

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2026

Adoption of Agenda

- Julio Peña noted a change to the agenda to include a required vote for the Transportation Committee item.
 - Moved to adopt as amended – Sam Sierra
 - Seconded – Karen Rolnick
 - Passed by unanimous consent.

Adoption of February 25, 2026 Minutes

- Moved to adopt – Karen Rolnick
 - Seconded – Sam Sierra
 - Passed by unanimous consent.

Public Comment

- Trey McGee from Target Margin Theater discussed their current production “*This is Real.*”
- David Kupferberg from Passengers United discussed the organization’s counterproposal to the Brooklyn Bus Network redesign, especially their critique of bus stop balancing/stop elimination.
- Dr. Irwin Schindler from Tulip Behavioral Health Center discussed the organization’s available services for patients of all ages, and noted their multilingual staff of psychologists, psychiatrists, therapists, and social workers.
- Allison Wong from the Sunset Park Library spoke about upcoming programs and events.
- Alexa Orr from the Windsor Terrace Library discussed the library’s Developmental Disability Resource Fair.
- Esmeldy from 26th St. described ongoing issues with BK Loft 26 including parties that go until 6 a.m., public drunkenness and fights, littering of glass bottles, and more. Esmeldy met with the venue’s owners to seek an amicable solution, but they did not take action. Dozens of 311 and 911 calls have also failed to generate changes to this venue’s operations. 0
- Deborah Herdan from Families for Safe Streets spoke in support of Sammy’s Law/neighborhood slow speed zones and Low Traffic Neighborhoods. Herden is a proponent of these policies after having been hit as a cyclist when crossing Fort Hamilton Parkway at McDonald Ave. Herden was hit by a school bus and survived, but this was only possible because the bus was moving slowly; a faster collision would have been fatal. Herden said lower speed limits will be a good fit for CB7’s neighborhoods because there are many schoolchildren and senior citizens, and slow vehicle speeds will improve safety for them. Herden also advocated for street redesigns to divert through traffic and truck traffic away from side streets.
- Alexis Sfikas from Families for Safe Streets spoke in support of Low Traffic Neighborhoods and Sammy’s Law slow speed zones. Sfikas said these tools are important for keeping neighborhoods safe because speed kills. Moving from 25 to 20 mph does not make a big difference for drivers, but it does make a big difference for people who get hit. Sfikas stated appreciation of CB7’s Transportation Committee for having considered these issues.

Committee Reports

Parks and Environment – *Esteban Chavez*

- The Committee met last Monday to hear presentations from NYC Parks and Green-Wood Cemetery.
- For the Parks presentation, Jim Morris provided an update on capital projects including the Sunset Park Rec Center, Greenwood Playground, Peña Herrera Playground, Gonzalo Plasencia Playground, Martin Luther Playground, and John Allen Payne Playground.
- For the John Allen Payne project, the playground will undergo partial closures for 5 years while the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) does repair work on the Belt Parkway. NYSDOT will invest \$2 million into the playground project, and the basketball court, horseshoes area, and handball courts will be closed for two years. Upon reopening, they will be redesigned to maintain facilities for basketball and handball, but also include a skateboard area, pickleball, and a revamped swing set.
- Sara Evans from Green-Wood cemetery presented on the Living Collections/Tree Finder project, which catalogs all trees in their facility as part of a project to increase the Cemetery's tree canopy.
 - Green-Wood's visitor center in the former Weir Greenhouse will open on 4/18.
- NYC Parks will conduct visioning sessions for D'Emic playground this Fall.
- D. Aguilar and E. Chavez will present on behalf of CB7 at the 2026 Brooklyn Parks and Open Spaces Conference and invited feedback including ideas and concerns about CB7 parks.
- The Parks and Environment Committee will host an upcoming meeting focused on NYC Parks' tree planting program and a public art installation at Sunset Park.

Transportation – *Katie Walsh*

- The Transportation Committee met and heard several presentations, beginning with Colby Black, a neighbor who has been active in organizing parents and school officials to address street and traffic safety issues around the MS442, K280, and Brooklyn Urban Garden (BUGS) Schools.
- This is a follow-up to previous organizing efforts which resulted in a walkthrough with DOT and elected officials, and requests to DOT to enact several fixes.
- At the meeting, Black discussed DOT responses like signage changes that were minor fixes to structural issues.
- Black said DOT has not been forthcoming in their communication about why unaddressed issues have not been solved. Black and other parents/neighbors are advocating for a corridor wide street improvement plan approach and asked for CB7's support in amplifying this ask to the new DOT Commissioner.
 - Following the Committee's discussion, CB7 gathered feedback and sent a letter to DOT recommending specific improvements and calling for a coordinated approach with NYPD and MTA to solve safety issues at/near the schools.
- The Committee also discussed a planned event to mark the opening of the Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway section from Hamilton Ave to 29th St. While this section is still getting final touches, the Committee is planning an event in early May, which will include several local CBOs. The hope is that this event can catalyze actions/updates on the Third Avenue Street Improvement Plan and finishing the CB7 portions of the Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway.
- The Transportation Committee also considered two resolutions: Sammy's Law and Low Traffic Neighborhoods.
- Sammy's Law is named after Sammy Cohen Eckstein, a 12-year-old who was killed by a speeding driver in Brooklyn in 2013. This state law gave NYC permission to lower speed limits in areas with fewer than 3 lanes of traffic.

- A resolution was presented to the Committee to request the NYC DOT lower the speed limit of all streets in Brooklyn Community District 7 with fewer than three lanes of traffic to 20 miles-per-hour, and lower the speed limit on all streets adjacent to schools in the District to 15 miles-per-hour as authorized by Sammy's law; to state that Brooklyn Community Board 7 is supportive of a city-wide 20 mph speed limit and, in the event NYC DOT determines not to lower speed limits on any such street in Brooklyn Community District 7, that it provides the Community Board with a written explanation for that determination.
 - As the resolution came out of Committee, a second was not needed.
 - There was discussion on the resolution, and the resolution passed via unanimous consent.
- The Committee also discussed Low Traffic Neighborhoods (LTNs), a concept which uses tools from DOT's toolkit to reduce cut-through traffic on residential/neighborhood streets by encouraging through traffic to stay on arterial roads via design.
 - The Transportation Committee unanimously approved a resolution expressing full support for a pilot program of Low Traffic Neighborhoods in CB7 and requesting that DOT evaluate the current patterns of cut through traffic in the neighborhood. The resolution also requested that the DOT start with streets around schools, senior centers, or facilities for the disabled as these streets should be used to strengthen social and transportation networks, by creating green spaces, places to gather and spaces that support bike or bus transportation.
- As the resolution came out of committee, a second was not needed. There was discussion on the motion, and the resolution passed via unanimous consent.
- Walsh also discussed recent developments and events at the Waterfront Climate Center located at Brooklyn Army Terminal, and an upcoming committee meeting on 4/7 which will include presentations from the MTA regarding the Interborough Express (IBX) light rail project and a proposed greenway from Green-Wood Cemetery.

Second Roll Call

Elected Officials

These Elected Officials Reported:

- NY City Councilmember Alexa Avilés – *represented by Winnie Marion* (before the meeting)
- NY State Senator Andrew Gounardes – *represented by Francesca Lando* (before the meeting)
- 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*
- Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso – *represented by Lacey Tauber*
- Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez – *represented by John Watkins*
- NY State Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes – *represented by Emmitt Mendoza-Gaspar*

Chairperson's Report - *Julio Peña III and Pat Ruiz*

- Peña congratulated Board member Joanna Romero for receiving her doctorate.
- The monthly meeting with EDC did not happen due to scheduling issues, but Board representatives will meet with EDC on the first Friday in April.

- BATWorks has posted a request for expressions of interest (RFEI) for Climate Hub tenants and members, strategic and technical partners, corporate and institutional sponsors, and programs and operations partners. The deadline for expressing interest is March 24.
- Pat Ruiz noted that the CB7 District Manager job posting will go live soon and will be advertised for 30 days.
- **Questions about the posting should be sent to Pat Ruiz and Cynthia Jeffers, not to the Board office.**

District Manager's Report – *Maria Gonzalez*

- There have been 7 new/renewal liquor licenses.
- NYPD CompStat statistics were included in the Board packet and are available outside the Board office. Members of the public can also access this info by contacting the Board office.
- Gonzalez addressed questions about providing feedback regarding liquor licenses.

Old Business

- Pat Ruiz asked that copies of committee reports be printed and made available to the public at future Board meetings.

New Business

- John DeLooper noted that the deadline for comments on the Congestion Relief Zone (Congestion Pricing) Draft Mitigation Plan is March 24, 2026.

Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.