



Melinda Katz
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Patrick A. O'Brien
Chairman

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

September 10, 2015

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Terri Adams
Czarinna Andres
Diane Ballek
Sandra Bigitschke
Claudia Chan
Shampa Chanda
Stephen Cooper
Lisa Deller
Dana Frankel
William Garrett
Kenneth Greenberg
Richard Gundlach
Benjamin Guttmann
Anne Hart
Mohammed Choudhury Jewel
Ellen Kang
Badrun N. Khan
Marie Konecko
Jordan Levine

Sheila Lewandowski
Dominic Lippolis
Donald McCallian
Dorothy Morehead
Patrick Murray
Patrick O'Brien
Lakshmi Reddy
Moitri Savard
Beth Sexton
Michael Son
Lauren Springer
Carol Terrano
Mary Torres
Anthony Tudela
Santiago Vargas
Al Volpe

Absentees

Anna Bridge
Bessie Cassaro
Sally Frank
Reverend Joseph Jerome
Denise Keehan-Smith
Charles Markey
Elliot Park
Norberto Saldana
Elba Santiago
Regina Shanley
Rebecca Trent
Karolina Tosi

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager
MaryAnn Gurrado

Elected Officials

Yoni Bokser, Queens Borough President's Office
Matthew Lerch, Senator Gianaris's Office
Elaine Fan, NYC Comptroller's Office

Guests

Iggy Terranova, NYC Department of Sanitation
Larisa Casillas, Columbia School of Journalism
Kailyn Lamb, Columbia School of Journalism
Richard O'Connor
Irina Ok
Christian Murray, Sunnyside Post

Public Comment

Pat Dorfman
Jim Condes
Vito Rak
Pete Muro
Dorothy Kominsky
Paul Salow
Christian Amez
Sabrina Parker
Phil Konigsberg
Sara Nordman,
Cheryl Tse, LIC Partnership
Irene Sobar

Mr. O'Brien welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Yoni Bokser, Queens Borough President's Office

Mr. Bokser provided the following update:

- The Borough President helped celebrate the anniversary of Women's Suffrage.
- Back to School Drive is going on at Borough Hall through September 18, 2015.
- October 5, 2015 next class of New Idea/New Venture Class. A monthly class which takes place on the first Monday of every month for anyone interested in starting a new business. Individuals can also sign up on line.
- US Open will be celebrating 100th year in Queens. The Borough President helped celebrate this anniversary recently.

Iggy Terranova, NYC Department of Sanitation

Mr. Terranova provided the following update:

- The Department of Sanitation will be expanding the Organics Program and it will begin in Queens 10 and Brooklyn 6. CB 2 is still in the planning stages; however we will be notified when it begins.
- Discussed the plans and preparations for Snow Removal. On November 1, 2015 the DOS will begin night plow and they will be working 24 hour a day shifts, just in case in snows.
- Put garbage out no earlier than 4:00 pm all year round.
- The DOS is hiring more employees.
- Electronics Recycling Program, trying to increase awareness of this program.
- Saturday, September 19, 2015, NYC Safe Disposal Event in Queens, taking place between 10 and 4 pm at the Astoria Parking Lot, cars enter from Ditmars and 21st Street.
- In response to a question, Mr. Terranova stated the DOS does not go after people who are unable to help themselves. The DOS is working with the Mayor's Office and Community Boards to work out where the individuals are located and are connecting them through the City with organizations who volunteer to assist them. He informed that if someone is issued a ticket they do not agree with, they should try to fight it.
- Materials for the Arts collects items that people discard such as paints, office supplies etc. Anyone interested should contact 311.
- Snow removal on street corners is the responsibility of the owner of the property that is adjacent to the corner. DOS will assist, after plowing is done, they will send out individuals to help clear out bus stops, crosswalks, fire hydrants etc.
- Last year DOS purchased 56 bobcats. Another 60 have been purchased and the DOS is trying to place two in each district.
- The DOS Digest of Codes is available on line; however Mr. Terranova will send a supply to the CB 2 office.
- In response to a complaint, Mr. Terranova stated the DOS is aware of the illegal dumping on under the LIRR Rail Road tracks 43rd Street and 48th Street. They clean it regularly and are trying to catch the individuals but have limited manpower.

Mr. Terranova entertained questions.

