Community Board No. 8  
Calvary Community Church  
1575 St. John’s Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11233  

March 10, 2016

Members Present

Kim Albert  
Desmond Atkins  
Wayne Bailey  
LeeAnn Banks  
Princess Benn-James  
Julia Boyd  
Gail Branch-Muhammad  
Helen Coley  
Phu Duong  
James Ellis  
Diana Foster  
Fred Frazier  
Nizjoni Granville  
Liz Grefrath  
Curtis Harris  
Xeerxeema Jordan  
Kwasi Mensah  
Adelaide Miller  
Dr. Fred Monderson  
Atim Oton  
Robert Puca  
Yahay O. Raji  
Adam Sachs  
Patricia Scantlebury  
Stacey Sheffey  
Meredith Staton  
Audrey Taitt-Hall  
Ethel Tyus  
Gib Veconi  
Yves Vilus  
Irsa Weatherspoon  
Robert Witherwax  
Vilma Zuniga

Members Absent/Excused

Glinda Andrews  
Adem Bunkeddeko  
Michael Cox  
Shalawn Langhorne  
Tarves Langhorne  
Robert Matthews  
Opal Lord  
Gregory Todd  
Sheryl Vassell  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Deborah Young

Agency Representatives

P.O. Michael Mundy, NYPD 77th Precinct  
P.O. Daryl Chen, NYPD 77th Precinct  
Det. Robert Lynch, NYPD 77th Precinct

Elected Official Representatives

Khiteriara Brown, Councilman Cornegy’s Office  
Elsa Helligan, Senator Jesse Hamilton’s Office  
Janee Markowicz, Assemblywoman Annette Robinson  
Joseph Yanis, Assemblyman Walter Mosely  
Matthew Pitt, Councilman Laurie Cumbo  
Kathleen Daniel, Boro President Eric Adams Office  
Rhea Smith, Senator Jesse Hamilton’s Office

CB 8 Staff Present

Michelle George, District Manager  
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator
The regular meeting of Community Board No. 8 was called to order by Ms. Granville, Chairperson, at 7:20 PM. She opened the meeting with Roll Call and next asked for an official welcome from Rev. Henry of Calvary Community Church.

**Calvary Community Church** – Rev. Cecil Henry

On behalf of Calvary, Rev. Henry welcomed everyone to the church. He stated that Calvary has been in the community for 28 years, and if things go according to plan, this might be the last meeting at the facility because Calvary has partnered with other organizations on a senior and affordable housing project for the site. The plan is to help people that have lived in the community their entire lives move back into the community. Calvary is looking to service these people. We as a community need to partner together to accomplish the goals of the community. There will be 150 apartments in the new building. Further information will be given at a later date as they develop the plan.

Ms. Granville thanked Rev. Henry for the welcome and wished the church continued success in their endeavors.

**Acceptance of Minutes** – Ms. Tyus made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting with any necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by Ms. Grefrath and carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Granville asked for an update on affordable housing with the Atlantic Yards project/Pacific Park.

**Pacific Park** – Ms. Ismene Sepliotis, Director of Mutual Housing Association of New York and Ms. Irma Barrera, Project Manager with Forest City Ratner Companies

Ms. Barrera announced that Ms. Sepliotis is the marketing manager for the units at 461 Dean Street. Mutual Housing Association of New York (MHANY) will do the marketing of the affordable units at the first Pacific Park building at the corner of Dean Street and Flatbush Avenue. Marketing for the units should start in April 2016. There will be 181 affordable apartments across 5 income bands. Ms. Barerra announced that FCRC will come back in April with specifics about the application process.

Ms. Sepliotis distributed information about the website and MHANY’s phone number. She stated that every call will be returned. She announced that if you are on Housing Connect, the city’s electronic lottery, there is both good news and bad news. The good news with the city going electronic is that it has immensely increased the number of applications for the lotteries. The bad news is that there is now more competition for the housing. For this particular project, you can either file electronically or via a paper application. MHANY is seeking to reach all of Community Board 8, not just Downtown Brooklyn residents.
William Howard stated that in many of the meetings he goes to, there are many complaints that FCRC has taken 10 years to build affordable housing. He asked if the rent charged will be based on the market rate from 10 years ago or today’s rate. Ms. Sepliotis informed him that it is very unfortunate that the Pacific Park buildings took so long to be built because the rents are set to today’s AMI standards, which will be painful for many low-income residents.

Mr. Staton stated that FCRC was supposed to have set aside a certain percentage of units for certain communities. He asked if that preference is still in place. He was informed that it is, and that 50% of the units will go to residents of CBs 2, 3, 6, and 8. Everyone in one of those CBs will get first preference. 5% of units have been set aside for the handicapped with visual, physical and hearing disabilities. Municipal employees will be given a preference as well.

Leroy Reid stated that community jobs don’t seem to be a part of affordable housing plans. He asked how community residents can get the jobs that will become available when the project is completed. He was informed that there are jobs available and FCRC signed an agreement in the beginning for local jobs and minority and women owned businesses. This is something that is being tracked. These jobs are not just construction. They are service, retail, construction, and others.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Sepliotis and Ms. Barerra for the information and encouraged everyone to complete an application on Housing Connect. She asked for an update on the Zika Virus from the Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene.

**Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene** – Ms. Tejumade Ajaiyeoba, Community Affairs Liaison

Ms. Ajaiyeoba announced that the Zika virus is primarily found in tropical areas and places south of the US continent. As it stands, the symptoms for Zika, are fever, rash, joint pains, and red eyes. 80% of people that get Zika don’t show symptoms. The concern is that 1 in 5 women give birth to children with microcephaly—a child born with an abnormally small brain. There is no cure for Zika, so the Dept. of Health is asking people to be mindful of their travel patterns. Take the necessary precautions: wear long sleeves, use mosquito nets, insect repellant, and any other precaution that can help prevent mosquito bites. There is no vaccine for the disease, and only the symptoms can be treated.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is working with researchers and scientists to develop a vaccine by 2017. Another warning is that males can pass this disease on to women via sexual intercourse. If you are a man that has a partner that is pregnant or wants to be pregnant, be very mindful that Zika can be transferred via semen. The epidemic is ongoing and the Dept. of Health is getting information as the outbreak is happening. She urged everyone to avail themselves to the information found on the CDC’s website and DOH website.

Demetrius Mills asked if women can transfer the virus to men. He was informed that right now, it is known that only men can transfer it to women. However, she reiterated that we are learning about the disease every day so the information can change from day to day. There is a viral test and blood test for it. Currently, we need to send the blood work to the CDC or a lab upstate NY for testing. The DOH is working to get a testing lab in New York City.
When asked about transmission rates, Ms. Ajeiyeoba announced that only about 1 in 5 people actually do get sick.

A resident announced that the virus is spread by a certain kind of mosquito. She urged everyone to be mindful of standing water in their front and back yards. Ms. Ajeiyeoba stated that as far as we know, the particular mosquito that spreads the virus is not found in the US at the present time but we do not have certain information on this fact as the facts keep changing.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Ajeiyeoba for the information and acknowledged the officers of the 77th Precinct NCO program along with the Chairperson and District Manager from Community Board 3.

**NAACP Brooklyn Chapter** – Ms. L. Joy Williams, President and Mr. Henry Butler, Chair of the Labor Committee of the Brooklyn Chapter

Ms. L. Joy Williams announced that the Brooklyn Chapter of the NAACP are attending meetings all across the borough. Ms. Williams gave a brief history of the NAACP and distributed brochures about the work that the Brooklyn Chapter does across the borough. The Brooklyn branch encompasses the entire borough. After a hiatus, it was reauthorized in 2005 with a lot of programs that focus on social justice. The Chapter is doing a job development program with Restoration Plaza in Bed Stuy. The Chapter recognizes that the housing boom is not generating a lot of jobs for people of color, but there remains a number of unemployed people that could use jobs from these projects and are qualified for them. They are trying to make sure that the jobs, especially the construction jobs, are unionized and trying to make sure that more people of color and more Brooklynites are getting these jobs.

Mr. Butler, Chair of the Labor Committee, stated that the job of the labor committee is to increase job opportunities for central Brooklyn residents. We have to find out how many people in a particular area are certified and licensed workers. The Brooklyn Chapter held a learning day in October that consisted of the members of several unions that came out to teach young people how to get into internship programs. They are working in Kingsboro Houses, Brownsville Community Center, and Restoration Plaza.

For more information on the Brooklyn Chapter of the NAACP, visit [www.brooklynnaacp.org](http://www.brooklynnaacp.org).

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Williams and Mr. Butler for the information and urged people to look into joining the Brooklyn Chapter. She then asked for a report from the following committees:

**Economic Development** – Ms. Atim Oton, Chair

The Economic Development Committee met on March 8, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. Present were: Atim Oton, Diana Foster, Gwen Kilvent, Takako Kono, Kevin Morris, Khiteriara Brown, LeeAnn Banks, Anthony C, and Nizjoni Granville.
The committee discussed their 5-year plan. They also discussed NYU students canvassing the Weeksville area for development. The committee also discussed how to market businesses in the 43rd Assembly District because Assemblywoman Diana Richardson has responded to the request to provide funding to promote and stimulate small business growth.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

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

The Environment/Sanitation Committee met on February 16, 2016 at the Community Board 8 District office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue. Present were Helen Coley, Michelle George, Greg Todd, Zetira, Kez, and Yubi Park. The committee did not submit minutes. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 6 PM at the Community Board 8 office. All are invited to attend.

