



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

Minutes of Community Board 8 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 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, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Dilip Nath, Tamara Osherov, Simon Pelman, Wendy Phaff, Mohammad Rahman, Charlton Rhee, Seymour Schwartz, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin and Jacob Weinberg.

**Board Members Absent:**

Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Carolann Foley, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, John Gebhard, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Rachele Van Arsdale, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

**Others Present:**

Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, David Noh representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Adam Suionov representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Akshar Patel representing State Senator John Liu, Andrew Taranto representing State Senator Leroy Comrie, Muhammad Rahman representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Daniel Blech representing Assemblyman Daniel Rosenthal, Hudy Rosenberg representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager and Izabela Szczepanska, CB8 Staff Member.

**Call to Order:**

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

**Public Participation:**

**Joan Hausman** – Ms. Hausman spoke against the Bukharian Community Center and asked the Board Members to vote against this application.

**Allen Eisenstein** – Mr. Eisenstein has been volunteering at the Queens Zoo for the last 15 years. They are now in the season where they are accepting new applications for volunteers at the Queens Zoo. He asked anyone who is interested or has any questions to please see him. Flyers were handed out.

**Helene Pangalos** – Ms. Pangalos spoke against the Bukharian Community Center and asked the Board Members to vote against this application.

**Margo Pangalos** - Ms. Pangalos spoke against the Bukharin Community Center and asked the Board Members to vote against this application.

**Jacob Shafran** – Mr. Shafran thanked the entire board for the approval of the Kew Garden Hills re-zoning. He is from the area that was re-zoned and said it is beneficial to him. A lot of his friends and family members are also very happy. He said that this would have not have been done without everyones support, time, and votes.

**Hudy Rosenburg** – There will be an information session on the New York State Dream Act on November 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There will also be a Homeowners and Tenants workshop on January 24<sup>th</sup> with the Department of Finance it will be from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Andrew Taranto** – There will be a Home Utility Assistance workshop on December 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in partnership with Assemblywoman Nily Rozic.

**Daniel Blech**: There will be a free paper shredding event on November 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The New York Legal Assistance Group will be sending a mobile van to offer free civil legal services on November 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Adam Suionov** – Mr. Suionov introduced himself as the junior liaison with Councilman Rory Lancman. He told anyone with any questions or concerns to please call: 347-455-4527.

**Akshar Patel** – There will be a grant workshop information session on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Korean Community Center on Bayside.

**David Noh** – There will be an e-waste recycling program at Cunningham Park (enter 196<sup>th</sup> Place parking lot) on November 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **Salute to the Flag**

Chairperson Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Marc A. Haken made a motion to approve the minutes of October 30, 2019, seconded by Michael Hannibal.

Count in favor 33                      Opposed: 0                      Abstained: 0

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### **Chairperson’s Report – Martha Taylor:**

- Condolences to Board Member Maria DeInnocentiis whose mother [*Liliana N. Corso*] passed away over the weekend. Elke Maerz who oversees the Sunshine Fund will send her a fruit basket on behalf of the Board
- There was a scheduled public hearing last night for a BSA variance request for the Young Israel of Queens Valley. Mr. Jay Goldstein, the attorney, requested that the item be tabled to allow his client to work with the neighbors and members of the synagogue. The Zoning Committee requested this information in writing. Mr. Goldstein submitted a letter to the Board this morning as promised.
- In the CB8 Member packets, there was a list of proposed CB8 meeting dates for 2020. She asked the Board Members to review them and let the District Manager know of any issues. The meeting dates will be finalized in December.
- A letter was given out from the Kew Garden Hills Re-zoning Committee thanking everyone for their support.

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### **District Manager’s Report, November 2019**

**Buildings** – They are currently in Briarwood for Local Law 196 outreach. This law requires that all construction workers onsite must have completed the 30-hour OSHA training. They have visited buildings that are 4 stories tall/higher or those that require a site safety manager.

They are also assisting the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in doing outreach for Local Law 79 regarding unisex bathrooms. There must be gender-neutral signs on single occupancy restrooms.

The agency was scheduled to take part in two town halls this month, one on November 12<sup>th</sup> with Assembly Member Nily Rozic and the other on November 13<sup>th</sup> with Mayor Bill de Blasio.

**FDNY** – We were informed by Chief Brian Russo from Battalion 50 that structural fires and medical emergencies numbers were up as compared to 2018. Non-structural fires, suspicious fires, non-medical emergencies were down. False alarms were about the same as last year. He reminded everyone that it was time to change the batteries in their smoke and CO detectors.

