



Chairman, Alvin Warshaviak

*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, April 15, 2015 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike in Flushing, New York.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Sylvia Hernandez, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Tamara Osheroov, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Stanley Weinblatt, and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent:

Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Kenneth Cohen II, Mary Maggio Fischer, Carolann Foley, Joshua Glikman, Robert Harris, Mitch Lisker, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Simon Pelman, Steven Sadofsky, Alvin Warshaviak and Jacob Weinberg.

Others Present:

Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Eugene O’Neal for Councilman Mark Weprin, Masis Sarkissian representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Aaron Siegel representing Assembly Member David Weprin, Marilla Li representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic, P.O. Peter Capozzi representing the NYPD 107th Precinct, District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide and Alma Karassavidis, CB8 staff member.

Call to Order:

First Vice Chair Stanley Weinblatt called this Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Participation:

Lesie Huynh- Assistant Community Library Manager at the Hillcrest branch. Starting today Hillcrest Library is offering the public free Google Nexus Tablets to borrow for a 30 day loan period, renewable up to 3 times. Anyone with a library card in good standing can check out the tablets. We are having a special presentation program on Thursday, April 30th at 6:00 p.m. Professor Ira Epstein, will discuss the life and career of Israeli singer Shoshana Damari. The presentation will feature samples of her many notable songs and performances. We are also having a family film night tomorrow showing Wall-E.

Masis Sarkissian, representing Councilman Rory Lancman – I would like to announce that we are starting our “Family Days”. Fresh Meadows Family Day is going to be at Utopia Playground on Utopia Parkway and 73rd Avenue on May 3rd from 1:00 p.m – 4:00 p.m. Kew Garden Hills Family Day will be at Mauro Playground, Park Drive East and 73rd Terrace on May 17th from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. There will be a few more coming up at Electric Playground, Briarwood Playground, Pomonok Playground as well as Rufus King Park in Jamaica. We will keep everyone updated. *Flyers were left with CB8 for the “Family Day” events.*

Cody Herrmann- I am a resident of Flushing and a student at Parsons School of Design. Currently, I am doing my Environmental Thesis Project which is centered around water quality in Flushing Bay and Creek. I have been making the rounds to all the local Community Boards that border Flushing Meadow-Corona Park because I think this is a valuable resource for all of us. I am holding a workshop on April 25th from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Flushing YMCA, 138-46 Northern Boulevard. It is going to be a community brainstorming session. This is a personal invitation to attend the workshop. RSVP to Flushingbayworkshop@gmail.com or call (707) 726-1114. *Flyers were left with CB8 for this event.*

Amir Abbady, representing Senator Leroy Comrie- I want to announce two events coming up. One will be a Clergy Breakfast, open to all Clergy and all communities. It will take place on Friday, April 17th from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at Robert Ross Johnson Family Life Center, 172-12 Linden Boulevard. RSVP by April 10th at Evite: <http://bit.ly/19nHtpS> or call (718) 454-0162 for more information. We are also doing a Spring Fling Family Fun Day on Saturday, May 9th from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at St. Alban’s Park (on Merrick Boulevard) in partnership with Affinity Health Plan and Council Member, Daneek Miller’s office. This event is open to the public. We are expecting a few thousand attendees so please come out with your family. There are going to be some valuable resources, health screenings and carnival games and rides for the kids. *Flyers were left with CB8 for this event.*

Richard Tishler- I have one issue. I slammed into a speed bump the other day. I noticed that they are not painted anymore, so I didn’t see it. The location of the one that I hit is not in this Community Board area, but I noticed that a lot of them don’t have paint on them. They are unmarked. It is a very low cost fix.

Salute to the Flag

First Vice Chair Stanley Weinblatt led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Allen Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2015, seconded by Martha Taylor.

Count in favor 30 **Opposed: 0 **Abstained:** 0**

Board Members who approved the minutes:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Sylvia Hernandez, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Tamara Osheroov, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Michael F. Sidell, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, and Stanley Weinblatt.

Board Members who did not approve the minutes:

None

Chairman’s Report – First Vice-Chair Stanley Weinblatt:

- First Vice Chair Stanley Weinblatt welcomed two new members to the board; Douglas Sherman, a resident of Parkway Village and Sylvia Hernandez representing Queens College.
- Also acknowledged was Officer Pete Capozzi of the 107th Precinct.
- Tammy Osheroov was welcomed back after recuperating from a hospital procedure. Everyone is happy to know that she is doing well and feeling much better.

Stanley Weinblatt asked Mark Lefkof to begin the Nominations

Mark Lefkof- In accordance with the By-Laws of CB8, the meeting in April is a nomination meeting. The procedure is that in April we nominate candidates for the various offices that are available. Then at the May meeting, there is a vote. In accordance with the By-Laws, I now open the floor to nominations.

Dr. Allen Bennett nominated Alvin Warshaviak for Chairperson, seconded by Allen Eisenstein.

Seymour Schwartz nominates Stanley Weinblatt for 1st Vice-Chair, seconded by Dr. Allen Bennett.

Kevin Forrestal nominates Martha Taylor for 2nd Vice-Chair, seconded by Susan Cleary.

Martha Taylor nominates Seymour Schwartz for 3rd Vice-Chair, seconded by Elke Maerz.

Martha Taylor nominates Carolyn Baker Brown for Executive Secretary, seconded by Kevin Forrestal.

Marc A. Haken nominates Harbachan Singh for Treasurer, seconded by Paul Lazauskas.

Mark Lefkof closed nominations for all categories. Next month will be the vote for these candidates.

District Manager's Report, April 2015

PARKS

On April 28, 2015 Utopia Playground [73rd Avenue and Utopia Parkway] will be closed. This playground is being used by OEM to prepare it for staging for commodity distribution. In the event of a disaster, Utopia Playground will be the distribution point for Community Board 8.

