



The City of New York
Borough of Queens

Community Board 8

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Chairperson, Martha Taylor

District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 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, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Tamara Osherov, Simon Pelman, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin and Jacob Weinberg.

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Kenneth Cohen II, Allen Eisenstein, John Gebhard, Michael Hannibal, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Frances Peterson, Seymour Schwartz, Rachele Van Arsdale, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

Others Present:

Susan Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Susan Seinfeld representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Masis Sarkissian representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Tim Thomas representing Assembly Member Daniel Rosenthal, Hudy Rosenberg representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager and Jatna Reyes, CB8 staff member.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Martha Taylor called this Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Participation:

Mitch Lisker – My name is Mitch Lisker. I am a member of Community Board 8 and I am the Chairman of the Board for the Kew Gardens Hills Civic Association. On the agenda tonight is the re-zoning of Kew Gardens Hills. When I first came on to the Community Board and when I first came to the Kew Gardens Hills Civic Association, first thing I was thought was that we are the voice of the people. This is something I take very much to heart. The voice of the people of Kew Gardens Hills at this moment is a need for housing. The Kew Gardens Hills area have families with six, seven and eight kids. The houses are very small. What we have proposed is what is called an R2X zone which will be explained later on.

We had a Town Hall meeting for the Kew Gardens Hills Civic Association and everyone was for this R2X except for a couple of people. They wanted it to be much bigger. We are going to keep it a certain way so that the neighborhood stays the same. It would just give us more square footage inside the house and towards the back of the house. Unfortunately, we have young people who are moving out of the neighborhood because they can’t live comfortably. It hurts me. I have my own three kids who had to

move into the five towns. People should be able to live comfortably and have enough space in their own homes. This is why we are bringing this up and putting it on the table.

Jonathan Hoch – Mr. Hoch is a resident of Kew Gardens Hills. He thanked the Board for the hard work they do. Most people in the community notice this and really appreciate it. He stated that he supports the re-zoning of Kew Gardens Hills. The houses that are in Kew Gardens Hills are very old. It was built at a time where families were smaller. As families have grown, they need a little bit more space. The petition that was circulated was accepted almost universally. Everybody is happy to have the zoning that would not be too obtrusive but will allow families to grow within the community rather than leaving. If you drive by Main Street there are many store fronts. The community does not patronize them. A lot of this has to do with the limited size of the houses that is available. This change will allow us to have houses that will fit the families from the community and keep more people here in Queens where they belong.

Jacob Shafron – Mr. Shafron is a resident of Kew Gardens Hills. He was raised in this neighborhood. He explained that most of the homes in this neighborhood were built in the 1930s and 1940s. We have families and would love the opportunity to stay here; build larger homes or extend our homes to fill our needs in terms of living space. Thank you very much.

Elie Deach – Mr. Deach is a resident of Kew Gardens Hills. He recently purchased a house and he would like to re-build it to the needs of his family. I have a family with five children. I have been working with my architect. It is extremely difficult to get everything that is necessary with the current zoning that we have. In order for me to really stay in the neighborhood. We really need the zoning to change to R2X to make the necessary repairs to our home and I don't see any other way to do it without this change. Thank you very much.

Simon Pelman – Actually, I've never done this before. First of all I want to thank Community Board 8 for everything you do on behalf of all of us. I have been a member of this Community Board well over thirty years. It is an amazing process. You will hear from a lot of my neighbors, even though if I don't live in this section what they feel is a detriment of quality of life. All of them moved into this neighborhood, they want to live in this neighborhood, their families are growing. In the past, they would have to move to Long Island, New Jersey or elsewhere. This causes a big problem to New York City because our revenue is based on real state taxes and income tax. The people who can afford to move elsewhere, move in elsewhere because there is not enough room in their houses. We lose the quality of life for the entire neighborhood. I am asking the Community Board and I am asking everyone I know, to please support this. Not only for the people who live there, but the entire community and the community of Queens. Thank you.

