

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11225

Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2026

Attendance (Board Members): Nicolas Almonor; Abigail Timm

Absent (Board Members): None

Attendance (Resident Members): David Romeo, Brenda Pagan

Absent (Resident Members): Gloria Briggs, MC Alexander, Shomari Ramsay

Guests: Michael Schnall, Director of Government & Community Affairs Brooklyn Botanic Garden

CB9 Staff: Mia N. Hilton, Assistant District Manager

1. Call to order

- a. Called to order the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee at 7:23pm on date 6/11/2026

2. Presentation and Discussion – Brooklyn Botanic Garden

- a. Michael Schnall, Brooklyn Botanic Garden provided an overview of community partnerships, workforce development opportunities, internships, apprenticeships, and horticultural training initiatives. Discussion included:
 - i. Internship and apprenticeship opportunities available through city-supported
 - ii. Institution networks
 - iii. Workforce certifications and training pathways supporting employment with the Parks Department
 - iv. Community education and horticultural engagement programs
 - v. Long-term career opportunities through partnerships and seasonal employment opportunities
 - vi. Additional discussion focused on:
 - 1. Community access and outreach efforts
 - 2. Expansion of educational opportunities
 - 3. Questions regarding Japanese garden programming and maintenance of cherry blossom plantings
 - 4. Contact information and ongoing engagement opportunities with garden representatives

5. The committee also discussed the Greenest Block in Brooklyn initiative. Representatives explained that support includes staff assistance, educational programming, planting materials, containers, and outreach resources. Concern was raised regarding increasing participation from South Brooklyn communities and identifying funding opportunities to expand access and engagement.
6. Governance and Community Representation Discussion
7. Committee members discussed nonprofit governance structures and explored opportunities for community representation within cultural institution boards. Questions were raised regarding trustee appointments, recruitment processes, financial expectations of nonprofit boards, and how community members may become more engaged in institutional decision-making. The presenter agreed to identify appropriate contacts for future follow-up.

3. Roll call

- a. A quorum was not established.
- b. The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair. Introductions were conducted and attendance was reviewed. A discussion was held regarding committee membership participation, quorum requirements, and onboarding of prospective committee members. Committee members encouraged participants to continue engagement and provide feedback to strengthen committee work.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

- a. Minutes were reviewed and corrected, since there was no quorum, the approval will be done at the meeting in September.
- b. The committee reviewed the previous meeting minutes and discussed corrections to attendance records and clarifications regarding prior agenda items. Members noted that references to prior programming should accurately reflect that certain activities were one-time visits rather than ongoing programs. Corrections were noted for submission to the full board.
 - i. Corrections/Updates from May 14, 2026 Minutes
 1. Absent- Gloria Briggs
 2. Line (1) - Mr. Elliston discussed participating in Harvest Fest 2024, his visit to Maple Street Community Garden
 3. Line (7) Invitation to the Community Resource Event - On 3/19/2026 the invitation was made by liaison Brenda Pagan

5. Public Comment / Community Discussion

- a. **Committee Reports and Announcements**
- b. Major Owens Health & Wellness Community Center

- i. Members discussed applications for the advisory committee at the Major Owens Health & Wellness Community Center and encouraged participation; New board will be in place by the next meeting
- c. Future Planning Discussions
 - i. Arts and Music Summit plans to be developed over the Summer
 - ii. The committee discussed organizing a future arts and music summit highlighting local artists, cultural organizations and Medgar Evers College
- d. Tentative timeframe discussed:
 - i. April 2027
 - ii. Potential partnerships discussed included:
 - 1. Medgar Evers College
 - 2. Local cultural institutions
 - iii. Sports Summit
 - 1. Youth sports organizations
 - 2. Community collaboration
 - 3. Athletic programming
 - 4. Team exhibitions and networking opportunities
 - 5. Tentative timeframe discussed
 - a. Winter/Spring 2027
- e. Members discussed encouraging all organizations presenting before the committee to also participate in future Community Board 9 resource fairs;
- f. Parks Tour and Mural Project
 - i. A Community Board 9 parks tour
 - ii. A mural project within the district
 - iii. An arts and music summit involving schools and community organizations
 - iv. Members emphasized the importance of involving schools, youth organizations, and
 - v. community partners in future programming efforts

6. Recreation and Youth Programming Updates

- a. The committee received updates regarding local youth soccer programming and community sports engagement efforts. Members shared that a Crown Heights youth team advanced from a Brooklyn tournament to citywide competition and expressed support for expanded recreational opportunities. Additional discussion included:
 - i. Future soccer clinics open to community members
 - ii. Expanding recreational access across neighborhoods
 - iii. Encouraging broader participation in youth and family sports programming

7. Arts and Cultural Initiatives

- a. Discussion included interest in future public art and mural opportunities within the district, including engagement with schools and youth participation in design and implementation efforts. Members expressed interest in identifying organizations to present future proposals to the committee.
- b. Committee agrees to a gathering in July and August at Maple Street Community Garden on July 10th and at Union Street Community Garden on August 14th

8. Adjournment

- a. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Committee members noted interest in maintaining informal engagement over the summer and reconvening at the next scheduled committee meeting.
- b. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:16pm

Submitted by: Abigail Timm Co-Chair, Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee

Minutes reviewed and approved by: Nicolas Almonor, Chair, Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee