



Melinda Katz  
Queens Borough President

# Community Board No. 2

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Joseph Conley  
Chairman

Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager

November 6, 2014

## Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

### Attendees

Andrew Anzalone  
Sandra Bigitschke  
Bessie Cassaro  
Shampa Chanda  
Joseph Conley  
Stephen Cooper  
Lisa Deller  
Dana Frankel  
Kenneth Greenberg  
Richard Gundlach  
Anne Hart  
Reverend Joseph Jerome  
Mohammed Choudhury Jewel  
Ellen Kang  
Denise Keehan-Smith  
Marie Konecko  
Jordan Levine  
Sheila Lewandowski  
Charles Markey

Donald McCallian  
Taina McShane  
Dorothy Morehead  
Patrick Murray  
Patrick O'Brien  
Elliot Park  
Elba Sanitago  
Moitre Savard  
Lauren Springer  
Carol Terrano  
Karolina Tosi  
Rebecca Trent  
Anthony Tudela  
Al Volpe

### Absentees

Terri Adams  
Diane Ballek  
Anna Bridge  
Barbara Coleman  
Emilia Crotty  
Mary English  
William Garrett  
Dominic Lippolis  
Gertrude McDonald  
Norberto Saldana

Regina Shanley  
David Shin  
Michael Son  
Nick Troya  
Sanitago Vargas

**CB 2 Staff**

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager  
MaryAnn Gurrado

**Elected Officials**

Javier Lacayo, Council Member Elizabeth Crowley's Office  
Jason Banrey, Council Member Van Bramer's Office

**Guests**

Nicole Garcia, NYC Department of Transportation  
Vikram Sinha, NYC Department of Transportation  
Shawn Macias, NYC Department of Transportation  
Penny Lee, Department of City Planning  
Kevin Fullington, Herrick, Feinstein  
Brian Mowald  
Ben Creed  
Uma McBride  
Benjamin Creed  
Vincent Orsini  
Mariola Sobolewska  
Tej Churdali  
Tess McRae  
Lisle Noll  
Anore Moore  
Michelle Lovell  
Tara Mishovsky

**Public Comment**

Cathy Chambers, Grownyc  
David Pomerantz, Sunnyside Community Services  
Richard O'Connor  
Dan Ping He, Department of Consumer Affairs  
Withold Rak  
David Rosasco, Woodside Neighborhood Association  
Peter Johnson

Mr. Conley welcomed everyone to CB 2's monthly meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Conley announced that guest speaker Mr. Howard Pollack, DDC and a representative from the Queens Library would not be in attendance at this meeting. They informed CB 2 that more time is needed to formalize the plans and then they will come back to talk about the library.

Mr. Conley stated that we have been told the library has been funded and that we are waiting for more information.

**Jason Barney, Deputy Chief of Staff to Council Member/Majority Leader Van Bramer's Office**

Mr. Banrey provided the following updates:

- Neighborhood Slow Zones, which will be in the neighborhoods of Sunnyside Gardens, Woodside and Sunnyside South. These locations were designed with community input and CB 2 approved the slow zones. They will lower the speed limit to 20 miles per hour and they expect they will lower the rate of serious pedestrian injuries and deaths. Council Member Van Bramer applied for these neighborhood slow zones last year, CB 2 approved them and the implementation of the project will be completed by spring, 2015.
- Effective November 7, 2014, the speed limit will be 25 miles per hour on all city streets unless posted otherwise and there will be additional enforcement within the City of New York.
- Council Member Van Bramer's Office will host the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Food drive and will be collecting non-perishable food items to help the needy. Anyone interested can drop off donations at the local libraries within the district as well as Council Member Van Bramer's district office at 47-01 Queens Boulevard, Suite 205. The Holiday Food Drive will continue from now through December 12, 2014.
- Council Member Van Bramer's Fall Newsletter will be going out next week.
- City Bikes will be coming to LIC and there will be 10 locations and docking stations. Mr. Banrey said that Council Member Van Bramer fought very hard to get the City Bikes program. He also recognized the efforts of Commissioner Polly Trottenberg and the New York City Department of Transportation.
- Mr. Banrey stated that if anyone needed any assistance from the Council Member Van Bramer's Office they can contact the district office at: (718) 383-9566 X 7
- Participatory Budget Process: There will meetings on Monday and Thursday of the following week and all are welcome to attend. This is a great way for people to provide their ideas on capital projects. It is a long process that will continue over the next eight months. Ideas will be gathered together and then whittled down and there will be a vote from residents and business owners and anyone over 18 years of age. Council Member Van Bramer initiated the Participatory Budget Process for the first time in the district and it is a community driven process. Mr. Banrey stated this is a great opportunity for people to shed some light on projects they would like to see.
- Mr. Banrey entertained questions.

