

Minutes of Community Board 8 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike, Flushing, New York

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Mary Maggio Fischer, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Robert Harris, Steven Konigsberg, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Tammy Oshero, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor, Robert Van Pelt, Alvin Warshaviak, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent:

Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Maurice Braithwaite, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Howard A. Fried, Joshua Glikman, Michael Hannibal, Tami Hirsch, Mitch Lisker, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Virginia Rallis, Charlton Rhee, Anna Sawchuk, Harbachan Singh and Jacob Weinberg.

Others Present:

Alen R. Beerman representing Councilman Mark Weprin, Anthony Lemma representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Megan Keane and David Ng representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Helen Marshall, Valli Cook representing Queens College, Jamise Jones and Barbara McKeon, CB8 Staff Members.

Call to Order:

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

Public Participation:

Megan Keane is the new community liaison for Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (25th Assembly District).

- The office is currently located at 159-16 Union Turnpike, Suite 210, Hillcrest, NY 11366. Megan would be the contact person. The phone number is (718) 820-0241. Email: megan@nilyrozic.org
- Megan also introduced David Ng who is Assemblywoman Nily Rozic's Chief of Staff.
- A big event coming up is the Assemblywoman's Inauguration. It will be held at Townsend Harris High School on Sunday, January 27th at 2:00 p.m.

Spin Hrabik, representing Stonevalley, LLC. He wanted to thank the 107th Precinct, especially Detective Patterson, for his assistance with the graffiti on his building walls. He was informed that new sewers will be put in at 172-27 to 41 Hillside Avenue. He would appreciate if new sewers could be put in on Hillside Avenue at Wexford Terrace and Kingston Place. When there is a downpour there are backups. He has 700 sq. ft. of retail space on Hillside if anyone is interested.

Marc A. Haken, Chair of the Youth, Education and Library Committee. On behalf of Community Board 8, Mr. Haken wants to thank the members of this Board for passing a resolution not to close any of the Beacon Programs in NYC. We Won! The Mayor found funds to keep 74 Beacon programs (except 7) open.

Dahlia Goldenberg is here this evening representing the Fairness Coalition in Queens. She spoke on the new application that was filed by the USTA National Tennis Center. Her organization is opposed of this application. She wanted to share this with the Community Board based on:

1. The expansion and removal of park land
2. Potential destruction of 400 trees in the park
3. How much public access will there be to these facilities.

She urged the Community Board to hold a full public hearing on the expansion of the tennis center.

Questions:

- Does the USTA contribute to the capital improvement and maintenance of the park?
- Will there be a plan to replace the park land?
- If the USTA facilities are publicly accessible, why then are there large gates and fences on the properties.
- What will the usage of the courts cost?
- How do we know growth won't continue after this expansion?
- Will grasslands be used for parking?
- Questions on the impact on the surrounding communities.
- Questions on the community advisory board.

Anthony Lemma, Director of Community Relations for Assemblyman David Weprin. On behalf of Assemblyman Weprin, Mr. Lemma wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year. He announced that the District Office has been moved to 185-06 Union Turnpike, Fresh Meadows 11366. Assemblyman Weprin invited everyone to an open house this Sunday, January 13th between 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The office # is: 718 454-3027.

Salute to the Flag

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Mark J. Lefkof made a motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2012 seconded by Frank Magri.

Board Members who approved the minutes: Dilafroz Ahmed, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Mary Maggio Fischer, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Robert Harris, Steven Konigsberg, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Tammy Osherov, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor, Robert Van Pelt, Alvin Warshaviak, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

Count in favor: 29 **Opposed: 0 **Abstained: 0****

Memorial for Staff Member Jennifer Phillips Brosowsky

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak

The way many people judge a person's life is that after they pass on, did they leave the world a little bit better than when they first entered. Jennifer worked for the Board for approximately nine years. She wasn't a Councilwoman, she wasn't an Assemblywoman, but she was a person who really cared about her job. She made certain that whatever the complaint or issue was, she would make sure that it was taken care of. As a result, we on the Board and especially those people who knew the work that she did know that she is surely missed. The Board will suffer greatly with her loss. Another person may come in but she will not be replaced. May her memory be sanctified and may her parents, family and husband take some happiness in the fact that she was a person that did good and she will surely be missed.

