January 8, 2015

**Members Present**

Kim Albert  
Akosua Albritton  
Desmond Atkins  
Wayne Bailey  
LeeAnn Banks  
Adem Bunkeddeko  
Helen Coley  
Dian Duke  
James Ellis  
Diana Foster  
Fred Frazier  
Nizjoni Granville  
Curtis Harris  
Philip Hawkins  
Jamell Henderson  
Xeerxeema Jordan  
Shalawn Langhorne  
Robert Matthews  
Adelaide Miller  
Dr. Fred Monderson  
Atim Oton  
Mary Reed  
Patricia Scantlebury  
Stacey Sheffey  
Meredith Staton  
Audrey Tait-Hall  
Gregory Todd  
Ethel Tyus  
Gib Veconi  
Irsa Weatherspoon  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Rohon Williams  
Robert Witherwax  
Greg Yerman  
Deborah Young  
Vilma Zuniga

**Members Absent/Excused**

Glinda Andrews  
Princess Benn-James  
Julia Boyd  
Gail Branch-Muhammad  
Dr. Flize Bryan  
Phu Duong  
Tarves Lord  
Kwasi Mensah  
Robert Puca  
Sheryl Vassell  
Yves Vilus

**Elected Officials**

Judge Michael Gerstein, Criminal Court  
Ola Alabi, District Leader 57th A.D.

**Elected Official Representatives**

Akhurapa Ambak, Councilman Cornegy’s Office  
Lee Church, Congressman Jeffries Office  
Arna Lipkind, Councilwoman Mealy’s Office  
Karen Crawford, Kings County DA’s Office  
Kristia Beaubrun, Councilwoman Cumbo’s Office  
Jim Vogel, Senator Montgomery’s Office  
Charles Jackson, Congresswoman Clarke’s Office  
Octavia Brown, Assemblyman Camara’s Office

**CB8 Staff**

Michelle George, District Manager  
Melanie Grant, Community Assistant
The regular meeting of Community Board No. 8 was called to order by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson, at 7:15 PM.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** – Ms. Granville stated that the December minutes were mailed and/or emailed to the Board members and asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Monderson made a motion to accept the minutes with any necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and carried by the membership body.

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

Ms. Granville welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2015 and wished everyone a Happy New Year. She asked for a report from the following committees:

**AGING** – Ms. Kim Albert, Chair

The Aging Committee met on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at David Chavis Residence located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6 PM.

Ms. Judy Willig, Community Liaison from Heights & Hills made a presentation regarding the services they provide to Brooklyn’s older adults. She discussed two programs. The first was the Caregiver Program, which provides assistance to caregivers who are providing care for people 60 years old and over in various communities of Brooklyn. The organization offers educational training, support and confidential counseling in individual and group settings. They provide information, referrals and assistance regarding healthcare, legal issues, and benefit entitlements to family members, friends, and neighbors who provide unpaid assistance to care for the older adults.

The second program discussed was the Volunteering Program, which pairs volunteers with homebound older adults. They provide in-home and phone visits, escorts to various appointments, and assist with small household tasks. They also offer home care services, caregiver support, information on how to obtain Meals-On-Wheels, and transportation services. All their services and programs are free. For more information, please call (718)-596-8789

The next meeting of the Aging committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at David Chavis Residence located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6 PM. All are invited to attend.

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

The next Economic Development committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at the Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.

**EDUCATION** – Sharon Wedderburn, Chair, Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Co-Chair

The Education committee met on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at the Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue at 7PM. In addition to the Chair, Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, present were: Adem Bunkedekko, Alli Lesevoy, Betty Davis, Akosua Albritton, Michael G. Cox, and Claudette Agard.
Ms. Claudette Agard of NYC Coalition for Educational Justice gave a presentation explaining the function of community schools.

