

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2025

Roll Call

Adoption of Agenda

- Julio Peña III moved to adopt an amended agenda which reordered the Finance Committee report to the first item.
 - Moved to adopt as amended – *Pat Ruiz*
 - Seconded – *Sam Sierra*
 - Passed by unanimous consent.

Adoption of September 17, 2025 Minutes

- Moved to adopt – *Sam Sierra*
- Seconded – *Gladys Bruno*
 - Passed by unanimous consent.

First Public Comment

- Lorenzo Tijerina and Priyama stated that the Sunset Post is looking for contributors to their tri-lingual local newspaper.
- Trey McGee from Target Margin Theater discussed upcoming programs, services, and events at the theater.
- John Santore encouraged the Economic Development and Small Business Committee to meet as soon as possible, especially regarding Steiner Studios, and asked that the Land Use Committee meet about the St. Rocco's rezoning.
- Leah Scott from 18th Street spoke about the need to add noise cameras on the Prospect Expressway.
- Ron Davidson from the 38th Street shelter spoke about discrimination and the need for accessibility for people with disabilities. Davidson highlighted issues including inaccessibility in the Community Board building. Davidson urged the Board to do better, and the Department of Homeless Services to create more accommodating facilities.
- Allison Wong from the Sunset Park Library spoke about upcoming library events.
- Dylan Flesch spoke to urge increased funding for library services.

Committee Reports

Finance & By-Laws Committee – *Nicholas Jackson*

- No quorum was reached at the Committee's Public Hearing.
- Jackson proposed that the Board empower the district manager to amend and update budget requests for the Register of Community Board Budget Requests.
 - Under this proposal, a community needs survey would also be sent by the Board to gather more inclusive feedback about items for the budget request.
- Nicholas Jackson moved that the Board should empower the district manager to update the current capital and expense budget priorities from data collected from the community surveys.
 - The motion was seconded by Jerry Chan

- There was discussion on the motion.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

Housing Committee – Antoinette Martinez

- Martinez announced that Jeremy Kaplan was appointed as the Committee’s vice chair.
- The committee will meet on October 29 to discuss housing priorities for the committee and community.

Transportation Committee – John DeLooper

- DeLooper reported that the committee met on September 30 for a workshop on “Envisioning a Future Without the BQE” led by the Institute for Public Architecture
- The committee will host a Third Ave Engagement Walk and Talk on October 22 and a tour of the finished portion of the Third Ave Greenway on October 28.
- DeLooper noted the recent street co-naming for Blas de Jesus Gonzalez, and stated that another street co-naming, in honor of Padre Ruskin Piedra, will take place October 19 at 60th Street & 5th Avenue.

Public Safety Committee – Cynthia Jeffers

- Jeffers reported that the Public Safety Committee met on October 6 for an update from the 72nd Precinct’s Quality-of-Life team, and to discuss an application for an adult retail cannabis dispensary to be located at 4602 5th Avenue.
- The committee raised several concerns about the proposed dispensary, including the applicant’s limited knowledge of OCM’s regulations, lack of community ties, plans to operate until 2 a.m., and a lack of available business and security plans for the applicant.
- The committee decided not to support the application.
 - Jeffers stated that the Committee’s members told the applicant that their application would be reconsidered if they returned with a business and security plan, along with a more detailed/robust application to present.
 - The committee did not have a quorum at the committee meeting, and it could not take a vote on this issue.
 - Cynthia Jeffers moved to disapprove of adult retail-use cannabis dispensary application for 4602 5th Avenue.
 - There was a discussion on the motion.
 - A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed with 28 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Second Roll Call

Elected Officials and Representatives

These Elected Officials Reported:

- NY City Councilmember Alexa Avilés – *represented by Rob Aguilar (before the meeting)*
- NY State Senator Steve Chan – *represented by Ray Morales*
- NY City Councilmember Susan Zhuang – *represented by Fedir Usmanov*
- Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso – *represented by Miguel Arias*
- NY State Assemblymember Robert Carroll – *represented by Sean Gurl*
- NY State Governor Kathy Hochul – *represented by Daniel Hartley*

- NYC Mayor Eric Adams – *represented by Anastasia Yaskova*
- NY State Senator Andrew Gounardes – *represented by Francesca Lando*
- NY City Councilmember Shahana Hanif – *represented by Iqra Shafik*
- Congressman Dan Goldman – *represented by Jessica Bravo*

Chairperson's Report

- Julio Peña III reported on a meeting with EDC regarding Bush Terminal and other district updates.
 - EDC provided updates on Steiner Studios and is exploring putting fees on parking at 58th Street Pier (Pier 4).
 - EDC's Ferry redesign also continues.
 - Community Board 7 is seeking submissions for its art exhibition contest.

District Manager's Report

- Jeremy Laufer discussed agency responses to last year's Capital & Expense Requests.
- Laufer also attended a meeting of the IBX Community Council and highlighted issues with the railroad who uses the IBX right of way not cleaning up their property.
- Laufer provided an update regarding the EDC playground at Bush Terminal Piers Park.
- At the Borough Service Cabinet Meeting, the Parks Department provided an update about changes to the tree planting cycle.
- During the District Service Cabinet Meeting, DOT announced that they would be hosting workshops concerning McDonald Avenue, but nothing has been scheduled yet.
- Since the last Board meeting, the Board office has received 8 new/renewal liquor licenses, 0 cannabis applications, and 0 dining out applications.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

Adjourn