

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2026

Adoption of Agenda

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

Adoption of December 17, 2025 Minutes

- Moved to adopt – Pat Ruiz
- Seconded – Gladys Bruno
 - Passed by unanimous consent.

Public Comment

- Grisel Amador from the United Senior Center of Sunset Park discussed programs and activities at the Center including ESL classes, breakfast, and lunch for seniors aged 60 and up.
- John Santore from 23rd St asked the Board to highlight ways to support immigrant neighbors and stated that ICE actions are an unconstitutional and deliberately racist effort to intimidate people. Santore also urged the Land Use, Housing, and Economic Development Committees to meet monthly, with one potential topic for these committees being the St. Rocco's site. In addition, the Economic Development committee should consider the impact of immigration attacks on local businesses. The committee should also study the estimated jobs at the Brooklyn Army Terminal Climate Hub and the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal facility and should get updates on the MADE campus's northern section, and the Steiner studios planned facility.
- Charles Velazquez and Lorenzo Tijerina from the Sunset Post discussed their tri-lingual newspaper, which was launched in September. Since the paper debuted, 6-7 regular sponsors have joined their efforts, including the 5th Ave Business Improvement District and Starz Coffee shop. The Sunset Post is looking to expand relationships/partnerships with other local organizations and have increased coverage of the many important stories surfaced at the Community Board.
- Katie Walsh congratulated Jeremy Laufer on his retirement.
- Robyn Aigner, a 30-year resident of South Brooklyn, has opened a new business, which is a sophisticated cocktail bar called "the Cat" on Prospect Ave in Windsor Terrace. Eichner thanked the Board for approving the business's liquor license and noted a desire to partner with other local businesses.
- Roxana Benavides from Brooklyn Public Library's Sunset Park branch spoke about upcoming programs including a collaboration with NARS Foundation, a community-board focused talk and exhibit entitled "People Making Power" at the Center for Brooklyn History, and the opening of applications for a 10-week Technology/Cybersecurity Cohort. Benavides also highlighted multilingual programs and services for immigrants and entrepreneurs, cover letter/resume workshops for job seekers, neighborhood tech navigators, and free notary public services.
- Alexa Orr from Brooklyn Public Library's Windsor Terrace branch discussed library services and upcoming programs such as an English Conversation Group and Resume/Career help workshops.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – *Pat Ruiz*

- Committee met on January 12 and immediately entered Executive session to discuss personnel matters related to the search for a new District Manager. Matters discussed in Executive Session are confidential; Ruiz will provide a report back when possible.

Second Roll Call

Elected Officials

These Elected Officials Reported:

- NY City Councilmember Susan Zhuang
- Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso – *represented by Miguel Arias*
- Congressman Dan Goldman – *himself, and represented by Jessica Bravo*
- NY City Councilmember Alexa Avilés
- NY State Senator Andrew Gounardes – *represented by Francesca Lando*
- NY State Senator Stephen T. Chan – *represented by Ray Morales*
- NY City Councilmember Shahana Hanif
- NY State Assemblymember Robert Carroll – *represented by Sean Gurl*

Chairperson's Report - *Julio Peña III*

- Peña met with UPROSE to talk about Grid 2.0, BATWorks, and other waterfront issues. UPROSE will present on these issues to the Board soon.
- A Brooklyn Greenway ribbon cutting celebration is being planned to celebrate the newly opened portion from 29th St to Hamilton Ave. The celebration will highlight this section and aims to encourage work on subsequent portions of the Greenway.
 - Peña spoke about the need for additional safety improvements along Third Ave, and is eagerly awaiting updates/information about the 3rd Avenue Street improvement plan.
- Peña, Jeremy Laufer, Katie Walsh, and John DeLooper met with CB7's new DOT liaison Maria Cruz. She plans to attend an upcoming Board meeting soon.
- Peña highlighted Jeremy Laufer's record of service as CB7 District Manager, and congratulated Laufer on his retirement.

District Manager's Report - *Jeremy Laufer*

- The Summer Youth Employment Program will be taking applications through 2/26.
- The School Construction Authority has informed CB7 of several upcoming projects including a roof replacement at PS1, accessibility projects, a roof replacement at PS154, roof and masonry work at PS295, and additional projects planned for facilities including PS371.
- DOT has provided notice of upcoming work on the 4th and 7th Avenue bridges over the MTA's Railroad

cut. Work will include installation of a protected paint coating, which will likely require a shutdown of the 7th Avenue bridge during the painting.

- Former board member Ed Wade died in December. Wade was an original board member, who also served in the organization that preceded Community Boards, and served on the community board into the 2010s.
- The Board's A/V vendor will be upgrading the boardroom's sound system in early February.
- 6 liquor licenses – 0 cannabis licenses, 0 dining out applications were received, and police department statistics are available.
- Laufer thanked attendees for their well wishes, and discussed his service as CB7 District manager, and highlighted notable events and experiences from his 25 years of service. Laufer also discussed lessons learned from working with Board members, chairs, governments, and organizations. Laufer noted that over 1,000 people have served on CB7 while he was District Manager, and thanked past and present Board Members, Executive Committees, and Committee Chairs for their volunteer service and efforts to improve their community.

Old Business

- Pat Ruiz noted that Community Board applications are open, and members whose terms are up are reminded to submit applications. Ruiz also encouraged members to reapply and continue their service in the new term.
 - Ruiz also asked for updates on the Art Contest and whether there was any information on the status of the Friends of CB7, which appears to be defunct but still has a website and social media accounts.
 - Peña stated plans to put together a committee to review all the art entries, and said that Friends of CB7 is no longer extant.

New Business

- Jerry Chan noted that the MTA has recently added cameras to several bus routes. Chan stated that cameras issue tickets for a variety of infractions, including double parking, parking in bus stops, and blocking hydrants. Accordingly, Chan urged Board and Community members to be mindful of their parking practices on bus routes.
 - Chan also provided well wishes to Jeremy Laufer for his retirement.

Adjourn