



CITY OF NEW YORK **COMMUNITY BOARD 3**
MINUTES OF THE
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021
COMMUNITY BOARD VIRTUAL MEETING

In Attendance:

Members Present: Babatunde Awoke, Felicia Alexander, Tywan Anthony, Monique Antoine, Lillian Bowman, Anthony Buissereth, Michael Catlyn, Ivy Gamble-Cobb, Evelyn Collier, Taina Evans, Marc Abou-Faissal, Carroll “Rusty” Fields, Richard Flateau, Sharon Forbes, Keith Forest, Gregory Glasgow, Shia Greenfeld, Mary Jemison-Head, Abitzel Robinson-Hobson, Oma Holloway, Everett Hughes, Edna Johnson, Dr. Kerliene Johnson, Dr. Debra Lamb, Lisa Lewis, Marion Little, Hardy “Joe” Long, Dovie Matthews, Kenneth Mbonu, Ellen Miller, Melissa Plowden-Norman, Christine Parker, Santina Payton, C. Doris Pinn, Simone Pratt, Annalee Reid, Karen Rhau, Carolyn Richburg, Miari Roberts, Wendy Robinson, Stacey Ruffin, Suzette Sheppard, Alice Walton, Rev. Dr. Robert Waterman, Douglas Williams, TJ Wilson

Members Absent/Excused: Dr. Kim Best, Victor Iroh, Keisha Jerryman, Jamella Swift

Elected Official/Reps: Hon. Jabari Brisport, Hon. Latrice Walker, Hon. Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Hon. Stefani Zinerman, Naomi Campbell – Hon. Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Nadine Gayle – Hon. Latrice Walker, Shelton Jones – Hon. Eric Gonzalez, P.O. Sharon Holmes – 81st Precinct, Daniel Fisher – 81st Precinct Community Council, Lynette Battle – Bed-Stuy Gateway BID, Gregory Anderson – Bridge Street Development Corp.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Richard Flateau

Chair Flateau stated that the Community Board is also experiencing the effects of the fiscal cuts. All community boards were asked to cut their budget for this fiscal year and the next. Community Board 3 submitted its budget cuts in the form of OTPS (Other than Personal Services).

He thanked District Manager Butler, and the Land Use Committee leadership of Chair C. Doris Pinn, 1st Vice-Chair, Ellen Miller and 2nd Vice-Chair Simone Pratt for their role in leading the effort to extend Local Law 152. City Council passed the amendment deadline for compliance for property owners in Community Districts 1, 3 and 10 Citywide to June 30, 2021. The amendment also requires the Buildings Department to do community outreach and education.

In addition, he announced that Oma Holloway has stepped down as Chair of the Education & Youth Committee. He thanked her for her many years of advocacy for education.

He added that at the Tuesday, December 8th, Borough Board meeting the Board voted and passed a resolution for continued support for Mitchell Llama Housing.

He announced the passing of Tyrone Woods, the first District Manager of Community Board 3 in the 1970s and staff member of Council Member Albert Vann.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Gregory Anderson informed that homeowners who are having trouble paying their mortgage or are facing forbearance can call Bridge Street, our office councilors or mortgage moratorium. You should call their office to make sure you have a plan for when forbearance ends. If you are a homeowner and you have renters who are not able to pay their rent, call our office and if you are a renter having trouble paying rent, please call our office we were here to help everyone prepare from when the forbearance and the moratoriums end the other last minute related to our economic development activities

Bridge Street is working with the BID in the process of conducting a commercial district needs assessment. looking at businesses from Fulton Street to DeKalb Avenue and from Bedford Avenue to Malcolm X Blvd. Part of this assessment, there are two surveys we are conducting, one for business owners, merchants and one for consumers.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – Henry L. Butler

The Board will be hosting a Town Hall on the COVID-19 vaccine on Wednesday, January 20th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The guest speakers will be Dr. Easterling, 1st Deputy Commissioner & Chief Equity Officer for NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene and Dr. Theresa Y. Smith, Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education at SUNY Downstate Emergency Department.

The Department of Health and Bridge Street Development Corp. will also be holding another Rat Academy Training on Wednesday, January 20th, from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

I. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

A. Health & Social Service Committee:

Dr. Teresa Y. Smith, Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education at SUNY Downstate. She works at both Kings County and SUNY Downstate Emergency Department. She gave an Informational presentation about the COVID-19 Vaccine. Dr. Smith informed that there is a second surge and showed statistics based on the increase after the holiday. She stated that the CDC has groups of individuals who are going to be vaccinated in a tier like system 1A is health care workers, 1B will be teachers and those who are 65 years and older. She recommended that everyone go to the CDC website to determine when you will receive the vaccine.

She explained the difference in both vaccines which were produced by Pfizer and Moderna and what it does in the body to fight the COVID-19. The vaccine will not cure COVID-19 but it protects the body from the effects of COVID-19 by building up antibodies to attack the virus.

Questions were asked and answered.

B. Housing & Land Use Committee:

Addison Vawters, HPD Neighborhood Planner gave an update on the RFP (Request for Proposal) for the Bed-Stuy Housing Initiative. He reviewed the goals and in key actions of the initiative. He also informed that they will be renovating 700 apartments.

There were 17 meetings in total and hundreds of surveys taken which led to the following goals and strategies:

1. one is to support tenants and owners struggling to keep up and who are under pressure to sell;
2. to reduce housing speculation and legal housing with activities that are used to promote stable property housing;
3. to create affordable rental and homeownership opportunities on vacant city owned land.

There are five sites, however, only two RFPs have been released. One for east side of Fulton and Howard and the other for Fulton and Saratoga. The Fulton and Howard site will be for homeownership program with 40 rental units. The ground floor will be commercial space. The Fulton and Saratoga site will be for senior housing with a wellness and healing space for classes and 140 additional units.

Based on the community request for calculating center fresh food market fitness programs 25% ownership stake will be held by MWPS or non-profit entities, internet service plan will be provided per unit. Submission deadline for the RFP will be Monday, February 22nd.

Some of the things that are planned in the future are as follows:

- A Day of Action in March
- On Thursday, January 14th, there will be a Tenant Resource Fair
- On Tuesday, January 26th, there will be a Homeowner Resource Fair
- HPD Open Door Turn Sheet and a Senior Turn Sheet

If anyone would like to read the plan, it is available on www.nyc.gov/bedstuy

Questions were asked and answered.

C. Parks, Art & Culture Committee:

Nicole Bryan & Sheena Miller, Librarians with the Brooklyn Public Library/Macon Branch gave an Informational presentation on the Black American Library Card. The Black American Library Card Project is an idea which was introduced by Wendy Robinson, a CB3 Parks, Art & Culture Committee Member and it is being adopted by the library.

The card will be a limited edition and will be available for all Brooklyn branches. There is a call for artists beginning January 4th – January 31st, to submit designs for the cards. There will be a \$2,000 stipend. There will be an Information Session on Monday, January 11th, at 5:00 p.m. For more information, <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/>

Please share with your network.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Economic Development Committee:

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application for 566 Nostrand Inc. (DBA Amour), located at 566-568 Nostrand Avenue between Herkimer Street & Atlantic Avenue.

Mark J. Weinstein, Legal Representative spoke on behalf of the owner Michael Franklin. Mr. Weinstein stated that they are a nightclub with music from a DJ but they are not a strip club.

There was a long discussion on some activities that took place at this club including a homicide. Several community board members voiced their concern regarding this establishment attracts criminal activities. Mr. Anthony read the police report on this establishment.

B. Economic Development Committee:

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application for Corto Café LLC located at 260 Halsey Street between Tompkins & Throop Avenues.

Mr. Cristiano Morroi, owner of Corto Café LLC stated that the café has been operating since February 15, 2000 serving light food. However, he was forced to closed on March 15th, due to COVID-19. He re-opened in May and is applying for an alcohol license so he can extend the hours of operation and extend the menu. He stated that the community has embraced the business because it is a nice relaxing space. Currently, he serves sandwiches, salads, soups and different kind of coffees from Italy.

The space is 400 sq. ft. Currently, the hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. On the weekend the hours are 9:00 a.m. and will close at 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. depending on the season.

C. Economic Development Committee:

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application for Brooklyn Molino LLC, located at 343 Franklin Avenue corner of Greene Avenue

Matthew Diaz, owner stated that Brooklyn Molino LLC (dba “For All Things Good”). The menu will be mainly fresh corn masa and fresh tortillas. The restaurant opened July 2020. The current hours of operation are daytime hours from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The evening hours start from 6:00 p.m. – 12:00 am.

D. Economic Development Committee:

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application for a Class Change to a full liquor license for Zaca Café LLC, located at 426A Marcus Garvey Blvd between Macon & Macdonough Streets.

Mr. Inoussa Compaore, owner of Zaca Café LLC stated that he has been in the community for three years. He serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. He would like to upgrade his dinner menu and serve cocktails for brunch.

III. ROLL CALL

There were 46 members present and 4 absent.

IV. COMMITTEE UPDATES & RESOLUTIONS

Evelyn Collier – Landmarks & Preservation

Ms. Collier read the resolution for Application LPC-20-04504 for 274 Malcolm X Blvd to alter an existing mix-use building. The committee's recommendation is to accept proposed alterations because it significantly upgrades the property and better align it with the district's form and character.

[Resolution for 274 Malcolm X Blvd.pdf](#)

A motion to accept the committee's resolution was made by Douglas Williams and seconded by Gregory Glasgow.

[Vote for 274 Malcolm X Blvd.pdf](#)

V. ACTION ON THE PUBLIC HEARING

1. 566 Nostrand Inc. (DBA Armour) request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License

Tywan Anthony stated that the committee's recommendation was to issue a letter of **non-support** to Armour. A motion to accept the committee's recommendation was made by Douglas Williams and second by Felicia Alexander.

[Vote for Armour 1.pdf](#)

2. **Corto Café LLC request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License**
Tywan Anthony stated that he did a site visit and signatures were provided and a letter of support from the TNT Block Association was also provided which he read. The committee's recommendation is to give a letter of **support**. A motion was made by Douglas Williams and seconded by Christine Parker.
[Vote for Corto Cafe LLC 1.pdf](#)
3. **Brooklyn Molino LLC request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License**
Tywan Anthony stated that a site visit was performed by Mark Faissal. They had 25 signatures, two local letters of support, 1) one from Nice Pizza; 2) South Pole hospitality located on Bedford Ave with those two letters and meeting the other criteria that we have.
The committee's recommendation is to issue a letter of **support**. A motion was made by Douglas Williams and seconded by Edna Johnson.
[Vote for Brooklyn Molina LLC.pdf](#)
4. **Zaca Café LLC request for a letter of support for a Class Change to a full Alcohol Beverage Control License**
Tywan Anthony stated that a site visit was done, supporting documentation, at least 25 signatures, and two letters of support from local businesses were provided. The committee's recommendation is to provide a letter of **support**. A motion to accept the committee's recommendation was made by Douglas Williams and seconded by Edna Johnson.
[Vote for Zaca Cafe LLC.pdf](#)

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – RICHARD FLATEAU

Chair Flateau stated that the next public meeting will be held on Monday, February 1st, via Webex.

VII. ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2020 MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes with corrections was made by Douglas Williams and seconded by Edna Johnson.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gregory Glasgow and seconded by Douglas Williams. The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Beryl Nyack
January 22, 2021

Reviewed and edited by:
Stacey Ruffin
January 23, 2021