



Melinda Katz
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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

October 1, 2015

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Terri Adams
Diane Ballek
Claudia Chan
Stephen Cooper
Lisa Deller
Kenneth Greenberg
Richard Gundlach
Reverend Joseph Jerome
Denise Keehan-Smith
Marie Konecko
Jordan Levine
Sheila Lewandowski

Charles Markey
Donald McCallian
Dorothy Morehead
Norberto Saldana
Michael Son
Lauren Springer
Carol Terrano
Mary Torres
Karolina Tosi
Rebecca Trent
Anthony Tudela
Santiago Vargas

Absentees

Czarinna Andres
Sandra Bigitschke
Anna Thea Bridge
Bessie Cassaro
Sally Frank
Dana Frankel
William Garrett
Benjamin Guttmann
Anne Hart
Mohammed Jewel
Ellen Kang
Badrun Khan
Dominic Lippolis

Patrick Murray
Patrick A. O'Brien
Elliot Park
Lakshmi Reddy
Elba Santiago
Moitre Savard
Beth Sexton
Regina Shanley
Al Volpe

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager
MaryAnn Gurrado

Elected Officials

Nick Gulotta, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit
Yoni Bokser, Queens Borough President's Office
Jason Banrey, Council Member/Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer's Office

Guests

Penny Lee, Department of City Planning
Alexis Wheeler, Department of City Planning
Mayela Calderon, Big Brothers Big Sisters
Valeria Ramierz, Columbia School of Journalism
Justin Chin, Elmhurst Hospital Center

Public Comment

Luke DePalma, NYC Transit
Jonathan Miller
Selvin Gootav, Sunnyside Gardens Preservation Alliance
Gerald Perrin, Phipps Garden Apartments Tenants Association
Sara Nordman, Sunnyside Shines
Katie O'Sullivan
Mindy Greene
Christina McKay
Herbert Reynolds
Paul Gabriel
Christian Amez, Hunters Point South Conservancy
Liz Reynolds, Harrison Place
Michael Fox, LIC Roots Community Garden
Merry Chang, Harrison Place
Rayna Erlich
Debra McGowan
Melissa Orlando
Peter Hayes
Bill Kreglier
Mahesh Jaipersaud, Woodside Terrace
Witold Rak
Pat Dorfman

Stephen Cooper, First Vice-Chair, announced he would chair the meeting in Mr. O'Brien's absence and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Jason Banrey, Council Member/Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer

Mr. Banrey provided the following update:

- Participatory Budgeting has been successful and he thanked all those that have attended the meetings throughout the district. He announced there is over \$1 million dollars that the community can decide how they want to spend for projects in the community.
- Anyone interested in more information can contact Amanda Nasnar, Special Projects Coordinator.
- Participatory Budget Meetings will be taking place this evening and at the following locations listed below:
 - October 6, 2015 Sunnyside Library
 - October 8, 2015 Long Island City Library
- Council Member Van Bramer announced today the expansion of funding for the Cultural Immigrant Initiative, which is a \$3.2 million dollar initiative, committed to immigrant communities and cultural groups. The Council Member made the announcement at Thalia Spanish Theatre which will receive a \$15,000 grant for cultural programs. Additional cultural groups to receive grants are listed as follows:
 - Topaz Arts in Woodside
 - Ayazamana, an Ecuadorian Cultural Community Group
- Council Member Van Bramer created funding streams for these groups which is creating opportunity to open access to these cultural organizations.
- October 27, 2015, Hispanic Heritage Awards at La Choza del Gordo honoring several community members as well as, City Council President, Melissa Mark-Verito.
- November 7, 2015, Dancing with the Community Stars, Mr. Banrey will be participating in the event and he will be raising funds for the Sunnyside/ Woodside Boys and Girls Club and for Hour Children.
- Dorothy Morehead asked if the participatory budgeting process could be done online. Mr. Banrey answered that there is a website component and that he would provide her with the information.

Yoni Bokser, Queens Borough President's Melinda Katz's Office

Mr. Bokser provided the following update regarding Borough President Katz's recent activities:

- The Borough President marched in the Labor Day Parade with the AFL-CIO.
- Helped secure funding for new UPK facility at the Ravenswood Library, which opened a couple of weeks ago.
- Swore in 75 new immigrants from 28 different countries on September 17, 2015 which was also the 222th anniversary of the US Constitution.
- On Friday, Borough President Katz and Council Member/Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer along with Queens Borough Parks Commissioner Lewandowski will hold a press conference to announce the new design for the renovations of Big Bush Park in Woodside. The Borough President allocated over one million dollars for the renovation.
- October 23, 2015 Job Fair at LaGuardia Airport.
- November 6, 2015 Veterans Day Celebration.

- October is Domestic Violence month.
- Mr. Bokser provided copies of Borough President Melinda Katz's monthly newsletter.

