



**MINUTES OF THE
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018
COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
BEDFORD-STUYVESANT RESTORATION CORP.
1368 FULTON STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11216**

Attendance:

Members Present: Babatunde Akowe, Felicia Alexander, Anthony Buissereth, Evelyn Collier, Taina Evans, Richard Flateau, Sharon Forbes, Keith Forest, Shia Greenfeld, Mary Jemison-Head, Kimberly Hill, Oma Holloway, Dr. Kerliene Johnson, Dr. Debra Lamb, Dionicio Liz, Hardy “Joe” Long, Dovie Matthews, Kenneth Mbonu, Paulette Moorehead, Melissa Plowden-Norman, Kwaku Payton, C. Doris Pinn, Simone Pratt, Karen Rhau, Stacey Ruffin, Shekera Shahid, Suzette Sheppard, Jamella Swift, Chinyelu Udoh, Rev. Dr. Robert Waterman, Douglas Williams, T. J. Wilson

Members Absent: Tywan Anthony, Dr. Kim Best, Ivy Gamble-Cobb, Pastor Gwendolyn Dingle, Marc Abou-Faissal, Gregory Glasgow, Everett Hughes, Tarris Iriarte, Edna Johnson, Marion Little, Eldica Murray, Santana Payton, Omar Walker, Shanita Wells

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Candace Simpson.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Richard Flateau

Mr. Flateau reported that there was fire on Jefferson Avenue between Stuyvesant and Malcolm X Blvd in the early hours of the morning. Three homes were destroyed and some fire fighters were injured.

He gave an update on the issue of an illegal conversion at 529 Monroe Street. He also reported on the Borough Board meeting.

In response to the postal service complaints, the Board is planning a Town Hall with Congressman Jeffries.

He read the agenda into the record.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Gordon Bell – Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp.

Mr. Bell informed the audience about the Weatherization Assistance Program. The program provide windows, insulations and LED lighting. He added that Restoration has started a new Strategic Plan and they need feedback from the community before it is finalized.

Hon. Scott Stringer

Comptroller Stringer informed the audience that the City has over 1,100 vacant land, 566 in Brooklyn which needs to be developed for affordable housing plan. However, the City is not creating the affordable housing for people who live in the community. 56% of the residents in East New York cannot afford the affordable housing and the developers receive incentives to build some affordable units. The Comptroller stated that we need an Affordable Housing Plan that keeps the people in the neighborhood in their homes.

He added that he is also working with community based organizations to create an opt-in program to allow New Yorkers to use their rent payments to build their credit score. It is in its pilot stage. Anyone interested in getting more information can contact the Comptroller's office. His office will make a presentation at our future meetings.

Emily Mateo – Assembly Member Walter Mosley

Assembly Member Mosley thanked everyone who attended the State of the District. Parking calendars were also provided.

Kathleen Daniel – Borough President Eric Adams

Borough President Adams convened a meeting after the Parkland incident with several students and they are requesting a Bill of Rights, they asked for the voting age to be lowered and they asked how to be civically engaged. On March 14th, the National School Walkout, there will be a rally after school from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. in Prospect Park. Buses will be available for students to Washington on March 24th.

Marcus Harris added that March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month. Borough President Adams has partnered with ten hospitals in Brooklyn to perform screenings for uninsured clients.

Jamell Henderson – Council Member Alicka Samuel

Council member is working diligently on the NYCHA problems especially on getting new boilers installed. For more information, please call 212-788-7387 until her district office is opened within the next week or email to jhenderson@council.nyc.gov. She has also teamed up with Council Member Mark Treyger to provide free diapers to residents in shelters and daycare centers.

Anne-Marie Malcolm – Principal of Madiba Prep Middle School

Ms. Malcolm informed that this is a Gifted and Talented school which is located within P. S. 26 on the 2nd floor, on Lafayette Avenue near Malcolm X Blvd. It is a school for Social Justice and Innovation. It covers Grades 6-8. They have a partnership with Benjamin Banneker and Brooklyn Academy High Schools.

She added that they will be hosting a districtwide Science Fair on May 31st. For more information please call, 718-574-2804. Flyers were available.

Judge Betty Staton – Brooklyn Legal Services

Judge Staton informed the audience that flyers were available regarding the services provided by her office along with information on property taxes and exemptions.

Shakti Robbins – Senator Velmanette Montgomery

The Summer Youth Employment Program applications are open, the deadline is approaching. The Brooklyn Navy Yard also has an internship. The deadline is April 2nd.

