

**Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
June 21, 2023

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

**First Roll Call**

**Revision to the Agenda**

- Revised to add Department of Social Services to item "8"
- Item "D" will require a vote.

Moved to Adopt as Revised – Joan Botti

Seconded – Beverly Kleinman

Passed by unanimous consent.

**Adoption of Board Meeting Minutes from May 17, 2023**

Moved – Sam Sierra

Seconded – Joan Botti

Passed by unanimous consent.

**Public Comment (1<sup>st</sup> session)**

- Item 8C – Bus Network Re-design – *Mike Rosenbluth*
  - Supports new Kennedy airport bus.
  - Opposes the elimination of bus stops, especially on B35 and B70, as well as on the B63, especially at the 36<sup>th</sup> Street subway station and along busy commercial areas.
  - Opposes the elimination of B69 service along McDonald Avenue and elimination of B103.
- Item 8B – Housing Committee – *John Santore*
  - We as a community must decide if we want to encourage private vs community ownership of land.

**72<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Report – *Captain Suarez***

- Crime is down 28 percent year-to-date in the precinct.
- Clamping down on e-bikes
  - Issuing summonses for reckless or dangerous driving
  - Confiscating improperly registered e-bikes
  - Working with sellers.
- Precinct is addressing 311s (such as gambling and noise complaints), especially in the park.
  - Assigned a 311 supervisor.
  - Officers now get 311 alerts on cell phones.

**Elected Official**

NYC Councilmember Alexa Aviles

- NY State is cutting budgets across the board. Fighting to limit cuts to education.
- Sponsoring legislation to stop dumping of radioactive waste in waterways.
- Supporting more funding for translation
- Focusing on getting parks on Third Ave redone

- Engaging community in land use issues

## **Committee Reports**

### Executive Committee, Julio Peña

Background- The emergency order to allow virtual attendance at Community Board and committee meetings has expired, so all meetings will revert to in-person only unless otherwise resolved.

- Resolution will allow virtual attendance due to extenuating circumstance (disability, illness, or caregiving) at the chairperson's discretion.  
Note- NY State law specifies that those attending remotely do not count towards quorum, but they are able to vote. Meetings that will be hybrid will be announced.
- Moved to Adopt *Jerry Chan*
- Seconded *Damien Andrade*
- Motion passed by vote of 36-Yes; 3-No; 0-Abstention.

### Parks Committee, Victor Swinton

- Sunset Park Basketball Courts Renovation
  - The Brooklyn Nets fund is investing \$50 million in Brooklyn over the next ten years, including the Sunset Park basketball courts starting this month and lasting 6 to 7 weeks. It will be a complete rebuild.
  - Update on Greenwood Playground Handball Court Reconstruction
    - Design should be finished by the Fall. Construction should start fall of 2024 and would consist of:
      - Handball court wall and surface and fix the fence.
      - Two pickleball courts with safety fencing will be added in the southern part of the park along with a half basketball court.
      - Benches will be added to the handball court within the perimeter fence. After questioning about safety, Parks said they will move the benches to outside the fence, between the existing basketball and handball courts.
  - Motion to support passed in committee 5-1.
    - Amendment to move benches from the pickleball courts to outside their perimeter fence, *Cindy VandenBosch*
    - Amendment that we request Parks Dept to return to the board once the final design has been made, *Joan Botti*
    - Amendment to request consideration of adding a volleyball court or conversion of the basketball court to dual use basketball/volleyball, *Jerry Chan*
    - All Amendments accepted by committee chair.
    - The amended motion was approved by hand vote, 39 – in favor, 0 – opposed, with 0 -abstentions.

### Housing Committee, Antionette Martinez

- The committee met twice, with one presentation about community land trusts and social housing, and the other about setting the committee's agenda. The meetings are posted on YouTube.

- The Rent Guidelines Board was meeting that night to vote on whether to increase rents for 1 million stabilized units. The committee sent a letter calling on them to keep rents at current levels or even reduce them. The committee is requesting a vote from the full board to disapprove of any rent increase or to reduce rents.
  - The vote on the motion to approve sending a letter was 37 – in favor, 2 – opposed, with 0 – abstentions.

Transportation Committee, John DeLooper

- Update on the meeting concerning the proposed Brooklyn bus route changes.
- Next round of subway upgrades will include an elevator at the 36<sup>th</sup> Street station.
- OMNY vending machines will be installed at subway stations starting this summer.
- F Train service will be suspended from Church Ave to Coney Island during summer weekends due to signal upgrades (shuttle buses available).
- DOT plans two new loading zones in our district
- Seeley Street work expected to begin in August.

Sanitation/Environment, Land Use, and Transportation (joint meeting), Diana Gonzalez

Topic: The City of Yes Carbon Neutrality plan which will make changes to the zoning code to improve environmental standards. While the plan was mainly viewed as positive there were several issues raised:

- Concerns about the plan's impact on the electrical grid, especially in Sunset Park which has peaker power plants and frequent brownouts.
- The allowing of substations up to 10,000 square feet in residential neighborhoods and near residential buildings
- Failure to address the siting of last mile trucking facilities.
- Failure to address the problems presented by electric vehicles as well as safety and security issues.

The committee voted to support the zoning amendment with conditions and to request an Environmental Impact Study.

The motion was approved by the board with a hands vote  
36 – in favor, 2 – opposed, with 1 – abstention.

Special Report, Department of Social Services (DSS) - Marricka Scott-McFadden, Deputy Commissioner

Topic: New migrant shelter on 39<sup>th</sup> Street which opened without community notice after the agency denied the location was becoming a shelter.

- NYC is a Sanctuary City. We are experiencing an unprecedented influx of asylum seekers and migrants. Our shelter occupancy has nearly doubled in recent months.
- We have opened 135 emergency hotel shelters over and above our permanent shelters.
- Several agencies are involved including DHS, HUD, OEM, H&H.
- The rapidly evolving crisis requires a very rapid process. Emergency shelters go up very fast, sometimes overnight. At the time we were asked about the site, it was not our site. Two days later that changed.
- Due to efforts by the DSS, these migrants did not end up on the street.

Answers to CB7 member questions:

- There is a commitment by DSS for geographic diversity when siting permanent shelters.
- An outreach process is in place to deal with street homeless. Cannot force a person to accept help.

- Mayor has requested financial help from the state and federal government (immigration is a federal issue).
- There is no specific signed contract in place for this hotel, but rather an overall agreement with the Hotel Association.
- The service provider is the Changing Lives Christian Center. They may not have been on site from day one. Scott-McFadden will check regarding contract.

## **Second Roll Call**

### **Elected Officials and Representatives**

U.S. Congressman Dan Goldman *represented by Maya Molina*

Advocating for:

- providing for migrants during this crisis
- affordable housing
- pro-bono clinics
- extension of work permits for migrants.
- national paid sick leave

NY State Senator Iwen Chu *represented by Jane Duong*

- partnering with FDNY to install free fire alarms in homes.
- Jane will bring back concerns raised during meeting about the meetings law to Senator Chu and discuss proposals for addressing virtual meeting law through legislation

Brooklyn Boro President Antonio Reynoso *represented by Mon Yuk Yu*

- Working on Community Education Council nominations.
- A hearing on Brooklyn air quality will be held soon.
- Health events in July
- New website is available at <https://www.brooklynbp.nyc.gov/>

NY State Senator Andrew Gounardes *represented by Jack Rubenstein*

- Sponsor of Clean Slate Act
- passed legislation to prevent heavy trucks traveling on the BQE.
- Senator is seeking legislation to align lock-down drill frequency with other states
- Jack will address virtual meeting rules with senator

### **Chairperson's Report**

- While full board will not meet over summer, some committees will have scheduled meetings over summer
- Sunset Park Pride event on June 24 from 1pm to 4pm on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 44<sup>th</sup> Street.
- CB7 plans to host a summer gathering for the board members.

### **District Manager Jeremy Laufer's Report**

- Revised CB7 website is close to completion.
- DOT will install a traffic light on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 43<sup>rd</sup> Street by August 31.

- Jeremy attended a community meeting with Equinor regarding the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal.
- The Public Safety Committee is partnering with FDNY to provide free basic CPR training on June 26.
- 16 new and renewal liquor license applications; NYPD statistics have been emailed

### **Old Business**

- None

### **New Business**

- Damien Andrade – requested the board host tabling events for outreach to residents who do not have social media.
- Gabino Morales – offended by DSS approach to immigrants being housed in our community.
- Patricia Ruiz – opposes expensive events being held at the Brooklyn Army Terminal. Events should be for our families, should be affordable, and should not feature alcohol.

### **Public Comment (2nd Session)**

- Cynthia Jeffers – We are able to hold committee meetings off site in the community.
- Sara Ostolaza from NYU Langone Hospital -
  - Neighborhood Loading Zones that DOT is proposing would reduce parking.
  - Bus service needs to include stops near NYU Langone facilities.
  - Bus stops near Langone should be wheelchair accessible.
- Roxana Benavides from the Sunset Park Library provided information on library services and Sunset Park Library summer programming.
- Cynthia Gonzalez announced a partnership with Maimonides to co-host health events to inform the community.
- John Santore, public member of CB7 Economic Development & Waterfront Committee -
  - The committee needs a chairperson.
  - EDC's Made in NY Campus project lacks transparency.
  - Santore opposes the Made in NY project.
  - Wants to poll members regarding structure of committees.
- Antoinette Martinez – urged quick appointments of new chairs and vice chairs for committees that lack them.

### **Meeting Adjourned at 9:36 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.*