



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, February 12, 2014 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike, Flushing, New York.

Attendance:

Board Members Present: Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio- Fischer, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Frank Magri, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sodofsky, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent: Brian DeMasters, Florence Fisher, Howard A. Fried, Joshua Glikman, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Elke Maerz, Tammy Osherov, Virginia Rallis, Annie Salvatore, Anna Sawchuk, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell and Stanley Weinblatt.

Others Present: Borough President Melinda Katz, Irving Poy – Director of Planning and Development at the Borough President’s Office, Susie Tanenbaum – Director of Immigrant and Intercultural Affairs at the Borough President’s Office, Don Capalbi representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Dierra Lockett representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Carly Liang representing Senator Tony Avella, Anthony Lemma representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Courtney Cariello representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Michael Berger representing Councilman Mark Weprin, Barbara McKeon, CB8 Staff Member.

Call to Order:

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak called the Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Participation:

Jeff Gottlieb, President of the Central Queens Historical Association urged the Community Board to help preserve the T-Building at the Queens Hospital Center. He hopes the building is saved from being demolished.

Judith Guttman, President of the Parkway Village Historical Society. The Society supports preserving the T-Building and is against the demolition.

Susan Cleary urged the Community Board not to support the tearing down of the T-Building. The T-Building deserves to be rehabilitated and not rubbed out.

Patel Bharatkumar, owner of a small candy/convenient store located at the corner of 169-07 Hillside Avenue. He has the same business as what the newsstand is proposing to sell. His business will not survive with the newsstand there. He is opposed to this newsstand and feels the newsstand is not needed. The corner is very busy. (*Mr. Bharatkumar submitted over 100 names of residents who signed a petition opposing this newsstand.*)

Eli Rowe, applicant and homeowner of BSA Special Permit Application #324-13 BZ (78-32 138 Street). Mr. Rowe is asking permission to enlarge his single-family residence in order to create an additional bedroom and two bathrooms on the second floor. The exterior of the building will look exactly the same.

Martin Guttman, felt the community Board did not do due diligence in regard to approving a resolution to demolish the T-Building at the January, 2014 Board Meeting.

Hank Hyman, representing the Coalition for the Improvement of Parkway Village stated the cost of demolition of the T-Building is estimated at over \$30 million. He is against the demolition.

Courtney Cariello, representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, invited everyone to a Property Tax Assessment Workshop hosted by Assemblywoman Nily Rozic. It will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. located at the District Office, 159-16 Union Turnpike, Flushing, NY 11366. Please RSVP to 718 820-0241 or rozicn@assembly.state.ny.us.

Michael Berger working out of Councilman Mark Weprin's office is the District 23 organizer for the "Participatory Budgeting" this year. There is \$1million that each Council District gets. The people in the community will decide what to do with the \$1million and how to spend it. His job as an organizer is to maximize the turnout of the community. Voting is a week long starting in the first week of April. You would need to be 16 years old and live in the district. He wants to make sure every community in District 23 is well represented.

Salute to the Flag

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Mark Lefkof made a motion to approve the minutes of January 15, 2014 seconded by Marc A. Haken.

Count in favor 33 **Opposed:** 0 **Abstained:** 0

Board Members who approved the minutes: Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio- Fischer, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Frank Magri, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sodofsky, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

The Honorable Melinda Katz – Queens Borough President

It is Chairman Alvin Warshaviak's great privilege to introduce our new Borough President Melinda Katz. Based on the Borough President's past performances and accomplishments, Chairman Warshaviak knows that she is going to be a superior Borough President.

