



Chairman, Alvin Warshaviak

*The City of New York
Borough of Queens*

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, September 17, 2013 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike, Flushing, New York.

Attendance:

Board Members Present: Jagir Singh Bains, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Brian DeMasters, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Tammy Oshero, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Michel F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak and Jacob Weinberg.

Board Members Absent: Dilafroz Ahmed, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Maria DeInnocentiis, Howard A. Fried, Virginia Rallis, Steven Sadofsky, Anna Sawchuk, Stanley Weinblatt, and Albert Willingham.

Others Present: Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Courtney Cariello accompanying Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Greg Lavine representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Alen Beerman representing Councilman Mark Weprin, Wataru Nakai representing Councilman James Gennaro, Carly Liang representing State Senator Tony Avella, Anthony Lemma representing Assemblyman David Weprin.

Call to Order:

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak called this Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Participation:

Paul Lazauskas, representing St. John’s University, shared the following announcements:

- St. John’s welcomes our new Interim President, Father Joseph Levesque.
- Everyone is invited on Saturday, September 28th to join the University for their annual “Dribble for the Cure”. Registration is at 10:00 a.m. All donations will go to the Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation.
- On October 20th, St. John’s University will host its annual American Cancer Society Walk in Flushing Meadows Park.
- On October 27th, St. John’s University will be holding their first Annual Red Storm 5K. More details will follow.
- Borough President’s Annual Salute to Italian Heritage Month on the campus on October 22nd.
- On November 11th, Veterans Day Celebration on Staten Island. More information will follow.
- St. John’s is working with the Union Turnpike Merchants’ Association. Five retailers on Union Turnpike will be offering student discounts.
- If there are any issues with the boarding houses in the community, please contact Mr. Lazauskas or St. John’s public safety office.

Francis Chen, resident of Fresh Meadows, spoke about a social network called Nextdoor.com . Mr. Chen wants to engage more members from different communities through the use of technology. Signing up and using Nextdoor.com is completely free.

Nadege Noel is the Outreach Manager for Health Republic Insurance of New York. Health Republic Insurance is a 501 (c)(29) consumer operated and oriented (CO-OP) organization. Health Republic was established through the Affordable Care Act providing access for the people of New York. Health Republic helps individuals and small businesses have quality healthcare.

John Albert shared with the Community Board his concerns with the “Layla Hookah Lounge”. This bar has become a nuisance to the neighborhood. There is underage drinking both inside and outside the establishment. Bottles of liquor are thrown on our lawns. He has also witnessed solicitation of prostitution, drug dealings and public urination. This bar has turned our little corner in Jamaica Estates to a terrible place to live. He is urging the Board not to approve its liquor license renewal when the time comes.

Salute to the Flag

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Mark Lefkof made a motion to approve the minutes of June 12, 2013 seconded by Marc Haken.

Count in favor 34 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Board Members who approved the minutes: ; Jagir Singh Bains, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Brian DeMasters, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Harbachan Singh, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor and Alvin Warshaviak.

Nomination & Election of Community Board Secretary – Mark Lefkof

Mr. Lefkof explained that with the passing of Board Member Maurice Braithwaite, there is a vacancy for the position of Community Board Executive Secretary. Mr. Lefkof opened the floor for nominations.

- Martha Taylor nominated Carolyn Baker-Brown seconded by Marc Haken.
- Monica Corbett nominated Susan Cleary seconded by Florence Fisher.

Vote: Carolyn Baker-Brown – 30
 Susan Cleary - 7

Chairman Warshaviak congratulated Carolyn Baker-Brown and welcomed her on the Executive Board.

Guest Speaker Merlin Thompson

Mr. Thompson is the Associate Athletics Director of Queens College. He is here this evening to inform the community of some of the programs at Queens College.

- He represents the Office of Campus and Community Recreation. Its purpose is to run programs that would significantly and positively impact our minds, bodies and spirits. They promote healthy lifestyle choices thru the variety of recreational activities.
- They have indoor and outdoor tennis courts. They also have a pool, fitness center, indoor and outdoor tracks.
- They have a very good 8-week summer camp program for the children. We try to improve it every year.
- Queens College wants to be part of the community and also wants the community to be a part of Queens College.

Youth, Education and Library Committee Chair, Marc Haken, thanked Mr. Thompson and expressed his gratitude for the last 6-7 years of giving 5 youth in CB8 a scholarship to the Queens College Summer Camp.

Chairman’s Report:

- Chairman Warshaviak welcomed everyone back from the summer and hoped everyone had a healthy and pleasant one.
- The Queens Library at Hollis thanked Marc Haken, Chairman of the Youth, Education and Library Committee for sponsoring a magic show for the children at the Library.
- Queens Borough President Helen M. Marshall wished everyone health and happiness in this season of joy. Mr. Warshaviak also wished everyone a healthy and happy year as well.
- Council Member Mark Weprin invites you to *Participatory Budgeting Neighborhood Assemblies*. “What would you do with \$1 Million of the City Budget?”

