall. All are invited.

Where can one go to get help? It goes according to your zip code. For information call 866-861-2010 or go to the Census website.

District manager Pearl Miles informed that Community Board 9 will be a "Be-Counted" site for the Census.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Clare for the information.

Flamingo Transportation applying for Base Renewal License

District Manager Pearl Miles explained that Flamingo Transportation was applying for the renewal of the base license. The community board has not received any complaints about the locations. Documentation requested by the board was provided by the company.

Flamingo Transportation President Mr. Sudu said that the car service is located at Winthrop Street and Nostrand Avenue. The Car Service has been in operation for over 35 years. He has had no violations for the past 4 years.

BUSINESS SESSION

The Business Session began at 8:35 pm, with 37 members present.

Minutes of the December 2009 Meeting.

The Minutes of the December 2009 meeting was presented for adoption. Motion to accept the minutes with any corrections was made by Dr. Marco Mason and seconded by Carl Morgan. The Minutes were adopted without any corrections.

Committees' Reports

Health and Social Services - Dwayne Nicholson

Mr. Dwayne Nicholson reported that a meeting was held on Wednesday, January 15th 2010. For details please see the written report

Chairman's Report

Chairman Jacob Goldstein asked for a moment of silence for the earthquake victims in Haiti. As a Chaplain in the Army his unit was in Haiti when the earthquake struck. There is no food, water, or living conditions for these people. Everyone in this room has some form of connection to the people of Haiti. Let us pray to God for their recovery in these difficult times.

Debra Lesane informed that Kings County hospital Center is providing services for the Haitian community at the hospital. There is a chapel that is open daily for anyone who needs religious comfort. There are walk-in clinics every Friday from 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM for legal services.

Chairman Goldstein thanked God for Dr. Marco Mason's health.

There will be a meeting with Committee Chairperson's at the board office on February 9th at 7:00 PM to discuss committee structure, committee business, board business, etc.

Ann Marie Adamson representing Borough President Marty Markowitz made the following announcements

- It is that time again for reappointment. This is a diverse district; anyone interested can apply for membership. You can go to the website and download the application form – www.brooklyn-usa.org For those with the reappointment forms please return them. There are 25 re-appointments, remember board members are the front line of the community.
- Census 2010 Borough President is greatly involved. Please be counted.
- Haitians Disaster relief – a temporary office is set up at Borough Hall to help Haitians in need if someone worked for 10 years, they might be eligible for Social Security benefits.

Carolyn Sanders-James informed that the Mayor's office is involved in donations for the Haiti Earthquake Disaster. To contribute call 311, the money will go to the Red Cross and UNICEF. Haitians living in New York City can apply for Temporary Protected Status.

Dion Ashman informed that the Youth Committee is off to a slow start. The last Friday in February will be the kick off for our Speak-Out. Please come out so we can make plans for the speak-out.

Voting

Department of City Planning Application #N100139ZRY – Residential Streetscape Preservation. Motion was made by Frank Nicholas and seconded by Jannie Johnson to support the proposed Zoning Text Amendment as presented to Community Board 9. Vote: 26 yes, 8 abstentions, 0 nos.

Flamingo Car Service Base Renewal Application. Motion was made by Gwen Carter, seconded by Dr. Marco Mason, to recommend renewal of the base license. Vote: 32 yes, 1 abstention, 0 nos.

District Manager Pearl Miles mentioned that one of the caterers for the refreshments after the board meeting was a group of young entrepreneurs in the community – Super Wings NY - Ms. Miles encouraged folks to support them in their endeavor.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Marco Mason and seconded by Jannie Johnson. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Refreshments followed the adjournment.

**Respectfully submitted,
Shelia Foster-Golding
Secretary
February 19, 2010**