

## **Brooklyn Community Board 7 Meeting Minutes - DRAFT**

September 22, 2021

Meeting hosted over Zoom

6:00PM-8:55pm

**Elected officials in attendance** - State Senator Jabari Brispo, Assemblymember Robert Carroll, Assemblymember Marcela Mityanes; Community Liaison for Senator Myrie's Office, Borough President's Office representative.

**Opening of the meeting** - Chairperson Zuñiga announced a quorum and opened the meeting

**Adoption of the agenda for the meeting** - Pat Ruiz made a motion to adopt. Julio Peña seconded. Agenda was adopted by unanimous consent. The amended agenda was adopted with unanimous consent.

**Adoption of the June 16, 2021 board meeting** - Cynthia Gonzalez proposed an amendment to correct the address of PS 1 from 49th Street to 47th Street, where it is actually located. Julio Peña motioned to adopt the amended minutes. Pat Ruiz seconded. The corrected minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

### **District Manager's Report**

Jeremy Laufer reported that the Governor signed into legislation that city agencies can continue to conduct their meetings on virtual platforms. Laufer reported that he provided testimony for Assemblyman Abbate's Article 78 lawsuit against the Department of Transportation to allow community board review on their proposals. Laufer announced that CB7 will host a hybrid Transportation Committee meeting for a presentation from the NYC Department of Transportation on their proposal to convert 7th & 8th Avenues from 39th Street to 67th Streets. The in-person meeting site is the Brooklyn Chinese American Association Senior Center located at 545 60th Street. Laufer explained that due to capacity restrictions, CB7 board members and community residents must RSVP to reserve a seat at the in-person meeting location. He also mentioned that everyone can join the Zoom webinar to attend the meeting virtually. He attended a meeting to meet the new commander of Patrol Borough Brooklyn South. He informed the new commander that increased truck, vehicle and parking enforcement is needed in the CB7 district and requested an increase in school crossing guards. Mr. Laufer met with the Department of Design and Construction to discuss the 4th Avenue upgrades. Mr. Laufer reported that the DOT projects for 20th and 21st Streets has been postponed at this time.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson Cesar Zuñiga stated that he would confer with the CB7 committee chairs to discuss a comprehensive community plan for the CB7 district. Zuñiga also called on the CB7 committee chairs to work with District Manager Laufer on drafting letters to the new administration stating what the community needs are.

## Committee Reports

### 1. Transportation Committee

- a. Presentation to request support for revocable consent to add an access ramp at 5502 5th Avenue. The committee unanimously supported this request.
  - i. **MOTION:** Approve revocable consent to add an accessible ramp at 5502 5th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.  
**VOTE:** Motion passed by unanimous consent of all board members in attendance.
- b. DOT presentation for pedestrian safety improvements around Our Lady of Perpetual Help and PS 169 at the intersections of 60th Street and 7th Avenue, 59th Street and 6th Avenue, 44th Street and 6th Avenue, 44th Street and 7th Avenue. There were questions at the meeting about the DOT's selection process and criteria, specifically why these intersections versus others near schools. The committee unanimously voted to delay a vote on supporting this project to send a letter asking for a response to questions raised.
  - i. **MOTION:** Approval to delay a board vote until receiving clarification from the Department of Transportation on the criteria that was used to select these intersections in the neighborhood and not others.  
**VOTE:** Motion passed by unanimous consent of all board members in attendance.
- c. Street co-naming for 57th Street between 3rd & 4th Avenues for Sandra Santos Vizcaino. The committee voted unanimously to support this co-naming.
  - i. **MOTION:** Approval of support for the co-naming of 57th Street between 3rd and 4th Avenues in honor of Sandra Santos-Vizcaino.  
**VOTE:** The motion passed by roll call vote: 41 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.
- d. Refer to the committee report for other updates and items.

### 2. Economic Development / Waterfront Committee

- a. On August 24, 2021, Popular Community Bank / Banco Popular came before the committee to request the board's support for their request from the state for a banking development district at 4502 5th Avenue, which would allow the bank to hold funds from the state in exchange for community benefits. The committee voted unanimously to write a letter of support for this application with conditions.
  - i. **MOTION:** Approval to support Popular Community Bank's request to New York State for a Banking Development District (BDD) designation at 4502 5th Avenue with the qualifications from Community Board requests, including significantly increasing outreach, raising the residential mortgage limit from \$750,000 to \$2.5 million, and the retail banking limit to \$3.5 million; to lend it out with the community and not to utilize any of

the funding or the designation to financing absentee ownership of residential real-estate or for use outside the community district.