Susan Seinfeld representing Council Member Barry Grodenchik – Ms. Seinfeld mentioned that Council Member Barry Grodenchik has funded FREE technology classes at the Queens Libraries in our District. In Fresh Meadows, they will go through March 24th. Other neighboring libraries: Queens Village, Bellerose, Glen Oaks and Forest Park will have a later date. Flyers and brochures were left at the table.

Jay Goldstein, Esq. – Mr. Goldstein is the zoning attorney representing the neighbors. Months ago they were approached by the members of the community to try and come up with a zoning change that would allow them to stay in the neighborhood: achieve the goals that they need in order to maintain their houses and raise their families in this neighborhood. Working with the community and working with City Planning they came up with the proposal of R2 being converted into R2X. The R2X is a specific tailored zoning district which allows the enlargement to be limited to single-family homes and would not allow for the development of multiple dwellings in the area. The proposal would also limit the height of the houses being built in the neighborhood, thus maintain its character. The community spoke and is really pushing for this to be allowed so that they can stay in this neighborhood with their families.

Hudy Rosenberg representing Assembly Woman Nily Rozic – Ms. Rosenberg informed us of several initiatives that are currently going on in our District. The Assembly Woman is conducting a Food Drive for the U.S. Virgin Islands. They are accepting donations of non-perishable Kosher for Passover food

items. The U.S. Virgin Islands were hit extremely hard by Hurricane Maria and are still recovering. The Jewish community have limited access to Kosher for Passover items so any and all donations are appreciated. Food contributions may be dropped off at 159-16 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows. Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until March 12th.

The New York City Department of Finance in partnership with Assemblywoman Nily Rozic are having a Housing Enrollment Event on Friday, March 9th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the District Office [159-16 Union Turnpike]. Homeowners can apply for property tax exemptions and tenants can apply for SCRIE or DRIE program. To RSVP please call: 718-820-0241.

Salute to the Flag

Chairperson Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Mark J. Lefkof made a motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2018, seconded by Carolann Foley.

Count in favor 38 **Opposed:** 0 **Abstained:** 0

Board Members who approved the minutes:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Tamara Osherov, Simon Pelman, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin and Jacob Weinberg.

Board Members who did not approve the minutes:

None

Chairperson Martha Taylor introduced Guest Speaker Kathleen Cassino, Manager of Community Relations & Events at the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) Billie Jean King National Tennis Center (NTC).

Guest Speaker:

Kathleen Cassino – Ms. Cassino gave a presentation on the USTA NTC Year End Recap for 2017. She explained that she will be back in May to give us more information on the upcoming events during the U.S. Open. These are some of the main highlights of her Power Point presentation:

- They have a Newsletter that goes out 3 times a year to let everyone know what they are doing at the Tennis Center all year round. The winter 2018 newsletter is going out next week. She asked that if anyone is interested in joining their mailing list to see her after the meeting.
- The Ballperson Tryouts will be held in June. She will be back with the actual dates once they are set. They always have around 500 people in attendance.
- They will have a Job Fair in July at the Tennis Center. Date TBD. They always fill around 7,000 jobs annually for the U.S. Open and they are always looking for the Queens community to be a big part of it.
- Four American women reached the singles semifinals at the U.S. Open for the first time since 1981.
- A slide with a list of Hotels that they utilize in the Queens community was shown.
- Slides with pictures of Opening Night, Grandstand Stadium, Louis Armstrong Stadium and U.S. Open Men's Finals were shown.
- During the U.S. Open, children were selected to be Coin Tossers for the first match in Arthur Ashe Stadium.
- The U.S. Open was serving up fun in Flushing with kids from around Queens. They also featured exhibits for kids and adults from the Queens Zoo, Queens Botanical Gardens, Queens Museum,

Queens Theater, Queens Library, Louis Armstrong House Museum and New York Hall of Science. Kids were also able to make crafts and have their faces painted.

