

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – MAY 23, 2017

Attendance

David Alexander	Deborah Mack
Carolyn Benjamin-Smith (A)	Yolanda Matthews
Margaret Brewer	John McCadney, Jr.
Aaron Brown (A)	Virginia McClam (A)
Dr. Cleopatra Brown	Andrea McCullough (A)
Anthony Clark	Ronella Medica (A)
Adrainer Coleman	Shemene Minter
Carlos Diaz (E)	Genese Morgan
Brenda Duchene	Anita Pierce (A)
Christopher Durosinmi	Marie Pierre
Norman Frazier	Linda Rivera
Danny Goodine (A)	Wendy Rutherford (A)
Chyanne Hairston (A)	Evelyn Sanchez
Sarah Hall	Delores Slaughter (A)
Jessie Hilliard (E)	Celina Trowell (A)
Mawuli Hormeku	Ernestine Turner
Michael Howard (A)	Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Prince Issachar	Patricia Williamson (E)
Carl Joseph	Pat Winston
Pamela Junior (A)	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Eula Key	Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant
Danny King	Reginald Belon for Hon. Yvette Clarke
Bettie Kollock-Wallace	Nick Perry for Hon. Scott Stringer
Charles Ladson, Sr. (A)	H. Leroy Hutchinson for Hon. Nick Perry
Wendy Lanier (A)	Joy Simmons for Hon. Inez Barron
Carolyn Lee	William Williams for Hon. Darlene Mealy
Quardean Lewis-Allen (A)	Malcolm McDaniel for Hon. Eric L. Adams
Albion Liburd	Shelton Jones for Hon. Eric Gonzalez

MEETING HELD AT BROWNSVILLE MULTI-SERVICE CENTER, 444 THOMAS S. BOYLAND STREET, BROOKLYN

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and an invocation was given by Ms. Bettie Kollock-Wallace.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Deputy Inspector Rafael Mascol, Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct.

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that an individual thought to be responsible for numerous burglaries in several precincts, including the 73rd, the 75th, the 104th, the 108th, the 67th, and in Nassau County where he was apprehended and will be extradited to New York City, but the 73rd must wait their turn in line to bring charges against this one-man crime spree.

They are also experiencing a small uptick in robberies with no distinctive pattern which appear to be crimes of opportunity. There were a couple of domestic robberies with one taking place on Transit Authority property.

Year-to-date, they are up .7% in indexed crimes with the main increase being burglaries. They need the help of the public on this issue. What they are seeing is that the burglaries are thefts of tools from offices and lockboxes at construction sites. If you see someone selling tools on the street, please call the precinct. It may be something or it may be nothing, but the information can help in reducing these crimes.

There was one shooting in the past 28 days which took place at Marcus Garvey Village and the perpetrator was arrested. Year-to-date, shootings are down from 9 last year and 8 this year.

They have invited clergy of all faiths to join them for an hour of prayer on May 24th at 6:00 p.m. in front of the 73rd Precinct. Members of the public are also invited to join them and pray for a safe and prosperous summer.

Someone stated that her daughter was involved in an accident and when they attempted to get a report they encountered difficulty. What is the procedure to obtain a report?

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that the Police Department has upgraded their systems which enables individuals to obtain reports at any precinct in the city, provided they were involved in the accident.

Someone stated that he is a member of New York Communities for Change and it has been reported to them that Uber drivers working in the East New York and Brownsville communities are being harassed by undercover officers. In one instance, the seats of the driver's vehicle were ripped apart simply because his passenger was fidgety when they were pulled over by undercover officers. The driver stated that he picks up passengers throughout Brooklyn, but only encounters this type treatment in the Brownsville and East New York.

Deputy Inspector Mascol stated that this is the first time that he is hearing about this. Anyone who feels that he or she has been unlawfully treated by police are welcomed to file a complaint with the local precinct or the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB). He asked the audience if anyone else has heard of similar complaints? If so, he asks that they bring it to his attention. If you have specifics, he will give you his telephone number so that the matter can be discussed.

The roll was called and a quorum was present.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Michael Sandler of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to an update on the Brownsville Plan.

Mr. Sandler stated that this is his fifth time presenting to the Board since June of last year. They have been engaged in the neighborhood planning process with the Brownsville community, for the past eleven months. Tonight, they will give a sneak preview of what will be in the Brownsville Plan which is scheduled to be released next week, on June 1st (Fliers for the event were placed on each seat for tonight's meeting).

When they started the process, they wanted to create a neighborhood plan that is informed by the community, centralize information and publicly track city initiatives, coordinate agencies working in the neighborhood, redevelop vacant land to create new housing that is supported with essential services and infrastructure, and collaborate with local groups to enable broad participation in the process and its implementation.

Informed by the workshops they held, four key goals were developed:

1. Achieve equitable health outcomes
2. Improve neighborhood safety
3. Promote community economic development
4. Foster local arts and identity

These four goals underline the concept of this plan and all projects the City conducts in the neighborhood. All work that the City does in the community should work towards achieving these goals. A signature element of the plan will be Requests for Proposals (RFPs) which will be released early this summer.

There will be an RFP for the development of six vacant sites in Brownsville which will create 750 units of new affordable housing in the neighborhood. In addition to housing, the RFP will facilitate:

- A new cultural center for Brownsville
- A new community space for technology and innovation
- New commercial activity along Livonia Avenue
- Approximately 100,000 square feet of space for retail and community organizations.

To better support the goals of the Brownsville Plan, they are grouping the sites and each will have a theme to match the interest of the Brownsville community. The lots along Rockaway Avenue between East New York and Pitkin Avenue are themed for "arts and culture". Respondents to the RFP will be required to collaborate with a community group to build a cultural center, in addition to retail space. Lots along Christopher Avenue and Glenmore Avenue are being themed for "innovation and entrepreneurship" and they will be looking for proposals

that achieve that goal. Something along the lines of incubator or a think tank. For the sites along Livonia Avenue, they are seeking healthy living and food system proposals.

To achieve the four goals, they will deploy eight strategies:

1) Promote active mixed-use corridors – Redevelop vacant City-owned sites into new affordable housing, integrated with services and amenities that bring activity to Brownsville streets, and coupled with other investments to ensure public spaces are safe, attractive, and accessible

- New mixed-use developments along Livonia Avenue, New Lots Avenue, Hegeman Avenue, Rockaway Avenue, and Mother Gaston Boulevard
- Commercial revitalization pilot project on Belmont Avenue

2) Improve connections in the neighborhood - Implement physical, design, and programmatic interventions that make it easier, safer, and more pleasant to walk and bike throughout the neighborhood, as well as cross to surrounding neighborhoods.

3) Create active and safe public spaces –

- Community workshops to create safety design solutions on NYCHA campuses and surroundings
- Pedestrian safety improvements at dangerous intersections
- Elevator and free connection between 3 and L trains
- Improve safety and health by creating high-quality places for gathering and community building
- Renovations at Betsy Head Park and Newport Playground, and more arts and cultural programming in parks and gardens
- Neighborhood Innovation Lab at Osborn Plaza
- New permanent light fixtures and cameras at Van Dyke and Brownsville Houses
- Sports leagues and teen programming that facilitate positive interaction between police and youth

4) Provide resources to support healthy lifestyles - Improve access to healthy food, community gardens, quality healthcare and wellness programs, and places to exercise:

- New Brownsville Neighborhood Health Action Center
- Renovations to Brownsville Recreation Center
- Improved access to healthy foods
- New Teen Center at Brownsville Houses

5) Connect Brownsville residents with jobs and job training –

- Ensure City investments are paired with access to jobs and educational resources for residents, including job opportunities in affordable housing
- Coordination between City and community-based workforce development service providers
- Summer Youth Employment Program opportunities with local businesses
- New Young Innovators Program pilot and computer science education in Brownsville schools

6) Support small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs - Enable local businesses to grow and thrive by connecting them to resources to start, operate, and grow their business.

- Support with M/WBE certification, commercial leases, and compliance
- Storefront improvement grants through the Pitkin Avenue BID
- New spaces for small businesses on RFP sites
- Promote networking of local contractors, subcontractors, and developers

7) Improve housing stability and support residents who are at risk of displacement - Improve housing quality and ensure that residents have opportunities to stay in the neighborhood, including those facing foreclosure, homelessness, or seeking to buy a home

- Outreach to homeowners facing foreclosure or need help financing repairs
- New homeownership opportunities and HomeFirst down payment assistance
- Training community organizations to serve as Housing Ambassadors and help residents apply for affordable housing

8) Support capacity building for local organizations - Provide support to local organizations to continue the plan's work into the future

- Cultural center at the Rockaway Avenue RFP site
- Capacity Fund grants to facilitate community programming in parks
- New Brownsville Community Tech Advisory Board
- Encouraging development teams to work with local organizations for community programming through the RFP.

A project tracker is included in the plan with:

- Responsible agency/organization • Timeline • Status • Funding source
- Annual progress reports
- Community Partners group, convened by Community Board 16, will meet with the City twice a year

As stated earlier, the Brownsville Plan will be released on June 1st, with an event at P.S./I.S. 323 that will feature remarks by agency commissioners and community leaders, music and dance performances, and food from 3 Black Cats Café.

Over this summer, the Brownsville RFP will be released and they will hold information sessions. In June, they will host a Homeowner's Clinic to assist homeowners - the tentative date is June 26. The Livonia Streetscape Plan will also be released over the summer.

