



# Community Board 7

Borough of Queens

Bay Terrace, College Point, Beechhurst, Flushing  
Malba, Queensborough Hill, Whitestone and Willets Point

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**Melinda Katz**

*Queens Borough President*

**Eugene T. Kelty Jr.**

*Chairperson*

**Marilyn McAndrews**

*District Manager*

## COMMUNITY BOARD #7 PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2018

UNION PLAZA CARE CENTER

33-23 UNION STREET

FLUSHING, NEW YORK

### PRESENT

Charles Apelian

James Cervino

Michael Cheng

Chin-Hsiang Chiang

John Choe

Kim Cody

Nicholas Corrado

Arlene Fleishman

Richard Forman

Fred Fu

Vincent Gianelli

Pablo Hernandez

Lawrence Hughes

Eugene Kelty

Phil Konigsberg

Peter Kwiath

Frank Macchio

Rev. McEachern

Barbara McHugh

Kim Ohanian

Terence Park

Kris Ram

Warren Schreiber

Kevin Sheilds

Matthew Silverstein

Carlos Talisaysay

Alison Tan

John Tsavalos

Peter Tu

Harpreet Wahan Singh

Clarissa Wong

Linna Yu

Lei Zhao

### ABSENT

John Byas

Tyler Cassell

Jeff Huang

Esther Lee

Li Mei Li

Selma Moses

Millicent O'Meally

Belal Salim

Marc Schiffman

Joshua Sussman

Peter Sutich

Joseph Sweeney

Jie Zhu

### COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

Marilyn McAndrews, District Manager

Mary Zuliani, Community Assistant

Mary O'Neill, Community Assistant

Sherine Perez, Community Service Aid

### GUESTS

Tim Thomas – Assemblyman Daniel Rosenthal's office

Jason Antonopoulos - Assemblyman Edward Braunstein's office

Joyce Choi – Councilman Peter Koo's office

Eric Mayer – Assemblyman Ron Kim's office

Timothy Hopper – Congresswoman Meng's office

Justin J. Connor – Congressman Thomas Suozzi's office

Vito Tautonico – Councilman Paul Vallone's office

Marilla Li – Assemblywoman Nily Rozic's office

Chair Eugene Kelty opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silent prayer for our military forces around the world fighting for our freedom.

Roll call attendance was taken with ( 33 ) Present ( 6 ) Absent ( 8 ) Excused

Chair Kelty read the announcements for the month which included seasonal Parks Dept. citywide summer job notices with starting salaries from \$16.50 to \$20.16. Also MTA has several job openings requiring bachelor degrees in electrical engineering, computer sciences and business administration with salaries ranging from \$82,000 to \$110,000. The Whitestone library will be closed for repairs starting March 17<sup>th</sup> and reopened April 2, 2018. National Crimes Victim's Rights week starts April 14<sup>th</sup> with a gathering of survivors at Borough Hall's Helen Marshall Cultural Center sponsored by Queens Attorney Office of Richard A. Brown and President Melinda Katz on April 11, 2018 at 10:30 am. Queens Day in Albany sponsored by Queens Chamber of Commerce and the business community will be on March 20, 2018 with an all day agenda of meeting with your legislators, posing your questions and the serving of complimentary breakfast, lunch and dinner. Bus will leave from Bulova Corporate Center in Astoria at 6:30 am and leave Albany at 7:30 pm. Since Medicare is in the process this year of issuing new Medicare cards without your social security number, be aware of the current Medicare Card telephone scam. Scammers will call and say you need a temporary card in the interim and ask for personal information. Medicare never contacts individuals in this manner so do not give any information or monies to anyone calling you by telephone.

**The December 2017 minutes were approved unanimously by the board without the need for corrections.**

Chair Kelty introduced Fabrice Armand, Director of Strategic Partnership in Community Engagement for the Dept. of Correction who said people believe the Department of Correction is made up of only uniform officers, which is not true. They are currently administering Test #8330 from March 1 to March 31, 2018 for 28 opening positions available ranging from legal, investigative, recreational, cooks and staff coordinators with base starting salaries from \$42,000 (\$94,000 after 5 1/2 years) to \$180,000. They are also taking applications for paid summer internships for those matriculated with a BA, BS, MS, and MA, MBA or professional degree program. They are also very active in the community and would like to continue doing so in the future with community services and fraternal organizations.