- The 2017 U.S. Open hosted the It's in Queens Kiosk where volunteers handed out pamphlets packed with information on everything from Queens cuisine to cultural destinations.
- USTA also hosts Queens Senior Day. In conjunction with Queens Day, 300 seniors from 6 local Senior Centers attended the annual Senior Day where they were treated to lunch and a day of watching world class tennis during the U.S. Open's qualification matches.
- On Arthur Ashe Kids Day, the USTA offers thousands of complimentary concert tickets to local Queens-based organizations to distribute, free of charge, to their community members.
- The Alternative Classroom Environment for Students (ACES/PACES) program is geared toward 6-10 year old children providing them the opportunity to visit the NTC and to learn about the history, and the game of tennis.
- ACEing Autism – For the third year in a row, ACEing Autism returned to the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center during the qualifying rounds of the U.S. Open. Thirty children attended. ACEing Autism clinics are also available at the NTC year round.
- They held a Rally for Relief for those impacted by natural disasters and devastation in Puerto Rico and Mexico. The event raised over \$10,000. The USTA also participated in a local Queens Donation collection for those affected by Hurricane Maria.
- Louis Armstrong Stadium construction update slides were shown as well.
- More information is available on their website: www.usta.com

Ms. Cassino opened the floor for questions from the Board Members.

Marc A. Haken – I am Chair of the Youth Committee of the Board. I have three questions. First one is, you said that 7,000 jobs were put into USTA. How many were residents of Community Board 8?

Answer: *[Ms. Cassino]* – We are actually trying to figure out that number. Once we have it, I will let you know.

Ok. My second question is: You showed a list of schools in CB8 that you did outreach to. P.S. 164, 161. I don't believe P.S. 161 is in Community Board 8. There are over 30 schools in Community Board 8. What outreach have you individual made to each one of these schools that only one responded.

Answer: *[Ms. Cassino]* – Well, that is the PACES program. That is individual to all of the other schools. It's something that the schools can participate in if they want and those two schools are the ones that are currently participating.

Did a notice go out to every school in CB8 to let them know about this?

Answer: *[Ms. Cassino]* – Yes. Every school gets an invitation to do it. There are some emails that do go out at the beginning and at the end of the year.

My third question is, many years ago a presentation was made here. It was said that the facility would be open to community groups during the winter. Maybe a junior soccer. Is that offer still open? Can you tell us what groups in CB8 have participated within programs during the winter or during the non-tennis season?

Answer: *[Ms. Cassino]* – I don't have a list of actual CB8 organizations that have done that. We are right now trying to work towards creating one.

Can you put together one for us?

Answer: *[Ms. Cassino]* – Yes.

Susan Cleary – The available positions that showed on the screen. Are they volunteers or are they part-time?

Answer: *[Ms. Cassino]* – Part-time.

Chairperson Martha Taylor thanked Ms. Cassino for her presentation.

Chairperson's Report – Martha Taylor:

- Chairperson Martha Taylor sent Get Well wishes to Dr. Bennett and Stanley Weinblatt.

Before introducing our Special Guest Sgt. Christophe Burke from the 107th Precinct, Chairperson Martha Taylor invited Board Member Carolann Foley to say a few words.

Carolann Foley – Thank you Martha. I've been involved with the 107th Precinct for a couple of decades now. The New York City Police Department had started the Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs) program. It didn't really look like the 107th was going to get this program, but it was brought to us back in December. It was a very hard process but there were ten individuals out of sixty picked. Between the ten of them, their education levels are very high and they communicate in ten different languages. These men and women have great personalities to be involved in our community. This is due to the hard work of Deputy Inspector (D.I.) Scott Henry (*everyone applauded*). Without further ado let me introduce you to D.I. Scott Henry.

