

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2024

Roll Call

Opening of Meeting

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 Minutes

Moved to adopt - Damien Andrade

Seconded - Joan Botti

Passed by unanimous consent.

First Public Comment on topics covered on the agenda

None

Reports from Elected Officials and Representatives

- NYC Councilmember *Alexa Aviles*
- NY State Senator Iwen Chu - *represented by Taylor Mingus*
- NY State Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes - *represented by Emmitt Mendoza*
- NY State Senator Andrew Gounardes - *represented by Francesca Lando*

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Julio Peña III

The committee approved two resolutions:

- 1) Send letters to our State Senators and Assemblymembers to request amending the open meetings law to continue to allow hybrid meetings while also addressing some of the quorum issues that have arisen.
 - After discussion, the resolution passed by unanimous consent.
- 2) Send a letter to our federal elected officials stating:
 - Whereas, all human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians, no matter their faith or ethnicity, is a violation of international humanitarian law;
 - Whereas, Brooklyn Community District 7 has a growing Middle Eastern & North African and Jewish population;

- Whereas, we condemn the murder, attacks and kidnapping perpetrated by Hamas on October 7 and do not condone acts of violence;
 - Whereas, between October 7 and October 16, 2023, armed violence has claimed the lives of over 2,700 Palestinians and over 1,400 Israelis, including Palestinian- and Israeli- Americans, and wounded thousands more and since then, over 31,000 Palestinian lives have been lost;
 - Whereas hundreds of thousands of lives are at imminent risk if a cease-fire is not achieved and humanitarian aid is not delivered without delay;
 - Whereas the Federal Government holds immense diplomatic power to save Israeli and Palestinian lives;
 - Now, therefore, be it resolved that;
 - Brooklyn Community Board 7 calls for an immediate ceasefire, release of all hostages and an end to violence in the region;
 - Be it further resolved, that;
 - Brooklyn Community Board 7 calls on our elected leaders, be it local, state or federal, to do what they can to end the hostilities.
- The board had a robust discussion. While all CB7 members are opposed to the destruction and bloodshed, some felt it was not within the purview of this board. Others felt that the board should take a stand.
 - Amendments were requested by Antionette Martinez to update the number of lives lost in the conflict, and to also include famine that is taking place in Palestine. These were accepted as friendly amendments by the chair.

The motion passed as amended, 19 yes; 0 no; 1 abstention; 9 present

Second Roll Call

Chairperson's Report - *Julio Peña III*

- DOT had a meeting with community boards concerning the Dining Out Program Sheds. The program will expire on August 03, 2024 and a new program is being put in place.
- On 3/26/24 there will be a homeowners workshop: "Protecting Your Generational Wealth". Presenters include: Hon. Rosemarie Montalbano, Hon. Bernard Graham; Kings County Surrogate Court Judges Anthony Coker and Neighbors Helping Neighbors.
- Antoinette Martinez inquired about the City of Yes vote. There was a discussion on the approval process.

District Manager's Report - *Jeremy Laufer*

- Notices regarding the dining out were emailed to all board members.
- He stated that he met with Community Board #10 regarding the LIRR Cut and the MTA. The current tenants, NY & Atlantic Railway were supposed to attend this meeting, but they did not show up. He stated that they have not cleaned their space in years and how there is no way to enforce it.
- J. Laufer reported that he along with several board members met with EDC as a follow-up to the Councilmembers meeting regarding Pier 6.

- The 7th Avenue bridge has started its rehabilitation project.
- DOT has won the 5.6-million-dollar grant from the Federal Govt. through the Infrastructure Law for Reconnecting Communities Program.
- 13 new/renew Liquor Licenses for the month; No Cannabis Licenses; CompStat available on the back table.

Old Business

None.

New Business

- J. Chen asked that the board invite DOT to attend a Public Safety Committee Meeting to address the curb extensions done on the sidewalks along 8th Avenue.
- C. Zuniga spoke regarding the new Pew Health Survey and how important it would be for the Community Board to be involved with this survey.
- J. Botti stated that Assemblymember Carroll had a representative from the Building's Department at their office and they were informed that any building with 6 stories or higher must have their facade inspected by the end of the year.
- B. Lee asked that a Precinct representative be invited to attend our next board meeting.
- G. Morales-Escamilla spoke on how he witnessed several police officers abusing community members and how he would like the board to invite the Pct. to address these issues.
- R. Mota spoke on the presidential primary early voting.

Public Comment

- R. Peers from the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce spoke on how upset the Chamber of Commerce was regarding the voting of the 3rd Avenue Redesign Option and how the businesses along 3rd Avenue were not invited to speak on it.
- C. Moore, resident of 37th Street, spoke regarding the City of Yes Affordable Housing Zoning Resolution and how the community needs the Community Boards support.
- V. Ortega thanked the board for voting on the Cease Fire Resolution. He also asked that the community board do a study on placing a protected bike lane along 5th Avenue.
- M. Roca from Friends of Sunset Park spoke on the new plantings that will be going along 41st & 44th Streets. She also spoke regarding the Interborough Express.

Meeting adjourned - *Julio Peña III.*