

Brooklyn Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11225

Economic Development Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2025

Attendance (Board Members): Vanessa Raptopoulos; Volney Joseph

Attendance (Community Resident Members): Willa Thompson

Absent (Board Members): Rohaan Menon; Joyce Williams

Absent (Committee Resident Members): Bruce Kirton (2nd Absence)

Guests: Lisa Etienne; Ethan Norville

CB9 Staff: Allison Henry, Community Associate

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1. Meeting called to order at 7:10pm
 2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Could not happen because no quorum
 3. Shop Small Guide - Ethan presented his updated map and told us that there was still Utica and Albany to go. The map is actually a live link as he works on it and it has already gotten 1000 views. It's on the WhatsApp channel so maybe people clicked on it there but there are only 130 people or so on the WhatsApp channel, so it probably did not happen there. Once Ethan is soon finished, he will hand it back to us to take it to the next level.
 4. WhatsApp channel The committee had questions for Ethan about using the WhatsApp channel for a way to get business information out but it doesn't seem like there are even enough users on it to make the impact we want and if we wanted to segment out just business information plus if we wanted anything posted on it we can just ask Dante to also post it there.
 5. Winter Event
 - a. Decided it was easier for all of us to do it as an evening event from 6-8pm and as a Mixer - maybe call it BUSINESS CONNECTS MIXER.
 - b. We agreed that we wanted to do it at Trove which is located on Rogers Ave. It's a woman owned business, the owner also owns Brix House next door, and she has been to both of our events so maybe she would want to host one. Vanessa agreed to reach out to Tara and ask her if that may be something she would be interested in. The date we are proposing is December 1 since we will have one more meeting before it to prepare.

- c. Details: we definitely want to play a game/ do an event. We were thinking of a “business hunt” of sorts. Everyone would get a list of questions when they are greeted at the doorway and then they would hunt for the answers.
 - i. Some questions we liked:
 - 1. What was the reason you started your business?
 - 2. How do you manage your time?
 - 3. One or 2 of your favorite businesses and why? Where do you go?
 - 4. Marketing ideas that have worked?
 - 5. What business do you think we need in the neighborhood?
- 6. Action items
 - a. Ask Tara if we can do it at Trove
 - b. \$300 budget approved for a space rental fee
 - c. Finalize Hunt Questions
 - d. Invite
 - e. Canvas and get the word out once we have invite approved next meeting
- 7. Spring Scavenger Hunt
 - a. Vanessa presented 8.5 x 11 print out ways of making an easy passport with a map of the district on one side and instructions on the other. Everyone liked the idea and agreed we needed to invite partners to our meeting to help.
- 8. Adjournment
 - a. Adjourn 8:21pm