

Brooklyn Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue Brooklyn, New York 1125
Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2023
Meeting ID: 824 4280 6395

Attendance (Board Members): Ethan Norville, Committee Chair; Felice Robertson; Lorianne Wolseley

Attendance (Community Resident Members): Paco Abraham; Valerie Fleming; Jeffrey Grannum

Absent (Board Members):none

Absent (Community Resident Members): Stanley Greenberg; Calista DeJesus

Guests: Maxine Barnes; Timothy Brown; Nicola Cox; Lashaun Ellis; Julie Fissinger Andrew Magnus, Benny Rosenberger, CB9; Theresa Westerdahl, CB9; Zach Youngren; Patrick Zhi

CB9 Staff: Mia N. Hilton, Assistant District Manager;

1. Welcome/Greetings
 - a. Committee Chair, Ethan Norville called the meeting to order at 7:10pm
2. Street Co-Naming Request for Empire Boulevard and Washington Avenue to Tiarah Poyau Way
 - a. Vertina Brown made a presentation about her daughter, Tiarah Poyau, who was sadly murdered in 2016 on Empire Blvd during J'ouvert festivities. Since then, she has committed herself to gun violence advocacy efforts. She now asks the committee to support a street co-naming at Empire Blvd and Washington Avenue
 - b. Timothy Brown, Maxine Barnes, and multiple other voices agreed a naming would be a wonderful idea and proper way to keep Tiarah's memory alive.
 - c. Theresa Westerdahl suggested that a co-naming might not be enough since that just changes the signage on street poles. Could the newly expanded sidewalk, adjacent to Western Beef, become a peaceful meditative plaza in Tiarah's name instead?
 - i. Jeff Grannum noted that the tree pits in the above-named corner were actually already named for Russel Ramsey, though the Greenstreet signage has been missing for years.
 1. More info here. <https://www.nyc.gov/html/om/html/98a/pr181-98.html>
 - ii. Valerie Fleming asked for benches and lighting in the area to be a plaza as well.
 - iii. Paco Abraham also supported the idea and asked if we could do the co-naming since that is within the committee's jurisdiction but that the details of building a plaza may require more agency involvement etc.

- iv. Jeff Grannum agreed we should do more research and not go down the wrong path or hit delays.
 - v. Felice Robertson suggested coordinating with the Parks Committee.
Discussion went on that this site was DOT responsibility as it is sidewalk.
 - d. The Committee unanimously agreed it was worth having the district office do some fact finding about the existing name on the green street, the status of the newly created sidewalk, the process for getting a name on the proposed plaza etc. and that we would vote on a course of action during the November meeting
 - 3. Review of previous meeting and decisions made
 - a. Committee Chair Ethan Norville recapped that he is working with the CB9 district office to get DOT explanations of their reasoning for approving carshare locations within CB9, to submit a map of locations to CB9, and to get DOT to encourage or require CSOs to engage in outreach to CB9.
 - b. Committee Chair, Ethan Norville recapped that the motion CB9 transportation committee passed (to keep the current B49 route unchanged as it advances the Brooklyn Bus Redesign) is going to the full board for a vote later this month
 - c. Benny Rosenberger asked if NYPD was coming to talk about dangerous bike behavior. He said he asked last month. Chair Norville said the topic is on their radar and schedule to be discussed at November's meeting. He also noted that there are limited enforcement mechanisms, and the problems is not easily fixable because of its scale. Felice Robertson noted that this can be discussed as well at the 71st precinct's community council meeting on October 19th. She will also push to have Sgt Beretta from the 71st join our committee in November.
 - 4. Unfinished Business
 - a. a. DOT Carshare:
 - i. Create location suitability criteria and choose spots for relocation
 - 1. Chair Norville recapped what was discussed at the last meeting and showed a map of currently listed car share spots. He then asked for committee discussion on the topic and noted the removal of spaces is not as likely as finding relocations based off of committee suggestions.
 - a. Lashaun (unknown last name) reiterated her concerns from last month and asked for car share to not be on the smaller, more residential streets such as Montgomery St, Sullivan Pl, Ludlam Pl, and Stoddard Pl. The car share cars do not get properly moved for street cleaning and dirt piles up. She asked for the spots to be moved to more commercial corridors or into nearby Medgar Evers parking lot.
 - i. Chair Norville noted the spot's cleanliness is actually on the company that has the space reserved and if they are doing an insufficient job to clean, that is a separate issue for the CB office to follow up on.
 - b. Valerie Fleming asked if they could clarify why they have put so many spots in a particular location. Chair Norville

noted that companies do it for profitability and may also guard some of that data.