Marc A. Haken read aloud a letter from former District Manager, Diane Cohen

Jennifer was a very devoted employee, extremely conscientious to her work and a wonderful person. She was always cheerful and funny. We will always remember all the lovely cards she sent for all occasions. I will especially remember her beautiful wedding to Evan.

Marc A. Haken

Since I lived around the corner from the CB office, I would occasionally stop by and share stories with Jennifer. Jennifer was a bubbly comic and a very nice person. I personally will miss Jennifer. He complimented Jennifer's parents on doing a real good job with Jennifer. Her wedding was the highlight of her life.

Martha Taylor

Jennifer was really very special. When you called in the morning, she was always the first one there. She would answer the phone and you could hear the smile in her voice. She gave cards to everyone. She always had quarters in her desk and would offer me the change when I needed it for the meters. Jennifer was a thorough worker. Jennifer was delightful. Jennifer overcame the disabilities that she had. We will always miss Jennifer.

Cheryl White

Cheryl works at the US Post Office on the corner of the CB office. She had the pleasure of knowing Jennifer. Jennifer loved to buy stamps (especially the Disney stamps) for all the cards she sent out to everyone. Jennifer brought joy to me each day. For five years we had a great relationship. She was joyful. She was exceptional and nurturing. She will be missed.

Stanley Weinblatt

Stan is proud to say that he and Seymour Schwartz interviewed Jennifer and hired her. Jennifer shined at the interview. She was enthusiastic and you could see she really wanted the job. We were very confident that this young lady was going to fit the bill. We were absolutely right! We are mourning her loss but let us celebrate her life.

Robert Harris

We would call the office with neighborhood problems. Jennifer would answer and she would fix the problems. She was always there. She did the service for the neighborhood. She knew who to contact. Because of her, the neighborhoods are a nicer place to live.

Staff Member Jamise Jones read aloud a letter District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide wrote to Jennifer's mother, Bonnie.

Jennifer has been a pleasure to work with from the start. She was always eager to please and was courteous to everyone at the other end of the phone – even the not so nice folks who called. She was a ray of sunshine for the office. Usually the first one there to greet us cheerfully and always had a story to tell. She learned things quickly and always went the extra mile. I hope she believed in herself more. I don't know if she often saw the potential that we all saw in her. She had a good heart; she saw the best in people; most of all she had a great sense of humor. We miss her very much.

Marie Adam-Ovide

Staff Member Jamise Jones

Jennifer was a special little lady. She was loving, kind, caring and witty. Every morning she would be at the office no later than 8:45 a.m. I always knew she would be there to greet me with a story. Jennifer had a story every day without fail. Some days I would walk in and tell her "Jenn, I don't speak to people under 5'5" before 11 a.m." Every few days she would ask me to get something that was put above her reach. Jennifer was 4'11" and I am 5'9". "Jamise, can you do me a small favor," Jenn would say. "I can't do **small** favors, I can only do **tall** favors," I'd say with a chuckle. She'd laugh, tell me what she wanted me to do and I'd oblige...I mean who could resist a request from sweet Jenn?

These are the times that I miss most with my Jenny Benny. She remembered everything. On many days I went home and was greeted by a thank you note from Jenn. She even sent cards to my family members so much so that my father adopted her as his Jewish daughter. One holiday season Jennifer picked me in the office grab bag. On exchange day, I received the cutest blue Build-A-Bear. My son stole it at first sight. The next day, I came to work and told the story and a few days later a little bag was on my chair when I got to work. It was from Jenn with a note saying that she felt bad that my gift was stolen by my then 3 year old son and she wanted me to have something. She took great pride in composing Birthday cards for Board Members and "Thank You" cards. She never missed one! We always teased her to open JenMark and put Hallmark out of business. That was Jenn. She was always thinking of everyone else unless of course it involved the color purple, butterflies, Disney or a Broadway musicals. That was Jenn's territory!

In my heart, I hope that Jenn knew how much she meant to me, how much I loved her and how much I enjoyed not only being her co-worker but her friend. I truly miss laughing with her and talking with her. On many occasions since she passed, I have turned to my right while sitting at my desk to ask her something or tell her something funny and she is not there. It seems that we as people never realize how much someone has impacted us until they are no longer with us. As there is always a lesson to be learned, let us allow the sudden loss of Jennifer to soften our hearts. Let us care for those closest to us. Let us be attentive to our family, friends, coworkers and neighbors. Let us show care and kindness. Let us pick up the torch and allow Jennifer to live on.

