



**MINUTES OF THE  
MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2018  
COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING  
BEDFORD-STUYVESANT RESTORATION CORP.  
1368 FULTON STREET  
BROOKLYN, NY 11216**

**Attendance:**

**Members Present:** Felicia Alexander, Tywan Anthony, Dr. Kim Best, Anthony Buissereth, Ivy Gamble-Cobb, Evelyn Collier, Pastor Gwendolyn Dingle, Taina Evans, Marc Abou-Faissal, Richard Flateau, Sharon Forbes, Keith Forest, Gregory Glasgow, Mary Jemison-Head, Oma Holloway, Edna Johnson, Dr. Kerliene Johnson, Dr. Debra Lamb, Hardy "Joe" Long, Dovie Matthews, Kenneth Mbonu, Melissa Plowden-Norman, C. Doris Pinn, Simone Pratt, Karen Rhau, Stacey Ruffin, Suzette Sheppard, Jamella Swift, Omar Walker, Douglas Williams

**Members Absent:** Babatunde Akowe, Shia Greenfeld, Kimberly Hill, Everett Hughes, Tarris Iriarte, Marion Little, Dionicio Liz, Paulette Moorehead, Eldica Murray, Kwaku Payton, Santana Payton, Shekera Shahid, Chinyelu Udoh, Rev. Dr. Robert Waterman, Shanita Wells, T. J. Wilson

**INVOCATION**

The invocation was given by Pastor Gwendolyn Dingle.

**REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Richard Flateau**

Mr. Flateau read the agenda into the record. He then advised everyone to pay attention to the census and the question that the Trump Administration is trying to add about citizenship. There is a concern that it might depress the number of people answering the census which can have dire results. He stated that there is an article in "Our Times Press" by Dr. John Flateau on the topic.

Mr. Flateau gave an update on the situation at 529 Monroe Street. He informed that the residents were relocated. The contract was terminated. He stated that he raised the topic at the Borough Service Cabinet meeting in which Commissioner Steven Banks was in attendance. Commissioner Banks stated that he was aware of the situation and that he will removed the clients ASAP.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, there was a meeting with Erin Drinkwater, DHS and Annette Holm, HRA who confirmed that the residents were relocated and that in the future they will check the Certificate of Occupancy and not rely on the service provider.

In addition, he mentioned that he and Mr. Butler met with several agencies to address the issue of homeless people occupying Marcy Plaza.

Mr. Flateau implore homeowners to be aware of unlicensed home improvement contractors. Check their license by going to the Department of Consumer Services website.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

### **Assembly Member Tremaine Wright**

Assembly Member Wright reported that money was allotted for NYCHA for the new boilers and other needed repairs. She added that there are two developments in Bedford-Stuyvesant that are included in the plan for new boilers at Roosevelt and Marcy Houses. Additionally, the State has invested in the MTA with over \$400 million to upgrade the signaling. The State is also requesting that the Capital Plan include opening some of the closed exits at some of the congested stations along the A & J subway lines.

There are investments in after school, healthcare and new aggressive housing plans to provide homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless rental assistance. The program is a four-year pilot.

Contact her office, if you have had damaged to your property by construction work from neighboring homes at 718-399-7630 or [wrightt@nyassembly.gov](mailto:wrightt@nyassembly.gov)

In addition, Assembly Member Wright will be hosting “Women of Distinction” on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. It will be held at Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp., 1368 Fulton Street.

### **Candice Julien – Hon. Eric Adams**

Borough President Adams invites everyone to learn how to save a life by offering free training for Narcan. It will be held at various libraries.

April is Financial Education Empowerment Month. More information can be found in the “Message of the Month”. Please contact her at 718-802-3981 with any issues or concerns.

### **Olanike Alabi – 57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Leader**

Ms. Alabi will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>, at Teen Challenge. Presentations will be given by NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Civilian Complaint Review Board and NYC Housing Preservation & Development.

### **Shelton Jones – Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office**

Mr. Jones stated that the District Attorney’s office is accepting applications for a summer internship for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors. The five-week internship pays students \$150.00 per week plus a MetroCard. The deadline to apply is April 27, 2018.

Mr. Jones spoke of an indictment of a Queens man who was pretending to be a lawyer to individuals who felt they were wrongly convicted. He were charging each individual \$7,000 to \$15,000 for a period of four years but was not filing any documents. If anyone is aware of a situation like this or any other issue, please contact the Action Center at 718-250-2340 or you can reach Mr. Jones at 718-250- 3146.

### **Shakti Robbins – Hon. Velmanette Montgomery**

She stated that the School Based Health Center were cut drastically last year however, they were restored. There is a center on the Boys and Girls High School Campus and the Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center sponsors several School Based Centers. The centers provides free health and dental care to students at the schools.

In addition, she added that there is a D.R.E.A.M Youth Build Program on St. Johns Place and Ralph Avenue. They provide programs to youth 17-24 years who are out of school and out of work. They can get their G.E.D, job counseling, college readiness, paid construction training and certification.

**Nicholas Perry – Hon. Scott Stringer**

He spoke about the Comptroller’s Report on traffic violations in school zones. The report is on the website at [www.comptroller.nyc.gov](http://www.comptroller.nyc.gov) or directly at 212-669-3811.

**Marcella Carr-Gay – Principal, M.S. 898**

Ms. Carr-Gay stated that she is the Project Director for the new middle school in District 16 which is located in the Granville T. Woods, 130 Rochester Avenue (bet. Bergen Street & St. Marks Avenue). The school will be opening in September with ninety 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and will increase each year to Grade 8 by 2020. For more information, please contact her at [mcarr3@nyc.schools.gov](mailto:mcarr3@nyc.schools.gov)

**Emily Mateo – Hon. Walter Mosley**

Assembly Member Mosley will be hosting a Budget Town Hall on Facebook Live from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Oma Holloway – Bridge Street Development Corp.**

Ms. Holloway stated that free legal clinics will be available for tenants on April 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., and immediately following that at 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. there will be a workshop on how to navigate Housing Court.

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Brooklyn Town Hall on tenants “Right to Counsel”. It will be held at St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf, 260 Eastern Parkway from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Youth and Health Fair at M.S. 35, 272 MacDonough Street from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Lynette Rogers – Brownstoners of Bedford Stuyvesant**

Ms. Rogers informed the audience that the Brownstoners will be hosting the annual Tax Lien Help Night on April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., at Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp. She added that there are 450 properties on the list in Community District 3. They will be going door to door to notified homeowners.

**Daniel Fisher – 81<sup>st</sup> Precinct Community Council**

Mr. Fisher announced that the Pre-Mother’s Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at Sugar Hill Supper Club. Tickets are \$25.00, please call the Community Affairs office for tickets.

The next Precinct Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., at the Multi-Service Center, 1958 Fulton Street.

**Dr. Kim Best – 79<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Brooklyn Job Corp., at 7:00 p.m. In addition, the Precinct Council will host a Dinner/Dance on Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the United Grand Chapter, 441 Willoughby Avenue. The tickets are \$50.00 and can be purchased at the 79<sup>th</sup> Precinct. It will be from 9:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Marcus Harris – Hon. Eric Adam; P.O. Christopher Charles – 79<sup>th</sup> Precinct; P. O. Artese Davis – 81<sup>st</sup> Precinct

**DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT – Henry L. Butler**

Mr. Butler stated that the Board will be hosting several Town Halls:

- The Parks, Arts & Culture Committee will be hosting a Community Forum on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at M.S. 35, 272 MacDonough Street. The Parks Brooklyn Commissioner Martin Maher will be attendance.

- On Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be Town Hall with the Post Office to address issues in the district. There will be representatives from the Shirley Chisholm, Brevoort and Bushwick and the Adelphi Stations. It will be held in Restoration Plaza, 1368 Fulton Street, from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
- On Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Town Hall with City agencies -- DOB, DOT and DEP. Topics will be: construction permits, illegal and legal construction, noise complaints, water and sewer lines, rain garden, street infrastructure, pedestrian safety, motorist and parking. It will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room, 1368 Fulton Street at 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
- On Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, he along with the Parks Committee will be going on a “Tour of the Parks” in the district with Commissioner Martin Maher.

Mr. Butler reiterated that the meeting regarding Marcy Plaza included the Departments of Sanitation, Homeless Services and Transportation. There is a plan of action to ensure that the people who are homeless get the services that they need.

In addition, the meeting Annette Holm, DSS and Erin Drinkwater, DSS determined that the organization that had the contract with the City was CORE Services whose founder is Jack Brown. As of February 2018, a “No Referral” was placed on the building which means that no other organization can utilize the building. The Certificate of Occupancy are only for 14 units.

He added that the Mayor’s Office of Events gave a presentation at Borough Service Cabinet. Block parties are back to 60 days to apply. Approval will be emailed two weeks prior to the event. The State Liquor Authority was also at the meeting and stated that they will investigate stipulations violations such as staying opened longer than their permit allows.

Applicants who obtain a Sidewalk Café License must amend their liquor license to serve on the sidewalk. In addition, if the business utilizes the backyard to serve food or drinks, the Certificate of Occupancy must state that.

## **I. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION**

### **A. Transportation, Sanitation & Environment Committee:**

NYC Department of Sanitation gave a presentation on the expansion of their Organic Recycling Program in Brooklyn Community District 3

*Gregory Glasgow, Committee Chair introduced Andrew Hoyles, Senior Manager of Organics’ Outreach*

Mr. Hoyles explained that this is the department’s newest recycling program. It is a two year expansion for the curbside program which will begin in Community District 3 in May. The program is for organics (food scraps, yard waste and food soil paper). The program is for residents who live in a building with 1-9 units and residents who live in high-rise buildings with 10 or more units can register.

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) will provide residents with a rodent resistance brown bins. The bins will be picked up on the regularly recycling day. The material will be turned into compost. The program was started in 2013 in small neighborhood pilot districts. Last year it rolled out to 17 community boards. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the program will roll out to Brooklyn CB3, CB4 and Queens CB1. The goal being that it will be a Citywide program by the end of 2018.

DSNY will send an official mailer to let residents know about the program and they will be delivering the bins to all 1-9 unit households. Single family homes will receive a 13 gallon bin and a small kitchen container. 2-9 unit households will receive a larger bin. Service will begin in

June for BK3. Buildings with 10 or more units who would like to participate can go to [www.nyc.gov/organics](http://www.nyc.gov/organics) to sign up.

For more information, contact [ahoyles@dsny.nyc.gov](mailto:ahoyles@dsny.nyc.gov) or 212-437-4441.

**B. Education & Youth Committee:**

A presentation was given on the proposed co-location of a 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade middle school in the Old Boys High School that currently houses one GED program, two transfer schools and one cluster High School serving 14 to 21 year olds

*Oma Holloway, Committee Chair introduced Nicole Greaves & Miriam Roberts, Pathways to Graduation & Brooklyn Academy High School*

Ms. Greaves is a teacher at Pathways to Graduation. She stated that currently they are co-located in the old Boys High School with Bedford Stuyvesant Preparatory High School, Brooklyn Academy High School, Uncommon Collegiate Charter High School and District 75 Program.

Bedford Stuyvesant Preparatory High School and Brooklyn Academy High School are transfer schools. Ms. Roberts added that transfer schools are also known as Alternative High Schools. They serve students who are 16-21 years old who are over-aged and under credited. They offer a CAMBA Learning to Work Program, a part-time paid internship. They also have partnerships with other organizations.

The Department of Education (DOE) proposed to reallocate classroom space by consolidating the two transfer schools into one school, for a total of 290 students on one floor. They want to co-locate Uncommon Brooklyn East Collegiate Charter Middle School which would create a problem. There is a problem with placing 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders with 20 and 21 year old students.

They are asking the Board to support the schools. There were several supporters (students and teachers) in attendance.

**II. PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. Landmarks Committee:**

Bweela Steptoe seeking a letter of support to landmark the individual house located at 840A Monroe Street between Ralph & Howard Avenues

*Evelyn Collier, Committee Chair introduced Bwella Steptoe, Homeowner*

Ms. Steptoe gave a PowerPoint presentation and brief history in the life of her father, John Steptoe 22 years career. She stated that her grandmother purchased 840 and 840A Monroe Street where they grew up. She is proposing to landmark 840A Monroe Street and create a museum and cultural center in honor of her father John Steptoe. John Steptoe has authored several children books such as “Stevie”, and “Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters” and a total of 17 books.

Ms. Steptoe added that the following locations have honored her father for his work:

P.S. 181 which is located on New York Avenue between Snyder & Tilden Avenues, is named after John Steptoe, the intersection of Monroe Street and Marcus Garvey was co-named in 2015, the celebrity pathway at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, the Schomburg Center and the Raymond Bush Park has his artwork on display.

In addition, she has started a non-for-profit in honor of her father -- the John Lewis Steptoe Cultural Center.

## Question & Answers

**Gregory Glasgow:** You did not show the building with any distinctive features to show why the building should be landmarked.

**Bweela Steptoe:** It would be cultural landmarked not an architectural landmark.

**Dr. Debra Lamb:** I need clarification on the address, is this for 840 or 840A?

**Bweela Steptoe:** 840A is the last house that I lived in.

**Simone Pratt:** What are you looking for a -- museum or a plaque?

**Bweela Steptoe:** It would be a museum/cultural center. I would share stories and provide art classes and other classes like the things my father was interested in.

### B. Economic Development Committee:

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application for Swiingz Restaurant LLC located at 1542 Fulton Street between Throop Avenue & Marcus Garvey Blvd

*Tywan Anthony, Committee Chair introduced George Nelson, Legal Representative*

Mr. Nelson stated that Swiingz will be a Jamaican American cuisine. He added that the family are restaurateurs, for over 30 years. They are the owners of Sally's. They have several restaurants in Brooklyn on Fulton and Flatbush Avenues, Flatlands & Remsen Avenues, Ralph & Foster Avenues. The owner, Sharica McGivens stated that the capacity at the bar is for 45-50 people with 8-10 people at the bar. She gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Nelson stated that there are two churches within 200 feet of the location however, they have only received one letter of support. The other church have not responded to his request. Therefore, they have decided to apply for a beer and wine license.

### C. Economic Development Committee:

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application for The Ville, Brooklyn LLC located at 1215 Bedford Avenue between Hancock Street & Halsey Street

*Tywan Anthony, Committee Chair introduced Rohan Barnes, Owner*

Mr. Barnes and his attorney Lawrence Silverman gave a presentation. They have a 10 year lease.

Mr. Barnes stated that he is a banker by day and always wanted to have his own restaurant. It will be a Caribbean restaurant with tapas style menu. The restaurant capacity is for 74 people; 52 inside and 22 outside. The space is 1,200 sq. ft. He would like to hire 13 people from the community. He will offer free children cooking classes through a kid's cultural food exchange program. Together they have 25 years of experience.

## Questions & Answers

**Robert Smith:** You talked about Salsa classes, can you elaborate more?

**Rohan Barnes:** It will not be formal structured classes.

**Jamella Swift:** Doesn't dancing require a cabaret license?

**Rohan Barnes:** The law has changed two months ago, dancing is permitted.

**Doris Pinn:** What are your hours of operation?

**Rohan Barnes:** Monday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.; Friday – Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 a.m. on Saturday & Sunday: 7:30 a.m. – 2:00 a.m. (screening of soccer games).

**D. Economic Development Committee:**

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application for BarLife LLC (DBA Navada’s), located at 1177 Bedford Avenue between Jefferson Avenue & Putnam Avenue.

*Tywan Anthony, Committee Chair introduced Xavier Ezell, Owner*

Calvin Clark, owner of Bedford Hall stated that he has some issues with the pipes and some complaints about services. Therefore, he is turning the business over to Xavier Ezell. Mr. Ezell is currently the General Manager at Mo’s in Fort Greene which Mr. Clark also owns.

Mr. Ezell stated that he has been in banking for 14 years and the restaurant business for 12 years. He added that he will be keeping the same team as Bedford Hall however, with Navada’s he will focus on weddings. We will have live music and local artists. Mr. Clark stated that he is working with Lincoln Center to provide a satellite jazz night.

**Questions & Answers**

**Oma Holloway:** What is the plan to change the service? After reviewing the signatures you collected, most of them are not from the community.

**Calvin Clark:** Wayne Devonish of 500 Men Making a Difference assisted us in obtaining the signatures.

**Stefani Zinerman:** What will the menu be and what are the hours?

**Xavier Ezell:** The hours will 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; 3:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. on Sunday to Thursday. The menu will be the same in terms of the wings and the bar food but we will be adding Mac and cheese, salmon, more health and gluten free food. We have never had any issues before.

**Orlando Ross:** Will you be having an open mic?

**Xavier Ezell:** We will have one or two nights of jazz.

**Marcus Harris:** Are you keeping the same staff and are you providing them with customer service training?

**Xavier Ezell:** We will be hiring new local staff and some prior staff members plus we will be doing customer service training.

**III. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Michael Friedman**

Mr. Friedman spoke on behalf of the programs at the Pathway to Graduation and how it will affect the school.

**Dr. Robert Smith – Footsteps to Follow**

He announced a scholarship for graduating high school and first year college students. [www.footstepstofollow.com](http://www.footstepstofollow.com) . The deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Clarence Williams**

Mr. Williams is a member of Buffalo Soldier of America which is located at 677 Lafayette Avenue. They provide assistance for veterans. They will be hosting a fundraiser at Applebee's on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Flyers for "Dining to Donate" were available. Customers who participate will be able to donate 10% of their bill.

### **Stefani Zinerman**

Ms. Zinerman invited residents to meet the candidates for civil, supreme and surrogate courts. The event will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup>, at Basquait's Bottle, 1198 Fulton Street from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

In addition, VIDA is recruiting 17-year old Poll Workers for the upcoming elections on June 26<sup>th</sup>, which is the congressional election. There will also be orientation training for VIDA new and old members.

## **IV. ROLL CALL**

There are 30 members present and 16 absent.

## **V. COMMITTEE UPDATES & RESOLUTIONS**

### **Oma Holloway – Education & Youth**

The committee will be hosting Bed-Stuy's Best 2018. It is a celebration of excellence in education. The link to nominate your favorite teacher, principal, parent coordinator, school safety team, etc. will be available on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Evelyn Collier – Landmarks**

Ms. Collier stated that LPC will be holding a hearing for 375 Stuyvesant Avenue on April 17<sup>th</sup>. She added that there was a hearing on March 27<sup>th</sup>, regarding changing the rules and regulations however, a decision was not made on the matter.

### **Resolution for 375 Stuyvesant Avenue between Decatur and Bainbridge Streets.**

The Applicant is seeking to erect a new five-story structure on the Decatur Street side of the corner mansion site, and to demolish an existing two-door masonry garage building which was damaged by fire in 2014.

Ms. Collier asked the Board to support the committee's recommendation to REJECT the application because the new structure will significantly alter the mansion landmarked and historical significance. It will compromise and diminish the context and aesthetic integrity of this Mansion that is unique and significant in the historic Stuyvesant Heights Historic District

[..\Resolution for 375 Stuyvesant Avenue.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Mary Jemison-Head and seconded by Melissa Plowden-Norman.

[..\Vote for 375 Stuyvesant Avenue.pdf](#)

### **Questions & Answers**

**Gregory Glasgow:** How can it be the same when it is already destroyed by fire?

**Evelyn Collier:** The family wants to restore it but the person who is claiming to be the owner wants to destroy it and build the five-story building.

**Dr. Debra Lamb:** Who is the current owner?

**Evelyn Collier:** Other than the son, the person connected to the development is claiming to be the owner of the lot behind the garage. I would have to check my notes.

**Jamella Swift:** Is this one lot?



**Evelyn Collier:** The entrance is on Decatur Street and it is directly behind the building. If the garage is removed, it would allow the lot to become 10,000 sq. ft.

**Resolution for 344 MacDonough Street**

Ms. Collier asked the Board to support the committee’s recommendation of NO SUPPORT for the application.

[..\Resolution for 344 MacDonough Street.pdf](#)

A motion to accept the recommendation was made by Douglas Williams and seconded by Gregory Glasgow.

[..\Vote for 344 MacDonough Street.pdf](#)

**VI. ACTION ON THE PUBLIC HEARING**

- A.** Request for a letter of support to landmark the individual house located at 840A Monroe Street between Ralph Avenue & Howard Avenue.

Ms. Collier asked the Board to support the committee’s recommendation and give a letter of SUPPORT for the application.

A motion to accept the recommendation was made by Hardy “Joe” Long and seconded by Mary Jemison-Head.

[..\Vote for 840A Monroe Street.pdf](#)

- B.** Swiingz Restaurant LLC request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License.

Tywan Anthony stated that the committee’s recommendation was to give a letter of NON-SUPPORT for the application because they are in violations of the 200 ft. Rule.

A motion to accept the recommendation was made by Felicia Alexander and seconded by Hardy “Joe” Long.

[..\Vote for Swiingz.pdf](#)

- C.** The Ville, Brooklyn LLC request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License.

Tywan Anthony stated that the committee’s recommendation was to give a letter of SUPPORT for the application.

A motion to accept the recommendation was made by Douglas Williams and seconded by Dr. Kim Best.

[..\Vote for the Ville.pdf](#)

- D.** BarLife LLC (DBA Navada’s) request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License.

Tywan Anthony stated that the committee’s recommendation was to give a letter of SUPPORT for the application.

A motion to accept the recommendation was made by Melissa Plowden-Norman and seconded by Gregory Glasgow.

**VII. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MARCH 5, 2018 MINUTES**

A motion to accept the March minutes was made by Felicia Alexander and seconded by Gregory Glasgow.  
The vote was unanimous.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Beryl Nyack  
April 17, 2018