



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, April 19, 2017 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, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Marc A. Haken, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mary Maggio, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Allen Bennett, Kenneth Cohen II, Howard A. Fried, Joshua Glikman, Michael Hannibal, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Tammy Oshero, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Steven Sadofky, Dr. Penny Maureen Stern, Rachele Van Arsdale and Jacob Weinberg.

Others Present:

Congresswoman Grace Meng, Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Ari Gershman representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Daniel Rosenthal representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Andrew Taranto representing State Senator Leroy Comrie, Muhammed Rachman representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Marilla Li representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager and Alma Karassavidis, CB8 staff member.

Call to Order:

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

Chairperson Taylor introduced a special guest, Congresswoman Grace Meng. She stopped by to say a few words to the community.

Guest Speaker:

Congresswoman Grace Meng – Congresswoman Meng explained that her schedule often has her in Washington, D.C. on the nights when Community Board 8 meetings are held. She apologized for the last minute appearance. She was in town and wanted to stop by to greet everyone and thank them for the great work being done for the community. She welcomed all to contact her office if they have any questions or wish to make any suggestions on any City, State or Federal matters. She mentioned that they are available to set up mobile offices for organizations that need to work with them. Her office is happy to come out to the community to make it easier for residents to chat with them and to seek help where and when it is convenient for them. Congresswoman Meng gave a quick update on some of the things they are working on.

1. **Health Care Bill** – There is still talk of another potential repeal type legislation that will be put forth by the majority. She is not sure, at this date, what it looks like yet. She stated that they may have a better idea when they go back to D.C. next week. However, the last version that was pulled from the floor was a version that would have taken away Health Care. They want to make sure that whatever legislation they are working on will be something that will drive costs down so that more people can get insured and not fewer.
2. **Infrastructure** – She talked about infrastructure legislation that could possibly be brought up in the next few weeks, but will have to wait to see what it will look like. There needs to be real investment to create real jobs at a realistic living wage for folks around the country and not just tax breaks for the corporations. This is not something that will provide real jobs. It would just help the wealthier corporations.

She apologized for sounding vague about some of this, explaining that a lot of it is just talk at this point. On April 28th, there is a potential chance for the government to shut down because funding will end. So on or before April 28th Congress must vote on legislation to make sure that all of our agencies are properly funded. She serves on the Small Business and Foreign Affairs Committees. She has most recently been selected to serve on the House Appropriations Committee. The budget, as proposed by the current President, will hurt a lot of folks in Queens and New York City. It completely eradicates programs like Meals on Wheels and HEAP. A large number of our seniors, especially in Queens, benefit from these programs. It takes away funds from our Mass Transit Program and funds to keep our systems safe throughout the City. The budget will also take money away from NIH (*National Institutes of Health*) for cancer research and completely eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts. There is already a lack of funding here in New York. Congresswoman Meng mentioned that she has heard from local organizations like the Queens Museum, who are already seeing a drastic change in the number of people coming out to their programs because they are scared of funding cuts. On a whole other topic of conversation, they are fearful about immigration related enforcement issues as well. Behind the scenes, there are efforts for the Democrats and the Republicans, at least on the Appropriations Committee, to work on restoring a lot of these proposed cuts. These programs are just as important to Republican Districts, if not even more important to rural or conservative areas. They are depending on the Republican Congress Members of New York State to work with them in combatting some of these cuts.

As a mother of two young children, Congresswoman Meng co-founded the Kid's Safety Caucus. She is working hard on promoting better education, nutrition and health for our children. She wants to raise awareness on the issues concerning the chemicals being used in American food products. We are learning that companies that produce food for our children and our families are producing the same type of product for the European Union without the use of food dyes and chemicals that are used here in the United States. She is also working on access to feminine hygiene products for women who are at lower income levels, homeless or in prisons. Young women here in the United States will sometimes have to skip school for a week because they cannot afford these products. Another long-term issue is quieter airplanes and cleaner trains. This is not only an issue in northeast Queens but also throughout the country. Congresswoman Meng was instrumental in founding the Quiet Skies Caucus two years ago. Tom Suozzi is the new Co-Chairperson. They have spoken with NASA in the quest to make quieter engines for planes and less emissions from freight trains.

