

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – APRIL 24, 2018

Attendance

David Alexander (E)	Melanie Mendonca
Margaret Brewer	Shemene M. Minter
Dr. Cleopatra Brown	Genese Morgan
Adrainer Coleman	Anita Pierce
Brenda Duchene	Marie Pierre
Christopher Durosinni (A)	Linda Rivera
Norman Frazier	Johnnymae Robinson
Danny Goodine (A)	Evelyn Sanchez
Chyanne Hairston (A)	Celina Trowell (A)
Sarah Hall (E)	Ernestine Turner (E)
Balinda Harris	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Mawuli Hormeku	Deborah Williams
Michael Howard	Patricia Williamson (A)
Carl Joseph	Pat Winston
Eula Key	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Danny King (E)	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Dr. Bettie Kollock Wallace	Antonia Jeffries for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Charles Ladson	Melvin Faulkner for Hon. Charles Barron
Wendy Lanier (A)	Cynthia Moices for Hon. Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Carolyn Lee (A)	James Moultrie for Hon. Latrice Walker
Albion Liburd	Richard Nelson for Hon. Jesse Hamilton, III
Deborah Mack (E)	Nicholas Perry for Hon. Scott Stringer
Yolanda Matthews	Freida Menos for Hon. Hakeem Jeffries
John McCadney, Jr.	Carlos Soto for Hon. Rafael Espinal, Jr.
Andrea McCullough (A)	Devin Thorpe for Hon. Roxanne Persaud
Ronella Medica (A)	

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

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and an invocation was said by Bishop Steve Belgrave.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Deputy Inspector Rafael Mascol, Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct.

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that he is pleased to see so many youths in attendance and looks forward to their presentation. They are the future of our community.

Last month, his report was not a pleasant one. March was a tough month. They sat down and evaluated the month. There was a small spike in robberies, burglaries hit them very hard, and there were several shooting incidents. He spoke with Chief Jeffrey Maddrey, Commanding Officer of Brooklyn Patrol Borough North and his officers, and have clamped down in areas where crime was spiking by using additional personnel provided by the borough patrol.

Part of his duties is to reduce actual crime, but he also must give the public a sense of safety as well. Robberies are down 42% since the last meeting, crime is down 25%, and shootings are down 62% for the 28-day period.

He reminds the audience that traffic on the Atlantic Avenue Bridge is being rerouted and is heavy along East New York Avenue during rush hours. He has reached out to Traffic Management for assistance but has not received a response.

Mr. James Moultrie asked about a stabbing incident at P.S. 184.

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that he is unaware of a stabbing incident. There was a fighting incident and arrests were made. His NCOs are working on mediating the situation.

Ms. Melanie Mendonca, member of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that the Community Residents Planning Work Group met on April 11, 2018 with representatives from NYC Veterans Affairs and the Workforce 1 Center who informed the Work Group about benefits available to veterans. As the Board moves towards officially establishing a Veterans'

Committee, the Work Group will compile resources and outreach to veterans in our community to connect them to services of which they may not be aware.

The Health and Wellness Stakeholder Group's goal is to create a standard for wellness for healthcare in our community, and hold agencies and providers responsible while eliminating duplications and identify gaps to ensure quality and health equity.

The next meeting of the Health and Wellness Stakeholder Group will be on May 4th, 9:30 a.m. at the Brownsville Neighborhood Action Center, located at 259 Bristol Street.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, National Stroke Awareness Month, National Women's Health and Arthritis Awareness Month.

The next Community Resident Planning Work Group meeting will be on May 9, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street.

Chairperson Morgan requested that Dr. Cleopatra Brown come forward and read a resolution for the establishment of a Veterans Affairs Committee. In accordance to the bylaws of the Board, the resolution must be read aloud at three consecutive Board meeting before it can be voted upon for adoption. Thusly, it will be read tonight, at the Board's May and June meetings and voted on at the June meeting.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown read the resolution for establishing the Committee:

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of Committee Chairpersons to work closely with the District Manager and Chairperson of the Board to review existing or proposed changes in the District, and make recommendations to the Board regarding the same, and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a Veterans Affairs Committee Chairperson and Committee members to work collaboratively on issues and projects in the District to advocate for the unique needs of Community District 16's veteran population, and

WHEREAS, it is understood that veterans are a disadvantaged group and are entitled to services, benefits, and preferences with the use of public resources, and

WHEREAS, it has been requested that a Veterans Affairs Committee be established at the start of Fiscal Year 2019 which begins on July 1, 2018, and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Affairs Committee will become a part of the Community Resident Planning Work Group which includes the Youth Services Planning Committee, Women's Committee, Senior Citizen's Affairs Committee and Health and Human Services Committee, and

WHEREAS, forming a Veterans Affairs Committee will help to improve the overall quality of life for veterans living in Community District 16 which includes Ocean Hill and Brownsville, Brooklyn, and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Veterans Affairs Committee requires an amendment to the Board's bylaws with a majority vote.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Brooklyn Community District 16 will amend its bylaws and include the establishment of a Veterans Affairs Committee to advocate and achieve the greatest outcomes for veteran residents of Community District 16 to become effective on July 1, 2018.

Chairperson Morgan reiterated that the resolution will be heard again at next month's meeting to ensure everyone has an opportunity to hear it prior to it becoming a part of the bylaws.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee is compiling a list of questions for their upcoming forum. Anyone who has a question that they have not submitted, should email them to bk16@cb.nyc.gov or call (718) 385-0323.

She attended several community meetings during the month. She met with staff from CAMBA which operates several homeless shelters in the community and discussed the many activities they have planned for residents. Activities that will contribute to not only the residents, but will benefit our community as a whole, such as beautification projects and self-improvement activities.

She had an opportunity to attend a breakfast meeting hosted by BIVO (Brownsville In, Violence Out), a CURE Violence Program run by CAMBA. The breakfast was to introduce and discuss the operation of BIVO and to unveil a plan to gather "Hands Around the Catchment", wherein the organization is working to have community stakeholders join hands around the work area of BIVO in solidarity against gun violence on June 1st.

She asked that the group develop a segment that will have some action points. The need to have a common practice as we look to change negatives into something positive. For example, holding the door or offering to assist with heavy loads for one another, and verbal greetings to acknowledge someone's presence. These examples are common practices and courtesies that can be "Ever Present" in pursuit of positive changes that can promote public safety.

She encourages Board members to remember the importance of their position in the community. They were appointed by our elected officials to be direct representatives of our community; to work on the issues and conditions that need attention, and find corrective measures that can be implemented. It is imperative that this work be done humbly and thoroughly.

The Public Safety Committee meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month. This month they will have a teleconference, as the regular meeting will be used to review the performance of a community service provider. The time and access number for the conference call will be sent to members, when finalized.

Having attained a quorum, a motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the report of the Public Safety Committee.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Eula Key, and carried to accept the report of the Community Resident Work Group.

A motion was made by Mr. Norman Frazier, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to accept the minutes of the March 27, 2018 Community Board meeting.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker highlighted the following from the District Manager's Report:

- 1) Information regarding Brooklyn Networks' information sessions for their current training cycle.
- 2) A reminder to landscapers and anyone else starting a digging or excavation project to call 8-1-1 before digging.
- 3) The Fresh Air Fund is offering free summer camp programs for children from New York City.
- 4) Information regarding various grants that are available to eligible organizations and individuals, and a listing of complaints received by the Board's office for resolution are also found in the report.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, and carried to accept the District Manager's report.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Fiscal and Policy Work Group met on April 17, 2018 and began to plan a Voter Education Forum. The theme of the forum will be "Your Voice is Your Vote. Make Your Vote Count".

Topics they plan to cover are:

- The importance of voting and how this can shape our community.
- Eligibility, with some focus on the prison population.
- The different levels of government and how your vote can affect your community.
- Barriers to voting and the 2020 census

They plan to collaborate with Community Votes, a nonprofit organization, local elected officials, Medgar Evers College, and the East Kings County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

Groups they seek to target are: 18 to 25-year-olds, community members who have recently become citizens, and community members who do not vote in primaries. The Work Group hopes that our community members who are affiliated with churches, block associations, and other community-based organizations can help spread the word about the forum.

The Voter Education Forum will be held on May 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at P.S./I.S. 323 at 210 Chester Street. Please save the date. Fliers will be circulated by Friday, April 27th. You may pick up fliers at the Community Board's office and help spread the word.

The next Fiscal and Policy Work Group meeting will be on Tuesday, May 15th in the form of a teleconference.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, and carried to accept the report of the Fiscal and Policy Work Group.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker, in behalf of Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 6, 2017 with Eric and Lamant L. Mitchell, who are seeking to co-name Rockaway Avenue at Livonia Avenue in memory of their late brother Clinton Mitchell. Eric Mitchell stated that they grew up in Brownsville initially on Livonia Avenue and then in Marcus Garvey Village. His brother became a boxer and won a Golden Glove and became a professional boxer. His career ended when he was diagnosed with diabetes, to which he eventually succumbed.

While living in Brownsville, he encouraged several youths to positively change their lives. He introduced them to boxing and influenced a few to return to school. He worked with the youth mostly at Howard Houses and occasionally at the Brownsville Recreation.

Eric and Lamant L. Mitchell came forward and requested the Board's support in their effort to co-name Rockaway Avenue at Livonia Avenue in memory of their brother. They contend that Clinton Mitchell is befitting the honor because of the work he did in the community during his lifetime. Lamant Mitchell stated that to further honor his late brother's legacy the family will make arrangements with the Red Cross and others to offer health screenings on the day of the ceremonial co-naming, should it be approved.

Ms. Margaret Brewer stated that she commends them for offering to have health screenings done on the day of the ceremony. Will this be a one-time event or something they plan to do regularly?

Mr. Lamant Mitchell stated that they would very much like to make it a regular event to help the community be aware of health issues.

In a roll call vote, members of the Board elected to support the request of Eric and Lamant L. Mitchell to co-name Rockaway Avenue at Livonia Avenue in memory of their late brother Clinton Mitchell.

Chairperson Morgan called forward Ms. Ann-Marie Nicholson and a group of her students from City Polytechnic High School of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology.

Ms. Nicholson stated that she is a LOTES (Languages Other Than English) teacher at City Polytechnic High School, located downtown Brooklyn, and as part of their project-based unit, students were tasked to create solutions for real-life problems. Her class looked at the issues surrounding gentrification taking place in Brooklyn. They decided to focus on a community such as Brownsville that has been, relatively, minimally affected by gentrification.

They began by discussing ideas on what would make an ideal neighborhood and branched out to urban planning. They studied zoning maps, city ordinances, the

Brownsville Community Plan, and newspaper articles, to learn about the communities wants and needs. One of the plans they found online was sourced from Community Board #16. Thus, she reached out to District Manager Greene-Walker to see if the Board might have interest in seeing the student's presentation, hence, their presence this evening.

The first presentation was given by 11th graders Anya and Jayden whose subject area is bounded by Howard Avenue, Atlantic Avenue, Rockaway Avenue, and Bergen Street. They stated that the area consists of grocery stores, churches, playgrounds, and schools. It encompasses 729,000 square feet at an average cost of \$308 per square foot. They chose the area because of its proximity to the IND A/C line, and several bus lines with connectivity to surrounding communities.

While the area is not filthy, cleanliness can be improved upon. Rents range from \$800 to \$2,200. Brownsville has the largest population of people living in public housing units. Fifty-four percent of children live in households below the poverty line, and less than 50% of working-age adults are employed.

Some of the challenges are buildings that are poorly maintained and have mold, leaks, and vermin infestations. Brownville's air pollution index is 8.3 micrograms per meter (29th citywide).

They displayed a chart showing that 58% of the lots are public spaces, 7% vacant land, 18% residential, and 17% commercial.

Dean Street is the most densely populated street in their project area. Its sidewalks are narrow; making it difficult for pedestrians to rest and communicate with each other. Tree roots tend to raise sidewalks and create trip hazards.