He also announced that the open house was well attended, and they distributed about 150 smoke detectors.

**Parks** – There will be an E-waste event at Cunningham Park on November 24<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Senator Comrie, Assembly Member Rozic and Council Member Grodenchik. It is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parking lot.

**Department of Transportation** - The agency recently launched its fourth annual Dusk and Darkness campaign with a citywide “Day of Awareness” to draw attention to the increased risks to pedestrians and cyclists during the fall and winter. We were reminded to drive at or below the speed limit of 25 MPH.

The pedestrian ramp near the synagogue [Kehilat Sephardim of Ahavat Achim] is considered a complex ramp. Complex ramps (*A location that require moving a utility pole or locations near a catch basin*) are done through a separate contract.

**Sanitation** – Our superintendent shared a list of problem locations (i.e. abandoned properties). He also shared some location where the turning radius is too tight for the sanitation trucks. We will work with DOT to devise a solution.

Night plow started on October 28<sup>th</sup>. This is done in preparation for snow events. Garbage and recyclables should be placed after 4 p.m. and before midnight to avoid a missed collection. Sanitation starts collection at midnight.

**Housing Preservation & Development** – Property owners of multi-dwellings must register with HPD. One and two-family dwellings do not have to register with HPD unless the property owner is an absentee landlord whose relatives do not reside on the property. Currently, there is no option for a resident to file a complaint directly with 311. The complaints have been processed through the Community Board. The agency is working with its IT Department to have that addressed.

**Breaking Ground** (Homeless Outreach) – Now that we are headed to the winter season if the temperature falls to 32° or below New York City goes to Code Blue. Between the hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. all homeless individuals must be sheltered for their safety. If you notice any homeless people on the street, please call 311.

**Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit** – There will be a concert to benefit the Bahamas at the Resort World Casino on December 1, 2019. We should receive more information once available. They are still trying to get more celebrities to participate.

Early voting had a good start. There were over 60,000 early voters citywide which made Election Day voting easier. Queens had the third highest number of the early voters – 13,000+.

**Department of Design and Construction** –

- **NYCDDC Project # HWPR18Q2** [Pedestrian Ramps] – CCL Farrah Antoine informed us that they have gone back to address the punch list [*list of locations that they received complaints about*]. They will be returning to the Community Board to work on a new location near Kissena Blvd. on the week of November 11<sup>th</sup>. A list will be provided to the Community Board once available.
- **NYCDDC Project #HWQ100FJM** – CCL Jenny Cheng stated that they are also working on Reeves Avenue for the punch list. Once completed they will turn over the bus stop to the MTA.

Also, under this project, they will reconstruct Westbound Horace Harding Expwy. between Main Street and 138th Street, this Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be a restriction on right turns into Westbound Horace Harding from Southbound Main Street. Only one lane will be available for vehicular traffic going west on Horace Harding Expwy. in the construction area.



*Happy Birthday to: Florence Fisher, Robert Block, Marc Haken, Doug Sherman and Jim Gallagher, Jr.*

*Marie Adam-Ovide*

### **Borough President's Representative – Susie Tanenbaum**

- She announced that Borough President Melinda Katz attended the St. John's Annual Italian Heritage month event which was coordinated by Paul Lazauskas. She congratulated Paul Lazauskas for another memorable and spectacular event.
- She would also like to acknowledge the passing of Maria DeInnocentiis mother [Liliana N. Corso] and on behalf of Borough President Katz she asked Tami Hirsch to relay her condolences.
- She announced that Borough President Melinda Katz is now Queens District Attorney Elect. She clarified that President Katz will continue to serve as Borough President until the end of this calendar year. According to the City Charter, there will be an interim Borough President for up to 45 days. Then there will be a special election for the next Borough President who will fill out or complete this term.
- She stated that they continue to do Census outreach. She brought materials and resources. Flyers were available in different languages (Spanish, Bangla, Chinese, Haitian-Creole and Russian) if other languages or extra copies are needed please contact her.
- She handed out Borough President Melinda Katz Diversity Calendar which lists about 150 different holidays and observances in the borough.
- She announced that last Thursday, Borough President hosted her annual Veterans Day event. She said it was a very moving event. One of the honorees was a woman who served in the military training people at the age of 100 years old. Community Board 8 was represented by DM Adam-Ovide who was present.
- She wished everyone a peaceful and Happy Thanksgiving.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern, Health Committee Chair:**

