June 11, 2015

Members Present
Kim Albert
Glinda Andrews
Desmond Atkins
Wayne Bailey
Princess Benn-James
Julia Boyd
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Adem Bunkeddeko
Helen Coley
Michael Cox
James Ellis
Diana Foster
Fred Frazier
Nizjoni Granville
Liz Grefrath
Curtis Harris
Phil Hawkins
Xeerxeema Jordan
Shalawn Langorne
Tarves Lord
Robert Matthews
Kwasi Mensah
Adelaide Miller
Dr. Fred Monderson
Atim Oton
Robert Puca
Adam Sachs
Patricia Scantlebury
Meredith Staton
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Gregory Todd
Ethel Tyus
Sheryl Vassell
Gib Veconi
Yves Vilus
Irsia Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Greg Yerman
Deborah Young
Vilma Zuniga

Members Absent/Excused
LeeAnn Banks
Phu Duong
Yahay O. Raji
Opel Richards
Stacey Sheffey

Elected Officials Present
Senator Jesse Hamilton, 20th Senatorial District

Elected Official Representatives
Elisa Helligan, Senator Hamilton’s Office
Charles Jackson, Congresswoman Clarke’s Office
Arna Lipkind, Councilmember Mealy’s Office
Kristia Beaubrun, Councilmember Cumbo’s Office
Matthew Pitt, Councilmember Cumbo’s Office
Brian McLaurin, Public Advocate James’ Office
Nan Blackshear, Borough President Adams Office

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

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

**Acceptance of Minutes** – Mr. Witherwax explained to the Board that an issue with the May minutes was raised by a Board member over the wording of the result of one of the action item votes during last month’s meeting. The member expressed his dissatisfaction with the way the minutes reflected the discussion prior to the vote and the verbiage of the support letter that was submitted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Mr. Witherwax explained that the Executive committee decided the minutes should not be altered to add additional accounts of what transpired at the meeting as particular phrasing alluded to additional discussion held, and that to include the entire discussion would be a transcription of the meeting, not a summary.

As far as the issue with the action item, the member brought to the Board’s attention that the Board did not support the motion on the committee’s recommendation, which is different from denying an application. It is a subtle difference between the two. However, as a result of the issue being brought to the Board’s attention, we will, moving forward, be more careful with the wording of vote results so that subtle differences like this will be addressed. Moving forward, the new wording will be, “the motion to support the item failed.” After discussion, the Executive committee decided that a new support letter was not warranted because action on the item had already been taken by the agency and because the board acts in an advisory capacity.

Mr. Staton made a motion to support the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried unanimously.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Witherwax for the accurate description of the issue and the explanation of the results. She asked for an update from Concern for Independent Living.

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

Mr. Mutton welcomed everyone to Concern’s Rochester location. He provided an update on 1552 Bergen Street, a mixed use housing program with 60 units of single housing and 30 affordable units of 1-3 bedrooms. He stated that Concern was hoping to have the units go online by the end of the year, but the project has been delayed due to soil contamination. The City changed contamination laws before construction began and consequently, the soil had to be removed. He apologized to the neighbors that live on the block for the noise and inconvenience. Mr. Mutton stated that they are hoping to catch up on construction and complete the building no later than spring 2016. Concern will be using HPD Housing Connect, a new application process that allows applicants to apply online for affordable units.

Mr. Reid asked if there are any local community jobs available. Mr. Mutton informed him that as the project gets closer to completion, Concern will be looking to hire locally and will reach out to the Community Board for assistance. For current job listings, visit [www.concernhousing.org](http://www.concernhousing.org).

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Mutton for the information and asked for an update from Councilwoman Cumbo’s office.
Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo’s Office – Ms. Kristia Beaubrun, Communications Director

Ms. Beaubrun announced that Councilwoman Cumbo has launched a blog to keep the community up to date on what is going on in the area. She distributed the blog presentation for people to review and become informed on how it works. She announced that the Councilwoman is hosting a shred fest event with Comptroller Stringer on June 20, 2015 at Ryerson Towers located at 309 Lafayette Avenue. All are invited to come out and shred unwanted paper items.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Beaubrun for the information and asked for a report from the following committees:

Economic Development – Ms. Atim Oton, Chair

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. In addition to the Chair Ms. Atim Oton, present were Sheryl Vassell, Phil Hawkins, Duane Frankson, Barbara Campbell, Zulika Bumpus, Melina Bernardine, and Adem Bunkeddeko.

