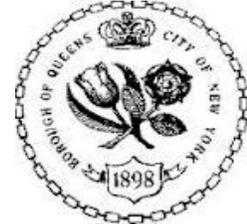




Chairman, Alvin Warshaviak

*The City of New York
Borough of Queens*

Community Board 8
197-15 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423-2126
Telephone: (718) 264-7895
Fax: (718) 264-7910
Qn08@cb.nyc.gov
www.nyc.gov/queenscb8



District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike in Flushing, New York.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Tamara Osherov, Frances Peterson, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Jacob Weinberg, and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent:

Robert H. Block, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Steven Konigsberg, Mitch Lisker, Frank Magri, Simon Pelman, Charlton Rhee, Annie Salvatore, Alvin Warshaviak and Stanley Weinblatt.

Others Present:

Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Sara Abiboutros for Councilman Mark Weprin, Daniel Rosenthal representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Marilla Li representing Assembly Member Nily Rozić, P.O. Peter Capozzi representing the NYPD 107th Precinct, District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide and Joseph Marziliano, CB8 staff member.

Call to Order:

Second Vice Chair Martha Taylor called this Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Participation:

Virginia Salow- She is a delegate for Mark Weprin’s participatory budget. She also designed one of the projects developed for [Councilman Weprin’s] participatory budget. He had asked for ideas on how to improve the Community. She complained about the misuse of children’s play equipment by athletes. She is asking for support of funding for adult fitness equipment [at Springfield Boulevard and 73rd Avenue and at Winchester Boulevard and Union Turnpike] on April 12-19th.

Amit Bagga, Department of Consumer Affairs- He represents Commissioner Julie Menin of the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs. This year DCA was able to increase the amount of resources for public awareness campaigns and tax preparation. There are 200 different sites across the entire city including Queens for free tax preparation [there is an income requirement]. People can walk in and see a Counselor. The documents will be prepared off site and then they can pick them up. DCA wants to make sure New Yorkers are aware of the earned income tax credit and the child care tax credit. Combined, these two tax credits can be worth up to \$10,000. The IRS estimates that there are hundreds of millions of dollars left unclaimed by New Yorkers who do not know they are eligible for these tax credits. I also brought some information with me about paid sick leave, which as

you know went into law almost a year ago. We have seen a really positive response from employees and businesses. Finally, we want people to be aware of Universal Pre-k, which is the Mayor's signature initiative. There are already over 20,000 children enrolled for next year.

Malik Jackson- Was present to advocate for Bus Clocks. Bus Clocks would allow people to know how far away a bus is from our stop, just like the MTA BusTime App. He is also suggesting that security cameras be posted throughout the District at various high crime locations and operated by the NYPD.

Sara Abiboutros, representing Councilman Mark Weprin- She encouraged people to come and speak out about the participatory budgeting. She also encourages everyone come out and vote on these projects. You should also contact the office for further information and for volunteering opportunities.

Abe Fuchs- He spoke about a grant opportunity through the Queens Fellowship Program partnered with the New York Community Trust and LaGuardia College. Usually this grant amounts to \$1,000, but for an exemplary project it can amount to \$5,000. This grant is geared towards projects that empower young adults ages 14-25 in the areas of financial literacy, job readiness, and STEAM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics). Priority will be given to projects working with young women. The deadline to apply is April 24, 2015.

Salute to the Flag

Second Vice Chair Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Allen Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2015, seconded by Mary Maggio Fischer.

Count in favor 35 **Opposed:** 0 **Abstained:** 0

Board Members who approved the minutes:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul "Delwar" Islam, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Tamara Osharov, Frances Peterson, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Jacob Weinberg, and Albert Willingham.

Board Members who did not approve the minutes:

None

Second Vice Chair Martha Taylor Recognized Morgan Jones, The Queens Senior Advisor of Outreach for PlaNYC

Morgan Jones, PlaNYC Senior-

I am working on this PlaNYC initiative where we are discussing the next 10-20 years of New York City. The City is attempting to work with residents and communities in a whole new way.

PlaNYC 25 is a blueprint for the City's future. This project started in 2007, under the previous administration. Now it aims to continue serving New Yorkers in building a better tomorrow.

This year we are asking all New Yorkers to participate. There are 70 Agencies that will be part of this initiative, and we are trying to pull Agencies to work on this together. I know that sometimes when it comes to Agencies working together, the coordination can be difficult. We will be having these Agencies work with each other regarding these ideas and engaging the local communities in the process. This will include capital projects, but we need New Yorkers to give feedback on these initiatives.

One question we are asking is about how we can make it easier for people to participate in NYC's civic, economic and cultural life. You are all a perfect example of that through the Community Board, which is extremely important. Another issue being asked through PlaNYC is how New York City will be able to accommodate half a million more people in the next 30 years. Previous PlaNYC projects from previous years were projecting one million people. We are asking how NYC can grow an equitable and diverse economy that creates good jobs. The initiative is also asking how NYC can create healthy, sustainable and resilient communities. The first issue we are facing is in regards to housing. The middle statistic that over half of all renters spend over 30% of their income on rent is an issue. I know that in this community, there are a lot of homeowners that are spending a lot on their home. I am a Co-op owner myself and I think about that more often personally. Jobs and infrastructure are very important, as more jobs have been created but commute times are very long and there are people here tonight that are going to have a very long commute after this meeting. With economic inequality, 46% of New Yorkers live at or below the poverty line. This happens in a lot of neighborhoods throughout our city. Another issue is sustainability and resiliency, and it doesn't matter whether it is about snow, hurricanes, or anything else related to keeping a sustainable environment in NYC. Our climate is changing and we need to recognize that. There is going to be more students coming into NYC schools so education is another issue. Although crime has declined; there is still a general concern about public safety. We want more empowered residents and a more inclusive government and that starts with everyone's feedback.

Our schedule for this plan includes plan development (the stage we are in now), a preview with the elected officials, and the release of the PlaNYC report on April 22, 2015. The main focus right now is to get people to give feedback about this on everything from Million Trees to potholes. We are asking New Yorkers to give us feedback by coming on our website at nyc.gov/ideas. Thank you for your time.

Marc A. Haken- When you were talking about things we would like to see, will any of those things come to fruition?

Morgan Jones- We are asking as many New Yorkers as possible, so I wish I could say that every single detail would be in the plan but although they won't, there will be many added elements from public feedback.

Michael Hannibal- Do you feel that any of the plans that will come to fruition will be hampered by State Legislation or will this just be a NYC vision?

Morgan Jones- There are going to be some parts of the plan where we will have to look at State and Federal issues. Our goal, however, is NYC.

Samuel Rodriguez- I do not know if you had anything to do with the previous administration, but they made plans for a Million Trees. I recall that when I moved to Queens many years ago that it was full of trees. Are you going to continue that plan?

Morgan Jones- I was part of the previous administration and they decided to keep me. I know that the Million Tree initiative is still in existence through the Department of Parks and Recreation. If you really feel like you are not seeing that enough in your community, then that would be really great feedback for this survey.

Chairman's Report:

- Second Vice Chair Martha Taylor extended her condolences on behalf of the Community Board to Albert Willingham on the passing of his Mother. May all the good memories of your Mother give you comfort during this difficult time.
- Congratulations to Dilafroz Ahmed, who was honored by the City Council with a Proclamation a few days ago on the occasion of Bangladeshi Independence Day.

District Manager's Report, March 2015

Passover Preparation

Letters have been sent to all Agencies in preparation for Passover 2015. The Department of Sanitation has already contacted us to inform us that the additional trucks have been reserved. I have spoken to the DSNY Superintendent Erbis [He was not our superintendent last Passover] regarding some locations in Hillcrest/Fresh Meadows where they did not receive the extra collection or the trucks came late. The Fire Department is also on board. They emailed us the Passover safety information flyer which has been mailed and emailed to the synagogues. The information has been sent to temples in our district. The Police Precinct will make arrangements for reserving the barricades as was done in the past. A flyer will be included in our April 2015 Newsletter to further advertise this service.

Fire Department

There have been many manhole fires due to salt used to melt snow and ice. They also saw an increase in the reported gas leaks on the street. It is a good idea to leave keys with a neighbor you can trust. The FDNY must break down the door of your home if they are unable to gain access during an emergency.

Con Edison

Please report manhole fires immediately by calling 911. If you experience power outages, please call 1-800-752-6633.

DFTA

We were informed that the MTA is giving out free metro cards. If you use them that may negatively affect your ability to keep the Access-A-Ride door to door service.

DOT

They have fifty pothole crews addressing issues after the winter. Please contact us to alert us of any areas that have potholes so we can get them repaired.

DSNY

In the past, the Department of Sanitation had to first tag a clothing collection bin; notify the owner; wait for thirty days before a clothing collection bin could be removed. This procedure has changed due to Local Law 67 of 2014. Starting March 14, 2015, if you file a complaint with 311 Sanitation has the right to remove the bins. The owner of the bin is given 30 days to claim the bin. The owner may be responsible for storage charges, removal charges and civil penalties. If the bin is not redeemed, DSNY will correctly dispose of the bin and its material.

Department of Design and Construction

QED 1001

They have completed 71% of the work under this water main installation project in Briarwood. Remember that they are unable to do any work if the temperature is below 29 degrees Fahrenheit by 9:00 a.m.

PARKS

The ballfields are projected to open on March 17th; however, due to the many snow storms and the long winter this may be delayed. The Big Apple Circus will have performances from May 17th to June 14th. I have sent a request to all the Agencies that worked with us in the past to make special arrangements:

- Parking along the ~~north side~~ of Union Turnpike (between 193rd and 195th Streets)
- Traffic Enforcement (zero tolerance)
- Additional Sanitation Garbage Pails
- Temporary Signage (to direct circus goers)
- Increase Cleaning at Cunningham Park

We wish a **Happy Birthday** to board members **Michael Hannibal** and **Harbachan Singh** who are celebrating their birthdays in March!

Borough President's Representative – Susie Tanenbaum

- Condolences extended to Albert Willingham from Borough President Katz on the loss of his Mother.
- Congratulations to Dilafroz Ahmed on the proclamation she was awarded by the City Council.
- On Monday February 23rd, Borough President Katz presided over the Borough Board Meeting. Her Budget Director, Richard Lee gave his annual report on the Borough President's response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget. She has recommended a fair share of cultural funding for the borough of Queens. Right now cultural support per capita in the Borough of Queens amounts to \$1.37 where as Manhattan support for cultural funding per capita amounts to \$34.00. Borough President Katz also increased funding for:
 - All of our Community Boards.
 - The top Capital Priorities chosen by each Community Board.
 - Meals On Wheels, particularly for Communities with special dietary needs.
 - Transportation services for Senior Citizens.
 - SYEPE (Summer Youth Employment Program).
 - Expansion of Universal Pre-K.
- On March 13th, Borough President Katz sponsored the annual Greek Independence Day event together in Astoria with State Senator Michael Gianaris, State Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas and City Councilman Costa Constantinides. Close to 200 people attended from the Greek-American Community as well as other communities.
- Borough President Katz would like to invite you to attend a Bangladesh Independence Day event on March 24th at 6:00 p.m. in Room 213 at Queensborough Hall. Fakrul Delwar Islam is a very active member of Borough president Katz's Planning Committee for that event.
- There will also be a Baisakhi Day Event sponsored by Borough President Katz with leaders of the Sikh Community. That event will be on April 7th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Borough President's Office. Jagir Singh Bains is an active member of that Committee.
- I want to wish everyone that is celebrating a very Happy Easter and Happy Passover on behalf of Borough President Melinda Katz.

Amir Abaddi, Community Liaison for State Senator Leroy Comrie-

- State Senator Comrie will be sponsoring a Consumer Rights Workshop on Thursday, March 26th at the Allen Community Senior Center (166-01 Linden Boulevard) from 7:00 p.m to 9:00 p.m.

Stephen Everett, City Planning-

- At the last few Community Board 8 Meetings I have mentioned the Jamaica Action Plan, which I am happy to say is in the final stages. City Hall and the Borough President's Office are working to release a date for that. When it is announced I will give it to Marie and hope to see some of you there.
- There is also a proposed City-Wide Text Amendment from the Department of City Planning. In May 2014, the City released the Housing New York Plan which identified the need for 200,000 units of affordable housing over the next coming years. For this plan to be effective, City Planning will update some of the outdated zoning regulations. They sometimes impede the size of the units, the quality of buildings and the sort of street environment that occurs in lively neighborhoods. It attempts to promote affordability through relaxing some of the building bulk envelope regulations. Building construction practices have changed over time and zoning does not necessarily change with those practices. It also seeks to promote senior housing.
- Parking requirements may be relaxed near existing subway stations to promote use of existing subway and bus routes.
- This Text Amendment is in the early stages and will go through a full public review starting in the spring of this year and will conclude in the fall. I would like to invite you all to a public scoping meeting on the draft Environmental Impact Statement on Wednesday, March 25th at 22 Reade Street downtown at 4:00 p.m. We will be taking any questions on the process moving forward about all of the things we are proposing. You can email our housing group at AHousing@planning.nyc.gov or visit us at our website, nyc.gov/planning. If you have any questions I will take those as well.

Kevin Forrestal- I would like to bring to everyone's attention that this proposes a major change in regulations. It was just mentioned that this is going to be a long process but it was announced in February, and there will be one public hearing next week. This is the first time I have heard of this. Of those of us who have been involved in contextual zoning, this sets us back twelve years. For those of us like me who are senior citizens this proposal assumes that I don't drive, because if I drive I will need a car and I will need to park. This proposal is draconian with major flaws. I would urge everyone to take a look at this. There are very serious issues that are involved here. This is very alarming. I am glad that Stephen brought it up, because up to this point it has been very stealth. This does not seem to affect the R1 through R5 zoning districts so much, but there are some affects. Most of the housing permits are for 8 foot ceilings with a little space above it. This proposal would take that to 10 feet, which would allow bigger and bigger buildings. We are getting into a situation where we are going to have to accommodate all these extra people that you [Stephen Everett] spoke about coming in. In my view the solution in this proposal is to put us in sardine cans.

Marc A. Haken- Is there a piece within that proposal that seeks to legalize basement apartments?

Stephen Everett- That is not included to my knowledge. I can take that question back and look into it.

Kevin Forrestal- By the way, this plan is about 160 pages long.

Seymour Schwartz- Briarwood was among the first communities in Queens that was down-zoned back in 2008. We are very much pleased with the work of City Planning under the Bloomberg administration where so many of our communities subsequently were down-zoned. This was to our great comfort. Now we are faced with a plan that opens the door to highly increased density with no concern to the services that will be required to meet those needs. There is every danger that what we have worked for all these years will be challenged and our communities will suffer very harshly. The 160 pages that Kevin mentions have not been readily made available to community activists or persons of interest. It is regrettable that we have not been able to see the full document. What we do know of makes us very unhappy. I suspect that there will be shock, opposition and criticism to this proposal.

Stephen Everett- I would encourage you to come to the meeting. All of our documents are on our website and you can visit us at www.nyc.gov/planning. Everything we have for this public scoping meeting coming up is there; please read it and give us your comments.

Tami Hirsch- In all the information presented to us, nowhere do I hear anything about the ULURP process. This is very important in our area, especially in Jim Gallagher's area near Utopia Parkway.

Stephen Everett- City Planning (that's us) is working with the other Agencies that were identified by the Housing NY Plan. Our component at this time does not include a rezoning of anything. We are working with other City Agencies who provide Capital Improvements in infrastructure. Again, this is a Citywide Text Amendment which is not addressing any particular geographic location, but it is addressing some of the rules and regulations pertaining to development. It is not actively promoting density in any particular area, including Board 8. Therefore, it does not promote new infrastructure. Where infrastructure is needed it can be put into the capital plan for that agency.

Mark Lefkof- I believe my question was answered in that the new Text Amendment does not apply to any specific area. It is just proposing overall changes in certain items. It does not specifically regard the zoning change that was done on Hillside Avenue, for example. That does not apply.

Stephen Everett- That is correct. It does not undue any rezonings and does not rezone any areas. It is a Citywide Text Amendment that addresses all rules and regulations for all five boroughs.

Kevin Forrestal- But it does affect the entire City because the changes in the zoning rules would change the height requirements throughout the city.

Harbachan Singh- We had a cursory look at this 160 page document and it is very complex. It proposes very drastic changes. The hearing is on March 25th in Manhattan and they expect a response by April 6th just a few days later. It is very difficult to digest 160 pages of information and respond in such a short period.

Stephen Everett- That is correct, it is for the first public scoping meeting. There will be a full Public Review process beginning this spring. It has not officially begun yet comments for that will be due April 6th.

Seymour Schwarts- You said that we can read this 160 page document on the website. I understand some of us are not prepared to do that. I would like to suggest the following: At our next Community Board 8 meeting that you summarize the features of this new proposal.

Stephen Everett- It is quite long but I can do my best.

Mary Maggio Fischer- I Chair the Senior Committee, and seniors are in their communities already and I've had a difficult time getting what they call Natural Acquisition Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC's). I understand the need for the seniors but why aren't we leaving the seniors where they are in their communities? Let that process go smoother than building condensed spaces.

Stephen Everett- We are not promoting to move seniors anywhere.

Mary Maggio Fischer- Well this does promote developing buildings for seniors as opposed to allowing retirement community development where there is an excess of seniors. Those buildings can become NORC's, and seniors could remain and age in their homes.

Stephen Everett- We do not want to displace anyone from their communities. That is why this is not proposed to be located in any particular area. It affects the entire City.

Marie Adam-Ovide- I just want to add that Mary Maggio Fischer is planning on having a meeting relating to Seniors and Housing, and this will be one of the issues she will be addressing on the agenda. A date is not yet set, but we will invite Stephen Everett to come discuss this issue there. This will most likely be a joint meeting of the Zoning and the Senior Committees.

Committee Reports:

Zoning Committee:

Dr. Allen Bennett, Area 1 Chair:

A Public Hearing was held on March 16, 2015 regarding ULURP # N 150080 ECQ concerning revocable consent to operate an existing enclosed sidewalk café, by the FKNG Corp. doing business as Mela's Café and Restaurant, located on 71-02 Kissena Boulevard. Basically it was a reorganization of management and they had to re-apply. The application specified 15 tables and 56 seats at the location.

Three Community Board members were present. There was no public participation, no presentation by the applicant and there were also no questions by the Board Members. Within two minutes a vote was held, with a vote of 2 to 1 in favor of the application. I have Susan Cleary's permission to say she voted against just to be contrary, so no one should be upset about it.

Mark Lefkof made a motion to approve ULURP# N 150080 ECQ at 71-02 Kissena Boulevard. The motion was seconded by Jesse Rosenbaum.

Discussion:

Kevin Forrestal- I think that if the applicant did not show up to the public hearing, it shows disrespect to the process.

Dr. Allen Bennett- The applicant went to the wrong place for the Public Hearing. This is a renewal for a new owner.

Vote: **In Favor: 33** **Opposed: 3** **Abstained: 0**

Voted for: Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Edward Chung, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Tamara Osherov, Frances Peterson, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin and Jacob Weinberg.

Voted Against: Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis and Albert Willingham.

The motion passed.

Government Affairs Committee:

Harbachan Singh, Chair:

The New York City Council has brought Intro 585 up for consideration. This legislation proposes that no Community Board Member first appointed to a term on or after April 2016 shall serve more than six consecutive terms as a voting member of a particular Community Board. In our resolution we established a case for opposing this bill. Other Community Boards and City Council Members have opposed this bill rather strongly. For example, Council Member Rory Lancman and Council Member Karen Koslowitz oppose this bill. Council Member Koslowitz was the Deputy Borough President in charge of Community Boards, and she was very well versed about the status of Community Boards and their members. Her views have been published in the media lately. Our resolution now proposes to oppose Intro 585 and urges the City Council to vote it down.

Marc A. Haken moved to approve the Resolution against New York City Council Intro 585 by Community Board 8’s Government Affairs Committee, opposing Intro 585 and urging the New York City Council to vote it down. The motion was seconded by Mark Lefkof.

Discussion: None.

A hand vote was called.

Vote: **In Favor: 36** **Opposed: 0** **Abstained: 0**

Voted for: Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Tamara Osherov, Frances Peterson, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Jacob Weinberg, and Albert Willingham.

Voted Against: None

The motion passed unanimously.

DEP/Sanitation Committee:

Kevin Forrestal, Chair:

I am going to try to be brief. We were previously visited by members of other Community Boards about multi dwelling restrictions on smoking. We had a DEP/ Sanitation Committee meeting about this issue; as a result, Community Board 8 is presented tonight with a Smokefree Multiple Housing Resolution. The resolution deals

with a lot of ‘whereas’ pronouncements about why second hand smoking is dangerous. Most of us are aware second hand smoke is a major health hazard that cannot be kept in a person’s own apartment barring unusual environmental controls. This is not just a Department of Buildings issue, but a health issue under the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The DOH participated in the proposed rules and regulations we are discussing.

The Committee recommended that we urge existing multi dwelling housing to become smoke free. There are no legislations or requirements about that, just a request. The second part of the first recommendation is that the building’s smoking policy be disclosed to all new tenants coming into these multi dwelling buildings. The second recommendation made by the Committee has to do with new housing stock: That Community Board 8 urges the City Council to enact legislation requiring all new development of multi-family housing to be smoke free, in an appropriate amount of time after the legislation has passed. Currently about 16% of the population in New York City smoke and that minority would be able to find housing among existing buildings.

Michael Hannibal moved to approve the Smokefree Multiple Housing Resolution by Community Board 8’s DEP/ Sanitation Committee. The motion was seconded by Maria DeInnocentiis.

Discussion:

Marc A. Haken- As you know, I wanted a stronger resolution. As someone who was a smoker for 52 years, I earned the cancer. Fortunately, everything is okay now. My Co-Op was the second in the City to go smoke free. My Co-Op is now 300 smoke free apartments anywhere within 20 feet of the building. When asked, the great majority of those in the building wanted to go smoke free. The few people who did not want the units to go smoke free did not smoke themselves, but said “it is the Constitutional Right of an individual to smoke in their own home.” It is not their right. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this and I would like to review this issue in a year for the possibility of passing a stronger resolution.

Tamara Osherov- I also quit smoking almost four years ago. I think that people should not be subject to anything that can possibly invade a person’s privacy in their own home, especially when they may have been smoking for decades. I don’t believe these people should be subject to harassment or eviction. I like the idea of creating smoke free zones but I do not like to think someone will need to go outside and 25 feet away from their home to smoke in the middle of a blizzard or late at night. I am sympathetic to being a smoker because I was one. I do like the idea of new stock being smoke free from the day a tenant moves in.

Susan Cleary- I think the government should stay out of an individual’s life.

Mary Maggio Fischer- I have a child with a pulmonary disability and deficit of oxygen. I can certainly understand the need for a law. However, as I walk inside my Co-Op I see people smoke right outside the doors. They are smoking right outside the building, which is a bigger detriment because the smoke comes directly through my window. If its four neighbors smoking on the stoop, it is four times as bad. It is bad to have all the smokers in the building concentrated in one area of the stoop versus in their apartment where there is occasionally some form of ventilation.

Kevin Forrestal- Just to clarify and go back to the resolution at hand; it calls for the urging of existing stock to review going smoke free and voluntarily go smoke free. Every facility must make their own determination.

Dr. Allen Bennett- With all due respect to my colleagues, polluting the environment does not stop within your apartment. Smoking pollutes the environment and causes about 50% of disease in America. With respect to those of us struggling with addiction, if we are going to care about humanity we will not see addiction as a constitutional right. Addiction needs to be treated and smoking needs to be ended.

Marc A. Haken- Most of the occupants in my building were not smoking in their apartments because their spouses kicked them out. It was just as important to ban smoking within 20 feet of building because the smoke rises up and into the windows. That solved the problem Mary was talking about.

