

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – FEBRUARY 26, 2013

Attendance

David Alexander	Andrea McCullough
Carolyn A. Benjamin-Smith	Sadie McNamara (E)
Margaret Brewer	Genese Morgan
Lamont Carolina	Terry Norfleet (A)
Adrainer Coleman	Rev. Joseph Norton (E)
Christopher Durosinmi	Blanche L. Peltonbusch (E)
Essie Duggan	Marie Pierre
Norman Frazier	Rev. Devon Ponds (E)
Helen Giles (A)	Mattie Pusey (E)
Shirley Gonsalves	Linda Rivera
Daniel Goodine	Melaine Rochford (A)
Chanel Haliburton	Wendy Rutherford (A)
Sarah Hall	Beatrice Saunds
Kofi Hormeku	Melina Terry (A)
Michael Howard	Evang. Hellen Thomas-Purdie (E)
Allene Ingram	Ernestine Turner
Min. Prince Issachar (A)	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Daisy Jackson	Jennifer Williams (A)
Minyarn Johnson (A)	Yvette Williams-Lawson (A)
Carl Joseph	Patricia Winston
Pamela Junior	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Eula Key	E. Jane Coleman, Assistant District Manager
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Charles Ladson, Sr. (A)	Essie Duggan for Hon. Velmanette Montgomery
Deborah Mack	For Hon. William F. Boyland, Jr.
James Mack	Wanda Mercado for Hon. Darlene Mealy
Yolanda Matthew	Kevin Parris for Hon. Marty Markowitz
John McCadney, Jr.	

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

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace called the hearing to order at 7:02 p.m. and gave an invocation.

IN THE MATTER OF the City's Preliminary Budget Statement and Community District Register for Fiscal Year 2014. The Hearing is to obtain public comments on City agencies' responses to Community Board 16's Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2014 (A copy is available for review at the Office of Community Board #16).

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker stated that last October the Board submitted its Capital and Expense Budget Priorities to the City. The responses to the requests were mailed to the Board members and are contained on the first ten pages of her report for this month.

She asked if there were any comments on the agencies' responses.

Ms. Margaret Brewer stated that many of the responses to our requests not being funded are further request to contact our elected officials. This is not acceptable.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that as has occurred in the past, especially with requests to the Department of Parks and Recreation, items are not funded by the agency because they lack sufficient funds to undertake a particular project. Their responses are intended to have the Community Board get the support of elected officials.

While it may appear that we are not getting any requests funded, movement is being made as we continue to submit and lobby for these projects. As an example, Houston Playground, located at Sackman Street and Glenmore Avenue, is under reconstruction thanks to the support of Councilmember Erik Dilan and Borough President Marty Markowitz; work is scheduled to begin this spring at Betsy Head Playground, located at Dumont Avenue and Thomas S. Boyland Street, thanks to support from Councilmember Mealy and Borough President Markowitz.

She suggests that the Board continues submitting these requests and lobby our elected officials for support. Public hearings are also held on budget requests and as the dates become available she will publish them in emails to Board members and the community. This Board is one of fifty-nine. Each is seeking appropriation for their projects; it is important that members of the community and the Board attend these hearings and make their voices heard. Attendance at these hearings matter.

There being no further comments, a motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to close the public hearing.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Chairperson Bettie Kollock-Wallace recognized Drs. Luis Freddy Molano and Andrea Mantsios.

Dr. Mantsios stated that she works for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Dr. Molano is Vice President of HIV Programs and Services at the Community Healthcare Network.

Brooklyn Knows is a large-scale public health initiative of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene designed to have each and every Brooklyn resident know their individual HIV status, much in the way that people know their blood pressure and cholesterol levels. They are teamed with over ninety partners representing over one hundred testing sites throughout the borough. These include hospitals, community health centers, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and colleges.

They have three main goals: 1) provide a voluntary HIV test for every resident, 2) identify undiagnosed HIV-positive individuals and link them to care, and 3) make HIV testing a routine part of health care in Brooklyn.

They provide technical assistance to their partner agencies. They are also conducting a social media and marketing campaign.

Dr. Molano further expressed the need for everyone to find out their HIV status and stated that while no one wants to have HIV or AIDS, New York State is a good place to live if you are infected with the virus. The number of facilities and their capabilities are excellent. He encourages agencies to join the network and make it even stronger.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Mr. Ralph Blessing of the Department of City Planning.

Mr. Blessing stated that the Department came before the Board about a year ago and presented their Sustainable Communities plan for East New York (which includes a portion of Community District #16). They are here tonight to give an update to the community.

He introduced members of the team working on the project, Eugenia DiGilarmo, an Urban Designer, Cora Manning who recently joined their office as an Urban Planner, and Winston Von Engel, Deputy Director of the Brooklyn Office of the Department of City Planning.

During the past few months, they have met with members of the community at various venues, conducted workshops, and collected a great amount of data. They have used this information to formulate some proposals. In the coming months, they will continue to outreach to the community and collect data to further refine their proposals. In the fall of this year, they will submit their report to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) who are the sponsors of the study.

Ms. DiGilarmo displayed a map of the study area which includes the Broadway Junction and a portion of the East New York Industrial Park. The area is serviced by many east to west roadways including Atlantic Avenue, Fulton Street, and Pitkin Avenue, as well as five subway lines and the Long Island Railroad.

Through their analysis of the study area, they were able to divide it into three sub areas. The northwest area which encompasses the major transit node at Broadway Junction, the Industrial Park zone, and the area east of Pennsylvania Avenue (the only true north-south corridor in the study area). There are three basic zoning topologies within the study area: low density

residential districts east of Pennsylvania Avenue – which limits structures to two- to three-stories, along Atlantic Avenue is a low density auto related commercial district, and light manufacturing scattered within the eastern portion of the study area. Maps were displayed showing the zoning and the actual current usage. In many areas the use and zoning do not match. She then displayed a map showing that much of the manufacturing in the study area takes place along the western side within the Industrial Park and in the area surrounding Broadway Junction.

They have, and will continue to meet with stakeholders in the community to gain an understanding of the assets and priorities of the community. They know that this is a vibrant, culturally diverse, and transit rich community. Many good schools and very strong community-based organizations serve the community. Among the priorities highlighted by the community are the need for better access to transit facilities, safer streets, and enhanced personal safety. There is a need for housing - including affordable housing, more jobs - including local jobs, and a need for better access to community services.

Future land use changes that they are proposing will have positive benefits in creating more housing, retail options, jobs, and help create attractive streetscapes.

The community has indicated that they want more housing, especially affordable housing. The analysis of the study area shows that there are many intact clusters of housing along with many vacant lots with a definite opportunity for future development. The current zoning only allows for low density housing which curtails the ability to create additional housing, especially affordable housing. Through zoning changes they want to preserve the intact housing already in place while still encouraging the development of higher density mixed income housing. This can be done through contextual zoning (examples of such developments were displayed) which limits development in certain areas to height, front yard depth, and other site placement restrictions.

Regarding retail, the community has informed them that they would like to have better access to more shopping options. Fulton Street is a fairly intact retail shopping corridor and all of the east to west streets within the study offer good proximity to the residential sections of the study area. This is a definite asset to the community. However, shoppers have told them that there is not enough variety in shopping options and shopkeepers complain that there is not enough floor traffic. Along Pitkin Avenue (east of Pennsylvania Avenue) retail shops on ground floors have been displaced by residential units which is disruptive to the continuity of the retail corridor. It is their desire to have zoning changes that will not displace existing retail space but encourage new retail to come into the area.

The third community concern that they seek to address is the desire for safer and more attractive streets. Several city programs are being implemented in the community to improve on pedestrian safety, such as some of the streetscaping that is being implemented by the Department of Transportation (DOT) in the area around Broadway Junction. An active retail corridor will also give a sense of security with their increase flow of pedestrian traffic. Part of the reason that this is not happening along streets like Atlantic Avenue is the lack of pedestrian amenities such as bus shelters. The fact that these busy streets can be difficult to cross adds to the lack of growth. Adding street trees, new buildings and having active ground floor retail windows will enhance the pedestrian experience in the community.

Their overall desire is to have more people in the community which makes it more attractive and brings in more jobs and services to the community, making it more sustainable and green. Increased activity will give the neighborhoods a safer feel. The ideas can be implemented by preserving the stable stock of housing, zoning for modest growth in areas that can support it, and greater growth near the transportation corridors.

