

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016
UNION PLAZA CARE CENTER
33-23 UNION STREET
FLUSHING, NEW YORK

PRESENT

Chuck Apelian
John Byas
Tyler Cassell
James Cervino
Chin-Hsiang Chiang
Kim Cody
Nicholas Corrado
Joseph Femenia
Arlene Fleishman
Rose Forkan
Fred Fu
Vincent Gianelli
Pablo Hernandez
Jeff Huang

Kevin Kang
Phil Konigsberg
Peter Kwiath
Esther Lee
Frank Macchio
Rev. R. McEachern
Selma Moses
Kim Ohanian
Millicent O'Meally
Terence Park
Vana Partridge
Kris Ram
Belal Salim
Marc Schiffman

Warren Schreiber
Kevin Shields
Matthew Silverstein
Peter Sutich
Joseph Sweeney
Carlos Talisaysay
Alison Tan
John Tsavalos
Peter Tu
Arnold Wagner
Harpreet Wahan
Clarissa Wong
Linna Yu
Jie Zhu

ABSENT

Timothy Chuang
Eugene Kelty

Barbara McHugh
Devon O'Connor

Andrew Rocco
Joshua Sussman

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

Marilyn Bitterman, District Manager
Marilyn McAndrews, Assistant District Manager
Mary Zuliani, Community Assistant

GUESTS

Eric Kim, Congresswoman Meng's office

GUESTS (continued)

Michael Farca, Assemblyman Simanowitz's office
Vito Tautonico, Councilman Vallone's office
Chae No, Councilman Koo's office
Adam Chen, Public Advocate James' office
Elaine Fan, NYC Comptroller's office
Susie Tannenbaum, Queens Borough Pres. office
Jeong-Ah Choi, Queens Borough Pres. Office

Inasmuch as our Chair, **Eugene Kelty**, had to be present at a Fire Department affair, our First Vice Chair, **Chuck Apelian**, opened the first meeting of 2016 at 7:05 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of those brave men who gave their lives, and those still fighting, for their country and our freedom, as well as our emergency services here at home protecting us from harm. Introducing the Executive Board members and the office staff, he mentioned that our Fourth Vice Chair & Secretary, **Barbara McHugh**, had shoulder surgery today. The roll was taken with **(42)** present, **(3)** excused and **(3)** absent. The November 9, 2015 minutes were approved by **Linna Yu** and seconded by **Marc Schiffman**, but with the addition of the full name of "The Macedonian Church" when referring to Rev. **McEachern's** church being rebuilt. First Vice Chair **Apelian** then gave the announcements, which will be available after the meeting and the next day at our Office.

ITEM #5 – PART 150 STUDY/LaGuardia Airport Redevelopment. Third Vice-Chair **Warren Schreiber** said the Part 150 Noise Study started about eight months ago, under the Federal Regulations Code, at LaGuardia, JFK and Newark airports, each with separate technical advisory committees. He introduced **Ian Van Praagh**, Acting Director of Govt. & Community Relations for NY and NJ, together with **Theresa Rizzuto**, General Mgr. of Regulatory & Operational Support, **Adile Iosa**, Manager of Aviation Noise, **Kelly Mitchell**, Program Mgr., **Doug Stern**, Deputy General Mgr. of LaGuardia Airport, and Peter Byrne, Deputy Director of DHB. The Governor has directed the Port Authority to implement the noise study, double the portable noise monitors and activate the roundtable process for NY and NJ. Mr. Van Praagh turned the presentation over to **Mr. Iosa** who stated after the submission of 4 proposals, the \$8 million contract for the study was given to EDS, Environmental Science Associations, who are nationally known for airport studies. A power point presentation followed with two aspects, i.e., Noise Exposure Maps which view noise impact on land, and Noise Compatibility Programs for solutions after **a)** gathering data **b)** quantify noise exposure using 2014 as a base year **c)** assessing the effects on population and land use for the next five years **d)** identify and evaluate alternatives to include changes in flight path, runway usage and soundproofing, and finally **e)** develop the Noise Compatibility Plan for FAA approval. Public Participation is welcome. There is a web site, work sites and public reviews. The noise exposure map indicates where schools, hospitals, hi-rise buildings, industrial, etc. are located. Normal night and day levels should not exceed 65 decibels. DNL (24 hour day/night level) near the airports, however, especially between 10 pm and 7 am, will have 10 decibels added to the reading for a more accurate metric DNL level. **Kelly Mitchell** spoke about the current status, the project website, schedules, tech advisories and other Part 150 studies being done at JFK, Newark and Teeterboro Airports concurrently. The Technical Advisory Committee, which presently has 20 members, including Queens Quiet Skies, the Queens Borough President's office, Brian Wills, NY Airport Roundtable appointee and Warren Schreiber, CB #7 Roundtable representative, brings their community resource input. They had their first quarterly meeting in June 2015 for the collection of data. The fifth quarterly meeting open to the public is scheduled for March 20, 2016. Also in June they started workshops for the public to educate them on

