

Brooklyn Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11225
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Committee Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2023
Meeting ID: 893 3360 2630

Attendance (Board Members): Nicolas Almonor, Committee Chair.
Thersea Westerdahl

Attendance (Community Residents): Gloria Briggs Julia Bryant; Brenda Pagan; Niama Wood;
David Romeo, Melissa Severe; David Walters

Absent (Board Members): Courtenay Loiselle (Excused); Paul Pascale

Absent (Community Resident Members):

Guests: Bill Elliston and Su-Jen Roberts, Wildlife Conservation Society, Prospect Park Zoo; Lori Denman; Su-Jen Roberts, Melissa Severe

CB9 Staff: Khalid Jemmott, Community Associate

I. Call to Order

- Nicolas Almonor, Committee Chair called the committee meeting to order at 7:11pm

II. Roll Call

- a. Postpone until the end of the meeting

III. Minutes

- a. Motion to approve minutes moved and seconded and approved by committee

IV. Public Comment:

a. Lantern flies

- i. No follow up by the CB 9 board to date, from Julia Bryant

b. Empire and Washington Avenue Tree area – Therea Westerdahl asked why Citi Bikes are in this area (Russel D. Ramsey Triangle). She asks that our committee join with the Transportation committee regarding getting a memorial bench in this area in memory of Tiarah Poyau. Her mother has begun the process of getting the area named changed.

V. Presentations

- a. Wildlife Conservation Society, Prospect Park Zoo, Bill Elliston and Su Jen Roberts

- i. The sub-basement and basement of the zoo filled with water during a flood in September. Animals and state are ok. A professional cleaning

crew has come in; Power is back; they have a temporary boiler. They will need additional funding to Reopen; Goal is to reopen; they have not time frame for this. Discussion and questions followed

VI. Culture Liaisons

- a. **Brooklyn Museum-** Niama Wood, Liaison said she spoke with Lavel Bryant at the museum and our Parks and Recreation committee have been invited to have a Special viewing of the Spike Lee show as well as have a meeting at the museum. Discussion follow and the January 2024 meeting will be the requested date.
- b. **Dorsey Gallery** - Niama Wood, Liaison -owner Artist Otto Neal Reception Sunday, November 26 3pm to 6pm. Show closes December 15th. All welcome and a display of the book. This information was submitted to the CB9 Eblast.
- c. **Brooklyn Botanic Garden** - Julia Bryant, Liaison reported BBG nothing new to report the Lightscape will be opening soon. If anyone encounters any issues BBG would love for them to reach out **Ethan Lustig-Elgrably at BBG** so he can address any concerns quickly.
- d. **Prospect Park Alliance – Nicolas Almonor.** He is scheduling their presentation regarding Lincoln Park restoration. There has been a restoration and refining of the Ocean Avenue Parks Otto Neals sculpture.
- e. **Prospect Park Zoo – Bill Elliston and Su Jen Roberts** will be coming to report on this in the future. Brenda Pagan will liaison with another institution.
- f. **Galleries – No Liaison** assigned to date.
- g. **Neighborhood Parks-** David Romeo, Liaison nothing new to report he and Nicolas will continue to work on the Excel study of the parks tool. Wingate Park moved to Phase IV Nicolas asked that we find out what that means. We are going to table until we can get further information. Still under investigation. The Excel study is in the process of being sent to the committee.

VII. Old Business

- a. None

VIII. New Business

- a. Nicolas Almonor asks we compile an Actions Items List
 - i. We will investigate assisting community members to start Friends of the Park committees for their neighborhood parks such as the one in Jackie Robinson Park. In addition, he said the DOT equipment is at Jackie Robinson park is gone
 - ii. Nicolas Almonor and Edison McPherson, beekeepers will exchange information for garden sight visits and members with gardens in preparation for the spring.
 - iii. Nicolas Almonor will distribute the Excel sheet with the park's information.
 - iv. Still no chat button in the Zoom meetings
 - v. The Committee will assist with the memorial for Tiarah Poyau
 - vi. Follow up with Gloria Briggs regarding Dante assisting in getting the Union Street Garden paperwork for redesign and restoration back on track.

- vii. A collaboration with the Youth Committee regarding the International High School and the Union Street Garden for next April.
- viii. Our January 11, 2024, meeting will be held at the Brooklyn Museum
- ix. Update presentation from Prospect Park Alliance
 - x. Ask District Manger to investigate where the \$4.4 million for the Wingate Park Phase went and can we get it back.
 - xi. David Romeo will contact Vivia Morgan regarding Friends of Wingate Park organization.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn moved and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm