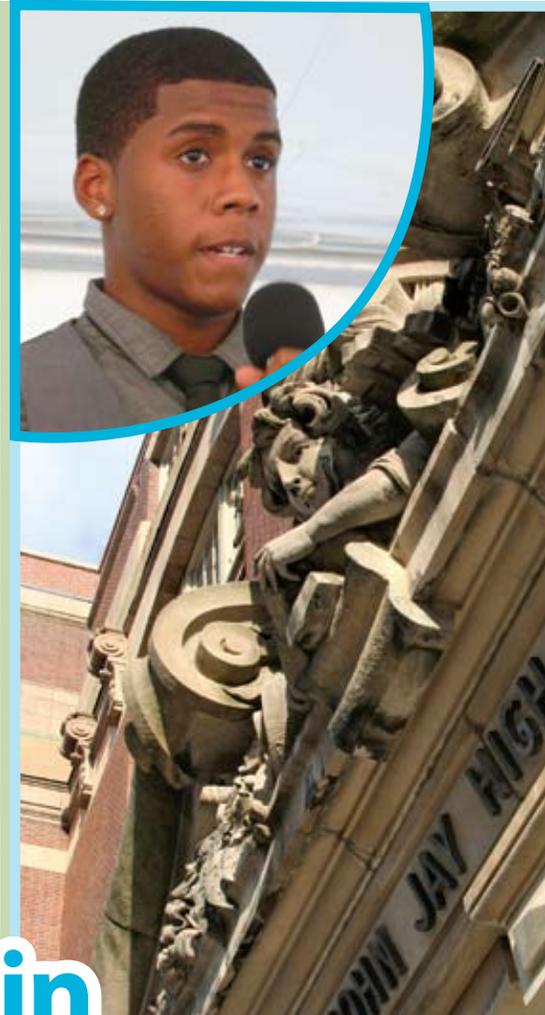


# Civic News

The Newsletter of the Park Slope Civic Council | [www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org](http://www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org)

Summer 2011



## The People in Our Neighborhood

Conversations with and honors for Park Slope leaders of today and tomorrow

inside ...

**Joe Holtz: Good Food, Cooperation, and Community Service**

**Mort Fleisher: Four Decades of Working for a Better Slope**

**Emily Lloyd: A New Leader for Prospect Park**

**Comment**

Getting Our Voices into Atlantic Yards

**News & Notes**

General Meeting Showcases

Major Successes in the Community

United for a New Megaproject Model

# Getting Our Voices into Atlantic Yards

**The Atlantic Yards** project is the single most transformative construction in the Downtown/Brownstone Brooklyn area in more than 50 years. The project is in the same league as the clearing of many blocks of Downtown Brooklyn starting in the late 1930s to make way for the Civic Center and Cadman Plaza, the construction of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, and the development of huge public housing projects to the west and south of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. They all drastically changed the face of Brooklyn in their time, and Atlantic Yards stands to do the same.

*For anything of value to be realized at Atlantic Yards in the foreseeable future, the project has to be rethought.*

How should the community — and by “community” I mean the residents of Park Slope and our neighbors in Gowanus, Boerum Hill, Downtown Brooklyn, Fort Greene, and Prospect Heights — respond to and live with this project?

In fact, the community is very active, pursuing legislative, legal, and activist approaches.

BrooklynSpeaks, a working group that counts the Park Slope Civic Council as an active sponsor, has been working with our elected officials for accountable and transparent governance of the project. Significant progress was made this year when the Atlantic Yards governance bill, sponsored by Assemblymember Hakeem Jeffries, passed the state Assembly. (Unfortunately, time ran out in the Senate for its passage this year.)

The bill puts forth a structure for governance around the

project, likely to be built over the span of two decades. The project sponsor, the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC), is a state agency and at present is accountable only to the governor. There is no formal process for public involvement, only the fig leaf of a community outreach office, whose liaison position is vacant as this is written.

On the legal front, BrooklynSpeaks, Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn (DDDB), and others have filed a lawsuit against the ESDC over the modified project scope and schedule issued in 2009. A decision in this case is imminent.

Activism continues. On June 15, DDDB unveiled — and the Park Slope Civic Council co-sponsored — a plan for the Atlantic Yards site called Unity 4. It is not a highly detailed, “down-in-the-weeds” set of specifications as much as it is a set of principles and guidelines. Meanwhile, BrooklynSpeaks sponsors have introduced Atlantic Yards Watch ([atlanticyardswatch.net](http://atlanticyardswatch.net)), where the public can keep track of project developments and report online how the project construction is affecting them.