the process, strategy and protocol of Part 150. You can e-mail them at www.panyj.gov/airports/aircraft or call 212/435-3880, attend their workshops and/or receive newsletters. TAC membership is voluntary and important as the organizations they represent can provide valuable community input for review together with the technical aspect. The first collection of data and analysis on noise exposure with maps is scheduled to be sent to the FAA the 4th quarter of 2016 with completion by 2021. **Ms. Mitchell** gave the floor back to **Mr. Iosa** who displayed the web site on screen and how to interpret the information shown. He highlighted the 10 noise monitors (2 permanent and 8 portable) already installed around LaGuardia Airport, one installed 2 months ago in Flushing and the latest in Bayside. Noise monitors can be requested for installation in private backyards, around schools or any commercial property in designated flight paths.

Q. What information is collected on the monitors?

A. The data will show the noise decibel amount, which should be no more than 65 decibels.

Q. What remediation will follow, if any?

A. No immediate action! Processing the data from every aspect, including noise, will take many years.

Q. Why aren't there monitors closer to the airport in College Point or Flushing, instead of in Bayside? First Vice-Chair Apelian said Third Vice-Chair Schreiber will bring it up at the next Roundtable meeting and ask why and take it into committee.

Q. Can you give us the requirements necessary to have a noise monitor placed on a property?

A. The unit is self-contained; about 200 lbs.; needs to be on the ground; has a back-up battery in case of power outages; its mass is visible; cannot be near a tree or structure, must be near an electric outlet and away from heavy, noisy traffic, trains or other unusually loud sounds.

Q. Does the property owner have to sign a release?

A. Yes, to allow us to work on the property for installation.

Q. Noise pollution and noise abatement is the big topic today. Do you have plans for a study on air pollution, since LAX did a study about 4 years ago on small particle pollution?

A. No, only noise studies. The Port Authority does not engage in air pollution. Air Pollution would come under the EPA or NYS DEC.

Q. I assume the homeowner has to pay for the electricity to maintain the monitor?

A. Yes, but it's like charging your cell phone, about \$5 a month, which we will reimburse you.

Q. Who was responsible for gathering the people who would participate in TAC planning? I see a lot of corporate participation; United Air, Delta, to name two, and a host of representation from Hempstead and North Hempstead, but none from College Point and Flushing.

Since the response was not answered specifically to the question posed, Vice-Chair **Apelian** asked Third Vice-Chair **Schreiber** to take it up offline because it deserves more time and interaction in committee.

Board Member **Joseph Femenia** informed us there is a monitor in College Point on 120th Street and 23rd Avenue near the water and airport, and that several more applications were sent in to the PA.

First Vice Chair Apelian announced the BSA will have their hearing on the Mosque at 46-05 Parsons Blvd. on February 2, 2016 at 11 a.m. Anyone can attend! Also, the Borough President announced the building planned to be used as a high school at Linden Place and 31st Road has been pulled off the table. Studies and discussion on other sites will take place. He thanked **Arlene Fleishman**, our Education Committee Chair, for her strong community leadership in squashing this poor location choice. Her stance against Common Core is well known, and happily, the Governor is now taking another look on revamping it. **Arlene**, in turn, thanked Community Board #7 for their solid support on all Education

issues brought before them. **Vice Chair Apelian** received an e-mail from our Borough President, **Melinda Katz**, regarding the Parklands, Flushing Meadows specifically, being used by for-profit companies for concerts. To be fair to all applicants, the absence of a policy renders the entire process untenable. Therefore, the City will deny all current applications to hold large scale for-profit concerts in Flushing Meadow Park. Vice Chair **Apelian** reminded us the Borough President's State of Borough Address is on Thursday, January 21, 2016, 10 am at Queens College Colden Auditorium.

ITEM #9 – 150-15 BARCLAY AVENUE – BSA #248-15-BZ - This item was tabled.

ITEM #6 - US TENNIS ASSOCIATION – Kathleen Cassino recapped their commitment to Queens for 2016 with their ongoing Community Service Projects, including their quarterly newsletter, hosting school graduations, kids casting call for singer tryouts, Seniors Day, US Open job fair, community tennis program for children including a 6 week program for those with autism (ASD), the Queens Day US Open Qualifying Tournament, Arthur Ashe Kids Day, Health & Tennis Event, the Queens Kiosk at US Open, and even more programs slated for this year. With anticipated attendance of almost 700,000, the hotels will be full. Open Night Ceremony will be spectacular, with this being their 100th year. **Ms. Cassino** gave the floor to **Chris Studely** who spoke on the latest construction programs. Five Retractable steel panels are being fabricated and on schedule to place on the roof. The Grandstand near the Grand Central Parkway is nearing completion for this year's opening. The future site for the new Stadium Court also with a retractable roof is slated for next year. The South Tennis Courts were demolished. The Louis Armstrong Stadium is being demolished and replaced at the same location. In addition the nearby roadway on Meridian Road will be cleared, landscaped and edged with trees. The new retail structure, when you walk in, will have glass panel walls for use during the two weeks of this year's event.

Q. Have the parking needs changed? What if there is a baseball day game the same week?.

A. There is no change. We estimate over 60% will be using mass transit, so we do not anticipate any problems. We have an arrangement with Parks Dept. to use some of their lots if the need arises.

Q. Do you have any idea how many people will be coming from New York City?

A. We are not privy to that information.

Q. What is the fee to hold a school graduation?

A. The only fee is for staffing the event and clean-up. A ballpark figure is \$1000. There is no rental fee at all.

Second Vice-Chair **Frank Macchio** commented on our partnership with US Tennis Association. They have lived up to their word from day one, which you don't see very often. We are proud to have you in our neighborhood.

First Vice-Chair **Apelian** announced that School Chancellor **Carmen Farina** will be speaking at Jr. High School 185 on Thursday, February 11, 2016 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Everyone is invited! Parks Committee Chair **Kim Ohanian** asked all Board Members to e-mail their suggestions before next Thursday for the eight parks that you consider would be the best candidate for the new open design concept by Parks without Borders' program. Her e-mail address is kohanian@nyc.rr.com.

ITEM #7 - PARKS WITHOUT BORDERS – Marisa Beny from Parks Dept. described their new citywide approach to park design that creates more open, welcoming and beautiful spaces with added amenities. The intention is to make entrances visibly wider, lowering the edges instead of being fenced in, easier to find with greener boundaries, thus making parks safer by improving sight lines and creating new public

spaces and bringing the beauty out into the neighborhood and making it more connected. Parks Dept. is looking for direct input and improvement suggestions from the community, which can be included with their own designs. This program is open to everyone, but community board suggestions carry significant weight. All entries will be reviewed, and if accepted, the designs will follow. For any questions, you can reach Parks at pwb@parks.nyc.gov.

Q. What is the selection criteria?

A. Community support....park access.....and physical context! NYC Parks Dept. makes the final decision.

First Vice-Chair **Apelian** suggested that your recommendation with photos be sent to the Borough President after first collaborating with all the borough's community Boards to reach the final eight parks selected. Committee Chair **Ohanian** pointed out this program does not affect children's playgrounds. **Children's safety is still paramount.** They will always require fences for their protection. Board Member **Harpreet Wahan** said he hopes we consider Kissena Corridor Park & the Meditation Garden. Vice-Chair Apelian said the suggestion will be made in Committee. A question arose if it has anything to do with the Capital Budget, which is mainly for large scale capital projects, and it is not. **Steve Leonard**, from Parks, added this is a special funded project for the selection of eight parks from all five NYC Boroughs to enhance entrances, edges and opening up the parks to become more a part of the community, and nothing else.

ITEM #8 – ONE-WAY PROPOSAL -28TH Ave. westbound between 122ND & 130TH St.; 29TH Ave. eastbound between 120TH & 122ND St.; 120TH Street southbound between 29th Avenue and 30TH Street -

Committee Chair **Joseph Femenia** gave his December 3, 2015 committee meeting for one-way proposals which would provide safety and maneuverability in the area's narrow streets. One-ways would alleviate commercial trucks and passenger cars trying to navigate . The DOT study approved 28th Avenue and 29th Avenue with the added suggestions we include 120th Street as a one way. The committee voted unanimously to approve.

Speaker **Jim Singletary, Pres. Of 28th Avenue Block Assoc.**, thanked the residents and business leaders for their signatures, the DOT for their study and recommendation, as well as CB #7. He emphasized the current difficulty with 2-way traffic on these extremely narrow streets in trying to avoid accidents, especially the Fire Dept., tractor trailers, etc.

