

**COMMUNITY BOARD 17  
VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE  
LAND USE COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

**PRESENT**

Kwame Afreh  
Tamara Thomas  
Carol Reneau  
Allyson Martinez  
Daniel  
Joan Erskine  
Dawes  
Brie D  
Lilleth Heron Robinson  
Hazel Martinez  
Alexandra Schmidbauer

J L James  
Vanessa Quashie  
Marguerite Vigilante  
Pearlene Fields  
Teres R  
Ann Hudson  
Adel Bennett  
Ozni Lewis  
Joan Bakiriddin  
CK Price  
Mary Bell-Downes

---

The meeting of the Land Use Committee was called to order by the Chair, Mr. Kwame Afreh.

Mr. Afreh greeted everyone and proceeded to give his report.

- Historic District at East 25<sup>th</sup> Street was granted approval
- There are 4 items that need general requirements
- Last month there was no quorum at the general board meeting. Tropicalfete was unable to officially get a letter of recommendation from the Board to pursue the property at 1174 New York Avenue.
- The activity in the neighborhood remains consistent with buildings popping up.
- A committee will be formed to focus on what's going on in the community and a forum will be scheduled to exchange that information.

Those interested, were asked to place their numbers in the chat and state "Land Use".

Daniel from Councilmember Farah Louis Office thanked everyone for joining the meeting and gave the following update:

**Land Use** - The Shirley Chisholm Center – the Design Commission of New York City has begun starting to plan out how the project is going to unfold and is preparing to give a series of updates at the Parks Committee meeting.

Attended the Participatory Budget session with Ms. Allyson Martinez, was very informative and interesting

The Councilmember has a parallel participatory budgeting session at Glenwood houses. There is a large amount of money that's being allocated towards projects both in construction and improvements of neighborhoods that is going to be benefiting all publicly owned properties. More details will be placed in the chat.

**Question:** The community need more updates regarding the Shirley Chisholm center. There has been no feedback, especially as to what the process will be for the hyper local artists. There's also a need for more on the ground direct survey with residents who don't attend community board meetings. it can be engaging with homeowners. There needs to be something more robust than attending a particular committee meeting.

Mr. Afreh said he agree. He promised to take the suggestion into consideration and said it was important to try to do some more outreach with the board and community at large.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes – January, February, March April, June and September 2022**

Dr. Carol Reneau made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting and Joan Erskine second.

### **Unfinished Business**

Questions were asked about an email sent to the members of the committee and another questions regarding he East 90<sup>th</sup> Street project.

Mr. Afreh said the email falls under New Business regarding East 90<sup>th</sup> Street, he was experiencing difficulties reaching those associated with the East 90<sup>th</sup> Street project. He promised to do his best to reach out.

A discussion ensued around the lack of succession planning, the impact it has on the community and having someone with the resources that makes it available. Mr. Afreh said he would like the committee to start a conversation and coordinate an event to address resources. He said it will require funding, therefore the committee needs to decide early.

**Question:** What will the succession planning entails, will there be attorneys on hand answering questions?

**Answer:** Attorneys will be on hand to answer questions, CPA to explain tax issues. All participants will be vetted. The resources would help residents understand succession planning.

Ms. Teres R said she will volunteer to research and list some areas and individuals who can be vetted, and with all kinds of insurances that can help people in terms of plan for their long-term future. She offered her support to assist.

Other areas of interest were mortgage broker, reverse mortgage, how to protect ones property, the stock market and collaborating with the Social Services, Block Association and Housing Committee to do a training on housing connect and community visioning about what the committee would like to see, how land and space should be used.

Mr. Afreh said having other committees participate can be beneficial. He said the conversation will continue in future meetings.

### **New Business:**

Information was distributed to the members regarding vital Brooklyn project and it was important to know how the project can impact the residents in district 17.

Ms. JL James informed those present of a homeless shelter proposed to be built in community board 9 and it appears there may be concerned about CB17 getting involved to help stop the project. She said the proposed facility is not coming towards 17, the letter was sent to get CB17 involved, however, the project is completely related to housing, which is affordable housing development where the rents are really going to be affordable.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the project and shelters in the district. Mr. Afreh said he will reach out to the District Manager of Community Board 9 for more information.

**Presentation:** Letter of Support - Brooklyn Level Up grant proposal to support the Community Land Trust initiative.

Ms. Allyson Martinez introduced herself. She said Brooklyn Level Up is a nonprofit community development corporation. The organization supports small businesses in the community as well as provide support for community Land Trust. The work is hyperlocal to meet people where they are and provide services such as:

- Entrepreneurship collective – support small businesses
- Toolkits and counseling
- Monthly webinar on different subjects
- Cradle Entrance – can create Affordable housing commercial and community space
- Community envisioning
- Project resilience – ongoing background project that provides support for community events, block Association, etc.

### **Community Land Trust**

Community Land Trust will provide education and advocacy:

- assist in providing affordable spaces in the community
- address how space can be used to provide community centered programming that people need and want in the community.
- Participate in the participatory budgeting project and partnering with CB17
- Participating with CB17 on the Capstone project to move the re-zoning project along

In addition to other areas.

The organization has partnered with the Board during the Tax Lien sale outreach, knocking on doors to ensure residents were aware of the tax exempt and also partnering with other organizations to provide other support for community residents.

Brooklyn Level Up is seeking a letter of support for a grant the organization applied for. The grant will provide a 4 year \$150,000 per year grant, as well as \$70,000 per year in technical and professional support for the Land Trust initiative. Brooklyn Level Up awaits a response to determine if the organization is a finalist, which will allow the hiring of a full-time staff member to manage and to engage a liaison with the community. It will also enable the implementation of a community scrapbooking project, which is a way to take the systems of mapping and

then invite residents to provide their stories, photos and their remembrances of spaces in the community, and not just create a computer model but has actual influence of community story to tell the history of the place and project what is possible in terms of visiting for community design and engage with side analysis to build multiple data bases of the history of the place and look at alternative sites that can be repurposed for environmental, or tech hubs or any space that can be revision for the future of the community.

The organization would like to start a research and build a community base to have community buy in.

There is also another arm which creates the financing to support a way to create some community investment, and limit going to the city or state for funding but generate income by investing.

Ms. Martinez encouraged residents to attend the participatory budging and she announced the organization will be partnering with the Board on their Capital Needs assessment.

Mr. Afreh asked if there were any questions, hearing none he asked for a motion to approve Brooklyn Level Up request for a letter of Support.

**Motion:** Mr. Ozni Lewis make the following motion: I Ozni Lewis bring a motion to the floor for the Board to give a letter of support and all necessary support to Brooklyn Level UP. Ms. Joan Erskine second the motion.

Mr. Afreh thanked Ms. Martinez. He informed her the Executive had an early meeting due to the holiday, however, should he receive clearance, the item will be placed on the General Board agenda for a vote.

Hearing no question, or not further issue to discuss, Mr. Afreh asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. James moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Adele Bennett second.