Community Board 8
Brooklyn Children's Museum
145 Brooklyn Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11213

March 13, 2025

Members Present

Akua Aidoo
Sharon Alexis-Pierre
Peter Anekwe
Princess Benn-James
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Robert Callahan
Tamika Gibbs
Nizjoni Granville
Jamell Henderson
Tafari John-King
Frances Langley
Robert Lapoint
Lisa Maldonado
Kwasi Mensah
Fior Ortiz-Joyner
Robert Puca
Dr. Cadesa Ramharrack
Yahya Raji
Anika Roach
Conor Ross
Ezra Roth
Brian Saunders
Robin Smith
Meredith Staton
Katie Taylor
Mark Thurton
Briana Uwa
Kimberly Watson
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young

Members Absent/Excused

Edward Delman
Dian Duke
Ammar Elahi
Benny Faygen
Mohammed Hassan
Malik Jabati
Dr. Sarah Lazur
David Mantell
William Meehan
Mimi Mitchell
Courtney Morgan
Taraya Pettway
Dana Thompson
Esmond Turnbull
Gib Veconi

Elected Officials Present
Darlene Mealy, Councilmember for the 41st District

Elected Official Representatives/Agency Reps
Janay Pierre, Office of Councilmember Crystal Hudson
Karen Narefsky, Office of Assemblywoman Pharah Soufrant-Forrest
Krista Reilly, Office of Senator Zellnor Myrie
Karen Chambers, Office of Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez
Adrienne Williams, Office of Assemblywoman Latrice Walker
Tamesha Thompson, Office of Councilmember Darlene Mealy
Shanise Boland, Office of Assemblyman Brian Cunningham
Pierre Gedeon, Mayor's Office Community Assistance Unit
Alicia Pritchard, Bklyn Public Library Brower Park Branch

CB8 Staff Present
Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

Chair Weatherspoon called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM, welcoming the board members and public.

The Chair began by opening the floor to the public for comments and announcements.

Public Comment

Abu introduced himself as a Community Board 3 member coming on his own behalf. He gave a brief presentation on the concept of co-homeownership – people who lack the means to purchase property on their own and would be open to pooling resources. He offered literature explaining his proposal. Interested parties should contact him, at which point he will work to match people of common affinity, after which groups will proceed on their own to pursue traditional bank or FHA financing.

At the conclusion of public comment, Chair Weatherspoon called for a review of the minutes from the previous month's meeting. Two corrections were requested electronically, which were reflected in the version available for review.

Ms. Watson made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Ms. Aidoo. The motion was accepted by acclimation.

Next, Chair Weatherspoon called for Committee reports from committees without action items.

Committee Reports

Economic Development Committee – Lisa Maldonado, Member

John Dewind of the Brooklyn Ave Block Association and Clean Up Brooklyn addressed the Economic Development Committee on Tuesday, giving advice to the committee on how to undertake cleanup campaigns. The committee resolved to undertake a cleanup of commercial corridors; they will first meet at the Church at Dean and Nostrand on March 30th.

The group also reviewed the needs assessment for small businesses. Illegal garbage dumping is a major concern. The members have called on the Environment, Sanitation and Transportation Committee membership to join them to work on garbage in the district.

The committee discussed proposals for grants to Community Based Organizations (CBOs) intending to support small businesses; they are looking for organizations in the community who are interested.

Finally, the membership will be resuming a canvass of commercial corridors to speak to business owners, a process that began with Vanderbilt Avenue. As the weather improves, they will turn to Franklin Avenue on Saturday, April 12th from 2-5 beginning Canela Café & Bar at Franklin & Eastern Pkwy.

The Economic Development Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month, next on April 8th at Brower Library located at 155 Brooklyn Avenue at 6:00 PM.

Health & Human Services – Tamika Gibbs, Chair

The Health and Human Services Committee did not meet this month.

The Health & Human Services Committee meets on the third Thursday of the month, next on March 20th at 77 New York Avenue at 6:30 PM.

Housing & Land Use Committee – Princess Benn James, Vice Chair

The Housing and Land Use Committee did not meet this month.

The Housing & Land Use Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month, next on April 3rd at Crown Heights Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 810 St. Marks Avenue at 6:30 PM.

Public Safety Committee – Mark Thurton, Chair

The Public Safety Committee met on Feb 24th and discussed youth outreach. The members decided to focus efforts on establishing a relationship with PS 138, and encourage all community members to assist in the outreach. Mr. Thurton said that the committee is looking to visit neighborhood schools to educate youth on positive directions and participate in leading the country.

The Public Safety Committee meets on the fourth Monday of the month, next on March 24th at Stuypark House located at 77 New York Avenue at 6:30 PM.

Seniors Committee – Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

As usual, chair Branch-Muhammad makes a spirited pitch for the Seniors Committee, an intergenerational group open to anyone who has received their AARP card. At the most recent meeting the seniors heard information on prevalent scams and how to avoid becoming a victim. Officers from the 77th Precinct also donated coco to the seniors.

The Seniors Committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month, next on April 2nd at 1055 St. Johns Place in the Activity Room at 6:00 PM.

Veterans Committee – Nizjoni Granville, Chair

The Veterans Committee did not meet this month, but all veterans are welcome at monthly meetings. The next monthly speaker will be a retired military veteran coming to share his experience of navigating benefits.

The Veterans Committee meets on the third Tuesday of the month, next on April 15th at 77 New York Avenue at 6:30 PM.

With committee reports concluded, Chair Weatherspoon invited elected officials and their representatives to address the public.

Elected Officials

Janay Pierre – Manager of Scheduling and Operations, Office of Councilmember Crystal Hudson gave information about upcoming events and meetings. Wednesdays from 11:30 – 4:30 the district office has experts available for housing advice; in-house legal advice by appointment is on Thursdays from 2:30 – 5:30. The office will host a housing workshop on March 26th. Look out for information on the State of the District at BRIC. The office can be contacted at 718-260-9191.

Karen Narefsky– Office of Assemblymember Pharrah Souffrant Forrest gave details about the final weeks of the state budget process. The member is focused on expanding mental health resources and resources for immigrant communities. The office will soon jointly host a Job Fair with State Senator Zellnor Myrie, Congresswoman Yvette Clark and Assemblymember Robert Carroll at the Central Library. The office also hosts a month housing workshop, next on Wednesday.

Krista Reilly– Office of Senator Zellnor Myrie also plugs the upcoming Job Fair, as well as a to-be-announced Immigration Resource Fair. The district office can be reached at 718-284-4700.

Karen Chambers – Office of Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzales gives details about upcoming events. On April 5th the office will host a Gun Buyback event at Cornerstone Baptist Church on Madison Street gift cards will be given in exchange for any guns collected. There will also be a Prescription Drug drop off event from 9-4 PM on April 25th at the St. Louis Senior Center, located at 230 Kingston Avenue at St. Johns Place.

A representative from the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs gives updates on city initiatives. The Every Block Counts multi-agency initiative has shown progress in the 73rd Precinct; the crime rate has dropped in Brownsville since the program launch.

The city's Chief Technical Officer Matt Fraser announced a $2.4 m investment in digital equity. Finally, the city has begun distributing Baby Boxes for expectant mothers.

Adrienne Williams - Special Assistant for Assemblymember Latrice Walker gives notice of the monthly Advisory Board meeting at 400 Rockaway, which will take place on a Sunday this month to accommodate community residents who have religious obligations during the regular Saturday meetings. In her legislative capacity, the member is focused on deed theft, bail reform and voting rights. The office phone number is 718-342-1256.

Taeisha Thompson – Deputy Chief of Staff for Councilmember Darlene Mealy gives information about the office's ongoing Know Your Rights services. The office is located at 326 Rockaway Avenue. She also highlights several affordable housing lotteries in the district that are open for application.

Deborah Young informed the public that the Crown Heights North Association is cosponsoring a Mayoral Forum with other city conservation organizations on March 24th at 6:00 PM; the meeting will take place on Zoom. Information is in the CHNA newsletter.

Chair Weatherspoon commenced the action items of the Community Board with an item from the Executive Committee.

Action Items

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on January 29, 2025 at the CB8 District Office and discussed the removal of three members: Mr. David Mantell, Mr. Malik Jabati, and Ms. Courtney Morgan as members of Community Board 8, as per of the By-Laws of Community Board 8 based on their attendance.

In terms of a member's removal, the By-Laws state specifically:

§5.5: (c) An appointed member may be removed from the Board for cause by a majority vote of the Board, only after:
(i) a two-thirds majority of the members of the Executive Committee present and entitled to vote recommends a removal hearing,
(ii) service of written charges and specifications to the appointed member, at least 30 days prior to a scheduled hearing,
(iii) a scheduled hearing before the Board, at a general or special meeting, at which the appointed member shall have the right to respond to the charges and specifications, the right to counsel, and the right to produce witnesses or evidence on his or her behalf. The notice of the meeting shall include the hearing on its agenda.

§5.5: (d) Circumstances which may constitute cause for removal shall include, but shall not be limited to:

(i) Non-attendance at four of the previous six consecutive general or special Board meetings

(ii) substantial non-attendance or non-participation in two (2) committees of the Board

(iii) substantial record of missed roll call votes at the Board meeting

(iv) conduct detrimental to the Board

Charges against all three members are as follows:

- *Non-attendance and participation in general meetings*
  - *David Mantell has not attended any meetings in calendar year 2024 nor the first two months of 2025.*
  - *Malik Jabati has missed 5 of 8 meetings since his appointment to the Board in May of 2024.*
  - *Courtney Morgan has missed 5 of 8 meetings since her appointment to the Board in May of 2024.*
- *Non-participation in at least two standing or ad-hoc committees*
  - *None of the members attended any committee meetings.*
- *All three members were sent letters in October 2024 asking them to recommit to their membership. Mr. Mantell did not respond at all; Neither Mr. Jabati nor Ms. Morgan responded to the correspondence; however, both attended the November 2024 general meetings. None attended any of the committee meetings held.*

As such, the Executive Committee recommends the removal of Mr. Mantell, Mr. Jabati, and Ms. Morgan on the aforementioned grounds, and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Maldonado informed the board members that Malik Jabati and Courtney Morgan are both members of the Economic Development Committee. Ms. Morgan is a good member when she does attend and has much to contribute.

Mr. Witherwax agreed, remarking that he was so impressed by her contribution that, ironically, he hoped she would join the board.

A community member asks if there will be additional vacancies if these members are removed. Ms. George affirmed that this would result in three additional vacancies.

Ms. Neale asks Ms. Maldonado how many meetings Ms. Morgan attended. Ms. Maldonado replied that Mr. Jabati attended 2 ECD meetings in September and a separate phone call. Ms. Morgan attended 2 meetings in September and was present for the phone call. Additionally, Ms. Morgan offered to work with Ms. Taylor on organizing canvassing.

Ms. Young says she appreciates the contributions that these members made, but their lack of response to correspondence from the board office is troubling.

A community member asks to clarify if attendance at a committee is not sufficient? Ms. George confirmed that both are necessary to maintain good standing with the board.

Mr. John-King offered that members of the community do not have to be board members to participate in committee work, and that perhaps they are best suited to remain as community members.

Ms. Taylor asked for confirmation that these members did not respond to notices that they would be removed from their positions. Board staff confirmed that they received no communication.

With discussion concluded, Chair Weatherspoon called for a vote. Members requested that the item be divided into three motions.

Malik Jabati

Ms. Young made a motion recommending Mr. Jabati's removal as a member of Community Board 8, seconded by Ms. Muhammad. The motion passed with 29 in favor, 0 opposed and 3 abstentions.

