January 14, 2016

Members Present

Kim Albert
Glinda Andrews
Wayne Bailey
LeeAnn Banks
Princess Benn-James
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Michael Cox
Phu Duong
James Ellis
Fred Frazier
Nizjoni Granville
Liz Grefrath
Curtis Harris
Xeerxeema Jordan
Kwasi Mensah
Adelaide Miller
Dr. Fred Monderson
Atim Oton
Yayha O. Raji
Adam Sachs
Patricia Scantlebury
Stacey Sheffey
Meredith Staton
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Greg Todd
Ethel Tyus
Gib Veconi
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Widderburn
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young
Vilma Zuniga

Members Absent/Excused

Desmond Atkins
Julia Boyd
Adem Bunkeddeko
Helen Coley
Diana Foster
Shalawn Langhorne
Tarves Lord
Robert Matthews
Robert Puca
Opal Richards
Sherly Vassell
Yves Vilus

Elected Officials Present

Senator Velmanette Montgomery
District Leader Ola Alabi

Elected Official Representatives

Kathleen Daniel, Boro President Eric Adams Office
Alex Garovich, Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office
Matthew Pitt, Councilwoman Cumbo’s Office
Elisa Helligar, Senator Jesse Hamilton’s Office
Natasha Williams, Assm. Richardson’s Office
Joseph Yanis, Assemblyman Mosely’s Office
Stefani Zinerman, Councilman Cornegy’s Office

CB 8 Staff Present

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Associate

The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 7:15 PM by the Chairperson, Ms. Nizjoni Granville. She wished everyone a happy New Year.

The Chairperson asked Mr. Robert Witherwax, 2nd Vice Chair, to call the roll. A quorum was present.
Acceptance of Minutes – Dr. Monderson made a motion to accept the minutes with any necessary corrections. The motion was第二ed by Mr. Staton and carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Granville asked for an update from the Parks Department on the reconstruction of Stroud Playground.

NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation – Ms. Mary Salig, Director of Capital Projects; Mr. Isaac “Izzy” Doughty, Community Parks Team Member

Ms. Salig announced that Stroud Playground was chosen as a Community Parks Initiative Project for 2015. A scoping meeting was held last year and the Parks Department brought the design plans to the Board a few months ago. They are now in the procurement phase where they are seeking a contractor to do the work in the park. Parks is still working to make the new playground a reality and is encouraging people to remain involved and active. They are looking to get a group together to form a “Friends of” group that will look after the park after its renovated.

Ms. Salig also announced the Parks Without Borders Initiative that was outlined in the CB 8 newsletter. She encouraged people to vote for a park they think could use a more welcoming design. The initiative is a funding allocation that the Parks Department is looking to the public for guidance in determining how to spend the money.

Mr. Isaac “Izzy” Doughty announced that the community and the Parks Department worked together to design Stroud Playground. Unfortunately, the park will be closing for an extended period of time, but it will re-open in a few years. If anyone is interested in helping form a Friends of Stroud Playground group or working with any of the other parks and playgrounds in the community, please speak to him.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Salig and Mr. Doughty for their information and opened the floor for announcements from elected official representatives.

Elected Officials and Elected Official Representatives

Senator Velmanette Montgomery

Senator Montgomery wished everyone a Happy New Year and acknowledged the presence of the CB 3 Chairperson, stating that it was a pleasure seeing her at a CB 8 meeting because we must work together. She announced that her office is trying to highlight some of the major institutions in the borough. One of them is Boys and Girls High Schools, which is the repository for the largest collection of art created by African American artists in the New York City area.

Senator Montgomery also mentioned that the Honor Brooklyn Historic Society has an exhibit of the roles of African American people over many generations. Chester Jones will be speaking at Historic Society on February 3rd. He documented in photographs many things during his travels across the world. The event is being co-sponsored by the Senator and Councilwoman Cumbo. Call either office for more information. Senator Montgomery can be reached at 718-643-6140 and Councilwoman Cumbo’s office number is 718-260-9191.
A $145 billion budget has been passed. $26 billion has been allocated for education. The Legislature will have budget hearings starting next week that will cease at the end of February. She stated that she will seek to make changes to the budget that gets passed and would like to be able to speak on the community’s behalf at the budget hearings. Please call her office and let her staff know what you think is needed and what you would like to see money spent on.

Ms. Oton asked the Senator if she was seeking re-election. She was informed that she was as she is proud to be able to represent the people of the community.

Ms. Branch Muhammad acknowledged that the Senator is always supportive for the community and has done so much for juvenile justice. She stated that she is tired of the governor and mayor always at odds with each other, and asked the Senator to please take it back to Albany that people would like to see them work better together.

Mr. Cox asked the Senator if she had heard any discussion about CUNY funding because he heard that funding is going to be cut. He was informed that the Board of Regents will be coming before the committees during the budget hearing. Generally speaking they come with their own proposal. They are supposed to be coming with a plan for the CUNY system and education system overall. Hopefully it will be palatable for all and there will not be a tuition increase. They are also supposed to bring a plan whose aim it is to specifically target young males of color in figuring out what can be done to help them become more successful academically.

Ms. Granville thanked Senator Montgomery for her remarks.

**District Leader Olanike Alabi**

District Leader Alabi wished everyone a Happy New Year and all the best in 2016. She informed everyone that there are 4 elections this year. The first is the presidential primary on April 19th, followed by the Congressional primary June 28th, then the local primary September 18th. The election season culminates with the general election on November 8th. She encouraged everyone to participate in the election process during all 4 elections.

We are celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King on Monday, January 18th. She encouraged support of the celebratory events in his honor. Finally, District Leader Alabi thanked those that were able to come out to the fire safety workshop she hosted recently. If you were unable to attend to obtain a free smoke/carbon monoxide combination detector, you can call 311 for a free one.

Ms. Granville thanked District Leader Alabi for the information and asked the elected official representatives if they had anything to share.

**Ms. Natasha Williams** from Assemblywoman Richardson’s office introduced herself as the new Chief of Staff.

**Mr. Alex Gurevich** from DA Thompson’s office announced that January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. On Tuesday, January 19, 2016 from 6 to 8 PM at the YWCA located at 30 3rd Avenue, Brooklyn, there will be an event regarding raising awareness about human trafficking. He invited everyone to join Sarah Jones in conversation to discuss her current one-woman show,
“Sell/Buy/Date,” which tackles issues on human trafficking. RSVP to BKHumanTrafficking@brooklynda.org.

Ms. Elisa Heligar from Senator Hamilton’s office wished everyone a Happy New Year. She stated that the copies of the Senator’s calendar were available on the correspondence table.

Mr. Maurice Cole from the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) announced that BNIA handles everything related to housing issues including but not limited to homebuyers programs, SCRIE and DRIE, and they are foreclosure specialists. He announced “Resolving Your Mortgage Issues,” a foreclosure workshop designed to help people avoid foreclosure. The event will take place on January 22, 2016 from 9 AM to 3 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn. Mortgage companies will be available on site to help resolve your delinquent mortgage and foreclosure issues. RSVP with Bukky at 718-773-4116. Many people think the foreclosure issue is behind us, but living in NYC, New York is a foreclosure heavy state. Many people may have to transition out of being a homeowner because they have issues that have not been resolved.

Ms. Kathleen Daniel from the Borough President’s office announced that on the 28th of January at 6 PM, there will be a ULURP hearing on the City Planning and BSA applications for 170 Buffalo Avenue, formerly St. Mary’s Hospital. She announced that Community Board applications are available online at www.brooklyn-usa.org. Applications are electronic this year. If you have a challenge with electronics, call 718-802-1773 to speak with her for assistance. If you are unsure if you need to reapply, please call as well. She also announced that the Boro President has put together a Brooklyn resource guide. The Brooklyn Academy of Music is celebrating MLK day this Monday at BAM. It is a free event and doors open at 10:30 AM. She advised anyone interested in attending the program to get there early because space is limited.

Mr. Joseph Yanis from Assemblyman Mosley’s office announced the Assemblyman’s upcoming youth job fair on Friday, January 29th from 10 AM to 4 PM. There will be over 60 vendors in attendance. There will be resume and cover letter writing workshops and seminars. If you are looking for a job or internship, please attend. The event will be held at the State Office Building located at 55 Hanson Place, Brooklyn.