**Public Comment**

**Cathy Chambers, GrowNYC**

Ms. Chambers spoke about the Sunnyside Greenmarket which has been operating for the past several years on Skillman Avenue between 41<sup>st</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> Street. The community has been asking for the Greenmarket to be open all year and signed petitions with over 1000 signatures. It is currently open

from May through December. Ms. Chambers is seeking a letter of support to keep it open all year round.

A board member requested information on the LIC Market. Ms. Chambers stated that if business picks up they may consider it.

In response to a request for a greenmarket at Big Bush Park, Ms. Chambers stated she will look into it. Ms. Chambers anyone wishing to contact her can reach her at (917) 747-0457.

**David Pomerantz, Sunnyside Community Services**

Mr. Pomerantz stated he works with Sunnyside Community Services primarily in marketing and helping with housing outreach. They are working in collaboration with Related Companies to perform outreach for the Hunters Point South Affordable housing development, which will be opening in May of next year. They are assisting people with filling out applications on line as the deadline is by December 15. Mr. Pomerantz stated brochures were available and that he would be available to answer any questions.

Ms. Deller asked if Sunnyside Community Services is keeping track of how many people are completing applications. Mr. Pomerantz stated he will try to find out the information.

Board Member Sheila Lewandowski announced that there would be a workshop for affordable housing at LaGuardia Community College on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Little Theatre organized by the Actors Fund.

Mr. Conley stated that Sunnyside Community Services is helping to assist those who are interested in the affordable housing development at Hunters Point South to apply on line and they are also helping people to get registered. They are doing a great service to the community.

**Richard O'Connor**

Mr. O'Connor is a resident of the Celtic Apartments. Mr. O'Connor stated that CB 2 meetings are important where people can come to give their opinions. Mr. O'Connor spoke about the FDNY application on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and that there were many people who spoke in favor of this application and some that spoke against it. The vote of Community Board 2 majority were in favor of the application and the majority of the people who were present were in favor. FDNY was unable to answer all the questions and it was requested the FDNY come back again to lead another discussion. Mr. O'Connor read on the Sunnyside Post that this was dismissed by Council Member Van Bramer.

**Dan Ping He, Department of Consumer Affairs**

Dan Ping He provided an update about the following:

- Paid Sick Leave law that was signed this year.
- Small Business Relief Package to help businesses thrive in NYC.
- Office of Financial Empowerment helps those who have low and moderate income.
- Free Tax Preparation.
- Anyone seeking further information regarding the paid sick leave legislation can visit the website at [NYC.gov/paid-sick-leave](http://NYC.gov/paid-sick-leave).

### **Witold Rak**

Mr. Rak spoke about the following:

- Provided an update about the health of Jim Condes.
- #7 Train overcrowding.
- Election Day ballot.

### **David Rosasco, Chairman, Woodside Neighborhood Association**

Mr. Rosasco spoke about the following:

- Term leadership on the Community Board.
- CB 2 should focus on one or two issues in the other parts of the district and not only LIC
- Suggested the tables be rearranged so that people could face each other and get to know each other.

### **Peter Johnson**

Mr. Johnson is a resident of 11<sup>th</sup> Street in LIC. He called on the leadership of the board to find out how many public dollars are in the budget for the Hunters Point Library. He raised concerns about the flawed design and said many have spoken about the inadequate space room or configuration of rooms to have meetings. He added that they project is saddled with an archaic design with a large atrium which occupies one third of square footage of the building and requested putting the library at half the cost, in one of the new residential towers which he believes will be able to save tax payer dollars.