**Health** – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chair

The Health Committee met on Monday, March 7, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. Present were: Kwasi Mensah, Shalawn Langhorne, Audrey Taitt-Hall, and Khiterara Brown from Councilman Cornegy’s office.

The committee discussed how the Health, Housing, and Public Safety committees will address the request by NYC Smoke-Free for each Community Board to draft a resolution mandating smoke-free policies in multi-unit dwellings. The idea has not been supported in full to date. While the arguments that NYC Smoke-Free are very compelling taking into account the health and property costs associated with smoking and smoking residue and the fact that smoking is not a “right”, as is religion and gender and other rights. However, the committee believes that there is no reason why the “rights” of smokers cannot be considered.

The next meeting of the Health Committee will be held on April 5, 2016 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

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

The Housing/ULURP Committee met on Thursday, March 3, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. Present were: Desmond Atkins, Wayne Bailey, Princess Benn-James, Dian Duke, James Ellis, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Nizjoni Granville, Xeerxeema Jordan, Adelaide Miller, Adam Sachs, Stacey Sheffey, Margie Smith, Meredith Staton, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Yves Vilus, Irsa Weatherspoon, Deborah Young, Molly Anderson, Robyn Berland, Joseph Biber, Charline Charles, Kawana Coleman, Joseph Coppola, Katie Downs-Angus, Lisa Easton, Mary Gallonoy, Gloria Gasper, Hesus Gill, Linette Grant, Renee Hastick-Motes, Elisa Heligar, Pastrick Jean-Jacques, Margaret Lee, Shirley Mondesir, Colin Murphy, Neville Nerlett, Veronica Nero, Danae Oratowski, Ronald Ossow, Jenny O’Connell, Mahake Orefeo, Barbara Parker, Bettina Parker, Rose Marie Phu, Newstill Poryasn, Carolyn Russell, Shefali Sanghvi, Keshasha Shabaka, Nubia Shabaka, Kirsten Sibilia, Craig
Small, and John Wolfling.

The committee discussed the following items:

1. Revised Application to LPC by Institute for Community Living for Certificate of Appropriateness to Add Two New Buildings at 839 St. Marks Ave. (Crown Heights North Historic and National Register District)

Ms. Renee Hastick-Motes, Assoc. VP for Community and Government Relations, Institute for Community Living (ICL) and her project team (Easton Architects, Dattner Architects and Biber Housing) presented revised plans to add two (2) new buildings to the Dean Sage Mansion site at 839 St Marks Ave to include affordable housing in ICL’s current services for the mentally disabled. The site is in the Crown Heights North Historic District which is also a National Register District. The location is a free-standing High Victorian Gothic-style Mansion designed by Russell Sturgis and built c 1868. ICL has been providing residential services to 48 mentally-ill single adults there since approximately 1998. The project was initially presented at the January 7, 2016 Housing Committee meeting and was tabled to provide time for ICL to share their plans with the neighbors.

In response to complaints by the Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) that neighbors had not been notified, ICL met with the St Marks Independent Block Association (SMIBA). ICL also reported that they have met with PS 289, and the Brooklyn Childrens Museum about the overall project plans. CHNA sent letters to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), their elected officials, and ICL complaining of the incongruity of the project and asking that ICL select an alternate site. The CHNA letters were also distributed at the Housing Committee meeting.

As a rejoinder, ICL scaled-back the planned bulk and height for the new buildings (from 48,000 SF to 40,000 SF), as well as increased the setback from the street-wall. The existing extension will support eight (8) dwelling units. Compared to the initial plan, the overall number of supportive housing units would be reduced from 48 to 45. Additionally, 60% of the 75 units would be supportive housing; including 30 affordable units under Section 8 offered at 30% or 50% of AMI. Monthly rents for the affordable units would be $867 for a studio, $931 for a one (1) bedroom, and $1,123 for a two (2) bedroom. The estimated cost of the project is $38 million to be funded through a new not for profit entity related to ICL.

The project plans still include the demolition of the Brooklyn Ave extension (built in 1921 and which ICL considers as non-contributing). However, ICL now presents the proposed new 5.5 story buildings that will surround the mansion as a ‘backdrop.’ The side-yard and the garden facing St. Marks Avenue would remain. Plans include restoration of the Mansion porch. The scaled-back additions would meet the Mansion through a glazed connector. The entrance would be handicapped-accessible and have an elevator to serve both the Mansion and the new buildings.

Ms. Shirley Mondesir, President of the SMIBA and many block residents were present. She read a list of complaints for oversight of program residents by ICL, and persistent quality of life issues caused by current residents of the facility, including: frequent panhandling on the
sidewalks, via knocking on doors, and in Brower Park; public drinking, drug use, and urination, as well as public lewdness and copulation in parked cars. ICL indicated they would have a follow-up meeting with SMIBA. Ms. Diana Foster stated that no complaints have been received by the 77th Pct Clergy Council. Mr. Desmond Atkins stated that the Public Safety Committee had received several complaints and reports from PS 289.

