



Community Board 7

Borough of Queens

Bay Terrace, College Point, Beechhurst, Flushing
Malba, Queensborough Hill, Whitestone and Willets Point

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Eugene T. Kelty Jr.

Chairperson

Marilyn McAndrews

District Manager

Melinda Katz

Queens Borough President

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019

UNION PLAZA CARE CENTER

33-23 UNION STREET, FLUSHING, NEW YORK

PRESENT

Charles Apelian

James Cervino

Kaily Cheng

Michael Cheng

Chin-Hsiang Chiang

John Choe

Kim Cody

Nicholas Corrado

Arlene Fleishman

Richard Forman

Fred Fu

Vincent Gianelli

Pablo Hernandez

Lawrence Hughes

Eugene Kelty

Phil Konigsberg

Wensong Li

Wendy Louie

Frank Macchio

Rev. McEachern

Barbara McHugh

Selma Moses

Sergio Nicolich

Kim Ohanian

Millicent O'Meally

Terence Park

Kris Ram

Belal Salim

Marc Schiffman

Warren Schreiber

Kevin Shields

Matthew Silverstein

Joseph Sweeney

John Tsavalos

Peter Tu

Harpreet Wahan

Maggie Wong

Dian Yu

Linna Yu

Lei Zhao

Jie Zhu

ABSENT

Jeff Huang

Esther Lee

John Park

Paul Rifino

Joshua Sussman

Peter Sutich

Clarissa Wong

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

Marilyn McAndrews, District Manager

Mary O'Neill, Community Associate

Mary Zuliani, Community Assistant

Anne Krzyzanowski, Community Service Aide

GUESTS

Joyce Choi-Councilman Koo's office

Destany Batista-Assemblyman Rosenthal's office

Brian Lam-Assemblywoman Rozic's office

Vito Tautonico-Councilman Vallone's office

Jason Antonopoulos-Assemblyman Braunstein's office

Barbara Baruch-State Senator Liu's office

Justin Connor, Councilman Suozzi's office

Josimel Delacruz-Councilman Cabrera's office

Jeong-ah Choi, Office of Queens Borough Hall

Chair Kelty opened the public hearing this evening at 7:20 this evening with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag followed by a moment of silence to honor our armed forces here and abroad defending our country and its people from harm's way.

The attendance was taken with **(41) Present (3) Absent (4) Excused – Illness**

The following announcements were read:

- 1) Family Fun Day on June 21, 2019 sponsored by Nily Rozic at P.S. 46, Alley Pond School
64-45 118th Street, Oakland Gdns. 3-6pm, Rain site is in gym.
- 2) MTA-Metro-North Railroad
 - Manager, Performance Analysis & Reporting
 - Fire EMS Officer - \$59K-\$74K (2 vacancies)
 - Asst. Director – Track & Structures Training - \$92K-\$120K
- 3) DCAS Exam Schedule (6/1-6/29/19)
 - * Child Protective Specialist
 - * Administrative Staff Analyst
 - * Associate Correction Counselor
 - * Associate Staff Analyst
 - * Painters
 - * Rehabilitation Counselor
- 4) Borough President Melinda Katz Summer Stage – Sunday 6/23/19 - 5 pm
- 5) NYCHA hiring for its Healthy Home Unit
- 6) Special Election for District Attorney – 6/25/19 – Polls open 6 am -9 pm

Chair Kelty asked the Board to review and vote on the May 13, 2019 minutes which was approved unanimously, with the exception of the four board members absent the night of 5/13/19.

First Vice Chair Chuck Apelian spoke about the recent allocation of funds (\$42,500) given to each of the community boards to be used for new office equipment, computers and worthy outreach grants to our Community. Our first grant was to Queens Botanical Garden. We have to thank **Councilman Fernando Cabrera**, who is on the Governmental Operations Committee, who saw the City fully funding everyone but the Community Boards, the first stanchion of the community being neglected almost completely. We want the community to know we exist, and what better way than to hand out items to the community with our logo. We are especially proud of the logo shopping tote bags, which will replace plastic bags by the end of year. Councilman Cabrera was introduced and spoke about being a past board member of CB 7 in the Bronx and understands how underfunded community boards are and the limits we are bounded by. He proudly announced we get ready for next year's monies to be given again to all community boards. **Chair Kelty** and the Executive Board was happy to hear it will be repeated again, and added we may need his help in securing new office space as we are being evicted this October. **Councilman Cabrera** said ironically as Chair of Govt. Operations Committee he oversees DCAS and may be of some assistance.

- Q. **John Choe** asked if anything given out to the community was translated into Chinese, Korean or Spanish? Also, were any brochures given out?
- A. **Chair Kelty** said we only put out our logo which is all in English. There were no brochures, etc. made to be given out. In the past, when the need has arisen, we have reached out to Queens College for translation of our messages into many languages

ITEM #7 - 160-11 WILLETS POINT BLVD. – BSA #245-03-BZ – Committee Chair Joe Sweeney – Application to extend the term of existing special permit for drive-thru facility for existing McDonald’s Restaurant for an additional five (5) years with alternative drive-thru changes to be approved by the Community Board. Committee Chair, Sweeney spoke of the last meeting, June 11, 2019, wherein they discussed certain changes to the design so the drive-thru functions more efficiently by pushing back the left curve curb cuts to reduce actual curve, and push back the curb cut to the right of the entrance drive-thru and add some landscaping. Also adding a second ordering point to speed up drive-thru times. Their neighbors are fairly comfortable with their plans, and were asked to submit letters to the BSA on their position of the overall plans. Hours of operation will be 5:30 am until 11 p.m. and to 1 a.m. in the summer. The lighting plan was reviewed and will not have a negative impact on the neighbors. Any displaced landscaping at the entrance will be replaced. A flashing solar powered stop sign will be installed at the end of the driveway (to be approved by DOB or any other needed agency) and a bike rack to the right of the entrance. Also, installation of a large sign indicating additional parking available in the rear of the site and restriping of drive-thru and parking spaces. On-site parking will meet ADA accessibility.

The motion was made to extend the term of existing special permit for an additional five (5) years with requested revisions outlined above approved by CB #7 and any other City agencies that could be Involved.

Discussion on the motion:

Q. Drivers lining up to order sometimes overstep partially into second lane preventing drivers who want to drive through and park. This causes engine idling and backup delays. Can you put a sign there?

First Vice Chair Apelian made a friendly motion to maximize the width of “Passing Lane” to the right of the drive-thru. Chair Sweeney accepts this friendly motion and adds it’s actually in his report also. Board Member **Kim Cody** emphasized McDonald has done everything we’ve asked them to do. His problem is traffic in either direction on Francis Lewis Blvd. trying to turn onto Willets Point Blvd. It’s the drivers that are very inconsiderate causing the problem. **Chair Kelty** said McDonald’s is planning on streamlining the menu to make it easier and faster to order.

The vote taken was (39) For (0) Against (1) Left the room (1) Arrived too late to vote

ITEM # 6 – DOWNTOWN FLUSHING BID – Fan Chen, Project Mgr. – Committee Chair, **Frank Macchio** introduced Project Manager, Ms. Chen, and Dian Yu, Executive Director of the Bid, will be recusing himself from the vote, just joining the discussion. The question raised by Ms. Chen is “Why do we need to expand?” The answer being “Expansion will transform Downtown Flushing into a prime Destination of choice.” Planning started in 2014 and 2015 with a boundary and formation of businesses, proposed programs in 2016 and a proposed outreach expansion goal in mind. Commercial tenants, residents and property owners all cited the top 3 BID issues were traffic, sanitation and security. Total budget needed was \$1 Million, which includes pedestrian traffic management, marketing, beautification and sanitation services. Assessment to each tenant,

resident and property owner includes a \$200 base fee plus 50% assessed value and 50% front footage, for \$407.60 per year or \$34.00 monthly. Overall seventy-nine percent of businesses would pay less than \$1000 per year for these three issues. As of today, one half of the commercial property owners are in support of expansion. Community Chair **Frank Macchio** added the BID is partially controlled by the City government who collects the assessment monies and then returns it 100% to the BID. Property owners who ignore payment will have liens and foreclosure against their properties. Separate to the expansion goal, the BID applied for a \$750K grant matched by Flushing Chamber of Commerce for additional supplemental services needed in area. If the BID expansion is rejected by 51% of the property owners, the expansion is cancelled. If approved, however, City Council will then have the opportunity to approve. The current expansion is as follows:-

- Main Street from Northern Blvd to Franklin Avenue
- 37th Avenue from Union Street to College Point Blvd.
- 38th Avenue from 138th Street to Prince Street
- 39th Avenue from Union Street to College Point Blvd.
- Roosevelt Avenue from Union Street to College Point Blvd.
- 40th Road from Main Street to Prince Street
- Kissena Blvd. from Main Street to Barclay Avenue
- Kissena Blvd. from Barclay Avenue & Sanford Ave.
- 41st Avenue from Main Street to College Point Blvd.
- 41st Road from Main Street to College Point Blvd.
- College Point Blvd from 37th Avenue to 41st Road

Q. **Kim Ohanian** – How did the BID and Flushing Chamber of Commerce get funding?

A. We ran a grant program and identified Downtown Flushing as a high needs area for tenant support with open application for these funds, and convened a working group between all grant recipients.

Q. **Chair Kelty** – Who were the other grant recipients and how often do you have to report?

A. AAFE & Greater Flushing Chamber of Commerce. The BID distributes quarterly reports to everyone. **Chair Kelty** questioned if their budget had escalated over the years and was told it has remained the same over 16 years due to new tenants, businesses, and assessments.

Q. **Warren Schreiber** asked how is the Steering Committee chosen?

A. To make it inclusive, it was chosen by the BID Board with by-laws governing it.

Q. **Warren Schreiber** – When land value goes up, is the assessment raised also?

A. The valuation hasn't gone up.

Q. **Joe Sweeney** - Does traffic in the needs survey include parking?

A. No, answered by Dian Yu.

Q. **Joe Sweeney** – What does the pedestrian traffic control entail?

A. **Dian Yu** said they anticipate hiring two retired police officers to manage the pedestrian traffic problems in downtown Flushing because of vehicular and pedestrian congestion which are problematic.

Q. **Rev. McEachern** – Since your focus is also on sanitation, will you also hire individuals to pick up garbage?

A. **Dian Yu** – Last year sanitation workers put in 20,000 hours. Our marketing efforts include holiday lighting. Our goal is to create a welcoming environment. With Councilman Koo, we have created a Flushing guide, business fairs, street fairs, etc. to retain shoppers in the area.

Chair Kelty thought they also went around with DEP to instruct businesses how to properly dispose of garbage and grease, etc.

Q. **Kris Ram** - What time schedule will the retired police officers use to control pedestrian traffic?

A. We don't have a detailed plan as yet.

Q. **Phil Konigsberg** – Is the 51% just those who vote or is it everyone?

A. It's everyone.

Q. So the 49% who don't vote yes will not have a choice?

A. Yes!

Q. **Pablo Hernandez** – You mentioned 20,000 hours for sanitation, but there's still much room for Improvement. Can you share with us your education efforts with business owners on keeping things clean?

A. We've reached out to businesses in terms of what they can and can't do. Our crews start cleaning at 7 a.m., but downtown Flushing is still very busy until 12 a.m. Main Street Train station has no garbage cans so passengers dump their garbage into our pails when they exit the station. We've tried different strategies.

Q. **Pablo Hernandez** – Can you team up with Sanitation to enforce?

A. **Frank Macchio**- This is like emptying the ocean with a big spoon, but it's still better than a little spoon; at least we're doing something.

Chair Kelty added people are inconsiderate and still throw their garbage on the street.

Board member **Peter Tu** said the BID does its best to educate new immigrants to not litter, etc., but there is still much room for improvement. He questioned whether SBS knows the tenant pays for the BID, not the property owner. Also how is the small business owner helped, and do your financial reports show where the money actually goes to?

A. SBS - We have reports on the 360 Neighborhood grant as well as the IRS 990. We bill the property owner, who more likely passes it on to the tenant. Dian Yu added rent in Flushing is very high.

Q. **John Choe** – Since it's possible that much of the value of rent for special assessment is passed down to the tenant, were the tenants allowed to vote in the election?

A. SBS – During the outreach effort, property owners and tenants were contacted. We took this Legislative step because we felt there was enough support. However, there is an objection period for property owners to file their objections to it.

Q. John Choe – Are merchants allowed to object?

A. Yes!

Committee Chair, Frank Macchio then gave his May 29, 2019 committee report which was approved with one abstention/with conflict.

The motion now on the floor is to approve the Economic Development FLUSHING BID Expansion

DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION

Q. Who comes to the monthly meetings?

A. We have about 24 members who all attend.

Board member, **Nick Corrado**, said he's not against expansion, but it is essential you get involved with the DOT on the traffic situation. It's important they be invited and attend.

The vote was taken was (39) Approved 1) Abstention w/conflict (1) Abstention w/o conflict

ITEM #8 - 15-33 CLINTONVILLE STREET - #180291-ZMQ – Because of illness, **First Vice-Chair Apelian** spoke for Committee Chair Paul Rifino - Applicant requests approval of zoning map amendment to map a C1-3 commercial overlay to property in existing R3-1 zoning district proposed to be drawn from Cross Island Parkway service road, perpendicular to Clintonville to facilitate expansion of owner's one-story 1,400 sq. ft. to 4,398 sq.ft. of commercial development. Presently the existing building is a small obsolete gift store, no storage or climate controlled. The applicant's attorney, Steve Sinacori described a new and improved one-story 4000 square ft. ground floor space with 6 permitted parking spaces accessed from a 15 ft. curb cut on Cross Island Parkway with plantings and tree buffer surrounding the parking area. An SB One Bank will be the tenant with regular business hours Monday-Friday with the entrance/egress as well as parking and pedestrian access from Cross Island Parkway.

Q. **Mark Schiffman** – How many handicapped spots are there?

A. One, by code!

Q. **Selma Moses** – Does the bank have something to do with India?

A. It's Sussex County Bank, SB One, not SBI.

Q. **Selma Moses** - Who will be building this property?

A. The owner

Q. **Kim Cody** – Is it guaranteed to be a bank? And how many employees will be working in this bank?

A. We have a very strong commitment letter from the bank. We are almost guaranteed this is to be a Bank. There will be three (3) employees that will have permission from the Queens Garden Nursery to park in their lot during banking hours. The six spaces at the bank are for bank patrons

Q. What about the bus stop in front?

A. Will have signs and possibly a blinking light to remind.

Q. **Harpreet Wahan** – What is the lot size?

A. The lot is 6,000 sq.ft. The building will be limited to 4,000 sq.ft and not go above one story.

Q. **Phil Konigsberg** – We're being asked to change the zoning. What other use groups can go in here?

A. Other business offices, Use Group 6. However, the committee asked that no convenience stores or 24 hour stores be allowed.

Q. **James Cervino** – Prior to zoning change, what could be built there?

A. Non-profit offices, doctor's offices, residential 1-2 family homes which would reduce overall number of occupants.

Q. **Nicholas Corrado** - With the zoning change, what's the overall height you can build?

A. You can build up to two stories, but we're committed to build only one story.

Q. Pablo Hernandez - If you decide to sell the property, are the stipulations transferable?

A. The agreements will run with the land, and if sold, will automatically transfer with it.

Q. **Kim Cody** – Is this going to be a green building?

A. It will be energy efficient and we are also thinking of a green roof. We haven't completed the final design.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Speaker Jim Frankovic –Lives next door and there's a lot of garbage now. This is also a dangerous Intersection with a school guard and a bad idea to build this big. Speaker Mike Berilli – I'm against the request for expansion. It would amplify an eyesore to the neighborhood and worsen traffic and looks like a sanitation dump now.

First Vice-Chair Apelian explained it's not the final vote. There are four phases to this ULURP. Community Board, Borough President, BSA and finally City Council. The first three are solely recommendations. **Chair Kelty** added they can contact our office or Borough President's office for the next scheduled hearing.

Speaker Melanie Curto and another speaker with no name both support the proposal because it will improve the character of the neighborhood. Resident Gina Yakovony and Brendan Levy, Qns. chamber of Commerce also are in support. The current building is obsolete and the bank will improve the surroundings. Rosemarie Mosele and a gentleman named Luigi added the area is full of children, elderly people, traffic accidents and parking issues, high taxes and no privacy, and already have 4 banks. On the other hand John Ippolito said Whitestone is not like Flushing with a lot of commercial services. A small bank would beautify the area and he is in support of the new building.

