

**Community Board No. 8  
P.S. 9  
80 Underhill Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11238**

**April 13, 2017**

**Members Present**

Glinda Andrews  
Desmond Atkins  
Wayne Bailey  
LeeAnn Banks  
Julia Boyd  
Gail Branch-Muhammad  
James Ellis  
Andrea Ferris  
Diana Foster  
Nizjoni Granville  
Elijah Gray  
Crystal Hudson  
Xeerxeema Jordan  
Shalawn Langhorne  
Kwasi Mensah  
Adelaide Miller  
Dr. Fred Monderson  
Atim Oton  
Yahya O. Raji  
Adam Sachs  
Meredith Staton  
Edison Stewart  
Gregory Todd  
Ethel Tyus  
Sheryl Vassell  
Gib Veconi  
Yves Vilus  
Irsa Weatherspoon  
Sharon Wedderburn  
Robert Witherwax  
Deborah Young  
Wilma Zuniga

**Members Absent/Excused**

Princess Benn-James  
Adem Bunkeddeko  
Helen Coley  
Michael Cox  
Dian Duke  
Phu Duong  
Fred Frazier  
Curtis Harris  
Elaine Mahoney  
Robert Matthews  
Robert Puca  
Stacey Sheffey  
Audrey Taitt-Hall

**Elected Officials**

Senator Velmanette Montgomery  
Geoffrey Davis, District Leader 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District  
Olanike Alabi, District Leader 57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

**Elected Official Representatives**

Matthew Pitt, Councilwoman Cumbo's Office  
Elisa Helligar, Senator Hamilton's Office  
Nefertiti Macauley, Assemblywoman Richardson's Office  
Carl Luciano, Councilwoman Mealy's Office  
Bella Pori, Assemblyman Mosley's Office  
Kathleen Daniel, Brooklyn Borough President's Office  
Marcus Harris, Brooklyn Borough President's Office

**CB 8 Staff Present**

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

The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 7:15 PM by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson.

Ms. Granville welcomed attendees to the April Community Board meeting and thanked P.S. 9 for hosting us. She then asked Mr. Witherwax to begin with the Roll Call.

**Acceptance of Minutes** – A motion to accept the minutes for the March 9, 2017 general meeting of Community Board No. 8 with any necessary corrections was made by Dr. Monderson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Granville asked Sergeant at Arms, Mr. James Ellis, to read a statement on behalf of the Board about rules, regulations, and decorum during the meeting. He asked everyone to remain silent during votes and presentation so that we could conduct business and hear the votes being taken.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Ellis for the statement and asked for a report from Ms. Yajhaira Vasquez.

**Crown Heights Child Health Center** - Ms. Yajhaira Vasquez, Site Manager

Ms. Vasquez announced the opening of the new Crown Heights Child Health Center located at 1215 Prospect Place between Troy and Schenectady Avenues, Brooklyn, N.Y. Mr. Baker mentioned that the center currently offers pediatric services and that they will be adding new services starting this summer. Some of the new services will include but are not limited to women’s health services, GYN services, Adult Social Work Services and other family services. These services serve as part of Mayor de Blasio’s initiative to provide health services to every community.

Mr. Atkins asked if the center will be offering any heart health and diabetes services in the summer. Ms. Vasquez responded that those services will be available at other site locations where referrals can be made to heart health specialists.

Ms. Wedderburn asked for clarification on what specific adult services will be offered by this center in the summer. Mr. Baker stated that they will be offering nutrition and OB/GYN services in addition to general medicine. Ms. Wedderburn also inquired about whether or not these services are free and if they are not, how the cost and payment for services provided to the community would be handled. Ms. Vasquez stated that their organization accepts most health insurances. Ms. Vasquez stated that a fee source scale would generate service costs based on the patients’ income.

Mr. Stewart asked what the protocol would be for people who are uninsured. In addition to his inquiry, a resident also asked if they would be assisting people who do not have health insurance in obtaining it. Ms. Vasquez responded that on Tuesday’s, MetroPlus is at the site helping people sign up for health insurance.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Vasquez for her presentation and asked for a report from the nominating committee.

