



# 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, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**UNION PLAZA CARE CENTER**

**33-23 UNION STREET**

**FLUSHING, NEW YORK**

#### PRESENT

Charles Apelian  
Kevin Shields  
Chin-Hsiang Chiang  
Joseph Sweeney  
Arlene Fleishman  
Pablo Hernandez  
Harpreet Wahan  
Esther Lee  
Linna Yu  
John Tsavalos  
James Cervino  
Michael Cheng  
Terence Park

Warren Schreiber  
Matthew Silverstein  
Kris Ram  
Nicholas Corrado  
Kim Ohanian  
Barbara McHugh  
Vana Partridge  
Eugene Kelty  
Tyler Cassell  
Jie Zhu  
Peter Tu  
Vincent Gianelli  
Clarissa Wong

Alison Tan  
Jeff Huang  
Kim Cody  
Selma Moses  
Fred Fu  
Arnold Wagner  
Lawrence Hughes  
Millicent O'Meally  
Belal Salim  
Peter Kwiath  
Carlos Talisaysay  
Phil Konigsberg

#### ABSENT

John Byas  
Joshua Sussman  
Marc Schiffman

Kevin Kang  
Peter Sutich  
Devon O'Connor

Frank Macchio  
Rev. R. McEachern

#### COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

**Marilyn McAndrews**, District Manager

**Mary Zuliani**, Community Assistant

**Mary O'Neill**, Community Assistant

**Sherine Perez**, Community Service Aid

#### GUESTS

**Royston Peters** – State Senator Avella's office

**Amber Yoon** - Assemblyman Braunstein's office

**Tim Thomas** - Assemblyman Simanowitz's office

**Joyce Ha Fan Choi** – Councilman Peter Koo's office

**Paul Vallone** - Councilman

**Vito Tantonico** – Councilman Vallone's office

**Justin J. Connor** – Congressman Suozzi office

Chair Eugene Kelty opened the meeting at 7:20 pm 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.

**Roll call attendance was then taken by the Chair as follows: (38) Present (3) Absent (5) Excused**

Chair Kelty then followed with announcements and relevant job openings for anyone interested, including the Fire Department's upcoming recruitment commencing April 5th through April 25th. You must be 28 years of age. For information on the recruitment address, call 718-999-0692.

Although not listed on our agenda, Councilman Paul Vallone is here to speak on this year's \$1 Million Participatory Budget for our District. As in the past, we can submit our vote on any Capital improvement we feel is urgently needed. He also took the opportunity to advise he is using a Council grant to start the funding of free unlimited transportation for seniors with a pilot program at Selfhelp on 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Clearview Expressway. He hopes it can expand to Hanac, Samuel Fields Y and Greater Whitestone Taxpayers.

Q. Will this free transportation for seniors be available 24/7?

A. I didn't put a limitation on it, especially if someone has a family emergency or needs to get to a hospital.

Q. Can the Participatory Budget include Queensborough Community College or Queens College?

A. Both are outside of my district. However, most of the kids come from our District.

Q. How can Queensborough College get funding?

A. The Queens delegation just met, and Queensborough College gets their funding from them.

Chair Kelty asked is there a certain dollar amount we should try for when submitting a vote on a budget item, since we have the tendency to think small rather than going for more.

A. It depends on what you're looking for and how much would be needed for it. \$35,000 is a suggested starting point to consider.

During Councilman Vallone's tenure, Northeast Queens finally received a better share of the resources and attention needed in support of our schools, parks, libraries, precinct and seniors. It's now up to our Community Board to decide how best to spend this added million dollar participatory budget now being given to upps.

**ITEM #4 – Queens Botanical Garden – Neil Fleishman and Stephanie Ehrlich** spoke about their new capital project, i.e., the construction of a new children's Educational Center to replace the old 50 year structure where they currently teach environmental education to 31,000 children a year. It will feature a children's culture garden with plants from all over the world reflecting the wonderful culture diversity of Queens. Ground breaking will not take place for several years, however. In the interim, they will be asking for community participation for ideas on what they would want to see. Also, they will be in touch with Community Board #7 for their building design input.

**ITEM #5 – MTA Bridges & Tunnel – Joyce Mulvaney**, joined by Edmond Knightly, Emanuel Gallego, Jackie Bertonic, and Renee Shepard, spoke about the Governor's decision to begin removal of the