David Mantell

Ms. Benn James made a motion recommending Mr. Mantell's removal as a member of Community Board 8, seconded by Ms. Langley. The motion passed with 32 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

Courtney Morgan

Mr. Anekwe made a motion recommending Ms. Morgan's removal as a member of Community Board 8, seconded by Ms. Benn James. The motion passed with 23 in favor, 0 opposed and 9 abstentions.

Environment, Sanitation, Transportation (EST) –Robert Witherwax, Chair

The EST Committee met on Tuesday, January 28th and again on February 25, 2025. At both meetings, the committee discussed the user experience of the Underhill Avenue Bike Blvd. At the January meeting, the committee elected to create a subcommittee to review the streetscape changes. The mission and goal of the subcommittee was to evaluate and report on the following:

a) Implementation versus design (what was installed, what was omitted, what was changed from the plan when last presented in May 2023),

b) Adherence to stated goals (see page 18), and
c) Actual user experience from multiple viewpoints (pedestrian, cyclist, driver, commercial vehicle, emergency services, etc.)

The methodology of the Underhill Avenue Working Group (UAWP) was a survey (available both in print and digital format), site visits (various times various modes), and data previously collected from other sources (crash mapper stats, United Neighbors of Prospect and Crown Heights (UNPCH), Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council (PHNDC), a survey by Mayor Adams).

At the February meeting, EST Committee members voted unanimously with 20 in favor to present the attached report of collected data to the NYC Dept. of Transportation for review to see if modifications or amendments are necessary in lieu of submitting recommendations for change to the agency.

The summary of findings is as follows:

A. *Implemented Elements: "Compare the Underhill Avenue Bike Blvd (UABB) plan as presented in May 2023 with the elements as implemented":*
    1. *The UAWG found that the UABB plan has been substantially implemented:*
        a. *In 10 locations, textured pavement, bollards, and other street furniture were installed ("Pedestrianized Space")*
        b. *In 4 locations, diamond-shaped medians were installed between "no standing" curb zones to divide two-way traffic ("Diamond Medians")*
        c. *On two blocks, the street was converted to one-way car travel southbound and a contraflow parking protected bike lane was installed ("Bike Lane/One-way Cars")*
    2. *No major planned element was omitted, and no unplanned element was installed.*
    3. *Any deviations are minor (such as planters in different locations and an uninstalled island opposite PS9).*

B. *Stated Goals: "Compare the implemented elements of UABB with the stated goals of UABB":*
    1. *The UAWG found that the implemented elements substantially relate to and support the stated goals:*
        a. *Pedestrianized Spaces tend to improve visibility and shorten crossings at intersections, prioritizing pedestrians and cyclists*
        b. *The Bike Lane/One-Way Cars establish a Bike Boulevard, adding new two-way bike network connection.*
        c. *The Diamond Medians attempt to codify the traffic calming and safety benefits of the Open Street.*
        d. *The Bike Lane/One-Way Cars disincentivize thru traffic by converting some blocks to one-way southbound only for vehicles.*

C. *User Experience: "Assess the user experience in light of the implemented elements and stated goals":*
   1. *Recurrent themes include (described more in Section VII)*
      a. *Mostly positive sentiment*
      b. *Safety*
      c. *Slower traffic speeds*
      d. *User confusion*
      e. *Operational issues*
   2. *The UAWG makes the following suggestions to preserve and enhance the UABB (described in more detail in Section VIII):*
      a. *Optimize intersections*
         i. *Daylighting*
         ii. *Boulders*
         iii. *Visual warnings*
      b. *Simplify shifting block configurations*
         i. *Fewer shifts*
         ii. *Northbound vs southbound*
         iii. *Ensure operational continuity*

Mr. Witherwax began by thanking the committee members for the work they did between meetings examining the issue for many hours, as it was a multifaceted process with many interested stakeholders.

Ms. Taylor asked if emergency vehicles can traverse between Bergen and Dean.

Mr. Witherwax replies that this is beyond our competence; the committee must assume that the Department of Transportation builds roads that emergency vehicles can traverse. The committee reached out to the Fire Department, but they did not respond.

