



The City of New York
Borough of Queens

Community Board 8

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Chairperson, Martha Taylor

District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 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, Monica Corbett, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Paul S. Lazauskas, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Jennifer Martin, Tamara Osheroov, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Rachele Van Arsdale and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Edward Chung, Maria DeInnocentiis, Joshua Glikman, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Mark J. Lefkof, Mary Maggio, Frank Magri, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Mohammed Tohin, Jacob Weinberg and Stanley Weinblatt.

Others Present:

Jessica Douglas representing Mayor Bill de Blasio, Susan Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Henry Yam representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Tayler Jackson representing Senator Leroy Comrie, Anthony Lemma Jr. representing Assembly Member David Weprin, Daniel Blech representing Assembly Member Daniel Rosenthal, Hudy Rosenberg representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager and Alma Karassavidis, CB8 staff member.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Martha Taylor called this Board Meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Public Participation:

Curtis Bourne – Mr. Bourne is currently working on his Bachelor’s Degree in Community Health Education at Brooklyn College. He has been accepted as an Intern at Caringkind [*formerly known as The Alzheimer’s Association-NY Chapter*] and will be working with Paula Rice, Manager, African American Outreach Division. Caringkind is New York City’s leading expert on Alzheimer’s and Dementia related diseases for over 30 years. Their mission is to develop, promote and deliver thorough care and support services for individuals and families affected by Alzheimer’s disease and other Dementia related illnesses. The organization offers support groups, social work services, educational seminars and the *Wanderer’s Safety Alert Program*. Just recently the new *connect2culture* program was added. This is a cultural arts program which creates unique opportunities for people living with dementia and their caregivers to stimulate conversation and engagement through personalized art, music and dance. Mr. Bourne pointed out that statistics show that the amount of persons affected by Alzheimer’s and Dementia is higher in African American communities. Along with partnerships and clinical support that Caringkind has teamed up with, they are constantly trying to find reasons as to why the number of Alzheimer’s patients continue to grow.

For more information about Caringkind's valuable resources go to: www.caringkindnyc.org or call their 24-Hour Helpline at (646) 744-2900. *Pamphlets and cards were left on the table.*

Susan Cleary – Ms. Cleary announced that the Flushing Meadows Corona Park Conservancy is hosting their First Annual “State of Flushing Meadows Corona Park” event on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at the Kew Gardens Community Center, 80-02 Kew Gardens Road, Room 202 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All are invited to attend. RSVP at (718) 544-7436 or jeanfmcpc@gmail.com She also mentioned that the Pat Dolan Trail at Willow Lake (*south end of the park*) is getting re-chipped on Sunday, March 25, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and volunteers are needed. Anyone is welcome to help with the re-chipping project.

Daniel Blech – Mr. Blech mentioned that Assembly Member Daniel Rosenthal will be hosting an E-Waste Recycling Event on Sunday, March 18, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. which will take place in front of Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills on 150th Street between Jewel Avenue and 70th Road. Their office will also be hosting a second event together with NYLAG (*New York Legal Assistance Group*) offering Free Civil Legal Services. The mobile unit will be stationed at 159-06 71st Avenue, in Flushing on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. *Flyers were left at the table.*

Mitch Lisker – Mr. Lisker personally thanked all the board members for their great support to the proposed re-zoning of the Kew Gardens Hills area.

Robert Hoffman – Mr. Hoffman and his colleague, Blake represent Sunrun, the largest residential solar PPA (*Power Purchase Agreement*) provider in the country. He informed us that the Indian Point Nuclear Facility is scheduled to close in the next two years. This means that 30% of the energy used in New York City is going to be lost through the grid. There will be obvious concerns about rolling blackouts and brownouts as a result of this. Con Edison will be spending more money on a new infrastructure and the cost will ultimately be passed down to the consumer. He stated that Con Edison had a rate increase of 5% last year and rates will continue to rise going forward.

NYSERDA (*New York State Energy Research & Development Authority*) offers an evaluation of your home and energy costs. In many cases, it is free or very low cost, depending on income. The City, State and Federal Governments are offering very generous tax incentives to individuals who are willing to switch to solar energy. Mr. Hoffman announced that there is a sign up sheet and contact information at the back table for anyone who wants more information about how Sunrun can help to save money with solar power.

Salute to the Flag

Chairperson Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Mitch Lisker made a motion to approve the minutes of February 21, 2018, seconded by James Gallagher Jr.

Count in favor 29 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Board Members who approved the minutes:

Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Michael Hannibal, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Paul S. Lazauskas, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Jennifer Martin, Tamara Osherov, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Rachele Van Arsdale and Albert Willingham.

