The City of New York

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Patrick A. O'Brien
Chairman
Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

January 7, 2016
Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Terri Adams
Czarinna Andres
Diane Ballek
Sandra Bigitschke
Bessie Cassaro
Stephen Cooper
Lisa Deller
Sally Frank
Dana Frankel
William Garrett
Kenneth Greenberg
Richard Gundlach
Benjamin Guttmann
Reverend Joseph Jerome
Mohammed Jewel
Ellen Kang
Denise Keehan-Smith
Marie Konecko
Jordan Levine
Sheila Lewandowski
Dorothy Morehead
Patrick A. O'Brien
Elliot Park
Lakshmi Reddy
Norberto Saldana
Moitri Savard
Beth Sexton
Michael Son
Lauren Springer
Carol Terrano
Mary Torres
Karolina Tosi
Rebecca Trent
Anthony Tudela
Sanitago Vargas

Absentees

Anna Bridge
Claudia Chan
Badrun Khan
Dominic Lippolis
Charles Markey
Donald McCallian
Patrick Murray
Elba Santiago
Regina Shanley

Community Board 2 Staff
Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager
MaryAnn Gurrado

Elected Officials
Matthew Lerch, Senator Mike Gianaris's Office
Jason Banrey, Council Member/Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer's Office

Public Comment
William Kregler
Jim Condes
Dorothy Kominsky
Jeremy Rosenberg
James Chan, Sunnyside Community Services
Jessame Hannus
Paul Gilbert
Patricia Dorfman
Barbara Collins
Harry Mitzmacher
Joshua Weitzner
Nick Johnson
Juan Restrepo
Robert Moleti
Nicole Flores
Imani Brown
Cristina Furlong
Barry Druss
Gil Lopez, Smiling Hogshead Ranch

Guests
Michael McSweeney, City Clerk
Jessica Fiorillo, Lobbying Bureau Trainer, City Clerk, Clerk of the Council
Justin Chin
Charles Kargman
Stephen Bauman
Peggy Perrin
Kelly Manucso, Queens Chronicle
Aliya Latif
Donald Passantiivo
Christian Murray, Sunnyside Post

Mr. O'Brien welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. O'Brien welcomed the following individuals:

- Maggie Hayes, Council Member Elizabeth Crowley's Office
- Matthew Lerch, Senator Mike Gianaris's Office

Mr. O'Brien welcomed and introduced former CB 2 Board Member, Michael McSweeney, City Clerk, of the City Council.

Mr. McSweeney provided a presentation on the Lobbying Bureau, One-Time Amnesty Opportunity January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016.

- Mr. McSweeney announced that he had the privilege of serving on Community Board 2 from 2002 to 2009, and had to resign from CB 2 when he became the City Clerk.
- The City Clerk overseas two important bureaus of the City, which are the Marriage Bureau and the City's Lobbying Bureau. The Lobbying Bureau is responsible for the enforcement of the New York City's Lobbying Law.
- Mr. McSweeney explained Community Boards are places where a lot of the activity that occurs is often covered by the City's Lobbying Law.
- Members of the Board for the purposes of the Lobbying Law are considered public officials and if someone is lobbying and meets one of the criteria of the lobbying laws, they have to report that they attended a CB 2 meeting and asked the Community Board to officially act in a certain way.
- Mr. McSweeney announced that he is going around discussing the Lobbying Law and the Amnesty Program and wants to get the message out.
- Announced that Jessica Fiorillo, City Clerk Director of Training was in attendance at the meeting. Ms. Fiorillo is providing information sessions to Community Boards around the city.
- Mr. McSweeney spoke about the Amnesty Program which states that if you are a person who is a lobbyist and are covered by the lobbying law and have not filed a report with City Clerk's office, you have an opportunity from now through June 30, 2016 to apply for amnesty.
- Mr. McSweeney stated that lobbying is legal, but if someone lobbies and does not file their report in a timely fashion, they can be fined $25 a day and if you are a lobbying business, it is $25 a day per client and $10 if you never have done it before.
- Mr. McSweeney is distributing a pamphlet that gives a basic understanding, however it is a complex matter. He stated that if anyone interacts with city government that has never filed a lobbying report, to take the time to read the brochure and ask yourself whether you meet the requirements for the Lobbying Law.
- Mr. McSweeney provided an explanation on the following questions:
    - ✓ Is your organization lobbying?
    - ✓ Examples of lobbying activities.
    - ✓ Is your organizations activity excluded from lobbying?

- ✓ Has your organization reached the reporting threshold?
- ✓ Is your organization eligible for Amnesty?

