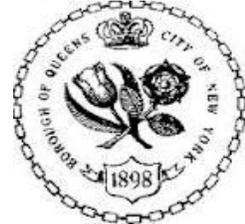




Chairman, Alvin Warshaviak

*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, March 13, 2013 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike, Flushing, New York

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Steven Konigsberg, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Tammy Osherov, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor, Robert Van Pelt, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent:

Maurice Braithwaite, Kenneth Cohen, II, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Joshua Glikman, Tami Hirsch, Mitch Lisker, Simon Pelman, Virginia Rallis, Anna Sawchuk, Michael F. Sidell and Harbachan Singh.

Others Present:

Ari Gershman representing Councilman Mark Weprin, Costa Constantinides representing Councilman James Gennaro, Anna Aulova representing State Senator Tony Avella, Facia Class representing Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz, Megan Keane representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Helen Marshall, Barry Grodenchik - Director of Community Boards, Ian Hegarty representing City Planning, Melinda Katz, District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide, Jamise Porterfield and Barbara McKeon, CB8 Staff.

Call to Order:

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

Public Participation:

Roger Montesano, Fire Department - Community Affairs, contributed batteries for our smoke detectors to the Board Members and the audience. He also invited the community to the Fire Department's free CPR training program. Call CPR Training Unit: 718 281-3888 for more information. Mr. Montesano also distributed a brochure on fire safety for Jewish observances.

Miriam Weisman urged the Board to vote in favor of the street renaming to "Rabbi Dr. H. Joel Laks Way".

Judith Guttman, Co-President of the Parkway Village Historical Society, expressed her opposition to Queens Hospital Center's T-Building proposal.

Martin Guttman, a resident of Parkway Village for 36 years, is against the rebuilding of the T-Building.

Danielle Guttman expressed her opposition to the proposed T-Building.

Sati Gurdial, shareholder and owner of Parkway Village, is against the T-Building plans.

Benjamin Haber stated "the time has come to say no" to the USTA expansion.

Ralph Newman lives two blocks away from the T-Building. He stated that this plan for the T-Building is a horrible idea and he is against the proposal.

Ari Gershman, spoke on the Participatory Budgeting, which is a process that Councilman Mark Weprin has introduced this year that will allow the public to decide how \$1 million of capital discretionary funding will be

spent. Voters must be living in the 23rd City Council District. There will be a public vote the first week of April for five projects. For more information contact Council Member Mark Weprin's office at 718 468-0137.

Dr. Mitchell Laks is in favor of the street renaming to "Rabbi Dr. H. Joel Laks Way."

Chris Vazquez is a board member of Parkway Village. He is totally against the T-Building proposal.

Janet Kelly is the Treasurer of the Jackson Heights Beautification Group. The J.H.B.G urges everyone to say "no" to giving more park land to the National Tennis Center.

Edward Westley, Community Board 3 Member, asks for our support and say "no" to the USTA application with conditions.

Phil Konigsberg, Member of Community Board 7, urges the Board to vote "no" on the USTA expansion.

Judy Shack, Parkway Village resident, is opposed of the Queens Hospital Center T-Building proposal.

Robert Wereszka is seeking support of the National Tennis Center expansion. There are not enough courts for the tennis community.

Justyna Wereszka, tennis professional at the National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows Corona Park hopes the USTA expansion will be approved.

Valentin Mihai, Captain of St. John's Men's Tennis Program, pledged his support for the USTA's plan for expansion.

Rob Mackay supports the USTA expansion because it is good for the economy.

Scott Daly represents the NY Junior Tennis and Learning Organization. He urges the Board to please support the USTA proposal.

William Wiese is a resident for CB8. He is here to advocate for the USTA proposal.

Effraim Moskowitz is a seasonal worker for the USTA for the last 17 years. There are over 6,000 seasonal workers who benefit from the USTA. Queens needs this.

Mike Silverman, Director of Sports for the City Parks Foundation of New York, hopes the Community Board will approve the USTA proposal.

Jack Leone is an electrician of Local Union #3, IBEW. He has been working at the Tennis Center for the past 8 years. He is pleased to be here to support the expansion of the USTA. He is grateful for the work he gets.

Ted Newkirk, a private executive for a plumbing and sprinkler firm who employs plumbers from Local #1 and steamfitters from Local 638, both located in Queens. They have been doing work at the NTC for almost 40 years. He knows the impact the NTC has on our local economy. He urges the Board to vote in favor of the USTA expansion.

Ronnie Perez, Engineer, Local Union 30 – Operating Engineers. The NTC means union jobs and the proposed project would result in additional work for union workers.

Angelo Cardinale is here to support the USTA expansion. THE NTC has been very helpful to "wheelchair tennis" for the past 15 years.

