



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, May 8, 2023

AUDIO AND VIDEO TELECONFERENCE

PRESENT

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Charles Apelian | Frank Macchio | Kevin Shields |
| James Cervino | Betsy Mak | Matthew Silverstein |
| Kaily Cheng | Rev. Richard McEachern | Josh Sussman |
| Kim Cody | Barbara McHugh | Joseph Sweeney |
| Arlene Fleishman | Michelle Miao | Saleem Syed |
| Richard Forman | Selma Moses | John Tsavalos |
| Fred Fu | Sergio Nicolich | Peter Tu |
| Doreen Gatanas | Millicent O’Meally | Harpreet Wahan |
| Cody Herrmann | Terence Park | Maggie Wong |
| Lawrence Hughes | Yacov Pshtissky | Lulu Yang |
| Eugene Kelty | Frank Quatela | Dian Yu |
| Phil Konigsberg | Kris Ram | Linna Yu |
| Wensong Li | Paul Rifino | Lei Zhao |
| Wendy Louie | Warren Schreiber | Jie Zhu |

ABSENT: Vincent Gianelli

EXCUSED: Michael Cheng, Nicholas Corrado, Pablo Hernandez, Jeff Huang, Esther Lee, John Park, Clarissa Wong

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

Marilyn McAndrews, District Manager
Mary O’Neill, Community Coordinator
Anne Krzyzanowski, Community Assistant

GUESTS

Susan Liu - Congresswoman Meng’s office
Angela Sherpa- Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez
Ashely Lin - NYS Senator John Liu

Jess Mueller - Assemblyman Braunstein’s office
Konstantinos Poulidis - Councilwoman Paladin’s office
Xin Wu - Councilwoman Ung’s office

Chairman Eugene Kelty opened meeting at 7 pm via audio and video teleconference. Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag and a moment of silence 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 (46) Present (2) Absent (2) Excused

Announcements from Chairman Kelty.

Approval of April 2023 minutes

Leslie Clark gave a presentation about the Open Restaurants and Community Blueprint

Vito Tautonico spoke about St. Mary's Hospital for Children's Annual Big Hearts Walk

Public Hearing

1 – 147-10 Northern Boulevard, Flushing – BSA CAL #1098-83-BZ – Application to extend the term of a variance which expired April 3, 2014, to permit operation of an automotive service station with an automotive repair shop. Waiver of the rules pursuant to Section 1-07.3 (b) (3) for more than two (2) years but less than ten (10) years after the expiration of term.

Chaired by John Tsavalos, CB7Q Chair of Land Use Committee

Attending for applicant Eric Palatnik, P.C.: Elyse Foladare, J.D., Associate

The Land Use Committee held a meeting about this variance. There are no open violations or complaints on file for this location.

Elyse Foladare: This location has been under the BSA's jurisdiction since 1955. There are two sheds on the property. One will be removed and the other is being used to store office & maintenance supplies. Landscaping will be restored. They will make changes to make it ADA compliant. There is a Sanitary & Sewage option, which an engineer is working on, and it will be closed soon. The hours of operation have not changed. There was an oil spill a long time ago which has been cleaned up.

John Tsavalos: Some of the questions that came up at the meeting included:

Why was the variance not updated sooner? This was an oversight and they had to pay a penalty.

How much does the BSA charge for a waiver that was past due? \$2,630 after 10 years it increases to \$5,000.

Does the applicant have to display the BSA variance on their premises? No, it is on the BSA website.

Kim Cody: Who owns this property and why did it take ten years to realize they were behind on renewing the variance?

Elyse Foladare: This happens a lot with gas stations. The operators change and the next one doesn't realize that the variance must be renewed.

Jim Cervino: Is this a zone change?

Elyse Foladare: No, every ten years they have to renew the variance.

Warren Schreiber: How many parking spaces are there?

Elyse Foladare: Nine. Five in the back and four on the side. In order to make it ADA compliant, in the back will be four with a spot for handicapped people next to the building and add one in the front.

Kris Ram: When does the ten-year extension start?

Elyse Foladare: It is up to the BSA. We are asking for the variance to start 10 years from the time it is approved.

John Tsavalos: The committee makes a motion to approve the 10-year variance.

Chairman Kelty: We have a motion on the floor to approve this variance for ten years.

Seconded by **Charles Apelian**.

Discussion on the motion

37 – In favor
3 – Against

0 – Abstentions
0 – No vote

10 - Absent

Chairman Kelty: The motion to approve carries.

Chairman Kelty: I was at Bowne Park for their re-opening ceremony recently. I want to thank Matt Silverstein, Parks Committee Chair and Sergio Nicolich for also coming to represent Community Board #7. Parks Department will always keep working to improve this park.

Public Participation

Susan Peters: This is my second time speaking to this Board. The jumbo 5-G cell towers are being put up. There is a lot about these cell towers that the government is not telling us. We have to get the information about these ourselves. A lot of money from these telecom companies and information is kept from the public. The NYC mayor’s office has an agreement from these telecom companies and when they give a presentation, they don’t really give any real information. All that these companies say is that this is safe. The FCC has wireless safe level guidelines which were set up in 1996 when there were fewer cell phones and the guidelines have not changed. Some citizens sued them, and the courts told the FCC to change the guidelines.

Dr. Taikchan Lildar, Flushing Hospital Medical Center: I represent the union for medical residents. We are extremely overworked and understaffed. We work caring for our patients up to 80 hours/week. We are planning to strike next week.

Kim Cody: Whitestone Veterans Memorial Association will have the Whitestone Memorial Day Parade on Monday Memorial Day (May 29th). It will start at 149th Street 15th Drive at 11am. The Knights of Columbus will have their second Annual Car Show on May 13th at the St Lukes School Yard 10am-4pm.

Meeting ended: 8:42 PM

Respectfully Submitted

**Anne Krzyzanowski,
Community Assistant**