



Melinda Katz  
Queens Borough President

## Community Board No. 2

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Patrick A. O'Brien  
Chairman

Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager

May 7, 2015

### Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

#### Attendees

Terri Adams  
Czarinna Andres  
Sandra Bigitschke  
Bessie Cassaro  
Claudia Chan  
Shampa Chanda  
Stephen Cooper  
Lisa Deller  
Sally Frank  
Dana Frankel  
William Garrett  
Kenneth Greenberg  
Richard Gundlach  
Benjamin Guttman  
Anne Hart  
Reverend Joseph Jerome  
Mohammed Choudhury Jewel  
Denise Keehan-Smith  
Badrun Khan  
Marie Konecko  
Jordan Levine  
Sheila Lewandowski

Charles Markey  
Donald McCallian  
Dorothy Morehead  
Patrick Murray  
Patrick A. O'Brien  
Lakshmi Reddy  
Norberto Saldana  
Moitre Savard  
Beth Sexton  
Regina Shanley  
Michael Son  
Lauren Springer  
Carol Terrano  
Karolina Tosi  
Anthony Tudela  
Santiago Vargas  
Al Volpe

#### Absentees

Diane Ballek  
Anna Bridge  
Barbara Coleman  
Ellen Kang  
Dominic Lippolis  
Elliot Park  
Elba Santiago  
Mary Torres  
Rebecca Trent

**Community Board 2 Staff**

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager  
MaryAnn Gurrado

**Elected Officials**

Allen Bucy, Public Advocate's Office  
Yoni Bokser, Queens Borough President's Office  
Elaine Fan, Comptroller's Office  
Jason Banrey, Council Member/Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer's Office

**Public Comment**

Jim Condes  
Kenneth Lauritzen  
Leonor White  
Christ McKee  
Dorothy Kominsky  
Patricia Dunphy  
Representatives from Smorgasburg Market  
Harley Spiller  
Debra McGowan  
Sean McGowan  
Angela Stach  
Suanne Catoggio, NYPD/SSD  
Bill Kregler  
David Goldhaber  
Tennille Astor  
Miguel Cavanzos  
Witold Rak  
Taylor Kuhn  
Darnley Jones, Department of the Aging  
Jahlil Lee

**Guests**

Ken Stuart, Access-A-Ride  
Russell Schmidt, Access-A-Ride  
Luke DePalma, MTA  
Samantha Dolgoff, NYC Department of Transportation  
Inbar Kishoni, NYC Department of Transportation  
Craig Baerwold, NYC Department of Transportation  
Aaron Frait, NYC Department of Transportation  
Penny Lee, NYC Department of City Planning  
Angela Stach  
Mary Tibaldi  
Rose Tibaldi  
Hayes Mauro  
Susan Chuang  
Bernard Kirk

Sheim Susan Karen  
Paul Salow

Mr. O'Brien welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Yoni Bokser, Office of the Queens Borough President - Melinda Katz**

Mr. Bokser announced the following:

- Orientation and Training Meeting for new and reappointed Board Members will take place on May 14, 2015 at the New York Hall of Science.
- Presented copies of the May Newsletter from the Queens Borough President's Office.

**Allen Bucy, Public Advocate's Office - Letitia James**

Mr. Bucy announced the following:

- Provided copies of the Public Advocate's Monthly Newsletter.
- PA Letitia submitted a petition to the NYC Board of Correction to create enforceable rules to address high rates of sexual victimization in City Jails particularly at Rikers Island.
- Supreme Court Justice Peter Moulton ruled in favor of PA Letitia James in a lawsuit against NYC DOE and decided that School Leadership Team meetings must be open to the public.
- As the chair of the Commission Public Information and Communication, PA James is charged with advocating for informing the public on issues regarding changes in the communication and technology.
- Spoke about the failed merger between Comcast and Time Warner Cable.
- Expressed thoughts and prayers for the family of Police Officer Brian Moore, as the community has lost a true hero and thanked his family for his service.

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

Mr. Banrey provided the following update:

Participatory Budgeting Winners are:

- Long Island City Bikeway
- Jacob Riis Settlement House Senior Van
- Five Playground Upgrades in the Queensbridge Houses

Additional projects funded:

- Accessibility Improvements for Sunnyside Library
- Accessibility Improvements for Woodside Library
- Woodside Reforestry
- Real Time Passenger Bus Countdown Clocks
- Technology Upgrades for PS/IS 78 in LIC, which includes laptops and smart boards.