Ms. Stephanie Zimmerman from Councilman Cornegy’s office announced that the discretionary funding application is now open. Deadline for expense allocations is in February, and the deadline for Capital funding is in March. She urged everyone to not wait until the last minute to put in an application for funding. She announced that Councilmembers Cumbo and Cornegy are coming together for joint participatory budgeting again this year. Call either office for more information and for information of upcoming participatory budgeting meetings. You can reach Councilwoman Cumbo at 718-260-9191 and Councilman Cornegy at 718-919-0740.

She announced that the Councilman entered legislation about deed theft in partnership with Bridge Street Corporation to help combat the abundance of deed thefts in the 36th Council district. On January 19th there will be a finance committee hearing, and another piece of legislation will be heard regarding SCRIE and DRIE. The Councilman is asking for a freeze of the rent at the preferential rate rather than the market rate.

There will also be a meeting about expanding the Safe Stop Program to Community Board 8 meeting on Jan 26th at 5 pm at the Councilman’s office located at 1360 Fulton Street, 5th Floor.
Mr. Matthew Pitt from Councilwoman Cumbo’s office announced that there was a successful hearing today on 911 technicians. The Councilwoman introduced a new law to allow people to text emergencies to 911. We should see the passage of the legislation soon.

The Councilwoman is joining Councilman Cornegy in participatory budgeting. He is also continuing immigration services, but they are no longer on Tuesday. Immigration services are now offered on Wednesday from 10 AM to 4 PM. Please call 718-919-0740 for an appointment.

Mr. Ellis asked what is going on with the Jewish Hospital Apartments since no new information has been given. He was informed that the owners applied for Article 11. Terms are not being negotiated at this time. Ms. Oton urged him to have the Councilwoman help us by engaging us in the process and discussions. Mr. Pitt stated that he would bring the request back to the Councilwoman.

Ms. Granville thanked the elected officials and the representatives 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, January 12, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn but did not submit minutes. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 6:30 PM, at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

**Education and Youth** – Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chair; Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Vice-Chair

The Youth and Education Committee met on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Vice-Chair, Kwasi Mensah, also present were Audrey Taitt-Hall, Elizabeth Grefrath, Azriel Cocchini-Beck, Alli Lesovoy, Betty Davis, and Laurel Dayrosa.

The committee discussed the importance of parents, especially black and Hispanic, to more actively engage in techniques and methods on providing children with the mental “food” they need to properly develop the children’s brains. Elizabeth Grefrath expressed concern that the Mayor’s Universal Pre-K (UPK) initiative, which could play an important role in this regard, has not experienced the anticipated number of student enrollments, which is perhaps due to the information not being sufficiently disseminated.

The committee also discussed the poor test scores of blacks and Hispanics on specialty high school tests and the low enrollment of blacks and Hispanics in the specialty schools. The committee is considering working with other community boards to push the agenda of providing better opportunities for urban minorities to get into the schools and increase their test scores.

Finally, the committee began discussing their upcoming Education Fair, date and location to be determined.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.
**Environment/Sanitation** – Ms. Helen Coley, Chair

The Environment/Sanitation Committee did not meet in the month of December. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 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

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Monday, January 4, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. Present were Kwasi Mensah and Audrey Taitt-Hall.

The committee discussed the ambitious proposals of Smoke-Free NYC in terms of their aim for all community boards to draft resolutions calling for completely smoke-free, multi-unit dwellings. The committee is seeking feedback from the Public Safety and Housing committees. The members considered policy measures for the proposal including the implementation of designated smoking “zones.” For example, such a measure would be to restrict smoking to those renting the top floor of a building, since there would be no proliferation of smoke to any upper apartments. Another policy might be holding the individual tenant liable, if it’s established that his or her smoking mishap (e.g. smoking in bed, failing to adequately extinguish the cigarette), caused a fire.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 1, 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, January 7, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair and Vice Chair, also present were: Wayne Bailey, Lee Ann Banks, Princess Benn-James, James Ellis, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Liz Grefrath, Xeerxeema Jordan, Adelaide Miller, Danae Oratowski, Yahya Raji, Adam Sachs, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Station, Greg Todd, Gib Veconi, Yves Vilus, Deborah Young, Marva Babel, Joseph Biber, Beth Cohen, Joseph Coppola, Kate Crassweller, Lisa Easton, Alester Garvey, Kendra Griffith, Renee Hastick-Motes, Mack Fuller, Maria Fuller, Jolyn Jones, Victoria Lawrence, Lorin Lewis, Carmen Martinez, Eric Palatnik, Kirsten Sibilia, Sandra Spady, Tanicke Samuel, and Tyrona Washington.

