



Community Board 7

Borough of Queens

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

133-32 41st ROAD · 3rd FLOOR · FLUSHING, NY 11355

(718) 359-2800

Fax: (718) 463-3891

email: qn07@cb.nyc.gov

Melinda Katz

Queens Borough President

Eugene T. Kelty Jr.

Chairperson

Marilyn McAndrews

District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 2017

UNION PLAZA CARE CENTER

33-23 UNION STREET

FLUSHING, NEW YORK

PRESENT

Charles Apelian

Tyler Cassell

James Cervino

Michael Cheng

Chin-Hsiang Chiang

John Choe

Kim Cody

Nicholas Corrado

Arlene Fleishman

Richard Forman

Fred Fu

Pablo Hernandez

Lawrence Hughes

Eugene Kelty

Phil Konigsberg

Peter Kwiath

Li Mei Li

Frank Macchio

Barbara McHugh

Selma Moses

Kim Ohanian

Kris Ram

Belal Salim

Marc Schiffman

Warren Schreiber

Kevin Scheilds

Matthew Silverstein

Joshua Sussman

Joseph Sweeney

Carlos Talisaysay

Alison Tan

John Tsavalos

Peter Tu

Harpreet Wahan Singh

Clarissa Wong

Lei Zhao

Jie Zhu

ABSENT

Arthur Barragan

Esther Lee

Peter Sutich

John Byas

Rev. Richard McEachern

Arnold Wagner

Vincent Gianelli

Millicent O'Meally

Linna Yu

Jeff Huang

Terence Park

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

Marilyn McAndrews, District Manager

Mary Zuliani, Community Assistant

Mary O'Neill, Community Assistant

Sherine Perez, Community Service Aid

GUESTS

Amber Yoan - Assemblyman Braunstein's office

Timothy Hopper - Congressman Meng's office

Eric Meyer - Assemblyman Ron Kim's office

Justin J. Connor - Congressman Tom Suozzi's office

Marilla Li - Assemblywoman Nily Rozic's office

Peter Koo - Councilman

Joyce Choi - Councilman Peter Koo's office

Nelly Nickerson - Girl Scouts of Greater NY

Chair Eugene Kelty opened the meeting at 7: 05 with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence to honor our military armed forces around the world keeping us safe from harm. He then took the roll call with **(37) present (2) absent (9) excused**

Vincent Giannulli will be on medical leave for a while and Selma Moses is back this evening and is doing fine. We also extend our birthday wishes this evening, with many more to come, to Carlos Talisaysay. Chair Kelty spoke of the recent article in the Queens Tribune Oct. issue about Wellington Chen, a former member of Community Board #7 involved in zoning issues, especially to stop the building of “chop shops” in Flushing, who still keeps in touch with us. First Vice Chair spoke also about the passing of Irving Cantor at age 90, another member of Community Board #7, who was considered possibly the top structural engineer in this country and the world. Some of the buildings he was responsible for were the Galleria on 57th & Park Avenue, The Lipstick Building on Third Avenue & 53rd. The World Financial Center at ground zero, The Helmsley Palace and Trump Tower. He knew everyone, was a wonderful source of information, and an extremely humble man.

Chair Kelty announced Parks item # 7 was removed from the agenda, since more research is needed before it can be brought to the floor. The holiday dinner arranged by Fourth Vice Chair Barbara McHugh will be held on Monday, December 11, 2017 from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at Erin’s Isle. Those planning to attend must send in their checks made out to cash at \$45 per person.

Chair Kelty read the announcements of the month, including the government recall on two Kidde fire extinguishers from Jan 1, 1973 and August 2017. Customer contact is 855/271-0712. A reminder with daylight saving time it’s time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. Fred Fu’s Flushing Development Center’s holiday tree lighting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at the Flushing Library at 5 pm. with several enjoyable children events included. Nicholas Liota from the DOT announced Mayor DeBlasio’s Town Hall meeting in Flushing next Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at Junior High School 189 at 7 pm for the opportunity to bring us issues before the Mayor. Councilman Peter Koo also spoke and thanked everyone who voted for him for the next four year, and urged everyone to attend and speak up about any housing, education, transportation and sanitation problems that need attention. Please rsvp Mr. Liota and Councilman Koo and come prepared with your questions.

Q. Selma Moses posed the question on how to introduce a bill to the City Council to grade nail salons, beauty salons and male salons?

A. Councilman Koo responded these salons and saloons are regulated by the State. You can ask your State Senators to submit proposals, but he will bring it to their attention.

Speaker Elizabeth Bian from Queens Borough Hall spoke about renewal of your community board status every two years. You will receive a renewal letter by mail with instructions to fill out, sign and have notarized by your Councilman and returned to Borough Hall. If you have any questions you can call 718/286-2900.

Item #4 The motion to accept the minutes of October 23, 2017 was approved!

Item #5 Nelly Nickerson, Queens Recruiter from the Girl Scouts of New York is reaching out to all the 5 boroughs. Girl Scouts is a leadership organization for young girls with troops all over Queens. The problem is recruiting women adults. A girl scout needs leaders.

- Q. How many hours is needed to be a Leader?
- A. Preparation needed is approximately 4 hours twice a month and can be easily fitted around your own family schedule.
- Q. The Boy Scout's highest award is the Eagle Scout award. What is the Girl Scout's highest award?
- A. A gold award which requires extensive amount hours of work.
- Q. What is the youngest age to join?
- A. Five years of age or when they start kindergarten.
- Q. Is the Brownie program a girl scout?
- A. The Daisy, the Brownie, the Junior, the Cadet, the Senior and the Ambassador are all Girl Scouts.
- Q. What kind of special development training do you have for a troop leader and what age is necessary.
- A. We have on line training courses on how to become leader, and require a three hour training program that must be taken in Manhattan, or remote training in Queens or other boroughs. You must be at least 21 years of age. We also do recruiting in high schools.
- Q. Do you still sell cookies?
- A. Yes we do still sell cookies. Cookie sales start in winter with cookies delivered in springtime to the Cookie Chair's home for distribution.

ITEM # 6 Community Education Council (CEC) – Committee Education Chair, Arlene Fleishman, gave a report first on the CEC recent meeting about the new Middle School 336, also to be known as The College Point Collaborative for Maritime Studies. The project leader, Renee Klager, has been named the interim acting principal. She is currently the assistant principal of PS 24 in District 25 with majors in Math and Science. Also, Jr. High 185 and 194 originally was to be rezoned for 507 children with a percentage to be allocated from College Point elementary schools 29 and 129. However, that is now to be changed to an entire lottery school system so children from anywhere in NYC can attend schools out of their district. Children living in their own area, however, will receive first preference to their middle schools. Also, many board members were surprised to learn that all schools have themes with related studies such as maritime, journalism, science, animal husbandry, weather, etc., to give students a look at different vocations of interest. It's also frustrating to note that passed legislation approving allocation of millions of dollars for schools who were most needy was never implemented and distributed. When Mayor Bloomberg came into office he took away all the arts and music studies, etc. and left double periods of math, reading and academics. Recently the CEC has decided to form a committee consisting of the administration, teacher, parent, community member to work towards helping our children receive the best rounded education, and Community Board #7 has been invited to be a participant and be a part of the schools in our district. Chair Kelty has approved Arlene to represent CB #7. Hopefully this will be an opportunity for new dialogue between all involved today to ensure our children become tomorrow's leaders. We need to stand up and fight. Unfortunately, on a down note, Flushing High School is to be closed. The principal and assistant principal have been fired because of substandard results. All teachers must reapply in January because the school has fallen well below expectations. The Board praised Arlene for the important work she is doing for our children and community, and the Board will back her 100%.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Speaker **Troy Wilcott**, an employee of Spectrum Cable and currently on strike the past 8 months with 1800 other employees. In May of 2016 Spectrum took over Time Warner Cable. Prior to the takeover, Time Warner downgraded their customer service considerably to make the sale more appealing. Just before Spectrum took over, customer service was completely eliminated and employees had their medical benefits and retirement benefits taken off the table. When Spectrum took over customers were being overcharged for services they couldn't provide as well as using outside contractors. Complaints coming in are not being answered. This is not only happening locally but all over the U.S. Here in New York City on November 30, 2017 employees and customers are being asked to collectively unplug Spectrum Cable en masse for 24 hours to force them to stop these practices.

Speaker **Elliot Quan**, who was a guest once before regarding Lippmann Plaza, is looking for board members' input and ideas for the many small public plazas. He left surveys in several languages to be filled out and sent him to his e-mail.

Speaker **Jim Cervino, Board member**, spoke about the recent committee meeting on the Phase II Design Plan for the Gaelic Football Club in the College Pt. Park that was cancelled for this evening's hearing. Although Mr. Cervino was happy over the interest shown about the park and the money being spent to upgrade it, there were many questions he felt that remained unanswered about the design. Will the school have access to walk through the park; will other sport users be able use or run in the park; what about the park tower lights; and what's in the lease agreement with this private football club and Parks Dept. **Chair Kelty** reminded Mr. Cervino his wife is on the Parks Committee and was one of only 3 members that night that attended, with eight members absent. He reminded Mr. Cervino that his wife did not ask the Committee Chair these questions that night (which was corroborated tonight by Committee Chair Ohanian), but he did telephone Mr. Kelty this morning with the questions. Chair Kelty and the Parks Committee will have all the answers before it comes to the Public Hearing. Unfortunately, this brought up problems concerning the Chair and Executive Committee with regard to committee meetings, public hearing meetings and board members' attendance. Some board members come in late and/or leave before a meeting ends, etc. Serious commitment is most important! If you can't give importance to your commitment, then you are of no help to your community and your Community Board.

Meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Zuliani

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zuliani
Community Assistant