Congresswoman Meng announced that her office is working with the VA (*Veteran's Administration*) to help with veterans applying for benefits. They have arranged with the VA to come to their office once a month for assistance with obtaining veteran's services. She advised that anyone in need of assistance should call her office to make an appointment. If anyone is interested in being put on the events' list for Congresswoman Meng, please contact her office. She offered much thanks for the Board's service to the community and for being the ears and eyes in keeping her office up to date.

Marc A. Haken – *We are all proud of you for what you have done in Congress and your speedy rise to leadership within the Democratic Party.*

Chairperson Martha Taylor – *Grace was recently elected the Vice Chair of the National Democratic Caucus. For someone who is just in her third term, that is pretty astounding. She has been wonderful and she is there for us.*

Public Participation:

Barbara Foote – Ms. Foote represents NY Presbyterian Hospital Queens as the manager of Community Outreach. She has worked with the Blood Donor Program for 14 years. She stated that she is very proud to have this new role in Community Outreach. The hospital is experiencing a period of tremendous development. Ms. Foote noted that there are many diverse patients in our community and they are working towards achieving a vision of delivering a single standard of care for every patient, in every setting. Thanks to their partnership with NY Presbyterian, one of our most respected, academic health care systems and its renowned two medical schools; Weill Cornell Medicine and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, their vision is becoming a reality. They have a trauma center that has been verified as a Level 1 Trauma Center which is one of their organization's highest distinction. They were also awarded for dedication to providing optimal care for their most critically ill patients. The facility also has a womens' risk assessment and cancer prevention program which provides comprehensive, high quality, innovative care and services for asymptomatic women at increased risk of developing cancer. Their stroke care, which is part of the Department of Neurology, has been recognized by the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association for two years in a row for its commitment to quality. As a New York State designated Level 1 regional stroke center their acute stroke care team provides the most rapid response delivered in acute stroke victims including certain medications. In the past year, their health care services were dramatically expanded throughout Queens. NY Presbyterian has a medical practice with 331 physicians and 160 licensed professionals. Also their heart and vascular center ranks as one of the leading providers of cardiac surgical care in New York. NY Presbyterian Queens was the only New York area hospital in 2015 to receive the highest lifeline award which is the gold award for emergency heart attack treatment, from the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology. Their Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Center was ranked in the top 10 percent nationally for joint replacement in the annual health grades survey. Excellence in total knee replacement and treatment of hip fractures was evaluated.

Susan Cleary – *I can't hear you.*

Barbara Foote – *Can you hear me now? [Ms. Foote adjusted the microphone and re-stated her last few comments].* The Trude Weishaupt Dialysis Center is one of the best rated programs for renal replacement therapy in the nation. Ms. Foote stated that they have a lot of other great services. She asked that if there were any questions, please feel free to contact her. She announced that they will be having an event for free Stroke Assessment on Thursday, May 11th, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m at the hospital in the Lang Lobby. Free lunch will be served. She hopes many will attend. *(Flyers were left with information on the event)*

Maureen Burns – Ms. Burns is Program Coordinator for the NY Presbyterian Breast and Prostate Peer Education Program. She was here to let us know about the programs at NY Presbyterian that are addressing vital community health needs:

1. **Cancer Services Program of Queens** – This program offers free breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening to uninsured Queens residents regardless of immigration status. Mammograms, PAP test and the FIT Kit are free to men and women who do not have health insurance; can not pay for these screenings; meet income and age eligibility requirements and live in Queens. Diagnostic services are also offered.
2. **Peer Education Project** – Their role is to go out into the community offering education and information. They try to encourage men and women to have a conversation with their doctors about the importance of breast cancer screening for woman and prostate cancer screening for men. They do small groups and one on one education in the community at cultural centers, libraries and health events. If anyone has a need for this service please contact Ms. Burns at (718) 670-1561 *(Flyers were left with information about the services).*

Ari Gershman – Mr. Gershman made a few quick announcements from Barry Grodenchik’s office:

Free Community Tennis – Council Member Grodenchik in coordination with NY Junior Tennis and Learning is offering Free Community Tennis for all children ages 5-18 beginning on Monday April 24th at P.S. 205, 75-25 Bell Blvd. Monday through Friday from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Science in the Park Programs – Sponsored by Council Member Grodenchik in coordination with NYC Parks on Sunday, April 23rd at 1:00 p.m at Alley Pond Park, 76th Avenue and Springfield Blvd.