September:

- Thursday, 9/19 at 7 p.m. at the Hillside Manor
- Monday, 9/23 at 6 p.m. at the Fresh Meadows Library
- Monday, 9/30 at 11 a.m. at the SNAP Senior Center

- Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. James Gallagher, Jr. on becoming new grandparents to their first grandson.

Congresswoman Grace Meng’s office has informed us of the following upcoming events:

- “Make it in America”. An exhibition of local businesses and American-made products on Saturday, September 28th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at The Shops at Atlas Park.
- Informational seminar on the Affordable Care Act on Tuesday, October 15th from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Elmhurst Hospital.
- Halting Iran’s Nuclear Program hosted by Representative Grace Meng with guest speakers Ambassador Mark Wallace and David Ibsen on Monday, October 7th at 6:30 p.m. at the Forest Hills Jewish Center.

District Manager's Report

- District Manager's Report was distributed.

The Public Advocate's office, last year, learned that often times the small business owners' interaction with New York City agencies occurs when they are in violation of rules and regulations. To foster a better relationship between the City Government and the private sector, the Community Board 8 office is organizing a Business Forum. This forum is scheduled for **Thursday, November 21, 2013** at the Hillcrest Jewish Center.

Here are some of the goals of the forum:

- Educate business owners along our commercial strips about relevant City regulations to prevent the issuance of summonses/fines.
 1. DOH Regulations (*i.e. pest control*)
 2. DOB Regulations (*i.e. when to file permits*)
 3. DEP Regulations (*i.e. grease traps and noise regulations*)
 4. FDNY Regulations (*i.e. fire safety inspections*)
 5. DSNY Regulations (*i.e. dirty area, collection, routing times*)
- Make them better neighbors by encouraging them to participate in the Adopt-a-Basket Program to keep our neighborhoods clean.
- Help them navigate through the process of answering summonses with the Environmental Control Board and/or the Office of Administrative Trial and Hearings.

If successful, our office will consider hosting another forum (Business Forum Part II) to assist the businesses even further. At the second forum, we plan to invite the Queens Chamber of Commerce to educate them about the benefits of forming merchant associations. We may invite the Small Business Administration (SBA) to give them information and guidance about small business loans. We may also invite the NYC Department of Small Business Services to bring them NYC Business Solutions free services (*i.e. business courses, legal assistance, selling to government etc...*).

With a better relationship with the business sector, we may enlist their support and participation at our health fair or any other Community Board 8 event or project.

(Chairman Warshaviak commended District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide and staff for running a phenomenal program. This shows that the Community Board is not only out to assist the homeowners but the businesses as well. This helps our community to be more productive. Again, special thanks to Marie and her staff.)

NYPD Traffic - The number of parking summonses given continues to increase within our boundaries. A total of 8,910 parking summonses were issued for the month of August. Commanding Office Chowdhury promised to pay regular visits to our schools to address parking violations near our schools to keep our students safe. The unit was at P.S.173 the first day of school and residents stated that there was much improvement there.

HRA – We were informed that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) online application process is being used by the residents. The agency has seen an increase in the need and application for these services.

FDNY – Battalion 50 that covers our area had a good summer. It has seen a decrease in structural and suspicious fires. Chief Browne urges residents not to douse mattresses infested with bed bugs with gasoline. This practice contributed to a number of fires in Queens. Bedbug infested mattresses should be disposed of in a plastic bag at the curb for removal.

PARKS – Ball fields 2, 3 and 4 were handed back to DPR before the Philharmonic's event in the summer. They were scheduled to resume the work on September 9th and should have everything completed by spring 2014. A volunteer clean-up of Captain Tilly Park will be held on September 28th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. About 30 students will be coming from St. Johns.

News from the Queens Borough Cabinet

FDNY - The Fire Department has a computerized system Risk Based Inspection Application (RBIS) that prioritizes building inspections based on a scoring priority. In the past, they inspected the buildings based on a cycle – from a one-year, two-year and sometimes four-year basis. With over 500,000 properties to inspect, the FDNY was only able to inspect about 10% on a yearly basis, hence the need for a priority system. RBIS serves as a warehouse of information for the FDNY (i.e. Department of Buildings and City Planning information are available there, in addition to the last inspection done, details of previous violations etc). The RBIS individually scores the buildings assigned to a district for inspection. This enables the Fire Department to inspect the buildings with the most severe risks for fire, life and/safety first. In addition, the fire fighters can access the information on the computer during each shift.

EMS – The EMS discussed its CPR Training Program and gave the Cabinet a demonstration. The goal is to encourage everyone to learn how to give first care to an adult patient in cardiac arrest. After the training one would learn what to do to assist someone in cardiac arrest: do chest compressions, designate someone to contact 911, use an external automated defibrillator (AED) while awaiting EMS. A few minutes may be the difference between life and death. To arrange training for a civic association, house of worship, school or a group, please contact 718-281-3888. The Mobile CPR training Unit will come to you and your group.

If your organization or your business has a defibrillator (AED), please make sure that everyone knows where it is. You should also register your device online at go to www.nyc.gov/fdny. It will be entered into the FDNY’s database. This will help in saving lives; it would enable emergency personnel to locate the closest available AED when someone has a heart attack.

Happy Birthday to: Steven Sadofsky and Anna Sawchuck who are celebrating their birthdays this month!

Assemblywoman Nily Rozic

- Homeowners Town Hall in conjunction with Congresswoman Grace Meng and City Councilman Mark Weprin on Wednesday, October 2nd from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyr, 209-15 Horace Harding Expressway in Bayside.
- New to Assemblywoman Rozic’s office is Courtney Cariello. She is the new Community Liaison for CB8.
- Assemblywoman Rozic has very fond memories of former Board Member Maurice Braithwaite. He was such a great, honorable and respected man in the community. It is great that he is being honored.

Memorial for Former Board Member Maurice Braithwaite

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak stated,

“We remember with great fondness a gentleman who served with dignity. Maurice Braithwaite did not know what a mover and shaker he truly was because he was a quiet man. He was a main cog of many different organizations. It is with great sadness that we celebrate his passing. His funeral was well attended. Speaker after speaker spoke about him with great dignity.”

Jamisse Porterfield created a beautiful memorial slideshow of Maurice Braithwaite and his life which she shared with his family, friends and Board Members. Chairman Warshaviak thanked Jamisse for the wonderful presentation.

Kenneth Cohen, Sr., former Board Member and President of the Flushing Suburban Civic Association (accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest and Audrey Gillespie, Marva Dudley and Ken Cohen II.

It was shocking to us to hear of Maurice’s passing. Maurice was one of those cogs that we are going to miss in our wheel. He will be very difficult to replace. We are looking to do some things with the organizations he worked so hard with. He loved to help young people learn about speech and how to project and to have self confidence. We decided at the NCAA that we will recreate the programs and carry out his legacy. We have also decided to invest funds into creating youth programs in the community that benefit along the lines that were very important to Maurice. It is hard to replace a person like Maurice. We are looking to continue his legacy. We thank the Braithwaite family for lending Maurice to us.

Marva Dudley, President of the Advisory Board at the Parson Beacon stated,

“One vivid memory about Maurice was that any time she would send out an email on the Advisory Board Meeting, Maurice was always either the first or second person to reply to it. Maurice was a strong supporter of the Parsons Beacon especially with our youth. The Advisory Board will miss him.”

Ken Cohen, II stated,

“You know, you know a person a long time when you don’t remember when you met them. That was the situation with him and Mr. Braithwaite. As a young person, you always observed the adults around you. I am grateful to live in a community where Mr. Braithwaite was a leader because he was able to observe and learn from his leadership.

Marc Haken stated,

“Maurice and I blended together on different things. Maurice helped serve on the Youth and Education Committee. He also encouraged his son to be a youth member on the committee. We celebrate Maurice’s life today. Maurice was the master of his faith and the captain of his soul.” Then Mr. Haken read a poem that reminded him of Maurice.

James Gallagher

Mr. Gallagher presented a fruit basket to Maurice’s family from the Board Members of Community Board 8. “We will miss him tremendously.”

Ms. Diane Haussermann, Chairperson of Social Studies Department at St. Francis Prep, stated,

“Maurice and I were partners in crime as the Speech and Debate coaches at SFP and more importantly, I was his student. We want to carry on Maurice’s message. He was a man that celebrated life and each individual person. Our students credit so much to “Mr. B”. He was a man that everybody knew. We were all encouraged by his spirit.”

Rory Braithwaite stated,

“Dad really enjoyed coming to the Community Board meetings and being a part of this group. Dad took a lot of pride in being part of the community. When my dad and my mom came to America and settled in this community they took a lot of pride and joy in the fact that it was a stable place. This was a community where people cared about how things went and how things developed. They wanted to make things better for the youth. It was commendable how they dedicated their time. It is something to be admired. He was happy that his dad was a part of all this.”

Marcel Braithwaite stated,

“Thank you to everyone here for honoring my father and the work that he did. Whatever our traditions or cultures are in this room, we can all believe that my dad’s spirit will live on. All of us have an obligation to be the very best that we can be, because my dad definitely left everything that he had here with us. Thank you for honoring our family.

Chairman Warshaviak asked for a moment of silence.

Dr. Bennett reminded us that this is Flu Vaccine Season! He encouraged everyone to get vaccinated and reiterated that you cannot get the flu from the vaccination.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn this meeting at 8:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Barbara McKeon, CB8 staff
September 19, 2013