- Shoveling snow or pushing a heavy snow blower can raise your heart rate and blood pressure more quickly and more dramatically than any other kind of exercise. Shoveling requires that you use arm muscles which is more strenuous than other exercise for many people.
- Don't shovel immediately after awakening in the morning. Many heart attacks occur early in the morning when blood is more prone to clotting. Cold weather is another problem because it can also boost blood pressure undirecting blood flow to the heart and once again blood is more likely to clot.
- Here are some tips if you insist on shoveling snow:
  - Warm up your muscles before starting.
  - Shovel a greater number of lighter loads rather than smaller number of heavier loads.
  - Take frequent breaks.
  - Ask a teenager to shovel for you.
  - If you feel shortness of breath, light headed, experience chest pain, or feel your heart racing then stop.
  - Don't diagnose yourself. If you need to then call 911.

**Zoning Committee**

**BSA Cal. No. 23-08-BZ, 80-14 Chevy Chase Street** – A Public Hearing was held on Thursday, September 12, 2019 to discuss the application for Block 7248 lot 44 aka 80-14 Chevy Chase Street. This application is pursuant to sections 72-01 and 72-22 of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York, as amended, to request an amendment of the previously granted variance under BSA Cal. No. 23-08-BZ (the “Prior Variance”), to permit modification of the previously-approved plans. This would legalize the existing Synagogue by allowing a larger assembly space in the cellar with an accessory kitchen.

*Kevin Forrestal made a motion to approve BSA Cal. No. 23-08-BZ, 182-69 80<sup>th</sup> Road a/k/a 80-14 Chevy Chase Street, this application is pursuant to sections 72-01 and 72-22 of the zoning resolutions of the City of New York. This would legalize the existing Synagogue by allowing a larger assembly space in the cellar with an accessory kitchen, with a condition that all outstanding fines be satisfied, seconded by Susan Cleary.*

**Discussion:**

**Marc A. Haken**- I am very disturbed. I attended every one of the meetings you referred to. At one of the meetings - I don't remember which one because there were so many - the representatives who were seeking the variance and the Jamaica Estates Civic Association were supposed to meet and try to work things out. I don't believe that has happened.

**Martha Taylor** –Jamaica Estates Civic Association was not involved in this.

**Marc A. Haken** – The group who were opposed to this.

**Steven Konigsberg** – The neighbors of the community.

**Marc A. Haken** – There was to be a meeting of the two sides to try to work things out.

**Martha Taylor** – Your question was is there a meeting?

**Marc A. Haken** – My question is was there a meeting.

**Steven Konigsberg** - To my knowledge there was no testimony at any of the public hearings about the establishment or any meetings held.

**Marc A. Haken** – I couldn't possibly vote on this.

**Kevin Forrestal** – This is a group that got approval with certain conditions that they weren't going to do some things like put in a kitchen. Subsequently and fairly shortly after that they immediately put in a kitchen including installation of gas. There is no record of any approval of the gas being put in or any permits. They went ahead and asked for something and immediately did something else. So basically, violated what they agreed to do. They testified various times that they were not doing catering but then we brought evidence of their advertisement for such cases. On the night after the public hearing in September, they had a borough wide fundraising activity they were hosting. They were catering the event for another organization totally disregarding and literally oblivious of what that would mean. Maybe they assumed we wouldn't find out. I am disappointed that such a group would be doing something so fragrantly inappropriate. I urge everyone to vote no.

*Steven Konigsberg asked if there were any comments. Seeing none, a roll call vote was taken.*

A roll call vote was taken.

Count in favor   1                        Opposed:   32                        Abstained:   0  

**Board Members against:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Dilip Nath, Tamara Osherov, Simon Pelman, Wendy Phaff, Mohammad Rahman,

Charlton Rhee, Seymour Schwartz, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin and Jacob Weinberg.

**Board Members in favor:**

Jagir Singh Bains

**Michael Hannibal – Census 2020 –**

Mr. Hannibal announced that on November 18<sup>th</sup> , they are scheduled to have their next Queens Complete Count Committee Meeting at the Queens Borough Hall. At that time they will be having the Director of Economic Development, Shern Anderson. Ms. Anderson will be speaking about how they are developing business relations with business leaders. They are also invited to talk about creating a communication in the local areas and generating more awareness of the 2020 census. He hopes that in the December meeting he can give a full recap of how the meeting turned out.

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**Adjournment**

Jacob Weinberg made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:14 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Izabela Szczepanska, CB8 staff  
November 15, 2019*