Free Legal Services – Council Member Grodenchik in coordination with the NY Legal Assistance Group. They will have its mobile legal services van at the SNAP Senior Center in Queens Village, May 22nd and June 9th. Both days from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (*Flyers were left with information on the events*)

Salute to the Flag

Chairperson Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Carolann Foley made a motion to approve the minutes of February 8, 2017, seconded by Susan Cleary.

Count in favor 33 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, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Marc A. Haken, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mary Maggio, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

Board Members who did not approve the minutes:

None

Guest Speaker:

**Mitchell Teller, Administrator – Hillside Manor Rehabilitation and Extended Care Center
182-15 Hillside Avenue, Jamaica Estates**

– Mr. Teller came to introduce the facility and its services to the community. The facility has been in the community for 41 years since its opening in 1975 under the same ownership. Mr. Teller has been an administrator at the facility since August of 2014. The facility has 400 long term residents. For the past 15-20 years, the facility has also added a short term component. People come in with many different types of issues; cognitive, physical or a combination of both. They come to the facility for rehabilitation. Once they can get back to a level of independence then they can go back to their home or some other community based setting. The facility has a 5 star rating by the Federal Government - CMS (*Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services*). There are a little over 16,000 skilled nursing facilities across the United States. The rating system goes from one to five stars; one star is the poorest performing facilities and five is the absolute best. Out of those 16,000 facilities only 20 percent of those across the country will get that five star status. Mr. Teller was very proud to say that his facility is a five star facility. He stated that this is not an easy feat. He went on to explain that this type of facility is the second most regulated industry in the country. Only the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has more regulations than them. Many agencies come to survey the facility. The Department of Health comes on an annual basis to insure that the facility is in compliance with all the regulations required. This is a proud distinction to carry. He stated that the community should feel confident to know that this facility is one of compassion and empathy. Mr. Teller informed everyone that they have added new services which include the gym on the 12th floor (*one of the best views in Queens!*). It is only three years old and has all state of the art equipment. A new program was recently implemented for Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab for individuals who have had cardiac procedures. They go to the facility from the hospital where they are stabilized and sent back out into the community based

programs as quickly as possible. Patients in the short term unit usually have an average stay of 23 days. He invited anyone who would like to set up a tour of the facility to contact him. Mr. Teller advised that the facility is there for the community when they need them.

Chair Martha Taylor asked Kevin Forrestal to begin the Nominations for Officers in the absence of Mark Lefkof, Chair – Nominating Committee:

Kevin Forrestal – 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.

Chairperson – Martha Taylor

Nominated by Harbachan Singh, seconded by Jesse Rosenbaum.

1st Vice Chair – Stanley Weinblatt

Nominated by Mary Maggio, seconded by Susan Cleary.

2nd Vice Chair – Seymour Schwartz

Nominated by Steve Konigsberg, seconded by Carolann Foley.

3rd Vice Chair – Michael Hannibal *(Was not present. Accepts nomination if nominated)*

Nominated by Carolann Foley, seconded by Frank Magri.

Treasurer – Harbachan Singh

Nominated by Marc A. Haken, seconded by Carolyn Baker-Brown.

Secretary – Carolyn Baker-Brown

Nominated by Mary Maggio, seconded by Frank Magri.

Kevin Forrestal closed nominations for all categories. Next month will be the vote for these candidates.