A multicomunity task force, which includes the Civic Council as a member, has urged the institution of residential permit parking (RPP) in the neighborhoods surrounding the Downtown Brooklyn commercial core and the Atlantic Yards project site. RPP would not guarantee on-street parking to neighborhood residents but would give them the first shot. The New York City Department of Transportation now seems interested in RPP; in 2008, they coupled it to the Mayor's congestion-pricing proposal, and when congestion pricing

*continued on page 8*

## Civic News

The newsletter of the  **PARK SLOPE CIVIC COUNCIL**  
Summer 2011 | Volume 73, No. 4

### Trustees

Michael Cairl, *President*  
Lauri Schindler, *First Vice President*  
Gilly Youner, *Second Vice President*  
Robert Gilbert, *Treasurer*  
Judith Lief, *Recording Secretary*  
Josh Levin, *Membership Secretary*

David Alquist, S.J. Avery, Robert Braun,  
John Casson, Darryl Cook, Robert Eidelberg,  
Joan Emerson, Carole Gould, Craig Hammerman,  
David Herman (*appointed*), Isabel Hill, Lyn Hill,  
Nelly Isaacson, Kyle Johnson, Josh Levy,  
Daniel Meeter, Cathy Sokil Milnikiewicz,  
Melinda Morris, Sarah Murphy, Chandru Murthi,  
Greg Sutton, Rebecca Welch

David Herman, *Civic News Editor/Designer*  
([editor@parkslopeciviccouncil.org](mailto:editor@parkslopeciviccouncil.org))

Judith Lief, *Copy Editor*

*Contributors:* Michael Cairl, Bernard J. Graham,  
Sarah Murphy

The Park Slope Civic Council is one of the oldest civic associations in Brooklyn. We identify and address quality-of-life issues important to the community; create and support projects geared to improving and protecting the neighborhood; and assist local nonprofit organizations that benefit those living and working in Park Slope. Our many ongoing programs include the Halloween Parade, the Civic Sweeps, community forums, and a holiday toy drive. Our annual House Tour raises thousands of dollars for neighborhood initiatives. All are welcome to join. To learn more about us, go to [www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org](http://www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org).

CIVIC NEWS (ISSN 0031-2169) (USPS 114-740) is published quarterly, for \$40 per year including membership, by the Park Slope Civic Council Inc. (founded April 14, 1896, as the South Brooklyn Board of Trade), 729 Carroll St., Brooklyn, NY 11215. Periodicals postage paid at Brooklyn, NY. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Civic News, c/o Josh Levin, 729 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215.

We welcome submissions. Articles, images, and suggestions submitted become the property of the Park Slope Civic Council upon acceptance for publication. Send unsolicited materials and photos to Editor, Civic News, 729 Carroll St., Brooklyn, NY 11215; or [civicnews@parkslopeciviccouncil.org](mailto:civicnews@parkslopeciviccouncil.org). Tel.: 718.832.8227.

Thanks to our supersponsor  
for supporting  
the Park Slope Civic Council:



ON THE COVER: From left: Joe Holtz, Lovgren Award winner, and the Park Slope Food Coop; Emily Lloyd, new Prospect Park administrator, and the Bailey Fountain in Grand Army Plaza; and Clayton Armstrong, Mary Laverne Allman Scholarship recipient from the Secondary School for Law at John Jay High School. Armstrong photo by Jonathan Lief; others by David Herman.

# Good Food, Cooperation, and Community Service

**The last but** certainly not least of the International Principles of Cooperation that guide the actions of cooperatives worldwide is concern for the community: “Cooperatives try to improve their communities by setting policies that benefit the neighborhood at large.” It’s a quality that the Park Slope Food Coop takes very seriously, and it’s one of the reasons why general manager Joe Holtz received this year’s Lovgren Professional Award for community service from the Park Slope Civic Council.

“The fact that we get an award from a community organization like the Civic Council means that we’re doing our job,” said Holtz, who with nine colleagues helped establish the Food Coop in 1973. “It was an honor for me, and it was an honor for the Coop.” Holtz received the award at the Civic Council’s general meeting in June. (Read more about the event and other honorees on page 9.)

In 1975, just two years after the Coop took shape, Holtz became its first paid employee, in the role of general coordinator. Two decades later, he added the title of general manager, working with the coordinators to “make sure the Coop moves forward, especially if we’re deadlocked on an issue,” said the native Brooklynite and longtime Park Slope resident. Today, there are 68 staff members of the Coop, including nine general coordinators.

The goal of the Food Coop has always been to “get good food and make it affordable, and let’s get people to work together and cooperate, and help build a community,” Holtz noted. “And let’s try to do that really well.”

That philosophy has helped the Coop thrive. After all, it’s not just the full-time staff that has grown — membership has reached about 16,000 (up from 5,000 just a decade ago), all of whom are required to work a 2¼-hour shift every four weeks so they can shop the well-stocked, often crowded store. Average sales per square foot at the Coop are 12 times the national average for a grocery store.

The local institution has been a strong force for a better neighborhood: encouraging environmental responsibility (its produce, for example, is often organic and locally grown; it offers recycling for usually nonrecyclable plastics); livable streets (a Sunday bicycle valet program encourages shoppers to travel to the Coop by bike); and community service. Members can work their shifts on such neighborhood-friendly activities as the Civic Council’s Civic Sweeps and at the CHIPS soup kitchen.

Park Slope Civic Council



Joe Holtz

Cart walkers — perhaps the most visible job to the public because of their work outside, their day-glow vests, and the noisy carts they haul — illustrate how the Food Coop strives to help its neighbors. The need for this task “boils down to two words: fire safety,” Holtz said. Shoppers who drive to the Coop would often double-park to load their cars. That made it difficult if not impossible for emergency vehicles to leave Squad 1’s firehouse, located next door. “We were going to be responsible eventually for the fire truck not saving someone’s life,” he said. “We told members who chose to drive not to bring their car out front.” Workers walk shoppers to their cars with their groceries, “and then we’ll bring your cart back. Eventually, we made it both a car-delivery and home-delivery program.