- c. Maxine Barnes made a complaint about the car share spots at Sterling & Nostrand Ave and said they are not cleaning it.
 - d. Hector (unknown last name) said the larger issue with car share was [local law 47](#) & [local law 50](#). These were enacted in 2017 to establish the car share pilot and we should be talking to current city council members if we want the law amended or revoked. He felt this was a business for the city that was not convenient for residents.
 - e. Andrew Magnus noted that this is a pilot program and slowly expanded with occasional tweaks but would follow the fashion of other pilots in one neighborhood that branch out like Ctiibike.
 - f. Jeff Granum pointed out the map on screen which Chair Norville had made was not up to date so he felt it would be a wasted effort to pinpoint issues. Overall, if there is consensus, he agreed we should attack the larger laws that allow it, but he is not convinced there is yet consensus. Chair Norville replied that some changes have been made, but the data on his map was as up to date as DOT had provided so far.
- ii. Discuss using nearby underutilized parking lots as an alternative to on-street reserved parking
1. Chair Norville encouraged the committee to find a resolution that is not out of date and wants to find smart criteria. Benny Rosenberger asked if this is still a pilot program does the CB really have input. Chair Norville said we do and should express our committee's feelings on it.
 2. Zach Youngren said he lives on Lincoln Road at Rogers Avenue & Zipcar has been a life saver for him to get to relatives. He wished they were even closer to him and said that despite being run by a company, these are useful and used by people who live here. Chair Norville agreed that was a fair point and noted their locations near transit make sense because of people embracing multi modal options whereas in transit deserts people more likely have their own cars and less need for carshare.
 3. Julie Fissinger asked about getting a DOT rep to talk about traffic calming, especially on Lefferts Ave. Can we discuss it at November's meeting if car share is taking over the agenda again this month now.
 4. Lashaun (unknown last name) reminded everyone that this is still a pilot, and we should give feedback. She does not want to get rid of Zip car but does not want us to be defeatists about making changes to it.

5. Chair Norville said he wanted to consider rules for us to make about it covering a larger area in the district.
 6. Paco Abraham noted concern that blanket rules may be tough because we have different residential densities throughout different blocks so limited # of spaces on a per block ratio would not make sense.
 7. Felice Robertson asks why didn't they think of putting cars in Medgar Evers parking lot? She then makes a motion to recommend that CB9 tell DOT that we should only consider car share at commercial facilities with parking lots (like TD Bank, Rite Aid, Western Beef) and municipality owned facilities (like Medgar Evers College).
 - a. Jeff Grannum made a friendly amendment to the motion that asked that carshare also never be allowed in front of private residences and encouraged it only at underused parking facilities.
 - i. Group discussion on the motion. Maxine Barnes and Theresa Westerdahl spoke against carshare near homes. Felice Robertson suggested it devalues a home property. Zach Youngren argued against and said the same reason people want private parking in front of their homes is the reason people want car share in front of their homes too.
 - ii. Vote was called on the motion.
 1. Paco Abraham voted against the motion reasoning that he disagreed with the friendly amendment to prevent car share in front of private homes. All else on the committee voted in favor. Motion passed by the majority.
 - iii. Chair Norville made another friendly amendment requesting that all car share locations designated were at least a block from each other. Valerie Fleming seconded. Motion passed by the majority.
 - b. Brooklyn Bus Redesign — Open discussion on other lines and optimizing travel corridors.
 - i. Brief discussion on buses and reminders that optimizing route conditions is DOT. But the MTA itself controls the routes and how buses function.
5. New Business:
- a. Personal Bike racks – Major Owens Community Center
 - i. Valerie Fleming works at the community center and said she has been asking for it for years now. Paco Abraham noted any DOT replies are nonsense as he has now seen new racks installed elsewhere in the city and CB9 is just being overlooked.
 - b. Discussion about safety concerns at Montgomery and Washington. Adjacent botanic garden has offered any measure of support, been on record supporting any

traffic calming. Mia N. Hilton, Assistant District Manager Mia Hilton said it is an ongoing conversation with DOT. The office has reached out multiple times but gotten no word back from DOT.

- c. Paco Abraham noted a CB9 Cyclist, Emmanuel Paterson, was recently killed by a box truck on Clarkson turning onto Rogers Avenue. He expressed frustration that the committee has talked about biking dangers in the district for years but taken no action at all and said we should not be waiting for more fatalities before we move forward with a holistic plan for safe cycling in the neighborhood.
6. Chair Norville makes a motion to adjourn.
 - a. Felice Robertson seconds motion
 - b. Motion passes by unanimous consent