

**Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
April 19, 2023

**Opening of the Meeting** Julio Peña III opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**First Roll Call**

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Moved – Joan Botti

Seconded – Beverly Kleinman

Passed by unanimous consent.

**Adoption of Board Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2023**

Moved – Joan Botti

Seconded – Pat Ruiz

Passed by unanimous consent.

**Public Comment (1<sup>st</sup> session)**

- Jorge Muñiz-Reyes spoke in opposition to a police crackdown of vendors in Sunset Park.

**Committee Reports**

Joint Education/Youth and Public Safety Committees, *Julio Peña*

- Referred members to the meeting minutes.

Executive Committee, *Julio Peña*

- Hybrid Meetings are coming. Awaiting clarification from Borough President's office.
- District Manager's Salary increase – **Vote required.**
  - Resolution to increase the district manager's salary by 3% in fiscal year 2023 and 2% more for fiscal year 2024 (barring any unforeseen financial reversal to Board's budget). Approved by unanimous consent.

Housing Committee, *Antoinette Martinez*

- Please review minutes.
- There will be a meeting on Monday April 24 with a guest speaker regarding community land trusts and land banks.

**Elected Official**

NY State Senator Gounardes

- Sen. Gounardes' priorities include MTA funding, housing, emergency rental assistance and expanding the child tax credit.
- Discussed need to prioritize and build affordable housing at multiple income levels.
- Supports legislation to expand rental assistance to include those in public housing.
- Supports an expansion of child tax credit.
- Third Avenue traffic study community workshop was held last week, and Sen. Gounardes encouraged attendance at second meeting on 4/27. His office will continue to work with community on solutions for Third Ave and for BQE.

- Migrants coming into the city do not interfere with housing programs. State and Federal government subsidize assistance for refugees. Many migrants have already left for other areas.
- Pilot program to use “Noise cameras” on highways to monitor and ticket offenders.

### **Committee Reports *continued***

#### Joint Public Safety, and Education/ Youth Committees- Cynthia Jeffers

- Please see YouTube video regarding protecting youth in our schools.

#### Joint Education/Youth, and Parks Committees

- Did not present

#### Joint Executive, and Land Use Committees- Julio Peña

- Discussed presentation by Borough President’s office on [Comprehensive Plan](#). Please see YouTube video and minutes.

#### Economic Development/Waterfront Committee- David Estrada **vote required**

- Update from EDC on the Made in NY (MINY) campus. Design, public access, resilience, and solar panels were discussed.
- Presentation by Percent for Art about a proposed installation at the MINY campus. The Department of Cultural Affairs presented on their process, which included community input. The artists presented their concept as well. A motion for a letter of support vote was tied in committee.
- A motion to support the committee’s “no support” position was introduced to the board.
  - A motion to table this until May Board Meeting when pictures and minutes will be available was made by Karen Rolnick
    - Second - Diana Gonzalez
    - Roll call vote: Yes-28; No-3; Abstain-3; Present-1
    - The motion will be presented again at the May board meeting.

### **Second Roll Call**

### **Elected Officials and Representatives**

#### Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez’s Office, represented by John Watkins

- DA is hosting “National Take Back Prescriptions” events throughout Brooklyn on April 21 where residents can safely dispose of expired or unused medication.
- Provided updates on pending cases and convictions.

#### Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso’s Office, represented by Mon Yuck Yu

- May 4<sup>th</sup> swearing-in of new board members.
- Next Community Resources Information Series will be at the United Senior Citizens of Sunset Park on April 21. Topic: Overview of Services Available to Older Adults.
- BP held two public meetings at Coney Island YMCA to hear community feedback on Coney Island casinos.
- Reverend Kimberly Council has been appointed Deputy Borough President on April 17.

