

Brooklyn Community Board 17
4112 Farragut Road, Brooklyn NY 11210
Parks and Beautification Committee Meeting
ONLINE
March 3rd, 2026

Call to Order: Parks & Beautification Committee Meeting was called to order by Dorothy Gordon at 7:33 p.m.

Chairperson's Report:

- N/A

Approval of meeting minutes

- Approval tabled for April Committee Meeting

Presentation(s)

- *Lorial Crowder and Austin Arocena – Big Reuse*
 - Presentation emphasizes proper tree care techniques and environmental benefits.
 - Compost application and education through Reuse Centers, with a new center in Bushwick, Community Compost Network— collect food scraps from over 75 community partners.
 - Works in 16 council districts who provide discretionary funds to work with community partners, individuals and the DOE to host events.
 - Teach New Yorkers how to care for street trees: how to remove trash, weeds & overgrowth from tree beds, types of mulch, tools & supplies and post-care after stewarding the trees.
 - Best types of fencing and tree guards and what to avoid when planting a tree.
 - Provided a Street Tree Care Guide
 - Compost giveaways from DSNY for individual compost needs. Compost palettes for community garden can be ordered from Staten Island
 - Compost being a multistep process that takes a few months to process—matured and processed compost does not attract rodents.
 - Rain gardens are done through a program with DOT to help with water runoff.
 - [Submit reports](#) to 311 for complaints on condition of trees, fallen/broken branches or needs trimming.

New Business:

- April 11th event with Parks & Beautification committee and Big Reuse.
- March 21st event, 11am – 4pm Family Day at Wycoff House Museum
- April 7th for committee meeting presentation with NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and New York City poison control center on plant poisoning prevention.

Unfinished Business:

- Tilden Park
 - The 49th Street entrance of Tilden Park has a “Clean Up After Your Dogs” sign but no accompanying poop bags.
 - 48th Street perimeter snow removal was not completed but snow was removed on 49th Street and Tilden.
 - Jacqueline Williams to follow up with Parks Department about the poor snow removal on the 48th Street side of Tilden Park
- Paerdatgat Park
 - Insufficient number of “Clean Up After Your Dogs” signs

General Summary:

- Dorothy Gordon leads the meeting in the absence of the chair and co-chair.
- Big Reuse presents its programs focusing on street tree care and composting, highlighting community engagement and environmental impact.
- Lorial Crowder shares the street tree care guide and the QR code in the chat for members to download.
- Members discussed volunteer opportunities, park maintenance issues (including dog waste stations and snow removal), and the importance of proper signage.
- Jacqueline Williams provided updates on park conditions and maintenance concerns.
- Members discussed the upcoming family day event and health-related presentations scheduled for future meetings.
- Tree giveaway around New York City—can be searched by location for specific types of trees to sign up and reserve a tree.
- Highlighted excitement about the new Shirley Chisolm Recreation Center and its facilities.
- Dance classes at Abundant Life on Bedford Ave. to possibly partner with Shirley Chisolm center.
- The meeting lacked quorum, preventing approval of minutes or formal voting.

- Committee addressed quorum requirements for future meetings and ongoing efforts to compile member lists.

Action Items

- Lorial Crowder to look up the contact form or number for Fresh Kills compost pickup and send it to the Community Board 17 email
- Lorial Crowder to share contact information and encourage community partners, block associations, schools, and colleges to reach out for partnership opportunities for street tree care events.
- Dorothy Gordon to follow up with Chair Berlotte regarding the number and placement of dog waste bag dispensers (poop bags) in Tilden Park and confirm the status with Parks Department.
- Vonetta to contact someone at Kings County Hospital to inquire about the schedule of their farmers market and report back to the committee.
- Dorothy Gordon to inform Chair Berlotte about the discussion on the farmers market and get an update on the status of establishing a farmers market in the area.
- Dorothy Gordon to bring up the topic of park cleanups and plantings to the chair for scheduling and planning, and to seek updates for the committee.
- Settle on a confirmed date(s) for park cleanups, Railroad Parks & Tilden Park as options.

Adjournment:

Adele Bennett: Motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Jacqueline Williams: seconded the meeting for adjournment.

Meeting Adjourned.

ROLL CALL | PRESENT

Brie D.	Jacqueline williams	Austin @ Big Reuse
Jody Walch	Cheryl Saunders	(Presenter - Big Reuse)
Adele Bennett	Kassie	Pauline Barkin (Guest)
Dorothy Gordon		
Marline McLean		
kenrick gwescott		
3473****18		
Vonetta	Lorial Crowder (Presenter -	
CL - Audrey Henderson	Big Reuse)	
Ruby Harrisingh		