Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.
205 East 42nd Street, Room 770
New York, New York 10017

Trustees Present:
Hon. Philip Berry, Acting Chairman
Hon. Wellington Chen
Hon. Marcella Maxwell
Edward Moore, Acting Section Head for Division of Budget Higher Education Unit*
Jeffrey Beal, Examiner, Division of Budget Higher Education Unit*

In Attendance:
Judith Bergtraum, Interim Executive Director, CUCF
Fredrika Miller, Associate General Counsel, CUNY
John Antonelli, Deputy Executive Director, CUCF
Robert Lemieux, Executive Director, Department of Design, Construction & Management, CUNY
Gwen Perlman, Director, Capital Budget, CUNY
Meghan Moore-Wilk, Director, Space Planning, CUNY
Vincent Green, Director, Vendor Integrity and Investigations, CUNY
Daniel Rothbaum, Controller, City University Construction Fund
Al Toscano, Real Estate Manager, CUNY
Michael Stabulas, Managing Director, Downstate Operations, DASNY
Nancy Nichols, Special Assistant to the Fund
Gillian Small, Vice Chancellor for Research, CUNY
Adam Parris, Executive Director, Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay
Bruce Henning, Assistant Director, Capital Budget and Finance, CUNY
Jay Weiser, Associate Professor of Law and Real Estate, Baruch College
* Designee for Robert Megna, Executive Director of NYS Division of the Budget in Albany, attending via videoconference.

At 10:02 a.m., Acting Chairman Berry called the meeting to order, noting that a quorum was present.

Action Items

1. Approval of the Minutes of the March 11, 2015 Meeting of the Fund (No. 2198).

Acting Chairman Berry asked if there was any discussion or amendments to be made to the minutes. There being none, Mr. Berry entertained a motion that this item be approved. On motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved.
2. **Resolution of the City University Construction Fund Authorizing Preliminary Due Diligence Related to Possible Lease for Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay, as Part of the CUNY 2020 Award (No. 2199).**

Acting Chairman Berry called upon Interim Vice Chancellor Bergtraum, who introduced Gillian Small, Vice Chancellor for Research at CUNY, and Adam Parris, Executive Director of the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay, who gave a presentation to explain the project.

Vice Chancellor Small explained that the creation of the Institute to study the Jamaica Bay area was the result of an RFEI issued by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation under a program approved in 2012 by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to institutions in the area, with a deadline of November 2, 2012. The goal of the program was to form an Institute to promote understanding of resilience in an urban ecosystem, to bring together research initiatives, establish an agenda for future remediation and serve as a model for other regional, national and international programs that promote natural resource stewardship. With Brooklyn College and Kingsborough Community College conducting ongoing research on the Bay, and other CUNY campuses taking a strong interest in the subject, CUNY committed to take the lead, involving other institutions, ultimately forming a consortium with Stony Brook, Columbia University, Cornell, Stevens, Rutgers and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Unfortunately, on October 29, 2012 Hurricane Sandy hit the New York area, bringing widespread damage to the state’s many coastal areas, and making Jamaica Bay a focus of heightened interest for study and funding. The deadline was pushed back, and on November 9th, a proposal to the RFEI was entered.

Response to the Proposal by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation was very favorable. The end result of negotiations was an agreement signed between National Park Service, the City and CUNY, representing the consortium, in August 2013. A funding request of $7.7 million from the first round of the CUNY 2020 Award was made, to be used to create a permanent facility on the Bay and fund the purchase of a research vessel. Because Brooklyn College already has an aquatic center at the College and many researchers, $300,000 was requested to renovate interim headquarters at Brooklyn College that would house a director to run the program, once appointed. The City committed to matching funds of $7.5 million toward the permanent Institute, which will be located on Floyd Bennett Field, supplemented by federal funds from FEMA to repair the marina at Kingsborough. Other resources have provided funding support as well to start the projects – the National Park Service, Rockefeller University, and CUNY, the last over a million dollars of a $3.5 million, which came to CUNY to cover various research projects being done at Brooklyn College and Queens College. The Rockefeller Foundation, also very committed to helping Jamaica Bay, has two sets of funding that will provide $.5 million for research projects to be carried out by the Institute.

The Institute is now up and running initially under the leadership of Bill Salecki from Hunter College. As a result of a national search, Adam Parris was hired as Executive Director, someone who understands the research and the issues surrounding Jamaica Bay – the policies, economics, politics, and fundraising. His background heading organizations in several coastal cities that
have dealt with the same stresses as those experienced by Jamaica Bay makes him ideal for this position. Ms. Small introduced Mr. Parris, who stated it will be a tremendous opportunity for the Institute to demonstrate some global leadership in dealing with climate demands on the urban ecosystem. The world is watching the Jamaica Bay research, he said, as a number of other coastal cities across the U.S. are facing the same stresses as are occurring in Jamaica Bay. It will give the Institute an opportunity to be a national leader in resilience in coastal areas.

Mr. Parris enumerated several core areas in the Institute and how they fit with research infrastructure, the facilities, and the boat. These include: How resilient is Jamaica Bay now and in the future; how much flood risk might the area face; what shoreline changes has the area undergone and what future changes might the area undergo, measurements the new research vessel will be especially helpful in making. The NYC EPA has expressed an urgent need for the information that the Institute can provide. In addition, the Institute will allow the exchange of knowledge between scientists, decision-makers the City, the Park Service, the Corps of Engineers – all of whom have jurisdiction in the Bay. Two years ago Kingsborough CC hosted a State of the Bay Symposium, connected to Local Law 771, the Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan, that was a big success, with participation from scientists. Finally, the Institute will be key to building literacy by educating students from K-16, engaging undergrad and grad students in the research, and giving youth in the community a sense of place.

Acting Chairman Berry asked how to incorporate more of CUNY’s community colleges, including Queensborough, for instance. Mr. Parris replied that they are actively looking for additional partners. A proposal has just been submitted to NOA for an environmental literacy grant, with the idea of building through the NY Schools eco program, identifying youth climate action teams in which students collect information about how climate affects their communities. The Board suggested that they reach out to President William Fritz of the College of Staten Island who has a background as a geologist and a deep interest in climate and urban ecosystems, and forecast the damage experienced during Hurricane Sandy.

Interim Executive Director Judith Bergtraum suggested that CSI could be included in the next round of CUNY 2020 Awards, and the Institute could discuss a proposal to include them. Also, this was a pet project of the Bloomberg Administration; once an artist’s rendering of the building is available, it is planned to go to them to request additional funding.

There being no more discussion on the item, Acting Chairman Berry entertained a motion that this item be authorized. On motion duly made and seconded, the resolution was approved. Mr. Berry expressed the thanks of the Board and CUNY staff to Ms. Small and Mr. Parris for their comprehensive explanation.


Acting Chairman Berry called upon Ms. Bergtraum for an explanation. Ms. Bergtraum reminded the Board that they saw a summary of current projects at the previous meeting, of which this was one. She explained that she and Mr. Lemieux paid a visit to the campus to see the location. Mr.
Lemieux explained that students of the radiology technician program were highly employable – about 90% go directly to employment following graduation. In fact, most of the xray technicians in the City’s hospitals come from the Hostos program. Adding new technology to the program will allow the students to learn state-of-the-art equipment, but interestingly, they are not getting rid of the old technology, as there are plenty of clinics and hospitals that still use it. New equipment is digital, with a digital output. But community hospitals may not be that advanced.

Ms. Bergtraum called upon Bruce Henning to talk about the item and show the Board some images of the project. Mr. Henning reported that the resolution is to request approval of $1.2 million to purchase new radiologic technology equipment for Hostos Community College. This is the first segment of their $2.2 million CUNY 2020 Award. In the spirit of the 2020 Awards, this is on a much smaller scale than the Jamaica Bay item – no construction, just equipment purchase, so things will move fairly quickly. Mr. Henning stated that, as Ms. Bergtraum explained, the students are currently being trained on outdated equipment, and showed some pictures of the existing labs. Mr. Lemieux explained there are 4 rooms in the facility, one of which is used for medical records. Clearing those away will allow for a 4th room for radiological tech classroom space. New equipment will be digital, and will also have the capacity to upgrade analog images to digital ones.

Mr. Henning stated that the future areas covered with this grant will be purchasing new equipment for the nursing program, dental hygiene, and a small amount to establish a lab for occupational therapy training.

Acting Chairman Berry thanked Ms. Bergtraum and her staff for the informative report, and asked if there was any discussion regarding the item. There being none, Mr. Berry entertained a motion that this item be approved. On motion duly made and seconded, the resolution was approved.

4. Resolution of the City University Construction Fund in Appreciation of Paul T. Williams, President and CEO, Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (No. 2201).

Acting Chairman Berry began the discussion of the item by stating that Mr. Williams has been a key partner in advancing a number of CUNY’s university capital programs, particularly the critical maintenance projects. While at DASNY he worked with CUNY to complete a number of important projects – the John Jay Building Expansion, the Lehman College Science Facility, Fiterman Hall, and the Queens College Remsen Hall. Another key expansion was his support of the Bronx Community College North Hall and Library; construction at that college had not been undertaken for 25 years.

Mr. Berry thanked Mr. Williams for his support. On every campus he has championed the advancement of M/WBE businesses in design and construction throughout CUNY, and also statewide. In fact, much of the spearheading provided by the Governor for this initiative is due to Mr. Williams’ impetus, as he played a crucial leadership role.
Mr. Berry stated that Mr. Williams is supposed to receive an award at York College, and said he will plan to get on the agenda to express the thanks for the Board.

Acting Chairman Berry asked if there was any discussion regarding the item. There being none, Mr. Berry entertained a motion that this item be approved. On motion duly made and seconded, the resolution was approved.

REPORTS

Acting Chairman’s Report

Mr. Berry stated the next scheduled meeting is set for June 10, 2015. An update on that will be provided shortly.

Executive Director’s Report

Acting Chairman Berry called on Interim Executive Director Bergtraum for her report. Ms. Bergtraum requested Mr. Lemieux to give his report on the progress of ongoing construction.

Mr. Lemieux showed pictures of the progress of a number of key projects:

At Brooklyn College, the Leonard and Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts is replacing the Gershwin Theater. A completely concrete building, which has had a slow winter, owing to bad weather. This is picking up, with the concrete having been poured, and scaffolding going up. From a structural engineering perspective, the concrete must cure for about a month before supports can be removed. The project should be complete and turned over to the college in March 2016. It will be a spectacular center. DASNY is working closely with CUNY’s staff on this, and the pace is picking up. Acting Chairman Berry commended it as a welcome change to the entrance of the campus.

The question arose about construction safety on CUNY projects. Mr. Lemieux said that CUNY took safety very seriously. All construction workers have to have a 10 hour OSHA safety training, and there are frequent checks to be certain all the workers possess a valid certification card.

Also at Brooklyn, CUNY is creating with Steiner Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard the Barry Feinstein Graduate School of Cinema on the top two stories of a building off of Washington Street. Mr. Lemieux showed a picture of the stair that can be used as a gathering spot. It is expected to be turned over to the College in June or July of this year. Steiner is the contractor developing it. Ms. Bergtraum suggested a tour should be arranged.

At New York City College of Technology the replacement for the Klitgord building is going up, in place of the old auditorium and gym, at the corner of Jay and Tillary Streets. Steel is currently in place, thanks to the construction crew who quickly made up time lost to a bad winter. It is anticipated it will be turned over to the College in August 2017, a tight schedule because their academic calendars start up at the end of August. It will be an 8 story building. Crossing the bridge to Flatbush gives you a very dynamic picture.
At Queensborough they are doing an infill of a courtyard to construct a dining room. The steel is going up, that will have a fabric roof on top. It is expected to be open by next fall.

Finally, Mr. Lemieux showed photographs of the largest project ever undertaken at CUNY – the ASRC/CCNY buildings up at City College. Ms. Bergtraum and Mr. Lemieux expressed their thanks to DASNY for their great job, singling out Michael Stabulas for his hard work. The ASRC staff has moved in and the City College faculty and students are moving in now, to be completed by the middle of June. CCNY will do its graduation on the lawn right next to these buildings.

Acting Chairman Berry thanked Ms. Bergtraum and Mr. Lemieux for their reports.

**Report of the Dormitory Authority**

Acting Chairman Berry called upon Mr. Stabulas, who, on the behalf of Mr. Williams, thanked the Fund for its recognition of Mr. Williams’ participation. He also thanked CUNY and the CUCF for allowing DASNY to be a part of the ASRC construction project. It makes a huge difference to the students of New York City, and Mr. Stabulas recognized the importance of a CUNY education, especially as he graduated from a CUNY college himself.

The latest capital funding plan was recently approved. The appropriations are being put into the system now, and within a week the funding will be available to be tapped into.

Acting Chairman Berry thanked Mr. Stabulas for his report, and the important input of the Dormitory Authority, and expressed his admiration for the hard work by Executive Director Judy Bergtraum and her staff.

Mr. Berry then asked if there were further questions or items to discuss. There being none, he requested a motion to adjourn. On motion duly made and seconded, the meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.