Chairperson's Report – Martha Taylor:

- Chairperson Martha Taylor welcomed two new members to the board; John Gebhard and Dr. Penny Maureen Stern *(Dr. Stern was not present)*
- She offered condolences to Tami Hirsch for the loss of her husband, Irving. He was a wonderful man and a long time member of the community.
- Sey Schwartz is recuperating from a leg injury and is doing better than expected since he was present at the meeting. Everyone is happy to see that he is doing well.
- The Equal Employment Practices Commission did an audit of all Community Boards to determine if they meet the standards for Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) for the period of January 1, 2013 to present. The Commission determined that CB8 was in compliance. *To ensure that we continue to be in compliance, please remember to see the District Manager and take a copy of the New Borough President's EEO Policy that took effect in **February 2017** if you have not done so already.*
- There are two letters in your packets that have been approved by the Executive Committee:
 1. Letter of support sent to Borough President Katz for funding KEYS, a prevention program training for parents, educators and others that protects children from emotional and physical injury. This program was founded by Dr. Elissa Brown, a psychology professor at St. John's University.
 2. Letter of No Objection for Cornerstone Medical Arts for an additional 15 beds for substance abuse. As you know these services are very much needed. There will be no structural changes done to the facility.

Marc A. Haken – *He reiterated that the KEYS program educates teachers and parents to be aware of bullying so that teachers become aware and will in turn educate others in their community. The program was implemented in schools in Southhampton, NY and it worked out very well.*

District Manager's Report, April 2017

Human Resources Administration

The HRA announced that the new HRA App was launched on March 24th for both iPhones and Androids. Clients can now receive text messages about notices. The webpage www.access/nyc has been changed to www.access/hra. On February 1st, the HRA launched their "get covered NYC campaign" to encourage New Yorkers to sign-up for health insurance.

DOT – The DOT announced that they are currently resurfacing in CB13 and CB14. CB8 resurfacing will begin in late June or early July. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available. The first week of April was "National Work Zone Awareness Week." Please remember to slow down when driving through work zones.

DSNY – The DSNY distributed reusable shopping bags promoting the Zero Waste by 2030 initiative. These bags were given to encourage New Yorkers to use reusable bags when shopping instead of the disposable plastic bags provided by the businesses.

NYPD – The NYPD informed us that the burglaries numbers have increased. The good news is they made several arrests.

DFTA – There was a decrease in complaints made to Access-a-Ride from last month. Hurricane season is approaching and seniors are encouraged to change the water in their "go bags." This should be done at least every six months. Hurricane season is from June 1st to October 30th.

DOH & MH – The department had a very successful dog vaccination event at Flushing Meadow Corona Park, in spite of the rain on Saturday, April 1, 2017. There were sixty-nine (69) animals vaccinated. The dog registration fees are \$34 annually for un-fixed dogs, \$8.5 annually for fixed dogs. There is an \$8 late fee if your registration is expired. If the registration is renewed during a DOH&MH event, the late fee is waived. April 1st was also the beginning of the Mosquito season and Zika Virus information flyers are available.

The department is planning a food safety event in May. Once we receive the information it will be included in the May 2017 Newsletter.

DEP – It is lien sales season. If a property owner receives a notice of impending lien sale, he/she has until May 10th to pay or enter into some sort of payment arrangement. An event was scheduled for April 18th in Jamaica; however, you can also walk in at the DEP office on Junction Boulevard for assistance.

Trout Season started at DEP. There are 22 locations where one can receive permits from DEP to go fish! For more information, please call 1-800-577-LAND.

The list of bio-swales aka rain garden locations is coming soon.

DOB – The Department of Buildings continues to see an increase in NB and Alteration 1 Applications from last year. The number of demolition permits remains about the same. They are currently focusing on the following:

- Abandoned properties and issues with squatters.
- Central A/C installation – they are allowed in front of properties as long as they are covered.
- Condensers are allowed on side yards.
- Gas fed emergency generator require DOB permits for installation.
- Paving of front yards – violations of the Yard Text Amendment of April 2008.
- Fences are allowed on property lines – If unsure as to where the property lines are, they recommend surveys to determine lot lines.

FDNY –There is a class of new probationary officers due to come out shortly. The Fire Department is looking for venues near transit hubs for upcoming testing. If you have not done so, please change the batteries in your smoke and C.O. detectors. The agency announced that a community event is being planned for early June. We will keep you posted.

Parks – There will be a capital project at Cunningham Park starting after the Philharmonic on June 19th. They will work on Phase I which is the core area and should be completed in early fall. The picnic grove will be open until September 4, 2017. Phase II will start on September 5, 2017 and permits will not be issued for the affected areas.

