



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, October 30, 2019 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike in Flushing, New York.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, 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, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Dilip Nath, Tamara Oshero, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Wendy Phaff, Seymour Schwartz, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Jacob Weinberg, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Joshua Glikman, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas Frank Magri, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Mohammad Rahman, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Douglas Sherman and Rachele Van Arsdale.

Others Present:

Max Weprin representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Honorable Council Member Barry Grodenchik, Susan Seinfeld representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Honorable State Senator John Liu, Deputy Inspector Scott Henry, 107th Precinct, Akshar Patel representing State Senator John Liu, Muhammad Rahman 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:

Chairperson Martha Taylor called this Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Participation:

Sybil Masse – Ms. Masse was advocating for the modification of the NYC Council Bill #1326 regarding added-sugar warning signs in all NYC chain restaurants. If the bill passes, it would require that all restaurants in NYC post warning notices next to menu items that contain over 12 grams of added sugar. Excessive consumption of added sugars is linked to higher risk of heart disease, diabetes, obesity etc.

Elizabeth Crowley – Ms. Crowley thanked Chairperson Taylor and District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide for their leadership. She also thanked all the Members of the Board for the work they do for the community. She was born and raised in Queens. The most diverse borough of the entire City. She spoke about the importance of “Fair Share”. She feels that Queens does not have its “Fair Share” of funds for its infrastructure projects unlike other Boroughs. A plan she has been working on is the rail system and putting more people on our rail roads [restoring service on LIRR lines].

James Gallagher Jr. – On behalf of Board Member Paul Lazauskas, he announced a Veteran’s Day event which will take place on Tuesday, November 12th at 12:30 p.m. at the D’Angelo Center at St. John’s University. On Thursday, November 7th, the West Cunningham Park Civic Association is having their

meeting. The guest speaker will be Anthony Iuliano from the Department of Buildings. On Tuesday, November 12th, he will have his Fresh Meadows Homeowners Civic Association meeting. He will have guest speakers from the DSNY and NYPD. There will also be a Town Hall meeting at St. Francis Prep at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited!

Daniel Blech – There will be a FREE Paper Shredding Event on Sunday, November 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Poppenhusen Institute located at 114-04 14th Road in College Point. On Monday, November 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. a Mobile Van will be stationed in front of their District Office located at 159-06 71st Avenue providing FREE legal services. For more information, please call: 718-969-1508.

Chairperson Martha Taylor informed everyone that several members were absent due to the Board Meeting not being on its regularly scheduled Wednesday. In addition, St. John's University was having an event that many of them attended.

Salute to the Flag

Chairperson Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Marc A. Haken made a motion to approve the minutes of September 18, 2019, seconded by Mitch Lisker.

Count in favor 30 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

The course of the agenda was modified as the Guest Speaker was running late.

Honorable Council Member Barry Grodenchik was in attendance. Chairperson Martha Taylor invited him to say a few words.

Honorable Council Member Barry Grodenchik:

- Council Member Grodenchik informed everyone that he had a busy day. He attended four (4) labor rallies (i.e. 32BJ, PW etc.) which were very successful.
- He met with the CB's Area 6 Committee to speak about the needs of the area. P.S. 26 is getting a new expansion. The school is overcrowded, they don't have a music room, art room etc. They wanted to put a Hydroponics lab but due to the lack of space they are unable to. They still don't know where it is going to be. Typically, an expansion ranges from about 400 to 450 seats. He does not know how many seats will be implemented. They will have news for us in January 2020.
- He received a request from the representatives of the owners of the old Klein Farm to have it converted into a 6-story building, parking lot with 130 cars underneath it. He explained to the applicants that he is against this project and suggested that this piece of land be donated to the City instead and have an outpost for the Queens County Farm Museum to serve the historic nature of this property. He will speak to the Mayor to see if they can receive funding and see what can be done.
- The owners of the Fresh Meadows Shopping Center met with him with a large proposal. He suggested that they meet with the Area Members and the Community Board for discussion. To date, it has not happened yet.
- Redwood Playground will be open soon. They will be working on the Upper Playground and will start construction on the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway soon.
- He mentioned to everyone [the full Board] how much he appreciates all the work they do for the community. Being a former Director of Community Boards, he understands all the efforts and input that each member puts in for their community.

Jahi Rose from the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) requested to speak. Chairperson Martha Taylor allowed him to say a few words. She explained to him that if it was a political matter he will be stopped during his speech.

Jahi Rose – Outreach Coordinator - Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB):

- He thanked DM Adam-Ovide for publishing their last Queens Public Board Meeting on the CB Newsletter for September.

- He explained that the CCRB investigates complaints made by the public against New York City Police Officers. They have monthly meetings to educate the public about the agency and to respond to concerns relevant to the agency’s mandate. If anyone is interested in having him present at any meeting, he can be reached at: jrose@ccrb.nyc.gov.

Deputy Inspector Scott Henry from the 107th Precinct was in attendance. Chairperson Martha Taylor invited him to say a few words.

Deputy Inspector (D.I.) Scott Henry – NYPD 107th Precinct:

- Sergeant Burke is starting a project at John Bowne High School. They are working with the students educating them on how to react in dangerous situations.
- He introduced the new Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs) for Sector B: NCO Anna Golembiowski and NCO Christopher Ward. They were available to speak with after the meeting.
- Marc A. Haken mentioned that D.I. Henry is working to develop an app dealing with crimes that happen near schools for students’ safety. It was an idea illustrated to the D.I. by Thomas Edison High School students. D.I. Henry stated that the Precinct is working on this and will also be looking for community support.

Chairperson’s Report – Martha Taylor:

- The Kew Gardens Hills rezoning sponsored by Community Board 8 was approved. Zoning Maps 14A/14C have been updated to reflect the zoning change to R2X. Zoning Maps are available online by visiting: www.nyc.gov/planning.
- The CB8 staff as well as the District Manager and the Chairperson have completed the Borough President’s Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) awareness and the Sexual Harassment training to comply within the regulations.

District Manager’s Report, October 2019

Buildings – We received the stats for our district yesterday. We had 12% increase in complaints made for CB8. We had the highest percentage of zoning complaints and work beyond approved plans compared to the other CBs in Queens. For comparison the complaints by borough are: Brooklyn 35%, Queens 28%, Manhattan 17%, the Bronx 15% and Staten Island 5%.

They did a Local Law 196 outreach two weeks ago. This law 196 requires that all construction workers onsite must have completed the 30-hour OSHA training. They went to buildings that are 4 stories tall/higher or those that require a site safety manager. They gained access to 70 sites. They mostly targeted CB1 and CB7. They will be doing a “One Day of Action” soon where 1,000 sites will be visited citywide.

There is a moratorium on new gas connection for areas serviced by National Grid. If you are changing from oil to gas or have a new building application that requires a new gas connection, you will not be able to get gas if the area is Serviced by National Grid. There is no moratorium on areas serviced by Con Edison.

Parks – “It’s My Park Day” has become “*It’s My Park Month*” in that throughout the month of October many organizations pick a day to clean-up, plant and/or beautify our parks. The following events took place earlier this month:

- Kiwanis Club – October 5th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hoover/Manton Park
- The Big Reuse Green Team – October 5th from 9 a.m. to noon at Cunningham Park. This organization did a compost project and donated compost.
- Friends of Cunningham Park – October 19th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Cunningham Park. They painted benches, planted bulbs and cleaned litter.

Department of Design and Construction –

- **NYCDDC Project # HWPR18Q2** [Pedestrian Ramps] – CCL Farrah Antoine informed us that they are still working in CB13. DOT has not added the location in front of the synagogue to their current task order.
- **NYCDDC Project #HWQ100FJM** – CCL Jenny Cheng corrected the information that was given to us last month. Her agency (DDC) does the markings for these projects – not DOT.

Department of Transportation - The agency reiterated that pedestrian-ramp installation usually follows street resurfacing. They also rate locations based on the amount of foot traffic and prioritizes them before adding them to the list. They did a temporary “*make safe*” to prevent anyone from tripping in front of the synagogue while waiting to add the location to the list for permanent ped-ramp installation.

They also informed us that DEP is responsible to repair/maintain all areas within 12 inches of a DEP infrastructure.

Commission on Human Rights – The NYC Commission on Human Rights has a twenty-nine-page booklet that lists and explains the different protections against discrimination in New York City. They also have a one-pager that will be sent to us that we can add to one of our future newsletters.

Aging – The agency wanted to remind seniors that now is the time to secure a few prospects for snow removal - not the day of a snow storm. They should also have their heating systems checked and make repairs in preparation for the cold season.

There have been issues with Access-a-Ride reimbursements. Access-a-Ride allows its riders to pay for cab fare and get reimbursed if there is over a 4 -minute wait or they are unable to do the trip. It is supposed to take about 10 days to receive funds. In certain circumstances it has taken as much as 60 days. Many seniors on a fixed income cannot afford to wait that long to get reimbursed. The Department for the Aging is advocating for these seniors.

Sanitation – As previously stated last month Sanitation will start collecting e-waste at curbside this month. It is by appointment only. For the Community Board 8’s area the appointments are given for Fridays. Once you receive a date, you must place the items at curbside the night before (Thursday) for the Friday pick-up. They have a limit of 25 locations per pick-up; therefore, once they reach 25 locations, you will be scheduled for the next available week. Residents of CB8 can start calling 311 for these appointments.

After the DSC, I met briefly with Superintendent Egher and we discussed DSNY’s snow plan for this winter. They are doing a pilot where they use a “Brine Truck” which carries a solution of sodium chloride and water to pre-treat the roads prior to a snow storm. They are planning to treat main roads throughout the district and the hilly roads (*i.e. in Holliswood*).

In October, the long horn beetle has been eradicated in New York City. The Department of Sanitation will start collecting organic wood at curbside. Please only put bundles of wood that are three feet in length and up to about 20 lbs. at curbside for removal.

Department of City Planning

The DCP Queens informed us of two **City Planning Training Workshops** one on October 23rd and the other on October 24th at the Queens Borough Hall, Room 200. For those who were unable to attend these training sessions, they are planning make-up sessions to be held at their office in Manhattan (dates TBD).

Housing Preservation & Development – Has not attended a District Service Cabinet meeting since February 2019 in violation of City Charter §2705 and §2704 f.

Happy Birthday to Board Members: Susan Cleary, Howard Fried, Bob Harris and Rachele Van Arsdale who are celebrating their birthdays this month!

Happy Birthday to Susie Tanenbaum!



Marie Adam-Ovide

Borough President’s Representative – Max Weprin

- Borough President Katz hosted her annual Community Boards Awards Ceremony on October 2nd. Two board members were unable to attend. He presented an award to Board Member Marc A. Haken for his 15 years of service to the community. Board Member Joshua Glikman was not present to receive his award for his 25 years of service. (*Board Member Jacob Weinberg received the award on Mr. Glikman’s behalf and will give it to him*).

City Planning - Nolan Gray -

- He reiterated what Chairperson Taylor said about the Kew Gardens Hills re-zoning. If anyone has any questions about this, they can reach out to him for assistance.
- The borough-based jail application has been modified by the City Council. It has been modified from 27 stories to 19 stories. It is currently being reviewed by the agency to go back to the City Council. If anyone has any questions, feel free to reach out to him.

Committee Reports:

Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern, Health Committee Chair:

Influenza (Flu) & the Flu Vaccine:

- The flu season runs from October through May. The flu is contagious particularly before symptoms start. You can catch it from someone even before you know they have it.
- When you become ill, the first three (3) days is when you are most contagious. Flu symptoms can start abruptly; you’re fine and then you are sick.
- After you get the **flu vaccine**; it takes about two weeks for it to become functional. It often happens that people get the flu shot and three (3) days later they say they got the flu from the flu shot. This is not true. Flu vaccines cannot cause flu illness. What happens is, you got the flu from someone else prior to getting vaccinated and the flu vaccine didn’t kick in yet. Getting the flu shot early prevents you from getting sick even before the flu season begins.
- The Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) guide itself from what happens in Australia to know what is going to happen in New York City. They learned that Australia had a terrible flu season. NYC is gearing up for a bad flu season. You need a new vaccine every year. If you get the flu shot on a yearly basis you will have better protection. She encouraged everyone to get their flu shot.
- They lose thousands of people every year due to the flu. Particully, people who are very young, very old, or have weak immune system. Those who cannot get the vaccine are more liable to get complications. The flu vaccine can also trigger secondary infections which are not flu (*i.e. ear infection, sinus infection etc.*). What you really must worry about are things like pneumonia, and sepsis (which is when the body goes into overdrive to fight infection and as a result you have multiple organ failures).
- The more people that get vaccinated, the better it is for yourself and those who surround you. After you get a shot, you should rub the area to prevent bruises and to ensure that is well distributed in the body. There are different types of vaccines (*i.e. for those who are allergic to eggs, seniors etc.*) You may consult your Primary Care Practitioner (PCP) for more information.

Marc A. Haken – What does the senior flu shot have that the regular one doesn’t?

Answer: [Dr. Stern] – Sometimes, the concentration gets changed and some of the materials. It is always good to get it yearly to avoid any complications.

Chairperson Martha Taylor thanked Dr. Stern for her monthly report. She appreciates her taking the time to educate everyone on health topics.