Sadly, Chair Kelty announced the passing of First Vice Chair Chuck Apelian's father, Peter Apelian, on Saturday morning on March 10, 2018. Services will be held at Fredrick Funeral Home on Northern Blvd. tomorrow, Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup>, with the Mass on Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup> our prayers are with the family.

**NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN TRAUMA SERVICES QUEENS** -Health Committee Chair Peter Kwiath introduced Barbara Foote who spoke of NY Presbyterian's high medical achievements in their heart, vascular, venal, pediatric, and urological and wound healing care. She introduced Mark Dekki MPA, Trauma Injury Coordinator at NY Presbyterian Queens, to speak on the important health topic of community education and involvement in trauma injuries. Their program "Stop the Bleed" is focused on educating the public on how to immediately treat an injury before a medical responder arrives on the scene. It's about the lives that could have been saved but were lost because of those few minutes. Stopping the bleed after the Boston and Las Vegas mass shootings and bombings comes to mind. Learning how to apply a tourniquet, (on arms or legs only); where? (2-3 inches above the wound); and length of time to use a tourniquet to stop the bleed (15 minutes), tighten it with a rod by twisting it and timing how long it's in (hopefully not more than 20 minutes). If it doesn't stop the flow, apply another tourniquet. You can improvise a tourniquet with a tie or belt and it should only be removed in the hospital. If you identify it as an open wound in the neck, shoulder or groin, you can use direct pressure on the wound, and if it doesn't hold back the blood flow, you can pack the opening with anything you have on hand (a cloth, a shirt, a light jacket, gauze, etc.) to prevent a massive loss of blood which will lead to death.

Q. You mentioned a second tourniquet! Where would you place it!

A. Above the first.

Q. In the movie they made a tourniquet with duct tape. Is that a possible use?

A. Yes!

Mr. Dekki left his card in the event anyone would like to receive some further training on trauma injuries for possible future use.

**ITEM #6a -134-03 35<sup>th</sup> AVENUE, FLUSHING - BSA #2017-238-BZ**

**134-37 35<sup>th</sup> AVENUE, FLUSHING – BSA #2017-237-BZ - Committee Chair Rev. R. McEachern** said there are two as-of-right projects for discussion and read the first application for a special permit pursuant to Sec. 73-66 to allow the construction of a new building at 134-03 in excess of the height limits established around airports under ZR 61-21 in a R1/C2 zoning district. He then gave the floor over to Attorney Eric Palatnik who explained the as-of-right project for a 16 story building is permissible by NYC zoning to the height of 211 feet. However, since it will be directly in the flight path of La Guardia, the FAA will approve only 141 feet. To permit approval to 211 feet, zoning requires approval from the BSA to make sure the height has been vetted with the FAA to show no airplanes ever crash into the building. A specialist crew from Florida flew in to review the flight area aeronautics and confirmed the safety of 211 feet and the FAA and PA letters of approval stand.

Q. Is the 211 feet height from ground level or from sea level?

A. It's from sea level. Above grade, it's approximately 188 feet high.

Q. What is the development to be?

A. It will be mixed use, predominately residential 101,000 sq.ft./hotel 86,000 sq.ft./and commercial community use 17,000 sq.ft., totaling 205,000 sq.ft. of building space.

Q. What amount of parking space will they provide?

A. They are proposing 196 parking spaces and below grade with 171 required.

Q. Why are they referencing height approval of only 141 and giving 211?

A. In utilizing all space allowable, the developer naturally makes more money! They're not asking for a change in zoning laws or variances outside of the norm.

Q. If the special permit is denied, what's option B?

A. There is no option B because it won't be declined. It's a special permit and the applicant has already met the findings and the approval of the FAA and Port Authority.

