

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes September 21, 2022

Opening of the Meeting

Chair Julio Peña III opened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

First Role Call, conducted by Maria Gonzalez.

Adoption of the Agenda

Moved - Sam Sierra.

Amended - Pat Ruiz moved to amend the agenda, changing "El Del Pescado Restaurant" to "El Rey Del Pescado".

Seconded as amended - Pat Ruiz

Passed by unanimous consent.

Adoption of Board Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2022

Moved - Pat Ruiz

Seconded - Joan Botti.

Passed by unanimous consent.

Public Comment (1st session)

George Cardona - very concerned about prison inmates housed in the homeless shelter on 52nd Street and 3rd Avenue and other quality of life issues with shelters.

Cynthia Gonzalez - difficulty with the audio at the hybrid Executive Committee meeting held on September 13.

Jane Yi Duong - from Senator Gounardes' Office introduced herself to the board.

Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee - Tabled by chair due to absence of Committee Chairs.

Parks Committee - Chair Peña III referred the board members to read the minutes. No vote required.

Executive Committee - Chair Peña III referred the board members to read the minutes. No vote required.

Subcommittee on Last Mile Trucking - Katie Walsh, Committee Chair, reported that the special text amendment on last mile trucking facilities was submitted by a coalition of community stakeholders to the Department of City Planning on September 7 for a review. No vote required.

Elected Officials and Representatives

Brooklyn Borough President's representative, Mon Yuck Yu, reported:

- Bringing back the Wingate Concert series
- Hosting jazz concerts at Borough Hall

- Borough President allocated his entire FY23 capital funding to three Brooklyn hospitals: Woodhull, Coney Island and King's County to "help close racial disparities among maternal mortality rates".

Councilmember Alexa Avilés' representative, Edward Cerna, reported:

- Avilés is advocating for victims of hurricane in Puerto Rico.
- City is activating a shelter in our community to house families who are seeking asylum.
- Avilés' office is in contact with the agencies to ensure that the families receive social services and are enrolling children in school.
- Provided statistics: 183 individuals placed in the shelter of which 55 are school-aged children (50 families total).
- Mayor's "Brooklyn Queens Expressway (BQE) Community Visioning Sessions" mostly deal with the Triple Cantilever section, reaching out to Gov. Hochul to focus on a corridor-wide solution.
- Upcoming event- Sept 26 New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) Legal Services at Avilés office
- Upcoming event- Sept 27 "Civics Series" to answer questions about government at Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Councilmember Hanif's representative, Mia Perez, reported:

- Working with CM Avilés to support asylum seekers
- Kickstarting Participatory Budget process with theme "Environmental Justice"
- Upcoming event- Sept 22 Meeting to review traffic detours for BQE

Mayor Eric Adams' Community Affairs Unit representative, Anastasia Yaskova, reported:

- Ending COVID vaccine mandate for private sector Nov 1st

Second Role Call, conducted by Maria Gonzalez.

Chairperson Julio Peña's Report

- Announced changes to committees
- Board meetings will now start at 6:30pm instead of 6:00pm. Requested that committee chairs start their meetings at 6:30pm also.
- Expressed support for Borough President's Comprehensive Initiative to address health disparities.
- Clarified that the Executive Meeting was an in-person meeting. The hybrid functionality was being tested out. Apologized for confusion and will continue to work on glitches with hybrid format.

District Manager Jeremy Laufer's Report

- MetroSound Pros are scheduled to look into Board's issues with audio. Closed captions are working.
- The Board has applied for two Fund for the City of New York Planning Fellows to decipher and respond to BQE study in Windsor Terrace, and the BQE study on Third and 4th Avenue corridors.

- Cannabis businesses will be applying for licenses by year's end. Process will be similar to liquor licenses.
- Upcoming Meeting on BQE detours study at PS 130, Sept 22.
- Upcoming ULURP training, Borough President's office, Sept 22.
- Upcoming MTA meeting about Interborough Express (IBX) rail transit proposal, Sept 22.
- Attended CDC15 meeting, emphasized need for translation services for community boards.
- Upcoming tugboat race, Sunday Oct 9 at BAT.
- Upcoming DOT work - six of our intersections will be getting street lights with "Vision Zero Arms" with 15-18 more proposed.
- 27 new/renewal liquor licenses since last meeting.

Old Business

- Karen Rolnick gave an update on the Board Member handbook.

New Business

- Cynthia Gonzalez urged action to remove abandoned vehicles from under BQE.
- David Estrada gave an update on the 5th Avenue Fall Festival Sunday Sept 25th.
- Grisel Amador gave an update on upcoming programs at the United Senior Center.

Public Comment (2nd Session)

- Jackie Mendez - Trucks and cars parked on bike boulevard causing safety hazard.
- Richard Day - Sanitation dept will do leaf collection Nov 20 and Dec 4.
- Maggie Flanagan - Encouraged attendance at Tugboat race
- Rusty Zimmerman - Portrait paintings with oral history will be done in Kensington in January. Contact freeportraitproject.org for info.
- Jessica Yaeger - Red Hook Community Justice center handles criminal, housing and family court connecting those in the court system with needed services.
- Ken Lazar - Dept of Buildings Brooklyn office will now be open late on Tuesdays, 4-7 pm
- John Watkins - Hispanic Heritage Month celebration October 3 at Williamsburg Hotel. RSVP on DA website
- Gabino Morales - Requesting surveillance cameras for community security
- Jennifer Cabana reporter for NY1 Noticias, encouraged sending relevant news items
- Pat Ruiz - Will 72nd Precinct be attending our meetings?

Meeting Adjourned at 7:27pm.