**Nominating Committee Report** – Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Acting Chair

Ms. Weatherspoon announced that the Nominating Committee met on Monday, March 27, 2017 at the CB 8 District office. Present were Sharon Wedderburn, Deborah Young, Irsa Weatherspoon, Phu Duong, and Michelle George, District Manager. The committee reviewed attendance records of members and considered numerous candidates before agreeing on the following slate:

- Chair: Ms. Nizjoni Granville
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Ms. Shalawn Langhorne
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Mr. Robert Witherwax
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair: Ms. Atim Oton vs. Mr. James Ellis
- Treasurer: Ms. Ethel Tyus
- Secretary: Ms. LeeAnn Banks
- Sergeant at Arms: Mr. Wayne Bailey

Ms. Granville opened the floor for additional nominations.

Ms. Tyus nominated Shalawn Langhorne for Chair. The nomination was seconded by Ms. Foster. Ms. Langhorne accepted the nomination. Mr. Veconi queried whether or not it is possible for a candidate to be on the ballot for two offices. He was informed that the By-Laws are silent on that. He then asked what would happen if the candidate were to win both seats. Ms. Wedderburn stated that although the By-Laws are silent on the issue, it has been the tradition of the Board that one candidate can run for only one position. Dr. Monderson stated that Ms. Langhorne had to make a choice for which office she wanted to run for. Upon hearing this, Ms. Langhorne asked for a few minutes to make her determination.

Ms. Foster nominated Gib Veconi for 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Staton. Mr. Veconi accepted the nomination.

Ms. Foster nominated Kwasi Mensah for Treasurer and he declined the nomination.

Mr. Atkins nominated Sharon Wedderburn for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair. She accepted the nomination.

Ms. Tyus nominated Desmond Atkins for 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair. He accepted the nomination.

Dr. Monderson made a motion to close the nominations, and it was seconded by Mr. Veconi.

After further discussion of the By-Laws and tradition versus action of the Board, Ms. Langhorne accepted the nomination for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair and declined the nomination for Chair. Ms. Wedderburn rescinded her acceptance of the nomination for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair.

Ms. Weatherspoon read the final slate of names to be voted on at the May meeting.

Chair: Ms. Nizjoni Granville

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Ms. Shalawn Langhorne

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Mr. Robert Witherwax

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair: Ms. Atim Oton, Mr. James Ellis, Mr. Gib Veconi, or Mr. Desmond Atkins

Treasurer: Ms. Ethel Tyus

Secretary: Ms. LeeAnn Banks

Sergeant at Arms: Mr. Wayne Bailey

The election will be conducted by signed paper ballot. According to the By-Laws, additional nominations can be made from the floor prior to the election.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Weatherspoon and the rest of the nominating committee for their work and invited Senator Velmanette Montgomery to say a few words.

### **Senator Velmanette Montgomery – 25<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District**

Senator Montgomery thanked the Board and community for their continued support. She announced that the state budget was passed on Monday, April 10, 2017 and that there are a lot of issues concerning the budget that still need to be addressed like the juvenile justice system of the State of New York.

Senator Montgomery announced that the “Raise the Age” bill has been passed. “Raise the Age” or Senate Bill 4157 is a bill which relates to raising the age for prosecution of certain crimes; amends the definitions for juvenile delinquent, persons in need of supervision, infant and juvenile offender; creates a youth part for certain proceedings involving juvenile offenders; and establishes that no county jail be used for the confinement of persons under the age of eighteen. In an effort to improve our flawed system, the idea to redesign it was raised.

One point that was raised during the discussion of this bill was that massive amounts of money was being spent on juvenile delinquents for programs that were located far away from where they were originally from.. A Close to Home Program would not only bring juveniles closer to home but it would cut costs and serve as an alternative to them serving real jail time.

Senator Montgomery announced that one of the options available due to “Raise the Age” is that infractions can be reviewed by a youth designated Family Court judge or Criminal Court judge.

Amongst these alternatives, they also discussed sentencing. They proposed that sentencing be broken down into three tiers. Tier one consists of charges related to violations which includes but is not limited to disorderly conduct, trespassing, open container charges, loitering, etc. Tier two consists of charges related to misdemeanors such as vandalism, petty larceny, possession, public intoxication etc. All of which will be tried within Family Court for offenders up to 17 years old. Tier three consists of charges related to violent and non-violent felonies. Non-violent offenders will be tried in a family court whereas violent offenders will be tried as adults in the youth part of criminal court. This is another loophole that needs to be reviewed.

The last thing that Senator Montgomery discussed was the sealing of juvenile records. She mentioned that under the current law it has proved very difficult to accomplish this task as records for a youth offender will not be sealed until 10 years after their offense. Due to this fact, many youth have experienced difficulty in obtaining necessary resources like housing because their juvenile records are open to the public.

Senator Montgomery thanked the community for listening and urged them to focus on what young people need instead of assuming that they already have them. She asked that they consider DREAMS Youth Build which is one of Community Board No. 8’s best diversion programs.

After a brief question and answer period, Ms. Granville thanked Senator Montgomery for the update and invited the District Leader Alabi to say a few words.

**57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Leader Olanike Alabi** wished everyone a Happy Passover and Easter. She announced that on May 23, 2017 at the Teen Challenge Center located at 444 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn, there will be a Town Hall Meeting. Public Advocate Letitia James, OATH (Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings), the Dept. of Transportation, and Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzales will be on the agenda and giving presentations.

Ms. Granville thanked District Leader Alabi for the announcement and asked for a report from the following elected official representatives:

### **Elected Official Representatives**

**Ms. Bella Pori** from Assemblyman Mosely’s office announced two up upcoming events. The first, a Town Hall regarding 325 Lafayette development project, will be held on April 27, 2017 at Emmanuel Baptist Church located at 279 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, at 6:30 pm. Also, on April 20th, at 1 PM, there will be a Teacher Spa Day. For more information, contact the Assemblyman’s office at 718-596-0100.

**Mr. Carl Luciano** from Councilwoman Mealy’s office wished everyone a safe and happy holiday weekend. He encouraged everyone to attend the May 6<sup>th</sup> College Fair from 10 Am to Noon at Concern for Independent Living located at 151 Rochester Avenue, Brooklyn. For more information, call Councilwoman Mealy’s office at 718-953-3097.

**Ms. Nefertiti Macauley** from Assemblywoman Richardson’s office reminded everyone that Civic Minded is a community group that meets the last Saturday of the month from Noon to 2 PM at MS 61 located at 400 Empire

Blvd. The next meeting will focus on 421A tax reforms. She also announced Kings County Cure Violence Awards on Saturday, June 17th. She asked everyone to save the date. For more information, contact the Assemblywoman's office at 718-771-3105.

**Mr. Matthew Pitt** from Councilwoman Cumbo's office wished everyone a Happy Easter and announced that there will be an Easter egg hunt this Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 2 PM at Fort Green Park (enter at Myrtle Avenue and N. Portland Avenue). The State of the District will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at Ingersoll Community Center located at 177 Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn. For more information or to RSVP to the State of the District, call the Councilwoman's office at 718-260-9191.

**Ms. Elisa Heligar** from Senator Hamilton's office announced that on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30-8 PM at Bethany United Methodist Church located at 1208 St. John's Place, there will be a homeowner assistance and tax lien workshop. If your water and sewer bills and taxes are not paid, a lien can be sold on your property and you can lose your home. Come out and get information on how to save your home from being sold during a tax lien sale. For more information, call the Senator's office at 718-284-4700.

**Mr. Marcus Harris** from Borough President Adams' office announced that April is Child Abuse Prevention month. He announced Operation C.A.R.E. (Child Abuse Response and Engagement), a child abuse prevention program started by Alma Dwimoh, former Assistant District Attorney. He stated we all need to be aware of all of the signs of child abuse. Some of the signs are poor dental health, fear of going home, aggressive behavior, depression or listlessness, eating disorders, failure to thrive, inappropriate dress and sexual behavior, poor hygiene, poor peer relationships, sleep disturbances, and unexplained absences from school. Operation C.A.R.E. is willing to come to community events to give a presentation on signs of abuse. To schedule a presentation, call 718-802-4042.