Board Members who did not approve the minutes:

None

Chairperson Martha Taylor introduced Guest Speakers Barbara Foote, Community Outreach Manager at New York-Presbyterian Hospital Queens and Mark Dekki, MPA, Injury Prevention Coordinator, Trauma Services who are here to tell us about the “Stop the Bleed Campaign”.

Guest Speakers:

Barbara Foote – Ms. Foote thanked Chairperson Martha Taylor and CB8 District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide for having them. She informed everyone that for the last two years they have partnered with New York-Presbyterian Hospital known as being #1 in the state and one of the top ten hospitals in the country. The benefit to our community is that they offer the best services and great care in our own backyard.

Some of the services provided by New York-Presbyterian Hospital Queens:

- *Silvercrest Rehabilitation Nursing Center* is a 5-Star service provider located 144-45 87th Avenue in Briarwood.
- *Trude Weishaupt Memorial Satellite Dialysis Center* located at 59-28 174th Street in Fresh Meadows.
- New York-Presbyterian Hospital Queens has achieved Level 1 Trauma Center and Stroke Center status, one of the highest distinctions a hospital can receive. Thanks to their Trauma Team this wonderful training is available to the community called “Stop the Bleed”.

“Stop the Bleed” is an initiative to train, equip and empower general bystanders to help in a bleeding emergency situation. Anyone can learn this and lives would be saved. This training is being offered by the New York-Presbyterian Hospital Queens Trauma Team. It involves a 1 hour to 1 ½ hour training with up to 80 people per session. Ms. Foote asked everyone to please keep this in mind and let others know about this campaign. Contact information was left on the table. *Ms. Foote introduced Mark Dekki, Injury Prevention Coordinator.*

Mark Dekki – Mr. Dekki introduced the “Stop the Bleed” campaign as an initiative that was recognized by the White House Administration around 2015. It is in response to mass shootings, bombings or any situation where individuals may lose a lot of blood. When someone is injured and they are losing blood the crucial time between the time the paramedics arrive at the scene and the time they get to the hospital is very important. The White House Administration, American College of Surgeons and the Committee on Trauma believes that many people are dying because crucial time is being wasted. Something needs to be done to save these lives. This is how the “Stop the Bleed” campaign came about. It offers the opportunity to train anyone to be immediate responders. Mr. Dekki pointed out certain scenarios where this knowledge could be important. You may be at a concert, movie or school and someone with you may be injured, but you are okay. The skills learned from the training will perhaps enable you to save a life. Basically it will teach people to recognize bleeding that is life threatening and what to do to stop that type of bleeding.

ABCs of bleeding control are:

Alert 911 – Contact 911 for assistance

Bleed – Recognize bleeding that is life threatening; blood spurting out of the wound, clothes soaked through in blood, individual falling in and out of consciousness, blood pooling on the floor.

Compression – 3 ways to apply pressure; cover the wound, apply a tourniquet, compress and wound packing.

Any type of clean cloth or material; a scarf, jacket, sweater can be used to pack inside the wound. Mr. Dekki demonstrated on a fake limb how to get the cloth deep inside the wound and pack it to save someone’s life. Many people don’t believe that they can do this. Training is very simple and hands on. It is about an hour long but when you complete the training you will have the tools necessary to pack a wound.

A tourniquet is a device that stops the flow of blood. If it is on correctly and it is tight enough, it will stop the bleeding. Mr. Dekki demonstrated how to apply the tourniquet on a fake limb in the event of a gunshot wound. He explained that the tourniquet should be placed 2-3 inches above the wound

tightening it as hard as you can until the bleeding has stopped. It should be noted at what time the tourniquet was placed on the individual as it will give the treating doctor an idea how long it has been on the patient. If the tourniquet has been on for more than 3 hours, the chances are high that the person may lose the extremity (*arm or leg*). In the world of trauma, they say “life over limb”; so although they may be losing an arm or a leg, they are not losing their life.

To apply compression you may use any type of clean cloth to apply pressure with both arms holding down as hard as possible until the paramedics arrive.

Mr. Dekki opened the floor for questions from the Board Members.

Carolann Foley – If you don’t have a tourniquet, can one use a belt or a man’s tie or a piece of rope?

Answer: Exactly not everyone walks around with a tourniquet. You can improvise using a scarf, a tie, a belt; anything that you can tie around something.

Michael Hannibal – Is this similar to CPR training in terms of being certified?

Answer: CPR needs certification, but with this, anyone can do it. As long as you are taught by someone trained to “Stop the Bleed” you can do it. It is meant for lay people.

Allen Eisenstein – Do they still have the Good Samaritan law?

Answer: Yes, I have been asked that question many times. It causes some people to think, “well I’m not going to help this person, what if they sue me”? You are protected under the Good Samaritan law.

Kevin Forrestal – What about the issue of personal protective equipment? To protect yourself from the blood?

