

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes November 16, 2022

Opening of the Meeting

Chair Julio Peña III opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

First Roll Call conducted

Adoption of the Agenda

Julio Pena III made an amendment to include a discussion on the Board Member Handbook at the end of Committee Reports

- Moved as amended - Joan Botti
- Seconded as amended - Jerry Chan
- Passed by unanimous consent

Adoption of Board Meeting Minutes from October 19, 2022

- Moved - Joan Botti
- Seconded - Jerry Chan
- Passed by unanimous consent

Public Comment (1st session)

- Alba Peña, Community Engagement Manager from Equinor, spoke about the company's announcement of an equity fund and an offshore wind innovation hub. Noted Equinor will undergo a 60-day review processes and be subject to [several public hearings](#) beginning on December 7

Committee Reports

Economic Development/Waterfront Committee – Vote Required

- Discussion among the Board members on the motion from the Economic Development-Waterfront Committee for a support letter to the Public Design Commission for the final design of the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal. A roll call vote was held to support the recommendation of the committee to draft a letter to the Public Design Commission to inform them that we have seen the design presentation for the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal and that Community Board 7 is advising them to not approve the final design submissions from the applicant (Equinor) until the concerns of the board raised at the November 9 meeting are addressed: 36-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstention, 1-Voting present

Public Safety – No Vote Required.

- Cynthia Felix announced the next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on December 5 and will feature presentations on e-bike battery safety and a meet and greet with the new federal prison (MDC) warden
- Katie Walsh recommended that when filing a 311 report, get the service request number via phone or email and share it with CB7
- Walsh provided email address PCT072Desk@nypd.org with which to share issues
- Felix noted that issues can also be reported to Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs), listed at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/nypd/bureaus/patrol/precincts/72nd-precinct.page>

Transportation – No Vote Required

- Walsh discussed upcoming BQE closures and calls in a recent meeting for DOT to explore free transportation to mitigate traffic congestion issues
- Discussed Brooklyn “Getaround” Carshare pilot and DOT plans to dedicate spots on 44th and 45th between 5th and 6th Avenue
- Walsh noted Board members raised questions about vendor selection, siting of spots, and Committee wants to do a follow-up meeting with DOT
- Walsh and DeLooper attended recent meetings of BQE Revisioning series. Upcoming follow-up meetings will be held Spring 2023. Board and community members encouraged to attend
- DOT is planning a 3 Ave study and is working on calendaring meetings related to this and other safety issues
- Updates were shared about a potential letter related to 3rd and 4th Avenue safety issues, specifically bollards on 3rd Ave, bike lane closures on 4th Ave, and questions about the design of medians

Parks – No Vote Required

- Swinton referred members to Committee report and YouTube recording of November 3 meeting

Handbook – No Vote Required

- Julio Peña introduced Member Handbook to Board and discussed the Handbook’s creation process, and how it will be maintained and updated to meet Board needs
- Peña thanked Karen Rolnick, Cindy VandenBosch, and all others who participated in creation of the Handbook for their work on this project

Second Roll Call conducted

Elected Officials and Representatives

Assemblymember Robert Carroll

- Carroll discussed BQE truck rerouting concerns related to upcoming closures
- Noted traffic death on Caton at Coney Island Ave and encouraged Board to work with him to make a safe and fair plan to hold DOT accountable
- Updated Board on status of passed bills that have not yet been signed by governor including 10-day voter registration and dyslexia task force

Freda Zurita from Senator Zellnor Y. Myrie’s Office

- Reported on Thanksgiving/Harvest Festival on November 19

John Watkins from Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez Office

- Reported that D.A. Gonzalez and NYPD conducted a press conference to discuss the arrest of members of violent gangs
- Discussed DA’s landlord/tenant summit at Restoration Plaza
- Noted DA will participate in a Thanksgiving food distribution event

Edward Cerna from Council Member Alex Avilés

- Reported on the World Day of Remembrance for Victims of Traffic Violence walk to be held on Sunday, November 20 starting at O.L.P.H. and ending at Sunset Park
- Spoke on a package of bills that the council member and City Council are working on related to lithium-ion powered mobility device/vehicle batteries and safety regulations
- Discussed “Code Blue” procedures and asked members to call 311 to report homeless who need assistance when temperatures drop below 32 degrees.

- Thanked several Board members for attending the Asylum Seekers Service Fair.

Chairperson Julio Peña's Report

- Attended Asylum Seekers Service Fair and thanked those Board members and community organizations that attended.
- Welcomed Dmitri Johnson, fellow from Fund for City of New York
- Informed the Board that Fred Wolf has resigned and thanked him for his service
- Reminded members about winter clothes drop-off at office of Council Member Avilés

District Manager Jeremy Laufer's Report

- Laufer provided testimony related to Intro 570 *Provision of Language Services for City Agencies*
- Interviewed by a Professor from Stony Brook on Community Board needs for translation & interpretation services
- Met with the new MDC Federal Prison warden on 10/25/22
- Resumption of the Community Board's Holiday Toy Drive for family & domestic shelters
- Tested hybrid meeting conducted at the Community Board's boardroom
- 11 renewal/new liquor license received at the Board office
- CompStat statistics have been emailed to Board
- Noted public hearing for Department of Youth and Community Development Neighborhood Advisory Board to be held in Boardroom on 11/17

Old Business

None

New Business

- Grisel Amador discussed a dominoes competition at United Senior Center. She also invited the Board to their Puerto Rican Heritage Month/Thanksgiving celebration to be held November 18

Public Comment (2nd Session)

- Jorge Muñiz-Reyes spoke on how two children were struck by a vehicle and the need for traffic safety improvements

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.