On April 19, 2015 at 6 p.m. the Jewish Community Little League will be dedicating Cunningham Park Field #4 to Marc Katz, a previous little league president.

DEP

There is a water rate increase proposal of 3.24%. There will be opportunities to speak on this proposal at public hearings in all five boroughs. The one in Queens will be held on Thursday, April 30th at LaGuardia Community College at 7 p.m. Lien sales outreach will be conducted in the near future. Please visit this link:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/taxes/property-lien-sales.page> for a list of outreach events.

DOH & MH

The Department will be conducting a Mental Health Texting Pilot Program called "NYC Teen". This will be done at ten high schools including Townsend Harris, RFK and Thomas Edison. Students can text NYCTEEN to 65173 and will be prompted to take a mental health survey. They will receive free and confidential help.

NYPD

There was a spike in Grand Larceny Auto - year to date there was 34 stolen cars as compared to 22 last year. There is no specific location targeted in the district. Detective Motta wanted to dissuade residents from leaving their vehicles unattended while the keys are in the ignition. This occurs quite frequently in the winter months. It only takes a minute for someone to drive away with your vehicle.

Fire Department

Total incidents were up by 90 and total fires were up by 38 compared to last year's numbers. The FDNY anticipates lower numbers as we move further into spring. Chief Tauber announced that The Fire Department will be celebrating their 150th Anniversary and will have Open House on May 2, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at all fire houses throughout New York City. The schedule is done by Battalions. Anyone interested in attending should inquire at their local fire house to check which time they'll have it.

NYS Comptroller

The agency dedicated \$30M to In-State Investment Program. There is approximately \$800M in investments to New York businesses. Business owners willing to have their business invested with the Comptroller's office can call 212-383-1560 for further information.

Con Edison

Please leave your residence if you smell gas. Call 911 after you are outside.

DOB

Most of our complaints are for illegal conversion. The second highest is for work without a permit. Community Board 8 has the highest number of requests in Queens for audits. Issues were found with 66% of the applications that the Community Board 8's office requested that DOB audit.

DFTA

The Department for the Aging will host an event on April 15th for new comers to Medicare from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. contact Darnley Jones to reserve a seat at 212-602-4264. He also wanted to remind residents to change the water in their go bags if their bags from the fall.

Marie Adam-Ovide

Happy Birthday: Carolyn Baker Brown, Dilafroz Ahmed and Mark Lefkof who are celebrating their birthdays this month.

Borough President's Representative – Susie Tanenbaum

- Condolences extended to Jagir Singh Bains and his family from Borough President Katz on the loss of his son-in-law.
- I would like to welcome the Board's new members, Douglas Sherman and Sylvia Hernandez. You have joined an excellent board, with very dedicated community leaders.
- There is a mandatory orientation meeting for new members on Thursday, May 14th from 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the NY Hall of Science. You can call (718) 286-2900 to RSVP.
- The NY Hall of Science is also where the annual swearing in ceremony is held. Those of you who are being newly appointed or re-appointed will be receiving an invitation within the next month.

First Vice-Chair Weinblatt invited Tammy Osherov to say a few words.

Tammy Osherov- I just want to thank everyone for wishing me well on the surgery that I had last month. I have to really give thanks to the CB8 Health Fair. Last year I was volunteering and had a chance to visit some of the booths. There was a cardiology booth with a poster that said do you know your risk for stroke or an aneurysm. A cardiologist approached me and I agreed to do a sonogram of my heart and my neck. I failed the test and found out that my carotid artery was blocked at that time more than 70%. It was a shock! I was going to doctors and taking more tests and discovered that it was then blocked more than 85%. I had the surgery and I am now recovering. I was at risk for a stroke and now I'm fine. Thanks to everyone for your prayers. I am very grateful to our Health Fair and to the cardiologist who discovered this.

Committee Reports:

Zoning Committee:

Kevin Forrestal, Executive Committee Member:

This very major piece of zoning changes has been put through a very fast track that will have the Community Boards looking to review it during the summer. Originally the comment period was until April 6th. At the Executive Committee Meeting we agreed to send a letter. There were some technical issues and it was not sent. They also extended the time until April 28th, which is not sufficient time for delivery. The Executive Committee approved unanimously that we send a letter saying two things;

1. The time to comment with the scoping is inadequate and that it should be extended 60 days beyond the original date.
2. The ULURP process for the review of this does not start until 90 days after the actual text is produced and published.

Kevin Forrestal called for a hand vote on sending a letter with some wording acknowledging that there has to be an extension.

Mark Lefkof made a motion to approve sending a letter regarding Zoning for Quality and Affordability Text Amendment. The motion was seconded by Marc A. Haken.

The vote passed unanimously, with no opposition.

Vote: In Favor: 35 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Voted for: Dilafroz Ahmed, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Sylvia Hernandez, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Tamara Osheroov, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Stanley Weinblatt , and Albert Willingham.

Voted Against: None

Abstained: None

Mark Lefkof - Since our Borough President’s representative is here, may we ask Susie to make the Borough President aware of what we are asking so that she can try to push this along.

Marc A Haken – We want to communicate with our Elected Officials and ask them for their support.

Kevin Forrestal – Yes, they will be copied. I spoke with Steve and we will try to convene a meeting of the Zoning Committee next week. While we are objecting to the time that we have to respond and make comments, I don’t necessarily think that the Mayor’s office is going to acquiesce to our requests. I think that it is important to get comments on some of the major issues that affect CB8 as quickly as possible. It will be a short turn around to have the meeting.

Adjournment

Susan Cleary made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:01 p.m., seconded by Marc A. Haken.

*Respectfully submitted,
Alma Karassavidis, CB8 staff
April 17, 2015*