Designs showing how the community might look in the future with the implementation of the ideas were displayed. They realize that these are long-term solutions but there are ideas that can be implemented in the short-term. They are working with DOT on things such as high visibility crossing signs, bus shelters, safe crossing medians, benches and trees along Atlantic Avenue in the near future.

Photographs of Van Sinderen Avenue as it looks today were displayed. Van Sinderen Avenue connects Broadway Junction with the Long Island Railroad which is just two blocks away. The street is not well traveled as it is poorly lit and always appears desolate. At City Planning, they believe that with some streetscaping, improved lighting and an overall better street design, this

corridor can be a much better street and in the long-term can be built upon.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked the presenters for the quality information they provided to the community.

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

District Manager Greene-Walker announced that there are time sensitive grants included in her report. She urged that it be read on a timely basis and the instructions followed for programs of interest to the reader.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to waive further reading of the District Manager's Report.

Mr. Michael Howard, Chairperson of the Budget, Personnel, and Finance Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on February 7, 2013 and reviewed the agencies' responses to the Fiscal Year 2014 Capital and Expense Budget Requests.

As can be seen from the responses, much work needs to be done. He encourages Board members and the audience to join committees and bring a voice to the issues affecting the Committee. We need to let our elected officials hear our voices in a loud manner. He is encouraged by the presentation by the Department of City Planning, but more needs to be done. As suggested, the Committee will follow-up on projects with our City Councilmembers and the Borough President to get their support for funding of these much needed projects. Members of the Committee will also attend upcoming budget hearings and give testimony in support of these projects. In addition, the Committee will provide the dates of the budget hearings when they are received. He encourages the public to attend and speak in support of projects for our community.

A motion was made by Ms. Essie Duggan, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried to accept the report of the Budget, Personnel, and Finance Committee.

Ms. Genese Morgan, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, February 21, 2013.

The Committee is continuing discussions on the initial installment of an annual festival along Belmont Avenue which is intended to promote the revitalization of business and community support on Belmont Avenue. The festival will incorporate local small businesses, other regional small businesses, a roll-up the gates event to promote available storefronts, arts, cultural and health activities for residents of all ages. To accomplish this event, the Committee will conduct outreach to the community at large, small, mid-size and national businesses, and other merchant and community organizations. The Committee is anticipating that this event will take place in August 2013, pending approval from the Mayor's Street Activity Permit Office.

The 2013 income tax season is underway and individuals with income under \$25,000 and families with income under \$50,000 should seek to take advantage of free income tax preparation through the various providers. Providers within our district are:

Grace Church of God
35 Blake Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11212
(718) 342-1155

Jericho Road Inc. VITA
130 Watkins Street
Brooklyn, New York 11212

Food Bank NYC – Bed Stuy Campaign Against Hunger (SELF PREP TAXES ONLY)
2010 Fulton Street
Brooklyn, New York 11233

Please refer to the Internal Revenue Service website at www.irs.gov for additional locations throughout New York City.

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The Committee reviewed one “renewal” application for a beer and wine license in regards to Ooh La La Lounge. The establishment is a lounge and is located at 391 Howard Avenue.

- The owner of the establishment has submitted to the interview process and business visited by the Committee which was reported in our June 28, 2011 report.
- The Committee has determined that the establishment currently holds a liquor license for Beer and Wine only. This application was not brought before the Board for initial approval.
- The establishment is located within 200 feet of a place of worship (Mt. Ararat Baptist Church).
- The establishment is located within 500 feet of a school (P.S. 12)
- The establishment is located very close to a senior citizen building (Berean Senior Housing).
- The owner’s previous application for a full liquor license was denied by the NYS Liquor Authority as a result of the above stated facts.

In light of the above-mentioned facts, the Committee recommends that the Board vote in opposition of the renewal application for a beer and wine license for Ooh La La Lounge.

A motion was made by Ms. Pamela Junior, seconded by Mr. David Alexander and carried by a vote of 31-in favor, 0-against, and 1 abstention by Ms. Deborah Mack to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee and its recommendation.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on Thursday, February 14, 2013, to discuss the matters of noise and the processing of emotionally disturbed people (EDP) in our community by health care providers and institutions.

In response to the community’s concerns regarding the aforementioned, the following has been done:

Regarding EDP, the Committee, along with Brookdale Hospital, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Police Department convened to discuss how EDPs are currently processed when taken to the Emergency Room.

