

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

February 9, 2023
Meeting ID: 890 2747 1795

Attendance (Board Members): Nicolas Almonor, Committee Chair

Attendance (Community Resident Members): Julia Bryant, Brenda Pagan, David Walters, Naima Wood

Absent (Board Members): Matthew Fulton, Abena Hutchful, Courtenay Loiselle

Absent (Community Resident Members): Chloe Lucan, Gloria Briggs

Guest: Marlee Tavlin, Prospect Park Zoo

Agency Representative: Khalid Jemmott, Community Associate

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm by Nicolas Almonor, Committee Chair

1. Welcome, Greetings, and Introductions
2. Assignment for minutes' taker
 - Naima Wood
3. Review and approval of last month's minutes
 - Motion to accept amended minutes from the last meeting to include Jen Chen from Brooklyn Fam as a guest and presenter. Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
4. Public Commentary
 - Julia Bryant displayed a photo of the new plaza currently being developed at Empire Blvd and Flatbush Ave. Request from community members to ensure flowers are added to the plaza.
 - Julia Bryant commented on the Vale renovation project and shared that members of the community would like to get a better understanding of the space that will be used for entertainment and performances.
5. Removal proceedings for chronically absent members
 - Two board members have been absent from board meetings for several months. The process has begun to remove these two members. We need to recruit new members on the board. Community Resident Members can apply to become a board member. You need to either live or work in the district to be eligible to become a board member.
 - Brenda Pagan informed us there is a YouTube video available that outlines the expectations of being a board member. The video is titled "CB9 Open House –

Learn About Your Community Board” hosted by Fred Baptiste and Dante Amwine.

- Board members are expected to attend board meetings and committee meetings.

6. Parks and Cultural institutions liaison reports

- Brooklyn Academy of Music - Julia Bryant informed us that a representative from BAM will attend the March Committee Meeting. There is a children’s program coming up soon.
- Brooklyn Botanic Garden – Would like to have volunteers become tree counters. The Tree Counting Program is currently in the planning phase.
- Wildlife Conservation Society – Brenda Pagan recently followed up with Bill Elliston and Marlee Tavlin.
 - WCS needs input from the community to find out what programs we are interested in. No one from the community has been showing up to existing programs. Need to reach out to Brian Cunningham and Zellnor Myrie to get people from their offices involved with WCS.
 - There are job opportunities available with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The zoo really would like to hire from the community and wants to partner with Community Board 9 to advertise job openings. They desperately need to hire security staff.
 - Marlee is looking to fill scholarship spaces. The Zoo is collaborating with the Library and Botanic Garden. There are free camp spaces to be filled for 7–10-year-old children. They are also looking to hire camp counselors now.
 - WCS is planning to hire children from the community for specific positions. Two high schools will place students from the community in job openings.
- School for the Deaf – Gloria and Julia sent an email to Nicolas and are waiting for a response. Nicolas will have a conversation with the subcommittee to address outstanding questions.
- Brooklyn Museum – Naima Wood contacted Christina Marinelli at the museum. Christina has been communicating with her colleagues to identify the best person for us to collaborate with. Laval Bryant is the Director, Community Engagement and Partnerships at the Brooklyn Museum and Naima will contact her to determine how we can work together. Laval Bryant will be invited to attend the March Committee Meeting. We would like for the museum to participate in the 2nd Annual Resource Fair at Ronald McNair Park in May.

7. Action items for voting

- Nicolas Almonor and David Walters have been working on the park assessment
 - Goal is to establish site visits for each park to complete assessments annually. Will check park conditions and make recommendations for improvement.
 - Need to receive a full list of parks to include them in the assessment.
 - As committee members, we should always call 311 if we see issues with the parks.

- Nicolas and David are working to locate the assessment tool to ensure consistency with our approach. Additional items can be added to the assessment tool to address specific concerns of the community.
 - There is a vehicle available to use for traveling to the parks to complete the assessments.
 - Nicolas will follow up with Dante and Alexandra Morman, Park, and Recreation Manager, to finalize plans for conducting the assessments.
 - Nicolas and David volunteered to complete all park assessments. Three or four people will be needed to complete the assessments.
 - May need to have a townhall to address issues that the community has with the parks.
8. Letter of support for Prospect Park Alliance Vale Restoration Project
- Four voted in favor for a motion to provide the Prospect Park Alliance Vale Restoration Project with a letter of support. One opposed the vote. Motion was passed.
9. Deadline for projects from institution cultural liaisons
10. Old business
- None
11. New Business
- We will need to raise money for the annual fair. We want to make it bigger than it currently is. Will recognize members of the community who have had significant accomplishments during a recognition ceremony.
 - Marlee was invited to become a resident committee member. She is excited about the opportunity and will check to ensure there are no conflicts with doing so.
 - Julia Bryant volunteered to take the minutes during the next meeting.
12. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm

Submitted by Naima Wood, Community resident Member

Reviewed by Nicolas Almonor, Chair of the Parks, Recreation and culture Committee