Nastasia Chittumuri is a senior at Mary Lewis Academy and plays tennis at the USTA NTC. She hopes the Board will support this plan because the USTA has helped kids learn tennis.

Jim Gallagher announced the following information:

- On Monday, January 21st, the Queens Civic Congress representing over 100 civics voted unanimously in opposition to the USTA expansion and also in opposition for the Queens Hospital Center T-Building.
- On Monday, January 28th, the Mid-Queens Community Council also voted unanimously against the USTA expansion and the T-Building proposal.
- Reminder, please take advantage of the DEP sewer and waterline protection program that the homeowners received in the mail.

Jeff Yu is a 5th grader at PS 101 in Forest Hills. He is here tonight to speak in support of the USTA's expansion plan for the NTC. The USTA provides him with a facility that he can play tennis. (Chairman Warshaviak thanked Jeff for coming tonight and complimented the young man on his public speaking.)

Marty Weinstein stated the Project ACE Program at the NTC has served over 3,000 school children in NYC. We urge the Board to vote in favor of the NTC so that these programs will continue.

Jim Carlson is happy to pledge his support for the USTA plan. He is grateful for the year round work.

Susan Cleary is the President of the Kew Gardens Hills Tenants Association. She wants to know why Flushing Meadow Corona Park is being treated as if it is on the wrong side of the tracks. She also stated that the jail behind the Supreme Court Building would be a good location for the T-Building proposal.

Mary Abbate is a resident of District 8 and Associate Director of Queens Community House. She is asking the Board to vote no to the USTA's expansion.

Costa Constantinides representing Councilman James Gennaro stated Councilman Gennaro strongly supports the co-naming of 78th Road "Rabbi Dr. H. Joel Laks Way". Councilman Gennaro also is in support of the USTA expansion plan.

Paul Lazauskas is the Associate Director of Community Relations at St. Johns University. He spoke on the American Cancer Society. They are going to have their Cancer Prevention Study -3 on Tuesday May 21st from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, May 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They are looking for up to 250 participants to register on campus for these two days. It is a 20 year study for ages 30 years up to 62 year olds. For more information or to schedule your appointment visit www.cps3queens.org or call 718 990-1941.

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 February 13, 2013 seconded by Kevin Forrestal.

Board Members who approved the minutes:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Steven Konigsberg, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Tammy Osherov, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven

Sadofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor, Robert Van Pelt, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

Count in favor: 35 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Chairman's Report

- Chairman Warshaviak acknowledged and thanked the police force from the 107th Precinct for attending our Board Meeting this evening.
- Nominations for the Officers of the Board will be in April and the vote will be in May.
- In your packet, there is a draft of our Community Board's response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget based on the Public Hearing held on February 19th. If you have any changes, please let Marie know by the end of the day tomorrow.
- Congratulations to our staff member Jamise Jones who was recently married to Pierre Porterfield.
- Community Board 8 has a new representative from the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, Ido Shargal.
- Chairman Warshaviak acknowledged and welcomed Barry Grodenchik and Melina Katz in the audience.

District Manager's Report

District Manager's written report was distributed.

NYPD The 107th Precinct continues to show improvement in crime prevention. Our precinct is ranked 4th out of 76 precincts citywide in the reduction of crime. We commend Deputy Inspector Coyle and the officers for their work. The barricades are ready for the Chometz Burning Stations and will be placed the night before as in the past. To address an issue raised with the youth at the Pomonok Library, auxiliary police officers will be assigned there to monitor this location.

FDNY – Year to date: there were 64 structural fires, total fires 102, medical emergencies 875 and the amount of total incidents 1,000. There will a dedicated engine for each Chometz Burning Station to ensure safety. The FDNY wanted to remind you that if you have not changed the batteries in your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, please do so tonight.

Transit Police – If you ride the subway, the Transit Police wants to remind you to remain alert as you use your mobile telephones. There have been many incidents where these telephones were snatched from their owners as the trains are pulling in and out of the stations. He also suggested registering the telephones with your local police precinct to facilitate their return to their rightful owners, in case the perpetrators are arrested.

DFTA - There are no plans for additional senior centers for CB8. The agency continues to reach out to civic organizations to make presentations about emergency preparedness.

DSNY – A representative from Enforcement Unit attended and was given issues to address. The Superintendent has everything set for the Chometz Burning Stations and the special collection before Passover.

HRA – HEAP applications must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2013. The department has two new initiatives for the youth: 1) **Relationship Abuse Program** (R.A. P.) a school based program to help teenagers recognize healthy relationship and 2) **No Kidding: Straight Talk From Teen Parents** - a program that uses teen parents as peer educators to present the realities of being a teen parent.

