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The City of New York
Borough of Queens

Community Board 8

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Public Hearing: FY2016 Preliminary Budget/Capital and Expense Budget Submissions

Date: Monday, March 2, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Place: Community Board 8 Office
197-15 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423

Attendance: Martha Taylor, Acting Chair of the Capital/Expense Budget Committee
Kevin Forrestal
James Gallagher, Jr.
Robert Harris
District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide
Joseph Marziliano, CB8 Staff Member

Purpose of Public Hearing

The City Charter mandates that community boards hold public hearings to receive comments from the public on the responses agencies provided for the FY 2016 Preliminary Budget/Capital and Expense Budget priorities.

Acting Budget Director, Martha Taylor called this Public Hearing to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Participation

None.

Capital Budget Priorities and Requests

Priority # 1 - Rehabilitate Cunningham Park

Community Board 8 was led to believe this was being at least partially funded, including the 193rd Street Playground. Exactly what part is being funded? Community Board 8 will go to elected officials for the rest of the funding. This request is supported by the West Cunningham Park Civic Association.

DM stated that new support from civic organizations must be included during budget submissions time (Fall).

Priority # 2 - Rehabilitate sewers, catch basins, water mains in CD8...

This has been requested by Community Board 8 for many years. Why does this request still require further study?

Priority #3 - Install storm sewers and catch basins at various locations

Funding for part of this request is recommended. Two of these requests have been completed to date (175th Street & 75th Avenue; 176th Street & 75th Avenue). The Budget Committee will follow up to find out which part is recommended.

Priority #4 – Fund trench restoration in CD8 at various locations

The agency will try to accommodate this issue within existing resources. The Budget Committee would like to see this request expedited. This request is supported by the Fresh Meadows Tenants Association.

Priority #5 - Additional funding for more computers for the Pomonok and Hillcrest Libraries and Smart Boards for the conference rooms in each CB8 Library

QBPL recommends funding this capital project but the availability of funds remains uncertain at this time. The Budget Committee would like to know why. The West Cunningham Park Civic Association Supports this request.

Priority #6 - Fund MS 216's needs.

The request is not recommended for funding. The Budget Committee objects because funding is necessary. This response without specificity is not acceptable.

Priority #7 - Installation of bus pads

The Budget Committee does not believe that funds are not available. This project will cost more in the long run to repair. The Budget Committee asks if the Department of Transportation's needs are greater than the people's.

Priority #8 - Restore pedestrian pathway by paving, fencing and lighting at 73rd Terrace.

DOT requests that the Community Board contact the Borough Commissioner's office to discuss this request.

Priority #9- A security camera outside the Pomonok Library.

This request has been completed. The Budget Committee will remove this item for next year.

Priority #10 – Annex for the Queens Public Library at the Queens Hospital Center.

Further study by the agency is requested. The Budget Committee will follow up with the Queens Borough Library.

Priority #11 - Expand Briarwood Library to cope with demand for service

This project is included in the ten-year plan. This is acceptable to the Budget Committee.

Priority #12 – Installation of a new sidewalk and curb for the Brinkerhoff Memorial Cemetery
This will be referred to the Borough Commissioner of DOT as per the agency's request.

Priority #13 – Additional funding for Smart Boards in every classroom, computers for every classroom and administrative offices and upgrade of the sound system for the auditorium for CB8 schools in need.

The Budget Committee would like to know which part is recommended.

Priority #14 – Replacement of Cobblestones at Clover Hill Place in Holliswood.

Community Board 8 Member Harbachan Singh, who could not attend this Public Hearing submitted a statement regarding this issue: Residents find it almost impossible to drive up the hill. The DSNY Salt Spreaders have difficulty driving uphill to put salt on the road. This creates an extremely hazardous situation. Community Board 8 urges OMB to reconsider and fund the repair.

Priority #15 – Install additional street lighting along the Main Street Wall and high intensity lighting at Park Drive East northbound.

This request has been denied, and the Budget Committee would like to know why.

Priority #16 – Need 220 electrical wiring for PS173 to support electrical needs of smart boards and air conditioners.

Funding for part of this project is recommended, and the Budget Committee would like to know which part.

Priority #17 – Green Street or equivalent on Goethals Avenue and 168th Street.

This request is not recommended for funding, and the Budget Committee would like to know why.