- A community school is a neighborhood hub that combines high quality academics and enrichment with on-site health and social services for students, their families and the community at large.
- Schools are open in the afternoon, on weekends and during the summer to offer arts, sports, college and career preparation, tutoring, and life skills. On site medical, dental and mental health and social services are available.
- Obstacles that prevent children from reaching their full potential must be addressed. If a child’s family does not have the information, resources, and stability to support them, they cannot learn. It has been shown in other large cities (Cincinnati is an example) that strong community schools have higher graduation and attendance rates; higher reading and math scores; improved school climate; greater parent engagement; and lower rates of neighborhood crime and violence. Mayor DeBlasio recently announced 42 community schools within the city. The community schools as announced are being utilized as a school improvement tool.

Ms. Wedderburn announced that Ms. Agard has been scheduled to make a presentation before the Board at the March 12, 2015 general meeting.

The next Education Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at the Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7PM. All are invited to attend.

ENVIRONMENT/SANITATION – Ms. Helen Coley, Chair

The Environment/Sanitation committee met on Tuesday December 16, 2014 at the Community Board Office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. In addition to the Chair, Ms. Helen Coley present were Julia Neale and Brad Nicholls.

The committee discussed some of the litter and garbage disposal issues along Washington Avenue. The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing an anti-littering campaign to help bring attention to the negative effects of littering and also to encourage residents to do their part in keeping the streets cleaner. Members brainstormed topics that could be discussed and city agencies to be invited to address the issues that were raised.

The next Environment/Sanitation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at the Office of Community Board 8 located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chair, Dr. Flize Bryan, Vice-Chair

The Health & Human Services committee met on Monday, January 5, 2015 at the Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. In addition to the Chair Mr. Kwasi Mensah, present were Dr. Flize Bryan Vice-Chair, Patricia Scantlebury, June B. Rodriguez, Lorraine Maynard, and Celeste Farmer.
Ms. Celeste Farmer along with Ms. June Rodrigues, President of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) made a presentation on Mental Health Awareness. They discussed a multitude of mental health disorders including bipolar disorder, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, schizophrenia, panic disorder, etc. They also spoke with a few of the meeting attendees who were either affected directly by mental health illness or caring for someone who was suffering from a Mental Health Illness in an effort to raise awareness.

NAMI advocates for access to services and treatment for those with mental illnesses and sponsors a number of programs and support groups, including ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training), as well as its NAMI Basics program, a six-session course lasting approximately 2 ½ hours each session. The program is taught by trained teachers who are either the parent or other caregiver of an individual who developed symptoms of mental illness prior to age 13. The program is free.

NAMI can be reached via email at namieastflatbush@aol.com or by phone at (718) 512-5269. For more information you can visit their website at www.naminys.org

The next Health and Human Services committee meeting will be held on Monday, February 2, 2015 at the Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

**HOUSING/ULURP** – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chair and Ms. Ethel Tyus, Vice-Chair

The Housing/ ULURP Committee met on Thursday, January 6, 2015 at the Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. In addition to the Chair, Ms. Nizjoni Granville, present were: Ethel Tyus Vice-Chair, Akosua Albirton, Lee Ann Banks, Fred Frazier, Duane McCalla, Phu Duong, Curtis Harris, Adelaide Miller, Robert Puca, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Irsa Weatherspoon, Deborah Young, Tamika Johnson, and M. Galloway.

The committee discussed the following:

1. **Brooklyn Community and Housing Services (BCHS)**
   
   Ms. Tamika Jackson, Assistant Director of the Brooklyn Community and Housing Services (BCHS) Navy Green facility at 105 Carlton Avenue. She presented detailed information on the supportive housing services offered by her agency to approximately 1000 clients. Clients come from homeless shelters in NYC and are required to have been a New York City resident for one year or more before becoming eligible for a Section 8 voucher that will cover 70% of the client’s rent. BCHS has seven locations with two nurses at each location once each week. Case Managers are also on staff and circulate among the various locations.

   BCHS is funded by the NYC Department of Homeless Services, Office of Mental Hygiene, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Of the various locations, Carlton Avenue has 74 tenants; Ivy House has 18 with medication monitoring and a 24 hour staff including a case manager; Navy Green has 97 tenants in studio apartments some of whom have aged out of foster care; and Oak Hall offers accommodations with shared bathrooms and kitchens.

   BCHS provides preventive services at 25 Chapel Street for tenants facing eviction. Services include referrals for both legal assistance and court representation. BCHS services are accessed by having the shelter staff prepare applications that require psychiatric and medical assessments, a process that can
take two to three months for a complete evaluation. There are approximately 52,000 people in the shelter system.

2. **Motion to Increase Amount Required to Remove Tenant Rent Protections**
   The Committee voted to send a letter requesting that the District’s elected Representatives support legislation to increase the amount at which apartments are removed from rent regulation programs. Ms. Banks asked that representatives from tenant associations be invited to discuss issues that need CB 8’s attention and support. A letter was subsequently drafted recommending an increase to $3200 for rent deregulation.

3. **Update from the M1-1 ZONE SUB-COMMITTEE:**

   **Motion to Secure a Written Opinion from Conflicts of Interest Board regarding M1-1 Zone Committee/Owners Conflict of Interest**
   The Committee agreed to secure a written opinion from the COIB on the propriety of allowing M1-1 Zone Committee Members who are non-resident owners of properties in the M1-1 zone to vote on the pending resolution requesting a rezoning study be performed by Department of City Planning.

   Mr. Veconi made a powerpoint presentation on the M1-1 rezoning plan to illustrate how much of the Crown Heights portion of the M1-1 zone is vacant and/or underutilized when in fact it could be used for higher purposes like residential and commercial development, and even create more in Brooklyn Community District 8. The full plan will be presented at the next Community Board meeting. The next M1-1 Zone Sub-Committee meeting will be held on Monday January 26, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation.

   The next Housing/ULURP Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 5, 2015 at the Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.

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

   The Parks Committee met on Tuesday January 6, 2015 at St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM but had no action items. The next Parks & Recreation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at St. John’s Recreation located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

   **PUBLIC SAFETY** – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chair, Mr. Desmond Atkins, Co-Chair

   The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, December 15, 2014 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM but had no action items. The next Public Safety Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, January 20, 2015 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6PM. All are invited to attend.

   **SLA & SIDEWALK CAFÉ REVIEW COMMITTEE (SLAC)** – Mr. James Ellis, Chair, Mr. Robert Witherwax, Vice-Chair

   The SLAC Committee met on Monday, January 5, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. In addition to the Chairperson Mr. James Ellis, present were Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Witherwax, Wayne Bailey, Gail Branch-Muhammad, Barbara
The Committee discussed the following liquor license applications:

1. New License: Brooklyn Winery, 747 Franklin Avenue (btw Sterling & St. John’s Place)—Full

Details include the following:

- Hours of operation from 11AM to 4AM
- Seating for 63
- No outdoor space

The committee voted to support the application with amended closing hours of 1AM Sunday through Thursday and 2 AM Friday and Saturday, by a vote of 15 in favor, one recused, and hopes the Full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 27 in favor, 2 opposed with 5 abstentions.

2. New License: Cooklyn, 659 Vanderbilt Avenue (btw Park & Prospect)—Full

Details include the following:

- inclusion of the backyard space in the license
- The establishment currently operates with a Beer & Wine License and does not utilize the backyard space.
- The proprietor was responsive to community concerns about noise, light, and smoke in the back yard, and agreed to the following stipulations:
  - The rear yard would open no earlier than 5 PM on weeknights and 10 AM on weekends, and close by 10 PM Sunday through Thursday and midnight on Fridays and Saturdays
  - No smoking will be permitted in the rear yard
  - Contact phone number for a manager or proprietor would be available to residents

The committee voted to support the application as amended by the stipulations, 16 in favor, and hopes the Full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Veconi and carried with a final tally of 26 in favor, 2 opposed, with 6 abstentions.