“We try to be responsible. Hopefully any business would figure that out, especially if you’re a busy business.”

The Food Coop was founded with two main purposes: First and foremost, was to help people afford really good food by using member labor to bring down costs. “We also felt that there was a lot of effort in our society to focus on individual success. There’s nothing wrong with that,” Holtz said, “but there should be community success, too. A lot of the founders felt strongly that this was a community-building thing, and it was good to have a collective community success built on cooperation.

“The neighborhood is great for the Coop,”



he commented, “but I think the Coop is great for the neighborhood, too. Not just because we help with the Civic Sweep. I think the Coop has grown to the point where we bring people into the neighborhood, and I think that’s good for the business community.” Today, the Food Coop draws people from Park Slope and elsewhere, especially from the several neighborhoods within walking distance of the Union Street location, including Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, Carroll Gardens, Boerum Hill, and Fort Greene.

Holtz has also made a point of helping other food coops

to start, we would have less pressure on us from people who want to join our Food Coop.”

The Coop has been working with start-ups around the nation, most recently in Chester, Pa., just south of Philadelphia, and in Missoula, Mont. “We’re very supportive of these coops — they can visit, we can help them find a place to stay — and we’re very free with our time for that.”

Holtz enjoys being a general manager of the Food Coop and a member, too. In his full-time role, his greatest pleasure is to see members begin to understand what a cooperative truly means. “It’s great to see someone come into the Coop who doesn’t really ‘get it’ — they’re joining just to save money but they don’t get the idea that this is theirs, they’re an owner, that they can get involved and have a say. They can stop using the word *they* and start using *we* when they refer to the Coop. It’s great to see that conversion.”

As for being a member, the best part is the great food. “I love the food that comes from the local farms that take care of their land and nurture their soil, and the food tastes even better. I love that I can buy a cucumber here in August that tastes like candy. The Coop has been very careful about the food and makes many correct choices about the food, and I get to benefit from that as a member.”

Holtz also likes to see people working together for a better community. “There’s so much opportunity to be isolated in our American life,” he said. “I think we’re social beings, and some people get out of touch with that. To be at a Civic Council meeting or see people working in local gardens [which the Food Coop supports with composting assistance], all those things make the neighborhood richer and make the people richer.”

One concern of his is how expensive Park Slope has become for people who want to live or run a business here. “Good people who benefited from changes in the neighborhood [over the last 30-plus years] may have to move out of the neighborhood because they can’t economically afford it,” he said. Also, “I don’t want stores that offer needed services go and be replaced by something we already have. ... I’m not saying I know how to do anything about that, but it would be nice if the costs of being in the neighborhood, whether as a business or as an individual family, would stop going up.”

Meanwhile, the Food Coop is prospering, and seems likely to remain so for years to come. “I do want to encourage the members to have a robust discussion about the future of the Coop,” he commented. “Like should we open up a branch someday? If so, when? Where? Why? Would it hurt the other coops that are opening to blossom? A lot of times, businesses have to improve, but I don’t think businesses *have* to expand to survive.

“I want to keep improving the Coop,” Holtz concluded. “I’m always interested in having it make sense in as many people’s lives as possible.”

— David Herman



*‘The neighborhood is great for the Coop, but I think the Coop is great for the neighborhood, too.’*

succeed. Locally, he is working with new cooperatives in Bay Ridge, Prospect Lefferts Gardens, Bushwick, Fort Greene/Clinton Hill, and Bedford-Stuyvesant. “It’s important to help because of another guiding principle of cooperation: to help other coops. We think we have an obligation to help those people form a coop. We also believe coops are good for people and that there should be more of them.

“There’s also a selfish reason,” he added. Membership in the Park Slope institution has been growing by leaps and bounds, but the store’s capacity can’t. “If we could get other

**BROWN HARRIS STEVENS**

Established 1873

**Libby Ryan**

*Senior Vice President*

Specializing in civilized and discreet  
Brooklyn real estate transactions



718.399.4103 • lryan@bhsusa

BrownHarrisStevens.com



# Four Decades of Working for A Better Slope

**Mort Fleischer has** spent more than 40 years helping the Civic Council make Park Slope a better place to live. A past president of the organization, he stepped down as a Council trustee just last year. In honor of his hard work, he received this year's George Lovgren Volunteer Award (turn to page 9 for more about the award.)

I took the opportunity to sit with Mort recently, and I asked about how he came to settle in Park Slope and understand what it is that led him to dedicate a good part of his life to the civic activities of Brooklyn.

Mort tells his story of being a young man living in the housing projects, moving from Canarsie to Brownsville and then to Crown Heights. According to Mort, nobody was well off but people got along. There was wide diversity in the public schools he attended, and there were teachers and principals who made a difference in these kids' lives. Mort recalls August LaDato, an exceptionally dedicated principal at P.S. 167 on Eastern Parkway who had an impact on guiding him toward being a success in life. This was a time when neighborhoods were changing quickly, and various ethnic groups all shared the local schools.

He also fondly remembered his days at Erasmus Hall. Erasmus prepared Mort for the working world so that he could land his first real job, in production with CBS in the early 1950s. But the urge to go into sales won out, and Mort found himself with a job selling bank vaults. Initially thinking he was taking a job selling cemetery vaults, he was a little confused when he broke the news to his wife Gloria (the two have been married now for 47 years).

