



The City of New York
Borough of Queens



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

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

District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, September 18, 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, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Dilip Nath, Tamara Oshero, Frances Peterson, Wendy Phaff, Mohammad Rahman, Seymour Schwartz, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Kenneth Cohen II, Carolann Foley, Paul S. Lazauskas, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Simon Pelman, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Douglas Sherman, Rachele Van Arsdale and Stanley Weinblatt.

Others Present:

Facia Class representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Tania Padgett representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Kristen Jefferies representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Soojin Choi representing State Senator John Liu, Pierre Millien representing State Senator Leroy Comrie, Muhammad Rahman representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Daniel Blech representing Assemblyman Daniel Rosenthal, Hudy Rosenberg representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager and Izabela Szczepanska, CB8 Staff Member.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Martha Taylor called this Board Meeting to order at 7:42 p.m. Chairperson Taylor announced the Bukharian Community Center submitted a letter that they must postpone the application. They are trying to resolve their problems. The Board is going to have them come back in November.

Public Participation:

John Amato – Mr. Amato thanked Assemblyman David Weprin’s Office and staff. He was presented a Certificate of Merit from the State of Assembly for his graduation from Farmingdale College. He also thanked the Parks Department for the great work that they do.

Facia Glass – Ms. Glass announced several events that will be sponsored by Congresswoman Grace Meng. Some of the events are only for students and residents of District 6.

Joan Hausman – Ms. Hausman spoke against the Bukharian Community Center and asked the Board Members to vote against this application.

Clifford Hamburger – Mr. Hamburger is the Treasurer of the Flushing Heights Civic (FCHA). He invited everyone to the FCHA meeting on September 23rd. The FHCA and the Queens Herald Church teamed up to sponsor a service auction fundraiser to benefit local schools.

Leo Lee – Mr. Lee spoke against the Bukharian Community Center and asked the Board Members to vote against this application.

Denise Downing – Ms. Downing informed everyone that the Queens Library it is now called the Queens Public Library. They have a new logo. She announced that there is an Annual Older Adults Day coming up and provided information about the Mail-A-Book services.

Laura Schwartzberg – Ms. Schwartzberg spoke against the Bukharian Community Center and asked the Board Members to vote against this application. She submitted her written testimony.

Helene Pangalos – Ms. Pangalos spoke against the Bukharian Community Center and asked the Board Members to vote against this application.

Marc A. Haken – Mr. Haken announced that a member of the Board was insulted Thursday night by a group of young adults. He didn't vote the way they wanted him to. He stated that at the next meeting he is going to ask this Board to pass a resolution condemning the actions of these young individuals.

Adila Hussain – Ms. Hussain announced that the Down to Earth Farmer's Market is open every Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. until November 23rd. They will be having a special event on October 27th for Halloween.

Alyssa Dipadova – Ms. Dipadova announced that the Farmers Market will be hosting a spirit pop-up on November 3rd.

Kristen Jefferies – Ms. Jefferies announced a Social Justice Art Exhibit that will be sponsored by Council Member Rory I. Lancman in conjunction with Congressman Gregory Meeks, State Senator Leroy Comrie, and Council Member Adrienne Adams.

Margo Pangalos – Ms. Pangalos spoke against the Bukharian Community Center and asked the Board Members to vote against this application.

Tania Padgett – Ms. Padgett announced a free helmet fitting and distribution event sponsored by Council Member Barry Grodenchik. She informed everyone that the City Parks Foundation is offering fitness events for seniors in Cunningham Park.

Sherry Reisner – Ms. Reisner spoke against the Bukharian Community Center and asked the Board Members to vote against this application.

Daniel Blech: On behalf of Assemblyman Daniel Rosenthal he hopes everyone had a good summer. Assemblyman Rosenthal will be co-sponsoring an E-Waste event with State Senator Leroy Comrie. Assemblyman Rosenthal is also partnering with Caymen Health and will be offering free flu shots for everyone in their district (by appointment only).

Steve Ruby – Mr. Ruby voiced his concerns about changes in the neighborhood. He spoke against the plans filed for a 37-story residential building that would be located at 71-12 Park Avenue in Flushing. He is also against plans to knock down a store on 72nd Avenue and Aguilar Avenue and to build an 11-story building.

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 June 19, 2019, seconded by Mary Maggio.

Count in favor 36 **Opposed:** 0 **Abstained:** 0

Guest Speaker:

Honorable Assembly Member Nily Rozic – Assembly Member Rozic welcomed everyone back. She wished a Happy and Healthy to those celebrating the New Year in a couple of days. She announced an Annual Free Helmet giveaway in the Farm Playground that she and Council Member Grodenchik do together

along with Congresswomen Grace Meng and State Senator John Liu. The event is from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Last year they broke a record for how many helmets they gave out citywide. This year there will also be free classes for kids on how to ride a bike along with activities during the day for everyone. She invited everyone to come to a Public Hearing on October 23rd after their flu shot in Daniel Rosenthal's Office. They are doing it as a collective class of Elected Officials. It is a community forum on the NYC property tax relief. She explained that NYC put together an advisory commission on property tax reform. She hopes that by next year when they return to Albany, they will have a couple of ideas on how to reform the NYC property tax system. The Public Hearing will be at St. John's University from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. She announced that it was great to see everyone and it's always a pleasure to be back. She misses sitting at the Board Meetings with everyone and it's great to be amongst family.

Chairperson's Report – Martha Taylor:

- The KGH re-zoning was approved on July 31, 2019. The City Council Subcommittee on Land Use just voted in favor of this application, according to Attorney Jay Goldstein. A full committee vote is scheduled for next week on September 23, 2019. A City Council vote is subsequently scheduled for September 25, 2019.
- Board Member John Gebhard will be going to Paris for a few months since his elevator is not working. Have a good time!
- I would like to congratulate former Council Member and former Community Board 8 Member Jim Gennaro on his engagement to Community Board 8 Member Wendy Phaff and a Happy Birthday!
- Congratulations to Jim Gallagher, Jr. who recently welcomed another grandson, Eden, in July.
- Finally, we have a newly established committee that should have been established some time ago. It is our Health Committee and Dr. Penny Stern is the chair. She is the perfect person to be the chair and will give a brief report every month.

Health Committee:

Dr. Penny Stern – Medical Minute: Dr. Penny Stern spoke about a severe illness that caused seven deaths in different states. They were all linked to vaping. Any use of e-cigs poses a possible risk to potentially cause severe lung injury that may lead to death. The Center for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) is currently investigating 380 cases of severe lung disease that are linked to vaping. The CDC's recommendation is that people who use e-cigarettes products should monitor themselves for symptoms and promptly seek medical attention for any health concerns. She personally urges you not to vape and not to start.

District Manager's Report, September 2019

DOB – We received the stats for our district today. We had 346 illegal conversion, 305 work without permit and 49 curb complaints as of September 17, 2019. We have 10 percent of the overall curb complaints for Queens. The Department of Buildings did a sweep of 67 structures that are three stories and above for safety. For the most part there were no issues.

Parks – There will be a Trips for Kids event, "Take a Kid Mountain Biking," on October 5th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a helmet giveaway event at Farm Playground on October 20, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The event is being sponsored by Congresswoman Grace Meng, State Senator John Liu, Assembly Member Nily Rozic and Council Member Barry Grodenchik.

DDC –

- **NYCDDC Project # HWPR18Q2** [Pedestrian Ramps] – CCL Farrah Antoine informed us that they are now working in CB13. One location referred by DOT to DDC is in front of a synagogue and we asked if they had it on their list. Ms. Antoine will check and get back to us. Chairperson Martha

Taylor reiterated that the Jewish Holidays are coming and with that there will be increased foot traffic. She requested that the repair be expedited, as it is a safety issue.

