



COMMUNITY BOARD 5, BROOKLYN

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Honorable Eric L. Adams

Brooklyn Borough President

APPROVED: January 23RD, 2019 General Board Mtg.

Attendance: 29 Board Members

Andre T. Mitchell, Chairman



Melinda Perkins, District Manager

General Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 19th 2018 Liberty Avenue Middle School 350 Linwood Street – Brooklyn NY 11208

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT = 26

ABDIN, MISBAH	FLORENTINO, WILFREDO	MULLEN-FIELDS, LESLIE	SCOTT-BRAYBOY, JOYCE
ARTEAGA, NOHELY	FRANCO, JESSICA	NKHEREANYE, KELE	WALCOTT, ANDREW
BRIGHT, VIVIAN	JARRET, HELEN	PEAN, COLETTE	WATSON, GENA
BROWN, SHARON	LOWMAN, ALICE	PLUMMER, VIOLA	WATSON, KENNETH
BULLOCK, CHARLES	MERCADO, DAMIAN	RAMOS, ALBERTO	WORLEY, HAZEL
COX, CERWIN	MITCHELL, ANDRATTA	ROSADO, JOSE	
FELICIANO, MIGUEL	MITCHELL, ANDRE T.	SCOTT, ALBERT	

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT = 13

AYANFODUN, TOYIN	HARLEY, MARIE	MATTIS, COLINFORD	WILLIAMS, TAHNIQUA
BUIE, SHARESE	HOLLOWAY-DUNN, C	PITTS, DAMIAN	
COLON, HENRY	KABIR, JAHANGIR	RIGGINS, VINCENT	
FISCHER, ANGUS	LUCAS, NIKKI	SMITH, CINDY	

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED = 10

ANDREW, JASON	KASRU, SYED	NILES, MONTREZ	WILKINS, WILLIAM
BAILEY, JESSICA	LEWIS, CARRION	PETERSON, JAMES	
CAMACHO, DENNIS	MUHAMMAD, PAUL	SATTAR, ABDUL	

Total Board Members: 49

District Office Staff Present:

Melinda Perkins – District Manager

Keron Alleyne – Deputy District Manager

Jahayra Richardson – Community Associate

Shamika Chappel – Community Associate

OPENING

Board Chairman Andre T. Mitchell called the December 2018, General Board Meeting of Community Board 5 to order at 6:40pm. Chairman Mitchell welcomed community residents, board members and agencies to the December general board meeting. He thanked the school officials of Liberty Avenue Middle School for extending this space to the Community Board. All new attendees were asked to stand to be publicly welcomed. Chairman Mitchell then explained the importance of Community Members in being heard first through our Community Voices segment of the program.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION – COMMUNITY VOICES

FDNY – Lt. Joe Delligatti: greeted the community members in attendance and explained the services provided by FDNY. Lt. Delligatti spoke about the need for every community to have fire safety awareness and the need to be prepared. In closing Lt. Delligatti, explained that FDNY was invited by the Community Board and will be tabling in the back for any fire safety inquiries.

Community Resident – Maritza Rodriguez: spoke about the need to combat the influx of hotels that are in the community. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the hotels disproportionately impact our community because of the community's socio-economic status. Supermarkets, pharmacies would all be welcomed, but another hotel in the community isn't what is needed. Ms. Rodriguez cited that a few years ago her taxes doubled but to no avail because the treatment is still the same.

Responses

- Chairman Mitchell explained that after a project is constructed these facilities can sometimes become connected to agencies and are usually constructed on private property. Chairman Mitchell encouraged the Ms. Rodriguez to also go to a health and social services committee to detail the lingering issues that these developments create so we can follow up.

Community Resident – Rosa Rampella: echoed Ms. Rodriguez in her opposition to the new hotel on New Jersey Avenue and cited that there are 3 hotels in a 3 block radius. This has led to an increase in panhandling and other unsavory activity that community residents should not have to deal with. Ms. Rampella closed with expressing concern for the issues she's had with water in the area.

East NY Restoration – Colette Pean: announced an opportunity for women to receive a free breast cancer screening to start the year off right. East NY Restoration is partnering up with Pink

Houses Tenant Association to put on this event. Ms. Pean explained that early detection is necessary to get the care that we need. This event is extended to all whether you're insured or not. The event will be taking place Saturday, January 12th at the Pink Houses Community Center. Please see flyer for details.

NHS Brooklyn – Tyrone McDonald: greeted the community board and announced that NHS Brooklyn has home repair grants available for community members. These home repair grants can be used for code violation, safety issues, disability accessibility and energy efficiency upgrades. Please take advantage of the opportunities while they last. The second announcement was that NHS Brooklyn offers mortgage reviews. This will be happening January 17th from 5pm to 7pm. See flyer for details. You will have the option of getting an adequate property tax assessment. NHS will be checking to see what exemptions you may be eligible for whether that be senior, veterans, or disabled. Happy Holidays!

East NY Restoration/Community Member – Ameria Lennard: announced that ENY Restoration is revamping its small business initiatives locally. On January 25th and 26th a pop-up shop that will feature small businesses will take place for the community to patronize and support. Stay tuned for further details by going on the website and checking the social media pages. As community member, Ms. Lennard announced the start of a local social group called Black Professionals of East New York. This is a mix and networking event but will be addressing community issues, building a financial institute and celebrating culture. This event is taking place Friday, January 18th 6pm to 9pm. See flyers in the back.

Coalition for Community Advancement – Nohely Arteaga: stated that the election turnout locally was excellent and that we need more political and civic engagement. This engagement needs to be more reflective of the entire community. As a representative of the coalition it is imperative that their work encompasses more of the community. In the back there are pamphlets that detail the mission, policy recommendations, and how far the coalition has come. Ms. Arteaga cited divisions between both north and south sides of the community and made a call for solidarity of both.

Community Resident – Kenya Miller: explained that she was the owner of higher learning daycare center in Community Board 16. Ms. Miller spoke about the disparities that both communities face – particularly the socio-economic issues and how that affects children ages 0-5. Currently Ms. Miller explained a proposal that will change the face of education in our communities. A S.T.E.A.M. based curriculum and a counseling approach to education for returning citizens to have a restorative transition. Financial literacy issues will be solved with counseling. CPA's will be assigned to families and this will be free to all. In closing Ms. Miller spoke about entrepreneurship being of great value and not only the college route.

ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS

Chairman Mitchell acknowledged the following elected officials and staff members in attendance:

Elected Office

Attendee

Brooklyn Borough President.....Rep. Anthony Drummond
NYC Councilmember Inez Barron 42nd CD.....Councilmember & Rep. Anita Fischer
NYS Assemblymember Charles Barron 60th AD..... Rep. Juan Bravo

Councilmember Inez Barron – expressed greetings to community, Board Members and commended Community Board Members for their service throughout the 2018 calendar year. Councilmember Barron highlighted some ongoing capital improvements happening throughout the district under the work of her office. Two park renovations; one at Cypress Hills Playground and the other at Sonny Carson Park (Linden Park). CM Barron spoke about the construction happening at Van Siclen Avenue and Linden Boulevard and when it is done CB5 will have a brand new East NY Family Academy High School. The scheduled opening of the school is Sept. 2021. In closing, CM Barron went into great detail about the affordable housing complex built at Van Sinderen Plaza right along the L train line. The deadline to apply is December 28th. CM Barron explained that housing projects will not be approved by her office if it is market rate housing. The housing projects have to be affordable for residents of CB5 and in the Van Sinderen development 50% set aside for residents of community board 5, with additional set asides for mobility or disabled, vision of hearing impaired. CM Barron encouraged community to apply and be sure that the community benefits from these opportunities.

Responses

- Board Member Charles Bullock affordable housing is great but what about affordable homeownership opportunities?
 - CM stated this was announced 3 meetings ago. The program is called the NIHOP program. New Infill Home Opportunity Program. There are opportunities for this and when they come up they will be relayed to community.

Councilmember Inez Barron’s Office – Representative Anita Fischer: explained the free legal assistance that the office offers regularly. Every other Tuesday from 5pm to 7pm. January 8th is the start date for the New Year.

Responses

- Community Resident James Chestnut – what is going on in NYCHA?
 - CM Barron explained that there are major issues with NYCHA from historic neglect on the Federal, State and City level government. Currently NYCHA has a plan through Mayor de Blasio called the Rental Assistance Development (RAD) program which could potentially turn the operation of NYCHA over to private managers for 60 to 90 years. The plan calls for 50% of the housing to be affordable housing and 50% at market rate. The private manager would collect the rent and be responsible for all repairs going forward. CM Barron stated that she does not support the plan as it stands because we do not benefit from that.

CM Barron fielded a few more community questions but they were inaudible

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams - Representative Anthony Drummond: announced applications are on the BP's website for community board membership. Applications will be taken from now to early/mid-February. Happy Holidays to all!

**Chairman Mitchell acknowledged community members Juanne Innis and Whitney Paine who both wanted to inform the community on developments. **

Chairman Mitchell encouraged community members to get acquainted with the elected officials and representatives and acknowledged those in attendance for their contributions to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda: Board Member Joyce Scott-Brayboy
Seconded: Board Member Vivian Bright

Voice Vote: All in Favor: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve November's Minutes: Board Member Wilfredo Florentino
Seconded: Board Member Alice Lowman

Voice Vote: All in Favor: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Mitchell explained the changes in committees for the new session and invites community to take part in committee meetings and asked for committee reports.

Economic Development & Land Use/Housing Committee: Co-Chair Vivian Bright presented on behalf of the committee.

Co-Chair Bright explained that she was presenting in the absence of Chair Viola Plummer at the committee meeting. The committee received several presentations but only two came to a vote.

Item #1: Urban Strategies Daycare - 1091 Sutter Avenue. In committee ACS, Representative Kenneth Robinson presented the proposal to approve another 20 years to lease the building.

Motion to issue letter of support for 1091 Sutter Avenue to renew the 20 year lease:

Voice Vote: All in Favor: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

Item #2: Friends of Crown Heights – 370 New Lots Avenue. In committee ACS, Representative Kenneth Robinson presented the proposal to approve another 20 years to lease the building.

Motion to issue letter of support for 370 New Lots Avenue to renew the 20 year lease:

Voice Vote: All in Favor: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee: Partner Chair Alberto Ramos presented on behalf of the committee.

Item #1: Outback Steakhouse SLA renewal. Committee recommended a letter of support.

Deliberation

- Board Member Scott asked what has been the community track record of the SLA applicant and asked Partner Chair Ramos to give examples of good partnership.
 - Partner Chair Ramos responded by stating that the applicant has hosted block parties and is a willing partner for the community.

Motion to provide a letter of support for the SLA renewal:

Voice Vote: All in Favor: 23 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 2

Partner Chair Ramos explained that the committee also received a presentation from the CCRB representative Jahi Rose, and recognized him in the audience.

Parks & Sanitation/Environment Committee: Partner Chair Kele Nkhereanye presented on behalf of the committee.

Partner Chair Nkhereanye explained that the committee had no quorum again and pleaded for board members to show up, so that they may move forward with the work of the community. Partner Chair Nkhereanye, closed by saying there are still pending items that need the community board’s support such as the Det. Ramos partial renaming for Highland Park and encouraged community to show up in the future.

Aging & Health/ Social Services Committee: Partner Chair Colette Pean presented on behalf of the committee.

Partner Chair Pean explained that the committee had a successful committee meeting and announced that a presentation of the Census will be happening at the February 12th committee meeting. The presentation will detail reasons why the community needs to be counted, hiring for census jobs and much more. Partner Chair Pean stated that her committee is having dialogue about the community’s senior population and housing. For emergencies are there temporary housing that doesn’t result in seniors going into shelters etc. was an example question posed. In the pursuit of the answers the committee hopes to partner with the district manager for solutions.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT

A year-end review will be distributed in place of the district manger’s report.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

A copy of the Chairman’s report was distributed and is on file at the District Office

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the December general board meeting: Board Member Wilfredo Florentino
Seconded by Board Member Colette Pean

Voice Vote: All in Favor: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

December’s General Board meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.