



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 19, 2016 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, Dr. Allen Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Sylvia Hernandez, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Martha Taylor and Mohammed Tohin.

Board Members Absent:

Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Maria Deinnocentiis, Carolann Foley, Howard A. Fried, Joshua Glikman, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Mitch Lisker, Frank Magri, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Tammy Osherov, Simon Pelman, Charlton Rhee, Steven Sadofky, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Rachele Van Arsdale, Jacob Weinberg, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

Others Present:

Alexander Bennett representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Ari Gershman representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Daniel Rosenthal representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Andrew Taranto representing State Senator Leroy Comrie, Muhammad Rahman representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Daniel Blech representing Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz, Marilla Li representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager and Jatnna Reyes, CB8 staff member.

Call to Order:

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

Public Participation:

Alan Ong – Mr. Ong is a supporter of the Fresh Meadows Homeowners’ Civic Association. He is the Borough Appointee of the Community District Education Council (CDEC) 26. He informed everyone that he is opening up a business on 180th Street and Union Turnpike. It will be a paint your own pottery arts and crafts studio (mosaic painting, glass fusion, wine glass painting etc.). Patrons will be able to sip on wine/beer while making pottery and other art work at this establishment. An application for a wine/beer license has been submitted to the Community Board. It will be reviewed at the next Liquor License Committee meeting being held on Tuesday, December 13th.

John Pili – Mr. Pili is a Coordinator at the Child Center of NY at Parsons Community School. He thanked all members of the Board for supporting and advocating for funding for Parsons Community School and summer camps throughout the City. Thanks to the letter sent to Mayor De Blasio in support of funding for summer youth

programs, they were able to secure the funding needed to keep summer camps going. They will be having two events this month. On Thursday, October 20th they will be having Lights on Afterschool, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Parsons Community School Courtyard (158-40 76th Road). Starting on Friday, October 28th and every other Friday, they will be having Family Night at Parsons from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.. This would enable parents and their children to engage in fun activities together. They are looking to start an Adult Education class at Parsons Community School on Saturday evenings. For more information, please call: 718-820-0760.

Allen Eisenstein – Mr. Eisenstein informed everyone that they are having new programs at the Zoo. They will have events on Saturday, October 29th and Sunday, October 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They will have arts and crafts, face painting, pumpkin patch, etc. Flyers with more information were placed on the table.

Paul Lazauskas – Mr. Lazauskas informed everyone of several events going on at St. John’s University this month. On Monday, October 24th at 6:30 p.m., they will have an event on The Shroud of Turin: Faith, Science and Facts. Barrie Schwartz will discuss his research on the Shroud of Turin. On Tuesday, October 25th at 7:00 p.m., The Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of New York, Inc. in partnership with Borough President Melinda Katz will present the Italian American Experience event at the Marillac Hall, Terrace at St. John’s University. Also, on Monday, November 7th they will be celebrating Veteran’s Day at the D’Angelo Center, Room 416 at 12:15 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. On behalf of the Queens Center for Progress, he invited everyone to join them at the NYC Marathon which will take place on Sunday, November 6th. They will meet at 44th Drive and 21st Street in Long Island City before departure. The invitation was extended to all Elected Officials as well.

Alexander Bennett – Mr. Bennett informed us of several events – happening in the 6th Congressional District this month. There will be a Service Academy Forum on Sunday, October 23rd from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Forest Hills High School (67-01 110th Street). This will be an informational forum on service academy admission, programs and nominations. On Thursday, October 27th, there will be a Security Preparedness Workshop for non-profits and houses of worship from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Queens College. For more information, please call: 718-358-6364.

Ari Gershman – Mr. Gershman gave an update on the City Council Participatory Budget process. Councilman Barry Grodenchik has hosted several neighborhood assemblies at which people have contributed ideas on how to spend \$1.5M of the City Budget. There have been a number of meetings over the past two months, one final meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20th at 6:00 p.m. at the Hollis Library. He invited everyone interested to attend and share their ideas. Also, if anyone is interested in serving as a budget delegate please let him know.

Salute to the Flag

Chairperson Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes of September 14, 2016, seconded by Kevin Forrestal.

Count in favor 29 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Board Members who approved the minutes:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Sylvia Hernandez, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin.

Board Members who did not approve the minutes:

None

Chairperson Martha Taylor made a couple of announcements:

- Chairperson Martha Taylor informed us that she came here directly from the Queens Borough Board which is held monthly for all Community Board Chairs. The guest speaker was Steven Banks, Commissioner of the Human Resources Administration (HRA) and the Department of Homeless Services (DHS). He promised to send the Community Board his new proposals so we are informed ahead of time.
- Chairperson Martha Taylor congratulated Dr. Allen Bennett who welcomed a granddaughter recently.
- Chairperson Martha Taylor congratulated Kevin Forrestal for his recent election as the President of Queens Civic Congress.
- Chairperson Martha Taylor congratulated DM Adam-Ovide for having sent a letter to DHS requesting a list of shelters and addresses to be provided to the Queens Community Boards. It was discussed at today’s Borough Board and Commissioner Banks stated that he will look into it.
- Chairperson Martha Taylor offered condolences to Simon Pelman whose brother “Eli Pelman” passed away a few weeks ago.
- Chairperson Martha Taylor informed all Board Members that included in their packets was a list of proposed Executive Committee and Board Meeting dates for 2017 for their review. If there are any objections to these dates due to religious holidays please contact the District Manager. These dates will be finalized at the next Executive Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 2nd.

District Manager’s Report, October 2016

DOH & MH

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s travel warnings in regards to the Zika Virus remain the same. The Federal Government approved funding for Zika (\$3M for the next three years) for outreach, prevention and education. DOH committed \$5.5M so far this year. They tested over 7,000 patients so far.

DSNY

They are currently preparing for the snow season. Residents might have noticed snow plows in the streets. The newly hired and experienced DSNY workers are being trained on the proper use of the snow plows for better results this coming season. They are also hiring snow laborers (see flyers).

DOB

Eastern Queens had an increase in Department of Buildings complaints made to 311 so far this year. Community Board 8 usually has an average of 150 complaints and we have seen a surge in the number of complaints for our district as well.

<u>Year</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
2015	140 complaints	133 complaints	181 complaints
2016	233 complaints	240 complaints	203 complaints

The agency is behind in responding to zoning complaints due to the number of requests received. We currently have 87 active work permits in CB8. They anticipate having the new plan examiners and inspector by the end of the year which would substantially address the backlog.

DFTA

We were advised that the Department for the Aging has one presenter [Eric Haussmann] for the Newcomers to Medicare Forum. The presenter is willing to present at a Community Board meeting if we request it. I informed the representative that the CB meetings may not be the best forum, as the presentation may last up to an hour with Q &A. DFTA promised in the past to have this event at Borough Hall (*instead of 2 Lafayette Street in Manhattan*) and I recommended that he advocates for that instead. In addition, prior notice should be given to us in advance so it can be well advertised for a good turnout.

Con Edison

The company continues to upgrade its equipment (for gas and electricity). As we enter into the severe weather season, please be reminded to stay away from power lines that have fallen and to call 911 immediately followed by a call to Con Edison.

HRA

The Department of Social Services announced that seniors who qualify for SNAP (*aka food stamps*) are not applying for the program. Parents with young children are not applying as well. The agency will focus on reaching out to the schools this fall.

PARKS

Work on Phase II at Captain Tilly Park will start on November 14, 2016. Only the entrances on the north will be open. All south entrances will be closed and there will be no access to the comfort station. Porter sans have been requested by the parks manager.

FDNY

October is fire safety month. The Fire Department is willing to come out to civic groups, schools and religious institutions to give fire safety presentations. You can go online to find out more about their educational programs at www.fdnysmart.org or you can call 718-281-3870.

The American Red Cross will install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home free of charge. You can reach them by calling 877-RED CROS or 877-733-2767 for an appointment. Daylight savings time ends on November 6th, remember to change the batteries in your smoke/CO detectors.

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

Marie Adam-Ovide

Borough President’s Representative – Susie Tanenbaum

- Ms. Tanenbaum mentioned that Borough President Melinda Katz will be having the Annual Veteran’s Day Observance Ceremony on Wednesday, November 9th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Garden at Queens Borough Hall. They will have three special veterans honorees from the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps. If anyone is willing to attend you may RSVP via email queensbp.org/rsvp or by phone at: 718-286-2661. Flyers were distributed.
- She also mentioned that Borough President Katz partnered with The Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of New York, Inc. to have the Italian Heritage and Culture month event on Tuesday, October 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the Marillac Hall, Terrace at St. John’s University. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Committee Report:

Public Hearing – FY2018 Capital & Expense Budget Priorities:

Marc A. Haken, Budget Director:

- He thanked all the Area Chairs for their dedication and input into putting all these priorities together, since they dealt with a whole new process this year.
- Budget Director Marc A. Haken informed everyone that included in their packets are the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2018. He asked everyone to review it before a vote was taken to approve them.

Approval of the Expense Budget Priorities

Mark J. Lefkof made a motion to accept the Community Board 8 Expense Budget Priorities, seconded by Dr. Allen Bennett.

Count in favor 29 **Opposed:** 0 **Abstained:** 0

Board Members who approved the Expense Budget Priorities:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Sylvia Hernandez, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin.

Board Members who did not approve the Expense Budget Priorities:

None

Approval of the Capital Budget Priorities

Paul Lazauskas made a motion to accept the Community Board 8 Capital Budget Priorities, seconded by Jesse Rosenbaum.

Count in favor 29 **Opposed:** 0 **Abstained:** 0

Board Members who approved the Capital Budget Priorities:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Sylvia Hernandez, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin.

Board Members who did not approve the Capital Budget Priorities:

None

Chairperson Martha Taylor asked all the Board Members to read the Conflicts of Interest packet and let the Community Board know if they have any questions.

Adjournment

Michael Hannibal made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:04 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jatnna Reyes, CB8 staff
October 27, 2016*