

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 January 23, 2007

Attendance

Rev. Reuben Akinfime (A)	
David Alexander	Deborah Mack
Joyce Anderson (E)	*James Mack
Josephine Blakeley	Rev. Thelma Martin (E)
Patricia Boone	Yolanda Matthews
James A. Bowens	Sadie McNamara
Esther Cobb (A)	Rev. Joseph Norton (A)
Adrainer Kim Coleman (A)	Marie Pierre
Gregory Coad (A)	Elder Devon Ponds
Bonnie Crump (A)	Mattie Pusey
Essie Duggan	Isaiah Simmons (E)
Sam Gardner	Ernestine Turner
Shirley Gonsalves	Rev. Miran Ukaegbu
Daniel Goodine (A)	Marcus Victory
Sarah Hall	Alice Vines (E)
Henry Hill	Annie Walkes
Kofi Hormeku	Dr. Merrill White
Michael Howard	Herman Winston
Hattie Hunt (A)	Hazel Younger
Allene Ingram (E)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, DM
Daisy Jackson	E. Jane Coleman-Assistant ADM
Wordell Johnson	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Dr. Cade Jones, III	Onica Cox for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Eula Key	Essie Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
*Danny King (A)	Kelvin Alexander for Hon. Eric Adams
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Hon. Lisa Kenner
Shawn Lewis (A)	Princess Jackson for Hon. Darlene Mealy

* Inadvertently marked absent for meeting of December 19, 2006

MEETING HELD AT BROWNSVILLE MULTI-SERVICE CENTER, 444 THOMAS S. BOYLAND STREET, BROOKLYN

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Hazel Younger officially called the Public Hearing to order at 7:12 p.m.. An invocation was said by Dr. Cade Jones, III.

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD):

- 1) pursuant to Article 16 of the General Municipal Law of New York State for:
 - a. the designation of property located at 730 Rockaway Avenue (Block 3589, Lots 18, 19, 20, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42), 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 selected by HPD;

to facilitate development of a 7-story building with approximately 64 residential units to be developed under the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Cornerstone program.

A delegation from Dunn Development Corp. and New York ACORN Housing, Inc., led by Mr. Martin Dunn and Ms. Ismelene Speliotis, presented architectural drawings of the proposed building. The site was awarded to their team through the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Cornerstone Program.

The rendering showed a 7-story building fronting on Rockaway Avenue with 19 parking spaces

on the Chester Street side of the site. Mr. Dunn stated that the design for the elevations of the building makes use of details found on many other structures in the Brownsville community. In order to reduce the visual mass of the building, they have incorporated different setbacks at various points along Rockaway Avenue. The rear of the building will feature parking spaces, a children's play area, and a garden area. It will be energy efficient and will be constructed of many environmentally friendly materials. The building will be equipped with security cameras in the public areas and the exterior perimeter and parking spaces. They are also looking into tying in a closed-circuit television system that will allow tenants to monitor the entryways through a certain channel on their television sets.

Financing has been secured and they expect to close on the loan in June of this year and expect to have occupancy in October 2008.

Ms. Speliotis stated that there will be 64 units in the building featuring two- and three-bedrooms. The rents will be on a tiered income basis ranging from 30 to 80% of the area median income. A minimum of 50% of the apartments will be occupied by residents of Community District #16 (This is a minimum number. In general, they find that the number is usually much higher.). They will work closely with the Community Board and other community-based organizations to insure that this happens. Eight of the sixty-four units will be set aside for formerly homeless families as required by HPD guidelines. New York ACORN Housing, Inc. will be the managing company for the building.

Ms. Kollock-Wallace stated that the informational flyer shows rates based upon persons earning as low as 40% of the area median income, however, Ms. Speliotis stated that the rents may be based upon persons earning as little as 30% of the area median income. Which is correct?

Mr. Dunn stated that the 30% only applies to the eight units set aside for formerly homeless families.

Someone asked how will the community be informed as to when the apartments are available?

Ms. Speliotis stated that in accordance with HPD regulations, they will place notices in Citywide, ethnic, and local newspapers. They will work with the Community Board in selecting the ethnic and local papers. Additionally, as they have done in the past, they will outreach to local community-based organizations and houses of worship to get the word out.

Someone asked what will the building be constructed of will it be a brick building?

Mr. Dunn stated that it will be a cinder block building with a brick outer wall and will make use of pre-cast stone on the façade.

Ms. Mattie Pusey stated that the rent guidelines show that heat and gas are included but electricity is not mentioned.

Ms. Speliotis stated that in most instances, outside of public housing, large buildings in New York City have heat and gas that are centralized and included in the rent. In order to be cost effective and provide an incentive for the tenants to use electricity economically, it is provided through meters for each unit and paid for by the tenants.

District Leader Lisa Kenner stated that in the past, ACORN has given preferential treatment to their members for units that they manage. Will this be the case with the units proposed tonight?

Ms. Speliotis stated that in her twelve year tenure, they have been strictly following HPD guidelines in marketing and renting units. There is no requirement that tenants join ACORN, nor is there any preference given to those who are members.

There being no further comments, the Public Hearing was adjourned.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

A motion was made by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to dispense with the reading of the District Manager's report.

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Mr. Marcus Victory and carried to dispense with the reading of last month's minutes.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, January 9, 2007.

The Committee has been informed by letter that under the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) procedure, the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), as CEQR lead agency, is required to determine whether a proposed action may or will not have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with these procedures, HPD has determined that the following projects will not have a significant effect on the environment:

- 1) River Rock Apartments 53 rental units for low-income families, retail and community facility and accessory parking spaces on Block 3602, Lots 34-42 (bounded by Rockaway Avenue, Riverdale Avenue, Chester Street and Newport Street);
- 2) The Rockaway Cornerstone IV Project 64 low-income residential units with an 800 sq. ft. community facility space for the building occupants, and 19 accessory parking spaces on Block 3589, Lots 18-20, 36-42 (bounded by Rockaway Avenue, Riverdale Avenue, Chester Street and Livonia Avenue). This is also the project that was heard at tonight's public hearing.

The Committee is also in receipt of the CEQR application for Block 1433, Lots 3, 5 and 6 (on Saratoga Avenue between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street) for the AM&G Waterproofing site. The Office of Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding, as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the environment. Additional information about this project will be reported to the Board next month.

Committee members were also reminded about the importance of timely and regular attendance at meetings. According to the By-Laws of Community Board #16, if a Committee member misses three consecutive meetings or fails to attend six or more meetings during the year, he or she can be removed from the Committee.

The next Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 13th at 5:30 p.m..

A motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Ms. Josephine Blakeley and carried to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that on January 5, 2007, he and Mr. Tony Rosa, Manager of Parks for District #16, visited the parks and playgrounds in the District.

Their findings were:

- 1) Brownsville Recreation Center Playground and Pool, located at 1555 Linden Blvd - well kept, no complaints.
- 2) Callahan Kelly Playground, located on Eastern Parkway at Fulton Street - well kept.
- 3) Betsy Head Park & Pool, located on Thomas S. Boyland Street at Dumont Avenue - needs better lighting which is currently being worked on.
- 4) Osborn Playground, located on Hegeman Avenue at Thatford Avenue - Playground well maintained by WEP workers.
- 5) Howard Houses Park and Pool, located on Mother Gaston Boulevard at Glenmore Avenue and East New York Avenue at St. Mark's Avenue - work is in progress but completion date is uncertain.
- 6) Kingsborough Playground, located on Howard Avenue at Dean Street - did not visit.

- 7) Shiplacoff Park, located on Powell Street at Glenmore Avenue - well maintained, no problems.
- 8) Marion Street Park, located on Marion Street between Rockaway Avenue and Thomas S. Boyland Street - Need responsible person/group to adopt the park, concerned about dogs being walked in the park.
- 9) Dr. Richard Green Playground, located on Sutter Avenue at Mother Gaston Boulevard - comfort station is well kept. Dawn to dusk regulation needs to be enforced.
- 10) Newport Playground, located on Thatford Avenue at Riverdale Avenue - well maintained.
- 11) Van Dyke Playground, located on Dumont Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard and Powell Street - well maintained.
- 12) Houston Playground, located on Sackman Street between Glenmore and Liberty Avenues - clean, but trees need pruning.
- 13) Powell Street Playground, located on Powell Street between Glenmore and Pitkin Avenues - well maintained.
- 14) Nehemiah Park, located on Watkins Street between Livonia and Riverdale Avenues - under construction and work is expected to be completed in April 2007.
- 15) Fish Playground, located on Fulton Street between Thomas S. Boyland Street and Saratoga Avenue - under construction and work is expected to be completed in March 2007.
- 16) Chester Playground, located on Bristol Street between Pitkin and Sutter Avenues - well maintained.
- 17) Veteran s Memorial Park, located at Mother Gaston Boulevard and Hegeman Avenue - did not visit.
- 18) Saratoga Ballfield, located at Thomas S. Boyland Street between Pacific and Dean Streets - did not visit.
- 19) Floyd Paterson Field, located on Mother Gaston Boulevard at Newport Street - nice, but some repairs are being made to the turf in preparation for the summer.
- 20) Zion Triangle / Loews Square, located at Pitkin Avenue and Legion Street - did not visit.
- 21) Carter G. Woodson Children s Playground, located at Christopher Avenue between Sutter and Belmont Avenues - well maintained.