Q. Since they are redoing LaGuardia, will the runways be moved?

A. Not at all!

Q. Do all developers have to come before the board to get approval of height changes?

A. Yes, they should, especially if it involves air safety.

With no further discussion by the Board, **THE MOTION BY REV. McEACHERN ON THE FLOOR IS TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL PERMIT FOR 134-03 35<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE.**

**The vote taken was ( 32 ) FOR ( 0 ) AGAINST ( 0 ) ABSTAINED**

**ITEM 6b – 134-37 35<sup>th</sup> AVENUE – BSA #2017-237-BZ – Committee Chair Rev. R. McEachern** said the second building is for a special permit covering the construction already in process of the as-of- right building in excess of the height limits established around the airports under ZR 61-21 in a R6/C2-2 zoning district. He gave the floor to Atty Eric Palatnik who explained this building is owned George Zhu, the brother of 134-03 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Although the building is similar to 134-37 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, it is only 15 stories high, similar in uses with residential/hotel and commercial use components, one story shorter at 209 feet high above sea level and 177 ft. tall from grade. It also met the findings and approval of the FAA and PA and we expect approval from BSA one week from today.

With no further discussion by the Board, **THE MOTION BY REV. McEACHERN ON THE FLOOR IS TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL PERMIT FOR 134-37 35<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE.**

**The vote taken was ( 32 ) FOR ( 0 ) AGAINST ( 0 ) ABSTAINED**

**ITEM #5 – LINK NYC KIOSK – Ruth Fasoldt, Director of External Affairs & Ms. Ann Koenig from DOITT** LinkNYC is provided by CityBridge in accordance with the terms of a franchise agreement granted by the City of New York. CityBridge is a group of companies comprising experts in technology, user experience, connectivity and advertising. With 2 years' experience already in NYC, LinkNYC is starting their 3<sup>rd</sup> year mission making Wi-Fi 24/7 internet free accessible with 450 active links to 3.5. million Wi-Fi subscribers, 200,000 free phone calls made every month and 15 million sessions per week in Queens alone thus far. LinkNYC, the first of its kind, is a new ultrafast Wi-Fi communications network that will replace NYC pay phones with state-of-the art kiosks called Links. Each link is equipped with free services like high speed Wi-Fi, phone calls to anywhere in the U.S., a tablet for directions, maps, a touch screen tablet for access to city services, 311, a 911 emergency call button, access to community boards, and rapid device

charging for anyone living in or visiting New York City to enjoy. It's the fastest Wi-Fi ever offered. At gigabit speed, it's up to 100 times faster than average public Wi-Fi. In addition to Link's features being free to the public, it also comes at no cost to taxpayers. It generates its own revenue through advertising, sponsorships and partnerships.

- Q. What are your general guidelines for secure links, and the steps taken to address security vulnerabilities?
- A. There are two free options 1) an encrypted network is one of the safest ways, which is currently only available on Apple devices, and 2) reporting the problem to our special Staff who test security issues daily.
- Q. As a private company, how do you make money?
- A. All the money is generated from ads on the 55 inch screen.
- Q. What happens when someone is on the link phone for an hour or more? What about initiating a five minute time-out?
- A. We haven't seen this happening thus far. The average tablet time use is 2 minutes and you can't receive calls from the links, only send out.
- Q. What's the maximum distance you can be to connect to the Kiosk?
- A. The minimum is 150 feet with a maximum 300 ft. from the link. However, I was recently on the the 19<sup>th</sup> floor of a building with the kiosk on the street below and was able to connect to the kiosk because there was no interference blocking the call.
- Q. When are you coming to Flushing and where do you plan to be?
- A. We will be coming down Northern Blvd., and then College Point Blvd., Main Street and Kissena Blvd.
- Q. Do you plan on having kiosks in the airports?
- A. No, the current contract is for outdoor Wi-Fi's. Ms. Koenig from Doitt also added the airports are not City property. If the Port Authority wants it, they must make their own contract.
- Q. Who do we contact for advertising?
- A. You can talk to me or Ms. Alize Garcia, our new Community Affairs Mgr.
- Q. How do you choose locations?
- A. We are in the third year of an 8 year plan rollout of the old pay phones, and every year we choose a portion of the specific routes.
- Q. You say you are using the old pay phones network, but who owns the current old equipment and /or the locations.
- A. When we won the contract, we had to buy the old phones. The City owns the land.
- Q. Did you say 40% of the old phones do not work?
- A. No, it's the location that may be the problem. It can't be near a bus zone, or there is an underground blockage, or maybe two phones owned by different companies were too close to each other by today's standard, or the current links need to go deeper because of its size and 900 lbs. weight factor.
- Q. How do you determine where to place Links where no pay phones there were to begin with?
- A. We survey the area and forwards the final results to community officials and community agencies.

- A. Community comments will be welcome! The site must match all the needed requirements, be commercially zoned, and 15 ft. from telephone and fiber manholes. DOITT then reviews and
- Q. Are you going into residential areas where there are pay phones?
- A. It will be looked into later in the project, since there is no advertising in residential areas
- Q. Will there be linkage to NYC emergency units?
- A. It's already done!
- Q. When you make a phone call from a link, what is their ID calling number?
- A. It's a NYC number and there are four 718 numbers. If it's a miss-call, you can't call back.
- Q. Is your relation to the City with a contract for a service or a franchise?
- A. It's with a franchise!
- Q. Does DOITT have the franchise contract available on line for our viewing?
- Chair Kelty introduced Ms. Koenig from DOITT's Dept. of Information Technology & Telecommunications in the Div. of Franchise Administration. Although CityBridge is doing the work, we, the City of New York, take the credit for writing the proposals, selecting the vendor and overseeing the project. If a problem arises, you can call CityBridge first or if you are not satisfied, you can call us at DOITT. We are happy to have only one vendor, and not multiple vendors. It's a much easier administrative framework. We now have somebody to hold accountable.
- Q. Is all the hardware owned by the company or the City?
- A. It's owned by CityBridge.
- Q. Is this a 24/7 free Wi-Fi?
- A. Yes!
- Q. Is this only in NY?
- A. No, we are in other cities. We've launched in London, England and will be going to Philadelphia, PA  
Chair Kelty thinks there will be a problem introducing Links on Main Street, since its Flushing's main commercial hub and already extremely over congested,

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Speaker Rosalinda Martinez from the Bodhi Mediation & Health Center, a non-profit organization funded in 1991, whose Master JinBodhi's practice can help people have a happy, healthy life by focusing on different types of meditation daily for every part of your body as well as being a giver and not a taker in life.

Speaker Richard Thornhill is concerned over the many tall buildings going up in Flushing close to the airport as well as the noise level of these low overhead planes, and made specific mention of the RKO Keith's landmark destruction.

Speaker Pat Lowenhaupt announced the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Queens film festival's opening night is Thursday, March 15 and ends on March 25<sup>th</sup> in Astoria. Some of you are unaware there even is a film festival. Pick up one of the cards on the table and use the code #QWFF8 for a discount on line at [queensworldfilmfestival.com](http://queensworldfilmfestival.com) and if you see a block of movies use the code. In Queens we have 29 film

makers and one is here tonight to speak about his film. There are 189 films from 36 nations offering their cultures that can be seen at the Barstows and the Red Stone theatres at the Museum of the Moving Image as well as the Zucker theatre a block away. You could also invite board members to view a movie at the community board. You can contact Don Capicato. Speaker Naomi Kuo, art student at Queens College engaged in their studio art program spoke about an oral history collection partnership with Queens Flushing Library in a 3 month long community quilt project in the summer about American Folk art. Naomi is looking for instructors who know how to sew art and share their skills. Anyone fitting these qualifications, please contact Naomi at [nko@19email.com](mailto:nko@19email.com) Speaker Jacinto Romero, born and raised in Flushing, and the assistant director and associate producer of “My name is somebody”. My name is somebody is an immigrant story about two brothers that reconnect after 20 years and things get a little tense and builds up until something horribly wrong happens and I hope you’ll find out what happens when the film is screened in the Zucker Room at Queens Film Festival on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Speaker Frank Macchio spoke about Floyd Carter, age 95, one of the Tuskegee Airman who died several days ago. He served in 3 wars, from World War II to the Vietnam War, came home and re-enlisted in the Air force reserves. After the wars he joined the Police Dept. at the 47<sup>th</sup> Pct. He met his wife at Tuskegee where she prepared pilots to fly.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

Mary Zuliani