The committee discussed how the community can go about increasing funding to small businesses. They also spoke about creating access to small business education, vocational/job training and initiatives for youth, creation of virtual multi-service and data centers to track veterans and important aspects of the community. Lastly, members spoke about the development of a tourism center which will be located in the central Brooklyn area.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

Education – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chair; Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Vice Chair

The Education Committee met on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation for a Public Hearing. In addition to the Chair, Sharon Wedderburn, present were Wayne Bailey, Peter Krashes, Danae Oratowski, Matthew Pitt, Raul Rothblatt, Jim Vogel, Nicole Jordan, Barbara Freeman, Heather Romero, Cynthia McKnight, Dawn Eshelman, Ben Green, and several community residents.

The Department of Education and the School Construction Authority announced the plans for the proposed new 616-Seat Primary/Intermediate School Facility in the B-15 Mixed-Use Building which will be located on the east side of 6th Avenue between Pacific and Dean Streets. The school is a part of the larger plan for the Atlantic Yards development project which is also known as Pacific Park. The Department of Education will acquire up to 100,000 square feet of the new B-15 mixed-use building to accommodate the proposed school facility.

Mr. Staton asked what the difference was between a regular middle school and the proposed school. Ms. Wedderburn responded that the difference between them is in the design. Schools are usually proposed by the Department of Education who decides how the school will be utilized, and are built by the School Construction Authority. The Community Education Council determines the zoning of the school. However, this school is being constructed by Forest City Ratner and construction is being overseen by the School Construction Authority. The new proposed school will cater to grades Kindergarten through 8, which is different from a regular intermediate school that only caters to grades 6 through 8. The new
school might also offer universal pre-kindergarten which extends the hours of pre-k to normal school hours.

Mr. Stern, a community resident, asked if there will be greenspace and a playground included in the plan. Mr. Veconi stated that outdoor recreational space is a part of the development plan and is set to be built within the building space.

Mr. Puca voiced concerns on the behalf of Dean Street Block Association about the proposed school location. It is in close proximity to the fire house, the 78th Precinct, and a construction site that will be ongoing for the next 20 years or so. The block association is concerned about the safety of their fellow community residents and students going to or returning home from school. Ms. Wedderburn stated that the site for the school was chosen by the developer. We are merely advocating for a standalone middle school.

Lastly, Ms. Wedderburn mentioned that the Education Committee will be composing a letter to the School Construction Authority on the behalf of Community Board 8, School District 13, and members of the community to ask that the site be considered for a standalone middle school rather than a primary/intermediate school.

Mr. Veconi made a motion to support the construction of a standalone middle school rather than a K-8 school given the dearth of middle school seats in Prospect Heights and Community District 13 students. It was seconded by Mr. Ellis and carried with a final vote of 33 in favor, 4 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

The next Education Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 2, 2015 at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue at 7 PM. All are invited to attend.

**Environment/Sanitation** – Ms. Helen Coley, Chair

The Environment/Sanitation Committee hosted an Environment and Sanitation Awareness Forum on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at Hope City Empowerment Center.

The committee invited speakers from the Department of Environmental Protection, National Grid, the Department of Sanitation, and Con Edison. They made presentations on rebate offers, bioswales, energy efficiency, ticketing practices, weather proofing, and many other services that are offered to the community.

Mr. Todd also made a presentation about solid waste management and the harmful effects it can have on the environment.

The next Environment/Sanitation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at the Community Board 8 District office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

**Health and Human Services** – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chair; Dr. Flize Bryan, Vice Chair

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Monday, June 1, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation.
Mr. Antonio Valdez from 820 Rivers Street Inc. located at 1140 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, NY discussed some of the services the program provides to people suffering with substance abuse, mental health illness and other psychiatric disorders, and much more. For further information you can call (718) 230-7780.

There was also a presentation made by Ms. Karen Jarrett from the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA). She discussed the Nephro-Care Dialysis Center located at 1402 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn NY. She stated that she is very concerned about the severe understaffing and how it affects the patients.

Mr. Mensah announced that the Health Committee will be partnering with the Parks Committee to put together a Health Fair at St. John’s Recreation this fall. Mr. Mensah also mentioned that Community Boards 3, 5, 8, and 16 will be meeting jointly with the Commissioner of the Department of Homeless Services to discuss the over-saturation of homeless facilities within the communities.

The next Health Committee meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2015 at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

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

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, June 4, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. In addition to the Chair and Vice Chair, also present were Desmond Atkins, Wayne Bailey, Diane Duke, Phu Duong, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Princess B. James, Xeerxeema Jordan, Tarves Lord, Adelaide Miller, Robert Puca, Yahya Raji, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Yves Vilus, Irsa Weatherspoon, and Deborah Young.

