



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, November 14, 2012 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike, Flushing, New York

**Attendance:**

**Board Members Present:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Tammy Osheroov, Frances Peterson, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Norma Stegmaier, Alvin Warshaviak and Albert Willingham.

**Board Members Absent:**

Jagir Singh Bains, Maurice Braithwaite, Kenneth Cohen, II, Monica Corbett, Florence Fisher, Howard A. Fried, Joshua Glikman, Steven Konigsberg, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Simon Pelman, Virginia Rallis, Charlton Rhee, Nily Rozic, Annie Salvatore, Anna Sawchuk, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Robert Van Pelt, Jacob Weinberg and Stanley Weinblatt.

**Others Present:** Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Helen Marshall, Janna Davis representing Councilman James Gennaro, 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:**

Letitia Hughes and her children, Amber & Amari Hughes, expressed how important it was for the Parsons Beacon Program to remain open. Ms. Hughes' entire family benefits from this program. They have dedicated staff members and it is a true blessing for her children to attend the Parsons Beacon while she is working. Please keep the Parsons Beacon Program open.

**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 October 17, 2012 seconded by Marc A. Haken.

**Board Members who approved the minutes:** Dilafroz Ahmed, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Tammy Osherov, Frances Peterson, Samuel Rodriguez, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Norma Stegmaier, Alvin Warshaviak and Albert Willingham.

**Count in favor:   25                        **Opposed:   0                        **Abstained:   0******

**Chairman’s Report**

- Chairman Warshaviak hoped that everyone fared well in the recent Hurricane Sandy. There were many complaints; however, we as a community should be very grateful compared to many of the other communities in the City of New York.
- Condolences to District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide and her husband on the passing of her father in-law, Roosevelt Ovide.
- The Community Board received a thank you note from the Regent’s Park Gardens Condominiums for its assistance in extending the parking regulations for the month of September while construction was going on.
- Congratulations to Seymour Schwartz on the birth of his great grandson.

**District Manager’s Report**

The District Manager’s Report was distributed.

**DFTA** – Mr. Jones of the Department for the Aging will be giving a presentation at our next District Service Cabinet on emergency preparedness. He stated that 12,000 meals were delivered to those affected by the hurricane as of last Tuesday.

**NYS Comptroller** – The Comptroller’s office was in the process of auditing the MTA before the storm. Now, they are focusing on collection efforts with the Red Cross.

**DOT** – Albert Silvestri is a Borough Planner at the Department of Transportation and will be our new liaison. He reported that the main headquarters at 55 Water Street could not be used because the lobby was flooded. The agency staff had to spread to other offices. The unit in charge of bridges was in the process of checking the bridges for damage and undermining. They had 39 trucks assessing signage issues. They hired 16 signage contractors. At the time of reporting there were 741 reports of sign damage. As of today, DOT is no longer operating in emergency mode; however, things are not back to normal as, staff is still displaced.

**DSNY** – As you know, garbage collection was suspended due to Hurricane Sandy. Sanitation has now resumed garbage collection and should be on schedule this week. Recycling should be back to normal as of Monday next week.

**PARKS** – We received many complaints regarding fallen trees and blocked streets. The Parks Department’s priority was first to remove trees blocking streets to ensure that emergency vehicles can get through; then to remove trees on houses; then those blocking driveways/sidewalks. Removal of debris was the least priority.

**CON EDISON** – Sections of Holliswood, Jamaica Estates, Hillcrest and Flushing Suburban lost power. They were all restored. Our office did not lose power but we had no internet access. One of the staffers worked from home from Tuesday to Thursday; filed all the complaints online; retrieved and responded to the messages.

**DOB** – I learned yesterday that two homeowners within our boundaries received violations from the Department of Buildings due to a fallen tree on their home. The residents were very upset, rightly so, as the removal of the fallen City tree was the Department of Parks and Recreation’s responsibility. After speaking to our DOB liaison, I was informed that the Mayor had the building inspectors survey all the boroughs to get an accurate assessment of the damages caused by the hurricane and ensure that the buildings were safe.

The inspectors issued DOB violations and this alarmed the residents. The violations directed homeowners to repair the damage. He stated that ECB violations would have incurred fines. Moving forward, the Buildings Department will issue Notice of Deficiencies under the complaint NOT a violation. The notice will cite the section of the code and will indicate a remedy. If they return there in a few months and the work is not done, then they can issue a DOB and ECB violation. They are looking to change the DOB violations that have already been issued to Notice of Deficiencies. I should have more information tomorrow.

**SHELTERS** - Hillcrest High School and Queens College were being used as shelters for the Hurricane Sandy evacuees. Everything is back to normal at Hillcrest High School; however, Queens College is still being used to house those who are in need.

**Mayor** - \$500 Million has been allocated for Major Repair Work - the plan includes an appropriation of \$200 million for the Department of Education and \$300 million for the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation to repair extensive damage to school and hospital buildings.

There are two programs in place to assist those who incurred damage from Hurricane Sandy:

- 1) **NYC Restore** – There are four restoration centers open now and three more will open next week where residents can access all information and referral services available.
- 2) **NYC Rapid Repair** – Residents can sign up for rapid repairs and have a team of inspectors and contractors working to quickly and efficiently make necessary repairs to homes damaged by Hurricane Sandy. You will need a FEMA ID number. You must register by going to **[DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov)**, **calling 1-800-621-3362**, **or visiting one of the Restoration Centers**.



*Happy Birthday to Florence Fisher, Marc Haken, Jim Gallagher and Norma Stegmaier who are celebrating a birthday this month! Congratulations to Nily Rozic Assemblywoman-elect.*

**Susie Tanenbaum, Queens Borough President Representative**

- Susie congratulated Board Member Susan Cleary on her 10 year milestone anniversary on Community Board 8.
- Borough President Helen Marshall has been visiting the areas in the Borough that were hit the hardest on a regular basis. She has been speaking to FEMA and representatives from other agencies that are in those areas. She has been participating in food and clothing distribution.
- This Monday evening, there will be a joint meeting with the Borough Board and the Borough Cabinet. The purpose of this joint meeting is to get an update from the agency heads of the Fire Department, Police Department, Sanitation and Buildings to find out what progress they have made in the areas that were really devastated.

Chairman Warshaviak hopes that at this meeting the following concerns will be addressed:

1. Power being out longer then it should have been in homes in the community.
2. Trees still on homes.
3. It's a known fact that Manhattan was the first borough to be taken care of. Queens is a borough too!
4. The gasoline shortage.

Thank God. Things could have been much worse here in our community; however, resources could have been better!

- Maria DeInnocentiis brought up the issue with all the stumps that are left over from the tree removals.
- Chairman Warshaviak feels most of the trees that had fallen were all hollow and dead on the inside. The City has taken a position that if there is one green leaf on the branch, the City will not consider the tree dead. Fortunately no one in the community was hurt from all the dead trees that went down with the storm. Many of the remaining trees are very weak. There should be a study done in the future.
- Susie Tanenbaum hopes Chairman Warshaviak will attend this joint meeting so his concerns can be heard. She will note all of the Chairman's concerns.
- Susie shared with us that Director of Community Boards, Barry Grodenchik, drove through our community district and saw all the trees that were down on Union Turnpike. Their office is definitely aware that this community was directly affected by the storm. If anyone has specific issues or complaints that they would like to relay back to the Borough President's Office, please talk to Susie at the end of the meeting.
- Susie wished everyone a Happy Veteran's Day, a Happy Muslim New Year, Happy Diwali and a very Happy Thanksgiving.

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**Committee Reports:**

**Marc A. Haken, Chair of Youth, Education and Library Committee – Resolution against budget cuts to the Beacon Programs.**

- This coming Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm., the Parsons Beacon is having its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Thanksgiving. Everyone is invited. Please bring a dish.
- Marc A. Haken, Chair of the Youth Committee, presented the “Resolution Against Budget Cuts to the Beacon Programs”. Mr. Haken urged everyone to approve the resolution.

**Motion:**

Carolann Foley made a motion to approve the “Resolution”, seconded by Jesse Rosenbaum.

**Discussion:**

- Carolann Foley would like to see the Board compose a resolution against budget cuts to all agencies.
- Marc Haken would like this resolution on the Beacon Programs approved tonight and a similar resolution against budget cuts to all agencies at our December meeting.
- Mary Maggio Fischer remembers a resolution from last year that included no budget cuts to all agencies.
- Kevin Forrestal stated we set budget priorities and now we are reversing budget priorities.
- Carolann Foley is requesting a resolution be created for no cuts in social services for the next Board Meeting in December.

**Vote:**

**Board Members voted on approving “Resolution against budget cuts to the Beacon Programs”.**

23 in favor

3 opposed

0 abstained

**Board Members who voted in favor of the resolution:** Dilafroz Ahmed, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Tammy Oshero, Frances Peterson, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse

**Board Members opposed of the resolution:** Kevin Forrestal, Mark Lefkof and Seymour Schwartz.

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**Adjournment**

This Board Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara McKeon, CB8 staff

November 19, 2012