



The City of New York
Borough of Queens

Community Board 8

197-15 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423-2126
Telephone: (718) 264-7895
Fax: (718) 264-7910
Qn08@cb.nyc.gov
www.nyc.gov/queenscb8



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike in Flushing, New York.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Tamara Osherov, Wendy Phaff, Mohammad Rahman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Mohammed Tohin, Martha Taylor, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Edward Chung, Maria DeInnocentiis, Carolann Foley, Joshua Glikman, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mary Maggio, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Dilip Nath, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Douglas Sherman, Rachele Van Arsdale and Stanley Weinblatt.

Others Present:

Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Davinder Singh representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Akshar Patel representing State Senator John Liu, Anthony Lemma representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Daniel Blech representing Assembly Member Daniel Rosenthal, Nolan Gray from the Department of City Planning, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager and Jatna Reyes, CB8 Staff Member.

Call to Order:

Second Vice Chair Seymour Schwartz called this Board Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Public Participation:

John Amato – Mr. Amato thanked the Parks Department for the good work they do.

James Gallagher Jr. – Mr. Gallagher announced a number of events that are going on in the district. Flyers were left on the table.

Tammy Osherov – Ms. Osherov informed everyone that the Motor Parkway East project in Queens advanced in the New York State Legislature. There will be a press conference on Friday, June 21st at 2:00 p.m. on Winchester Blvd. and Union Tpke. regarding the proposed extension of the greenway from Winchester Blvd. to Little Neck Pkwy [Date and time has been changed to June 28th at 3:00 p.m.].

Salute to the Flag

Chairperson Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Kevin Forrestal made a motion to approve the minutes of May 8, 2019, seconded by Harbachan Singh.

Count in favor 32 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Chairperson’s Report – Martha Taylor:

- Chairperson Taylor informed everyone that the Community Board received a request from Dunn Development for a support letter for an after-hours variance permit to work on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the T-Building. Under current rules, only one and two family homes can work on Saturdays. Certain restrictions were given to them that they must follow. A letter of support was in the Board Member packet and she asked for everyone’s support.

Marc A. Haken made a motion for a letter of support to be sent for an after-hours variance permit for Dunn Development to work on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the T-Building seconded by, Seymour Schwartz.

Discussion:

Kenneth Cohen II – stated that he wants to make sure Dunn Development and Mega Contracting Group, LLC will work with union laborers. To his knowledge he believes that these companies tend to use non-union employees. Since the Community Board houses one of the premier labor unions in NYC and CB8 residents who are members of the electrical union, the Board should ensure that Dunn Development and Mega Contracting do the right thing. A lot of construction workers are dying and getting injured because of unsafe work practices on construction sites which are typically non-union.

Seymour Schwartz – stated that Mr. Cohen II can rest assured that the project will be union labored. It was the first stipulation that the Board called for two years ago. The first of the unions to agree to this was the Local 3 of the electrical workers. He can be assured that they will be labor union throughout.

Chairperson Taylor – thanked Mr. Cohen II for making and raising a good point and raising this concern. She is sure that things will be done the right way.

Carolyn Baker-Brown – stated that she is a member of the Community Advisory Board that represents the hospital [QHC]. She wanted to know if this proposal was presented to the administration.

Kevin Forrestal – stated that in the past when the hospital was doing various construction on their properties they asked to be notified as well.

Chairperson Taylor – stated that she is sure that this has been presented to them. This has been going on for about 4 to 5 years now. The hospital is aware of this.

Albert Willingham – stated that the only issue he has with this project is about construction being done there with the existing asbestos problem that is on that property. He believes that the administration should be apprised of the letter being presented tonight.

Chairperson Taylor – stated that she does not believe there is any community conflict.

Chairperson Taylor asked if there were any other comments with respect to the motion. Seeing none, a hand vote was taken.

A hand vote was taken.

Count in favor 30 **Opposed:** 2 **Abstained:** 0

Board Members against:

Carolyn Baker-Brown and Albert Willingham.

- An invitation was sent via email to all Board Members from Ms. Charlotte Picot regarding a rally against the proposed jail in Kew Gardens on Sunday, June 23rd. A flyer was distributed for those willing to attend. She asked if anyone wanted to speak to see her or Marie after the meeting.

District Manager's Report, June 2019

DOB – There has been an increase in the number of complaints for Community Board 8. There was a 13% increase for March, a 31% for April and a 6% for May this year versus last year. These complaints were mostly for illegal conversions, work without permit and illegal curb cuts. The DOB representative went to the Flushing Heights Civic Association meeting. One of the issues discussed was dead storage of motor vehicles on residential areas. It appears that many residents are unaware that they cannot store vehicles on their residential property that are not registered with the DMV.

DDC – Jessica Douglas (formerly from CAU) will be our new liaison for the Department of Design and Construction. I brought to her attention that the DDC website lacks information. All ongoing projects should be listed along with certain information (*Community Construction Liaison's contact information, type of work, time frame for completion etc.*) for public access. She stated that they are already in the process of working to improve the website.

DFTA – The agency wanted to remind seniors that it is time to check their go-bags (remove expired items, change the water etc.).

Parks – He reminded us of the events occurring at Cunningham Park this month and that the Farmer's Market is also there every Sunday until the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

DSNY – The issue with vendors on Hillside Avenue (*in Jamaica Hills*) blocking the sidewalks with vegetable crates after 5:00 p.m. in spite of the issuance of many summonses. They will continue to monitor and issue violations until the condition ceases.

NYPD – Community Affairs Officers were unable to attend; however, they sent representatives to take our concerns. We will receive a follow-up from Officer Peter Capozzi.

DOT - The agency will install about 750 speeding cameras near schools by June 2020 – that is about 40 a month. Originally they were to be in effect on school days; therefore, we asked for clarification as to which school calendar that they were using (sometimes public school is not in session but parochial or private schools are in session). The cameras are in effect on **weekdays from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

There has been an issue with 186th Street sinking between 73rd Avenue and 75 Avenue. DOT scheduled a trench restoration for this location for Fiscal Year 2021. Our office with the help of Council Member Rory Lancman, Assembly Member Nily Rozic and State Senator John Liu has been in contact with DOT and

DEP to expedite the repair. DOT contacted us to inform us that they had onsite meetings this week (with DEP, OEM and Con Edison). They agree that the work cannot wait until FY 2021. Con Edison has concerns regarding their gas pipes and electrical wiring being compromised. There was a gas emergency about a week ago due to the condition of the road. Con Edison is planning to move their equipment (*pipes, wiring etc.*) under the sidewalks. There will be no parking on the street while this work is taking place; however, residents will have access to their driveways. I understand that Con Ed already started to work at this location. Repair of the worst sections will be done following the Con Ed work. We do not have all the details yet, as information is changing daily. There will be a public informational meeting on June 26th at 6:00 p.m. at the Hillcrest Jewish Center. The neighbors will have the opportunity to ask questions.

CB8 Events

On Saturday, June 15th, Community Board 8 held a youth event at Cunningham Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to benefit the children from our homeless shelter, the Briarwood Residence. We had a bounce slide, a magic show, games, face painting and a bike clinic. We also provided lunch to the attendees. The Department of Homeless Services provided bussing to and from the event. There are over a hundred children at the shelter; unfortunately, very few of the parents took advantage of this wonderful event. In contrast, there were many local families enjoying a beautiful sunny day at the park who enjoyed participating at the event. Many asked if we were planning to have another event like this one in the future.

Provided that we have the funds, I recommend that we have such a youth event for the whole community. We can hold it on Brooklyn/Queens Day which is on the first Thursday of June every year.

Lastly, I invite everyone to our 9th Annual Health Fair that will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 28th at Cunningham Park. You can enter through the parking lot on Union Turnpike and 196th Place. If you would like to volunteer, please see me after the meeting or contact the office.



Happy Birthday to Board Members John Gebhard, Mohammed Tohin and Elke Maerz.

Marie Adam-Ovide

Borough President’s Representative – Susie Tanenbaum

- She wished those who observed Eid and Shavuot a happy holiday. Community Board 8 was very well represented by many of our Board Members at various events over the last few weeks.
- The Queens Complete Count Committee for the Census 2020 met last week. Kevin Forrestal gave a report for sub-committee covering Community District 8. He announced that Community Board 8 has an Ad Hoc Committee for the Census 2020.
- On Sunday, June 23rd from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Borough President Katz is sponsoring her “Only in Queens Summer Festival”. It is a FREE event and everyone was invited. Flyers were distributed.
- The Community Boards Awards Ceremony scheduled for Tuesday, June 25th has been cancelled due to Primary Election Day. It will be re-scheduled at a later time. She will keep us posted.
- She reminded everyone that today is Juneteenth. Board Member Carolyn Baker-Brown mentioned that Juneteenth is a holiday that commemorates the June 19, 1865, announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas.

City Planning - Nolan Gray -

- He announced that the Kew Gardens Hills Public Hearing was held today at the Planning Commission. The vote for this will be on July 31, 2019. If anyone would like to submit any comments on that this is the time period to do so.
- The borough based jail application Public Hearing will be on July 10, 2019 at City College in Manhattan. It is being held in Manhattan because it is a citywide application. If anyone would like to submit any comments or written testimony they can do so. They will be taken into consideration. He can be reached for any assistance.

Committee Reports:

Parks Committee – Bhitihara Martha Fulton, Committee Chair

- Cunningham Park, Garage Reconstruction – Q401-119M – Ms. Fulton stated that a meeting was held on June 18, 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to review the plans for the reconstruction of the garages at Cunningham Park. The general introduction is to focus on the exterior of the building, the wall that wraps around the courtyard, and the proposed plantings on the outside. They may be removing the generator from the back of the building. The interior work is to repair garage bays, put in new garage doors and other similar work. The Power Point presentation is available at the office upon request. They are asking for a letter of support from the Community Board regarding this project.

A hand vote was taken.

Count in favor 33 Opposed: Abstained: 0

Board Members against:

None.

Queens Complete Count Committee (QCCC) – Kevin Forrestal

- Census 2020 – Mr. Forrestal stated that there were three presentation on Queens Complete Count meeting held last week. The first one was about the Mayor’s Office and what they are trying to do in regards to the Census 2020. The second one was about secondary media, ethnic groups and how important that is. A report was distributed on Cyber Security, which is a very serious issue as we reach the Census. The more they try to educate the public that there are safeguards of their personal information, the more anxiety it creates. They will develop some sort of strategy with the members that were unable to attend the meeting to make sure the Census process goes as smoothly as possible. He will keep us posted.

Adjournment

Kevin Forrestal made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:12 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jatnna Reyes, CB8 staff
June 20, 2019*