



# 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, February 12, 2024

Meeting was held in the basement of St Luke Church, 16-34 Clintonville Street

#### PRESENT

Charles Apelian

James Cervino

Kaily Cheng

Kim Cody

Nicholas Corrado

Arlene Fleishman

Richard Forman

Doreen Gatanas

Vincent Gianelli

Cody Herrmann

Lawrence Hughes

Eugene Kelty

Phil Konigsberg

Esther Lee

Wendy Louie

Frank Macchio

Betsy Mak

Rev. Richard McEachern

Barbara McHugh

Millicent O'Meally

John Park

Terence Park

Yacov Pshtissky

Frank Quatela

Kris Ram

Paul Rifino

Warren Schreiber

Kevin Shields

Matthew Silverstein

Saleem Syed

John Tsavalos

Peter Tu

Harpreet Wahan

Maggie Wong

Lulu Yang

Dian Yu

Lei Zhao

Jie Zhu

**Absent:** Pablo Hernandez, Jeff Huang, Dr. Wensong Li

**Excused:** Michael Cheng, Fred Fu, Selma Moses, Sergio Nicolich, Josh Sussman, Joseph Sweeney, Clarissa Wong, Linna Yu

**Michelle Miao** resigned.

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#### COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

Marilyn McAndrews, District Manager

Mary O'Neill, Community Coordinator

Anne Krzyzanowski, Community Assistant

#### Elected Officials

Susan Liu – Congresswoman Meng's office

Jeff Montoya – Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's office

Wei Lu Su - State Senator John Liu's office

Richard Gus Huiskamp – State Senator Stavisky's office

Susannah Go – Assemblywoman Rozic's office

Xin Wu – Councilwoman Ung's office

Georgia Katsalis - Queens Brought President's office

**Chairman Eugene Kelty** opened meeting at 7 pm. 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 our freedom. A moment of silence was also given in the memory of former NYC Councilman and Community Board 7 Member, Paul Vallone who died suddenly on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Attendance was taken with (38) Present (3) Absent (8) Excused  
Announcements from Elected Officials.  
Announcements from Chairman Kelty  
Approval of January 2024 minutes

**Millicent O’Meally** read a heartfelt speech. She will retire after 36-years on our Community Board. She thanked all Board Members who helped her over the years, and she received a standing ovation.

### Public Hearing

**Gaming Text Amendment** – Proposed a gaming facility text amendment to allow casinos to be as-of-right in certain Commercial Districts. **Warren Schreiber, Committee Chair**

The Land Use Committee met with the Department of City Planning. New York State is authorizing three (3) new casinos in the downstate area and DCP has proposed a Gaming Facility Text Amendment which would apply to Medium to High Density Commercial Districts and allow Casinos to be built in these areas, as-of-right without community input.

**Jim Cervino:** How does this relate to Willets Point?

**A:** It doesn’t. Citi Field has to go through parkland alienation, and then it has to be mapped and zoned.

**Charles Apelian:** This would be for a C-4 Zoning or greater?

**A:** Correct.

**Chairman Kelty:** This is taking away the authority from the Community Boards for review process or else the location can be an as-of-right.

**Reverend McEachern:** Once the gambling entity has been identified, does it go through a ULURP process?

**Warren Schreiber:** This text amendment would make it as-of-right in these Districts.

The committee made a recommendation to disapprove, and the vote was unanimous, 13-0.

The motion is to disapprove, seconded by **Lei Zhao**.

**37 – In favor**

**0 – Abstentions**

**12 - Absent**

**0 – Against**

**0 – No vote**

**MTA Queens Bus Network** – Information on redesign proposed final plan. **Warren Schreiber, Transit Chair:** The committee met with the MTA. Some of the concerns were the increased distance between the bus stops, the wait times, and the changes to the express bus routes. Some buses will be routed away from small shopping hubs and rerouted to the larger shopping areas. Almost every bus route in CB #7 is impacted. Bus stops will be eliminated, and according to the MTA, eliminating the bus stops will make the buses run faster. The Committee did not vote on this issue.

**Chairman Kelty:** We are not happy with this plan. The bus re-design plan is ill conceived, for the reasons **Warren Schreiber** stated. The new re-design takes away service to the community. We will send our review to the MTA detailing the reasons we don't like it and that we do not recommend it.

The motion is to disapprove, seconded by Kevin Shields.

**37 – In favor**

**0 – Abstentions**

**12 - Absent**

**0 – Against**

**0 – No vote**

### Regular Meeting

Queens E-scooter Share Expansion Update **Nick Corrado, Transportation Chairman**

This is an update to the Board, as NYC DOT has already approved this program. The scooters will be kept at different locations similar to Citibikes and can be rented by the hour. Some of our concerns were safety issues, legal issues, sidewalk driving & sidewalk parking. NYC assured that they will come back for another meeting about the e-scooters. Three private companies are operating the e-scooter share program.

**Lei Zhao:** I was in other places where e-scooters are used and they are left all over, including the sidewalks.

**Nick Corrado:** The e-scooters are in use in the Bronx. According to NYC DOT the program is running smoothly.

**Cody Herrmann:** What do they look like? Are they for standing or sitting like on a bicycle?

**Nick Corrado:** There are different ones to choose and smaller than ones used by the people delivering food.

**Lei Zhao:** Since many people are not used to operating electric scooters, there will be more accidents. Paris banned e-scooters because there were many accidents caused by the drivers.

**Nick Corrado:** DOT told us there will be many rules for e-scooter drivers. It will be a matter of enforcing the rules. The committee also asked about liability, and they didn't really have an answer.

**Betsy Mak:** One of the three companies that has a contract with the City e-scooters has filed for bankruptcy.

**Chairman Kelty:** I do not agree with these e-scooters. I saw these in another city. Someone was driving an e-scooter which stopped running while they were riding it and the driver left it on the street. This is an ill-conceived plan. People will not always return these to the proper location. FDNY has had incidents where the batteries ignite as they are taken out of homes.

**Lawrence Hughes:** The NYC DOT wrote a report on the Bronx e-scooters. The report states that 24% of the e-scooters were found to be illegally parked, some blocked pedestrian pathways

### Public Participation

**Raphael Schweizer** spoke about the importance of supporting small businesses, especially comic bookstores.

**George Sommerfield:** There is no street cleaning in the area near Holy Cross School. He asked if the street sweeper could run in along those blocks.

**George Stein, NW Bayside Civic:** 33rd Avenue from Union Street to Utopia Parkway does not have a bike lane. He would like a bike lane on 33rd Avenue connecting to the bike lane on 26th Avenue to the shopping mall.

**Phil Konigsberg:** Spoke about the annual Bayside Historical Society Art show.

**Frank Macchio:** There are new Stop Signs near Bowne Park and on Bell Boulevard which say, “Stop when pedestrians are present”. The signs are misleading.

**Eugene Kelty:** I oppose congestion pricing. Congestion pricing will hinder people to go out to dinner. In London, restaurants reported a 30% drop in customers, causing restaurants to raise their prices.

**Meeting ended: 9:20 pm**  
**Respectfully Submitted by**  
**Anne Krzyzanowski,**  
**Community Assistant**