The Farmer’s Market is scheduled for every Sunday starting on May 28, 2017 until November 19, 2017.

Happy Birthday to Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dilafroz Ahmed and Mark Lefkof who are celebrating their birthday this month!

Chairperson Martha Taylor pointed out that the orange reusable bags were given to us by the DSNY as part of their Zero Waste program. Marie Adam-Ovide gave a demonstration on how to fold them up into a small reusable bag with corner pouch.

Borough President’s Representative – Susie Tanenbaum

- Ms. Tanenbaum stated that she hoped that everyone who celebrated Passover, Easter or Vaisakhi had very enjoyable holidays this past week!
- On behalf of Borough President Katz, she welcomed the new Community Board members, John Gebhard and Dr. Penny Maureen Stern (*not present*). Ms. Tanenbaum added that they are part of an excellent board with a very dedicated group of civic leaders. She looks forward to working with them in the months ahead.
- Ms. Tanenbaum informed everyone of the Borough President’s Parent Advisory Board Meeting being held at Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blvd. on Thursday, April 20th at 6:00 p.m in Room 200. There will be speakers from the NYS Higher Education Services Corp., SUNY, CUNY and the Foundation Center. There will be workshops on College Admissions and Financial Aid. Everyone is invited to attend.
- On Tuesday, April 25th Borough President Katz is hosting her annual Vaisakhi celebration with Sikh community members at 6:00 p.m. at Queens Borough Hall. All are welcome to attend.
- Wednesday, April 26th at 5:30 p.m. is the Borough President’s Annual Orientation Training for new and re-appointed Community Board Members. All re-appointed members should have received a letter in the mail. Ms. Tanenbaum looks forward to welcoming all the new and re-appointed members. It will be held at the Borough President’s Office in the Atrium which is now called the Helen Marshall Cultural Center.
- She distributed a newsletter from Borough President Katz. On the cover is a picture of our beloved, former Borough President, the Honorable Helen Marshall. She reported that on March 19th Borough President Katz hosted a program in the Atrium called Celebrating the Life and Legacy of the Honorable Helen Marshall. Several hundred people attended. QPTV recorded the event. Ms. Tanenbaum will let us know when the program airs.

Committee Reports:

Cuzco Peru BBQ Chicken Inc. - 138-13B Queens Boulevard:

Chairperson Martha Taylor for Michael Hannibal (not present), Liquor License Committee Chair:

The Liquor License Committee met with the manager of the establishment, Alex Torres and his representative Mr. Nalevaiko on March 21, 2017. They currently have a wine and beer license and are applying for an upgrade to a Full Liquor License. The location was in violation of the 500 foot rule – meaning that they are located within 500 feet of other full liquor establishments. They had no issues in the past. The Committee approved their application provided that they provide written documentation that they would abide by the following:

1. The establishment provides security on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 8:00 p.m. until closing.
2. The establishment must have a full time bartender.
3. The staff must maintain the cleanliness in front of the establishment.
4. Bartenders must enroll and complete the ATAP Certification Course.

They requested an extension and have provided all necessary documents on April 16th via e-mail.

NYC Cloud 9 Corporation - 179-22 Union Turnpike:

Last year, the owner of Cloud 9 was asked to come to the Liquor License Committee due to a shooting that occurred near his establishment. They gave assurance to the Committee that they have taken steps to address this security issue. Later that year, another incident occurred outside the establishment that began on the premises. The owner met with Council Member Lancman and CB8 leadership and they requested that they provide a plan of action. The owner failed to do so and the Community Board sent a letter of objection to the State Liquor Authority (SLA). The SLA suspended Cloud 9's liquor license.

Cloud 9 appeared before the Liquor License Committee again at a meeting on March 28, 2017 to request a renewal [license still suspended]. The owner appeared with his filing representatives. He still had no plan of action as to what will be done to address the security issues. The Committee voted overwhelmingly against recommending approval of this application. A letter of objection has been sent to the SLA.

Adjournment

Carolann Foley made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:24 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Alma Karassavidis, CB8 staff
May 3, 2017*