



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, October 9, 2013 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike, Flushing, New York.

Attendance:

Board Members Present: Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Brian DeMasters, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Tammy Osheroov, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak and Stanley Weinblatt.

Board Members Absent: Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Maria DeInnocentiis, Mary Maggio Fischer, Howard A. Fried, Joshua Glikman, Michael Hannibal, Steven Konigsberg, Mitch Lisker, Simon Pelman, Virginia Rallis, Jesse Rosenbaum, Annie Salvatore, Anna Sawchuk, Harbachan Singh, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

Others Present: Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Helen Marshall, Former Assemblyman Rory Lancman, Anthony Lemma Jr., representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Alen R. Beerman representing Councilman Mark Weprin, Wataru Nakai representing Councilman James Gennaro, Anthony Lemma Sr. representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Courtney Cariello representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Valli Cook representing Queens College, 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:

Anthony Lemma spoke about all of the ways in which Assemblyman David Weprin is continuously advocating for what's important to our community.

- Assemblyman Weprin worked together with Governor Cuomo and passed legislation that will boost our economy, create jobs and cut taxes.
- More money in the pockets of working families by extending a middle-class personal income tax reduction for three more years. Working families will benefit from the creation of a \$350 tax credit per child for families with incomes between \$40,000 and \$300,000.
- Advocated and passed funding for full-day and half-day pre-kindergarten programs.
- This past Tuesday, Assemblyman Weprin organized a hearing on mayoral control in schools. He introduced a bill that would reform mayoral control on schools by giving parents and teachers greater involvement in the education decision making process. The Panel for Education Policy would appoint the Chancellor rather than the Mayor to restore checks and balances in the system.
- Assemblyman Weprin has been tirelessly fighting to support Martin Van Buren High School against co-location. It is important for all of us to come out to the Martin Van Buren High School Co-Location Public Hearing which will be held at the school at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 23, 2013.

Norma Stegmaier announced two events sponsored by the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy:

- Sunday – October 20, 2013 “Triassic Playground” from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jewel Avenue & the Van Wyck Expressway in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Come join us for a day of canoeing, biking and nature. For more information go to www. Harborlab.org
- Sunday, November 10th - hike the newly restored Pat Dolan Willow Lake Preserve Trail at Flushing Meadows Corona Park for a behind the scenes wildlife viewing experience. Meet at Mauro Playground at Park Drive East and 73rd Terrace at 11 a.m.

Ruth Gursky, Outreach/Intake Staff at LaGuardia Community College. Ms. Gursky spoke on the Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP). It is a 14-week internship program for NYC young adults (16-24 years of age) not working and not currently in school. YAIP will give these young adults paid internships, training and hope for a probable job outcome. They can also earn a GED Diploma, prepare for college admission, enter an occupational skills training program and connect with other job and educational opportunities. For more information call (718) 609-2131

Salute to the Flag

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Allen Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes of September 17, 2013 seconded by Michael Sidell.

Count in favor 31 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Board Members who approved the minutes: Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Brian DeMasters, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Tammy Oshero, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak and Stanley Weinblatt.

Chairman’s Report:

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak announced that he is glad to see everyone present for the Board Meeting.

District Manager’s Report

District Manager’s Report was distributed.

The staff and I are working on the business forum scheduled for **Thursday, November 21, 2013** at the Hillcrest Jewish Center. We are surveying the business owners to find out the best time to hold the meeting (between 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.). So far, a few Board Members showed interest in helping and we are looking for more volunteers.

There was no District Service Cabinet meeting this month, as it conflicted with the Borough Budget Consultations. Here is some important information from the agencies that we met with recently.

HPD – Discussed the Mortgage Assistance Program. Homeowners can receive up to \$25,000 with 0% interest to help modify or pay off mortgages (see flyer). They have several housing projects on the way; however, none are in CB8. They do seal up buildings. The initial request needs to come from the Department of Buildings.

DOT – There is still no funding to do curbs alone. All curbs are done in conjunction with sidewalk repairs. The District Managers discussed requesting that the City Council members draft legislation that would allow homeowners to deduct the cost of curb repair from their property tax over a three year period. This request would be sent once we have a new administration. The street resurfacing allocation has increased by 50% this fiscal year. The resurfacing list will be given at a later date. NYCDOT is mandated by the state to clean the state highway but they are not receiving the state funding to do so.

NYPD – We were given a breakdown by Community Board the number of personnel allocated to each precinct. The 107th had a total of 2 Captains, 7 Lieutenants, 16 Sergeants, 12 Detectives, 125 uniformed officers and 16 civilians. They discussed the big wheel program and asked that we direct our complaints to our commanding officers.

DOB – The agency is working towards a 5 day turn around for certain complaints from community boards and elected officials. The stall site program (*for stalled construction sites*) is voluntary and is due to sunset on October 13th this year. There are 583 stalled sites citywide and about 18% of them are in Queens (165). They discussed interagency initiative to address SRO complaints. They devised 35 factors amongst them foreclosure, owing taxes etc... to give these locations special attention. There is a 15 day turn around on these complaints. They discussed the different procedures for unsafe building and emergency declaration. The first one is done within a 45 day period while the other happens immediately.