It was stated that the district has a high number of EDPs and needs to develop a system that will effectively maintain the welfare of this segment of our society, as well as accommodate the community at large.

The topic was tabled for the April 11th meeting where the Committee is seeking to have administrators from Brookdale Hospital as well as personnel from the Department of Health in order to directly convey the concerns and formulate solutions.

Guest speaker Dr. Arlene Bronzaft of the Mayor’s Council on the Environment made a presentation on the subject of “How Noise Hurts”, stressing the dangers of the effect of noise.

The Committee communicated with Deputy Inspector Gulotta of the 73rd Precinct, who heard the complaints, acknowledged the problem, and has committed to prioritize noise related complaints.

It is important that the proper process is followed when filing a complaint:

1. Dial 311, make your complaint and obtain complaint #.
2. Within a reasonable time period, if needed, call local precinct with complaint #
3. Bring complaints to precinct council meeting (held at 7:30 p.m., on the third Thursday of each month at the Mount Ararat Senior Center, located at 1630 St. Mark’s Avenue).

The Committee will continue to advocate for this issue until some favorable results are gained from both our local agencies and our community residents.

If you have anything you would like to contribute to support this matter, please feel free to contact the office at (718) 385-0323 or bk16@cb.nyc.gov and reference Noise.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on March 14, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. at 444 Thomas

S. Boyland Street - room 103. All ideas are welcome, if there are any topics or concerns you would like to bring to the Committee's attention, please feel free to do so.

She requested that the audience share the information from tonight's meeting with at least one more person.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried to accept the report of the Health and Human Services Committee.

District Manager Greene-Walker, in behalf of Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Chairperson of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 8, 2013 and discussed the request by Retro Fitness for a letter in support of their application to the Board of Standards and Appeals for a special permit to operate as a health club at 81 East 98th Street.

Because Retro Fitness is located in a C8-2 district, the use is contrary to Section 32-10 of the New York City Zoning Resolution and requires a special permit because the establishment is not an as-of-right use pursuant to the zoning resolution.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board supports Retro Fitness' application for a special permit to operate at 81 East 98th Street.

The Committee also discussed a proposal by Dunn Development to construct 13 one-bedroom and 26 two-bedroom apartments for low-income working families and 40 studio apartments for formerly homeless single adults with onsite support services provided by CAMBA, plus a two-bedroom superintendent's apartment.

The Committee recommends that the Community Board supports the proposal by Dunn Development which will provide 39 units of housing for low-income working families and 40 studio apartments for formerly homeless single adults.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu and carried by a vote of 31-in favor, 0-against, and 1 abstention by Ms. Chanel Haliburton to accept the report of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee and its recommendations.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street, Brooklyn, with Ms. Latrice Walker from the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke about gun violence and what is being proposed at the federal level.

President Barak Obama requested Congress to come together around gun control. He identified what he would like to see included in the bill and recommended that a task force be established and report back to him within 30 days with its recommendations. The Federal Gun Violence Prevention Task Force was established and Congresswoman Clarke is a member, which was a difficult accomplishment because most of the gun control issues are centered around assault weapons like the one used in Sandy Hook and other unfortunate incidents.

While these incidents are definitely a tragedy, Congresswoman Clarke wanted to make certain that hand guns, which are responsible for many persons being killed in our and other urban communities, be acknowledged and considered in the discussions of the task force. According to the New York Police Department, in 2012, Brooklyn had 226 incidents of gun violence, resulting in 274 victims. Men, women and children are dying every day in urban communities across the country by illegal handgun violence, particularly in communities of color.

During the first round, each member of the task force was asked to submit some of their most critical concerns, which Congresswoman Clarke identified in a letter addressed to the Chairman of the task force, Congressman Michael Thompson.

Some of the concerns she identified included the following:

Putting an end to bulk gun sales, currently, 48 of our 50 states allow individuals to purchase an unlimited number of guns at one time.

Require background checks for all firearms sales, regardless of the status of the seller. Currently, federal law requires background checks only in gun sales carried out by federally licensed

firearms dealers. Fifty-eight percent of guns used in crimes in New York City are first purchased in states that have no background check requirement for unlicensed private dealers.