Nick Gulotta, Queens Borough Director, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

Mr. Gulotta introduced himself and provided the following update:

- Worked for Council Member Van Bramer.
- Will be working closely with Community Board 2 and currently lives in CB 2 District.
- CAU is the connection to City Hall.
- The Administration has created 65,000 UPK seats citywide, which is a huge accomplishment.
- 560,000 Municipal ID Cards have been issued. Encourage everyone to sign up for the Municipal ID's. Everyone will have a chance to sign up for one on October 28, 2015 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at St. Sebastian's Parish. Flyers were distributed.

Luke DePalma, NYC Transit

Mr. DePalma provided the following update:

- September 13, 2015 opened the 34th Street Hudson Yards station.
- Two suspensions will be coming up for the # 7 line on November 6, 2015 and November 13, 2015. There will be shuttle buses from 11:30 to Friday to 5:00 am Monday.
- Santiago Vargas asked about the elevator at the 61st Street Station, Mr. DePalma responded this is the responsibility of the LIRR.
- In response to a question about the #7 Line problems this evening, Mr. DePalma announced the MTA website stated the 7 line service has resumed but there will be a backlog.

Jonathan Miller, Sunnyside Community Services

Mr. Miller provided the following update about programs at Sunnyside Community Services.

- Programs for English as a Second Language
- After School activities for middle school students.
- Long Term Access Care Program
- Anyone interested can contact Sunnyside Community Services for more information.

Mr. Cooper informed everyone that the Phipps project has not been certified by the Department of City Planning. Phipps is not on the agenda this evening, however, there will be a meeting scheduled between Phipps and the Community. The date and location has not been secured as of yet.

Selvin Gootar, Sunnyside Gardens Preservation Alliance

Mr. Gootar spoke in opposition to the Phipps Project.

Gerald Perrin, Phipps Garden Apartments Tenants Association

Mr. Perrin, Co-President of the Phipps Garden Apartments Tenants Association. Mr. Perrin spoke in opposition to the Phipps Project. Mr. Perrin stated he has over 300 signatures on a petition that is circulating.

Sara Nordman, Interim Executive Director, Sunnyside Shines BID

Ms. Nordman provided the following update:

- Sunnyside Restaurant Week will take place on October 19, 2015 to October 23, 2015. The participating restaurants are promoting a three course dinner for \$25 per person.
- Neighborhood Cleanup will be rescheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2015.
- The Holiday Gift Guide will soon be available.

Jarred Barren, Phipps Garden Apartments Tenant Association

Mr. Barren spoke in opposition to the Phipps Project Proposal.

Katie O’Sullivan

Ms. O’Sullivan spoke in opposition to the Phipps Housing Project Proposal. Ms. O’Sullivan read a letter addressed to Council Member Van Bramer from the office of Steve Madden, Ltd expressing their strong opposition to the proposed Phipps development on Barnett Avenue between 50th and 52nd Street.

Mindy Greene

Ms. Greene stated she is a small business owner who works out of her home. The Phipps project would be detrimental to her business. She has two small children and is concerned about speeding through the area. She spoke in opposition to the Phipps Housing Project.

Christina McKay

Ms. McKay spoke about the ongoing construction at Queens Plaza. She spoke in opposition to putting more people in Sunnyside. She also spoke about overcrowding of schools in Queens.

Herbert Reynolds

Mr. Reynolds spoke in opposition to the Phipps Proposal. His organization has been involved in the community for a decade. Mr. Reynolds reported they have collected over 1,000 signatures and this is not good for the neighborhood.

Paul Gabriel

Mr. Gabriel spoke in opposition to the Phipps Proposal. Barnett Avenue is a service road and is already congested. This would add more congestion to the area.

Christian Amez, Hunters Point Conservancy

Mr. Amez provided the following update:

- Thanked everyone that came out during the summer to enjoy the events at the park.
- October 3, 2015 Community Carnival at Hunters Point South from 11:00 to 4:00 pm. Rain date is Sunday at the same time.
- Volunteer gardening season on October 10, 17, 24, 2015 at 10:00 am at the State Park.

Liz Reynolds

Ms. Reynolds spoke in opposition to the Phipps Proposal and spoke about the parking concerns in the area.

Michael Fox, Long Island City Roots Community Garden

Mr. Fox provided the following update:

- LIC Roots Community Garden is located on 47th Avenue and 29th Road near LaGuardia Community College.
- They advocate for public space and recreational facilities in this area of 47th Road and 29th Road in the area of Dutch Kills Canal Turning Basin.
- Requesting to be on the Land Use Committee Meeting agenda this month.
- Will be participating in Council Member Van Bramer's Participatory Budgeting Project and proposing the City Council fund a study of public open space and recreation facilities in Community Board 2 and identify potential land for open space.
- Wanted to draw attention to the MTA's request for *Expression of interest* concerning the Montauk Cutoff, an extension of rail line that extends from Skillman Avenue to Newtown Creek. This can be the Queens version of the High Line.
- October 7, 2015 LIC Roots and Grow NYC will be hosting volunteers on 47th Avenue and 29th Road to clean up the area.