### **Brooke Barr, Principal of new elementary school on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street**

Ms. Barr introduced herself and stated she is the Principal of the new elementary school that opened on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in Sunnyside. The school opened in September 2014 with 2 Pre K classes and 4 Kindergarten classes. The school will grow one grade per year from Pre -K to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Ms. Barr stated there is a safety concern at the location of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This is the intersection closest to the school and there is only a stop sign on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and no stop sign, light or crosswalk on 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This is creating a hazardous condition. In addition, she is requesting a no parking zone to be established in front of the school so that school buses can pull up safely.

Mr. Conley stated that CB 2 has written a letter to the DOT with regard to this request.

In response to a question, Ms. Barr stated the school is called the Walter McCaffrey Campus and the structure itself is PS 313 and that within the building is the school which is called PS 343, The Children's Lab School.

Ms. Barr stated there will be a ribbon cutting and that all will be welcomed to attend.

### **ULURP Application- C130383 MMQ – VAUX ROAD Demapping**

Mr. Kevin Fullington council to Firecom Inc. stated this is a fire alarm company. They use the location for parking for all of their employees. The company met with DOT and the city stated and agreed that they could not use this location as a street. This location is only used for a parking lot for their employees. They employ Local 3 union employees, 49 Queens residents and some residents of the Woodside area. The installs fire alarms and many of their employees drive which is vital to the business. The lot houses



A motion was made and seconded to send a letter and a commendation. It was unanimous by a show of hands.

- 108<sup>TH</sup> Precinct conducted a community clean up at 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and Laurel Hill Boulevard.
- Reminded everyone that information about the affordable housing in Hunters Point South is available at the back table if anyone needs to apply. The need is great and the supply is short. There were three public forums. Mr. Conley stated that Debra Markell Kleinert and MaryAnn Gurrado did a great job helping to support Council Member Van Bramer's office at these forums.
- CB2 attended the scoping meeting with Council Member Van Bramer and the Parks Department on Big Bush Park. We will be meeting with Big Six and Sunnywood to talk about programming at the park. Ms. Denise Keehan-Smith has offered to assist in securing space.
- Reminded everyone about the Dancing with the Community Stars event will be on November 15, 2014 at the Variety Boys and Girls Club in Queens located at 21-12 30<sup>th</sup> Road.
- Annual Taste of Woodside at St. Sebastian's Auditorium, November 20, 2014.
- CB2 attended the Department of Homeless Services meeting at the Borough President's Office. Mr. Conley stated we are not opposed to homeless shelters because there is a need, but as a way of example, we have embraced the Veteran's Shelter on Borden Avenue and we work very closely with the Metro Shelter thanks to the efforts of Debra Markell Kleinert and MaryAnn Gurrado. We want to make sure that if we were to get a homeless shelter that it's the right program and the right fit.
- DOT has announced that we will be getting one bench on 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Jackson Avenue; however, CB 2 will put in a request to DOT for five additional benches.
- At the request of CB 2 DOT approved an installation of an additional street light at the location of 58<sup>th</sup> Street between Queens Boulevard and Roosevelt Avenue near the Woodside Boxing Academy.
- Jim Condes called to thank CB 2 regarding the DOT's installation of an All Way Stop sign on 57<sup>th</sup> Street and 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- On November 7, 2014 the NYC speed Limit will be reduced to 25 miles on many streets.
- In response to a request by a board member, Mr. Conley stated he will look into how the permits are being monitored at Big Bush Park.
- Construction has started on the Kosciuszko Bridge Project. We will try to get them to come to the Board Meeting in January 2015.

**Penny Lee, Department of City Planning**

Ms. Lee reported that the design work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Hunters Point South Park and infrastructure has commenced and is still in the preliminary stages.

