



BROOKLYN BOROUGH BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, January 7, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Brooklyn Borough Hall

209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Webex Livestream

[Meeting Recorded on YouTube](#)

MINUTES

Welcome & Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:09pm. Quorum present at 21 members

Community Boards: Gina Barros (CB1), Anthony Buissereth (CB3), Robert Camacho (CB4), Rebecca Kobert (CB6), Julio Pena (CB7), Irsa Weatherspoon (CB8), Fred Baptiste (CB9), Jenny Hernandez (CB13), Karl-Henry Cesar (CB14), Genese Morgan, Margaret Brewer (CB 16), June Persaud (CB 17)

Council Members: Angela Yang (Restler-33), Deme Brown (Hudson-35), May Vutrapongvatana (Osse-36), Samori Toure (Nurse-37), Ayanna Njeri Williams (Mealy 41), Anna Firsova (Zhuang-43), Daniel Heredia (Louis -45), Charlene Batts (Brannan-47), Sasha Revels (Vernikov-48), Justin Bolusi (Carr-50).

Borough President's Office: Corina Lozada Smith (General Counsel), Carol-Ann Church, Bianca Stephenson (Community Boards Unit), Martin Fitzpatrick (Operations).

Presenters: Nave Strauss, (Parks and Recreation), Jonah Ragoff (City Planning)

Attendees: Bianca Bryan, Alex Sommer (City Planning) Scott Platkin (HPD), Celeste Leon (CB 4)

Approval of the Agenda Motion by Fred Baptiste, second June Persaud; approved by consensus.

Approval of the Minutes 12.03.2024. Fred Baptiste makes motion to amend the minutes to include vote taken by board to publish the Borough Board attendance records. Motion passes. Minutes approved by consensus to include the amendment.

Presentation

New Neighborhood Tree Planting Initiative: Nave Strauss, Director of Tree Planting, Department of Parks and Recreation presented the Neighborhood Tree Planting Initiative.

Our urban forests have 4.9 million trees! There are an additional 666,000 street trees and 156, 625 trees in our city park system. The initiative will change the strategy for tree planting.

- Will prioritize planting in heat vulnerable neighborhoods
- Focus resources on a geographic area, rather than current almost random method of tree planting, stump removal at different times
- Comprehensive streetscape improvements – do all the work simultaneously. Ex. Remove tree stumps, close tree pits, tree removals
- Every community district will have work done on a 3-year cycle.
- 311 Service requests for tree planting will be discontinued
- Website has been updated with the information. full implementation expected in Spring 2027

Discussion

- Homeowners tend to be concerned about damaged sidewalks. Will agencies collaborate on response?
 - *If working in silos, Parks may repair just prior to installation of porous pavement.*
- Are homeowners responsible for the repair?
 - *Parks Department program funds repair of 1-3 family homes.*
- In a nine year cycle every block of a district will be hit. People will get better service, but if the work is being siloed then constituent will have to deal with multiple agencies
 - *Will follow up on the interagency collaboration*
- Has research been done on the allergy potential of the trees?
 - *A wide array of trees is planted (150 species), decisions are not made based on whether trees are male or female.*
 - *Trees contribute to allergy iterant*
 - *Trees are part of the solution of air pollution*
- Will tree planting contribute to creating rat burrows?
 - *Currently the unit has not been instructed to change protocols but have heard of the concern.*
- What kind of trees are being planted, what size? Trees create condition clogged pipes, clean streets, raise sidewalk flags, what mechanisms are in

place? Will tree maintenance be adequate to ensure healthy trees? Want Parks to engage with community before planting.

- Will the program take into consideration planting in areas where there have been no plantings?
 - *HVI areas are being prioritized*
 - *Tree maintenance program is based on risk as determined by borough forestry inspectors*
- There are a lot of trees in Brownsville that are coming down. Concerned the department is prioritizing planting more trees without addressing the issue of damaged trees. Also have trees with wasps and homeowners pay for extermination.
 - *Tree Sidewalk program funds repair for 1-3 family homes. Homeowners of 1-3 family homes are not liable for damage caused by trees. The department is continuing with tree maintenance.*
- What community engagement is being undertaken as well as conversations with other agencies?
 - *Would like to increase community engagement; unfortunately, has not gotten a lot of feedback. Extend invite to all community boards to engage – town halls, meetings etc.*

Borough Hall Updates

- Community Board applications open until Feb 14.
- Capital funding applications are now open
Please share the information with your constituency.

Unfinished Business

- The attendance report will be provided at the next meeting

Communications & Reports

PUBLIC HEARING

The Brooklyn Borough Board reviewed the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan. ULURP application (**N2500152RK, C250020PQK, C250021PPK, C250022PPK, C250023PPK, C250019PQK, 250016HAK, 250017HAK, C250018PQK**)

It is an area-wide plan to support housing and job growth along Atlantic Avenue between Vanderbilt Avenue and Nostrand Avenue in Community Districts 3 and 8 within the neighborhoods of Crown Heights, Bedford Stuyvesant and Prospect Heights.

The plan was presented by Jonah Ragoff.

No members of the public testified at the hearing.

Chair Weatherspoon expressed Community Board's support for the plan which includes affordable housing and sites with 100% affordability, dedicated workforce plan etc. There are concerns on ensuring adequate open space, light and air.

Chair Buissereth noted that Community Board 3 also supported the plan and had similar concerns regarding open space. This is certainly a more proactive approach which is better than spot zoning. All boards should consider creating a development plan.

Other Business

- There's a public hearing scheduled for January 9 on the plan to demapp a street that could facilitate the development of the proposed casino
- Review the borough board's bylaws with special attention to attendance
- Current Open Meetings Law is sunsetting
 - Board should consider creating a working group to discuss change

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 7:48 p.m.

City Council Members and Board representatives are required for quorum to conduct business. Please ensure your entity is represented.

2025 Meeting Schedule

February 4

March 4 | April 1 | May 6 | June 3

If you have not submitted an updated designee form, please do so to ensure a designee is able to attend and vote on your behalf.

For further information on accessibility or to make a request for accommodations, such as sign language interpretation services, please contact Corina Lozada Smith at corina.lozada@brooklynbp.nyc.gov, at least (3) business days in advance to ensure availability.