Priority #18 – Extend the Briarwood Promenade an additional 100 ft. on Queens Blvd. between 84th Drive and Main Street northbound and/or create a pedestrian plaza.

Community Board 8 will contact the Borough Commissioner's Office at the agency's request.

Priority #19 – Resurfacing of 183rd from Horace Harding Expressway eastbound to 73rd Avenue, including trench restoration from 67th Avenue to 73rd Avenue.

This request should be directed to the respective NYCDOT Borough Directors of Maintenance.

Priority #20 – Provide a Senior Citizen Center for CD 8.

The DFTA continues to fund senior centers in CD 8 and does not have additional funds for new centers. The Budget Committee would like a list of those facilities located in CD 8.

Priority #21 – Renovate and make Fresh Meadows Park (188th Street and Horace Harding Expressway) WiFi Accessible and do the same for oval areas of Cunningham Park.

Parks will explore the viability of potential sites in our district for deployment with their WiFi partners.

Priority #22 – Provide additional bathrooms near ball fields in southern section of Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

No issue.

Priority #23 – Build an Environmental Center in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

This request is partially funded. Community Board 8 will contact the Department of Parks and Recreation for specifics.

Priority #24 – New sidewalk is needed on north side of Goethals Avenue from 168th Street to 170th Street.

Sidewalk replacement requests should be directed to the Borough Commissioner.

Priority #25 – Pave the grassy strip with cement along curb for the length of the Main Street Wall.

Please contact the Borough Commissioner's office to discuss this request.

Priority #26 – Extend Center Median on 69th Avenue to 195th Lane (20').

Remove.

Priority #27 – Resurface and install curbs and sidewalks in various locations in Fresh Meadows and Jamaica Hill.

Curb replacement/ (re)construction requests should be directed to the Borough Commissioner.

Priority #28 – Install Air Conditioning at the Briarwood Shelter.

DHS provides cooling rooms in various shelters; when this is not available, DHS provides the location of the nearest cooling center. The Budget Committee finds this response to be absurd.

Priority #29 – Rehabilitate Flushing Meadow Corona Park and rebuild bridge over Flushing Creek.

The Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project.

Priority #30 – Additional funding for PS 26 to upgrade sound system for the auditorium.

The Budget Committee would like to know why is an antiquated sound system not recommended for funding.

Priority #31 – Create Center Island on Goethals Avenue between 164th and 168th Streets.

The Community Board will contact the Borough Commissioner's office to discuss this request.

Priority #32 – Convert Hoover Playground's Concrete Athletic Field (near 83rd Avenue) to a Little League Baseball Field.

This request is not recommended for funding.

Priority #33 – New Sidewalks and curbs on 199th Street between 67th Avenue and 73rd Avenue. This is NYC/ Parks' property.

This request is not within the jurisdiction of NYCDOT. The Community Board will contact OMB's Community Board Unit to determine which agency has jurisdiction over this request. Fresh Meadows Tenants Association supports this request. West Cunningham Park Civic Association opposes this request. This is an issue that must be brought up to the area chair at the time of area budget meetings (Fall).

Priority #34 – a) Rebuild Cedar Grove Playground b) Replace play equipment at Freedom Park; c) Renovate Farm Playground; d) Renovate Albert Mauro Playground.

Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. West Cunningham Park Civic Association supports this request.

Priority #35 – Reconstruct the following streets: a) 182nd Street between 64th Avenue and Horace Harding Expressway; b) 181st Street between 67th Avenue and 69th Avenue.

Capital funding constraints, project capacity and City-Wide priorities preclude this project at this time.

Priority #36 – Rehabilitate Small Neighborhood Parks and Triangles.

Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project..

Priority #37 – Upgrade Playground 75.

Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project.

Priority #38 – Conversion of center island on Queens Blvd. from Main Street north to 84 Drive into a NYC Pedestrian Plaza

The Community Board will contact the Borough Commissioner’s office to discuss this request.

Priority #39 – Renovate Vleigh Playground- New asphalt and additional lighting.

Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project.

Priority #40 – Renovate Abe Wolfson Triangle.

Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project.

The “Continue to Support” requests are all in process or completed.

Adjournment

This Public Hearing adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Joseph Marziliano, CB8 Staff Member

March 4, 2015