

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2024

Chair Peña announced that quorum had not been met.

Reports from Elected Officials and Representatives

Senator Iwen Chu - *represented by Taylor Mangus*

NYC Councilmember Alexa Avilés - *represented by Edward Cerna*

NY State Assemblymember Lester Chang - *represented by Serina Chiu*

NY State Senator Andrew Gounardes - *represented by Francesca Lando*

First Public Comment on topics covered on the agenda

None

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – *Julio Peña III*

The workshop on Generational Wealth was very informative with guest speakers from Kings County Surrogates Court and Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Transportation Committee – *Katie Walsh*

- **One-way conversions** on First and Second Avenues - Economic Development Corporation (EDC), and NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) presented on changes including a proposal for one-way conversions on First and Second Avenues. Representatives from NYU Langone attended. EDC and DOT promised to engage the community at a later date before going forward.
- **BQE Revisioning Project** - South Brooklyn Industrial Corporation, Fifth Avenue Committee, UPROSE and Transportation Alternatives were in attendance (note that NY State did NOT attend). Federal Reconnecting Communities Grant has been approved. The Transportation Committee believes that the plans for BQE South fall far short of expectations. Other communities got promises of parks and other amenities, we got none. The plan does not address community concerns of pollution, hazardous intersections, sections of BQE that fall off, etc. Follow-up meeting planned for May 1.

Roll Call

Opening of Meeting (7:00 pm)

Chairperson Julio Peña III announced a quorum had been reached and officially opened the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

Moved to adopt - *Joan Botti*

Seconded - *Jerry Chan*

Passed by unanimous consent.

Adoption of March Minutes

Moved to adopt - *Joan Botti*

Seconded - *Sam Sierra*

Passed by unanimous consent.

Reports from Elected Officials and Representatives (*continued*)

Congressman Dan Goldman – *represented by Mayra Molina*

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso - *represented by Mon Yuck Yu*

Chairperson's Report - *Julio Peña III*

- Attended meeting April 05, 2024, with Katie Walsh & Damaris Santiago with EDC for updates on projects and/or proposals.
- Stay tuned for upcoming Pier 6 redesign meeting.
- We will be announcing the *Nominating Committee* within the next several days.
- Reminder that June's board meeting will not be held on June 19th but instead on June 12th. Because of the Board election, everyone must attend the June board meeting in-person.

District Manager's Report - *Jeremy Laufer*

- John Johnston resignation now leaves the board with 42 members.
- 225 25th Street is rumored to become a shelter. He has reached out to the Mayor's Office and Department of Homeless Services and neither one would confirm. However, Dept. of Buildings confirmed that they have permits.
- Spring into Health Fair which will be held at St. Agatha's Church at 705 49th Street from on 4/20/24 12pm-3pm.
- Community Board 7 along with Community Board 10 have engaged in getting MTA to clean the LIRR on the Southern Boarder.
- South Brooklyn Marine Terminal Environmental Clean Up at the Brownfields has no start date.
- Planters on the medians along 4th Avenue should be planted by the springtime.
- Equinor will be having a meeting on 4/20/24 to discuss their progress.
- Attended a meeting with Julio Peña, Katie Walsh, and others with DOT to discuss the new Outdoor Dining Program.
- The Land Use Committee will be having its first meeting on City Planning's City of Yes Housing Opportunities Text Amendments.

- The Board Office received 10 New/Renewal Liquor Licenses; 0 Cannabis Applications; 1 Dining Out Application since last month.

Old Business

- Volunteers needed to help with updating *CB7 Member Handbook* and *Welcome Booklet* for shelter residents. - *Karen Rolnick*

New Business

- **Grandma & Grandpa Celebration** will be hosted by the United Senior Center on 4/24/24, all invited. - *Grisel Amador*
- **Board needs more translators.** - *Jerry Chan.*
- **Housing Committee** will be having a working meeting on 4/20/24. The Housing Committee will also schedule a “Fire Safety Presentation” in May. - *Antoinette Martinez*
- **Open Meeting Law Quorum Requirements.** The NY State Committee on Open Government writes advisory opinions. One written in December of 2023 states that approval of a majority of members present at a meeting is ok so long as quorum is met as defined by “General Construction Law section 41”, which allows quorum to be met virtually. - *Jamiee Nelsen*
- **Street Co-naming Ceremony for Dr. Antonia Pantoja Way** will be 5/10/24 at 10am, corner of 36th Street & 5th Avenue. Following the co-naming there will be a portrait dedication of Dr. Antonia Pantoja in the vestibule of P.S. 958. - *Pat Ruiz*

Public Comment

- **Five Borough Comic Book** crawl will be taking place over the next few months. - *Rafael Schweitzer*
- **Opposition to Homeless Shelters** - *Teresa Colon and Joe Toll*
 - Concerned about numerous homeless shelters in the area and the rumored new shelter on 25th Street.
 - Developer being listed as one of the worst landlords in NYC.
 - There are seven other shelters in the immediate vicinity.
 - This community does more than its fair share.
 - Please sign our petition and join our community group.
- **Requested to step down from Board** - Cynthia received a letter from the Borough President encouraging her to leave the board. Having been a dedicated board member since 1983, this shows that her dedication and knowledge are not valued. Cynthia found the letter insulting. It’s a disregard for institutional knowledge. - *Cynthia Gonzalez*
- **Community Opposition to Arrow Linen Proposal** - *Richard Codor and Julia Melzer*

- The local community wants the application to be delayed until after City of Yes passes.
- Other properties not within the development plan should be removed from the proposal.
- There is a significant compromise on the height. Anything over three stories should be up for negotiation.
- This is a hollow proposal without a developer. We demand that a developer be at the table.
- **Opposition to Fifth Avenue Committee's (FAC) Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) application** for a mixed-use building on 5th Avenue and 37th Street. – *Michael Ferretti, John Saranoma, Stanley Karol, and Nancy Branton*
 - FAC did not do outreach to the block and this building would be too large and out of context.
 - Board should not support anything without protections for neighborhood context.
 - Don't get rid of parking requirements.
 - Board members who are members of FAC must recuse themselves if there is a vote on this.
 - There is no precedence for a 10-story building on 37th Street which would ruin view corridors.
- **Opposition to City of Yes** – Developer-driven and does not take neighborhood context into account. Spoke against FAC's proposal and said it sets a negative precedent. FAC has not done appropriate community outreach. - *Carrie Moore*
- **Entrance to the Prospect Expressway** regularly has large vehicles get stuck. There is a lack of enforcement, as this is not a truck route. Trucks are forced to back up and there is a lot of honking in the middle of the night. This was supposed to be a temporary entrance. - *Miriam Gottfried*
- **Metro Plus Health** community representative - Violeta Gomez-Uribe

Meeting Adjourned - *Chairperson Julio Peña III*