



QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS
VIRTUAL GENERAL MEETING
September 19, 2024

QCC Officers in attendance

Warren Schreiber, Ashook Ramsaran, Jim Trent, Elaine Young, Michael Scotland, Harbachan Singh, Rene Hill, Richard Hellenbrecht, Barbara Larkin, Henry Euler. Charles Ober.

Elected Officials & Representatives:

Alexis Winters (CM Vicky Paladino), Amanda Vazquez representing (CM Linda Lee), Timothy Chubinidze (Queens Borough President's Office).

Civic Representatives

Sherry Reisner (Utopia Estates Civic), Bobby Sher, Arlene Fleishman, Claudia Valentino, Michael Feiner, Eileen Greenberg, Mohamed Ishmael, G. Reid, Margaret Foley, Felix Thompson, Gerrard Clark, Ann Brown, Joseph Lubomski, Tianna, Shiang, Jerry, Laurreta, John Hines, Jr, T. Korahais, Arcella Cook.

Meeting convened by QCC President Warren Schreiber at 7:35 p.m.

Opening Remarks by QCC President Warren Schreiber

Welcome and thanks for attending this meeting, being recorded for accuracy and summarization.

QCC mourns the passing of Kevin Forrestal, QCC former President and current Vice President, CB8 Area Chair, president of Hillcrest Estates Civic Association, and prominent positions in various civic and community organizations. Condolences to Jackie Forrestal and family.

QCC also mourns the passing of Brenda Tow, Correspondence Secretary of Holly Civic Association and active membership in 109th Precinct Community Council and other groups.

FINANCIAL REPORT by Jim Trent, Treasurer

Queens Civic Congress \$3,402.18 as of 9/24/24 (\$32K to Paul Graziano for City of Yes project).

Queens Civic Congress Foundation \$11,466.05 as of 9/24/24

Paid up Dues: 2025 (4); 2024 (4); 2023 (63). Need to increase QCC membership.

Legislative Reception on 12/7/24. Venue: Douglaston Club or Bayside Historical Society if accessible.

Legislative Luncheon at Antun's on 4/26/25.

CASSINO at CITIFIELD

The meeting discussed a complex project involving apartments and a casino located on Parkland, with approval contingent on the casino's approval and involving a rezoning, which is a state issue. Issue of alienation of parkland is the issue.

New renderings posted online. ULURP is starting. CB3/7 and others in opposition.

Process: Community Boards to City Council, a quick process of 60 days.

LOCAL LAW 97

Withdrawal of nomination of Randy Mastro for City Counsel. Randy Mastro also represents coops and condos plaintiffs against NYC City Local Law 97.

Bill in Congress would allow bankrupt buildings can be purchased by housing groups.

Comments by Claudia Valentino and Jim Trent.

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“CITY OF YES”

Discussions on the ongoing efforts to defeat the "City of Yes" proposal, the economic proposal's impact on the community, as well as potential consequences, with concerns raised about its connection to affordable housing and the potential tax implications for homeowners.

Over 200 people attended a rally on 9/16/24 in Bayside opposing "City of Yes". Electeds included Assembly Members Braunstein, Hyndman, Weprin and Rozic; Sen Stavisky; Council member Paladino. The event was widely covered in local print and television media.

City Planning is planning to vote on 9/25 and hand over to City Council for likely vote by 12/31/24. There are 21-22 City Council Members who have pledged to oppose "City of Yes". 26 are needed to defeat the bill. Everyone is urged to keep working to defeat "City of Yes".

CM Paladino's newsletter lists all elected officials and respective positions. Refer to www.SaveBayside.com

Warren Schreiber to send out notifications about upcoming candidate forums and events to all members. Barbara to confirm and notify Warren of the date for the Howard Beach rally against the City of Yes proposal. All members to continue contacting City Council members to express opposition to the City of Yes proposal.

Note: All city electeds are term limited or running for re-election.

All members urged to attend and encourage others to attend upcoming October 21-22, 2024 hearings on the City of Yes proposal.

Barbara Larkin to provide date/time details of upcoming Howard Beach rally.

Comments by Claudia Valentino, Jim Trent, Rich Hellenbrecht, Barbara Larkin, Michael Feiner, Arcella Cook, Elaine Young and others.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Michael Finer: Bayside Hills Civic candidates' night on 10/29/24

SCOOTERS & e-BIKES PROBLEM

Elaine Young: Scooters and e-bikes are a widespread problem in Queens and city-wide too. Question for DOT: Hold the e-bike companies responsible for riders not leaving them on homeowners' front yards and lawns. Suggest no ride zones and penalties.

Comments by Rene Hill, Michael Scotland, Arcella Cook, Warren Schreiber, Brabara Larkin and others

Meeting was adjourned at 9:26pm.

CALENDAR:

Next Meeting: October 15, 2024 at 7:30pm (Virtual)

Following Meeting: November 19, 2024 at 7:30pm (Virtual)

Legislative Reception: December 7, 2024 at 1:00pm

Minutes prepared by Ashook Ramsaran. (Excerpts from AI generated summary)

Issued on October 13, 2024