



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 Meeting held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at the Hillcrest Jewish Center at 183-02 Union Turnpike, Queens, NY 11366.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Michael Athy, Heather Bennett-Idels, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Maria Deinnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, ” Bhitihara Martha-Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, David Mordukhaev, Dilip Nath, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Alan Ong, Tammy Oshero, Hersh Parekh, Tobias Paris, Simon Pelman, Mohammad Rahman, Seymour Schwartz, Deepti Sharma, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Amy Tse, James Gallagher and Jacob Weinberg.

Board Members Absent:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Robert H. Block, Kenneth Cohen II, Solomon Davydov, Steven Konigsberg, Neeta Jain, Yaniv Meirov, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Jenna Citron Schwab, Frances Peterson and Rabbi Mayer Waxman.

Others Present:

Saaif Alam, Elaine Young, George Hadjiconstantinu representing Queens Chamber of Commerce, Lya Rothmann representing Senator Toby Stavisky, Norris Johns representing Senator Leroy Comrie, Kelly Sexton representing Councilman James Gennaro, Lois Marbach, representing Councilwoman Linda Lee, Anthony Lemma, representing Assembly Member David I. Wepin, Soojin Choi-Lee, representing Senator John Liu, Evelyn Li, representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, D.M. Marie Adam-Ovide and Nettie V. Norris, CB8 Staff.

Call to Order:

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

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Public Participation:

Lya Rothmann – representing Senator Toby Stavisky’s office - The budget passed late last week due to the push back from Senator Stavisky on Gov. Hochul’s housing proposal. The Senator talked about higher education and In-State CUNY students being exempt from tuition increases. She also mentioned that we will be having an upcoming event where we will have the SCRIE and DRIE rent increase exemption applications. We will be on hand to show qualifying applicants how to apply.

Chairperson Martha Taylor announced that if a public participant is late, he/she will not be allowed to speak.

Saaif Alam – **Queens Civic Affairs Committee Member** - He made announcements about future events.

Elaine Young – **President, West Cunningham Civic Association of Fresh Meadows** – She represents 1200 households in that neighborhood. They are 100% opposed to the program at the Wyndham Hotel that is continuing to house formally incarcerated individuals. Now they are moving to make it permanent on a three-year contract. It is inappropriate and they don't want it in their neighborhood.

Jim Gallagher – He made announcements about future events.

Kelly Sexton – **representing Councilman James F. Gennaro's Office** - She is the new Constituent Liaison for Gennaro's office. He and NYC Parks will host a number of "Family Days" this Summer.

Norris John – **representing Senator Comrie's office** - There will be a "Family Day" block party with Councilwoman Nantasha Williams, co-sponsored with Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman, on June 3rd.

George Hadjiconstantinu - **representing Queens Chamber of Commerce** – We are hosting a Korean/American small business owner's event on Tuesday May 11th, from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Queens Borough Community College regarding improving your credit. Representatives from Select Bus Service will be there. Also, we will be hosting our annual "Spring Food Festival" on June 17th, from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Queens Farm Museum. Vendors will be there from all areas of Queens. He invited all restaurant owners to come out. All events are sponsored by Councilwoman Linda Lee.

Lois Marbach- **representing Councilwoman Linda Lee** – She made announcements about future events.

Anthony Lemma – **representing Assembly Member David I. Weprin**

Budget passed late due to push back on Gov. Hochul's housing proposal which is not in the budget. He mentioned it will be brought up again. School funding increased in budget by Gov. Hochul for neighborhood schools. It is most important for funding to go to our neighborhood schools and not to Charter schools. Assembly Member Weprin invited New York Presbyterian Hospital and FDNY to IS 178 on June 21st, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. for a Narcan Training and Presentation of fire safety.

Soojin Choi-Lee – **representing Senator John Liu**

She introduced herself as a new staff member to the office. There will be a free paper shredding event on May 27th, at Bowne Park.

Evelyn Li – **represented Congresswoman Grace Meng**

DM Adam-Ovide announced we have a Quorum for the vote

Salute to Flag – Martha Taylor led the salute to the Flag.

Kevin Forrestal, Chair of the Nominating Committee - announced that it is CB8 Annual Event to nominate members to serve on the Executive Committee. To be nominated, you must have had the honor of serving for 2 years.

Executive Committee Nominating Slate is:

Martha Taylor, Chair
Michael Hannibal, 1st Vice Chair
Seymour Schwartz, 2nd Vice Chair
Mary Maggio – 3rd Vice Chair
Harbachan. Singh, Treasurer
Bhitihara Fulton, Secretary

Nominating Committee Chair Forrestal asked if anyone wanted to nominate anyone from the floor. Seeing none, nomination was closed. A vote will be taken in June.

Minutes – Chairperson Martha Taylor asked for motions

Motion made by Harbachan Singh to accept and seconded by Howard Fried
Approved unanimously

DM Adam-Ovide mentioned that there was an error on the agenda for Approval of Minutes section – date says April 12th but they are from the April 9th meeting.

Chairperson’s Report – Martha Taylor

We received a last minute notice from the Department of Social Services that the Par Central Motel has housed 62 Migrant families to date.

There was a Mayor’s Office Criminal Justice Meeting & Housing Works meeting. Martha extended an invitation to Andrew Coamey of Housing Works to attend but did not get a response from him. The Wyndham Hotel/ Mayflower Hotel was the topic of discussion. It is a dangerous situation at that location and we don’t want it there. We have elected officials who are willing to help us with this very difficult situation. We will continue to fight this. The situation at the Wyndham is very dangerous.

CB8 Board members took a picture in 2019, at the suggestion of Michael Hannibal and will do it again this year at our next meeting on June 14th. Please complete the attached sheet stating your T-Shirt size and give it to DM Adam-Ovide. There was an offer made for the full time Community Assistant position and it was accepted. Soleil Griffin will start the 1st. week in June. We thank Harbachan Singh who encouraged her to interview.

Chairperson Martha Taylor extended another one-year agreement to DM Adam-Ovide and she accepted. We are very happy to have her.

The district manager submitted this written report below. She also added that, I reported that there were incidents of dogs biting postal workers in zip codes beginning with 114--. She encouraged residents who are dog owners to be mindful of their pets, to keep our postal workers safe. She explained that if their dogs bite postal workers, it may lead to mail being held up to 30 days. She directed the attendees to read information placed on the table.

District Manager's Report, May 2023

Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

Representative Kevin Morris spoke about the Neighborhood Support Teams. The City Council passed a law in 2016 to create Neighborhood Support Teams to coordinate services and resources to address chronic quality of life issues. This law is now being implemented. Applications are available on the CAU website until the end of this month.

He also announced that there will be another public safety town hall coming up. He did not have a date nor a location yet.

Department of Parks and Recreation

Parks Manager Nelson Fung announced that the Motor Parkway's walking path is officially open. Only the railing is left to be installed. The NYPD Sergeants will have a softball game this Saturday on Fields 10 and 16. Partnership for Parks is having volunteers for "It's My Park Day" plant at Cunningham Park on Saturday, May 20th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Department of Transportation

An accessible signal was installed at 73rd Avenue and Francis Lewis Boulevard. This type of signal has a push button with a speaker to let you know when it is safe to cross the street. No Standing Anytime signage was approved for Main Street and 71st Road.

NYPD

Regrettably, crime has increased as compared to last year for burglary and Grand Larceny Auto, although slightly. Vehicles that were built in 2021 and later are being stolen. Thieves are able to unlock the doors by accessing the USB ports, especially for the Hyundai models.

The USTA will host an Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration and Tennis Festival on May 13th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Cunningham Park. They are offering FREE tennis lessons!

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Children are falling out of windows. Window guards are mandated for apartments with children that are 10 years old or under. If your landlord is required to install window guard and refuses to do so, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) will install them and bill the landlord.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has over 400 vacancies and welcomes applicants. Mosquito season started on April 1st, please remove standing water around your property to prevent breeding mosquitoes.

NYC Commission on Human Rights

The NYC Mayor's Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC) and the NYC Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) announced a Community Project Grant for up to \$5,000 to encourage individuals, groups, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and other entities located in New York City to implement creative projects that promote community respect, prevent hate violence, and seek to address hate crimes, bias-motivated incidents, and discrimination through pathways outside of law enforcement and the criminal legal system. Applicants can propose projects including, but not limited to, community workshops, educational videos, events, conferences, and social media campaigns. Anyone 14 years or older can apply (www.nyc.gov/humanrights)

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

The deadline for the DEP's Amnesty Program for late fees has been extended until the end of May. The agency is looking to hire engineers. They have a hiring event scheduled for May 24, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park Cultural Theatre at 679 Riverside Drive in Manhattan.(see flyer on the table).

Fire Department

Chief Eyssler of Battalion 50 informed us that our numbers are below in all categories [non-structural fires, structural fires, emergencies, etc.] as compared to the same time last year. In addition, our response time is less compared to the other battalions in Queens. He reiterated his concern with the two properties being developed near the firehouse on Hillside Avenue that may affect response time. He brought this issue to the Mayor's Joint Taskforce. They will need the help of DOT to secure parking both during and after construction.

Happy Birthday to: Jacob Weinberg, Mitch Lisker, Edward Chung, Mary Maggio and Heather Bennett-Idels



Marie Adam-Ovide

Kevin Chan - NYPD

He reported 4 Honda's stolen in the last 4 hours before he came to the meeting. For the 2021, 2022 and 2023 models get a club for the steering wheel or tracking devices. These models are the most sought after. These cars are being stolen and shipped overseas. He mentioned that motorcycle season is here. They along with scooters are being stolen as well. He spoke about homelessness and how it is a citywide issue. If they are not a danger to themselves or others, there is nothing the police can do.

Michael Hannibal

He's been complaining about homelessness on Hillside Avenue for a while.

Borough President's Office

No representative came.

Chairperson Martha Taylor - BSA Application – Vote tabled at last meeting due to no Quorum. Mitch Lisker and Howard Fried made a motion to take a vote – the I's have it.

Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern – Health Committee Chair

Mount Sinai Hospital put out a report regarding Allergies. There is no cure for allergies. They are triggered by Pollen in the Summer and Ragweed in the Fall. Some triggers are dust and animals. You can visit an Allergist and they can help to determine triggers depending on each individual. Medications such as pills, antihistamines and injections can help. Immunotherapy is another remedy.

DM Adam-Ovide reminded everyone of the Health Fair being held on June 30th in Cunningham Park from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Board Members will be wearing Polo Shirts.

Adjournment

Mary Maggio made a motion to adjourn, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nettie V. Norris, CB8 Staff
May 25, 2023*