Merry Chang

Ms. Chang spoke in opposition to the Phipps Proposal. She also spoke about concerns with regard to parking.

Rayna Erlich

Ms. Erlich spoke in opposition to the Phipps Proposal.

Debra McGowan

She spoke in opposition to the Phipps Proposal.

Ms. McGowan spoke about the need for a middle school in the area. A site they are considering is 37th Avenue and 48th Street. There will be a rally on October 18, 2015 in Albany.

Pat Dorfman

Ms. Dorfman provided an update about the following:

- October 15, 2015 deadline to apply for the Craft Show which will take place on November 8, 2015 at 44th Street and Skillman Avenue sponsored by Sunnyside Artists.
- Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce will hold the Luke Adams Sunnysider of the Year Award for Angel Gil Orrios of Thalia Spanish Theatre who will be honored on November 3, 2015 at Tangra Restaurant.

Mahesh Jaipersaud

Mr. Jaipersaud spoke about construction work taking place at the Woodside Terrace located at 63-14 Queens Boulevard. The building owner is trying to convert the 2nd floor into dormitories. Mr. Jaipersaud requested the Community Board's help in this matter.

Witold Rak

Mr. Rak spoke about the following:

- The elevator is fixed at 61st Street
- Sunnyside Fair
- Woodside on the Move Street Fair
- Thanked Community Board 2 for the Recycling Stickers

Presentation by Mayela Calderon, Big Brothers Big Sisters

Ms. Calderon, Community Outreach Coordinator provided an update about the program and stated this program has been changing the lives of New York City youth through the power of mentoring since 1904. Their mission is to provide children facing adversity in NYC with strong and enduring, professionally supported one to one mentoring relationships with adults that change their lives for the better. Please visit their website at www.bigsny.org for more information.

Attendance

Total Present 24

Total Absent 22

Approval of the September 10, 2015 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Sheila Lewandowski made a motion and it was seconded to approve the September 10, 2015 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Cooper provided the following update:

- Provided community service awards from the Queens Borough President's Office for the following members:
 - Rev. Jerome – 15 years award
 - Bessie Cassaro - 10 year award
- Announce and congratulate Shampa Chanda, appointed to the BSA and will be stepping down from Community Board 2.
- Special Public Hearing will be held on October 8, 2015 at the Landmarks Preservation Commission on the following:
 - Old Calvary Gatehouse
 - Pepsi Cola Sign
- Recognized the efforts of the NYPD for keeping Pope Francis safe during his visit to New York City.
- NYPD has informed that there will be a Community Crime Forum on October 8, 2015 at the New York Hall of Science at Flushing Meadows Park from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The 108th Precinct will provide vans to help those who do not have a ride.
- Reminded everyone about the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities. This has been emailed and mailed out. Please provide any updates to the Board Office this month. As a new copy will then be updated and sent out to be reviewed and voted on at the November meeting. Extra copies are available.
- Executive Budget meeting has been scheduled for October.
- Community Board 2 is conducting the annual candy drive for needy children for Halloween. Donations of candy can be dropped off to the CB 2 office.
- The Text Amendments for Zoning for Quality and Affordability and Mandatory Inclusionary Housing by the Department of City Planning for public review has been referred. We will be setting up meetings in October and are looking for a location, October 21, and October 28, 2015.
- Community Board 2 Member, Sally Frank's father passed away and on behalf of CB 2 we offer our condolences.
- October is the month that nominations take place for the Executive Board of Community Board 2. The positions are listed as follows:
 - Chairman
 - First Vice Chair
 - Second Vice Chair
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer

- Mr. Cooper stated that he made the announcement last year and announced again that he does not intend to seek the nomination and if nominated will not serve. Mr. Conley stepped down after many, many years as head of the board and he intends to do the same. Mr. Cooper stated that it he and Mr. Conley have begged people to come and help to run the board. It is not a very thankful job and can be burdensome at times. He invited anyone interested to seek the nomination and if chosen to serve the Board well.

Nominations for the Election of Community Board 2 Officers of the Executive Board

Chairman, Community Board 2

Lisa Deller nominated Patrick O'Brien for Chairman, Community Board 2. It was seconded by Dorothy Morehead.

First Vice Chairman, Community Board 2

Diane Ballek nominated Lisa Deller for the position of First Vice Chairwoman. It was seconded by Denise Keehan-Smith.

Rebecca Trent nominated Sheila Lewandowski for the position of First Vice Chairwoman. It was seconded by Jordan Levine.