Ms. Wedderburn asked if there were traffic lights everywhere that daylighting took place. Mr. Witherwax said that every intersection except two had traffic lights. He elaborated that daylighting is the idea of removing obstacles to visibility for turning vehicles, not necessarily about how drivers respond on straightaways.

A member of the community makes a comment about the church at Pacific Street, and said that he has spoken with members of the Fire Department who say that the design is difficult to navigate.

Ms. Roach echoed that an FDNY officer has noted that Underhill is a hazard.

Ms. Muhammad asked how many responses the committee received to the survey? 1,111. She emphasized that she asks because it is often the case that voices are left out of these processes and she wanted to make sure there was equal access to the survey.

Mr. Anekwe directs a question to the room, wanting to know what community members think about the work product that the committee produced.

Ms. Maldonado would feel most comfortable if the language about "mostly positive sentiment" is replaced with results from the survey. She wants a direct reference to the extremely strong opposition, even if it was in the minority.

Mr. Witherwax says that according to the survey 56% of residents supported the redesign, and 57% of users thought it was an improvement.

Ms. Ortiz Joyner stated that as a subcommittee member who worked on this issue, it was comprised of respondents with positive and negative feelings, but the people who were against the Underhill Ave Bike Blvd, unfortunately, did not participate in the survey with the same intensity as the people who were in favor.

Mr. Lapointe asks for clarification about what will be voted on tonight. He expresses frustration that the full report has not been provided to the members.

Mr. Witherwax responds that the action item is a summary of the report.

Mr. Henderson said that there are concerns that there isn't enough substantive information being provided.

After some discussion, the board office confirms that the full report has not been timely circulated to the membership for their review.

Chair Weatherspoon makes a motion to table this action item until next month, seconded by Anekwe. The motion passes on a voice vote.

The EST Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month, next on March 25th at 810 St. Marks Ave at 6:30 PM.

Parks, Youth & Education Committee – Kimberly Watson, Chair

The Parks, Youth & Education Committee met on Tuesday, February 4th, and again on March 4, 2025 to discuss the Brower Park Skatepark Reconstruction. At the February meeting, representatives from the NYC Parks Department and the Skatepark Foundation attended to present the design plans for the park.

The Brower Skatepark received funding from not only the Skatepark Foundation but also from Mayor Adams, Boro President Reynoso, and Councilmember Osse to offset some of the costs to revitalize and revamp the existing aging Brower Park Skatepark. This is part of a public realm improvement initiative, which will either build or rehabilitate and redesign four skateparks in the city, two in Brooklyn and two in the Bronx.

Project goals include the following:

1. *Remove community-built skate elements and existing pavement.*
2. *Construct a new skatepark that caters to all skill levels and wheel users (skateboards, BMX bikes, roller blades/skates, scooters, wheelchairs, etc.) and meets the community's requests for a better, and more skateable park (new design represents an 84% increase in skateability).*
3. *Add a protected, delineated pedestrian pathway through the park (currently there is no pedestrian pathway, and pedestrians must walk directly through the skatepark to get to the exit). The pathway will be separated from skaters by a 6-foot wrought iron fence and the skatepark will be fully enclosed. While indeed the skatepark will be a bit smaller, it will, however, also be more efficient and overall better despite the shrinkage for the path.*
4. *Improve access, circulation, and sight lines in the park.*
5. *Increase permeability by adding more plantings in the newly created pedestrian pathway (permeability increases from 2.1% to 4.6% (207 sqft to 448 sqft)*
6. *Adding both street-like and park elements in the new design, mimicking Olympic style skateparks, with adequate space for transitions and also trick elements. This allows for each element to work both collectively and independently.*[1]

Committee members were generally pleased with the design and applauded the inclusion of a pedestrian walkway, noting that the addition of the pathway and inclusion of more greenspace were two crucial design elements that the community requested. Additionally, the committee was pleased with the fact that all mature trees would be maintained and preserved along with their root structures and systems, as well as the fact that new plantings would create a more biodiverse environment. Unfortunately, at this time, additional funding is not available to provide more lighting around the skatepark. Although the pedestrian pathway will indeed be lighted, members expressed concern that the safety measure of better lighting within the skatepark itself cannot be accommodated at this time.