Deputy Inspector Scott Henry – The NCO program is about neighborhood policing. We're trying to reach out to each involved member of the community and bringing them to help us along. I always wanted to be a part of this community and this command. Those of you who lived here your whole lives may not realize what a special community this is. Where you have so many people that are involved in every aspect. I go to meetings and somebody in the audience will raise a question or project a problem and if somebody is next to them they'll say, I can help you with that. We solve our own problems along with the community. I didn't really think we needed the NCO program because of how good we are.

When I was told that it was going to be implemented in the 107th Precinct, I started doing some interviews. It is amazing just how that worked for me that I didn't even realize. We have two pilots, people who do graphic art, interior designers, and chefs. This is what we got with the ten people who are here tonight. Unfortunately, two of them are not here today, they are at training. This is truly a remarkable group of people. First job I had was to choose who would supervise. I have 7 Lieutenants in the 107th and my Executive Officer. I presented a question. I already knew who it should be but I wanted to get an opinion from everyone. I asked every Lieutenant and my Executive Officer and one name popped up continuously (*referring to Sergeant (Sgt.) Christophe Burke*). That is amazing. His name popped up. He was clearly from day one the right person for the job. Hands down (*everyone applauded*). It was unanimous, I called him and asked him if he was interested and wanted the job. He introduced Sgt. Christophe Burke to everyone.

Chairperson Martha Taylor – I just want to say, Deputy Inspector it is lovely to hear how much you appreciate us. That is how much we appreciate you and the officers (*everyone applauded*).

Sergeant Christophe Burke – Thank you everyone. I have with me tonight my NCOs from each sector. At the end of the meeting you will have the opportunity to speak with each and every one of them. Each sector has two NCOs who will be your local problem solvers. They spend all their working hours within the confines of their assigned sectors, actively engaging with local community members and residents. Everything seems to be operating according to plans. We are getting great feedback from the community and our police officers. What they do on a daily basis is, they'll answer to all community complaints, get investigations done with the Detective Squad. This is a multi-level job and they are doing many different things. Within that there is a quarterly neighborhood safety meeting which they hold themselves. That is unique because you will be able to go one on one with the officers without supervisors without anybody interfering. You can discuss with them directly the issues that you're having within your sector. You can find out more about this after the meeting. You can also check our Facebook and Twitter page or visit our

website at: www.nyc.gov/nypd for more information. He suggested that everyone refer to the contact information sheets that were giving out at the beginning of the meeting for the residents to reach out to the NCOs within their sectors.

Carolann Foley – Ms. Foley asked Sgt. Burke to go over the difference between the purpose of the NCOs and 311/911 calls.

Answer: [Sgt. Burke] – Before the NCOs, you will call 911 for a serious incident or 311 for non-emergency issues (i.e. derelict vehicle parked for more than 7 days, etc.). We encouraged you to reach out to your NCO, either by telephone or email. Email seem to work best so reach out to them via email. He introduced Officer Jeffrey Audry from Sector B, Officer Shawqi Ahmed from Sector C, Officer Viral Bhatt from Sector D. Sector A issues can be brought to his attention until Officers Trotter and Arrubla return from training.

Marc A. Haken – If I call the NCO from my area instead of 311. Why would I call 911 for an emergency?

Answer: [Sgt. Burke] – I may have not explained that appropriately. In the case where there is an immediate situation. Traditionally, you will call 311 for a less serious situation. Now, in conjunction with 311 you have your NCOs. It will go directly to them and they will be able to look into it immediately. For those living in a commercial area, he suggested calling 311 first. The sector NCOs will go out there. Sometimes they may be off so the best option will be calling 311 first. If you live in an area and your neighbor is always blocking the driveway, call the NCOs. They will solve this issue.

Monica Corbett - The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) had the NCO program to start. I can say that our NCOs at PSA 9 are very resourceful. I feel that the other NCO within the other sectors will be resourceful as well.

Answer: [Sgt. Burke] – You ain't seen nothing yet. We have the best in the City right now.

In Pomonok we call our NCOs and they are always responsive.

Answer: [Sgt. Burke] – I was at a meeting tonight. I am working with the NCOs. They are coming into my command tomorrow.

The whole program itself is very helpful. Get to know your NCOs because if you have a problem, they will be there to assist you. I am very grateful that you guys are here and doing what you are doing (everyone applauded).

Chairperson Martha Taylor mentioned to everyone in the audience that the NCOs will stay after the meeting if anyone has any questions.

District Manager's Report, February 2018

DHS – The agency is planning on meeting with all Community Boards to discuss placement of shelters (both/either family or single adult shelters). They do not want it to be a surprise if/when they come to the community if they find a suitable site. They will start meeting sometime next month.

Human resources Administration – Over a year ago we learned that the Department of Homeless Services and the Human Resources Administration were merging. In the near future all the email addresses will reflect it as they will change to ____@dss.nyc.gov.

DEP – The Department of Environmental Protection anticipates completing the raingarden study in CB8 at the end of spring. If the sidewalk abutting your property is selected, you will receive a notice 30 days prior to installation. At that time, you will be given a choice of the type of raingarden (i.e. porous pavement, grass or vegetation. DEP is in contact with the City and State elected officials and will coordinate rain barrel giveaway events. For more information contact your

local elected official [*the offices of Council Member Lancman, Assembly Member Rozic, Council Member Grodenchik and Assembly Member Rosenthal indicated that they will be participating thus far*].

The \$183 water bill credit will be given to homeowners of one-family dwellings this February. The other dwellings [two and three-family] will receive their credit by June.

We had 493 complaints reported for the month of January. The majority of these complaints were leak related. This is in part due to the freezing temperatures that we experienced last month.

Our DEP Representative stressed that no DEP Employee will come to your property and ask you for money for your water bill. They only come to your property if there is a scheduled appointment to do work. They always have badges, uniforms and their cars are marked with the DEP logo. They received complaints about people impersonating DEP employee to scam our residents, especially seniors. When in doubt, please contact DEP at 718-595-7000.

They also announced that information will be available on their website soon for paid summer internships. These internships are located both in the City and upstate New York.

DOB – The actual total of enforcement complaints for CB8 last year was 2,234. They were mostly illegal conversion complaints and work without a permit. Last year, there was a number of deaths that occurred at construction sites. Although this is an OSHA issue [Federal matter], they are looking for ways for the City to address this by reaching out to the construction workers and educating them. At this time, there is a backlog in addressing complaints. The return of the half day inspector that the DOB used to have to address Community Boards’ and Elected Officials’ issues would really help.

DOH & MH –The agency recommends seeing a doctor as soon as possible if you notice symptoms of the flu. It is not a good idea to ignore these symptoms. It is not too late to get a flu shot if you have not gotten one yet this season.

DFTA – The Commissioner has issued a letter to senior centers directing them not to comply with ICE if they request any information about their clients. They are to direct them to DFTA or the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs. That information is also posted on the Department of the Aging’s website. Mr. Darnley Jones met with MTA President Andy Byford about the issues faced by seniors who use the Access-a-Ride service. He learned that Toronto (Canada) has a similar service that seems to work better and will look for ways to improve the service for our seniors in the City.

NYPD – The 107th Precinct had an 18% decrease in major crime. He warns not to keep valuables in your car. Recently, two laptops and an I-pod were stolen from one car. There were seven food delivery cars stolen recently. The delivery guys seem to leave their cars running while quickly dropping off the food. As soon as they leave the car unattended, a thief jumps in the car and drives away. We had one homicide recently that is under investigation. Three pharmacies were robbed in our district. There were similar incidents nearby in CB9 and CB7. The good news is they made two arrests and no other incidents have occurred since.