3. New License: Hungry Ghost, 253 Flatbush (btw Bergen & St. Marks)—Beer & Wine

Details include the following:

- SLAC and CB8 approved this same application in January 2013, but due to circumstances beyond applicant’s control, the proprietor failed to obtain license in timely fashion, and needs CB8 to re-affirm its support.
The committee voted to support the application as presented, 16 in favor, and hopes the Full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 30 in favor, 0 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

4. New License: Mrs. Dorsey’s Kitchen, 794 Washington Avenue (btw Sterling & St. John’s)—Beer & Wine

Details include the following:

- Seating for 21
- Hours of operation from 11AM to 1AM Sunday to Thursday and 2AM Friday and Saturday
- No outdoor space
- SLAC and CB8 approved this same application previously, but due to circumstances beyond applicant’s control, the proprietor failed to obtain license in timely fashion, and needs CB8 to re-affirm its support.

The committee voted to support the application as presented, 16 in favor, and hopes the Full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 33 in favor, none opposed and 1 abstention.

5. Renewal Application: Sunshine Co, 780 Washington (corner of Sterling Place)-- Full

Details include the following:

- Applicant made a favorable presentation and in addition sought an extension of hours, from 12 AM Sunday to Thursday and 2 AM Friday and Saturday, to 2 AM Sunday to Thursday and 4 AM Friday and Saturday. They provided numerous letters of support for this extension from local residents. The Sterling Place Block Association was informed, and made no statement in either opposition or support.

The committee voted to support the application as presented, 15 in favor, and hopes the Full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Atkins asked how much outreach was done to block associations by the proprietors. The proprietors responded that they reached out to the block association 6 months prior in an effort to discuss their upcoming plans for the business. Only a few members of the block showed up but they were in support of the business even though they felt they could not advocate for the entirety of the blocks residents.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 24 in favor, 4 opposed and 7 abstentions.

6. The committee voted to support the following renewals:

- Imperial Bikers MC Club, 652 Franklin Avenue (corner of St. Marks) –Full (no complaints)
• Way Station, 683-685 Washington Avenue (between Prospect and St. Marks) – Full (no complaints)

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Monderson and carried with a final tally of 34 in favor, 1 opposed with 1 abstention.

7. The committee voted to support the following sidewalk café renewals:

• Burrito Bar, 307 Flatbush Avenue (corner of Prospect Place). 20 tables, 42 chairs
• The Vanderbilt, 570 Vanderbilt Avenue (corner Bergen Street). 15 tables, 30 chairs
• Bearded Lady, 686A Washington Avenue (corner St. Marks). 10 tables, 22 chairs

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and carried with a final tally of 30 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions with 1 recused.

8. Renewal Application: Friends & Lovers, 641 Classon Avenue (between Dean and Pacific Streets)—Full

The Committee voted to send a letter denying any renewal application because the proprietor failed to appear before the SLAC committee. Mr. Witherwax stated that the SLAC records indicate that the establishment is not up for renewal until November. However, it is the policy of the committee to deny all applications where the board is notified of a renewal and the applicant fails to appear.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and carried with a final tally of 35 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

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

The Transportation Committees of Community Boards 2 and 8 held a joint meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.

The committee discussed the Washington/Atlantic Avenue Safety Plan:

Representatives from the Department of Transportation made a presentation about the proposed plan to make the intersection safer for drivers and pedestrians. The committee supported the plan as presented with the request that DOT explore and report back to the committee by March 24, 2015 on the feasibility of each of the following:

--Enhanced safety measures, (specifically bollards) on the Atlantic Avenue median on the east side of the intersection

--Daylighting throughout the project area

--A dedicated “green” turn signal for traffic turning left onto west bound Atlantic Avenue from northbound Washington Avenue

--Closing off the block of Underhill Avenue between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street to all traffic from Atlantic or Washington Avenues.
The Transportation Committee voted to support the Washington/Atlantic Avenue Safety Plan with a vote of 6 in favor and none opposed and hopes the full board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Atkins asked if DOT used any form of demonstration software to show the effect that these changes will have on the flow of traffic. Mr. Witherwax stated that DOT had done so and also conducted a time study in order to obtain the most accurate data.

