

**COMMUNITY BOARD #5  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
HELD AT STARRETT CITY  
1540 VAN SICLEN AVENUE  
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| (E) Abdin Misba          | (P) Mitchell, Andre T.     |
| (P) Alleyne, Keron       | (A) Nair, Miriam           |
| (P) Banks, Christopher   | (E) Oliver, Shirley        |
| (P) Barker, Joshua       | (A) Perkins, Lawayne       |
| (P) Bright, Vivian       | (P) Perkins, Melinda       |
| (P) Burgos, Manuel       | (P) Peterson, James        |
| (P) Camacho, Dennis      | (P) Plummer, Viola         |
| (A) Chowdhury, Kobir     | (P) Raymie, Michelle       |
| (P) Colon, Henry         | (E) Reynolds, Jean         |
| (E) Davila, Dolores      | (A) Rodriguez, Jorge       |
| (P) Davis, Salema        | (P) Rosado, Jose M         |
| (A) Di-Benedetto, Eddie  | (P) Scott-Brayboy, Joyce   |
| (P) Dillon, Ronald J     | (E) Suarez, Wilbur         |
| (P) Faulkner, Carolyn    | (P) Taylor, Dennis         |
| (P) Feliciano, Miguel    | (P) Tillmon, James         |
| (P) Fields, Jennifer     | (A) Uddin, Mohammed        |
| (P) Florentino, Wilfredo | (P) Walker-Diallo, Carolyn |
| (E) Grant, Corinna       | (P) Walcott, Andrew        |
| (P) Harley, Marie        | (A) Washington, C. Peggy   |
| (A) Jenkins, Emma        | (P) Watson, Kenneth        |
| (P) Jones, Vernon        | (E) Whitehead, John        |
| (P) Kabir, Jahangir      | (A) Wilkins, Williams      |
| (P) Kasru, Syed          | (A) Williams, Susie        |
| (P) Lowman, Alice        | (E) Wooten, Queenie        |
| (P) McIntosh, Rosalyn    |                            |

**GUEST LIST IS ON FILE AT THE BOARD'S OFFICE**

**STAFF**

Walter Campbell  
Candida Ruiz  
Shamika Chappel  
Jahayra Richardson

**MEMBERS**

Present 31  
Absent 10  
Excused 8  
Total Members 49

## **OPENING:**

The regular meeting of Community Board # 5 was called to order at 6:45PM by Chairman Andre T. Mitchell. He thanked all for their present and also express thanks to Starrett for the use of the facility. He indicated that he would entertain the public who signed up to speak. He asked the secretary of the board to call the speakers.

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

**Ronald Dillon** spoke about a missing person Brian Geerwitz and if anyone has seen him to please call 1-800-577-Tips. He also indicated that there were flyers on the table with a picture.

**Greg Ingram**, advocating for art and culture in Community Board #5. He would like to start painting the Park Houses with uplifting images. He can be reached at [gigraphies@netsedpe.net](mailto:gigraphies@netsedpe.net)

**Manuel Burgos** -. Raised some concerns that he had regarding the unanswered questions by City Planning. What assistances have been offered to the Community residents in preparing them for the housing lotteries? Along with preserving affordability where it already exists. He urged the Board and Community Board # 5 residents to question the rezoning plans.

**Dennis Taylor**, addressed the rezoning issues of the Community, which presents a big problem due to the enviromental issues in which comes to play being that this location is very attractive to the Developers

**Daniel Solow**, from Southern Queens Greenway. Spoke about a campaign that pushes for the completion of the 2000 plan published by city agencies (DOT, DCP and Parks and Rec). The original 32 mile trail starts in Highland Park, runs through Southeast Queens and ends in Bayside by the Long Island Sound. He specifically wanted to connect and collaborate with community groups and speak with either Transportation or Parks Sub Committees to introduce the project and determine the next steps that need to be taken.

**Ezequiel Tamayo**, Spoke about property taxes and how they raised his taxes resulting in him losing his home due to such high taxes.

**Chairman** responded to Ezequiel Tamayo and directing him to the representative of Councilman Eric Dillan, along with Anthony Drummond Liaison from the Borough President office to assist him with his situation.

**Melvin Faulkner** expressed that we should not allow developers to dictate what we want in our own community.

**Frieda Menos**, representing Congressman Hakim Jeffries stated that she will relate back to the Congressman everyone's concerns about the rezoning which he has been monitoring very closely. He has met with other elected officials in the past months in regards to the issues at hand. He will continue to have the dialogue with them to ensure that the community residents are being heard loud and clear. The congressman reintroduced the following bills: The PJ act which will help with rehabilitation for NYCHA buildings. The Bill was named after the little boy murdered during the summer. The Slain Officer family act bill. In honor of the two slain officers, she went on to say that the congressman wants to make sure families are taken care of financially after a Police an officer has died. Anyone can donate and it can be used as a federal deduction. She closed by saying that the Congressman is a member of the Black Caucus and he has been looking into a number of laws that has been hurting the Community of color.

**Anna Fisher**, representing Councilwoman Inez Barron announced a "Know Your Rights" seminar March 3rd, 2015 held at 718 Pennsylvania Ave at 5:30PM – 7:00PM. Legal Aid society will be speaking on employment rights.

**Joy Simmons, chief of staff for Inez Barron** announced Inez Barron will be at City Hall being its Budget season. She announced that Neighborhood Housing Services will be coming to East New York and Partnering up with the Community.

**Maria Matos** representing Councilman Rafael L. Espinal announced that they are working on several town hall meetings regarding the rezoning issues. She stated that every Wednesday an immigration attorney from CUNY will be providing services at the Councilman's office. On Thursday's information and assessment on green cards will also be available. Every Monday there will be a Brooklyn legal attorney who helps with housing problems will also be at the Councilman office providing services.

**Anthony Drummond** representing the Borough President office invited everyone to a Black History Month event that will be held at the Borough Hall Office honoring black business, a panel discussion workshop for first time business owners will be held 5:00PM- 9:00PM February 26, 2015. Applications for Community Board #5 membership are available and they need to be handed in by March 15, 2015.

**Capt. Roberto Melendez** Police Department is trying to bridge the gap. Crime is down 25%. They have removed about 6 tractor trailers. 75<sup>th</sup> Precinct has issued 19 summonses. He went on to announce their next monthly Community Council meeting will be held March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM at campus 72, 605 Shepard Ave (between Blake and Dumont Ave).

**Chairman** thanked every public speaker. He also invited the public and members to the next city planning meeting which is scheduled for March 5, 5:30PM at 127 Pennsylvania Ave

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Henry Colon made a motion to approve the December 17, 2014 Agenda seconded by Jennifer Fields.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Alice Lowman made a motion to approve the December 17, 2014 Minutes seconded by Joyce Scott-Brayboy.

**COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**LAND USE COMMITTEE:**

Viola Plummer introduced herself and the members of the Land Use Committee. She apologized for not being able to entertain several city agencies and Development groups whom attended several past Land use committee meetings, because she didn't have knowledge that they will be in attendance beforehand. Ms. Plummer recommended the suspension of all city agencies presentations until such time, till they have made an assessment. She went on to say that it is in their position, and they cannot entertain any more presentations from any city agencies until an investigation on the agency's plan and proposals have been made. A copy of the report is on file at the Board's office.

In continuing the recommendation, Vernon Jones explained that an Emergency meeting with all the Elective Officials within the next two weeks because an assessment needs to be made on the land property and land use along with an explanation of the process before anymore developers come forward with their elaborate plans.

Responding to the suggestion, Ronald Dillon stated that, while he generally was sympathetic to rationale behind the recommendation, land use matters usually are governed by a "clock"; moreover, a Community Board's input merely is advisory; the NYC Department of City Planning would not stop the "clock" as a consequence of the motion; the agency would continue with the approval process with or without the Community Board's participation; and the Community Board would have no input on record.

Also disagreeing, Christopher Banks recommended that the land use committee as an "advisory board" doesn't suspend any presentation from city agencies.

A motion was made to suspend city agencies presentations by Alice Lowman, second by Carolyn Faulkner.

The Board voted 24 in favor, 2 opposed, with 2 absentation to suspend any further city agency presentation.

Joyce Scott - Brayboy invited all nonprofit programs to come out to the Social Services committee monthly meetings which is being held on March 3 at 5:30PM.

**NOMINATION COMMITTEE:**

Joshua Barker, chair of the nominating committee presented the following slate:

Chairman: Andre T. Mitchell

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Carolyn Walker- Diallo

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Alice Lowman

Corresp. Secretary: Syed Kasru

Recording Secretary: Rosalyn McIntosh  
Treasury: Jennifer Field

Parliamentarian: Christopher Banks  
Sergeant-at-arms: Jahangir Kabir

The floor was open to nominations: The only nominations were as follow:  
First V Chair: Hector Rosado nominated Melinda Perkins. Second by James Peterson.

Ronald Dillon stated that nominations for an office do not require a second; the Chairman replied that he was not familiar with Robert Rules of Order and that the Community Board By-Laws required a second.

Parliamentarian: James Peterson nominated Joyce Scott-Brayboy, second by James Tillmon.

**DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT:**

A copy of District Manager’s Report was placed in the Board members folders and a copy is on file in the Board’s office.

**CHAIRMAN REPORT:**

A copy of the Chairman Report was placed in the Board members folders and a copy is on file in the Board’s office.

**OLD BUSINESS:** NONE

**NEW BUSINESS:**

With respect to New Business, Ronald Dillon raised the issue of New York City Council Intro 495 which was an attempt to divert solid waste processing from communities in northern Brooklyn to elsewhere in the City; the NYC Department of Sanitation in testifying against the legislation specifically stated that, as a consequence of its passage, additional waste would be diverted to Brooklyn Community District 5; the waste transfer stations in Brooklyn Community 5 are illegal as they do not comply with the Zoning Resolution, while in large part the facilities in northern Brooklyn are zoned correctly; residents repeatedly have complained at Community Board meetings about the waste vehicles illegally traveling along Stanley Avenue as well as other residential streets and about the waste vehicles illegally being stored on the streets - often filled with waste that reeked; Mr. Dillon stated that he testified on behalf of the Concerned Homeowners Association against the legislation; he also raised his concerns with Councilman Reynoso, Chairman, Sanitation Committee, and Councilman Levin, a supporter of the legislation. (cont.)

Christopher Banks spoke about the demolishing of an old landmark building on Pennsylvania Ave within our district that was built in the late 1800’s. He said that no one knew about the developer building a 7 story medical building in its place. He wants to restore landmarks in our neighborhoods.

Viola Plummer asked if there’s any mechanism by which the info gets into questioning on private property. She suggested that the district office staff has a place where there’s information flowing.

Chairman recommended a certain staff be assigned to finding vacant land use, along with board members as well keeping an eye open on vacant land use.

The Capital Expense Budget was tabled. Motioned by Alice Lowman, second by Viola Plummer.

**ADJOURMENT:**

Vivian Bright made motion to adjourn, second by Dennis Camacho

Meeting adjourned at 8:48PM