Bank vaults it was, and Mort Fleischer applied himself to it. The job provided opportunity to the scrappy Jewish kid from Brooklyn who needed to break into the fairly exclusive business. Mort and banks worked out better than expected, and the job provided raises, promotions, and opportunities to work with all the major banks in New York. It also allowed Mort and Gloria to buy a home in the southern part of Park Slope in 1977, when the "South Slope" had no official name.

Those were the days when ROSAS, the civic association of the South Slope, began. Mort and Carl Kaisermann, another longtime Civic Council trustee, lobbied to clear up drug dealing and pressure slum landlords to clean up their property. The ROSAS success led to alliances with the Civic Council: Working with the very supportive Council President Joannie Ryan, Mort and Carl sought to expand Park Slope by including the southern section into "Park Slope."

The efforts took off with the first House Tour centered in the South Slope around 1980. Mort lights up with pride when he tells of raising \$14,000 from the House Tour. More importantly, it put the South Slope on the map.

Mort was Civic Council president from 1982 to 1984. ROSAS later formally merged with the Civic Council when the South Slope economically and socially established itself, and the two groups could focus on the entire neighborhood.

Park Slope Civic Council



Mort Fleischer was presented with a citation from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke by new Civic Council trustee Lyn Hill, at New York Methodist Hospital's inpatient rehabilitation unit (following hip replacement surgery) in June.

As he looks back on his efforts over the many years, it's clear that Mort Fleischer is immensely proud of his volunteer efforts. When he talks of these accomplishments, you can still see the feistiness and focus that helped him along the way. **N**

— Bernard J. Graham is a past Civic Council president and trustee.

**WLR | WARREN  
LEWIS  
REALTY**

Serving Park Slope  
With Integrity and Professionalism  
Since 1987

Aroza Sanjana, *President*  
Ellen Blau, *Senior Vice President*  
Judith Lief, *Senior Vice President*  
Jose Nunez, *Senior Vice President*  
Marc Garstein, *Founder*

Virginia Hunter, Lisa Garcia, Jessie Torres,  
Lori Schlussel, Tom Curtis, Margaret Laurens,  
Ron Saltarelly, Galina Ginzburg,  
Omar Casado, Kim Kolbert, Michelle Herrera,  
Marcie Bachar, Ryan Abraham, Sue Hagen,  
Deborah Brown, Aaron Isquith,  
Justine McLaughlin

[www.warrenlewis.com](http://www.warrenlewis.com)  
123a Seventh Avenue • 718.638.6500

# A New Leader for Prospect

**The day after** Emily Lloyd moved with her family from Boston to Brooklyn in 1983, she took her two young children to the Third Street playground in Prospect Park. “We thought it would be like a playground in Boston, a busy and happy place, babysitters, people with kids.” Even though it was a beautiful October day, “the park was empty, the playground was in terrible condition; it was really depressing.” She later found out that “unless you went with a group and stayed near the drives, the park was a little scary.”

Fortunately, the park has changed a lot since then, becoming a safe, fun, and very active green space for Park Slope and indeed all of Brooklyn. That turnaround came thanks to efforts of the community and of the Prospect Park Alliance (PPA). The most visible advocate for this change was Tupper Thomas, who stepped down earlier this year as the park’s administrator and PPA president.

Lloyd, a resident of Park Slope for nearly three decades, watched those improvements year by year and found them “thrilling.” In February, she assumed Thomas’s dual roles, and hopes to build on her predecessor’s achievements for an even stronger Prospect Park.

The park’s new chief has a history of government leadership, project management, and urban planning. Prior to assuming this job, she managed the commercial real estate division of Trinity Wall Street. Lloyd served as New York City commissioner of environmental protection from 2005 to 2008, as Columbia University’s executive vice president for administration from 1994 to 2003, and as the city’s sanitation commissioner in the mid-1990s. She holds a master’s in urban planning from the University of Pennsylvania, and Loeb Fellowship from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

“I just think it’s such a privilege to have the opportunity to work on Prospect Park and with all the people who care about the park,” she said. “It’s such a different endeavor for me in terms of the city work I’ve done. With Sanitation and Environmental Protection, people certainly wanted the service you provided, but it didn’t bring them much joy. With the park, people all want to be in the park and love using the park.”

Prospect Park plays an important role for many people, Lloyd noted, in part because of the density found in Brooklyn neighborhoods. “People may love living in the dense urban environment — I certainly do; I lived in the exurbs and I



Emily Lloyd

got out of there as fast as I could — but still they feel the need to let the stress of living in that density fall away. There are plenty of ways for people to do that with headphones, yoga, etc., but there’s something almost primal about doing it in a natural setting like the park, with grass and trees and water and open sky.”