Ms. Granville thanked the elected officials' representatives for their reports and asked for a report from the following committees:

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

The Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue but did not submit a report. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 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, April 6, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. Present were: Wayne Bailey, Lee Ann Banks, Princess Benn-James, Phu Duong, James Ellis, Diana Foster, Fred Frazier, Nizjoni Granville, Xerxeema Jordan, Crystal Hudson, Danae Oratowski, Robert Puca, Yahya O. Rahji, Adam Sachs, Meredith Staton, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, Sasha Ahuja, Ira Brown, Margaret Clay, Kate Crassweller, Leonard Colchamiro, Silko Dobay, Josh Goldstein, Michelle Hewryka, R. Holder, Max Jerome, Gwendolyn Johnson, Rhonda Koonce, Peter Krashses, Kenneth Misrok, Lawrence Misrok, Kim Moorehead, Lisa Pane, Raul Rothblatt, Josh Rinesmith, Bernard Warren. The committee discussed the following:

**1. Proposal from Washington Temple COGIC to Rehabilitate Vacant Buildings as Workforce Housing**

Attorney Kenneth Misrok of the Misrok Law Firm, and Bernard Warren of Webb & Brooker, RE made a presentation regarding plans for Washington Temple COGIC (WTC) properties to be developed into housing for government employees and to formally request a letter of support from the Community Board. The specific

properties are: 33 Grant Square, 37 Grant Square, and 1391 Bedford Avenue. The following is a reiteration of their March 2, 2017 presentation.

The project can proceed as-of-right and will offer 37 apartments, as follows: 10 units at 33 Grant Sq., seven units at 37 Grant Sq., and 20 units at 1391 Bedford Ave., which will have street-level commercial space and community use on the second floor. The Church is working with Fulcrum Properties and HPD to use the City's Neighborhood Construction Program funds. Twenty percent of the apartments will offered at 80% Area Median Income (AMI) and 80% of the units will be offered at 130% AMI. There will be a 50% preference for CB 8 residents. The proponents pointed out that there will not be any displacement because all of the buildings are vacant.

WTC sent detailed information on the project to the Board office regarding the income bands and the CB 8 preference. The Committee requested information on the project's flexibility to offer lower income eligibility requirements which would be in line with local AMI. However, the presenters explained they are working with the standard HUD/HPD financial loan terms for this type of project. The HUD AMI uses a broader base resulting in a higher median. As a condition for its support, the Committee requested that WTC reaffirm statements included in the additional materials sent to the Community Board office that: "the rents for a one bedroom will range from \$1,320 to \$2,170, and that the rents for a two bedroom will range from \$1,591 to \$2,611." The Committee also asked WTC to consider retasking the existing building(s) rather than demolishing them and building new; and to make reasonable accommodations to care for Grant Square. They plan to close on their construction loan by the end of 2017.

On motion made and seconded, the Committee voted 17 in favor with none against and one abstention to send a letter of support to HPD for WTC's project, and it hopes that the full Board will support its recommendation.

Mr. Atkins asked if they can lower the AMI to support lower income people. Church representatives stated that they will look into it.

A motion to support the committee's recommendation was made by Mr. Veconi and seconded by Mr. Staton. It carried with a final vote of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

### **1. Application to LPC for a Certificate of Appropriateness (CofA) for a Rooftop Addition to 119 Prospect Place (Prospect Heights Historic District)**

Owner Max Jerome and Josh Goldstein, R.A. presented their plan to construct a vertical enlargement on 119 Prospect Place, a four story, Neo-Grec style brownstone row house, which is one of two designed by architect T. K. Schermerhorn and built for owner developer James Chambers c. 1884. The work will add a 458 square foot mezzanine to the top floor apartment on 119 Prospect Place between Carlton and Flatbush Avenues. The neighbor at 115 Prospect Place asked the owner for a written commitment that he (the neighbor) is not permitting the applicant to create an **easement appurtenant** (an **appurtenant easement** is a right to use adjoining property that transfers with the land. The parcel of land that benefits from the **easement** is the **dominant tenement**. The **servient tenement** is the parcel of land that provides the **easement**.) They were advised that an easement was a private discussion. The visibility of the mock-up was contested with a committee member asserting that a tree in front of 133 Prospect Pl obscures the view of the mock-up. The applicant asserted that they visited the site with LPC.