Committee Vice-chair Ethel Tyus called for a motion on the item. Concerned with comprising the character of this historic district, Ms. Deborah Young moved to withhold support for the project. The motion was seconded and debated. The Committee voted eight (8) in favor, with five (5) against and five (5) abstentions; and the motion failed.

Committee Vice-chair Ethel Tyus called for another motion on the item. Concerned with increasing the availability of affordable housing, Mr. Wayne Bailey motioned to support the project. Ms. Oratowski pointed out that LPC’s scope of review will be the architectural merits of the plan. Ms. Diana Foster seconded Mr. Bailey’s motion suggesting that the architectural design should be ‘as good as possible.’ Given the vague basis for addressing the technical problems with the architectural aspects of the project, Mr. Phu Duong recommended that cornice details be improved, and that the metal panel finish on the top floor and safety rails be constructed of a non-reflective material instead of shiny metal, as burnished metal would be out of character for the residential corner and non-reflective materials would prevent sun glare. The Committee voted seven (7) in favor, with eight (8) against and three (3) abstentions; and the motion failed. The item was laid on the table in the interest of time and the need to hear the second item on the agenda.

When the Committee moved to take the item off the table, Committee Vice-chair Ethel Tyus called for a third motion on the item. Ms. Young moved to withhold support for the project given the community’s dissatisfaction with the design and the current quality of life complaints by the neighbors. Mr. Veconi offered a friendly amendment to include the recommendations offered by Mr. Duong so as to provide LPC with guidance in the event LPC chooses to approve the project. The Committee voted on the amended motion with 11 in favor of withholding support with one (1) against and (4) abstentions; and specified that in the unlikely event that LPC approves ICL’s application for a Certificate of Appropriateness, ICL should be required to improve cornice details, and that the metal panel finish on the top floor and safety rails be constructed of a non-reflective material instead of shiny metal as burnished metal would be out of character for the residential corner and non-reflective materials would prevent sun glare. The Committee hopes that the full Board will support its recommendation to withhold support with the necessary amendments.

ICL is scheduled to present their proposal to the LPC on March 22, 2016.

Ms. Kawana Coleman, a member of SMIBA, stated that she is not in favor of having ICL put the additional units on the block.

Mr. Veconi made a correction to the action item. He stated that the amendment he made was to the second motion to support the project, and that motion had failed. The Board should be voting on the motion made by Ms. Young that passed without any amendments.
Ms. Foster stated that she was at the Housing meeting, and at the meeting, she informed the committee that she had spoken to community officers at the 77th precinct and they had no major complaints or reports regarding that site. She asked who the complaints are going to and why hasn’t the District office received any of the complaints.

Mr. Howard stated that he has family living at 134 Brooklyn Avenue, directly across from the site. He asked if there is a list of elected officials that have supported the project. He also pointed out that in the event that LPC does approve the project, we have asked for some improvements. The R6 zoning for the area permits the type of construction that ICL would like to do.

A representative from ICL stated that they have not met with landmarks yet on the revisions but will meet on March 22nd. Mr. Puca asked what type of feedback has LPC given on the revisions. He was informed that LPC has agreed with the changes made so far.

Mr. Atkins made a motion to support the Housing Committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Monderson and carried with a final tally of 24 in favor, 5 opposed, with 4 abstentions.

2. Application to LPC for a Certificate of Appropriateness to Renovate 1290 Bergen St to Add a Roof Bulkhead and Combine Rear Windows to Create Patio Doors

Ms. Shefali Sanghvi, R.A. presented plans to remove the fire escape, add a rear deck, a bulkhead to facilitate roof access at this three (3) family masonry Renaissance Revival style rowhouse designed by F.K. Taylor and built c. 1898 in the Crown Heights North Historic District. Ms. Sanghvi reported that LPC has approved the window door conversion at the staff level. She provided copies of registered mail receipts to prove notice to the neighbors; however a copy of the letter itself was not provided. Mr. Meredith Staton moved to support the application and Mr. Desmond Atkins seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously 15 in favor to support the application, and hopes the full Board will do the same.

This project is scheduled for a LPC hearing on March 22, 2016.

Mr. Sachs made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Veconi and carried with a final vote of 32 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

Discussion Items  
Due to the time devoted to the 839 St Marks project, the Committee deferred discussion of developments with the M1-1 Project and the proposal to create an affordable housing subcommittee to the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Housing Committee will be held on April 7, 2016 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.
Parks – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chair; Ms. Kim Albert, Vice Chair

The Parks committee met on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 and again on March 1, 2016 at St. Johns Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place. At the February 2nd meeting, a representative from the Roger That Community Garden Project (RTGP) made a presentation concerning their efforts to save the garden that has been nurtured for approximately 10 years. In December 2013 the property was transferred to a new group by the name of TYC Realty. RTGP has been trying to contact the original owner in order to protect the space and have been building a legal case since Spring 2013 against TYC Realty.

In 2014, Community Board 8 wrote a letter to support the property remaining a garden instead of being developed. RTGP and CB 8 suggested that the property be sold to the Brooklyn Queens Land Trust for preservation. On February 2, 2016 they were advised that they may be evicted from the property. Since the negotiation of this property is challenging, the Roger That Community Garden group is requesting that the City of New York/Parks & Recreation gain ownership of the property and deem it a community garden.

The committee voted unanimously to send a letter supporting the City of New York/Parks & Recreation obtaining ownership of the property located at Rogers Avenue and Park Place and deem that property a garden. The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Lesold asked who owns the garden. She was informed that it is privately owned. The property was sold in 2013.

Demetrius Mills from the Brooklyn Queens Land Trust (BQLT) stated that the property was never legally a community garden. It has always been private property. BQLT is doing a number of things to keep that garden a garden. Senator Montgomery and Senator Hamilton have put forth legislation to get the property through eminent domain.

Dr. Monderson stated that any housing built on the site will obscure the beautiful mural on the façade of the building. He is opposed to construction at the site.

Ms. Tyus made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. It was seconded by Mr. Sachs and carried with a final vote of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be held April 5, 2016 at 6 PM at St. John’s Recreation Center. All are invited to attend.

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

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, February 22, 2016 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue. Present were: Shalawn Langhorne, Shirley Mondesir, Xeerxeema Jordan, Mark Thurton, Liz Grefrath, Irwin A. Tanenbaum, P.O. Phil Romano, and P.O. Laverne Green.

The committee discussed the Neighborhood Coordination Officers or NCO program. This is a new community policing program where specially trained community officers will be assigned
to specific areas and become familiar with its residents and the residents become familiar with the officers. Community Affairs Officer Green said the 77th Precinct is divided into four sectors. Each sector will have 2 community officers and 6 patrol officers. The officers will patrol their sector but can go into another sector if needed. The NCO officers would be attending block association meeting and introducing themselves to residents and merchant in their sectors. The best way to contact the community officers is by email. Their contact information was provided.

The committee discussed its goals for the upcoming year and also discussed working with Councilman Corney’s office to get funding for ARGUS cameras to be placed at strategic locations throughout his council district in the 77th Precinct.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on March 21, 2016 at 6 PM at the 77th Precinct. All are invited to attend.

Seniors – Ms. Kim Albert, Chair

The Seniors committee met on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 and heard a presentation by Dr. Sharon McLeod from BMS Home Care Plus. The committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue. Each month, there is a speaker present to discuss various topics. All are invited to attend the next meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 6 PM.

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

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, March 7, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. Present were: Wayne Bailey, Gail Branch-Muhammad, Cheryl Brown, Barbara Campbell, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Takako Kono, Danae Oratowski, Atim Oton, Robert Puca, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Mark Thurton, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, and Robert Witherwax.

The committee discussed the following liquor license applications:

1. Renewals:
   a. Stratosphere Studios, 227 Utica Avenue (Sterling/St. John’s) – Beer/Wine
   b. Cass West Indian, 135 Kingston Avenue (Bergen/St. Marks) – Beer/Wine
   c. Rose’s, 276 Flatbush Avenue (Prospect/St. Marks) – Full
   d. Franklin Park, 618 St. Johns Place (corner Franklin) – Full

The committee voted to support all 4 renewals in hopes that 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 vote of 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

2. New License for T&C Izakaya, 727 Franklin Avenue (B&W)
i. Ramen shop with 47 seats
ii. Hours of operation Mon-Thu: Noon to 11 PM, Fri-Sat: Noon to 12 AM, Sun: Noon to 10:30 PM
iii. No outdoor space

The committee voted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention to support the application as submitted 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 vote of 29 in favor, 1 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

Mr. Ellis announced that there are a series of amendments to state legislation. They add language that strengthens the reach of the SLA by allowing for the mandate of 30 days notice for 500 foot hearings instead of the current 15 days. One of the amendments also includes public access to the full application in advance of the 500 foot hearing. The amendments make stipulations stronger because the stipulations will be added as a matter of point on the license and not just as a recommendation. The committee supported the changes being proposed.

