



**MINUTES OF THE
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2018
COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
GREATER ST. STEPHENS UNITED CHURCH OF GOD
874 MYRTLE AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11206**

Attendance:

Members Present: Babatunde Akowe, Felicia Alexander, Tywan Anthony, Dr. Kim Best, Anthony Buissereth, Michael Catlyn, Ivy Gamble-Cobb, Evelyn Collier, Pastor Gwendolyn Dingle, Taina Evans, Richard Flateau, Sharon Forbes, Keith Forest, Dennis George, Gregory Glasgow, Mary Jemison-Head, Oma Holloway, Everett Hughes, Tarris Iriarte, Edna Johnson, Dr. Kerliene Johnson, Hardy "Joe" Long, Dovie Matthews, Kenneth Mbonu, Ellen Miller, Melissa Plowden-Norman, C. Doris Pinn, Simone Pratt, Karen Rhau, Stacey Ruffin, Shekera Shahid, Suzette Sheppard, Jamella Swift, Rev. Dr. Robert Waterman, Douglas Williams, T. J. Wilson

Members Absent: Marc Abou-Faissal, Abitzel Robinson-Hobson, Shia Greenfeld, Dr. Debra Lamb, Marion Little, Dionicio Liz, Eldica Murray, Kwaku Payton, Santana Payton, Carolyn Richburg, Chinyelu Udoh, Omar Walker, Shanita Wells

INVOCATION

The Deacon from Greater St. Stephens United Church of God gave the invocation.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Richard Flateau

Mr. Flateau gave an update on some of the meetings he attended including a press conference regarding the K2 epidemic. He read the agenda into the record.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Deputy Inspector Charles Minch – 79th Precinct

Deputy Inspector Minch also gave an update on the K2 epidemic. He reported that since May 19th, there have been 250 cases of overdoses in several precincts. He added that K2 is a cheap substitute for marijuana. It is laced with incense and other substances.

Shakti Robbins – Senator Velmanette Montgomery

Ms. Robbins stated that Senator Montgomery Waterfront Revitalization bill passed in the Senate.

Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel

Council Member Samuel mentioned two bills: Bill 869 and Bill 868. She informed that the monthly Advisory Board meetings are held on the first Saturday of every month.

Lucien Allen – Assembly Member Walter Mosley

There will be a compost giveaway on Classon Avenue on June 2nd.

Assembly Member Mosley will be sponsoring the 2018 Summer Reading Challenge

Shelton Jones – Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez

Mr. Jones announced the return of the “Gun Buy Back” Program in July. In addition, to the “Begin Again” in the summer. However, at this time, a date has been set as of yet. More information will be available shortly. He reminded residents to call him at 718-250-3146 or the Action Center at 718-250-2340 for assistance.

Maceo Karriem – Assembly Member Tremaine Wright

Assembly Member Wright will be hosting the Summer Reading Challenge. He added that the Assembly Member is also working on several bills to assist homeowners and Veterans.

Gael Black – Council Member Laurie Cumbo

Ms. Black can be reached at gblack@council.nyc.gov

Temrr Nanikashvili – Bridge Street Development Corp.

There will be a Tenant Workshop to discuss SCRIE and other topics on June 6th, at Bridge Street Development Corp., at 6:00 p.m.

In addition, Bridge Street Development Corp. in partnership with the Flatbush Coalition will be hosting a Tenant Association Workshop on June 28th. It will be held at 1120 Washington Avenue, 2nd floor, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Gordon Bell – Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp.

Mr. Bell announced several housing developments that Restoration will be building at 632 and 648 Dekalb Avenue and 1140 Fulton Street.

Dr. Kim Best – 79th Precinct Community Council

Dr. Best reminder everyone that their Black & White dance will be held on Friday, June 22nd. Donations are \$50.00.

The next Precinct Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 27th at 7:00 p.m., at Brooklyn Job Corps., 585 Dekalb Avenue.

Daniel Fisher – 81st Precinct Community Council

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 12th, at Bedford Stuyvesant Multi-Service Center, 1958 Fulton Street. He added, that “National Night Out” will be held on Tuesday, August 7th, at P.S. 308, 616 Quincy Street between Lewis and Stuyvesant Avenues.