Mr. Hormeku suggested that all parks and playgrounds be closed at 8:00 p.m. and that the Police Department help to enforce this rule.

Volunteers are needed to work with the Parks and Recreation Committee by adopting parks and playgrounds in the community and providing the Committee with updates on a monthly basis.

Last evening, the Committee met with representatives from the Parks Department who reviewed the scope of work planned for the Brownsville Recreation Center (BRC) Playground.

Thanks to Councilman Charles Barron, \$2 million was appropriated to redesign the BRC Playground. The baseball field will be rehabilitated with a synthetic surface that can be used for soccer, junior football, and other sports.

A netball court will replace two existing handball courts. A new basketball and handball court will be adjacent to the netball court. Conduits for light poles will be installed so that lights for nighttime activities can be installed in the next phase because there aren t enough funds in this phase (Each pole will cost approximately \$150,000). The existing trees will remain, but new seating areas and new fencing around the playground will be provided.

Mr. Kofi requested that Mr. David Martin and Ms. Portia Dyrenforth of the Department of Parks and Recreation come forward and elaborate further on the scope of work for the Brownsville Recreation Center Playground.

Ms. Dyrenforth stated that she is from the Department's Brooklyn Borough Office for Capital Projects. They are here tonight to present the designs for the Brownsville Ballfield which is within the Brownsville Playground, located adjacent to the Brownsville Recreation Center.

Mr. Martin stated that the project calls for the reconstruction of an asphalt baseball field by turning it into a synthetic turf field that can be used for a multitude of sports such as baseball, soccer, and football. This was one of the stated goals expressed by Councilman Barron.

The park contains many healthy and mature trees and the goal of the Department is to always maintain and allow them to flourish. The two million dollars that has been allocated is sufficient only for the ballfield and bleacher stands. The Councilman is aware of this and is looking into providing additional resources.

A rendering of the project was shown. The field will be the same type of material that is in use at many professional sport stadiums and can be used continuously. Sports such as football and soccer are very tough on natural grass but the synthetic surface will easily withstand that type of use.

As was stated earlier, the lighting is not part of the scope of work for the current phase. Conduits (for a future project to place lighting in the ballfield) will be placed under the turf so that wiring for the lights can be installed without disturbing the field. The scope of work does include the painting of existing posts, installation of new mesh fencing, and water fountains for the dugouts and bleachers.

Chairperson Younger thanked the presenters for their presentation.

Mr. Hormeku stated that the parks belong to the community and the community should take pride and care of them. He again asked for volunteers to assist with inspecting the parks and reporting deficiencies to the Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Mattie Pusey, seconded by Ms. Josephine Blakeley and carried to accept the report of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Annie Walkes, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to approve the scope of work for the Brownsville Recreation Center Playground.

Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace commended the report given by the Parks and Recreation Committee and asked if there is a Committee in place to monitor the recreation centers. There is some equipment at the Brownsville Recreation Center (BRC) that is in need of repair.

Chairperson Younger stated that she is the Chairperson of the BRC Advisory Board and is of the opinion that the monitoring of the equipment at the center should be done internally. Much of the equipment at the BRC is less than a year old and should not be in disrepair. She will reach out to Mr. Gregory Jackson, Director of the BRC, and request that the warranties be examined and appropriate action taken.

Ms. Annie Walkes, Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 with Mr. Harvey Stone, Executive Director of the Wayside Senior Programs, who informed the Committee that they sponsor the following senior centers - Filden, Van Dyke, Rosetta Gaston, Mt. Ararat, Tompkins Park, Boulevard and Brevoort. They are all located in NYCHA (New York City Housing Authority) sites, except Tompkins Park which is housed in a 202 building sponsored by Cornerstone Baptist Church. All of the centers are funded by the Department for the Aging.

They also sponsor a small center at Wayside Baptist Church which is funded by the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development.

The primary service at the centers is the food program. Last fiscal year, they served over 70,000 hot congregate lunches, 34,000 breakfasts and over 45,000 home-delivered meals (through the Meals-on-Wheels program).

Most centers only have a Director, Cook, Assistant Cook, and a Custodian. They use senior volunteers and WEP workers to supplement the staff.

Mr. Stone stated that they also provide transportation, using nine vans. Three vans are used exclusively to deliver meals.

The City Council voted \$7,000 for the operating cost (maintenance, insurance, gasoline, etc.) of each van this year.

The Centers also have workshops, shopping trips, cultural trips, etc..

Mr. Stone stated that they are fundraising in an effort to offset operating costs at the centers. Their goal is to raise \$50,000 by March 2007.

The Committee plans to tour the senior centers in Community District 16 and will be reporting their findings to the Community Board.

The next Senior Citizens Affairs meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21st, 3:30 p.m. at the Community Board Office.

A motion was made by Elder Devon Ponds, seconded by Mr. Kofi Hormeku and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee.

Dr. Merrill White, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 17, 2007. The goals and objectives of the Committee are to disseminate information that will empower community women to access services that are paramount to family preservation.

The Committee plans to sponsor a workshop in the spring that would allow the community access to an abundance of information and a few presentations by professionals on women's issues.

The involvement of Community Board 16 is very important and surveys will be distributed to determine what Board 16 feels are critical women's issues at this time.

Though the Women's Committee is generally thought of as gender specific, the expectation is that the Committee's projects will include both men and women. The men's input is vital and the Committee looks forward to their participation.

A motion was made by Ms. Annie Walkes, seconded by Mr. Kofi Hormeku and carried to accept the report of the Women's Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Ms. Hattie Hunt and carried by a vote of 29- in favor, 0-opposed, and 2-abstentions to approve tonight's public hearing item.

Ms. Mattie Pusey stated that she had requested to become a member of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee sometime ago but has not received a response to her request.

Chairperson Younger stated that the Committee has a waiting list for membership. She requested that District Manager Greene-Walker look into Ms. Pusey's application and contact her tomorrow.

Mr. Henry Hill read the following memorandum dated Tuesday, January 23, 2007 from Senator John Sampson to Chairperson Younger concerning his Agenda for 2007:

- I) One of my main objectives this year is to stop youth violence and street gang activity. We must do everything in our power to show our children that there are alternatives to violence. I plan to hold a series of meetings in the district with parents, educators, community and religious groups in order to find ways to stop youth violence and empower our children to resist drugs and gangs. I am also exploring the possibilities of bringing

outside experts to the district to help motivate and empower our young people and demonstrate to them the perils of joining gangs. It is also vitally important to find more funding at the State level for safe and fun activities and programs for kids as an alternative to joining gangs and hanging out and getting into trouble.

- II) As Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Health Committee, I will strongly pursue the passage of the Health Care Reinvestment Act that will compel HMOs to reinvest a portion of their high profits to local community health projects and into providing health insurance for the uninsured in New York and in our community.
- III) Another high priority for me this legislative session will be in the area of consumer financing. I plan to bring our community together with financial planners and experts to help people understand such topics as mortgages, credit reports, preventing identity theft, personal and business loans, and other subjects that will help people take charge of their personal finances.
- IV) I am also very concerned with lowering taxes in New York and in our local community. I voted on a tax credit program that will help over 350,000 small businesses to pay for the rising cost of energy. I am also proud to have voted for extension of the State S.T.A.R. program as well as an initiative to eliminate the petroleum business tax on petroleum fuel sold for residential heating purposes. This will lower the high cost of heating during the cold winter months.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Princess Jackson of Councilmember Darlene Mealy's office.

Ms. Jackson announced that they have applications for lifeguard positions being offered by the Department of Parks and Recreation for persons aged 16 years and older. She urges anyone seeking assistance to contact their office at (718) 953-3097.

Chairperson Younger recognized District Leader Lisa Kenner.

Ms. Kenner stated that she is happy to see that the Committees are active and reporting to the community. She expressed concern that land in the community continues to be sold by the City without the opportunity for local developers to participate in the process.

On the issue of youth violence, in behalf of some young men who had gotten into some trouble, she reached out to Senator Sampson who brought the young men to a hospital so that they could see the results of gun violence firsthand. She also asked Dr. Lenora Fulani to moderate a youth forum this Thursday at the Van Dyke Community Center. She has also spoken to the Police Department and requested officers (out of uniform) to come and speak to the youth in an attempt to bridge the gap between the youth and the Police Department.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Eljoy Mitchell of New York City Comptroller William Thompson's office.

Ms. Mitchell stated that copies of the Comptroller's Community Update newsletter are available on tonight's distribution table. The newsletter contains information about issues that the Comptroller is currently working on. She invited the audience to explore their website at www.comptroller.nyc.gov/ or call them at (212) 669-2795 with questions or issues of concern.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Essie Duggan, representing State Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

Ms. Duggan stated that Senator Montgomery urges everyone to pay attention to the recent testimony given at the Board of Elections concerning new voting machines. The testimony can be found in her newsletter on tonight's distribution table.

