

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2026

Before the Meeting

Public Comment

- Arthur Rodriguez from Green-Wood Cemetery stated that the Cemetery's is asking for a letter of support from CB7 to be sent to the Borough President and the Brooklyn City Council delegation. Green-Wood is seeking \$3.3 million dollars to fund the study of a greenway on the southern side of the cemetery, which is aimed to address issues in the area including Illegal dumping and overnight RV/Truck Parking. At present, the sidewalk there is in state of disrepair, and there have been twenty 311 complaints about illegal dumping. Green-Wood's greenway would go from Fort Hamilton Parkway, to 37th St., then 36th St., and would include expanded pedestrian space, planters, and a new 9th Ave entrance. Green-Wood estimates the total project cost would be \$15 million. They would use the \$3.3 million to engage in an outreach process which centers community engagement. Green-Wood would gather input on the design and impacts of this potential greenway, as well as potential mitigations for issues like the loss of parking from stakeholders in the community, MTA impacts, and more.
 - Consuelo Saunders, a Sunset Park resident, stated concerns about the need for a traffic light at the intersection of 5th Avenue & 42nd Street. Saunders is also concerned that streetlights added in this area are not bright enough, which will cause safety issues for people who work late at night or come home late from events.
1. Rafael Alicea from Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow spoke about this organization's 40-year history, and its new initiatives such as bringing ESL classes to homes, satellite classes in Sunset Park at 3rd Ave, and a new survey OBT is administering which can be completed by all residents and community members.
 - Supaya Blanco-Hernandez from Sunset Park Senior Center spoke about the Center's new logo, opportunities for community involvement, current activities at the center, and plans for a new Center website.
 - Cynthia Jeffers, CB7 board member, stated that the Sunset Park Lions Club will host its annual health/community fair at Our Lady of Perpetual Help on 4/26. The event will include free breast cancer screenings, free blood PSA exams, and community resource tables from organizations, elected officials, and city agencies. NYU Langone will also offer free dental screenings, diabetes tests, cholesterol tests, and blood pressure screenings by appointment.
 - Esteban Chavez, CB7 board member, discussed Cleanup Sunset Park's cleanup and beautification events, which are being hosted in partnership with Councilmember Avilés and Big Reuse on 5/2 at Sunset Park, 5/16 at 5th Ave/23rd St., and 5/30 at Rainbow Playground, all from 10-12 p.m.
 2. Freddy Grant from the Isaac Brown Community Arts Healing Center spoke about the organization's upcoming Healing Through Arts Community Giveback and resource fair, as well as upcoming programs in photography, music production, crocheting, and more.
 - Jerry Chan, CB7 board member, discussed a recent talk from the DEP commissioner about gutters and flooding issues. Chan urged community members to report flooding issues to 311 and to also email the Board office to ensure these issues are addressed.

Education/Health and Human Services Committee – *Rosy Mota*

- Mota referred Board members to the minutes, which included a recap of a presentation from Maimonides Hospital which discussed their merger with NYCHH.

Parks/Environment Committee – *Diana Aguilar and Esteban Chavez*

- Aguilar and Chavez reported on a 3/25 committee meeting with NYC Parks, where the agency discussed its new nine-year tree planting cycle.
- Aguilar and Chavez also discussed their work with Clean Up Sunset Park, and upcoming events co-hosted with Big Reuse.
- Aguilar and Chavez also answered questions from Board members about trash containerization, recycling, illegal dumping, compost bins, and enforcement of Parks-related issues.
- The next Parks/Environment Committee meeting will discuss a site on 5th Ave that will be getting Empire Bins.

Opening of Meeting

- The meeting opened at 7:07 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

- Moved to adopt – Pat Ruiz
- Seconded – Cynthia Jeffers
- Passed by unanimous consent.

Adoption of March 18, 2026 Minutes

- Moved to adopt – Cesar Zuniga
- Seconded – Diana Gonzalez
- Passed by unanimous consent.

Committee Reports

Housing – *Jerremy Kaplan*

- The Committee met and discussed various changes in city law related to housing affordability.
- Councilmember Aviles joined and participated in a conversation about 783 4th Ave/St. Rocco rezoning.

Transportation – *Katie Walsh*

- The Committee heard a presentation from MTA about the Interborough Express (IBX). The IBX is currently undergoing State Environmental Quality Review process. Part of this is several in-person workshops, which begin on 4/28. At workshops, community members can provide feedback about station design, accessibility, and more. There are three stops in CB7.
- Walsh discussed the planned Greenway opening celebration event on 5/4 at 12 p.m. This event will be hosted by CB7, in partnership with local organizations, elected officials, and business, and will feature various festivities starting and 19th St and going to 23rd St. The Greenway portion being celebrated goes from Hamilton Ave to 29th St, and its changes include

a protected sidewalk level bike lane with additional green infrastructure/plants. While issues remain, such as lack of appropriate signage, Walsh noted that this is an opportunity to acknowledge a new amenity in CB7 and call for further actions like finishing the Third Ave Street Improvement plan.

- Walsh also discussed a presentation from Meera Joshi of Green-Wood Cemetery about their request for a letter of support for their funding request to the Brooklyn Delegation, which would fund a study of the construction of a greenway on the Cemetery's southern side. This proposed greenway is intended to address issues such as broken sidewalks, illegal dumping, illegal parking of RVs, and more.
- The committee voted to write a letter of support for the greenway study, which would include a robust engagement process, making sure that MTA depot and local schools are included in the community engagement process, and that noting concerns that plastic bollards do not equal safety.
- As this motion came out of committee, a second was not needed.
- There was discussion on the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and the motion passed with **31 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions**.
- Walsh also noted that the Public Safety and Transportation Committees will host a joint meeting on Tuesday, 4/28. At that meeting, the Port Authority will come to share information about a cargo drone pilot program.

Land Use/Landmarks Committee – *Diana Gonzalez*

- Diana Gonzalez provided updates on a meeting with the developer of 783 4th Ave a.k.a. the St. Rocco's site. The Catholic Church entered into lease agreement with this developer to build three apartments, one of which is proposed to be 100% affordable and managed by Fifth Avenue Committee, and two others that would mix market rate and Mandatory Inclusionary Housing. The site is currently zoned for manufacturing, so this plan would require rezoning the site to R8 and R7.
- The Committee asked the developer to conduct a shadow study, create ADA accessible parking spaces, and conduct a rainwater mitigation study that considers 50- and 100-year floods.

Elected Officials

These Elected Officials Reported:

- NY City Councilmember Alexa Avilés – *represented by Winnie Marion*
- NY State Senator Andrew Gounardes – *represented by Francesca Lando*
- US Congressman Dan Goldman – *represented by Jessica Bravo*
- NY State Assemblymember Robert Carroll – *represented by Sean Gurl*
- NY City Councilmember Shahana Hanif – *represented by Iqra Shafik*

Chairperson's Report - *Julio Peña III*

- At a monthly meeting with EDC, the agency shared:
- EDC plans to charge for parking on Pier 4 at Brooklyn Army Terminal and discussed a possible

timeline for which these charges would extend to cover the entire site, including Pier 4, south parking lot, and west parking lot. EDC has said they will come to the Transportation Committee with additional details; Peña also invites Board and Community members to send feedback about EDC's plan to the Board office.

- EDC is looking to add signage at Pier 6 and is considering proposed designs.
- Peña, Katie Walsh, and John DeLooper did a walkthrough on the new Greenway portion from 29th St to Hamilton Ave. Feedback from this walkthrough has been shared with DDC.
- Greenwood's new visitor center in the former Weir Greenhouse opens 4/23.
- Peña participated in a BATWorks event where he spoke about the Indirect Source Rule and CB7's Last Mile Trucking Committee's efforts to address issues caused by these facilities and rein in pollution.
- Several volunteer opportunities for Board members are available, including Tabling at the Lions Club Health and Resources fair.
- As per CB7 bylaws – Peña will appoint a nominating committee for CB7 officer positions. Nominations will be heard at the May meeting, and elections will take place in June. Peña is term limited and cannot run for re-election as chair.

District Manager's Report – *Maria Gonzalez*

- 23 new/renewal liquor licenses have been received.
- NYPD CompStat statistics were included in the Board packet and are available outside the Board office.

Old Business

- Pat Ruiz noted that the District Manager position has been posted to NYC Jobs, LinkedIn, Indeed, and other social media. Any interested applicants can apply until 5/8.
- Pat Ruiz thanked Maria Gonzalez and Natasha Cordero for making printed minutes available.
- Antoinette Martinez asked if there were any updates on the Brooklyn Army Terminal Climate Hub. Peña said the Board will ask BATWorks to present to a CB7 committee.

New Business

- Katie Walsh announced:
- Empire Wind's community grants program funding is available, and applications to their ecosystem fund are due 4/22.
- NYC DOT will sponsor a car-free earth day celebration on 5th Ave on 4/25.
- Blue Horizon sailing will offer a model boat racing event on 5/3 at Bush Terminal Park.
- Cynthia Jeffers noted a sinkhole on 46th St. between 4 and 5th Ave.

Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.