**VOTE:** Motion Passed by Unanimous Consent

- b. In response to NYCEDC's plans for the North Campus of Bush Terminal, the committee passed the following resolutions to bring to the full board minus 1 marked present but not entitled to vote.
- i. **MOTION:** Community Board 7 passed a resolution to call on NYCEDC to work with Community Board #7 and the Sunset Park community to discuss and develop future plans for other portions of the North Campus, including Pier 6, the Power House and the Round House, in a public and transparent manner.  
**VOTE:** Motion Passed by Unanimous Consent with 1 marked as Present, but not entitled to vote.
  - ii. **MOTION:** Community Board #7 passed a resolution for every local elected official at the City, State and Federal level to comment for the record on the leasing program at the Made in NY North Campus as soon as possible.  
**VOTE:** Motion Passed by Unanimous Consent with 1 marked as Present, but not entitled to vote.
- c. Chairperson Daniel Murphy indicated that updates were provided by Steiner Studios on September 13, 2021 on their plans for Bush Terminal that Steiner Sequel Studio project will be presenting to the Public Design Commission. The design plan includes keeping two buildings on the south end of the property and demolishing the red brick building to create new buildings, a parking structure, and sound stage buildings. Construction is slated to start in the spring. The plan also includes a mural on the side facing the water with community input, a screen, fencing, and landscaping on the site, and a rain garden for flood protection. Concerns and questions were raised by board and community members at the meeting, including daily truck traffic, whether the trucks could be electric vehicles, pedestrian safety and signage at the park entrances, how language barriers will be addressed, restoration and preservation of the WWII Memorial that is near the site, whether some of the solar power generated can be shared with the local community, collaboration on new entrances, upland view, and reliable data on job hiring and statistics. Due to these questions and concerns, the committee voted to support a resolution to send a letter stating that Steiner Studios presented to the board and would like concerns addressed prior to PDC's approval. See committee meeting minutes for concerns that will be outlined.
- i. **MOTION:** Community Board #7 passed a resolution to send a letter to the Public Design Commission stating that Steiner Studios presented their

plans to the community board. In turn, the board has reviewed their plans and has concerns, which will be enumerated in the letter based on concerns expressed during the question and answer session after the presentation and committee discussion, which we would like Steiner Studios to address before the PDC approves of the application.

**VOTE:** Motion Passed by Unanimous Consent with 1 marked as Present, but not entitled to vote.

d. Refer to committee reports for other items.

3. **Education/Youth Committee** - Refer to committee report

4. **Special Subcommittee on Last Mile Trucking Facilities Joint Meeting with CB6** - Refer to committee report

5. **Land Use/Landmarks Committee**

a. A new education and welcome center for Green-Wood Cemetery surrounding two sides of the restored and historic greenhouse on the southwest corner of 5th Avenue and 25th Street. The committee voted with unanimous consent with 1 present who was not entitled to vote to support the new massing and design for Green-Wood Cemetery's new education and welcome center.

i. **MOTION:** Community Board #7 supports the new massing and design that was presented to the Land Use Committee Meeting by Green-Wood Cemetery on September 14, 2021, and will send a letter of support.

**VOTE:** Motion Passed by Unanimous Consent with 1 Present, but not entitled to vote.

6. **Housing Committee**

a. Genesis Aquino will be stepping down from her role as the Housing Committee Chair but will remain on the committee. Antoinette Martinez will be the new chair of the Housing Committee.

b. Presentation from the Cerebral Palsy Association of New York State on ACS boarding home located at 100 Ocean Parkway. The committee voted unanimously to approve a letter of support. Jeremy Laufer, District Manager of CB7 announced that an interim support letter was given to CP Unlimited in June.

i. **MOTION:** Approve a letter of support for the New York State Cerebral Palsy Unlimited to establish a residence for children in foster care with intellectual and physical disabilities at 100 Ocean Parkway in Windsor Terrace, Brooklyn.

**VOTE:** Passed by unanimous consent.

7. **Asian Affairs Committee** - Refer to committee report

Chairperson Zuñiga adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Cindy VandenBosch