Second Vice Chairman, Community Board 2

Sheila Lewandowski withdrew her name for First Vice Chairwoman and Rebecca Trent nominated Sheila Lewandowski for the position of Second Vice Chairwoman. It was seconded by Marie Konecko.

Secretary

Lisa Deller nominated Denise Keehan-Smith for the position of Secretary. It was seconded by Rebecca Trent.

Treasurer

Denise Keehan-Smith nominated Diane Ballek for the position of Treasurer. It was seconded by Dorothy Morehead.

Mr. Cooper stated that nominations would be accepted at the November meeting. If anyone chooses to run, changes their mind, they will have an opportunity in November.

District Manager's Report

Ms. Markell Kleinert provided the following update:

- Queens North Community Crime Forum will take place on October 8, 2015 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the New York Hall of science at Flushing Meadows Park. Light refreshments will be served.

- Con Edison Work Notice update and will be working along Vernon Boulevard between 54th Avenue and the Newtown Creek for the next two weeks. The project will include temporary parking restrictions and some noise. If anyone has any complaints they can call the CB 2 Office or call Con Ed at (718) 425-6899.

Department of City Planning

Ms. Lee reported on the following:

- Hiring people at the Department of City Planning.
- Ms. Lee announced that she will be working on the LIC Core Study.
- Ms. Lee introduced Ms. Wheeler and spoke of her credentials. Ms. Wheeler has a wealth of experience in large scale planning projects, affordable housing and many other issues the Board is currently working to resolve.
- Scott Solomon will be working on the Phipps Proposed Development.
- Zoning for Quality Affordability and the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing was referred on September 21
- Community Board comment period is coterminous with the BP's comment periods which ends on November 30, 2015.
- This has a compressed time period and they are two very detailed housing programs. It is posted on the Department of City Planning website.
- LIC Core Study - continuing to work in house on developing zoning strategy. Trying to come up with important and equally supportive zoning proposal to encourage commercial development in addition to develop serious proposals for infrastructure such as schools and open space.

Alexis Wheeler

Ms. Wheeler stated that she is looking forward to working with Community Board 2.

Committee Reports

Land Use Committee

Ms. Deller provided an update on the following:

Ms. Deller reported that Kenny Greenberg chaired the Land Use Committee Meeting for October.

An application for a renewal of an unenclosed sidewalk café with 11 tables and 22 seats at Claret Wine Bar, located at 46-02 Skillman Avenue, Sunnyside.

Ms. Deller stated there were no complaints and Claret is a good neighbor.

Dorothy Morehead made motion was made and seconded to not oppose the application. The vote was unanimous by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions with the Chair present and voting.

Zoning for Quality and Affordability and Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Text Amendments

Ms. Deller spoke about the Zoning for Quality and Affordable housing and the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing has been certified by the Department of City Planning, both concurrently going through ULURP.

There is a very compressed schedule and we have to vote on these text amendments at the November Meeting. The Board in planning two meetings in LIC and the Sunnyside area to discuss these text amendments. City Planning will do a presentation. These were emailed to all board members and asked board members to be prepared to vote.

Ms. Deller provided an update on the water taxi and that stated that the locations being considered are Anable Basin and 44th Drive. EDC is leaning to the Hunters Point location.

A short discussion followed.

Transportation Committee

Denise Keehan-Smith reported the Transportation Committee did not have a meeting in September. The next meeting will take place on October 6, 2015.

Environment Committee

Ms. Morehead spoke about the possibility of a Queens High Line near Skillman Avenue. On October 16, there will be a meeting to walk this line. Anyone interested can contact Smiling Hogs Head Ranch. Mitch Waxman will be coming to the next Environment Committee Meeting.

Health and Human Services Committee

Ms. Terrano provided the following update on behalf of Moitre Savard:

- Thrilled about the passage of the Smoke Free Housing Resolution.
- As new housing developments come in front of CB 2, we should make it a priority for the developers to understand that this is a priority for our community.
- We are excited to have new members come on to the committee. Once we have assignments, we look forward to hearing about people's interests. Suggested topics have included health care access, youth services and veteran's affairs. We have tentatively scheduled meetings to occur at 6 pm on the first Monday of every month at the community board office starting on November 2, 2015.

City Services & Public Safety Committee

Mr. Cooper announced the next meeting will take place on October 14, 2015.

Arts & Cultural Affairs

Mr. Cooper reported he is still waiting for more committee appointments.

Marie Konecko spoke about the need for more bus shelters.

Ms. Deller provided an update about the Phipps Housing Proposal. It is not certified and has to go through the ULURP process. The Board and Councilmember Van Bramer are seeking to have a

community meeting at which Phipps Houses staff can present the proposal prior to it being certified and going through the ULURP process.

The next community board meeting will be Thursday, November 5, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

MA Gurrado

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