Answer: The best thing to do is wear gloves if you have them. Most likely you are not going to have gloves with you. If you come in contact with blood, wash your hands with soap and water. When the paramedics arrive they can help you with that as well.

Michael Hannibal – How do you know when to use the compression vs. the tourniquet?

Answer: If you have a tourniquet use that first because that is the best device to stop the blood. If you don’t have that, then you want to use your hands or any clean cloth to pack the wound and apply pressure.

Barbara Foote announced a few events that will be offered by New York-Presbyterian Hospital Queens.

The Queens Library will be hosting “Understanding Antibiotics” on Thursday, April 19th at 2:00 p.m. at the Fresh Meadows branch located at 193-20 Horace Harding Expressway. She also reminded everyone that March is Colon Cancer Awareness month and urged all to get checked. *Flyers with information for all events were left on the table.*

Chairperson Martha Taylor thanked them for their presentation.

Chairperson’s Report – Martha Taylor:

- Chairperson Martha Taylor sent best wishes to Dr. Allen Bennett who is recuperating and Stanley Weinblatt who will be having surgery soon.
- The Department of Homeless Services is no longer using the Par Central Hotel to house homeless families as they promised. They promised Chairperson Taylor that they would be out by the end of February and they were out on February 28th. They are now either in permanent housing or have been transferred to a homeless shelter where they can receive full services.

- FDNY advises residents to change their carbon monoxide and smoke detector batteries. Batteries are being given out tonight for that purpose. She noted that typically the batteries should be changed when the clocks are changed during daylight savings time. If not already done, please do so ASAP.
- Community Board 8 has arranged for the Special Passover Collection with burning stations with the assistance of DSNY, FDNY, NYPD and the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit. Flyers are on the table.
- Chairperson Taylor reported that Council Member Rory Lancman has successfully obtained funding for the Brinckerhoff Cemetery and the project will move forward. She remarked that James Gallagher Jr. and Yolanda Gallagher would surely be very happy about this.
- Chairperson Martha Taylor announced that she had ten invitations available to the Electrical Industry Breakfast on Saturday, April 7th at 9:00 a.m. being held at the Electric Industry Center Auditorium. She offered them to the Board Members on a first come-first served basis.

District Manager's Report, March 2018

DEP – The Department of Environmental Protection sent letters last week to residents whose property abuts sidewalks that are eligible for rain garden installation. They have 30 days from the date of the notice to opt-out. Those who have disability permits/placards from NYC or NYS can opt out. Properties with in-ground sprinkler systems can also opt-out. Property owners can send the request and all the pertinent documentation to:

- raingardens@dep.nyc.gov
- *NYCDEP - Raingardens
59-17 Junction Blvd - 19th floor
Flushing, N.Y. 11373*

Chairperson Martha Taylor asked if it was known if any of our residents had received one of these notices from DEP regarding the rain gardens? District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide responded saying that no one has contacted us to date.

We had 376 complaints reported for the month of February. The majority of these complaints were for hydrant leaks and other leaks in the street. This is in part due to the freezing temperatures that we experienced last month.

Sixty-day notices have been sent to the property owners on the lien list for water charges. There will be two events at the Department of Finance Business center located at 144-06 94th Avenue in Jamaica to assist in resolving this issue. They are on Tuesday, March 20th and Tuesday, April 10th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Do you know a college student interested in an internship with DEP? There will be sixty-seven (67) paid internships for college students interested in engineering, law and sewer operations. They are both in the five boroughs and upstate – near the watershed. The internship starts the 3rd week of May and ends the second week in August. All interested can apply online. Information should be available shortly. Go to nyc.gov/dep and search for internship.

DOB – We had a decrease in the number of complaints for Community Board 8. In February 2018 we had 161 while in 2017 we had 168 complaints.

We received some complaints about residents doing commercial activities in their residential homes. Certain activities are allowed (i.e. a certified public accountant can work out of his home) while other activities are not (i.e. manufacturing toys). We will have information in our next Newsletter on that subject.

DOT – The agency has been unable to refurbish the street markings, in part, due to the unpredictable weather that we have had. They need the temperature to be at least 53° Fahrenheit to do the street markings. In addition, the agency has not been pleased with the current contractor and is looking for a better one in the future.

IRS – The Department of Treasury met with the Queens Borough Cabinet to alert the community of scams that target young adults and the elderly. The person targeted receives a telephone call from someone pretending to be from the Department of Treasury or the IRS. He/she claims that taxes are owed. They claim that you must pay now or get arrested. They convince the person to pay the taxes through an electronic transfer or have them purchase a gift card or pre-paid debit card and give them the access code. For every 205 calls made, they persuade one individual to go ahead and send them money.

