

**COMMUNITY BOARD 17
YOUTH/EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 14TH, 2022**

Attendance

Gail Grandison
Jorge A. Tait
Timothy Davis
Monica McKai-Brown
Danna Lennon-Thomas
Barrington Barrett
Rodrick F. Daley

Muline Mickle
Natasha Duncan
Rose Graham
Ozni Lewis
Bianca
Chelsea – 5year old visitor

The meeting of the Youth/Education Committee was called to order by Ms. Gail Grandison everyone present was asked to introduce themselves and state their position of membership and she welcomed the guests,

Guests:

Danna Lennon -Thomas, a resident of East Flatbush and homeowner for 10 years. She's interested in what the Education Committee is doing, and the issues she encountered while navigating kindergarten application process for her 5year old. .

Timothy Davis – submitted his application and is very much interested in becoming a member of the committee

Ms. Grandison welcomed the guest and indicated there were some areas of expertise mentioned during their introduction and she will reach and ask for assistance when needed. She also stated she would like to know what everyone has to offer to enhance the work of the committee.

Chairperson's Report

- The Board is in the process of hiring an ADM, several rounds of interviews were conducted. Presently, only the District Manager is working full time in the office. Ms. Barton is working virtually, and Ms. Lyons is out on indefinite leave.
- Three candidates are now coming before the Board for a decision. The final decision of any hiring practice is made by the Board and not the Personnel Committee or a any individual. There was a special meeting held however, there was no quorum. January the Board will revisit the hiring.
- There were efforts to also hire a temp to assist until the Staff returns to office,

Question: Mr. Tait reviewed the minutes, he said he requested to be excused from the meeting last month due to a funeral.

Ms. Grandison said she will make a note and have the changes made to the minutes.

Ms. Fraser said she made the changes to the November meeting minutes to include Mr. Tait's excused absence.

- Ms. Grandison said there has been an issue with attendance, only 3 excuses are allowed. She said when attendance is low, the Board's work cannot move forward. She also mentioned the non-approval of meeting minutes due to a lack of quorum.
- Continue to work on the Cops and Kids event. Also looked into using SUNY Downstate

Mr. Ozni Lewis was asked to give an update on the Forum

Mr. Lewis said the Forum is a way to prepare for the proposed Shirley Chisholm Recreation Center, a \$141M project. He said he graduated from Transit Tech High school and got into the union at the age of 18. He has twenty years of experience in electrical field and see this as an opportunity to change the trajectory of some of the youths in the district. He said there is sometimes a stigma with blue collar work, the plumber, electrician and carpenter. He said the Board has to advocate for trade in a way via a different avenue such as the Education Forum.

He said he will ask a few persons to present in different areas, such as the principal of a charter school, who has her PHD in teaching and is a license engineer, there will also be a site safety specialist who is the OSHA 500 trailer, as well as someone who qualifies superintendents in the field and supervisors that run the jobs. There will also be a master electrician. This is being done to prepare the youths for opportunities that will exist at the Shirley Chisholm recreational Center,

Proposals and bids will be going out in the 3rd quarter of 2023, so the forum will be 3-4 months prior to start the process of preparing some of the community youths for jobs. Presently, looking for space to hold the forum. The forum is to educate people of the many careers in constructions.

Question: Will there be space for other side of tech, such as online training to do digital design and coding?

Answer: Mr. Lewis said presently his focus is on the construction due to the proposed project scheduled to occur in the community. He said if there is another forum, he would be willing to look at technology, the tech site in construction however, the proposed project is a priority.

Presentation – Detective Tanya Barry

Ms. Grandison said she asked Detective Tanya Barry to join the meeting. She was the Youth Officer at the 67th Police Precinct, she presently works out of One Police Plaza and runs the city-wide youth program. Det. Barry will give an overview of the program, her priorities and beside the Essay Writing competition, other areas that she thinks the committee can partner with her.

Detective Tanya Barry introduced herself. She said her role is the Youth Coordinating officer/Youth officer and the safety security of all the schools and anyone under the age of 18.

Over the years, many programs were created and NYPD and the community were unable to provide those programs at a reasonable cost to the parents. Due to the many programs created, Det. Barry was moved to One Police Plaza by the new deputy commission of Community Affairs, where the programs are now run city-wide. That position removed the strong-hold on the programs and the support received when the programs were run

from the 67 Precinct. Additionally, most parents cannot afford to send their children on some of the trips, donation covers some aspects of the programs and the balance is out of pocket cost to her.

The tract team started several years ago, and competed in Texas, Kansas, Maryland, North Carolina, Florida etc. Many of the kids graduated and some received full scholarships. The Dance program has also received many compliments, from tap to modern African, The children has performed around the community The Essay Writing Contest started with only \$200 to provide prize and since then the program has grown with the support of the community.

There is also a Sister-Sister Program that help the girls deal with female issues such as body presentation, how to carry themselves, hygiene etc. There is also a program for the boys in the program, they have males talk to them about male issues, how to talk to a girl, what not to do. There is a social worker who deals with family issues, many times, there is a break-down in communication between family, kids joining gangs, acting out in school and even mental health issue. The Social worker helps in that regard. Parents know their children are safe in the program and that the program is a mentored, disciplined, structured program.

Ms. Grandison asked Detective Barry how the Committee can help.

In answer to her questions, Detective Barry said the program is in need of funding. She said Ms. Grandison, Mr. Hilary Joseph and Mr. Godfrey Sandiford handles funding, she doesn't touch the funding neither the funding source information. Whatever funding is received, they purchase what the children need and give it to them.

Ms. Rose Graham expressed interest in assisting and supporting the programs and Ms. Grandison said they she will reach out at the beginning of the new year to start brainstorming for the scheduled programs/events for 2023.

Question: How has your transition been with the new job, in terms of support needed for the programs?

Answer: Det. Barry said because she spent most of her career at the 67th Precinct, she was able to build relationships and had great support. She said she's at a new location and have new supervisors. The support is not the same.

Ms. Grandison thanked Det. Barry for attending the meeting and sharing the information regarding the programs.

Ms. Grandison said the Committee continues to work on a location for the Cops & Kids and the Spelling Bee events.

She also stated the January meeting will be dedicated to the principals and organizations. The conversation will be around leveraging support and partnership with schools and organizations such as Sesame Flyers, The God Squad, Elite Learners, East Flatbush Village and other organization.

Approval of October and November Minutes

Mr. Jorge Tait made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction to his attendance
Ms. Monica McKain Brown second.

New Business

Rodrick F. Daley greeting everyone, he said he is excited to be working with the Chairs of the Committee and look forward to participating in the planned events.

Ms. Grandison asked Ms. Bianca to share a little about herself. Ms. Bianca stated the following:

- Licensed social worker and works for the Department of Education
- Has a non-profit organization that provides varied services such as mentoring, enrichment programs, events etc.
- Organization started in February, do not have a physical location.
- Events was held at Pennsylvania Avenue with Ms. Monique Porter.
- Looking to expand and have workshops, trips for the kids, and work on reducing violence
- Block parties were held
- Working on a girl's group, in collaboration with Girls Inc., NYC.
- Presently searching for a location to hold the program.

Ms. Grandison said she will keep in touch with Ms. Bianca and discuss ways to collaborate and seek sponsorship.

Ms. Danna Lennon-Thomas and Ms. Rose Graham discussed the challenges of fund raising and sponsorship and agreed to continue the conversation after the holidays.

Adjournment

With no further issues to discuss, Ms. Grandison asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ozni Lewis made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Rose Graham second.