E-Z pass toll booths on all tunnel and bridges and the installation of gantry's for electronic overhead toll and cameras for billing of autos, trucks, etc. without having them stop. Although this will not alleviate traffic completely, it will relieve it measurably. Motorists without E-Z passes will receive bills by mail, and failure to make payments within the time allotted will result in the inability to reregister your car license. The current two or three lanes of traffic each way on the bridges in our area will be reduced to allow the flow of construction during each phase until completion. Storage of work equipment will not impede any in use traffic lanes. Once the gantries are up and running, the toll booths will be quickly removed and then pavement and asphalt put down. Chair Kelty asked the question on most everyone's mind! Are we saving money on this decision or is this another MTA fiasco where there will be loss of money and jobs? Also, who will cover the cost of mailing bills to those who refuse to buy E-Z passes? Ms. Mulvaney said there will be no loss of jobs as employees will be redeployed to other MTA positions just as important. There will be monthly and annual revenue reports reviewed constantly since revenue is essential to maintain the bridges, tolls and mailings. Board Member, Arlene Fleishman complained about the never ending ongoing construction backup on the Whitestone Bridge ramp from Queens to the Bronx and asked for relief. Chuck Apelian mentioned his concern about the MTA's promise of a fly over south on the Cross Island Parkway to the LIE that was to eliminate traffic. Now with the normal bridge traffic slow downs, the new installations and subsequent removal of booths and roadbed repair, lanes reduced to three coming and going, the outcome will bring a further increase in traffic jams and slowdowns because 20 lanes of toll booths will be reduced to six lanes. Ms. Mulvaney agreed both these situations are valid and need a response. They will come back and hopefully have the answers.

**ITEM #6 – Environmental Update – James Cervino, Environmental Committee Chair** - Because of time constraints, Chair Cervino decided to speak only on what he considered most important this evening, i.e., the Brownsfield area at 130-11 131 Street, Whitestone, NY. He was to be informed when the clean up was to commence and what was found there. However, neither the applicant nor his attorney called him. Instead, at a recent Whitestone Civic meeting he attended, hosted by Kim Cody, the owner's attorney, Joe Soltana who was invited to speak, said the clean up was completed. Before the cleanup commenced, however, the project was transferred from the NY State DEC to the NY City OER DEP, "E" designated property. Designated "E" properties mean something can be left behind. He asked Mr. Soltana to provide us with complete environmental information, the chemistry, what was taken out and what was left behind. At this point Chair Cervino asked for the most important item, the deed restriction for only 52 units Board #7 had originally requested at our Public Hearing. Mr. Soltana said it was already sent to Community Board #7 and to City Planning as well. However, our Executive Board said it was never received. Chair Cervino will review their report when received to find what was left behind, and insist on receipt of the deed restriction promised us and will set up a special meeting with the applicant and environmental committee again before it goes before the Board.

**ITEM #7 – NYC Campaign Finance Board Inquiry** - cancelled

**ITEM #8 – 150-87/93/95 CLINTONVILLE COURT & 15-58/62 CLINTONVILLE STREET – BSA 2017-16a thru 19A** - Paperwork incomplete - Tabled

## P U B L I C   H E A R I N G

**ITEM #8A - ONE WAY PROPOSAL – 129<sup>th</sup> STREET Southbound from 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenues  
130<sup>th</sup> STREET Northbound from 14<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues  
7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Westbound from 130<sup>th</sup> to 129<sup>th</sup> Streets**

**Transportation Committee Chair Nick Corrado** read his committee report of March 8, 2017 for the one way proposals on the above residential streets which was unanimously approved. The DOT did a study on the feasibility of changing them from narrow two ways to one ways and gave their full approval. Of the 100 letters sent to the residents in the area asking for their input, eighty-five responded with eighty approvals and only five who disapproved the idea.

Q. Why did five disapprove?

A. They gave no reasons.

**With no further discussion , a motion was made by Warren Schreiber to approve the one way proposals for 129<sup>th</sup> Street southbound from 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue; 130<sup>th</sup> Street northbound from 14<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues; and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue westbound from 130<sup>th</sup> to 129<sup>th</sup> Street, seconded by Selma Moses.**

The vote taken was unanimous    (37) For    (0) Against    (1) Left before vote

**ITEM #8B Safety Mitigation vote for 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue & Corporal Kennedy Before the Board**

The vote taken was unanimous    (36) For    (0) Against    (2) Left before vote

## R E G U L A R   M E E T I N G

**ITEM #9 – Aviation Committee Update - Warren Schreiber, Aviation Committee Chair** – On February 15, 2017 the NY Community Roundtable meeting was held at Queensborough Hall and after 3 years the by-laws were ratified unanimously, with Nassau County abstaining rather than voting NO. He thanked the Borough President's office for their legal help and typing of the by-laws and the minutes. Roundtable membership is determined only by the Port Authority. The Port Authority finally hired a Facilitator for the meetings, and Warren is now the interim Chair of the LaGuardia Committee.

## P U B L I C   P A R T I C I P A T I O N

**Speaker Andrea Voyer** – a Sociologist attending UConn and frequent visitor to our meetings the past year is still interviewing board members on how they became involved in their community. She mentioned a \$20 interview incentive for those willing to speak to her and her associates about their experiences and what it led to. Anyone who is interested this evening is welcome to engage with them.

**Speaker Richard Connelly**, of the American Debate Team in Queens, who works with many of our schools with the help of some of our Public Officials, is now reaching out to Community Boards as well other officials. They are having a tournament on May 20, 2017 at IS 25 and are inviting everyone to join. They are going to have a summer program for the kids to enjoy as well. Chair Kelty asked that he send us mailings we can distribute.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zuliani