The committee discussed the following applications:

Application to LPC for Certificate of Appropriateness: Kingston Lounge, 120 Kingston Avenue

Ms. Sonia Conti, of Charles Diehl Architect (CDA), presented plans for the rehabilitation of 120 Kingston Ave. to be used once again as the Kingston Lounge (jazz club/performance space, bar and restaurant) with two two-bedroom apartments on each of the two residential floors above. Several of the neighboring property owners and members of the Bergen-Kingston Block Association were in attendance. The plan includes: using dyed-to-match cast stone to replace the original brick on the lower façade on Bergen St and Kingston Ave; and reopening three doors at the rear of the stage. The original brick of the lower facade is crumbling and is backed by a rotted wood substrate; and a thick masonry wall is planned to provide noise abatement for the rear of the stage. Neighboring property owners in attendance (1298 Bergen St in particular) anticipated problems if the building reopens as a jazz club, especially regarding noise abatement for the three doors at the rear; a cultural center was suggested instead. The Crown Heights North Association sent a letter to CDA requesting a more neutral color scheme, comparability with the original storefront design, and restoration of the lighted signage, albeit with modern technology. Mr. Phu Duong, R.A. committee member, advised that the ‘project is a challenging design problem given the building has two lives and two souls.’ Ms. Conti indicated that a hearing is scheduled before LPC for 7/7/2015, after which she will pursue approvals from Department of Buildings.

On condition that the owner: (1) restore the art deco glass components of the front including signage, (2) install safety lighting for the 1304 Bergen St entrance, (3) provide for noise abatement and have only
one door at the rear, and (4) use historic brick instead of cast stone to restore the lower portions of the façade, the committee voted 10 in favor with 2 opposed to support the project; and hopes that the full Board will do the same.

Mr. Ellis made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation with the conditions that the owner restore the art deco glass components of the front including signage, install safety lighting for the 1304 Bergen Street entrance, provide for noise abatement and have only one door at the rear, and use historic brick instead of cast stone to restore the lower portions of the façade. The motion was seconded by Ms. Oton and carried with a final vote tally of 32 in favor, 0 opposed with 1 abstention.

The committee also heard a presentation from Mr. Christopher Neidl, Director of Community Solar Initiatives, he described the free services offered by SolarOne Green Energy Arts and Education Center. Services include conducting shade analyses, taking measurements, vetting installers, and facilitating the formation of small groups to secure one installer (which helps to get a discount). Group members should be near neighbors. For more information SolarOne can be reached at (917) 676-1153, or (646) 576-5673.

Attorney Alvin Schein and Daniel Vitinson, R.A. presented Adam Development/1535 Bedford Investors, LLC’s Housing Project at 1519-1535 Bedford Avenue. Their plan is to erect a 10-story apartment building on the former site of a gas station at Bedford Avenue and Eastern Parkway. The plan includes 172 apartments of which 34 will be affordable at 60% AMI in compliance with the Inclusionary Housing (IH) component of developer’s application for 421a tax exemption. Mr. Schein indicated that: the affordable units will be located on floors 2 through 8 through IH apartment room sizes were larger than those of market rate apartments; all building amenities will be also available to low income tenants; Brownfield remediation requires the gas station soil to be excavated down to 16; there will be retail spaces on the ground floor; and 87 cellar-level parking spaces (including five spaces for IH apartments) with an attendant, as well as bike storage.

Neighbors in attendance complained of trash and garbage at the construction site, break-ins, vandalism, and that the lot-line windows of the abutting residential properties will be blocked. Mr. Schein stated that access to lot-line windows is a legal right.

The next Housing/ULURP committee meeting will be held on Thursday, July 2, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30PM. All are invited to attend.

M1-1 Zone Sub-Committee

The M1-1 sub-committee met on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. Present were Jonathan Berman, Susan Boyle, Dean Brodsky, Benton Brown, Zulika Bumpus, Anthony Casale, David Chin, Todd Dale, Diana Foster, Deb Howard, Christian Hylton, Michael Kwok, Jay Marcus, Tony Musto, Langston Noel, Nykolaos Nykolaidis, Danae Oratowski, Agata Parente, Paula Pinnock, Matthew Pitt, Dominic Recchia, Chris Rio, Joan Hutchinson Thompson, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Abdul Wahab, Melissa Warren and Patricia Williams.

Mr. Veconi made a brief presentation summarizing the rezoning resolution approved by Community Board No. 8. Ms. Boyle expressed concern about the proposed height of the new zone, which, consistent
with the model R7D zoning, would allow a maximum height of 100 feet with a maximum setback of 85 feet. She asked whether R7A could be used as the model for interior lots (south of Atlantic Avenue), where the maximum height would be 80 feet, with maximum setback of 65 feet. Mr. Veconi pointed out that the financial modeling done as part of the density analysis indicated that it would be challenging to make R7A work to meet the goals of subsidizing manufacturing and affordable housing set by Community Board 8. Mr. Brown and Ms. Boyle suggested that the R7A model be reexamined, and that the effect of ICAP tax abatements and New Market Housing Tax Credits be factored in. Mr. Veconi agreed to try to do that.

Mr. Veconi then presented the results of the work of the branding working group, which included Marc Agger, Ms. Bumpus, Ms. Warren and himself. The group proposed titling the rezoning initiative “M-Crown” (Manufacturing Commercial Residential Opportunity for a Working Neighborhood). The proposal was well-received by committee members. The presentation from the branding working group is online at https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6EMTiFgRup_dmotckN6bEFDcnM&authuser=0.

Mr. Veconi presented an overview of a revised pro forma for development under the proposed zoning. The model has been updated with current interest rates and rents. It can be downloaded by Subcommittee members who wish to do further modeling as an Excel spreadsheet at https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6EMTiFgRup_VV9BUVFXLVAA0TUE&authuser=0.

Mr. Marcus, Director of Development for the Fifth Avenue Committee, and Ms. Howard, Executive Director of the Pratt Area Community Council, each discussed the mission and activities of their respective organizations as pertaining to development of affordable housing, and answered questions from property owners.

The next M1-1 Sub-Committee meeting will be held on Monday, September 28, 2015.

**Parks** – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chair; Ms. Kim Albert, Vice Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY and also met on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY to discuss the following items:

**Saving Our Community Gardens**

NYC Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) published a list of 181 City-owned properties included in a Request for Qualifications for developers to build rental and ownership housing within the limits set by the program and in exchange get the land for free. Seventeen of the sites selected are currently active community gardens, three which are in Community Board 8. One garden is active and two are proposed for use. These are places where neighbors grow food, where children play and are educated and where compost programs divert organic material from landfills. The gardens are the Imani Garden and the city owned vacant lots at 1662 Bergen Street and 175 Buffalo Avenue (potential upcoming gardens).

At the June 2, 2015 meeting, the Parks Committee unanimously voted to request that the full Board write a letter advising that the Imani Garden on Pacific Street at Schenectady Avenue and the vacant lots at 1662 Bergen Street and 175 Buffalo Avenue be removed from Housing Preservation and Development's list of sites being offered to developers and asking for the lots to be transferred to the
Parks Department and continue to be characterized as gardens. The committee hopes that the full board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Sachs asked for clarification on what it means to build within the limits and what the limits are that will enable the community to get the land for free. Mr. Todd stated that there are two programs: one is for rentals and the other for affordable ownership.

Ms. Albert asked for a little history on the Imani Gardens. Mr. Todd stated that they are planning to install 13 raised beds, a greenhouse, and that there are currently 15 active members and 50-60 people on the mailing list for the garden. They plan to be open for at least 30 hours a week.

Mr. Witherwax made a motion that the full Board write a letter advising that the Imani Garden on Pacific Street at Schenectady Avenue and the vacant lots at 1662 Bergen Street and 175 Buffalo Avenue be removed from Housing Preservation and Development's list of sites being offered to developers and asking for the lots to be transferred to the Parks Department and continue to be characterized as gardens. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried with a final vote of 35 in favor, 1 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

The committee also discussed the proposed design for Stroud Playground after hearing a presentation from the Parks Department on Tuesday, June 9, 2015. Under the Community Parks Initiative, 35 parks were selected as sites to be reconstructed with an allocation of $130 million capital dollars to bring enhanced programming, maintenance, and community partnership building to community parks serving high-need communities. The initiative will engage New Yorkers in rebuilding local parks, create new reasons to get out and get fit, and reconnect communities to the green spaces right outside their doorsteps. Stroud Playground on Park Place between Classon and Washington Avenues was selected as one of the 35 parks to be reconstructed.

The committee voted 7 in favor and 1 opposed and the community voted 8 in favor and 1 abstention to approve the design plan for Stroud Playground and hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Reid asked if there will be any opportunity for local community residents to get involved in the process of building the parks. Ms. Mary Salig from the Department of Parks responded that when it comes down to the projects design and its contractors, the community does not get a say.

Mr. Cox asked if it is possible for the Parks Department to put a mandatory local hiring requirement in place. Ms. Salig said that she will look into it and see if it can be a possibility.

Mr. Harris expressed his concerns about the condition of the basketball courts within Stroud Playground and was curious if the plan includes any alterations to the courts as well. Ms. Salig informed him that there will be two new courts with new backboards and 4 new hoops.

Mr. Howard stated that traditionally the Parks Department has been a primary agency in hiring minority contractors. The community should contact their local community board on contract/hiring practices and what the participation is on minority/women owned businesses in the bidding process. He encouraged the Parks Department to keep the community informed about what is going on with the project as it progresses. Ms. Salig responded that the project is still in the design phase and that it has not been put out for bidding yet. The bidding process probably will not begin until January 2016.
Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve the design plan for Stroud Playground. It was seconded by Ms. Oton and carried with a final vote of 34 in favor, 2 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

The next Parks Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place at 6 PM. All are invited to attend.

**Public Safety** – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chair; Mr. Desmond Atkins, Vice Chair

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, May 18, 2015 at the 78th Precinct located at 65 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the Chair Shalawn Langhorne, present were: Desmond Atkins, Wayne Bailey, Sheryl Vassell, Karla Harby, Mark Thurton, and P.O. Jerry Galente.

The committee discussed the 78th Precinct catchment area. Burglaries are up along with theft opportunities such as doors unlocked and unattended bicycles.

P.O. Galente from Community Affairs, addressed community concerns and informed the committee that the Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) William Reyes, can meet with building owners and landlords to survey the property and advise how to best protect and keep all residents safe.

Deputy Inspector Lott, Commanding Officer at the 77th Precinct, reported that a violence reduction plan is being put in place for the summer. Additional personnel will be added after Memorial Day.

The next two meetings of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Monday, June 15, 2015 and Monday, September 21 at the 77th Precinct located 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY at 6 PM. All are invited to attend.

**Seniors** – Ms. Kim Albert, Chair

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

Ms. Linda Whitaker from the NYC Department for the Aging discussed how seniors can get prepared for an emergency situation. Some of the items seniors should have available in a pre-packed to-go bag if an emergency presents itself. Include copies of important documents (passport, medical insurance cards, copies of birth certificate and ATM cards, etc.), flashlight, AM/FM radio, a list of medications you take, emergency contact person info, cash (small bills), notepad and pen, glasses, and any other personal items you may have. For more information on Senior Emergency Preparedness, please log onto [www.nyc.gov/html/oem/downloads/pdf/myemergencyplan_english.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/downloads/pdf/myemergencyplan_english.pdf)

Ms. Albert announced that the committee is seeking new members to join the Seniors committee and to please contact the Community Board office at 718-467-5574 to sign up.

The next Seniors Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue at 6 PM. All are invited to attend.
SLA and Sidewalk Café Review – Mr. James Ellis, Chair; Mr. Robert Witherwax, Vice Chair

The SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee met on Monday, June 1, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

The committee discussed the following items:

1. Sidewalk Café Renewal Application

The proprietor of Basil, located at 270 Kingston Avenue (between Lincoln and Eastern Parkway), made a favorable presentation for the renewal of their sidewalk café. Despite multiple complaints regarding the café exceeding its allotted footprint and encroaching on the sidewalk, the Department of Consumer Affairs has investigated frequently, and has found no violation. It was observed that amplified sound emanates from the establishment, in violation of the Noise Code.

The committee voted to support the application, with amended operating hours of 10 PM to 1 AM Saturday and a promise to stop outdoor amplified sound, by a vote of 15 in favor, one abstention, and hopes the Full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to accept the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final vote of 36 in favor, 2 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

2. Sidewalk Café Permit and Liquor License Alteration:

The proprietor of Chavela’s, located at 736 Franklin Avenue (corner of Sterling) made a favorable presentation for a Sidewalk Café fronting both Sterling Place and Franklin Avenue, and the expansion of their full liquor license to include it.

The proprietor was responsive to community and committee concerns about the size of the footprint for the café, the degree of notice to immediate neighbors, and the loss of certain benches, which have become perceived as a public amenity. The proprietor assured the committee that the footprint is within the parameters set by DCA; demonstrated that all residents of the building have been notified of the proposed sidewalk café; and has relocated the benches to a nearby treepit on Sterling.

The committee voted to support the application, with amended operating hours of 10 PM Sun-Thurs and 11 PM Fri-Sat, and a promise to submit a revised plan showing the new bench placement, 17 in favor, and hopes the Full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Veconi stated that he walks past the establishment which is very popular and busy on a regular basis and because it is so popular, it causes an increased amount of people occupying the sidewalk space. With the proposed sidewalk café, the overcrowding might get worse.

Ms. Grefrath made reference to the movement of the bench to the treepit and asked if it will be put in the footprint of the pit. Mr. Bailey added that the pit was supposed to be measured to make sure that there is enough room with the seated bench around the tree.
Mr. Harris stated that Franklin Avenue is already congested at the corner where Chavela's is located. Also there are already two bus stops and he believes a sidewalk cafe will only exacerbate the overcrowding on Franklin Avenue encroaching upon the pedestrian walkway.

Mr. Ellis informed him that the Department of Consumer Affairs inspects all proposed locations prior to granting a license. The proprietor has continuously been reinvesting in this community and has been successful. We should try not to be punitive toward those that reinvest in the community. Going back to concern about precedent, DCA will have the final say-so.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the application with amended operating hours of 10 PM Sun-Thurs and 11 PM Fri-Sat, and a promise to submit a revised plan showing the new bench placement. The motion was seconded by Ms. Oton and carried to a final vote of 32 in favor, 2 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

The next SLAC Committee meeting will be held on Monday, July 6, 2015 at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

Transportation – Dr. Frederick Monderson, Chair; Mr. Robert Witherwax, Vice Chair

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 7PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center. In addition to the Chair and Vice Chair, also present were: Xeerxeema Jordan, Meredith Staton, Holly Fuchs, Greg Todd, Jackie Wells, David Christini, Elizabeth Haines, Tom Boast, Wayne Bailey, Gib Veconi, Connie Lesold, and Jimmy Kokotas. The committee discussed the following items:

1. Prospect Heights Slow Zone

NYC DOT proposes to implement a Neighborhood Slow Zone (“NSZ”) in Prospect Heights. The speed limit on all streets within the NSZ will be 20 MPH. Elements of the NSZ implementation will include painted “20 MPH” markers on each block; additional speed bumps for streets within the NSZ; and gateway signage at the beginning of each street within the NSZ. NSZ elements will not be implemented on the boundary streets surrounding the NSZ, which will retain the current 25 MPH designation. The following blocks will see the installation of additional speed bumps:

- Pacific Street between Vanderbilt and Underhill;
- St. Marks Avenue (1 between Flatbush and Carlton, 2 between Carlton and Vanderbilt, 1 between Vanderbilt and Underhill);
- Prospect Place between Flatbush and Carlton;
- Park Place (1 new between Carlton and Vanderbilt, between Vanderbilt and Underhill, and between Underhill and Washington);
- Sterling Place between Flatbush and Vanderbilt;
- Butler Place between Plaza Street East and Sterling Place;
- St. Johns Place between Plaza Street East and Underhill;
- Eastern Parkway Service Road between Underhill and Washington

Furthermore, DOT makes a commitment to work with Brooklyn CB2 and Brooklyn CB6 to extend the boundaries of the NSZ to incorporate those blocks of Prospect Heights which may lie in other Community Districts, so that the NSZ boundaries will be Atlantic Avenue, Washington Avenue, Eastern Parkway, and Flatbush Avenue; and DOT makes a commitment to work with Community Board 8’s
Transportation Committee and the various neighborhood and block associations of Prospect Heights to identify and implement further traffic calming measures that are not part of the NSZ program, especially on Carlton Avenue and Underhill Avenue.

The Transportation Committee voted to support the DOT proposal as presented at the April meeting, and hopes the full board does the same.

Mr. Staton asked what the outcome of the side service road on Eastern Parkway between Underhill and Washington Avenue will be. Mr. Witherwax stated that the northern end of the block will be a slow zone. However, the location of the speed hump is still being determined.

Mr. Veconi stated that when the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council applied to the Slow Zone Program in 2012, more than 1200 residents were in support, including elected officials who represented the district.

Mr. Sachs stated that the map is a little unclear in regards to Plaza Street East. He asked for clarification as to whether this location would be given a speed hump. He was informed that this location will not have a speed hump; however, a sign indicating a lowered speed limit of 20 mph will be installed along that street.

Mr. Moss, a community resident stated that he lives within the confines of Prospect Heights and expressed his gratitude to those responsible for getting the process started on this much needed project.

Ms. Taitt-Hall asked whether this slow zone project will have an impact on speeding motorcycles and was told that they will be just as impacted as people driving cars and other vehicles.

Mr. Ellis made a motion to support the DOT proposal as presented at the April meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Oton and carried with a final vote of 33 in favor, 1 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

2. Co-Naming of Sterling Place at Washington for Gus Vlahavas

Mr. Jimmy Kokotas, proprietor of Tom’s Restaurant, made a favorable presentation for the co-naming of the street corner on which the establishment is located, the southwest corner of Sterling and Washington, after the late Constantine “Gus” Vlahavas.

Gus was born on October 24, 1938, in Thermos Trixonidas, Greece. At the age of 9, Gus, along with his mother Stella, immigrated to the United States, where they rejoined Gus’ father Tom, and began a new life in Prospect Heights. Growing up, Gus attended Boys’ High, and graduated from Brooklyn College with a degree in history. After teaching briefly at Midwood High School, he made Tom’s his career choice for the remainder of his life.

Gus’ love for his community endured through the decades, as his interaction and dedication with his neighbors and customers showed. He had quite the personal touch, always greeting everyone with a pleasant smile and his famous bow tie. His commitment to his community was evident through charitable and philanthropic efforts too numerous to be named. It would be an understatement to say that the community loved Gus back. Even during the civic unrest and tumultuous changes of the 1960s and 1970s, Gus’ friends and neighbors formed a human chain around the restaurant, to protect it from damage.
Gus Vlahavas’ warmth, kindness, and love - for the neighborhood, for the restaurant, and for each and every customer who crossed his threshold (or stood on line outside it) - was visible to all. His constant and benevolent presence in this neighborhood spanned generations, and will be sorely missed.

Although Gus will never be forgotten by those of us who knew him, to celebrate the life of this extraordinary man, the Transportation Committee supports the co-naming of the southwest corner of Sterling Place at Washington Avenue, pending letters of support from relevant elected officials and civic organizations, and hopes the full board does the same.

Mr. Veconi stated that he received an email from the Sterling Place Block Association stating that they are in support of the co-naming, as is the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council (PHNDC).

Ms. Oton made a motion to support the co-naming of the southwest corner of Sterling Place at Washington Avenue, pending letters of support from relevant elected officials and civic organizations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried unanimously with a final vote of 37 in favor.

3. HPD Parking Lot

The Transportation Committee considered a request from the 78th Precinct Community Council concerning a parking lot adjacent to the Dean Street Play Ground, on Dean Street between 6th and Carlton Avenues. This parking lot is currently used by employees of HPD’s office at 516 Bergen Street.

In the opinion of the 78th Precinct Council, this lot would be more useful to the community if the personnel of the 78th Precinct could use it. Given the on-going construction of Atlantic Yards/Pacific Park and the commensurate loss of on-street parking, 78th Precinct personnel have a difficult time finding safe parking close to the 78th Precinct house, and use parking spaces that otherwise could be used by residents, local businesses, etc.

Since the use of an off-street lot by 78th Precinct personnel would have a beneficial impact on parking conditions for CB8 residents, the Committee voted to ask HPD to permit 78th Precinct use, and hopes the full board does the same.

In addition to this, Mr. Bailey stated that the parking on 6th Avenue between Dean and Pacific Streets had been taken away. Now that the school is set to be put there, teachers and buses will have no choice but to park there. This further stresses the importance of the lot.

Mr. Veconi stated that he is aware the Forest City Ratner Company has an obligation to provide parking for the 78th Precinct and so they are letting the developer off the hook for providing parking. He insinuated that, even though the developers are off the hook, they should still fulfill their end of the bargain. He then stated that this should continue through to 2025 when the project is said to be complete and the developer has provided the spaces.

Mr. Puca asked if there will be a penalty if the parking spaces are not provided and was told that there is no specific conformance or remedy if they should fail to provide the spaces.
Mr. Bailey stated that HPD and the Mayor’s office wanted to know that the community board supports this parking lot. Mr. Witherwax added that we are lending our voice in support of a pre-existing request.

Ms. Tyus asked how many spaces the parking lot will consist of. Mr. Bailey responded that the lot has 54 spaces. The Precinct will be losing 34 spaces due to construction with the Atlantic Yards.

Mr. Ellis stated that in support of the business district, he would like to see parking constraints alleviated at that particular intersection.

Ms. Oton made a motion to send a letter asking HPD to permit the 78th Precinct use of the off-street lot. It was seconded by Ms. Young and carried unanimously with a final vote of 33 in favor.

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 7 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. All are invited to attend.

**Youth and Family Services**

The Youth and Family Services Committee met on Monday, June 8, 2015 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation but had no action items. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2015 at Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

**Executive Committee**

**Resolution**

The Executive Committee of Community Board No. 8 is requesting support of a resolution that will grant the Housing/ULURP Committee authority to vote on behalf of the Board during its summer hiatus. Since the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Board of Standards and Appeal do not allow the Community Board to postpone applications for longer than 30 days, and because the full Board does not convene during the summer, the Executive Committee would like to grant the Housing/ULURP committee the ability to meet during the months of July and August and make recommendations on any landmark or variance applications on behalf of the full Board. With this ability, the Housing/ULURP committee will be able to review and impose stipulations on applications that would otherwise go unchecked.

As there are numerous new applications received during the summer months, it is imperative that the Board have input on applications, especially since the quality of life for our residents is of utmost importance. The committee’s ability to make determinations on behalf of the Board will cease as soon as the full Board resumes its normal meeting schedule in September. The Executive Committee requests that the full Board support its recommendation to grant executive authority to the Housing/ULURP committee as it pertains to landmark and variance applications while the full Board is on hiatus.

Ms. Oton made a motion to grant the Housing/ULURP committee authority to vet LPC applications during the months of July and August on the behalf of the full board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried unanimously with a final vote of 37 in favor.

