

# Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2022

6pm-9:15pm

Minutes approved by Secretary Karen Rolnick

## Opening of the Meeting

Chairperson Cesar Zuñiga announced a quorum had been reached and officially opened the meeting.

## Adoption of the Agenda

The District Manager suggested moving the second roll call to just before the Nominating Committee item on the agenda. Pat Ruiz made a motion to adopt the agenda, as amended. Joan Botti seconded. The motion to adopt passed by unanimous consent.

## Adoption of Board Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2022

Joan Botti made a motion to adopt the minutes. Sam Sierra seconded. The motion to adopt the minutes passed by unanimous consent.

## Public Comment

None

## Committee Reports

### 1. Nominating Committee

- a. An election was conducted with the following slate of candidates for officer positions for the Executive Committee of CB7:
  - i. Chair – Julio Peña III, unopposed
  - ii. 1st Vice Chair – Nick Azadian, Cindy VandenBosch
  - iii. 2nd Vice Chair – Pat Ruiz, unopposed.
  - iv. Secretary – Karen Rolnick, unopposed.
  - v. Assistant Secretary – John DeLooper, John Johnston
  - vi. Treasurer – Sandra Alfonzo, Cynthia Felix
  - vii. Community Outreach Officer – Antoinette Martinez, Cesar Zuñiga
  - viii. Sergeant-at-Arms – Victor Swinton, unopposed.
  - ix. Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms – Sam Sierra, unopposed.
- b. Process  
Each candidate was given one minute to speak. Board members voted on contested seats through ElectionBuddy.com and Secretary VandenBosch casted one vote for each of the candidates who ran unopposed.

**c. Election results:**

- i. Chair**  
Julio Peña III was elected Chair when Secretary VandenBosch cast 1 vote for them since they ran unopposed
- ii. 1st Vice Chair**  
Cindy VandenBosch was elected 1st Vice Chair with a final result of Cindy VandenBosch with 22 votes and Nicholas Azadian with 19 votes
- iii. 2nd Vice Chair**  
Pat Ruiz was elected 2nd Vice Chair when Secretary VandenBosch cast 1 vote for them since they ran unopposed
- iv. Secretary**  
Karen Rolnick was elected Secretary when Secretary VandenBosch cast 1 vote for them since they ran unopposed
- v. Assistant Secretary**  
John DeLooper was elected Assistant Secretary when Secretary VandenBosch cast 1 vote since they ran unopposed
- vi. Treasurer**  
Cynthia Felix was elected Treasurer with a final result of Cynthia Felix with 27 votes and Sandra Alfonzo with 12 votes
- vii. Community Outreach Officer**  
Cesar Zuñiga was elected Community Outreach Officer with a final result of Cesar Zuñiga with 28 votes and Antoinette Martinez with 15 votes
- viii. Sergeant-at-Arms**  
Victor Swinton was elected Sergeant-at-Arms when Secretary VandenBosch cast 1 vote for this unopposed seat
- ix. Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms**  
Samuel Sierra was elected Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms when Secretary VandenBosch cast 1 vote for this unopposed seat

**2. Transportation Committee**

No vote necessary. The Chair referred people to the written committee report.

**3. Special Subcommittee on Last Mile Trucking**

Cesar Zuñiga stated Katie Walsh was not at the meeting and that they will be giving the report. Zuñiga reported that the Special Subcommittee on Last Mile Trucking Facilities tabled a vote last month for a special zoning text amendment for last-mile trucking facilities in order to conduct a legal review on the amendment and to allow community stakeholders to weigh in with their input.

Zuñiga gave a brief history of the work done by the committee over the past year and opened the floor to Summer Sandoval from UPROSE, Rachel Spector from Earth Justice and Jessie Solomon from the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation to discuss the special zoning text amendment. There was discussion among board members regarding whether the vote should move forward. Concerns were raised about the need to follow procedure and conduct legal review and to provide a reasonable time frame for industrial stakeholders in the district to review the language and give input.

**MOTION:** Julio Peña III moved to refer the discussion back to the Special Subcommittee on Last Mile Trucking Facilities in order to conduct legal review, as was required by the committee in order to bring a vote to the full board. The motion was seconded by Nicholas Azadian. **VOTE:** A roll call vote was called: 34-Yes, 8-No, 0-Abstention, 1-Present.

## **Elected Officials and Representatives**

The following elected officials and their representatives made announcements during the meeting: Assemblymember Carroll, Assemblymember Mitaynes, Chief of Staff Edward Cerna of Councilmember Aviles' office, Brooklyn Borough Director Anastasia Yaskova from the Mayor's Office, Director of Special Projects Frida Zurita from Senator Myrie's Office, Chief of Staff Jenny Zhang and Communications and Organizing Director Emmitt Mendoza-Gaspar from Mitaynes' Office.

## **Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson Zuñiga gave their farewell speech and spoke of their sense of pride for all the work that the board has done, and thanked the board staff and Executive Committee for their support and dedication, as well as Land Use Chair John Fontillas for their hard work.

## **District Manager's Report**

1. District Manager Jeremy Laufer attended a meeting regarding the city accelerating efforts on the study of the Gowanus Corridor, and at that meeting they reported the following:
  - a. DOT will be having an Open Street on 23rd Street between 5th & 6th Avenues over the summer.
  - b. There will be a Street Market on 4th Avenue between 59th & 60th Streets over the summer.
2. Laufer reported that Sunset Park Pool will be cutting programs over the summer because of lack of lifeguards.
3. Laufer reported that liquor license renewal/new since last month are 11 and that CompStat have been emailed to everyone.

## Old Business

Pat Ruiz spoke on sanitation, public safety issues and rat infestation along 5th Avenue, and also wanted to know what is being done about sanitation issues related to street vendors. Zuñiga stated that these issues will be referred to the Sanitation Committee.

Barbara Lee inquired if the 72nd Precinct has attended our meetings. Laufer stated that they are scheduled to attend the Public Safety Committee meeting later in the month.

Cindy VandenBosch reported on the handbook that they and Karen Rolnick are working on and invited board members to participate in this process if they are interested.

Beverly Kleinman asked if anything is being done regarding the ice cream truck that idles all day on the circle on Prospect Park West. Laufer asked them to call the board office to follow up with the precinct.

## New Business

David Estrada spoke on an MTA bus that parks everyday on 49th Street and how the merchants are complaining.

Julio Peña III reminded everyone about early voting in June for the primary elections.

Daniel Murphy spoke on the need to schedule a Parks Committee meeting to address the issue of programs closing at the park because of lack of lifeguards.

**MOTION:** Samuel Sierra made a motion that the board create a task force that consists of the Sanitation, Transportation, Public Safety, and Economic Development Committees to discuss issues along 5th Avenue. David Estrada seconded the motion. **DISCUSSION:** Daniel Murphy raised concern about combining so many committees to resolve issues and suggested that each committee address specific issues related to 5th Avenue. **VOTE:** The motion passed by unanimous consent.

## Public Comment

Jennifer Baumgartner from GrowNYC stated that there are three green markets in CB7, including markets at Bartel Pritchard Square, 7th Avenue Sunset Park, and the 4th Avenue Sunset Park Market (a seasonal market), and that they accept SNAP/EBT benefits and have funding from DOH to match up to \$10 of that spending.

Byron Todman from Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn spoke on the services and programs that they provide.

Nate Gray spoke regarding a development that is being built on his block at McDonald Ave. and Vanderbilt Street in Windsor Terrace, and concerns about compliance issues with its R-5 as of right zoning status and safety issues related to the plans. Gray will follow up with District Manager Laufer in terms of next steps.

Kenneth Lazar from the NYC Department of Buildings announced that his office will be hosting *Buildings After Hours*. The DOB borough offices will be open every Tuesday from 4:00pm – 7:00pm to answer any questions and provide information to homeowners, tenants, small business owners, and building managers.

Maria Roca spoke on the ice cream truck that idles on 6th Avenue & 44th Street by Sunset Park in a spot that blocks the entrance to the park. Roca also raised concern about open-flame cooking that happens every Sunday in the park which is a fire hazard and is not permitted.

Cesar Zuñiga made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pat Ruiz seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.