

Brooklyn Community Board 7 Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2021

Meeting hosted over Zoom

6:00PM-8:40pm

Elected officials who addressed CB7 during the meeting:

Assemblymember Robert Carroll, John Watkins from the Brooklyn District Attorney's office, Freda Zurita from Assemblyman Myrie's office.

Opening of the Meeting

1st Vice Chair Julio Peña III officially opened the October 20, 2021 Board Meeting.

Agenda adoption

First Vice Chair Julio Peña III requested an amendment to the agenda to add a vote to support a petition from Voces Ciudadanas for universal afterschool programs in the district. Motion by Daniel Murphy to adopt the amended agenda, seconded by Gloria Rodriguez-Novoa. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Adopt minutes of 9/22 board meeting

Cynthia Gonzalez made a motion to adopt the minutes of 09/22/21 board meeting, Joan Botti seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Adopt minutes of 10/12 public hearing

Joan Botti made a motion to adopt the minutes of the 10/12/21 public hearing, Jimmy Li seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Adopt minutes of 10/13 public hearing

Cynthia Felix made a motion to adopt the minutes of the 10/13/21 public hearing. Victor Swinton seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

District Manager's Report

20th Street issues and complaints - District Manager Jeremy Laufer reported that 20th Street was turned into a one-way street, and the board was notified only 14 hours in advance of construction starting. The board was not given a vote on 20th Street, and sent a letter stating concerns and indicated that it was an incomplete plan. There are complaints coming into the board office from 19th and 23rd Streets about oversized trucks that aren't able to navigate those streets. In terms of truck re-routing, the Department of Transportation responded that trucks should travel on Third Avenue, the most dangerous corridor in our community, and then turn up 39th Street. There are also reports that DOT is not following through on posting traffic safety officers on 20th Street after the new route was introduced. Reports have come in of drivers continuing to use 20th Street as a two-way street and damage to private vehicles, as well as people using cones around their parking spaces.

Laufer also followed up on the following issues that had been raised at or since the last monthly board meeting:

1. **WWII Navy Armed Guard Memorial** - Laufer met with the Brooklyn Borough Commissioner for Sanitation and the Dept. of Sanitation's Garage Superintendent, and they committed to keeping storage away from the memorial and to keep the area clean.
2. **Street renaming requests** - There have been 2-3 additional street renaming requests, and Laufer will follow up with the Transportation Chair about next steps in response.
3. **Bush Terminal Park hours** - The Regional Park Manager informed the Board office that the closing time is 11pm. Laufer reminded them to keep access open to the 50th Street entrance until that time. They had been closing it prior to the official closing time.
4. **Composting** - Composting is back in CD7 and is being done on a voluntary basis. Residents need to sign up through the Dept. of Sanitation's website. The community needs to reach a critical mass for curbside recycling in order to get a truck to do it.
5. **Flooding and stormwater management** - The Sanitation and Environment Committee met with residents of three different areas who have been complaining about chronic flooding in addition to meeting with DEP. Laufer is working separately with each of these groups of residents. As directed by DEP at the meeting, Laufer reached out to DDC to find out the approved bioswales and permeable pavement areas in Windsor Terrace and has not received a response.

17 liquor license applications are available for review in the board office.

NYPD stats have been emailed to everyone.

Katherine Walsh, Nicholas Azadian, Antoinette Martinez and Paul Mak asked questions and made comments.

Chairperson's Report - Tabled

Committee Reports

1. **Transportation Committee** - Refer to report
2. **Sanitation/Environment Committee** - Refer to report
3. **Capital and Expense Committee**
 - a. District Manager Jeremy Laufer reported that there was a public hearing and a Capital & Expense Committee meeting on 10/13/21 to discuss the Capital & Expense Priorities for F.Y. 2023.
 - b. Jeremy Laufer read the top 10 Capital requests for F.Y. 2023.
 - i. **MOTION:** There was a motion from the committee to accept the requests for F.Y. 2023. Motion seconded by Ms. Cynthia Gonzalez
 - ii. **VOTE:** Motion passed by unanimous consent.

- c. Jeremy Laufer read the top 10 Expense requests for F.Y. 2023.
 - i. **MOTION:** There was a motion from the committee to accept the requests for F.Y. 2023. Motion seconded by Cynthia Gonzalez.
 - ii. **VOTE:** Motion passed by unanimous consent.

4. Land Use / Landmarks

- a. Board of Standards and Appeals Application #2021-30-BZ - Application seeks a variance to enlarge and use the existing building located at 222 44th Street, Brooklyn, NY for the Brooklyn Rise Charter School.
 - i. Report - Committee Chair John Fontillas gave a report on the public hearing and committee meeting of 10/12/21 for the BSA Application #2021-30-BZ; application seeks a variance to enlarge and use the existing building located at 222 44th Street for the Brooklyn Rise Charter School, The Land use/ Landmarks committee voted **not to approve** the application.
 - ii. **MOTION** - To support the recommendation of the committee and **not approve** the application (Board of Standards and Appeals Application #2021-30-BZ).
 - iii. **VOTE** - 26 in favor of the motion, 11 opposed, 1 abstention for cause
 - iv. Following the vote, Fontillas reiterated that the full board vote has affirmed the Land Use/Landmarks Committee position **to not approve** of the application.

5. Education

- a. **MOTION:** Julio Peña III made a motion for CB7 to support a letter from Voces Ciudadanas to the Department of Education and the Department of Youth and Community Development to provide comprehensive after-school programming in all of the elementary and middle schools in the Sunset Park community. Joan Botti seconded the motion. Peña noted that they work for a DYCD-funded organization and recused themselves from voting.
- b. **VOTE:** 26 voted yes, 11 voted no, and 1 voted present

Sam Sierra motioned to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Cynthia Gonzalez

Minutes submitted by Cindy VandenBosch