

# Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2024

## Roll Call

### Adoption of Agenda

Friendly amendment by Julio Peña to add a presentation by NYU Langone

Moved to adopt as amended - *Pat Ruiz*

Seconded - *Damien Andrade*

Passed by unanimous consent.

### Adoption of April Minutes

Moved to adopt - *Joan Botti*

Seconded - *Gladys Bruno*

Passed by unanimous consent.

### First Public Comment on topics covered on the agenda

None

### Report from 72nd Precinct - *Deputy Inspector Krystin Suarez*

- We are addressing concerns regarding State Liquor Authority (SLA) complaints regarding several drinking establishments.
- Working to clean up illegal vendors especially along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and in parks.
- 72nd Pct. is short 15 crossing guards. South Borough Command needs to schedule training classes. The precinct will try to get traffic officers to help along the intersections by P.S. 958 and other dangerous intersections.
- There are ongoing operations, with the Dept. of Sanitation, to confiscate illegal mopeds and e-scooters.

### Report from NYU Langone - *Dr. Ian Whitman, Chief of Emergency Medicine at NYU Langone*

- NYU wants community feedback on how NYU Langone is doing, and areas that need improvement.
- We are the only hospital in Brooklyn that received an A rating from Leapfrog, and we are ranked 15th nationally by Vizient.

### These Elected Officials Reported:

- NY State Senator Gounardes - *represented by Jack Rubenstein*
- Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso - *represented by Mon Yuck Yu*
- NYC Councilmember Shahana Hanif – *represented by Ali Boivab*

- Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez - *represented by John Watkins*
- NY State Senator Zellnor Myrie - *represented by Freda Zurita*
- NYC Council-member Alexa Aviles - *represented by Edward Cerna*

## **Committee Reports**

### Housing Committee – *Antoinette Martinez*

- Quorum was not reached at April 24 meeting, however we did review a presentation on The “City of Yes Housing Opportunities”. We followed up with a flyering event in Sunset Park.
- On May 2, there was a presentation on “Homes Now Homes for Generations” by Community Service Society of New York (CSSNY). They are planning to restart a Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) “Neighborhood Pillars” program and are seeking \$2.5 billion.

### Transportation Committee – *John DeLooper and Katie Walsh*

Quorum was not reached at the last meeting however we did review several topics on the agenda.

- VOTE NEEDED Dining Out application for Judy’s at 402 Fifth Avenue
  - Judy’s showed their current and proposed set-up
  - Judy’s answered our questions about safety, sanitation, etc.
  - Dining shed applications are due by August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Board members had concerns about the Dining Out application process in general, especially related to language barriers.
    - Moved - *John DeLooper*
    - Seconded - *Joan Botti*
    - Passed; 29 - in favor, 4 - opposed, with 2 - abstentions
- Also Discussed at the Transportation Meeting:
  - Department of Transportation (DOT) “Reconnecting Communities” grant
  - Brooklyn Greenway Initiative status updates.

### Land Use and Landmarks Committee – *Diana Gonzalez*

- The committee recently met to discuss City of Yes for Housing Opportunity, the first of two meetings on the topic. The first meeting was general information and the next will be more specific about the local community

### Nominating Committee – *Joan Botti*

Joan read the CB7 Bylaws section on nominations. The nominations were as follows:

- For Chair, the Committee nominated Julio Peña. Julio Peña accepted the nomination.
- For 1st Vice Chair, the Committee nominated Pat Ruiz. Pat Ruiz accepted the nomination
- For 2nd Vice Chair, the Committee nominated Cynthia Felix. Cynthia Felix accepted the nomination. Damian Andrade was nominated by Antoinette Martinez. Damian Andrade accepted the nomination.
- For Secretary, the Committee nominated John DeLooper. John DeLooper accepted the nomination.
- For Assistant Secretary, the Committee nominated Karen Rolnick. Karen Rolnick accepted the nomination. Antoinette Martinez nominated herself and accepted the nomination.
- For Treasurer, the Committee nominated Rosy Mota. Rosy Mota accepted the nomination.
- For Community Engagement Officer, the Committee nominated Jerry Chan. Jerry Chan accepted the nomination.
- For Sergeant-at-Arms, the Committee nominated Sam. Sam Sierra accepted the nomination.
- For Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, the Committee nominated Wai Ko. Wai Ko was not in attendance and could not accept the nomination. Diana Gonzalez was nominated and accepted the nomination. Barbara Lee nominated herself and accepted the nomination.

#### Joint Membership and Attendance Committee and Executive Committee – Julio Peña

- Committees met to welcome our new board members.

#### **Second Roll Call**

#### **Chairperson's Report - Julio Peña III**

- Due to community interests, we would like to reinstate the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness Issues. Anyone interested in joining please reach out to the district office or himself directly.
- Ryan Smith, Angie Lao, Victor Swinton, John Johnston, Beverly Kleinman, Cynthia VandenBosch, Cynthia Gonzalez, and John Fontillas will no longer serve on the community board. He thanked them for their service and commitment as board members.

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

- Funding to train school crossing guards was lost to budget cuts by the Mayor's Office due to unfilled positions.
- The web portal to share comments on DOT's Dining Out program has not launched yet.
- Jeremy and Julio met with Deputy Inspector Suarez and Captain Dasaro from the 72nd Precinct to discuss nightlife concerns in the district.

- The Future of Community Boards Coalition distributed a survey to board members to share their comments on term limits for board members and how it would impact community boards. The coalition is meeting with the NYC Council's Government Operations Committee to discuss budget needs for essential staff to assist community boards including providing translation services to community boards.
- The Department of Youth & Community Development is seeking the public to join the Neighborhood Advisory Boards (NABs) who allocate funds for community programs.
- CB7 received 11 new and renewals for liquor licenses and 1 cannabis dispensary application.

### **Old Business**

- Damien Andrade commented that he appreciates that the Brooklyn Borough President's Office efforts in requesting for seasoned board members to not re-apply to allow room for younger presentation on community boards.
- Antoinette Martinez asked for an update on the launch of the new CB7 website. Jeremy Laufer reported that the website would be ready very soon.

### **New Business**

- There will be a 50th anniversary celebration of the United Senior Citizens of Sunset Park on May 17, and a Puerto Rican Day event on June 17. - *Grisel Amador*.
- The NYC Rent Guidelines Board will hold a public hearing on June 5. - *Katie Walsh*
- While youth representation is vital for community boards, age and institutional knowledge of seasoned board members is also very important and everyone should work together. - *Pat Ruiz*
- NYC Council is looking for support on legislation to increase funding in the City budget to create permanent affordable housing citywide. Edward Cerna from Council-member Alexa Aviles' Office spoke briefly about the legislation. - *Julio Peña III*
- Motion to support the "Homes Now Initiative" for \$2.5 billion for the next 5 years. -Julio Peña III
  - Seconded by Cynthia Jeffers.
  - Passed by unanimous consent.
- The Transportation Committee should connect with the 5th Avenue B.I.D. to inform businesses about the new outdoor shed policy. Also, the chair should create a social media and website position on the executive board. - *Antoinette Martinez*

### **Public Comment**

- In 2006, CB7 created the contextualized map hanging on this wall, and that is the substance of everything we do on the board. Only five development projects have come through the board during my tenure, four of which are still being built. Though they have an affordable

component, it is not enough. I urge the board to make a comprehensive housing plan for Sunset Park and Windsor Terrace. - *John Fontilas*

- NYU Langone Brooklyn's new community affairs coordinator liaison introduced himself. - *Josh Lamb*
- Opposition to proposed homeless shelter at 225 25th Street.
  - The Greenwood Heights Association is advocating for NYC to comply with fair share requirements regarding a proposed shelter on 25th St. There are already many shelters in CB7, when other districts have none. - *Christa from 23rd Street*
  - Please revive the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness Issues. Also support City of Yes text amendments. - *Rachel Fee*
  - Greenwood Heights Association is spreading misinformation about the proposed homeless shelter at 225 25th Street. - *Stephanie Eche*
  - Kari from the Greenwood Heights Association spoke to clarify previous statements made about the grassroots group requirements.
  - Board members who are members of the Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC) must recuse themselves if there is a vote on this. - *Stanley Carroll*