



Chairman, Alvin Warshaviak

*The City of New York
Borough of Queens*

Community Board 8
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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike, Flushing, New York

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Brian DeMasters, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard Fried, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Tammy Osherov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sodofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent: Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Maurice Braithwaite, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Joshua Glikman, Robert Harris, Virginia Rallis, Charlton Rhee and Anna Sawchuk.

Others Present: Deputy Borough President Barry Grodenchik, Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Helen Marshall, Captain Fredrick Grover - 107th Precinct, Jason Hilliard representing Congressman Gregory Meeks, Alen Beerman representing Councilman Mark Weprin, Wataru Nakai representing Councilman James Gennaro, Megan Keane representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide, Alma Karassavidis and Barbara McKeon, CB8 Staff Members.

Call to Order:

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak called this Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Participation:

Camille Barrett urged the audience to sign the petition to save the libraries. Help save Queens Library by fully restoring the proposed budget cut for next year.

Marc A. Haken is the Chair of the Youth, Library and Education Committee on Community Board 8. He thanked Borough President Helen Marshall, City Councilman Mark Weprin and the Library itself for identifying funds to rehabilitate the Hollis Library. Borough President Helen Marshall identified \$2.5 million, Councilman Mark Weprin identified a half a million dollars and the Library itself identified \$600,000. The Hollis Library is the only library in CB8 that has not been renovated.

James Gallagher, Jr. announced:

- The outdoor concerts are held at the Oak Grove Circle at 194th Street & 64th Avenue in the Fresh Meadows Development at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays in July. It starts on July 9th. It is weather permitting. Bring your own chair or blanket.
- Water rates will be increasing 5.6% come July 1st.
- PS 173 is having serious safety concerns with motorists dropping and picking up their children from school.

Norma Stegmaier announced that on June 1st nature lovers can now venture into the Willow Lake Preserve in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park and explore it on their own on Saturdays and Sundays from 7:00 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Katherine Gloede spoke on behalf of the Community Environmental Center. CEC is a private non-profit weatherization organization that provides services to low-income buildings in the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. She also spoke on the EcoHouse. It is a free, travelling, environmental exhibit that teaches the importance of conservation and energy efficiency. The EcoHouse will be at the Queens Botanical Garden from July 3rd – August 30th. For more information you may contact KGloede@cecenter.org (718) 784-1444, ext. 181 www.cecenter.org/eco .

Salute to the Flag

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Marc A. Haken made a motion to approve the minutes of May 8, 2013 seconded by Steven Sadofsky.

Count in favor 35 **Opposed:** 0 **Abstained:** 0

Board Members who approved the minutes: Dilafröz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Brian DeMasters, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Tami Hirsch, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Tammy Oshero, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sodofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

Nomination & Election of Treasurer - Mark Lefkof

Mr. Lefkof explained that our previous Treasurer, Robert Van Pelt, moved out of the Community Board 8 boundaries. Therefore, we have a vacancy for the position of Treasurer for Community Board 8.

- Martha Taylor nominated Mary Maggio-Fischer, seconded by Stanley Weinblatt.
- Tami Hirsch nominated Maria DeInnocentiis, seconded by Susan Cleary.

Vote:	Maria DeInnocentiis	-	24
	Mary Maggio-Fischer	-	13

Chairman Warshaviak congratulated Maria DeInnocentiis.

Chairman’s Report:

- Chairman Warshaviak congratulated Carolann Foley on being selected as the “Star of Queens” in The Queens Courier.
- Chairman Warshaviak informed the Board that he selected Jagir Singh Bains for the position of Area 4 Chairperson. He is pleased to announce that he accepted the position.
- Community Board 8 welcomes three new Board Members:

Edward Chung – Jamaica Estates Association member
Brian DeMasters – from Queens College
Paul S. Lazauskas – from St. John’s University

- Chairman Warshaviak also welcomed and introduced our new staff member, ***Alma Karassavidis***.
- Carolann Foley, President of the 107th Community Council, welcomed and introduced Captain Frederick Grover of the 107th Precinct.

Captain Frederick Grover is thrilled to be the new Commanding Officer for the 107th Precinct. Everyone is always a little envious of the 107th Precinct. It's a good place and the people and community are great. It is the best precinct in the City. Captain Grover looks forward to working with everyone and he hopes he lives up to everyone's expectations. He encourages everyone to come to the next Community Council.

Community concerns:

- Motor bikes – The Precinct is aware of the dangers the bikes cause to the motorists as well as the drivers. Captain Grover stated the Precinct will do it's best to enforce the laws on the bikes.
- PS 173 – safety concerns. Traffic and safety conditions for the motorist, parents and children. The Precinct distributed an education awareness flyer to the parents and motorists of the school. We want to make sure the parents and motorists are educated on the dangers that exist in school zones.
- Trucks and tractor trailers parking on the Clearview Expressway and Hillside Avenue. We have identified two problems today. These motorists have been fined and their vehicles have been towed.
- Chairman Warshaviak wished Captain Grover the best and offered him the Board's assistance.
- Carolann Foley announced "Night Out Against Crime" will be held Tuesday, August 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Elechester Shopping Center.

