

**Community Board No. 8  
Concern for Independent Living  
151 Rochester Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11213**

**February 16, 2017**

**Members Present**

Desmond Atkins  
LeeAnn Banks  
Princess Benn-James  
Julia Boyd  
Adem Bunkeddeko  
Helen Coley  
Phu Duong  
Fred Frazier  
Nizjoni Granville  
Elijah Gray  
Crystal Hudson  
Xeerxeema Jordan  
Shalawn Langhorne  
Robert Matthews  
Adelaide Miller  
Adam Sachs  
Meredith Staton  
Edison Stewart  
Audrey Taitt-Hall  
Gregory Todd  
Ethel Tyus  
Gib Veconi  
Irsa Weatherspoon  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Deborah Young

**Members Absent/Excused**

Glinda Andrews  
Wayne Bailey  
Gail Branch-Muhammad  
Michael Cox  
Dian Duke  
James Ellis  
Andrea Ferris  
Diana Foster  
Curtis Harris  
Elaine Mahoney  
Kwasi Mensah  
Dr. Fred Monderson  
Atim Oton  
Robert Puca  
Yahya O. Raji  
Stacey Sheffey  
Sheryl Vassell  
Yves Vilus  
Robert Witherwax  
Vilma Zuniga

**Elected Official Representatives**

Reginald Belon, Congresswoman Clarke's Office  
Carl Luciano, Councilwoman Mealy's Office  
Bella Pori, Assemblyman Mosley's Office  
Kristia Beaubrun, Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo  
Shellawn Serrett, Councilman Cornegy's Office  
Kathleen Daniel, Borough President Adams' Office  
Darryl White, Public Advocate James' Office

**CB 8 Staff Present**

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

The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 7:20 PM by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson. She thanked Concern for Independent Living for being a gracious host and also thanked BKW on Franklin Avenue (part of the Brooklyn Winery family) for providing refreshments for the meeting. She asked Mr. Mutton from Concern if he would like to say a few words.

**Concern for Independent Living** – Mr. Jim Mutton, Director of NYC Operations

Mr. Mutton welcomed everyone to Concern and informed the Board that a temporary Certificate of Occupancy had been issued for the new facility at 1552 Bergen Street. Families are currently moving in. He invited interested persons to feel free to take a tour of the building.

Mr. Mutton also introduced Leoni Archer, Program Director, who took over for Cynthia Solomon a little less than a year ago. He congratulated her on a seamless transition and a job well done.

**Acceptance of Minutes** – The minutes of the last meeting were distributed to the Board and one correction was brought to the Board's attention by Mr. Greg Todd. The correction, changing "Average Median Income" to "Area Median Income," was made to the minutes, and Ms. Wedderburn made a motion to accept the corrected minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Granville asked for an update on the proposed relocation of the Brower Park Library Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) to the Brooklyn Children's Museum (BCM).

**Brooklyn Children's Museum & Brower Park Library** – Ms. Stefanie Wilchfort, Executive Director (BCM) and Mr. David Woloch, Executive VP of External Affairs (BPL)

Ms. Wilchfort from BCM stated that Brower Park Library branch is located at 725 St. Marks Avenue between New York and Nostrand Avenues. About a year ago, the library approached BCM and asked if they have space for a library. BCM has 5000 sqft in the back of the building that is currently vacant. They also have 6000 sqft of office space in front of the building. She informed the Board that BCM is the first children's museum in the world, and that it would be an amazing opportunity to incorporate a library into its fold. However, it is not a done deal to have the library relocate to the museum. The BCM and BPL are both coming to the community first because they value community input. This is the community's museum and it is the community's tax dollars that fund it. It is really important that the community is comfortable and in support of the merger.

Mr. Woloch stated that Brower Park is a great branch and is the smallest in the BPL system. The challenge with the Brower Park Branch is that the building the library currently occupies is in really bad condition. The building has about \$5.6 million in outstanding capital needs, including its lack of handicapped (ADA) accessibility. It has not seen capital improvements since the library moved into the building. He informed everyone that the Brower Branch is not housed in a city-owned building; instead, the space is leased and the city has not given BPL funding for property acquisition. Some of the capital projects that the building is in need of are repair of a leaky roof, replacement of all internal infrastructure, and problems with the HVAC system.

Mr. Woloch continued by stating that to make the necessary investment in the building, the city would have to purchase it, which would cost \$3 million, bringing the cost of purchase and capital improvement renovations to more than \$8 million. What became attractive about the BCM is the prime space of the building. It is not too far from the current Brower Park Branch and the library will be able to build a separate entrance and have a larger focus on children and families.

Ms. Wilchfort stated that BCM is owned by City of New York. One of the things everyone needs to understand is that once the library comes to the building, the library will be there forever because the city does not close libraries in city owned buildings. There is no going back if this happens, and she stated that she is very excited for the opportunity.

Ms. Wedderburn inquired how does the relocation of the Brower Park Library constrain future growth for either institution. She was informed by Ms. Wilchfort that 1) the space being offered is currently not program space; it

is administrative offices; and 2) for the museum, it is already a growth opportunity because the relocation would open up 6000 sqft of more space. Ms. Wilchfort continued by stating that she feels confident that the museum will grow. The City has given money to build an auditorium, which will open up another 5000 sqft in the building, mostly for performances. The BCM is rebuilding the garden in the back of the museum which has been closed for a number of years that will open another 10,000 sqft. A third opportunity is that they can build up. There are opportunities to increase space if the need arises. BCM would just need the City to fund if necessary.

Mr. Todd stated that the museum has a 30,000 object collection and asked if it is all housed on site. He was informed that most objects are housed on site in a state of the art collection storage facility and that it is an educational collection and not objects you would see at the MET. They are not currently invaluable the way certain museums consider their collections. If the merger happens, BCM will move some objects into the library for display with some for lending to help with educational classes.

A resident asked that if the new replacement library will be over 10,000 sqft (please note that the library will in fact be only 6000 sqft), how much is BPL expected to spend to create the space for the library? He also asked who is walking away with the space that Brower Park Branch is in that the BPL currently is entertaining development proposals for. Mr. Woloch stated that there is no minimum size for a branch library and that the branch will move to a space of comparable size. He stated that cost estimates are that it will take about \$3 million to fit the branch in the BCM. It is more cost effective to move than to acquire the property and make the capital improvements. He stated that one of the attractive features for BPL is that they have a chance to build a brand new, state of the art library with community input. Mr. Woloch stated that he has heard of no current development proposals for the current Brower Park Branch site, which is privately owned.

A resident stated that she is very disappointed that the library is moving and stated that she feels as though the library did not give adequate notice to the community that a move was imminent. She stated that she has lived in community next door to the branch for 35 years.

She asked what the financial benefits are to the museum for taking in the library and disputed the fact that the library needs more than \$5 million in capital improvements because she is there every day. She also stated that there are plenty of adults that utilize that library branch and questioned the decision to make it a family branch that only serves the users of the museum and their childrens. Ms. Wilchfort stated that the library is paying slightly below market rate for the space. The museum will get roughly \$230,000 per year from the library for using the space, which Mr. Woloch said is about the same amount as they are paying now to lease the current space. Ms. Wilchfort continued, stating that as Executive Director, she has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that the museum positively benefits from this agreement. Mr. Woloch reminded everyone again that this is not a done deal, and that they have only begun discussions with the community.

Ms. Granville stated that the Community Board will schedule a meeting with the Youth an Education Committee on April 4<sup>th</sup> specifically to talk about the library. Notices will be sent out to the community after all the details are finalized.

Ms. Tyus asked if the new facility would be handicapped accessible. She was informed that the museum is ADA accessible, but BPL is asking to make it even more accessible as part of this merger.

Ms. George noted that in preliminary discussions, it was stated that there will be a separate entrance, and asked if there will be access to get from the library to the museum. She was informed that there will be no public access hallway, but staff will be able to go between the spaces.

Ms. Wilchfort provided a brief update on the some of the museum programs including afterschool programs and summer day camps. She also stated that the museum has asked the federal government for funding to bring a

planetarium to the museum. At one time, the museum did have a planetarium in the 60s and 70s. They are actively fundraising to bring it back.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Wilchfort and Mr. Woloch for the information and reminded everyone that this is just the beginning of discussions for the library/museum merger. Community Board 8 will have as many meetings as necessary to ensure that residents have the information they need to satisfy their curiosity and concerns. She then asked for a report from the following committees:

### **Economic Development Committee**

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation but a report was not submitted for the month of January. The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

### **Environment/Sanitation Committee**

The Environment/Sanitation Committee did not meet for the month of January.

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee would like the Board to take a stance against President Trump's Executive Order "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States" issued on January 27, 2017. We are offended by the fact that a particular population has been isolated for discrimination and we hope the full Board supports adopting a resolution stating our displeasure with the "Muslim Ban" Executive Order.

In addition, the Executive Committee would also like the Board to address the President's "deportation force," which is actively invading immigrant communities and harassing the immigrant population in search of undocumented and illegal immigrants, and, after finding them, deporting them with little explanation or regard for the good they might be doing for the community. We hope the full Board supports the drafting of a resolution speaking out against this as well.

Mr. Sachs asked if the Board has been in contact with the local precinct about what Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) is doing in the community. He was informed by officers of the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct that there has been no activity in Community Board 8.

Ms. Benn-James stated that last week she was at the market on Caton and Flatbush Avenues and was told that ICE had been there and had been expected to return.

Mr. Stewart asked if this is a symbolic vote. Ms. George stated that this is the first time the country has experienced these types of Executive Orders. She informed him that several other Community Boards have adopted resolutions similar to these, so yes, it is a symbolic vote.

Ms. Tyus made a motion to support the two items. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final vote of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

### **Health and Human Services Committee**

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Monday, February 6, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chair, Mr. Kwasi Mensah, present were: Noah Potter, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Glinda Andrews, Linda Stewart, Shalawn Langhorne, Edison Stewart, Sheryl Vassell, and Zara Watkins.

The committee discussed the importance of fresh foods, maintaining happy and healthy lifestyles, and securing certain policies concerning health. Ms. Andrews reminded everyone about the upcoming Health Fair which will be taking place on Saturday, May 20, 2017 in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Committee of Community Board No. 8.

The next Health and Human Services Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30 PM. All are welcomed to attend.

**Housing/ULURP** – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson; Ms. Ethel Tyus, Vice Chair

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, February 2, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. Present were: Wayne Bailey, Lee Ann Banks, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Sharon Joseph, Xeerxeema Jordan, Danae Oratowski, Yahya Rahji, Stacey Sheffey, Adam Sachs, Meredith Staton, Greg Todd, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Yves Vilus, Irsa Weatherspoon, Sharon Wedderburn, Deborah Young, Keith Barnes, Stuart Beckerman, Maria Bowen, Wanda Bowen, Valorie Bowers, Olga Chernomorets, Afiya Earle, Deborah Edwards-Andis, Sydney Engel, Shirley Griffith, Ellen Hang, Alice Hawkins, Madeleine Knuffre, Tanica Matthews, Mojarie McClain, Alex Meshechok, Rachel Meyers, Reiror Miller, Michael Nacmias, Alexis Ortiz, Ken Pagano, Lillian Pecker, Jennifer Proulx, Alejandro Rodriguez, John Schiamonti, Edison Stuart, Cas Stacherberl, Maria Waterman, and Cynthia Yahia.

The committee discussed the following applications:

**1. Applications to the Dept. of City Planning (DCP) to Upzone 1350 Bedford Ave (CPC: 170070ZMK, 170071ZRK, 17DCP 07112 CEQR) and to the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) for a Waiver of Off-Street Parking Requirement (2016-4333-BZ)**

Attorney Stuart Beckerman and architect John Schementi presented plans for owners, Bedford Arms/Grant Development Associates to rezone the site at 1350 Bedford Ave (formerly a hotel and then the Swedish Hospital). The project is designed to:

- Renovate the existing six-story, 78-unit building (erected in 1915 and has 80 units according to NYC DoITT map),
- Upzone the site from R6A to R7D, map the site to the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) Program, and declare that these changes do not have any significant effect on the environment, and
- Erect a new nine-story, 94-unit building over the parking lot.

Please note that: CB approval is not required for renovation of the existing building; and DCP completed its technical review and issued a negative declaration on 1/13/2017. The architect chose not to build higher in order to permit the massing without a set-back.

The Applicant's EAS (p. 16) states, '48 of the proposed new units would be available for residents earning below 80 percent of AMI, and 46 of the proposed new units would be available for residents earning below 130 percent of AMI.<sup>1</sup> By the applicant's yardstick, the income for an eligible individual will be between \$25,368 and \$104,643.<sup>2</sup> Fourteen of the 1-bedroom apartments will require an income below the CD 8 median of \$44,850.<sup>3</sup> Sect. 8 subsidies will not be offered in the new building but are accepted in the existing building. Section 8 subsidies limit tenants' shelter costs to 30% of income including utilities.

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<sup>1</sup> ZR §23-154 (d)(3)(ii) "MIH Option 2".

<sup>2</sup> AMI eligibility level chart prepared by the project housing consultant, Forsyth Partners, is in accordance with the NYC M2 Affordable Housing Program guidelines and requirements.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.slate.com/articles/business/moneybox/2014/01/new\\_york\\_city\\_census\\_data\\_manhattan\\_and\\_brooklyn\\_are\\_much\\_poorer\\_than\\_you.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/business/moneybox/2014/01/new_york_city_census_data_manhattan_and_brooklyn_are_much_poorer_than_you.html)

For the new building, a Committee member noted the following details:

<u>Units:</u>	<u>AMI bands:</u>
40 -2 bedroom	10 units at 37%
50 -1 bedroom	14 units at 57%
<u>4 - 3 bedroom</u>	24 units at 80%
94 Total	<u>46 units at 130%</u>
	94 units

Mr. Beckerman promised to send a chart of the income bands and apartment sizes, as well as a copy of the financing application to the CB 8 office. Currently, 35 free parking spaces are available to the Section 8 tenants. Of the 35 spaces, reportedly only four have been used historically. The number of parking spaces will be reduced to 23.

Committee members noted that the ULURP application did not use the same number of apartments included in the presentation. Both Committee and Community members questioned:

- The inconsistency between the ‘permanently affordable’ assertion for the Section 8 apartments and the ‘20-year HUD financing,’  
*(the presenters explained that they could not firmly predict the outcome of refinancing 20 years in the future, [notwithstanding that the rental eligibility will be governed by the HUD-based MIH rules after the Section 8 subsidies expire]);*
- The inconsistency between the Stop Work Order (SWO) Violation Number: 0802RH issued 12/30/16 and the owners’ 8/9/2003 acquisition of the building,  
*(the presenters asserted that the SWO was issued prior to the current owners’ acquisition).*

Mr. Beckerman noted that a preference for the additional apartments will not be offered to CB 8 residents.

On motion made and seconded, the Committee voted 16 in favor of supporting the DCP and BSA applications with one against and one abstention. We hope the full Board will support its recommendation.

Mr. Veconi made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final vote of 24 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

## **2. Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) Application # 2016-4253-A to Add Two Stories to 565 St. John’s Place**

Mr. Michael Nacmias presented the owner’s plan for an enlargement of a four story residential building to six-stories under the common law doctrine of vested rights.<sup>4</sup> The building is in the Crown Heights West Rezoning area for which a zoning change was effected on 9/24/13. The Dept. of Buildings (DoB) has written to the CB 8 office detailing that an inspection was performed on the property on 10/9/13 to determine whether the work had been vested under the previous zoning. DoB found that the work was 25 – 30% complete and could not be considered vested, and a Stop Work Order (SWO) was issued. Based on two subsequent inspections on 10/15 and 10/17/13, DoB found that the applicant had continued to perform work on the building contrary to the SWO. The work created a safety hazard when excavation debris blocked the fire escape landing, a condition that warranted a ‘vacate order’ which was issued on 10/17/13. The vacate order was rescinded on 12/7/13 after the debris was removed.

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<sup>4</sup> “The doctrine [of vested rights] states that at some point between (1) the developer’s investment in land in accordance with the then-applicable zoning regulations; and (2) a change in zoning regulations that renders the developer’s intended use non-conforming, the developer may gain a vested right to complete the investment as planned, notwithstanding the new ordinance.” (See <http://cardozolawreview.com/Joomla1.5/content/32-1/STEINWASCHER.32-1.pdf>)

Based on the DoB determination that the project has not vested a right to completion, and on motion made and seconded, the Committee voted 17 in favor of withholding support for the BSA application, with none in support and one abstention. We hope the full Board will support its recommendation to withhold support.

Mr. Veconi made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final vote of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

**Ex Post-Facto Deliberations:** The Landmarks Preservation Commission has already heard the applications for the following two items. This vote is to have an official documentation and ratification of the committee's vote, which became the position of the Board.

**1. Application to LPC for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Façade Changes to 860 St. Johns Place (Crown Heights North Historic District)**

Owner Alejandro Rodriguez presented his plan to legalize renovations already performed on the primary façade, including:

- Replacing windows with new/modified window openings,
- Replacing or modifying doors, and
- Replacing stair railing and installing light fixtures.

The owner presented pictures of other doors and windows in the area as examples of styles he was considering in order to secure approval from LPC to correct the work which he said was done under the ill advice of his contractor. None of the examples offered appeared appropriate for a restoration project. The Committee advised the applicant to seek suggestions from LPC staff for appropriate examples; and on motion made and seconded, voted 17 in favor of withholding support with one abstention. We remind the full Board that a letter withholding support was sent to LPC on 12/9/16 and should be updated prior to the LPC hearing scheduled for 2/7/2017 as item 19-1978.

Mr. Staton made a motion to ratify the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Todd and carried with a final vote of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

**1. Application to LPC for Certificate of Appropriateness of Rear Enlargement of 220 Park Place (Prospect Heights Historic District)**

Alex Meshechok, Managing Director of CSG RE Partners, presented an application for enlargement of the existing rear yard extension which would maintain the building at four units but expand the size from 4,500 to 7,100 SF. The proposed enlargement would add eight feet to the rear of the building and be four stories tall. The plan also includes: general exterior restoration work, front yard excavation and entry widening to make the building ADA-compliant, window replacements, the addition of mechanical equipment in the cellar for an elevator, and a stair and elevator bulkhead on the roof. A full SWO was issued on 6/21/15 and currently exists on the building. The presenters denied that it was their work that caused the violation. Subsequent research shows the last deed in ACRIS is dated 5/31/2016.

After some discussion, the Committee and Community members made it clear that this application was the first of its size for that landmarked block. The large mass of the proposed extension presented an unwelcome precedent. On motion made and seconded, the Committee voted 13 against supporting the project, with four in favor and one abstention. We hope the full Board will support its recommendation to withhold support.

Mr. Veconi informed the Board that this application was approved without modification by LPC. He moved that the full Board write to LPC expressing extreme disappointment that LPC has approved a rear addition that is twice as tall as any other extension in the Prospect Heights Historic District. He stated that this approval sets a dangerous precedent. The motion was not seconded.

Mr. Staton made a motion to support the committee's recommendation of denying the application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atkins and carried with a final vote of 19 in favor, 3 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

Additionally, Ms. Tyus informed the Board that the Housing committee's meeting time has changed from 6:30 PM to 6 PM to allow the committee to discuss all applications and vacate their meeting space at or before 9 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 6 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

### **M-CROWN Sub-Committee Update**

At its January meeting, the MCROWN Subcommittee heard a presentation by Urban Planning Fellow Nina Psoncak. Ms. Psoncak is researching the types of light industry that are currently being used in similar areas and are co-existing with residential neighborhoods. The next meeting of the MCROWN Subcommittee is scheduled for Wed 3/22/17. There will be no meeting in February. The M-Crown Sub-Committee will now be meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. All are invited to attend.

### **Parks and Recreation Committee**

The Parks and Recreation Committee met on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at St. Johns Recreation Center but a report was not submitted for the month of February. The next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at the St. Johns Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

### **Public Safety Committee**

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, January 23, 2017 at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY but a report was not submitted for the month of January. The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on Monday, February 27, 2017 at the 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7 PM. All are invited to attend.

### **Seniors Committee**

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at David Chavis Residence located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chair, Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad, present were: Essie Spivey, Francis Langley, Julia Boyd, Xeerxeema Jordan, Nizjoni Granville, Annabelle Boyd, Adelaide Miller, Edison Stewart, Ivy Anderson, Regina Kinsey, Linda Ferrett, Yvonne Bailey, Josephine Webb, Leola Mills, Esther McLean, Doreen Turner, Mabel King, Dennis Brown, Linda Rago, Faye Jones, Dorothy Pittman, Johnson Tyler, Hazel Hurley, Brenda Green, Nefertiti MaCaulay, and Vashto Bertineck.

Mr. Tyler of Brooklyn Legal Services discussed various issues involving homeownership, utility bills, reverse mortgages, phone scams and tax abatements. He informed the committee that the Center for New York City Neighborhoods has an initiative to keep elderly homeowners in their homes, citing that there are tons of scams taking place to trick seniors out of their property. Mr. Tyler urged the homeowners to be wary of home improvement scams, which could lead to foreclosure. He advised everyone with inquiries to please contact them at their office which is located at 1360 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY.

Ms. Macaulay stated that she is the new Community Liaison at the Office of Assemblywoman Diana Richardson. She informed the committee that Assemblywoman Richardson holds a series of monthly forums called "Civic Minded" which aims to have different civic groups of the community come together to discuss issues that they share collectively. These forums take place at Middle School 61 located at 400 Empire Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY. For additional information, please call 718-771-3105.

The next Seniors Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at David Chavis Residence located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

**SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC)** – Mr. James Ellis, Chair; Mr. Robert Witherwax, Vice Chair

The SLAC committee met on Monday, February 6, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. Present were: Wayne Bailey, Gail Branch-Muhammad, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Jamie Hardt, Oliver Hardt, Danae Oratowski, Atim Oton, Robert Puca, Stacey Sheffey, Mark Thurton, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, Robert Witherwax, and Deborah Young.

The committee voted 16 in favor to support the following renewal applications:

- a. Nostrand Avenue Pub, 658 Nostrand Ave (Bergen Street and St Marks Avenue) – Full
- b. Basil, 268 Kingston Ave (corner of Lincoln Place) – Beer/Wine
- c. St. Catherine, 660 Washington Ave (corner of Bergen Street) – Full
- d. Eve’s Lounge, 769 Washington Ave (St. John’s/Sterling) – Full

Mr. Staton made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation of supporting the 4 renewal applications. The motion was seconded by Ms. Weatherspoon and carried with a final vote of 21 in favor, 0 opposed, with 4 abstentions.

In addition, Banhmigos, located at 636 Park Place (near Franklin Avenue), was scheduled to appear before the committee for renewal of a beer and wine license, but was not present for the meeting. It is the policy of the committee to recommend denial of a renewal for a licensee who fails to appear before it. Due to an unintended oversight on his part, the proprietor of Banhmigos was not aware of the date of the committee’s February meeting. He has apologized for his omission, and requests that the board consider supporting his application for renewal. The proprietor provided testimony that there had been no operational changes since the last renewal, and no community complaints had been received.

Mr. Frazier made a motion to support the renewal application, stating it in such a way as to not establish a precedent changing the committee's policy of denying support to applicants who do not appear before it. The motion was seconded by Ms. Weatherspoon and carried with a final vote of 23 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

**Transportation Committee** – Dr. Frederick Monderson, Chair, Mr. Robert Witherwax, Vice-Chair

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn NY at 7 PM. All are invited to attend. In addition to the Chair, Dr. Fred Monderson and Vice-Chair Mr. Rob Witherwax, present were: Xeerxeema Jordan, Holly Fuchs, Meredith Staton, Regina Kinsey, Julia Boyd, Elijah Gray, Tom Boast, Adam Sachs, Jacqueline Wells, Robert LaPointe, E. Haines, Constance Lesold, Alan Gerber, Deborah Young, Eric Payne, Denes Kane, Rachel Smith, Prash Akkapedd, Desmond Atkins, Bob Diamond, Sharon Rozsay, Luis Casado, Adam Giambrone, Zeph Parente, Levy Branch and Nigel Blu.

The committee discussed the mass receipt of concerns about congestion on St. Johns and Sterling Places due to bike lane installation. They also discussed the possibility of extending the Franklin Avenue Shuttle to the G with one stop on Gates Avenue, which would merge the shuttle line into the existing IND Crosstown Line and allow usage of the currently unused track.

Mr. Adam Giambrone, Project Manager of Brooklyn Queens Connector Light Rail Project did a presentation on the BQX straight line proposal from Astoria, Queens to Red Hook, Brooklyn. along a waterfront route. Mr. Giambrone outlined possible extensions where parallel wide streets can be utilized and discussed the potential

in using the light rail in Queens and Brooklyn that are projected to be adding several million more people in the next ten years or so.

At the October 25, 2016 Transportation meeting, members voted unanimously in support of a co-naming request for Frank and Doris Bell of Frank R. Bell Funeral Home Inc. Petitioners for the co-name seek to co-name the SW corner of Sterling Place and Classon Avenue "Frank and Doris Bell Way" in honor of the Bells for their long standing history with the community and the staple that Frank. R. Bell Funeral Home has become. At the time of the October vote, Mrs. Bell was ill and the petitioners were informed that as per the City's co-naming guidelines, co-name requests cannot be completed until all parties are deceased. Since that time, Mrs. Bell has passed away but the committee's support remains unchanged. Many supporters spoke of the great work the Bells did, including James Caldwell, the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council President, and over 300 signatures in support of the co-naming were received along with support letters from a number of elected officials. The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Weatherspoon made a motion to support the committees' recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried unanimously.

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn NY at 7 PM. All are invited to attend.

**Youth & Education Committee** – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chair, Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Vice-Chair

The Youth and Education Committee met on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chair, Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, and Vice-Chair, Mr. Kwasi Mensah present were: Yves Vilus, Xeerxeema Jordan, Nequan Melean, Briana Bonone, Yahya Raji, Audrey Taitt-Hall, and Mr. Albert.

The committee discussed the upcoming College Career Fair which is slated for October 2017. The location is still being determined. The committee also discussed some of their goals for this year.

The next Youth and Education Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7PM. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committees for their reports and opened the floor to public comments and announcements.

### **Public Comments/Announcements**

**Ms. Irma Burera** of Forest City Ratner announced that there is a new housing lottery for Pacific Park, located at 38 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the corner Dean Street in Brooklyn, New York. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, March 14, 2017. For additional information, please contact 718-246-8080 Ext: 2405.

**Ms. Bella Pori** from Assemblyman Mosley's Office announced that the Assemblyman's State of the District Address will take place on Thursday, February 23, 2017 at St. Joseph's College located at 245 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn, NY from 6PM-8PM. All are invited to attend. For additional information, please call 718-596-0100.

**Ms. Kathleen Daniel** from Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams Office announced that there will be a ULURP Hearing about the Zoning map and zoning text amendments regarding 1350 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. The hearing will be taking place on Thursday, March 2, 2017 in the Courtroom of Brooklyn Borough Hall, located at 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM.

Ms. Daniel also announced that there are FREE Tax Preparation services being offered at Borough Hall through Grow Brooklyn Inc. Vita Program. This organization also offers free tax prep services at other locations through-out Brooklyn. Please contact 347-682-5606 to make an appointment or to determine if you are eligible for their free services.

Lastly, Ms. Daniel announced that there will be a Black History Month Celebration taking place on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at Brooklyn Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. For additional information, please call 718-802-3700.

**Mr. Carl Luciano** from Councilwoman Mealy's Office invited everyone to attend their event on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 where they will be honoring local Heroes and Sheroes of the community. The event will be held at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM.

Mr. Luciano also encouraged everyone to take advantage of the FREE Immigration and Legal Services being offered in their office every Thursday from 10Am to 6PM. To schedule an appointment, please call 718-953-3097.

**Mr. Reginald Belon** from Congresswoman Clarke's Office announced that the Congresswoman will be having a Community Town Hall on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 to discuss Donald Trump's first 30 days in office, immigration, healthcare, and climate change. It will be held at Union Temple located at 17 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30 PM. For additional information, please contact 718-287-1142.

**Ms. Kristia Beaubrun** from Councilwoman Cumbo's Office announced that the Councilwoman is working on getting a Housing Preservation & Development Bill passed which will require HPD to increase the number of available languages for housing applications. For additional information, please contact 718-260-9191.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM.

#### GUESTS

Fanny Spencer	Nikki Carroll	Mattie D. James
Robert Callohan	Darnell DeCavsoy	Lula Staton
Matthew Nunnolley	G. Hall	Morris Denmark
Max Brown	Meredith Strickland	Adjua Starks
Jay Cai	Michael D. White	Saahn O'unum
Naila Rosario	Tiera Mack	Clara Perez
Liz Stevenson	Jennifer Brown	Hazel Hurley
Jordan Conan	Marta Tanenbaum	Ben Adams
Dorothy Bemby-Guet	Brad Nicoll	Nicole Mzusanne
Margaret Walton	Jerome Michaux	Carla Norris
Pierre Albert	Belinda Awarado	Steven Morales
Jack Riffle	Ellen Hay	Amanda Blair
Peter Erwin	Melina Bernardine	Alen Meshall
Carolyn Johnson	Max Cohen	Carol Gottshall
Sonia Johnson	Linda Stewart	Rachel Smith
Debbie Lace		