They concluded that if the area is not revitalized, crime rates will increase and transportation will become even more congested than it is currently. Housing cost will also become very high.

Long-term goals include using public space to create more housing, reducing crime, improving transportation, and making housing more affordable for residents.

To reach their goals, they will create retail spaces on vacant lots, make crosswalks more visible, add speed humps to decrease auto accidents, narrow some roadways in order to reduce traffic in some areas, and widen some sidewalks to allow for rest spaces while allowing for a free flow of pedestrian traffic.

Someone commended the youth for their presentation.

Someone else asked what was their experience like in doing the research for the project?

Anya stated that at first they were somewhat slack in their research. However, once they knew that they would be presenting before a public audience, they stepped it up a bit in order to be as detailed as they could be.

Bishop Belgrave asked if they considered extending the project to include the cost factor of their revitalization plan?

Anya stated that they did. However, time constraints prevented them from doing so.

Chairperson Morgan explained that, under normal circumstances, a motion would be made for the Board to vote on whether or not to support the proposal.

A mock motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to support the plan to revitalize the area bounded by Howard Avenue, Atlantic Avenue, Rockaway Avenue, and Bergen Street as proposed.

The next presentation was given by Donald who asked the audience to say the first thing that comes to mind when hearing the word: Brownsville. Some responses were crime, projects, love, and violence.

He focused his project on the area bounded by Mother Gaston Boulevard, Livonia Avenue, Powell Street, and Sutter Avenue. Brownsville is known for violence and the lack of prosperity coming from the neighborhood. But, it is also known for family and love.

His plan seeks to bring about a change in the mentality of passersby and community residents. The challenge that he sees is violence. Developers will not want to build if they perceive excess violence. It also influences zoning as to the types of zones that are created.

His plan is to create renovated affordable housing, provide a recreational center, and a mixed-occupancy building. His project area encompasses 1,324,495 square feet with a median value of \$388 per square foot.

He displayed photographs of a model of his plan. A recreation center with an undefined form would be located on Sutter Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard and Christopher Avenue to bring interest to the community through design. Rehabbed building along Sutter Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard and Sackman Street will have a visual appeal to give residents a good feeling about their homes. Along Livonia Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard, the plan calls for mixed-use buildings with retail space on the ground floors and skybridge featuring a sky park for families to enjoy. Christopher Avenue will have retail space for venues such as \$.99 stores.

Ms. Mabel Davis commented that there needs to be open dialogue in our families to stem the violence in the community along with design of the buildings.

Mr. Jimmi Brevil asked what went into the thought process of placing the buildings in the manner that Donald did?

Donald stated safety was on his mind he wants the residents to feel safe as they go around the community.

Mr. James Moultrie stated that he has lived in the community for thirty years and he does not think we need more \$.99 stores. We should be making spaces for local entrepreneurs to operate.

Someone asked about the students' ties to the Brownsville community.

Donald stated that he is a resident of Bedford-Stuyvesant. The project was about Brooklyn, as a whole. He believes that that people are willing to travel between communities, if they feel comfortable. While he understands that this plan may not bring that idea to 100% fruition, it can be a starting point.

Someone asked how do the students envision the change in dialogue of how Brownsville is perceived?

Donald stated they think that people speak about what they see. But, he thinks it also about the community coming together to bring about change.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu commended the students for the level of work done. She also recommends that they reach out to their teachers and collaborate with corporations who deal in this type of work to help them bring it up a notch.

Ms. Jistine Roper commented that she would like to see the students go into the schools in the neighborhood and let the students in those schools see what their project is about and get their ideas and involvement.

A mock motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Dr. Bettie Kollock-Wallace, and carried to support the project presented by Donald.

Chairperson Morgan stated that when she initially saw the students' presentation, she wanted to share it with the community. While the presentations may not be all that the Board would want to see from a presenter, they standout as work done by youth who are only 16-years of age. At age 16, she was not thinking about such issues. By participating

in this process, it can only help the students as they grow older. They use the process when it comes time for them to purchase their own homes in the future. We should build relationships with schools and get more students involved. She thanked the students and their teacher for being here tonight.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman, Chairperson, Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee, reported that the Equity Planning Work Group met on April 10, 2018 with representatives from East Brooklyn Congregations and MLappin and Associates to develop two vacant city-owned lots at 379 Howard Avenue and 1297 East New York Avenue that were awarded to the group by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to develop 33 rental units, including a super's unit. There will be a mix of one- and two-bedroom units with rents affordable at 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, and up to 100% of Area Median Income.

The project will add much needed housing that is affordable to our community and erase a blighting condition that presently exist at the vacant lots. We recommend that the Community Board support this project with the stipulation that there be a 50% preference for Community District #16 residents and that community residents be given an opportunity for employment during and after construction of housing units.

The next meeting of the Equity Planning Work Group will be on May 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Mr. John McCadney, Jr., and carried to accept the report of the Equity Planning Work Group.

Members of Board voted 14 in favor, 1 against, and 8 abstentions to support the proposal by East Brooklyn Congregations and MLappin and Associates regarding two vacant city-owned lots at 379 Howard Avenue and 1297 East New York Avenue with 33 rental units, including a super's unit with the stipulation that there be a 50% preference for Community District #16 residents and that community residents be given an opportunity for employment during and after construction of housing units.

Ms. Melanie Mendonca, in behalf Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that on April 18th, the Committee met to complete the final processes for the 2nd Annual Youth Conference in Ocean Hill/Brownsville, which will take place on June 2, 2018. The location of the event has not been finalized.

Also present at the April 18th meeting was Dr. Pia Theresa Pate, Superintendent for 3K-Middle Schools, and her executive staff. The information Dr. Pate provided was very useful and there were some features of the discussion that should be shared pertaining to the schools and the Department of Education (DOE) relationship with the community.

Most importantly, DOE is reaching out to service providers in the Ocean Hill/Brownsville community, which allows community providers to service the children/parents here, rather than outsourcing services. Regarding student truancy, Dr. Pate informed the Committee that Truant Officers are working throughout the school district to address this matter, and report back to the school their findings. Parents, guardians and caregivers of children in question are notified to take appropriate corrective steps. There are also a number programs that assist the parent/child interactions such as, workshops for parent engagement and parent involvement, and My Brother's Keeper. On the school side, there are certain actions being taken to ensure students' needs are being met where the professional development for teachers and parent coordinators and My Brother's Keeper Program do well in these matters. The Single Shepherd Program assists not only the student in need of services, but the entire family that may be experiencing mental health challenges or just day to day issues of concern. The Principals meet quarterly to address the overall strength or challenges facing their schools.

School District 23 's office is now located at 1784 Park Place. If you need any more information, please contact Mr. Alexander or Mrs. Greene-Walker at (718) 385-0323 or by e-mail at bk@cb.nyc.gov.

The next Community Resident Planning Work Group meeting will be on May 9th, 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining any committee, please contact District Manager Greene-Walker.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

Chairperson Morgan next announced that in preparation of the upcoming election of Executive Board members, the following Board members have been asked to serve on the Nominating Committee: David Alexander, Patricia Winston, Bettie Kollock-Wallace, Eula Key, and Michael Howard.

The Nominating Committee will meet and bring back to the Board's May 22, 2018 meeting a slate of names to fill the positions of Executive Officers for the period of June 2018 to June 2019.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Ms. Margaret Brewer, and carried to accept the Chairperson's Report.

Next, Chairperson Morgan thanked Board members who have actively participated in Board and committee meetings throughout the year and asked that they be given a round of applause.

She stated that at the September 2017 Executive Board meeting, the entire membership was invited to attend. Whereas, only the Executive Board and committee chairs are normally invited. At this meeting it was requested that all Board members be invited to all future meetings of the Executive Board. The request was accepted and has resulted in very productive meeting which in turn has allowed the General Board meetings to also be more efficient.

Unfortunately, some Board members have not been active. Most of the inactive members have terms which expired on March 31st and will not be renewed. In May, the Borough President and local City Councilmembers will appoint new members to the Board. In accordance to the bylaws of the Board, a resolution must be passed to remove members who have not participated in any Board activities for the year. There is one such member. Regretfully, she must read the resolution to remove the member to make room for someone else who is able and willing to carry out the duties of a Board member.

The resolution reads as follows:

Whereas, Ronella Medica was appointed to a 2-year term on Community Board #16 on April 1, 2017 and

Whereas, Ronella Medica has not attended any meetings of Community Board #16 since her appointment on April 21, 2017, and

Whereas, Ronella Medica has not responded to written communication informing her of her responsibilities as a Board member according to the bylaws of Community Board #16;

Be it Resolved, that Ronella Medica be removed from Community Board #16 effective immediately.

Members of the Board voted 22-in favor, 0-against, and 0-abstentions to adopt the resolution to remove Ronella Medica from the Board.

Next, Chairperson Morgan read the following resolution to extend the use of work groups through the next fiscal year:

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the twelve (12) committee Chairpersons to work closely with the District Manager and Chairperson of the Board to review existing or proposed changes in the District, and make recommendations to the Board regarding the same, and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the twelve (12) Committee Chairpersons and committee members to work collaboratively on issues and projects in the District based on the committees' interconnected purpose, and

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that the greatest amount of community benefits are achieved through the work of the twelve (12) committees, and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Committee and Land Use Planning and Zoning Committee Chairpersons have agreed to form the Equity Planning Work Group, and

WHEREAS, the Youth Services Planning Committee, Women's Committee, Senior Citizen's Affairs Committee and Health and Human Services Committee have agreed to form the Community Resident Planning Work Group, and

WHEREAS, the Transportation and Franchises Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee and Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee have agreed to form the City Services Planning Work Group, and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Committee and Personnel, Budget and Finance Committee have agreed to form the Fiscal and Policy Work Group, and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee has elected to meet as a single committee, and

WHEREAS, any single committee with an extensive meeting agenda can elect to call a separate committee meeting, and

WHEREAS, forming Work Groups amongst Brooklyn Community Board 16 existing committees is not an amendment to the bylaws or existing committees, but rather the adoption of collaborative style of meeting intended to increase board member and community resident awareness and participation in the work of the twelve (12) committees; and to ensure that a greater number of community residents are included in the community vetting process for review of existing and proposed changes in the District, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Brooklyn Community District will continue meeting as four (4) Work Groups: Equity Planning, Community Resident Planning, City Services Planning and Fiscal and Policy for the purpose of conducting interconnected discussions necessary to advocate and achieve the greatest outcomes for residents of Community District 16; and schedule monthly work group meetings according to an agreed upon schedule effective June 1, 2018 through May 30, 2019.

Members of the Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to extend the use of work groups through the following fiscal year.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Richard Nelson, representing the Office of Senator Jesse Hamilton, III.

Mr. Nelson stated that on Monday, May 7th, Senator Hamilton will host his 3rd Annual Senior Olympics. For additional information, please call the Senator's office at (718) 284-4700. Fliers are also available on tonight's distribution table.

In collaboration with Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Senator Hamilton will host a Brownsville Education Town Hall on May 3rd, at P.S./I.S. 284.

Anyone seeking constituent services may visit their office at 1669 Bedford Avenue.

Mr. Melvin Faulkner, representing the Office of Assemblyman Charles Barron, reported that, in the past few weeks, they have been receiving numerous phone calls regarding fluctuating property taxes. They have called the New York City Department of Finance to meet with property owners in the auditorium of Thomas Jefferson High School on June 12, 2018 to answer questions regarding property taxes.

Ms. Cynthia Moices, representing the Office of Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel, stated that Councilmember Ampry-Samuel's first bill – Intro 614 A which requires the Commissioner of Human Rights to post online resources and complaint procedures with relation to sexual harassment, was passed by City Council.

Councilmember Ampry-Samuel wants the community to know that she was not involved in the Participatory Budgeting Process this year because the process began last year, prior to her coming into office. She will be involved in the next cycle.

Councilmember Ampry-Samuel toured New Destiny Houses with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Van Dyke Houses with Speaker Corey Johnson. They visit the homes of several residents to see the quality of the homes, as well the boilers of the buildings. The Governor has allocated \$550,000,000 to the New York City Housing Authority with a portion to go to Van Dyke Houses.

On tonight's distribution table are copies of their newsletter with information on various upcoming events, including the aforementioned town hall with Senator Hamilton.

Ms. Antonia Jeffries, representing the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated she is the community's new liaison to Congresswoman Clarke's office.

They are continuing to work on issues with the United States Postal Service across Congresswoman Clarke's district. She has been in conversation with both the local and federal Postmasters and they are seeking to fill openings in the Postal Service's Board of Governors as they will be the ones to set policy and select the Postmaster General. A Senate Hearing was held on April 19th and the positions will be filled. Congresswoman Clarke will also be making visit to the postal stations in the near future.

She encouraged students to enter the Congressional Art Competition. A showcase will be held on May 11th at Weeksville Heritage Center.

She reminds the audience of their constituent services days which take place at 400 Rockaway Avenue each Friday. Please call their offices for an appointment.

Earlier today, Congresswoman Clarke and several colleagues, introduced the Opioid Addiction Action Plan Act which will require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide for an action plan on recommendations for changes under Medicare and Medicaid to prevent opioids addictions and enhance access to medication-assisted treatment, and for other purposes.

Someone asked if the visits to the postal stations will be pre-announced or will they be surprise visits. She is concerned that if they are announced in advance, the stations will be on their best behavior and not be representative of normal operations.

Ms. Jeffries stated that past visits have been unannounced and they have collected evidence during those visits. However, this visit will be a planned tour informed by constituent complaints.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if anyone from Congresswoman Clarke's office attend the Brooklyn Regional meetings of the Postal Service?

Ms. Jeffries stated that Mr. Reginald Belon attends the meetings.

Someone asked when is the deadline for submissions to the Congressional Art Competition.

Ms. Jeffries stated that the deadline is the end of business on May 2, 2018.

Mr. Carlos Soto, representing the Office of Councilmember Rafael Espinal, Jr., stated that he constantly hears comments stating that Ocean Hill is a fictional name created by developers seeking to takeover Brownsville. He wants the community to know that this is not the case. Both, Ocean Hill and Brownsville were parceled in 1858. The Ocean Hill area was originally parceled by a man named Sackman.

Councilmember Espinal's district office is located at 1945 Broadway and members of his staff are available to assist constituents with various issues.

Councilmember Espinal, along with other councilmembers, allocates funding to GreenThumb, a division of the Department of Parks and Recreation. The funding goes towards tools and supplies. However, maintenance of the gardens is performed by volunteers. If you are interest in becoming a GreenThumb volunteer, please contact Councilmember Espinal's office.

Mr. James Moultrie, representing the Office of Assemblywoman Latrice Walker, stated that their office is located on the second floor of 400 Rockaway Avenue. They are open Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the telephone number is (718) 342-1256.

Mr. Devon Thorpe, representing the Office of Senator Roxanne Persaud, stated that Senator Persaud is a strong gun control advocate and a proponent of education. She is working on several pieces of legislation regarding those issues.

Senator Persaud's office is available to assist visitors any way they can. They are located at 1222 East 96th Street and the telephone number is (718) 649-7653.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. William Boone of the Medgar Evers Oasis Beacon Program.

Mr. Boone stated that he is the Outreach Coordinator for the Beacon Program which is located at 210 Chester Street. They are currently accepting applications for the summer camp program for youth in grades 1 through 9. Parents and guardians can complete the application at the office Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

He thanked everyone who sent prayers and well wishes during his recent illness.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing the Office of Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, reported that there have been a number of events held at Borough Hall which is found in their newsletter. He highlighted the upcoming Men's Health event with free health screenings available.

Constituent services are available by calling him at (718) 802-2681 or (347) 942-1692.

Ms. Balinda Harris announced that prom dress and suit giveaways will be taking place at Borough Hall on April 18th and at the Brooklyn Masonic Temple on Lafayette Avenue.

Chairperson Morgan encouraged graduating students and their parents to take advantage of the giveaways.

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