Community Board No. 8
Brooklyn Children Museum
145 Brooklyn Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11213

November 13, 2014

Members Present

Kim Albert
Akosua Albritton
Glinda Andrews
Desmond Atkins
Wayne Bailey
LeeAnn Banks
Princess Benn-James
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Dr. Flize Bryan
Adem Bunkeddeko
Helen Coley
Dian Duke
James Ellis
Diana Foster
Fred Frazier
Nizjoni Granville
Xeerxeema Jordan
Tarves Lord
Kwasi Mensah
Adelaide Miller
Robert Puca
Mary Reed
Stacey Sheffey
Meredith Staton
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Ethel Tyus
Sheryl Vassell
Yves Vilus
Irsa Weatherspoon
Rohon Williams
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young
Vilma Zuniga

CB8 Staff

Michelle George, District Manager
Melanie Grant, Community Assistant
Julia Neale, Community Associate

Members Absent/Excused

Julia Boyd
Phu Duong
Curtis Harris
Phil Hawkins
Jamell Henderson
Shalawn Langhorne
Robert Matthews
Dr. Fred Monderson
Atim Oton
Patricia Scantlebury
Gregory Todd
Gib Veconi
Sharon Wedderburn
Greg Yerman

Elected Officials

Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo
Ola Alabi, District Leader 57th A.D.
Judge Michael Gerstein, Criminal Court
Judge Wavny Toussaint
Judge Genine Edwards

Elected Official Representatives

Brian McLaurin, NYC Public Advocate
Karen Crawford, KCDA’s Office
Lee Church, Congressman Jeffries Office
Kicy Motley, Mayor’s Office
Pierre Albert, Assemblyman Camara’s Office
Stefan Ringel, Borough President Adams Office
Charles Jackson, Congresswoman Clarke’s
Akhrurapa Ambak, Councilman Cornegy’s Office
Kristia Beaubrun, Councilmember Cumbo’s Office
Joseph Yanis, Assemblyman Walter Mosely
The regular meeting of Community Board No. 8 was called to order by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson, at 7:15 PM.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** – The minutes of the last meeting were accepted with any necessary corrections.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – CB 8 newsletter and other information was distributed.

Ms. Granville asked for an update on Child Support Enforcement by Human Resource Administration.

**HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION CHILD SUPPORT** – Ms. Jeneen Johnson, Enforcement

Ms. Johnson announced that Human Resource Administration has a few programs geared toward assisting deficient non-custodial parents in catching up on their child support payments. One is a 7 week program, from November 12, 2014 thru December 31st, where HRA is matching money that a non-custodial parent puts forward to help clear away arrears. She explained that parents that provide a minimum of $1000 will have the amount matched dollar for dollar. For example, someone that owes $20,000 in arrears can clear the entire debt payment if they can come up with $10,000 of their own money. Also as part of the program, HRA will remove 9% of the interest charged on a child support judgment owed to the government if the non-custodial parent can pay the principal amount in full. Child support arrest warrants can be lifted and the payments can help prevent suspension of driver’s licenses and other penalties. Information on other programs was distributed.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Johnson for the very valuable information and encouraged people to share with anyone they know that might owe back child support. She then asked for an update on green projects from the Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP).

**DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND LIRA GROUP** – Ms. Cara Lacey from Lira Group and Mr. Shane Ojor from the NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection

In a brief presentation on bioswales, Storm Water Greenstreets, and other storm water management measures, Ms. Lacey and Mr. Ojor explained that the goal of bioswales is to take storm water off the streets and have it percolate into the ground, thus reducing the amount of storm drains. What currently happens is that the sewer system becomes overloaded during rainfall because the storm drains are unable to control the water mixed with regular waste water. When the system gets overloaded, the excess goes into our salt water systems. The bioswales, which looks basically like a larger tree pit with plantings, takes the first inch of rain water and allows it to seep into the ground. New York City has a lot of impervious areas, but bioswales open them up and makes it permeable to accept water.

In reference to the bioswales, Ms. Lacey stated that there is small designated area for the calculated amount. They provided a handout of immediate locations with their descriptions. She also stated that a number of storm water greenstreets will be implemented as well. These are typically placed in the roadway and are usually larger than the 5 feet by 25 foot long bioswales depending on the roadway.

Leroy Reid asked if there would be any opportunities for employment. He was informed that an RFP for contractors will be put out and the winning bidder will do the hiring. The winning bid typically goes to the lowest bid. However, all of the jobs are unionized, so Mr. Ojor suggested people join the union to have access to any opportunities that arise.
Ms. Fuchs asked if the community can request bioswales and storm water greenstreets or make a particular location a priority. She was informed that no requests are being taken, but DOT and DEP are working together to determine where best to put them.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Lacey and Mr. Ojor for the information and asked Mr. Vogel if he had anything to share.

**Senator Velmanette Montgomery’s Office** – Mr. Jim Vogel

Mr. Vogel referenced an issue with the residents of the old Brooklyn Jewish Hospital. He stated that tenants that thought they were living in rent stabilized apartments have been notified that their rents will be increased to market rate. The elected officials are circulating literature on the matter. There have been reports that an agreement was made (when the hospital was converted to residential) that it would only be stabilized for 10 years. This agreement is sunsetting this year. As more information becomes available, it will be distributed to the community.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Vogel for the update on the housing situation at the former Brooklyn Jewish Hospital site and asked for a report from the following committees:

**AGING** – Ms. Kim Albert, Chairperson

The Aging Committee met on Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at David Chavis Senior Residence located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6 PM. In addition to the Chairperson, Ms. Albert, present were: Elizabeth Arnold, Victor Assan, Vashtu Bemtimck, William Boyd, Gwendolyn Crouch, Cynthia Daly, Carol Meltz, Jerome Michavoc, Adelaide Miller, Laura Skinner, Berthel Stewart, Charles Waldron, Patricia Washington, and Josephine Webb.

The Committee discussed the following:

- Creation of activities that will allow youth and seniors to work together.
- Medicaid and Medicare changes for seniors.
- Availability of services.
- Transportation for summer concerts/trips for our seniors.
- Neighborhood Security Initiatives.
- Enforcement of rules/regulations (no smoking, noise reduction, etc.) within senior housing residences.
- Institution of more public benches in commercial zones.
- Topics for an upcoming committee project in spring of 2015.

The next Aging Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at David Chavis Senior Residence located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6 PM. All are invited to attend.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** – Ms. Atim Oton, Chairperson

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation but had no action items. Mr. Adem Bunkeddeko announced that the committee in conjunction with Community Board 9, has launched its SHOP LOCAL initiative to encourage residents to patronize local shops and businesses. Beginning next week through January, all the commercial
corridors will have flyers urging residents to shop in the district this holiday season. He distributed fliers with more detailed information.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.

**EDUCATION** – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn and Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Co-Chairs

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be held on November 18, 2014 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. Please note that this meeting is not being held on its regularly scheduled date because of Election Day and Veterans Day.

**ENVIRONMENT/SANITATION** – Ms. Helen Coley, Chairperson

The Environment/Sanitation Committee met on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at the Community Board 8 Office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chair, Helen Coley, present were: Michelle George, District Manager. Because no other members attended, no business was conducted. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at the Community Board 8 Office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES** – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chairperson & Dr. Flize Bryan, Co-Chair

The Health & Human Services Committee did not meet for the month of November. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 1, 2014 at Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.

**HOUSING/ULURP** – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson; Ms. Ethel Tyus, Co-Chair

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, November 6, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chair and Co-Chair, Ms. Granville and Ms. Tyus, present were: Akosua Albritton, LeeAnn Banks, Diana Foster, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Adelaide Miller, Xeerxeema Jordan, Robert Puca, Stacey Sheffey, Margie Smith, Meredith Staton, Greg Todd, Gib Veconi, Yves Vilus, Irsa Weatherspoon, Deborah Young, Charles Arthur, Rebecca Baird-Remba, Janet Collins, Emily Goldman, Richard Goodstein, Barbara Holmes, Douglas Hwang, George James, Demetrius Lawrence, Adam Lynn, Amber Mazor, Deborah Pickett, George Switzer, Vickie Thomas, Deborah Washington and Lee White.

The committee discussed the following:

1. **Application to LPC for a Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) for 885 Sterling Place (Crown Heights North Historic District)**

R.A. Phillip Anzalone of Alterlier Architecture, presented owners’ VMS Capital Group/Sterling Heights LLC/Joseph Emergi’s application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) for a Certificate of Appropriateness for measures designed to primarily to enlarge this Romanesque Revival / Renaissance Revival brownstone, built c. 1894 and designed by James G. Roberts. The owners were not present. Mr. Anzalone indicated that the owners wish to:
   - extend the rear of the building to the legal floor area ratio (FAR) limit to facilitate recoupment of the costs of the extensive renovations, and
• replicate the existing rear facade in the new addition in order to maintain the character.