The committee discussed the following items:

1. **ULURP Hearing on Applications by the Centers for Specialty Care for BSA Variance for 170 Buffalo Ave, under ZR Section 24-522 to maintain current setbacks (BSA Cal No. 92-15-BZ & City Planning Special Permit 74-90 ZR)**
Mr. Eric Palatnik presented an update on the applications to the Board of Standards and Appeals, and to the Dept. of City Planning by the Centers for Specialty Care (CSC) to convert the former St. Mary’s Hospital at 170 Buffalo Ave from a hospital to a nursing home. As a hospital, the building (erected in 1976) was allowed a 10’ penetration of the sky exposure plane. Changing the building’s use to a nursing home will make that difference with the surrounding streetscape impermissible, and require a variance to avoid the need to remove those non-compliant segments of the building.
As a nursing home, the structure must be in harmony with its surroundings, and not require any significant additions for health and safety, or to handle anticipated traffic.

Mr. Palatnik reported that since the initial presentation to CB 8 in June 2012 (by then owner, Samuel Backer of Mazel Group regarding suggested development plans for the site), his client CSC has partnered with the Settlement Housing Fund and is committed to executing a DREAMS (Dedicated, Responsible, Educated, Accountable, Motivated and Self-Sufficient) program for young adults to train and place them in the construction trades, as well as in the medical arts (up to the level of Nursing) as part of this development project. Mr. Palatnik indicated that CSC’s contractor will have the option of hiring DREAMS participants. Committee members James Ellis and Princess Benn-James noted prior relationships with Settlement Housing Fund that will facilitate quarterly reports on internships and job placements stemming from this project.

Several home owners of ProMark Condominiums I & II, the abutting properties along both St Marks Ave. and Prospect Pl. were in attendance. These residents complained of: (1) poor drainage from the St Mary’s site causing flooding into their basements; as well as (2) the need for an easement to permit access for sanitation and waste removal services; (3) the stench from a flooded subcellar where 30’ of water had collected due to a broken pipe; (4) regular illegal dumping; and (5) the need for rodent control. Mr. Palatnik indicated that the former parking lot would be regraded to create a drywell to absorb rain water, and an easement would provide access across a stairway for trash removal. He also stated that the former ambulance bays will provide parking for employees, and there were no hazardous materials being stored. It was noted that the Boro President’s ULURP Hearing on this item will be Jan. 28th at 6 p.m. at Boro Hall.

On a motion made by Mr. Veconi and seconded by Ms. Oratowski to support the ULURP application, the Committee voted 16 in favor with two abstentions to recommend the variances, and hopes that the full Board will do the same.

Ms. Tyus stated that one question that was not asked at the meeting was whether or not there is state or federal funding for the project. She was informed that there is not.

Maria Fuller, Vice President of ProMark I Board, stated that ProMark has some specific questions on the restoration of the drywells, and whether it is connected to the city sewer system. She submitted a list of questions for answering. Mr. Palatnik did indicate that the drywell is not connected and will not be connected to the city sewer system. Mr. Palatnik indicated that there is still time to address the ProMark concerns as there is no date for the City Planning Commission hearing or the City Council hearing.

Ms. Tannenbaum stated that she lives across the street from the hospital on the Prospect Place side and is very pleased that things are moving forward and that the project is going ahead. She suggested a mural program with street artists after re-facing of the property to prevent repeat graffiti.

Mr. Leroy Reid wanted to thank CSC for making the community feel like participants in the project.

Mr. Harris asked Mr. Palatnik to elaborate on the DREAMS program and where the young adults are coming from and why it is an option of hiring them and not mandatory. Mr. Palatnik informed him that they will find qualified young people to participate either in the construction
phase or the nursing phase. The DREAMS program is well known in the area and will give the students a chance to get an introduction to construction and healthcare.

Mr. Staton asked if they are hiring minority and women owned businesses (MWE) locally or citywide. Mr. Palatnik informed him that CSC is looking locally but will do outreach citywide. They are very happy to meet people from the community and hire locally.

