

Community Board 7 Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2026

Opening of Meeting

- The meeting opened at 6:38 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

- Moved to adopt – Pat Ruiz
- Seconded – Diana Gonzalez
- Passed by unanimous consent.

Adoption of April 15th, 2026 Minutes

- Moved to adopt – Cesar Zuniga
- Seconded – Cynthia Jeffers
- Passed by unanimous consent.

Public Comment

- Alexa Orr from Brooklyn Public Library's Windsor Terrace Branch spoke about Summer Reading, World Cup Viewings, and resume and career help from BPL.
- Supaya Blanco-Hernandez from Sunset Park Senior Center thanked Board and community members for their help during the Center's recent Mother's Day event and introduced assistant director Robert Cruz.
- Roxana Benavides from Brooklyn Public Library's Sunset Park Branch spoke about upcoming events including World Cup Screening Parties, Shakespeare in the Park, and a Healthy Minds/Healthy Lives resource fair.
- Melissa del Valle Ortiz provided information about the upcoming Memorial Day Parade, which will include a celebration of the Borinqueneers, at 11 a.m. on May 26th.
- Alyssa Haddad-Chin from Target Margin theater discussed upcoming events and a fellowship program.
- Venus Scantlebury from the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board provided information about the organization's purpose, services, and options for attending meetings in person or via Webex.

Committee Reports

Parks/Environment – Esteban Chavez

- Parks and Environment Committee met and heard a presentation from Prospect Park Alliance about recent and future capital projects, such as the Vale of Cashmere restoration, and also heard a presentation from the Brooklyn Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) about the organization's purpose and activities.

- The Committee also saw a presentation from Heng-Gil Han and Lucia Warck-Meister discussing a proposed art installation in Sunset Park. The proposed mixed media project would be part of the “Shared Dialogue, Shared Space” series of citywide public art projects.
 - There will be several participatory events, where community members can engage with the art and artists, including creating felt/paper collages in flower shapes that can be used for ofrendas, a yarn/fabric and storytelling event, and an outdoor installation of Ceibo coral tree flowers to honor legend of Anahi, an indigenous South American Woman who resisted colonization and found solace by transforming into a Ceibo tree.
- The project would be installed in the Fall (likely October), and the artists are looking for letter of support from the Community Board.
- Cesar Zuniga motioned to support the art installation. The motion was seconded by Joan Botti.
- There was discussion on the motion, including questions about graffiti prevention, ways to prevent people from climbing on the sculpture, the design of the pedestal, and whether the artists had insurance.
- The motion passed via unanimous consent.

Joint Committee Meeting with Parks & Environment and Economic Development & Small Business – Damaris Santiago and Esteban Chavez

- Santiago reported on a presentation from the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) on a request for a letter of support for proposed wayfinding signage at Pier 6.
- There was a discussion on EDC’s presentation and request.
- Cesar Zuniga made a motion to send letter of support for the proposed wayfinding signage, which was seconded by Pat Ruiz.
- There was discussion on the motion, and the motion Passed by a Vote: 29 – Yes; 3 – No; 1 – Abstention.
- Esteban Chavez reported that Blue Horizon will host several sailing related programs this summer at Bush Terminal Piers Park.

Public Safety – Cynthia Felix Jeffers

- Jeffers reported on the Committee’s 4/27 meeting, which included lifesaving emergency response training.
- Jeffers also noted that FDNY offers several free fire safety programs. She especially highlighted the “Get Alarmed NYC” initiative where an FDNY representative will visit your house, create a safety plan, and install smoke detectors.

Joint Transportation/Public Safety Meeting – John DeLooper

- DeLooper noted the success of the May 4th Hamilton Ave to 29th St Greenway Opening Celebration, which included roughly 65 attendees, including local resident groups, nonprofits, and numerous elected officials like Representative Nydia Velasquez who helped champion this funding initially, and others including Congressman Goldman, Councilmember Avilés and reps from the Brooklyn Borough

President Office, Comptroller Office, Senator Gournades, Assemblymember Mitaynes, and many CB7 members.