FDNY – The Fire Department started a “Close the Door” campaign. You probably saw a few PSAs on television recently. The statistics for our area are as follows:

Structural Fires	395
Non-Structural Fires	220
Suspicious Fires	19 (inclusive)
Gas leaks	3, 470

Medical Emergencies 3,330

Total Incidents 7,741 (*some miscellaneous categories are not listed above*)

There is a probationary class of 300 fire fighters scheduled to graduate in April. Our area usually gets 7 to 9 new fire fighters. The hiring process for fire fighters is ongoing until 2019. In light of the recent drowning death of the youth at Forest Park, he reminded everyone that an icy pond is never safe.

Parks – Our Parks Manager had Parks Enforcement Officers monitoring the goose pond at Captain Tilly Park. This is to prevent such a tragedy from recurring, as this park is located near several schools. They also placed ladders in this area as a precautionary measure.

Unfortunately, we are still having issues with our comfort stations. The heating systems are still not working at three of our parks: Cunningham Park, Playground 75 and Vleigh Playground. The repairs are costly but will be done in-house. He will keep us posted regarding the repairs.

DSNY – We met our new Superintendent Eyal Egher. Letters have been sent to the DSNY, NYPD, and FDNY in preparation of the Special Passover Collection and for the Chometz Burning stations. The Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit has also been copied to ensure that our requests receive the attention that they deserve. So far, we have gotten a positive response from the Fire Department and we are waiting on the NYPD and Sanitation.

DOT – The Department stated that it did not make financial sense to do the extensive repairs that we requested for sections of Union Turnpike while waiting for the curb to curb resurfacing from Utopia Parkway to Francis Lewis Boulevard. We reiterated the need for the work to be completed this year. We learned that there may be some funds to do curb replacement albeit very limited. The agency welcomes funding from our elected officials to address the curb repair backlog.



Happy Birthday to Board Members: Kevin Forrestal, Paul Lazauskas and Bright Limm.

DM Adam-Ovide discussed the last item in her report in regards to the resurfacing of Union Turnpike. She stated that the Community Board is pushing to have it done by this year. We do not want to wait until 2020. The road is in desperate need of repairs. This section covers District 23rd and District 24th of the City Council. She hopes the Elected Officials will support us in getting this repaired.

Chairperson Martha Taylor mentioned that we are very happy for the return of our Borough President’s Representative Susan Tanenbaum who is back and doing well (everyone applauded).

Borough President’s Representative – Susan Tanenbaum

- Ms. Tanenbaum stated that she appreciates all of the warm welcomes. As everyone knows she had some medical issues. She was out of the office for about two months.
- On February 26, 2018, Borough President Katz is hosting the African American Heritage Committee 2018 Black History Month Celebration at 6:00 p.m. at the Helen Marshall Cultural Center. She acknowledged Board Members: Marc A. Haken and Harbachan Singh for their hard work on this committee. They will be awarding student scholarships and recognizing outstanding community members.

NYC Department of City Planning – Stephen Everett

- Mr. Everett mentioned that his colleague Scott Solomon met with the Executive Committee a couple of weeks ago about the Community Board’s involvement as being a potential co-applicant for the Kew Gardens Hills re-zoning. Questions were raised on whether this was possible or not. He knows that he shared some information with the Board afterwards of examples in which other Community Boards have been applicants or co-applicants on other several projects. He confirmed that there is no rule prohibiting a CB from being an applicant on a land use application. In fact, the official *Rules of the City of New York, Title 62: city Planning, Chapter 3: Fees and Contributions, Section 3-06*, explicitly provides for a waiver of fees to agencies of city government.

Chairperson Martha Taylor asked Mr. Everett to stick around in case there are questions raised by the Board Members in the Committee Reports portion. Mr. Everett stated that if there are any questions about the proposal itself he would like them to be referred to the Land Use Attorney, Jay Goldstein who is representing the Kew Gardens Civic Association on this matter.

