

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015  
UNION PLAZA CARE CENTER  
33-23 UNION STREET  
FLUSHING, NEW YORK

PRESENT

Chuck Apelian  
John Byas  
Tyler Cassel  
James Cervino  
Chin-Hsiang Chiang  
Kim Cody  
Nicholas Corrado  
Arlene Fleishman  
Rose Forkan

Pablo Hernandez  
Jeff Huang  
Phil Konigsberg  
Esther Lee  
Frank Macchio  
Barbara McHugh  
Selma Moses  
Kim Ohanian  
Terrence Park  
Vana Partridge

Kris Ram  
Jean Ren  
Warren Schreiber  
Peter Sutich  
Joseph Sweeney  
John Tsavalos  
Arnold Wagner  
Clarissa Wong  
Linna Yu  
Jie Zhu

ABSENT

Timothy Chuang  
Joseph Femenia  
Fred Fu  
Eugene Kelty  
Donald Kirchhofer  
Peter Kwiath

Rev. R. McEachern  
Devon O'Connor  
Millicent O'Meally  
Andrew Rocco  
Marc Schiffman

Kevin Shields  
Matthew Silverstein  
Joshua Sussman  
Carlos Talisaysay  
Peter Tu

GUESTS

Don Capalbi, Congresswoman Meng's office  
Amber Yoon, Assemblyman Braunsteins's office  
Erin Rogers, Assemblywoman Rozic's office  
Young Kim, Assemblyman Kim's office  
Michael Farca, Assemblyman Simanowitz's office  
Allen Hsu, Councilman Koo's office

GUESTS (continued)

Vito Tautonico, Councilman Vallone's Office

Adam Chen, Public Advocate's office

Elaine Fan, NYC Comptroller's office

In the absence of Chair Eugene Kelty, First Vice-Chair Apelian called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence to honor our men and women serving in the military at home and abroad, as well as first responders on the home front.

Roll call was taken with **(29)** present **(8)** excused and **(8)** absent due to inclement weather. Approval of the **December 15, 2014** and the **January 12, 2015** minutes were individually approved and seconded by Linna Yu. First Vice-Chair Apelian advised members of the Borough President's notification regarding Community Board Orientation & Training on May 14, 2015 as well as the June 8, 2015 Swearing-in and Award ceremony for board members, both at the Hall of Science from 6 to 9 p.m. Also, the May and June Public Hearings dates have been changed to May 18, 2015 and June 22, 2015 respectively. He followed next with the announcements, which will be available for anyone to view after the meeting or the next day at the community board office.

First-Vice Chair Apelian introduced **Tanjila Rahman** from NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs. DCA licenses and enforces the rules governing over 80,000 businesses in 55 different industries. However, they also help New Yorkers with FREE tax preparation, financial counseling and other services. If you earned up to \$53,000 last year, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit or EITC. She gave us the location of seven sites in our area for this free service as follows:

Whitestone QB Public Library  
151-10 14<sup>th</sup> Road

Auburndale QB Public Library  
2555 Francis Lewis Blvd.  
718/352-2027

Flushing YMCA  
138-46 Northern  
646/200-5080

Urban Upbound  
136-20 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue, #10A  
718/939-0195

Child Center of New York  
140-15B Sanford Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Flushing QB Public Library  
718/358-8288 ext. 260`

41-47 Main Street  
718/661-1200

**Item #5 – Forestdale Foster Care Services** – Representative **Zara Sheikh** spoke about the organization looking for volunteers to become foster parents and provide care and temporary

homes for children from birth to age 21 to help them achieve personal, academic and professional goals. Foster Care parents receive a monthly stipend to assist in their care in addition to subsidies for daycare and afterschool programs. Foster Parent orientation is held every month with the next orientation taking place on Thursday, February 26, 2015 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at Forestdale Campus, 67-35 112<sup>th</sup> Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375. You can call them at 718-263-0740 ext. 602 or e-mail them at: [www.forestdaleinc.org](http://www.forestdaleinc.org). She asked that we get the word out.

**Item #7 – Environmental Update** - Committee Chair **James Cervino** gave a power point slide show describing our current environmental issues. While there are some positive things that are happening, he spoke about the most egregious problem, i.e., the combined sewerage flow, the issues with the Flushing Creek and all the coastal zones in our district and the five boroughs of New York. The DEP plan is to minimize the problem of when overflow water from heavy rains, hurricanes and snow storms, as well as the water from normal sewerage, has no place to go but out without treatment. During normal times the sewerage treatment plants can handle it, treat it and pump it back out. They've done a great job at the combined sewer flow of Flushing Meadow Park and the state of the art facility at Tallman Islands, where excess water is placed in holding retention tanks until it can be released back into the sewerage treatment plant, but it's still not big enough. With the growing population we need more of them to take care of all our coastal zones. Without placement of sufficient retention tanks, the overload backup of excess water with sewerage, with no place to go, will automatically be released into our water along with urban, residential and septic tank runoffs rich in ammonium, nitrogen, phosphorous and pathogens which causes algae blooms. The algae blooms take over and smother the oxygen in the sand necessary to sustain life, and eventually choke all the coastal vegetation, kill all the shell fish, collapse the food chain and destroy the ecosystem, making it useless. The health of water affects our lives because it follows up the path to our food chain. They have conducted pilot studies in several areas to re-establish what was killed; experimented successfully in using solar panels and helixes to introduce and grow calcium carbonate in sea water, which is needed in the growth of oysters; grown habitat grasses to restore areas; and constructed barriers to prevent erosion, etc. The DEP needs money from the State and City to increase the capacity of the CSO's because all the bioswales and green roofs you want to build will not be sufficient in reducing the problem. Tallman Island works, but we need bigger and more of them!

Q. Don't the bioswales work?

A. They do work and we should have them, but they can only control a small portion of our problem. The growth of our population is outpacing all of our positive efforts.

Q. Is Tallman Island just a treatment plant and not a holding center?

A. Yes, the holding facility is in Flushing by Western Beef.

Q. Do you have a problem with the regulations for solar panels?

A. No, and they are extending the tax subsidies for solar, and the prices are coming down drastically.

- Q. Won't the solar panels placed close to the ground be dangerous if touched by kids?
- A. No, the voltage is low and not harmful.
- Q. What is the timetable for repairs and business recovery after a bad storm?
- A. Based on the last storm, one business took approximately a year and a half for repairs and four years for complete business recovery.

**Item #6 – U.S.T.A. Presentation** - First Vice-Chair Apelian introduced **Executive Director Danny Zausner** from the U.S.T.A. who reported the past nine months they have been working a lot closer with the local Corona and Flushing businesses. They have been promoting very affordable Graduation ceremonies at the National Tennis Center and in their stadiums to the schools, improvement of the singer tryouts, the Ball Person program, the Public Job Fairs, hosting "Queens Day" for the very first time in 20 years, an update on Community Center Programs, Arthur Ashe Kid's Day, and promoting tourism with the Kiosks. He then gave a slide show presentation of all the events above. The U.S. Open last year generated 7000 seasonal jobs had over 700,000 people with 42% from out of our area, of which 16% came from outside the USA. Sixty percent arrived by mass transit. Social media promoted 253 million page views. The economic impact was \$800 million, better than the Super Bowl. It generated 7000 seasonal jobs. They worked well in partnership with CBS, but they are now leaving, and in their place ESPN will take over. There will be 65 open broadcasts to 200 countries with 41,000 hours of international coverage with 1,300 journalists in 55 countries. They have tennis programs, summer camps, cross training on other events, science projects, field trips, college and high school programs and birthday parties. Twelve indoor courts will be available for the winter. The five practice courts, the Billy Jean roof and Grandstand will be completed by 2016. The Southfield courts and the Louis Armstrong courts will be open 6 a.m. to 12 midnight.

- Q. What will happen when CBS ends their relationship with USTA?
- A. Fox and ESPN will continue to maintain the current facility in place and be more affordable.
- Q. The Queensborough President's office is supporting the repairing of the NYS Pavilion. Can the USTA donate funds to help the repair?
- A. We already have a yearly commitment to Parks with monies. However, we don't know how or where Parks uses the monies

Several of our members expressed their satisfaction on how well everything worked out for businesses, jobs, the wonderful benefits of Arthur Ashe Kids' Day for the kids and the plus factor that the Flushing hotels are being filled to capacity. Mr. Zausner received our thanks for the update.

**ITEM #8 – Aviation Roundtable Update** – Committee Chair Warren Schreiber's spoke of Gov. Cuomo's veto of legislation that would require Port Authority to conduct a noise and land use

compatibility survey, but his decision thereafter to direct the Port Authority to conduct noise studies for LaGuardia and JFK airports and to establish a community roundtable on airport noise and related issues in collaboration with the FAA may be more beneficial in the long run. The Reform Act of 2015 requires FAA reauthorization every 3 to 5 years. Past reauthorization had 23 extensions. Recent press releases state JFK had 53.2 million travelers and LaGuardia 26.9 million travelers. On October 27, 2014 the Port Authority signed an agreement with Environmental Science Associates to conduct federal Part 150 airport noise studies for JFK and LaGuardia over the next 3 years to help find mitigation procedures to alleviate residents' noise concerns. The study will cost approximately \$8 million, and will show areas impacted by noise above the average of 55 decibels, and over, which will require revising flight patterns, ground operations and using quieter aircraft and soundproofing certain properties. Noise roundtables have begun between the community and elected officials. Discussions thus far between elected officials, community boards, civic associations and community groups haven't found a common ground as to having one round table or two separate roundtables. It appears the more people involved, the less can be agreed upon. Queens Borough President Katz has established the Queens Civic Aviation Coalition to include community boards & stakeholder organizations. The web site for flight tracking, noise info system and complaints are: [www.panynj.gov/airports/webtrak.html](http://www.panynj.gov/airports/webtrak.html) or [www.webtrak.bksv.com/panyn](http://www.webtrak.bksv.com/panyn). The FAA video explaining NextGen technology can be viewed at [www.faa.gov/nextgen](http://www.faa.gov/nextgen).

First Vice-Chair Apelian closed the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully,

Mary Zuliani