Mr. Banrey announced the following:

- Installation of the new traffic light on 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Skillman Avenue and thanked all for their advocacy.
- LIC Springs this Saturday, program funded by Council Member/Majority Leader Van Bramer.
- Council Member/Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer joined parents at an Education Town Hall Meeting to address the situation at PS/IS 78. Two additional Kindergarten classes have been added to the school.
- Council Member/Majority Leader Van Bramer wants everyone to know that he opposes truncation and that he is seeking the SCA to site more schools and to have them built immediately.
- New Newsletter coming out soon,
- May 16, 2015 Groundbreaking on Hunters Point Community Library.
- Recognized Al Volpe for his advocacy for traffic safety especially for 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Skillman.

**Presentation by Ken Stuart, Russell Schmidt and Luke DePalma, MTA – Access-A-Ride**

Ken Stuart, Customer Relations Officer, Access-A-Ride NYC Transit provided the following update:

- Introduced Luke DePalma, MTA Government & Community Relations.
- Introduced Russell Schmidt, Customer Relations Staff.

Mr. Stuart provided an overview of the Access-A-Ride-Program:

- Part of NYC Transit.
- Provide transportation for those who are disabled and who cannot use public transportation.
- Operate in Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act passed in 1990.
- Will be celebrating 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.
- Access -A-ride is not based on age but on disability.
- Majority of customers are seniors.
- Shared service and will pick up more than one person and pick up door to door and they may provide service to an accessible bus.
- Service all of NYC
- Operate 24/7 every day 365 day
- Different vehicles, sedans, vans, SUV's, there are approximately 2,000 vehicles transporting approximately 25,000 to 30,000 people every day.
- 140,000 are currently registered for Access-A-Ride Service.
- Large and caring organization that is here to serve and be a partner.
- Drivers are not NYC Transit Employees but are part of 14 different carriers that they subcontract to.
- All drivers have licenses equivalent to that of a school bus driver. Also receive additional training, and there are about 3000 drivers.
- Two broker services, try to save money as funding is an issue.
- Broker Services take 20% of 25,000 trips a day.
- Use Taxis and in SI they have a voucher service.
- GPS on all vehicles and can monitor on time performance.
- 90% on time and this is due to increase in demand, construction, pot holes and weather.
- If someone is not happy with the service they may call 877-337-2017, press option 5 from Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm. This call is monitored and someone will respond.
- Individuals can also reach them through the website at [www.MTA.Info](http://www.MTA.Info), go to the contact us section.

- Mr. Stuart stated he was also a customer of Access-A-Ride and understands the frustrations when a vehicle does not arrive on time.

Mr. Stuart entertained questions.

Mr. Conley introduced former Board Member Gertrude McDonald who reported on some problems she encountered when using Access -A-Ride. Some of the problems are listed as follows:

- Has 4:15 appointment each day and sometimes they are late. From Queens she was taken to Brooklyn and then brought back to Queens and then went into Manhattan and got home at 7:00 pm and was in the van for 3 ½ hours.
- Many other times she has waited and waited for a driver.
- Had an appointment at 4:15 and was told to take a taxi, and waited two to three months for a refund, many can't afford it.
- Dispatchers are not properly trained.
- The driver drove her all over Astoria when she only needed to get to Queens Boulevard.
- Sometimes people from the Senior Center are not picked up.

Mr. Stuart said occasionally a vehicle will break down and that some dispatchers may not be paying close attention. Mr. Stuart stated there is progressive discipline towards drivers and that they received hundreds of comments each day.

**Mr. O'Brien introduced Mr. Darnley Jones, Department for the Aging.**

Mr. Jones reported that he is a liaison to the Community Boards in Queens and reported on the following:

- Has received approximately 150 complaints concerning Access-A-Ride.
- Dispatchers and staff need to have better training.
- Contacts dispatchers directly for assistance.
- Spoke about his own personal experiences with Access-A-Ride arriving late for his appointments.
- GPS Systems are antiquated.

Mr. Stuart provided an update on the routing schedules, reservations and they can do a better job

**Jim Condes**

Mr. Condes reported on the following complaints that he has experienced with Access-A-Ride.