Jamise Jones created a beautiful memorial video of Jennifer and her life which she shared with Jennifer's family, friends and Board Members.

Chairman Warshaviak asked for a moment of silence.

Chairman's Report

- District Manager Marie Adam Ovide is not feeling well this evening and could not attend this meeting. The District Manager's Report was distributed.

District Manager's Report, January 2013

DOT – Department of Transportation personnel has now returned to the DOT headquarters at 55 Water Street. We received responses to many of our outstanding requests with the exception of speed humps and curbs. These requests are waiting to be funded.

FDNY – In 2012, there was an increase in fire by 39, life threatening EMS complaints by 60 and an increase in non life-threatening EMS complaints by 211 as compared to 2011. They believe it might be storm related. 184 EMTs graduated in 2012 and many are being assigned to Battalion 50 which serves our community. The holiday inspections for overstocking the stores done by FDNY are coming to an end. An inspection is scheduled for the bottle redemption center on Fresh Meadow Lane at my request.

PARKS – There will be a Mulchfest at Cunningham Park on January 12th and January 13th at the 196th Street Parking lot near the tennis courts. All are welcome to bring their Christmas trees after removing all ornaments for mulching. If you plan on taking the mulch with you for your garden, you must bring your own bags.

CAU – The City has the lowest murder rate in years, lowest fire fatalities and the highest number of tourists. The last day to sign up for NYC Rapid Repair program is January 14, 2013. When asked about trailers for those whose homes won't be repaired in time, the City is concerned with the air quality of the trailers. There have been many lawsuits associated with the trailers in Louisiana. The restoration centers are open indefinitely.

DEP – A temporary waiver has been issued for the use of fuel that does not meet the current low sulfur requirement mandated by New York State. The temporary waiver that was scheduled to end on December 21st has been extended to January 18, 2013. The agency is also streamlining boiler repair to save time.

We requested the results of the flow monitor study once again. Shane Ojar wants to meet the DEP/Sanitation Committee and discuss the results. I was assured that we would receive the results in time for the meeting.

DDC – The department is no longer removing the tree stump and repairing sidewalks damaged by Hurricane sandy, as the funding was depleted. All requests should be forwarded to Parks and DOT through 311.

DOB – There were 1,510 complaints in 2012. There were 113 complaints for Community Board 8 in October, November and December 2012.

HRA – The department has a new program called Back to Work (B2W). It gives more incentives for going back to work. It includes a fast track training program. Its goal is to place people in long term employment.



- Happy Birthday to Jagir Singh Bains, Mike Sidell, Kenneth Cohen II, Virginia Ralls, Maria DeInnocentiis, Frank Magri and Martha Taylor who are celebrating their birthdays this month.
- Happy 80th Birthday to Stanley Weinblatt!

Councilman Mark Weprin

Community Board 8 is a special place. There is something about the way this board meets and interacts. It is a much warmer place to come to visit. CB8's people are really like a family for our community. Its night's like this that you feel the spirit of family. We all had a terrible loss with Jennifer. Jennifer was a good friend to many of us. He gave his condolences.

St. Johns University

- Martha Taylor was pleased to share with everyone that there are no issues with St. Johns at the present time.
- Paul Lazauskas, representing St. John's University, shared with us that classes will resume January 23rd. The next Community Dialogue meeting is scheduled for January 29th.

Borough President's Representative – Susie Tanenbaum

- Condolences to Harbachan Singh and his family on the passing of his wife, Susil. Susil was a bright and strong woman.
- Condolences also to the family and friends of Jennifer. Although she was not as lucky as many others who knew Jennifer, she could tell she was an extraordinary young woman. She was so professional and competent. She was so respectful of everyone. It didn't matter what your status was or your shortcomings. She treated everyone with such respect.
- Borough President Helen Marshall invites everyone to attend her annual State of the Borough Address on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. It will be held at the Colden Auditorium at Queens College.

Adjournment

This Board Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara McKeon, CB8 staff

January 11, 2013