

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Report

February 25, 2025

Before the Meeting

- NYC Council Member Alexa Avilés provided updates on topics including Black History Month, Lunar New Year and welcomed the 72nd Precinct's new commander, Captain Yasin.
 - Avilés also spoke on NYC's sanctuary policy and recent actions of the federal government and their impacts on NYC.
- NYC Council Member Shahana Hanif provided updates on topics including the committee-level passage of the Arrow Linen rezoning at the NY City Council and its upcoming vote.
 - Hanif stated that the testimonies from the Board and from neighbors helped shape the Council's work.
 - The height of the proposal and affordability were the two top priorities, and the building will be capped at 10 stories, even though its R7A zoning would allow for 11.
 - There will be 100 affordable units out of the 250 total in the project, and the non-Arrow Linen buildings in the project zone will be rezoned R6B and Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) would be mandatory if these properties were to be redeveloped.
 - The revised plan calls for the first floor of Arrow's space to include a community facility space for a childcare provider and an anti-domestic violence organization.
 - There will be a construction task force including Councilmember Hanif's office, the Community Board, Housing Not Highrises and other stakeholders.

Opening of Meeting

Roll Call

Adoption of Agenda

- Moved to adopt – *Damien Andrade*
Seconded – *Sam Sierra*
Passed by unanimous consent.

Approval of December 18, 2024 Minutes

- Moved to adopt as amended – *Karen Rolnick*
Seconded – *Gladys Bruno*
Passed by unanimous consent.

These Elected Officials Reported:

- NY State Senator Zellnor Myrie – *represented by Anthony Gay*
- NY State Senator Andrew Gounardes – *represented by Francesca Lando*
- US Representative Dan Goldman – *represented by Mayra Molina*
- State Assemblymember Robert Carroll – *represented by Sean Gurl*
- NY State Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes – *represented by Emmitt Mendoza-Gaspar*

First Public Comment on topics covered on the agenda

- Lauren Collins spoke in favor of the outdoor dining application for Le Paddock restaurant.

Committee Reports

Education, Health, and Human Services – *Jonathan Martinez*

Jonathan Martinez stated that the Education, Health & Human Services Committee met with Grand Street Settlement Project about their HeadStart program for early childhood education in Sunset Park, and with NY Connects about their services for seniors aged 60 and older with disabilities and their caregivers.

- Martinez reported that the committee also met with play:ground NYC, who is seeking a letter of support from CB7 to bring their interactive playground to Pier 6 in Sunset Park.
- There was discussion from the board on topics including parking at Pier 6, and the processes and logistics for ensuring the health and safety of children while using the play:ground facility.
- There was no quorum at the Education, Health, and Human Services meeting, so Martinez asked for a floor motion.
- Julio Peña III moved that the board send a letter of support for Play NYC incorporating the feedback that the board received about the project. Damien Andrade seconded the motion and the motion to send a letter of support passed by unanimous consent.

Public Safety – *Cynthia Jeffers*

Jeffers reported that the Public Safety met to discuss vendor activity and public safety along 5th and 8th Avenues and discussed details of the meeting.

- Jeffers spoke on the importance of putting in 311 complaints and on having 311 training.
- Additional details can be found in the YouTube recording and the Committee Report.
- Jeffers also reported that the committee discussed an adult retail use dispensary application from Amsterdam PCC to be located at 4815 5th Avenue.
- She informed the board that the applicant did not attend and failed to submit all paperwork required by the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM).
- The committee voted unanimously to hold off on any discussion of the application because the board does not have all the required documentation that OCM needs. As the motion came out of committee, it did not need a second and was presented to the Board for a vote. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Transportation – *Katie Walsh*

Walsh reported that the Transportation Committee held a joint meeting with Public Safety to discuss traffic concerns and critical locations in the district. Walsh provided examples of issues at several locations and asked that everyone read the report or view the meeting on YouTube, as well as use 311 to report issues and pass them onto the Board.

- The Transportation Committee also met separately on the same evening to discuss the Dining Out Applications for Le Paddock, Café 58 & Elora's Mexican & Spanish Restaurant.
- Walsh stated that the committee unanimously approved all three applications.
- There was a discussion on the applications.
- The motion to approve the outdoor dining application for Café 58 passed by unanimous consent.
- The motion to approve the outdoor dining application for Le Paddock passed by unanimous consent.

- The motion to approve the outdoor dining application for Elora’s Mexican & Spanish Restaurant passed by unanimous consent.
- Walsh noted that the Committee had also discussed how the Board should approach future Dining Out applications.
- The Committee noted the administrative burdens the new process has placed on both the Board and on restaurant owners, as well as issues with the way the City revised its outdoor dining process in recent years. Walsh also discussed procedural elements about how and what types of feedback are gathered and reported to DOT.
- Walsh stated that the Transportation Committee adopted a resolution to recommend that future Dining Out applications be included in Community Board 7’s Bulletin and the Board will be available to receive comments and feedback about applications. If feedback is received about applications, the Board will continue to reserve the right to host hearings. This is similar to the Board’s process for Liquor License approvals.
- The motion to revise the Dining Out procedures passed by unanimous consent.

Chairperson’s Report

- Tabled

District Manager’s Report

- Tabled

Old Business

- Katie Walsh discussed plans to develop housing at Brooklyn Marine Terminal in CB6 and upcoming meetings and a vote in April. While the facility is outside CB7, Walsh noted that the project has relevance to CB7, whose 197-A plan calls for keeping waterfronts industrial.
- Cynthia Jeffers announced that the Lions Club will host a community health fair on 4/27/25.
- Jonathan Martinez asked about the housing vacancy rate in Community Board 7.
- Diana Aguilar noted that the Parks/Environment Committee is collecting locations that are consistently dirty and in need of attention by Sanitation.
- Daniel Kaminsky stated that a noncitizen voting bill is under consideration at the State Court of Appeals.

Public Comment

- Suyapa Blanco from United Senior Center announced that the center is in search of a new location due to a 70% rent increase that the organization cannot afford. While the center continues to provide its much-needed activities, its lease expires on June 30 and it requests that anyone with information about facilities that could meet the Center’s needs should contact them.
- Damien Andrade asked if the Board could invite the owner of the property across from Dewey School to a board meeting

Adjournment