- Spoke about this 13 months ago and the problem has gotten worse
- Sent correspondence to the Mayor's Office.
- Bring back some form of the voucher system which was better than the present broker system.
- Make medical appointments the highest priority.
- Put limits on trips to the mall or Aunt Betty's house.
- Presently there aren't any.
- When called the person is told to be outside 5 minutes before but allow the driver 30 minutes in case of traffic.
- Drivers do not call
- If driver is late, call access a ride

- Drivers are not knowledgeable of the area.
- Not enough experienced drivers
- Voucher System like Skyline had, there was hardly a problem, had experienced drivers and excellent dispatchers knew how to map out a trip.
- Low bid equals low quality.
- Mr. Condes asked why the MTA cannot get funding from the Governor who has given over 300 million dollars for Pre-K. How about spending some taxpayer money on actual taxpayers, who are senior citizens.
- Asked for MTA to fix the system for the seniors who are most vulnerable and most fragile.
- Voucher system was more efficient.

Board Member Sheila Lewandowski spoke about her mother, who uses Access-A-Ride. She encountered problems with the evaluation process with Access-A Ride and was treated like a criminal. It is an inaccessible place and people were treated like criminals.

She asked the following questions:

1. How are they evaluated?
2. How many applications do they receive annually?
3. How many are rejected? How many of those rejected are reinstated?
4. Vouchers on Staten Island, how do you qualify for those?
5. Where does one go for grievances on the entire system?
6. How many actively participate in a survey?
7. How many have access to internet versus telephone?

Mr. Stuart said there is a mechanism for complaints. He requested that Ms. Lewandowski contact them and he would contact the head of the Eligibility Program and they will investigate. There is standard training across the various centers. Different people who do community assessment and they want to know if someone is not doing a good job. He encouraged all to contact them through the website.

Mr. Obrien asked if we can put questions in an email and they can be responded to.

Mr. Stuart addressed the concerns and provided an update on the process of how complaints are handled.

#### **Kenneth Lauritzen, Sunnyside Community Services**

Mr. Lauritzen spoke about the Case Management Program, Homebound Over 60. Program funded by the Department for the Aging. Individuals can call for more information at the Intake Hotline at (718) 784-6173 Ext 460 or 498 between 9 and 4 on weekends. Brochures were distributed.

#### **Lenore White**

Ms. White spoke about the Sunnyside Mile Run Race to be held on May 31, 2015. All proceeds will go to the Coalition for the Homeless. The event will take place on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and Skillman Avenue.

#### **Chris McKee, Queens Library**

Mr. McKee announced there would be a rally at the Woodside Community Library on June 5, 2015 between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm regarding the restoration of Saturday Service.

**Patricia Dunphy, Rockrose Development**

Ms. Dunphy introduced Eric and John of Smorgasburg Market in Long Island City. This will be located at Court Square across from Citibank.

The representatives announced they will have food vendors and the market will take place every Saturday thru the Fall and it will be located across from The CUNY Law School and will be open from 11 to 6. Anyone interested can visit the website at [www.smorgasburg.com/queens](http://www.smorgasburg.com/queens).

**Dorothy Kominsky**

Ms. Kominsky spoke in opposition to Bike Lanes on Queens Boulevard.

**Bill Kregler, Big Six**

Mr. Kregler spoke about concerns of a possible dormitory that is being built on the second floor of 63-14 Queens Boulevard.

Mr. O'Brien stated DOB is aware of this issue and has been investigating and that CB 2 be following up on this.

**Sean McGowan**

Mr. McGowan spoke about the need for a middle school in the community. Mr. McGowan stated he is concerned that when children graduate from local elementary schools there will be too much overcrowding at IS 125. He has started a Facebook page, has gathered petitions to request the DOE to build a middle school and met with the local elected officials with regard to this issue. There will be a rally in September.

**Debra McGowan**

Ms. McGowan spoke about potential sites and about the time line to build a school.

**Miguel Cavanos**

Mr. Cavanos spoke about the community of Blissville, which he feels is a forgotten community. He reported there is a need for a playground for local children as there are many children in the area. He also spoke about the need for bike lanes.

**Witold Rak**

Mr. Rak spoke about the following:

- PS 339 school is very close to his house and significant progress is being made in its construction.
- Time Warner Cable Bills
- Sports and Arts Schools Foundation summer programs.
- Requested information on when the work on the elevator at 61<sup>st</sup> Street would be completed.

**Taylor Kuhn, Commune**

Ms. Kuhn spoke about a digital directory of all the five boroughs in NYC. She extended an invitation to anyone interested in helping to provide feedback before this is launched.

**Mr. Jahlil Lee**

Mr. Lee stated he is a 16 year old student who is requesting assistance as he will be traveling with the People to People Ambassador Programs on the Mediterranean Traditions Program. This is an education travel program and he is seeking donations to assist him. Anyone interested in helping can log on to [payment.peopletopeople.com](http://payment.peopletopeople.com) or contact 866-794-8309.

**Harry Spillar**

Mr. Spillar spoke about concerns with regard to Weekender Billiards.

**Angela Stach**

Ms. Stach spoke in favor of the bike lanes.

**Presentation by Department of Transportation – Inbar Kishoni – CB 2 Phase II Bike Lanes**

Ms. Kishoni, NYC Bike Program was in attendance with representatives of the NYC Department of Transportation. Ms. Kishoni provided a slide presentation of the CB 2 Phase II Bike Lanes.

A copy of the presentation is attached.

A workshop was conducted in 2012 and they were given a series of routes the community proposed for bike lanes and they will be installing them in phases. Ms. Kishoni stated they are seeking approval for the next phase.

Craig Baerwald, NYC Department of Transportation presented the Greenpoint Avenue portion of the proposal.

Questions were entertained.

In response to a question, Ms. Keehan-Smith stated the board would vote on several components of the proposal.

Ms. Kishoni stated they wanted to show the full proposal to the Committee.

**Hunters Point South Park – Public Art Proposal EDC will provide an update on the Public Art Proposals of the HPS Park Phase II Project Proposal**

Mr. O'Brien introduced the representatives from EDC and announced they are seeking a letter of support

Mr. Strom, EDC introduced his colleagues from EDC, Bridget Keating, Michael Kuhn, Keith Dumanski and provided an update on the following:

- Presented to CB 2 in 2009.
- Will have more frequent and consistent updates on the project.
- In 2009 came to seek approval for Phase I and Phase II design.
- Continuing with the same design but adding another art piece.
- Received funding to move forward with Phase II.

Bridge Keating, Project Manager for the Hunters Point South Phase II Project provided the following update:

- Hunters Point South is 30 acres in LIC Queens along the East River near the mouth of Newtown Creek.
- Hunters Point South is a housing development with seven new parcels of housing, 5000 units in total and 60% percent will be permanently affordable and will be a mixed use community, retail, residential, community facilities, and a school which opened in 2013. EDC is continuing to work on the infrastructure and waterfront park.
- HPS is split into two phases; the first phase is north of 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue. EDC implemented the design and construction, new infrastructure and waterways as well as the new Hunters Point South Park.
- Thomas Balsley Associates completed in 2013 Parcels A through G which are residential housing units.
- Renderings were reviewed.
- HPS Park is getting great use. The waterfront Park has a lot of active use. There is concession, dog run etc.

Tom Balsely is the Designer for Gantry State Park who is working on the Hunters Point South Phase II provided the following update:

- Slides were reviewed.
- It will be a contemplative quiet natural place, with tidal marshes at the lower portion of the peninsula.
- There will be an interpretive trail for school children and adults to see how the habitat works.
- Peninsula will have a single path, and it will be an urban escape.
- The location will be approximately 35 feet above water.
- It will be elevated to a 40 foot wide overlook and will be a fantastic place unlike any place in the city.

Mr. Strom provided information on the schedule:

- Went to Land Use Committee.
- 2015 Fall Construction.
- 30-36 months for construction.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2018 completion.

Questions were entertained.

Mr. Cooper asked about the art installation.

The response was the art installation piece has been selected and is not a Percent for Art Project. They wanted to add an art piece to the project and integrate it into the landscape. Brought on early and at 90% completion and wanted to choose an artist before this and worked with designer at Cultural Affairs looked at top artists from NYC and selected this piece to work in best with the natural peninsula and landscaping.

Mr. Cooper stated that since this is coming into Community Board 2, CB 2 should have some input.