Mr. Staton asked if a speed hump will be installed on the street closest to the park and Mr. Witherwax responded that DOT had already made the decision to install one at that location.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 34 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 7PM. All are invited to attend.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES – Ms. Akosua Albritton, Chair

The Youth and Family Services committee met on Monday, December 8, 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 Robert Matthews, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Angeli Rasbury, Esther Lok, and Alli Lesovoy.

The committee discussed the following:

- The committee focused on the Administration for Children’s Services and the Dept. of Youth & Community Development in terms of their policies and programs offered to New York residents concerning early childhood education, child abuse/neglect, SYEP, adoption, foster care, runaway youth, youth in secure/unsecure detention, family literacy, and youth workforce development.
- Two essential tasks the committee must complete annually are drafting the text for the Youth & Family Services section of the District Needs Statement and preparation of the capital and expense budget items that are submitted to elected officials and the Office of Management and Budget.
- The Brooklyn Borough President’s push to get more teens active on Community Boards.
- DREAMS Youthbuild expressed strong interest in participating in the committee. Assistant Director Maurice Goode submitted a highlight of 2015 activities to be shared with the committee.

Structuring the K2 initiative: Chairwoman Albritton mentioned that a ten minute presentation by a substance recovery professional should be conducted during a general community board meeting. She further stated that there needs to be a community conversation event lasting at least 2 hours, held at a local meeting space in an effort to form an Anti-K2 community coalition.

The next Youth & Family Services meeting will be held on Monday, January 12, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.
Mr. Witherwax presented the five proposed amendments to the Board members. The amendments were as follows:

1. **STANDARDS FOR REMOVAL:** Insert or redraft language in Art 5.5.d.i to read: “absence from any four (4) of the prior six (6) full or special Board meetings.”

A member asked if excused absence apply to the motion. Mr. Witherwax responded that the Boards’ rules are in conjunction with that of the Borough President’s Office and so an excused absence will still be counted as an absence. He further stated that if the excused absence was within good reason, the Board could then make a decision based off of the new evidence whether to continue to allow that member to serve on the Board.

Mr. Matthews made a motion to accept the recommended change to the By-Laws. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 35 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

2. **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:** Insert or redraft language in the appropriate sections throughout to enable the following rules for managing a Committee’s membership roster:

Appointed Members may join a committee by:
- Order of Chairperson or Committee Chair,
- choice upon joining Board, or
- 3 meetings consecutive attendance;

Non-Appointed Members may join a committee by:
- Order of Chairperson, or
- 3 meetings consecutive attendance with Committee Chair’s appointment.

Appointed Members may be removed from a committee by:
- Order of Chairperson, or
- 3 meetings cumulative non-attendance out of the prior 6 meetings with majority vote of Committee.

Non-Appointed Members may be removed from a committee by:
- Order of Chairperson,
- 3 meetings cumulative non-attendance out of the prior 6 meetings with majority vote of Committee, or
- Order of Committee Chair in consultation with Chairperson.

Changes to the Committee roster by order or by choice are effective immediately, or as indicated by the ordering officer. Changes to the Committee roster based on attendance are effective as of the adjournment of the qualifying committee meeting (i.e., the third consecutive meeting, or the meeting where a member was voted out).

Mr. Harris stated that he is concerned with people who join committees who might have conflicts of interest. He stated that certain people can potentially influence the Board via the committee decision on something they have a vested interest in. He was informed that as a result of the Open Meetings Law anyone can attend meetings because they are open to the general public and our By-Laws indicate
that the public can earn their way on to a committee and be as vocal as they desire, but when it is time to vote, they must recuse themselves from a vote if they have a conflict of interest.

Ms. Tyus stated that she is having that issue with the M1 committee since many of the members have a vested interest in the M1 zone. She was informed that anyone that is sitting on a committee with the right to vote should abide by the rules of the committee as a Board member would. She asked Ms. George to check with the Conflicts of Interest Board to verify this information. Ms. George agreed and stated that she would get back to her with the findings.

