



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, April 9, 2014 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike, Flushing in 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, Brian DeMasters, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio- Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Mohammed Delwar, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisarov, Tammy Oshero, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sodofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent: Joshua Glikman, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Mitch Lisker, Simon Pelman, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg and Stanley Weinblatt.

Others Present: Pesach Osina, representing Scott Stringer NYC Comptroller, Councilman Rory Lancman, Daniel Rosenthal, representing Councilman Rory Lancman’s Office, Alen R. Beerman, representing Councilman Mark Weprin, Courtney Cariello representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Susie Tanenbaum – Director of Immigrant and Intercultural Affairs at the Borough President’s Office, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager, Alma Karassavidis, CB8 Staff Member.

Call to Order:

2nd Vice-Chair Martha Taylor called the Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Participation:

Pesach Osina, NYC Comptroller’s Office invited everyone to a presentation on *Checkbook NYC*. Allows you to go on line and look at every contract and see where NYC money is being spent. The presentation is being held on Friday, April 11, 2014 at 1 Centre Street, Room 1117. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Light refreshments will be served. If you are able to attend please RSVP Yvette Hibbard-Taylor at (212) 669-4382.

Salute to the Flag

2nd Vice-Chair Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Mark Lefkof made a motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2014 seconded by Marc Haken.

Count in favor 36 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, Brian DeMasters, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio- Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S.

Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Tammy Osherov, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Steven Sodofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, and Albert Willingham.

2nd Vice-Chair Martha Taylor introduced Councilman Rory Lancman.

Councilman Rory Lancman

- Councilman Lancman stopped by to welcome the new Community Board members.
- He stated that Community Board 8 is extremely important to him and a tremendous asset to the community.
- He wished all a Happy and Healthy Passover and Easter.

Chairperson's Report - 2nd Vice-Chair Martha Taylor

- Several buildings at Pomonok have been without gas for weeks. The Jewish group Masbia has been supplying Pomonok residents with Kosher and regular food once a week. They will continue to do so until gas is restored. The Community Board thanks Masbia for giving back to the community.
- Congratulations to Seymour Schwartz who will be honored by the Queens Civic Congress on Sunday, April 27, 2014 at a luncheon at Antun's..
- Best wishes to Stanley Weinblatt who will be undergoing surgery early tomorrow morning.
- We welcome back Howard Fried who has been recuperating from surgery.
- Welcome our new Board Members: Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Bright Limm, Jennifer Martin, Mohammed Delwar and Mohammed Tohin.

Martha Taylor asked Mark Lefkof to begin the Nominations

Mark Lefkof: In accordance with the By-Laws of CB8, the first meeting in April is a nomination meeting. The procedure is that in April we nominate candidates for the various offices that are available. Then at the May meeting, there is a vote. In accordance with the By-Laws, I now open the floor to nominations.

Martha Taylor nominated Alvin Warshaviak for Chairperson, seconded by Mary Maggio Fischer.

Steven Sadofsky nominates Stanely Weinblatt for 1st Vice-Chair, seconded by Carol Ann Foley.

Seymour Schwartz nominates Martha Taylor for 2nd Vice-Chair, seconded by Michael Hannibal.

Mary Maggio Fischer nominates Seymour Schwartz for 3rd Vice-Chair, seconded by Edward Chung.

Mary Maggio Fischer nominates Carolyn Baker Brown for Executive Secretary, seconded by Susan Cleary.

Martha Taylor nominates Harbachan Singh for Treasurer, seconded by Dilafroz Ahmed.

Tammy Osherov nominates Maria DeInnocentiis for Treasurer seconded by Florence Fisher.

Mark Lefkof closed nominations for all categories. Next month will be the vote for these candidates.

District Manager's Report:

HRA – The new commissioner Steve Banks started on April 1st and visited one senior center in each borough.

Department of Environmental Protection – Routine cleaning and inspection of catch basins for Queens CB 8 will be done from October 2014 and will be completed by February 2015. They will go to specific locations to clean catch basins if complaints are made.

DOB - The Department of Buildings is a complaint driven agency. The department is requesting that Community Boards and Elected Representatives file all complaints through 311, for the record, before contacting them directly.

NYC Comptroller – The Comptroller audited the list of vacant lots on the Department of Finance’s tax roll. It was determined that 308 properties that were not vacant were being taxed at the lower rate for empty lots. The city lost \$1.7M, as a result.

Con Edison – The company has a new CEO as of January – Mr. John McAvoy. The company is currently raising awareness about what to do when a gas leak is suspected. If you suspect a gas leak, you must first leave the house and then contact 911 or 1 800 7CONED. You should not do anything that would create a *spark* (i.e. use mobile telephones, turn on the light switch, smoke etc.)

DYCD – The Summer Youth Employment Program has a deadline of April 25th. This program has 28,000 jobs and is being funded mostly by the New York City government (no NYS or Federal funds). Youth 14 to 24 years of age may apply. There are 1,000 slots set aside for at risk youth and those who are in foster care.

This year, it will not be just a lottery. There is an opportunity for youth to compete for a percentage of these jobs. This will include resume writing, dressing for success and an interview process. Last year 70,000 applications were received. They are trying to get additional funding from Goldman Sachs, Wal-Mart and CVS Pharmacy. In the past CVS Pharmacy used this program as a training session and would hire youth for a permanent position at the completion of the program.

Department of Design and Construction – You should receive water shut-off notices at least the day before the water is turned off. This information is also emailed to the Community Board. If you would like to be on our emailing list to receive such notices, please sign up this evening or call our office.

Project SEQ200534 –DDC (sewer)

- They are working on the last section and have one block to complete.
- They are starting restoration this week from 191st St. from Hillside Ave. to Palo Alto Ave.

Project OED1000 – DDC (water main)

- There have been no community issues to date.
- Ms. Christie states that the job is 80% completed. Anticipated completion date is still June 4, 2014.
- When asked about any plans to work near the SJU campus in May, she stated that no work is scheduled for that area.

Project OED1001 – DDC (water main)

- All saw cutting has been completed.
- They scheduled some test water shut-downs for March 25th but it was not done. There are some issues with inaccurate blue prints. DEP could not do the test for 84th Drive.
- Currently, utilities are doing test pits on Hillside Avenue and GCP, 164th Street and 84th

Parks and Recreation – The Cunningham Park ball fields are being prepared by the staff for spring.

Department of Transportation

- **Hillside Avenue Resurfacing** – Good news! Hillside Avenue is scheduled to be resurfaced this year. Unfortunately, it will be done in late July or early August.
- There will be a new “Safety City” in Rosedale where schools can take students to learn about traffic safety.
- There will be more information regarding the Mayor’s Vision Zero Program in the coming months.

Meetings:

On March 26, 2014 – Martha Taylor, Parks Committee Chair and I attended a meeting of the USTA in FMCP. We were briefed on the events and ways that the company will be giving back to the community. I have agreed to add the information on our Newsletter. They will forward me their Newsletter that I will send to the community via email. On April 13th, they will have an Easter Egg Hunt. Registration online www.ntc.usta.com started for the summer camp. They have a family play event on Saturdays in July. They are scheduling a job fair in July (*date TBA*). Arthur Ashe Day tickets will be given out earlier this year. A request will be sent to the Board via email for a list of recommended organizations.

Yesterday, I attended the Borough Cabinet. Representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection, the city's commission on Human Rights and Foundation for Senior Citizens, Inc each gave a presentation.

- We were reminded that most of the complaints for noise go to the Police Department. Noise is the number one complaint for Queens South. The DEP offers workshops for food service establishments. I learned that grease dumped into the sewers is a problem, especially in the neighborhood of Briarwood in Community Board 8. The 30 day lien sales notices are going out this week to homeowners who are delinquent on their bills. You may call DEP at 718-595-7000 to make payment arrangements or for more information.
- April 2014 marks the 46th Anniversary of the 1968 Fair Housing Act. We were given an overview on the protected classes and the services that the City's Human Rights Commission provides. If you feel you have been discriminated against, write down the details of the occurrence and contact 311. For those of you who are afraid of retaliation, there are very strict regulations against that. Some funds may be available for small landlords to make their properties accessible.
- The New York Foundation for Senior Citizens, Inc. gave an overview of the services that they provide such as (home sharing, respite care and free minor home repair etc.). They are also available to come to any community gathering to give presentations about the services they provide. They can be contacted at 212-962-7730.
- Borough President Melinda Katz also announced that Wednesday, April 23, 2014 is the deadline to apply for the new full day Pre-K programs. You can go online at www.nyc.gov/schools/prek or call 718-935-2009. If your child was born in 2010, he/she qualifies.

Community Board 8's annual health fair will be held on **Friday, June 27, 2014**. As always, we welcome volunteers. If you have a great idea that would make our health fair that much better, please call me.

Happy Birthdays: Carolyn Baker Brown, Dilafroz Ahmed and Mark Lefkof who are celebrating their birthdays this month.

Happy Bangladesh Independence Day!

Borough President's Representative – Susie Tanenbaum

- Susie Tanenbaum welcomed all the new Community Board Members. She is looking forward to having opportunities to interact with them.
- Borough President Melinda Katz has been extremely busy. She is almost at her 100th day and is making her way around the borough. She is scheduled to be at Seymour Schwartz' civic meeting in about a week.
- Last night she hosted a Bangladesh Independence Day Event. There were about 80 attendees from the Bangladeshi and multi-ethnic communities. The event was lovely. Four (4) distinguished individuals from the Bangladeshi-American community were honored at the event. Young children (5 and 6 year olds) performed dance and poetry, expressing pride in their heritage.
- CB8 was very well represented at the event. Thanks to Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Marc Haken and CB8 District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide.
- There were three (3) co-sponsoring organizations, one of which was Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society. One of the very active committee members is new board member Mohammed Delwar. We are very thankful to him for donating time and resources to make last night a successful event.
- On April 19th and 20th, the Queens Zoo will hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt for Kids. 10,000 to 12,000 people are expected to attend. "*Candy eggs for all as well as fun and games*".
- On behalf of Borough President Melinda Katz, Happy Easter, Happy Passover and a Happy Vaisakh, the Sikh New Year is coming up. April is National Fair Housing Month. Immigrant Heritage week is on April 17th. April is also National Poetry Month and Earth Day is April 22. Enjoy whatever you celebrate this month.

Samuel Rodriguez stated that he had an issue with the tone of the thank you/re-appointment letter received by members from the Borough President's Office.

Carolann Foley reiterated that the letter was not really a thank you and she had had an issue with the way the last two paragraphs were worded. She stated that it was an insult to the board members and she would rather have not gotten a letter at all.

Committee Reports:

Martha Taylor, Chair of Parks Committee

- The committee met with the representative from *GrowNYC* to discuss the pending Farmers Market in Cunningham Park.
- We asked to have the Farmers Market two days per week. *GrowNYC* told the committee that normally they start with one day per week. The location was discussed and the committee was told that it would have to be assessed by *GrowNYC* to ascertain whether it would be a successful spot for the market.
- Martha stated that *GrowNYC* was asked that their assessment be expedited so that the Farmers Market could be up and running this summer.
- Location would be 196th Street entrance to Cunningham Park in the parking lot. The *GrowNYC* person spoke about having it on the sidewalk.
- We will keep everyone posted as we hear more.

Michael Hannibal, Chair of Liquor License Committee

- **New Traditions, 181-34 Union Turnpike:** There were concerns about whether to renew their application. After discussion, communication between the proprietor of New Traditions and St. Johns University was established. Part of the renewal agreement was that they would work together and reach out to the community. Paul Lazauskas gave a quick update.
- **Paul Lazauskas:** A meeting was held with the owner of New Traditions, Public Safety, Student Life and also Officer Capozzi from 107th Pct. We discussed ways that they could put out messages for their patrons to be more respectful of the community when they depart from the establishment. In general just extending a Good Neighbor policy. We are looking to have this meeting again prior to move in around August. We will have constant contact with the owner of New Traditions. It was agreed that the license for New Traditions should be renewed.
- Michael Hannibal was very happy with the outcome.
- ABC Law Proposed by City Council going to the State Legislature. There are three (3) resolutions.
- Any type of liquor establishment must be at least 200 feet from houses or worship or schools. The new resolution proposed by the City Council is requesting that the regulations change from 200 to 800 feet. We voted against that.
- The next resolution was calling for a liaison from the SLA and also to provide us with 60 day notice from any liquor establishment that wanted to extend their hours. In both cases the consensus is that a letter will be sent to the City Council agreeing that we support the 60 day notice.
- Lastly, a resolution to request that the NYS Legislature mandate that all establishments selling alcohol give a 30-day notification to the Community Board. This will include bodegas. Thanks to Kevin, we added to the resolution that we wanted notice to be 60 days rather than 30 days.
- **Hado Japanese Sushi, 138-40 86th Avenue:** There were no prior issues. We approved their liquor upgrade from beer and wine to full liquor.
- **Meatos NY One, LLC, 185-01 Union Turnpike:** We tabled this application until May.
- **Cheap Shots** were issued a \$15,000 fine. They will continue to be monitored.
- **Layla Hookah Lounge** is presently being investigated by the SLA.
- Liquor License Committee will be meeting once a month on the second Tuesday.

Adjournment

Carolann Foley made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Susan Cleary.
The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Alma Karassavidis, CB8 staff member
April 11, 2014