



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, SEPTEMBER 23, 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

Esther Lee

Wendy Louie

Frank Macchio

Barbara McHugh

Selma Moses

Kim Ohanian

Millicent O'Meally

John Park

Terence Park

Kris Ram

Paul Rifino

Warren Schreiber

Kevin Shields

Matthew Silverstein

Joshua Sussman

Joseph Sweeney

Peter Tu

Harpreet Wahan

Clarissa Wong

Maggie Wong

Dian Yu

Linna Yu

Lei Zhao

Jie Zhu

ABSENT

Jeff Huang

Wensong Li

Rev. McEachern

Sergio Nicolich

Belal Salim

Marc Schiffman

Peter Sutich

John Tsavalos

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

Marilyn McAndrews, District Manager

Mary O'Neill, Community Associate

Mary Zuliani, Community Assistant

Anne Krzyzanowski, Community Service Aide

GUESTS

Peter Koo, Councilman

Joonyong Ahn-Councilman Koo's office

Amher Yoon-Assemblyman Braunstrein's office

Brian Lam-Assemblywoman Rozic's office

Jason Antonopoulos-Assemblyman Braunstein's

Barbara Baruch-State Senator Liu's office

Tony Cao-Assemblyman Ron Kim's office

Susan Liu-Congresswoman Grace Meng's office

Destany Batista-Assemblyman Rosenthal's office

Vito Tautonico-Councilman Vallone's office

Chair Kelty opened the meeting at 7:05 this evening with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silence honoring our brave soldiers keeping us safe, especially those who have given their lives for our freedom. Since our Fourth Vice-Chair, Alison Tan, has left CB #7 and the elections will not be held until January 2020, in the interim, as per our by-laws, the Chair asked Board Member **Josh Sussman** to take her place for the remainder of the year.

The Chair then gave us the sad news of the passing of Catherine Williams, Secretary of the Macedonia Church, on August 23rd, 2019. She was the sweetest person, a mother to us all, attended all our District Service Cabinet meetings, and considered the cornerstone of the Church. Service was on 8/23/19 at the Ebenezer Baptist Church at 36-12 Prince Street. It's a terrible loss and she will be dearly missed. **Chair Kelty** also was glad to see John Parks is recovering from recent head surgery and Mark Schiffman who fell, is doing well, but a little unsteady on his feet, and Peter Sutich is still recovering from his illness. We look forward to full recovery by all. Service Awards will be given to six of our members on October 2, 2019 at Borough Hall. **Arlene Fleishman for 10 years, Fred Fu 15 years, Myself 35 years, Phil Konigsberg 20 years, Terence Park 20 years, and Linna Yu 30 years. Congratulations!**

Following are announcements from the Chair:

- + The American-Italian Cancer Foundation – Hosted by Senator John C. Liu.
The Mammogram Bus will be at Cross Island YMCA – 238-10 Hillside Avenue, Bellerose
Wednesday, **October 2, 2019 – 9 am to 4:30 pm** – For an Appointment call
718/765-6675 or **1-877/628-9090**
- + Queens Hospital – Administrative Assistant – Biomedical Engineering & Asset Management
Jamaica Hospital Medical Center
Send resume to Anthony Johnson, JR Manager, **718/206-6810** or
Ajohns10@jhmc.org
- + FDNY OPEN HOUSE – Sat. & Sun. 10/5 & 10/6/2019 at your local Fire House or EMS Station
Sessions are **11 am to 1 pm ... or.... 1 pm to 3 pm**

On July 29, 2019 our **Chair, Gene Kelty**, was invited to the White House Rose Garden in Washington, DC with other Fire Department members who were there to see the President sign the bill for much needed money for those with ongoing 9/11 illnesses still surfacing to this day. President Trump signed the bill in the presence of invited rescue workers, Vice President Pence, Congressman King, and Rudy Giuliani, Mayor of NYC on 9/11. It was a truly momentous proud day for Chair Gene Kelty, who received the special invitation and the occasion to speak with our President and shake his hand. Chair Kelty will remember it always.

Roll call was then taken by the Chair with **(37) Present (8) Excused/Absent (3) Late**
The Public Hearing minutes of June 17, 2019 were then approved and seconded by Linna Yu.

Chair Kelty gave the floor to our **Councilman Peter Koo** who thanked all who gave of their time and expertise to solve the many problems facing us daily, i.e. traffic, housing, sanitation, school issues, etc. He thanked our Chair for his help with his suggestions and fiery style in getting things done the past 35 years. Also the Mayor announced a new City Retirement Saving program everyone can enter into, similar to an IRA. In essence, for every \$50,000 deposited, and assuming a rate of 4% savings a year, after 30 years you will have saved approximately \$146,000. He stressed we cannot depend on Social Security alone. **Mr. Joonyong Ahn**, who is on his staff as Director of Community Affairs, will help you navigate the program if you are interested. He will attend all our Community Board meetings.

First Vice Chair Charles Apelian wanted to thank **Councilman Peter Koo** for turning down the **Kimco Plan**. It was a very contentious plan that CB 7 turned down several times and finally had to disapprove it for modification. When it went also before Councilman Koo several times, he was extremely brave and strongly supported our two Civics and us and firmly turned it down as finally presented, so **Kimco** withdrew. We are very proud of our Councilman and thanked him sincerely. Councilman Koo remarked sometimes you have to be a little theatrical to make them understand you're not a pushover and it has to be done properly or not at all. In response to the Mayor's office, he said the Community's interests are more important.

ITEM #5 – NY PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL – Michael Pel – Head of Emergency Medical Services for the past twenty-nine years spoke about strokes. There are two kinds, an ischemic clot (which occurs mostly 85% of the time) or a hemorrhagic clot inside the brain. Every 4 minutes someone dies of a stroke. About 10% receive a clot busting TPA injection, which relieves a stroke, or cardiac catheterization directly into the artery. Most people ignore the symptoms of a stroke which are dizziness, headache, numbness on one side, part of your face off balance, and abnormal speech. However, it could be a stroke if you only have a headache or dizziness, and ignoring it could be catastrophic. TPA injections only work if administered within 4 hours of a stroke occurring, so they hope to have TPA injections in the future that are time sensitive for 8 hours. NY Presbyterian Queens Hospital has the largest Mobile Stroke Unit on wheels and operates with all the proper equipment to cut down on time, deaths, the curtailing of disabilities, raising stroke survival and cure rate in collaboration with all New York hospitals, EMTs, and 911 (Police & Fire Dept.) in the New York area. Although compared to other diseases, strokes are not as frequent, but the cost of the ambulance to medicate is \$1 million dollars a year, but the patient is charged only for the ambulance itself, not the medical instruments and treatments used. The Mobile Stroke Unit operates Monday through Friday 9 am to 5 pm. Smaller hospitals only see one or two strokes a month. NY Presbyterian has seen 172 strokes in less than three years, about one or two weekly.

Q. **Linna Yu** – Why do you only operate Monday to Friday and from 9 am to 5 pm and not on weekends?

A. Based on a survey taken the past 3 years, we found we were being called more often during 9 to 5. Those who had strokes while sleeping wake up with symptoms already progressed. We do the best we can to help them. Most important for survival is pay attention to the symptoms and call 911! We are looking to expand to weekends, but this requires working with philanthropists.

Q. **Linna Yu** - How do you know when your ambulance is needed?

A. When 911's Triad system ascertains it's a stroke, their ambulance and ours arrive in a matter of minutes with TPA, treated, and then sent to a hospital.

Q. **Millicent O'Meally** – Is treatment only done from the vein in the leg?

A. For a thrombectomy they use the large vein that goes directly to the heart. For an ischemic stroke TPA is done intravenously by IV.

Q. **Kim Cody** – What is the difference between ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke and heat stroke?

A. Heat stroke is when your brain is overheated and there is no medication they can give you. We would have to cool down your body and reduce the heat inside the brain.

Board member **Phil Koenigsberg** added he has seen the Mobile Stroke Unit in action and commented It’s most impressive.

Board member **Pablo Hernandez** gave out the Youth Survey forms to be filled out by Board members (on one side only) to help identify the needs of the community. He introduced **Jeffrey M. Kohn** who works for the Neighborhood Youth Advisory Board Unit of the Dept. of Youth & Development. The Federal Govt. provides city community service block grants to poverty level areas in the City and Board #7 is to receive over a half million dollars for the poverty levels again in Downtown Flushing, and now have added College Point, Murray Hill, East Flushing and Queensborough Hill. They are looking for six advisory board members from Board 7 to help identify these needs and its advantages. Board member **Kim Ohanian** announced work has begun on the **Meditation Garden** which will be completed by the end of the year with ribbon cutting in December. **Chair Kelty** also mentioned solar panels will be installed in the Parking lots of the Parks Dept. starting in Kissena Park.

ITEM #6 – 18-17/19 130TH STREET- #C 190329 ZSQ – Special permit #ZR-126-43 Zoning Resolution to modify front & side yard minimum requirements with proposed 2-story enlargement of existing 1-story commercial warehouse building to contain 5,965.30 sq. ft. floor area (1.00 FAR), the maximum permitted in a M1-1 zoning district, and to provide seven (7) parking spaces on ground floor.

In place of **Committee Chair Jeff Huang** who is away, **First Vice-Chair Apelian** will give Mr. Huang’s report. The enlargement to a 2-story will not increase the floor areas, but requires a waiver for the front and side yards. He gave the floor to Attorney Palatnik who represents the owner/contractor of Pacific Lawn Sprinkler, John Dellafiore, a long time Whitestone resident and business man. The problem is College Point Industrial Park’s ruling on new developments require front and side yards, which is relatively easy if your establishment is in open land on Long Island.

Vice Chair Apelian gave Mr. Huang’s report on his committee meeting of Sept. 9, 2019 with the vote of
(13) In Favor (0) Against (1) Abstain in Conflict (1) Abstain w/No Conflict

The motion this evening is to approve the front and side yard waivers, seconded by Millicent O’Meally
With No Questions or Discussion put forth by Board Members:

The vote taken was (33) For (1) Abstain/Conflict (1) Abstain/no Conflict

ITEM #7 – 147-40 15TH AVENUE – Commercial Overlay Rezoning - #C-900019-ZMQ – Vice-Chair Apelian
Application to create a new C1-2 commercial overlay in a R3A District affecting four (4) lots on a single tax block to facilitate legal commercial use, three (3) of which are not under applicant’s control. Attorney Jay Goldstein represented the owner of the two story commercial building on 15th Avenue. The commercial overlay includes his client’s site, and along 149th Street the Yeager House Restaurant, a two family residential home just built and the Mobil Station. The commercial overlay allows for a 1-FAR and no restrictive parking.

Q. The newly built residential home, can it be used commercially in the future?

A. Yes it can.

Q. Nick Corrado -Can you explain what the zoning change would allow in terms of height?

A. It’s a low density commercial district. The as-or-right you can build is a 30 ft. or 2 story bldg. with a 1-FAR or less and Use Group 6.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Speaker **Friedhelm Augstein** - Homeowner since 1982 lives across the street from 147-40 which was a comparatively quiet neighborhood then. He states, by law, he is unable to make noise after 10 pm. Yet there is a beer garden, a restaurant on the corner and a gas station open 24 hours pumping with gas fumes day and night, and cars coming in at 2 am to use the noisy vacuum cleaner. There is a school directly across from us, PS 79, with more traffic, parking and double parking during the day adding danger to the kids. It's dangerous for the residents, the school children and the neighborhood and hopes we don't approve it.

First Vice Chair Apelian said the committee met on September 9, 2019 and the motion was to approve with a vote of 16 to 1.

WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION

The motion now on the floor is to vote for the creation of a new C1-2 commercial overlay in a R3A District affecting four lots on a single tax block to facilitate legal commercial use, three of which are not under applicant's control.

The vote taken was (23) Approve (13) Against

ITEM #8 – Input on Preliminary Budget Submissions for Year 2021 – Chair Gene Kelty announced every September our Capital Budget Projects & Expense Budget Program requires input from the community. Requests for the year 2021 have gone out to the Mayor & City Council, City agencies, Civic associations, Schools, and Houses of Worship for their people to respond by filling out what their most important needs are and were invited to speak this evening.

SPEAKER IRENE PRESTIGIACOMO –owner of property in the heart of Willets Point speaking on behalf of Willets Point United, the organization of property and business owners. For years they have requested funds for the resurfacing of Willets Point streets which were in horrendously impassable condition. Board #7 placed them on their priority list years ago and they are now #4 on the list today. Recently Board #7 invited Commissioner Nicole Garcia to visit the area with them, and following the visit the DOT conducted a temporary wear and tear paving of the worst sections. Thank you Board #7. Nicole Garcia, Commissioner of DOT has now formally announced they have allocated \$17,000,000 for this Phase 2 project, but it may be several years before it's started. Ms. Prestigiacomo thanked Board #7 again for their efforts, but asked us to continue keeping on top of it.