They will be doing additional plan outreach and encourage the community to invite them to attend block parties and other events in the community.

Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu asked for clarification with regards to the networking of local organizations.

Mr. Sandler stated that they will host networking sessions for the Brownsville RFP where local contractors and subcontractors can meet with the developers.

Someone asked how will local developers be selected?

Mr. Sandler stated that they are working with the Economic Development Corporation and the Local Development Corporation of East New York to get the word out. They also welcome any suggestions to help reach local contractors.

Someone requested clarification on how the arts, technology, and other programs will work? Who will operate them?

Mr. Sandler stated that RFPs will be issued for large plots of land owned by the City. The RFPs will ask for proposals for affordable housing plus other uses. They will also encourage partnerships with local organizations and others who do this type of work. For Instance, the RFP for Rockaway Avenue will require that a cultural center be included in the proposal and will set forth some requirements of what the cultural center is. They will then see what proposals they receive. He cannot currently tell the community exactly what will be placed there or who will operate it, as this will depend upon the proposals that they will receive. This is also true for the other sites. They will be looking at proposals based on the theme of the sites and will judge and select the proposals, in part, based on feasibility and how well it matches with the goals of the theme.

Ms. Carolyn Lee asked Mr. Sandler to elaborate on the Homeowner's Clinic.

Mr. Sandler stated that in the past they have held fairs where information was disseminated. This time, there will be city agencies along with other organizations with resources that will be able to assist homeowners with specific issues regarding housing.

Ms. Lee asked if there will be any condominiums built?

Mr. Sandler stated that part of the plan calls for the creation of affordable homeownership opportunities and includes about 150 for sale homes with strict income and restricted sales co-ops, condominiums, and single-family homes.

Chairperson Morgan encouraged the audience to attend the Brownsville Plan Release Event on June 1st and to bring their neighbors along. What Mr. Sandler presented this evening is a summary of what has brought us to this point. As the implementation of the plan begins, the community needs to remain aware of the particulars in order to take full advantage of the plan's benefits.

She next reported that that in her reports to the Board members and residents of the community this year, she has highlighted many initiatives that can and will impact our community. Because of the need to ensure that committees of Brooklyn Community Board 16 have the greatest advantage in advocating on behalf of the community, she is submitting a resolution titled: Establishing Work Groups amongst Brooklyn Community Board 16 Existing Committees.

The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the twelve (12) committee chairpersons to work closely with the District Manager and Chairperson of the Board to review existing or proposed changes in the District, and make recommendations to the Board regarding the same, and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the twelve (12) committee chairpersons and committee members to work collaboratively on issues and projects in the District based on the committees' interconnected purpose, and

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that the greatest amount of community benefits are achieved through the work of the twelve (12) committees, and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Committee and Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee Chairpersons have agreed to form the Equity Planning Work Group, and

WHEREAS, the Youth Services Planning Committee, Women's Committee, Senior Citizen's Committee, and Health and Human Services Committee have agreed to form the Community Resident Planning Work Group, and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee, Transportation and Franchises Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee, and Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee have agreed to form the City Services Planning Work Group, and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Committee, and Personnel, Budget and Finance Committee have agreed to form the Fiscal & Policy Work Group, and

WHEREAS, forming work groups amongst Brooklyn Community Board 16's existing committees is not an amendment to the bylaws or existing committees, but rather the adoption of collaborative style of meeting intended to increase board member and community resident awareness and participation in the work of the twelve (12) committees; and to ensure that a greater number of community residents are included in the community vetting process for review of existing and proposed changes in the District,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, Brooklyn Community District 16 will establish four (4) work groups: Equity Planning, Community Resident Planning,

City Services Planning, and Fiscal and Policy Planning for the purpose of conducting interconnected discussions necessary to advocate and achieve the greatest outcomes for residents of Community District 16; and schedule monthly work group meetings according to an agreed upon schedule effective June 1, 2017 through May 30, 2018.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, and carried to accept the Chairperson's report.

In a roll call vote of 25-in favor, 0-against, and 0-abstentions, members of the Board adopted the resolution to establish four (4) workgroups: Equity Planning, Community Resident Planning, City Services Planning, and Fiscal and Policy Planning for the purpose of conducting interconnected discussions necessary to advocate and achieve the greatest outcomes for residents of Community District 16; and schedule monthly work group meetings according to an agreed upon schedule effective June 1, 2017 through May 30, 2018.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. Christopher Durosinmi, Coordinator for Brooklyn 3-K for All.

Mr. Durosinmi stated that Mayor de Blasio announced last month a new initiative which is currently available only in School Districts 7 (South Bronx) and 23 (Ocean Hill-Brownsville) with the goal of bringing 3-K to every community school district in New York City. 3-K for All brings free, full-day, high-quality education to 3-year-olds in these districts. As the initiative is being roll out, they are finalizing sites and expanding staffing on both the Administration for Children's Services and the Department of Education levels. They are reaching out, wherever they can, to let everyone know about the program.