- **NYCDDC Project #HWQ100FJM** – CCL Jenny Cheng informed us that the work at Reeves Avenue (Main Street to 62nd Road) was completed. It included catch basins, curbs and pedestrian ramps. The restoration has also been completed as of Thursday, August 29, 2019. They are now waiting for DOT to add the street markings. I requested that DOT coordinate with DDC to expedite painting the markings before the end of the season.

NYCCHR – The NYC Commission on Human Rights has the sexual harassment trainings mandated by New York State available for free online. New York City Employees are required to do the training yearly. Remember to save and print your certificate upon completion.

DFTA – The agency wanted to remind seniors that it is time to check their go-bags (remove expired items, change the water etc.). Please heed the warnings, if you are told to evacuate.

DSNY – Sanitation will start collecting e-waste at the curb by appointment. Residents of CB8 can start calling 311 on 9/23 for appointments starting on 9/30 and beyond. There are eleven (11) schools in our district that are getting organic recycling. They will be placing their brown containers for collection daily. For all other trash and/or recycling, they will place them out on their regular collection days. We are pleased to learn that our district now has, seven-day basket pick-up.

NYPD – Deputy Inspector Scott Henry and Sergeant Christopher Burke attended our DSC. D.I. Henry discussed the increase in burglary and grand larceny. The 107th Precinct is addressing the issue of overnight parking of commercial vehicles in residential areas. In the past, there used to be only one big wheel tow truck; now, there is one for each borough. The issue they are having is with storing the eighteen wheelers once they have been towed. The NCO Program is working well, and new residents are attending the Build the Block meetings.

FDNY – During the Fire Prevention Week in October, the FDNY will have their yearly open house. Locations will be listed on a digital map online and should be available at the end of September.

DOH&MH – We are pleased to learn that there is no longer an issue with the transmission of measles in New York City. Mosquito season is still ongoing. Please continue to submit standing water complaints.

DCP – The City Planning Commission approved the ULURP for the borough jails with modifications. One of which was the reduction of the FAR. Our City Planning Liaison Nolan Gray will have more information for us at the September meeting.

There will be a Community Board Member training on zoning and land use in October. All incoming and returning CB Members are welcome to attend. We will have more information for you soon.

Happy Birthday to Board Members Wendy Phaff and Dr. Penny Stern who will celebrate their birthdays this month!

Marie Adam-Ovide



Borough President's Representative – Susie Tanenbaum

- She congratulated the Board, District Manager and her team on another successful and spectacular Health Fair.
- She also congratulated Carolann Foley, Frank Magri, and Mary Maggio for another fantastic National Night Out event. She had never attended from the beginning to end until this year. She and Ken Cohen II were at the census table with the Census Bureau. They handed out all the materials and talked to people about census jobs. It was a wonderful event.
- Borough President Melinda Katz is holding her Annual Community Board Awards Ceremony for Board Members on October 2, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Hot food will be served and everyone who

is celebrating a milestone anniversary is welcome to bring two guests. These are the Board Members celebrating a milestone anniversary.

- Celebrating 15 years of service Marc A. Haken.
- Celebrating 20 years of service Mary Maggio.
- Celebrating 25 years of service James Gallagher Jr. and Joshua Glickman.
- Celebrating 35 years of service Simon Pelman.
- She wished a belated and blessed Muharram (Muslim) New Year to any Board Members who observe. She would also like to wish everyone on the Board and the community who is going to observe a Shanah Tovah a happy and healthy season.

City Planning - Nolan Gray – He spoke about the Borough Based Jail Application. On September 3rd the City Planning Commission (DCP) approved the application with the modifications. Some of the modifications included reducing the amount of the floor area. It is now 130,000 sq. feet smaller. Previously there was a sheer face from the street frontage. Now there must be a 10-foot set back after 100 feet (*facing Briarwood*). The Community Facility is being moved from the ground floor of the jail to the ground floor of the parking garage. There have been some other minor changes on the ground floor. The application is now with the City Council and they have until early November to vote. If you want to continue and have public input, it would be through your Council Member.

Nolan Gray asked if anyone has any questions.

