



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 10, 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, Robert H. Block, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio-Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Tammy Osherov, Simon Pelman, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Maurice Braithwaite, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen, II, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Joshua Glikman, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Mark J. Lefkof, Frank Magri, Francis Peterson, Virginia Rallis, Charlton Rhee, Annie Salvatore, Anna Sawchuk, Harbachan Singh, Robert Van Pelt and Stanley Weinblatt.

Others Present:

Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Helen Marshall, Paul Lazauskas representing Queens College, Aida Morel representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Alan Beerman representing Councilman Mark Weprin, Wataru Nakai representing Councilman James Gennaro, Facia Class representing Michael Simanowitz, Megan Keane representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide and Barbara McKeon, CB8 Staff Member.

Call to Order:

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

Public Participation:

Crystal Liu announced an all-new 2013 Shen Yun show. It will be at Lincoln Center from April 20th – 28th. This is a 2-hour live dance Chinese show representing 5,000 years of Chinese culture.

Claire Kelly, a resident of Briarwood for the past 50 years, urges the Board not to approve any zoning changes for multi-dwellings and to keep 84th Drive as one and two family homes.

James Gallagher, representing the Fresh Meadows Homeowners Civic Association announced:

- Everyone is invited to his Civic Association’s General Meeting on Wednesday, April 24th. Guest Speakers will be District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide and representatives from the Fire Department.
- The Civic Association of Utopia Estates will be meeting the following night, Thursday, April 25th.
- NY Hospital Queens is seeking our input to help us assess health challenges in our Queens community. They are asking for us to participate in a survey.
- The results of the Participatory Budgeting Results are:
 1. Glen Oaks Volunteer Ambulance Corps Emergency equipment

- 2. Queens County Farm Museum roof repair
 - 3. Martin van Buren High School Technology Upgrade
 - 4. Portable Security Cameras
 - 5. Cunningham Park enhancement of picnic area \$ 375,000
 - 6. Cunningham Park music stage \$ 300,000
- NYC Water Board has put their proposal out for a water rate increase effective 7/1/2013 for a 5.6%.

Robert Tilley represents the Neighborhood Housing Services of Jamaica, a non-profit organization. They offer counseling, financial management and technical assistance to low and middle income residents. NHSJ provides affordable housing, creates an awareness of resources available to community residents, motivates individuals to upgrade and also preserves property to improve the community's quality of life.

Paul Lazauskas, representing St. John's University made the following announcements that will be taking place on the University campus:

- Friday, April 12th – Queens Borough President Candidate Forum. They are working in conjunction with the Queens Chamber of Congress. It will take place at 8:00 a.m. There will be a \$50.00 fee to attend. It is hosted by New York 1.
- On May 21st and 22nd, we are having our Cancer Society registration for the Cancer Prevention Study-3. For more information, go to: www.cps3queens.org

Aida Morel representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, invited everyone to commemorate Congresswoman Meng's first 100 days in office as a member of Congress at her Inaugural Ceremony. It will be held on Sunday, April 14, 2013 at 2 p.m. at Francis Lewis High School, 58-20 Utopia Parkway in Fresh Meadows.

RSVP to: inaugural.meng@mail.house.gov

Also, Congresswoman Meng will be having her mobile office hours at the Fresh Meadow's Library, located at 193-20 Horace Harding Expressway. This will take place on the afternoon of April 29th, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Salute to the Flag

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Carolann Foley made a motion to approve the minutes of March 13, 2013 seconded by Steve Sadofsky.

Board Members who approved the minutes:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Robert H. Block, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio-Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Tammy Oshero, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak and Albert Willingham.

Count in favor: 25 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

It is with great pleasure for Chairman Warshaviak to introduce our guest speaker, the Honorable, Assemblywoman Nily Rozic.

- Assemblywoman Rozic said it was so nice to be back at Community Board 8's meetings.
- Her office is located on Union Turnpike and Parsons Blvd.
- Assemblywoman Rozic announced a Fire Safety Awareness day on Sunday, April 14 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. where community members can stop by and receive free smoke detectors and information.
- She is also fighting for better transportation with the Q44 and Q46 route. A letter was sent to the MTA to prioritize the Q46 route as part of its Bus Time program which will come to Queens by April 2014. The Bus Time program allows commuters to use personal devices like smart phones and computers to track the arrival of buses at specific stops along the route.
- Several bills have been introduced in Albany including working on language access, education equity for our schools and homeowner issues as well.

Chairman's Report:

- Chairman Warshaviak read aloud a thank you note from Ilana Goldschein for CB8's effort in renaming the street after Dr. Rabbi Joel Laks.
- In your packets, remember to choose which functional committees you want to be a part of.
- Fill out the travel reimbursement form if you wish to be reimbursed.
- Best wishes and good luck to Michael Sidell on his eye operation.

District Manager's Report

District Manager's written report was distributed.

NYPD – The 107th Precinct has seen some surge in robberies, especially near transportation hubs. It appears that many are distracted by the use of cellular telephones and other electric gadgets. If you have an "iPhone" you can download the "Find my iPhone" app and/or you can register your telephone's serial number with the 107th Precinct. This would help in retrieving your telephone if stolen or lost.

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 question was raised as to what the regulations were for the disposal of grass clippings. They may be disposed of in bags or in a covered container provided that there are no twigs or pieces of wood. Make sure that they are not compact in the receptacle to facilitate removal by DSNY agents.

Although not required, it is *recommended* that they are placed in a biodegradable paper bag before being placed in a covered receptacle.

HRA – The Department of Agriculture's waiver to buy hot food with the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) "food stamps" will end at the end of April 2013.

DOT – The Department of Transportation is not scheduled to work in CB8 in 2013 for sidewalk and curb repair. They will be in CB8 in July for milling and paving.

There have been some concerns regarding muni-meters covered with graffiti and not working properly. The Department of Transportation will address any such complaints. Traffic Enforcement Agents should make a note of graffiti and any repairs needed as they patrol each area.

Flyers about Commercial Bicyclist Safety, Business Owner's Guide to Commercial Bicyclist Law and information about installation of better muni-meters were distributed.

DEP – The Deputy Commissioner advised our liaison that our FOIL request will be responded to at the Councilman Gennaro Town Hall. *DEP has been non-compliant with the NYS Freedom of Information Law.*

CAU – In the past, if you needed graffiti to be removed from your property you needed to file a waiver with the City every time there was a complaint. Now, homeowners and businesses have the option of filing a "Forever

Waiver” whereby once filed, the City may remove graffiti from your property without asking you to file subsequent waivers.

DOB – The Community Board had 97 complaints last month. Our number one complaint is illegal conversion. Community Board 14 that covers Far Rockaway continues to have the highest number of complaints. This is still relating to Super Storm Sandy issues and continues to put a strain on the department’s ability to make inspections in other boards.

State Comptroller – There are millions of unclaimed funds available. Periodically check the NYS Comptroller’s website <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/> to find out if some of these dollars are yours.

DPR – Cunningham Park received a grade of 93 out of a 100 in New Yorkers for Parks’ The 2012 Report Card on Large Parks. It received perfect grades for natural areas and pathways, 99 for lawns, 96 for athletic fields and 95 for restrooms. Two areas that need improvements were the drinking fountains and trees. Three out of the twelve fountains were inoperable and the tree pits had weed. These issues were brought to the staff at Cunningham Park who will do their best to address them.

On May 18th, there will be a tree giveaway at Cunningham Park from 10 a.m. to noon. This event is sponsored by the New York Restoration Project and hosted by the Friends of Cunningham Park. For more information, we have flyers on the information table.

Our Annual Health Fair will be on Thursday, June 27th from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Cunningham Park, we welcome any organization or business who would like to sponsor our event. The requirement is to donate healthy food/beverage, health service or entertainment. Your business/organization’s name will added to our flyer and mailed to all our mailing list. We also need volunteers for the day of the event. Volunteers will receive a free t-shirt that must be worn on the day of the event to be easily identified.

DDC – In your packet is a list of Department of Design and Construction Projects for Community Board 8.

The District Manager also mentioned that Mark Weprin had a meeting with the West Cunningham Park Civic Association with regards to the Big Apple Circus which is coming to Queens. Last year, the Civic felt they should have been included in the decision process. We are going to address the issue of allowing parking on Union Turnpike. All plans will be finalized at the District Manager’s District Service Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, May 1st. A representative of West Cunningham Park Civic will be at the meeting.

On Monday, April 22nd at 7:30 p.m. Community Board 8 will be holding a public hearing at the Hillside Manor located at 188-11 Hillside Avenue. There are two items on the agenda:

1. ULURP Application: C130170 ZMQ – St. Francis Prep Rezoning 61-00 Francis Lewis Blvd.
2. BSA Calendar No. 86-13 BZ (65-43 171 Street) Enlargement of an existing one-family dwelling.

Happy Birthday to Board Members **Robert Van Pelt, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dilafroz Ahmed and Mark Lefkof** who are celebrating their birthdays this month.

Nominations

Mary Maggio-Fischer opened up the floor for the following nominations for the Officers of the Board.

Chairman: Carolann Foley nominated Alvin Warshaviak, seconded by Kevin Forrestal.

Mary Maggio-Fischer moved to close nominations for Chairman.

1st Vice Chairperson: Martha Taylor nominated Stanley Weinblatt, seconded by Jesse Rosenbaum.

Mary Maggio-Fischer moved to close nominations for 1st Vice Chairperson.

2nd Vice Chairperson: Seymour Schwartz nominated Martha Taylor, seconded by Marc A. Haken.

Mary Maggio-Fischer moved to close nominations for 2nd Vice Chairperson.

3rd Vice Chairperson: Martha Taylor nominated Seymour Schwartz, seconded by Kevin Forrestal. Mary Maggio-Fischer moved to close nominations for 3rd Vice Chairperson.

Executive Secretary: Kevin Forrestal nominated Maurice Braithwaite, seconded by Carolann Foley. Mary Maggio-Fischer moved to close nominations for Executive Secretary.

Treasurer: Alvin Warshaviak nominated Robert Van Pelt, seconded by Elke Maertz. Mary Maggio-Fischer moved to close nominations for Treasurer.

Borough President's Representative – Susie Tanenbaum

- Last Thursday, April 4th, Borough President Helen Marshal convened her Land Use Public Hearing. The proposed USTA Expansion was on the agenda.
- This past Monday, April 8th, the Borough President held her monthly Borough Board, which Martha Taylor attended. The USTA Association presented its proposal. Unfortunately, the Board lacked one Councilmember vote for a quorum. A vote was not taken; however, the Borough President's recommendation on this item will be issued by the end of this week.
- Save the date – Borough President Helen Marshall will hold her annual Installation Ceremony for new and reappointed Community Board members on June 5, 2013 at 6 p.m. at the NY Hall of Science.

Committee Report:

Executive Committee – Slow Zones – Martha Taylor, 2nd Vice-Chair

- The Department of Transportation is currently accepting applications to the Neighborhood Slow Zone program.
- Neighborhood Slow Zones reduce the speed limit on residential streets from 30 mph to 20 mph.
- Community Boards, Civic associations, BIDS, elected officials or other community institutions such as schools or churches can apply.
- The Jamaica Estates Association is not in favor of the Slow Zone Program. She believes other Community Boards are not in favor of it as well.
- How will they be enforced? It may be with the Mayor's proposal for speed cameras.
- There will be speed humps added.
- 2 -4 parking spots per block will be taken away as well.
- These slow zone requests do not have to go through the Community Boards.

On a different note, the Jamaica Estates Association is meeting on April 29th, 7:30 p.m. at the Hillcrest Jewish Center (183-02 Union Turnpike) with the Parks Department to discuss the trees after the storm both on our properties and City trees. We decided we would open it up and invite the other civics in our community board.

Adjournment

Carolann Foley made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:16 p.m., seconded by Steven Sadofsky. Respectfully submitted, Barbara McKeon, CB8 staff
April 12, 2013