

Brooklyn Community Board 7 Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2021

Meeting hosted over Zoom

6:00PM-8:00PM

Chairperson Zuñiga spoke on how Board Members' attendance will be counted at board meetings. Membership and Attendance Committee Chairperson Pat Ruiz and staff will assist with taking the attendance of members.

Opening of the Meeting

Chairperson Zuñiga officially opened the November 17, 2021 Board Meeting.

Agenda adoption

District Manager Jeremy Laufer proposed two amendments to the agenda: 1) the Land Use Committee no longer required a vote; and 2) the Housing Committee will go last in the order of committee reports. Joan Botti made a motion to adopt the agenda with the two proposed amendments. Beverly Kleinman seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Adopt minutes of 10/20 board meeting

Pat Ruiz made a motion to adopt the minutes of the October 20, 2021 Board Meeting. Jimmy Li seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Adopt minutes of 11/1 public hearing

Julio Peña made a motion to adopt the minutes of November 01, 2021 Public Hearing. Joan Botti seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Public Comment

Victoria Alexander spoke about a coalition to save Grand Prospect Hall that collected over 40,000 signatures and how the coalition is seeking advice and input in this effort from the Community Board.

Committee Reports

- 1. Land Use/Landmarks Committee** - John Fontillas reported that there was a Public Hearing and committee meeting on November 01, 2021 discuss BSA Application #2021-56-BZ, Special Permit Application to request a permit for a Use Group 3 within an M1-2 zoning district located at 341-353 39th Street, Brooklyn, NY. No vote was taken, and the committee continues to take testimony until the next committee meeting.
- 2. Special Subcommittee on Last Mile Trucking Facilities (Refer to Report)** - Katherine Walsh reported on her committee meeting that was held on October 25, 2021. Walsh stated that the committee will be meeting on November 30, 2021.
- 3. Public Safety Committee** - Cynthia Felix reported on her committee meeting that was held on November 10, 2021. She shared concerns expressed regarding the handling of 311 calls by the 72nd Pct, the use of 19th Street by trucks, where several schools are located, the use of rotating tow trucks and the fact that the Pct only has one tow truck assigned, and that education to E-bike purchasers are only provided in English.

4. **Ability & Access Committee** - Cynthia VandenBosch reported on her committee meeting that was held on November 15, 2021. VandenBosch shared about the presentation given by the Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled and the NYS Senate and Assembly Committees, and the work being done on a bill submission regarding wages of the disabled. VandenBosch discussed the Access-A-Ride program and the new On Demand Access-A-Ride programs and concerns about whether the new program will continue to be funded. The committee will address their concerns with the new elected officials in early 2022.
5. **Housing Committee** - Antoinette Martinez reported that the Housing Committee met on November 4, 2021 to discuss and set the agendas for future Housing Committee meetings with topics on Local Law 152, basement apartments and code enforcement, and the economics on the 737 4th Avenue project. The Housing Committee also had a presentation on the Housing with Dignity Act (HONDA). Martinez announced that the Fifth Avenue Committee has released the applications for the affordable housing development at 372 51st Street on the Housing Connect website. Martinez reported that those who need help in filling out the application can call the FAC support line at 347-844-0220.

Elected officials who addressed CB7 during the meeting

Ting Lin from Councilman Menchaca's office informed that the office is transitioning out by 11/29 and will be permanently closing shortly thereafter. She spoke of clothing donations made for the 43rd Street fire victims that they are seeking to donate to families or organizations needing them. Specific times will be set up for pick up.

Patrick Kwon from the Mayor's Community Affairs thanked all who attended the City Borough Hall borough Resource Fair.

John Watkins from the District Attorney's office Unit shared about his meeting with the 72nd Pct Public Safety Committee and shared how the DA's office works in conjunction with the NYPD.

District Manager's Report

The District Manager explained the Roll Call procedure, spoke about changes to DOT's 7th/8th Avenue plans, FAC's affordable apartments above the new library, ReGen Lab at BioBAT, two fires in the community and families who lost homes and possessions and Bush Terminal Park and an upcoming meeting on it. Information on liquor License applications can be reviewed at the board office.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Zuñiga spoke about the 43rd Street fire and the Go Fund Me for the victims.

Zuñiga also spoke about his work with NYU on broadband access for the community and funding opportunities through the federal government, as well as a Thanksgiving lunch and dinner for the community to be held on 11/23. He thanked the sponsors for organizing the event.

Old Business

Nick Azadian gave an update on the Sunset Park Task Force. The next meeting will be held on 12/10.

Katherine Walsh elaborated on the work of the task force and gave a further update and spoke about the sinkhole at Bush Terminal Park. She reported that EDC will fund repairs to the sinkhole within 6-8 weeks.

Julio Peña III gave an update on renaming a school after Dr. Antonia Pantoja and the process for approval. The Brooklyn Independent Redistricting Commission met, and testimonies continue to be accepted from the public.

Paul Mak spoke about a homeless shelter proposed for 8th Avenue in CB 10. He spoke of the impact of the proposed location to the Asian community given their long-standing plans for a Chinatown Archway at the same location. Kenny Guan also spoke about the proposed shelter. Mr. Zuñiga will set a meeting to address the issue.

New Business

Cynthia Vandenbosch announced that the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation is currently accepting applications for their Industrial Pathways Career program. The next cohort starts on December 6 and the program is open to residents 18-29 years old.

Grisel Amador gave an update on the activities of the United Senior Citizens Center which included the Department for the Aging providing tablets and training to seniors, a turkey distribution and lunch, the 2021 toy drive and activities for Puerto Rican Heritage Month.

David Estrada announced that the Sunset Park 5th Avenue BID will hold a tree lighting ceremony at OLPH on 12/3. Estrada reminded everyone that the Go Fund Me fundraiser is still collecting donations for the families displaced from the fire at 475 43rd Street.

Julio Peña III announced that he and Chairperson Zuñiga are planning an in-person holiday event following the December 2021 board meeting.

Public Comment

David Estrada addressed questions about case management of the fire victims posed by Pat Ruiz.

Ted Gottfried expressed his disappointment with the 72nd Precinct's response to his calls citing reasons.

Dan Rockman spoke about his interest and others in creating a community citizens safety patrol group in the district. He gave information on the group and their goals.

Cynthia Gonzalez spoke about the proposed family homeless shelter at 801 65th Street and her frustration with targeting our community for facilities and services that would not be accepted in other communities.

Katherine Walsh expressed her concerns about an outside community citizens patrol group being active in the district.

Julio Peña III made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Azadian.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cynthia Gonzalez and Cynthia VandenBosch