



QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS

MINUTES of QCC Meeting on March 18, 2025

QCC OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Warren Schreiber, Ashook Ramsaran, Jim Trent, Elaine Young, Richard Hellenbrecht, Henry Euler, Barbara Larkin, Michael Scotland.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & REPRESENTATIVES:

Evelyn Li, Representative of US Congress Member Grace Meng; James Mongeluzo, Representative of NYC Comptroller Brad Lander; Keith Felsenfeld, Representative of NC Council Member Linda Lee; Scott Seiber, Representative of NYS Sen. John Liu; Timothy Chubinidze, Representative of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

CIVIC REPRESENTATIVES

Sherry Reisner (Utopia Estates Civic), Ed Westerly, Eileen Greenberg, Margaret Foley, Christina Wilkerson, Sheryl (ABCP), Angelo Castellano, Rhonda Kontner, Maria Becce, Arlene Schlessenger, Suzanne Peritz (RHCA), Jackie Forrestal (Hillcrest Civic), Maria DeInnocentiis.

PASSING OF EUGENE (GENE) KELTY

Long-time chair of Community Board 7 and a NYFD firefighter, Eugene (Gene) Kelty, passed away last Sunday. He was 70 years old and was a hero at Ground Zero during 9/11. Kelty and served on CB7 for about 41 years, including approximately 29 years as the Chair. He was a committed community advocate serving the interests of people and will be missed.

ASTRONAUTS' SAFE RETURN

Warren Schreiber expressed QCC gratitude and relief for the astronauts' safe return after a lengthy stay in orbit.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Jim Trent reported on dues and the City Of Yes (COY) legal fund. The legal fund has raised \$81,725, with expenses totaling \$37,500, leaving a balance of \$44,225. Discussion on the need for more funds for the filing of Article 78 opposing COY to be filed on March 27, 2025.

CITY OF YES LAWSUIT PLANS

Warren discussed plans to file a lawsuit against the city of Yes, with a retainer of \$35,000 for their attorney, Jack Lester. The lawsuit will be filed in Richmond County, and QCC has raised over \$81,000 so far. They are looking for more plaintiffs and have hired George James as a consultant for \$190 an hour, capped at \$5,000. George will examine potential conflicts between the city's carbon neutrality and housing opportunity. The lawsuit aims to educate people about how city council members voted on the City of Yes.

ORGANIZING A FUNDRAISER AT FARM MUSEUM

James Trent proposes organizing a fundraiser event at the Farm Museum in early May to raise money for the organization's treasury. The event would have a theme of the 400th anniversary of New York City's founding and include music, food, and family-friendly activities. The group discusses potential dates, considering religious observances and other local events. They agree to convene the Events Committee to work out the details, including ticket sales, catering, and possibly seeking sponsors. The event is envisioned as a casual, fun gathering with the potential to raise a few thousand dollars. Elaine suggested having a table at an upcoming event to raise funds for the legal fight against the city.

COMMENTS AND REMARKS ON FILING OF ARTICLE 78

Warren discussed the potential impact of filing an Article 78 against the city of Yes, including the possibility of seeking an injunction. Suzanne inquired about the applicability of the city of Yes to the Creedmoor project, which James clarified would not be affected. Maria Becce asked about the immediate impact of filing the Article 78, to which Warren promised to seek clarification from the attorney. Warren also mentioned plans for a press conference to publicize the lawsuit. Rich and James clarified that the lawsuit is focused on challenging the legitimacy of the environmental impact statement, which would have broader implications if successful.

Warren discussed the ongoing lawsuit against the city of New York, emphasizing the importance of supporting the right to bring the lawsuit despite disagreements. He mentioned inviting Paul and attorney Jack Lester to the next meeting for further discussions. Warren to reach out to CM Joanne Ariola and Vicky Paladino for help in raising funds for the City of Yes lawsuit.

TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) DISCUSSION

Henry brought up the issue of Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and its inconsistent application across different communities. Christina provided insight into the political nature of the TOD issue, explaining that it was used to secure a vote from a specific council member. Christina discussed the impact of the Tod development on the Juniper Park Civic Association, noting that it would transform the area negatively due to its low density housing and lack of infrastructure. Barbara mentioned that the development would affect the Rockaway Park Association, while Michael expressed concerns about the potential commercial buildings near the historic area. Maria and Henry discussed the importance of considering the current zoning in assessing the impact of the Tod development.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT

Warren discussed the ongoing fight against the transit-oriented development, emphasizing the importance of community involvement. He also mentioned the potential legal battle against the city and the need for community support. The team discussed the status of Intro 1107, a bill related to short-term rentals, and its potential impact on property values. Warren also mentioned the need to monitor Priscilla's law, which aims to regulate e-bikes.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting on April 15th, 2025 at 7:30 PM.

Warren asks for opinions on occasionally holding in-person meetings instead of all virtual meetings.

*Minutes prepared by Ashook Ramsaran. (Some excerpts from AI generated summary)
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