

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – JULY 24, 2018

Attendance

David Alexander	Deborah Mack
Margaret Brewer	Yolanda Matthews
Kaseem Clark-Edwards	John McCadney, Jr.
Dr. Cleopatra Brown (A)	Ronella Medica (A)
Adrainer Coleman	Melanie Mendonca
Christopher Durosinmi	Shemene Minter
Norman Frazier	Genese Morgan
Danny Goodine (A)	Deidre Olivera-Douglas (A)
Sarah Hall	Busayo Olupano (A)
Balinda Harris	Anita Pierce
Zalika Headey (A)	Marie Pierre
Kevin Henderson (E)	Linda Rivera
Mawuli Hormeku	Johnnymae Robinson (A)
Michael Howard	Keturah Suggs
Lannetta Jeffries (A)	Richard Swinson
Carl Joseph (A)	Eric Thompson (A)
Maurice Joyner (A)	Brenda Thompson-Duchene (A)
Eula Key	Ernestine Turner (A)
Dr. Betty Kollock-Wallace (A)	Rev. Miran Ukaegbu
Charles Ladson, Sr.	Deborah Williams
Digna Layne (A)	Pat Winston
Carolyn Lee	Viola D. Greene-Walker, District Manager
Kelly Lee-McVay (A)	Devin Thorpe for Hon. Roxanne Persaud
Albion Liburd (A)	

**PUBLIC HEARING HELD AT BROWNSVILLE MULTI-SERVICE CENTER,
444 THOMAS S. BOYLAND STREET, BROOKLYN**

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that two agencies are seeking resolutions from the Board in support of their applications for funding which are due shortly.

The first presentation was made by Jesse Gericke in behalf of the Pitkin Avenue BID which is applying for a Main Street Grant to fund the Façade Improvement Program.

Mr. Gericke made a slide presentation of the buildings completed under the 2016 Façade Improvement Program: 1598 Pitkin Avenue and 1686 Pitkin Avenue. 1701 Pitkin Avenue is under renovation and 1606 Pitkin Avenue will begin renovation in a few weeks.

Ms. Suggs asked if contractors put money up front and get reimbursed?

Ms. Francila Wilkins stated that the owners of the buildings are reimbursed up to \$50,000 for the cost of construction.

Mr. Ladson stated that our youth need jobs during the summer.

Ms. Williams stated that the Pitkin Avenue BID has hired youth and people of all ages for events they sponsor such as the summer plazas. They encourage businesses along the BID to hire youth through the City's Summer Youth Employment Program.

Mr. Hormeku asked how will the Board be informed about the Façade Improve Program in the future?

Mr. Gericke stated that they will be more transparent in the future.

Mrs. Pierre asked what type of contractors are hired?

Ms. Wilkins stated that the architect on the project (Made in Brownsville) and construction workers are paid prevailing wages.

Mrs. Pierre asked if the apartments are market rent?

Mr. Gericke stated that 1606 Pitkin Avenue is not market rate. He is not sure what program it is in.

Ms. Wilkins stated that the residential units created during construction are 80% affordable and 20% market rate.

Ms. Mendonca asked what is the amount of the grant?

Mr. Gericke stated that it is \$250,000.

Mrs. Winston asked what criteria is used to select stores for the program?

Mr. Gericke stated that the stores must apply and provide supporting documents for the preservation project.

The roll was called and a quorum was present.

Chairperson Morgan stated that the next presentation will come from the Bed-Stuy Campaign Against Hunger which is applying for a Green Jobs Training Grant which is part of the Vital Brooklyn Initiative. They require a resolution from the Board to accompany their application.

Mr. Pinn stated that the Bed-Stuy Campaign Against Hunger is seeking \$50,000 to expand their Green Teens Internship Program.

Bed-Stuy Campaign Against Hunger (BSCAH) is an urban agribusiness and is one of the largest and most transformative emergency feeding providers in New York City. Their office is on Fulton Street between Saratoga Avenue and Hull Street.

The Green Teens Program operates BSCAH's farms and farm stands. One of the farms is located at Saratoga Avenue and Fulton Street. The farm operates from June to November. They are open to the public on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They have 30 participants, ages 16 to 22 years old.

Some of the produce are sold to local businesses and some are provided to their pantry. They also provide approximately 400 bags of food to senior programs in Ocean Hill-Brownsville.

Mr. Hormeku stated that the deadline for their application was last week. Why are they requesting a resolution at this time?

Chairperson Morgan stated that BSCAH submitted their application. We can send a resolution to the State to support their application.

Ms. Mack asked where is their office and why is the farm only open on Saturdays?

Mr. Sam Pinn stated that the office is located at 2010 Fulton Street. If you come to the office, they can accommodate you.

Mrs. Winston thanked BSCAH for the food bags that they provide to seniors.

Chairperson Morgan read the resolution for the Pitkin Avenue BID as follows:

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Pitkin Avenue District Management Association to work collectively with property and business owners through a public/private partnership with regards to the maintenance, development, and promotion of the commercial district; and

WHEREAS, the Pitkin Avenue District Management Association desires to apply for up to \$250,000 in financial assistance through the 2018 Consolidated Fund Application (CFA) under the New York Main Street program; and

WHEREAS, the application proposes funding to assist properly owners to complete renovation of buildings on Pitkin Avenue between Howard Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, Brooklyn Community District #16 has several mixed used commercial buildings in need of façade and interior building improvements; and

WHEREAS, the proposed funding will contribute to ongoing community revitalization efforts; and

WHEREAS, the grant application requires that the applicant obtain the approval and endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Brooklyn Community Board #16 of the City New York does support assisting property owners to complete building renovation to Pitkin Avenue buildings on Pitkin Avenue between Howard Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard when the property owner and/or business owner (1) attends an orientation workshop with sessions on program eligibility, customer service and community engagement, (2) is in compliance with New York State and New York City Labor Laws, (3) agrees to participate as NYC Summer Youth Employment work sites and commit to hiring local residents, (4) provides a copy of the most current financial report to include profit and loss statement and balance sheet, (5) attends a quarterly meeting with Economic Development Committee and the BID, and (6) must be compliant and free of violations according to the New York City Department of Consumers Affairs with regard to allowable store policies, i.e. baggage check, refunds, etc.

THEREFORE BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that Brooklyn Community Board #16 approves and endorses the 2018 New York Main Street program for assistance, prepared and to be submitted by the Pitkin Avenue District Management Association.

A motion was made by Ms. Margaret Brewer, seconded by Ms. Balinda Harris, and carried to submit a resolution in support of the application for Pitkin Avenue BID. The vote was 25 in favor, 2 opposed, and zero abstentions with a total membership of 45.

The resolution for the Bed-Stuy Campaign Against Hunger was read as follows:

WHEREAS, the Bed-Stuy Campaign Against Hunger is applying to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for a project grant under the Environmental Justice Community Impact Grant Program to be at Saratoga Farm, 1965-1971 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233, a site located within the territorial jurisdiction of Community Board 16; and

WHEREAS, as a requirement of this program, said 501(c)3 Private Non-profit Organization must obtain the "approval/endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located",

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Community Board 16 of the Borough of Brooklyn, New York hereby does approve and endorse the application of Bed-Stuy Campaign Against Hunger for a grant under the Environmental Justice Community Impact Grant Program for a project known as the Green Teens Internship Program and located within this community.

A motion was made by Mr. David Alexander, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to submit a resolution in support of the application for the Bed-Stuy Campaign Against Hunger. The vote was 27 in favor, 1 opposed, and zero abstentions with a total membership of 45.

Rev. Dr. Ukaegbu asked that the two agencies inform the Community Board about the response to their application for funding.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Sarah Hall, seconded by Ms. Adrainer Cole, and carried to adjourn the meeting.