

**Community Board 8
1000 Dean Street
Brooklyn, NY 11238**

Marc 14, 2019

Members Present

Sasha Ahuja
Desmond Atkins
Wayne Bailey
Princess Benn-James
Julia Boyd
Gail Branch-Muhammad
Helen Coley
Faith Corbett
Dian Duke
Phu Duong
James Ellis
Nizjoni Granville
Xeexema Jordan
Elaine Mahoney
Kwasi Mensah
Dr. Katharine Perko
Robert Puca
Yahya Raji
Brian Saunders
Meredith Staton
Audrey Taitt-Hall
Greg Todd
Ethel Tyus
Sheryl Vassell
Irsa Weatherspoon
Sharon Wedderburn
Robert Witherwax
Vilma Zuniga

CB8 Staff

Michelle George, District Manager
Julia Neale, Community Coordinator

Members Absent/Excused

Glinda Andrews
DeShauna Appleton
Andrea Ferris (Absent)
Fred Frazier
Drew Gabriel
Tamika Gibbs
Elijah Gray
Lisa Lashley
Tarves Lord
Robert Matthews
Atim Oton
Adam Sachs
Mark Thurton
Gib Veconi
Yves Vilus
Deborah Young

Elected Officials Present

Olanike Alabi, District Leader 57th AD

Elected Official Representatives

Judith Destin, KC District Attorney Gonzalez
Eli Slavin, Congresswoman Clarke
Duane Joseph, Assem. D. Richardson, 43rd AD
Godfre Bayalama, Sen. Z. Myrie, 20th SD
Gabriel Torres, Assem. W. Mosley, 57th AD
Cyrstal Hudson, Majority Leader Cumbo, 35th CD
Kegan Sheehan, Counc. Cornegy, 36th CD

The regular meeting of Community Board 8 was called to order at 7:15 PM by Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson. She asked Mr. Bailey, Sergeant-At-Arms to go over basic housekeeping rules such as being respectful and courteous and refraining from disruptive behavior. Remember to turn off cell phones or put them on vibrate and take all side conversations outside of the room to avoid disrupting the meeting. Also be

mindful that there may be press present, i.e. reporters, bloggers, etc. Lastly, remember to recognize the Chair and wait to be acknowledged before speaking.

Acceptance of Minutes – Mr. Bailey made a motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting with any necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried unanimously.

Correspondence – CB 8 newsletter and other information was distributed.

Ms. Granville asked for a welcome from Mr. Jonathan Butler. Mr. Butler stated the he and his partners are delighted to be hosting the Community Board meeting and welcomed everyone to 1000 Dean Street and hoped that we have a good and productive meeting.

Ms. Granville thanked Mr. Butler and asked District Leader Alabi if she had anything to share.

District Leader Olanike Alabi- 57th Assembly District

District Leader Alabi wished everyone a Happy Women’s History Month and stated that this year is historic for New York State because we elected the first black female Attorney General, Letitia James. She gave an update about Voter Reform, and stated that all primary elections will now be held in June, saving the state a lot of money. This June, we will be voting for Public Advocate. The newly elected Public Advocate Jumaane Williams is filling the seat on an interim basis and must win the June primary and be elected in September to be officially the Public Advocate. We will also be voting on borough wide civil and surrogate court races, and other judgeships. She thanked the District office for sharing her information via e-blasts and putting the information in the monthly newsletter.

Ms. Branch-Muhammad asked if there have been any efforts made to notify parents and teenagers who are 16 and 17 years old that they can pre-register to vote. She was informed that previous attempts to give high school graduates voter registration forms were not successful, but under the new Voter Reform Bill, registration forms will now be available in schools.

Ms. Granville thanked District Leader Alabi for the information and opened the floor for public comments and announcements.

Ms. Crystal Hudson from Majority Leader Cumbo’s office announced the Majority Leader’s 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 13th in Fort Greene Park. In the event of rain, the event will be held the following week. Also, Housing and Family Services of Greater New York Inc., in conjunction with Councilwoman Cumbo, are also pleased to offer free housing services by appointment only. Additionally, in conjunction with New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), the Councilwoman is offering free legal assistance to New Yorkers who cannot afford a private attorney. Through its Mobile Legal Help Center, NYLAG is able to offer its legal services on the ground, in the community. Staff will provide assistance on a wide range of legal issues. Ms. Hudson encouraged people in need of legal assistance to schedule an appointment by calling the Councilwoman’s office at 718-260-9191. Finally, Ms. Hudson announced that the City Council recently passed several bills pertaining to lead reform to address the issues of lead exposure by children.

Mr. Duane Joseph from Assemblywoman Diana Richardson’s announced that in collaboration with Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn (NHS), their office is offering Tenant Support on Wednesdays from 10:30 AM to 2 PM. Labor Services are also being offered on Thursdays from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Unemployment concerns, training, job seekers, and compliance appointments can be scheduled. Appointments are necessary.

Assemblywoman Richardson is also pleased to offer a Health Insurance Navigator Program on Mondays from 11 AM to 5 PM. Navigator Programs help to simplify the complicated world of selecting the health insurance plan that is right for you and your family. Individuals can qualify for insurance during this special enrollment period due to loss of health insurance (for reasons other than non-payment of premium), divorce or legal separation, birth or adoption of a child or placement of a child in foster care, and marriage or domestic partnership. Small businesses can apply at any time. For more information on the Navigator Program or to schedule an appointment, call 718-875-9300.

All services are held at Assemblywoman Richardson's office located at 330 Empire Blvd, 1st Floor, Brooklyn. Please call 718-771-3105 to schedule an appointment for free legal or tenant services, or to get additional information. Finally, this month's Civic Minded meeting will be held on Saturday, March 23rd and will focus on education, specifically School District 17. The Superintendent will be in attendance to discuss some of the challenges the school district is facing and how to mitigate them.

Mr. Godfre Bayalama from Senator Myrie's office wished every a happy Women's History Month and announced an upcoming joint event with Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel on March 23rd. Please RSVP for this event by calling 718-953-3097. The Senator is also hosting a Town Hall meeting with Assemblywoman Latrice Walker that will be focused on Voting Rights Reform. If you have any questions on election reform, please attend the town hall. Finally, on April 23rd, there will be a Tenants Right event at CAMBA Homebase from 6-8 pm. For more information on any of these events, please contact the Senator at their temporary office at 718-771-3105.

Ms. Sarah Lazur of Crown Heights Tenants Union extended an invitation to their general meeting on March 21, 2019 at 7 PM at Albany Community Center located at 164 Troy Avenue. She stated that housing, especially affordable housing, is an issue for everyone. She reminded everyone that the rent stabilization laws will be voted on soon. The Crown Heights Tenants Union is active in fighting for tenants rights at the state level but also advocates for you and your neighbors to get the community help with rent overcharges.

Mr. Eli Slavin from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's office stated that their office is located at 222 Lenox Road, and handles all federal related issues. The Congresswoman is now the Vice Chair of the Commerce Committee. Scholarships are available through the Councilwoman's office, so please call the office for more information and applications at 718- 287-1142.

Mr. Greg Todd announced that on April 9, 2019, at 6:30 PM at Boro Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn, Borough President Eric Adams and the Brooklyn Solid Waste Advisory Board will be sponsoring a conversation around organics collection to reduce the amount of organics in the waste stream. He stated that one of the higher priority budget items for CB 8 is rodent control; if there is organics collection, we can separate the food source, thus eliminating much of their food stream.

Ms. Judith Destin from Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's office apologized that he DA Gonzalez was not able to attend the meeting due to an emergency. However, he will make it a point to re-schedule for another time as soon as his schedule permits. His goal is to visit all Brooklyn community boards this year. She stated that although there are only 3 meetings left, he would try to attend before summer recess.

Ms. Destin announced the “Justice 2020” program that aims to bring more justice to the criminal justice system and getting insight from the community for bringing about justice for certain crimes that occur in the community. She asked everyone to review and analyze the pamphlet and make comments. She also announced that the 2019 summer internship program is open and that applications are currently being accepted for high school sophomores and juniors. All interns will receive a weekly stipend of \$150. The deadline to apply is March 25th. Apply at www.brooklynda.org.

Mr. James Ellis announced that Sunday, March 17th is not only St. Patrick’s Day, but also the NYC Half Marathon. As such, Flatbush Avenue will be closed to vehicular traffic from 5 AM to mid-afternoon.

A community resident announced that as of today, Summerhill, the bar/restaurant located at 637 Nostrand Avenue appears to be permanently closed. Summerhill attempted to rebrand itself OBK, but that attempt failed as well. The resident stated that they do not know what that means for the space in the future, but it could be that another bar or restaurant will be there. They petitioned the SLAC committee to reconsider any applications for a sidewalk café at that location because it was a difficult thing for the community to navigate.

Ms. Granville asked for a report from the following committees:

Seniors – Ms. Gail Branch-Muhammad, Chair

The Seniors Committee met on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at 6 PM at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair, present were: Essie Spivey, Norma Glover, Leola Mills, Yvonne Bailey, Faye Jones, Annabelle Boyd, Frances Langley, Aldith Allen, Wallace Alexander, Esther McLean, Rena Cox, Mary E. Williams, Gilbert Perryman, Paulette Coleman, Joan Bedden, Mary Hodnett, William Rodgers, Pearlie Mikel, Vashti Bentinck, Brenda Green, Regina Kinsey, and Xeerxeema Jordan

The committee heard a presentation from Ms. Julie M. Lauer, Director of Mobility Management, Senior Citizen Transportation Program, at the Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island (JCCGCI). Ms. Lauer discussed the transportation program offered by JCCGCI, stating that it is very similar to the Access-A-Ride program, except that it is free. Transportation services are offered to anyone over the age of 60 who live in Brooklyn. Seniors can utilize the service for medical appointments, shopping, banking, visiting, recreational purposes and group excursions. Services are also provided for medical appointments outside of the borough.

Ms. Branch-Muhammad encouraged everyone to participate in the meetings as they are intergenerational, and geared toward educational, cultural, and recreational activities. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at David Chavis Apartments. All are invited to attend.

Economic Development – Ms. Atim Oton, Chairperson

In the absence of Ms. Oton at the general meeting, Ms. Elaine Mahoney, a committee member made an announcement on behalf of the committee that met on Wednesday, March 6th at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. Ms. Mahoney reminded everyone of the upcoming Job Training and Job Fair on May 1st and 4th at 1000 Dean Street. There will be a morning and an evening session to accommodate as many people as possible.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

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

The Youth and Education Committee met on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at BNIA located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. The committee is co-sponsoring the Job Training and Job Fair with the Economic Development Committee. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 7 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

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

The EST Committee met on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. In the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair Irsa Weatherspoon chaired the meeting that was also attended by: Desmond Atkins, Phu Duong, Holly Fuchs, Janet Collins, Regina Kinsey, Frances Langley, Bobby LaPoint, Meredith Staton, Celeste Stern, Mark Thurton, Dr. Katharine Perko, Peter Krashes, Gail George, and Mary Kathryn Fisher.

The committee discussed ideas toward creating a greener NYC based on CB 8's budget requests as well as potential policy changes in baiting protocols by the Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene, based on CB 8's budget requests. Finally, the committee discussed the meeting held between members of the committee, the Dept. of Transportation (DOT) and the MTA regarding congestion issues on St. John's Place between Rogers and New York Avenues. Also, Ms. Weatherspoon announced that the MTA is fast-tracking the ADA compliant handicapped elevator installation at the Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum 2/3 train station.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 6:30 PM at Downtown Brooklyn Rehabilitation Center located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

Health and Human Services – Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chairperson

The Health Committee met on March 11, 2019 at BNIA located at 465 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. The committee heard a presentation from Ertuania Jorge of LSA Recovery, an 822 Medically Supervised Outpatient Chemical Dependency Program, which provides a variety of services to individuals as well as family members seeking help with substance abuse and chemical dependence problems. LSA Recovery is seeking to open a facility in Crown Heights, specifically Community Board 8. Mr. Mensah stated that this is an as of right project that does not need Community Board approval, but LSA is seeking our approval because of the many intricacies of the program that separate it from other outpatient drug treatment programs. LSA provides mental health services as well as counseling to help people deal not only with their chemical dependency, but also the root causes of their dependency. He stated that the program will have a representative attend the April general meeting so the broader community can hear details of the program.

Mr. Mensah discussed the Urban Agricultural event which will be held on May 18, 2019 from 11:30 AM -2 PM, and also the upcoming Health Fair. Details for the Health Fair have not been finalized as of yet.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 1, 2018 at 6:30 PM at BNIA. All are invited to attend.

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

The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, February 25, 2019 at the 77th Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn. In the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair Atkins gave the report on the meeting at the

general meeting. Mr. Atkins stated that the committee discussed ARGUS cameras coming back into the 77th Precinct, and the committee is going to petition the three councilmembers that cover our District. Years ago, Councilman Cornegy funded a number of cameras and the committee is petitioning Councilwomen Cubmo and Ampry-Samuel for cameras as well. Mr. Atkins also explained that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives, anecdoting a story of three people that nearly died of carbon monoxide poisoning in the district.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 25, 2019 at 6:30 PM (note new time) at the 77th Precinct. All are invited to attend.

Housing (Advocacy) – Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Chair

The Housing Committee met on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at Albany Community Center located at 164 Troy Avenue, Brooklyn. In addition to the Chair, Nizjoni Granville, present were: Greg Todd, Sarah Lazur, Dian Duke, Irsa Weatherspoon, Xeerxeema Jordan, and Drew Gabriel. The committee had an opportunity to sit with residents of NYCHA housing and hear directly from the residents some of the things that are going on in developments that do not necessarily garner as much attention as others. The committee is working on a plan to help determine the best way to move NYCHA residents forward with resolutions to their problems.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 6:30 PM at Albany Community Center. All are invited to attend.

Land Use – Ms. Ethel Tyus, Chair

The Land Use Committee met on Thursday, March 7, 2019 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue. In addition to the Chair, Ethel Tyus, present were: Sasha Ahuja, Peter Krashes, Gabriel Lefferts, Janet Collins, Phu Duong, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Nizjoni Granville, Xerxeema Jordan, Sarah Lazur, Shari Norton, Dr. Katharine Perko, Meredith Staton, Gib Veconi, Sharon Wedderburn, and Deborah Young. The committee discussed the following:

Resolution to Pursue Acquisition of Dedicated Brooklyn Community Board 8 General Meeting Space

In response to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding having adequate meeting space, the Land Use Committee reviewed a listing of government-owned vacant lots located in Community District 8, where the listing was researched by Committee member Sarah Lazur. The meeting's discussion explored the two FY2020 BCB 8 Capital Budget items: priority 04 (2082020004C) and priority 07 (208202007C).

The Committee considered the broader question of a permanent headquarters for full Board meetings as well as the Board's several Committees and possibly the Board Office, and that the search should include underutilized buildings, specifically the soon-to-be/recently vacated FDNY Rescue 2 Base at 1472 Bergen St. (between Schenectady and Troy Aves – Block 1353, Lot 14). It was agreed that the location should:

- be central to the geographic boundaries of the District,
- be able to accommodate a minimum of 200 attendees,
- include conference rooms; and
- be equipped with audio/visual conference and projection capabilities in the meeting spaces.

Of the approximately 15 sites briefly reviewed, the prime candidate remains 1472 Bergen St. On motion made by Sharon Wedderburn and seconded by Meredith Station, the Committee voted unanimously to

actively pursue acquisition of a government-owned under-utilized property to serve as a permanent facility for the Board to hold its meetings. We request the full Board affirm this resolution.

A community resident asked who would be responsible for paying for this space and was informed that Rescue 2 is already city owned land. The acquisition would merely be allowing a different agency besides the FDNY to utilize the space. The city would, however, be responsible for the buildout, which is in line with other capital investments such as the relocation of the Brower Park Library to the Brooklyn Children's Museum.

Mr. Puca stated that the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph is building a community facility, and the Board can ask them if we can meet there a few times. Ms. Tyus stated it is necessary for the Board to have our own space because we get limited time in courtesy establishments, and there is the need to be able to meet as long as we need to to conduct business.

Mr. Witherwax made a motion to support the committee's recommendation for acquisition of Rescue 2 for CB 8 use. The motion was seconded by Ms. Weatherspoon and carried with a final vote of 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

Parks – Ms. Glinda Andrews, Chair

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at David Chavis Apartments located at 230 Kingston Avenue. The committee reviewed the design for the Lincoln Terrace Park Pavement Reconstruction Project. The \$4 million Mayoral funded project entails reconstruction of the seating plaza, reconstruction of existing pathways and provision of new benches; and providing access and a stabilized location for a Parks Portable Stage Trailer. The design also includes the addition of BBQ grills.

The committee recommends that the Parks Department consider using an alternative material to asphalt for all pathways. However, its support is not contingent upon this request. The committee voted unanimously to support the design plans for the Lincoln Terrace Park Pavement Reconstruction Project and hopes the full Board supports its recommendation.

In Ms. Andrew's absence, Mr. Todd made the committee report and answered questions. Ms. Mahoney asked why the committee chose not make their support contingent on water permeable materials, and trying to get something other than asphalt, which would be a win-win situation for Parks and the city. Mr. Todd stated that the committee was told there were budget constraints that disallowed Parks from seeking alternatives. As a result, the committee elected that it was better to get something rather than nothing, and supported the motion.

Mr. Atkins stated that since the city has invested money on creating bioswales, to use a permeable substance on the pathways would be the creation of a giant bioswale. He continued by stating it is actually counter-productive not to use permeable material. Mr. Todd explained that Lincoln Terrace Park already has a lot of open space and very little asphalt, and asphalt is not a large component of the design.

Mr. Ellis concurred with Mr. Atkins on the necessity of permeability, stating that the community deserves better quality products. If a community mandate that permeable material is used delays the project by six months to obtain the additional funding, it is better for the community in the long run because it is more forward-thinking. A community resident agreed with the forward-thinking comment stating that the project as it is does not consider flooding and climate change.

Ms. Tyus made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation that was seconded by Mr. Staton, but discussion continued.

Ms. Mahoney asked if there was any way for the Board to put together a document to present the cost differential between asphalt and permeable materials to prove that it is cost effective. Mr. Witherwax stated that the Board can combine support for the project with the concerns on the permeability of the asphalt.

Ms. Tyus stated that the Parks Department is stating that the asphalt is so deteriorated that it is posing tripping hazards, and consequently, whatever the Board proposes has to take this danger into account.

A community resident stated that along the walkways where asphalt is being considered, there are numerous issues caused by ponding. Trees uproot the asphalt creating dips and depressions, and in the summer time, these depressions fill with water and breed mosquitoes; in the winter, they freeze, creating ice

Ms. Wedderburn made an amendment to Ms. Tyus’ motion to support the committee’s recommendation to ask Parks to find a more ecologically friendly component.

A resident stated that the amendment was not strong enough and stated that contingencies, or rather, components of support contingent upon something else, are merely telling the city “yes” and allowing them to do what they want while they ignore everything else. The resident then asked the Board to take a firmer stance on requiring permeable materials.

Ms. Mahoney stated that as a community board, our recommendations are only advisory. She then asked why we would not make our recommendation as strong as possible. She continued, stating that it is possible we would not get everything we want with our recommendations, but at least we take a firm stance on what we believe is in the best interest of the community rather than settling for less because we want “something” rather than nothing. She then made a motion to support the Parks Committee’s recommendation contingent upon the Parks Department using permeable options rather than asphalt. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atkins, and Ms. Tyus withdrew her initial motion to support the committee’s recommendation without the contingency upon usage of permeable materials. The motion made by Ms. Mahoney and seconded by Mr. Atkins carried with a final vote of 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

SLA and Sidewalk Café Review Committee (SLAC)

The SLAC Committee met on Monday, March 4, 2019 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn. Present were: Wayne Bailey, Gail Branch-Muhammad, Cheryl Brown, James Ellis, Fred Frazier, Tamika Gibbs, Jamie Hardt, Oliver Hardt, Lisa Lashley, Atim Oton, Robert Puca, Brian Saunders, Meredith Staton, Sheryl Vassell, Gib Veconi, Irsa Weatherspoon, Robert Witherwax, and Deborah Young. The committee discussed the following applications:

A. Renewals:

- Nostrand Pub, 658 Nostrand Avenue (Bergen St/St. Marks Ave) – Full License (patio/deck; security personnel)
Establishment type: Bar/Tavern
- Lincoln Station, 409 Lincoln Place (corner of Washington Ave) – Beer/wine/cider License (no outdoor space, recorded music)
Establishment type: Restaurant

- Washington Commons, 434 Park Place (corner of Washington Ave) – Full License (recorded music, backyard)
Establishment type: Bar/Tavern
- Sharlene’s, 353 Flatbush Avenue (near Park Pl) – Full License (juke box; recorded music; no outdoor space listed on 30-day notice)
Establishment Type: Restaurant
- Puerto Viejo Restaurant, 564 Grand Avenue (corner Dean St) – Beer/wine/cider License (recorded music, no outdoor space listed on 30 day notice)
Altering the hours of operation to remain open to 1 AM (currently closing at 11 PM)
Establishment type: Restaurant
- Cataldo 54, 554 Vanderbilt Avenue – Beer/wine/cider License (recorded music, no outdoor space listed on 30 day notice)
Establishment type: Restaurant

The committee voted to support all six renewal applications 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. Atkins and carried with a final vote of 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

B. New Applications:

1. Bar Meridian, 406 Prospect Place (Washington Ave/Classon Ave) – Full License (juke box, recorded music, sidewalk café listed on 30-day notice)
Establishment type: Tavern
 - i. Proposed hours of operation: close at midnight Sunday thru Thursday, 2 AM Friday and Saturday
 - ii. Accordion style doors on the Grand Avenue side of the establishment
 - iii. 31 seats total, with 18 at 6 tables and 13 at 1 bar

The committee voted 13 in favor to support the application with the condition/stipulation that the Accordion style doors on Grand Avenue close by 10 PM daily.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Weatherspoon and carried with a final vote of 24 in favor, 0 opposed with 4 abstentions.

2. Wine People, 581 Vanderbilt Avenue (Dean St/Pacific St) –Full License (recorded music, patio/deck; garden/grounds listed on 30-day notice)
Establishment type: Restaurant/Wine Bar (formerly Tygershark)
 - i. Proposed hours of operation: close at 2 AM daily
 - ii. 52 seats with 36 at 18 tables, 16 at 1 bar
 - iii. Outdoor area: 10 tables with 20 seats and a 25 max capacity, proposed to operate until midnight daily

The committee voted 13 in favor to support the application with the following stipulations:

- a. Rear yard closes by 10 PM S-R, 11 PM FS
- b. No amplified sound in rear yard

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Branch-Muhammad and carried with a final vote of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

C. Other Applications:

1. Principal licensee change with no alterations to the method of operations for 689 Restaurant & Bar, 689 Washington Avenue (corner of Prospect Place), Full license with recorded music and no outdoor space

The committee voted 13 in favor of supporting the principal licensee change and hopes the full Board support its recommendation.

Ms. Tyus inquired into what questions or issues were examined by the committee regarding the change in ownership, and was informed that the license change is merely a switch from one family member to another.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to support the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Staton and carried with a final vote of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 3 abstentions.

2. Method of Operations Change (MOO) for Soda Bar, 627 Vanderbilt Avenue (between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place), Full License
 - Adding DJ, licensed security guards, rear yard usage
 - Operator has not provided evidence of soundproofing to SLAC's satisfaction

The committee voted 13 in favor to **deny support** for the MOO changes for the establishment based on history of complaints. It hopes the full Board supports its recommendation. Please note: The committee will reconsider the changes if positive progress is made in terms of neighbor complaints and the proprietor working with neighbors and the Board to ameliorate the issues.

Galina of Soda Bar, read a lengthy statement pleading with the Board for reconsideration, stating that it is unfair that she is losing so much money by not being able to utilize the yard and have the DJ as a crowd attraction on weekends. She stated that she is willing to take significant steps to get conditional approval for the MOO changes she is seeking, stating that she had a meeting with the property owner (who was in attendance), and they came to a verbal agreement to install soundproof windows facing the patio to reduce noise, install a special double canopy and green carpet to absorb sound/noise in back. All of this will be completed by the end of May, and because the agreement requires significant investment, she is asking for conditional approval to help generate the funds to pay for it.

Mr. Ellis asked if these changes were discussed with the residents and was informed that they were. Additionally, the owner said he is willing to do this as well, but Mr. Ellis reminded the owner that he has financial interest to say whatever needs to be said to get the conditional approval. A number of people present reminded the Board that there is no such thing as a "conditional approval" for a license and that if we move forward with the vote, the residents will have none of the protections guaranteed to them. Mr.

Puca stated that if the improvements go through, they would alleviate numerous issues, if not all of the complaints that have been given over the years.

Ms. Wedderburn made a motion to table the item back to committee until the improvements are completed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ahuja and carried with a final vote of 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

Ms. Granville thanked the committee chairs for their reports and reported that every two years, the Board holds elections in May for new officers. She announced her appointees to the Nominating Committee as follows: Mark Thurton will Chair the committee, which will also include Princess Benn-James, Adam Sachs, Audrey Taitt-Hall, and Yves Vilus. She then asked Mr. Witherwax to give an update on the By-Laws Committee.

Mr. Witherwax announced that in May, the Board will also vote on amendments to the By-Laws. The By-Laws committee met on three occasions and the following changes were recommended, and are centered around the following four main areas:

- A. Membership/Committees: Excuses for absence made prior to the meeting will not count as an absence and will not endanger voting rights in committee. Resignations from the Board will be effective upon receipt of resignation requests. Removal notices will be sent both via email (if possible) and regular mail. Substantial has officially been defined at 4 of 6 general meetings and a majority of missed votes over those meetings.
- B. Streamlining the nominating committee process.
- C. Giving Vice Chairs expanded duties; oversight responsibilities for committees; other things.
- D. Re-writing the committees. Creation, mergers, eliminating committees: can now be done without changing the By-laws. Committees will not be mandated to meet monthly if they do not have an agenda and can instead meet quarterly. Each committee must have a secretary. The Executive Committee cannot just sit on an item; it will have to push the item to the Full Borad or send it back to committee. Bring committees in alignment with Open Meetings Law. Ergo, a quorum will be a requirement of 51% of voting members.

Ms. Granville strongly urged all members to read the By-Laws and review the changes carefully to make an informed vote. She then closed the general meeting and opened the Public Hearing on the agency responses to the Capital and Expense Budget submitted by Community Board 8 at 8:40 PM.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CITY AGENCY RESPONSES TO
COMMUNITY BOARD 8'S PRELIMINARY CAPITAL AND EXPENSE BUDGET FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2020**

Ms. Granville reminded everyone that tonight's public hearing is not the place to add new items/requests, and is solely an opportunity to comment on the agency responses to the requests submitted by the Board. She asked Mr. Ellis, Mr. Witherwax, Ms. Tyus, Ms. Wedderburn, and Ms. Weatherspoon to read the request and the agency response, urging those with concerns about the response to read the request's description. Based on the responses received from the community, the Board will craft a comment letter to Mayor deBlasio with our concerns over the responses. She asked all those that desire to comment on the response to give the request number when they make their statement.

The following items were highlighted by community members with a brief description of why they disagreed with the agency response:

Capital (C) 05, 06, and 08: The response does not mention which components are recommended. We need documentation on which parts have been approved so they can be tracked.

C07: A CB 8 member stated that Borough President Adams verbally stated he would provide funds for videoconferencing and the Board should reach out to him and remind him of his verbal statement.

C11 and Expense 21: Each year, we get the same response and the Board follows up directly with the MTA, who states they do not have the information we seek and suggests that we add it to our budget requests.

All Capital Parks Department requests: the agency needs to be equipped with sufficient funds to maintain green and recreational spaces. It is reprehensible that elected funding must always be allocated for Parks items when those funds could go to other community needs.

Expense (E) 01: existing resources are not sufficient as evidenced by the number of people facing eviction and displaced.

E05: an increase due to collective bargaining is not sufficient; this response is misleading.

E06: need policy change. Onus of rodent prevention should not fall entirely on tax payers and DOHMH.

E10: is one funding year sufficient, or this an ongoing issue?

E12: Parks land feel unsafe for many because of nefarious actions committed by a minor few. This needs to be addressed as open spaces protect mental health stability for individuals.

E15: CB 8 gets many complaints of nuisance youth in buildings. These youth engage in criminal activity, thus creating quality of life issues for tenants.

E20: these services are obscure and difficult to find. Information needs to be made readily available.

E22: Seniors are being left behind, especially as everything moves toward digitization.

E24: Connected with Rodent abatement request for Dept. of Health. By not dumping corner baskets, you are creating the conditions that allow for additional vermin. A question of whether or not statistics to support the request could be added to the requests was raised. Additionally, as many noted the connection between E06 and E24, it was asked whether or not the two agencies could have a conversation to work together to ameliorate the problem.

E25: The MCROWN area is being decimated by private zoning applications. What can be done to get the Dept. of City Planning to move forward with the project?

E08 and E25 are tied together and should not be viewed independently. The two agencies should collaborate.

C09 and E07: Is that a commitment that a study will be done to get a better understanding? The response is ambiguous.

E09: This is concerning because landlords are not operating in just or legal manner. They ignore citations and violations in their buildings. If anything, the proposal in the explanation would encourage property owners to do what they need to do, thus eliminating the feeling of impunity that is fueling their approach toward their tenants. If the city bills them for the repairs, the proposal would pay for itself. The city's limitation to existing resources is shortsighted. This is an important time for HPD to be more proactive in resolving these issues.

Hearing the comments on the agency responses to the budget requests, Ms. Wedderburn made a motion that the District office craft a comment letter with the specific issues detailed to the Mayor and the elected officials. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tyus and carried with a final vote of 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

Ms. Granville thanked everyone for their comments and reiterated a point made by Ms. Tyus that our budget requests and Statement of District Needs will only be as strong as the requests and explanations given to the District office by the community. She encouraged everyone to participate in committees to help them craft their items and needs as well as participating in the surveys and requests for information created by the District office. With no additional information to be discussed, Ms. Granville adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at Concern Rochester located at 151 Rochester Avenue, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

GUESTS

Akosua Albritton
Shawina Garnett-Evans
Wayne Walcott
Roger Meyers
Malcolm Davis, II
Akeek Elliot
Bruce Fenton
Shanelle Grant
Debbie Bowen-Spinelli
Anna Klinger
Stephanie Grandplank
Eunice Ko

Hazel Hurley
Janet Collins
M. Darway
James Fields
Robyn Berland
Lula Staton
Cecilia Cataldo
John Diamantis
Ian Hartz
Shirley Mondesir
Lynn Carve
Sam Wood, Jr.

Jess Wachtler
Sarah Lazur
Helen Dixon
John Lynch
Mitch Polo
Lauren Sheres
Gisell Beckels
Bobby LaPoint
Gabriel Lefferts