Stefani Zinerman

On Thursday, June 14th, the Age-Friendly Initiative will present a book discussion with the author of “55 and Faking Normal”. It will be held at the Skylight Gallery from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Free books to the first 50 people who RSVP.

She added that poll workers are needed for the upcoming elections on June 26th for September and November.

Acknowledgements

P.O. Christopher Charles – 79th Precinct; Det. Conrad Narcisse – 81st Precinct; Karen Cherry – Hon. Erik Dilan; Darryl White – Hon. Letitia James; Hon. Robin Sheares; Monsignor Paul Jervis; Father Alonso Cox; Sharonnie

Perry – Interfaith Medical Center; Former Council Member Albert Vann

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT – Henry L. Butler

Mr. Butler informed that the Town Hall with the various agencies was well attended. He gave updates in the situation with the homeless lady who resided behind TD Bank in Marcy Plaza. Her belongings were successfully removed with the assistance of the DHS, NYPD and DSNY.

In addition, he informed that DSNY District 35 will start working at nights beginning on Monday, October 17th.

He gave an update on the Borough Service Cabinet meeting which included Con Edison and National Grid. He stated that Hallen’s contract with National Grid will expire in three years.

Mr. Butler reminder everyone that the Board will be holding a second meeting on June 25th. It will be at Restoration Plaza at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Butler also informed that Borough President Adams and Council Member Cornegy will be hosting a “Rat Summit” on Thursday, June 28th, at Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp., 1368 Fulton Street from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

On Saturday, June 16th, the Metropolitan Black Bar Association will host a Brooklyn Community Law Day from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., at 1368 Fulton Street.

On Wednesday, June 6th, there will be a memorial service for Taneya at the Macon Branch Library. Flyer was available.

I. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

A. Transportation, Sanitation & Environment Committee:

The Department of Transportation School Safety Unit gave a presentation on the Ralph Avenue/Bainbridge Street/Patchen Avenue School Safety Plan.

Gregory Glasgow, Committee Chair introduced Nina Haiman, School Safety Unit however, the Deputy Director, William Sherman made the presentation on her behalf.

Mr. Sherman stated that Ralph Avenue is a Vision Zero Priority Area. The request to make the area safer was made by P. S. 40, the 81st Precinct and Community Board 3. These changes will go into effect by September. P.S. 21 is part of a Comprehensive Plan.

The proposal is to remove angle parking on Ralph Avenue between Fulton and Bainbridge Streets and relocate the angle parking to Bainbridge Street, paint the curb extension, create shorter pedestrian crossing, change parallel parking to 90 degree parking on Bainbridge Street between Ralph and Patchen Avenues.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Housing & Land Use Committee:

Proposed Zoning Text Amendment for M1-Hotel Special Permit from the Dept. of City Planning

C. Doris Pinn, Committee Chair introduced Amy Pivak, Brooklyn City Planner

Ms. Pivak stated that hotels are allowed As-of-Right however, this proposal will allow a CPC Special Permit Application is subject to a ULURP review. 30% of hotels are in M-1 in Brooklyn however, there are only two that exist in the district.

New hotels will be subject to Special Permits. Issues with hotels being built in M1 District is the fact that it is areas are unsafe for pedestrians from trucks, noise etc. Transient hotels will be allowed by Special Permit and the rules will not change. Existing hotels will be considered conforming.

Questions & Answers

Roslyn Williams: How many hotels will be built?

Amy Pivak: I am not aware of any being built.

B. Parks, Art & Culture Committee:

Kojo Campbell is requesting a letter of support to co-name the North East corner of Claver Place & Fulton Street to Jitu Weusi Way

TJ Wilson, Committee Vice-Chair introduced Kojo Campbell, Son of the late Jitu Weusi

Mr. Campbell gave a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the East and the life and accomplishments of his father Jitu Weusi. Several friends and members of the East spoke on his behalf and the roles he played in their lives.

However, longtime residents of Claver Place and members of St. Peter Claver Church including Monsignor Jervis spoke about the history of Claver Place and the bad memories they experienced with Les Campbell. Petitions were submitted by the residents opposing the co-naming.