Parks – Community Board 8’s permit for its annual health fair at Cunningham Park has been approved for Thursday, June 27th. The Big Apple Circus has also been granted a permit from May 19th to June 19th at Cunningham Park.

DOB – The Community Board has an average of 127 complaints a month. Our number one complaint is illegal conversion. Community Board 14 that covers Far Rockaway has shown a tremendous increase in complaints from an average of about 64 complaints to over 500 complaints last month. This has been due to Super Storm Sandy issues. This has added a strain on the department’s ability to make inspections.

Happy Birthday to Harbachan Singh & Michael Hannibal who are celebrating their birthdays this month.

Borough President’s Representative – Susie Tanenbaum

- At the Borough Board on Monday, March 18th at 5:30 p.m. Borough President Helen Marshall and her Chief of Staff Alexandra Rosa will be presenting in detail the Queens Borough Board Fiscal Year 2014 Expense & Capital Budget Priorities. Our office works on this tremendous document for many weeks. The Borough Board members will be voting on this document. Martha Taylor will be representing CB8 at the meeting.
- Borough President Marshall will be co-sponsoring Greek Independence Day event along with Senator Michael N. Gianaris and Assemblyman Aravella Simotas on Friday, March 22, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hellenic Cultural Center located at 27-09 Crescent Street in Astoria. All invited. RSVP: 718 286-2857
- Happy St. Patrick’s Day, Happy Passover and Happy Easter.

Ido Shargal, Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit.

Ido introduced himself. He is the new Queens Borough Director for the Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit. He will cover Central and South Queens, including CB8. His contact information is: ishargal@cityhall.nyc.gov. Telephone: 212 788-7448. CAU is essentially the eyes and ears for the Mayor.

Committee Report:

Street Renaming of 78th Road adjoining (Parsons Boulevard and 160th Street) in tribute to Dr. Rabbi Joe Laks – Chairman Alvin Warshaviak

- The street will be renamed: “Rabbi Dr. H. Joel Laks Way”
- It will be located on 78th Road, adjoining Parsons Boulevard for one block eastbound to 160th Street.
- A public hearing was held on March 5, 2013. There was no opposition from the public speakers. All spoke in favor of the Rabbi and of co-naming the street sign. There were petitions signed by residents as

well and public legislators in favor of it. Our transportation committee also approved it at its last meeting.

- Chairman Warshaviak will vote in favor of the street naming.

Motion:

Mark J. Lefkof made a motion to approve the Street renaming to “Rabbi Dr. H. Joel Laks Way”, seconded my Jesse Rosenbaum.

Vote: 34 in favor 0 opposed 0 abstained

Board Member who voted unanimously in favor: Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Steven Konigsberg, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Tammy Osherov, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor, Robert Van Pelt, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center Strategic Vision Project Presentation

The following two guest speakers were given 15 minutes of speaking time each to make a presentation to the Community Board on the USTA Expansion.

- **Will Sweeney** – Member of the Fairness Coalition of Queens, a group formed to oppose the project.
- **Daniel Zausner, CEO** – USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center Strategic Vision Project Presentation. Mr. Zausner’s presentation was in favor of the USTA expansion.

Resolution Against the T-Building’s Comunilife Proposal as submitted – Alvin Warshaviak, Chair

The resolution was written by Seymour Schwartz. There will be no discussion on this matter. All Board Members had an opportunity to review the resolution and to make changes.

Motion:

Marc A. Haken made a motion to approve the resolution opposing this project as submitted in its present condition, seconded by Mark J. Lefkof.

Vote: 32 in favor 0 opposed 2 abstained with cause

Board Member who voted in favor:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Steven Konigsberg, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Tammy Osherov, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor, Robert Van Pelt, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg and Stanley Weinblatt.

Board Members who abstained with cause : (employees of Health and Hospital Corporation): Kevin Forrestal and Albert Willingham.

ULURP No. 130155PPQ – USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center Strategic Vision Project – Alienation of .68 acre. Martha Taylor, Zoning Committee Vice-Chair and Parks Committee Chair

Motion:

Robert Van Pelt made a motion to approve ULURP No: 130155PPQ – USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center Strategic Vision Project, seconded by Mark J. Lefkof with the following stipulations/conditions.

Chairman Warshaviak made mention that the stipulations/conditions were sent to all Board Members for their review and input. The final conditions are as follows:

Stipulations/Conditions for CB8 motion to approve USTA alienation of .68 acres at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park:

- .68 acres will be replaced in another location within FMCP.
- \$15 million will be donated upfront to an escrow account for a newly expanded FMCP conservancy to benefit the park.
- \$1 million annual operating fund dedicated directly to the park’s upkeep for the duration of the lease to be adjusted with the cost of living.
- A Community Advisory Board (CAB) will be created with at least two members of each affected community board (3, 4, 6, 7, 8 & 9) to hold regularly scheduled bimonthly meetings.
- Discounted tickets will be provided for the US Open to residents of the affected community boards, with eligibility to be determined by the community boards.
- Free admission to Arthur Ashe Kids’ Day will be determined by the affected community boards, not Borough President’s Office.
- Job fairs will be provided to the residents of the affected community boards prior to the job fairs held for the general populations.
- Construction job opportunities will be provided for Unions and Minority/ Women Owned Businesses.
- Tennis programs will be offered to public schools and Beacon programs within Community Board 8.
- Creation of tennis courts at Junior High School 216 and M.S. 217, including installation of equipment for hanging nets, nets and court boundary lines.

Discussion:

Bob Harris, as President of the West Cunningham Civic Association, his concern is parks. He urges not to give away and take anymore land from Flushing Meadow Corona Park.

Mark Lefkof: It is his understanding that if we vote against this, we possibly would have no standing into any discussions with USTA regarding possible amenities. (Daniel Zausner, CEO – USTA explain that there is no such thing as a “no” vote with conditions means nothing gets discussed. A “yes” vote with conditions offers the opportunity for discussion.

Monica Corbett recommended a walk way or a bridge be created so that the courts do not have to be moved.

Kevin Forrestal believes we should be taking any park land away without it coming back. He is very upset that the USTA is not putting anything on the table as to what they are willing to spend. Other Boards have voted no, thinking and believing that it is the strongest way to put pressure on the City Council and the Planning Commission.

Dr. Allen Bennett was a tennis player when he was a kid. He used to play at the NTC. Dr. Bennett has always been in favor of projects that give our kids things to do. It is only .68 acre. We should vote in favor with the stipulations.

Martha Taylor will vote in favor.

Robert Van Pelt stated it is .68 acre and he will vote in favor.

Steven Sadofsky stated that the children who play tennis in the NTC will be getting supervised playing time and will be getting the exercise they need. He believes it is a wonderful thing.

Frank Magri stated this is what this park is used for. This will bring incredible work opportunity for Queens.

Susan Cleary would like the stipulation, Item #2 to read: “\$15 million will be donated upfront to an escrow account for a newly expanded FMCP conservancy to benefit the park.”

Maria DeInnocentiis has concerns with some of the stipulations. Where did we come up with \$15 Million? Maria stated that at the Public Hearing, we never got an answer to what is a reasonable amount. Maria doesn't know if \$15 million is reasonable. She doesn't like the idea of putting in a number amount. The .68 acre of prime land is worth a lot more than \$15 million. We need to decide whether it is a good deal.

Maria DeInnocentiis stated the USTA can stay in the current footprint and still construct stadiums, still create union jobs and still construct parking garages. She personally feels our park land is important to the children of this city. She is against this proposal.

Howard Fried believes at the end of the day, we are benefiting by a small piece of land. He will vote yes.

Charlton Rhee was a tennis player as a child. We have a chance to enhance an organization that is world known.

The impact on kids is big. He will vote in the positive.

James Gallagher would like to see added to Item #3 of the stipulations ***"to be adjusted with the cost of living"***.

Samuel Rodriguez seems to believe this is a done deal. He is in favor of the proposal. He wants to see all union jobs.

Jesse Rosenbaum would like them to move their headquarters out of Westchester to our borough.

Marc Haken would like the USTA to contact the principals at J.H.S. 216 and M.S. 217. These schools would like the USTA to come into their schools and build tennis courts in their backyards. Mr. Haken wants the USTA to agree to as many amenities for the youth as they possibly can. Mr. Haken will vote yes.

Dilafroz Ahmed will vote in favor. She believes our community will benefit from this project.

Tammy Oshero stated that the USTA is a known successful commodity. She will vote yes.

Mr. Harris wants to know how much does the USTA compensate the City for the Police Department and Fire Department services during the US Open?

Daniel Zausner answered:

1) The USTA brought in their own security for the event.

2) Police presence was necessary around the perimeter as well as the Fire Department because we are a terrorist risk. We did not pay for additional city services.

Vote: 26 in favor 8 opposed 0 abstained

Board Members who voted in favor:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Monica Corbett, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Howard A. Fried, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Steven Konigsberg, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Tammy Oshero, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Annie Salvatore, Martha Taylor, Robert Van Pelt, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg and Stanley Weinblatt.

Board Members who were opposed:

Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Robert Harris, Seymour Schwartz, Norma Stegmaier and Albert Willingham.

Adjournment

This Board Meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara McKeon, CB8 staff

March 18, 2013