- Mr. McSweeney asked all Community Board 2 Members to spread the word. Anyone with questions may reach out to the City Clerk's Office or may email the office. The contact information is listed as follows: Office of the City Clerk Telephone Number: (212) 669-8171, Email address: lobbyist_helpdesk@cityclerk.nyc.gov, Website: www.cityclerk.nyc.gov
- Mr. McSweeney stated this was authorized by Local Law 129 to help increase transparency so people could come in out of the cold, as there may be some who are afraid to identify themselves.
- Ms. Fiorelli reported there is also an Amnesty Program at the state level. She encouraged everyone to consider this and stated it is a great opportunity.
- A copy of the Lobbying Bureau One Time Amnesty Opportunity January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016 is attached. (Attachment #1)
- Mr. McSweeney entertained questions.

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

Mr. Banrey provided the following update:

- On Tuesday, January 5, 2016, a walking tour of Queens Boulevard took place with the following individuals and local residents:
  - Council Member/Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer
    NYC Department of Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg
  - Queens Borough Commissioner, DOT, Nicole Garcia
  - Patrick O'Brien
  - Denise Keehan-Smith
  - Debra Markell Kleinert
- Mr. Banrey stated the walking tour took place on Queens Boulevard between 58th Street and 63rd Place to discuss and point out the areas that are unsafe for pedestrians and motorists and pointed out the areas that are unsafe. They came up with six points; which came out of the Transportation Committee on how to improve the project. This is a working project and they are continuing to work on the operational aspects of the project. They are seeking the return of parking spaces and tweaking the timing of the lights.
- Participatory Budgeting is taking place now through February and the vote will take place in March. Council Member/Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer has allocated over one million dollars, a little more than last year. All are encouraged to attend the Participatory Budget Meetings.
- On Tuesday, Council Member/Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer's Justice for Hit and Run Victims Act was signed into law by Mayor de Blasio and this is a significant

achievement for Council Member/Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer and the City Council.

- Jim Condes was able to meet with the Council Member and it was a productive meeting.

Public Comment

William Kregler

Mr. Kregler spoke about the following:

- Attended the meeting on January 5, 2016 on Queens Boulevard with regard to the Bike Lanes.
- Submitted a report to the Commissioner, Council Member Van Bramer and CB 2.
- Spoke about the increase in traffic as well as construction of multiple dwellings.
- Mr. Kregler is recommending an alternative plan to move the bike lanes to the right.
- Requested to know where the Community Board is on this issue.
- Is not against bike lanes; however he is recommending that it must be moved over from the left lane.

Jim Condes

Mr. Condes spoke about the following:

- Problems with Access A Ride, voucher system versus broker system.
- The City Budget Process and the Community Board's review of the budgetary needs for their neighborhoods.
- Asked CB 2 to work with Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and the appropriate agency that is responsible for the Access A Ride issue.
- He reported the City Budget is $78.5 billion dollars and none of this is spent for disabled individuals who need to travel. For cost effectiveness, the MTA had a voucher system with professional companies that knew what they were doing and now have a broker system that do not know what they are doing.
- Submitted correspondence to City Councilmember Ferraras's Office about this issue.

Mr. O'Brien reported that when the executive board reviewed the priorities; we raised the Access a Ride budget priority issue much higher than what it used to be. We will continue to push for this and it has been given a high priority.

Dorothy Kominsky

Ms. Kominsky spoke about the following:

- Stated that CB 2 always had someone in charge of the Veterans Committee and requested information about the Veterans Committee of Community Board 2.

- Spoke about the Amnesty Program.

Mr. O'Brien stated that we expanded the function of the Health Committee into the Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs. We had a Veterans Committee and they do deserve our attention. Mr. O'Brien also reported that Board Member Sandra Bigitschke was very active with the Veterans groups and has agreed to move over to this committee. Mr. O'Brien stated this is an issue that will not be neglected.

Jeremy Rosenberg

Mr. Rosenberg spoke about the following:

- Mr. Rosenberg is a resident of Hunters Point in LIC and attends CUNY Law School. He lives on 47th Road off Vernon Boulevard between Vernon Boulevard and Center Boulevard.
- He has observed a hazardous condition south bound on 5th Street as cars do not stop for pedestrians, near the Duane Reade. He has observed motorists speeding over 40 miles per hour and a group of parents and their children were almost struck. There is a lack of stop signs in the area.
- He reported the issued to 311 and DOT and is requesting the assistance of Community Board 2 for stop signs and safety regulations in the area at the intersection of 5th Street as it turns to 47th Road heading south bound.

Mr. O'Brien stated that when someone makes a call to 311 to forward the complaint number information to CB 2. Board Member William Garrett stated that he lives a block from the area and there is a lot of traffic and there are many issues along this corridor and confirmed the location is a problem.

Ms. Keehan-Smith reported the DOT is working on an entire redesign of LIC and they held one workshop at CUNY. The DOT and will be conducting additional workshop sessions. Mr. Rosenberg was encouraged to attend future meetings.

Jessame Hannus

Ms. Hannus read a letter that she submitted to Community Board 2 concerning her appreciation for the support of the DOT's redesign of Queens Boulevard. She feels the changes that were implemented have had a profound impact on her trips to and from her home.

James Chan, Senior Services Coordinator, Sunnyside Community Services

Mr. Chan provided information on the following programs at Sunnyside Community Services:

- Assistance with Long Term Care.
- Assistance with Medicaid.
- Assistance with Full Income Trust.

- New Pre-School Program for 3 year old children.
- Pre K program for children ages 4 to 6.
- Free English Classes, individuals interested can email SCS at: englishscs@ny.org.
- Science program for after school children, free activities and free homework help.

Paul Gilbert

Mr. Gilbert stated he is a Woodside resident and spoke in favor of the bike lanes on Queens Boulevard. Due to the redesign, he uses it all the time and hopes it continues to be strengthened. He spoke in support of the bike lanes on the left side.

Patricia Dorfman

Ms. Dorfman provided the following update:

- Ms. Dorfman spoke about the issue that Giorgi's florist located on Greenpoint Avenue faced a hardship when a vendor from another state took his spot to sell Christmas trees. The police had to come several times. This type of issue is hurting small businesses. Ms. Dorfman stated that no one objects to those individuals who wish to set up a stand, but not where people are paying high rents.
- Ms. Dorfman announced there will be an official Sunnyside Chamber Meeting breakfast meeting on February 23, 2016 from 7:00 am to 9:00 am at New York Style Eats with regard to this type of issue.
- Ms. Dorfman announced Murray Fox passed away on December 3, 2015, he was 88 years old. He was an active member of the community and had a business on Greenpoint Avenue.
- Invited all to attend the 2016 Showcase Seminar on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 6pm. This will be a Digital Marketing seminar that will be presented by Catherine Penfold Waxman.
- Thanked CB 2 for speaking out against the rezoning.
- Spoke about the difference between the BID and the Sunnyside Chamber.

Barbara Collins

Ms. Collins spoke of the following:

- Announced her support of Denise Keehan-Smith, Chairwoman of CB2's Transportation Committee.
- Ms. Collins stated she is a resident of 59-10 Queens Boulevard and lives right in front of the bike lane and can see where the cars come in from the main highway. There are 10 outlets into the one lane between 58th and 62nd Street, four parking lots, with people going in and out of the mall. She also spoke about the traffic on 59th which goes into the one lane with people coming from the central part of Queens Boulevard such as buses, school buses, UPS deliveries, numerous delivery trucks and a vehicle that provides meal

programs, plus the Q60 bus which has two stops. There is too much going on for one lane to handle and there is too much traffic going on that side of the street. Ms. Collins believes moving it might be a good solution and also feels that moving the bike lane over might be the right solution.

Joshua Weitzner

Mr. Mitzmacher stated he is a NYC Bike messenger and rides his bike in all types of weather. He spoke in favor of the bike lanes on Queens Boulevard and stated that he risks his life every day riding his bike and has been injured in traffic. He spoke in support of the bike lanes on the left side which he feels has improved his life.

Nick Johnson

Mr. Johnson rides his bike to work and thanked all for changes to the bike lanes on Queens Boulevard.

Juan Restrepo

Mr. Restrepo stated he is a resident of Astoria and has been riding his bike in NYC for the past seven years. He has been injured by vehicles and spoke in favor of the bike lanes on the left side. Mr. Restropo stated that People for Bikes voted that the Queens Boulevard bike lane is one of the top ten safest and coolest bike lane in America in 2015.

Robert Moleti

Mr. Moleti, an engineer, thanked CB 2 for the work they have done in adding bike lanes on Queens Boulevard and chastised the EDC for not getting the rest of the safety improvements done.

Nicole Flores

Ms. Flores spoke about the following:

- Resides at the Big Six Towers where there are 1000 families.
- She is in favor of recreation and quality of life improvements.
- Big Six has been impacted by the bike lanes.
- Ms. Flores suffers from Asthma and has limited mobility and is concerned about the pollution from airplanes flying into LaGuardia and reported there is pollution from cars by the BQE, which is around the perimeter of Big Six Towers and now the added burden from traffic that is idle on Queens Boulevard from 3:00 pm. The fumes are going into the lungs of residents.
- Bike lanes were considered as a green initiative and there is nothing green about it.
- Timing of the lights should give pedestrians another solution.
- Ask MTA to add more bus lines so people can get to work.
- Spoke about Access A Ride, as bike lanes are an issue for those who are disabled and unable to get to the stores due to the bike lanes, as there is no parking.

