

**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 9 MEETING**  
**890 Nostrand Avenue**  
**Brooklyn, New York 11225**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

DECEMBER 7, 2021  
Zoom Meeting ID: 815 1998 1290  
Passcode: 757003

**BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE:** Patricia Moses CB9, Christian Loubeau, Teresa Westerdahl, Martina Victoria

**COMMUNITY RESIDENCE ATTENDANCE:** Suki Cheong, CB9; Pierre Albert,

**ABSENT (BOARD):** Vivia Morgan, CB9; Mary Rollerson-Blackett

**ABSENT (RESIDENTS):** Matthew Burton

**GUESTS:** Robert McCall

**AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE:** Khalid Nixon, CB9 Community Assistant

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- I. **Call to Order:** Christian Loubeau called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. At that time, he reviewed our committee norms. Including our purpose to advance the vision of a green community and also to be mindful, respectful and use the hand raise function when ready to speak. There were no announcements today.
- II. **Roll Call:** Ms. Moses, Ms. Cheong, Mr. Albert, Ms. Westerdahl, Ms. Victoria, Mr. Nixon; Absences noted
- I. **Approval of the November 2021:** A unanimous vote, no abstentions and no opposition, motion passed.
- II. **Public Comment Period:** Ms. Cheong requested for the District Staff to obtain a published schedule of tree trimming, sewer cleaning, etc., as knowing actual dates will help us track the services of the Dept. of Environmental Conservation and the Parks Dept. She asked how citizens might have proper access to this information. Mr. Nixon mentioned that he is going to make sure we have access to maps. Pierre Albert introduced himself to the committee this evening. Ms. Cheong mentioned a regulation that is in the works for mandatory trash receptacle for 200+ apartment buildings in our area. It will be a sanitation regulation.

I. OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Loubeau met with the neighborhood sanitation in an effort to address the trash in the catch basins on the streets and see how Sanitation can enforce the alternate side parking successfully so the sweeper can sweep, and the streets can be fully cleaned of trash. Sanitation clearly understands the problem, but they are not the ones responsible for enforcing the cars to move. Only the local NYPD (71<sup>st</sup>) precinct can do this. They need to resume serious ticketing of cars again so the trash will be removed, and the catch basins can be working effectively. Mr. Loubeau mentioned that he would reach out to the NYPD to see how we can partner together to investigate and resolve this problem. Sanitation can ticket trash on sidewalks but not the parked cars.

Mr. Burton was unable to attend tonight but he did talk to the DEP re: rain gardens. DEP stated that in the spring of 2022 they will be constructing and planting rain gardens on the eastern edge of CB9. Ms. Cheong requested locations for these new gardens. She also mentioned that because the sewers were constructed too small for today's population and because of the increase of rainfall, the situation has become more complex and dire. In addition, Ms. Cheong informed the group that there is already a maximum of street trees in our area, and questioned where do the rain gardens go exactly?

Ms. Victoria updated the committee on her research for trash improvement and overall increased cleanliness of our district. She had not received contact info that was necessary to communicate with supers in buildings or merchants on the major business streets. She mentioned that Dante would be hopefully sending her a list of contacts she could use moving forward. She posed a question to the committee about the importance of learning the history of this issue at CB9 in particular. What did previous EP committees try over the years to improve the trash problems? Ms. Victoria also stated an intention to start a petition among residents within CB9 to request all apartment complexes and merchants to be required to use proper waste receptacles. The question now remains, will the petition be resident driven only or would it be more effective to have a Board approved petition moving forward.

In regard to the Spring Environmental Protection Fair, Ms. Westerdahl reached out to people at Parks but has not heard from them yet. The first step is to decide where to host the Fair. Mr. Loubeau plans to give her Nicola's address (Chair of Parks and Rec Committee) so she can discuss this with him. Ms. Westerdahl stated that choosing the location and date are essential before proceeding to more details requiring permits and presentations. Mr. Albert felt that a park location makes sense, perhaps Wingate Park. Ms. Moses offered Prospect Park as a possible venue. Mr. Nixon thought that Nostrand and Empire or Parkside, Ocean and Flatbush intersection would have a lot of foot traffic and perhaps get more attention. The Fair needs a budget, and it must pass a resolution to have the Fair shared between EP and Parks and Rec. Ms. Westerdahl made a motion to have the fair in the spring of 2022 and Ms. Moses seconded the motion. Now Ms. Westerdahl and Parks Committee must find the right space for the event.

VI.

NEW BUSINESS: There was a guest speaker tonight from Neighbors Helping neighbors and Barrio Solar, agencies that promote affordable solar energy in Brooklyn. They began their solar agency in early October and are addressing homeowners in 1-4 family homes. They provide a down payment assistance (\$3500.00) and the solar can be bought as a single owner or in groups through a pooled homeowners method for purchasing at a reasonable cost. This method uses large installations of solar panels for the intended groups in the community. They also find reputable installers and make sure there are decent options, and that the transaction is not predatory. They encourage the homeowners to call and receive a free assessment of their solar potential on their roof. There are also federal, state and city credits available. This agency caters to low and middle-income families to make solar more affordable and accessible. They are funded through Enterprise Community Partners, a foundation supporting anti-poverty and community development. Ms. Westerdahl mentioned that she felt their website was a little confusing and asked if they collaborated with particular vendors. Mr. Loubeau stated that he would be sending out additional information on Robert McCall shortly.

**SIGNIFICANT MOTIONS ADOPTED: The Environmental Protection committee adopted a motion to have a spring EP and Parks fair in Community Board 9. The motion was agreed to unanimously.**

VII. Mr. Loubeau wished all a happy holiday season and reminded everyone that we would resume in January. He then made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 and Ms. Moses seconded the motion.