



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

*The City of New York
Borough of Queens*

Community Board 8

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike in Flushing, New York.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen Bennett, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria Deinnocentiis, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Tammy Osherov, Simon Pelman, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofky, Seymour Schwartz, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Jacob Weinberg, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Edward Chung, Monica Corbett, Allen Eisenstein, Howard A. Fried, Joshua Glikman, Robert Harris, Sylvia Hernandez, Frank Magri, Frances Peterson, Douglas Sherman, Mohammed Tohin and Rachele Van Arsdale.

Others Present:

Alexander Bennett representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Ari Gershman representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Masis Sarkissian representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Matt Bayley representing State Senator Tony Avella, Andrew Taranto representing State Senator Leroy Comrie, Anthony Lemma Jr. representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Marilla Li representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager and Jatnna Reyes, CB8 staff member.

Call to Order:

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

Public Participation:

Catherine LaPerche – Ms. LaPerche spoke about the NYC Department of Parks’s Stewardship Program. The Stewardship Program is a service program that recruits, trains and supports volunteers for ecological projects across the City. They will have a Stewardship Program in Flushing Meadows Corona Park that will focus on Meadow Lake and Willow Lake. Volunteers will help with forest and wetland restoration, planting and pruning street trees, harvesting and propagating native seeds and monitoring local wildlife. They are looking for volunteers. They will have a volunteer event on December 10, 2016. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Ms. LaPerche at Catherine.laperche@parks.nyc.gov.

Marc A. Haken – Mr. Haken announced that P.S. 86Q (87-41 Parsons Boulevard) is having their annual Read Aloud event on Thursday, December 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Free breakfast will be served! If anyone is interested in attending, contact Mr. Haken for more information.

Alexander Bennett – On behalf of Congresswoman Grace Meng, Mr. Bennett distributed the Congressional Calendar for 2017 to all Board Members as a way of saying thank you for the privilege of representing our district for the third term.

Chip Gershman – Mr. Gershman is a social worker at Queens Community House at Pomonok Center. He works with the Food Access Program which includes weekly Farmers Market, Food Justice Program for High School students after school programs, cooking and eating programs and potlucks. Flyers with more information were left at the table.

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 October 19, 2016, seconded by Steven Sadofky.

Count in favor 36 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Board Members who approved the minutes:

Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen Bennett, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria Deinnocentiis, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Tammy Osherov, Simon Pelman, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofky, Seymour Schwartz, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Jacob Weinberg, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

Board Members who did not approve the minutes:

None

Chairperson Martha Taylor made a couple of announcements:

- Chairperson Martha Taylor informed us that the Read Aloud event that Mr. Haken mentioned before will be on Friday, December 16th not Thursday, December 8th.
- Chairperson Martha Taylor informed everyone that there was a shooting outside of Cloud 9 Hooka Lounge (179-22 Union Turnpike) few weeks ago. After the incident, many members of our board, our Liquor License Committee Chair Michael Hannibal, Carolann Foley, Frank Magri and other Elected Official representatives met with the establishment owner in Councilman Rory Lancman’s office to discuss this issue. Carolann Foley informed her that the State Liquor Authority had suspended this establishment’s liquor license temporarily until the investigation is completed.

District Manager's Report, November 2016

DOH & MH

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's travel warnings in regards to the Zika Virus remain the same. As of October 31st they ceased all mosquito monitoring activities for both West Nile Virus and Zika. These activities will continue to be done every year from April Fool's Day to Halloween.

A total of 89 people came to the Pet Vaccination/Dog Licensing event held at Cunningham Park in October. There were over 89 pets. Some residents brought more than one pet to be vaccinated.

Residents received fake violations in the mail claiming to be from the Department of Pest Control asking them to send payment. It is a SCAM. There is no such agency in New York City. If you receive summonses in the mail, please contact the Community Board so we can verify if the violations are legit.

DOB

Community Board 8 continues to have a surge in the number of complaints for our district. The "Homeowner's Night" continues to be a success. Last night there were 48 people in attendance.

The agency addresses 99% of Category A complaints within 24 hours (They are required to address them within 48 hours). Unfortunately they have a backlog on the Category B complaints.

The agency informed us that there may be a scam where homeowners receive flyers in the mail from construction companies. These companies claim to be able to help them cure their DOB violations. It appears that the same companies are calling in the complaints for defects visible from the street (i.e. broken stoop etc.) into 311. This is to generate violations so they can be hired to do the repairs. Please keep the mailers and the envelopes to assist the Department of Investigations. Contact your Community Board.

DOT

The Department of Transportation has a traffic safety campaign and distributed flyers. There is usually an increase in accidents this time of year. There is decreased visibility earlier in the afternoon with turning back the clock. Dusk starts around 4:00 p.m.

Con Edison

Con Edison has a program called *CONCERN*, which is designed especially for seniors and customers with special needs. Representatives are available to inform them about government aid programs, provide safety tips, and explain ways to save money on their energy bill. For more information, please call: 1-800-872-8846.

HRA

The Department of Social Services is still trying to encourage seniors who qualify for SNAP (*aka food stamps*) to apply for the program.

DSNY

The Sanitation Department will be starting the night plow and some areas within the district will receive their collections during the night shift starting November 14th. This is in anticipation of the winter. I recommend placing your garbage and recycling out the night before your scheduled collection day. Remember that you may not place them **prior to 4:00 p.m.** from **October 1st to April 1st**. DSNY will be collecting leaves on November 20th

and December 4th. Please place them out the night before. We have a limited amount of free bags for distribution. Leaf bags are available for purchase at home improvement stores.

PARKS

The Parks Department is testing the pond at Captain Tilly Park once a month to determine what can be done to address the algae issue. They warn residents not to enter into the pond or touch the water.

NYC Commission on Human Rights

The Commission’s representative informed us of the “I Am Muslim” campaign which is aimed at preventing discrimination and harassment. They are distributing fliers and promoting this campaign on social media.

FDNY

Daylight savings time ends on November 6th. FDNY reminded us to change the batteries in your smoke/CO detectors when you turn back the clocks.

<u>Year</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Structural Fire	314	307
Non-Structural Fire	78	176
Emergencies	2942	3017

He announced that there is a class of approximately 300 firefighters graduating this month. Our community board usually receives between 8 to 10 officers. He will keep us posted.

Mayor’s CAU

CAU announced the NYC Well campaign where residents can access mental health services 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. They can do so by calling 888-NYC-Well, text the word WELL to 65173 or access information at www.nyc.gov/well.

CAU will also have a public meeting with HHC about the future of health in NYC. There will be two in Queens. The one for our area will be held at the Central Library on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

NYS Comptroller

The State Comptroller’s office published “An Economic Snapshot of the Greater Jamaica Area.” We have limited copies in the office; however it can be accessed through their website. The link is: <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/osdc/rpt6-2017.pdf>

They recommend that residents continue to check for unclaimed funds, especially if they have dead relatives. Someone recovered over \$40,000 in unclaimed funds recently.

Happy Birthday to Florence Fisher , Robert Block, Marc Haken, Doug Sherman and Jim Gallagher, Jr.

Marie Adam-Ovide

During the District Manager’s Report Chairperson Martha Taylor asked everyone to review the sections of the Department of Health and the Department of Buildings. There are several scams going on with both agencies. She asked that everyone read it and beware to avoid being scammed.

Borough President's Representative – Susie Tanenbaum

- Ms. Tanenbaum thanked all the Board Members who attended Borough President Melinda Katz's Veteran's Day event at Borough Hall today. They honored six veterans. Two-hundred people were in attendance.
- She congratulated Joseph Sciame and Paul Lazauskas on a successful Italian Heritage event that was held on October 25th. They honored six veterans of our area
- Ms. Tanenbaum distributed the Borough President's Winter 2016 newsletter and a copy of the Queens Immigration Task Force Directory of Services.

James Gallagher Jr. – Mr. Gallagher informed us of a meeting that he attended at Senator Tony Avella's office on Friday, November 4th regarding the two new Marriot Hotels that are being built in Community Board 11. One is a Marriott Fairfield and the other one is a Marriott Courtyard. He will keep us posted.

Carolann Foley – Ms. Foley informed us that the 107th Precinct Holiday Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. at the Precinct.

Jennifer Martin – Ms. Martin announced that on Monday, November 21st at 7:45 p.m. at the Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, the Kew Gardens Hills Civic Association is having a Fire Safety event. They will also be collecting unwrapped new toys that will be given to Assembly Member Michael Simanowitz for his Toy Drive. Light refreshments will be served.

Adjournment

Carolann Foley made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:02 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jatna Reyes, CB8 staff
November 16, 2016*