



**MINUTES OF THE
MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017
COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
GREATER ST. STEPHEN'S UNITED CHURCH OF GOD
874 MYRTLE AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11206**

Attendance:

Members Present: Idris Abdullah, Babatunde Akowe, Felicia Alexander, Tywan Anthony, Dr. Kim Best, Anthony Buissereth, Ivy Gamble-Cobb, Evelyn Collier, Taina Evans, Richard Flateau, Sharon Forbes, Keith Forest, Gregory Glasgow, Mary Jemison-Head, Oma Holloway, Tarris Iriarte, Edna Johnson, Dr. Kerliene Johnson, Dr. Debra Lamb, Marion Little, Hardy "Joe" Long, Dovie Matthews, Paulette Moorehead, Eldica Murray, Melissa Plowden-Norman, C. Doris Pinn, Kwaku Payton, Stacey Ruffin, Chinyelu Udoh, Rev. Dr. Robert Waterman, Shanita Wells, Douglas Williams

Members Absent: Dolores Witherspoon-Dickerson, Marc Abou-Faissal, Kimberly Hill, Danelle Johnson, Michael McCaw, Shekera Shehid, Rev. Jesse Sumbry, Lydia Temples, T. J. Wilson

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Deacon Williams.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Richard Flateau

Mr. Flateau read the agenda into the record.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Deputy Inspector Winston Faison – 81st Precinct

D. I. Faison is the new commanding officer at the 81st Precinct. He stated that he has three goals that he would like his officers to follow:

- 1) Safety
- 2) Treat the community with respect
- 3) Enjoy what you do

These goals coincide with the department's mission of courtesy, professionalism and respect.

Sharissa Phillips-Singletary – Hon. Darlene Mealy

Ms. Singletary informed that Council Member Mealy will host a College Fair at her monthly Advisory Board meeting on May 6th. It will be held at 151 Rochester Avenue from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

Olanike Alabi – 57th Assembly District Leader

Ms. Alabi informed that she will be hosting a Town Hall on Specialized High School on May 23rd, at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at Teen Challenge. Guest Speakers will be Public Advocate Leticia James, Acting District Attorney Eric Gonzalez and DOT.

Shelton Jones – Acting District Attorney Eric Gonzalez

Mr. Jones reported that the two-day “Begin Again” event was a success. He added that 600 individuals were seen and 400 warrants were cleared.

Candice Julien – Hon. Eric Adams

Ms. Julien reported that Borough President Adams will host a Land Use ULURP Hearing on a site in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Flyers on other upcoming events were available.

Daniel Fisher – 81st Precinct Community Council

Mr. Fisher invited everyone to join the Precinct Council at the Pre-Mother’s Day on May 6th, at Sugar Hill Supper Club.

The monthly Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on May 9th, at the Multi-Service Center, 1958 Fulton Street at 7:00 p.m.

LaMeane Isaac – Brooklyn Public Library

Ms. Isaac announced that the library has launched a new website. She added that the “Bike the Branches” will take place on May 20th. She encouraged everyone to participate in the many programs for toddlers, the summer reading program.

Joshua Board – Hon. Walter Mosley

Mr. Board announced that Assembly Member Mosley will host a Summer Reading Challenge: 15 minutes a day for 40 days during the months of July to August.

In addition, Assembly Member will host a Public Safety Town Hall around the J’ouvert event. It will be held at P.S. 375, 46 McKeever Place. For more information, please call his office at 718-596-0100.

Applications for 54 affordable units at 363 Bond Street are available. The deadline to apply is May 19, 2017.

Dr. Kim Best – 79th Precinct Community Council

Ms. Best announced that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 24th.

Nicholas Perry – Hon. Scott Stringer

Mr. Perry informed the audience about a study the Comptroller office did on the neighborhood. For a copy of the report, please call 212-669-381.

Stefani Zinerman – Hon. Robert Cornegy, Jr.

Ms. Zinerman stated that buses will be leaving from 1368 Fulton Street to take constituents to the rally for senior services.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Capt. Charles Minch – 79th Precinct; Det. William Jenkins – 81st Precinct; P. O. Christopher Charles – 79th Precinct; Emilio Dorcelly – Bridge Street Development Corp.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT – Henry L. Butler

Mr. Butler informed the audience that the Organic Recycling Program will begin in Bed-Stuy next year. It is currently in Community Boards 1 and 16.

In addition, DOT will conduct a study on tractor trailers parking on residential streets in order to come up with a

solution to the problem. The Board would like to have a designated enforcement unit for Brooklyn North and South.

Mr. Butler announced that that the Department of Sanitation Volunteer Clean-up Program is now providing supplies for block clean-ups.

He also gave an update on the Rose Castle Rezoning application. He stated that he along with the Board Chair and the Land Use Committee's Chair and Co-Chair met with Council Member Levin to discuss their concerns. Council Member Levin took the Board's concerns into consideration and was able to secure a 60% AMI on the smaller site and 85% AMI on the larger site.

I. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

A. Civic & Public Safety Committee:

The NYC Fire Department discussed recruitment initiatives

Stacey Ruffin, Committee Co-Chair introduced Firefighter Dasul Andrews

Firefighter Andrews informed the audience about the upcoming Firefighter Exam. The exam is given every 4 to 5 years. It is open to individuals between the ages of 17 ½ to 28 years.

In addition, the FDNY will be hosting Open House throughout the City on May 6th. He encouraged everyone to visit their local fire houses to meet the firefighters, EMT's, Paramedics, take a tour and learn more.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Parks Art & Culture Committee:

The NYC Parks Department is seeking a letter of support for the proposed renovation of Weeksville Playground (location is Howard Avenue between Atlantic Avenue & Herkimer Street)

Marion Little, Committee Chairperson introduced Kevin Boyle

Mr. Boyle explained that this project is funded by the Mayor. The project will upgrade the play equipment for 2-5 year olds, the seating, the sprinkler, trees will be added, and the lighting. There will be a fence surrounding the plants. A PowerPoint presentation was done highlighting the upgrade.

Questions and Answers

Dr. Williamson: What is the price of the project?

K. Boyle: \$900,000

Felicia Alexander: Why was a lower fence used, it makes the playground more accessible?

K. Boyle: Commissioner Silver's goal is to have parks without borders.

Chinyelu Udoh: Why is there no restroom?

K. Boyle: The budget does not allow. Comfort stations cost \$3 million to build.

Tarisse Iriate: I do not see any historical markers as part of the plan? Why

K. Boyle: We can look into adding something.

Oma Holloway: Did you get feedback from Weeksville?

K. Boyle: There was a listening session.

B. Housing & Land Use Committee:

NYC Housing Preservation & Development has submitted the following application for ULURP:

- 1) Pursuant to Article 16 of the General Municipal Law of NY State for:
 - a) the designation of property located 1616 and 1624 Fulton Street, and 20R Troy Avenue (Block 1699, Lots 35, 39, and 43), as an Urban Development Action Area; and
 - b) an Urban Development Action Area Project for such area; and
- 2) Pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter for the disposition of such property to a developer to be selected by HPD; to facilitate the construction of an 11 story mixed use building approximately 96 dwelling units and ground floor commercial space, Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 3

C. Doris Pinn, Committee Chair introduced Juan Barahona, SMJ Development & Daniel Moran, HPD Brooklyn Planning Unit

Oma Holloway recused herself from the project because she works at Bridge Street Development Corp. and they are part of the project.

Daniel Moran informed the audience that this is a UDAAP application. The site is a R7D with a small portion being R6. The proposed building will be 11 stories with a total of 96 units and 13,000 sq. ft. of retail space and 60% - 130% AMI.

