

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

September 12, 2023
Meeting ID: 813 9456 1957

Attendance (Board Members): Soul Creary; Linda Watson-Lorde; Letwine Mavina

Attendance (Community Residents): John Beckles; Lean McClain; Cynthia Rose

Absent (Board Members): Alethea Best; Jamie Eckstein; Candace Edwards; Natoya McGhie; Twyla Ware

Absent (Community Residents): Anna Lerner

Guests: Nicolas Almonor, CB9; Alexandra Cameron; Justin Freeman, NYS Assemblywoman Phara Souffrant-Forrest; Celia Green; Rod Herbert, CB9; Rene Loney; Diane Smith; Billie Wroteit;

CB9 Staff: Mia N. Hilton, Assistant District Manager

1. The meeting commenced and started recording via Zoom at 7:10 PM
2. “5 Things we have in common” Icebreaker
3. Attendee and Member Introductions mentioning why they are interested in the committee
 - a. “There used to be many resources for the youth in this community”
 - b. Most, if all attendees have lived and served in the CB9 area for 20+ years
4. Justin Freeman, Director of Community Affairs, NY State Assembly District 5 invited members to the Public Safety Townhall
 - a. Major Owens Health and Wellness Community Center 1561 Bedford Ave Wednesday, September 13th, 6 pm-8 pm
 - b. Linda voiced concern about the event start time and if attendees can attend anytime
 - c. Nicolas asked if the town hall is open to all of the CB9 area. Justin confirmed that the event is open to all and is open to hosting a collaboration event in the future.
 - d. Celia asked if there would be a virtual component to the event for those who might not be able to attend due to health or travel restrictions.
5. Soul clarified that Youth Services and Education are still two separate committees but will just meet at the same time
6. Soul highlighted last year’s youth committee accomplishments
 - a. Now that the two committees are combined
7. Soul encouraged members to brainstorm event and program ideas and emphasized that all members try to attend
 - a. Billie - Community/Neighborhood cleanup, Food Pantry, Events catered to the unhoused (sock drive, clothing drive), community garden ...All with more youth and family involvement
 - b. Nicolas - Community garden and planting with the parks department

- c. Mia - Youth summit that is led by and focused on youth. The youth come up with solutions.
 - i. Soul mentioned that attendance can be an issue when events like this are planned. Suggested partnering with schools and having required attendance.
 - ii. Mia - Connect with guidance counselors and local schools
 - d. Celia - Think outside of the box when it comes to outreach.
 - i. Community Education Councils are a good resource
 - ii. The community must know that CB9 has an education committee. "All great ideas but it's important that
 - e. Billie - "Is there a central location where youth are meeting to have events and summits"
 - i. Soul- There isn't just one known central location. CEC makes it hard for guests to speak during meetings
 - ii. Billie - Suggested utilizing spaces that youth already attend such as a Boys and Girls Club. Many entrepreneurs are willing to give away items when it comes to a community level.
 - f. Rod - suggested reaching out to the Police Athletic League (PAL) - Was a member years ago and found it beneficial
 - i. Renee is willing to reach out to the detective and league that covers the CB9 area
 - ii. Cynthia and Linda - We have to go to where the youth are. Create the space.
 - g. Diane - We have the power to take the youth outside of the communities they live.
 - i. Our community is not using IDNYC
 - ii. Train rides to museums and different neighborhoods
 - h. Letwine - Suggested meetings in between meetings
 - i. Mia mentioned that it is encouraged to meet in between meetings
 - ii. Linda - Can we create a WhatsApp chat?
 - 1. Mia - Email bk9 email asking them if a WhatsApp chat is possible to share information
8. Discussion of board positions
- a. Mia - CB 9 Bylaws state that more than one person can hold a position
 - b. Celia – Co-Chairs are beneficial when it comes to ideas
 - c. Linda and Cilia for Education Committee co-chairs
 - d. Billie and Letwine for Youth Committee co-chairs
 - e. Cynthia to continue as secretary for both Letwine will support with secretary duties if Cynthia is not present. Cynthia and Letwine are co-secretaries
9. Members are to contact **Bk09-1@cb.nyc.gov** for information to compile a group chat for WhatsApp
10. Brainstorm people to come and speak during meetings and/or events
11. Next Meeting Agenda
- a. Tuesday, October 10, 2023
 - b. Voting on event /program ideas
 - c. Work on event and program calendar
12. Adjournment
- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM EST