

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2023

Opening of the Meeting Julio Peña III opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

First Roll Call

Adoption of the Agenda

Amended to add three items to the agenda:

- Treasurer's Report
- A vote on a letter of support for Green-Wood Century
- A presentation by NY State Assembly member Mitaynes.

Moved to Adopt as Amended – Joan Botti

Seconded – Pat Ruiz

Passed by unanimous consent.

Adoption of Board Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2023

Moved – Pat Ruiz

Seconded – Damien Andrade

Passed by unanimous consent.

Public Comment

George Cardona – Opposes Community Land Trusts because property taxes are already too high. Asked how would these be funded, and would they be subject to property taxes?

Elected Official

NY State Assembly Member Robert Carroll

- District wide town hall Oct 18 at Central Branch of Brooklyn Public Library about city and state issues. DOT, MTA, NYPD, DEP and others will be there.
- Oct 29 Department of Sanitation organics container distribution at 1203 Albemarle Rd.
- The governor has signed 10 election law reform bills.
- Provided update on Golden Day bill to allow New Yorkers to register to vote on the first day of early voting at early voting sites, and cast a ballot.

Treasurer's Report – Cynthia Felix

- Felix provided Treasurer report noting starting budget of \$266,436, with \$8,241 currently allocated.

Green-Wood Cemetery Letter of Support – Julio Peña

CB 7 wrote an interim letter of support for Green-Wood Cemetery for a grant from a foundation for their new visitor center/administrative building. The vote would be to affirm the position in the letter.

Moved – Pat Ruiz

Seconded – Joan Botti

Passed by unanimous consent.

Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee - Cynthia Gonzalez

The committee held a CPR training over the summer with the FDNY. All are encouraged to take a similar training.

Housing Committee,

Tabled to next month because chair was not in attendance. Julio will pass on the testimony from public comment.

Elected Officials and Representatives

72nd Precinct represented by Captain Tsang

- Recent events such as Fifth Ave Street Fair, Mexican Independence Day, etc. have gone very well. Precinct encourages open communication. The next NCO meeting is on October 10 and open to the public.

US Representative Dan Goldman represented by Mayra Molina

- Highlighted Hispanic Heritage Month, introduced act to raise federal minimum wage, and legislation to reduce firearms access. Also noted letter to Army Corps of Engineers regarding flood protection and efforts to provide legal representation for immigrants.

NY State Senator Iwen Chu represented by Zunera Ahmed

- Noted school supplies and books event. Also attending events this weekend for Mid-Autumn Festival.

NY Senator Andrew Gounardes represented by Tori Kelly

- Next Tuesday we will host a NY For All Town Hall. Working to prohibit ICE from coordinating with local law enforcement. Paper and electronic shredding event this weekend at St. Anselm. Noted BQE Revisioning and joint city/state Reconnecting Communities grant. Senator Gounardes' staff has not seen final grant text; anticipates having further details at October Board meeting.

District Attorney Eric Gonzalez represented by John Watkins

- Spoke about programs at the DA's office and encouraged people to go to the DA's website to get a new report "To the People" about pressing issues, as well as other information about press releases and Hispanic Heritage month events.

NY Assembly Member Marcela Mitaynes represented by Emmitt Mendoza-Gaspar

- Town hall meeting on September 26 for a discussion on housing in NYC. Also tabling throughout the district, and noted launch of B60 free bus pilot + one free bus line in each borough.

NY Council Member Alexa Aviles represented by Edward Cerna

- Pushing back against budget cuts. Helmet giveaway at PS24, Mexican Independence Day event, pushing back against CUNY Budget cuts. Noted work with Association of Neighborhood Housing and Development to develop a principles document to help guide Council Member and developers to be more responsive to community issues.

Civilian Complaint Review Board represented by Venus Scantlebury

- We investigate police misconduct. Police misconduct can be reported via CCRB hotline, 311, online, visiting CCRB office, or at your local police precinct
- Applications available for Youth Advisory Council

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso - represented by Jessica Kallo

- Hosting 9/21 Sustainable Building Resource Fair with resources related to Local Law 97.
- Collaboration with DEP to distribute rain barrels to the public on September 28.
- Fall workshops will include affordable housing, land use, and more..

Second Roll Call

Chairperson's Report- *Julio Peña III*

- Processing board members requests for committee assignments.
- Introduced new board member Kaleena Soorna
- Announced that the Finance Committee will hold their annual public hearing on October 11.

District Manager's Report - *Jeremy Laufer*

- Noted passing of former Board members Tom Murphy and George Bissel
- Seely St. one-way project completed
- School reconstruction at 4301 4th Avenue is nearing completion.
- The Sunset Park basketball courts were renovated with a donation from the Brooklyn Nets.
- Jeremy attended the Department of Environmental Conservation meeting on the Brooklyn Air Monitoring Study and City of Yes for Opportunity hearing.
- Parking meter prices will be increasing.
- There will be closures at the Bush Terminal Pier.
- Provided update on the go ahead for the 5th Avenue Bridge replacement.
- Borough-wide mandatory composting will begin on 10/2/23.
- 44 new/renewal Liquor Licenses since June 2023.
- CompStat reports are available on the back table.
- Antonio Whitaker, representative from DSNY, spoke on the new Compost Program. There was a discussion on what the program entails.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Pat Ruiz spoke on the lack of communication from the board office and noted there will be a renaming ceremony on September 26, 2023, at P.S. 958 to honor Dr. Antonia Pantoja.
- Rosy Mota spoke on her concerns on how PS 958 does not have a crossing guard and how it is greatly needed there. Also noted need for garbage cans on the corner of 35th Street and 5th Avenue.

Public Comment (2nd Session)

- Nathaly Cabrera from Maimonides - invited everyone to their 1st Hispanic Heritage Celebration at Sunset Park.
- George Cardona - sanitation along 3rd Avenue is very poor. Noted issues including illegal dumping and urged everyone should get involved to make Sunset Park better.
- Melissa Del Valle Ortiz - encouraged all women to get a mammogram.
- Daniel Lahage - Concerned about a new contractor who has begun doing demolition on 17th Street, next to his home. Worried that they will be building something there that will cause damage to their properties.
- Alyssa Haddad-Chin from Target Margin Theater – announced programs that they offer.
- Gabriel Fernandez from Fifth Avenue Committee - invited everyone to their meeting which will be held on 9/26/23.
- Roxana Benavides from Sunset Park Library - gave an update on the library's move and their new location. She also spoke about the book mobile at 5108 4 Ave and the programs that they are offering.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm.

*Full recorded video of all CB7 meetings can be viewed on Brooklyn CB7 YouTube channel.
See Committee Minutes or Reports for additional committee details.*