



Community Board 7

Borough of Queens

Auburndale, Bay Terrace, Beechhurst, Clearview, College Point, Downtown Flushing, East Flushing, Flushing, Malba, Murray Hill, Queensborough Hill, Whitestone, Linden Hill, and Willets Point

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Donovan Richards, Jr.
Queens Borough President

Eugene T. Kelty Jr.
Chairperson

Marilyn McAndrews
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021

AUDIO AND VIDEO TELECONFERENCE

PRESENT

Charles Apelian
James Cervino
Kaily Cheng
Michael Cheng
Kim Cody
Nicholas Corrado
Arlene Fleishman
Richard Forman
Fred Fu
Doreen Gatanas
Vincent Gianelli
Pablo Hernandez
Cody Herrmann
Lawrence Hughes

Eugene Kelty
Phil Konigsberg
Wendy Louie
Betsy Mak
Rev. R. McEachern
Barbara McHugh
Michelle Miao
Selma Moses
Sergio Nicolich
Kim Ohanian
Millicent O'Meally
John Park
Terence Park
Yacov Pshtissky

Kris Ram
Paul Rifino
Warren Schreiber
Kevin Shields
Matthew Silverstein
Joshua Sussman
Joseph Sweeney
John Tsavalos
Harpreet Wahan
Maggie Wong
Dian Yu
Linna Yu
Lei Zhao
Jie Zhu

ABSENT

Jeff Huang
Frank Macchio
Clarissa Wong

Esther Lee
Frank Quatela

Dr. Wensong Li
Peter Tu

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

Marilyn McAndrews, District Manager
Mary O'Neill, Community Associate
Anne Krzyzanowski, Community Aide

GUESTS

Susan Lui-Congresswoman Meng's office
Mabel Tso-Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's
John Liu-State Senator
Soojin Choi-Lee - State Senator Liu's office

Xin Ying Wu-Rozic's Office
office David Fischer-Braunstein's office
Elizabeth Bian-Queens District Attorney Katz's office
Max Weprin-Queens Borough President's office

*Excused

Chair Kelty opened the Public Hearing meeting at 7 pm, took the roll call followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and a moment of silence to honor all our men and women, past and present who died serving our country, and those who are still serving us now. **(42) Present (7) Absent (0) Excused.***

The announcements of the past month were made by **Chair Kelty**. If you need a review of them, please call the Board office tomorrow. Also, several liaisons from elected officials gave their announcements. However, **Senator John Liu** came in person and mentioned our community has gone from COVID -19 to Storm IDA and persevered. He feels the Accessory Building Units legislation will impact our area negatively. However, the Sleep bill against car exhaust noise, the Perimeter Rule preventing jumbo planes traveling 1500 miles or more landing at LaGuardia, and most important the \$4 million commitment to our public schools passed. Senator Liu will be back with us in November.

Chair Kelty asked for the approval of the September 13, 2021 minutes or disapproval with proper corrections made. There being no corrections, the minutes were approved by **Kim Ohanian** and seconded by **Harpreet Wahan**.

Ms. Ohanian asked to speak since this is her last meeting with us since she's moving to North Carolina. "I had a great ride with you during the past 21 years. Will miss the good work we've done together for the community, but especially will miss all of you." Kim recommended Matt Silverstein take over the role of Parks Dept. Chair and Chair Kelty agreed he was a great choice. He thanked her for her support and tenaciousness over the years protecting our Parks. Job well done and much appreciated. **Chair Kelty** commented you can still join us in our virtual meetings from North Carolina. **Millicent O'Meally** said it was a delight to work with Kim Ohanian, as there weren't many outspoken women on the board, and she will be missed.

CAPITAL AND EXPENSE BUDGETS FOR 2023 – Warren Schreiber, Co-Host with Chair Kelty. In the months of September and October we sit with all the agencies in our district to ascertain their needs for the new year. Once the final agenda is agreed upon, it will be submitted to the City in November to be worked on when monies can be allocated and for work to commence. In response to Ms. Herrmann's question about the "Continued Support List." **Chair Kelty** explained It's about not losing track of the project until it's completed, and therefore we don't tie up a capital project request.

CAPITAL BUDGET

PAGE 1-14 - Item #1 - Question -What's the difference between Reconstruction of the road as opposed to top layering the roadbed? **A.** Complete reconstruction of the road includes any water, sewer and gas work needed first, then followed by milling the road, and top layering it. If any water, sewer, or gas repairs are not needed, only milling and top layering the surface is essential.

Item #4 – Cody Herrmann asked is this for all roads in phase II of Willets Point? **A.** DOT will be working with EDC. Some roads will be resurfaced, and other roads will fall under (reconstruction water, sewer, and curbs).

Item #2 – Harpreet Wahan asked when is the Meditation Garden lighting to be completed? **A.** **Chair Kelty** said since COVID-19 everything was delayed . It is only 50% funded as of now, and since the lighting was an addition to the original plan, it will be added to the bottom of the list, unless we can get the elected officials to put some money in. **Cody Herrmann** asked about Kissena Way to be added to item 2, which will need monies from elected official also, and **Millicent O'Meally** asked that the Little League Baseball Park also be placed under item 2.

Item 8 –Arlene Fleishman questions why the sanitary, storm and sewer replacement in the Mitchell Garden's area where she lives still is in Project Development since 1984. The last storm flooded some of the buildings up to 5 ft. of water causing untold damage because of no storm sewers at all. Our lobbies, boilers, toilets, elevators, etc. were devastated. When will it get the attention it needs? How many more years must we wait? **A.** **Chair Kelty** understood her frustrations totally. They haven't listened to CB #7 either. Maybe if enough of the thousand people who live in Mitchell Gardens complained it might get their attention. Also, have those living in the complex attend the City's Nov. 9, 2021 Town Hall meeting and speak up.

Page 15 to 21 – Item #17 – Cody Herrmann – Any update on the inclusion of a street sign system in Flushing Meadow Park? Someone also asked about the pathway signage through the park, especially the pathways that are usually flooded. **A. Chair Kelty** - Haven't heard anything yet from Parks on either. Also, is there a Special Op Police facility still in Flushing Meadow Park? **A. Chair Kelty** said yes there was, and it can be utilized again, but not be rebuilt, It's more like a Quonset hut.

Item 20 - Lei Zhao - What about the Qns. Botanical Garden. Should it still be on the list? **A. Gene Kelty** Until the shovel is in the ground, I don't want to take it off the Capital project. Will put it in "Continued Support" next year since we don't know what will happen under the new Mayor.

ITEM 22 TO 27 – Item 25 – Millicent O'Meally – We've been trying for years for access to Prince Street on the **Number 7 line**. Do we have any information yet? **A. Chair Kelty** –No but will flag it and have Mac call on it.

Item 24 – Linna Yu - Is Community Board #4 also operating in Flushing Meadows Park? **A. Chair Kelty** – Yes, but there are several boards in Queens involved.

ITEM 28 TO 32- Item 32 – Chuck Apelian asked if it would be better served being placed under **Expense?**
A. Chair Kelty – Mac is talking to Lester. I'll have her ask if should be under "Expense #12.

Item 31- Kim Cody – Advised everyone 150th Street & 12th Avenue has started milling at the location

BACK TO Item #17 – Cody Herrmann reverted back to the Joe Michael Mile pathway. Asked if we can look into this area further. **Chair Kelty** said it was approved with some money from Fema because it's on a waterway and part of it was funded by Board 11, since it's partially in their area.

CONTINUOUS SUPPORT

Item #30 - Little Bay Park Pathway/ Fitness track (1 .9 miles) is to be reconditioned.
(Nothing under continuous support has gone forward as yet).

Motion on the floor is to approve the CAPITAL Budget seconded by Matt Silverstein and to approve CONTINUOUS SUPPORT seconded by Phil Konigsberg.

The vote taken was (41) For (1) Against

EXPENSE BUDGET

ITEM 1 TO 8 - Item # 2 – Kim Cody – Is Parks Dept the only agency that does pruning of the NYC trees or are there other agencies hired by the City. **Chair Kelty** - I don't know, but I believe we have another agency under the DOT that does the arterial highway trimming. I will find out for you. **Warren Schreiber** clarified that minor trimming by homeowners is allowed provided it's certificated by the City. **Serge Nicolich** added Con Edison does trim branches that interfere with their wires. **Chair Kelty** added it's chopped into a V shape. However, they do help the City sometimes and cut dead trees down to avoid disasters, which is a help. **Millicent O'Meally** advised to trim trees only if you can do so while standing on the ground. She asked if there is a Forestry Dept. who cuts dying trees down. **Chair Kelty** said Forestry cuts it down to the stump, then contracts it out to another company for stump removal, which can lead to sidewalk damage.

ITEM 9 TO 14 - Item #12- Millicent O'Meally asked if item 12 refers to the Police Department personnel. **Chair Kelty** said it's funding for DOT personnel for traffic, parking studies, missing signs, lane marking, milling, and resurfacing, bridge maintenance, etc. with their in-house resources.

Item #10 –Lei Zhao noticed Incorrect spelling of "precincts"

ITEM 15 TO 17- Item #16 – Cody Herrmann asked about the Organic waste composting and it should have our support. **Jim Cervino** said Sanitation will start the program when they get sufficient numbers of people from us. **Chair Kelty** said it's not our job to get people to invest in the program, but we can send a notice out to our Civic Groups who can notify those in

their areas. **Kat Cervino** said people have to sign up individually online, which makes it more challenging to get them to buy in. Personally, **Chair Kelty** doesn't support composting for reasons of his own but others who do support composting should sign up for the program.

ITEM 18 TO 23 – Item #__ - Kim Cody spoke about certain schools who have operative school playgrounds. **Chair Kelty** - The playgrounds near a school belong to Parks Dept. who allow students to use the playgrounds without cost to the Schools. We've been asking Parks to do other things like adding security lighting to help out and hope they will be responsive - **Arlene Fleishman** – named other Public Schools near parks.

The motion on the floor is to approve the Expense Budget seconded by Matthew Silverstein and seconded by Joshua Sussman. The vote taken was (41) Approve (1) Disapprove (1) Abstain/conflict

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Karen Gopee, with 23 years of criminal justice experience joined us this evening and thanked us for opportunity to speak. Like many of our parents and grandparents, she was 3 years old when she came to the U.S. and early on knew she wanted a career in Law as a voice and advocate for those in need. **Lei Zhao** asked what she felt was the biggest challenge in the Supreme Court now? **A.** A combination of the Bail Reform and Rikers Island; those who belong in jail and those who don't. It's not fair and the conditions are worse. **Joe Sweeney** asked how do you feel about cashless bail? **A.** I follow legislation, but we need more options.

Ms. Wrighi –Outreach Coordinator of CCRB. Spoke about Police misconduct, being stopped unreasonably, what your rights are, refusal of their searches, right to ask their names and badge number, etc. You can e-mail CCRB on how their investigations are conducted at <https://nypd.ccrb.gov.com>

Paul DeBenedetto- On 11/31/21 Sunday at 7:30 am is the 20th anniversary of the 5K Totten Trot from the Bayside Historical Society. We already have 150 runners. Kids can also run. Also looking for a bookkeeper for 5 or 10 hours a week.

Matt Silverstein, Parks Dept. Visited Phase 3 of College Pt. Field at 23rd Ave. & Linden Place where a soccer field by Council Paul Vallone & Parks will be completed by 2022. Also, the Bay Terrace Private Pool club will become a park for school use compliments of Mayor DeBlasio & Council Paul Vallone. He again thanked Kim Ohanian for suggesting him as the new Parks Chair for CB #7 and wished her well.

Pablo Hernandez, Harpreet Wahan, Arlene Fleishman, and Selma Moses each thanked **Kim Ohanian** for her leadership and 21 years of service. She will be missed. Kim thanked each one individually. **Harpreet Wahan** said daffodils were planted at the **Meditation Garden.**

Chair Kelty thanked **Warren Schreiber** for co-hosting this evening and greatly appreciated his assistance.

Meeting ended at 9:45 pm

Respectfully

Mary Zuliani