

**Presentation: Dr. Richard Becker, President and CEO of The Brooklyn Hospital Center**

At 6:19, Chairman John Dew introduced Dr. Richard Becker to welcome Community Board 2 to the Brooklyn Hospital. Dr. Becker was appointed President and CEO of the Brooklyn Hospital Center approximately two years ago. He noted that this was the first private hospital in Brooklyn.

The Brooklyn Hospital is a 464 bed, full-service, tertiary care teaching hospital and part of the New York Presbyterian Hospital Network. In 2007, the Brooklyn Hospital emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy and has been profitable over the past three years and has recently seen improvements in patient satisfaction. Dr. Becker noted that the health statistics in Brooklyn are in fact worsening. 18% of Brooklyn Hospital patients are over age 75. Approximately two-thirds of Brooklyn Hospital Center clients identify as African-American / Black.

Dr. Becker noted the Hospital's priorities are improving access to quality health care, addressing chronic disease such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease, and infection diseases such as HIV/AIDS. The Hospital is developing a Community Advisory Board and trying to enhance partnerships with local community based partners. Mr. Whiteside wondered about the policy of only allowing two guests to visit a patient at a given time. Dr. Becker indicated that he thought was policy was flexible and contingent upon the status of the patient.

Mr. Knox wondered about the potential sale of the parking lot, the attached condo building, and the open space across the street. Dr. Becker said that the potential sale of these assets is indeed on the table. In response to a question from Ms. Feibush, Dr. Becker noted that the Hospital does not currently operate school-based clinics but they have been discussing partnership opportunities with Brooklyn Tech.

**Presentation: Senator Daniel Squadron**

Prior to introducing Senator Squadron, Chairman Dew congratulated him on a terrific community convention this past Sunday. Senator Squadron noted that it was a great community meeting.

Senator Squadron said that he recently attended a press conference focused on the helicopter traffic. He recommended a series of proposals, including incorporation of helicopter complaints into 311.

Senator Squadron, the Chairman of the Social Services Committee, spoke passionately about passing legislation to prevent the City of New York from requiring rent to be paid by recently homeless individuals.

**Presentation: Josh Nachowitz and Mark Spector, EDC, Misty March from Hargroves Associates**

The development of Willoughby Square Park was included in the Downtown Brooklyn Plan. This is the beginning of the planning process. A design charette has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at LIU. Mr. Nachowitz noted that the intention is for this to be a public park utilized by community residents, not simply office workers. This is a 1-acre park, smaller than the J.J. Byrne Park nearby, and the parking lanes in and out of the garage will take up some of the space.

The Abolitionist commemoration will be a part of this park. There are three City-owned residential buildings that are currently on the site that will be displaced. According to EDC representatives, HPD is currently working to relocate the tenants. Ms. March said the focus of the park is to develop a plaza space, passive space, and small recreational activities. The plan is for the park to be at street level and the 700 space parking garage will be below grade. Ms Wolf noted that when this park was approved with the

2004 rezoning, the expectation was that the surrounding buildings would be office space. Now, considering the large scale residential development in the area, this park ought to be responsive to the needs of families. Mr. Nachowitz essentially agreed with Ms. Wolf's point. Mr. Varela pressed EDC on the status of the displaced residents, but EDC did not offer any specific information.

**Presentation: Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries**

The Assemblyman spoke about the three billion budget gap and his thoughts about addressing the shortfall.

**Presentation: Mr. Kai Smith. New York City Community Cleanup**

Mr. Smith stated that his organization is a small group funded by the City that is focused on cleaning up streets. There is an 11-person crew based on Schermerhorn Street that travels the borough. From vacant lots to graffiti cleanup, Mr. Smith and his team reach out to property owners and clean up sites at no cost. Mr. Smith requested the support of community residents by taking photos of sites and emailing them to his office. Their motto is 'you point it out and we'll clean it up.' They focus on publicly owned sites. Kai Smith's phone number is 917-224-2072. The website is [www.cleanupnyc.org](http://www.cleanupnyc.org).

**Charter Revision Commission, Public Advocate's Office, Ms. Nancy Pascal**

Mr. Lastowecky and Mr. Meyer made and seconded a motion to approve the agenda for the evening, which was unanimously approved. Ms. Bivens and Ms. Zahler-Gringer sponsored and seconded a motion to approve the March Community Board 2 minutes, which was also unanimously approved.

**Chairperson's Report**

Mr. Dew brought the Community Board's attention to the proposed changes for Flushing Avenue. The community meeting will be on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 45 North Elliott between Flushing and Park.

