

**Community Board 8
Brooklyn Children's Museum
145 Brooklyn Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11216**

October 11, 2018

Members Present

Sasha Ahuja
Glinda Andrews
Desmond Atkins
Wayne Bailey
Princess Benn-James
Julia Boyd
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Helen Coley
Dian Duke
James Ellis
Fred Frazier
Drew Gabriel
Tamika Gibbs
Nizjoni Granville
Elijah Gray
Xeerxeema Jordan
Shalawn Langhorne
Lisa Lashley
Tarves Lord
Kwasi Mensah
Atim Oton
Robert Puca
Yahya Raji
Adam Sachs
Brian Saunders
Meredith Staton
Edison Stewart
Mark Thurton
Greg Todd
Ethel Tyus
Sheryl Vassell
Gib Veconi
Irsa Weatherspoon
Robert Witherwax
Deborah Young
Vilma Zuniga

Members Absent/Excused

Deshauna Appleton
Faith Corbett
Michael Cox
Phu Duong
Andrea Ferris
Elaine Mahoney
Robert Matthews
Adelaide Miller
Stacey Sheffey
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Yves Vilus
Sharon Wedderburn

Elected Officials

District Leader Olanike Alabi, 57th AD

Elected Official Reps

Taiquan Coleman, Assemblywoman Wright, 56th AD
Eli Slavin, Congresswoman Clarke, 9th Cong. Dist.
Kim Robinson, Councilwoman Amprey-Samuel, 41st CD
Judith Destin, District Attorney Gonzalez
Kegan Shechan, Councilman Cornegy, 36th CD
Arna Lipkind, Councilwoman Cumbo, 35th CD

CB8 Staff

Michelle George
Julia Neale
Melanie Grant

The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 7:15 PM by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson. Mr. Wayne Bailey, Sergeant at Arms, discussed basic housekeeping

rules. Mr. Bailey also reminded everyone that tomorrow is the last day to register to vote, and it is easier than ever to register. You can register online via the NYS Dept. of Motor Vehicles.

Acceptance of Minutes – The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as written.

Correspondence – CB 8 newsletter and other information was distributed.

Brooklyn Children’s Museum – Ms. Margaret Walton, Director of Government and Community Relations

Ms. Walton welcomed the Board to the Brooklyn Children’s Museum, stating that the museum is always happy to host the Board. She announced a new exhibit called “TapeScape,” an interactive art installation made from unexpected everyday materials. Built in collaboration with artist Eric Lennartson, this tape universe will spark the imagination and encourage curiosity, creativity, and gross motor play. TapeScape will open on October 20, 2018.

Ms. Walton also announced that the next cultural festival, will be held on Saturday, November 3, 2018, and is Día de los Muertos, the Mexican holiday that brings family and friends together to remember and celebrate the lives of those who have passed away. Now celebrated all over the world, families mark the festival by making and decorating colorful altars to honor family and friends. The museum is inviting families to decorate the museum altar and celebrate through stories, art and dance. Explore Mexican art in the ColorLab art studio; learn to make dough and practice molding it into pan de muerto; go on a Spanish language adventure with Españãate; and much more.

There will also be a food justice festival Thanksgiving weekend and the annual Kwanza festival at the end of the year. Check their website, www.brooklynkids.org for more information on the upcoming events. Finally, the museum has expanded weekend hours, and is now open until 7 PM on Saturday and Sunday.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Walton for the information and encouraged everyone with school age children to visit the first children’s museum in the world and support one of the neighborhood’s premier cultural institutions. She then asked Ms. Amy Ellenbogen to give an update on the Crown Heights Mediation Center.

Crown Heights Mediation Center – Ms. Amy Ellenbogen

Ms. Ellenbogen stated that it is good to be back at CB 8. She stated she has been at the Mediation Center for 16 years of its 20 years, the 20th Anniversary coming this October. Sixteen (16) years ago when she started, there was a staff of 4 people, and now they employ 40 people at 4 offices. Staff work in schools, hospitals, in the streets, and also works with Legal Hand.

Over time, the Center has grown beyond the name of “Crown Heights Community Mediation.” Mediation is one of the tools used by the organization, but not the only tool. The Center gathers together fellow neighbors and people who care, to examine the issues in the community to come up with a community driven response to the issues. This model is how Save Our Streets, or “SOS” got started. For those that are not familiar with SOS, the program puts “boots on the ground” to help combat gun and gang violence.

On October 24, 2018, the center is rebranding itself to “Neighbors in Action.” The entirety of the community is invited to attend the ribbon cutting. As an organization, it was felt that they needed to be able to shift the priorities of the work they were doing to focus more on the needs of the community.

Legal Hand is another brainchild of the Mediation Center. Legal Hand volunteers provide rudimentary legal assistance to people facing common legal issues. The organization is currently seeking volunteers to go through their training program to educate themselves to help others with their legal issues. Ms. Ellenbogen stated that prior legal experience is not needed as volunteers only offer advice, and not legal counseling.

Additionally, the organization attempts to help people overcome trauma via the “Make it Happen” program, where young and underserved people are given necessary counseling to help them overcome their life’s trauma. Trauma happens in many forms and is not limited to physical or sexual trauma. Ms. Ellenbogen went on to explain that living in less than ideal circumstances or situations can lead to trauma that many will never understand or even identify as trauma. The goal of Make it Happen is to help build social capital and empower the community by coming together as a whole and getting organized. As such, the Leadership Training Institute that was initially one of the programs offered by the Center but disbanded a number of years ago, will be reinstated.

Ms. Karolin Betances stated that the Mediation Center needs to make sure that all volunteers have the tools they need. As such, there will be a volunteer meeting on October 24th from 6:30-8 PM at the Bed Stuy location, located at 423 Gates Avenue. The volunteer meeting is a monthly meeting, and the center has a mailing list and a newsletter list for those that are interested in receiving information.

Ms. Granville thanked Ms. Ellenbogen and Ms. Betances for the information and congratulated the Mediation Center for the fine work the organization does in the community and also on its expansion and re-branding. She acknowledged Police Officer Green of Community Affairs at the 77th precinct and invited her to say a few words.

Officer Green announced that the Neighborhood Coordinating Officers (NCO’s) have monthly Build the Block meetings, at which time the community can come out, speak to the NCO officers and discuss community issues in that sector. The full list of meetings can be found online at www.buildtheblock.org. Community Affairs can be reached at 718-735-0634.

Ms. Granville thanked Officer Green for the information and invited Mr. Kassman to say a few words about the proposed medicinal marijuana dispensary scheduled to open soon on the outskirts of District 8.

Citiva – Mr. Marc Kassman, Director of Medical Outreach

Mr. Kassman announced that Citiva, one of 10 licensed medicinal marijuana organizations in New York, is seeking to open a medical marijuana dispensary in December 2018 at 202 Flatbush Avenue. He stated that prior to opening, Citiva is going to community meetings to help dispel myths and concerns about medical marijuana. He stated that New York State is currently working on a proposal regarding recreational use, but Citiva is focused on medical approved uses of marijuana. NYS has 14 indications of situations where medicinal marijuana could be beneficial to patients. There are currently around 2000 doctors in NYS that agree with the medicinal marijuana program and signed up over 75,000 patients with chronic pain indications

and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Medicinal marijuana has also been found to be useful as an alternative treatment to narcotic addiction. He stated that people cannot simply go into a Citiva (or any medicinal marijuana dispensary for that matter) clinic and simply purchase products. Individuals have to go to a Citiva doctor for screening to get approved for a prescription. Unfortunately, most medical insurance plans do not cover medicinal marijuana prescriptions at this time, but some will cover the cost of the doctor visit.

Mr. Kassman stated that during other presentations on Citiva's clinics, some people had raised concerns about possible loitering in front of the clinic. He assured the Board that Citiva has a security team that will ensure that people do not use products on the street or in the vicinity of the facility. Also, no free samples of any products will be distributed. As part of community outreach, Citiva will have a number of events for the community to view the facility and get information.

The Medical Director of Citiva is a pain management doctor that has been helping people overcome addiction for 20 years. Citiva has also been extremely active with the North Flatbush Business Improvement District (NFBID).

Mr. Charles Lee, a community resident asked that if the state legalizes marijuana, how does Citiva plan to prevent abuse of its products and what method is in place to deter young people from using? Mr. Kassman responded by stating that Citiva is not marketing to children; he reiterated that it is a medical facility intended solely for medicinal purposes and not recreational uses. Furthermore, Mr. Kassman stated that what youth get on the street is not a standardized product. Moreover, Citiva's job is to educate, not police marijuana use. The most important thing for the public to understand is that what people get on the street is called a "black market product," which has a lot of additives. As far as medicinal usage, it was explained that what is allowed to be used in New York State is a pure product with no additives. Additionally, it is not legal for the flower to be for sale for smoking from a Citiva facility. The products approved for sale by New York State are powders, sublinguals, oils, pills, edibles, etc., but no smokable items.

Ms. Tyus asked whether or not the facility will have a doctor on site that can review requests and prescribe alternative medications accordingly. She was informed that they have a medical doctor that can educate and also a doctor in the vicinity for other people to see for additional/alternative treatment if they are deemed ineligible for the program.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Kassman for the information and invited District Leader Olanike Alabi to say a few words.

57th Assembly District Leader – Ms. Olanike Alabi

District Leader Alabi announced that she is hosting a town hall meeting on Thursday, October 25th on what to do when stopped by police. It is imperative for the community to know how to handle police interactions and encounters. In just a few short years, New York City has changed in two different ways: neighborhood policing, and a number of infractions decriminalized with the end of the stop and frisk era. At the town hall, there will be three lawyers on the panel.

She also reminded everyone that the general election will be held on Tuesday, November 6th, and there are 3 ballot initiatives that must be voted on to amend the NYC Charter. There are questions on civic engagement, campaign finance, and community boards. Please remember to turn the ballot over to answer the three questions.

Mr. Atkins stated that there are too many incidents of people smoking marijuana in public with no ramifications. He stated that people seem to be misguided about what the decriminalization policy actually means, and seem to think that since it is no longer illegal, they can smoke when and where they want, not thinking about their surroundings. District Leader Alabi suggested he attend the town hall and bring the issue to the attention of the panelists.

Ms. Weatherspoon asked if the panel would include any police officers. She was informed that this particular town hall will be focused on the post-encounter with the police. Other town halls have focused on the NYPD's perspective but this one will focus on the perspective of the community.

Ms. Granville thanked District Leader Alabi for always attending our meetings, for the many informative town halls she hosts, and also for the plethora of information shared with the District office and the community as a whole. She then asked for a report from the following committees:

Economic Development – Ms. Atim Oton, Chairperson

The Economic Development Committee met on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. Present were Atim Oton, Elaine Mahoney, and Corey Hoffman.

The committee discussed the upcoming Job Training and Job Fairs, where vendors specializing in culinary arts, IT, healthcare, construction, etc., will be on hand. One of the premises is that in order to live in this community, we need to reach early potential by increasing skill sets with training younger people, and also increase earning potential by encouraging people to change jobs for a different industry to earn a higher wage if they are stuck in a mundane industry with little earning or growth potential. The committee discussed involving the library in preparation of resumes via workshops; distributing more flyers to promote across the neighborhood; addressing immigrants who have previous skills from their original countries; and focusing on parolees and ex-prisoners.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 6:30 PM at BNIA. All are encouraged to attend.

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

In absence of the Chair, Vice Chair Kwasi Mensah announced the upcoming Youth Fair on Saturday, October 20th from 10 AM to 2 PM at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. Discussion topics include: 10 Things EVERY Youth Should Know; Financial Literacy; Avoiding Credit Card Abuse; Job/Career Readiness; Civic Education (Voter Registration); Culinary Arts; Adult Education; How to AVOID the Criminal Justice System; Dressing for Success; and Know Your Educational Rights (Adelaide Sanford Institute). For more information, please email Mr. Kwasi Mensah at bc8healthfair@gmail.com.

The next meeting of the Education and Youth Committee is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at 7 PM at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn.

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

The EST Committee, in lieu of having a meeting in September, encouraged members to attend the MTA/NYC Transit Community Conversation with MTA President Andy Byford, which was held on Tuesday, September 25th. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association located at 465 Steling Place, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

Health and Human Services – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chairperson

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Monday, October 1, 2018 at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. Present were Kwasi Mensah, Andrea Ferris, Audrey Taitt-Hall, and Kimbirly Mack.

The committee discussed the annual Health Fair and Urban Agricultural events. Members also discussed a future overdose prevention training. Mr. Mensah announced that at the next meeting, there will be a presentation by Dr. Torian Easterling, Assistant Commissioner, Brooklyn Neighborhood Health Action Center of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to discuss initiatives that have been launched for women of reproductive age in Crown Heights, as well as data related to Severe Maternal Morbidity, Maternal Mortality and Infant Mortality rates in the district.

The next meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee will be held on Monday, November 5, 2018 at 6:30 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

Housing (Advocacy) – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson

The Housing Committee met on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. Present were Nizjoni Granville, Dian Duke, Xeerxeema Jordan, Yahya Raji, Adam Sachs, Greg Todd, Ethel Tyus, Irsa Weatherspoon, Deborah Young, Karyl Day, Peter Krashes, and James Ellis.

Mr. Adam Sachs, a member of the committee, announced the upcoming Tenant Advocacy Workshop on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at Albany Houses Community Center located at 164 Troy Avenue between Prospect Place and St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn. This workshop is meant to include a panel discussion with representatives and scholars from several community organizations, city agencies, and academic institutions. Panelists invited include representatives from Legal Hand, Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association, IMPACC, Crown Heights Tenant Association, NYC Housing Preservation and Development, NYS Homes and Community Renewal, and CUNY.

Mr. Sachs stated that affordable housing is the number one issue of our age. At the forum, there will be a panel discussion and an opportunity for the community to speak to panelists on issues facing them. There will also be an opportunity to learn how to organize a tenants group, obtain help with housing court, etc.

Mr. Stewart asked it is would be possible to get stats for the number of vacant NYCHA apartments. Mr. Sachs stated that the committee is trying to get updated information on the number of units.