District Manager's Report

District Manager's report was distributed.

- I. Community Board 8 received complaints from residents, Civic Association representatives and an elected representative about an issue with illegal parking during pick-up and drop-off time near some of our schools. I found out from the Department of Transportation that there is a program where their representatives go to the schools to educate the parents about the dangers of double parking and disobeying the parking regulation near our schools. This was done at P.S. 173. Last year, unfortunately this was not well received and the parents continue the dangerous behaviors. I requested the presence of representatives from DOT, NYPD and NYPD Traffic at my District Service Cabinet meeting to brainstorm on ways to address this problem.

At a Transportation Committee meeting held on Monday, June 3rd, the Committee suggested that enforcement around the schools be done on a rotating basis. This is what I requested at the DSC last week. Unfortunately, NYPD did not attend the meeting. Commanding Officer Choudhury was very receptive and will address these issues by sending an agent once a week and rotate them throughout the borough. Unfortunately, they only have 40 agents for Queens.

In sum, I have drafted a letter that will be sent to the principals of the schools within our boundaries with the contact information for C.O. Choudhury. The principals can contact him if they have any issues. I am waiting for sample literatures from DOT on parking and safety to include with the letter and will urge the principals to distribute them to the parents. I will send a reminder to the principals at the end of August.

I have reached out to Commanding Officer Choudhury for an update on his efforts but I have no response at this time.

- II. We addressed Budget Priorities for the agencies that attended the District Service Cabinet meeting. The DOT will email its priorities. The Department of Buildings needs a full time inspector to address the complaints from Community Boards and elected officials. The DEP is only allowed to state that CBs should look at the monthly stats to determine the needs of the district.
- III. a. **DOB** - The Department of Buildings' resources continue to be strained due to the increase in complaints from the Rockaways.
- b. **DFTA** - The Department for the Aging is going to all senior centers in Queens to give presentations on emergency preparedness. They are urging individuals to have a seven (7) day supply of medication and food rather than the 3-day that was recommended last year.
- c. I have sent a proposal to the elected officials on a way to address properties with overgrown grass and weeds (see attached). At present the Department of Sanitation does not address this problem. I have been contacted by Councilman Mark Weprin's office on this.
- d. **DOT** – Hillside Avenue will be milled/paved from 212th Street to 193rd Street. It will be done in two parts: Francis Lewis Boulevard to 212th Street and 193rd Street to Francis Lewis Boulevard. The work will commence on **Monday, June 17, 2013. All the work will be done at night starting at 7 p.m. and ending at 6 a.m.** If you have any complaints/concerns please call 311 and follow up with our office in the morning.
- e. The Partnership for Parks has a "Park Platform 2013" and the organization is asking for the Community Boards to support it.
- f. **DOH** – The Department of Health in conjunction with the CUNY School of Public Health will be conducting the **New York City Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NYC HANES)** from August 2013 through February 2014. The participants will be selected at random and our area is included in the selection. It has three parts; 1) a questionnaire, 2) a brief physical exam and 3) health screenings. You can opt to do any part or all parts of the survey. If you do all three parts, it will take about two hours and you will receive \$100 on the spot. Once selected, they will come to your home, place of business or you are welcome to go to them (*see flyer for more information*).
- The Department of Health is also looking for organizations to support the survey and to encourage those selected to participate.
- g. Our Health Fair will be on **Thursday, June 27, 2013**. I am very proud to say we have outdone ourselves this year. We have 50% more participants this year. So far, we have 35 confirmed participants that will provide a wide array of services and entertainment. Please help us spread the word.

Happy Birthday to Elke Maerz who celebrated her birthday last week!

Deputy Borough President Barry Grodenchik

- Mr. Grodenchik announced the Borough President has allocated funds for Community Board 8.
 - Construction has begun for the expansion of the Kew Gardens Hill Library.
 - \$2.5 million was allocated for the Hollis Library.
 - ¾ of a million dollars has been allocated for the Meadow Lake paths at Flushing Meadows Park.
 - More money into Queens College.
 - Cunningham Park – \$875,000
 - \$2,570,000 for Libraries.
- Mark Lefkof was presented with a 35 year service award at the Installation Ceremony on June 5th.
- Michael Sidell was presented with a 15 year service award.
- Jesse Rosenbaum was presented with a 15 year service award.
- Deputy Borough President Grodenchik presented Chairman Alvin Warshaviak a 30 year Community Board service award in grateful recognition of his outstanding and dedicated service to Community Board 8. He has also been Chairman for 21 years. Mr. Grodenchik thanked Alvin for all his service.

Have a happy, safe summer and Happy Father's Day to all the Fathers.

Adjournment

Carolann Foley made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara McKeon, CB8 staff

June 14, 2013