Committee Reports:

Capital & Expense Budget Committee – FY2021 Capital & Expense Budget Priorities:

Marc A. Haken, Budget Director: The Committee met regarding Capital and Expense Budget Priorities. A Public Hearing was held, and no new items were received from the public. They did receive four (4) new

Capital Requests from the Fire Department to be taken into consideration to be added. Budget Director Marc A. Haken informed everyone that included in their packets are the Capital [peach sheets] and the Expense Budgets [beige sheets] Priorities for Fiscal Year 2021. He asked everyone to review them before a vote is taken to approve them.

Approval of the Capital Budget Priorities with the addition of four (4) NEW requests from the FDNY

Howard A. Fried made a motion to accept the Community Board 8 Expense Budget Priorities with the addition of four (4) NEW items from the FDNY, seconded by Jacob Weinberg.

Budget Director, Marc A. Haken asked if there was any discussion on the motion, seeing none, a hand was taken.

A hand vote was taken.

Count in favor 33 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

The motion was passed unanimously.

Approval of the Capital Budget Priorities

Albert Willingham made a motion to accept the Community Board 8 Capital Budget Priorities, seconded by Dr. Penny Stern.

Budget Director, Marc A. Haken asked if there was any discussion on the motion, seeing none, a hand vote was taken.

A hand vote was taken.

Count in favor 33 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

The motion was passed unanimously.

Approval of the Expense Budget Priorities

Harbachan Singh made a motion to accept the Community Board 8 Expense Budget Priorities, seconded by Dr. Penny Stern.

Budget Director, Marc A. Haken asked if there was any discussion on the motion, seeing none, a hand vote was taken.

A hand vote was taken.

Count in favor 33 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

The motion was passed unanimously.

Queens Complete Count Committee (QCCC) – Michael Hannibal

- **Census 2020** – Mr. Hannibal stated that they met with the Committee [QCCC Committee] to speak about the process of the census.
- Guest Speaker Melva Miller who is the Executive Vice-president of the Association of Better New York spoke about the partnership she is building with her team and different corporations in the City moving forward into outreach for the Census next year. Some of the organizations included: community-based organizations, Greater NY Hospital, YMCA, New York Public Library, Starbucks, Macys etc. Most of these organizations already started outreach on the Census.
- They also started an Interfaith Queens Complete Count Committee which will work with other Interfaith organizations within the Queens area.
- They will also be providing them with a communication tool kit. This will be useful for everyone and will help them into informing everyone properly. They will be able to target their community, talk to people on the street, public areas, community areas and bring awareness in general.
- The presentation made by Ms. Miller will be distributed to the Community Board once available.

- Lastly, they spoke about best practices. What is the best way to distribute the information and bring awareness about the Census. How to build a proper presentation for people to understand the process of the Census and its importance, how it impacts the government etc. Classroom training awareness will also be available for those newly immigrating the country as well as the underserved.
- Many people are afraid of filling out the census because of the fear of where their information will be shared. It can be either fear of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), concern with the constitution, citizenship question etc. All of this has already been studied. The Census is safe to fill out and is federally prohibited from disclosing information to anyone. He will have more information for us in the next upcoming report.

Guest Speaker- Honorable John Liu:

- He offered thanks to the Community Board; the Members, the Chairperson and District Manager for all the work and engagement they do for the community.
- Legislations have been passed at the Senate. They will set the course of New York State in the right direction.
- He extended an apology to Kevin Forrester for being unable to attend his meeting last night. He had a conflict and was unable to attend.
- He encouraged everyone to fill out the Census. It only happens once every 10 years. He reiterated what Mr. Hannibal said about the Census being safe to fill out and federally prohibited from disclosing any information to anyone.
- The Senate passed a voting reform this year to make it easier for everyone to vote. He spoke about the importance of voting and announced that since October 26th early voting has started. The early voting site is not the same as your poll site. He advised that everyone make sure they are going to the right place before voting. There is no excuse. Everyone should go and cast their ballot.
- If anyone encounters any issues or have questions, they can contact his District Office for assistance.

Chairperson Martha Taylor thanked Senator Liu for coming and for making the voting process easier and making this possible.

Mitch Lisker –

On behalf of the Kew Gardens Hills residents he thanked everyone especially Community Board 8 for sponsoring and helping with a much needed zoning change. He thanked everyone for their support on this process and for making it possible.

Adjournment

Mary Maggio made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:26 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Jatna Reyes, CB8 staff
November 4, 2019.*