The next Housing meeting will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2018 prior to the Land Use Committee meeting, at 6 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

Land Use

The Land Use Committee met on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at the Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. Present were Ethel Tyus, Sasha Ahuja, James Ellis, Nizjoni Granville, Xeerxeema Jordan, Adam Sachs, Ethel Tyus, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, Sharon Wedderburn, Deborah Young, Karyl Day, Peter Krashes, and Ben Fuqua. The committee discussed the following items:

1. Landmarks Application for 1139 Dean Street (Crown Heights North Historic District)

Mr. Ben Fuqua, R.A. presented a revised plan for the owner's intentions to address two (2) remaining violations issued for work done before purchase of the properties at 1135 through 1139 Dean St. The issues and the general description of the revised proposal are:

- The original area-way fence was replaced.

The presenter asserted that LPC has recommended that the new fence is in keeping with other fences predominant on the block, and as such, retaining the existing fence maintains the existing streetscape;

- The original metal stoop rail was replaced with masonry cheek walls.

The presenter asserted that LPC has recommended that the masonry cheek walls be painted the same color as a building wall.

Given that the remaining violation concerning details of the replacement windows has been approved at LPC staff level, on motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to support the remaining elements of the revised proposal with 8 in favor and 2 opposed. It hopes the full Board will support the revised application.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried with a final vote of 32 in favor, 3 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

2. PHNDC Proposal for Eastern Parkway Apartment House Historic District

Mr. Gib Veconi, Secretary to PHNDC, presented background information in support of pursuing historic district designation for 106 apartment buildings in an area roughly bounded by Eastern Parkway, Washington Avenue, Plaza St East, Sterling Place, and St Johns Place. A map is attached, and additional details can be found at www.preserveprospectheights.com.

Erected between 1909 and 1929, these 'grand residences were designed to complement the cultural institutions along Eastern Parkway.' The Cultural Row Block Association (CuRBA) on Eastern Parkway has asked PHNDC to sponsor the proposal. Four other owner organizations in the area have provided letters indicating their support of the proposal. Due to the current zoning, there is a palpable concern by area residents that building owners will add floors to the buildings.

Examples of vertical expansions completed or planned include 315 Lincoln Pl., 372 St Johns Pl and 291 Lincoln Pl.

The goals of the proposal align with PHNDC's mission and include:

- Preventing uncharacteristic alterations and demolitions;
- Moderating development pressures;
- Protecting the architectural character of the neighborhood; and
- Preserving the housing stock.

In response to a Committee Member's question on whether landmarking will limit landlords' ability to maintain their buildings without being able to charge higher rents, Mr. Veconi referenced a 2016 study done by the Historic Districts Council that shows rents have not increased significantly more in historic districts than in other NYC neighborhoods. [Also note that rent regulation and landmarking are not governed by the same rules or agencies.] Mr. Veconi stated that approx. 1,200 petitioners have signed in support of the proposal. On condition that the presentation be made to the full Board, a motion was made and seconded to support the proposal. Mr. Veconi recused himself from the vote and the remaining 9 members voted unanimously to support the proposal. The committee hopes the full Board support its recommendation.

At the general meeting, Mr. Veconi briefly presented a slide presentation of the historic apartments district, explaining that the area in question is a portion of land set aside for, but not actually used for the development of Prospect Park. The land was appropriated under the original park proposal before the currently adopted Olmsted design. He stated during the presentation that many of the lots in the historic apartments district are significantly underbuilt for the density and zoning of the area. As a result, when buildings in the catchment are sold, they sell not for the value of the existing rent stabilized apartments, but also for the benefits of the underused space. Developers are quickly increasing the density and height of these buildings, as they can do legally; additionally, the significant changes to the community are happening very quickly.

Mr. Krashes stated that he is a longtime resident of Prospect Heights, and that he is disappointed that the Community Board decided to move forward on the historic district in this way at this time. He further stated that Prospect Heights was renowned for its diversity, and that historic districts are usually more affluent and more white than non- historic districts (or run the risk of being more white), ending by stating that he is not in favor of historic districts. He specifically asked what course PHNDC had taken as a Prospect Heights neighborhood representative as the organization is not a geographic representative of the community. He stated that he wanted to encourage the community to take a moment to think about how the community is meant to establish priorities for themselves. There are two proposals that are related to each other in M-CROWN, and the historic district. M-CROWN has a proposal to upzone the northern portion of Prospect Heights with the two blocks of Atlantic Avenue, and the prospect Heights Historic Apartments is an attempt to restrict as-of-right development. He made a request that we organize a Prospect Heights community meeting because there was no public discourse on the historic proposal. He also informed the Board that just for asking a question of the Land Use Committee, he was blocked from the Land Use Google Group. In an effort to move the discussion forward, Ms. Granville asked for additional questions.

Mr. Atkins referenced the Richard Meier Building on Eastern Parkway, completed in the last 8 years with a glass façade to the west. He asked if this proposal would help to stop developers from building properties that could overshadow the existing streetscape. Mr. Veconi stated that

the goal of the proposal is to do precisely that, and that is the hope. Currently, the St. John's Place side is R8X and significantly underbuilt at 4 stories.

Ms. Oton asked if we were to vote yes tonight, what is the timeline for completion. She was informed by Ms. Tyus that it could take years, three to five or longer. However, during that time period, the owners can file and get as-of-right permits. In the background materials provided for the proposal, there were a number of neighborhood organizations that provided letters of support. The CurBBA president, Ms. Isabelle Broyer, stated that since their organization's inception, they had been working with PHNDC on landmarking specifically just to protect the area. Longtime residents have been feeling the effect of the overbuilding that is occurring presently, and there is a need to protect the apartments that people live in. Co-ops and rent stabilized tenants are working together on this matter to protect the neighborhood.

Mr. Thurton asked if other than developers, are there any people not in support? Mr. Veconi stated that while Mr. Krashes has expressed his personal opposition, letters from other community residents and organizations in opposition have not been received.

Mr. Stewart asked if there is any idea how many plans have been filed for the 4 story buildings. He was informed that the exact number is not known, but there was a recent sale of 291 and 292 Lincoln Place and the landlord is currently working on a plan to re-stack the tenants to build an elevator shaft. Mr. Stewart also inquired about the old Greenpoint Savings Bank on Underhill Avenue. Mr. Veconi stated that they had been working on trying to get the building landmark status, but during the process, the building was sold and LPC was no longer interested in pursuing it. Unfortunately, the entirety of the building was demolished.

Mr. Edward Thomas, a student at Pratt asked if the committee and the landmarking committee did any cost analysis in the community about how much it costs to designate. Mr. Veconi stated that the Historic Districts Council has done extensive studies. There is indeed community grumbling about the cost when doing work, but the results of designation outweigh those costs in terms of community preservation. Historic preservation preserves the feel and look of the community.

Mr. Witherwax asked Mr. Thomas to clarify if he was referencing costs of renovations. He reminded Mr. Thomas that these are mainly co-op buildings that have funds for renovations, or landlords that have funds.

A resident asked if the primary motivation behind this initiative is historic preservation or limiting vertical extension. Mr. Veconi stated that the two are related. If you look at the density and the fact that they are only built to maybe 50% of their capacity, there will come a time when people will look to knock down the buildings and build a height-allowed building. This proposal will preserve the characteristics of the community by limiting vertical extensions.

Ms. Young made a motion to support the proposal. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lashley and carried with a final vote of 27 in favor, 0 opposed, 8 abstentions, with 1 recusal.

3. M-CROWN Issues Ratification

The M-CROWN Subcommittee met on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at IMPACCT Brooklyn located at 1000 Dean Street, Suite 420, and reviewed project status using comparisons between a joint letter dated August 30, 2018 from Community Board 8, Borough President Eric Adams,

and Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo and a response to that letter dated September 12, 2018 from Dept. of City Planning's Director, Marisa Lago. While acknowledging progress toward a shared vision, the response from Director Lago reflects DCP's reluctance to create the new Zoning Text language needed to ensure a true mix of residential and non-residential uses through use restrictions in its proposed MX zone. A copy of the Outstanding Issues Matrix is attached.

As Chair of the Land Use Committee and the M-CROWN Subcommittee, Ms. Tyus requested that the full Board ratify the following modifications to DCP's proposed framework outlined in the joint letter as a basis for discussion toward a zoning framework that better reflects the vision of the CB8 M-CROWN resolution:

- A real mixed-use district (4-5 FAR) for the area south of Atlantic Avenue between Grand Avenue, Classon Avenue, and Bergen Street that allows significant new residential development but requires a minimum amount of non-residential use and incentivizes additional non-residential use through a significant density bonus, with retail uses not permitted mid-block on side streets;
- Updated Manufacturing zoning (2-5 FAR) for the Eastern portion of the area that will increase density, reduce parking and loading requirements, create contextual bulk rules, and create incentives for including non-office, non-retail space such as light manufacturing, studios for the full range of arts uses, or certain community facility uses as part of new commercial development; and
- A medium-density (6-7 FAR) commercial district on Atlantic Ave with Special Enhanced Commercial District for requiring a non-residential ground floor and preferential FAR for commercial uses with no restrictions.

A meeting with DCP has been requested to help move the discussion along. An attendee complained that the M-CROWN materials are not available through the CB 8 website. The District office noted that all M-CROWN materials with the exception of the joint letter are indeed available on the CB 8 website in "General Documents" under the "Downloads" tab. The office acknowledged that an independent link to the grouped files was not working, but that the files are located in the general downloads folder.

