

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes February 15, 2023

Prior to the meeting - Assemblymember Robert Carroll spoke:

- Working to fully fund Foundation Aid for NYC public schools. Initiating new structured literacy program.
- Focus on shifting to renewable energy in NY state.
- Emphasis on housing, especially protecting tenants. Building 8,000 units of housing near train stations statewide.
- Budget town hall on March 23 in Prospect Heights.

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

First Role Call

Adoption of the Agenda

Correction - Ability and Access report removed because the committee did not meet this month.

Moved as revised - Pat Ruiz

Seconded - Beverly Kleinman

Passed by unanimous consent.

Adoption of Board Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2023

Moved - Pat Ruiz

Seconded - Gladys Bruno

Passed by unanimous consent.

Public Comment (1st session)

- **Installation of LinkNYC Kiosks**
 - **Opposing the Kiosks:** Ellen Osuna, Julie Mardin, Arnold Gore, Theodora Scarato
 - Guidelines are over 25 years old.
 - Scientific studies show negative biological impacts of microwave pulsed radiation.
 - Not enough community review, not enough notification.
 - There has been no pre-market safety testing or risk analysis and no monitoring of levels.
- **Other Topics**
 - Gordon Huang - opposes "Fair Chance for Housing Act" regarding background checks on potential tenants. This is a problem for small landlords who cannot properly vet tenants.
 - Damien Andrade - concerned about various projects along the waterfront, particularly Pier 6. Opposes film studio and parking lot.

Committee Reports

Transportation Committee, John DeLooper

- **Vote Required** - Revocable Consent for City Harvest (at 150 52nd Street) to add a ramp to the building that would impede on the sidewalk.

- Approved in committee.
- City Harvest agreed to put up signs to discourage trucks from parking on sidewalk.
- The Board voted in favor of supporting the revocable consent via unanimous consent.
- Department of Transportation (DOT) plans to build three additional LinkNYC kiosks in industrial areas in Sunset Park. Due to our feedback the Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI) agreed to add a screen to the kiosk on 58th Street.
- New Neighborhood Loading Zones will be added at 635 41st St. and 600 44th St. DOT states they do not have resources available to present to the Board at present.
- Committee convened meetings of community partners and elected officials regarding the BQE. Next Transportation Committee meeting related to BQE issues will be on Feb 22 at 6:30 pm.
- Committee hopes to hold an additional meeting with MTA regarding Bus Route redesign.

Housing Committee, Antoinette Martinez

- House sharing program for senior citizens is now available through NY Foundation for Senior Citizens.
- February 28 roundtable planned with state elected officials regarding housing crisis.
- There is a NYC Voluntary Clean-up Program site proposed for 179 22nd St.
- 875 Fourth Ave apartments and 6020 Third Ave (at 60th Street), applications are opened for discounted apartments via Housing Connect.

Public Safety Committee Cynthia Felix Jeffers

- The New Captain, Captain Suarez, at the 72nd precinct will meet with CB7 soon.
- Met with Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC). Recent upgrades have been done. MDC will engage with neighborhood. Job opportunities available.
- Free "NYU Building Bridges Security Guard Training," one-week course starts March 27. Graduates will receive NY state licensing for free.
- Precinct has begun removing derelict vehicles from under the BQE and will continue to do so.

Economic Development-Waterfront Committee Daniel Murphy

- The EDC Sunset Park Task Force is meeting on February 23 in person at Industry City.

Second Role Call

Elected Officials and Representatives

Senator Andrew Gouardes' office, represented by *Melissa Safi*

- Working with aid groups to provide services for asylum seekers in our neighborhood.
- Introduced Working Families tax credit.
- Co-Sponsored good cause eviction legislation.

- Working to find community-based solutions for BQE.
- Peña Herrera Playground reconstruction meeting Feb 16.

Councilmember Alexa Aviles' office, represented by Edward Cerna

- Expanded hours for free tax prep program.
- Advocating for improved playgrounds along Third Ave.
- Safe and Healthy Families workshop with Mixteca on February 18.
- Proposing new approaches for last mile trucking which include air quality monitoring. Focusing on maritime delivery options.

Congressman Dan Goldman's office, represented by Mayra Molina

- New office will open in mid-March. Staff is available now to provide constituent services by calling 718-312-7575. Constituents must fill out a privacy release form to receive assistance.
- Will push for federal assistance as we welcome migrants.

Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez' office, represented by John Watkins

- Using multi-pronged approach to reduce violence.
- Highly successful gun buy-back. Priority to regulate ghost guns.

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso's office, represented by Jessica Kallo

- Please comment on comprehensive planning effort on our website.
- Four new initiatives in 2023:
 - Funding for non-profits to purchase permanent spaces.
 - Solarization project for low-income tenants.
 - Small business incubator for black businesses.
 - Community Board reform
- Submit capital funding requests by February 20.

Senator Myrie's office represented by Freda Zurita

- Focusing on closing health disparities, protecting affordable housing, clamping down on gun violence and making criminal laws more just.
- Supporting legislation to protect the environment and provide help for survivors of violence.
- Sponsored "Clean Slate" legislation to help the formerly convicted obtain housing and work.
- Supports a bill to increase maximum fines for corporations convicted of criminal wrongdoing.

Councilmember Hanif's office represented by Mia Perez

- SBIDC Construction training available March 13-31.

- Discretionary funding applications due February 21.
- Working with community aid groups to support asylum seekers in our community and enforcing standards for housing and care.

Assemblymember Chang's office represented by Vito Labella

- New mobile office 835 Eighth Avenue and pop-up office at 1707 18th Avenue opened Fridays.

Assemblymember Marcella Mitaynes's office represented by Emmitt Mendoza

- Reminder for Senior Housing Lottery at 6309 Fourth Ave. Applications due March 17.
- Signed letter pushing for NY State to be more active regarding BQE Revisioning.
- Pushing against efforts to raise MTA fares. Supporting free city buses and six-minute service.
- Supports charter schools cap and class size reduction.
- Supports increase in funding for Universal Pre-K and expansion of child-care services to undocumented individuals.
- Discussed lawsuit related to reimbursement of stolen SNAP benefits.
- Seeking stronger tenant protections to help move people out of shelters into permanent affordable homes. Highlighted tenant opportunity co-ops.

District Manager Jeremy Laufer's Report

- Nick Azadian and Stacy Boyd have resigned from the CB7.
- Several BQE Revisioning workshops will be held, details sent by email.
- Equinor public forum on the design of windmill facility at South Brooklyn Marine Terminal February 28th.
- Met with NYPD about hiring process for new captain. Emphasized traffic and parking enforcement issues, as well as motorized vehicles on sidewalks.
- City district managers will testify on ways to improve community boards. Jeremy will speak about interpretation and translation services and office security evaluation.
- 18 new and renewal liquor licenses

Chairperson's Report

- David Estrada will not seek re-appointment to CB7.
- Several upcoming meetings regarding BQE Revisioning, but state DOT does not plan to attend. Highlighted need for long term planning and action for BQE.
- Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) applications are now live for youths aged 14-24 looking for summer jobs.

Old Business –

- Cindy VandenBosch - Ability & Access Committee's request for accessible restroom in board office is going forward.

- Katie Walsh - Requests to have DOT engage with the community concerning truck traffic and general safety.

New Business

- Hybrid or in person meetings will likely start in March. Details to come.
- United Senior Center will have Lunar New Year celebration this Friday. A Spanish-speaking doctor will answer questions about heart health.
- State Assembly redistricting will impact our district. Please provide testimony.

Public Comment (2nd Session)

- T. Goldwire of Delta Alpha Lambda Zeta - discussed organization's mission and opportunities for service.
- Jess Giordano - expressed concerns about bikes on sidewalks.
- Felix Omozusi of Black Spectrum Theater - showed presentation to promote the theater; noted upcoming plays and event space in Jamaica Queens.
- Cynthia Gonzalez - concerned about derelict restaurant sheds.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

Moved - Cynthia Felix

Seconded - Pat Ruiz

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.*