The Committee will be reaching out to the residents, community-based organizations, schools, and other institutions in the community to develop an effective plan to show visible support of Congresswoman Clarke's efforts to make certain that our needs are acknowledged and acted upon, as it relates to any federal laws dealing with gun violence. You are encouraged to call Congresswoman Clarke's office at (718) 287-1142 with any suggestions or concerns regarding this matter.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2013.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to accept the report of the Legislative Committee.

Mr. Kofi Hormeku, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, commended Mr. Howard on his report and stated that as a community we must hold our elected officials to task. They make few appearances at our Community Board meetings and when they do they are generally requesting that the community act on an issue. He suggested that we must also have them give direct responses to our requests and say why they will or will not fund our request.

He reminded the audience that copies of the inspection report on the District's Park and Recreation facilities can be found on each month's distribution table. He encourages everyone to pick up a copy, read it, and report any discrepancies or concerns to him prior to the next meeting. This will allow him to investigate and respond to the concern.

Mr. Daniel Goodine expressed gratitude to Mr. Hormeku in having the Department of Parks and Recreation swiftly repair a broken basketball hoop at Chester Street Playground.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to accept the report of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Ms. Patricia Winston, in behalf of Ms. Essie Duggan, Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on Thursday, February 21, 2013, at the Tilden Senior Center, located at 630 Mother Gaston Boulevard between Dumont and Livonia Avenues. Pertinent information about the role of the Community Board, Senior Citizen Committee, and senior centers was shared.

Senior centers play a very important role in the lives of our seniors. They can assist with social service problems and completing applications and paperwork for such programs as the federal Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption Program (SCRIE).

HEAP is a free seasonal program (November - May) that helps eligible households pay for regular and emergency energy heating costs. HEAP also offers an emergency benefit for households in a heat or heat-related emergency and can help low-income homeowners repair or replace furnaces, boilers or other direct heating devices necessary to keep the home's primary heating source functional.

SCRIE, which is administered by the Department of Finance for rent-regulated (rent-stabilized and rent-controlled) apartments, is a program that eligible New Yorkers 62 years of age and older can receive rent increase exemptions. The NYC Department of Housing and Preservation and Development administers SCRIE for Mitchell-Lama rentals and co-op apartments. Applicants who are under the age of 62 and disabled should contact the NYC Department of Finance to inquire about the Disability Rent Increase Exemption Program (DRIE). Persons who would like additional information or applications for HEAP, SCRIE and DRIE should call 3-1-1 for assistance.

Seniors are encouraged to take advantage of any computer training classes because within the next two years, practically all financial business is going to be done online.

Anyone who would like to join the Committee should contact the Board's office at (718) 385-0323 to receive a notice of the next meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Daisy Jackson and carried to

accept the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr., Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 3, 2013 with representatives from the New York City Department of Transportation and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and discussed the proposed Brownsville Biking Initiative.

Bike lanes are proposed to be installed on:

- 1) Mother Gaston Boulevard between Liberty Avenue and Linden Boulevard which will connect bikers to an existing bike lane along Liberty Avenue east bound and along East New York Avenue west bound. It will also provide a north/south route which does not currently exist in the community.
- 2) Pitkin Avenue between Legion Street and Pennsylvania Avenue (in Community District #5). This proposal is supported by the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District.
- 3) New Lots Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard and Junius Street in Community District #16 and will end in Community District #5.

The strong point of the presentation was an emphasis on health and recreational benefits. A minor point was made about those who use bicycles as a primary means of transportation. In the name of progress, the Committee became enthusiastic about this project. The Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District is also enthusiastic about this project.

They were also informed that the new bike lanes would make it safer for both bicycle and motor vehicle traffic to traverse our area. The bike lanes will also help to make our community more pedestrian friendly by reducing the speed of vehicular traffic and appointing specific lanes for bicycle traffic. In this era of health consciousness and fitness advocacy, the bike lane proposal would provide a low-cost and safe user friendly medium to exercise within the confines of our community. For those who want to venture out of the Community, there will be provisions for bike lane continuation east, west, north, and south to other neighborhoods.

Bike racks have been installed throughout the District. If there are other locations where you wish bike racks installed, please call the Community Board office at (718) 385-0323.

If there are any concerns or complaints in reference to any transportation issue, please feel free to contact Mr. McCadney through the Community Board's office.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to accept the report of the Transportation and Franchises Committee and its recommendation.

Pamela M. Junior, Chairperson of the Women's Committee, reported that the Committee had conference calls on Tuesday, January 29, 2013 and Tuesday, February 19, 2013.

There are many issues that women in our community face on a daily basis, some of which are painful and are not openly talked about. The Women's Committee seeks to begin to bring to the forefront, address, and try its best to follow-through with the following issues:

- Community Board #16 needs to have a Men's Committee
- Families are being broken apart – they need counseling - intervention
- How can we address the mental issues of those in our community who need help
- The entire community needs to get back to a "village" mindset where everyone helps raise all of the youth
- Anger / pain amongst both children and parents. Where is the anger and pain coming from? How can we address it?
- Domestic violence is a big issue in our community. How can we tackle it? We need to stop being embarrassed about this topic and put it out there.
- Youth being disrespectful to parents and elders
- Our children are being incarcerated. How can we get them help?
- There is a big gang problem
- Youth are frustrated
- High school drop-out rate
- Young adults need resources for job training
- Keeping our bodies healthy

Now that a Men's Committee has been created, the Women's Committee will start with the second bullet item which is "Families are being broken apart – they need counseling - intervention."

The issues that were discussed that fell under that bullet point were:

- Sexual abuse – children
- Mental health
- Economics
- Incarceration
- Domestic violence
- Unemployment
- Affordable quality apartments
- Drug abuse / alcoholism
- Self esteem
- Teaching children etiquette
- Taking marriage vows seriously

The first item under this umbrella is "children sexual abuse". The Committee is presently reaching out to agencies and hopes to have a guest speaker placed on the agenda for either the March or April Board meeting.

The next meeting of the Women's Committee will be on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. via conference call. You are invited to join. Please contact the District Manager or Ms. Junior for the conference call dial-in information.

If anyone has any comments, issues, and/or suggestions that they would like the Women's Committee to address, please feel free to contact Ms. Junior at pjunior2@aol.com.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera and carried to accept the report of the Women's Committee.

Ms. Daisy Jackson, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 15, 2013, with representatives from the Brownsville Anti Violence Project which has two components: a public education campaign and a community engagement mobilization project and partnership with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to reduce gun and gang violence involving persons 16 years of age and over.

She introduced Erica Mateo and Kayin Latson to tell the audience more about the Brownsville Anti Violence Project.

Ms. Mateo stated that as mentioned by Ms. Jackson, the Brownsville Anti-Violence Project has two components – the first component is a call-in forum which takes place on the second Thursday of the month. Twelve to twenty-eight parolees who have been released within the past 12 months and have a history of violence are called and given a message from a panel of law enforcement personnel from federal, state and local agencies. Participants in the meetings receive a targeted, three-pronged message that: 1) future violent behavior will be rigorously prosecuted at both the state and federal levels, 2) many ex-offenders have successfully reentered the community and 3) individuals seeking help will be supported by the community and its service providers. Since the program was instituted in August, they have called in approximately 140 ex-offenders, of these, twenty-three have been arrested for minor offenses such as fare evasion or possession of a small amount of marijuana, but none have been rearrested for weapons possession or any violent crime.

They are hopeful that the call-ins will continue to be effective, but it is only one component of the program. In addition to the call-in meetings, the Brownsville Anti-Violence Project will include a public education campaign promoting non-violence and cooperation with law enforcement and a range of community engagement projects, including visible community service projects and youth programming.

Mr. Latson stated that they are also working on an ad campaign using youth from the community. They want the campaign to be by and for the community rather than one that is simply pushed on them. There will be a series of events in the local schools, community centers, and churches which will be seeking input for the campaign. During the month of April they will have cleanup

events throughout the community involving the parolees.

Ms. Mateo stated that they will be forming an advisory board and look forward to working with many of the people who are already doing great work in the community. When more information is available about the advisory board, they will inform the community and seek suggestions for membership.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Pamela Junior and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

Ms. Wanda Mercado, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy, reported that Councilmember Mealy will honor several community members as "Local Heroes of the 41st" on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at P.S. 40/George W. Carver School, located at 265 Ralph Avenue. There will be special entertainment and refreshments; all are welcome to attend.

Councilmember Mealy, City University of New York, and the Food Bank for New York City will sponsor a free tax prep event on Saturday, March 23, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at St. John's Bread and Life, located at 795 Lexington Avenue between Malcolm X Boulevard and Patchen Avenue. Qualified persons can get their taxes completed free.

Councilmember Mealy's next Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the District Office, located at 1757 Union Street between Utica and Rochester Avenues. She will have guest speakers from 'Boys Town NY' and a representative from Older Adult Technology Service, (OATS). OATS offers training and support, online services, and community-building programs which empower older adults to thrive as individuals and members of society.

Information on companies that are hiring can be found in the current issue of Councilmember Mealy's newsletter.

Ms. Mercado may be reached at (718) 953-3097 or by emailing "wmercado@council.nyc.gov". She encouraged the audience to be active in their community. It is only through steadfast activism that changes can be made. Issues that are raised at one single forum are rarely if ever solved at that time.

Mr. Kevin Parris, representing Borough President Marty Markowitz, stated that this is the time of year when the Borough President's Office accepts applications for new membership to the Community Boards. Current members whose memberships are scheduled for renewal should also submit their applications for renewal at this time. Applications are available on the Borough President's website (Brooklyn-usa.org). He can be reached by calling (718) 802-3856.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing Assemblywoman Inez Barron, commented on a newspaper article concerning a certain New York State Assemblyman comments on costume worn for Purim celebration.

Ms. Essie Duggan, representing Senator Velmanette Montgomery, stated that she will give a full report on legislation that Senator Montgomery is currently working on at next month's meeting. Senator Montgomery works hard to represent her entire constituency – across all walks of life. However, she has a great passion to assist the underserved and nearly forgotten members of our community. She believes every effort should be made to give our youth opportunities to become productive adult citizens and champions those causes.

There is no need for senior citizens to go without daily nutritional meals. If you or someone you know is in need, please call (718) 443-2574 to have a caseworker assigned.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Idesta Severin of the Bed-Stuy Restoration Financial Empowerment Center and Ms. Allison Jones from Brownsville Multi Service Family Health Center (BMS).

Ms. Jones stated that she is the Manager of Patient Relations and Outreach at BMS which is headquartered at their newly renovated building at 592 Rockaway Avenue (corner of Blake Avenue). They are a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and receive funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). As a FQHC they are able to provide free health care to undocumented, uninsured, and others unable to pay for health care. They

cannot accept non-paying patients whose insurance require them to use the services of a specific doctor. They offer a host of medical specialties such as pediatrics, ob/gyn, dentistry, psychology, psychiatry, social services, cardiology, gastroenterology, and surgery consultations.

In collaboration with the Bed-Stuy Restoration Financial Empowerment Center, they now offer free one to one financial empowerment sessions on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.. If you or someone you know is struggling financially, regardless of income, you are encouraged to participate in this free program.

Ms. Severin stated that the program is offered by the Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Financial Empowerment and sessions are available at other locations if the BMS office is not convenient. You can find the location of other Empowerment Centers by calling 3-1-1. They work mostly with low- to moderate-income persons, assisting them with debt reduction, budgeting, credit repair, and savings. Their office does not work with investment instruments such as IRAs. However, there is an office in Manhattan that does provide help with 401Ks and IRAs. If you are interested in receiving the help of the Empowerment Center, stop by BMS on a Tuesday or call (718) 636-6994 for more information.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Ms. Hannah Campbell of Ocean Hill Collegiate Charter School.

Ms. Campbell stated that she is the Director of Operations at Ocean Hill Collegiate. Ocean Hill Collegiate is part of the Uncommon Schools network which also includes Brownsville Collegiate, Mott Hall, and Leadership Prep. They are currently accepting applications through April 2, 2013 and will host an information session on Monday, March 4th at 6:00 p.m., on the second floor of Ocean Hill Collegiate (1137 Herkimer Street).

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace recognized Police Officer Wendell Diaz from the Community Affairs Unit of the 73rd Precinct.

Officer Diaz stated that robberies and larceny crimes are down in the precinct, however, they are asking the community to be aware of their surroundings. There is a group of young people wearing face masks and carrying canes (although they are not injured) committing robberies on our streets. He related the report of an incident which took place on Chester Street near Livonia Avenue wherein a cell phone was stolen from a woman by such a group. He again encouraged alertness, especially when using cell phones.

Chairperson Kollock-Wallace thanked District Manager Greene-Walker, the Executive Board, and everyone else who help make these meetings successful.

There being no further business to discuss, a closing prayer was said by Ms. Marie Pierre, and the meeting adjourned.