Speaker **Nicholas Denesopolis, Vice President of 28th Avenue Block Assoc.** spoke about both cars and trucks speeding in both directions never giving him a chance to exit his driveway.

The motion now on the floor is to approve all three one-way proposals, seconded by Selma Moses.

With no further discussion,

The vote taken was (41) Approved (0) Denied (0) Abstained

ITEM #10 – Executive Committee Elections for 2016 - Following the by-laws of CB #7, Committee Chair Arnold Wagner began the 2016 executive elections, which are held every year in January. The names of all nominees were submitted 30 days prior to the January meeting and are on the ballot. The current 2015 executive committee all chose to run again, as well as one additional nominee for Fourth Vice-

Chair. The ballot also includes blank spaces for those nominees accepted from the floor on election night.

Before beginning the election process, Committee Chair **Arnold Wagner** read Chair **Eugene Kelty's** statement thanking the Community Board for their support and allowing him to represent them, as well as praising the fantastic, invaluable work of each of his Executive Board Members, District Manager **Marilyn Bitterman** and her staff, especially during his illness. He apologized for not being with us this evening, but the Fire Department unfortunately required his presence instead.

Committee Chair **Wagner** opened the elections with the nominees for each of the following positions, i.e., Chairperson **Eugene Kelty**, First Vice-Chair **Charles Apelian**, Second Vice-Chair **Frank Macchio**, and Third Vice-Chair **Warren Schreiber**. As there were no nominations from the floor, a motion followed to close the acceptance of each of these four nominations, seconded each time by a board member. The nominees for Fourth Vice-Chair are **Barbara McHugh** and **Phil Konigsberg**. With no further nominees for Fourth Vice-Chair from the floor, the nomination was closed and seconded by Board Member **Marc Schiffman**. **Phil Konigsberg** spoke a few words in his favor and asked for member support. **Barbara McHugh**, unfortunately had undergone surgery today, but sent an e-mail asking for the Board's support for re-election. Both nominees spoke about their commitments to their community and desire to do more.

After tabulation of the votes, the 2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for Community Board #7 remains the same as 2015 as follows:

CHAIRPERSON	EUGENE KELTY
FIRST VICE-CHAIRPERSON	CHARLES APELIAN
SECOND VICE-CHAIRPERSON	FRANK MACCHIO
THIRD VICE-CHAIRPERSON	WARREN SCHREIBER
FOURTH VICE-CHAIRPERSON & SECY.	BARBARA MCHUGH

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Speaker **Yessika Giraldo** for Madison Square Garden, (one of the music festival applicants) spoke about the issue of holding large festivals at Flushing Meadows Corona Park and looks forward to meeting with the Community Board, Parks Dept. and local Community and Business groups with a transparent plan, fair to everyone. She can be reached by telephone at 347-669-2259 and/or by e-mail at yessikagiraldo@gmail.com.

When ask where their offices were, she stated she's employed by Global Strategy Group, the lobbyist working for Madison Square Garden. Parks Committee Chair, **Kim Ohanian**, said she would be happy to have a community meeting with them.

Speaker **Warren Schreiber**, thanked everyone for their confidence in him. Last week they received notification from DDC that water mains and new pipes were being installed at 212th Street and Bell Boulevard, exact location still unknown, starting January 8 to January 22, 2016. The water will be shut down from 8 a.m. to 5 p. m., which leaves everyone, families with infants and young children, seniors, and those with medical problems, without water and heat in the middle of winter. DDC agrees it makes

no sense, but the decision was made by the Mayor so water could be brought to the new comfort station in Fort Totten, after a delay of twelve years. District Manager **Marilyn Bitterman** said it will be brought up at the DSC Meeting.

Before ending the meeting, Vice Chair **Apelian** spoke about a recent e-mail received by many with erroneous information regarding Conflicts of Interest procedures. The e-mail incorrectly states you are not allowed to participate in discussion if you have a conflict, even if you recuse yourself and leave the room. During a meeting at Borough Board months ago with the NYC Law Dept. at Borough Hall with District Managers, the Chairs, Borough Board Representatives and the Conflict of Interest Board, it was confirmed that Community Board members are part-time unpaid public volunteer servants and are not prohibited from having interests in firms that may come up before the Community Board. Rules that apply under Chapter 68 of the Charter states 1) you cannot vote on a matter, 2) you cannot chair a committee, and 3) you cannot bring a matter to your Community Board if there is a conflict of interest. Although you cannot vote, you can, however, under Section 2604 Sec. B-Sec. 1, participate in the discussion and give your opinion, provided you first disclose the conflict interest.

The meeting ended at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zuliani