



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, JANUARY 9, 2017

UNION PLAZA CARE CENTER

33-23 UNION STREET

FLUSHING, NEW YORK

PRESENT

Charles Apelian

Kevin Shields

Chin-Hsiang Chiang

Kim Cody

Selma Moses

Fred Fu

Arnold Wagner

Lawrence Hughes

Linna Yu

John Tsavalos

Marc Schiffman

Warren Schreiber

Matthew Silverstein

Rev. R. McEachern

Joseph Sweeney

Arlene Fleishman

Pablo Hernandez

Harpreet Wahan

Esther Lee

Tyler Cassell

Jie Zhu

James Cervino

Alison Tan

Jeff Huang

Kris Ram

Nicholas Corrado

Kim Ohanian

Barbara McHugh

Vana Partridge

Eugene Kelty

Belal Salim

Peter Kwiath

Peter Tu

ABSENT

John Byas

Devon O'Connor

Phil Konigsberg

Rose Forkan

Peter Sutich

Vincent Gianelli

Clarissa Wong

Terence Park

Joshua Sussman

Millicent O'Meally

Kevin Kang

Frank Macchio

Carlos Talisaysay

Michael Cheng

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

Marilyn McAndrews, District Manager

Mary O'Neill, Community Assistant

Sherine Perez, Community Service Aid

GUESTS

Royston Peters – State Senator Avella's office

Tim Thomas - Assemblyman Simanowitz's office

Joyce Ha Fan Choi – Councilman Peter Koo's office

Amkov Yoon - Assemblyman Braunstein's office

Vito Tantonico – Councilman Vallone's office

Adam Chen – NYC Public Advocate Julissa James's office

Don Capalbi – Congressman Grace Meng's office

Michael O'Kane – NYC Veterans Resource Guide

Matthew McWhirr – US Treasury Department

In **Chair Eugene Kelty's** absent, First Vice Chair **Chuck Apelian** opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence to honor our brave men who serve our country and keep us from harm. He advised the Willets Point Redevelopment's upcoming quarterly meeting this Thursday was cancelled because of their ongoing litigation involvement. We will be notified when the meetings can go forward again. He followed this with the announcements for the month.

Roll call attendance was then taken by the Vice Chair Apelian with: (33) - Present (6) - Absent (8) - Excused due to illness

Chair **Kelty**, who was at the Borough Board meeting, arrived and added that Valentines donations for our Veterans must be dropped off no later than February 8th at either Assemblyman **Braunstein's** office, **Margaret Boser's** Law office or at **Community Board #11** in Little Neck. The Public Hearing on Sullivan Drive scheduled for tonight has been tabled while awaiting further information. The State of the Borough is on January 27, 2017 at York College at 10 a.m.

ITEM #5– NYC VETERANS – Michael O’Kane – spoke about starting a Veterans Committee for CB#7 to help veterans on how and where to retrieve their records needed to apply for benefits. Hopefully other community boards will follow suit. Chair **Kelty** will speak to Board Member, **Tyler Cassell**, to reach out to other boards in Queens to this end.

ITEM #6 – TREASURY OFFICE OF INVESTIGATION – Matthew McWhirr - The agency is investigating IRS scams by overseas masterminds running these scams, including Apple iTunes cards and money transfers. He urged everyone never give out personal information or answer any questions from callers from so-called “government agencies”. Just let them know you're aware it's a scam and hang up.

Q. Are you notifying local precincts and squad commanders if and when this happens in their areas?

A. Yes we do. We've already met with seven precincts and asked that they report this information directly to us.

ITEM #7- SULLIVAN DRIVE, Whitestone - BSA #4186-4207-16-A- This item was tabled at the last Public Hearing in November 2016 to await the approval in writing from the DOT and FDNY. **Having received the documentation, the motion now on the floor is to approve.**

The vote taken was (31) Yes (13) Absent (1) Abstained–Conflict (1) Left the Room

ITEM #8 – HEALTH COMMITTEE – Committee Chair Peter Kwaith's committee meeting of **December 15, 2016** held discussions on two separate topics, i.e., 1) the **June 13, 2016** amendment to the original non-smoking resolution of **June 2014** and 2) **Flushing Hospital's** daily operation problems. At this December meeting:-

Peter Sutich made the motion to remove the amendment from the original non-smoking resolution of 2014, seconded by Phil Konigsberg. With no further discussion by the committee, the vote taken was (6) Yes (1) No

The motion is now permanently removed with no change to the original resolution already approved by the board in 2014.

ITEM #9 - The Nursing staff at Flushing Hospital asked for **CB #7** intervention. They contend the Administration is not giving them sufficient supplies, equipment and staffing to properly treat and monitor the patients. Also, there is no nursing education or training other than employee orientation. There is a major staffing shortage, constant equipment problems and overcrowding in many departments. The Committee suggested the Nursing staff voice their concerns in writing to the District Manager and the Chair of our Health Committee so we can move forward on these issues. We await a letter!

Q. Why reach out to the Community Board when they have a union and other representation?

A. They did try talking to the administration through their union representative David Prep, but it fell on deaf ears.

Chair Kelty added they have the right to bring their problems to us since we sit on the Public Health Committee Board and monitor the services of the Hospital.

Q. Were the elected officials also asked for help?

A. Yes they were. They asked their councilman for assistance also.

Q. Is Flushing Hospital a city or private hospital?

A. It's a private entity owned by Gerry Hofstra.

ITEM #9 – Executive Committee Elections for 2017 - Committee Chair **Arnold Wagner** read from article 6 of our bylaws stating “Elections must be held every year in January. Candidates who received the highest number of votes cast at the meeting for each office shall be deemed elected. At the December meeting of the board, the Chairperson shall report those qualified nominees seeking each office. Every member of the Board in attendance in person at the January meeting shall be allowed to cast one vote for each officer being elected. Nominations very well may be made on the floor at the January meeting. The ballot also includes blank spaces for those nominees accepted from the floor on election night.”

Committee Chair **Wagner** opened the elections with the nominees for each of the following positions, i.e., Chairperson **Eugene Kelty**, First Vice-Chair **Charles Apelian**, Second Vice-Chair **Warren Schreiber**, Third Vice-Chair **Kim Ohanian** and Fourth Vice-Chair **Barbara McHugh**. As there were no nominations from the floor, a motion followed to close the acceptance of each of these four nominations, seconded each time by a board member.

After tabulation of the votes, the **2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** for Community Board #7 is as follows:

CHAIRPERSON	EUGENE KELTY
FIRST VICE-CHAIRPERSON	CHARLES APELIAN
SECOND VICE-CHAIRPERSON	WARREN SCHREIBER
THIRD VICE-CHAIRPERSON	KIM OHANIAN
FOURTH VICE-CHAIRPERSON & SECY.	BARBARA MCHUGH

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zuliani