- Community Board 2 welcomed eight new board members who will be attending the Borough President's training and orientation on May 14, 2015 and there will also be a Community Board 2 orientation meeting on MAY 27<sup>TH</sup> at 5:30pm at the CB 2 office. Committee appointments will be assigned after this meeting.
- Website launch is scheduled for the end of May. Debbie and Maryann will be going for training in May.
- Attended a Town Hall Meeting at PS 78 to discuss the short term and long term plans.
- CB 2 attended ribbon cutting ceremony at Noonan Playground on April 14, 2015.
- Groundbreaking for the Hunters Point South Library will be on May 16' 2015 from 11-3pm.
- Taste of Sunnyside will take place on May 19, 2015.
- National Grid is working to restore gas at various locations In Woodside. Approximately 908 customers were affected. This was due to damage to a gas main by a contractor. Repairs to the main are complete and they are restoring customers.
- We received complaints concerning 63-14 Queens Blvd. Department of Buildings is looking into it and will advise CB2.
- LIC Arts Open will take place on May 13, - 17 at the Falchi Building on 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

#### **District Manager's Report**

Ms. Markell Kleinert provided the following update:

- Attended Legislative Breakfast on April 21<sup>st</sup> with DA Brown to meet and receive an update on programs by the Director of Immigrant Affairs, Carmeneita Gutierrez.
- Any Board Members who were notified to attend the BP's Training and Orientation on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Hall Of Science need to RSVP and also notify CB2 of your attendance

#### **Land Use Committee**

Ms. Deller provided the following update:

##### **An application for an enclosed sidewalk café with 10 tables and 20 seats at Harmony Terrace/d/b/a Feya Inc. located at 47-57 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Sunnyside**

Ms. Deller stated this is a renewal application. The applicant said she has remodeled the establishment and added air conditioning and heating and changed owners. There is a TV, no outdoor use and only recorded music. The windows open to the street. The hours of operation are:

- Sunday through Thursday 11:00 am to 11:00 pm
- Friday 11am to 12:00 midnight
- Saturday to 1:00am
- Sunday 11:00pm
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the application for Harmony Terrance.
  - The vote was 39 in favor; 0 opposed and 0 abstentions with the Chairman present and voting.

##### **An application for an unenclosed sidewalk café with 13 tables and 27 seats at Manettas Ristorante/d/b/a Manettas Fine Food Corp., located at 10-76 Jackson Avenue, LIC.**

Ms. Deller stated there are no complaints against this establishment. The applicant stated there are no changes and they have been in the business for 22 years and are good neighbors.

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the application for Manetta’s Ristorante.
  - The vote was 39 in favor; 0 opposed and 0 abstentions with the Chairman present and voting.

Ms. Deller stated that many issues were raised during the EDC presentation and they will invite them back to the Community Board. It is important to continue the discussion on the park design.

**Transportation Committee**

A board member reported that 87 percent of people killed riding a bike did not wear a helmet. She spoke of her opposition to the bike lanes because she learned that only children are required to wear helmets and believes all bikers should wear helmets. She has reached out to her council person to initiate legislation.

Mr. O’Brien stated this is a good idea and it should be taken up through our council member and that it should be discussed next month as it is an excellent idea and believes it will save lives.

Ms. Keehan-Smith provided the following update:

**Queens CB 2 Bicycle Network Phase II**

The Committee recommends voting on several components of the project, but would like more information and feedback from some of the businesses as well as clarification on other aspects.

The Transportation Committee made the following recommendation to approve aspects of the proposal listed as follows:

- 11<sup>th</sup> Street from 44<sup>th</sup> Drive to 47<sup>th</sup> Road
- Jackson Avenue from 11<sup>th</sup> Street to Queens Plaza
- Honeywell Street Bridge from Northern Boulevard to Skillman Avenue
- 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue eastbound Skillman Avenue to 27<sup>th</sup> Street, westbound 27<sup>th</sup> Street to Skillman Avenue
- Review Avenue, Greenpoint Avenue to Borden Avenue
- Review Avenue 56<sup>th</sup> Road from Greenpoint Avenue to Maspeth Avenue

The Transportation Committee is requesting more information and clarification regarding the following:

- 27<sup>th</sup> Street from Borden Avenue to 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Borden Avenue from 27<sup>th</sup> Street to Star Avenue
- Starr Avenue from Borden Avenue to Van Dam Street
- Greenpoint Avenue from Greenpoint Avenue to Borden Avenue

Santiago Vargas made a motion and it was seconded to approve the Transportation Committee’s recommendations. All were in favor by a show of hands with 29 in favor 10 opposed and 0 abstentions, with the Chairwoman present and voting.

The DOT received a request from the Sunnyside Community Gardens for a bike corral on 50<sup>th</sup> Street:

- Sunnyside Gardens obtained over 200 signatures supporting the corral.

- Would take one parking space 10 bicycles could use the space.

The committee approved the request.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:  
MA Gurrado

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