Ms. Pinn stated that the request should read Claver Place between Putnam Avenue and Fulton Street.

C. Economic Development Committee:

Sidewalk Café Application for Struzzo LLC. (DBA Fermento) located at 358 Kosciuszko Street corner of Marcus Garvey Blvd.

Tywan Anthony, Committee Chair introduced the owner Benedetto Cantarella.

Mr. Cantarella stated that the restaurant has been opened since September 2017. They currently have a wine and beer license. There are four tables and 18 chairs. The hours of operation are: 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays; and 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. on Sundays. There will be backyard music. The plan is to have 12 tables with 34 seats.

III. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kenesha Traynham-Cooper

The organization provides after school programs beginning on September 6th, from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. They offer pick-up and drop-off service. There will be an Open House on Tuesday, July 24th. For more information contact 929-304-5000.

Hon. Robin Sheares

Judge Sheares invited everyone to come and meet the judges at the Brooklyn North Clergy Council. The event will be held on Saturday, June 16th, at P.S. 308, 616 Quincy Street from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Taina Evans – Brooklyn Public Library

Ms. Evans invited everyone to participate in the Summer Jam event held on Saturday, June 9th, at the Grand Army Plaza.

IV. ROLL CALL

There were 36 members present and 13 absent.

V. COMMITTEE UPDATES & RESOLUTIONS

Tywan Anthony – Economic Development

The committee is working with banks in the community to provide jobs and financial education to the community. He presented Natalie Davis, Jobs Plus which is a program through Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp. For more information, visit www.restorationplaza.org

In addition, Evie Sylvain, Santander informed that they are hiring. Please visit www.santander.com She added that it is a great opportunity to work in the community you live. They will be opening a branch in the district.

T J Wilson – Parks & Culture

Ms. Wilson announced that the committee recommends giving a letter of support for the Lewis Playground. The committee will work with the Parks Department to re-distribute the blue stones to a community garden. However, the playground is too small to accommodate a comfort station.

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 6th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board office.

A motion to accept the committee recommendation was made by Sharon Forbes and seconded by Douglas Williams.

[Vote for Lewis Avenue Playground.pdf](#)

Oma Holloway – Education & Youth

Ms. Holloway announced Best Stuy Best 2018 will be held on June 7th, at the Brooklyn Job Corp.

Gregory Glasgow – Transportation, Sanitation & Environment

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 12th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board office.

VI. ACTION ON THE PUBLIC HEARING

- A.** Request for a letter of support from the Department of City Planning on the proposed Zoning Text Amendment for an M1-Hotel Special Permit.

Ms. Pinn reported that the committee caucused and recommended a letter of support. A motion was made to accept the recommendation by Gregory Glasgow and seconded by Douglas Williams.

[U:\Vote for Zoning Text Amendment for M1 - Hotel.pdf](#)

- B.** Request for a letter of support to co-name the North East corner of Claver Place & Fulton Street Jitu Weusi Way.

Ms. Wilson informed the audience that the request will be tabled until the June 25th, meeting in order for the committee to review the new information that was received.

[U:\Co-naming of Claver Pl for Jitu Weusi.pdf](#)

- C.** Struzzo LLC (DBA Fermento) request for a letter of support for a Sidewalk Café License.

Tywan Anthony stated that the committee's recommendation is to give a letter of support. A motion to accept the recommendation was made by Edna Johnson and seconded by Douglas Williams.

[Vote for Struzzo LLC.pdf](#)

VII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Richard Flateau

Mr. Flateau informed the Board members that additional information was received regarding the request to co-name 840A Monroe Street, after John Steptoe. The Board has learned that the person who made the request is not the owner of the property and LPC will not honor the request. Therefore, the Board recommendation is to rescind the letter of support that was previously voted on in April.

A motion was made by C. Doris Pinn and seconded by Gregory Glasgow to rescind the vote and give a letter of non-support.

[U:\Vote to rescind support for 840A Monroe St.pdf](#)

VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAY 7, 2018 MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Douglas Williams and seconded by Oma Holloway.

I X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Beryl Nyack
June 15, 2018
Reviewed by,
Stacey Ruffin, Executive Secretary
June 21, 2018