Vice-Chair Apelian advised the Borough President's meeting will be July 11, 2019. He added we have received SB One Bank's letter of Intent and the Queens Garden Center's letter allowing the bank to use its parking spaces during business hours. He proceeded to read Mr. Rifino's committee report of May 14, 2019 with the following restrictions:

- No entrance to the property on Clintonville Street due to traffic concerns.
- Capped floor area at 4000 square feet.
- 6 parking spots including 1 handicapped space & 3 spots at garden center.
- One tenant, small private bank on a 30 year lease.
- No 24-hr. attended use. Prohibits 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. operations.
- Restrictions part of DOB's BIS. Must be filed before with a Cert. of Occupancy.

Motion was approved by committee with 10 Yes, 1 No, and 1 Abstention.

Motion is to approve the map amendment to a C1-3 commercial overlay drawn 85' from Cross Island Pkwy service road, perpendicular to Clintonville to facilitate development and expansion of a one story 1400 square feet commercial development to 4,000 square feet, one store, one story building, with the restrictions listed above, seconded by Mark Schiffman.

DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION

Frank Macchio – A reminder that we have no say in an as-of-right building, but in rezoning we have a say and can exercise our power with stipulations.

Warren Schreiber- Clintonville is a small, busy street and is not going to change. No disrespect to the owner, but current building isn't recognizable as an ongoing business. A decent looking bank will not overburden the community and will be a benefit.

Belal Salim – You could build an as of right building double the size of what's proposed. Instead we have an applicant building smaller and accepting our restrictive declarations. I support this.

Phil Konigsberg – So far what I've heard is support, and I've also heard residents against and in favor using the same arguments.

Arlene Fleishman – Will this bank open on Sundays? Vice Chair Apelian replied he asked if we could add this restriction, but can't do it right now.

Terence Park – I agree with Warren. Clintonville will always be a busy street, but we do have more control over this project.

Pablo Hernandez – Can't see what interference this bank would create even if they opened on Sunday. It's a commercial bank for construction people, developers, etc.

Vice Chair Apelian – Two years ago when this site came to us I had difficulty with it. Paul did a great job and asked the right questions. The restrictive declarations put in place and the traffic coming in and out of Cross Island Parkway will minimize impact on Clintonville. They really nailed it by restricting the size, height and access to the site. The restrictive declaration and the ties into the DOB was admirably handled and I support it.

The vote on the motion was taken with (33) In Favor (7) Against (1) Abstained w/no conflict

ITEM #9 – 6-05 129TH STREET – CAL. #2018-151-A – Application to permit development of a three-story, 24 unit residential building on a lot located partially in the bed of a mapped but unbuilt portion of 6th Avenue, contrary to City Law Section 35 in an R3-2/R3-1 zoning district. **Committee Chair Pablo Hernandez's** first meeting was held on 1/9/2019. At the second meeting it was agreed the total number of units would be reduced from 24 to 10. **Attorney Eric Palatnik** advised that years ago you couldn't build on a mapped but unbuilt street the City had plans for in the future. In recent years, however, the State realized many were left unbuilt, so a General City Law was passed that if the City has no plans to ever build, the property owner could ask for permission to do so. And that's why we're here tonight. The development is now reduced to only 10 units, has twice (twenty) as much parking spaces with key fob access and a rendering, a 15 ft. front yard, and square footage reduced by ten thousand. All the streets in the area end at the water. Sixth Avenue was meant to connect to Powells Cove Blvd., but never did. Some streets have been dismantled. Regardless of the vote tonight he will continue speaking to the community members in the room tonight.

Q. **Nicholas Corrado** – Why three stories for this lot? And do you know the height of the building in ft.?

A. There are three story structures around us. We're built into a slope that allows parking to go in the cellar level. The height of the building is 35 feet at its peak.

Q. **Phil Konigsberg** – Is there a ramp going back to the lot?

A. Yes, on both sides of the actual building.

Q. **Warren Schreiber** – What's behind the building itself?

A. Trees for the most part and some grass, and will remain.

Q. **Warren Schreiber** – Didn't we talk about a lot being landlocked?

A. The lots east of the now de-mapped 130th Street are owned by properties that have always had entrances on 129th Street. The owner of the property that is landlocked bought it knowing it was that way and has nothing to do with us.

Q. **Belal Salim** – You're asking for approval to build on a mapped street, so these renderings don't mean anything?

A. Yes, but the site plan will conform to existing zoning and will be approved.

Q. **Chuck Apelian** – Are you calendared at BSA?

A. Yes, July 16th.

Q. **Michael Chen** - Why is this a special permit?

A. It's not a special permit. It's a General City law and the purpose of this law is to make sure no one is going to build a street.

Q. **Frank Macchio** – Do you need approvals from the DOT, FDNY, etc.?

A. Yes, we will do this as part of the BSA approval process. The DOT and FDNY have reviewed it, but we haven't heard back from them yet. The DEP has responded with approval

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Michael Zharay – a resident near the site – We are a small community and don't have a lot of space. You should consider the people who are living there too and hope CB #7 rejects the proposal.

Tracy Kentsoulidakis– Lives on around the corner from the site. Describes this 100 ft. half of a street during rush hour as deadlocked. Doesn't need another 10 or 20 families with their cars. If anyone has guests, fire hydrants and lawns are blocked and I wind up leaving late for work.

Eileen McGuirk – This rental building would add up to 40 new residents living on a quiet dead end street. Our homes are owned by immigrants from all over the world who chose to live on this beautiful, quiet street. It's one block from the school that already expects another 500 students in a year, and there is only one bus serving the area. We are not equipped to handle the additional traffic, cars, truck deliveries, sanitation, possible school buses next year. A multiple dwelling would devastate the area.

Joanne Galiotti – Agrees with Eileen. She's lived on 6th Avenue & 129th Street for the past 47 years, seen a lot of changes and over population, but this addition will cause chaos.

Michael Niebauer – Newly elected Chair of College Point Taxpayers Association – Although the owner said it wouldn't be a public facility, the building planned looks like a rehab center. Even though it was downsized, I don't think it can be approved but we'll see what happens when it goes before the BSA. Our priority is to protect the quality of life in College Point.

Robert Gonzalez- It's a dead-end street. In the winter when it snows, the plows come through and pile snow, which affects parking. I appreciate the developer working with us, but the building is still out of character for the community.

Elizabeth Cuccia & Mike LoPinto, two other residents, stood at their chair and said they agree with the others and do not approve of this building.

Committee Chair Pablo Hernandez read his June 4, 2019 committee meeting wherein the new amended proposed reduced application to permit development of a 3-story 10 unit residential building on the lot located partially in the bed of mapped but unbuilt portions of 6th Avenue contrary to City Law Section #35 in an R3-2/R3-1 zone. The plan was approved 10 to 1 with the following amendment:-

- Rendering of the building with landscaping.
- Revise the plan to provide darker and bolder red line showing the zoning boundaries.
- Vehicular plans showing key card gate for further entrance to show cars will enter through the north/further driveway and exit through the south/closer driveway.
- Revise plan to provide 20 parking spaces, some can be accessory/not in building.

The motion now on the floor is to approve the development of a three-story 10 unit residential building on a lot located partially in the bed of mapped but unbuilt portions of 6th Avenue, contrary to City Law Section 35 in an R3-2/R3-1 Zoning District with the amendments listed above.

DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION

Nicholas Corrado - I can't bring myself to vote for this, even though you brought this down from an even bigger structure. It really doesn't conform with this neighborhood.

Millicent O'Meally – I was on the committee and voted for this building after hearing from the residents I will vote NO.

Charles Apelian – I've been to every meeting since January on this project. There were 4 maps here and the maps don't talk to each other. We've asked them to delineate them as clearly as possible. I came to the second meeting late, and I voted to approve. I can't vote yes tonight because I don't know what I'm voting on. I don't want it to be on us or me to vote yes, if something is wrong.

Kim Ohanian – The only thing we need to vote on is whether the owner is allowed to build on the bed of a mapped street.

Committee Chair Hernandez – You are correct there are complications with this lot. With that being said, it doesn't mean the applicant didn't do their homework. It's exactly as Kim says, the application is just to approve building on the bed of a mapped street.

Frank Macchio – It is to build in the bed of a mapped street, but it is specifically prescribing what is to be built.

Joseph Sweeney – Originally I voted yes. However, with contextual zoning and the residents' feedback, I'm changing my vote to NO.

Kevin Shields – It's not conducive in this neighborhood to put in a commercial looking building. I'm going to vote No.

Phil Konigsberg – Eric gave us the best explanation of putting a building on a mapped street, making us able to base it on what's going there. However, I'm not in favor of it.

Arlene Fleishman – I want to comment on P.S. 129's new annex with 500 additional students. We never seem to focus on schools. To put new buildings in any school district will always lead to overcrowding plus problems with residents, accidents, police, traffic, buses and health, etc. which we overlook until it's too late.

Belal Salim – Whether you put 3 families or one 10 family building, you'll get the same thing. It's still a General City law.

Gene Kelty added if we allow them to build on a mapped street, he has to build to existing conforming use. I know we can't change an as-of-right.

The vote was taken with (7) Approved (33) Disapproved (1) Left before vote

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tracy Depadova - Down to Earth Farmers Markets - We are at Queens Botanical Garden from 8:30 am to 4 pm on Fridays. It's a great way to support local farmers and businesses. We are also teaming up with QBG to support a composting initiative. You can drop off your compost with us. We accept SNAP Benefits and Health Bucks coupons with F&T. The **WIC** Center is at 40-62 Main Street. You can follow us @downtoearthmarkets.com on Instagram.

Gladys Leahy - Lives across from Bowne Park with a 3 year old and 6 year old who are being disturbed and losing sleep. There's no fence to lock up the basketball court at night. Older kids come and play well after hours, with a lot of loud talking, screaming, and yelling, and this has been going on for several years. My neighbors and I have sent a lot of e-mails and 311 complaints over the years.

Senator Tony Avella advocated for us time and again with letters to Parks Dept. to address the problem. Patrols would come by, but the kids just come right back. I have been told by others we should expect this kind of problem living near playground. Chair Kelty told our District Manager he would like the "NCO's" in the area, and wants the new Parks Commander at our next District Service Cabinet Meeting. He must do something about this.

Winnifred Lee - Grow NYC Dream Market on Maple Avenue & Kissena Blvd. Starting July 3rd, every Wednesday until Thanksgiving. Everything grown from Orange County's black earth region can be purchased. They also have cooking classes. Hours are 8 am to 3 pm.

Phil Konigsberg- Watching a Yankee game on channel 11 and then the news, I heard Jon Stewart talking at the Congressional hearing for additional funding for 911 first responders, victims, etc. I see someone walk in the back of the room during the hearing and it's Gene Kelty. I look at Gene and all the other emergency service people as heroes. There is no reason anyone with health issues because of 9/11 should have to worry about healthcare. Please contact your legislators and make sure the money is there for them.

Jim Trikas - 60 year resident currently with Evergreen Community Garden said they are having an issue with registration dues with no accounting where money is going. He further states our Parks Chair crashed his only meeting, and he resigned because of this, and asks the Board to replace the Parks Chair with someone more competent.

Our Chair, **Eugene Kelty**, countered firmly we are NOT removing our Parks Chair, who has every right to attend any parks meeting in our CB #7 area. Our past Commissioner of Parks, Ms. Lewandowski, handed over management of Evergreen Community Garden to a different agency earlier.

Gideon Dunkley – As a former member of CB #12 in the Bronx, I understand your pain and passion. We're from World System Builders and offer a free financial workshop with the Queens Chamber of Commerce. We cover retirement planning extensively and also Medicaid, Medicare and Long-Term Care, as well as Index Universal, a long-term bulletproof product to retire tax-free. Our office is at **39-07 Prince Street**, Tuesday 7:30 pm and Saturdays 2 pm.

John Choe – Board Member – Gave a quick up-date on Board Member John Park's situation. He slipped, fell had emergency brain surgery and is recovering at home. We all wish him well.

Chair Gene Kelty – I'm upset with the Macedonia Church. The church was demolished without any notice. I'm disappointed with you, Reverend, that this 218 year old building is gone without any news. I'd like to meet and have you update us.

Meeting adjourned at 11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zuliani