



Community Board 7

Borough of Queens

Bay Terrace, College Point, Beechhurst, Flushing,
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Melinda Katz
Borough President

Eugene T. Kelty Jr.
Chairperson

Marilyn Bitterman
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016

UNION PLAZA CARE CENTER

33-23 UNION STREET

FLUSHING, NEW YORK

PRESENT

Charles Apelian

John Byas

Tyler Cassell

James Cervino

Chin-Hsiang Chiang

Michael Cheng

Kim Cody

Nicholas Corrado

Arlene Fleishman

Rose Forkan

Fred Fu

Vincent Gianelli

Pablo Hernandez

Eugene Kelty

Phil Konigsberg

Peter Kwiath

Esther Lee

Frank Macchio

Barbara McHugh

Selma Moses

Kim Ohanian

Millicent O'Meally

Terence Park

Vana Partridge

Kris Ram

Belal Salim

Marc Sciffman

Warren Schreiber

Kevin Shields

Joshua Sussman

Peter Sutich

Joseph Sweeney

Carlos Talisaysay

John Tsavalos

Peter Tu

Arnold Wagner

Harpreet Wahan

Clarissa Wong

Linna Yu

Jie Zhu

ABSENT

Jeff Huang

Lawrence Hughes

Kevin Kang

Rev. R. McEachern

Devon O'Connor

Matt Silverstein

Alison Tan

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

Marilyn Bitterman, District Manager

Marilyn McAndrews, Assistant District Manager

GUESTS

Royston Peters, Senator Tony Avella's office

Young Kim, Assemblyman Ron Kim's office

Councilman Peter Koo

Chae No, Councilman Peter Koo's office

Vito Tautonico, Councilman Paul Vallone's office

Elaine Fan, NYC Comptroller's office

Nick Gulotta, Mayor's office

Adam Chen, NYC Public Advocates's Office

Chair Kelty opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayers for our armed forces in harm's way. Also our prayers included those individuals who were brutally killed or maimed in the Orlando, Florida massacre. Chair Kelty then read the announcements for the month which members can review at the end of the meeting or tomorrow at our office. **Nick Gullota**, from the Mayor's Queens Borough Director of Community Affairs, discussed approval of the \$82 million City Budget with \$39 million for summer youth employment, \$21 million added to the Library Budget to continue 6 day service, and \$3 million for DOT outreach to community boards. Additionally, 3 new precincts have been added, and over \$200 million for reconstruction of the Queensborough Bridge.

ITEM #7 - Update of New NCO Program at 109th Precinct

Detective O'Donnell of the 109 Pct. spoke about their recent increase of 60 police officers and anticipates an additional 20 officers next month. The precinct covers 13 square miles originally with 18 sectors, but now is reduced to 4 sectors. The new NCO Program (newly trained Neighborhood Community Officers) with 2 NCO cars in each sector as well the same two regular police cars in each sector at any given time, will bring more police presence in the community and result in faster response time. Each sector will have the same two NCO officers, who will become familiar with the residents of the area as well as the area's problems and eliminate them. He gave us the names of the two NCO officers in each sector for our files for our direct use. Latimer and Bland Housing will have their own additional officers. The 109 police have also been issued new phones which will allow every officer to retrieve immediate police reports, warrants, photos of wanted Individuals, thefts in progress, etc.

Q. How were the sectors chosen since some sectors are larger than others.

A. It was determined by the amount of radio runs. Some sectors have more crimes than other areas.

Chair Kelty took the roll call attendance with (40) present (2) absent and (5) excused

New board member, **Michael Cheng**, a resident of Queens and Flushing, introduced himself. He studied business at NYU delving in trade, real estate and construction. He is currently on the board of the Flushing Y and the Flushing Chamber of Commerce and looks forward to meeting and working with all the members.

ITEM #6 – Marine Transfer Update

Speaker, **Sean Brereton**, Superintendent of Salvage Management for the Dept. of Sanitation's new North Shore Marine Transfer Station in College Point, showed a brief video on this facility which handles household refuse loaded into containers, then onto barges or by rail and shipped to the Delaware or Niagara Valley to be burned for electricity.

Q. What about bird problems?

A. No longer a problem because refuse is in sealed containers.

Q. What type of garbage?

A. Only household, no recycling.

Q. How many hours per day does this happen?

A. Twenty-four hours a day, six days a week.

Q. Does this include private garbage collection?

A. No!

Q. How much garbage is handled.

A. An average of fourteen hundred tons per day

Chair Kelty made the motion to approve the minutes of May 9, 2016 which was then unanimously approved by board members.

ITEM #8 – HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT –Committee Chair, **Peter Kwiath**, gave his report on the May 17, 2016 Health committee meeting regarding the Zika Virus, Blue-green algae, Synthetic Opiates, and the expansion of No Smoking Housing regulations. He then gave the floor to **Dr. James Cervino**, Marine Scientist and board member, who spoke about the **Zika mosquito** species that is extremely harmful to the fetuses of pregnant women. We were warned in 1998 when discovered in Africa, expanded to Indonesia, and now is in South and Central America and moving north. It is expected to reach our southern border by late this summer and is a cause of great concern. All the **City** will be doing is spraying. However, we don't know what chemical derivatives will be used. Chemical free eucalyptus oil for the body is suggested. Off and Deet spray also can be used, but not on young children. The **State** is screening blood samples from humans and comparing with Columbia University's R&A virus data base. **Dr. Cervino** is collecting mosquitos from pools of water, mostly near Tallman Island Sewer Treatment Plant and the Marina to see if any are carriers. Similar to mosquitoes, Blue-Green algae blooming in our waters also thrive in warm temperatures as well as overburdened sewerage, crowding, and the increase of nitrogen content from sewerage plants, etc. These outbreaks, like the algae species occurring in Little Neck Bay and other lakes and waters, can produce toxins that are harmful to humans and animals.

Q. What are the symptoms of the Zika virus if you get bitten?

A. Flu like symptoms. No cure for this virus as yet. If you go out in the evening, be vigilant.

Q. What has Tallman Island done to prevent exposure?

A. Nothing!

Q. Are dogs and cats affected?

A. Not sure. Will follow up and let you know.

Q. Does the immune system allow the virus to leave?

A. Unlike Malaria, the Zika virus does leave the body after a time.

Committee Chair Kwiath read (a) the symptoms of the **Zika Virus** to the members. High fever together with several of the following: severe headache, severe eye pain, joint pain, muscle and bone pain, rash, mild bleeding in nose, gums, bruising, and low white blood cell count. As fever declines in 3 to 7 days, watch out for severe vomiting, abdominal pain, red spots or patches on the skin, black stools, drowsiness or irritability, cold clammy skin and difficulty breathing. (b) He discussed the synthetic opiate **Fentanyl, (in liquid or powder form)** similar to morphine, but 100 times more potent, that drug users mix with heroine and cocaine and is (c) deadly. To counteract death, the injection of Narcon, which can be purchased at your pharmacy, will cause immediate withdrawal and possible violence, but save a life. (c) The smoke free resolution restricting smoking in multi- family dwellings was approved by our community board in 2014. By 2015 thirteen of the fourteen Queens CB's approved a resolution. Board member **Phil Konigsberg** suggested now an amendment to include a policy disclosure statement as well as amend the original to include condominiums and cooperative housing developments in our area.

Q. Why isn't the whole document being discussed?

A. We will discuss part of the original document.

Q. Why weren't the condo/co-op boards invited to the Health Committee meeting?

A. Didn't know it would be brought up at the meeting.

Third Vice-Chair **Warren Schreiber** indicated all co-ops and condos are governed already by BCL rules (Business Corporate Law). Our resolutions do not give us the right to enforce additional rules. Aren't we meddling? **Phil Konigsberg** responded it's just a suggestion to be disclosed when a co-op/condo comes on the market.

Q. Isn't your motive to make it a law to disallow smoking?

A. There already is a law when subsidizing new construction presently.

Chair Kelty stated we all know that the end results of resolutions over time eventually will become a law!

Q. If it does become law, who will police your apartment?

A. It would have to be enforced by an outside agency, i.e., Dept. of Health or Dept. of Bldgs.

First Vice-Chair Apelian said it's a poorly written resolution, and in its current form conveys that you are not allowed to smoke.

Board member Arnold Wagner made the motion to table the amendment to the original resolution and go back to committee.

The vote taken was (32) Yes (3) No (0) Abstentions (5) Left before vote

ITEM #9 - 45-58 BURLING STREET – Creation of a parking lot on the vacant lot presently owned by the **The Hindu Temple of North America** since 1994

Committee Chair **Belal Salim** gave his committee meeting report held on May 11, 2016. The Temple submitted their plans for 50 parking spaces on the 50' x 200' lot to the Dept. of Buildings for Parking mainly on weekends and 20% use during the week. The entrance will be on Smart Street and the exit on Burling Street. The Dept. of Building, however, objected to the plans but verbally said if the Community Board approves it, the DOB objection will be removed. The architect now requests a letter of approval from the Community Board.

Q. If you owned it for the past 15 years and used it for parking, why didn't you move forward on this before?

A. We wanted to legalize and upgrade it and add drainage.

Q. Did you receive a violation from the Dept. of Buildings?

A. Yes, the Dept. of Buildings did issue a violation for using the land illegally for parking and we wanted to correct it.

Chair Kelty, however, said until the Community Board receives a letter from the DOB listing their objections that can not be removed until receipt of our approval, we cannot vote on it. **First Vice Chair Apelian** added we don't even know what the objections are. We need clarification before we can move with it. With no time frame on this issue, Board member **Millicent O'Meally** asked to table it until our next Public Hearing.

The motion is now on the floor to table for further clarification from the Dept. of Buildings, seconded by John Byas.

The vote taken was For (34) Against (0) Abstained/Conflict (1) Left before vote (5)

ITEM #10 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - Queens Historical Society & Voelker Orth Bird Sanctuary –**Patricia Sherwood**, President of both, invited all to visit the 1st landmarked building in Queens, the Queens Historical Society on 37th Avenue across from Northern Blvd. and view their Victorian Parlor and Toys from the Attic and **Barbara Silver Voelker Orth** Museum Bird Sanctuary on 38th Avenue & Northern Blvd. who spoke of their calendar of events, expanded school programs and their invitation to join as members.

First Vice Chair Apelian spoke of the Community Board 's recent special breakfast invitation to the Queens Zoo.

Members who attended brought their families and had the Zoo all to themselves. This was the Vice Chair's first visit ever and found it incredibly special.

Board member Phil Konigsberg, who became a member 18 years ago because of Marilyn Bitterman, thanked her for getting him involved, as well as the time she's given to each and everyone as District Manager. He's happy she'll still be involved with the board.

Susan Tanenbaum, from Queens Borough President Katz's office, announced that on July 11th President Katz will be honoring Marilyn Bitterman with a Proclamation for her service to the Borough of Queens and her Community. She considered it a privilege sitting next to you the past 15 years at the monthly meetings and learned so much from you, and will miss you.

The meeting ended at 9:35 pm!

Respectfully,
Mary Zuliani