Ms. Granville thanked the committee’s for their reports and opened the floor for Public Comments.
Mr. Charles Jackson from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke’s office wished everyone a Happy Father’s Day and a safe summer. He stated that the Congresswoman is having a meet and greet for government agencies to come out and let people know what they offer and for people to get information. NYCHA, HPD, Dept. of Labor, Kings County District Attorney’s office, and Immigration services will be on hand to provide material and answer questions. The meet and greet will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2015 at 6 PM at SUNY Downstate’s Medical Auditorium. For more information call 718-287-1142 or email Charles.jackson@mail.house.gov.

Ms. Nan Blackshear from Borough President Eric Adams’ office announced that there will be an event at Borough Hall this coming Friday in preparation for Caribbean Heritage month beginning at 12:30 PM. From 12:30 to 4 PM, there will be the Caribbean American Business Expo, and starting at 4 pm, there will be a “taste and tour of the Caribbean.” She distributed flyers about events taking place at Borough Hall over the summer.

BP Adams is issuing Resident Cornerstone Awards for people that have lived on a particular block or in a building for the longest because they have been the cornerstone of the community.

There will be a Financial Education Hearing on July 8, 2015 at 6 PM. Various representatives from elected officials offices and banks will be on hand to hear from the community about problems they are having regarding their finances. It is an opportunity to speak to the people that may have an impact on your financial situation.

The Borough President is hosting a series of tenant harassment hearings. On July 14, 2015 at 6 PM, representatives from various agencies including the Dept. of Homes and Community Renewal and Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development will be on hand to hear from the public about all of the harassment tactics they are experiencing.

Mr. Brian McLaurin from Public Advocate Letitia James’ office provided a community update on some of the work the Public Advocate has been doing. He stated that PA James has been fighting for over a year to improve the health and safety in nail salons. New legislation was just passed requiring the Dept. of Health to make sure that nail salons have improved air quality for workers. The Public Advocate is a child advocate that prevented hundreds of day care centers from closing. He stated that she has called on the Mayor to assist veterans and is fighting for education, asking for sweeping recommendations regarding mayoral control over public schools.

Ms. Elisa Helligar from Senator Hamilton’s office announced that the Senator is hosting a Health Fair in Brownsville at 150 Christopher Street on Saturday, June 20, 2015, from Noon to 5 PM. There will be a seniors mobile office on June 24, 2015 at the Seth Low Community Center located at 137 Belmont Avenue to assist with senior housing issues and completing SCRIE applications. Movies under the stars will be held June 17th at Sunset Park and June 19th at Jackie Robinson Park. In the month of July, the Senator will greet constituents at subways stations.

Ms. Ethel Tyus announced that the next meeting of the Crown Heights North Association will be June 17, 2015 at St. Gregory’s Roman Catholic Church located at the corner of Brooklyn Avenue at St. John’s Place at 6:45 PM. A representative from the Historic Districts Council will be on hand to discuss the impact of re-zoning in historic districts. There will also be a presentation on solar energy.
Rabbi Eli Cohen, Executive Director from the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council thanked CB 8 for its support over the years and for supporting its application to provide senior services to the community. They were awarded a grant from the City to provide services for seniors. He distributed fliers on the programs provided and urged anyone with any questions or concerns related to senior issues to reach out to the Council at (718) 771-9000. The office is located at 387 Kingston Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11225 at the corner of Crown Street.

Ms. Illessa Isaac announced that she running for Civil Court Judge, 6th District. She stated that she has been working for the court system for 12 years, and is in a position to help and serve the public. The election is Thursday, September 10th.

Ms. Quela Gotti announced that Brooklyn Arts Fund (BAF) will provide $80 thousand worth of funding to artists to put on cultural events in north Brooklyn. Funded by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), BAF aims to cultivate Brooklyn’s artists, arts organizations, and audiences through its support of performances, exhibitions, pop-up galleries, workshops, reading series, festivals, public art and more. They will start accepting letters of inquiry starting July 1, 2015 and the Request for Proposals will be issued in August with projects slated to be funded in September. Contact the grants department with any questions about the grant process at grants@brooklynartscouncil.org or 718-625-0080.

Ms. Dweynie Paul announced that she is a candidate for Civil Court Judge for the 2nd Municipal District. She discussed a story from her childhood, telling the Board how difficult it was for her mother to find justice for her missing brother. She stated that the community does not have access to the justice it needs. As part of her work with the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, she always tries to put together workshops that empower the community and help bridge the gap to equal access to justice.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for the valuable information and adjourned the meeting at 9:45 PM.
### Guests

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<th>Shirley Mondesir</th>
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