



**MINUTES OF THE
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017
COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
BEDFORD-STUYVESANT RESTORATION CORP.
1368 FULTON STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11216**

Attendance:

Members Present: Idris Abdullah, Babatunde Akowe, Tywan Anthony, Anthony Buissereth, Ivy Gamble-Cobb, Evelyn Collier, Taina Evans, Marc Abou-Faissal, Richard Flateau, Keith Forest, Gregory Glasgow, Mary Jemison-Head, Kimberly Hill, Oma Holloway, Edna Johnson, Dr. Kerliene Johnson, Dr. Debra Lamb, Marion Little, Hardy “Joe” Long, Dovie Matthews, Michael McCaw, Melissa Plowden-Norman, C. Doris Pinn, Kwaku Payton, Stacey Ruffin, Shekera Shehid, Rev. Dr. Robert Waterman, Shanita Wells, Douglas Williams

Members Absent: Felicia Alexander, Dr. Kim Best, Gloria Boyce, Mulan Isaiah Burgess, Dolores Witherspoon-Dickerson, Sharon Forbes, Tarris Iriarte, Danelle Johnson, Paulette Moorehead, Eldica Murray, Nelson M. Stoute, Rev. Jesse Sumbry, Lydia Temples, Chinyelu Udoh, T. J. Wilson

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Hardy “Joe” Long.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Richard Flateau

Mr. Flateau introduced himself as the newly elected Chair of the Board. He stated that he would listen to the members and the residents and he would work hard to advance the interest of this community as Chair. He gave updates on some meetings he had already attended.

He informed that he attended a press conference with NYS Attorney General, Eric Schneiderman on grants that are being allocated for foreclosure and deed theft prevention. The press conference was held at Cornerstone Baptist Church. There are \$350,000 in grants for not-for-profit organization to help with this issue.

He added that he attended the Borough Board meeting on January 4th. Here are some highlights:

- Citizens Committee of New York presentation. – They support grassroots organizations with grants.
- Intro. 1218 – Is a bill to impose civil penalties starting at \$15,000 for illegal conversion. The Resolution was passed.
- Meeting with Council Member Levin, Henry Butler, District Manager, Doris Pinn, the Chair and Co-Chair, Michael McCaw of the Housing & Land Use Committee regarding the Rose Castle project.

Mr. Flateau also announced a retreat for board members on February 11, 2017. It will be held at Restoration from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. He asked members to help with the organizing of the retreat.

He read the agenda into the records and introduced the newly elected executive officers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Lee Church – Hon. Hakeem Jeffries

Mr. Church announced that Congressman Jeffries will be hosting his State of the District Address on January 26th, at Long Island University. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. He advised everyone to RSVP for the event by calling 718-237-2211.

Hon. Laurie Cumbo

Council Member Cumbo introduced her staff, Sasha Sealy who gave an update on upcoming events from Council Member Cumbo office. Free Tax filing will be provided from January 18th, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. by appointment.

She is also working on Participatory Budgeting.

Council Member Cumbo reported that she introduced legislation to “Text 911” for emergencies. Legislation was also passed to create the first Mayor’s Office for Crime Victims. She is also working on creating a new unit for gun violence.

In addition, she informed that due to all the issues with the Bedford Union Armory and other development in Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant she will be hosting a Community Exchange Series. The series will begin January 10th, on the topic of Area Median Income (AMI) through March 14th. All seven series will be held at Medgar Evers College at 6:30 p.m.

Stefani Zinerman – Hon. Robert Cornegy, Jr.

Ms. Zinerman stated that Council District 36 has 54 delegates working on the Participatory Budget. On February 17th, the ballots will be distributed for the final request.

In regards to Discretionary Funding, applications are available at www.council.nyc.gov. Council Member Cornegy will provide three informational sessions to assist those who need assistance in applying for discretionary funding on January 19th, 26th and February 2nd, at his office. It will be held from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. However, on January 26th, there will be an Open House from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Council Member Cornegy hosted a MWBE Procurement workshop with the Parks Department and on January 18th, he will host another to discuss how to do business with School Construction Authority (SCA). It will be held at Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corp. from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

In addition, free Immigration Services are available every Thursday in the District office from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Every 4th Friday a representative from the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) is also at the office.

On January 27th, Council Member Cornegy will host a screening and discussion of the documentary “13”, by Ava Duvernay. It will be at Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp., 1368 Fulton Street, Multi-Purpose Room from 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Shelton Jones – Brooklyn District Attorney

Mr. Jones informed the audience that 35 gang members were arrested in Brownsville. He advised residents to call the Action Center to report any issues at the hotline, 718-250-2340. The Hate Crime hotline is 718-250-4949.