On motion made and seconded, the Committee voted 11 in favor with three against and no abstentions to support the rooftop addition in hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Witherwax asked if the extension will be visible from the street. Ms. Tyus informed him that the mock up was contested. The architect for the project stated that the extension will be visible from the street from two positions.

Mr. Atkins asked if this would be seen as setting a precedent in Prospect Heights. Both Ms. Tyus and Mr. Veconi stated that it is starting a slippery slope and, with the way the new administration at LPC is approving applications, could conceivably have the potential to derail the historical components of the district by way of creating a glut of extensions that detract from historical details.

Mr. Veconi stated that he voted against the item in the committee meeting because we have had a number of rooftop additions that are visible from the street that have been approved by LPC. LPC, under this administration, is more permissive of these types of structures and this is dangerous for the community. If a tree in front of 123 Prospect Place were not present, the extension would be even more visible.

Mr. Atkins stated that all of these additions are changing the context of the community. The architect for the project stated that the proposed addition is set back about 25-30 feet from the cornice line. He stated that they would have set it back even further, but working within two zoning districts is creating a problem for the extension. He explained that the Prospect Place side has one zoning and the Flatbush back side has another zoning.

Ms. Tyus announced that the hearing date for this project is April 25<sup>th</sup> at LPC. The agency accepts digital comments by Noon on the day before the meeting. You can also attend the hearing to provide testimony.

Mr. Atkins made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation to support the rooftop addition. The motion was seconded by Ms. Banks and carried with a final vote of 10 in favor, 13, opposed, with 9 abstentions. The motion failed to carry.

Mr. Atkins made a motion to deny support for the application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Veconi and carried with a final vote of 22 in favor, 7 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

## **Discussion Items**

### **Preliminary/Informational Discussion of a Future ULURP Application for a 4-Story, 29 Unit Apartment Building at 587 Bergen Street**

Josh Rinesmith, Zoning Counsel for Akerman LLP, and Lauren Malotra-Gaudet presented their nascent plans to build a four-story, 29 unit apartment building at 587 Bergen Street, currently a parking lot between Carlton and Vanderbilt Avenues. (Block/lots: 1137/77, 81, 82) The owner is seeking to have R6B zoning extended to this site which is currently M1. Eleven of the apartments must be affordable under MIH. Several neighbors attended and complained that the project will substantially increase density in an otherwise quiet neighborhood. In particular, the neighbors are concerned that the owner is a less than satisfactory landlord for 604 Dean St. They are also concerned that there may be hazardous waste buried on the site. An EAS is being planned. The abutting neighbor at 585 Bergen is concerned about a new building on a shared lot line, and that it will block her side windows. The current plan is for the backyard to be finished greenspace, possibly with a privacy fence for the neighbor at 585 Bergen. Mr. Rinesmith asked Peter Krashes to be a conduit to the local block association. Mr. Krashes may collect a list of zoning issues from neighbors to be forwarded to the Board office and then to DCP. Construction time is estimated at 18 months. The applicant will return to the Community Board with an updated plan when the ULURP application has been submitted. The Community Board will then notify the affected neighbors.

## **MCROWN Update**

The next MCROWN Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, and will include an update from the Dept. of City Planning and a presentation from Urban Fellow Nina Psoncak.

Starting in May, the Housing Committee will take on its new form as the Land Use Committee and the Housing Committee. The Land Use committee will meet on Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 6 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. The Housing Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 6 PM, also at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation.

### **Parks** – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at St. John's Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place but did not submit a report. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 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, March 20, 2017 at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue. In addition to the Chair and Vice-Chair, present were Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Mark Thurton, PO Green, PO Vidal, Shirley Mondesir, and Sandra Sanchez.

The committee heard updates from Community Affairs Officer PO Green. They also heard a presentation regarding outreach for the upcoming FDNY exam. The FDNY is increasing efforts to diversify the force with this particular exam as it has been sued in the past for lack of diversity. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/fdny](http://www.nyc.gov/fdny).

Crime Prevention Officer PO Vidal distributed glow in the dark wrist bands to those present and stated that he would attend other committee meetings to distribute the wristlets as well. The wristlets provide a reflective surface so runners, walkers, and cyclists can be seen in the dark. For more information, contact PO Vidal at 718-735-0658.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Monday, April 17, 2017 at 6 PM at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct. All are invited to attend.

### **Seniors** – Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue. In addition to the Chair, present were: Essie Spivey, Adelaide Miller, Faye Jones, Vilma Zuniga, Yvonne Bailey, Leola Mills, Regina Kinsey, Crystal Hudson, Edison Stewart, Elijah Gray, Diana Foster, Xeerxeema Foster, Glinda Andrews, Mary Hodnett, Julia Boyd, Patricia Washington, Jerome Michaux, Lorna Oliver, Joan Bedden, Allen Hayward, Melinda Birks, and Calvin Sherman.

The committee heard a presentation from Ms. Melinda Birks of Weeksville Gardens Community Center. She informed the committee about the new Weeksville Gardens Community Center, located at 1640 Pacific St between Schenectady and Utica Avenues. Currently, the Community Center offers yoga classes, computer classes, WIC services, sewing and bingo. The committee suggested a community garden be offered as well. Ms. Birks was open to the idea.



The committee discussed the upcoming Health Fair presented by the Health and Parks Committees on June 3 at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA), 465 Sterling Place. Ms. Andrews urged more seniors to attend as there is a vast amount of information and many demonstrations that they can participate in that would be helpful to them. Additional topics discussed were the Bedford-Union Armory and the fight for affordable housing, and the delivery of Easter baskets to seniors by a group of community volunteers.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 6 PM at David Chavis Apartments. All, regardless of age, are invited to attend.

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

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, April 3, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. In addition to the Chair and Vice Chair, present were: Wayne Bailey, Gail Branch-Muhammad, Fred Frazier, Jamie Hardt, Oliver Hardt, Robert Puca, Stacey Sheffey, Meredith Staton, Mark Thurton, Sheryl Vassell, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, and Deborah Young. The committee discussed the following applications:

**1. Renewal applications:**

- a. Half Court, 446 Park Place, corner of Grand Avenue – Full
- b. Boeuf and Bun, 271 Kingston, corner of Lincoln Place – Beer and wine
- c. Washington Commons, 434 Park Place (corner of Washington) – Full

The committee voted 13 in favor of supporting the 3 renewal applications in hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

A Motion to support the committee's recommendation was made by Mr. Veconi and seconded by Ms. Wedderburn. It carried with a final tally of 28 in favor, 1 opposed, with 3 abstentions

**2. New application for Milk Bar, 620 Vanderbilt Ave, corner of Prospect Place – Beer and Wine**

- i. Kylie Sachs, new owner (Sale of Business)
- ii. 8 PM closing hours
- iii. Outdoor space, but no service

The committee voted 12 in favor of supporting the application with the stipulation that there be no outdoor service provided. It also requested to see proof of notice to residents. The committee hopes the full Board will support its recommendation to approve the new license.

Due to the fact that proof of notification to the neighbors was not supplied by the general meeting, Ms. Foster made a motion to reject the committee's recommendation and deny support for the application. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ferris.

Mr. Veconi announced that he is inclined to dispose of the item by supporting it because it is just a beer and wine license in an existing business that is going to close by 8 pm. Based on the conditions of the license, there should be very little community complaints by the neighbors.

Dr. Monderson stated that he did not understand the issue of the outdoor space. Mr. Ellis explained the difference between a lot line space and paid for space with the Dept. of Consumer Affairs. He stated that the two benches will be for drinking coffee, and that no alcohol will be allowed outside and no service will be

provided. In other words, it is not a sidewalk café, just an area for people to sit outside the establishment to enjoy their coffee and pastry.

Mr. Sachs stated that it seems excessive to require community notice for an existing business.

The motion to reject the committee's recommendation and deny support for the application failed with a final tally of 4 in favor, 22 opposed, with 6 abstentions.

Mr. Veconi made a motion to support the committee's recommendation to support the beer and wine license for Milk Bar. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final tally of 25 in favor, 2 opposed, with 5 abstentions.

The next SLAC meeting will be held on Monday, May 1, 2017 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, March 28, 2017 at St. Gregory's Roman Catholic Church located at 991 St. John's Place, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair, present were: Adam Sachs, Meredith Staton, Jacqueline Wells, Deborah Young, Desmond Atkins, Phu Duong, Holly Fuchs, Alan Gerber, Elijah Gray, Xeerxeema Jordan, Regina Kinsey, Bobby LaPointe, Ethel Tyus, Nizjoni Granville, Mark Thurton, and 125 community residents. The committee discussed the following items:

1. **Base License Renewal Applications**
  - a. Evelyn Car Service, 587 Vanderbilt Avenue
  - b. White Top Car Service, 1116 St. Johns Place

There were no complaints about either of the car services and many people in the community praised the service of both companies. The committee voted unanimously to support both base license renewals in the hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Veconi made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried unanimously with 30 members present.

2. **Co-Naming of the northwest corner of Utica Avenue and Pacific Street in honor of Reverend Timothy Wright (Rev. Timothy Wright Way)**

Rev. Timothy Wright, also known as "The Godfather of Gospel Music," founded Grace Tabernacle Christian Center at 1745 Pacific Street (between Utica and Schenectady Avenues) and served as pastor until his death in 2009. In addition to his impact on the gospel music industry, Rev. Wright was a strong community leader. Petitions and copies of proclamations received over the years were submitted to CB 8.

There were no objections to the co-naming request for Rev. Timothy Wright Way and the committee voted unanimously to support the request. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Atkins made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Weatherspoon and carried unanimously with 32 members present.

The next Transportation committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. DOT will present the preliminary locations for the CitiBike stations in District 8. 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, April 4, 2017 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. In addition to the Chair and Vice Chair, present were: Alexandra Lederman, Meredith Staton, Lula Staton, Robert Vurran, Jon McEnrue, Lucas Klauss, Myrtle Stowers, M. Hampton, Adjua Starks, Michelle Bowen, Selvon Smith, Anthony Taylor, Ken Allen, Sandy Taggert, Adam Leavy, Danieka hinds, Tara White, James Jajela, F. Natal, Tashema Knight, G.E. Hall, Nathaniel Styne, Sunaina Rao, Wanda James, Desmond Atkins, Nizjoni Granville, Yves Vilus, Audrey Taitt-Hall, Xeerxeema Jordan, and Melina Bernardine.

The committee further discussed the proposed re-location of the Brower Park Library branch to the Brooklyn Children’s Museum (BCM). Brower Park is the smallest library in the BPL system. The challenge with the Brower Park Branch is that the building the library currently occupies is in really bad condition. The building has about \$5.6 million in outstanding capital needs, including its lack of handicapped (ADA) accessibility. It has not seen capital improvements since the library moved into the building. The Brower Branch is not housed in a city-owned building; instead, the space is leased and the city has not given BPL funding for property acquisition. Some of the capital projects that the building is in need of are repair of a leaky roof, replacement of all internal infrastructure, and problems with the HVAC system.

To make the necessary investment in the building, the city would have to purchase it, which would cost \$3 million, bringing the cost of purchase and capital improvement renovations to more than \$8 million. What became attractive about the BCM is the prime space of the building. It is not too far from the current Brower Park Branch and the library will be able to build a separate entrance and have a larger focus on children and families. The meeting concluded with an extensive community discussion on the project.

The next Youth and Education committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. All are invited to attend.

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

### **Public Comments/Announcements**

**Ms. Maxine Barnes**, Co- Founder of Flower Lovers Against Corruption (FLAC) announced that there is a 23-story high-rise being built around Brooklyn Botanic Garden. It will shadow the gardens and trees within the park eventually causing them to die. She expressed strong opposition to these plans and encouraged the community to sign her petition.

**Ms. Nana**, Producer of Community Life Newspaper announced that she is seeking news and stories pertaining to Bed-Stuy, Crown Heights, Ditmas Park, and Flatbush to add to her newspaper. She hopes that Community Life will serve as a platform to share news and events throughout the community. Any suggestions that the community may have are greatly appreciated. Please forward your inquiries and suggestions to [contributor@communitylifebk.com](mailto:contributor@communitylifebk.com).

**Ms. Alicia Boyd** of Movement to Protect the People expressed that community boards should always allow the public an opportunity to speak at community board meeting forums in an effort to gain some insight on issues

so that they can be better assisted. She also expressed her opposition to the 23-story high-rise apartment building being built around Brooklyn Botanic Garden and encouraged the community to support her opposition of the project by signing the petition that Ms. Barnes produced.

**Ms. Deraphim Nichols** announced that she is currently running for Judgeship in Brooklyn. She stated that she has been an attorney in Brooklyn for over 15 years, worked with a judge for over 12 years, and is currently working in the Supreme Court as a Court Attorney Referee. She is hoping for the community's support on her journey.

**Ms. Cheryl Wilson** of Grace Tabernacle Church thanked the community for their support on the co-naming of the northwest corner of Utica Avenue and Pacific Street in honor of the late Reverend Timothy Wright.

**Ms. Jessica Irizarri** from Allcity Family Healthcare Center, Inc. announced that they are passing out a survey for the community to fill out. This survey would help them to access which healthcare services would be appropriate for the community that they are serving. She encouraged everyone in attendance to partake in the survey.

**Ms. Ellen Edwards** announced that she is running for Civil Court Judge and would appreciate the community's support.

**Mr. Gib Veconi** stated that though he is not too fond of big development, he has had the opportunity to read some of the literature, environmental assessments and petitions that have been circulating in opposition to the proposed high-rise being built near Brooklyn Botanic Garden, he believes that the renderings being displayed are not accurately reflecting the project. He asks that the community consider fully understanding the project before signing the petition against it.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM. The next meeting of Community Board 8 will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 7 PM at Union United Methodist Church located at 121 New York Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. All are invited to attend.

## GUESTS

Detective Robert Lynch, 77<sup>th</sup> Pct  
P.O. Briff, 77<sup>th</sup> Pct  
P.O. Lizardo, 77<sup>th</sup> Pct  
Regina Kinsey  
Hazel Hurley  
Zoe Ridolfi-Starre  
Ricardo M. Baker  
Tomika Fisher  
Yajhaira Vasquez  
Peggy DeLince  
Makeba Junior  
James Wolf  
Anthony Taylor  
Carolyn Johnson  
Janelle Grace  
Liz Stevenson  
A. Meyer  
Josh Goldstein  
Steven Morales  
Saneira Sanchez  
Deraphim Nichols  
Paul Wiggins

Mary Moseley  
Leroy Reid  
Albert Tony  
Raphael Ruttenburg  
Eric Frankel  
Dorothy Bembry-Guet  
Ellen Edwards  
O. Williams  
David Cohen  
Mariam McCauley  
Natasha Jegers  
Erica Holder  
Victor Jordan  
Claire Seifert  
Eric Seifert  
Eric Parker  
Casey Hargreaves  
Yvonne Williams  
Derrick Hilbertz  
Jatarra Hill  
Jess Irwin  
Muhammad E.  
Emily Diamond

Nusret Ceman  
Michael Chasah  
Rachel Smith  
Lucy Wagner  
Pierre Albert  
Zara Watkins  
Noah Potter  
Maria Rozos  
Mark Thurton  
Sherel Wilson  
Devin Bulkind  
Tawana Nicholas  
Bobby LaPointe  
Carol Gotts  
Jessica Irizarri  
Alicia Boyd  
Maxine Barnes  
Nana, Community Life Newspaper  
R. Hooper  
Cheryl Wilson  
Sandy Taggart  
Thomas Tushl