At the March 7th meeting, members voted unanimously with 10 in favor to support the reconstruction design of the Brower Park Skatepark, but asked that the Parks Department ensure that the highest and longest lasting grade of concrete be used for elements to increase durability and longevity of the space, to ask Parks to consider adding more greenery (especially toward the front by the entrance gate), and when funding becomes available, to prioritize more lighting around the skatepark to increase security. The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

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[1]Street-like elements are infrastructure you will see on the street: curbs, railings, stairs, etc. Park elements are those that are more sloped/curved to allow for transitions and speed.

Mr. Staton comments that he is in favor of Brower Park but has reservations about Mt. Prospect Park. Ms. Watson reaffirms that this action item is only about the Brower Park redesign.

Ms. Watson is unsure when the park was first constructed.

A community member rises to testify that he is a skater and has a skater son, both of whom are very excited for the renovation of this park which has dangerously deteriorating elements.

Ms. Watson says that there's not much slack in the city's budget and this is a great opportunity to get renovations done.

Community member Mr. Dewin says he attended two meetings and wants to emphasize two important points: 1. Brower Park is a multiuse park. The design that has been proposed creates a fence around the skate area and suggests it is only for skating. 2. Lenny from Shoot Hoops not Guns wants money allocated for more lighting across the park. He says that he does not think there's been enough community input. For example, the President of the St. Marks Independent Block Association knew nothing about the committee meeting where the item was voted on.

Ms. Watson responded that the gating brings the park into compliance with safety requirements. She also states that the skate park foundation collaborated with Friends of Brower Park to ensure that community input was taken into account.

Jim Morris, deputy Chief of Staff for Brooklyn Operations, and his team were present at the meeting to elaborate on comments made; the Designer & Design Consultants were also present, as a representative of the Economic Development Corporation.

Mr. Morris says that there was quite a bit of outreach throughout the process, and many questions that were brought up tonight were addressed at previous meetings. He says that the national safety standards require fencing in areas where there is high pedestrian traffic. This will include a separate pedestrian path with lighting.

Mr. Anekwe asks for clarification – when a visitor enters from Park Place, will the mats be removed? Mr. Morris states that this area will not be disturbed.

Shirley Mondesair, President of the St. Marks Block Association rises to give her perspective. The group was invited to initial meeting with Councilmember Chi Osse; in contrast, she believes that no one was invited to second meeting. In her view, lighting is so necessary as the area walking up the steps near the handball court is very dark.

A Community Member volunteers that she has had a collision with skaters in the past, and agrees that the fence is a useful element.

Another Community Member asks that the Parks Department give two weeks notice before publishing a plan for the Mt. Prospect Park Skate Park.

Ms. Gibbs made a motion to support the committee's recommendations for the proposal, seconded by Mr. Ross. The motion passed with 29 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

Ms. Watson continued the business of the Parks Committee, inviting Mr. Khalil Israel to address the board.

Khalil Israel of Walt Shamel Community Garden gave notice of the upcoming Eastern Parkway Mulching Project with Big Reuse at April 6th from 10 to noon. The project will begin at Troy & Eastern Parkway, spreading two dump trucks of mulch. Up to 60 volunteers will spread mulch on the trees on Eastern Pkwy between Utica and Kingston.

Finally, the Friends of Brower Park Annual Earth Day/It's Not Easy Being Green celebration will take place on April 27th from 12-4 pending final approval from the Parks Department.

The Parks, Youth & Education Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month, next on April 1st at 155 Brooklyn Avenue at 6:00 PM.

SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC) – Robert Witherwax, Vice Chair

The SLAC committee met on Monday, March 3, 2025 and discussed the following Dining Out applications:

1. *Dining Out:*
    a. ***Aita Trattoria, 798A Franklin Avenue @ Lincoln Place*** *(roadway and sidewalk café)*
        i. *Roadway dimensions 8x18 feet along Franklin Avenue. Possibly contains 4 tables with 2 seats at each (hand drawn diagram unclear)*

Not recommended for approval due to the following issues:

1. *Diagram was illegible*
2. *Pictures were of prior structure, and not helpful*
3. *Applicant of record is no longer in business / different business name*

ii. *Sidewalk café dimensions: 9x18 feet on Franklin Avenue. Possibly contains 4 tables with 2 seats at each (hand drawn diagram unclear)*

Not recommended for approval due to the following issues:

1. *Existing enclosed structure is not permitted*

2. *Diagram was illegible*
3. *No pictures were provided*
4. *Applicant of record is no longer in business / different business name*

After a brief discussion about splitting the action items into individual votes, there was no further substantive discussion on the Aita Action Item.

Ms. Ortiz-Joyner made a motion to support both of the committee's recommendations on Aita Trattoria, seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The motion passed with 30 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

b. ***Café Rue Dix, 1453 Bedford Avenue @ Park Place*** *(roadway and sidewalk café)*
   i. *Roadway dimensions 8x25 feet on Park Place. Contains 2 tables each seating 6 and 3 tables each seating 2*

Recommended for approval with Modifications

1. *Reduce length from 25 feet to 15 feet, beginning 8 feet from crosswalk*

   ii. *Sidewalk café dimensions 4.8x6.5 feet and 4.8x9 feet on Park Place; 4.8x12 feet on Bedford Avenue. Contains a total of 9 tables with 2 seats at each*

Recommended for approval as reviewed

A Community Member's understanding is that there must be an 8 foot margin to the curb cut, asking for clarification if that requirement is met.

Mr. Witherwax responds that this is a holistic process of review, but that the geometry is built into code.

Mr. Staton asks if the L shape going to interfere with the bike lane. Mr. Witherwax believes it should not.

Ms. Young made a motion to support the committee's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Staton. The motion passed with 29 in favor, 1 opposed and 0 abstentions.

Given the similar nature of the proceeding action items, the board agreed to consider the following applications as a single vote[2]:

c. ***No. 7 Restaurant, 627 Vanderbilt Avenue, near St. Marks Avenue*** *(sidewalk café)*

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[2] Please note that the sequential lettering differs from the published action items. The following were originally letters c, d, e, g, and h in materials circulated to the board.

        i. *Sidewalk café dimensions 3.5x4 feet. Contains one circular table and 4 chairs*

Recommended for approval as reviewed

   d. ***Ciao Gloria, 550 Vanderbilt Avenue @ Pacific Street*** *(sidewalk café)*
        i. *Sidewalk café dimensions 10x38 feet. Contains 10 tables with 2 seats at each*

Recommended for approval as reviewed

   e. ***Gran Café De Martini, 609 Vanderbilt Avenue @ Bergen Street*** *(roadway café)*
        i. *Roadway dimensions 8x20 feet on Vanderbilt Avenue. Contains 3 tables with 4 seats at each*

Recommended for approval as reviewed

   f. ***Milli-Feuille, 622 Vanderbilt Avenue @ Prospect Place*** *(sidewalk café)*
        i. *Sidewalk café dimensions 7x10 feet. Contains 4 tables with 2 seats at each*

Recommended for approval as reviewed

   g. ***Alta Calidad, 552 Vanderbilt Avenue*** *(sidewalk café)*
        i. *Sidewalk café dimensions 8.3x9.5 feet; 5x10 feet on Vanderbilt with 15,5x10 feet on Dean Street. Contains 9 tables with 18 seats*

Recommended for approval with Modifications:

1. *Ensure minimum of 11 feet clearance between outer edge of dining area and Streetlight and compost smart bin*

Ms. Taylor made a motion to support the committee's recommendations, seconded by Mr. Staton. The motion passed with 29 in favor, 1 opposed and 0 abstentions.

   h. ***Amorina, 624 Vanderbilt Avenue @ Prospect Place*** *(roadway café)*
        i. *Roadway café 8x16 feet. Contains 4 tables with 4 seats at each*

Recommended for approval as reviewed

Ms. Ortiz-Joyner explained that she pulled out this action item because Amorina is on the same block as Key Food, wants to know if there is a modification because of this.

