



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, December 12, 2022

AUDIO AND VIDEO TELECONFERENCE

PRESENT

Charles Apelian
Michael Cheng
Kim Cody
Nicholas Corrado
Arlene Fleishman
Richard Forman
Fred Fu
Doreen Gatanas
Vincent Gianelli
Cody Herrmann
Jeff Huang
Lawrence Hughes
Eugene Kelty
Phil Konigsberg
Esther Lee

Wensong Li
Wendy Louie
Frank Macchio
Betsy Mak
Rev. Richard McEachern
Barbara McHugh
Michelle Miao
Selma Moses
Sergio Nicolich
Millicent O'Meally
John Park
Yacov Pshtissky
Frank Quatela
Kris Ram
Paul Rifino

Warren Schreiber
Kevin Shields
Matthew Silverstein
Josh Sussman
Joseph Sweeney
Saleem Syed
John Tsavalos
Peter Tu
Harpreet Wahan
Clarissa Wong
Maggie Wong
Dian Yu
Jie Zhu

ABSENT

James Cervino
* Kaily Cheng

** Derrick Fang
* Terence Park

* Pablo Hernandez
Linna Yu

Lei Zhao

* **Excused**

** **Resignation**

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

Marilyn McAndrews, District Manager

Mary O'Neill, Community Coordinator

Anne Krzyzanowski, Community Assistant

GUESTS

Susan Liu - Congresswoman Meng's office

Soo Jin - NY State Senator Liu's office

Howard Wong - NYS Assemblywoman Rozic's office

Alie Ziraschi - Councilwoman Vicky Paladino's office

Xin Wu - Councilwoman Ung's office

Elisabeth Bian - Queens District Attorney's office

Chairman Eugene Kelty opened the Public Hearing at 7 pm via audio and video teleconference. Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag in honor of all who fought for our freedom and our country and never forget those who gave their lives for freedom.

Announcements from Elected Officials.

Attendance was taken with (43) Present (3) Absent (3) Excused (1) Resignation

Announcements from Chairman Kelty.

FDNY Chief Dennis Creighton, Battalion 52: Spoke about the hazards of holiday trees, candles, lithium batteries and other fire safety issues.

Public Hearing

A.K.A. John Henry Byas, Sr This street co-naming was requested by the Byas family. The street location is on Colden Street and 45th Avenue, between Elder and Geranium Avenues in Flushing.

Chaired by Nicholas Corrado, Transportation Committee

Nicholas Corrado: Many of us worked with Mr. Byas. He was a member of this Community Board and was extremely kind and always had a smile. I really enjoyed working with him.

Frank Macchio: I was the Chair of NYPQ advisory Board and was grateful to have had the opportunity to work with John. He had a very good way of giving simple advice that was very strong and practical. I always appreciated listening to him.

John Byas' wife **Johnnie May Byas**, and their children **Dana, John Jr.** and **Clyde** spoke about the late John Henry Byas. They thanked the Community Board members and elected officials who helped to get the comfort station installed at Kissena Corridor Park near Colden Street and Elder Avenue. They also showed gratitude to those who helped him with the afterschool program. They appreciated everyone who helped make the street co-naming possible.

Nicholas Corrado: The committee voted unanimously to approve their application.

Chairman Kelty: We have a motion on the floor to approve the street co-naming.

Seconded by **Phil Konigsberg**

Chairman Kelty: Discussion on the motion

Harpreet Wahan: He was a very good friend and a community activist. I worked very closely with him on many of his projects. I assisted him to plant many trees during the *Million Trees* program.

Phil Konigsberg: It's been ten years since we attended the ribbon cutting for the Rachel Carson playground which he helped to get built. I remember how happy he was to see it get finished. I was honored to serve as a Board Member with John.

Clyde Byas spoke about how much his father did for the community. He thanked everyone who worked with his father. (Clyde Byas spoke on the phone, at this time because he had difficulty signing into Windstream)

Reverend McEachern: John Byas Sr was a very special person. His heart was for the community and for the Macedonia Church. He was truly my friend. He was the one who suggested that I join this Community Board. I would like to thank his family for all the support that he and they have given me.

Chuck Apelian: John Byas made everyone feel special. He had a spot-on, pragmatic approach to life which made it very easy to converse with him. One particular story comes to my mind when NYPQ was requesting their parking lot expansion. Some of the neighbors did not like the expansion, so we did a lot of work to improve the expansion. Ultimately, one Board Member still did not like the new parking lot and said that the hospital should be torn down, not expanded. John stood up and said, “No Way! This hospital saved my life!” I miss John dearly.

Josh Sussman: He did so much for the community that there is no way that someone would say anything bad about him.

Chairman Kelty: John was the backbone to the Flushing area. I always knew he would give me a full report about what was going on. The Byas family wrote up a fantastic report about him. Councilwoman Ung is completely behind this street co-naming and will make a presentation in front of the city council to approve the co-naming.

We have a motion to approve the street co-naming.

43 - In favor
0 - Against

0 - Abstention
0 - No vote

7 - Absent

Chairman Kelty: The motion carries unanimously.

Johnnie May Byas: I want to thank everyone who participated in this meeting tonight. My husband John was a very proud person. Whatever he did, he did out of his heart and for the community and beyond. We appreciate your voting on this and the representatives. We wish you a happy holiday.

Chairman Kelty: This was the nicest thing we could have done for John.

Meral Agish: I am the Community Coordinator for Queens Memory at the Queens Public Library. This is a new project, and the library is collecting local history of Queens. We have an interactive map of all named places in Queens and asking for information about any others to contact the library. Joe Sweeney has been helpful for introducing people to this project.

Public Participation

Harpreet Wahan: The Kissena Corridor Park lighting project is stalled. Signs indicate this will be completed spring 2023.

Kevin Shields: The St Patrick’s Society of Queens has been serving Queens for 110 years and has not had a Dinner in three years. March 9th, 2023 will be their Annual Dinner.

Chuck Apelian: Reminder for Board Members to re-apply.

Phil Kongsberg: I would like to thank the board and the leadership for all their hard work.

Chairman Kelty: Last week Vice Chairman Chuck Apelian along with our Public Safety Chair Joe Sweeney and myself attended the 109th PCT Axillary Police Officers Recognition Dinner. I understand how hard they work as volunteers.

Meeting ended: 08:46 PM
Respectfully Submitted
Anne Krzyzanowski,
Community Assistant