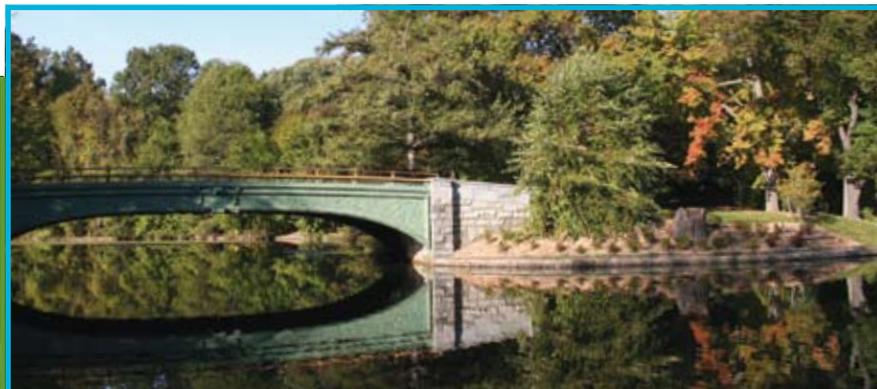
She also tied the park’s success to its role as a community builder. Its designer, Frederick Law Olmsted, believed a great

park should accommodate a lot of activities in a spacious environment, and create an “ease of association” that made visitors feel comfortable in their pursuits alongside other people. “Having a place where people can come together and feel welcome ... is really the first building block of making Brooklyn work as the kind of neighborhood-oriented place it is,” she said.

Of course, those guiding principles would mean little if people stayed away from the park, as when Lloyd first moved to Brooklyn. She credits her predecessor with providing the necessary leadership for the transformation. Thomas helped take “Prospect Park from being really derelict and depopulated, and figured out how to engage people, and how to engage the city and foundations, all to come together to fix the basic infrastructure of the park and make it beautiful again. Everything from fixing up the Picnic House so people love to have events there to the reconstruction of the waterway and the restoration of the Woodlands — she didn’t miss any part of it.”

Thomas’s success fostered a steady growth in visitors to the park, from surrounding neighborhoods and beyond. “Utilization keeps going up, but availability of government support has been going down because of the economy,” Lloyd said. (Hence the need for the PPA to cut some education programs and positions in May.) “That leaves a big job for the Alliance. Utilization creates a lot of wear and tear. In the busiest areas, it

Photos by David Herman



means getting the trash picked up after the busy weekend, and finding a way to pay overtime so collection can begin prior to the standard hours.”

Greater crowds have also meant more people going into the Woodlands, where restoration is still ongoing. “We really need to know that we’re protecting the Woodlands areas, where for 20 years we’ve been letting the natural ground cover regenerate itself from the leaves and trees that fall down, and not letting the press of people do damage to the area. We don’t have the staff to be watching them all the time.” More signage, something “Olmsted was not a huge fan of at every corner,” may be required to give people the information needed about how to use the park.

“The question of signage and enforcement is something we’d want to address in a very thoughtful way — something we’d need to take on long-term.”

Another challenge, also due to the current economy, is funding for Lakeside Center. The project has already removed the old Wollman skating rink. In its place will be a lake area and shoreline restored to the park’s original elegant plan. Nearby, in what is now a parking lot, will be a new ice rink open all year for other activities.

The PPA must still raise another \$17 million for the project, and “because of the government cutbacks, we probably won’t get some of the government money we had anticipated. We have to figure out how to fill that last step.” With “construction going like gangbusters,” the project remains on schedule for completion in 2013.

The park is facing other short-term challenges that go beyond just funding. One recent crisis has involved the culling of geese, a city-led program that last year killed hundreds of geese in the park in the name of airplane safety. This year, park staff have developed a new goose-management plan, praised by the Humane Society and New York City Audubon, that will make the green space less hospitable for the birds by using dogs to scare geese away, oiling eggs to reduce the likelihood of new births, and planting ground cover near the water that the birds won’t eat.

“It’s difficult to achieve a balance [between wildlife management and aviation safety] in a park where your philosophy is to foster affection and respect for wildlife,” she said. The culling “is something I would rather they not do in Prospect Park, although I respect the responsibility for making the airports safe.” (At press time, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will reportedly not be culling in Prospect Park this summer.)

Lloyd also discussed the alterations in traffic taking place around Grand Army Plaza over the summer. “The Plaza area is so gorgeous and so underutilized because you have to risk your life to get there,” she said. “I’m so thrilled that they’re doing those changes because the plan really is going to make it possible to cross at any of the logical places in the plaza. I think we’ll get a lot more people who live around Grand Army Plaza using the fountain area as their front yard.”

Further in the future, Lloyd would like to see facilities

and programs in Prospect Park that focus on childhood health. “There’s a natural fit for that with the park, but we’re just in the early stages of thinking how we can participate in that without assuming a lot of expenses — where the park is a resource but where we’re not making something out of whole cloth. There’s a lot of interest among the groups in the park’s Community Committee for these kinds of programs,” especially from organizations on the east side of the park in relation to childhood diabetes, obesity, and heart disease. “We need to join that conversation.”



**In addition to a new all-year skating rink and renovated parkland, the Lakeside Center project will restore views to Music Island in the Lake (right) that are now blocked by the old rink.**

As for her own activities, Lloyd enjoys walking around the park on Saturdays and Sundays, “because you see all of Brooklyn — some regulars, some people here for the first time, all very communal.” Even though she’s been coming to the park for decades, she’s still making new discoveries. On one of her first days on the job, a colleague took her to the Vale of Cashmere.

“I had never been there before in 28 years,” she said. “It was so beautiful. The design of the water and the way it terraces down. I only thought there were woods back there. It was a very thrilling moment — I felt so connected to Olmsted, that this was the kind of joy he wanted to give people, to fill their soul.”