The response is no.

Ms. Muhammad notes that there was going to be some notification to the board.

Ms Ortiz-Joyner's concern is that this restaurant is on the same block as Key Food with a loading zone, and is concerned that this would impede the business.

Ms. Taylor wants to know if the restaurant will use the same structure. Mr. Witherwax says that the new structure will be half the size of the previous one.

Ms. Maldonado believes there is enough space for loading because there are businesses in between the restaurant and Key Food.

Mr. Callahan made a motion to support the committee's recommendation, seconded by Ms. Watson. The motion passed with 19 in favor, 4 opposed and 6 abstentions.

i. ***Nuaa Table, 642 Bergen Street*** *(sidewalk)*
    i. *Sidewalk café dimensions possibly 7x41 feet (hand drawn diagram unclear). Contains 6 tables with 2 seats at each on Vanderbilt Avenue*

Not recommended for approval due to the following:

1. *Diagram missing key measurements and elements (Streetlight, parking meter)*

Hearing no discussion, Mr. Saunders made a motion to support the committee's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Mensah. The motion passed with 30 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

At the conclusion of the SLAC action items, Chair Weatherspoon informed the board that the committee does not have sufficient time to review the Dining Out Applications for consideration. She has asked that the district office send a letter to DOT requesting at least 6 weeks lead time to review applications and also require public notice to neighbors and post the dates of the committee meeting and public hearing which follows the same process used for the State Liquor Authority.

The SLA Committee meets on the First Monday of the month, next on April 7th at 810 St. Marks Avenue at 6:30 PM.

Chair Weatherspoon announced that 2025 is a Board Election Year. In order to present a slate of candidates to the membership, the Chair has appointed a nominating committee. The committee will be comprised of board members Brian Saunders, Lisa Maldonado, Robert Lapointe, and Kwasi Mensah.

Mr. Anekwe asks what positions are up for election. Chair Weatherspoon replies that the Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms will all be elected.

Mr. Thurton requests more information on the process. The nominating committee will begin its work after Ms. George sends a questionnaire to the board members later this month. The nominating committee will present their recommendations to the board and take nominations from the floor at the April meeting. The election will take place in May.

The Chair takes a moment to acknowledge Councilmember Darlene Mealy, who is in attendance.

The Councilmember greets the members, and asks the public to check in on their senior neighbors. Recently, two seniors were victims of a scam to sign away their life insurance policies. Her next advisory board meeting will take place on March 30th, from 11-12:30. In typical months, this meeting takes place on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Denise Deyonker, a member of United Neighbors for Prospect and Crown Heights reminds the board that UNPCH drafted a resolution that was modified as requested, and asks that the Executive Committee vote on the resolution as committees did.

Ms. Granville adds that she wants to thank Robin Smith for her presentation on Veterans benefits at the February Meeting of the Veterans committee.

With the business of the board completed, Chair Weatherspoon asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:20 PM, which was accepted by acclimation.

Guests Present

Constance Lesold
Ralph Yozzo
George Sands
Xeerxeema Jordan
Jennifer Jordan
Julius Buseche
Isabella Broyer
Eli Bailey
Dahae Alessi
Steve Rodriquez
Traci Nottingham
Saundra Bennett
Deni DeYonker
Jordan Catalaua
Laura Michael
Jeanette Young
Ryan Christman
Chelsea Reil
Allison Dubinski
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Matt Pavoni
P. Grannum
Harry Feder

Shirley Mondesir
Lia Weintraub
Laura P.
Cody Israel
Asar John
Vanessa Brooks
Roger Myers
Rdney Seymour
Sarah Jensen
Julia Bryant
Kadiatou Tubman
Terrance Ratliff
Claudette Agard
Ibrahim Ayu
Nadine Davis
Melina Bernardine
Nadja Byrd
Diana Foster