The next meeting of the SLAC Committee will be held on April 4, 2016 at 6 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

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

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. In addition to the Vice Chair, Robert Witherwax, present were: Nizjoni Granville, CB 8 Chair, Michelle George, District Manager, Holly Fuchs, Glen Gerber, Elizabeth Haines, Xeerxeema Jordan, Chris McNally, Adam Sachs, Greg Todd, Jacqueline Wells, Nicole Altmore, Lily Gordon-Koven, Alicia Posner, Archie Soodhoo, Dorrett Ellis, Mayleen Frederick, Rev. N. Philips, Norma Grant, Paulette Reese, Violet Thom, Maximum Tuom, Sanville Vernon, Yvette McKain, Edith Gordon, Ashley Thompson, Cecilia Jerry, Coleen Bassinton, Quinn Kelly, Adam Fleming, Ira Xavier-Andrews, Monica Dixon, Lillian Taylor, Albert Taylor, I. Madaldo, Regina Kinsay, Elijah Gray, Ernest Pender, Mark Thurton, Sherline Thomas, Deborah Young, Desmond Atkins, Caroline Nanton, Aubrey Nonton, Nicole Douglas, Beatriz Sherwood, Shelley Roberts, Winsome Jordon, D. Jones, Rev. Oral Malcott, Janelle Hayne, Joann Ross Ripples, Charlene Hamblin, Karl Whittington, Alfred Power, Audrey Jordan, Jason Atkins, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Nurse, Robert and Don George, Latanga Lacey, David M. Lacey, Imani Lacey.

The committee discussed the following items:

1. Base license relocation request for Flamingo Transportation and Limousine Service to move from 860 Nostrand Avenue in the confines of Community Board 9, to 1518 Bergen Street (between Utica and Schenectady Avenues), in Community Board 8.
The owner provided an updated letter of a parking agreement from the owner of the lot at 1536 Bergen Street. Additional letters of support were provided to the committee in support of the taxi base from neighboring residents.

The committee voted unanimously to support the relocation of Flamingo Transportation and Limousine Service from 860 Nostrand Avenue to 1518 Bergen Street and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Witherwax clarified that the minutes do not properly reflect what happened in committee. He stated that the committee asked for a posting and updated letter about the parking spaces. Both were done. They also asked for letters from people that live on the block. The Board received 3 additional letters from neighbors.

Ms. Oton stated that the Executive committee was very concerned about representation. The quantity of letters received was not sufficient. There will be a substantial increase of cars on the block. She stated that she would have expected a minimum of 10 letters.

Mr. Staton asked if there is enough parking in the lot. He asked if the committee personally saw the lot to make sure there is enough parking. Mr. Soodhoo, owner of Flamingo Transportation and Limousine Services, stated that the TLC requires a parking commitment, and he provided a letter as documentation that he had secured parking. The lot can hold 40 cars. Vehicles will not be parked on Bergen Street. He stated that his drivers do not park and wait. There is no train station near the site so parking and waiting would not be lucrative. Drivers do not make money parked. He has been in business 44 years with no problems.

Ms. Oton made a motion to not support the item until more letters are received because there will be substantial impact on the lives of the residents. The motion was not seconded. Dr. Monderson stated that Flamingo will be providing a service that is lacking. No concerns were raised and no complaints received. Also, the application for the relocation has been stalled 3 times; it is time for the Board to take a position on this application.

Ms. Grefrath made a motion to support committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sachs and carried with a final tally of 31 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

2. Sterling/St. John’s Safety Improvement Plan

The Committee heard a presentation from the Dept. of Transportation on traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures on St. Johns Place (from Plaza Street East to Rochester Avenue) and Sterling Place (from Vanderbilt to Kingston Avenues), and the intersection of Utica Avenue and St. Johns Place. The Committee conducted a public hearing on the matter. Many members of the community spoke regarding the DOT plan. There was a vigorous question and answer period and concerns were raised about eliminating the left turns at Utica Avenue. Some wanted DOT to go back to the drawing board about the left turn at St. Johns Place and Utica Avenue. DOT assured the community it was committed to doing something to improve pedestrian safety. DOT was asked if various safety ideas could be monitored more frequently than the usual revisiting schedule.
The Committee felt that the proposed measures were not sufficiently protective of pedestrian safety, too restrictive of traffic mobility (it can take three lights for a car to make a turn), and even premature in light of impending street changes attributable to the B46 SBS along Utica Avenue. DOT agreed that the intersection of St. John’s Place and Utica Avenue is problematic and agreed to remove it from the original plan.

The committee voted unanimously to support the St. John’s and Sterling Place Safety Plan with the amendment that the intersection of St. John’s and Utica Avenue be removed from the plan. The committee still supports the plan and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation to support the proposal minus the intersection of St. John’s Place and Utica Avenue.

Please note that since the committee meeting, a petition with over 600 signatures from residents and businesses along St. John’s and Sterling Places and the surrounding blocks was received objecting to the safety plan and the proposed bike lanes. The petition based its opposition on the following factors: 1. The bike lanes are redundant as Eastern Parkway has underutilized bike lanes along the malls. 2. There are multiple east-west bike lanes from Pacific Street to St. Marks Avenue. Additional bike lanes will clog our east-west streets even more. Residential needs will be impaired. 3. Several senior facilities are in the area of the proposed bike lanes and studies have shown that a senior is just as likely to be hit by a biker as a car. And 4. Money could be better spent on enforcement and educational tools. Furthermore, the petition continued that St. John’s Place is too busy a corridor for a bike lane. It is heavily utilized and congested, is a bus route, has a commercial zone, etc.

Dr. Monderson stated that the bike lanes are especially concerning because St. John’s Place is a bus route with narrow lanes in some sections.

Regina Kinsey, a resident of St. John’s Place stated that half of the people on Sterling and St. John’s Places do not know what is going on. Whoever put the proposal together did not put much thought into it and it is totally wrong. The plan is going to be something that disrupts lives on a monumental level. It is unfair to the many seniors that cross the intersections of a major local thoroughfare to make them deal with increased traffic brought by bikers. She added that each time DOT goes to a meeting with a proposal to add a bike lane, the agency has the same story that it is a dangerous street and the bike lanes are needed. It sounds like a made up and rehearsed story.

Ms. Audrey Jordan spoke in opposition to the bike lanes due to congestion.

Matthew Pitt from Councilwoman Cumbo’s office stated that at this time, the Councilwoman’s office does not support the installation of a bike lane on St. John’s Place.

The reverend from Bethany United Church stated that he and his parishioners are totally against having bike lanes on these blocks.

Mr. Bailey stated that bike lanes help the most financially disenfranchised people. He stated that he lives on Dean Street by the Barclays Center, which is a very congested part of the district.
proclaimed that he does not know why residents always fight DOT when it comes to safety. It is not our place to second guess them and their findings.

Demetrius Mills stated that in his community, there are many bike lanes. The bike lanes have taken double lane roadways and made them into single lane roadways. They have created congestion. By adding bike lanes, you are taking away one or two lanes from normal traffic. As the population is growing, how are people getting around? DOT always says it is trying to address safety issues in the community, but he asked if anyone has noticed that there have been more people killed with the implementation of vision zero. Like Ms. Kinsey, he stated that we cannot take DOT at face value because they are not really looking out for the community.

Mr. Atkins stated that he was present at the meeting. He is a cyclist, pedestrian, and automobile driver. It is impractical to have bike lanes on the streets in the proposal. He stated that if you look at what happens on the north/south corridors that have had traffic amelioration measures, traffic has slowed down dramatically. When there is any attempt to get an emergency vehicle through traffic, they have been impeded because of traffic amelioration. Between 2 and 8 PM, there is tremendous impassability in the eastern end of the district. DOT has monitors in the street, but not on the eastern end.

Mr. Veconi spoke in support of the bike lanes. He stated that he recently had the opportunity to review DOT bike lanes along Vanderbilt Avenue. In 2004, there were 10 accidents on Vanderbilt. In 2009, after testing, there was 1 accident. There is absolutely no question that slowing down traffic and narrowing travel lanes makes the streets safer.

Mr. Witherwax, who presided over the Transportation Committee meeting in lieu of the Chair, stated that at the meeting, there were dozens of people in the audience speaking their minds and a lot of concerns were raised. He stated that he agreed with both Mr. Atkins and Mr. Veconi. However, what is different between his thoughts and Mr. Atkins’ thoughts is that he believes slower is safer. There have been 47 severe injuries on the corridors, 19 of which caused pedestrian injuries between 2013 and 2015. The bike lanes are just the tool to enhance safety along the corridor to make it safer for seniors, children, and pedestrians and bikers. He stated that he stands by the committee’s vote.

Mr. Sachs stated that he appreciates the 600 signatures in opposition to the bike lanes and also the support for them. However, he stated that he was struggling to understand what the opposition is to the proposal besides the bike lane itself. He stated that bike lanes do not promote bike usage; they just mark out a clear lane of travel for bikers. It seems that a bike lane would help diminish accidents. Cyclists will be on the road regardless of whether there are bike lanes or not.

Mr. Witherwax made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried with a final tally of 16 in favor, 14 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The next Transportation committee meeting will be held on March 22, 2016 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.
Youth and Education – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chair; Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Vice Chair

The Youth and Education Committee met on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. Present were: Sharon Wedderburn, Kwasi Mensah, Jessica Warner, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Laurel Dayrosa, Xeerzeema Jordan, Azriel Cochini-Ben, Yves Vilus, M. Pegye Johnson, and Tyalecia Mitchell Colbert.

The committee discussed the Dept. of Education’s plans involving Medgar Evers Prep (MEP), whose principal will be overseeing Boy’s and Girl’s High School (BGHS), which due to poor academic performance, is in danger of being phased out. An Educational Impact Statement has been drafted and will be reviewed by the DOE.