Stepping into the roles held by Lloyd’s predecessor has been a challenge of a different sort. “Coming into a transition, I always try to think about what are my experiences that might be useful here,” Lloyd said. “We of course want to maintain what Tupper accomplished, and because I’m a different person we have to find different ways of doing that. I’ll have different strengths, and as a staff we’re just figuring that out now — in my relationship with the park, my relationship with the board, my relationship with the staff.”

Another legacy of Thomas’s leadership “that will be fun to do is that she really understood how important the connections with community organizations were,” Lloyd said. The Community Committee, a coalition of some 80 local organizations interested in a stronger park, “has in its culture a history of coming together to solve problems as opposed to coming together to get only *my* problem solved. They love it when you throw them a really good problem that they can really work on.

“That’s something very rich, and I hope will be very vital during my time here.”

— *David Herman*

*continued from page 2*

ing died in the State Legislature, RPP was off the table.

At the same time, ESDC and developer Forest City Ratner go on as though nothing has changed since the environmental impact study for the project was released in 2006. In fact, much has changed. There is property and business development in the vicinity of Atlantic Yards that did not exist in 2006, but at the same time a slow economy has sapped the market for much of what was proposed for the site. Promises of “affordable” housing and good jobs that were always iffy at best have evaporated, and many who supported the project have been left empty-handed.

For anything of value to be realized at Atlantic Yards in the foreseeable future, the project has to be rethought — brought out of its present opaque governance and away from its single developer. We support the proposal by BrooklynSpeaks to create an Atlantic Yards Development Corporation, where the community will have a meaningful role, as a subsidiary of the ESDC to oversee the project. This local development corporation (LDC) must include elected officials and community representatives as permanent members of its governing board. An LDC is not a new or foreign concept: The Queens West development in Long Island City, to take one example, is governed by an LDC.

We want and deserve a process where planning decisions are respectful of the host community. The result will be more than “just” better planning. Long after all the other actors have left the scene we will still be here, and we will have to live with the consequences, good and bad, of the actions of

others. To get to this point, the community, its advocates, our City Council members and state legislators, and the three community boards affected by Atlantic Yards must act together on a common agenda that wraps up governance issues, development issues, legislative issues, and more.

We must also reach out to our neighbors whose support of the ESDC project has not been rewarded, inviting them to be part of a common community initiative. Looking at the BrooklynSpeaks meeting and the Unity 4 presentation that took place only four days apart to capacity crowds, we appear to be moving in the right direction.

In a question-and-answer session after a performance last December of *In the Footprint*, a play by The Civilians about this project, my longtime colleague Jo Anne Simon noted all too correctly that we had all played our assigned roles in getting to where we are now. Today is a new day and we are assigning our own roles, mindful that the road ahead will not be easy and the results we seek will not be quick in coming. Too much is at stake to let up now. Make no mistake, the Park Slope Civic Council is in this for the long haul.

For information about the community’s initiatives, ESDC’s plan to deal with the traffic and transportation impacts of Atlantic Yards, and more, go to [www.atlanticyards-watch.net](http://www.atlanticyards-watch.net) and [www.brooklynspeaks.net](http://www.brooklynspeaks.net). Much is happening, and by no means is it a case of “it’s all over but the shouting.” Get involved and stay tuned. Join the Civic Council — or a neighboring community organization — and help us remain fully engaged on Atlantic Yards.

— *Michael Cairl is president of the Park Slope Civic Council.*



JACKIE WEISBERG PHOTOGRAPHY

SPECIALIZING IN  
CHILDRENS PORTRAITS

718-789-6571

JACKIEWEISBERG.COM

**Not Just Another Pretty Face!**

From Teacher to Lawyer to Real Estate Ace.  
Let's get together to see where it leads.  
So we can address all your Real Estate Needs.



**ARLENE GREENDLINGER**  
Real Estate LLC

Tel (718) 857-5360  
Fax (718) 623-3323  
[www.arlenegreendlinger.com](http://www.arlenegreendlinger.com)

**Low Commission • High Profile • Undivided Attention**

**park slope**

**copy & shipping**



**FEATURING**

- color / b&w photocopying
- printing from digital files
- color copies / prints as low as 35¢
- document scanning
- binding / booklet printing
- digital oversize / blueprint printing
- document shredding
- graphic design / typesetting

SHIPPING & PACKING DEPT.

**UPS • FedEx • USPS**

123 Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11215

Phone: 718 783 0268 Fax: 718 622 8373 Email: [orders@parkslopecopy.com](mailto:orders@parkslopecopy.com)

# General Meeting Showcases Major Successes in the Community

**Highlighting a year's worth** of accomplishments, honoring community leaders of today and tomorrow, and having a great time were all on the agenda of this year's Civic Council general meeting, held on June 2.

The annual event convened for the first time at The Green-Wood Cemetery. The local historic institution not only donated a spacious tent in a beautiful spot for the meeting but also provided shuttle buses, tours, and beverages for the postmeeting pot-luck dinner.

Civic Council President Michael Cairl chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone to the gathering. The event started with a vote to approve the Council's new treasurer, Robert Gilbert, and five new trustees: S.J. Avery, Darryl Cook, Carole Gould, Lyn Hill, and Josh Levin. (See the spring *Civic News* for more information on these newly elected Council officials.)

