



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, NOVEMBER 14, 2016
UNION PLAZA CARE CENTER
33-23 UNION STREET
FLUSHING, NEW YORK

PRESENT

Charles Apelian

Esther Lee

Frank Macchio

Rev. R. McEachern

Joseph Sweeney

Arlene Fleishman

Peter Tu

Arnold Wagner

Lawrence Hughes

Eugene Kelty

Rose Forkan

Jie Zhu

Warren Schreiber

Kevin Shields

Matt Silverstein

Joshua Sussman

Nicholas Corrado

Kim Ohanian

Pablo Hernandez

Jeff Huang

Kris Ram

Linna Yu

Belal Salim

James Cervino

Michael Cheng

Chin-Hsiang Chiang

Kim Cody

Selma Moses

Fred Fu

Terence Park

Vana Partridge

Clarissa Wong

Tyler Cassell

John Tsavalos

ABSENT

John Byas

Kevin Kang

Harpreet Wahan

Barbara McHugh

Carlos Talisaysay

Vincent Gianelli

Alison Tan

Peter Kwiath

Millicent O'Meally

Peter Sutich

Devon O'Connor

Phil Konigsberg

Marc Schiffman

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

Marilyn McAndrews, District Manager

Mary O'Neill, Community Assistant

Sherine Perez, Community Service Aid

GUESTS

Amkov Yoon - Assemblyman Braunstein's office

Roysdan Peters - State Senator Avella's office

Tim Thomas - Assemblyman Simanowitz's office

Joyce Ha Fan Choi - Councilman Peter Koo's office

Erin Rogers - Assemblywoman Nily Rozic's office

Adam Chen - NYC Public Advocate Julissa James's office

First Vice Chair Chuck Apelian opened the meeting at 7:10 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a silent prayer for our armed forces in harm's way and the remembrance of last Friday being Veterans Day. He followed this with the introduction of the Executive Board members, the office staff and the welcoming of our new Community Board assistant, Mary O'Neill.

Roll call attendance was then taken with (34) Present (3) Absent (10) Excused for illness

First Vice Chair Apelian gave an update on Board members John Byas and Carlos Talisaysay, both of whom are doing well. Our prayers are with Board member Barbara McHugh's mom and Mary Zuliani's husband, who are both hospitalized. The month's announcements were read, including a reminder that our Christmas Holiday Dinner this year is on December 12th at Erin's Isle. Also, the Fall Leaf collection pickup is scheduled for Sunday, November 20th and Sunday, December 4th in brown recycling bags that can be purchased at Home Depot. Sanitation will accept the leaves in clear plastic bags.

Every year Borough President Melinda Katz holds a ceremony to swear in newly appointed and reappointed community board members. At the same ceremony, recognition of long standing members receive Community Service Awards for their unique service to the community. Unable to attend the June 2016 ceremony, Community Board Member Arnold Wagner, with 30 years service as a Board member and attorney in his Community, received his special award this evening by Susan Tannenbaum of the Borough President's office.

ITEM #4 – Environmental Update – **Dr. James Cervino** – The fact sheet on the Brownfield contamination issue at 133-55 41st Avenue site was brought up this evening. The developer entered into the NY State Brownfield program for the removal of 60,000 yards of contaminated soil coming up from a source underneath the Willets Point plume spreading into Northern Blvd and Roosevelt Avenue, Flushing. At present the environmental company managing this program has not been selected, but we will be monitoring how the contaminated soil will be removed, where it will be taken, and where the new soil will come from. There will be regular follow-ups with NY State DEC to be sure rules and regulations within the Brownfield program are met. Another concern we have is the coastal areas of College Pt., Flushing, Corona and Willets Point which will be saturated with water within the next 50-100 years. Over-development will contribute to the problem and must be addressed by the City, State and Fema. We are currently looking into storm water, which cannot be mixed with sewage, and diverting it out into the bay, or placing it into retention tanks that require 1) available land to build them on and 2) dealing with possible chemicals still in the water.

Q. Is the Mitchell Linden community excavation and drilling what you are discussing?

A. No, that's the CSO program for sewage. The storm water program, or Bioswales, is where storm water is collected and re-routed to the bay or retained for planting and cleaning.

If anyone would like a PDF of the maps showing Coastal Flooding areas, they can e-mail Dr. Cervino at jamescervino@gmail.com.

ITEM #5 – **The USTA OPEN 2017- Kathleen Cassino** – Our annual Newsletter will be going out to all Community Boards listing all the events planned for this year's USTA OPEN. Our outside tennis courts

will be available again for 2017 graduation exercises for a nominal fee. Our 2016 Job Fairs last July had a great turn out and is expected to be even better this year. The Louis new Armstrong stadium and Grandstands will be in use by the public this year. We hope you will all enjoy all the new family events and activities planned that are listed in the Newsletter you will be receiving in January..

ITEM #6 – NYC PARKS COMPUTER RESOURCE CENTERS – Tearia George – There are 32 locations of Recreation Centers across NY offering members access to computer labs and classes. The Photofix program for adults and seniors teaches the use of a camera, and taking pictures while walking through our parks. Also, how to use computers, type resumes, job searches, and prep for taxes. For our youth, there is audio graphics designing, game designs, after school programs, access labs and global youth initiatives. Classes are free for those age 16 and under. For our informational flyers with more info, e-mail us at crc@parks.nycf.gov.

ITEM #7 - New York State Nurses Association – Tracy Kavanagh - Ms. Kavanagh is a registered nurse at Flushing Hospital and is on the Board on Directors for NYSNA, a union representing 40 thousand registered nurses in the State of New York. Her colleagues and members of NYSNA have seen the current changes in healthcare; i.e., hospital closures, a decrease in beds with longer waits in the ER for a bed, and less personal care at a higher cost. The nurses and NYSNA have fought for safe staffing and quality care for all patients in all communities for years. With the support of elected officials, members of the State Assembly in June voted yes to the Safe Staffing bill limiting the number of patients a registered nurse could care for, but it must now pass in the Senate. They are asking for your help. They have contacted the local officials, and are currently working with State Senator Toby Stavisky, and now ask you to join the coalition to transform Flushing Hospital into a health and economic center for the community.

ITEM #8 – Aviation Committee Report – First Vice **Chair Apelian** gave the floor to Warren Schreiber who spoke of his brave daughter 's fifteen month battle against the Cancer she finally succumbed to on October 2, 2016. Through it all she never once complained about her pain. It was a difficult time for him and his family, and thanked everyone at Board #7 who helped them through their sorrow. The committee visited TRACON, the NY Radar Approach Control in Westbury, a very secure facility hidden in plain site on a public road with at least 4 levels of security to get in. The visit was arranged by a one-time supervisor at Tracon who now works at Port Authority. Unlike airport towers, all they have at Tracon are at least a thousand computer screens controlling the traffic for JFK, Newark, LaGuardia, MacArthur, Teeterboro, Tweed New Haven Regional and Republic Airports, the busiest air space in the country. In the middle of the room there is one huge screen showing every flight in the air in the entire continental United States. Looking at this one screen, you can see why a rain storm in Chicago would cause a 3 hour delay in New York. Unlike airport controllers who follow the individual flight paths coming in or going out, at Tracon one plane passes from one controller's airspace on his computer screen to another controller's airspace computer screen, etc., without any of them actually knowing the results of what they've accomplished. This underscores the importance of people complaining about

the low ceiling departures and arrivals over schools, homes, apartments houses, etc. that Tracon is unaware of since they only see the airspace on the computers. With regard to the Roundtable meeting on a regular basis with the interest, support services and legal advice of the Borough President, the Port Authority and Governor of NY State, they finally will be submitting their bylaws which will be put to a Vote by the full Roundtable membership. With the bylaws in place, they can address all the issues and make their voices heard. A new date will be set in December for a meeting which will take place at Borough Hall. Everyone is welcome to join them at the Roundtable.

ITEM #9 - Legal Aid Association -Fazeela Siddiqui &Rui Su – Both are staff attorneys for Tenants’ Rights to Repair and Service. If you live in rent stabilized buildings with 6 or more apartments in zip codes 11354 and 11358 with a major portion of the tenants in the building with low income, the attorneys can represent anyone in the entire building. The Mayor’s strategy is to prevent displacement in such areas. The issues could be lack of heat, harassment, plaster falling, walls or ceilings falling, rats, etc. with the landlord ignoring the problem. First call 311. If it’s not resolved, they will represent the whole building , not the individual. They can also help with rent increase issues, family law, foreclosures, and disability benefit s. Their contact number is 718-286-2450.

The meeting ended at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zuliani