

**Community Board 8
St. Teresa of Avila RC Church
563 Sterling Place
Brooklyn, NY 11238**

May 9, 2019

Members Present

Glinda Andrews
Deshauna Appleton
Desmond Atkins
Wayne Bailey
Princess Benn-James
Julia Boyd
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Dian Duke
James Ellis
Andrea Ferris
Drew Gabriel
Tamika Gibbs
Nizjoni Granville
Elijah Gray
Xeerxeema Jordan
Lisa Lashley
Elaine Mahoney
Kwasi Mensah
Atim Oton
Dr. Katharine Perko
Brian Saunders
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Mark Thurton
Greg Todd
Ethel Tyus
Gib Veconi
Yves Vilus
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young
Vilma Zuniga

Members Absent/Excused

Sasha Ahuja
Helen Coley
Phu Duong
Fred Frazier
Robert Matthews
Robert Puca
Yahya Raji
Adam Sachs
Meredith Staton
Sheryl Vassell

Elected Officials Present

Senator Velmanette Montgomery, 21st Senatorial District

Elected Officials Representatives

Karen Chambers, District Attorney Eric Gonzalez
Kegan Sheehan, Councilman Cornegy, 36th Council Dist.
Gabriel Torres, Assemblyman Mosley, 57 Assembly Dist.
Arna Lipkind, Majority Leader Cumbo, 35th Council Dist.
Kim Robinson, Councilwoman Ampry-Samuel, 41st CD
Maceo Karriem, Assemblywoman Wright, 56th AssembD
Pastor G. Monroe, BP Adams

CB 8 Staff

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson, at 7:10 PM. She welcomed everyone to the May meeting and asked Mr. Wayne Bailey, Sergeant at Arms, to discuss basic housekeeping rules. Ms. Granville also made a personal statement to the Board, stating that she is not seeking a 6th term as Chairperson, because after two major losses in her family, she is a bit “burned out,” and would like to continue her membership without the added responsibility of the Chairperson title. She thanked everyone for their support over the last 10 years, and vowed to continue being active on the Board

until her membership expires with term limits. She announced that Board members have their election ballots in their folders and that the ballots would be collected and counted prior to 8:30 PM.

As members cast their votes, Ms. Granville announced that earlier in the week, Weeksville Heritage Center started a crowd-funding page to raise funds, lest they be forced to close their doors due to funding issues. She encouraged residents to donate to Weeksville, as it is one of the few sites dedicated to preserving black history as the first free black community in New York. Unfortunately, there is a funding drought for cultural institutions in the city and nationwide. This funding drought is only exacerbated by fewer people with an understanding of why it is so necessary to support arts and culture.

Ms. Mahoney asked if the Board could request funding for Weeksville in its FY 2021 budget priorities. She was informed that funding would be a priority for the facility.

Ms. Granville then asked for roll call, followed by a report from the following committees:

Committee Reports

Economic Development and Youth/Education (Joint Meeting) – Ms. Atim Oton, Chair of Economic, Ms. Sharon Wedderburn, Chair of Youth/Education; Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Vice-Chair of Youth/Education

The Economic Development and Youth/Education Committees held a joint meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. Present were Atim Oton, Sharon Wedderburn, Janine Harpey, Xeerxeema Jordan, Kwasi Mensah, Caleb Louis, and Leah Brown.

Ms. Oton announced that the meeting was held to discuss strategy for the Job Training and Job Fair that is being put on by the two committees, including finding a suitable space for the event. The committees are also looking for different kinds of businesses that will look for and utilize the skill sets that are present in the community. Because of the rent strain on many of the residents in the community, it is imperative that translatable skills are increased so people can earn more money to meet the rent burden. She requested that if anyone knows of any training programs that would result to paying at least \$60K or more, please attend the next planning meetings.

Ms. Wedderburn stated that the salary for rent must be at least 3 times the amount of the rent, and the goal of the fair is to provide people with the skills and training to balance the gap between what they earn now that is causing them to fall short, and what they need to earn. As an example of what is necessary, Ms. Wedderburn stated that if rent for a unit is \$2,200 a month, the annual salary must be minimum \$80k annually. The goal is to develop a pipeline for middle school students to get into specialized schools to get an early start at technical skills training where there is an abundance of opportunities for high salaries. During the planning sessions, committee members are discussing different issues and different capacities in terms of financial outlook, and are exploring opportunities for young people as early as 14 years old to build a passion for certain fields so that they can focus their education around them.

Ms. Oton stated that CB 8 is home to a large creative population (especially filmmakers), and it is crucial that the Board obtains opportunities for these individuals to earn money from their work.

The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 6 PM at BNIA. The next Youth and Education Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 7 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

Environment, Sanitation, and Transportation (EST) – Mr. Robert Witherwax, Chair; Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon, Vice Chair

The EST Committee met on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at Downtown Brooklyn Rehabilitation Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. Present were: Desmond Atkins; Janet Collins; Holly Fuchs; Xeerxeema Jordan; Regina Kinsey; Francis Langley; Katharine Perko; Meredith Staton; Celeste Stein; Mark Thurton; Irsa Weatherspoon; Robert Witherwax; Deborah Young; Chris Owens; Elaine Miles; and Cynthia Ross.

The committee heard a presentation from Mr. Chris Owens, the son of the late Major Owens, a renowned Congressman that represented the bulk of District 8 for decades. Mr. Owens is seeking to re-name Eastern Parkway in honor of his father's legacy.

In addition, the committee discussed items to present to the District office for addition to the FY 2021 Budget Form and Needs Statement as well as a list of transportation related issues to present to Senator Zellnor Myrie.

The next EST meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 6:30 PM at Downtown Brooklyn Nursing Home. All are invited to attend.

Health – Mr. Kwasi Mensah

The Health Committee met on Monday, April 1, 2019 at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place. The committee continued discussing its upcoming Urban Agricultural Gathering and Health Fair. The committee has obtained PS9 for the Health Fair, which will be held in the fall. The next Health Committee meeting will be held on May 13, 2019 at BNIA at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

Housing – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chair

The Housing Committee met on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at Albany Community Center located at 164 Troy Avenue. The committee discussed the letter that was sent to Sharon Scott, Manager of Albany Houses, to discuss some of the conditions that residents face in the development. Mr. Todd, giving the report for the committee, stated that a meeting the previous evening was productive as the committee met with the NYCHA youth liaison, and stated that leadership, especially the leadership at Albany Houses, is very engaged in improving the condition of NYCHA residents. The committee discussed funding from Councilman Cornegy for the playgrounds at Albany Houses. Currently, \$800,000 has been allocated for renovation, but it is not enough to renovate all the playgrounds, so the committee is trying to get clarification from Councilman Cornegy's office on how much is needed to fully renovate the playgrounds. As such, the committee will strategize how to obtain more funding.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 13, 2019 at Albany Community at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

Land Use – Ms. Ethel Tyus, Chair

The Land Use Committee met on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at Downtown Brooklyn Rehabilitation Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. In addition to the Chair, Ethel Tyus, also present were: Sasha Ahuja, Princess Benn-James, Janet Collins, Fred Frazier, Nizjoni Granville, Xerxeema Jordan, Peter Krashes, Shari Norton, Dr. Katharine Perko, Robert Puca, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, Sharon Wedderburn, Deborah Young,

George Argiris, Jeff Charles-Pierre, Steve Ferrier, and Ilya Vilnits. The committee discussed the following items:

Application to LPC for 301 Park Place (between Underhill and Vanderbilt Aves) for Rear Additions

Mr. George Argiris, RA., principle of GTA Architecture, PLLC, presented the owner's application to convert the existing single family dwelling into a two family dwelling. The existing building is two stories with a basement and cellar. As part of the renovation there will be general interior construction work on all floors as well as a rear yard extension for the basement, 1st and 2nd floors. The rear yard extension will be 21' x 17.83' (the width of the building). Mr. Argiris provided assurances that the HVAC would not be visible from the street.

The site is sandwiched between two existing extensions. Mr. Veconi moved the Committee offer support for the project on the condition that its balconies not protrude beyond the balconies of the immediate neighboring properties at 299 Park Place and 303 Park Place, and that the rear wall should meet that of 299 Park Place. Ms. Young seconded the motion. The committee voted 9 in favor with 1 abstention to support the application with the following recommendations:

That the applicant line up their rear facade with 299 Park Place **(the applicant has adjusted the rear facade so that it lines up with 299 Park Place)** and

That the applicant ensure that their rear balconies do not encroach further into the rear yard than either the bump out on 299 Park place or the rear balcony of 303 Park Place, whichever is furthest **(the applicant has confirmed that 303 Park Place's balcony is the furthest of the two and that it projects about 8' into the rear yard from their rear facade. Taking into consideration that the facade for 301 protrudes about 12" further into the rear yard than 303 Park Place's rear facade, the maximum depth they can project from their rear facade to line up with 303 Park Place's balcony is 7'. They are going to propose a depth of 6', which will ensure they do not encroach further into the rear yard).**

The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Benn-James, and carried with a final tally of 32 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

Application to LPC for 309 Prospect Place (between Underhill and Vanderbilt Avenues) for Rooftop Bulkhead

Mr. Ilya Vilnits presented a plan to convert the site from a four-family to a three-family. Mr. Vilnits indicated that LPC has approved most of the project at staff level. The building is the last house in the row and on a corner. The new bulkhead requested will be visible from Prospect Pl between Washington and Underhill Aves. The project also includes ½" dowel safety railing around the roof perimeter. Mr. Veconi asked that cable railing be used instead. Mr. Vilnits responded that the two types were essentially the same. It was suggested that the mechanicals may go in the abutting vacant lot or on the roof. Mr. Veconi moved the Committee to support the project with a request to LPC for ways to make the railing less visible. Ms. Wedderburn seconded the motion. The Committee voted 10 in favor of support with 3 abstentions, and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

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

Application to LPC to Legalize Removal of Areaway Wall at 928 St Marks Ave (between Kingston and Albany Avenues)— LPC -19-32231)

Mr. George Charles-Pierre, R.A. made a second presentation of his client's application to LPC for retroactive approval of the removal of the areaway wall and gate, and installation of a driveway. Mr. Charles-Pierre provided a timeline for the approvals he relied on. However, the dates of record indicate that the historic district was designated after the 40-day hold the applicant relied on had expired and well before the areaway wall was removed. The applicant also claimed reliance on the R6 zoning and frontage on an as-of-right basis for construction of a driveway, which was done more than two years after the area was designated. While the application materials include four driveways on that block, those improvements existed on the date of designation and were therefore 'grandfathered.' The Crown Heights North Association provided a letter indicating that they do not support legalization of this driveway.

Mr. Veconi moved the Committee to reject the application to legalize the driveway and the motion was seconded by Ms. Weatherspoon. The Committee voted 12 in favor with 1 abstention to withhold support for the application to legalize the driveway. The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Ellis made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gibbs and carried with a final tally of 29 in favor, 2 opposed, with 1 abstention.

M-Crown Update:

Mr. Veconi provided an update on the status of the two private rezonings in the MCROWN area: 1010 and 1050 Pacific Street. Council Member Cumbo had negotiated with 1010 Pacific Street and 1050 Pacific Street to include a certain number of square feet of light industrial uses (as defined in CB8's M-CROWN proposal) on the ground floor. Committee member Peter Krashes requested that any new zoning designated for any lots on Atlantic Avenue from Vanderbilt Avenue to Grand Avenue in Community Board 8 be consistent and that no zoning designation for any lot should be distinguished from any other. An extended discussion was held on the language prior to a second by Mr. Puca putting the motion on the floor for further discussion and a vote.

Finally, the Committee discussed establishing a set of principles to be included in the Statement of Needs for the land use planning process with attention to ways to encourage private investment, as recommended by Ms. Ahuja. The Committee also returned to the issue of securing a permanent facility with A/V equipment for the Board office, and full Board and Committee meetings. It was asked what space accommodations and arrangements other CBs have around the City. Not having this information available, Committee Members Benn-James, Collins and Perko volunteered to research the data by sending inquiries to other CBs.

The next Land Use Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 6:30 PM at Downtown Brooklyn Nursing Home. All are invited to attend.

Parks – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue. In the absence of the Chair, Mr. Greg Todd Chaired the meeting. Also present were Joyce Robinson, Dorothy Bemby-Guet, Robyn Berland, Steven Levenberg, and Vilma Zuniga.

As per minutes submitted to the District office, the committee discussed a request for the possible transfer of the Lots for Tots property on Prospect Place near Albany Avenue for use as a community garden. As part of the committee report at the general meeting, Ms. Andrews reported that Lincoln Terrace Park had its ribbon cutting ceremony on April 23, 2019 and the ribbon cutting for Stroud Playground will be held on May 17, 2019. She also mentioned that St. John's Recreation Center has finally re-opened after an extended period being closed for HVAC repair. Ms. Andrews stated that Participatory budgeting items have been voted on, but the request for a dog run in Brower Park was not selected as a request to receive funding. However, Ms. Robyn Berland, President of Friends of Brower Park, reported that there have been fewer encounters with dogs in the park because of additional parks personnel present to enforce dog rules.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 6:30 PM at David Chavis Apartment. All are invited to attend.

Public Safety – Mr. Mark Thurton, Chair; Mr. Desmond Atkins, Vice-Chair

The Public Safety committee met on Monday, April 22, 2019 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue. Mr. Thurton announced that the next meeting will be held on May 20, 2019 due to Memorial Day Holiday falling on their scheduled meeting date. Mr. Thurton also called attention to the police crime stats that indicate an increase in violent crime, especially murder. While the overall numbers are down slightly, the increase in rapes, murders, and felony assault should alarm the public. Mr. Thurton encouraged everyone to attend the Neighborhood Coordinator Officer (NCO) Sector meetings and distributed a list of the upcoming meetings.

The next meeting will focus on youth safety, as the number of youth engaging in quality of life infractions has increased. The meeting will seek to engage both parents and youth with the NYPD. The committee is still working on obtaining funding for ARGUS cameras from the City Council. Additionally, the NYPD is looking to establish safe zones, and consequently, at the sector meetings, participants will be provided with maps to identify schools and list any problems students might face with things such as crossing the street, interaction with gangs, guns, quality of life issues, etc., in an effort to make it safer for the children.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the 77th Precinct. All are invited to attend.

Seniors – Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair Gail Branch-Muhammad, present were: Essie Spivey, Faye Jones, Yvonne Bailey, Doreen Turner, Rena Cox, Linda Rangoo, Annabelle Boyd, Ivy Anderson, Ida Golson, Mary Hodnett, Wallace Alexander, Leola Mills, Brenda Green, Pearl Mikel, Vasti Bentinik, Jerome Michaux, Ernest Pender, Princess Benn-James, Xeerxeema Jordan, Kwasi Mensah, and Vilma Zuniga.

Ms. Branch-Muhammad publicly thanked Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chair of the Health Committee, for giving her contact information for Sifu Larry Andrews (Master Tai Chi Instructor). Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese martial art form, that consists of slow and gentle movements. Sifu Larry explained that Tai Chi has many rewarding benefits for everyone especially for older adults. The soft and steady motions of the exercise promotes muscle

control, balance and flexibility without strenuous pressure on connective tissues. It also promotes inner peace by combining meditation and light breathing. The art is also a stress reliever. Sifu instructed the seniors on some of the beginner techniques and warm ups. The meeting was very enjoyable and that the seniors loved the Tai Chi experience so much that they asked that every meeting begin with a few minutes of Tai Chi and relaxation moving forward.

The committee also heard a brief presentation from committee member Jerome Michaux who is a member of Little Brothers- Friends of the Elderly, a nonprofit volunteer organization. He provided the committee with his annual Senior Resource Guide. The Spring edition is currently available at various locations throughout the community. The pamphlet offers an array of resources that are useful to the seniors in the community. Some of the important information listed is the local supermarkets, transportation, legal services and local healthcare resources. Jerome stated that the booklet is his 4th edition, and he hopes to continue gaining support and sponsorship. He acknowledged that the support of the community and volunteers make it all possible.