- Borough President Katz thanked Alvin for all the wonderful work he has done over the years as Chairman of Community Board 8. She also thanked all of the Board Members for the great work they do on the Board. She wanted the members to know that they will always have her office as a resource, as a place to go for information and for back-up. She believes this is a team effort as we go through the next four years. As Borough President, she is even more anxious to bring that relationship to the forefront and make sure we accomplish great things together.
- The Borough President sends her condolences to District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide on the passing of her father.
- This is the Borough President's 21st year in office, as an elected official. She is honored and lucky enough to be the new Borough President. She thanked everyone for the kindness that many people showed her in her campaign and the past 20 years in elected office.
- The Borough President spoke briefly on full day Pre-K, overcrowding in this district, school co-locations, her support of CB8's vote on Jamaica High School, sewers being a big problem in Queens, her plan for economic development in the Borough of Queens and job creation.
- The Borough President questioned how the Community Boards will be paying for the proposed webcasting of their meetings. She will be working on her testimony on how they will pay for it. It should not be coming out of the CB's budget.
- Budget Priority Hearing at Borough Hall on February 20, 2014.

- African American Heritage Month Celebration & Awards Ceremony to be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Queens Borough Hall. She thanks Marc A. Haken and Harbachan Singh for working hard on the committee.
- Looking to expand on cultural events at Borough Hall
- Her email address is katz@queensbp.org

Questions asked the Queens Borough President:

- Marc Haken asked when the Atrium will be in use? Answer: It is taking a lot longer than expected. We are trying to speed it up.
- Susan Cleary thanked the Borough President for saving the NY State Pavilion. The Borough President shared that it would cost \$14 million just to tear it down. The City now needs to make that investment to keep it.
- Bob Harris asked if the Atrium will be available for groups such as the Queens Civic Congress. Answer: She is hoping that is true.
- Kevin Forrestal expressed urgency on the closing of Jamaica High School. The last class will be graduating in June.
Kevin Forrestal shared that DEP has not yet answered our FOIL request on the study they did on Utopia Parkway. (*Borough President requested the FOIL request be forwarded to her office.*)

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Chairman’s Report:

- Chairman Warshaviak welcomed back Simon Pelman. He just had a major operation on his Achilles tendon.
- Condolences to District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide on the passing of her father, Pierre Adam. She is on her way down to Florida to be with her family.
- Chairman Warshaviak also announced that Queens Borough President Melinda Katz will be holding an Informational Seminar on the Affordable Care Act on Monday, March 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, 89-40 135th Street.
- Chairman Warshaviak called on Dierra Luckett, who is the Community Relations Director for Councilman Lancman. She wanted to introduce herself to the Board and let everyone know that Councilman Lancman’s office is open for business. We are here for everyone. Should you have any community concerns please contact the office at 718 217-4969.

District Manager’s Report:

The District Manager’s Report was distributed.

Due to inclement weather, the February District Service Cabinet meeting was cancelled. The Transportation Committee meeting has been rescheduled for February 26th in the Community Board office at 7:30 p.m. Congresswoman Grace Meng's event, "***Congress on Your Corner***," has been rescheduled for **March 19, 2014**. It will be held at the original venue – Hillcrest Public Library – 187-05 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet your representative in Congress and to share your concerns.

Many of you who reside in the 23rd Councilmanic District represented by the Honorable Mark Weprin (*the district located west of 188th Street*) voted in the Participatory Budget at different locations throughout the district. Community Board 8's office will be used again this year for that purpose. The ***tentative*** date and time for the vote is April 1st from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. I will have more information for you next month and in the March 2014 Newsletter.

The Mayor's Budget is scheduled to be released today. The responses to our capital and expense budget items requested will be available later this week. A public hearing will be held in the coming weeks to hear the community's reaction to the responses. We will keep you posted.

Following the storm many homeowners failed to clear snow from their sidewalks. It is a safety hazard. Here is the current regulation regarding the removal of snow and ice:

Snow and Ice Removal

Every owner, lessee, tenant, occupant, or other person having charge of any lot or building must clean snow and/or ice from the sidewalk within **4 hours** after the snow has stopped falling, or by **11:00 a.m.** if the snow has stopped falling after **9:00 p.m.** the previous evening. Snow may **NOT** be thrown into the street. If the snow or ice becomes frozen so hard that it cannot be removed, the sidewalk may be strewn with ashes, sand, sawdust, or similar suitable material within the same time limits. The sidewalk must be thoroughly cleaned as soon as the weather permits.

- §16-123 FINE: \$100-\$150 - 1st Offense**
- \$150-\$350 - 2nd Offense**
- \$250-\$350 - 3rd & Subsequent Offenses**

If you notice potholes in our streets, please call 311 or the Community Board with the locations. This will assist the Department of Transportation in addressing them. Potholes can not only ruin tires but cause accidents.

Thank you to every member of the Board for the fruit basket received. Thank you to all of the members of the community who have sent a card, an email or called with words of sympathy. Family is much more than the people who share your blood line; it is also the people who surround you with kindness and concern.

Happy Birthday to: Samuel Rodriguez, Alvin Warshaviak, Kevin Forrestal and Paul Lazauskas who are celebrating their birthdays in February.

Committee Reports:

BSA Calendar No. 324-13 BZ AKA 78-32 138th Street – special permit to allow the enlargement of a single –family residence within an R2 zoning district, contrary to FAR and open space regulations. Dr. Allen Bennett, Area 1 Chair.

- On Monday, January 27, 2014, a public hearing was held for this special permit application. There were 6 Board members present at the meeting. There was no opposition from the neighborhood residents. The vote was unanimously in favor of granting the special permit.

Motion:

Mark J. Lefkof made a motion to approved BSA Calendar No. 324-13 BX AKA 78-32 138th Street, seconded by Martha Taylor.

Vote: 33 in favor 0 opposed 0 abstained

Board Members who voted in favor of this BSA special permit: Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio- Fischer, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Frank Magri, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sodofsky, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

Intro No. 28 – To amend the New York City Charter, in relation to requiring that all Community Board meetings be webcast.

- Chairman Warshaviak asked the Board if we should write a letter agreeing with and supporting Community Board No. 1, Brooklyn in opposition to webcasting Board meetings. All Board members were in agreement with CB1.

Newsstand Application # 2484-2013 – CANWS – NE Corner of Homelawn Street and Hillside Avenue. Mark J. Lefkof – Area 7 Chair

- A Public Hearing was held on February 10, 2014 for an application to allow a newsstand to be built on the sidewalk at Homelawn Street and Hillside Avenue. Five Board members were present at the hearing. There were 2 Board members in favor of the newsstand and 3 Board members opposed.
- The applicant was unable to attend but did submit a letter to the community of her intent to open a newsstand.
- We did have a number of people from the community who were store owners. They expressed how this newsstand would negatively affect their own businesses.
- A petition was submitted this evening to the Board with over 100 signatures in opposition to the newsstand.
- The Board members who were in favor felt that the applicant has a right to open a business wherever they wanted.
- The Board members who were opposed felt that the newsstand would be a hardship on the existing storeowners since they would be selling the same products. It would infringe on the storeowners already there. We have enough empty stores in the community and we do not need to put people out of business.

Discussion:

- Alvin Warshaviak asked if the newsstand will be selling basically the same products. Answer: The newsstand will be selling the same products such as newspapers, water, candy, etc.
- Marc A. Haken was at the hearing and voted in favor of the motion. This issue really comes down to an economic issue. Mr. Haken felt that this is the name of the game. We cannot actively restrain business.
- Kenneth Cohen asked if the petition of signatures were in favor or against the newsstand. Answer: 100 signatures against the newsstand.
- Kevin Forrestal was at the meeting as well.
 - These kiosks do not pay the same type of taxes and rent as a fixed building.
 - There was also a safety issue presented. The food cart would have to go against traffic when his van is pulling in the food cart and pulling out each night because the newsstand would be in the food cart’s way.
 - The stores in the neighborhood have been long established. If you bring in competition, it would not be fair.
- Harbachan Singh was present at the meeting and voted in favor of the newsstand. Dept. of Consumer Affairs will look into the economic benefits of the area. It is not for us to determine that part. The responsibility lies on DCA.