Cairl then went on to recognize trustees stepping down from their posts: Susan Fox, "a whirlwind of activity" who founded the online community Park Slope Parents and helped organize the past few Civic Council Halloween Parades; Bernard Graham, an Appellate Division judge who will remain on the Council's Committee on Trustees; previous treasurer Eric McClure, a livable-streets advocate who plans to devote more time to the Park Slope Neighbors online community; Tom

Miskel, a "steadying and thoughtful influence" with both the Civic Council and Community Board 6; and Candace Woodward, who steadfastly and successfully headed the House Tour and the Civic Sweeps for many years. "We

year's annual forum, Growing a Business in Park Slope; and cooperation with other community groups on Atlantic Yards and Grand Army Plaza.

Greg Sutton then announced the recipients of this year's Civic Council grants,



Scholarship winners Clayborn Armstrong, Kerissa Ellis, and Eniola Alawoya, in front of the chapel at Green-Wood Cemetery. Photo by Jonathan Lief.

hope these trustees will come back to help the Council in the years to come," Cairl said.

The Civic Council president then discussed the organization's many accomplishments over the past year, including another great House Tour; successful efforts to expand the Park Slope Historic District to the South Slope and eventually to more of the North Slope; this

which are funded by the House Tour, to eight local schools and nonprofits. "These are phenomenal organizations," said the Grants Committee chair, "and we're proud to support them" with \$5,600 in awards. (See the spring *Civic News* for the full list of grant recipients.)

Next came the annual scholarships for community service to students in the three secondary schools based in John Jay High School. "These students became very well known in their schools thanks to their service to the community," said Joan Emerson, who heads the Scholarship Committee, "and we're pleased to help them move on to college." Each award is worth \$1,000.

The first award, the Mary Laverne Allman Scholarship, went to Clayborn Armstrong, a student at the Secondary School for Law. Armstrong volunteered many hours at a local nature center and at his church, and has worked to help other students preparing to go to college. He will be attending Stony Brook

**Edward Jones**<sup>®</sup>  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

**Robert Goodman, Financial Advisor**

339A 7th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215 | 718-499-9734

University (SUNY) in the fall.

The Rosemarie and Francis J. Kazeroi Scholarship went to Eniola Alawoya from the Secondary School for Journalism. “This is a special young lady,” said principal Abbie Reif. Alawoya has been a regular volunteer at the KidsZone soup kitchen, helping children who are less fortunate or overlooked. Her citizenship status — she arrived here from Nigeria at age 5, and is an undocumented resident — has made her ineligible for financial aid from the private collages who have already accepted her. Alawoya will use her award to attend SUNY-Oswego in the fall.

Kerissa Ellis, from the Secondary School for Research, earned the Evelyn and Everett Ortner Scholarship. Ellis was a tutor in the AVID program (Advancement Via Individual Determination), where she helped other students get ready for four-year colleges and learned the importance of education as a growing experience. “She’s a great example of how community service enhances lives,” said counselor Lisa Marie Calderon.

The George Lovgren Awards for community service followed on the evening’s agenda. The honors are named for the Park Slope activist who in the 1960s worked tirelessly to save the Union Street firehouse (today, Squad 1) from closure.

This year’s Lovgren Volunteer Award went to Mort Fleischer, a past Civic Council president who served the organization for some four decades and who helped build both the House Tour and the local Toys for Tots holiday program. (Read more about Fleischer on page 5.)

Bernard Graham accepted the honor on behalf of Fleischer, who was recovering from surgery. Graham described Fleischer as “unyielding, unpretentious, principled, combative, dedicated, and kind.”

The other Lovgren Award, for professional service, went to Joe Holtz, general manager of the Park Slope Food Coop. “He embodies all the values the Civic Council has been working on,” said Gilly Youner, the Council’s second vice president, including “community service, cooperation, and awareness of the environment.”

Representatives from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, and Assemblymember Joan Millman were also on hand to present commendations to Holtz. (An interview

with Holtz starts on page 3.)

The official part of the meeting concluded, and attendees took part in great conversation and food. Borough President Marty Markowitz soon arrived to the meeting, and spoke about the achievements of the Council and the honorees. “Park Slope is great in part because of the Park Slope Civic Council,” he said, “and the better Park Slope is, the better Brooklyn is.” Markowitz then went on to recognize Fleischer’s work — “active, resilient, dedicated, every neighborhood should have 100 Mort Fleischers” — and presented Holtz with a citation.

The evening was special and fun for



Joe Holtz received a citation from Borough President Markowitz.

everyone. The Civic Council thanks Steven Estroff, Green-Wood Cemetery’s manager of education and outreach, and his staff for the gracious donations, hard work, and excellent tours. Thanks also go to everyone who brought food and drink for the pot-luck gathering. **n**

“I was afraid my heart disease was going to slow me down.”

The specialists at the New York Methodist-Cornell Heart Center provide a full range of heart care services in the newest, most modern cardiac center in Brooklyn. The center’s services range from diagnostic procedures and medical and interventional cardiology to minimally invasive and conventional cardiac surgery – performed by a team of outstanding physicians, including surgeons from the renowned Weill Cornell Medical Center at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital.

We fixed that.