The extension would add 24’ to the current 44’ length of the building, and allow for four apartments each with two bedrooms and two baths. He did not know the project cost. The PW3 Cost Affidavit filed with NYC DOB by Mr. Anzalone on 11/13/2014 estimates the project cost at approximately $367,000. DOB’s records show a ‘Stop Work Order’ issued 10/8/2014 for work without a permit.

The Crown Heights North Association provided a letter withholding its support for the project because the drawings were uninformative on the size and elevation of the extension, and DOB’s records appear to show 14 open violations. Several neighbors attended the meeting and protested that there are currently no extensions into the backyards / ‘donut hole’ on the south side of this block; and that the size and bulk of the extension will significantly diminish their light and air. Janet Collins of 873 Sterling Pl. read a statement urging protections of the shared open space represented by the block’s donut hole. She was asked to file her statement with the Community Board office.

Given that the building is listed on the National Register, preservation work performed is eligible for State and Federal tax credits amounting to 40% of approved project costs. With this rapid cost recapture, the rationale for the extension fails. Mr. Anzalone indicated that a date for the LPC hearing has not been set and he was invited to present a revised plan. On a motion made and seconded, the committee voted unanimously 18 in favor not to support this application, and hopes the full Board will do the same.

Mr. Atkins made a motion to accept the committee’s recommendation. It was seconded by Mr. Ellis and carried with a final tally of 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

2. Application to LPC for CoA for 581 Vanderbilt Avenue (Prospect Heights Historic District)

JFL Design, P.E. and Swis.Loc Architecture presented plans for the interior renovation of the space for use as Tygershark Restaurant. The plan includes: replacement of the existing non-historical storefront with a new glass and painted metal frame storefront that will retain the historical cast iron columns, replacement of non-historical windows on the rear façade with glass and painted metal frame doors and windows, and addition of exhaust and HVAC dunnage on the roof with an exhaust duct extending up the rear façade. Existing violations are reportedly from the building owner’s prior removal of the bulkhead without a permit.

Signage over and on the restaurant door and the windows will be painted metal and has been approved by LPC at the staff level. Neighbors have been notified and the required proofs reportedly provided to the Community Board office. The restaurant will seat less than 75 people with backyard seating for 32.

The liquor licensing aspects of the restaurant plan have already been approved by the SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee. The project is scheduled for an LPC hearing in December 2, 2014. On a motion made and seconded, the committee voted unanimously 17 in favor of supporting this application, and hopes the full Board will do the same.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. It was seconded by Mr. Witherwax and carried with a final tally of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.
3. Application to LPC for CoA for 1375 Dean Street (Crown Heights Historic District)

Mr. Richard Goodstein, R.A. of nC2 Architecture presented plans for owner, Amber Mazur, to perform a full restoration of the exterior of this wood-framed, transitional Greek Revival/Italianate-style building, the George B. and Susan Elkins House (c.1855-69), which is an individually designated New York City Landmark. The project would: add a 3-story addition in the back that will be minimally visible from the street, fully restore the front facade including the balcony, door, and windows, perform intensive structural work to replace the old crumbling wood structure; and will convert the building to five condos with outdoor space (box glass cantilevered rear decks or a roof terrace) for each unit. The roof will be raised to allow more useable space. NC2 indicated that they have worked closely with LPC on both the staff level and the public hearing level to explore mutually acceptable approaches to this project. The project will be scheduled for an LPC hearing in December 2014. The Crown Heights North Association provided a letter withholding support and requesting further clarification of the drawings and the reason(s) for five open DOB violations.

On a motion made and seconded, the committee voted 11 in favor of supporting this project with three against and three abstentions and hopes the full Board will support its recommendation.

Ms. Tyus stated that the applicant still cannot answer questions regarding the open violations, but the architect stated that all will be resolved with the renovations since the project calls for the rehabilitation of the entire building.

Mr. Staton asked to see the other 2 drawings that were missing from the initial presentation. The architect stated that he was not aware that he had to bring the drawings and stated that they are not available. Ms. Tyus suggested that those with questions attend the LPC hearing when it is scheduled.

Mr. Bunkedekko asked what the reasons were that made people vote against or abstain from supporting the project. Ms. Tyus informed him that it is an individual landmark and that she can only suppose that the committee members that abstained wanted more info. Mr. Ellis stated that he thought the integrity of the building was not being preserved, which is why he voted against the project. Ms. Young stated that she abstained because she wanted to see if there were other options. Mr. Puca stated that he voted for the project because the building has been vacant for at least 20 years, and because in a private conversation with the neighbors after the Housing meeting, they seemed pleased that the building would be renovated and brought back to its original state. He did have some questions about the back being more modern than the front, but it is a small issue. Ms. Tyus stated that she wanted to see the building saved, and that this is a compromised approach.

A motion to support the committee’s recommendation was made by Mr. Bailey. It was seconded by Ms. Albritton and carried with a final tally of 17 in favor, 4 opposed, with 9 abstentions.

4. Application to the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) for Variance for Residential Construction on 8 to 10 Underhill Avenue, presently M1-1 zoning

Adam Lynn of Slater and Beckerman presented a plan by owner Marshall Stone to build two new 3-story single family homes on current vacant lots in the M1 zone that will be designated R6B under this application for a variance. The project plan would comply with bulk regulations of R6B except for lot coverage. Given the proximity of similar residential uses, and on motion made and seconded, the committee voted unanimously 15 in favor to support the application, and hopes the full Board will do the same.
A motion to support the committee’s recommendation was made by Mr. Witherwax. It was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 29 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

In other committee business, the materials synopsizing analyses done to date in the M1-1 subcommittee were distributed to the committee with the intent to bring the results to the full committee for a resolution at a future meeting on a plan to move forward with an application for a Special District. The next Housing/ULURP Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places) in the Atrium. All are invited to attend.

**PARKS** – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chairperson & Ms. Kim Albert, Co-Chair

The Parks Committee met on Monday, November 3, 2014 at the St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the chair and co-chair Glinda Andrews and Kim Albert present were: Erik Linsalata, John Mattera, Phil Hawkins, Larry James, Valerie Francis, Desmond Akins, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Thomas Montford, and Julia Boyd.

The committee heard a presentation on the scope of work for the reconstruction of the Air Conditioning Systems, exercise room, computer room, dance room, and indoor swimming pool including locker rooms at the St. John’s Recreation Center. The current HVAC system is not working, and the design within the project has the intention of providing complete air conditioning and ventilation throughout the building. There will be minimal disturbance during the course of this renovation.

The proposed work includes:

- New makeup air unit to provide ventilation air through the building utilizing existing shafts (floor opening)
- New swimming pool dehumidification unit to provide air conditioning and ventilation to the swimming pool as well as heating the pool water
- New roof top unit to provide air conditioning and ventilation in the gymnasium
- Wall mounted units will be installed throughout the rest of the building to provide heat and air conditioning.

The cost for this project is $2.5 million. The funding for this project was received from the NYC Parks Department. The committee voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed to support the HVAC Capital Project Installation and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Wayne Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. It was seconded by Mr. Witherwax and carried with a final tally of 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

Additionally, Ms. Andrews announced that Stroud playground is getting some of the funds from the $130 million that was allocated to the Parks Department for various renovation projects. The playground is in dire need of repair and renovation. There will be 2 upcoming meetings to discuss Stroud Playground. The first meeting will be held on Monday, November 24, 2014 at 11AM and the other on Monday, December 8, 2014 from 6:30-8:30PM at P.S. 316 located at 750 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.
PUBLIC SAFETY – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chairperson & Mr. Desmond Atkins, Co-Chair

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday October 20, 2014 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chair, Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, present were Desmond Atkins (Co-Chair), Seth Goodwin, Willard Hawkins, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Xeerxeema Jordan, Judith Campbell, Mark Thurton, Lorraine Clarke, and Lt. Det. Adrian Ashby. Updates from the Emergency Preparedness Workshop and the 77th Precinct Community Council Meeting were shared with the committee. Everyone was encouraged to attend other community groups including the 77th Precinct Clergy Council Meetings and the 78th Precinct Community Council, regarding public safety concerns. An update on the gun buy back proposal was also discussed. In addition, in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, resource information of places to go for help and people to call was handed out.