Shantae Edwards – Hon. Tremaine Wright

Ms. Edwards will be representing the newly elected Assembly Member Wright. She informed the audience that Assembly Member District office will be located at 1360 Fulton Street, Room 417. The office is currently being renovated however, she can be reached at 718-399-7630 or the Albany number, 518-455-5474. Once opened the hours of operation will be Monday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sarissa Phillips-Singletary – Hon. Darlene Mealy

Ms. Singletary announced that the next Advisory Board Meeting will be held on February 4th, at 10:00 a.m. Legal Services are provided every Wednesday.

Nicholas Perry – NYC Comptroller’s Office

Comptroller Stringer will be hosting the Lunar New Year on February 9th, at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

The Third Annual Making the Grade Report was released. For more information, please contact Mr. Perry at 212-669-3916.

Shakti Robbins – Hon. Velmanette Montgomery

Ms. Robbins stated that the Senator is working on a workshop for the Black and Hispanic Caucus. It will focus on re-entry. The panel will consist of the formerly incarcerated.

Olanike Alabi – 57th Assembly District Leader

Mr. Alabi announced that she will resume her Town Halls in March with Borough President Adams and the Health Department. A calendar of events to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Day was available.

Fabrice Armand – Department of Corrections

Mr. Jenkins announced that the department is seeking to hire 1,500 new officers in 2017. The position starts at \$44,000 without overtime and increase after five years of service \$94,322 without overtime. Non-uniform positions are also available.

Oma Holloway – Bridge Street Development Corp.

Ms. Holloway informed the audience about upcoming workshops at Bridge Street. Legal services are offered on Wednesdays beginning January 11th. A package of all the events were available.

On January 29th, at Bridge Street AME Church there will be a reading on Frederick Douglas’ speeches.

She added that recruitment is open for the MyBase Program. The program is for young people between the ages of 16-24 years old. The program starts on March 6th.

Taina Evans – Brooklyn Public Library

Ms. Evans announced that students in K-12 grades can now check out a Sprint Internet Hotspot Device. It is currently available at 16 locations including the Macon Branch. The Macon Branch can also have a “Tell a Story Program”. It is a video visitation for families who are separated due to incarceration.

Susan Knott – Brooklyn Public Library/Bedford Branch

Ms. Knott stated the Bedford Branch offers literacy for older adults. The classes are small and are offered days, nights and Saturdays. Volunteers are also needed. Flyers were available.

Daniel Fisher – 81st Precinct Community Council

Mr. Fisher informed the audience that the next meeting will be held on January 10th, at the Multi-Service Center, 1958 Fulton Street, at 7:00 p.m.

Gloria Sandiford – Bedford Stuyvesant Real Estate Board

Ms. Sandiford stated that the Board will host an event to honor Assembly Member Robinson for her years of service. It will be held on January 23rd, at 7:00 p.m., at Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corp.

In addition, Anwan Thompson, Executive Director, National Association of Real Estate Brokers will present on the state of real estate and black homeownership under their new administration. For more information, please contact her at bsreb2016@gmail.com

Kathleen Daniels – Hon. Eric Adams

Ms. Daniels announced that the Borough President is seeking to get a burn center in the borough. In addition, Capital Funding applications are now open. Newsletters were available with upcoming events.

Acknowledgements

Judge Carolyn Wade, Det. William Jenkins, P.O. Nwajei Keneji – PSA3, Nequan Mclean – CEC 16 President, Pansy Nettles – President Brevoort Houses Tenant Association

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT – Henry L. Butler

Mr. Butler informed the audience about a Public Hearing at Interfaith Medical Center on January 25th, at 5:30 p.m. The hearing will address the State of New York and the Northwell Study. Northwell is looking to combine four hospitals: Brooklyn Hospital, Brookdale and Interfaith Medical Centers and Wyckoff however, Wyckoff is resisting. To RSVP, please email Sharonnie Perry at sperry@interfaithmedical.org

In addition, Mayor Bill de Blasio will be hosting a Town Hall meeting at P.S. 23, 545 Willoughby Avenue between Marcy and Tompkins Avenues on January 25th, at 7:00 p.m. A flyer will be available shortly.

I. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

A. Health & Social Service Committee:

The committee hosted a presentation by the NYC Smoke Free Organization Edna Johnson, Committee Chairperson introduced Julia Cuthbertson MPH, Brooklyn Community Engagement Coordinator

Ms. Cuthbertson was joined by Reza Farzan and Stephen Beasley, NYC Department of Health. She stated that NYC Smoke Free Organization is a not-for-profit organization that’s works to provide smoke free spaces.

Stephen Beasley spoke about the health issues associated with tobacco. He stated that it is the leading cause of death. 65% of air is shared in a housing building. They provided statistics on 311 drift complaints, the cost of rehabilitating a residential unit and fire safety.

HUD ruled that all public housing will be smoke free. Residents have 18 months for the transition. This will protect all residents in NYCHA from second hand smoke. It is a non-punitive rule. They asked the Board to support the resolution for a Smoke Free Housing Program.

Mr. Flateau stated that the resolution will be reviewed at the Executive Committee and will possibly be voted on at the next meeting.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Economic Development Committee:

Home Frite, LLC is seeking a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control license 1047 Bedford Avenue between Greene Avenue & Clifton Place.

Tywan Anthony, newly appointed Committee Chair introduced Ian Vernon & Crystal Lingle, Owners

Mr. Vernon stated that, since 2013, they began an outdoor market called Smorgasburg. This will be their first brick and mortar location. This located was previously operated by Taqueria. They plan to renovate the storefront to make it brighter. Their specialty is hand cut fries and homemade dipping sauce. They would like to offer beer and wine from New York.

Ms. Lingle informed the audience that the café will be open for breakfast and lunch serving American comfort food. The space seats 20 people with eight at the bar. They anticipate being open in March. They both have experience in the restaurant business. They have a letter from Clifton Place Block Association.

Questions and Answers

Resident: Who will be handling the liquor license and how will it be served?

Ms. Lingle: There is a main pick counter at the front. Everyone will be checked for ID.

Babatunde Akowe: Did you reach the Green Avenue Block Association and is this only for a beer and wine license?

Mr. Vernon: I spoke to Mr. Henry Jackson. I did not get a letter but I have his signature.

III. ROLL CALL

There were 29 members present and 15 absent.

IV. COMMITTEE UPDATES & RESOLUTIONS

Oma Holloway – Education and Youth

Ms. Holloway informed that the committee will meet on Thursday, January 12th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board office. In addition, she informed that there will be a CEC meeting on January 17th, at P.S. 26 regarding changes in the schools. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Edna Johnson – Health & Social Services

Ms. Johnson informed the audience that the committee will not meet on Martin Luther King Day. The next meeting will be held on January 23rd, in the Board office at 6:30 p.m. The committee is planning a holistic day in March.

Gregory Glasgow – Transportation, Sanitation & Environment

Mr. Glasgow announced that the next meeting will be held on January 10th, at 6:30 p.m., in the Board office.

Doris Pinn – Housing & Land Use

Ms. Pinn gave a report as to why the Board is voting on a resolution for Rose Castle. Rose Castle presented at the December Board meeting. The recommendation of the committee was to support the application with two stipulations. The Board voted and the result were: 18 – For; 17 – Against and 2 Abstentions. There were 37 members present. Therefore, for the vote to count there had to be 19 votes in favor which is more than half. Since there were not 19 in favor or 19 against, the vote did not pass or fail. Therefore, the Board is on record as having no record. Ms. Pinn read resolution for Rose Castle:

[..\Resolution for Rose Castle.pdf](#)
[..\Vote for Riverside Developers USA.pdf](#)

Ms. Pinn added that the Borough President has 30 days after the Board votes to vote on this application. He has decided to wait until the Board votes.

V. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carmen Johnson – Department of Health

Ms. Johnson informed the audience that the Department of Health provides a Youth Mental First Aid Training for free. Adults can take the course to help them identify the warning signs of suicide, depression. She added that there is a \$10,000 grant available NYC Public High School Employees to re-design or create a new space for to improve the mental health of the student. It is called Mental Health by Design.

Reginald Swiney

Mr. Swiney announced that NAB3 Advisory Board will be holding a Public Hearing on January 18th, at M.S. 35.

Oma Holloway

Ms. Holloway announced that her daughter is selling “Girl Scout Cookie”. The deadline to order is January 29th.

Gerard Miller – Brooklyn Neighborhood Services

Mr. Miller informed the audience that after 29 years Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) has changed its name to Brooklyn Neighborhood Services. The address and the phone number is the same.

VI. ACTION ON THE PUBLIC HEARING

A. Home Frite, LLC is seeking a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License.

Tywan Anthony stated that the committee recommended giving a letter of support. A motion was made to accept the recommendation by Douglas Williams and seconded by Marion Little.

[..\Vote for Home Frite, LLC.pdf](#)

VII. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT – Richard Flateau

Mr. Flateau requested that the result of the election of officers for each candidate into the minutes:

Chair: Richard Flateau – 30
Kimberly Hill – 6

1st Vice Chair: Oma Holloway – 35 – Yes; and 1 – abstention

2nd Vice Chair: Nelson M. Stoute – 20
Felicia Alexander – 16

Treasurer: C. Doris Pinn: 35 – For; 1 – Abstention

Executive Secretary: Stacey Ruffin: 35 – For; 1 – Abstention

VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF DECEMBER 5, 2016 MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes with corrections by Edna Johnson and seconded by Mary Jemison Head.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,
Beryl Nyack
January 30, 2017