



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 16, 2023

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

PRESENT

Charles Apelian

James Cervino

Kaily Cheng

Kim Cody

Arlene Fleishman

Richard Forman

Doreen Gatanas

Cody Herrmann

Eugene Kelty

Phil Konigsberg

Esther Lee

Frank Macchio

Betsy Mak

Selma Moses

Sergio Nicolich

Millicent O'Meally

Terence Park

Yacov Pshtissky

Frank Quatela

Paul Rifino

Warren Schreiber

Kevin Shields

Josh Sussman

Joseph Sweeney

Saleem Syed

John Tsavalos

Peter Tu

Clarissa Wong

Maggie Wong

Lulu Yang

ABSENT: Michael Cheng, Nicholas Corrado, Pablo Hernandez, Jeff Huang, Lawrence Hughes, Wensong Li, John Park, Kris Ram, Matthew Silverstein, Dian Yu, Jie Zhu

EXCUSED: Fred Fu, Vincent Gianelli, Wendy Louie, Rev. Richard McEachern, Barbara McHugh, Michelle Miao, Harpreet Wahan, Linna Yu, Lei Zhao

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

Marilyn McAndrews, District Manager

Mary O'Neill, Community Coordinator

Anne Krzyzanowski, Community Assistant

Elected Officials

Xin Ying Wu – Congresswoman's Ung's office

Ashley Lin - State Senator John Liu's office

Koshy Thomas - Assemblyman Braunstein's office

Charles Wohlgemuth – Assemblyman Berger's office

Assemblyman Sam Berger

Anthony Iuliano – Mayor's office

Alie Ziraschi - Councilwoman Paladino

Lauren Pluguez, Queens Borough President's office

First Vice-Chairman Charles Apelian 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 freedom.

Attendance was taken with (41) Present (3) Absent (6) Excused

Announcements from Elected Officials.

Announcements from First Vice-Chairman Charles Apelian

Approval of September 2023 minutes

Matthew McWhirr, Special Agent US Department of Treasury Office of the Inspector General for Tax Administration spoke about scams and how to avoid these.

Public Hearing

1 – Voting on Capital & Expense Budget Submissions for FY 2025

Frank Macchio read our Budget Requests.

We moved up a priority request for a new police precinct because the 109 Precinct is the largest in NYC. There is a greater need now for a new police precinct. Most of the other items are the same as last year.

Arlene Fleishman: The Linden Towers Co-Op did a \$1.5 million refurbishing because of flooding, 138th Street still does not have any storm sewers. This has been on the budget since 1984.

Frank Macchio: The sewer project will be included in the 2024 budget.

Cody Herrmann: When was the request for a new precinct submitted?

Chairman Kelty: We have requested a new precinct since 1984. There was supposed to be a satellite unit in Bay Terrace and then a satellite in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. A special unit was in the park for a short while.

Joseph Sweeney: I am Chair of our Public Safety Committee. Most of the crime takes place Downtown, near Main Street. Since crime takes place Downtown, it takes longer for the police to get to Whitestone & College Point. There has been a massive increase in the number of people in Flushing, but the number of police in the precinct has decreased.

Millicent O’Meally: I asked for the reconstruction of the comfort station and the Parkhouse at the Flushing Memorial Park as well as the basketball court be placed on a higher priority at the committee meeting and my request has been lowered on the priorities.

Frank Macchio: All the requests were lowered since we raised the priority for the new Police Precinct.

Chairman Kelty: I am still trying to get answers from some City agencies. About the Meditation Garden at Kissena Corridor Park, Board Member **Harpreet Wahan** asked for lighting to be installed in the garden. We modified our budget request to include lighting for the exterior as well as the interior of the garden. We also included in our budget a new playground at Bay Terrace at Board member **Matt Silverstein’s** request.

Phil Konigsberg: Does the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) request include the sound detectors?

Chairman Kelty: I don't know, but it does include expanding their noise complaint unit.

Terence Park: If the City is cutting budgets, why are we asking for more funding?

Frank Macchio: If the agencies are requesting funding for a particular reason, the requests from the Community Boards provides support and more weight.

Frank Macchio: The motion is to approve Capital, Expense & Continuous Support budgets, seconded by **Arlene Fleishman**.

29 – In favor

0 – Abstentions

20 - Absent

1– Against

0 – No vote

Chairman Kelty: The motion to approve carries.

Public Participation

John Kelly, President Kissena Park Civic: They are planning a meeting and candidates' night. He said that his civic group is opposed to the proposed casino at Citi Field.

Retired Judge George Grasso: Running for Queens District Attorney.

Lauren Pluguez, Queens Brought President's office: Talked about events the Borough President recently hosted and will host.

Millicent O'Meally: Spoke about the importance of getting breast cancer screenings.

William Shanahan: Running for Judge of the Civil Court, 6th Municipal Court District, Queens.

Meeting ended: 9:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Anne Krzyzanowski,

Community Assistant