

Brooklyn Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11225
Youth Services Committee Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023
Meeting ID: 813 9456 1957

Attendance (Board Members): Soul Creary; Alethea Best; Candace Edwards; Linda Watson-Lorde; Letwine Mavina; Natoya McGhie; Twyla Ware

Attendance (Community Residents): John Beckles; Pamela Payne

Absent (Board Members): Candace Edwards

Absent (Community Residents): Sherry-Ann Atkinson; Sadia Douglas; Mecca Geters; Anna Lerner; Cynthia Rose

Guests: Nicolas Almonor, CB9 Sherry-Ann Atkinson; Sadia Douglas; Mecca Geters; Hebatalla Mostafa; Darius Nazario;

CB9 Staff: Khalid Jemmott, Community Associate **Notes**

- I. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting commenced and started recording via Zoom at 7:10 PM
 - b. New and returning member introductions
- II. October 2023 Committee meeting Minutes
 - a. Linda reviewed the last meeting minutes
 - b. Members interested in joining the WhatsApp group should contact
 - c. A coat or clothing drive may be possible through a partnership with John's employer and CB-09
- II. Guest Speakers
 - a. Alfred Kurland - 40+ career in youth services
 - i. Provided information about "Vote 16" which would aim to reduce the voting age to 16 years old and also participate in civic affairs in a local arena
 - ii. There are 17 nations across the globe that have a voting age as low as 16 and have shown that this demo shows up at a rate 2x more than those 18+
 - iii. Looking for the youth committee to vote in favor of this to be escalated to the executive

- iv. Guest Speakers from Jackie Robinson School and Ebbots School joined (Principal Mecca Geters, Principal Sherry-Ann Atkinson, and Darius Nazario)
 - b. Principal Geters (Jackie Robinson School)
 - i. Working on rebranding the school to be more favorable to the community
 - ii. Aiming to build the school into a “One Stop Shop” Community Center that provides resources for not just students but parents
 - iii. Biggest concern is that there isn’t a fully functioning after school program.
 - iv. Have partnered with Soul2Soulz for after school programing but resources are limited due to lack of funding
 - c. Darius Nazario (Ebbets Field School)
 - i. Annual Youth Forum and Block Party at Ebbets Field School on May 16th (3-6pm)
 - 1. In the past years, many community organizations have attended
 - 2. Youth summit is open to all youth in the community of Crown Heights. All youth welcome
 - 3. Soul will meet with Darius to identify committees that would need CB09’s assistance for the Youth Forum
 - d. Principal Geters on behalf of Principal
 - i. Ask of CB09 Youth Committee- Speaking to local politicians regarding issues that school faces
 - ii. There has not been much support for English as a second language parent group. Although translators are provided, many parents do not attend due to not feeling comfortable.
 - e. Soul to be liaison between schools and committee to establish ways that the committee can assist in supporting the school’s goals
- III. Follow-up
- a. Revisit Clothing Drive
 - a. A clothing drive in partnership with John’s job
 - b. John to create flyer for donation efforts
 - c. Linda to lead overall outreach efforts
 - d. Collection to continue until January/February
 - b. WhatsApp Group
 - i. Members to contact information to CB09 group so Soul can create WhatsApp group
 - c. Partnership with Parks Committee
 - a. Nicolas to coordinate a joint meeting with the Youth Committee in order to discuss the maintenance of the Community Garden

- d. Soul inquired if anyone had suggestions for guest speakers to join meetings
 - a. Twyla: Would like to establish a mental health mentorship program
 - b. General consensus: Encourage young people to join meetings

IV. Action Items

- a. Members are to contact **BK09-1@cb.nyc.gov** for information to compile a group chat for WhatsApp
- b. Brainstorm people to come and speak during meetings and/or events

II. Next steps

- a. Continue working on event and program logistics

V. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm