

**Brooklyn Community Board 9**  
**890 Nostrand Ave**  
**Brooklyn, New York 11225**  
**Environmental Protection Committee Meeting**

September 7, 2023  
Meeting ID: 827 2407 4571

**Attendance (Board Members):** Debbie Timothy, Committee Chair; Rod S. Herbet, Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales, Theresa Westerdahl

**Attendance (Community Resident Members):** N/A

**Absent (Board Members):** N/A

**Absent (Community Resident Members):** N/A

**Guests:** Ethan Norville (CB9)

**Agency Representatives:** Khalid J. Jemmott, Community Associate

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- I. Call to order:**
  - a. Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by Chair Debbie Timothy
  
- II. Words of Encouragement**
  - a. Bishop Hamilton-Gonzales
  
- III. Acceptance of Minutes of May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 & Meeting Agenda for June 1, 2023**
  - a. Acceptance of the Minutes of June 1, 2023, & Meeting Agenda for September 7, 2023
  
- IV. Introductions/Roll Call**
  - a. Committee members and guests
  
- V. Old Business**
  - a. Vital Brooklyn Project
    - i. The Vital Brooklyn Initiative was launched in spring 2017 to address the range of disparities that affect residents of Brooklyn and to create a new model for community development and wellness in Brooklyn's most vulnerable communities. Each Assembly Member in Central Brooklyn convened a Community Advisory Council consisting of community leaders, local experts, advocates, and other stakeholders to consider the unique needs and opportunities in their districts, and to develop long-term solutions. State Senators representing parts of Central Brooklyn were also actively engaged in the process. A total of 25

community meetings brought together nearly 100 key community stakeholders. RFPs for the 9 sites were released in 2018 and 2019, with development partners selected through 2020. Five projects have begun construction, with the remaining projects and phases beginning over the next few years.

- ii. Rod Herbert spoke about community residents hosting a meeting with News 12 pertaining to the "Vital Brooklyn Project." Developers have proposed (9) buildings in the vicinity of East 46th Street to Albany Avenue between Winthrop St./Clarkson Aves. Residents are concerned that there will be negative impacts in our communities presently inundated with flooding, parking, garbage, sewage.
- iii. Mr. Herbert stated that there was a scheduled meeting with Assemblymember Cunningham who knows the developer and community residents which got cancelled unexpectedly no dates for rescheduled meeting have been provided to the residents.
- iv. An email message was sent out by community residents, unsure about the details; however, CB9 was cc'd on the email message. Mr. Herbert will follow up on the status and provide more details when he has more information to share. Residents would like to host a town hall meeting to have some of the questions/concerns addressed about The Vital Brooklyn Project. The EP Committee would like to learn more about community issues directed to CB9 Office so that we can make the best decisions on behalf of the communities we advocate on behalf of.
- v. Mr. Herbert spoke to a document from CB9 Housing Committee dated January 9, 2023, pertaining to The Vital Brooklyn Project. Below is a link to the Vital Brooklyn Initiative. In addition, Jay Sorid stated he was a Housing Committee Resident member and 5 out of 10 meetings were cancelled by the CB9 Housing Committee chair. Unclear as to what transpired with the Housing Committee meetings and minutes. (Please see housing committee meetings links enclosed fyi).  
**he Vital Brooklyn Initiative link:**  
<https://hcr.ny.gov/vital-brooklyn-initiative>
- vi. community meetings brought together nearly 100 key community stakeholders. RFPs for the 9 sites were released in 2018 and 2019, with development partners selected through 2020. Five projects have begun construction, with the remaining projects and phases beginning over the next few years.
- vii. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden Rezoning Hearing and the Spice Factory Impact
- viii. 5G Issue – No status updates have been provided by CB9 following vote on resolution and letter sent to OTI et al.

VI. **New Business**

- a. Agenda items for discussion for October Environmental Protection Committee Meeting
  - ix. Community walkthrough events
  - x. Clean-up events
  - xi. Possible Park events

[Visit the website](#)

[EconomicOpportunity@planning.nyc.gov](mailto:EconomicOpportunity@planning.nyc.gov)

**Sep 12 @ 7pm to 8:30pm**

Zoom

Learn about NYC's initiative to modernize zoning rules to support small business. and thriving retail streets.

Hear from the NYC Department of City Planning about the effort to remove outdated limitations on businesses and promote an equitable, resilient economy.

There will be a presentation and Q&A. Interpreters will be available for American Sign Language, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Spanish.

**How to participate**

[Watch the meeting on YouTube.](#)

To join via videoconference, register here: [City of Yes for Economic Opportunity Info Session.](#)

VII. **Voting Items**

- a. Motion for a resolution for New York State and Empire State Development for town hall presentation to Community Board 9 on the **CLARKSON ESTATES MIXED USE PROJECT** (Land Use Improvement and Residential Project).
- b. Theresa Westerdahl put a motion to the floor.
- c. Seconded by Rod Hebert
  - i. Debbie Timothy – abstain.
  - ii. Bishop Hamilton-Gonzales – abstain.
  - iii. Theresa Westerdahl - Yes
  - iv. Rod Hebert – Yes

VIII. Motion does not pass. EP Committee had no prior discussion on the topic. Contact will be made to CB9 Office to get an update on this topic.

IX. <https://esd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/Clarkson-Estates-General-Project-Plan.pdf>

X. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned 8:38 PM

Submitted by Khalid J. Jemmott  
September 8, 2023