Mr. Barahona stated that the site consist of eight lots, five of which are privately owned. The other three lots are City owned. SMJ Development will be working with Bridge Street Development Corp. on the marketing aspect of the project.

Question & Answers

Joe Gonzalez: How many residents will live and work on this project?

Juan Barahona: Through Housing Connect 50% -100% preference will be given to the residents. Local contractor will be used as part of MWBE buildup.

Ray Ray: What is affordable?

Juan Barahona: Half of the project is affordable. 60% was private land. A 3 bedroom can cost \$1200; a studio \$1000. This project does not provide parking.

Chinyelu Udoh: I have a quality of life issue, 356-400 sq. ft. for a studio is a shoe box and not acceptable for anyone to live in.

Randy Jackson: Does HPD accept the lowest bidder?

Daniel Moran: HPD puts out a RFP which is a very competitive process.

C. Johnson: What is HPD's role in this process?

Daniel Moran: HPD determines how many units, they provide loans, and they have a regulatory agreement. HPD also contributes the land to bring down the AMI.

C. Economic Development Committee:

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application request for a letter of support by 461 Dekalb Avenue between Taaffe Place and Kent Avenue. (entity to be formed by Juan Vasquez).

There were no representation from this business.

D. Economic Development Committee:

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application request for a letter of support by Acoustic Garden LLC, located at 1515 Atlantic Avenue between Kingston & Albany Avenues

Tywan Anthony, Committee Chair introduced Heather-Sky McField, Owner

Ms. McField stated that the concept behind Acoustic Gardens LLC is Havana Outpost meets corner social. The hours of operation will be Tuesday to Thursday & Sunday: 4:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.; Friday to Saturday: 4:00 p.m. – 4:00 a.m. There will be three kitchen staff, one bartender and two servers. The menu will be tapas and specialty cocktails.

There will be an outdoor bistro seating. Ms. McField added that she will also be offering financial literacy workshops, Indie movies and other events.

Questions & Answers

Ray Ray: My family lives on the corner and they do not want this establishment there.

Ms. McField: I can sit down with your family to discuss any issues they may have.

Paulette Moorehead requested that the closing time on Sunday be changed. Ms. McField stated that she take that into consideration.

III. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paul Dawkins – NYSOM

Mr. Dawkins informed the audience that there will be a Superhero/Carnival event on Saturday, June 24th, at Raymond Bush Playground.

On August 12th, there will be a back to school drive. He is asking for donations for supplies. For more information, visit www.nysomgroup.org

Anthony Sumpter

Mr. Sumpter informed the audience that the Magnificent Men Mentoring Group will be hosting an event at the Macon Branch Library on May 24th, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

TILLY'S

The owner of Tilly's introduced herself and her husband to the community and invited them to come in for cocktails. They are located at 1223 Bedford Avenue at Halsey Street. Hours of operation are Tuesday – Thursday & Sunday: 4:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.; Friday & Saturday: 4:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.

Sunday Brunch is 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. There is a live steel band entertainment. Every Saturday is Jazz, R & B, Reggae.

IV. ROLL CALL

There were 32 members present and 9 absent.

V. COMMITTEE UPDATES & RESOLUTIONS

- A. Landmarks & Preservation Committee is seeking support for a LPC application at 158 Halsey Street between Nostrand and Marcy Avenues.

Ms. Collier reported that the committee met with the owners on April 10, 2017. They are proposing to add a three-level rear extension, remove the historic rooftop dome and add a rooftop addition. The committee voted unanimously to **DISAPPROVE** the oversized three-level rear extension because of the excessive bulk.

A motion was made to accept the resolution by Felicia Alexander and seconded by Douglas Williams.

[..\Vote on 158 Halsey Street.pdf](#)

- B. Landmarks & Preservation Committee is seeking support for a LPC application at 82 Chauncey Street.

Ms. Collier stated that the committee met with the owners on April 10, 2017. They are proposing to install a deck. They voted to **APPROVE** the proposed application to install a rear yard extension and deck.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation by Felicia Alexander and seconded Anthony Buissereth.

[..\Vote for 82 Chauncey Street.pdf](#)

- C. The Landmarks & Preservation Committee is seeking support for a LPC application at 207 MacDonough Street between Throop Avenue and Marcus Garvey Blvd.

Ms. Collier stated that the committee met with the Architect on April 10, 2017. They are proposing to restore the front of the building including the façade, pavement, and fencing. They will be using the 209 MacDonough Street as a guide. The committee voted **unanimously** to support the project.

A motion was made by Babatunde Akowe and seconded by Edna Johnson.

[..\Vote for 207 MacDonough Street.pdf](#)

Edna Johnson and **Idris Abdullah** gave an update on the hiring process at 500 Gates Avenue. He stated that 17 individuals have already gotten interviewed. A few of them were in attendance. One of the gentleman will be on the job for the duration of the project. He added that in 2-3 weeks they will start the hiring process for plumbers and electricians.

Ms. Johnson stated that they plan to continue this process on future projects in the community.

Tarisse Iriate

Ms. Iriate announced the re-opening of the Billie Holiday Theatre. Open House Tours will be given on May 9th, from 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

On May 12th, the theatre will open with a Theatrical Reading of “Their Eyes Were Watching God”. Tickets are available.

Oma Holloway

Ms. Holloway announced a District-wide School Open House on June 3rd, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Parents are encouraged to visit the schools in the district to learn more about what they have to offer.

The next committee meeting will be held on May 11th, at 7:00 p.m.

VI. ACTION ON THE PUBLIC HEARING

- A.** The NYC Parks Department is seeking a letter of support for the proposed renovation of Weeksville Playground.

The committee recommended giving a letter of support as long as the Parks Department provide a historical, cultural and artistic contribution of Weeksville. A motion was made by Edna Johnson and seconded by Douglas Williams.

[..\Vote for Weeksville Playground.pdf](#)

- B.** The NYC Housing Preservation & Development is seeking support for UDAAP – Disposition of land to a developer to facilitate the construction of an 11 story mixed use building located at 1616-1624 Fulton Street

Ms. Pinn stated that the committee met four times on this project. She explained that the “D” designation does put a cap on the height of the building. However, the Mayor’s Plan which is law added two additional stories.

In addition, affordable development does not require parking. The committee voted to give a letter of support. A motion to accept the recommendation was made by Taina Evans and seconded by Hardy “Joe” long.

[..\Vote for 1616-1624 Fulton Street.pdf](#)

- C.** Acoustic Garden LLC request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License Tywan Anthony stated that the committee recommendation is to give a letter of support with the following three stipulations:

- 1) Close the outside area at 1:00 a.m. Monday – Saturday
- 2) 11:00 p.m. on Sunday
- 3) The establishment at 12 Midnight on Sunday

He added that he has received a signed letter from Ms. McField agreeing to the stipulations. A motion was made to accept the recommendation with stipulations was made by Douglas Williams and seconded by Tarisse Iriate.

VII. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT – Richard Flateau

- **Election of Community Board 3 2nd Vice-Chair position**

Ms. Udoh reported that there are only two candidates for the position: Felicia Alexander and Marion Little. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion to close the slate was made and seconded by Douglas Williams. Both candidates gave a brief introduction of themselves.

There were 30 votes however, 29 were valid and 1 was not because it did not have a signature.

Vote Result:

Felicia Alexander: 12

Marion Little: 17

- **Selection of the By-Laws Committee**

Mr. Flateau selected **Babatunde Akowe** as the **Chair** along with the following members:

Sharon Forbes

Felicia Alexander

Stacey Ruffin

Oma Holloway

Kwaku Payton

Chinyelu Udoh

VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF THE APRIL 3, 2017 MINUTES

The minutes were unanimously accepted.

I X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,
Beryl Nyack and Stacey Ruffin
May 2017