Ms. Oton asked what the target numbers for interns is. She was informed that when the facility is up and running, they anticipate more, but in the beginning there will be about 20 to 50. She suggested that CSC get a list of zip codes in the community for local hiring since DREAMS attracts citywide. Mr. Palatnik stated that CSC is very committed to hiring locally because its more reliable. Ms. Oton asked if the contractor has a requirement of 10% MWE. She was informed that there is no requirement because they are using private funds, but that CSC is making a lot of commitments to hire local residents.

Ms. Lula Staton asked if there will be a special website for the internship. She was informed that there will be and that it will be set up by DREAMS.

Ms. Tyus suggested that the Board ask Mr. Palatnik to respond to the ProMark questions by returning to the Housing Committee in February with answers to their questions.

A motion to support the committee’s recommendation was made by Mr. Todd and seconded by Mr. Sachs. It carried unanimously with 30 members present.

2. Application to LPC for Certificate of Appropriateness for 876 Sterling Place (Crown Heights North Historic District) to Legalize Color Change to Entry Door Hood

Owner Beth Cohen presented her request for support to legalize a color change to a major component of the principle façade at her residence, 876 Sterling Place, an altered 1889 neo-Grec/Queen Anne rowhouse designed and built by John L. Young. In May 2015, Ms. Cohen changed the colors of the façade from a creamy yellow with white trim to light grey with black trim without consulting LPC. On Aug. 24, 2015, LPC issued a notice of violation based on the color change of the ‘door hood,’ a significant architectural feature. Ms. Cohen presented photographs of the freshly painted principal façade. LPC offered the options to either return the door hood to white (the color at the time of designation), or strip the door hood to the original finish. Neither choice would be in harmony with the remainder of the façade’s current colors. The Crown Heights North Association reviewed the application and provided a letter indicating that they did not condone the owner’s claimed ignorance of LPCs rules.

The Committee discussed the options presented to the owner to legalize the change. On a motion made by Mr. Staton and seconded by Mr. Veconi, the Committee voted 17 in favor, with one abstention, to support the owner’s request to retain the current color scheme. LPC has scheduled a hearing on this matter for Feb. 2, 2016. The Committee hopes the full Board will support its recommendation.

Ms. Wedderburn stated that one of the by-products of landmarking is that you have to get approval to make exterior changes. She asked how did the committee accept the claim of ignorance as the reason for support. Ms. Young of the Crown Heights North Association stated that CHNA found the color more attractive and claimed that it was only minor work done. The old color was not as attractive as the new color scheme. Neither CHNA nor the committee...
supported a claim of ignorance, but both supported the work that was done. Ms. Wedderburn stated that we do not want to create a precedent of supporting ignorance.

Mr. Witherwax made a motion to disapprove the committee’s recommendation. It was seconded by Ms. Wedderburn and sparked a lengthy debate. Mr. Veconi stated that he is opposed to the motion because the committee does not generally sign off on forgiveness. It very often opposes changes without proper study of the historic context of their buildings. In this instance, the committee was presented with 2 other choices given by LPC that were thought to be inferior to what exists now. Mr. Sachs stated that he does not agree that one incident sets a trend. The claim of ignorance seemed genuine. Mr. Bailey gave a few examples of LPC making people undo changes they made that were necessary for the property and just as attractive as this change.

Mr. Cox suggested that Mr. Witherwax withdraw his motion to not support the committee’s recommendation. Mr. Witherwax withdrew his motion.

Mr. Sachs made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation to support the changes to the property. The motion was seconded by Mr. Veconi and carried with a final vote of 20 in favor, 10 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The committee also discussed the following items that were not action items:

3. **Application to LPC for Certificate of Appropriateness for 1477 Pacific Street (Crown Heights North Historic District) to Legalize Replacement Entry Door**

   Attorney Lorin Lewis presented a request from Sungate Realty and Property Management (Sungate) to retroactively legalize the replacement entry door at 1477 Pacific St., a 1906 eight-unit Renaissance Revival-style Flats building designed by A.Y. Pohlman. Mr. Lewis indicated that Sungate was unaware of the requirement to notify or request pre-approval from LPC for changes to the primary façade, even though (as he mentioned) the family-owned business has other properties in the CHN historic district. Attorney Lewis further indicated that: the door was changed, the façade basement windows were sealed with cinderblocks, and five cameras were installed [(2) outside, (1) in the foyer, and (2) in the hallway] to augment security to address drug dealing in the foyer and hallway. The application was scheduled for a hearing on Jan. 19, 2016. Given the other façade changes, the Committee voted 16 in favor with one abstention to request that LPC schedule the COA hearing on a later date to give the applicant an opportunity to provide a copy of the notice of violation issued by LPC; and return to the Housing Committee. The Committee hopes the full Board will support its recommendation.

