



**MINUTES OF THE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010
COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
BEDFORD STUYVESANT RESTORATION CORPORATION
1368 FULTON STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11216**

Attendance:

Members Present: Divinah Bailey, Michael Bailey, Kim Best, Jacqueline Bolling, Gloria Boyce, Henry Butler, Charles Coleman, Jr., Evelyn Collier, Dolores Witherspoon-Dickerson, Isaiah Dillhunt, Josephine Dismore, Richard Flateau, Vanessa Gumbs, Eddie Hampton, Deon Davis-Harris, Sean Hawkins, Mary Jemison-Head, Kimberly Hill, Vincent James, Edna Johnson, Beatrice Jones, Marion Little, Hardy “Joe” Long, Paulette Moorehead, Eldica Murray, Michael McCaw, Sharland Norris, C. Doris Pinn, Kwaku Payton, Marcella Simmons, Nelson M. Stoute, Randolph Waterman, Rev. Robert Waterman, Douglas Williams, L. Joy Williams, Tremaine Wright

Members Absent: Waleed Cope, Brenda Fryson, Gregory Glasgow, Monique Greenwood, Renee Turner-Gregory, Tyquana Henderson, Onida Coward-Mayers, Wilma E. Maynard, Bernice McRae, Arthur Niles, Mark Pollard, Ruby Aiken-Purnell, Rev. Jesse Sumbry, Ayana Ajanaku-Vason

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Eddie Hampton.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Henry L. Butler

Mr. Butler read the agenda into the record. He then informed that audience that State Senator Velmanette Montgomery and Council Member Vann have formed a committee regarding creating a community space at the Sumner Armory. The Sumner Armory is the largest in New York City. The committee is trying to do something similar and better than the Park Slope and Harlem Armories which have already been developed. The committee is made up of some board members, representatives from the elected officials and community residents.

The committee recently met to review a proposal for a needs assessment from the architects at Pratt. They will study the proposal and respond back to Pratt. In the future all proposals will be brought before the community for input. This is the initial stage and it is a very long process. The Park Slope Armory took 5-8 years to complete. Mr. Butler stated that he will continue to update the community as the process move forward.

Mr. Butler reminded everyone that the Civic & Public Safety Committee meets tomorrow, December 7th at 6:30 p.m. The Housing Land Use Committee meets on Wednesday, December 8th at 6:15 p.m. and the Education & Youth Committee meets on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

REMARKS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Xamayla Rose-Persadi – Hon. Marty Markowitz

Ms. Rose-Persadi informed the audience that the Borough President released his safety tips for all road users: drivers, pedestrian and bikers. Copies were available on the table.

The Department of Health has launched the “Brooklyn Knows Campaign” on World AIDS Day, which was December 1st. The Borough President encourages all Brooklynites, especially those who live in Central, Brooklyn to be tested for HIV in order to know your status. Ms. Persadi added that currently Brooklyn is leading the City with new diagnosis of AIDS infection. 86% of the people with HIV/AIDS live in Central Brooklyn and are people of color. This is a very serious epidemic.

The Borough President has launched his “Shop Brooklyn Campaign”, November 26th to December 25th. Anyone who has discretionary funds is encouraged to shop the retail corridor of Brooklyn in order to strengthen the economy in Brooklyn.

Capt. Clint McPherson – 79th Precinct

Capt. McPherson introduced himself as the new Captain at the 79th precinct. He arrived in September. He is from Brooklyn South, 61st Precinct Detective Squad. He invited anyone to call on him with any problems.

Jackie Gilchrist – Hon. Darlene Mealy

Ms. Gilchrist informed the audience that Council Member Mealy will not be having her monthly advisory meeting this month. The meetings will commence again on the 3rd Saturday in January.

Ms. Gilchrist announced that the Council Member will be celebrating the holiday season with a Meet and Greet Open House on December 21st, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at 1757 Union Street, 2nd floor.

On December 8th the Council Member will be hosting a Christmas concert and tree lighting at Mt. Moriah Church, 1149 Eastern Parkway, between Utica and Rochester Avenues, at 6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. For more information please contact Council Member’s Mealy’s office at 718-953-3097.

Ms. Gilchrist stated that Council Member Mealy is working on the Living Wage Act to bring the minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour with benefits. Contact the office for more information.

Michael Caver – Hon. William Boyland, Jr.

Mr. Caver announced that Assemblyman Boyland’s Advisory meeting will be held on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m., at 467 Thomas Boyland Street between Pitkin and East New York Avenues.

Lee Church – Hon. Hakeem Jeffries

Lee Church, on behalf of Assemblyman Jeffries, wished everyone a happy, safe and blessed holiday.

Hon. Albert Vann

Council Member Vann wished everyone good health. He thanked the board members for their commitment to the community. He informed the audience that Wednesday, December 8th will be Water Bill Help Night at

Boys and Girls High school, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. DEP, CIBS and Restoration will be on hand to assist homeowners with their bills. He stated that this is a major problem. The Council Member stated that he is working on proposing new legislation. The current legislation expires at the end of year. It is an ongoing battle.

Council Member informed the audience that starting FY 2012 there will be a \$3.4 billion deficit in the City. The Mayor has initiated a Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEG). They have begun to deal with that problem by cutting a lot of programs and services such as senior centers and education. The Fiscal Committee met with the budget director in order to understand what the recommendations and the impact will be, and to offer alternatives. The committee is responsible for finding ways to make cuts that have a minimum impact on the well being of people.

Questions and Answers

Paulette Moorehead: Will DEP be offering similar payment options like Con Edison and National Grid such as the bill payment plan?

Hon. Albert Vann: They have a plan that will be based on the person's ability to pay.

Ray Ray: Why are you and the other elected officials always siding with the Mayor to allow this appointment of Kathy Black?

Hon. Albert Vann: The Mayor has mayoral control of the public school system. He has the authority to request the waiver. There are some things we can control and some we can't. We have to make things happen in our community. Invest more time and energy in our community.

Question: Do some of the cuts include the Fire Department?

Council Member: Yes, in the Mayor's Program to Eliminate Gaps (PEG), he is cutting a lot of City services including recommendation for firehouse, police, teachers, senior services.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Joan Eastmond – Hon. Velmanette Montgomery, Michael Caver – Hon. William Boyland, Jr., Xamayla Rose-Persadi – Hon. Marty Markowitz, Lee Church – Hon. Hakeem Jeffries, Hon. Albert Vann, Dottie Lebron – Hon. Albert Vann, Renea Murphy – Hon. Albert Vann, Jackie Gilchrist – Hon. Darlene Mealy, Capt. Clint McPherson – 79th Precinct, P.O. Sherrod Brown – 79th Precinct, Bernarda Villalona – Attorney, Kings County District Attorney Office, Robert Cornegy – 56th Assembly District Leader, Benjamin Colombo – Department of Buildings

I. PUBLIC HEARING

A. **The Parks, Arts & Culture Committee held a public hearing on the request to rename the Amphitheatre in Herbert Von King Park to commemorate Almira Kennedy Coursey**

Marion Little, Committee Chair introduced Sydney Moshette, Jr.

Mr. Moshette stated that he represents the Tompkins Park Recreational and Cultural Association. It was formed in 1960 and it has had its impact on this area through the Kosciusko Pool, the Dekalb Branch Public Library and the Cultural Center in the then named Tompkins Park. The Park has since been renamed Herbert Von King Park. The main mover of that effort was Almira Kennedy Coursey.

Ms. Coursey was involved in a number of activities such as Restoration, The Board of Education,

the Board of Higher Education, Youth in Action etc. He hopes that the naming of the amphitheatre will have an impact on youths. Mr. Moshette stated that he has asked Scott Corey to identify some young people who could develop a responsibility to monitor and inspire the park to continue services to the community. He added that the current manager Lemuel Mials has done an outstanding job.

Questions and Answers

Mary Jemison-Head: Did anyone contact Ms. Coursey son or daughter?

Sydney Moshette: Yes, we have a letter of support from her children.

Mary Jemison-Head: The Kosciusko pool was supposed to be name after Ms. Coursey. Did that ever happen?

Sydney Moshette: It was name after her husband.

Mr. Butler informed the audience that “Water Bill Night” with DEP will be held on December 8th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Boys and Girls High School. He encouraged everyone to come out and take care of their bill. The City can now place a lien on your property for only your water bill.

II. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

A. The Senior Services Committee presented information on Reverse Mortgage

Gloria Eastmond Boyce, Committee Chairperson introduced William Smith, MetLife Bank

Mr. Smith informed the audience that Reverse Mortgage has grown over the last 15 years and it affects seniors. He stated that in September FHA/HUD initiated a new counseling procedure. The counseling is to protect the borrower. FHA/HUD is concerned that potential borrowers understand what a reverse mortgage is and is it right for them. Reverse mortgage is no longer an adjusted rate program, it can be a fixed rate program. The cost has been reduced and a variety of programs to fit the different needs. It is not for everyone, it’s only for specific needs.

Questions and Answers

Eddie Hampton: Can the family inherit the property?

William Smith: In a reverse mortgage, you own the house therefore; you can design your will to determine who gets the property. The person who inherits the property is responsible for the loan.

Question: Can the heir refinance the loan?

William Smith: Yes, you have two options to satisfy the loan: selling the property or refinancing.

Paulette Moorehead: Why would a senior want to get a reverse mortgage?

William Smith: There are several reasons. It is a personal decision as well as an economic decision. There is usually a lack of funds. Seniors are living on social security or a pension and there is usually an income shortage, or funds are needed for repairs or health issues. However, most important, it is to stay in the home. Foreclosure is a big issue in this community.

III. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Nelson M. Stoute – Infrastructure/EP

Mr. Stoute reminded everyone that Infrastructure/EP Committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. He informed the audience that the Department of Sanitation has recently released new

rules for disposing of mattresses and box springs to combat bed bugs. The new rules went into effect on Friday, December 3rd. Failure to discard mattresses or box springs incorrectly will result in a \$100.00 fine. Flyers were available on the table. The Department of Sanitation will delay enforcement for 30 days. Full enforcement will go into effect on January 3, 2011. The plastic bags to contain the mattresses are available at department stores and home improvement centers and other home supply businesses. For more information please go to www.nyc.gov/sanitation or call 311.

Questions and Answers

L. Joy Williams: 30 days is not enough time to notify residents.

Nelson Stoute: At Borough Consultation an announcement was made however, a date was not set.

Marion Little – Parks, Arts & Culture

Mr. Little informed the audience that they can bring their Christmas trees to Mulch Fest 2011 which will be held on January 8th and 9th for recycling. Call 311 for the designated park locations.

He added that classes will be given on February 1st on how to start and maintain a community garden on school property. The classes will be held at 49 Chambers Street, 10 floor, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. There are new rules pertaining to current garden owners who occupy Green Thumb gardens therefore, they are also encouraged to attend the classes.

IV. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christina Fonseca – Drug Free Bed-Stuy Coalition

Ms. Fonseca informed the audience that the coalition will be having a meeting December 16th at Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp., 6 floor, at 6:00 p.m. on underage drinking, and the consequences.

Ms. Fonseca stated that Four Loko was not actually banned. The company simply decided to stop distribution to New York State. Stores in New York State are required to stop the sale of Four Loko after December 10th. Four Loko is equivalent to 2 cups of caffeine, 6 beers and a 12 ounce of Red Bull. Four Loko comes in various flavors.

Rob Solano – Churches United

Mr. Solano informed the audience that there will be meeting regarding the Broadway Triangle meeting on December 13th at 6:00 p.m., 41 Ripple Street between Throop and Flushing Avenues. This issue is currently in court.

Franklin Middleton – Terminator Exterminator, LLC

Mr. Middleton informed the audience that he is a New York City licensed and insured bed bug specialist. For service call 347-215-1968.

Zaredi Morris – Patch.com

Ms. Morris announced that she is the editor of Patch.com. It is a new online newspaper that service Bedford Stuyvesant. They will cover everything within the community.

McIntyre Ledaw – Slave 1 Theater

Mr. Ledaw announced that the Slave Theater is now a non-for-profit. They will be having an open mike night. For more information call 347-862-8267.

Dr. Geronimo Williamson – Children Global Science Fair Committee

Dr. Williamson announced that the Daily Challenge is in support of his movie “Bed Stuy Do or Dye” His mission is to tell the truth and show the truth.

V. ROLL CALL

There were 36 members present and 14 absent.

VI. ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Little stated that the Park, Arts & Culture Committee recommended giving a letter of support to name the amphitheater in Von King Park after Almira Kennedy Coursey.

A motion was made by Richard Flateau to accept the recommendation and it was seconded by Edna Johnson.

Vote: 33 – For, 1 – Against

VII. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT – Henry L. Butler

This session was closed to the public. The meeting was then reopened for the election of the officers.

VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

L. Joy Williams gave a brief synopsis on the procedure of the nominating committee whose members are Mary Jemison-Head, Waleed Cope, Charles Coleman, Jr., and Randolph Waterman.

There were no nominations from the floor. Ballots were distributed and board members were advised that all ballots must be signed by board members. The motion to vacate the officers was put forth by, L. Joy Williams and Vanessa Gumbs, respectively. Nominating Committee member Charles Coleman, Jr. thanked the outgoing officers for their services. The results of the election are as follows:

Term Ending 12/31/10	Term Beginning 1/1/11
Henry L. Butler, Chairperson	Henry L. Butler, Chairperson
Cynthia Doris Pinn, 1 st Vice	Cynthia Doris Pinn, 1 st Vice
Beatrice P. Jones 2 nd Vice	Michael Bailey, 2 nd Vice
Bernice McRae, Treasurer	Bernice McRae, Treasurer
Brenda Fryson, Executive Secretary	Sharland Norris, Executive Secretary

IX. ACCEPTANCE OF OCTOBER MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Douglas Williams and seconded by Evelyn Collier.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
December 22, 2010