



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

The City of New York
Borough of Queens

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

Area 3 Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 3, 2023
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Re: 84th Avenue – Open Street
Place: Community Board 8 Office
197-15 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423

Committee Members: Committee Chair Kevin Forrestal, and Bhitihara Fulton.
Absent: Dilafroz Ahmed, Ahsan Habib, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, and Douglas Sherman

Other CB8 Members: Susan Cleary, and Tobias Paris
Also in attendance: DOT Borough Planner Joseph Patti, Kyle Gorman [DOT Open Streets Program], Principal of Thomas Edison High School Moses Ojeda, and District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide

Due to technical difficulties with WebEx, Committee Chair Kevin Forrestal called the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m. He welcomed everyone and asked for self-introductions. He also announced that due to the month of Ramadan several of our Area 3 Committee Members cannot attend this evening. He welcomed Mr. Kyle Gorman from the department of Transportation’s Open Street Unit to speak. He also noted when waiting for technical problems to be resolved, Martha Taylor, chairperson of CB8, phoned in and endorsed this request for an Open Street.

Kyle Gorman – Legislation was passed about two years ago and made the NYC Open Street program permanent. They are created for schools and Community Based Organizations. Locations near schools are in high demand and are a priority for the safety of students. They are similar to playstreets. New York City has over a hundred-year-history of playstreets. The city has recognized that a lot of schools do not have enough recreational facilities. They need space for pick up and drop off. There are also opportunities for outdoor learning. He invited Principal Moses Ojeda to provide more details.

Principal Moses Ojeda – Thomas Edison High School was an all-boys vocational school. They only have one gymnasium. They are running out of space for project-based learning. The Open Street would alleviate that issue. They need additional space for exercise. They are also moving to project-based learning where students are actually creating and developing tangible things to measure their assessments. They had a math project that was measuring distance and velocity. So, students actually developed cars to measure that. They did not have space within the building to do it.

They need space for social emotional learning, and they are running out of space. While other schools lost students, Thomas Edison's enrollment remained consistent. They are already expecting 50 additional students to attend next year.

What about on street parking? Are you taking away parking space?

K. Gorman – If someone left their car and the Open Street started accommodations can be made. They cannot just drive on the block and park. Everything goes back to normal at the end of the day once it is done.

Committee Chair Forrestal – How about Alternate Side Parking (ASP) ? I presume that DSNY will have to make accommodations.

K Gorman – They can get the broom by very quickly.

Committee Chair Forrestal – What about the parking lot for the teachers and staff?

Principal Ojeda – That will continue. They will have aces to the Grand Central Parkway side. There will be parking near the Joe Austin Playground.

Bhitihara-Martha Fulton – For 26 years the Sri Chimnoy Center has run a race near the playground and the GCP. It is an eight-week project. It starts on August 28 and runs eight after that . It will be their 27th year. Can their vehicles get in?

Principal Ojeda – We have a great relationship with center. That area that they use will be untouched.

The Open Street will be for the school year and the summer.

Susan Cleary – How many hours is this open street supposed to take place from?

Committee Chair Forrestal – It is from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. five days a week.

Tobias Paris – How does that affect traffic in the area?

K. Gorman – There will be an impact. The alternative will be to use the GCP, 82nd Road, Gothic Drive and /or Chapin Parkway.

Committee Chair Forrestal – It is not a heavily trafficked street.

Bhitihara-Martha Fulton – On a different note, speed bumps were requested. What is happening with that?

K Gorman – I don't know the specifics DOT must look at this street to make it safer.

John Patti (DOT) – I will get back to you on this.

D.M. Marie Adam-Ovide – Have you made any type of preparation for the Fire Department, Police Department, or emergency vehicle access?

K. Gorman – It has been addressed. The Open Street is required to maintain an emergency lane at all times. All of our Open Streets' applications have been reviewed by our other agency partners.

M. Ojeda – That was my initial concern, especially after seeing what is happening on the news in Jackson Heights. I wanted to make sure there is space for that. There is another access point from the back.

B. Fulton – The track behind the Jamaica H.S. Campus. Is the track available for the public to use?

M. Ojeda – Now, they have four schools co-located there. It is very difficult to coordinate. They no longer have availability.

Committee Chair Forrestal – On 84th Avenue going west, near the ballfields, there are row houses there. They have garages east of 164th Place, is it possible to work something out with them? Or can programs not go there? Also, Chapin's lot is within that Open Street. Maybe you can exclude about 100 feet.

M. Ojeda – That is doable. I am willing to make the adjustments. The Open Street will stop beforehand.

Committee Chair Forrestal – You shouldn't affect the residents. So, there aren't any community people to object. There are only two area members. I'll be voting in favor.

B. Fulton – I also have no objection.

Two voting members present from the Area 3 Committee and the CB8 Chairperson approve this open street.

Committee Chair Forrestal thanked everyone for attending and for their patience during the technical issues. Kevin Forrestal made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marie Adam-Ovide, District Manager
April 11, 2023*