4. **Application to LPC by Institute for Community Living for Certificate of Appropriateness to Expand 839 St. Marks Ave. for Additional Affordable and Supportive Housing**

   Ms. Renee Hastick-Motes, Assoc. VP for Community and Government Relations, Institute for Community Living (ICL) and her team (Dattner Architects and Biber Housing) presented plans to expand the Dean Sage Mansion site to add affordable housing to their current services of long-term transitional housing for the mentally disabled. The free-standing High Victorian Gothic-style Mansion was designed by Russell Sturgis and built c 1868. ICL has been providing residential services to 48 mentally-ill single adults at 839 St Marks Ave. since approximately 1998. They plan to demolish the 20th Century Brooklyn Ave extension (which they consider as non-contributing) and erect a 5.5 story building on that segment as well as fill-in the garden facing St. Marks Avenue. Plans also include restoration of the Mansion. Overall, the project
would provide 75 units of permanently affordable and supportive housing consisting of 59 studios, 11 one-bedroom units, and five two-bedroom units. The housing would be offered to those with a maximum of 60% AMI (or $36,300 for family of one, $41,460 for a family of two). The number of disabled individuals would remain the same as it is currently, 48 disabled individuals.

The bulkiness of the building appears overwhelming at a FAR of 2.2 to 2.3. ICL had not notified the block association, the Brooklyn Children’s Museum, or PS 289. ICL claimed this omission was due to LPC and various elected officials instructing them to communicate with CB 8 first. The design is devoid of aesthetic value and is without any attractive or desirable architectural features that would enhance rather than detract than from the streetscape. A motion to support was made by Mr. Veconi and quickly seconded by Ms. Foster. Several members of the Committee asked that the motion be redrawn so that the item could be adjourned/laid over to allow time for the block residents, the Museum, and the School to be notified, and for ICL to revise the design (including reducing the bulk) to look more attractive. Ms. Deborah Young moved to table the item. The motion was seconded and the Committee voted 17 in favor of tabling the item and sending a request for the same to LPC, and hopes the full Board will do the same. ICL agreed to revisit the design and return to the Committee.

Ms. Tyus informed the Board that we would not have seen any notice about the ICL project if the property were not on the National Register.

The next Housing committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4, 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, January 5, 2016 at St. John’s Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair and Vice Chair, also present were: Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Lawrence Brown, Larry James, Janice Purvis, Thomas Montford, Fabiola Caceres, Deborah Moss, Joyce Bolden, Mary Reed, Katrina Foye, Phil Hawkins, Michelle Lasne, and Harrold Williams. The committee did not submit minutes. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at the 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, December 21, 2015 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair, also present were: Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Shirley Mondesir, Xeerxeema Jordan, Mark Thurton, Judith Campbell, Kim Albert, Samantha Hammer, P.O. Phil Romano, and P.O. Laverne Green.

The committee discussed the 77th Precinct Annual Children's Christmas Party, which will take place on Christmas Day this year. The council collaborated with local elected officials and the Brooklyn Anti-Violence Coalition. Dinner will be served at St. Bartholomew's Church on Pacific Street between Nostrand and Rogers Avenues from 12:00 PM until 3:00 PM.
Officer Romano discussed the Neighborhood Coordinating Officer (NCO) program beginning in January 2016. The precinct will be divided into sections in which officers will be assigned to specific areas at all times. In the event of an emergency, activity, etc. residents will be able to call on their specific officer(s). NCO officers will be an extension to community affairs officers and will be allowed to work more flexible schedules depending on the need of their specific areas. On January 14, 2016, members of the Public Safety Committee will attend a meeting to receive more information.

The committee also discussed various member concerns in the area of public safety including panhandling and shootings. Finally, the committee discussed the Smoke Free NYC Resolution which is being presented to community boards. A community resident that attended the health committee meeting shared her health problems of living in a building with smokers. In addition, during the health committee presentation from Smoke Free NYC, it was reported that the leading cause of house fires is smoking in the home. The committee agreed that because the concerns are broad and overlaps with other committees such as housing and health, it is best for a presentation to be made to the full board before a discussion is made to act in support of a resolution.