**Committees for Board Action**

Mr. Tony Canady presented on behalf of the Economic Development and Job Creation Committee. Ms. Deb Howard of Pratt Area Community Council requested the support from the Community Board for an application for the DHCR Main Street Program. The Economic Development Committee unanimously approved the application. Ms. Feibush sponsored a motion to support the recommendation, which was seconded by Mr. Ibelli, and approved unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence Whiteside presented on behalf of the Land-Use Committee regarding a request from the Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project for a letter of support from the Community Board for an application to the DHCR Main Street Program. The Committee unanimously recommended approval of this project. Ms. Bivens sponsored a motion to approve the recommendation, which was seconded by Ms. Janner, and approved unanimously by the Community Board.

An application was made by Toll Brothers and their architects for a new residential building to be constructed on a vacant site on Water Street. The building will be 7 stories on the Water Street side and 9 stories on Plymouth Street. There was extended discussion on the Committee about an unusual design for a two-story tower on the Plymouth Street side. The Committee recommended approval by a margin of 8-3. Mr. Knox made a motion to approve the recommendation, which was seconded by Ms. Zahler-Gringer and agreed to by the Community Board without dissent. Ms. Janner and Ms. Johnson abstained.

Ms. Janner sponsored a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lastowecky to endorse the recommendations of the Land-Use Committee pertaining to the District Needs Statement.

### **Committee to Report**

#### *Youth, Education, and Cultural Affairs*

Mr. Lenu Singletary proposed a new pilot program to incorporate high school students from the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade from Benjamin Banneker High School and the High School for Urban Justice. The plan is for the Youth, Education, and Cultural Affairs Committee to serve as a pilot for having students serve as public members of the Committee. The Committee has developed an extensive screening process, including the recommendations of guidance counselors. Mr. Ibelle and Mr. Knox sponsored and seconded a motion to approve the recommendation, which was unanimously approved. The Borough President's Office has been consulted by Chairman Dew and is supportive of this initiative. Ms. Janner asked if there were any insurance issues for including minors and Mr. Dew said no. Mr. Singletary emphasized that student enthusiasm for participation would be an important factor in selecting committee members. The students would be public members of the YECA Committee. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

#### *Health, Education, and Cultural Affairs*

Mr. Harrison presented on approximately a dozen liquor licenses, which were generally approved by the Committee.

#### *Parks and Recreation*

**At the most recent PARC meeting,** Ms. Regina Myers and her deputies presented to the PARC on the current plans for concessions in Brooklyn Bridge Park.

#### *Transportation and Public Safety*

Three sidewalk café applications were approved at the meeting. The application for sidewalk café at Café Buon Gusto on Montague Street was rejected for failing to conform to the appropriate regulations. The applicant will return to the Committee at the April meeting.

The construction on the Manhattan Bridge will begin shortly and disrupt bicycle congestion.

### **Representatives of Elected Officials**

Ms. Deborah Moore from the Office of Senator Velmanette Montgomery encouraged all audience members to call the Governor, Speaker, and Senate Conference Leader in support of the Senator's agenda for Juvenile Justice Reform.

Ms. Claire Hudson from the Office of Assemblywoman Joan Millman announced free testing for osteoporosis hosted by their office. In collaboration with a suite of elected officials, their office is hosting a Volunteer Fair at the Park Slope Armory on May 13 to encourage local volunteerism.

Mr. Alfred Chiodo from the Office of Councilwoman Letitia James re-announced the Flushing Avenue bicycle discussion.

Ms. Marian Wood announced that she expects Councilman Stephen Levin to move his office to an Atlantic Avenue storefront in June.

Community Board 2 Monthly Board Meeting  
April 14, 2010  
The Brooklyn Hospital Center

Ms. Olanike Alabi is sponsoring a Community Forum on the Family Court on April 29<sup>th</sup> and an Attorney General candidate forum at Brown Memorial Baptist Church.

Mr. Richard Drucker from the Brooklyn Navy Yard announced that he is now accepting applications for the summer employment program for college students. There are approximately thirty slots. Mr. Drucker clarified that the Brooklyn Navy Yard has not yet taken a position on the Flushing Avenue bike lane.

Mr. Dew acknowledged Ms. Berryl Williams from the Brooklyn Hospital Center.

Ms. Nannearl Blackshear of the Brooklyn Borough President's Office announced that B.P. Marty Markowitz is keynoting a statewide event for seniors. There is an event on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Borough Hall to bring together block associations from around the borough. Commissioner Cas Holloway will be offering a keynote address. B.P. Markowitz is gearing up for the Summer H.E.A.T. Program. On April 20<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at St. Francis College, the New York City Charter Revision Commission will be hosting the Brooklyn Charter Revision Commission.

**Open Session**

Ms. Diane J. Lewis, vice-president of the 84<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council, announced that the upcoming 84<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council meeting will be at the Dodge YMCA. The next 88<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council meeting will be located at 121 DeKalb Avenue in the Brooklyn Hospital Center.

Mr. Mark Greenridge spoke about public safety concerns and a recent fall by his mother.

Mr. Malachi Davis spoke on behalf of Community Counseling and Remediation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lincoln Restler