#### NY State Senator Iwen Chu’s Office, represented by Jane Duong

- Sponsored a resolution for the State Senate to commemorate the Ramadan holiday.
- Lobbying for no tuition hikes to CUNY or SUNY.
- Fighting for funding for MTA and schools.
- Mobile office hours continue until first week of May

NYC Councilmember Alexa Avilés' Office, represented by *Edward Cerna*

- Introduced Bill 708 rethinking truck routes and their impact to local communities.
- Next Third Avenue Traffic Study workshop will take place on April 27.
- Council Member Avilés and Assembly Member Mitaynes issued a statement related to vendors in Sunset Park, are helping vendors with permitting process, and working with city to find solutions. Will also host a Community Conversation soon.
- April 29<sup>th</sup> is Healing Center's Violence Against Women and Teen Dating Violence Awareness Walk-a-Thon.

Congressman Dan Goldman's Office, represented by *Mayra Molina*

- Letter of support for Mixteca.
- Art Competition for High School students deadline is May 12, 2023.
- Hosting mobile office hours at CM Avilés office on April 26.

Senator Andrew Gounardes' Office represented by *Clay Olsen* –

- Reiterated what the Senator had reported earlier.

NY State Senator Zellnor Myrie's Office represented by *Freda Zurita*

- Update on the NYS Budget, focusing on food insecurity, universal school meals for K-12, making Prescription prices more transparent, and supporting safety net hospitals especially SUNY Downstate.
- Working to remove unnecessary scaffolding, especially at NYCHA buildings.

NY State Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes' Office represented by *Emmitt Mendoza* –

- Updated the board on the budget.
- MTA Popup workshop about bus route redesign on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 44 St/5 Ave.
- Mitaynes and Neighbors Helping Neighbors will host workshop on April 25<sup>th</sup> about housing rights.
- Gowanus Canal workshop on April 20<sup>th</sup>
- Promoting tenant protection laws

Mayor Eric Adam's Community Assistance Unit represented by *Anastasia Yaskova*

- Sanitation's Dept's new pickup regulations start April 1.

**Chairperson's Report**

- Several CB7 members will be leaving. Sincere thanks to all board members for your work and commitment!
- Strongly encourage participation in Third Ave Workshops.
- Jeremy and Julio Met with City Harvest about event space for community residents.

- Met with the Borough President about the board's priorities including transportation, particularly the need for NY State DOT to be involved in the BQE study.
- Sent letter of support to name PS 958 for Dr. Antonio Pantoja.
- Discussed progress on social media and website rebrand for CB7 to engage better with neighborhood

### **District Manager Jeremy Laufer's Report**

- Improvements on Third Ave at 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> Streets:
  - Flexible delineators installed
  - Speed cushions have been approved
  - School signs put up
  - Leading pedestrian interval timing improved to help pedestrians
  - Studying speed camera
- Raised crosswalk will be installed at 6<sup>th</sup> Ave and 50<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Pending traffic study results re Seely Street will be unveiled at upcoming Transportation Committee Meeting on May 15.
- Attended meeting with NYPD re: Quality of Life issues. Testified about noise, parking traffic, electric vehicles and parking on sidewalks.
- Met with Councilmember Aviles and Chief Madrey regarding hiring process for precinct captain
- Crime in 72<sup>nd</sup> Precinct has decreased the most in Brooklyn South.
- Another hotel in CB7 will become a shelter.
- 18 new & renewal liquor licenses.

### **Old Business**

- None

### **New Business**

- Katherine Walsh noted concerns about electric vehicles in parks and on sidewalks. More enforcement needed.  
More problematic behavior reported at hotel shelter on 26 & 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Public Comment (2nd Session)**

- Hillary Stackpole from Kingsborough Community College touted their programs and services.
- Mina Hong from the Windsor Terrace Library noted upcoming programming at Windsor Terrace Library and opposes budget cuts to libraries which will impede vital programs.
- Jorge Muñiz-Reyes urged CB members to have public discussions about future of current library space at CB7 building.

### **Motion to Adjourn at 8:28 p.m.**

Moved – Pat Ruiz

Seconded – Sam Sierra  
Passed by unanimous consent.

*Full recorded video of all CB7 meetings can be viewed on Brooklyn CB7 YouTube channel.  
See Committee Minutes or Reports for additional committee details.*