

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – November 23, 2010

Attendance

David Alexander	Genese Morgan
Angela Alexander-Wilson (A)	Rev. Joseph Norton
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith	Deidre Olivera-Douglas
Margaret Brewer	Blanche L. Peltonbusch (E)
Adrainer Coleman (E)	Marie Pierre
Essie Duggan	Rev. Devon Ponds (E)
Helen Giles	Mattie Pusey (E)
Shirley Gonsalves	Linda Rivera
Danny Goodine	Melaine Rochford (A)
Chanel Haliburton	Wendy Rutherford (A)
Sarah Hall	Beatrice Saunds (E)
Kofi Hormeku	Christina Serano (A)
Michael Howard	Hellen Thomas-Purdie
Allene Ingram (E)	Ernestine Turner
Prince Issachar (A)	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Daisy Jackson	Alice Vines (E)
Minyarn Johnson (A)	Annie Walkes
Orin Johnson-Griffith (A)	Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)
Carl Joseph	Herman Winston (E)
Pamela Junior (E)	Hazel Younger
Rev. Eddie Karim (A)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, DM
Eula Key	E. Jane Coleman, ADM
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Charles Ladson (A)	Hon. William F. Boyland, Jr.
Deborah Mack	Hon. Darlene Mealy
James Mack	Latrice M. Walker for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Yolanda Matthews (A)	Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Inez Barron
Linda Mayo (E)	Essie Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Sadie McNamara	
Ted McQueen (A)	

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

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Chairperson Hazel Younger called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., followed with an invocation by Rev. Joseph Norton.

A motion was made by Mr. Danny Goodine, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Daisy Jackson, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to waive the reading of the District Manager's report.

The audience was encouraged to read the Minutes and the District Manager's report in their entirety.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Secretary of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, November 18, 2010, at Young's Video Games and Internet Services, located at 68 Belmont Avenue, to review the liquor license applications for The Ville Wines and Liquors Corp. and DJ's Bar and Grille, Inc..

The Committee also met with Rohon Williams, owner of NOK Auto Repair and former President of the Washington Avenue and Prospect Heights Merchants Association (WAAPHMA) and several merchants on Belmont Avenue.

In an effort to revitalize Belmont Avenue between Rockaway Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard, the Committee felt it would be beneficial for Mr. Williams to share some strategies that worked with WAAPHMA. As he did, Mr. Williams delivered a wealth of information that can be utilized on Belmont Avenue, and it was very well received.

In the review for DJ's Bar and Grille, Inc., located at 480 Chester Street, the Economic Development Committee met with the owner, Mr. Devon Foster, and was satisfied with both verbal and written responses. The Committee recommends that the Community Board supports Mr. Foster's application to the New York State Liquor Authority for the renewal of his license.

In the review for The Ville Wines and Liquors Corp., located at 855 Mother Gaston Blvd, the Committee met with Mr. Anthony Hernandez (son of owner Antonio Hernandez) and was satisfied with both verbal and written responses. The Committee voted in support with one abstention by a member who raised concern that there was no community contribution from the business in the past. The member was informed that the Committee could not make such a mandate, however, outreach to the merchants for such involvement could be helpful. The member understood the Committee's limitations, and agreed. The Committee recommends that the Community Board support Mr. Hernandez' application to the New York State Liquor Authority for the renewal of his license.

The Board voted to accept the Committee's recommendation to approve the Liquor License Application for The Ville Wines and Liquors Corp., located at 855 Mother Gaston Boulevard. They also voted to accept the recommendation to approve DJ's Bar and Grille, Inc., located at 480 Chester Street.

Ms. Betty Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee did not meet in the month of November. However, at their October meeting they met with Mr. Aeon Clark, a representative of Elmy's Special Services, Inc., who seeks the Board's approval to convert a residential apartment at 128 Osborn Street to supervised housing for three sisters with special medical needs. At that meeting, the Committee reviewed the matter and recommended that the Board approve Elmy's Special Services' request.

The matter was presented to the full Board at its meeting in October and was tabled to allow the membership time to further review the proposal. It was again reviewed in an Executive Session of the Board held prior to tonight's meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Daisy Jackson, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to support the application of Elmy's Special Services, Inc. to convert an apartment at 128 Osborn Street, Brooklyn, New York, to supervised housing for three sisters.

Mr. Clark thanked the Board for their support and extended an open invitation to the membership to visit their site at 163 Van Buren Street. He looks forward to having a good working relationship with the Board.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Sadie McNamara, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on November 17, 2010 with Shameka Brown from the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council (RBSCC) HomeBase Program, located at 1492 Pitkin Avenue. Ms. Brown informed the Committee about the services that they provide to assist families residing in Ocean Hill-Brownsville who are at risk of becoming homeless. Their services include eviction prevention, case management, legal guidance, benefits advocacy, job training, and education services. Their mission is to empower families to resolve housing crisis and achieve self-sufficiency.

You may be eligible for HomeBase services if:

- You reside in the Ocean Hill-Brownsville community and are facing eviction.
- You reside in the Ocean Hill-Brownsville community with a DHS (Department of Homeless Services) housing subsidy program that is expiring.
- The combined household income is at or below 50 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) as described below:

Household Size	Income Limits
1 Person	\$26,900
2 People	\$30,700
3 People	\$34,550
4 People	\$38,400
5 People	\$41,450
6 People	\$44,550
7 People	\$47,600
8 People	\$50,700

To be eligible for services, families must be able to present documentation related to household composition, household income, proof of residence, and housing issues. Citizenship status does not affect eligibility. For assistance, call (718) 221-4404.

Ms. Brown also shared a packet of helpful information on tenants' rights.

Following the meeting, the Committee, in behalf of the Community Board, attended the Health Fair which the Committee co-sponsored with the Brooklyn Perinatal Network, Inc. in the lobby of 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. The theme of the health fair was "Eat Healthy and End Prematurity – Harvesting Resources in the Community". The event was well attended. The Committee looks forward to sponsoring similar events on a quarterly basis.

The next meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee will be on Wednesday, December 15th at 4:30 p.m..

A motion was made by Ms. Annie Walkes, seconded by Ms. Margaret Brewer and carried to accept the report of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that on November 10, 2010 he, District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, and a representative from the Borough President's Office, met with representatives of the Department of Parks and Recreation on site at Ocean Hill Playground and Betsy Head Playground to discuss the scope of work for the rehabilitation of each playground which each received an allocation of \$750,000 from Borough President Markowitz. Schematic plans will be prepared for review by the Board by late summer 2011.

On November 16, 2010, he and Mr. MaccEAU Medozile, Manager of Parks for District #16, visited the parks and playgrounds in the District. Their findings are on the report found in each members folder, as well as tonight's distribution table and can be reviewed at your leisure. He highlighted the findings at Dr. Richard Green Playground and Callahan Kelly Park.

Volunteers continue to be needed to adopt the parks and playgrounds in our community. Please contact the Board office at (718) 385-0323 to volunteer.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Mr. Danny Goodine and carried to accept the report of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Karrie Scarboro of Councilmember Darlene Mealy's office.

Ms. Scarboro announced that Councilmember Mealy will host a tree lighting ceremony on December 8th, at Mount Moriah Church located at 1149 Eastern Parkway. She is also hosting an open house at her office, located at 1757 Union Street, on December 21st between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m..

Mr. Danny Goodine stated that he attended a meeting recently, at which Councilmember Mealy suggested that Betsy Head Recreation Center is not in use. He has since visited the site and found that it is in-fact in use by some seniors in the community. He asked that Councilmember Mealy be made aware of this and that additional resources are needed to bring the center on par with the Brownsville Recreation Center. There are many at-risk youth in our community who would benefit from a fully operational facility.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Essie Duggan from Senator Velmanette Montgomery's office.

Ms. Duggan emphasized the importance of exerting our right to make our voice heard in regards to what facilities and services are brought into the neighborhood.

Chairperson Younger recognized Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Councilmember Mealy stated that she has met with the Parks Commissioner and they have begun discussions on rehabilitating Betsy Head Park. She has also been strategizing with Assemblyman William Boyland, Jr., who was present for the meeting with the Parks Department, on ways to improve our community. Beginning in January 2011, she will host her monthly advisory

meetings on the first Saturday of each month.

Chairperson Younger recognized Ms. Sharon Devonish-Leid from Kings County District Attorney Charles Hynes' office.

Ms. Devonish-Leid stated that she is the Director of Community Relations for District Attorney Hynes. District Attorney Hynes hosted a meeting of Brownsville's community leaders last week. Assemblyman Boyland, Councilmember Mealy, Chairperson Younger, and District Manager Greene-Walker were amongst the attendees. District Attorney Hynes is concerned about the issues that are going on in Brownsville. He has established a task force within his office to help mitigate these issues. He encourages everyone to contact his office if they have concerns about narcotics and/or gang activity. Since the meeting that took place last week, they have heard from some of the attendees and begun to take action to address the problems. She can be reached by calling (718) 250-3470.

Chairperson Younger recognized Mr. Melvin Faulkner from Assemblywoman Inez Barron's office.

Mr. Faulkner stated that he attended the District Attorney's meeting and commends all who did so. This is an ongoing commitment by the District Attorney and he will host the next such meeting in January. They seek to meet with Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly on a month-by-month basis.

He read the content of an open letter to all Brooklyn clergy of any faith from the Brooklyn Clergy NYPD Task Force. The letter asks that they open the doors of their houses of worship to help combat the violent killings in Black and Hispanic communities. The next meeting of the Task Force will take place on Thursday, December 2, 2010, 4:00 p.m. at the Rehoboth Cathedral, located at 55 MacDougal Street between Ralph and Howard Avenues.

Chairperson Younger acknowledged the presence of Ms. Latrice Walker from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke's office.

Mr. William Boone, Ms. Caroline Benjamin-Smith, and Ms. Latrice Walker each announced that their organizations, Medgar Evers Brownsville Beacon Program at 210 Chester Street, P.S. 156 at 104 Sutter Avenue (entrance on Legion between Sutter and Blake Avenues), and Wayside Baptist Church at 1746-70 Broadway respectively, would host Thanksgiving meals on Thanksgiving Day.

Ms. Eula Key announced that Neighbors Together, on Fulton Street at Thomas S. Boyland Street, now serves lunch and dinner daily at their soup kitchen.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Eula Key, seconded by Mr. James Mack and carried to adjourn the meeting.