



**MINUTES OF THE
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017
COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
BEDFORD-STUYVESANT RESTORATION CORP.
1368 FULTON STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11216**

Attendance:

Members Present: Babatunde Akowe, Felicia Alexander, Tywan Anthony, Dr. Kim Best, Anthony Buissereth, Ivy Gamble-Cobb, Evelyn Collier, Marc Abou-Faissal, Richard Flateau, Sharon Forbes, Keith Forest, Gregory Glasgow, Mary Jemison-Head, Kimberly Hill, Oma Holloway, Tarris Iriarte, Edna Johnson, Dr. Kerliene Johnson, Dr. Debra Lamb, Marion Little, Hardy “Joe” Long, Paulette Moorehead, Michael McCaw, Melissa Plowden-Norman, C. Doris Pinn, Kwaku Payton, Stacey Ruffin, Shekera Shehid, Chinyelu Udoh, Rev. Dr. Robert Waterman, Shanita Wells, Douglas Williams

Members Absent: Idris Abdullah, Gloria Boyce, Mulan Isaiah Burgess, Dolores Witherspoon-Dickerson, Taina Evans, Danelle Johnson, Dovie Matthews, Eldica Murray, Nelson M. Stoute (Deceased), Rev. Jesse Sumbry, Lydia Temples, T. J. Wilson

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Mary Jemison Head.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Richard Flateau

Mr. Flateau announced the passing of Board Member, Nelson M. Stoute. He along with the District Manager, Henry Butler, C. Doris Pinn and Hardy “Joe” Long reflected on Mr. Stoute’s passion for the community. Mr. Butler stated that Nelson epitomizes what a Board member should be. Mr. Long offered a prayer in his memory. Mr. Stoute’s mother, Ms. Veronica Lewis and his nephew, Ricardo were in attendance for the dedication.

Mr. Flateau gave the information for the funeral service:

Wake: Lawrence H. Woodward Funeral Home, One Troy Avenue
Sunday, March 1, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Funeral: St. Peter Claver Church, corner of Claver Place and Jefferson Avenue
Monday, March 13th, at 9:30 a.m.

Several of the elected official’s representatives offered their condolences to the family.

Mr. Flateau read the agenda into the record.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Candice Julien – Hon. Eric Adams

Ms. Julien thanked Ms. Lewis on behalf of the Borough President for giving us the gift of Nelson. She encouraged everyone to pick up the package with the upcoming events. She can be reached at 718-802-3981.

Shelton Jones – Acting District Attorney Eric Gonzalez

Mr. Jones announced that the Acting District Attorney will host an Immigration Forum on April 23rd, at Shiloh Seventh Day Adventist Church, 449 Eastern Parkway. It will be held at 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

In addition, there will be another “Begin Again” event at Mt Pisgah Baptist Church, 212 Tompkins Avenue on April 14th and April 15th. For more information, please call 718-250-3146.

Shakti Robbins – Hon. Velmanette Montgomery

Ms. Robbins informed the audience that Senator Montgomery has introduced the “Raise the Age Legislation”. The legislation would help reform the criminal system to protect 16 and 17 years old non-violent offenders from being prosecuted as adults. This legislation would raise the age to 18 years old.

Jarrell Brandon – Hon. Tremaine Wright

Assembly Member Wright will host a Women’s Health Tour of the various health facilities in the 56th District on March 18th, from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. The tour will depart from the Wellness Center, 375 Tompkins Avenue.

Stefani Zinerman – Hon. Robert Cornegy, Jr.

Ms. Zinerman stated that there are 10 projects on the Participatory Budgeting Ballot. Voting starts on March 25th – April 2nd. More information will be sent in the mail.

Carl Luciano – Hon. Darlene Mealy

Mr. Luciano thanked everyone who participated in the heroes and sheroes event at Weeksville Heritage Center.

Sasha Sealey – Hon. Laurie Cumbo

Council Member Cumbo will host a Summer Youth Expo on March 12th, at Ingersoll Community Center from 12:00 Noon – 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Sealey added that there are eight projects on the ballot for Participatory Budgeting in Council Member Cumbo’s District.

In addition, Free Tax Services are available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays through April 14th, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Olanike Alabi – 57th Assembly District Leader

Ms. Alabi informed the audience that she will be hosting a Town Hall on March 30th, at 6:00p.m., at the Teen’s Challenge Center. Special guests will be Borough President Eric Adams, Dr. Torian Easterling, Assistant Commissioner, NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, and Sarah Carroll, NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Judge Betty Staton – Brooklyn Legal Services

Judge Staton informed the audience that her office offers assistance in 14 areas of civil practice for free to those who qualify. The elderly and veterans can call 718-246-3279 for assistance. In addition, the Mayor gave additional money for tenants who are facing evictions. They are now entitled to a lawyer if they qualify. The

Citywide number to call for assistance 917-661-4500.

In addition, Judge Staton invited everyone to an event to celebrate Assembly Member Robinson. The event will be held at Concord Baptist Church on March 25th, from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Invitations were available.

Oma Holloway – Bridge Street Development Corp.

Ms. Holloway reminded the audience that Bridge Street also offers free legal services for tenants who are having housing issues. The next time you can see a lawyer is March 8th, from 3:00 – 6:30 p.m.

In addition, the MyBase program is full. The office also assists young people with the SYEP application process. The deadline to apply is March 17th.

Timothy Rodgers – Campus Director, College of New Rochelle

Mr. Rodgers spoke about the programs that are available at the college. He said that the programs are geared to the adult population who can obtain a Bachelor’s degree by attending classes two days a week. He added the college is also seeking adjunct faculty in Liberal Arts.

Tiffany Murray – Save Our Streets Bed-Stuy (S.O.S)

Ms. Murray informed the audience that S.O.S will be holding “Peace Rally” on April 22nd, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Rally will leave from 677 Lafayette Avenue between Tompkins and Marcy Avenues.

In addition, on June 10th, S.O.S will host their Summer Kick-off on either Tompkins or Lafayette Avenues. The next date will be September 8th. Resources will be available for these events, food etc. Flyers were available.

Tiffany Lauren – Children of Promise

Ms. Lauren stated that this organization is tasked with supporting children of incarcerated parents in an effort to break the cycle of intergenerational involvement in the criminal justice system. They are seeking volunteers for the program which provides After School Programs and mental health assistance. They are located at 54 Macdonough Street. For more information, please call 718-483-9290 or visit www.cpnyc.org.

Additionally, there will be a fundraiser, “Pizza for Promise” on Friday, March 10th. Participants will get all you can eat gourmet pizza and two drink ticket for \$20.00. Tickets can be brought at www.cpnyc.org/pizzaforpromise or at the door. It starts at 7:00 p.m. You must be 21 years and older.

Joshua Board – Hon. Walter Mosley

Mr. Board thanked everyone who attended the State of the District a week ago. He also informed the audience that there will be a Facebook Live -- “Budget Town Hall” on March 21st, from 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. To join, go to Assembly Member Mosely Facebook page. For more information, call the office at 718-596-0100.

He informed the audience that the housing lottery for 38 Sixth Avenue will be closing on March 14th. There are also vacancies at 33 Bond Street. Information was left on the table.

Daniel Fisher – 81st Precinct Community Council

Mr. Fisher announced that the general meeting will be held on March 14th, at 7:00 p.m., at the Multi-Service Center, 1958 Fulton Street. DEP will be in attendance to discuss the upcoming water liens.

The Council will host a Pre-Mother’s Day Breakfast on May 6th, at Sugar Hill from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00.

Dr. Kim Best – 79th Precinct Community Council

Dr. Best announced the next meeting will be held on March 22nd, at the Brooklyn Job Corp., at 7:00 p.m. The Council will be doing something for Women’s History Month and Officer of the Month.

Divinah Bailey – Watchful Eyes

Ms. Bailey announced that the Universal Soul Circus is coming back to Brooklyn. Opening Night will be March 29th, the Guest Ringmasters will be Council Members Cornegy and Cumbo. The circus will be at Floyd Bennett Field beginning at 5:00 p.m. More information will follow.

Richard Fleteau made an announcement on behalf of the **Public Advocate, Letitia James**. She will be hosting a rally on March 7th, to “let businesses know – we won’t support them if they support the border wall”. It will be held at Foley Square, at 12:00 p.m.

Anayeli Gomez – Comptroller Scott Stringer

Ms. Gomez announced that the Comptroller will be hosting a Women’s History Month event on March 21st, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. It will be held at the New York Supreme Court.

In addition, a report was released supporting driver’s license for undocumented immigrants.

She stated that the new Deputy Comptroller, Michael Lambert sent his condolences to Nelson’s family.

Acknowledgements

Karen Cherry – Hon. Erik Dilan, Det. William Jenkins – 81st Precinct, P.O. Christopher Charles – 79th Precinct, Judge Robin Shears

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT – Henry L. Butler

Mr. Butler informed the audience that the Town Hall with the Mayor will be held on Thursday, March 9th, at P.S. 23, 545 Willoughby Avenue between Marcy and Tompkins Avenues. Those who have already RSVP do not have to do it again. The RSVP is now closed.

I. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Landmarks Committee:

The committee hosted a public hearing on a LPC application for 524-540 Halsey Street. The request is to alter a three-story Queen Ann Style garage, designed by Axel S. Hedman and built in 1904 with a one-story Utilitarian Style garage building built at an unknown date. An application is to demolish the one-story garage building and construct a new building, alter the rear and front facades of the three story garage building, alter the front areaway, replacement of sidewalks, excavation at the rear areaway, and construct a rooftop addition.

Evelyn Collier, Committee Chairperson stated that this location use to be the Brown & Brown Car Service. She introduced Rick Azar, Legal Rep. along with the Architects, Ronald Ron, James Driscoll, and Community Liaison Director Tamara Silver, ROART Architects

A PowerPoint presentation was done to show the proposed plan for the site. Mr. Azar stated that 524 Halsey Street is actually two buildings: the larger of which is an early 1900 combination of two 1890s stables. The building was converted as a car garage. It is a

three-story building. The other building is a one-story building which was also used as a garage. The proposed plan for the three story building is to convert the garage into condos and apartments. In the rear of the building will be cut back to allow light and open space.

Questions & Answers

Dr. Debra Lamb: What is the affordability of the apartments?

Ronald Ron: There will be 40 units, 5 units in the front will be condos. He does not know the price of the units.

Gregory Glasgow: Will the developer be receiving public funding?

Rick Azar: No, there will be no public funding

Gregory Glasgow: If there is no public funding, the developer can charge whatever price he wants.

Rick Azar: Yes

Terry Johnson: The block association is concerned about the smaller structure not blending in with the block? What have you done to address that concern?

Rick Azar: These are modern buildings. They are bridge buildings which will connect the car garage and the rest of Halsey Street. We took certain elements such as the bay windows, the height in order to conform to the block.

Rebecca Wolfe: We do not care if this is modern. It does not reflect the aesthetics of the block. This is a R6B district and as such you are required to provide parking for up to 50% of the units. What will you do about the parking?

Ronald Ron: As of right now, this is a conversion of an existing building if the number of units is less than the density allowed by code, then we do not have to provide parking however, we are changing the sidewalk. It will no longer be a driveway which means that 160 feet will become available for parking (10 more parking space).

B. Economic Development Committee:

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application request for a letter of support by Bravi Regazzi BK LLC, 570 Putnam between Throop Avenue & Marcus Garvey Blvd
Tywan Anthony, Committee Chair introduced Michael Bancale. He added that a site inspection was conducted.

Mr. Bancale stated that he is the General Manager of Bravi Regazzi. It will be a traditional Neapolitan Pizzeria. It will be restaurant with a full bar. He would like to bring the original taste of Neapolitan pizza to keep the tradition alive. He was born and raised in Napoli, Italy.

He will use a wooden fire oven with a pollution control system called “smoky”. There will be no smoke or ash. The chef will be from Italy and he will cook and teach anyone who will like to learn how to make traditional pizza. He has another restaurant in South London. He will offer a casual service with delivery and full bar with craft beer and cocktails.

There will be two entrances. The bar area will have 11 seats. There will be outdoor seating in the future. It will be kids and family friendly. The space can also be used for private parties.

Questions & Answers

Simone Pratt: Where will the outdoor seating be, on Marcus Garvey or Putnam Avenue? And talk more about the live band.

Michael Bancale: The outdoor seating will be on Putnam Avenue. There is a pre-existing stage area.

Resident: What are the hours?

Michael Bancale: Mondays – Thursdays: 12:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.; Fridays – Saturdays: 12:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.; Sundays: 12:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Michael McCaw: Did you apply with Department of Consumer Affairs?

Michael Bancale: No, it is for the future.

Babatunde Akowe: Did you get a letter of support from the Block Association?

Michael Bancale: I spoke with some people but not with the Block Association

C. Economic Development Committee:

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application request for a letter of support by Tallboys Inc., 1452 Fulton Street between Tompkins & Kingston Avenues
Tywan Anthony, Committee Chair stated that a site inspection was conducted.

Alexandra Escamilla and Shane Feirstein are the owners of Tallboys Inc. This will be their second venture in the community. They are also the owners of the Lover’s Rock on Tompkins Avenue between Hancock and Halsey Streets. Lover’s Rock have been opened for a year and a half.

Tallboys will be neighborhood Grill with a full kitchen and menu. They both live within blocks from the business for over 10 years. They have created 14 new jobs for residents of Bedford-Stuyvesant. They have supported other organizations and events in the community and will continue to bridge partnerships. The hours of operation will be Sundays – Thursdays: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.; Fridays – Saturdays: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 a.m.

They are doing to a full gut renovation of the location. The space will include a 60 person dining area that includes a small bar, new bathroom and a full kitchen.

Questions & Answers

Resident: Have you addressed the issues that the residents are concerned with? There does not seem to be any concern about the residents since you will be closing late.

Alexandra Escamilla: We have spoken to the residents in the building next door.

Paulette Morehead suggested that they change the closing time on Sundays.

II. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

A. Civic & Public Safety Committee

The committee hosted a presentation by Bedford Stuyvesant Anti-Violence, who will speak about “Her Life a Program for Young Women” a workshop for young women. Stacey Ruffin, Committee Chair introduced Hailey Nolasco, Founder

Ms. Nolasco announced that in partnership with the Sadie Nash Leadership Project there will be a series of workshops for young women ages 16-20 years old who would be categorized as mid to high risk. Some of the workshops will focus on: identity and community building, systems of oppression and its effects on women of color, building relationships with other women, trailblazers etc. The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence will also be on hand to conduct workshops. Job training and resume writing assistance will be given.

The program will meet on Tuesdays at the Brooklyn Action Center, 47 Throop Avenue and on Thursdays at 256 Kingston Avenue from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. A stipend will be given along with a MetroCard. Please register by March 10th, at www.crownheights.org/herlife . For more information, hnolasco@courtinnovation.org 718-683-6610.

B. Education & Youth Committee:

The Brooklyn Tech High School Alumni Foundation presented their outreach efforts to increase the number of African American and Hispanic students' ability to take the specialized High School test.

Oma Holloway, Committee Chairperson introduced Faye Moore, Brooklyn Tech Alumni Ms. Holloway stated that she will discuss the outreach effort to increase the number of black and Hispanic students to take the Specialized High School Test.

Ms. Moore stated that the population of Black and Hispanic students has dropped drastically to 18%. Some parents are not aware that the test is available to their child.

Ms. Elizabeth Scarvara, Executive Director, Alumni Association. She invited parents to a forum on April 4th, at Brooklyn Tech High School at 6:30 p.m. The forum will focus on helping students prepare for the test and sharing resources. They have partnered with National Grid to provide the STEM Program to 6th grade middle school students.

Sam Adewemi is a Math teacher at Brooklyn Tech and he also operated a test prep program. Several test prep companies will be on hand.

C. Economic Development Committee

The committee hosted a presentation by the Bed-Stuy Cooperative Business Project, who look to help local residents develop wealth.

Mr. Flateau introduced Ashleigh Eubanks and Bianca, Food Justice Director, Northeast Brooklyn Housing Development Corporation (NEBHDCo)

NEBHDCo has developed cooking programs and the gardening internships program. They also operate a food pantry. She in turn introduced Scott Trumbull.

Scott Trumbull, Working World stated that this is a non-for-profit Loan Fund. They have worked in Latin America and the United States to give people access to capital and the tools they need to become business owners.

There are two things that distinguish Working World:

- 1) They only work with workers owned or community owned enterprises,

2) They have non-extractive financial model (they only get repayment on the loan after the business becomes profitable and the workers are getting paid.

Smiley Rojas Nunez explained what a Worker Cooperative is. He stated that it a democratically run workplace. All the workers are co-owners of the business. They have an equal share in the business at the end of the year. This program helps to distribute wealth in the community.

They would like businesses to become co-owners with their workers.

ROLL CALL

There were 32 members present and 11 absent.

III. COMMITTEE UPDATES & RESOLUTIONS

Oma Holloway – Education & Youth

Ms. Holloway informed the audience that due to the Mayor’s Town Hall on Thursday, her committee meeting will be postponed to March 16th, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board office.

Marion Little – Parks, Arts & Culture

Mr. Little informed the audience that the adult tennis fees have been reduced to \$100 effective February 10, 2017. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/tennis

Stacey Ruffin – Civic & Public Safety

The committee meeting will be held tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. in the Board office.

Tywan Anthony – Economic Development

If anyone is interested in the SLA applications, come to their committee meetings which are held on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Board office.

Doris Pinn – Housing & Land Use

Ms. Pinn informed the audience that their committee will be meeting on March 8th, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the rezoning of Atlantic Avenue from manufacturing to residential.

Gregory Glasgow – Transportation, Sanitation & Environment

Mr. Glasgow stated that their next committee meeting will be held on March 14th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board office.

Evelyn Collier – Landmarks & Preservation

Ms. Collier asked the Board members to support the committee resolution for the Macon Branch Library request to install signage on the exterior of the building.

[..\Resolution for Macon Branch Library.pdf](#)

A motion to accept the resolution was made by Edna Johnson and second by Douglas Williams

[..\Vote for Macon Public Library.pdf](#)

IV. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evette Simmons

Ms. Simmons warned the residents to be aware of scams. And someone had painted her property without her permission. She is now in small claims court.

V. ACTION ON THE PUBLIC HEARING

A. Landmarks Preservation Commission Application for 524-540 Halsey Street

The committee caucused after the presentation and voted to **NOT** give a letter of support for this project. A motion to accept the recommendation was made by Douglas Williams and second by Mary Jemison Head.

[..\Vote for 524-540 Halsey St.pdf](#)

B. Bravi Regazzi BK LLC is seeking a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License.

Tywan Anthony reported that the committee caucused after the presentation and voted to issue a letter of support with two stipulations:

- 1) If there is live music in the future, there should be proper soundproofing
- 2) If there is outdoor seating, they should come back to the Community Board

The committee met with the owners after caucusing and they have decided to withdraw the idea of live music and outdoor seating. This was obtained in writing. The recommendation is to give a letter of support.

A motion to accept the recommendation was made by Felicia Alexander and second by Oma Holloway.

[..\Bravi Regazzi BK LLC.pdf](#)

C. Tallboys Inc. is seeking a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License.

Tywan Anthony reported that the committee caucused after the presentation and voted to issue a letter of support. A motion was made to accept the committee's recommendation by Gregory Glasgow

[..\Vote for Tallboys Inc.pdf](#)

D. Brooklyn Public Library is seeking a letter of support to install signage on the exterior of the Macon Branch Library located at 361 Lewis Avenue

The committee recommended giving a letter of support to install new signage and a digital display board at the branch.

[..\Vote for Macon Public Library.pdf](#)

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Richard Flateau

Mr. Flateau reminded the board members about the retreat on Saturday, March 11th. It will be held in the Skylight Gallery from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

VII. ACCEPTANCE OF JANUARY 9, 2017 & FEBRUARY 6, 2017 MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the January and February minutes by Douglas Williams and second by Felicia Alexander.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,
Beryl Nyack
March 24, 2017