Chair Kelty discussed Board 7's need to hire more personnel because of being short staffed. Because of this, six months ago following OMB procedures, the Board hired Danielle Pennise, a resident of College Point for over 40 years, a graduate of St. John's University with a master's degree in Business Administration and 20 years in the financial services industry doing financial reporting on the corporate side of banking primarily.

She went through the City's hiring procedure until we were notified on July 1st which was to be her start date, that OMB's hiring policy was in the process of being revised and now required 1) a revision to the Board's by-laws or 2) approval from the full Board. Thus her start date is held up until our next Board meeting convenes, which is tonight.

The Board met this evening with a quorum of 34 and voted 33 to Approve and one Disapproval vote for Ms. Pennise.

Board Member Kim Cody & President of the Greater Whitestone Civic Association reported on the **200 Men's Shelter** which is scheduled to open on October 2, 2019 in College Point on 127th Street & 20th Avenue with 200 men roaming around in a neighborhood with women, young girls, small children, school children and businesses. The College Point Resident's Coalition has hired an attorney who is going into court to get an injunction on 9/25/19 to stop the opening, and if that fails he will then go to the Appellate Court to effect the closure of the Shelter.

Speaker James Collins, organizer with Rank the Vote NYC announced Question 1 on the ballot will decide whether or not to adopt a five-candidate Rank choice voting system for all city offices in primary and special elections starting in 2021. This means instead of choosing one candidate, it will allow you a second, third, and so forth. If your first preference comes in last, your second choice will get counted. This process continues until a final candidate gets a majority and wins. Mr. Collins feels NYC could lead the way in bringing communities together by adopting a solution that will empower our democracy. He feels the system we have now makes it possible for candidates who are disliked by the majority still win because victory depends not on a majority but a mere plurality.

Speaker Mabel Tso – Field Representative and Case Worker for Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez - Announced a Community Town Hall event on Oct. 3rd at 6pm at Lefrak City Library. Flyers are available. Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez will be introducing a package of bills aimed at updating the Federal poverty level, expanding a safety net for them and promoting housing justice. Also mentioned her concern with the intelligence community's whistleblower complaint regarding the President's promises to foreign leadership. Ms. Tso said they sent out their first 200 days newsletter. You can sign up to receive it. Also, their office is open to assist constituents with immigration, Social Security, Veteran Affairs and other concerns from 9 to 5 every weekday or on line.

First Vice Chair Chuck Apelian – At the last session of our NY State Govt. they expanded the Red Light Camera Law. It now is in school areas from 6 am to 10 pm, Monday through Friday all year long. How do I know it? I received the ticket three times. So be aware.

Second Vice-Chair Warren Schreiber – The Belmont Arena, the new home of the Islanders, has now opened. Community Board #7 had no input in it, but it will definitely going to impact Bay Terrace, Whitestone and parts of College Point. It has a hockey arena, a hotel and a shopping mall. Whether you come from the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn or Long Island you will have to use the Cross Island Parkway. The local community is going to use Waze, and that means the local streets will become congested. All the elected officials' rubber stamped it with the exception of Barry Grodencheck. Get in touch with your elected officials!

Speaker Paul Lau, Whitestone Resident – Total Wines is applying for a license in this area. I am totally against it mainly because the area is already congested, we don't need another liquor store and lastly feels it affects our quality of life.

Board Member Harpreet Singh Wahan — On behalf of the Blessed Interfaith Council, the Annual Unity Walk is scheduled for **October 19, 2019** from 1 to 4 pm and will start from St. George's Church and proceed to five different Houses of Worship to see the diversity of faiths, culture and the unity of it all.

Third Vice-Chair Frank Macchio spoke of the recent passing of the Operator of Terrace on the Park, Jimmy Collaviti. He's also the owner of the Georgia Diner and a tremendous philanthropist for both Queens and Brooklyn. Both husband and wife were a loving couple who worked hard together and willingly provided their community support with their time, money and friendship.

Chair Kelty - Regarding Total Wines, when we get an application for a liquor license for a retail store, all we do is check the location and ascertain if it's 200 ft. from the entrance of a school or place of worship. That's all we can do. We met with the Retail Alliance and reiterated we have no other authority.

The meeting ended at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zuliani