Chairperson Martha Taylor – Chairperson Taylor stated that in response to a request from one of our Board Members at the Executive Committee meeting, we have in writing what the responses are. They are included in the Board Member packet. She asked the Board Members to read it.

Committee Reports:
Capital & Expense Budget, Response to Mayor’s Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2019
Marc A. Haken, Budget Director:

The Budget Committee met regarding the response to the Mayor’s 2019 Preliminary Budget. He stated that the responses this year in general were better than responses we received the previous years. In the Board Member packet is the letter that will be sent to the Mayor. It does not require a vote. DM Adam-Ovide has a list of questions that she has already given to the appropriate agencies and we are awaiting their replies.

Mark J. Lefkof made a motion to accept the draft from Chairperson Martha Taylor in regards to our Budget requests, seconded by Harbachan Singh.

Budget Director Marc A. Haken took a hand count for all those in favor of accepting the draft.

Count in favor 38 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

The motion was passed unanimously.
Chairperson Martha Taylor asked Steven Konigsberg to chair the Kew Gardens Hills Re-zoning.

Committee Reports:
Steven Konigsberg – Zoning Committee Chair – Kew Gardens Hills Re-zoning –

Mr. Konigsberg explained that at the Executive Committee meeting earlier this month there was a request presented to the Committee to have Community Board 8 apply for the re-zoning of 400+ homes in Kew Gardens Hills from R2 to R2X. This would allow for horizontal expansion of one-family homes to accommodate more living space on lower floors while limiting the height of the dwellings. Mr. Scott Solomon from City Planning was present at this meeting. It was explained that if the sponsor or co-sponsor of the application were to be the Community Board, the City would waive the application fees and certain other environmental costs. This is the main reason why they are coming to us. A vote was taken at this meeting and it passed 5 in favor to 2 opposed.

Mark J. Lefkof made a motion to have Community Board 8 apply for the re-zoning of 400+ homes in Kew Gardens Hills from R2 to R2X approve, seconded by Marc A. Haken.

Mr. Konigsberg opened the floor for questions/discussion from the Board Members.

Kevin Forrestal – Mr. Forrestal stated that as it states in the report several Board Members questioned whether a Community Board has ever been an applicant for a rezoning and requested examples. He was one of them. He stated that he found it a little strange because this doesn't happen too often. He now sees that there is precedence. While he opposed at the Executive Committee meeting, he will yield and he will support this change tonight (*everyone applauded*).

Robert Harris – Mr. Harris asked how high will the homes be built.

Answer: [*Steven Konigsberg*] – That is a technical question which is not really the issue that we are addressing here tonight.

Jay Goldstein, Esq. – Mr. Goldstein explained that their application will actually be lower than the permitted height. R2X allows 21 feet perimeter wall and 35 feet building height. The current zoning R2 only allows 25 feet sky exposure.

Bright Limm – Mr. Limm stated that he lives in Kew Gardens Hills. He supports the content of this proposal. He is a little concerned with the process just for the sake of future similar proposals. According to the text that we received, if fees are the concern then some other non-profit organizations could sponsor their applications and have their fees waived. It is not primarily about the fees, it is more showing community support. This is why we are being asked to be the applicant.

Steven Konigsberg – Mr. Konigsberg stated the role of the Community Board is to service our community. This is one of the major things that we can possibly do. We have many homeowners who came tonight to our meeting. We have homeowners who signed up on petitions. We have homeowners who participated in this process. We have homeowners from the Civic Association of Kew Gardens Hills is supporting this. Anyone who votes against this, is voting against the community.

A roll call vote was taken.

Count in favor 38 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Board Members who approved the motion:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Tamara Osherov, Simon Pelman, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin and Jacob Weinberg.

Board Members who did not approve the motion:

None

The motion was passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Carolann Foley made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:28 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jatnna Reyes, CB8 staff
February 28, 2018*