Mr. Ellis made a motion to accept the recommended change to the ByLaws. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried with a final tally of 35 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

3. DUTIES OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Insert or redraft language in the appropriate sections to enable the following rules for Committee Officers:
   - Minutes and attendance must be submitted in order to report at monthly meeting,
   - Chairs must make annual reports of Statement of District Needs and Committee goals,
   - Office of Committee Secretary shall be encouraged,
   - Co-Chair shall be renamed Vice Chair

Mr. Ellis made a motion to accept the recommended change to the By Laws. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 33 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

4. STANDING COMMITTEES: Insert or redraft language in the appropriate sections to make the list of standing committees as follows:
   - Insert or redraft language in the appropriate sections permitting the temporary merger of two or more Standing Committees by resolution of the Board.
   - Insert or redraft language in the appropriate sections permitting the creation, renewal, modification, termination, and management of Ad Hoc committees.

Mr. Atkins made a motion to accept the recommended change to the By-Laws. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried with a final tally of 35 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

5. MISCELLANEOUS:
   - QUORUM: Insert or redraft language in the appropriate sections to enable the calculation of committee quorums as follows: “one-quarter of that committee’s total membership (as same was determined at the time of adjournment of the previous committee meeting), but in any event no fewer than three members, must be present and entitled to vote in order to constitute a quorum.”
   - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Insert or redraft language in the appropriate sections to more clearly describe the duties and powers of the Executive Committee.
   - ORDER OF BUSINESS: Insert or redraft language in the appropriate sections to more clearly describe the order of business for general meetings.
• OFFICERS: Insert or redraft language in the appropriate sections to mandate two year minimum board service before a member can be nominated by the Nominating Committee for an officer position.

• REPRESENTATION: Insert or redraft language in Art 5.6 to clarify that members, when speaking in public, to the press, or to a governmental authority, should not hold themselves out as representatives of the Board without permission of the District Manager or Chairperson, and that members, when so speaking with or without this permission, should take care not to misrepresent a previously adopted position of the Board. Doing either is conduct detrimental to the Board, and grounds for removal.

• FORMATTING: Insert or redraft language, grammar, punctuation, bulleted, and formatting etc. throughout to enhance clarity and precision of By-Laws.

Mr. Harris questioned why the required number of attendees is at least three members in order to constitute a quorum during a committee meeting when the requirement for a board meeting requires at least half of the total number of members to be present in order to constitute a quorum. Mr. Witherwax explained that this is a more practical number especially considering the fact that there are a few small committees that only have about five members.

Ms. Tyus mentioned that the quorum should be determined on the basis of the roll for that meeting and not for the previous meeting because the whole purpose is that people could be marked off for prior absences. Mr. Witherwax made reference to a portion of the second By-Laws motion where it states “Changes to the Committee roster by order or by choice are effective immediately, or as indicated by the ordering officer. Changes to the Committee roster based on attendance are effective as of the adjournment of the qualifying committee meeting”. Mr. Witherwax made it clear that the removal of a board member is not immediate. There is a process that the member has to go through first before the removal is made final. An adjustment will be made to the wording of this section in the By-Laws.

Ms. Albert asked who would make up the nominating committee. She was informed that the nominating committee is determined by the Community Board Chairperson and is made up of no fewer than 3 members and no more than 5. They will meet in March and come up with a slate of at least one individual for the elected offices of Chair, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Vice Chair, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary and Treasurer. They will choose from a group of members who have served on the board for at least two years.

Mr. Veconi made a motion to accept the recommended change to the By-Laws. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 35 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

**M1-1 Zone Update – Gib Veconi**

Mr. Veconi spoke briefly about the upcoming plans for the M1-1 Manufacturing Zone located in Community District 8. Some of these plans include the creation of living wage jobs and the implementation of new affordable housing developments in the M1-1 zone because it is currently being underutilized and there is potential for more and better usage. Mr. Veconi stated that he plans on making a more in depth presentation at the next Board meeting.
Ms. Granville commended Mr. Veconi and the rest of the M1 subcommittee for their hard work. She thanked the committees for their reports and acknowledged the following elected officials, elected official representatives and called for public comments.