Building owners must do annual analysis (Benchmarking Reports) of their energy use and submit it on May 1st of each year if they meet the following criteria:

- Buildings greater than 50,000 square feet (check the Department of Finance’s website for building size)
- A tax lot that contains two or more buildings that exceed 100,000 square feet
- Two or more buildings held in a condominium form together are more than 100,000 square feet

New Service – With funding from Councilman Mark Weprin and the collaboration of CUNY Citizenship Now, we will have free immigration assistance twice a month at Community Board 8. A lawyer will be at our office from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the **first** and **third Friday** of every month until June 2014. The lawyer will answer questions related to Naturalization and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Please call ahead for an appointment and spread the word!

Happy Birthday to: Susan Cleary, Howard Fried and Bob Harris who are celebrating birthdays this month.

James Gallagher shared with the Board that the Fresh Meadows Library will be closing for 4 – 5 months effective Saturday, October 12th. They are located on 194th Street and the Horace Harding Expressway. They are doing renovations inside the library including new scanning machines.

Marc Haken asked what specific services the immigration assistance program will be providing. District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide reiterated that CUNY Citizenship Now will answer questions related to Naturalization and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

Community Affairs Officer Peter Capozzi distributed enrollment postcards so that the community can enroll in the 107th Precinct’s mass mailing list. This is a free service. The community can receive all the breaking news in the five Boroughs as well as with the 107th Precinct.

The Community Board was also introduced to the **Crime and Prevention Officer Brian Dietzel** of the 107th Precinct.

Borough President’s Representative – Susie Tanenbaum

- Susie helped explain “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals”. To be considered for a “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals”, you had to have been brought over with your parents from another country. You would have had lived most of your life here. This is the only country you know. You must meet specific criteria. You must be enrolled in a higher education, or have performed military service for the United States.
- Borough President Helen Marshall extends her condolences to the Board on the passing of Board Member Maurice Braithwaite. He was an outstanding Board Member. He was a very dignified man and he was multi talented. We will miss him greatly.
- Congratulations to Carolyn Baker-Brown on her new position as Community Board Executive Secretary.
- This month is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Borough President Helen Marshall is sponsoring two workshops. One has already taken place. The next one is on Wednesday, October 23, 2013: 10: 00 a.m. – 12:00 noon in Room 213 at Borough Hall. It will address the impact that domestic violence has on our communities and finding solutions through spirituality. It will be an interfaith workshop.
- Borough President Marshall reminds homeowners to take steps to ensure they keep receiving their tax exemption. Homeowners who receive the Basic Star property tax exemption from the State of New York now have to register with the NYS Tax Department in order to receive the exemption in 2014 and in subsequent years.

*Marc Haken has concerns with the STAR property tax exemption letters that went out to co-ops. The letters did not have apartment numbers on them. The mailmen returned the letters and the shareholders never received the letters. He would like the Borough President to be aware of this situation as well as the various representatives from our elected officials. This has become a major problem for the co-ops.

- Borough President Marshall encourages eligible consumers to enroll for lifeline discount telephone service. It is an initiative to make basic telephone service more affordable for qualified consumers by saving them up to \$250 a year on their home telephone bills. This is really for low income community residents and people who are on federal assistance programs.
- Susie also shared with us that in addition to working full time, she is attending grad school. We wish her much success!

Committee Reports:

FY2015 Capital & Expense Budget Priorities and Vote on Tabulated Form 3 – Martha Taylor, 2nd Vice-Chair

FY2015 Capital Budget Priorities

Motion: Dr. Bennett made a motion to approve Community Board 8’s FY2015 Capital Budget Priorities, seconded by Frank Magri.

Discussion: None

Vote: It was a unanimous vote in favor.

FY2015 Expense Budget Priorities

Motion: James Gallagher made a motion to approve Community Board 8’s FY2015 Expense Budget Priorities, seconded by Seymour Schwartz

Discussion:

Marc Haken: The #1 Priority that the Community Board has put down for the last several years has been to “Increase or maintain personnel for the 107th Precinct.” We have no chance of getting additional police officers unless they are authorized by the City. They are going to do what they are going to do. He is suggesting that this #1 item not be listed anymore on the “Expense Priority” list.

Carolann Foley: The Precinct loves what this Community Board does for them. Unfortunately, we have no input into the number of personnel for the 107th Precinct. She agrees this “Expense Priority” should be taken off the list. We are wasting a spot.

Mark Lefkof: As Chair of the Public Safety Committee, he totally disagrees with this view. We have to do this. Officers are cut every year. We have no other way. This is the way we are able to express our total dissatisfaction.

Vote: 24 in favor, 7 opposed, 0 abstained

Board Members who voted in favor:

Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen Bennett, Robert Block, Edward Chung, Susan Cleary, Brian DeMasters, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Tammy Oshero, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Seymour Schwartz, Michael Sidell, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor and Alvin Warshaviak.

Boad Members who were opposed:

Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Carolann Foley, Marc A. Haken, Frank Magri, Steven Sadofsky and Stanley Weinblatt.

Form 3: Community Board Service Program Priiroities for Fiscal Year 2015 was tallied and submitted.

Chairman Warshaviak welcomed back a former Board Member and former Assemblyman, Rory Lancman. Rory is going on to bigger and better things. It is always a pleasure to have Rory visit us.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Carolann Foley to adjourn this meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara McKeon, CB8 staff member

October 11, 2013