

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

February 8, 2024
Meeting ID: 893 3360 2630

Attendance (Board Members): Nicolas Almonor, Committee Chair, Celeste Chase

Attendance (Community Residents): Brenda Pagan; David Romeo; Naima Wood

Absent (Board Members): Maria Acosta; Courtenay Loiselle; Paul Pascale

Absent (Community Resident Members): David Walters; John St. Bernard; Julia Bryant

Guests: Christopher, Hana Valasek, Melody Olivera

Agency Representatives: Alexandra Morman, NYC Parks Department

CB9 Staff: Khalid J. Jemmott, Community Associate

I. Welcome, Greetings and Introductions

Nicolas Almonor, Committee Chair called the committee meeting to order at 7:14 pm

II. Presentation - NYC Parks Alexandra Morman

- a. Let's Green NYC (Volunteering to improve the health of New Yorkers and their Parks
 - i. Improving tracking – track volunteers and their cumulative impact
 - ii. Expanding Equity – Built a volunteer group directory to amplify our partner groups of all levels from grass roots up
 - iii. Enhanced engagement- Attract new partners to volunteer in our parks & new resources
 - iv. New Website: Filterable volunteers opportunities & Showcasing diverse volunteer groups – www.nyc.gov/parks/volunteer
 - Opportunity to select one of NYC Parks impact categories below to find a match based on your interests
 - Spearhead your own groups if none are listed of your interests
 - Interactive map to coordinate with other interested members

III. Roll call

- a. Quorum was not achieved.
- b. Minutes are not approved due to no quorum.

IV. Public Commentary

- V. Committee members were urged to recruit and suggest community members to join the committee by contacting chair Nicolas Almonor

- a. **Hana Valasek** spoke about the issues in the Mount Prospect Park project. 40,000-square-foot skatepark. The committee agreed to look into the situation. Hana Valasek expressed interest in joining the Parks, Recreation & Cultural committee as a community resident member.

VI.

Culture Institutions Liaisons reports :

- a. **Friends of Wingate** - David Romeo , Liaison contacted Vivia Morgan February 2nd to exchange information. Vivia Morgan asked if an email could be sent to invite Friends of Wingate to February's committee meeting. There has been no follow from Friends of Wingate since last correspondence.
- b. **Brooklyn Museum** – Niama Wood, Liaison mentioned the email sent by Nicolas Almonor inviting committee members to a special viewing of the Spike Lee exhibit as well as the Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz art collection. Committee members are scheduled to go Saturday, February 11, 2024. **Laval Bryant-Quigley** Director of Community Engagement will present at the next committee meeting in March.
 - i. Dorsey fine art gallery artist reception, Ann Tanksley (Conversations 2) – February 18, 2024, 3-6 PM
- c. **Community Gardens** – Brenda Pagan, Liaison reported no new updates with the community gardens, information from last committee meeting still stands. Community gardens are in rest mode preparing for the upcoming spring and summer seasons. Once the gardens are opened, updates we be received regularly. Maple Street Community Garden and Union Street Community Garden. Maple Street Community Garden is planning an event for April, May and June. Community garden liaisons looking to participate in open gardens - <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/open-garden-nyc>
 - Gloria Briggs, Liaison to Union Street Community Garden – will connect with Committee chair Nicolas Almonor to discuss the reports that Ms. Briggs has from the Department of Design and Construction In 2000 Transit authority of promises that was made of the project at the garden
 - Connect with the representative to create a habitat for the bees
- d. **Brooklyn Botanical Garden** – Julia Bryant, Liaison is not present for tonight's meeting to provide updates.
- e. **Prospect Park Alliance** – Courtenay Loisel Liaison is not present for tonight; s meeting to provide updates.
- f. Community members interested in joining Parks, Recreation & Cultural Committee should contact the committee chair Nicolas Almonor

VII. Motion to adjourn moved and seconded. Adjournment at 8:03 pm

Respectfully submitted by, Khalid J. Jemmott
Reviewed and approved by Nicolas Almonor