**Land Use Committee**

Ms. Deller made a motion that CB 2 write a letter of support for the Greenmarket to be open all year round. It was seconded and all were in favor by a show of hands with no one opposed and no abstentions with the Chairman of Community Board 2 present and not voting.

**Consumer Affairs Application**

An application for an unenclosed sidewalk café with 14 tables and 42 seats at NYS LEE INCORPORATED/ AKA SKINNY'S CANTINA, located at 47-05 Center Blvd, Long Island City.

Mr. Shih Lee aka Skinny was present at the meeting.

Ms. Deller reported that the applicant did not appear at the committee meeting; however they have been good neighbors. The committee agreed to have the applicant attend the full board meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made and seconded not to oppose the application. The vote was unanimous with 32 in favor; 0 opposed and 0 abstentions with the Chairman of Community Board 2 present and not voting.

**ULURP Application- C130383 MMQ – VAUX ROAD Demapping**

Ms. Deller reported that the applicant Firecom Inc., Vaux Road between 59<sup>th</sup> Street and 60<sup>th</sup> Street is seeking a demapping of the street.

- The elimination, discontinuance and closing of Vaux Road between 59<sup>th</sup> Street and 60<sup>th</sup> Street; and
- The adjustment of grades necessitated thereby; including authorization of any acquisition or disposition of real property related thereto, in community district 2, Borough of Queens in accordance with Map No. 5023 dated June 30, 2014 and signed by the Borough President.

The Land Use Committee voted not to oppose this application.

A motion was made to approve the application for the Vaux Road demapping with the stipulation that the property would have a deed restriction that prohibits development of the site and be used for parking only.

With a quorum present, the motion carried with 24 in favor of the motion; 7 opposed and 0 abstentions with the Chairman of Community Board 2 present and not voting.

Ms. Deller announced that I Love Kick Boxing in LIC who attended the Land Use Meeting. They are seeking a BSA application and are located 45-45 Center Boulevard, with a 2800 Square feet facility with a 10 year lease and will come to the next CB 2 Meeting.

Ms. Deller provided an update about Planet Fitness on Roosevelt Avenue and 63<sup>rd</sup> Street.

**Transportation Committee**

**NYC Department of Transportation – Queens East River North Shore Greenway – Vernon Boulevard Bicycle Lanes**

A motion was made and seconded to submit a letter of support for the Queens East River North Shore Greenway – Vernon Boulevard Bicycle Lanes with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions with the Chairman of Community Board 2 present and not voting.

**City Services Committee**

Mr. O'Brien announced the City Services and Public Safety Committee is scheduled for November 12, 2014.

**Environment Committee**

Ms. Morehead provided the following update:

- Provided an update about plastic bag legislation.
- Announced the Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce has gone through a total reorganization and will have an interesting speaker at the next meeting regarding resolving business disputes for small businesses at Saffron Garden on Wednesday the November 12, at 12:30 pm.

**Fiscal Year 2016 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities**

Mr. Conley reported that the Executive and Budget Committee met in August to review the Fiscal Year 2016 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities. We sent out requests to different organizations and asked for comments.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Fiscal Year Capital and Expense Budget Priorities – Capital with the following change:

# 11 would be moved to 20

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2016 Fiscal Year Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for Expense.

The vote was unanimously in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions with the Chairman of Community Board 2 present and not voting.

**Old Business**

Andrew Anzalone spoke about truck traffic off of Vernon Boulevard. Mr. Conley stated we are talking to DOT and DCP.

Patrick Murray reported on truck traffic on 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Skillman Avenue.

Ms. Deller provided the names of the Executive Board members and they are listed as follows.

- Chairperson – Joseph Conley
- First Vice Chairperson – Stephen Cooper
- Second Vice Chairperson - Patrick O’Brien
- Secretary – Lisa Deller
- Treasurer – Diane Ballek
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Ms. Deller invited the board members that they can submit nominations from the floor tonight or they can contact Ms. Deller and Ms. Markell Kleinert to submit a recommendation throughout the month and that elections will take place in December.

Mr. Conley recognized and thanked all our Veterans and also wished everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving and announced the next Community Board 2 Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4, 2014.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado