

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2023

Opening of the Meeting Cindy VandenBosch opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Announcement of the death of longtime CB7 board member John Garcia. Memories were shared and a moment of silence was held.

Pledge of Allegiance

First Role Call conducted.

Adoption of the Agenda

Moved - Pat Ruiz

Seconded - Jerry Chan

Passed by unanimous consent.

Adoption of Board Meeting Minutes from Dec 21, 2022

Moved - Gladys Bruno

Seconded - Sam Sierra

Passed by unanimous consent.

Public Comment (1st session) - None

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Discussion covered free tax preparation services. No Vote Required. Please see committee minutes.

Second Role Call conducted.

Elected Officials and Representatives

Vito LaBella from Assemblymember Lester Chang's Office

- Our office will be in Peter Abbate's old office and will be up and running soon.
- Will send an updated district map when they are re-drawn in April.

Carol-Ann Church from Borough President Reynoso's Office

- Borough President is allocating a portion of his capital budget towards helping non-profits obtain permanent space.
- Supporting an initiative to help low-income residents obtain solar power to help with electricity costs and encourage Brooklyn's transition to solar energy.
- Partnering with Central Brooklyn EDC and JobsFirstNYC to incubate small businesses in Brownsville.
- Please read and comment on Borough Pres initiatives by January 31st. Available on website.

- Community Board applications are due by Feb 14th.

Mayra Molina from Congressman Dan Goldman's office

- Our office will be at 340A 9th Street.
- Will join with Congresswoman Velazquez in calling for an affordable housing emergency response act.
- Will meet with UPROSE this week regarding environmental issues.
- Office requires a privacy release form in order to provide assistance. Details will be clarified next month.

Jane Duong from Senator Iwen Chu's office

- Will hold a Lunar New Year's celebration February 4th at New Utrecht HS.
- Senator Chu was appointed chair of Senate Committee on Libraries and as a member of Higher Education, Pensions, and Commerce and Economic Development.
- Senator is still searching for an office. Until an office is found, mobile unit will be at Sunset Park Library on Wednesdays, New Utrecht Library on Thursdays, and McKinley Library on Fridays.

Torri Kelly from Senator Gounardes' office

- Will be moving our office out of Bay Ridge and will distribute info on mobile office hours soon.
- Senator Gounardes is focusing on street safety, last-mile trucking, and transportation issues.

Edward Cerna from Councilmember Alexa Avilés' office

- Office will now be open until 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.
- Free tax prep Jan 1 – Apr 13 on Mondays, Wednesdays from 2-6 pm, Sat 10 am to 2 pm.
- Fifth Ave. Committee's Affordable Housing for seniors at 63rd St. and 4th Ave. is now accepting applications through Housing Connect. Workshops will be held January 24th and Feb 27th at 6pm..

John Watkins from the Brooklyn D.A. Eric Gonzalez's office

- Gun buy-back program was very successful with over 200 guns turned in.
- Petty crimes and misdemeanors are prosecuted to full extent of existing law. State legislation would need to be changed in order to allow petty thefts to accumulate to level of felony for repeat offenders.

Anastasia Yaskova from Mayor's Community Affairs Office wished everyone a happy new year and thanks for service.

Chairperson's Report

- Reminder to get CB applications in on time

District Manager Jeremy Laufer's Report

- 2022 Holiday Toy Drive was very successful. Special thanks to CB7 staff, Natasha Cordero, CB7 members who donated, Sunset Park 5th Avenue BID, and United Senior Citizens of Sunset Park for their continued and generous support to the toy drive. The

donations were given to Women's Survival Space, GLO Hotel Family Shelter, and United Volunteers for the Community.

- Laufer will meet with the new warden of the Metropolitan Detention Center at the January 30 Public Safety Committee meeting.
- Laufer and Chair Peña met with Brooklyn Borough President Reynoso to discuss the process of Community Board appointments, training & technical assistance, handling conflicts of interest.
- Spoke with Fund for the City of New York regarding the fellowship program
- Noted Fifth Avenue Committee Sunset Ridge Senior Housing Info sessions
- CompStat statistics distributed and 6 new/renewal liquor license applications available in Board Office

Old Business - None

New Business

- Katie Walsh gave Transportation Committee Updates:
 - Car-share site will be 5th Ave. near Sunset Park.
 - DOT is proposing new loading zones at 635 41st St and 600 44th St.
 - Brooklyn bus network re-design virtual workshop Jan 31st at 6:30.
 - Plastic bollards will be restored along 4th Ave bike lane.
 - Noted that many BQE Revisioning Nonprofit Community Partners awarded grants by City for outreach are from CB7
 - Next BQE South Revisioning meeting March 23.
- Antoinette Martinez gave Housing Committee updates:
 - Next meeting, January 25 on Zoom, will have a presentation by NY foundation for Senior Citizens about home sharing program, and committee will discuss agendas and times for upcoming meetings.
 - 875 4th Avenue has affordable units available. Apply on "Housing Connect" website.
 - 685 4th Avenue has applied for voluntary clean-up program for 12-story mixed residential/commercial building. Public comment through Feb 6.

Public Comment (2nd Session)

- David Estrada, 5th Ave BID replaced 27 missing waste baskets along 5th Ave.
- Jason Chen from NYC Department of Sanitation
 - New trash set out rules for residents and businesses begin April 1. Residents should put out their trash at 8:00 p.m. Businesses also put out their trash at 8:00 p.m. but are allowed to put out their trash earlier if their closing time is before 8:00 p.m.
- Roxana Benavides from the Sunset Park Brooklyn Public Library
 - Lunar New Year event at library on January 19
 - Library staff can help with applications for BPL Home Internet Access Program (part of FCC Affordable Connectivity Program), which provides significant

discounts on internet/cell phone access. Patrons can also borrow laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots from BPL.

- Sari Schorr noted concerns about businesses and zoning issues

Meeting Adjourned at 8:07 p.m.