Discussion:

Chairperson Taylor – *How many stories is this reduced size building now?*

Answer: *[Nolan Gray]* – The height hasn't changed. If I recall correctly it is 270 feet.

Chairperson Taylor – *27 stories?*

Answer: *[Nolan Gray]* – As I understand the height of each story is much higher.

Chairperson Taylor - *Is it still 270 feet?*

Answer: *[Nolan Gray]* – Correct.

Chairperson Taylor - *I have read many articles that talk about how CB9 members have opposed this. CB8 has also but I have never seen a word in print. In case anybody contacts you will you please remember that we have opposed this too.*

Answer: *[Nolan Gray]* – Yes, CB8's feedback that you gave was in the report. As I understand that was part of DCP's consideration in reducing the mass and the scaling.

Marc A. Haken – *The original purpose of these new prisons was that people would stay in their own communities. The Queens house was to be for females only. Is it still that way now?*

Answer: *[Nolan Gray]* – Yes. As far as DCP that is still the plan. I believe that the reason for that was to be near a health facility (*Elmhurst Hospital*).

Nolan Gray announced that they will be having a Community Board Training on zoning and land use issues. He encourages new Board Members to attend. He states that one of the most important things that the board does is provide feedback on applications. It is also a great opportunity to learn about important responsibilities that you all have as public servants. The training will be sometime late October. He will provide the District Manager with more information once it is available and announce it at the next Board Meeting.

Committee Reports:

BSA Cal. No. 23-08-BZ, Block ULURP Application No. C190299ZMQ / N190301ZRQ – Kew Gardens Hills – A Public Hearing was held on Thursday, September 12, 2019 to discuss the application for Block 7248

lot 44 aka 80-14 Chevy Chase Street. This application is pursuant to sections 72-01 and 72-22 of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York, as amended, to request an amendment of the previously granted variance under BSA Cal. No. 23-08-BZ (the "Prior Variance"), to permit modification of the previously-approved plans. This would legalize the existing Synagogue by allowing a larger assembly space in the cellar with an accessory kitchen.

Chairperson Martha Taylor announced that this will be tabled for the November Board Meeting.

Steven Konigsberg, Zoning Chair:

BSA Cal. No. 209-173-BZ - A Public Hearing was held on Thursday, September 12, 2019 to discuss the application that was filed pursuant to Sections 73-03 and 73-211 of the New York City Zoning Regulation. It seeks a special permit to demolish and rebuild the existing UG 16 automotive service station with six (6) fuel pump islands, a one story, 3668 square-foot convenience store (0.18 FAR) with eight (8) accessory parking spaces located in a C2-4/R6A (Special Downtown Jamaica) zoning district. No one from the public spoke regarding this application. There were two Board Members who live in the vicinity that are happy with the renovations that they are planning to do. All members of the committee were in favor.

Kevin Forrestal made a motion to approve BSA Cal. No. 2019-173-BZ, 187-01 Hillside Avenue to demolish and rebuild the existing UG 16 automotive service station with six (6) fuel pump islands, a one story, 3668 square-foot convenience store (0.18 FAR) with eight (8) accessory parking spaces located in a C2-4/R6A (Special Downtown Jamaica) zoning district., seconded by Marc A. Haken.

Steven Konigsberg asked if there were any questions or comments with respect to the motion.

Discussion:

Board Member - Did you say that they must come back to the board to get a permit to sell beer?

Answer: [Steven Konigsberg] – According to the minutes Michael Hannibal who is the chair of the Liquor License Committee made that representation.

Susan Cleary – Where is this located? Is it the Exxon?

Answer: [Steven Konigsberg] – Yes, it was an Exxon and I think it may be turning into a Hess.

[Michael Hannibal] – It was a Hess gas station for years and now it is an Exxon.

Steven Konigsberg asked if there were any comments with respect to the motion. Seeing none, a roll call vote was taken.

A roll call vote was taken.

Count in favor 35 **Opposed:** 0 **Abstained:** 0

Board Members against:

None.

Adjournment

Mary Maggio made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Izabela Szczepanska, CB8 staff
September 25, 2019*