Shaun Francis – Council Member Robert Cornegy

Mr. Francis is the new Community Liaison. He announced that Council Member Cornegy are in partnership with Interfaith Hospital will be offering free flu shots on March 6th, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Restoration Plaza. On Thursday, March 8th, the office will be working on the Participatory Budget Poster Making from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Community Room.

Nicholas Perry – NYC Comptroller Office

Comptroller Scott Stringer will be hosting a Women History Month celebration on March 27th, at the Supreme Court, 60 Centre Street.

Olanike Alabi – 57th Assembly District Leader

Ms. Alabi stated that she will be hosting a Town Hall on March 22nd, at Teen Challenge Center to introduce the candidates for Supreme, Civil and Surrogate Judges.

Shekera Shahid – Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Ms. Shahid informed the residents that the Brooklyn Chapter is hosting a Book Drive to benefit MacDonough Family Residents. The committee will be building a library for the residents. She asked members to give a book and bring to the April and May Board meetings. She will also be collecting at the Board office for two Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. also. The preference is young adult and adult fiction books.

Daniel Fisher – President 81st Precinct Community Council

Mr. Fisher reported that the play “Two Trains Running” by August Wilson was a success. He thanked the community for their support. He plans to offer similar events in the future. The next general meeting will be held on the March 13th, at 7:00 p.m.

Lynette Rogers – Brownstoners of Bedford Stuyvesant

Ms. Rodgers informed the residents that the Brownstoners will be offering a Deed Fraud Forum on March 10th, at Interfaith Medical Center. It will begin at 10:30 a.m.

On April 25th, a Help Night will be offered to homeowners to assist with the Tax Lien on property taxes or water and sewer bill. It will be held at Restoration Plaza.

Stefani Zinerman – NAACP

Ms. Zinerman discussed Civic Engagement especially for young people. On March 19th, there will be bus going to Albany and leaving at 6:00 a.m., Melony discussed “Get out the Vote Initiative” for the Mid-Term elections.

Amanda Robinson – Assembly Member Tremaine Wright

Assembly Member Wright is working on making the 56th District a “Cease and Assist Zone”. Forms were provided to residents to keep a record of all the people who are constantly harassing homeowners to sell their homes.

She added that there are four legislations being pushed in Albany. Fact sheets were available: Notice to Adjoining Homeowners Construction Bill, Expunge Stop & Frisk Arrest, Decriminalize Turnstile Jumping and Disabled Veteran Benefit Bill

Assembly Member Wright will also be hosting a Women of Distinction Ceremony in April.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Deputy Inspector Charles Minch – 79th Precinct; P.O. Christopher Charles – 79th Precinct; Det. Conrad Narcisse – 81st Precinct; P. O. Artese Davis – 81st Precinct; Sharonnie Perry – Interfaith Medical Center; Karen Cherry – Assembly Member Erik Dilan

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT – Henry L. Butler

Mr. Butler stated that he received an email from HRA in reference to 529 Monroe Street which Mr. Fleteau spoke about. The email stated that HRA will be relocating their clients effective immediately because the building

operator did not submit documents to amend the Certificate of Occupancy. Mr. Butler added that Class A apartments cannot be change to SROs.

He added that the Board is working on hosting a Town Hall meeting in May regarding the post office issues.

In addition, next month he will be taking a tour of the district parks with the Brooklyn Borough Commissioner.

Mr. Butler added that someone claiming to be a Con Ed worker tried to gain access to his neighbor's house and threatened to charge her a \$100 fee if she didn't give access. He advised everyone to aware.

I. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Capital & Expense Budget Committee:

The Budget Coordinator held a public hearing on the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2019

Richard Flateau, Board Chair introduced TJ Wilson, Budget Coordinator

Ms. Wilson gave a brief review of the agency responses to the Board's Capital and Expense Budget Requests for FY 2019.

She highlighted the sanitation garage and the Sumner Armory and stated that she will be working with the committees on these items.

Questions & Answers

Simone Pratt: Is the request for the Sumner Armory for the homeless shelter of community use?

TJ Wilson: It is for both, it is currently being used as a homeless shelter but the community board is trying to use it as a recreational facility also.

Stefani Zinerman: The State representative did request money for a feasibility study.

[..\Responses to FY 2019 Capital & Expense Budget.pdf](#)

B. Parks, Arts & Culture Committee:

NYC Department of Parks & Recreation Capital Design presented on the CPI Capital Improvement of Lewis Avenue Playground located at Willoughby and Lewis Avenues

TJ Wilson, Committee Vice-Chair introduced Susan Jainchill, MKW & Associates

Ms. Jainchill gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed design for the Lewis Avenue Playground. She stated that MKW & Associate is a Landscape and Architecture Firm. They are consultants for the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation. She stated that the playground is 1.6 acres which is relatively small. The goal is to provide active recreation for different age groups, they will add equipment for the younger age group, picnic tables, improving the seating, increasing green space, adding a fountain and replacing and upgrading existing materials. The cost of the project is \$1.4 million budget. The firm also renovated the Jesse Owens and Stockton Playgrounds.

Ms. Jainchill added that the space is very symmetrical. The 7 feet wall is creating a safety issue. There are two ramps and blue stone on the sidewalk. Many of the trees will stay. In addition, she stated that a scope meeting on October 23rd, was held in which they received ideas from the community. Nothing everything that was suggested will be installed

however, some children asked for a pollinator garden. New safety surface will be added also.

Questions & Answers

Jamella Swift: Will the playground be locked?

Ronald Taylor: It will be accessible and we will collaborate with NYPD to determine if it needs to be lock.

Juliana Pinto: Will there be a bathroom?

Susan Jainchill: The space is too small to accommodate a bathroom.

Richard Flateau: When will the project start and the duration?

Susan Jainchill: It is still in the design phase, construction will begin next spring and the project will last for a year.

Suzette Sheppard: Do you plan to keep the blue stones?

Susan Jainchill: The stones at the sidewalk will be kept, inside it will be removed.

TJ Wilson: Where are the blue stones going?

Susan Jainchill: The blue stone was an issue and deemed problematic and costly. The contractor has to dispose of it.

- C. Lee Ann Woodriffe is requesting a letter of support to co-name Jefferson Avenue and Claver Place to Edwin R. Woodriffe Blvd
TJ Wilson, Committee Co-Chair introduced Lee Ann Woodriffe, Daughter

Ms. Woodriffe gave a brief history of her father's life growing up in Brooklyn before becoming a FBI agent until his death. Several family members, FBI agents, friends and FBI Explorers were in attendance.

Questions & Answers

Dr. Debra Lamb:

Suggestion that the co-naming be Edwin R. Woodriffe Way rather than Blvd since the street is very narrow and a Blvd is usually very wide.

Lee Ann Woodriffe: It can be named anything as long as it is co-named for her father.

- D. **Economic Development Committee:**

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application request for a letter of support by King of the Sea Restaurant Inc., 1102 Bedford Avenue between Quincy Street & Lexington Avenue.

Keith Forest, Committee Vice-Chair introduced Marc Jean-Pierre and McKenson Cadet, Owners

Mr. Jean-Pierre stated that he and his partner met in college and has a clothing line and a boutique on Snyder Avenue in Brooklyn. They are venturing to open King of the Sea which will be a seafood restaurant not a bar. They will be serving a Cajun style broil seafood. They also have a brick oven and will be serving pizza. They have 15 years of

experience. The space has three egresses. They have a very unique drink menu which will set them apart from other restaurants.

They will hire from within the community. There will be security. The capacity is for 65 people.

Questions & Answers

Babatunde Akowe: Did you get support from the block association?

Marc Jean-Pierre: We have 25 letters, 2 letters from two businesses.

Felicia Alexander: What will set you apart from other business?

Marc Jean-Pierre: We are not a bar and we plan on staying open based on how the community receives us.

Simone Pratt: What are your hours and pricing?

Marc Jean-Pierre: Thursdays – Sunday: 4:00 p.m. 11:00 p.m.; Fridays – Saturday: 4:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. The price is competitive from \$12.00 - \$25.00.

- E.** Alcohol Beverage Control License Application request for a letter of support by 151 Tompkins Avenue LLC, 151 Tompkins Avenue between Willoughby Avenue & Hart Street
Keith Forest, Committee Vice-Chair introduced James Freeman, Owner

Mr. Freeman stated that he has two other businesses: Sally Roots and Sweet Science in Williamsburg and Bushwick. He lives on Marion Street in Bedford Stuyvesant and would love to have a business in his neighborhood. He has a 10-year lease at Sally Roots and a 5-year lease at Sweet Science. He signed a 15-year lease at 151 Tompkins LLC. This is a Caribbean American Barbecue. The hours of operation will be Sunday – Wednesday 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.; Thursday – Saturday until 3:00 a.m. He received 25 signatures and 5 recommendations.

Questions and Answers

Babatunde Akowe: Did you get a letter from Tompkins Avenue Merchant Association (TAMA)?

James Freeman: No

Mary Jemison Head: How many employees will you have?

James Freeman: 3 kitchen crew, 2 bartenders and 2 servers

- F.** Alcohol Beverage Control License Application request for a letter of support by Calaca of Bk, 139 Putnam Avenue
Keith Forest, Committee Vice-Chair introduced David Hurtado, Owner

Oma Holloway recused herself from the vote on the request because Calaca of Bk is part of a program at Bridge Street Development.

Mr. Hurtado introduced his wife stated that this is an existing restaurant however, he is changing the name because his partner moved to Canada. It is a Mexican Restaurant. He

has 15 years of experience. His wife is the chef plus he will one cook. The capacity of the building is for 22 people with five tables. Hours of operations are Wednesdays to Sundays from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. The space is only 365 sq., ft.

The price of the tacos are \$3.50, quesadillas are \$6.00. He will only be serving tequila and mescal. He has the support of the block association and the community.

His wife added that there are no basement or storage area. Therefore, all food is prepared daily from scratch. She will be serving traditional Mexican dishes.

- G.** Alcohol Beverage Control License Application request for a letter of support by 1313 Entertainment Avenue located at the corner of New York & Atlantic Avenues
Keith Forest, Committee Vice-Chair introduced Emanuel Tropanes

Mr. Tropanes stated that this location is currently a hardware store. It will be opened as a bar and lounge. He is Haitian born but grew up in Brooklyn. He lived in Bed-Stuy for over 20 years. He is looking to hire 50 people from the community. He plans to open within the next five months.

The hours of operation will be 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 6 days a week; week days 6:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. and weekends 6:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.; and Sundays 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m. The space is 2000 sq. ft. Since this is a stand-alone building, he would like to add a roof top area.

Questions and Answers

Simone Pratt: Will this be a restaurant/bar and will there be live music? Will you have security?

Emanuel Tropanes: It will be a café, restaurant bar and there will be music. Yes, we will consult with a security company.

Chinyelu Udoh: Are you aware that there is an elementary school?

Emanuel Tropanes: Yes, it is on a different block.

Orlando Ross: Will the menu be Haitian? Will it be live music?

Emanuel Tropanes: It will be Caribbean based and no, it will not be live music.

Miari Roberts: Have you owned a business before?

Emanuel Tropanes: I have not owned but worked and consulted with other businesses.

- H.** Alcohol Beverage Control License Application request for a letter of support by Uru Bar Café, 17 MacDougal Street

No one was in attendance from this business. It was tabled.

II. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oma Holloway

Girl Scouts cookies are here!

Carmen Johnson

She informed the audience about a 16-series podcast base on “Black Boys and Men Changing the narrative from NYU. For more information contact her at carmenrosero@yahoo.com

Miari Roberts – Brooklyn Academy High School

Ms. Roberts reported that Brooklyn Academy is a transfer school for 16-21 year old students. The Department of Education is planning to co-locate two schools in a building that already has 290 students. She asked the Board for their support. There will be a meeting on March 19th.

Lenisha Scotland – Epiphany Church Bk

Ms. Scotland introduced the residents to her church which is located on

Kenneth Mbonu

Mr. Mbonu reiterated the issue of City land which the Comptroller reported on and asked the Board to focus on this issue.

Ardenia Brown – President of 300 Decatur Street Block Association

Ms. Brown stated that she is part of group called Friends of 375 Stuyvesant Avenue. They are trying to prevent a developer, DXA Studios from developing a 5 story condo. She said that the garage is the one and only garage in a landmark district. The integrity of the landmark building and the community.

There will be a meeting at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church of Christ, on Tuesday, March 6th, at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Geronimo Williamson

Louis Armstrong Housing tenants need to get paid.

III. ROLL CALL

There were 32 members present and 14 members absent.

IV. COMMITTEE UPDATES & RESOLUTIONS

Babatunde Akowe/Karen Rhau – By-Laws

The committee is addressing the following three items:

- ✓ 2nd Vice Chair position and what to do if the position becomes vacant
- ✓ What is the process to make the Landmarks Committee a standing committee
- ✓ Notice for the Board

Board members will be getting an email with more information to be voted on at the next meeting.

TJ Wilson – Parks, Arts & Culture

On April 19th, from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., the committee will be hosting a forum to address various parks issues. Please share with neighbors and block associations. In addition, please fill out the survey.

The committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday but due to the Nor’easter, please call the office by 12:00 Noon to confirm if the meeting will be cancelled.

Evelyn Collier – Landmarks

- A.** LPC Application #19-21665 for a Certificate of No Effect for 12 Verona Street.
Ms. Collier stated that the application for 12 Verona Place will be tabled because the committee's required documents were not submitted.
- B.** LPC Application for a Certificate of No Effect for 360 Macon Street between Lewis Avenue and Marcus Garvey Blvd

Ms. Collier reported that the owner is requesting an exemption from LPC standards to legalize the replacement windows and doors which was installed in 2014-2015.

The committee recommends that LPC approved the windows on the second and third floors (above the parlor floor) because they will be less likely detract from the historic detailing of the building. The committee also recommends that LPC reject the request for exemption.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation by Douglas Williams and seconded by Mary Jemison Head.

[..\Resolution for 360 Macon Street.pdf](#)

[..\Vote for 360 Macon Avenue.pdf](#)

- C.** LPC Application for 800 Marcy Avenue (St. George Episcopal Church) to replace a wooden Rose frame window on Gates Avenue; replace a Gothic Style window on Marcy Avenue and two Gothic Style window with storm protection system.

The committee recommendation is that the two Gothic Style windows be replaced with storm protection. However, the committee does not recommend the replacement of the wooden Rose window frame

A motion was made to accept the recommendation by C. Doris Pinn and seconded by Babatunde Akowe.

[..\Resolution for 800 Marcy Avenue.pdf](#)

[..\Vote for 800 Marcy Avenue.pdf](#)

V. ACTION ON THE PUBLIC HEARING

- B.** Dept. of Parks & Recreation request for a letter of support for a Capital Design of Lewis Avenue Playground
TJ Wilson stated that the committee recommendation is to give a letter of support with apprehension. A motion was made by Paulette Moorehead and seconded by Oma Holloway.

Taina Evans wanted to add an amendment since there was apprehension for the bathroom and the blue stones.

[..\Vote for Lewis Avenue Playground.pdf](#)

- C.** Lee Ann Woodriffe request for letter of support to co-name Jefferson Avenue

TJ Wilson stated that the name of the street has been amended to say “Edwin R. Woodriffe Way”. She stated that the committee recommendation is to give a letter of support.

A motion was made by Dr. Debra Lamb and seconded by Chinyelu Udoh.
[..\Vote for Edwin R. Woodriffe Way.pdf](#)

D. King of the Sea Restaurant Inc. request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License

Keith Forest stated that the committee recommendation is to give a letter of support. A motion was made by Douglas Williams and seconded by Hardy “Joe” Long.

[..\Vote for King of the Sea.pdf](#)

E. 151 Thompkins Avenue LLC request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License

Keith Forest stated that the committee recommendation is to give a letter of support. A motion was made by Douglas Williams and seconded by Taina Evans.

Oma Holloway stated that in past meetings the closing hours for commercial strips were 2:00 a.m. along the corridors of Fulton Street, Tompkins and Atlantic Avenues.

Keith Forest stated that the committee recommended that businesses long commercial strips stay open until 3:00 a.m. The corridors were Fulton Street, Atlantic, Bedford and Tompkins Avenues.

Ms. Holloway stated that the corridors were Broadway, Atlantic Avenue, and Fulton Street, Tompkins Avenue was not part of the recommendation.

[..\Vote for 151 Thompkins Avenue LLC.pdf](#)

F. Calaca of Brooklyn request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License

Keith Forest stated that the committee recommendation is to give a letter of support. A motion was made by Dionicio Liz and seconded by Felicia Alexander.

[..\Vote for Calaca Bk.pdf](#)

G. 1313 Entertainment LLC request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License

Keith Forest stated that the committee recommendation is to give a letter of support. A motion was made by Jamella Swift and seconded by Babatunde Akowe.

[..\Vote for 1313 Entertainment LLC.pdf](#)

VI. ACCEPTANCE OF THE FEBRUARY MINUTES

The motion to accept the minutes was made by Douglas Williams and seconded by Shekera Shahid.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,
Beryl Nyack
March 20, 2018