Jessica Warner with the Citizen’s Committee for Children (CCC) distributed information. CCC provides services for children in foster homes, and assists those who eventually age out of them, as the statistics show, that too many do not make a smooth transition into conventional life. The group compiled an array of data pertaining to economic status, housing, health, education, teen/unwed pregnancy and overall familial status city-wide into a separate document, CCC Community Risk Ranking: Child Well-Being in New York City’s 59 Community Districts. Community Board 8 ranks 43 out of 59 community boards. The committee is going to work with elected officials to raise the overall quality of child well-being in the community.

Finally, the committee discussed the upcoming College Fair to be held Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the St. John’s Recreation Center, from 11 AM – 4 PM. The committee is working in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Committee as well as staff at the Recreation Center on the fair. They are inviting all prospective students, both high school and adults.

The next meeting of the Youth and Education Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Granville thanked the committee chairs for the reports and opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments

Mr. Peter Velez, a member of a Brooklyn anti-gentrification group mentioned two zoning text amendments being proposed in the City Council right now. He stated that over 75% of community boards citywide voted down Zoning for Quality and Affordability and Mandatory Inclusionary Housing, but the Mayor dismissed the community boards’ opinions by stating that CBs are only advisory. On March 30th at Noon, there will be a public hearing against the zoning proposals. Call 718-703-3086 for more information.

Mr. Demetrius Mills, Operations Chair of BQLT, stated that BQLT owns 37 community gardens between Brooklyn and Queens. It is very important for the community to use the community garden spaces. There are two gardens up the block on St. John’s Place between Buffalo and Ralph Avenues and a few others in CB 8. If you grow your own fruits and vegetables, you will have a more healthy diet and lifestyle for you and your family. We need to
get kids in the gardens to teach them about good health. In the 18 neighborhoods where BQLT has gardens, all types of people are represented. By participating, you get to see what other people eat and cook and you can find out if what other people eat and cook is better for the body. He reiterated the importance of using the spaces, stating that if they are not utilized, you run the risk of the city taking back the spaces for development. He referenced the 37 HPD gardens that were open for development a month ago. Of the 37, 29 are slated for development. The key to preventing this from happening is to support your community gardens.

Ms. Kathleen Daniel from Borough President Adams’ office mentioned a plethora of anti-displacement methods and programs that the BP has enacted since taking office. Going back to 2015, Borough Hall has been providing services for legal resources for tenants. Those services are going to be expanded. So far, they have referred hundreds of people suffering tenant harassment to constituent and legal services. They connected people with resources to help them keep their homes. The BP has worked in conjunction with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman on certain initiatives. BP Adams requested in 2008 that City Council hold a hearing on the Tenant Protection Act that allows tenants to sue their landlords if they are being harassed. That Act was passed. Finally, BP Adams’ held the first public hearing in 7 years on Mitchell Llama housing, which is prevalent throughout certain neighborhoods in Brooklyn. There will be a tenant harassment event on March 24th, which will be a legal clinic with attorneys present, where you can learn your legal rights as a tenant.

Ms. Daniel also announced that there will be an Alzheimer’s Conference at Boro Hall from 8 AM to 4 PM on Friday, March 11th.

Dr. Monderson stated that a couple of weeks ago, Our Time Press had an article on deed theft. He asked if the Boro President is doing anything about deed theft in Brooklyn. He was informed that there was a recent town hall meeting about deed theft and helping people ensure that they still possessed their deeds and that their names were still on them.

For more information on any of the BP’s anti-gentrification measures and initiatives, please give her a call at 718-802-3771 or on her cell at 347-620-4158.

Ms. Connie Lesold thanked the BP for the support to the burn unit in Brooklyn.

Ms. Elisa Heligar from Senator Hamilton’s office announced the 2nd annual Shirley Chisolm Women of Excellence Award. Senator Jesse Hamilton, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, and Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo will continue the legacy of Brooklynite Shirley Chisolm, a true catalyst of change, by recognizing the achievements of iconic Brooklyn women. The celebration will be held on Friday, March 18th at Brooklyn Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn. Seating is limited. Please call 718-284-4700 to RSVP or email Hamilton@nysenate.gov.

Senator Hamilton in partnership with Assemblywoman Latrice Walker is also hosting a Career Development Workshop on Monday, March 28th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at First Baptist Church of Brownsville, located at 357 Chester Street (between Livonia and Dumont Avenues), Brooklyn.
Topics include career development plans, resume critiques, presentation skills, social media job hunting, interviewing techniques, and job leads. For more information, please contact Richard Nelson at 718-284-4700 or email rnelson@nysenate.gov.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for their announcements. With no additional business, she adjourned the meeting at 9:40 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 7 PM at 1000 Dean Street, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

GUESTS

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