The committee also discussed an upcoming project: Youth and Police Forum. The committee would like to go into the junior high schools and speak to the youth on self-control, self-image and interaction with the NYPD. The discussion included added youth to the committee to help plan and organize a series of events that will lead up into a community wide event.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 17, 2014 at the 78th Precinct located at 65 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

SLA AND SIDEWALK CAFÉ REVIEW COMMITTEE (SLAC) – Mr. James Ellis, Chair; Mr. Robert Witherwax, Co-Chair

The SLAC committee met on Monday, November 3, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. In addition to the Chairperson James Present were (I NEED TO GET THE ATTENDANCE SHEET)

NEW LICENSE APPLICATIONS

1. Dorsett, 677 Washington Avenue (between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place) – Full

Details:
• Proprietors had a prior CB8 review date on Oct 6 but were not yet prepared to appear
• Proprietors intend Dorsett to be an event space for weddings, birthdays, graduation parties, etc; it is not a catering hall or a bar. Food will be brought in from outside; proprietors will manage liquor.
• Committee had several concerns (500-ft rule, renting space to promoters, 4 AM closing, etc), all of which were addressed in stipulations below.

The committee voted 12 in favor with 1 abstention to support the application with the condition that the hearing notice for tonight’s meeting be re-posted and that additional letters of support from residents of the block are received prior to the full Board meeting. The committee also had the following stipulations:

• hours of operation will be 11 AM-2 AM Sun-Wed; 11 AM-3 AM Th-Sat
• no third-party promoters
• no bottle service
• private events only—the space shall not be open to the public for events
Mr. Witherwax made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. It was seconded by Ms. Lord and carried with a final tally of 28 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

**Zaaz Pizza, 766 Classon Avenue (between Sterling and St. John’s Places) – Beer/wine**

Details:
- The proprietors of the space are changing; applying for a new liquor license that would include seating/service in rear outdoor space (the outdoor space had been in use under the previous owner but not licensed)
- Proprietors are still awaiting their new Letter of No Objection (LNO), which will include outdoor space
- Original floor plans had 2 points of alcohol service. Once a committee member explained to the proprietor that the current arrangement would require 2 separate licenses, he said he would combine the areas so that all alcohol service would be out of 1 location only
- Committee discussed concerns about outside noise attenuation, suggesting continuing with wood tables, getting planters, privacy fence, etc. Mr. Veconi mentioned that there have been no complaints about noise in garden to date, and the business has been active for a few years.
- Committee voiced concerns that there were no letters of support from residents on block/surrounding area

The committee voted 13 in favor, 0 opposed to support the application with the following conditions:

- Use of rear yard space contingent on receiving LNO
- Obtain letters of support from residents on block before full board hearing on the 13th

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. It was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 29 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

**RENEWAL LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

**James Restaurant, 605 Carlton Avenue (corner of St. Marks) – Full**

There was initially some concern among committee members because CB8 office correspondence communications had read James was seeking outdoor café seating and live music, which would be a change from their current liquor license terms. This was in error, there are no operational changes to their current business.

The committee voted 10 in favor, 0 opposed to support the application in hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation. Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. It was seconded by Mr. Atkins and carried with a final tally of 29 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The next SLAC committee meeting will be held on Monday, December 1, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.

**TRANSPORTATION** – Dr. Fred Monderson, Chairperson & Robert Witherwax, Co-Chair

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7PM. In addition to the Co-Chair Robert Witherwax, present were: Frank Esquilin, Holly Fuchs, Xeerxeema Jordan, Constance
Lesold, Chris McNally, Meredith Staton, Greg Todd, and Jaqueline Wells. Also present were Rebecca Bailin, Jonathan Matz, Rohon Williams, Lula Mullen, Barbara Campbell, Mark Winston Griffith, Celeste Farmer, Karen Ford, and Tom Boast.

The committee discussed the following:

- The MTA assured the District Office that the handicapped access elevator to the Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum #2-#3 station would be implemented by 2020.
- Rebecca Bailin of “RIDERS ALLIANCE” gave a presentation on efforts to improve transportation and empower riders with better service and lower fares.
- Fair tolling and transportation reinvestment. Johnathan Matz of “MOVE NY” gave a slide presentation on various proposals of the non-profit group to improve transportation into and out of NYC.
- Motion for a written letter be given to all state and local elected representatives advising them to support “MOVE NY” Fair tolling and transportation reinvestment initiative. The committee voted 6 in favor with 2 abstentions.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7PM. All are invited to attend.

**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES** – Akosua Albritton, Chair

The Youth and Family Services Committee met on Monday, November 10, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the committee chair, Akosua Albritton, present were Angeli Rasbury, Robert Matthews, Rohon Williams, and David Ford.

The committee discussed the following:

- A trip that MS 353 students took to the Central Brooklyn Public Library for their Veterans’ Program where they were able to speak to Veterans about their experiences.
- Awareness of K2 for MS 353 students.
- Facts about the K2 drug including its major distributor.
- Ideas for an upcoming committee event to inform students and parents about the K2 substance.
- Committee Working with Verna John at Partnership for a Healthier Brooklyn and Sarah Redfield of Prevention Resource Center & BRIC Media Arts House to teach young people how to produce media content around the K2 issue.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 8, 2014 at CNR located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committees for their reports and acknowledged elected officials, Judges Waveny Toussaint, Michael Gerstein, and Genine Edwards. She also thanked Island Cz for donating food for the meeting. She then asked Councilwoman Cumbo if she had anything to share.
Councilwoman Cumbo directed everyone’s attention to the Free Legal Service van announcement in the CB 8 monthly newsletter. She stated that we need to take advantage of the van to demonstrate that we are utilizing these services when they are made available to us.

In addition, the Councilwoman stated that she is sponsoring a Tenants Forum, where tenants can get information on their rights and responsibilities, bedbugs, discrimination, etc. The forum will be held at St. Joseph’s College in Clinton Hills on November 19th from 6 to 8:30 PM. For more information call her District office at 718-260-9191. Food pantries in our district are in dire need of donations. Please donate to help end hunger. She also announced that her office offers immigration services on Tuesdays from 10 am to 5 pm at her district office located at 1 Hanson Place, Suite 201 in downtown Brooklyn.

Regarding the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital housing situation, it and its ties to the Astoria Cove project, which is up for an official vote on November 25th. Alma Realty is engaging in a movement to move tenants from rent stabilized leases to market rate leases. There was a preliminary vote yesterday on the Astoria Cove Project, which is also owned by Alma Realty that satisfied the contract for jobs and affordable units. She, along with many members of the Council are happy in many ways that they were able to get labor jobs in Astoria and affordable housing for that neighborhood. She stated that she spoke with Public Advocate Letitia James and is, along with other elected officials in the area, exhausting every resource to make sure that we secure the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital (BJH) site to freeze the rents until Alma Realty can be successfully entered into the J51 tax abatement program. That way, we can preserve the affordable housing in the District rather than coming up with a net loss of affordable housing units. The electeds are asking at this time during negotiations that Alma Realty stop the eviction process and keep the leases as they were and renew all leases up for renewal at the old rent stabilized rate as we cannot afford to lose 700 units of affordable housing to build 400 in Queens, losing a net 300 units. She called on the community to send message that we are willing to fight for this issue by lobbying their elected officials to put pressure on NYC Housing Preservation & Development to ensure that the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital site gets into the J51 program.

Ms. Granville thanked Councilwoman Cumbo for the update and asked District Leader Alabi if she had anything to share.

District Leader Alabi thanked those that voted on Election Day. She announced that all 3 ballot initiatives passed. The most simple ballot initiative was that the legislatures should receive bills electronically. The 2nd was for funding for schools, which was also quite simple and could benefit all students. However, the most controversial had to do with redistricting, and it is unfortunate that not enough people knew to turn their ballots over and vote for the initiatives. She explained that when we go through the next redistricting process, there will be a change in how the district lines are drawn. Prisoners will be added to the population of the towns they are incarcerated in, not the area they will return to. This will lead to a diminished return on funds available to many inner cities. The lack of funds will lead to fewer services. Also, it will have an impact on district density, with more populated districts less represented than less populated ones. It will give more power to upstate districts.

Mr. Atkins stated that too many people did not vote and many did not know of the proposals on the back. He and Ms. Branch-Muhammad cited poor community outreach on the part of elected officials in
letting people know of ballot initiatives. District Leader Alabi stated that the onus on ensuring people knew about the ballot initiatives was on the poll workers.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Alabi for the information and asked for an update from the By-Laws Committee.

**By-Laws Committee** – Mr. Robert Witherwax, Chair

Mr. Witherwax thanked the By-Laws Committee for its efforts in revising the sometimes confusing By-Laws and operating procedures of the Board. He stated that 5 motions will be presented and distributed to the general membership with an opportunity for comment and at the December meeting with a final vote in January. Comments will be accepted between now and December.

Motion one would clarify standards for removal from the board. The basic premise is that if you have missed 4 out of prior 6 general meetings, is becomes cause for removal from the board.

Motion two concerns how the committees are comprised. Currently, the committees are operating under loose guidelines on how to get on a committee. The methods of how to get on a committee are going to be put in the bylaws, and the method will be different for appointed members and community residents. The same thing will be said for removal from committees. The purpose of the motion will be find a way to clear the way out of a committee and not create a log jam that possibly prevents committee business from being conducted while retaining checks and balances.

Motion three concerns Committee officers. Currently it is Chair and Co-Chair. The revisions would create a hierarchy of Chair and Vice Chair, so that there is no confusion as to who is in charge. The chair will be the head and the vice chair will be the backup. Also, this motion would make it a requirement to have Minutes and attendance submitted to the District office after each meeting. Chairs will be asked to make written reports at beginning of the term with the goals of the committee for that term and at end with a breakdown of what the committee accomplished.

Motion four concerns the standing committees. Currently, there are a lot of them, but they are not the committees as they stand. There has been a lot of restructuring that does not reflect the By-Laws. By-Laws will be re-written to reflect the committees as they currently stand. Also, there will be changes to the operations of ad hoc committees. Standing committees have permanent duration, and the ad hoc have to be renewed from time to time.

Motion five has to do with minor housekeeping concerns. Rules for a quorum for committees will be instituted. The duties of the Executive Committee will be fleshed out. Changes to the nomination of officers will be made. It will be coded how members can speak on behalf of the Board. If you speak on behalf of the Board but your views do not reflect the Board’s vote, that could be cause for removal, for example.

Mr. Puca asked what the standard will be for dismissal. He was informed that once a member hit a trigger point, the executive committee has to vote by 2/3 to remove the member, and the full board has to vote by 2/3 to remove him or her. Mr. Puca also asked why abstentions count as a no vote and what the exact definition of an abstention is. He was informed by Mr. Witherwax that it comes from the City Charter or Roberts Rules of Order that the number of yes votes has to be more than the combined total of the rest. Ms. Tyus also stated that abstentions and no’s only count when there is a quorum. Ms. Betty
Davis, a community resident, questioned voting people off the committee and stated that we need to consider circumstances.

Ms. Granville thanked the By-Laws committee for their efforts and told the Board members to review the materials that would be mailed to them in the next few days. She encouraged everyone to comment and provide feedback. She then opened the floor for public comments.

On behalf of the Economic Development Committee, Mr. Adem Bunkeddeko encouraged everyone to shop local. In conjunction with Community Board 9, CB 8 is sponsoring a shop local campaign to encourage residents to patronize local shops and businesses. Beginning next week thru January, all the commercial corridors will have flyers to shop in the district this holiday season.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. She adjourned the meeting at 9 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at Concern for Independent Living located at 151 Rochester Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue) at 7 PM. All are invited to attend.

**GUESTS**

- Anthony Taylor
- Duane Rob
- Eton Lacon
- Celeste Farmer
- Lee White
- B. Holmes
- Dorothy Bembry-Guet
- Janet Collins
- Stephen McCall
- Denee Spencer
- Colin Phillips
- Kenya Hall
- Deborah Willington
- Shannon Colabrese
- William Boone
- Holly Fuchs
- Leroy Reid
- Emily Goldman
- Adam Lynn
- Yodit Kidame
- Sandy Taggart
- Zinga Fraser
- Shirley Fraser
- Mary Machen
- Pearl Machen
- Rachel Smitz
- Ali Lesovay
- Darlene Dorsett
- Tiffany Chavis
- Felicia Chambers
- Teleann Lyons
- Elaine Miles
- Bos Furman
- Patrick Clarke
- Chris Dottery
- Shane Ojar
- Demetrius Lawrence
- Audrey Baker
- Jarranda Whitfield
- Joann Ripley
- Duke Stewart
- Margaret Ross
- Josie Henderson
- Genene Edwards
- George James
- Betty Davis
- Wil Fisher
- Eliot Thompson
- Michael Cox
- Cara Lacey
- Jeneen Johnson