

Brooklyn Community Board 7 Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2022

6:00-7:45pm

Meeting hosted over Zoom

Opening of the Meeting - 1st Vice Chairperson Julio Peña III officially called the meeting to order, and Beverly Kleinman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Adoption for the Meeting - Pat Ruiz motioned to accept the agenda. Joan Botti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adopt minutes of March 16,2022 board meeting - Pat Ruiz motioned to accept the minutes. Sam Sierra seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Peña held up public comment to allow elected officials to address the board.

Elected Officials

1. **Councilmember Aviles** - Councilmember Alexa Aviles thanked the board for sponsoring a Unity Day event to help the community heal following the shooting event of April 12 at the 36th Street train station. The councilmember spoke of the need to have healing spaces to help those impacted recover from the trauma. They have partnered with Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes to create a pamphlet with information for mental health services for public distribution. They reported that legislation at City Hall has been delayed but that they and the Assemblywoman are sponsoring Bill 1866, the NYCHA Accountability Act to address housing utility problems that will support residents. The Red Hook ball field opened today. Councilmember Aviles stated that they are bringing attention to the mayor about the need to increase funding to remediate parks along Third Avenue in Sunset Park. They have several events coming up in April including a mobile health screening, mobile cancer screening, and an Earth Day clean-up. Her office will be distributing masks and rapid COVID tests on 4/26. In efforts to address the last mile trucking facilities, the plan is to request a text amendment with the Department of City Planning and NYC Council discussing legislation on requiring these facilities to apply for a special license to operate. The DOT Commissioner has committed to do a walk through on May 13th. They answered questions from board members regarding cameras in the subway stations not working and police walkie talkies not working on April 12.
2. **Councilmember Hanif** - Councilmember Shahana Hanif commented on the mass shooting incident that occurred on April 12 in Sunset Park at the 36th Street Station. They, together with Councilmember Aviles, suggested a future town hall meeting with MTA to address multiple issues. They stated that on the day of the shooting, her concern was communications with the schools in District 15 in getting information out,

as well as raising funds for those impacted. They stated that the state has disinvested in MTA infrastructure and safety, and this needs urgent attention citywide.

Councilmember Hanif commented that she will try to attend meetings to better serve and provide services to the constituents in her portion of the community.

- 3. Board member questions for Councilmembers** - Genesis Aquino asked both Councilmembers on how the Council participates in talks on installing metal detectors in the subway and if they will be used only for safety. Councilmember Hanif stated opposition to having metal detectors installed in subways. She spoke on an experience she had and how this will hurt the people in N.Y.C. Councilmember Aviles stated that her office has not had any discussions concerning the plans of metal detector installation. The Councilmember also spoke on how these technologies have been harmful.

Aquino asked both Councilmembers on how the Council participates in talks on installing metal detectors in the subway and if they will be used only for safety. Aquino expressed her concern over further criminalization of Black and brown people. Councilmember Hanif stated that she was opposed to having metal detectors installed in subways and any expansion of surveillance. She spoke on an experience she had and how this will hurt the people in N.Y.C. Councilmember Aviles stated that the Council has not been invited to any discussions concerning the plans for metal detector installation and she opposes this plan. Both Councilmembers spoke on how these technologies have been harmful.

There was a discussion on the budget to install the metal detectors, how it is a state agency project, and the city has no oversight on it.

Nicholas Azadian commented that had there been metal detectors the individual would not have been able to bring in a gun. There was a discussion on the rights of riders feeling safe in the trains.

Councilmember Hanif stated that she would like, along with Councilmember Aviles and the Community Board, to host a community public forum.

Rovika Rajkishun stated that we have not heard from the Borough President or the Mayor concerning this incident.

Julio Peña III stated that they will bring the suggestion of having a public forum before the Health & Mental Health Committee. Councilmember Aviles stated that there should be several discussions before it gets presented to the mayor.

Councilmember Hanif commented that she will try to attend meetings to better serve and provide services to the constituents in her portion of the community.

Public Comment (for items on agenda) - None

Committee reports - No votes required

1. **Education/Youth** - Committee Chairperson Julio Peña referred everyone to the committee report.
2. **Public Safety** - Committee Chairperson Cynthia Felix referred everyone to the committee report and the Comp Stats.
3. **Last Mile Trucking Facilities** - Committee Chairperson Katherine Walsh gave an update on her 3/23/22 meeting. Walsh shared about the proposed text legislation introduced by Councilmember Aviles, as well as legislation proposed by Assemblymember Mitaynes. The next committee meeting is next Wednesday. We will hear directly from DCP and DOT on their thoughts of what to do about these as of right projects. She encourages everyone to attend.
4. **Parks Committee** - Committee Chairperson Victor Swinton referred everyone to the committee report.
5. **Executive Committee** - Julio Peña referred everyone to the committee report.
6. **Joint Housing & Sanitation Environment Committee** - Housing Committee Chairperson Antoinette Martinez gave a brief report concerning the 4/11/22 joint committee meeting. The meeting was informational. In attendance was the Department of Environmental Conservation and the State Department of Health. They received information on the Brownfield Site Clean-up Program as it relates to the application from 737 Avenue. That site was recently rezoned from manufacturing to residential/mixed use. There are community concerns about contamination of the site. Mr. Joe Canale presented an addendum to the application. The site developers are conducting a remedial investigation, after which there will be an opportunity for public comment. The committee is also looking into resolutions on the homeless shelter at 5113 Second Avenue. On 3/31, DHS announced they are not going forward with the homeless shelter at the Globe Hotel.
7. **Health & Mental Health Committee** - Committee Chairperson Cynthia Gonzalez referred everyone to the committee report.
8. **Announcement** - Julio Peña III informed that anyone requesting committee reports can do so by emailing the board.

Elected Officials/Representatives (Continued)

John Watkins from D.A. Gonzalez's Office stated that D.A. Gonzalez sent his condolences on the incident that occurred in the subway. He spoke on how the D.A. was at the site the entire day and how the D.A. is focused on preparing updates plans for safety going forward. More information can be found on the website, BrooklynDA.org. Mr. Watkins was at the Unity Day event and spoke to many citizens about their concerns.

Musarrat Lamia from Councilmember Hanif's office announced a Ramadan food distribution event on Friday from 5-7pm at Kensington Plaza.

Chairperson's Report - Tabled

District Manager's Report

The District Manager stated Brian Slater resigned from the Board. They also mentioned the schedule of the Brooklyn Half-Marathon, the Board Staff's training on Wordpress, the DM's training in the City's website accessibility law and a DM meeting with Deputy Borough President Diana Richardson. At that meeting, the DM spoke about the Board's various issues with DOT and the need for meeting translation resources. They also gave a brief update on the Sunset Park Task Force meeting at which the DOT Borough Commissioner made a vague statement on a study for 3rd Avenue. They also spoke about a plan for upgrading boardroom technology, liquor licenses (19) and mentioned the NYPD Compstat statistics. The board hopes to begin populating the new website which will be in 20 languages soon.

Old Business

Rovika Rajkishun stated the 72nd Precinct is not represented at the board meeting and should be after a mass shooting in the neighborhood. The District Manager stated that they were not specifically invited.

Jimmy Li stated that someone in Q&A asked for translation and they are willing to provide it.

New Business

Cindy VandenBosch stated that the Board should post the agenda during the meeting to facilitate accessibility to the general public.

Grisel Amador stated that United Senior Center participated in the community events stemming from the terrorist attack and gave the center's schedule for Grandparent's Day, an application event for senior housing on 4/27 and Mother's Day celebration on May 6th.

Antoinette Martinez agreed with Cindy VandenBosch and stated the committees should give a brief verbal report during the meetings even if there is a written report.

Cynthia Felix stated there will be a free breast cancer screening coming up on Saturday hosted by Congressmember Velasquez in front of the 72nd Pct. Flyers have gone out for persons needing to register.

Public Comment

Zheng Lin, through Jimmy Li's translation, stated that private garbage trucks on 8th Avenue have created a lot of congestion and asked about improvements coming up on 8th Avenue. Mr. Laufer requested more information offline. The October 2021 meeting outlined the DOT plan for addressing traffic congestion concerns.

Madeleine Macdonald discussed air and noise pollution concerning ice cream trucks idling on the 6th Avenue and 44th Street intersection for eight hours a day and the lack of an NYPD response. They gave three complaint numbers which were not addressed by numerous agencies while being marked as fixed. Ms. MacDonald shared the license plates of the offenders and reported numbers for the board minutes.

Jahi Rose, director of outreach for CCRB, discussed the agency's purpose and new abilities. They are looking to spread awareness of the agency.

Sylvia Agosto stated the Healing Center is having their teen dating violence Walk-A-Thon on Saturday, April 30th in Brooklyn Heights. They are bringing awareness to teens on having healthy relationships.

Maria Roca agreed with Madeleine Macdonald about the nuisance issues she mentioned and stated there is a long, unsatisfying history with getting it addressed.

Nick Azadian informed on the Citizen's Air Complaint Program that facilitates problems with truck idling and complainants can be entitled to part of the fine.

There being no additional public comment, the meeting was officially closed.

A motion to adjourn at 7:45pm was made by Pat Ruiz and was seconded by Sam Sierra. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting minutes were respectfully submitted by Assistant Secretary Cynthia Gonzalez