At the general meeting, Mr. Krashes stated that the initial resolution did not include the 2 blocks of Atlantic Avenue between Vanderbilt and Grand Avenues in Prospect Heights. Prospect Heights is unique for a number of reasons, and he is trying to create the ability for Prospect Heights residents to set a priority for themselves in relation to the focus of agencies and elected officials, which has not existed for some time. After grumblings of time constraints and the need for Mr. Krashes to ask a question rather than make statements, Ms. Granville asked him why he was referencing meetings that had had been going on for four years when he and his neighbors had the ability to attend them and provide input. Mr. Krashes responded by stating that the CB 8 website links does not show that the two blocks of Atlantic Avenue in Prospect Heights have been included. Ms. Granville stated that all minutes are available for public review. Ms. Tyus stated that according to her recollection, the original resolution did initially include the two blocks of Atlantic Avenue, which is published on the CB 8 website.

Responding to a question as to who will get access to the housing, Ms. Granville stated that the Board is not at that point yet; instead, we are trying to be proactive in terms of the type of development for the area. In the past, the development was done via zoning variance.

Mr. Veconi made a motion that the Board adopt the proposed changes to the DCP framework as read by Ms. Tyus. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atkins and carried with a final vote of 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 6 abstentions.

As far as old business, Ms. Tyus announced that 991 St. John's Place had their LPC hearing recently, and LPC asked that they reduce the bulk and size of the project.

The next Land Use Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 6:30 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

Parks – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chairperson

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn. Present were Glinda Andrews, Val Henry, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Lynn Cave, Ivy Anderson, Annabelle Boyd, Essie Paul, Maville Pearl, Estelle Rogers, Dennis Brown, Mary Bonham, William Rodgers, Georgie Rodgers, Constance Lesold, Lawrence Brown, Vilma Zuniga, Robyn Berland, Thomas Montford, Cardyn Johnson, Regina Kinsey, Brenda Green, and Julia Boyd.

Ms. Andrews announced that there will be a discussion on unleashed dogs on November 27, 2018 at 6 PM at the Brooklyn Children's Museum in response to the situation that happened to Robyn Berland. Come to the discussion to have your voices heard.

Friends of Brower Park (FOBP) has storytelling in the park. Also, FOBP will be distributing trees that can be planted on people's property this Saturday from 11AM to 1 PM.

St. John's Recreation Center is still closed for renovation, and the construction project has been delayed. She stated that she has been informed that it will be a few more months before the building re-opens for use.

The next Parks Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 (the week after its normally scheduled day because of Election Day) at 6:30 PM at David Chavis Apartments. All are invited to attend.

Public Safety – Ms. Shalawn Langhorne, Chairperson; Mr. Mark Thurton, Vice-Chair

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, September 24, 2018 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn. Present were Shalawn Langhorne, Xeerxeema Jordan, Robyn Berland, Shirley Mondesir, Lynn Cave, Tarves Lord, Mark Thurton, Frank Hodgson, Dorothy Bembry-Guet, Judith Campbell, Lisa Lashley, and Deputy Inspector Buttacavoli, 77th Precinct Commanding Officer.

The committee discussed current crime trends in the community and how the command is dealing with reduced numbers of officers. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 22, 2018 at 6 PM at the 77th Precinct. All are invited to attend.

Seniors – Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chairperson

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn. Present were Gail Branch-Muhammad, Essie Spivey,

Faye Jones, Frances Langley, Annabelle Boyd, Mary Hodnett, Dennis Brown, Wallace Alexander, Georgia Rogers, William Rogers, Willie Mae Frierson, Thomas Montford, Shifra Zarnel, Yvonne Bailey, Leola Mills, Peale Mikell, Mary Bonhan, Vashti Bentinck, Ida Golson, Elsa Coola, Regina Kinsey, Princess Benn-James, Edison Stewart, Julia Boyd, Elijah Gray, Xeerxeema Jordan, Glinda Andrews, Sheryl Vassell, and Vilma Zuniga.

A representative from the FDNY Fire Safety Education Unit conducted a very informative presentation on fire safety. During the presentation, it was noted that it is important to know whether you live in a fireproof building or not. It was stated that some multiple dwellings are fire resistant, and whether or not it is will be posted in the area with the mail boxes. It is usually safer for tenants in fireproof buildings to remain in their apartments in case of a fire versus trying to evacuate if it is not their unit on fire. Landlords for residents of buildings with 3 or more units are required to adhere to the NYC Fire Code by developing a fire safety plan for their buildings. The plan must include the construction type, combustible or non-combustible, basic safety tips, types of fire safety systems in the building and exiting locations. The plan must be posted in a public common area, near the entrance and distributed to tenants annually.

Winter months are when most fires occur due to the use of faulty electric heaters, unattended heaters and or other heating sources. The representative emphasized that heaters should be plugged directly into the wall outlet and not with extension cords, and should not be used all night. Candles and kitchen fires are also popular, so it is very important to pay close attention to where candles are placed and cooking settings, specifically frying pans with cooking oil. Every home, and especially the kitchen, should be equipped with a fire extinguisher. More information on fire safety and prevention can be found at WWW.FDNYFIRESMART.ORG or by calling 718-281-3870.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 (one week after the regularly scheduled meeting) 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, October 1, 2018 at Newswalk, located at 535 Dean Street, Brooklyn. Present were Wayne Bailey, Gail Branch-Muhammad, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Oliver Hardt, Lisa Lashley, Robert Puca, Brian Saunders, Meredith Staton, Mark Thurton, Sheryl Vassell, Gib Veconi, Robert Witherwax, Ms. Nizjoni Granville, and Deborah Young. The committee discussed the following applications:

1. Renewals

- a. Cheryl's, 236 Underhill Avenue (Lincoln/Eastern Pkwy) – Full
- b. Essence Lounge, 1662-1666 Atlantic Avenue (corner of Schenectady) – Full (karaoke)
(Committee support with the condition that the proprietor maintain their statement of karaoke twice weekly and live music twice weekly only, and no amplified sound in the rear yard.)

The committee voted 11 in favor to support the 2 renewals and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thurton and carried with a final vote of 31 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

2. Method of Operations Change (MOO)

A. Friends and Lovers, 641 Classon Avenue (Pacific/Dean) – Full

Due to recent changes within the NYS Liquor Authority, the establishment has to apply for a Method of Operations Change to legalize activities that have taken place at the establishment since it opened. The applicant is seeking to legalize patron dancing since the cabaret laws have been eliminated, and also adding security to the license as required.

The committee voted 14 in favor to support the MOO with the condition that the applicant limits use of the rear yard to midnight Sunday thru Thursday and 2:30 AM Friday and Saturday. Please note: the rear yard can operate until 4 AM legally and the establishment is in a non-residential area. 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. Oton and carried with a final vote of 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

B. Chipotle, 347 Flatbush Avenue (corner Park) – Full

The establishment is seeking an extension of hours by one additional hour to 11 PM.

The committee voted 14 in favor to support the application as presented and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Atkins asked if the establishment had ever had any police activity. Mr. Ellis stated that no police issues were brought to the committee's attention. In fact, he stated that neither the 77th nor 78th precinct had any comments on any of the items on the agenda. Mr. Bailey concurred, stating that as President of the 78th Precinct Community Council, he hears all of the complaints, and so far, Chipotle has gotten zero complaints from the community.

Mr. Mensah asked if the alteration was strictly an extension of hours. He was informed that the establishment currently has a license and is seeking to extend their operating hours by one hour.

Mr. Stewart made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Oton and carried with a final vote of 33 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention.

3. New Applications

A. Nostrand Social, 706 Nostrand Avenue (Prospect/St. Marks) – Full

Details of the application are as follows:

- Live music and DJ

- Outdoor rooftop with 52 person capacity
- 3 levels for this restaurant/cabaret
- 39 tables with 148 seats, 3 bars (one on each level) with 44 seats, max capacity 198 patrons
- Proposed hours of operation: 10 AM to 4 AM Saturday and Sunday, Monday thru Wednesday 8 AM to midnight, Thursday 8 AM to 4 AM
- 500-foot exception community benefit: Wed and Mon - Broadway caliber performers brought to community; senior centers love jazz, will host lunches/brunches during week; Wedding/Family gatherings; hiring young adults, training - entrepreneur sessions; working with Bed Stuy Restoration work force development from within community; handicap section (6 seats) lift to be built

The committee voted 12 in favor with 1 opposed to support the application with the following modifications:

- No 3rd party promoters
- No bottle service in any capacity
- No outdoor music
- Rooftop to close at 10 PM Sunday thru Tuesday and midnight Wednesday thru Saturday
- Indoor to close at 2 AM Monday thru Wednesday and 3 AM Thursday thru Saturday

The committee hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Ms. Janet Collins, a community resident, asked if any effort was made to contact residents in the area. Mr. Ellis informed her that as part of the information package, there is a request for support. The applicant submitted a petition with significant signatures. Ms. Branch-Muhammad stated that she lives close by and is familiar with the area; she stated that she recognized and is familiar with many of the names on the presented on the petition.

Ms. Gibbs asked if they would be serving breakfast since they are opening so early. Mr. Ellis informed her that they can be open at this time but would be unable to serve liquor at 8 am. Ms. Gibbs followed up with a question of a security plan, and was informed that they had presented one.

Ms. Young made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lord and carried with a final vote of 32 in favor, 0 opposed ,with 2 abstentions.

B. Hunky Dory, 747 Franklin Avenue (corner Sterling) – Full

Details of the application are as follows:

- 24 tables with 48 seats; 1 bar with 17 seats, total capacity 74 patrons
- No outdoor area
- Proposed hours of operation: Sunday 9 AM to 2 AM; Monday thru Thursday 8 AM to 2 AM; Friday 8 AM to 3 AM; and Saturday 9 AM to 3 AM

The committee voted 9 in favor with 4 abstentions to support the application with the following stipulation:

- Establishment to close at 2 AM daily

It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Branch-Muhammad and carried with a final tally of 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

The next meeting of the SLAC Committee will be held on Monday, November 5, 2018 at 6 PM at Newswalk. All are invited to attend.

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

Public comments

Ms. Lauren Rawles announced that her organization is looking to open a new charter school in District 17, with a preferential location of Crown Heights. They currently operate a stand alone charter school in Bushwick and are seeking to open a second school with 9th grade students, eventually adding a grade each year. The organization is attempting to give STEM opportunity to all students in the community. Ms. Wall announced that all students in District 17 would have an opportunity to attend the school when it opens via a lottery. They are looking for a location and opening date for the start of the 2020 school year, and in the meantime, is seeking to engage the community and obtain feedback.

Ms. Granville advised Ms. Wall to attend an upcoming Education and Youth Committee meeting to engage the community.

Ms. Judith Destin from the Kings County District Attorney's office announced the DA's high school internship program. She stated that the DA's office is looking for students in all grades in high school to participate in the program. As part of the application process, all potential interns must submit an essay explaining why they would like to intern at the DA's office. For more information or to obtain an application, visit www.brooklynda.org or call 718.250.2580. Ms. Destin also announced the DA's Action Center, which deals with all quality of life issues. The Action Center's number is 718-250-2000.

Mr. Taiquan Coleman from Assemblywoman Wright's office thanked everyone for attending the Cannabis 101 event. The event was very informative and allowed people to dispel certain myths they had about marijuana, whether used for medicinal or recreational purposes. He instructed anyone with questions about the proposed Legislative Marijuana Bill to email him at colemantl@nyassembly.gov with any questions.

Ms. Arna Lipkind from Majority Leader Cumbo's office suggested that residents visit the City Council website for upcoming events. The Majority Leader is conducting community conversations, where the community can speak with senior leaders, and commissioners from agencies and organizations about issues impacting residents and business owners. The next one will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 from 6-8 PM, at St. Joseph's College, Brooklyn

Campus, Student Lounge, Tuohy Hall, 245 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn. For more information, call the Majority Leader's office at 718-260-9191.

Ms. Lipkind also announced that the Majority Leader worked with the Parks Department to fix the trip-hazard broken cobblestones at the Utica Avenue 3/4 train station.

Mr. Eli Slavin from Congresswoman Clarke's office announced an upcoming emergency preparedness training on Sunday, October 28th from 1 to 3 PM at Shalom Senior Center located at 483 Albany Avenue, Brooklyn, in conjunction with the Red Cross. For more information, call the Congresswoman's office at 718- 287-1142.

Ms. Sarah Lazur invited anyone interested to come to the next monthly meeting of the Crown Heights Tenant Union. At these meetings, participants discuss tenant issues, including heat or the lack thereof. The next meeting will be October 18th at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, in the Atrium.

Mr. Zellnor Myrie introduced himself as a candidate for the 20th Senatorial district. He thanked everyone that took the time to vote in the primary. The number of people that voted in this year's primary was more than double the amount that had voted in 2014. He reminded everyone to vote in the general election on November 6th, and also that October 12th is the last day to register to vote to be eligible to participate in the November election. Ms. Debbie Bowen-Spinelli, community resident, asked what committees he would like to serve on should he win the general election. She was informed that he would like to sit on the Housing and Codes Committees (Codes is where criminal justice laws are written). He also stated maybe the Education Committee as well.

Mr. Desmond Atkins announced to the Board that the city needs more enforcement on primary and secondary avenues to reduce rodents. He continued, stating that the city needs to find a way to prevent residents from putting their trash in city receptacles. He encouraged everyone to petition the City Council for the re-allocation of funds for garbage collection and enforcement of receptacle laws for mixed use buildings.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for participating in the October meeting and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 7 PM at Calvary Community Church located at 1575 St. John's Place (corner of Buffalo Avenue), Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

GUESTS

Kedrick Macfoy
Peter krashes
Marc Kassman
Frank Gugliada
Daryl Dukin
Martha Larson
Rosalyn Inman
Charles Lee
Wadell English
Kevin Walters
Lee Cox
Anthony Taylor
Morris Demark
Celeste Farmer
Juliet Ramsay
John Krauss
Kenneth Pyle
Val Henry
Aaron Corbin
Dorothy Bembry-Guet
Debbie Bowen-Spinelli
Shirley Mondesir
Robyn Berland
Isabelle Bromer
Cherie Whashington

Alison Gilles
Ann Marde Stanislavis
Ayisha MsKenzie
Charles Hickman
Sarah Lazur
Robert Mixers
Zellnor Myrie
Andrew Bake
Janet Collins
Tess Mix
Nicole Frost
Shari Norton
Juane LaDavis
Emma Bass
Jeff Schnieder
Cheryl Smith
Wayne Littleton
Matthew Waskiewicz
Lauren Rawles
Traci Douglas
Petula Luke
Adjua Starks
Karolin Betance
Amy Ellenbogen