- The event also served as a call to action for the new mayoral administration to adopt the Third Avenue Street Improvement plan, a need that has become especially urgent due to the upcoming citywide Truck Route Redesign.
- The draft citywide truck route plan has added 49 miles of new truck routes, but CB7 has received zero communication or safety commitments from the DOT about impacts to our district, In comparison, neighboring CB10 is getting a mitigation plan on their portion of Third Ave.
- Accordingly, the Transportation Committee is hosting a meeting on June 8 at 6:30 to gather community feedback ahead of the official DOT public hearing on June 9.
- The committees also heard from the Port Authority and Skyports about a pilot program to fly certain medical supplies to a local hospital via human-piloted drones between Manhattan Heliport and the Brooklyn Marine Terminal.
- The presenters said that the pilot could reduce truck traffic and emissions, but board members noted concerns about outreach, aerial traffic on the river, signal reliability, and emphasized the need for stronger and earlier communication with the community as the project moves forward, especially if PANYNJ adds an additional landing at 65th St Rail Yard.
- DeLooper also noted an update on the response from DOT regarding the list of street safety priorities CB7 sent in Fall. DOT did not join the meeting, but sent written responses, and said they are looking for feedback about more specific treatment suggestions for the problem intersections, such as daylighting, speed bumps, and signal changes. Send feedback on these intersections/the DOT response by 5/27 so the Committee can send back to DOT to ensure CB7 is getting the safety treatments we need.
- In addition, NYC EDC plans to roll out paid parking at the Brooklyn Army Terminal, starting with 500 spaces at Pier 4. Board members highlighted issues with the plan due to a lack of discount programs for groups such as residents and veterans, concerns about financial impacts on existing tenants, lack of revenue transparency, and a 10 p.m. lot closure that affects overnight hospital workers.
- The next Transportation Committee meeting on June 8 will include discussions on two community street co-namings: Thomas De Riso (51st St at 4th Ave) and Robert Dwyer Caridi (East Third St).
- Summer G-Train Disruptions: The MTA announced G-Train service disruptions throughout the summer for modernization work. Full details are available online at <https://www.mta.info/article/service-changes-g-line-2026>.
- Two environmental review workshops remain for the IBX project, and community members can also submit feedback online. Details can be found at <https://www.mta.info/project/interborough-express>

Nominating Committee – Cesar Zuniga

- Zuniga reported on the meeting of the nominating committee.
- As per bylaws, the nominating committee had to create a slate of candidates for consideration as officers for the Board. Members are also allowed to nominate others or self-nominate.

- The committee considered a number of factors including leadership, continuity, succession planning, institutional knowledge, and geographic balance across the district, as well as consideration of term limits.
- The Committee put forth a proposed slate of
- Chair: Cynthia Felix; Vice Chair: Pat Ruiz; Second Vice Chair: John DeLooper; Secretary: Sam Sierra; Assistant Secretary: Jonathan Martinez; Treasurer: Jerry Chan; Community Engagement Officer: Damian Andrade; Seargent at Arms: Esteban Chavez; and Assistant Sergeant at Arms: Fay Walker.
- Board members discussed the proposed slate and nominated additional candidates. The June meeting will have an election with candidates as follows:
 - Chair: Cynthia Felix
 - Vice Chair: Pat Ruiz
 - Second Vice Chair: Damien Andrade and John DeLooper
 - Secretary: Sam Sierra
 - Assistant Secretary: Jonathan Martinez
 - Treasurer: Jerry Chan
 - Community Engagement Officer: Melissa Del Valle Ortiz and Diana Gonzalez
 - Seargent at Arms: Esteban Chavez
 - Assistant Sergeant at Arms: Fay Walker.

Elected Officials

These Elected Officials Reported:

- US Congressman Dan Goldman – *represented by Wesley Yu*
- NY State Senator Andrew Gounardes – *represented by Francesca Lando*
- NY City Councilmember Alexa Avilés – *represented by Winnie Marion*

Chairperson's Report - Julio Peña III

- As per our bylaws, there will be a ballot that all board members will complete. Only Board members present will be allowed to vote.
- Peña highlighted the greenway celebration and rally for a safer Third Ave and noted equity issues where other districts have been promised safety upgrades while CB7 continues to wait, and expressed hope that the new mayoral administration will address CB7's safety needs.
- A Housing Committee meeting with shelter operator HelpUSA will be scheduled soon.
- Board received an Article IX Fair Share notice saying that due to the high concentration of shelters, an additional one would be "in the character of the district," and noted equity issues related to the high concern

- Peña noted discussions in a monthly meeting with EDC, especially regarding the parking and Pier 6.
- The mayor has announced an new South of Prospect Rezoning Plan. A survey will be released soon; all are encouraged to participate.
- New Board members were introduced.
- Peña yielded to Pat Ruiz who provided an update on the district manager search.

District Manager's Report – Maria Gonzalez

- 17 new/renewal liquor license applications, 1 cannabis dispensary application, 0 Dining Out applications
- NYPD CompStat statistics available at board office
- CB7 Board Office closed on Memorial Day

Old Business

- Damien Andrade encouraged the Board to continue to take up issues related to the lack of green spaces in CB7, and highlighted problems arising from the increase in turf fields throughout the district.
- Jerry Chan noted his concerns as veteran about the lack of consideration of veterans in the new Brooklyn Army Terminal parking fee structure.
- Chan noted the facility's important history to this community and to the country as a whole and discussed how veterans often use the pier for memorial/remembrance purposes, which makes charging veterans to park there especially unfair.
- Xiomara Garcia highlighted issues and challenges related to new shelters in CB7. She also noted concerns about losing green space for children and families.

New Business

- Jerry Chan urged the next CB7 Executive Committee to study existing bylaws and call the Bylaws Committee to see if these should be amended.
- Pat Ruiz urged the Board to look into purchasing another air conditioner, as the current one is not providing enough cooling for a space of this size.

Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.