Ajevo Yusuf - Mayors Office of Immigrant Affairs – IDNYC Identification Cards

Mr. Yusuf provided the following update:

- IDNYC is the new free identification card for all New York City Residents.
- Need to be over age of 14 and live in NYC.
- It is a government issued photo identification card.
- IDNYC benefits every city resident and the benefits are free one year membership at many of the City's leading museums, zoos, concert halls, botanical gardens, discounts at movie theatres, hotels and Broadway shows.
- Partnered with Big Apple Pharmacy.

- Anyone interested can visit the website at www.nyc.gov/idnyc or call 311 to make an appointment.

Jason Banrey, Council Member/Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer's Office

Mr. Banrey announced Council Member/Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer would be unable to attend the meeting, however provided the following update:

- Thanked all the members for their service.
- Welcomed everyone back from the summer recess.
- Looks forward to working with everyone on community projects.
- PS 361 new school in Woodside opened; it is the first to be built in Woodside in over 60 years. This is a great accomplishment and a milestone.
- Council Member Van Bramer extends thanks to all who attended his 46th birthday celebration this summer.
- Luke Adams Way was one of the most successful street renaming events.
- Recognized the efforts of Pat Dorfman, the Community Board and other organizations.
- Bix Beiderbecke Concert event was successful.
- Thanked Sara Nordman, Acting Executive Director, Sunnyside Shines BID for her efforts.
- Citibike has 12 stations in Western Queens, expansion of Citibike will be going into Astoria in 2017.
- Foundation of Hunters Point Community Library, this is now set and the library is the first to be built from scratch and brand new. Council Member Van Bramer Chair, Cultural Affairs has been working on this for over 15 years.
- Participatory Budgeting is back for the second year. This was a great success last year and all are invited to attend the meeting on Monday at 6:30 pm at Sunnyside Community Services. Flyers were distributed.
- September 15, 2015 Neighborhood Assembly at Christ Lutheran Church.
- More information to follow on Neighborhood Assemblies in every neighborhood.

Public Comment

Pete Mauro

Mr. Mauro stated that he represents an organization called Access Queens and they have now launched a website: www.accessqueens.org. Advocate for better transportation in Western Queens due to the rapid development.

Jim Condes

Mr. Condes spoke about the following:

- Requesting to meet with Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer.
- Spoke about his concerns with regard to Access-A-Ride.

A board member asked about the statistics of how many use Access A Ride.

Vito Rak, Woodside Fencing

Mr. Rak spoke about the following:

- Requesting CB 2 put up their banner for CB2 Meetings.
- Lives next to the new school in Woodside and reported it is very nice.
- Requested a garbage can near the corner of where the new school is located.
- Elevator at 61st Street is still not repaired.
- Requested assistance with the Kiosk at 61st Street.

Dorothy Kominsky

Ms. Kominsky spoke about her opposition to the bike lanes on Queens Boulevard.

Pat Dorfman

Ms. Dorfman provided the following update:

- Small Business Jobs Survival Act Bill needs to get passed.
- Council Member Van Bramer met with Rigo Cardoso, President of the Sunnyside Chamber.
- Invited all to attend the September 30, 2015 Sunnyside Chamber Luncheon at Bar 43 at 12:30. The Guest Speaker will be Catherine Penfold-Waxman, Digital Marketing Workshop.

Paul Salow

Mr. Salow spoke about the following:

- Seeking an update on Sunnyside Rail Yards. Ms. Deller advised it is in the study phase.
- Spoke about the massive delays on the # 7 Line.
- Seeking information about Congressman Crowley's vote on the Iran Deal.
- Spoke about the Quality Inn on 53rd Street and Queens Boulevard, where he has observed kids smoking pot.
- Reported that homeless individuals are hanging out and throwing clothing in his neighbor's yard.

Christian Amez, Hunters Point Arts Conservancy

Mr. Amez provided the following update:

- Multiple movie screenings were held in Hunters Point South Park over the summer.
- September 15, 2015 joint meeting with Hunters Point Civic Association at the Irish Center at 7pm. Representatives from EDC plan to discuss a new ferry stop located near the Pepsi sign. All invited to attend.
- More movie screenings will take place at Hunters Point South Park on September 19, 2015 at 7:30 pm.

- Thanked Captain Travaglia and the 108th Precinct for a great job on July 4, 2015. No incidents or major problems were reported.
- Mr. O'Brien presented the following Community Service Awards from the Queens Borough President's Office for the following board members:
 - Dick Gundlach - 20 Years Award
 - Rev. Joseph Jerome – 15 Years Award. Reverend Jerome was not present to accept his award.
 - Bessie Cassaro - 10 Year Award. Ms. Cassaro was not present to accept her award.
 - Mohammed Jewel Chowdhury -10 Year Award
- Regina Shanley is recovering at the Queens Blvd Extended Care Facility.
- Former Board Member Mary English is recovering.
- Former Board Member Barbara Coleman resigned due to health issues.
- Pope Francis is coming to New York City September 25th, 2015.
- The Capital and Expense was emailed. Please provide any updates to the Board Office this month. A new copy will then be updated and sent out to be reviewed and voted on at the November meeting. This year it is being done differently and is being input through OMB centrally and coming back to the BP.
- City Planning on Zoning for Quality and Affordability is likely to issue the report or certify for public review at the end of September. We will discuss this at Land Use and will have public meetings and an outreach so everyone in the community is aware of it.
- Phipps Houses on Barnett Avenue, the facts are that there is no proposal filed that we have to consider. There has been discussion and a meeting where Phipps came to discuss with the Community Board to exhibit what they want to do but they must go through a public process.
- Mr. O'Brien spoke about another rumor going around that the City is taking 40 feet of Barnett Avenue, which is not true.
- Mr. O'Brien stated that before anyone begins to talk about these things to obtain the facts.
- Mr. O'Brien stated that we will revisit the bike lanes because the number of parking spaces taken is significantly larger. Want to work to refine this.
- Working with LaGuardia Community College on Transportation issues. Attended walking tour with DOT and will have further meetings.
- CB 2 met with EDC on the potential of a new ferry stop in LIC. It is in the planning stage however there are two stops being considered at the edge of Center Boulevard near Anable Basin and also at 44th Drive. There will be a public process on this matter and there will be an ongoing discussion.
- We will be finalizing committee assignments and everyone will be on a Committee in October. Will speak to everyone individually.
- FDNY announced that Engine 292 at 64-18 Queens Blvd has returned to their house.
- Department of Buildings has a No Penalty Retaining Wall Inspection Program.

- Intro 49: in relation of the provision of the notice to Council Members and Community Boards of Applications filed with the DOB.
- Intro 280: in relation to requiring the DOB to maintain a registry of restrictive covenants.
- Nominations will take place in October for the executive board. Election will be in November and it is an open process. Mr. O'Brien stated he has spoken to the BP's office about by law changes and he is hoping there will be a draft.
- Community Board 2 website is www.nyc.gov/queenscb2. The prior service provider did not take down the old website.

District Manager's Report

Ms. Markell Kleinert provided the following update:

- The new Website is running smoothly. It is updated regularly. www.nyc.gov/queenscb2. It will take a while for Google to catch up to the new website.
- National Grid will be working on upgrading the gas lines. They are providing updates in November in our district.
 - They will notify the Community and advise CB 2 when they begin.
 - Currently working in Community Boards 5 & 6.
 - They will have conference calls with the Community Boards on a monthly basis.
 - They are planning to be in CB 2 January and February 2016.

Penny Lee, Department of City Planning

Ms. Lee provided the following update:

- Representatives of the Phipps Houses Proposal made a conceptual presentation to the Land Use Committee in June and they are working with Scott Soloman, DCP who will be the planner for this project and will take over the Phipps application. They are working on their environmental assessment statement, ULURP applications. It will be about a 10 story building and 100% affordable. It will have a wide range of income bands ranging from low to middle income. The intent is to have the project be 100% affordable and there will also be a Universal Pre-K component in the western corner of the building where the site narrows.
- Existing public parking lot would be replaced with the building. Intending to provide more parking than what is required.
- Chunk of the existing public parking lot is not used by residents; it is used by commercial vehicles.
- Will come before the Board when it is certified by the Department at the City Planning Commission meeting and will start public review process as quickly as possible.
- Ms. Lee reported that she will be working on the LIC Core Study. Will come back in the fall to present the study of the research. In the study area, the four goals of the study are as follows:
 - Affordable housing

- Commercial opportunities
- Infrastructure to support additional development
- Developing methods of better integrating Queens Bridge Houses into the neighborhood and the broader community.
- On target with this and are working with city agencies on various aspects of the project. Hope to begin public meetings in October.
- Ms. Lee reported that on the affordable housing text changes as Mr. O'Brien spoke about earlier, it is the zoning changes that have already been presented having to do with updating the zoning text generally to reflect changes in building conditions over time and then there is also the new mandatory affordable housing provision. The zoning text changes for those projects will be referred by the end of the month. City planning and HPD are working on the text. The goal is to start the public review process as soon as possible.
- Ms. Deller requested a copy of the Power Point presentation for the members of the Board. Ms. Lee stated she will provide a copy.
- In response to a question, Ms. Lee provided an update on the Queens Plaza North Skyscraper, which is an as of right project and that transit sold their air rights, part of the site has a tunnel underneath. The developer intends to engage the community on how public open space should be developed. Filed plans with the DOB.

City Services & Public Safety Committee Meeting

Mr. O'Brien reported the City Services & Public Safety Committee held a meeting on September 9, 2015. The June minutes are in the board packets.

Land Use Committee

Ms. Deller provided the following update:

- Announced the Zoning for Quality and Affordability Proposal will be certified by City Planning at the end of the month and will be discussed at the Land Use Committee in October and then at the Board Meeting in November.
- Reported that when the power point presentation has been updated, it will be shared with the Board Members so they will have a preview sooner.
- Ms. Deller apologized for getting the Land Use Committee Meeting Minutes out late.
- Phipps team came in June and provided a presentation and elaborated on a lot of details that people seem to be hungry to hear more about. It will be a 10 story building, the design is to have small mazinette apartments on the ground floor, and affordability tiers. They aren't once size fits all.
- Parking spots are occupied by Steve Madden and RCN, cable provider. Required to have a 100 but are proposing 199 parking spaces.
- In response to a question, Ms. Deller reported it is not just resident parking.
- This will go through the ULURP process. We will have opportunity to have input.

Health and Human Services Committee

Mr. O'Brien announced that Carol Terrano will be stepping down as the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee due to other commitments, and that Dr. Moitre Savard will assume the responsibilities of Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Mr. O'Brien thanked Ms. Terrano and stated this will be a loss, as she worked so hard. Ms. Terrano stated she will continue to assist and stay on the Committee. Ms. Terrano asked that all members pull their weight and join committees because some join the board and do not serve on a committee. Ms. Terrano stated she will continue to assist Dr. Savard and be the liaison with Syringe Exchange, ACQC.

Mr. O'Brien welcomed Dr. Savard and invited her to present the report on the Smoke Free Housing Resolution.

Dr. Savard thanked Carol Terrano for her hard work and requested a round of applause.

Dr. Savard read the following from the Smoke Free Housing Resolution:

RESOLVED that Community Board No. 2 in the Borough of Queens recommends, requests, and strongly encourages all owners, and landlords, of both current and future multi-family dwellings (including cooperative housing corporations and condominiums within its community district, and throughout the City of New York, to adopt and implement written policies, procedures, and lease provisions, wherever possible, to prohibit the use of tobacco and tobacco products in any apartments, units, or other areas of such dwellings, and to undertake all reasonable and effective measures to prohibit the seepage of any second-hand smoke from any one of such apartment, units, or other areas in such dwellings to another; and it is further

RESOLVED that Community Board No. 2 in the Borough of Queens recommends, requests, and strongly encourages all owners, and landlords, of both current and future multi-family dwellings (including cooperative housing corporations and condominiums) within its community district, and throughout the City of New York, to disclose, and provide copies of, such written policies, procedures, and lease provisions, to all current and prospective tenants or occupants of any such dwellings; and it is further

RESOLVED, Community Board No. 2 in the Borough of Queens requests the New York City Council to study, report on, and adopt legislation that would give legal effect to the letter and spirit of the foregoing resolutions.

Ms. Deller made a motion and it was seconded to pass the smoke free multi-family housing resolution. All were in favor by a show of hands and the vote was unanimous.

Environment Committee

Ms. Morehead provided an update on the following:

- Anyone interested in taking part in the tree surveys can contact Ms. Morehead or sign up on line.
- Ms. Morehead requested information on a tank which is removing oil from a Con Ed pipeline on Vernon Boulevard.
- September 26, 2015 Skillman Avenue Project from 45th to 51st Street at 4 to 8 pm, rain date is October 3, 2015.

Transportation Committee Meeting

Mr. O'Brien announced that Denise Keehan-Smith is out of the country and the Transportation Committee will take place on September 29, 2015.

A motion was made to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado

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