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

Mr. Vogel stated that Senator Montgomery will be hosting a meeting of the Industrial Development & Empowerment Group on Friday, January 9, 2015 at the YWCA located at 30 Third Avenue, Brooklyn, NY from 11AM to 1PM. The senator will also be hosting a meeting on the Affordable Housing Crisis on Thursday, January 15, 2015 at the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church located at 85 South Oxford Street, Brooklyn NY from 6-8:30PM.

Ms. Tyus asked about the Senator’s proposal on the deregulation of rent stabilized apartments. Mr. Vogel replied that no one expects this to be eliminated. However, he will discuss the matter with the Senator and get back to the Board. Ms. Tyus also asked if there is a rental amount that the Senator is considering proposing. Mr. Vogel stated that the Senator will gather all the information received from the discussion at the Affordable Housing forum on January 15, 2015 before the releasing a proposal. Once the proposal is complete, he will email the information to the Board office the information.

Mr. Harris asked if the Senator has a position on the privatization of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). Mr. Vogel stated that NYCHA is a major element of affordable housing; however, it is currently being funded by the federal government and the State has not been providing funding. The Senator’s mission is to secure affordable housing.

Mr. Harris also stated that there are reports that NYCHA is selling 6 housing developments around the city. Mr. Vogel stated that while there have been rumors, nothing has been signed yet so there is no official answer for the report.

Ms. Banks asked if there was any statistical data gathered in preparation for Thursday’s Affordable Housing Crisis conference. Mr. Vogel stated that lots of information has been gathered and recorded and will be distributed the day of the conference. If there are any further questions, please call him at the Senator’s district office at 718-643-6140.

**Congresswoman Yvette Clarke’s Office - Mr. Charles Jackson**

Mr. Jackson brought greetings from Congresswoman Clarke and stated that the district office is open for constituent complaints and issues Monday-Friday from 10AM-4PM. The office is located at 123 Linden Boulevard, 4th Floor, Suite 200, Brooklyn, N.Y., and the telephone number is 718-287-1142.

**Brooklyn Criminal Court - Judge Michael Gerstein**

Judge Gerstein stated that it is always a delight to visit the residents of Community Board 8. He expressed how proud he is to have served as a Judge in the Brooklyn Criminal Court for the past 10 years. Judge Gerstein mentioned the news reports that arrests are down within New York City due to a slow down by the Police Department. He could not deny or confirm that a slow-down is in effect but could confirm that the number of cases that are being tried in the court system has decreased in the last few weeks. He has noticed that the types of cases have also changed. In the past he would hear
significantly more low-level misdemeanor cases such as marijuana possession, urinating in public, open containers, etc. however, now the common cases are for shoplifting, domestic abuse, assault and petty theft.

Ms. Tyus stated that in her job as legal counsel at the Comptroller’s office, she decides on lawsuits filed against the city. She stated that she believes the slow-down of arrests is saving tax payers a lot of money in wrongful arrest cases.

Judge Gerstein mentioned how important and successful the Red Hook and Brownsville Community Justice Centers have been to those neighborhoods. The Justice Center is the nation's first multi-jurisdictional community court. They handle low-level criminal cases (including some felonies), as well as selected Family Court and Civil Court matters. In hearing these cases, the Justice Center recognizes that neighborhood problems do not conform to the arbitrary jurisdictional boundaries of the modern court system. By having a single judge handle matters that ordinarily are heard by different decision makers at different locations, the Justice Center offers a swifter and more coordinated judicial response. He expressed his hopes that this program will be expanded to other neighborhoods.

Ms. Foster expressed her concern with the entire judicial process as it relates to drug offenders. She stated that addicts need a viable alternative to a 28 day drug treatment program or jail. She suggested real reform such as training, housing, and employment options be considered. Judge Gerstein agreed and stated that the local politicians are the people who can enact that change. Unfortunately, right now his only options are drug treatment or jail.

