

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2022

Opening of the Meeting

Chair Julio Peña III opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

First Role Call conducted.

Adoption of the Agenda

Amended to include the Ability & Access, and Sanitation & Environmental Committees.

Moved as amended - Pat Ruiz

Seconded as amended - Sam Sierra

Passed by unanimous consent.

Adoption of Board Meeting Minutes from Sept 21, 2022

Moved - Pat Ruiz

Seconded - Barbara Lee

Passed by unanimous consent.

Adoption of Minutes of Finance Committee Public Hearing Oct 12, 2022

Moved - Pat Ruiz

Seconded – Joan Botti

Passed by unanimous consent.

Deputy Inspector Castro of 72nd Precinct

- Castro has requested additional traffic officers for 5th Ave. and will continue urging officers to enforce all parking laws.
- 72nd Precinct continues to remove derelict vehicles from under Gowanus as allowed by law, complicated by people living in vehicles.

Public Comment (1st session)

None

Committee Reports

Transportation Committee - No Vote Required.

- Transportation Committee has just received updated designs for median strip along 4th Ave., will discuss/review at next meeting.
- 3rd Ave. Construction Update
 - Overlaps with BQE re-routing and 4th Ave project. Need to coordinate these to minimize traffic disruptions was raised at previous meeting.
 - Board's request for bollards has been rejected by DOT.
 - 100 new trees will be added as well as additional lighting.
 - Parts of 3rd Ave. are being repaved now.
- Topics for Upcoming Meetings:
 - Carshare parking on residential blocks in the 40s.
 - Private bus operator route on 8th Ave.

- o Scooter and moped enforcement.
- o 20th St. updates.
- o City is conducting outreach about the BQE including workshops related to CB7 on November 3 and November 7.
- o City plans to begin a public engagement process focused on 3rd Ave with goal of creating design changes.

Sanitation & Environment Committee - No Vote Required.

- The Climate Action Council is developing scoping plans regarding the Climate Leadership and Protection Act, which requires greenhouse emissions reductions of 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. This bill is being challenged by extensive National Grid lobbying.
- Green-Wood Cemetery has planted 8,000 trees with a grant from EDC. They are also removing invasive species.

Finance Committee - Vote Required.

For the Register of Community Board Budget Requests, both the Capital and Expense budget priorities passed by a vote of 38 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Note that if the budgets had been rejected, we would miss our opportunity to submit our budget requests.

Public Safety Committee (carried over from last month)

The committee met twice.

- At the first meeting Deputy Inspector Castro spoke about quality-of-life complaints and safety plans for the district. The Civilian Complaint Review Board did a presentation about how to file a complaint.
- During the second meeting the Committee voted to allow a change to the liquor license for El Rey Del Pescado at 4515 5th Avenue to include patron dancing. David Estrada, as Executive Director of the Sunset Park Business Improvement District, spoke in favor of the business. Cynthia Felix moved to adopt El Rey Del Pescado's application and waiver, which was approved in committee so does not require a second. The motion carried by unanimous consent with one recusal for cause (Victor Swinton).

Ability and Access Committee - Vote Required

- Cindy VandenBosch moved that "CB7 supports Intro 570 and we additionally call on the Mayor and the City Council to provide sufficient funding for this program." This bill would create an "Office of Translation and Interpretation" to hire full time language specialists to provide translation and interpretation services for city agencies. No second was needed because the resolution was approved in committee. The vote was: 38 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.
- A hybrid meeting "test run" is planned for October 25 to make sure hybrid meetings are fully accessible to all.
- Committee is following up on why CB7 meeting space accessible restroom has not been built since it has been fully funded for several years.

Second Role Call conducted.

Elected Officials and Representatives

Assemblyman Robert Carroll

- Thanked the board for its support at his BQE/Truck Detour Town Hall.
- Reminder to vote on the Environmental Bond act ballot initiative in the upcoming election, to meet environmental and clean energy goals.

Henry Morgan, Community Support Coordinator for the Mayor's NYC Service Office

- Agency connects volunteers with non-profits who need them.
- New York City Civic Impact Grants provide up to \$10,000 to about 20 non-profits per year to bolster NGOs that combat food insecurity. 501c3 organizations can apply for 2024 funding in late winter or spring of 2023.
- Love Your Block mini grants are available to neighborhood and resident-led groups to revitalize their neighborhood with beautification projects. Applications open this spring.
- Neighborhood Engagement Toolkit which helps to connect volunteers with city agencies, is available to all non-profits online.
- Three-part training series will be held in January, registration will open in December.

Edward Cerna from Council Member Alex Aviles

- DOT's next BQE visioning session for South Brooklyn is on November 3.
- There will be a District Office Open House on Thursday, October 20, 6pm to 8pm.
- There will be DEP community forum to discuss ongoing flooding conditions during heavy rainfall and needed infrastructure improvements. October 25, 6pm to 7:30pm on Zoom.
- A street co-naming ceremony took place on 57th Street on October 8 to honor Sandra Santos-Vizcaino.

Freda Zurita from Senator Zellnor Y. Myrie's Office

- Myrie is promoting the "Predatory Marketing Prevention Act" which would expand the definition of "false and misleading" to include language that advertises unhealthy food to children.
- NYS Senate Standing Committee on Housing, Construction and Community Development will hold a public hearing on October 27 to discuss the growing problem of deed theft (aka title fraud) in Brooklyn.
- Pet adoption event at the Old Stone House October 22nd and 23rd.
- NYU Langone will be partnering with Senator Myrie for a Thanksgiving distribution event. Stay tuned for details.

Chairperson Julio Peña's Report

- Urged Board members to give feedback for CB7 Member Handbook draft.
- Please volunteer for resource fair for migrant shelter residents in our district.
- Barnacle Parade in Red Hook to increase awareness about climate resiliency will be on October 29th.
- Remember to vote on ballot initiatives.

District Manager Jeremy Laufer's Report

- Samuel Brietbart has had to resign from the board because of conflict of interest due to new job with city. Board now has 49 members.

- Metro Sound Plus has evaluated and fixed our sound system. We will test the hybrid system Oct 25th. Please email BKCB7 if you can volunteer!
- District Managers' Coalition supports increased language services and "Intro 570". Laufer plans to testify at upcoming hearing. Board Members are welcome to provide additional testimony.
- Board has been assigned a planning fellow from the Fund for the City of New York. Fellow Dmitri Johnson is a grad student at Columbia and will help with study of BQE and 3rd Ave issues.
- Leaf pick-up will be Nov 20th and Dec 4th. Call 311 to get leaf bags.
- There have been six new/renewal liquor license applications this month.
- Brooklyn Grange/City Growers will host a Fall Festival on 10/23 at Liberty View Plaza
- NYPD statistics in Board package

Old Business

None

New Business

Pat Ruiz announced that Our Lady of Perpetual Help will host a survivorship and remembrance service for breast cancer awareness month on October 21 from 7pm to 8pm.

Public Comment (2nd Session)

- Rusty Zimmerman discussed the Free Portrait Project (<http://freeporraitproject.org/>).

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.