The June meeting will be devoted to jewelry making and will be hands on. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 6 PM at David Chavis Apartments. All 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, May 6, 2019 at Downtown Brooklyn Rehabilitation Center located at 727 Classon Avenue. In addition to the Chair and Vice Chair, also present were: Wayne Bailey, Gail Branch-Muhammad, Cheryl Brown, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Oliver Hardt, Lisa Lashley, Atim Oton, Robert Puca, Brian Saunders, Mark Thurton, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, Robert Witherwax, and Deborah Young. The committee discussed the following applications:

1. Renewal applications:
 - a. **Bearded Lady, 686A Washington Avenue (corner of Prospect Pl)** – Full License (recorded music, sidewalk cafe)
Establishment type: Bar/Tavern
 - b. **Chavela's, 736 Franklin Avenue (corner of Sterling Pl)** – Full License (recorded music, occasional live music, sidewalk café) – Also seeking to increase operating hours of sidewalk café by an hour each night, to match the café hours to the interior space of 11 PM weekdays and midnight weekends.
Establishment type: Restaurant

The committee voted 15 in favor to support the two renewals as presented in hopes the full Board support its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Veconi and carried with a final vote of 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

- c. **Ode to Babel, 772 Dean Street (between Washington and Underhill Aves)** – Full License (patio/deck, DJ. Recorded music, karaoke, live music (local talent), small scale patron dancing, and security personnel)
Establishment type: Bar/tavern

The committee engaged in lengthy discussion of the application based on the following:

- Neighbors at 762 Dean expressed the following:
 - Quality of life (QOL) issues in the area due to establishment patrons (e.g., defecation/urination, noise, traffic, smoking)
 - Assault of a neighbor by a bar patron outside of the bar
 - Neighbors feel their complaints have been poorly received by the proprietor
 - Neighbors are in support of the renewal based on the programming space, but request that the proprietor address the outstanding QOL issues

The 77th Precinct provided the following information:

- Thirty-three 311 complaints year to date
- Zero 911 complaints so far in 2019
- In 2018, one 911 complaint made by a patron in the establishment that felt another patron approached her a little too aggressively.
- No major complaints or incidents at Ode to Babel since opening

Additionally, the applicant asked that the following be considered:

- The Community Board District office has not received any community complaints regarding the establishment since it opened.
- The committee was given 152 emails in support of the establishment, which was the amount that had been received by 3 PM on the 6th. The current tally of emails in support of the establishment is 230, in addition to a joint letter of support from Majority Leader Cumbo and Councilman Levin.
- The proprietor believes she is being victimized by racial discrimination as she is a black proprietor in a gentrified community.

The committee voted 14 in favor with 1 abstention to support the renewal application with the following conditions:

- Additional security personnel on Friday and Saturday nights and during special events, including at the front door and outside
- Add an outdoor facing security camera
- Rear yard to close by 11 PM Sunday through Thursday, and midnight Friday and Saturday
- Request that the proprietor discuss the QOL issues with neighbors and work to ameliorate them

The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

There was extensive discussion at the general meeting, rehashing many of the bulleted points from the committee's report. A community resident asked what the ramifications would be if the establishment were to

have its liquor license revoked. Mr. Ellis reminded everyone that the issue was only about the renewal of the license, which the committee supports. Revocation is not a suggestion, nor a desire of the committee or Board.

Ms. Mahoney reminded everyone that Dean Street between Washington and Grand Avenues is a residential block with a commercial overlay. As such, residents cannot expect to live on the block and receive the quiet of a purely residential block. She also stated that the space is one of the only spaces in our community that reflects the wide array of diversity in the community.

Mr. Veconi asked the proprietor to consider engaging in a community conversation, as they tend to work in favor of both residents and the establishment. He then made a motion to support the committee's recommendation for support of the renewal of the liquor license, acknowledging that the Board is not an enforcement agency. The motion was seconded by Mr. Saunders and carried with a final tally of 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions.

- A. Corporate Change for **Eat Morris LLC (located within the Brooklyn Children's Museum located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue)**. Two current managing members, William Garfield and Michael Jacober will be replaced by two new Managing members, Brian Mitchell and Edward Priesner. There will be no operational changes. The committee voted 15 in favor of supporting the application in hopes that the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried with a final tally of 32 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

Additionally, Mr. Ellis asked the Board to support the renewal application for Cent'Anni, a full license. Mr. Witherwax made a motion to support the renewal application. The motion was seconded by Ms. Branch-Muhammad and carried with a final tally of 23 in favor, 4 opposed, with 5 abstentions.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 3, 2019 at 6:30 PM at Downtown Brooklyn Rehabilitation Center. All are invited to attend.

By-Laws – Mr. Robert Witherwax Chair

Mr. Witherwax read the summary of proposed changes to the By-Laws, which were mailed and emailed to members for comment and review over the past few months. Mr. Veconi stated that it is his understanding that in addition to the Chairperson's appointment of Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs a majority approval by the 3 Vice Chairs is now necessary. Mr. Witherwax stated that this addition is a direct check on the power of the chair and will make elections more interesting.

Ms. Tyus made a motion to accept all proposed changes to the By-Laws. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellis and carried with a final tally of 29 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

Mr. Witherwax thanked the By-Laws Committee members, and gave a special post mortem thank you to Edison Stewart, who passed away a few months ago. He stated that Mr. Stewart was very instrumental in making many of the changes.

Nominating Committee – Ms. Princess Benn-James, Chair

Ms. Benn-James read the slate of nominees for the 2019/2020 election.

Chair: Ethel Tyus **OR** Sharon Wedderburn **OR** Robert Witherwax
First Vice-Chair: Gail Branch-Muhammad
Second Vice-Chair: James Ellis
Third Vice-Chair: Irsa Weatherspoon
Secretary: Sheryl Vassell
Sergeant at Arms: Wayne Bailey
Treasurer: Yahya Raji

After tallying the votes, a run-off election was necessary because none of the three candidates received a majority of the votes necessary to win as required by the By-Laws. Therefore, the run-off was between the two members with the highest votes and they were Ms. Tyus and Ms. Wedderburn. After a final count Ms. Tyus was officially announced as the new Chairperson of Community Board 8 starting July 1, 2019 and serve a two year term.

Announcements/Public Comments

Mr. Gib Veconi announced that the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council (PHNDC) will be hosting a tenant's Know your Rights Forum: Keep your Apartment on May 20, 2019 at 7 PM at Grand Army Plaza Library. He stated that the forum would be a good opportunity for tenants to find out about their rights whether they are stabilized or not, and receive information to help them navigate their way through resolving landlord tenant issues. On May 21st, PHNDC will have their annual meeting at 7 PM at PS 9 located at 80 Underhill Avenue. The invited guest speaker is Nicholas Chircaro from the Department of Sanitation.

Mr. James Ellis announced the upcoming Make Music New York Festival on June 21, 2019 It is an opportunity to program live music in front of your business venue and bring entertainment and excitement to the businesses along Flatbush Avenue.

Ms. Deborah Young from Crown Heights North Association (CHNA), announced that CHNA is hosting Shred Fest on Saturday, June 8, 2019 from 9 AM to Noon at St. Gregory the Great RC Church located at 991 St. John's Place. Also, CHNA is currently planning its annual Walking Tour and is seeking participants. Please contact any member of CHNA for details.

Ms. Robyn Berland, President of Friends of Brower Park, announced that Brower will be hosting its Annual June Bloom on June 9 2019 at Brower Park located at Kingston Avenue and Park Place. There will be tree walks, butterfly making, and plenty of other activities for adults and children.

Ms. Arna Lipkind from Majority Leader Cumbo's office announced the upcoming Senior Resource Fair on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 from 11 AM to 2 PM at Ingersoll Community Center located at 177 Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn. Information for older adults on Advocacy, Health/Aging, Arts, Housing, Caregiver Support, Legal Services, Continuing Education, Long-Term Care, Cultural Events, Medicare/Medicaid, Services for People with Disabilities, Mental Health Fitness, Safety, SNAP, Senior Centers, Healthcare Transportation, Health Insurance, Volunteering, Homecare Services, and much more, will be available.

The Majority Leader is also having a free rain barrel giveaway on June 22nd at PS9 located at 80 Underhill Avenue. For more information, contact Councilwoman Cumbo's office at 718-260-9191.

Ms. Sandra Sanchez from the FDNY announced that as organizations plan block parties, they should consider partnering with the FDNY for preventive education. The FDNY will go to as many block parties and street events as it can schedule to help inform residents on how to be safe and what to do in case of an emergency. To schedule the Fire Prevention Unit at your event, call 718-999-0827 or email

Sandra.sanchez@fdny.nyc.gov. Additionally, Ms. Sanchez stated that you can now call 311 if you notice a business or neighbor that is not practicing proper fire safety during construction or with their general practices (example: bbqing against the building rather than away from it, near brush, smoking next to discarded kindling, etc.). You will be able to call 311 Monday thru Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM to speak to someone who will triage you through the non-emergency and give you the correct information on how to help your neighbors resolve the dangerous practices.

Mr. Maceo Karriem from Assemblywoman Wright's office announced that the Assemblywoman is having a Legal Clinic on foreclosure, consumer affairs, and disability and aging rights. Please call the office for assistance for additional information on the Legal Clinic. Also, if you have been a victim of any scam, regardless of how minor, call the office to speak with staff. The number is 718-399-7630.

Ms. Kim Robinson from Councilwoman Ampry-Samuel's office announced the winners of Participatory Budgeting. Most winners were for playground upgrades and school upgrades. As for NYCHA updates, Ms. Robinson announced that there was a hearing at City Hall earlier in the week regarding the NYCHA budget and its deficiencies in maintaining the properties. Also, Mayor deBlasio will be closing or consolidating at least 14 senior centers that have been deemed under-utilized. For more information, contact the Councilwoman's office at 718-953-3097.

Pastor Gilford Monrose from Borough President Eric Adams' office announced that the community needs to come together to ensure that Weeksville Heritage Center remains open, as it is an important part of our past and our community. Also, during the last few months, due to the increase in anti-semitic crimes, the Borough President visited Poland to discuss the issues with anti-semitism. Pertaining to Census 2020, Pastor Monrose stated that in Census 2010, Brooklyn in general was severely undercounted, specifically central Brooklyn. As such, it is imperative that this does not happen again, and everyone must do their part to spread the word that they must complete their census forms.

Ms. Sarah Lazur of Crown Heights Tenants Union announced that on May 16th, the NYS Senate will host one downstate hearing on a slate of 9 rent laws up for review. The hearing will be an all-day event at Medgar Evers College. It is crucial that people attend the hearing to not only hear the issues, but share their experiences as renters in New York City. Over 200,000 rent-stabilized units have been lost in New York City since 1990. To obtain more information on the 9 rent laws, visit www.housingjusticeforall.org.

Dr. Perko asked Ms. Lazur if one has to sign up in advance to testify at the hearing. Ms. Lazur informed her that Senator Myrie, who is hosting the hearing, has not released all of the information on how the hearing will be formatted as of yet. However, for more information, contact your local Senator's office, for all downstate Senators are participating in the hearing. The hearing is located in Crown Heights for the specific reason that Crown Heights is displacement central for New York City.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for attending the meeting, wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day, and adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 7 PM at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue. All are encouraged to attend.

GUESTS

Nubina Shabaka
Wanda James
Parrish Britton
Brady Gerber
Tehilah Berman
Rebecca Brown
George Argiris
Edward Priesner
Brian Mitchell
Sarah Lazur
Stephanie Chambers
Kenneth Pyle
Robert LaPoint
Shirley Mondesir
Robyn Berland
Debbie Bowen-Spinelli
Regina Kinsey
Jennifer Bocian
Akosua Albritton
Amber Zezeck
Francis Simeni
Seymour Gayle
Christine Artwell
Linda Ferrette
Michael Caitlyn
Amy Leu