New York Methodist – Cornell Heart Center

**nym**  
NEW YORK METHODIST HOSPITAL

Member  
NewYork-Presbyterian Healthcare System  
Affiliate: Weill Cornell Medical College

IN IT FOR LIFE

506 Sixth Street, Brooklyn • 866-84-HEART • www.nym.org



# United for a New Megaproject Model

**Construction on** the Barclays Center arena is well under way at Atlantic Yards, but the rest of the 22-acre project remains in doubt thanks in large part to our slow economy. With uncertainty surrounding the megaproject, is there finally room for the community to create a new model for responsible development?

The hope for a better plan drew a standing-room-only crowd to the first meeting of Unity 4, an effort to re-engage the community in the project and shape a compelling framework for the site's future. The Civic Council was among the several community groups and elected officials sponsoring the event, held June 15 at The Commons on Atlantic Avenue.

The meeting was the first step in a six-to-nine-month planning process that will demand community participation. Organizers expect Unity 4 to be a revision of the first Unity plan, created by community leaders in 2007 in response to the initial Atlantic Yards plans.

"The original plan from [developer] Forest City Ratner was a pipe dream," said City Councilmember Letitia James, one of the meeting's organizers. Instead, "Can we reclaim public assets for the community? We need to recommit ourselves to the struggle ... for community development and responsible development."

The only plans moving forward right now are for the basketball arena and a massive 1,100-spot parking lot. "We need to look at the reality of the [Forest City Ratner] plan, which will take much longer than planned, and re-envision the space," said Ron Shiffman, former city planning commissioner and longtime head of the Pratt Center for Community Development.

"The politics involved will be changing over the next couple of years," he added, with a new mayor and borough president who might support a different plan, unlike the officials now in those positions. "We need to commit to the fight for affordable housing, and develop an open

and equitable model for planning."

According to Daniel Goldstein of Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, the land beyond the arena and parking lot — Phase 2, east of Sixth Avenue — is "not fully under Forest City's control." He noted that "there's the possibility for leverage when politicians change to get some of that land back."

All of this means a new plan by and for the community may have room to flourish. "It's not just about the arena," said presenter Marshall Brown, professor of architecture and urban design at the Illinois Institute of Technology and a former Fort Greene resident, "but about the future of our communities."

Gib Veconi, of BrooklynSpeaks, discussed the need for monitoring and governance of the site in order to help get better results for the community. He told the audience that the legal fight over approval of the developer's general project plan is still ongoing. With no other oversight over construction, there is a pressing need for transparency in both development and construction. Atlantic Yards Watch ([atlanticyardswatch.net](http://atlanticyardswatch.net)), a website set up by the Civic Council and other community groups, can act as a "community watchdog" over the project, Veconi said.

"We need a vision of development that is different and that resonates with more people," said Councilmember Brad Lander. "We need to get the head of the ESDC and the governor to engage on this."

"This is a moment of opportunity," added Councilmember Steven Levin. "The world of 2003 [when Forest City Ratner unveiled its Atlantic Yards plan] doesn't exist anymore — there's no more velocity of capital." Candidates in 2013 "should get on the record about development moving forward."

Organizers for Unity 4 hope to take advantage of the economic and political changes around Atlantic Yards to shape a more responsive model. Plans are taking shape for the next Unity 4 meeting in the fall. Visit our website at [parkslopeciviccouncil.org](http://parkslopeciviccouncil.org) or the Atlantic Yards Report at [atlanticyardsreport.blogspot.com](http://atlanticyardsreport.blogspot.com) for updates.

— Reported by Sarah Murphy, written by David Herman

## Community within a Community



Our elegant setting and full schedule of activities provide a warm and engaging environment. From the rooftop garden and variety of apartment layouts to our caring and knowledgeable staff, we offer a wide range of amenities and services tailored to meet each individual's unique needs.



- 24 Hour On-site Licensed Home Care Agency
- Licensed Practical Nurses 24/7
- On-site Physician Visits
- Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy
- Ophthalmologist, Audiologist, Dentist, Podiatrist and Psychologist Services
- *essentia*®—A Secure Memory Impairment Program

One Prospect Park West • Brooklyn, New York 11215 • 718.622.8400  
[www.prospectparkresidence.com](http://www.prospectparkresidence.com)

# Civic News

PARK SLOPE CIVIC COUNCIL

729 Carroll Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11215  
*Return Service Requested*



PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE PAID  
AT BROOKLYN, NY

## Join the Park Slope Civic Council!

Become part of one of Brooklyn's most influential community organizations.

Sign up online at [www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org/joinus](http://www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org/joinus),  
or mail this form and a check to

**Park Slope Civic Council, 729 Carroll St., Brooklyn, NY 11215**

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

e-mail

- Household: \$40     Senior Citizen: \$20     Nonprofit Organization: \$30  
 Business/Professional: \$100     Patron: \$100     Benefactor: \$250 or more

E-mail questions to [mail@parkslopeciviccouncil.org](mailto:mail@parkslopeciviccouncil.org), or call 718.832.8227

## Advertise in *Civic News*

**Support your business,  
the Civic Council,  
and your community!**

For more information,  
including ad rates and specifications,  
*e-mail*

[civicnews@parkslopeciviccouncil.org](mailto:civicnews@parkslopeciviccouncil.org)

*or visit*

[www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org/  
civic-news-ads](http://www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org/civic-news-ads)



**MIX**  
Paper from  
responsible sources  
**FSC® C101537**