

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2026

Adoption of Agenda

- Moved to adopt – Pat Ruiz
- Seconded – Sam Sierra
 - Passed by unanimous consent.

Adoption of January 21, 2026 Minutes

- Moved to adopt – Pat Ruiz
- Seconded – Joan Botti
 - Passed by unanimous consent.

Public Comment

- Mimi Bluestone from 350 Brooklyn announced a program at Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library focused on battery and energy storage systems and their impact on Brooklyn's power supply.
- Katie Walsh announced an event at Sunset Stoop on Friday, March 6 to support a community mural on 54th St and 5th Ave.
- Roxana Benavides from the Sunset Park Library spoke about upcoming programs including a Lunar New Year celebration.
- Supaya Blanco-Hernandez from United Senior Center spoke about upcoming events including a Dominican Republic Independence Celebration
- Alyssa Haddad-Chin from Target Margin Theater discussed their current production "*Is This Real?*".
- Alexa Orr from the Windsor Terrace Library discussed the library's English language conversation group.

Committee Reports

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

- The Committee met to hear a presentation from Dr. Irwin Schindler of Tulip Behavioral Health regarding the mental health and wellness services they provide.
- February is HIV/AIDS Awareness Month. Mota encouraged the community to get tested and learn information about health resources available for treatment and prevention.
- The Committee hopes to host a future meeting on Medicaid.

Joint Economic Development/Small Business and Transportation – *Katie Walsh and Damaris Santiago*

- The Department of City Planning (DCP) presented to the Committees about the NYC Industrial Plan.
- While CB7 did not send any feedback on the Industrial Plan during comment period, the committees invited DCP to present so the Board could learn more about how the plan could affect CB7.
- The plan includes details about industrial business types, concentrations, and workforce, and DCP also developed and published an Industrial Data Explorer tool to help New Yorkers utilize this data.

- While the Industrial Plan presented recommendations regarding industrial strategy, the plan is not a set of zoning changes. The responsibility for making plans/decisions based on the Industrial Plan was passed to the Mamdani administration, and it will be up to them to determine how they plan to address industrial development.
- The committees also heard a presentation from Ahmad Perez of UPROSE about a proposed special purpose district and the GRID 2.0 proposal. UPROSE sent slides afterward with details about the plan, which were included with the Board packet sent prior to the meeting.
- UPROSE's presentation noted the history behind the GRID 2.0 plan and the proposal to create a special purpose district, as well as the changes and opportunities each of these would entail.
- UPROSE also shared a petition seeking community support for these plans.
- The Economic Development/Small Business Committee plans to host more meetings this spring. D. Santiago is seeking topic suggestions, especially from the small business community.
- Damaris Santiago noted that EDC hosts a monthly meeting with the CB7 Chair, Chair of Transportation, and Chair of the Economic Development/Small Business Committee and encouraged Board members to reach out to share concerns that could be brought up in this forum.
- Board members asked questions regarding the EDC meetings, and about the process for booking community events at EDC facilities such as Brooklyn Army Terminal and the MADE campus.

Parks and Environment – *Diana Aguilar*

- Aguilar discussed the “Cultivating Connections: Brooklyn Parks and Open Spaces Conference” on March 28.
- The conference organizers required the Board to pass a resolution of support for committee chair Aguilar and vice-chair Esteban Chavez to attend.
- Joan Botti noted issues about the Parks Department's lack of maintenance regarding pedestrian ramps. Botti also asked the Committee to invite the Prospect Park Alliance to a future Committee meeting to discuss this issue as well.
- There was discussion on the motion.
- D. Aguilar moved to approve the resolution to attend the Cultivating Connections Conference.
- The motion was seconded by Sam Sierra and passed via unanimous consent.

Second Roll Call

Elected Officials

These Elected Officials Reported:

- NY City Councilmember Shahana Hanif
- NY City Councilmember Alexa Avilés – *represented by Winnie Marion*
- NY State Senator Andrew Gounardes – *represented by Francesca Lando*
- Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso – *represented by Alicia Rey-Miller*
- US Congressman Dan Goldman – represented by Jessica Bravo
- NY State Assemblymember Robert Carroll – *represented by Sean Gurl*
- NY State Senator Stephen T. Chan – *represented by Ray Morales*

Chairperson's Report - *Julio Peña III*

- Peña provided an update on a recent meeting with EDC. The meeting included discussion about Public Records, developing a public-facing website for booking events, EDC's plans to develop an event calendar, and parking at Pier 4, where EDC is planning to begin charging for parking.
- EDC also plans to host a tour of its facilities for CB7 members.
- Peña, Diana Gonzalez, and Erin Keith attended a meeting at the office of Councilmember Alexa Avilés with the 783 Fourth Ave project developers, who have updated their proposal to Increase affordable units. The Board will schedule a Land Use Committee so the developers can provide the same presentation.
- Peña, Katie Walsh, and John DeLooper met with Third Ave Street safety partners to discuss a ribbon cutting for the recently opened Third Ave section of the Brooklyn Greenway and to bring attention to issues related to finishing the Third Ave Street improvement plan and additional sections of the Brooklyn Greenway.
- A screening of the documentary *Emergent City* will take place on March 4 at 6:30 p.m. followed by discussion with Cesar Zuñiga, John Fontillas, and Kelly Anderson.

District Manager's Report – *Maria Gonzalez*

- There have been 8 new/renewal liquor licenses, and 0 cannabis or dining out applications received this month.
- NYPD CompStat statistics were included in the Board packet; members of public can also access this info by contacting the Board office

Old Business

- None

New Business

- John DeLooper encouraged the Parks/Environment committee to include a discussion of tree planting and tree pit closures as part of their upcoming meeting about capital projects in CB7. Diana Aguilar noted this topic will be included as part of a future meeting.

Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.