The next Public Safety committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 25, 2016 at 6:00PM due to the MLK holiday at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn.

**Seniors** – Ms. Kim Albert, Chair

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, but did not submit minutes. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 6 PM at David Chavis apartments.

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

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, January 4, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair, present were: Wayne Bailey, Gail Branch-Muhammad, Cheryl Brown, Barbara Campbell, Fred Frazier, Takago Kuno, Tarves Lord, Danae Oratowski, Atim Oton, Rob Puca, Delissa Reynolds, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Mark Thurton, Greg Todd, Irsa Weatherspoon, and Deborah Young.

The committee discussed the following applications:

The SLAC committee met on Monday, January 4, 2016 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The committee discussed the following:

1. Renewal applications
   a. Bar Sepia, 234 Underhill Avenue (full)
   b. Elberta, 335 Flatbush Avenue (full)
   c. Bar Corvo, 791 Washington Avenue (full)

The committee voted to support the 3 renewal applications and 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 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

2. Renewal application for Q’s Tavern, 761 Nostrand Avenue: The SLAC committee initially voted not to support the application due to the proprietor’s lack of appearance at the meeting. However, the proprietor had not appeared due to injury. Considering this new information and the extenuating circumstances, the Executive committee supports supporting the application since his information sheet had been completed and submitted to the committee prior to the meeting. It hopes the full Board supports the renewal application as well.

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 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

3. Alteration applications:

a. Ode to Babel, 772 Dean Street (full)

- Alteration to liquor license for extended hours. They are currently 10 AM – 10 PM, 7 days a week; applicant would like to expand to 8 AM - 4 AM
- There is a rear yard space that applicant chose not to submit as part of her liquor license application, but she is using the yard for other aspects of her business. Committee has robust conversation about whether the space legally needs to be added to/included in her liquor license, regardless of whether alcohol is served or consumed in that space. Mr Bailey says he will consult with Mr Jones, the lead attorney for the SLA, and get an answer for applicant and for committee.
- The SLA informed the committee that the establishment’s backyard space can operate until the closing time of the business so long as there is no liquor being served due to the backyard not being attached to the liquor license. This means that people can be in the backyard until 4 AM with non-alcoholic beverages. The committee is not an enforcer and cannot ensure that the applicant is not serving liquor. She will be left to self-regulate her operations.

The committee voted 12 in favor, 5 against to support the alteration application for extended hours until 4 AM daily. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Veconi asked if the application required a 500 foot exception. He was informed it did not.

Dr. Monderson asked if the applicant was aware of repercussions of non-compliance with self-regulation. He was informed that the committee informed her that she could lose her license if she serves liquor in the backyard. Mr. Ellis raised a concern about her ability to self-regulate based on images that were brought to his attention. The applicant, Ms. Babel, stated that she was told by her attorney that so long as they were not being serviced in the yard, they could drink there. She also stated that the pictures Mr. Ellis was referring to were from the grand opening.
Mr. Bailey stated that he walks by establishment 2-3 times a day. The night after the vote, there was a huge crowd and the noise was blaring and could be heard half a block away. He informed Ms. Babel that there will be problems with her license if that continues. Ms. Babel stated that the establishment will not stay open until 4 AM but would like the flexibility of a 4 AM closing time for the private dinner parties.

Mr. Leroy Reid asked what time last call be on any given night. He was informed that last call would be midnight.

Ms. Albert asked Ms. Babel how she intended to self-regulate. Ms. Babel responded by stating that she would let people know there is to be no alcohol in the backyard.

Mr. Harris asked Ms. Babel what programs would require her establishment to stay open until 4 AM. He was informed that the establishment caters to private events, retail, fashion, etc., and that the 4 AM is just an option.

Ms. Grefrath made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sachs and carried with a final vote of 22 in favor, 3 opposed, with 7 abstentions.

**b. Latino Sports Club, 665 Franklin Ave**

* Alteration is for extension of business hours; they had previously been closed on Mondays & Tuesdays, and now wish to be open on those days.
* Proposed hours of Operation-Sun 3p-4a, M-Th 6p-2a, Fri/Sat 6pm-4am

The committee voted 18 in favor to support the alteration application in the hopes that the full Board support its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Monderson and carried with a final vote of 26 in favor, 2 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

4. New license applications

**a. Barghost, 71 6th Avenue**

- There was some discussion about the new façade and operating windows. Mr Pucca suggested adding a stipulation to the application about the windows being closed by a certain time.
- There was discussion about food. There is no full kitchen in this space, but applicant will rely on kitchen at Hungry Ghost location for preparation of his tapas and other small plates

The committee voted 16 in favor to support the application with the stipulation that the operating windows close by 10 PM. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.
Responding to general information questions, Mr. Ellis stated that the establishment is seeking a full license and the hours are Friday/Saturday 11 AM to 3 AM and Sunday thru Thursday 11 AM to 2 AM.

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 in favor, and 2 abstentions.

b. Ox & Caesar, 333 Flatbush Avenue

- Committee had general questions about what happened with applicant’s original intention to combine the 2 spaces and have them covered under 1 license. Due to a disagreement between the two landlords involved, applicant was not allowed to combine the spaces as planned, and is now reconfiguring as needed.
- Committee had questions about the basement level shown on the floorplan. If in use, there would be 91 seats, and hence require a public assembly permit. Applicant says they will not be using it because it would also require a second means of egress that would be very costly to install.
- Committee had questions about the music/performances mentioned in the application (dj and karaoke); applicant said he plans on small jazz bands in the evening and jazz Sunday brunches—small community events with no outside promoters. Applicant will be managing all food and beverage services. This space does not have a full kitchen, but applicant says they will use convection ovens.
- Soundproofing measures: a new product called MLV paper, it’s like rubber, ½ inch thick. Once up, it gets covered with another layer of sheetrock
- Applicant would like to extend his Saturday hours to 4 am; committee suggested 3 am and applicant was amenable to that

The committee voted 16 in favor with 2 abstentions to support the application stipulations that the basement area be removed from application, that the street facing windows must be closed by 10 PM, that the business close by 3 AM on Saturdays, and that there will be no bottle service. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Ellis announced that the hours of the operation would be until 3 AM and the d/b/a would be 333. Dr. Monderson asked him to explain no bottle service. Mr. Ellis stated that the committee frowns upon liquor bottle service outside of wine and beer because of the potential to over-consume and the lack of oversight during consumption.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Monderson and carried with a final vote of 30 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

As a late addition to the night’s agenda, Mr. Ellis stated that after the action items were distributed, the District office received word that Soldier’s Caribbean located at 1439 St. John’s Place, had applied to the State Liquor Authority for a beer and wine license. The applicant was invited to appear before the committee on 3 separate occasions and failed to appear. As a result, the Executive Committee, on behalf of the SLAC committee, voted to support sending a letter to the SLA disapproving of the license being issued until the proprietor makes a presentation before the committee and the application vetted.
Mr. Witherwax made a motion to support sending a letter of no support for the license. The motion was seconded by Ms. Oton and carried with a final tally of 29 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

The next meeting of the SLAC committee will be on Monday, February 1, 2016 at 6:30 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 did not meet in the month of December. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

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

**Mr. Rusty Zimmerman** stated that his free year-long portrait project to paint portraits for Crown Heights residents is halfway completed. He has painted 93 out of 200 portraits already. On January 31st from 3-5 PM, 15 of the 93 portraits will be on display at Brooklyn Bells Ice Cream Shop. He asked for the Board’s assistance in nominating an individual for a portrait. He would get the nominee at the next general meeting.

He also announced that there will be a parade at the end of the summer where all 200 residents that have been painted will march down Eastern Parkway. He stated he would have more information at a later time.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for attending the meeting and adjourned it at 9:30 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 7 PM at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

**GUESTS**

Beth Cohen  
Lula Staton  
Eoin Collins  
Marva Babel  
Dorothy Bembry-Guet  
Marta Tanenbaum  
Irwin T.  
Elizabeth Haines  
Harold Williams  
Linda Ferrette  
Sarah Seim  
Leroy Reid  
Victoria Lawrence  
Murat Uruyoglu  
Maria Fuller  
Isaac Doughty  
Denise Morgan  
Evelyn Howitt  
Gloria Tate  
Elina S.  
Eduardo Husband  
Rusty Zimmerman  
Shirley Mondesir  
Janice Purvis  
Hazel Hurvis  
Rachel Smith  
P. Grannum  
F. Caesar  
M. Tavarez  
Tremaine Wright  
Amanda Shapiro