The Senator also seeks to inform the community of an upcoming youth forum to be held in March 2007 at I.S. 271 (1137 Herkimer Street). She wants to hear from the youth so that she can effectively legislate on their behalf in Albany.

AARP is offering part-time positions to senior citizens which will not interfere with their Social Security income. For additional information, please contact Ms. Shirley Washington at the rear of the lobby this evening.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Kelvin Alexander of Senator Eric Adams office.

Mr. Alexander stated that he is the Deputy Chief of Staff for State Senator Eric Adams and that Ms. Cynthia David will serve as liaison to Community Board #16. Their District Office is located at 572 Flatbush Avenue and their telephone number is (718) 284-4700. The office hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m..

The Senator will host a Valentine s Day Senior event at the Park House in Prospect Park on February 14th. All seniors are invited to join them for the festivities. Additionally, Senator Adams is sponsoring a bus to Albany for seniors during the Black, Hispanic, and Asian Caucus weekend on February 17th. Lastly, the Senator is sponsoring their annual African-American History Month program at the Brooklyn Children s Museum on February 22nd and everyone is invited to attend.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Onica Cox of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke s office who stated that they are in the midst of renovating an office at 123 Linden Boulevard. They will provide the Board with contact information when their phones are installed.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. William Boone of the Educators for Children Youth and Families Beacon Program.

Mr. Boone stated that they are located at 210 Chester Street between Sutter and Blake Avenues. They are starting a program at the Beacon for grandparents. For the past six months, they have been conducting a survey in order to ascertain the needs of the grandparents in their community. They will be conducting workshops for the grandparents to provide them with the information and service they desire. They are also planning picnics and other outings during the spring and summer to provide much needed recreational activities.

On February 8, 2007 at 6:00 p.m., the Beacon Advisory Board will convene their first meeting of the year in the school library on the second floor. Ms. Sharon Devonish-Leid of the District Attorney s Office will be their Guest Speaker and on that night they will announce their Person of the Year for 2006. They invite everyone to join them for this occasion.

Chairperson Younger recognized Community Affairs Officer Dean Elmore of the 73rd Precinct.

Police Officer Elmore reported the following year-to-date crime statistics:

Crime Category	Year-to-date Total for 2007	Same Period Total for 2006	Percentage Changed
Homicides	1	3	-66%
Rapes	4	1	+300%
Robberies	55	73	-24%
Felony Assaults	40	42	-4%
Burglary	23	24	-4%
Grand Larceny	35	38	-7%
Grand Larceny Auto (GLA)	13	17	+30%
Shootings	8	5	+60%

In 2006, 198 guns were removed from the streets of the Precinct and 17 have been taken off the streets this year.

The New York Warriors, a contact football team for youth for which he is a coach, will be training in February at I.S. 271 at 1137 Herkimer Street for their upcoming season. The program is for youths from five years old to fourteen years old and flyers are available on tonight s distribution table.

Someone asked if the rapes are occurring in a particular section of the Precinct.

Police Officer Elmore stated that they are not occurring in any particular pattern.

Police Officer Townsend elaborated that what is originally reported as a rape, upon investigation, will sometimes turn out to be a boyfriend and girlfriend dispute, or a young lady who makes up an allegation without thinking about the full ramifications because she needs an explanation to give her parents for staying out beyond her curfew.

Ms. Mattie Pusey asked if statistics are available for in school crimes?

Police Officer Dawn Townsend stated that there was a meeting that took place today with officials from the Department of Education and members of the Police Department as they are seeking to revamp the current reporting system. The current system requires information to be manually inputted into several different logs which makes it difficult to obtain certain statistical data. A new system is being implemented that will computerize the process and make the data easier to categorize and report.

In years past, School Safety was under the umbrella of the Department of Education. Beginning this year, it became part of the Police Department and protocols are being established that will determine what is to take place when a crime occurs within the schools. In the past, principals would decide whether a crime should or should not be reported to the local precincts. Oftentimes, this meant that the police were not aware of crimes until days later when the parents would inquire about the incident. The new system will eliminate these gray areas and allow the Police Department to better track crimes in schools.

The Precinct will be reaching out to the community in many ways this year. One thing that they will be doing is a senior movie night. Each month they will visit a different senior center and present a movie. They will also be seeking to dialogue with the youth at different venues, no uniforms, just a forum to talk with the youth to find out what they need and what they are thinking.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Sarah Hall and carried to adjourn the meeting.