Carol Terrano stated people are not aware about the traffic from 58th Street to 65th Place which has become a parking lot, vehicles are not moving. This is impacting the Fire Department, as cars are stuck in traffic right in front of the fire house and a fire truck cannot get out. Ms. Terrano stated the bike lanes were built for cyclists at the expense of other people and this needs to be addressed.

Mr. O'Brien responded there are issues and that this is a hot button issue that has had an impact on a major number of people. The only reason this board entertained the option we voted on was the commitment of DOT where they would take input, modify and improve.

Mr. O'Brien recognized the work of Denise Keehan-Smith, Transportation Committee Chair who has been vigilant in talking to DOT for months. Mr. O'Brien stated that Council Member /Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer brought the Commissioner of DOT out for a walking tour. The purpose was to show them, graphically, where the problems are and to make suggestions on how to make improvements and work from there. Mr. O'Brien stated this is an evolving issue and they are being addressed currently.

Imani Brown, Citizens Committee for NYC

Ms. Brown stated that Citizens Committee for NYC is offering a Neighborhood Grant for $3,000 on any project that is fostering community engagement. The organization supports volunteer- led groups that do not have paid staff and a project that promotes people coming together for one common goal. Some examples are community gardens, recycling drives, tree guards, etc. The deadline to file an application is January 25, 2016 and can be found on their website: www.citizensnyc.org. In response to a question by Ms. Lewandowski, Ms. Brown stated the organization does not have to be a 501c3.

Cristina Furlong, Make Queens Safer

Ms. Furlong stated she is a working cyclist and a mom. She supports CB2 who she feels has been progressive about this issue and believes that CB 2 is doing a great job working with the DOT and that we have to continue to look for solutions.

Barry Druss

Mr. Druss stated he is an advocate for better transportation and presented a proposal for an Enhanced Bus Rapid Transit from LIC via the Midtown Tunnel to the west side on 34th Street in Manhattan. One characteristic of the operation is a dedicated skip stop operation, wherein buses are paired for odd and even stops.

Gil Lopez, Smiling Hogshead Ranch

Mr. Lopez provided the following update:

- Mr. Lopez is the President of a non-profit group called Smiling Hogshead Ranch located on 25-30 Skillman Avenue, near 49th Avenue and the rail yard. They have been there since 2011 and it is located on MTA property.
- Smiling Hogs Head Ranch is a community garden since 2014 and they also host free public events and trips.
- It is a community group run by volunteers and they are happy to be a part of the community.
- Mr. Lopez has presented before the board in the past.
- MTA has put out a Request for Expressions of Interest for an adjacent parcel of land.
- The Montauk Cutoff is a 4 acre piece of land that spans over a portion of the rail road track and includes the land that Smiling Hogs Head Ranch is on.
- Mr. Lopez is seeking to advocate and is organizing for the community use of this space and he is seeking community support.
- Announced that his organization received a $6,000 grant from Council Member Van Bramer.
- Smiling Hogs Head Ranch is offering free and subsidized tours with school groups.
- They were also the recipients of small grants from Citizens Committee.
- Mr. Lopez applauds the advocates of the activists for the bike lanes on Queens Boulevard.

Ms. Deller asked if the community garden is included in the area of the request for proposals, would it be in danger if another group is chosen. Mr. Lopez stated the RFPI is not an RFP, the MTA will look at the proposals and put them together for an RFP and whoever wins the RFP the community garden is a part of the overall plan.

Consumer Affairs Application

60-02 Woodside Avenue

This is a renewal application for an unenclosed sidewalk café with 15 tables and 30 seats at Sean Ogs, located at 60-02 Woodside Avenue, Woodside, NY

Mr. James O'Sullivan, owner was present at the meeting and reported he has been operating since 1998 and the café opened in 2009.

BSA Application

50-02 Roosevelt Avenue – 256-15-BZ

A proposed application to permit a physical culture establishment to be operated as Blink Fitness within an existing commercial building, under alteration in a C2-3 (R6) Zoning District.

The representative from Rothkrug, Rothkrug & Spector, LLP reported they filed an application with the Board of Standards and Appeals for a special permit to allow a physical culture establishment to be operated as Blink Fitness on both stories of a two-story building which is currently under construction. If it is approved at the BSA, it would operate for a 10-year term and then would come back to the Board and the BSA for a renewal. The first floor will include the reception area, exercise equipment, office space and locker rooms. An internal elevator along with stairs will provide access to the second floor

that will include additional fitness equipment and strength and stretch areas. It will provide 30 jobs and the hours of operation will be Monday through Saturday from 5:30am to 11:00pm and Sunday from 7:00am to 9:00pm.

Attendance

Total Present	35	Total Absent	10

Approval of the December 3, 2015 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Mr. O'Brien announced there were some amendments to the Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes and therefore would be tabled until next month.

Chairman's Report

Mr. O'Brien provided the following update:

- Mr. O'Brien announced that April is the month when new board appointments and reappointments are made to the Community Board. He stated that we always welcome new members and the more diversity we have the better. Anyone interested in applying should contact one of the following for an application:

  - ✓ Council Member's Office
  - ✓ Borough President's Office
  - ✓ An application can be obtained by downloading from the website at: www.nyc.gov/community boards
  - ✓ Community Board 2 Office

- A moment of silence was observed in honor of Al Volpe who passed away on December 9, 2015. Mr. O'Brien stated that he has discussed a proposal with Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer to rename 39th Drive near Berkley Towers where Mr. Volpe resided and was active for many years. Mr. O'Brien requested the board members vote on this proposal.
  All were in favor by a show of hands to support the renaming in honor of Al Volpe.
- Mr. O'Brien recognized Mike McSweeney and stated it was great to see him.
- Borough President Katz will be holding the State of the Borough Address on January 21st at 10:00am at Queens College.
- Mr. O'Brien attended a walking tour of Queens Boulevard with Commissioner, DOT Polly Trottenberg, Council Member/Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer, Denise Keehan-Smith and Debra Markell Kleinert to address issues of concern.
- Mr. O'Brien reported the 108th Police Precinct informed CB 2 that they made a total of 8 arrests for prostitution at the location of 68th and 69th Street and Roosevelt Ave.
- Mr. O'Brien reported on incidents and a shooting outside Secrets on Queens Boulevard and outside of Show Palace on 21st Street. Mr. O'Brien announced that he and Captain Travaglia will be attending and testifying at the SLA hearing for the 21 Street Entertainment Group on January 19, 2016.

- Mr. O'Brien commended the NYPD and Captain Travaglia who is an asset to the community and is on top of these issues and thanked him for his efforts.
- Mr. O'Brien reported that every January the Department of Finance mails New York City property owners a Notice of Property Value. This notice has information about their property's market and assessed values. These notices will be used to calculate property taxes for the 2016/2017 year tax year that starts in July. The information was emailed to all CB 2 Board Members and in the packets for non-email members. Please contact CB 2 for more information.

- Community Board 2 is having a public hearing for the BSA application for Paragon Paint 45-40 Vernon Boulevard on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 6:30pm at the Academy for Careers in Television and Film located at 1-50 51st Avenue, Long Island City in the auditorium on the 4th floor. This is something the Land Use Committee has reviewed.
- Update from The State Department of Transportation for the Week Of January 4- 9th
    - 54th Avenue Traffic Pattern – All lanes closed in both directions from 43rd Street and Laurel Hill Blvd (24 Hour Lane Closure) for installation of utilities, demolition of existing girder and reconstruction.
- Update on DOB Issues at 61-14 Laurel Hill Boulevard
    - An application that is pending before the judge has not made a determination at this time on the DOB issue.
    - The Health Department is checking to see if they have any jurisdiction.
    - DEP has not provided an update yet. We are monitoring this issue.
- Mr. O'Brien reported that there was a shooting at Club Allure and Council Member/Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer held a press conference at the location.
- Mr. O'Brien provided an update about the shooting at City Scapes located at 55-61 58th Street. This Club borders the 104th Precinct and the 108th Precinct. Captain Travaglia has kept us updated on this location.
- The next City Services & Public Safety Committee Meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 13th, 2016 at 7pm.

District Manager's Report

Ms. Markell Kleinert reported the toy drive for the Metro was very successful as always and thanked everyone in the community for their participation. The Metro is a great partner and they are very grateful to the community for the partnership. Ms. Markell Kleinert thanked the entire CB 2 staff for their efforts in this endeavor.

Penny Lee, Department of City Planning

Ms. Lee provided the following update:

Ms. Lee reported the City Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on the MIH and Text Changes for Quality and Affordability in December. There were many speakers and it ended at 10:00 pm. Ms. Lee reported the City Planning Commission is now deliberating and will vote on February 3, 2016. It will then go to the City Council, and then back to the City Planning Commission. The vote will be published on the website at www.nyc.gov/planning.

Mr. O'Brien commended Dorothy Morehead for following the Montaulk Cutoff issue. He announced this is a very big issue and will have a big impact in CB 2. Mr. O'Brien announced there will be a meeting of the committee chairs concerning this issue next week as it impacts Environmental, Land Use, Transportation and City Services issues. Mr. O'Brien stated that we have no open space and there is an agricultural, sustainability and educational aspect. We are taking a serious and comprehensive look at this, as we want to be involved in the process.

Environment Committee

Dorothy Morehead provided an update on the meeting held by the Montaulk Coalition, which is a group of people that expressed interest in the repurposing of this location. Ms. Morehead described the space as amazing and stated 29 people attended the meeting. Some of the people are from influential organizations and many proposals were discussed. Ms. Morehead stated the Environment Committee voted that it should be open to the public and open space. The rest is up to the various proposals they want. Some suggestions were for a day care facility and a food bank.

Ms. Morehead reported that they broke out into small groups at the meeting and everyone had an opportunity to prioritize what they felt should be on the site. Ms. Morehead wants to see the rails reused and to have space in the railroad cars that could be used by the various groups. Ms. Morehead stated they have to respond to a series of questions that the MTA is asking for and they are seeking to know what is being proposed and paid for and how it will be used and who will use it.

Ms. Morehead stated the five different groups will prepare the document that the MTA is asking for, and it has to be completed by February 26, 2016. Ms. Morehead reported there will be a meeting next week with committee Chairs of CB 2 to discuss the matter. In addition, the Montauk Coalition groups will meet to discuss their various aspects and then all will come together to respond to the Expressions of Interest.

In response to a question by Stephen Cooper, Mrs. Morehead reported that the MTA will keep the land, as the cutoff is not being used anymore. They have not received permission from the Federal Government to abandon the lines that once served as freight lines. No one is using it. They want to keep their options open and they will be lifting the bridge over Dutch Kills. This part will stay up and there will not be a connection from the Montauk cutoff from north to the south east as they moved a lot of their track service. They will be moving the freight yard from Sunnyside Yards to the former LIRR yard east of 11th Street between Newtown Creek and Fresh Direct.

The next Montauk Coalition meeting will take place on the 21st and anyone is welcome to attend.

Land Use Committee

Ms. Deller provided an update on the following:

Consumer Affairs Application at 60-02 Woodside Avenue

Ms. Deller stated this is a renewal application for Sean Ogs, an unenclosed sidewalk café with 15 tables and 30 seats located at 60-02 Woodside Avenue, Woodside, NY. The cafe is open from May to October. They have a full restaurant that is open until 11:00 pm, the kitchen closes at 11:00 pm, and the bar closes at 4:00 am. They have had the café since 2008 and have no violations. They have been a good operator. The Land Use Committee voted unanimously to approve the renewal of the outdoor café.

The Land Use Committee voted unanimously in favor of the application.

Stephen Cooper made a motion and it was seconded to renew the application. All were in favor by a show of hands, none opposed and no abstentions.

BSA Application - 50-02 Roosevelt Avenue – 256-15-BZ

A proposed application to permit a physical culture establishment to be operated as Blink Fitness within an existing commercial building, under alteration in a C2-3 (R6) zoning district.

Ms. Deller announced Blink Fitness will be located in a mixed-use building that is in disrepair, they are renovating the building. The hours of operation will be Monday through Saturday from 5:30 am to 11:00 pm and Sunday from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. They will provide jobs for approximately 30 people. It is the same entity that owns the Equinox gym.

The Land Use Committee voted unanimously to support their application.

Santiago Vargas made a motion to approve the BSA Application based on their hours of operation.

The vote was 34 In favor by 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

Paragon Paint

Ms. Deller reported that on January 20, 2016, there would be an opportunity to hear the developer for Paragon Paint who will present their proposal. They will provide the same presentation as they presented to the Land Use Committee Meeting. The Community Board will have to vote on this at the February Board Meeting. Ms. Deller encouraged everyone to attend the meeting and announced that the Land Use Committee Meeting would take place on January 27, 2016.

Transportation Committee

Ms. Keehan-Smith provided the following update:

- Ms. Keehan-Smith reiterated that CB 2 is committed to the redesign and safety improvements on Queens Boulevard.

- Met with Commissioner of DOT and Captain Travaglia.
- Karolina Tosi asked about the time of day the walk through was held because she drives through the area often and requested that a survey be done in order to observe traffic congestion during specific times of the day as the traffic is very bad.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith stated the meeting was conducted at 9:00 am.
- Ms. Tosi stated that seeing the amount of traffic during different times of the day on the bike lanes versus the traffic in the morning coming into the City and in the afternoon after 1:00 pm going east, that this where the bottle neck starts. She also witnessed traffic by the Fire Department that was previously brought up by Carol Terrano, which occurred at 3:30 pm going west.
- Ms. Tosi also asked if we could get an idea of how much traffic is happening throughout the day. She does not see that many cyclists and asked for the statistics. In addition, she asked if there was a possibility to relieve the traffic jams on 59th Street. This location needs to be addressed.
- Beth Sexton stated that slowing the traffic to 25 miles an hour, as she works near the Queens Center Mall, and has observed major congestion on Queens Boulevard and suggested the DOT raise the limit to 30 and people are tailgating.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith stated she lives at the Big Six and walks this corridor daily.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith stated that DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg was in attendance at the meeting and she did observe that there was a time when there was congestion coming off the BQE in the morning and it is a matter of educating people that there are two lanes for through traffic. The right lane used to be a right turn only. It was only installed in August.
- Dana Frankel asked if the traffic flowed perfectly before the bike lanes. Ms. Keehan-Smith stated no there has always been congestion and eastbound is the worst. On 60th Street it was highlighted during the tour and there are two lights on 60th Street and QB, cars continue through hoping to make the second light and get stuck.
- Carol Terrano discussed there are two lanes of traffic going into one lane right after 61st Street and that there is a light by 7/11 where the cars are trying to access the BQE.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith provided an update about these concerns and spoke to DOT about it and they changed the light to be pedestrian controlled and will check to be sure that it is working in response to a complaint from Carol Terrano that it was not working.
- Ms. Terrano discussed the area from Queens Boulevard from 58th Street to 65th Place has always been two lanes.
- Ms. Kang discussed the 25 miles to 30 miles would not work.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith stated we want to slow down the traffic but timing needs to be changed.
- Ms. Kang discussed the service road on 65th Place, westbound.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith discussed the removal of parking spaces to allow cars to move.
- In response to question by Stephen Cooper, Ms. Keehan-Smith stated that we will have numbers on the usage of the bike lanes. She stated that people are using the bike lanes consistently even during the colder weather, however, has observed many are not always obeying the lights.

- Ms. Keehan-Smith stated she spoke to Captain Travaglia and we will be getting a few more police officers and some of them will be on bicycles.
- Ms. Kang raised concerns that the Q47 bus stop has disappeared off Calamus and moved to 69th Street. Ms. Keehan-Smith stated this could be due to the Calamus Avenue project. Ms. Keehan-Smith will look into the matter.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith congratulated the Transportation Committee including former CB 2 Chairman Joseph Conley on the long awaited conversion of 36th Street, which has been a problem on Greenpoint Avenue as 36th Street was one way going southbound. Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that motorists were cutting through the Mobil Gas Station onto Hunters Point Avenue to avoid the light and creating problems. This was an issue that was given to the DOT in 2011 and we have been working with them to convert it northbound and it has been finally approved by DOT and the change will take place in the Spring.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith discussed the conversion of 29th Street which is now going to become one way southbound, it is currently two ways, and cars were parking on the sidewalk because the street is so narrow. The DOT determined 29th Street will become southbound and 28th Street will be northbound.
- In response to a question about safety improvements in the LIC area, Ms. Keehan-Smith stated that the DOT sponsored a workshop on December 9, 2015 with Council Member/Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer and the local community was invited to attend to provide input on the LIC redesign. Some of the issues discussed were lighting, stop signs, truck routes, etc. Ms. Keehan-Smith requested the DOT conduct another meeting dedicated to CB 2 members for those that could not make it. This meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held on January 25, 2016, however a location has yet to be determined based on the number of people that will attend. If it is a smaller group it will be held at the CB 2 office, if it is a larger group, Ms. Lewandowski has offered to assist with a space. Ms. Keehan-Smith encouraged all to attend.
- She announced there will be additional meetings that will be open to the general public.
- Ms. Lee stated the meeting held on December 9, 2015 was not well attended by Board Members but there were core tables with community members and it was well attended.
- Ms. Lee reported as part of the study area the DEP will be upgrading the sewers and is a long time in the making. DEP will start work on the western end of the study area and work their way inward. DOT will follow the DEP work.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith stated if someone sees an immediate need to send it to CB2 and DOT will conduct a feasibility study.
- Richard Gundlach asked if DOT has come to a conclusion concerning 70th Street one way northbound from 51st Avenue to Queens Boulevard. Former CB 2 Chairman, Joseph Conley provided an update that it was approved by CB 5 and CB 2 and DOT approved it, however the people that live in Board 5 had a petitions and there were objections. Ms. Keehan-Smith stated we will reach out to CB 5.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that the DOT plans to install city benches at the following locations:

1. 45-02 23rd Street, 45th Road and 45th Avenue
2. 47-01 Queens Boulevard, 47th Street and 48th Street

- Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that traffic signals were approved for the following locations: 48th Avenue and 32nd Place, 33rd Street and 34th Street.
- Luke DePalma, MTA attended the Transportation Committee meeting and provided an update on the #7 Line for 2016 and announced there will be 8 weekends impacted.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith also complained about the 7 line break down at 8:30 am in January and there were many delays until 12 noon. On Tuesday the J and the D broke down and the next day several other lines went out of service. She expressed CB2's disappointment.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith announced the next meeting of the Transportation Committee, will take place on February 2, 2016 at 6:30 pm.
- Informed all to look for an email concerning the DOT meeting on January 25, 2016 not January 27, as this will be the Land Use Committee Meeting.

Health and Human Services Committee

Dr. Motire Savard announced the Health and Human Services Committee meeting took place on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 5:30 pm. The Committee is working on many issues that have to do with Veterans' health and human services.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado

01072016CB2 Meeting Minutes

ATTACHMENT #1

PRE-AMNESTY

- Present - December 31, 2015
- Eligible if engaged in reportable lobbying activities but have not filed since December 10, 2006
- Complete the Notice of Intent to Participate in the Pre-Amnesty

Forms available at
www.cityclerk.nyc.gov

AMNESTY

- January 1, 2016 - June 30, 2016
- Eligible if engaged in reportable lobbying activities but have not filed since December 10, 2006
- The NYS Joint Commission on Public Ethics is offering an amnesty program with similar eligibility requirements and application period as the Office of the City Clerk.

THE LOBBYING BUREAU

The Lobbying Bureau is responsible for the regulation and enforcement of New York City's Lobbying Law. The Lobbying Bureau works to ensure increased compliance and further the goal of greater transparency in government. The Lobbying Bureau offers training and assistance on the law and its filing requirements. For further information, please contact our office.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address:
Office of the City Clerk
Lobbying Bureau
141 Worth Street
New York, New York 10013

Help Desk:
lobbyist_helpdesk@cityclerk.nyc.gov

Phone: **212-669-8171**

Fax: **212-669-4224**

Website: **www.cityclerk.nyc.gov**

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
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LOBBYING BUREAU

ONE-TIME AMNESTY OPPORTUNITY

JANUARY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2016

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY
CITY CLERK
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

(REVISED 12/15/2015)

STEP 1:

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION LOBBYING?

The law defines lobbying as the attempt to influence eleven specific activities:

1. Any determination made by the NYC Council with respect to local legislation;
2. Any determination made by the Mayor with respect to local legislation;
3. Any NYC determination with respect to procurement of goods or services or the solicitation, award or administration of a grant, loan or agreement involving the use of public monies;
4. Any NYC determination involving zoning or land use;
5. Any NYC determination regarding the sale or purchase of real estate or a license or permit for the use of real estate;
6. Any determination regarding a NYC agency rule;
7. Any part of a City agency rate making proceeding;
8. The agenda or determination of a NYC board or commission;
9. Calendaring or scope of a NYC Council Oversight Hearing;
10. Issuance, repeal, change or substance of a mayoral executive order; or
11. Any support or opposition of federal or state legislation by a NYC elected official or employee.

EXAMPLES OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES:

- Attempting to obtain discretionary funding from the NYC Council
- Attempting to influence the NYC Council or mayor with respect to passing a new law
- Attempting to influence investment decisions of the NYC's Pension Funds and Retirement Systems

STEP 2:

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITY EXCLUDED FROM LOBBYING?

The following activities do not have to be reported because they are exclusions listed in the Lobbying Law:

1. Advising or rendering opinions in relation to legislation, rules or other proposed legislative action;
2. Media publication or broadcast of news items, editorials, or paid advertisements;
3. Participation in public rule making or rate making proceedings of a NYC agency:
4. Appearing before a NYC agency in an adjudicatory proceeding;
5. Responding to an information request from NYC government;
6. Contractors or their representatives who appear before NYC in the regular course of the contracting process;
7. Advertising goods or services with fliers, etc.;
8. Appearances by architects and engineers before a community board in an adjudicatory proceeding;
9. Drafting and designing plans by architects, engineers and their subordinates even if preceded or followed by lobbying activity;
10. Architects and engineers when appearing before a NYC board or commission in actions designated as minor by the City Clerk; or
11. Architects and engineers when performing capital projects pursuant to a NYC contract.

STEP 3:

HAS YOUR ORGANIZATION REACHED THE REPORTING THRESHOLD?

If your organization exceeded $5,000 in combined compensation and expenses with respect to NYC lobbying in a calendar year for any year from 2014 to the present, then your organization has reached the reporting threshold.

Please note: In 2014 the reporting threshold was raised. Prior to 2014, your organization reached the threshold if it exceeded $2,000 in combined compensation and expenses with respect to NYC lobbying in a calendar year.

As of 2014, the threshold amount for architects/engineers is $10,000.

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION ELIGIBLE FOR AMNESTY?

- ✓ Your organization engaged in reportable lobbying activity after December 10, 2006.
- ✓ Your organization has never registered or filed reports on e-Lobbyist.
- ✓ Your organization is not under criminal investigation relating to a lobbying law violation.
- ✓ Your organization is not a party to criminal litigation involving a violation of the lobbying law.
- ✓ If each of these requirements is satisfied, please apply for amnesty to avoid late fees or civil penalties.