Mr. Atkins asked Judge Gerstein to please speak with his colleagues in government and ask them to respect our neighborhoods and the people who live in them. For far too long the residents have felt mistreated and disrespected.

After a brief question and answer period, Ms. Granville thanked Judge Gerstein for his efforts.

**Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo’s Office** - Ms. Kristia Beaubrun

Ms. Beaubrun announced that Councilwoman Cumbo is still collecting coats for the annual coat drive. Donations of coats and clothing can be dropped off at the district office located at 1 Hanson Place, Suite 201, Brooklyn, N.Y. For more information, please call Dominique at 718-260-9191. She mentioned that the councilwoman will be holding her State of the District address in March. As the event is still in the planning stages more information will be given at a later date. Councilwoman Cumbo will be hosting two budget forums. The first forum will be held on Friday January 30, 2015 at Pratt Institute in Higgens Hall located at 61 St. James Place, Brooklyn, NY from 6-8PM. The second forum will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at Medgar Evers College which is located at 1650 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY from 6-8PM. To RSVP contact the district office at 718-260-9191.

Ms. Beaubrun also mentioned that applications are available for City Council discretionary funds. The deadline to submit an application is February 2015. For more information, visit the council website at [www.council.nyc.gov](http://www.council.nyc.gov).
Councilwoman Darlene Mealy’s Office – Ms. Arna Lipkind

Ms. Lipkind announced that Councilwoman Mealy’s monthly advisory board meeting will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at the District Office located at 1757 Union Street, Brooklyn, NY at 10AM. She stated that the councilwoman will be holding a free grant-writing and training workshop for Not-for-Profits throughout the month of February. For more information, call 212-620-4230 or visit [www.foundationcenter.org](http://www.foundationcenter.org). Ms. Lipkind also mentioned that applications are being accepted for Kindergarten admission between January 7 and February 13, 2015. You can apply online at [www.schools.nyc.gov](http://www.schools.nyc.gov). or call the district office for more information at 718-953-3097.

Ms. Granville thanked the elected officials and their representatives for their information. She then opened the floor to public comments.

Ms. Dweyne Paul, Community Service Director from the Metropolitan Black Bar Association stated that there will be an informational Forum on Immigration on Saturday, January 24, 2015 from 2-4PM at Beulah Church of the Nazarene, 1250 St. John’s Place, Brooklyn, NY. For more information call the church at 718-756-2310 or Ms. Paul at 347-640-4057.

Ms. Isela Isaac, Principal Court Attorney for Shawndya Simpson, Supreme Court Judge in Brooklyn Criminal Court, announced a luncheon celebration for Black History Month. The opening ceremony will be held on Monday, February 2, 2015 with the Honorable Kenneth P. Thompson as the keynote speaker held at 320 Jay Street, Room 295 at 1:15PM. The closing ceremony will include a fashion show which will take place on February 27, 2015 at 360 Adams Street in the Lobby at 1:15PM. For more information email [Iselaissac@gmail.com](mailto:Iselaissac@gmail.com)

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. George, District Manager for her hard work in ensuring that Community Board 8 stays innovative and up-to-date. She urged everyone to visit our redesigned website. Ms. Granville informed everyone that the next meeting of Community Board 8 will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue) at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend. She adjourned the meeting at 10 PM.

GUESTS

William Boone  
Rachel Smith  
Lorraine Staton  
Patricia Britton  
Rory Dwyer  
Brian Leventhal  
John Stires  
Ron Johnson  
Adam Sachs  
Sonia Edwards  
Wadell English  
Eric Adams  

Frank Esquilin  
Alaire Chappell  
Audrey Heidel  
Bonnie Nuzum  
Murat Uyarosly  
Mark Thurton  
Vaughn Mayers  
Cynthia Roldan  
Adam C.  
Dweyne Paul  
Michael Cox  
Lula Staton