

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

October 12, 2023
Meeting ID: 893 3360 2630

Attendance (Board Members): Nicolas Almonor, Community Chair; Celeste Chase, CB9 Member; Co-Chair, Courtenay Loiselle

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

Absent (Board Members): Maria Acosta; Paul Pascale

Absent (Community Resident Members): John Basil; David Walters

Guests: Edison McPherson, Beekeeper; Lashaun Ellis; Ruth Gyuse; Zhenia Nagorny; Shani

CB9 Staff: Khalid Jemmott, Community Associate

I. Call to Order

- Co-Chair, Courtenay Loiselle called the committee meeting to order at 7:11pm

II. Roll Call Postponed until the end of the meeting (did not happen)

III. Minutes

- a. September 2023 minutes amended
 - i. Presented and moved and approved:
 - 1. The Excel Sheet Tool with the Parks Study regarding the walk-throughs will be provided and distributed so that we can keep a record of what is being done and so we can continue to move forward. We will need to alert the any relevant elected officials or City Departments. The Excel tool will need to be supported by photographs.

IV. Presentations:

- a. **Maple Street Garden** Presentation by Brenda Pagan, co-secretary of the garden. She highlighted the Gardens upcoming Harvest Festival. The garden will be continuing with winter crops and composting. She said the garden is the friendliest in the district and welcomes visitors and volunteers. Drop by and take home some herbs.
- b. **Prospect Park Zoo** – Presentation by Brenda Pagan, zoo liaison. The normally closes in November this year they have already closed because they sustained

severe damage. This year they will be unable to participate in Maple Street Garden's Harvest Festival

- c. **Lincoln Street Garden will present at a later date**
- d. **Union Street Garden** Presentation by Ruth Gyuse, an architect and a 16-year member of the garden. On Oct. 15th there will be a yard sale; Oct. 29th there will be a Children's Harvest Halloween event. There will be a flyer sent to the CB9 staff for distribution. She would like the Committee's support regarding an old project. In 2002 the Department of Design and Construction made written promises and presented designs to bring electricity from the former subway platform into the garden as well as water. DDC once approved this project and then it didn't move forward. She is looking forward to getting it back on track.
 - i. **Discussion followed and suggestions were made**
 - ii. **Next Steps:** Contact Councilmembers Crystal Hudson and Rita Josephs

V. Motion raised and amended regarding Union Street Garden:

- a. **Motion:** CB9 Board to support the 2002 promise by the MTA and Department of Design and Construction for the Union Street Community Garden design of providing electric power(i.e., solar power), water supply and a pavilion construction. **This motion was seconded and voted unanimously.**

VI Presentations continued:

- a. **Edison McPherson**, Beekeeper. He is encouraging beekeeping in the Union Street Garden. He wants to encourage the introduction of bee hives into the Union Street Garden. They will need a permit for the colonies. Would like to see two hives in every garden, He would need funds for hardwood boxes and the frames. Preparing for the next Spring. A suggestion to continue this discussion offline, including sight visits to the community gardens and the gardener deciding whether to have beehives.
- b. Maple Street Garden presentation continued by Zhaania Nagorny
- c. Brooklyn Fam will be rescheduled

VII Culture Liaisons:

- a. **Brooklyn Museum-** Niama Wood, Liaison said she has a telephone scheduled with Lavel Bryant at the museum and will report next month

Brooklyn Botanic Garden- Julia Bryant, Liaison reported BBG The big update would be that Lightscape is returning for its 3rd year at BBG. Specifically, BBG would like to share that the load-in process will start on October 30th and will continue through November 16th. In years past they have had some feedback from residents on Washington Ave about this and want to say that they are working to make sure this causes as little disruption as possible. 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.

The other update is that starting in November the Garden will once again pay what you wish on all weekdays until the Spring. As always, community tickets will continue to be available on weekends as well.

Finally, this Saturday is City of Forest Day and BBG will be hosting some special programs to mark the occasion including a free workshop on street tree care and other exciting programs. More info can be found here: https://www.bbg.org/visit/event/city_of_forest_day_events

- b. **Prospect Park Alliance** - Courtenay Loiselle, Liaison. They have received a lot of funding and will start listing sessions and visits regarding the 3rd Street Park and the Shirley Chisham Welcome Center. See their websites for details. Follow up on the noise complaints in the Vale. The PPA says the late-night event in the Vale was not permitted and they will do a better job of guarding the Vale.
- c. **Prospect Park Zoo** – Brenda Pagan, Liaison. Zoo is closing early this year due to damage from the flood.
- d. **Galleys – No Liaison** assigned to date.
- e. **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.
 - a. **Further discussion regarding the Excel study of the parks.**
 - i. Suggested we add photos to each park and the progress, and we have baseline with pictures of what's. Each of us take park and keep a photo record

IX. Public Comment:

Julia Bryant explained that she received a telephone call regarding her request that the CB9 staff follow up on a request for further information regarding Jackie Robinson Playground being used as a staging area for DOT. We are still awaiting the status of the heavy equipment in the playground, i.e., how much longer it is going to be there. She and the staff member did locate the email in question.

Brenda Pagan explained that she also got a telephone call regarding Julia Bryant's comment and request regarding the unanswered email regarding the heavy equipment in the playground. Her concern was such a telephone call from a staff member could have "a chilling effect." She also asks why did the staffer make calls instead of look at the meeting's recording.

Celeste Chase followed up with and what is being done regarding the playground, “we have heard nothing further. She asked that the board members investigate this behavior.

LaShaun Ellis enquired “what is being done regarding the spotted lantern flies. She asks what the rest of the district is doing. She noticed that the Bronx Zoo has traps out.

Nicolas asks that Item 8B on the agenda be tabled. Motion moved, seconded, and voted unanimously.

Old Business none

New Business none

Nicolas Almonor asks we compile and Actions Items List:

- a. We request the Community Board 9 votes in favor of supporting the Union Street Garden’s 2002 promise by MTA and DDC regarding providing power, water, and construction of a pavilion – Ruth will be available to show the board the designs during the meeting.
- b. Nicolas Almonor and Edison McPherson will exchange information for garden sight visits and members with gardens in preparation for the spring.
- c. Nicolas Almonor will distribute the Excel sheet with the parks information.
- d. Ask the District Manager What actions are being taken regarding the infestation of Spotted Lantern flies in the district?

X. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn moved and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Julia Bryant
Community Member