The initiative is the first of its kind in the nation and it is taking place in Brownsville. He encourages the community to take advantage of it. It is also the time to see that it is framed in the manner that we want to see implemented in our schools.

Interested persons may complete an online form at nyc.gov/3k to apply or to receive additional information.

Someone asked when will enrollment begin?

Mr. Durosinmi stated that any child born in 2014 can attend classes beginning in September 2017.

Mr. David Alexander stated the two districts also have many homeless shelters. Will the program have an effect on the shelters?

Mr. Durosinmi stated that he cannot speak to how it will affect the shelters, but they are reaching to the shelters to ensure that they are aware of the program and encourage participation.

A motion was made by Mr. Danny King, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to waive the reading of the minutes.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Borough Commissioner Martin Maher of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Borough Commissioner Maher introduced the Department's Brooklyn Design Team to present the reconstruction plan for Callahan Kelly Playground.

Mr. Eric Mattes stated that the goals for the project include: connecting the park to the community by creating more inviting entrances through the perimeter walls, preserving the grand openness and symmetry of the central space lined with existing overhead lighting and trees beyond. The total budget for the project is \$18.1 million.

The park is located at Fulton Street and Truxton Street between Eastern Parkway and Van Sinderen Avenue in the Borough of Brooklyn. Slides were displayed with one showing a survey of the park. The park was built along with the IND subway station in the late 1930s through the early 1940s and runs over the length of the subway platforms. The next slide showed the location of other parks in the area with the closest one being Thomas Boyland Park currently

being reconstructed. Additional slides displayed surrounding land usages, transportation infrastructure (including the location of a freight line which also runs below the park), and existing conditions of the park.

A triangular Greenstreet site formed by Truxton Street, Fulton Street, and Eastern Parkway is also being incorporated into this project. Across the street from the triangle, between Eastern Parkway and Sackman Street there is a seating area which needs a great deal of work and will be redone. Crossing Sackman Street, is an area which contains a ventilation building for the MTA, adult fitness equipment, seating areas, basketball court, a synthetic turf softball field, and the entry to the subway which also leads to the Transit Police station.

Images showing the site analysis were shown and indicated that the retaining walls are in poor condition and will be reconstructed. They have negotiated with the Department of Transportation to close Sackman Street (between Truxton Street and Fulton Street) and bring together the now separated parcels. Additional photographs and cross-sectional diagrams were shown depicting the existing conditions.

They are working with MTA and City Planning on the design of the reconstruction of Callahan Kelly Playground. The MTA has a proposed plan to modify and expand their existing entrance and the vent building to support additional capacity. They had to take this into account in their redesign of the park. They had to take into consideration parts of the park that could be reverted to the MTA has their plans come to fruition.

In the scoping meeting with the community, they heard that people wanted the Greenstreet redesigned, sitting areas, play equipment, a synthetic turf field, basketball courts, adult exercise equipment, a dog run, and a skate park.

Conceptual drawings of the proposed reconstruction were displayed. The Greenstreet area will be rebuilt to incorporate plantings, seating, and shade structures. Bollards will be erected to guard against vehicular traffic. Vertical elements will inform passersby of the park. Across Eastern Parkway, additional seating will be installed near the entry which leads to play areas for children 5 to 12 years old with a water spray area. A walkway will allow a path through the park that does not pass through the play area which is designated for children and their caregivers.

Continuing eastward, what is now Sackman Street will become a plaza area without through traffic. In the MTA plans, the ventilation building will be expanded and become an entryway to the platform below and include a comfort station. A ramp and stairs will be installed to adjust for the grade on Sackman Street. The plaza will include shade structures and seating.

The project will connect the park to the community. Amongst the things they are doing to achieve this will be the inclusion of 4 new staircases (two on Fulton Street and two on Truxton Street) through the retaining walls.

Also included in the plans are a recreational running track, adult fitness equipment area, basketball courts, a skate park, shade structures, seating and game tables, a multi-purpose synthetic turf, new security lighting, and dog runs for small and large dogs with synthetic turf.

Photographs and drawings of the amenities, equipment, planting, and materials to be used for the project were displayed.

Someone asked about the inclusion of cellphone charging stations.

Commissioner Maher stated that charging stations are a concession and cannot be capitalized into the project. They can look to see if a vendor is interested in doing it as a concession. They are a couple of locations where it is in place and while it is beginning to take shape as a business model, they are not yet profitable.

Someone asked where will the comfort station be located?

Mr. Mattes stated that it is part of the MTA's proposal and would be part of a plan to locate a stairwell leading to the platform below at the location of the ventilation building (near Sackman and Fulton Streets). As part of a giveback to the community they will install a comfort station at the location.

Commissioner Maher stated that the comfort station would be built to Parks Department standard and be operated by Parks as well.

Someone asked when will the work begin?

Commissioner Maher stated that with approvals, and going through the process they will break ground in about a year to a year and a half.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if the budget takes into consideration that they will not begin construction for nearly two years?

Commissioner Maher stated that they always factor in inflation when creating their budgets.

Commissioner Maher next reported on the rehabilitation of the Betsy Head Playground. He stated that Betsy Head is one of the parks in their Anchor Parks program which seeks to make old parks new again. They have \$30 million in funding from the de Blasio administration. The rehabilitation will take place in two phases.

The larger phase will encompass the ballfield, track, and new basketball courts on the pool side of the park. For the portion of the park on the other side, they previously presented their design for the reconstruction. Upon hearing the comments of the Public Design Commission, they tweaked the original design and have what they believe is an improved design that still includes all the elements of the original proposal.

The design will:

- Create warm and inviting entrances with an identity and opportunities for seating and gathering.
- Create passive spaces and flexible open space for community events.
- Create an exciting destination and provide amenities geared towards children of all ages and abilities.
- Reduce crossing distances from the park to schools and the community.
- Create a seamless transition within the north parcel with Imagination Playground to the south.

Slides of their conceptual plans for both phases of the project were displayed, along with photographs of the existing conditions and a list of items that were requested during community visioning sessions.

On a bubble drawing of Phase I of the project, Commissioner Maher indicated that they want to make it easier to cross into the park and that through funding allocated by Councilmember Darlene Mealy they will be installing a comfort station. Changes include a bi-fold gates/pedestrian access for special events, shifting of the parkour area, and easier connection points to the other part of the park.

Additional slides were displayed showing how the multi-purpose area could be used, the layout of the skate park, parkour court, lighting schemes, examples of site furnishings and plantings, and examples of seating and fencing materials.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. asked if the pool included in any portion of this project?

Commissioner Maher stated that it has never been included as part of the project.

Mr. McCadney asked if the ballfield area and its bleachers are included?

Commissioner Maher stated that they are included in Phase II of project, along with the handball court, the basketball courts, comfort stations, and seating area and plans will be presented to the Board at a later date.

Mrs. Bettie Kollock-Wallace asked what assurances can be given to the community that people will clean-up after their dogs?

Commissioner Maher stated that Parks Manager Emilio Llopiz, himself, and Parks Police will make every effort to enforce this. He encourages anyone who sees the violation to report it to the police or Parks Enforcement in order that they do targeted enforcement.

Someone asked how community-based contractors can participate in the contracts for rehabbing the parks?

Commissioner Maher stated that the good part of this is that they are only in the design phase. The project will go through the procurement process. If the business is not already on the City's Vendex System, they should register. When the bid is put out, it will be in the City Record as well as in trade journals. They can also reach out to businesses that have been awarded contracts and see if they may need assistance in completing the contracts.

The questioner asked if there was any way that a local business can reach out to a specific individual in the Parks Department to assure their participation?

Commissioner Maher stated that would be a conflict of interest. The smartest way to do it is to follow his previous instructions. Also, they can contact the Department of Small Business to learn more about contracting with the city.

Someone asked if the multi-purpose space is open to anyone for events?

Commissioner Maher stated that it is through their permitting process.

Someone asked if the Summer Stage Program will continue?

Commissioner Maher stated that they will be. They take place on the other portion of the park which will be part of Phase II. They will be installing synthetic turf, but will also be looking to install protective surfaces for the area.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Ms. Claudette Ramos of the Parks Department.

Ms. Ramos stated that she is with Partnership for Parks which is a division of the Parks Department which collaborates with City Parks Foundation. She is here this evening to speak about some of the programming. Earlier, someone mentioned the Summer Stage Festival. It will take place from June 28th to July 2nd, at Betsy Head Park. Schedules for the 2017 Summer Stage events are available on tonight's distribution table. Some of this year's performers will include: Rare Essence with special guest DJ Kool, Vivian Green, Ginuwine, and DJ Premier.

She would also like to invite the audience to form and join Friends of groups. Friends of groups are organizations that volunteer in park cleanup events and in advocating for their parks. City Parks Foundation supports them by providing equipment and training. A pamphlet covering some of their work is available on tonight's distribution table.

Capacity grants are also available in amounts up to \$5,000. The grants can be used to fund cleanup events, 5Ks and other events. Along with Friends of Brownsville, there are Friends of Nehemiah Park and Friends of Saratoga Ballfield groups in the community. Of course Brownsville has several parks one can help support. Anyone wishing to help support a park can take one of her business cards and reach out to her.

Min. Prince Issachar, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 4, 2017 with representatives from the Department of Parks who reviewed the schematic plans for Callahan Kelly Playground which you heard earlier tonight.

Also tonight, you heard revisions to the schematic plan for Betsy Head Park and Betsy Head Memorial Playground.

The floor was returned to the Chair for a vote on the schematic plans for Callahan Kelly Playground, and Betsy Head Park and Betsy Head Memorial Playground.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the report of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

In a roll call vote of 25-in favor, 0-against, and 0-abstentions, members of the Board voted to support the schematic plans for the reconstruction of Callahan Kelly Playground.

In a roll call vote of 25-in favor, 0-against, and 0-abstentions members of the Board voted to support the schematic plans for Phase I of the reconstruction of Betsy Head Playground.

Ms. Deborah Mack, Chairperson of the Transportation and Franchises Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 22, 2017 and reports that two (2) new sites at 2440 Fulton Street and 41 Sackman Street have been identified by the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications and their franchisee, CityBridge, to install LinkNYC kiosk which will provide free high-speed Wi-Fi, free nationwide calling, a dedicated “9-1-1” button, free access to maps and “3-1-1”, and free charging ports for mobile devices.

In addition to replacing existing public payphones with Links, new sites are being added, primarily along commercial corridors throughout the five boroughs.

The Committee recommends that CityBridge proceed with installing LinkNYC kiosks at 2440 Fulton Street and 41 Sackman Street.

The Committee has been informed by the New York City Department of Transportation that work will soon begin on the safety improvements at the intersection of St. John’s Place and Eastern Parkway that were presented to the Community Board last year.

At our June meeting, the Committee will be discussing the bike lane expansion program. If you have any suggestions of where bikes can be installed in the District, please call them in to District Manager Viola Greene-Walker at (718) 385-0323 or email them to bk16@cb.nyc.gov.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander and seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to accept the report of the Transportation and Franchises Committee.

In a roll call vote of 24-in favor, 0-against, and 1-abstention, members of the Board voted to support the installation of LinkNYC kiosks at 2440 Fulton Street and 41 Sackman Street by CityBridge.

Mr. Albion Liburd, in behalf of Genese Morgan Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a meeting on Thursday, May 18, 2017 and discussed FHA mortgage changes and special tax incentives. The Committees will continue discussing this matter and will work with responsible stakeholder groups to ensure that the community is well informed on what is available to our residents.

On Saturday, May 6, 2017, the Economic Development Committee hosted 30 existing and budding small businesses for a M/WBE Symposium in collaboration with the Women’s Committee as part of National Small Business Week. Attendees participated in a panel discussion and two (2) workshops “M/WBE Certification” and “10 Steps to Starting a Business”.

The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to accept the report of the Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Marie Pierre, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 15, 2017 and reviewed City Council bill 1218A, sponsored by Councilmember Vincent Gentile and several of his colleagues, at the request of Borough President Eric Adams. The bill was signed into law this month and it becomes effective in 120 days. The bill amends the administrative code of the City of New York in relation to illegal conversions.

The bill will increase the penalties for illegally converting residential space so that it contains 3 or more dwelling units above the amount legally allowed. The bill contains a one-time exception for owners that reasonably did not know of such conversion and who promptly took steps to correct the condition. The bill would also require that the Department of Buildings seek to obtain an access warrant when they are unable to obtain access to a building where they suspect an illegal conversion has occurred.

The full text of the bill can be read online at legistar.council.nyc.gov.

At next month's meeting, the Committee will be discussing a request sent to us by the Citizens Union Foundation with regard to whether or not there should be changes to the New York State Constitution which will be a ballot item during the November election.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Mr. David Alexander, and carried to accept report of the Legislative Committee.

Ms. Patricia Winston, Chairperson of the Seniors Citizens Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 and discussed plans for our upcoming “Walk to Fight Breast Cancer” in partnership with Wayside Outreach Development Senior Programs and Assemblymember Latrice Walker. The walk will take place on October 12, 2017, 1:30 p.m. at Betsy Head Park.

Members of the W.O.R.D. Senior Programs will make ribbons for the occasion, Ms. Genese Morgan is considering getting a mammogram screening truck for the day, and Ms. Linda Rivera, Chairperson of the Women’s Committee, will be networking with seniors for the event.

The Committee is requesting the community’s support by joining our seniors as they “Walk to Fight Breast Cancer.”

The next Committee meeting will be held on June 21, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. in the Community Board Office.

A motion was made by Mr. John McCadney, Jr., seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the report of the Senior Citizens Affairs Committee.

Ms. Margaret Brewer, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 3, 2017 and discussed the following:

Summer programs being offered in the District are being compiled by the Committee to aid the community in identifying “What’s to do” over the summer. This will be available for the June meeting.

Community messaging - she asked for ideas of “What would make our neighborhood better”. The reason was to get a consensus of the morale in the community. With that, it was decided to share positive, feel good messages with the community by placing encouraging and happy public safety messages throughout the District for the summer.

The Committee is waiting for approval for this action. She would like to install the signs for the summer season. Volunteers are welcomed. We may need to create, construct, and install the signs.

The Memorial Day holiday generally marks the arrival of summer. While we all appreciate nature’s gifts, and should enjoy them; please do so responsibly and respectfully. Noise has been in discussion lately; she has literature on noise and its effects. They have not gotten the details of the changes the NYPD will make in handling noise calls. However, there are Administrative Codes that cover the issue. She read New York City Administrative Codes Section 10-108(d), Section 23-218(a), and Section 24-244(a).

On May 4th, there was a major heroin ring arrest of which one member was a well-known basketball figure in our community. She did not know him personally, but knows the young people whose attention he could garner, when so many other messages miss them. She knows the parents of the children who were captivated by the addictive street activities of this “Ring” of fellows. Your community is what you “Let” it be. Are you going to continue to “Let” it be this? We must shift the power to positivity. Stop making room for wrong things.

On May 17, 2017, she met with CAMBA’s Advisory Board for homeless shelters, where she is happy to report that CAMBA has added and extended recreational, vocational, and social programs within the facilities. The residents are getting direct services and opportunities that are positively life changing. The placement numbers are not measurable due to such a large homelessness number. However, the complaint of simply “warehousing” people and not communicating with the current community, is not where it was when the discussion started. She thanks CAMBA for listening.

The next Public Safety meeting will be held on June 7th, at 6:30 p.m. here in Room. 103.

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the report of the Public Safety Committee.

John McCadney, Jr., Chairperson of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on May 17, 2017 and discussed the collection of organic waste which just began in the District.

Community District #16 is the second district in the City to have organics collected and the event was marked with a press conference held in front of 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. Compost made from the organics was placed in the tree pits in front of the building.

Thus far, the program is working well in the District. Although, there have been some reports of the bins being stolen from the front of some buildings. In the event that your bin goes missing, you can report it and it will be replaced. There has also been some concern regarding the type of bags with which you can line the bin. You have the option of not placing a bag in the bin or lining it with a biodegradable bag which can be purchased at a home center.

They also discussed the rain garden in the community which were installed to catch runoff during heavy rainfalls. They were concerned as to whether they were being kept clean. In their survey, they found that for the most part, they are.

They will be conducting a survey of schools in the District to see if they are disposing of waste in the proper manner and will report back in September.

Anyone having questions or comments may contact the Board's office by email at bk16@cb.nyc.gov.

Ms. Marie Pierre asked if the organics collection has begun in the District?

Mr. McCadney stated that it began May 1st.

Ms. Pierre and others indicated that it was not collected on their blocks.

District Manager Greene-Walker stated that residents that are not having their organics collected should call the Board's office so that she follow up with the Department of Sanitation.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to accept the report of the Sanitation and Environmental Protection Committee.

Mr. Danny King, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, reported that members of the Committee met on Friday, May 19, 2017 and discussed names of Board members to fill the Executive Officer positions for the period of June 2017 to June 2018.

The Committee submits the following recommendations for the Board's consideration:

Chairperson – Genese Morgan
1st Vice Chairperson – Adrainer K. Coleman
2nd Vice Chairperson – John McCadney, Jr.
Secretary – Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu
Treasurer – Sarah Hall
Parliamentarian – Min. Prince Issachar

The floor was opened for further nominations for the positions of Chairperson, 1st Vice Chairperson, 2nd Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian.

There being no further nominations, the Secretary was asked to cast one vote to accept the slate of officers.

Mr. David Alexander, Chairperson of the Youth Services Planning Committee, reported that on May 8, 2017, the Youth Services Planning Committee (YSPC) met and assessed the Youth Workshop for Middle School Students, held on April 22, 2017. Although the number of participants fell short of the desired number expected, nonetheless, the workshops had few, if any incidents of a negative nature for the facilitators, or the participants. The participants were

well behaved considering the length of the event and they were very engrossed with questions. We are now analyzing the results, which will prepare the YSPC for future events, which will be presented at the next Committee and Board meeting. Overall the event was amazing.

First and foremost, he thanks the community for their participation in this project for our youth and the youth who attended the event. He also thanks the Committee members for their hard work with pulling together this successful project for the middle school students, Senator Persaud who attended and answered the questions posed by the children on several issues concerning the youth, and the Borough President's Office's participation. Special thanks to the community resources table which consisted of HRA's MAP Office, Brownsville Health Action Center – DOHMH, Diamond Braces Dentistry, SONYC – BIZ CBEDC, and Medgar Evers College, and for their giveaway packages for the participants.

The Committee also gives a special thank you to the many other agencies and organization who assisted in making it a special event for the community.

On May 8, the YSPC met jointly with the Women's Committee Chairperson, Linda Rivera, to discuss the workshop event and how to improve future workshops moving forward. This will be an ongoing process. Also, the Committee met with two individuals who wish to open private charter schools and are seeking letters of approval from the Community Board. Mr. Asher, who plans to open The Ali Academy school for students in grades 7-12th grade in Brownsville, needs community resources to house his school. The Committee suggested that he reach out to the churches. The Committee decided to table the matter to offer any approval until more information can be obtained. Mr. Joseph Jeffries -El will open the MECS ACADEMY in September in East New York. The target population for this school is for students going to the 9th grade and beyond. The address for this program will be announced shortly, and the Committee will share this information when we receive it.

The following programs are open for enrollment at Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation:

1. SONYC BIZ Entrepreneurial Programs for student attending Middle Schools
2. Open Enrollment for GED Program ages 17 and up. Both programs are located at 444 Thomas Boyland on the 3rd Floor – telephone number (718) 498-4513.

The CAMPUS Afterschool Tech and Arts Program for Middle School Students at the Brownsville Collaborative Middle School (BCMS), located at 85 Watkins Street is accepting students.

The Fathers and Mentors Program meet at PS/IS 178 Saint Clair McKelway School, located at 2163 Dean Street (bet. Saratoga Avenue and Thomas Boyland Street) from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to discuss the program particulars. If you are interested, call Mr. William Rochford at (718) 240-3657 or (917) 428-0647.

Nehemiah Economic Development, Inc. is awarding a total of \$20,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors attending a 4-year accredited university or college. Please go to: www.nehemiah.org, for more information, and to apply.

The next meeting for the YSPC will be held on June 6th. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Ms. Viola Greene – Walker at (718) 385-0323 or bk16@nyc.gov.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to accept the report of the Youth Services Planning Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Mr. Danny King, and carried to waive the reading of the District Manager's report.

District Manager Greene-Walker announced that earlier today, she attended a meeting with the Brooklyn Area Manager for the United States Post Office. She had with her several complaints that she received from residents of Atlantic Towers about their inadequate mail delivery. On tonight's distribution table are forms that should be completed by anyone who is having trouble with their mail delivery from the 11212 or 11233 postal stations and return the forms to her. She meets with the Postal Service on a monthly basis.

Additionally, the United States Postal Service is now accepting applications for postal carrier positions in Manhattan, Staten Island, and the Bronx. The deadline for applications is May 26, 2017 and must be completed online at usps.com.

The Postal Service is now offering Informed Delivery, a service that allows users to be emailed an image of the outside of business sized envelopes of that day's mail. You may sign up by going to informedelivery.usps.com.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. William Boone of the Medgar Evers Beacon Program.

Mr. Boone announced that they will operate a summer camp for middle schoolers at the Beacon Program at P.S. /I.S. 323 (210 Chester Street). Parents interested in enrolling the children may reach out to them at the school Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

He thanked everyone who sent prayers and other well wishes as he mourned the passing of his eldest daughter. Because he will be caring for his grandchildren, he will be spending less time in Brownsville.

Chairperson Morgan recognized Mr. H. Leroy Hutchinson, representing the Office of Assemblyman Nick Perry, who stated that their office is located at 931 Utica Avenue and the telephone number is (718) 385-3336.

He stated that there is a conflict between what Ms. Brewer reported concerning the playing of music at a house party and what he heard from Chief Jeffrey Maddrey. Chief Maddrey led him to believe that the Department takes a hands off approach in enforcing the playing of music at house parties. As such, he thinks that matter should be revisited.

There has been a recent uptick in the Police Department seizures of the e-bikes. For many of our youth, this is their primary means of transportation. Legislation is being worked on to clarify their legal operation. Bicycle riders should follow the rules of the road, but e bikes should not be looked upon as motor vehicles.

He reminded the audience to remain aware of their environment as they go about their business this summer. Keeping in mind the tragic incident which occurred in London recently.

Mr. Richard Belon, representing the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, stated that she sits on the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations which held a hearing this morning about containment of the Zika virus. She wants people to be aware of the virus as they make travel plans this summer.

Congresswoman Clarke has been in conversation with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development regarding the affordability of homes in the city and what is considered affordable.

Their office can be reached by calling (718) 287-1142.

Mr. William Williams, representing the Office of Councilmember Darlene Mealy.

Mr. Williams announced that Councilmember Mealy will host her Second Annual Senior Picnic on June 21st at 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Lincoln Terrace Park and invites all seniors to join her.

They will hold their monthly advisory meeting on June 3rd at 1757 Union Street.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.