If you receive a telephone call from someone who says he/she is from the IRS or the Department of Treasury, **HANG-UP!** The IRS will **NEVER** contact you by telephone. If you owe taxes, you will receive a notice in the mail. You may be visited by one of their representatives after you receive the letter. You can call 800-829-1040 to verify whether or not you owe taxes. You should also give them the telephone number that called you. The agency can burn/disrupt that number so it cannot make any more calls.

The agency reported that more than two million people have been contacted and more than \$64 million have been lost to this scam. Please spread the word.



Happy Birthday to Board Members: Michael Hannibal and Harbachan Singh

Carolann Foley - Alerted the community that there is a scam going on regarding purchasing warranties on new vehicles. The calls are coming in with area codes of 718 and 919 with the first 3 numbers actually being the numbers of your own cell phone number. Beware of these calls!

Susan Cleary – Mentioned that the IRS scams are also being done through emails and she personally received one.

Marie Adam-Ovide - Asked Ms. Cleary to forward the email to her so that she could forward it to our IRS contact.

Susan Cleary – She stated that she had already sent it to IRS.

Kevin Forrestal – Mr. Forrestal commented that the response from DOT regarding the pavement markings is unacceptable. He mentioned that this issue was brought up at a transportation meeting over a year ago. It is not acceptable that they are blaming it on a problem with the contractor at this late date.

Elke Maerz – What are the rain gardens?

Marie Adam-Ovide – They were called Bioswales previously.

Seymour Schwartz – Stated that he will explain the rain gardens/bioswales to Ms. Maerz.

James Gallagher Jr. – DEP is going to announce a new pilot program call “Wait ”starting April 1, 2018 through May, 2018. When there is heavy rain, NYC sewers can fill to capacity and a mix of stormwater and wastewater can end up in the East River. Parts of Kew Gardens Hills and Briarwood’s water sewage goes into Bowery Bay or Newtown Creek treatment plants. In joining this program DEP will send a free text message when treatment plants reach their level asking not to shower, flush, do laundry, etc. Another one will be sent when it’s all clear. To join visit: nyc.gov/dep/wait See DEP website for more information.

Marie Adam-Ovide made an announcement on behalf of Board Member Howard A. Fried. The Bukharian Jewish Congregation of Jamaica Estates, 80-14 Chevy Chase Street will be holding a Blood Drive on Sunday, April 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Borough President’s Representative – Susan Tanenbaum

- Ms. Tanenbaum reported that Borough President Katz’ Black History Month Celebration was one of the best events ever. The African American Heritage Committee raised funds to award \$1,000 to each of the 12 High School seniors. She congratulated Community Board 8 members, Marc A. Haken and Harbachan Singh, who have served on this committee for many years. Ms. Tannenbaum pointed out that Borough President Katz hosts 22 different cultural heritage events throughout the year and most of the audience members are from the communities that are celebrating that particular holiday. These events are an opportunity for us to learn more about our neighbors and to develop cultural literacy. All of us who work and live and are active in this borough, where people come from 190 different countries and speak close to 200 languages, it is really important for all of us to become as culturally literate as we can. In addition, she stated that these events are extremely enjoyable.
- On Friday, March 23, 2018, Borough President Katz is hosting the Greek Independence Day Celebration at 6:00 p.m. at the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York-Stathakion Center, 22-51 29th Street, Astoria. Borough President Katz is partnering with Senator Michael Gianaris, Assembly Member Aravella Simotas and Council Member, Costa Constantinides for this event.
- On Wednesday, March 28, 2018, Borough President Katz is hosting the Bangladesh Independence Day Celebration from 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. at the Helen Marshall Cultural Center at Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Boulevard. Community Board 8 member, Delwar Islam is on the planning committee. Community Board 8 is more active than most Community Boards in organizing these events. It shows that the members appreciate the importance of cultural diversity and working together on common goals.
- Carolyn Baker-Brown and Jagir Singh Bains continue to be active members of the Borough President’s Queens General Assembly. A teach-in event, “*Proud of Our Heritage*” was organized which was a direct reaction to the derogatory comments made about African nations and Haiti. District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide was one of the participants. Ms. Tanenbaum stated that she was so honored that Marie said it was a very uplifting evening. We are going to be organizing two more of these public forum type events. We want to bring people of different backgrounds together to learn more about each other and to talk about issues that affect all of us. She will keep us informed of the dates of the upcoming events. Ms. Tanenbaum invited anyone with immigration questions or concerns to speak with her after the meeting.

Chairperson Martha Taylor – Chairperson Taylor reminded the Board Members about the invitations for the Electrical Industry Breakfast on Saturday, April 7th at 9:00 a.m. and asked anyone who wanted to attend to come and get their invitation.

Adjournment

Carolann Foley made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:21 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Alma Karassavidis, CB8 staff
March 20, 2018*