



Melinda Katz
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Patrick O'Brien

Chairman

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

February 5, 2015

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Terri Adams
Diane Ballek
Sandra Bigitschke
Shampa Chanda
Joseph Conley
Lisa Deller
Dana Frankel
Kenneth Greenberg
Richard Gundlach
Anne Hart
Reverend Joseph Jerome
Ellen Kang
Denise Keehan-Smith
Marie Konecko
Jordan Levine
Sheila Lewandowski

Dominic Lippolis
Charles Markey
Taina Hernandez McShane
Dorothy Morehead
Patrick Murray
Patrick A. O'Brien
Elliot Park
Regina Shanley
Michael Son
Lauren Springer
Carol Terrano
Karolina Tosi
Rebecca Trent
Santiago Vargas
Al Volpe

Absentees

Andrew Anzalone
Anna Bridge
Bessie Cassaro
Barbara Coleman
Stephen Cooper
Emilia Crotty
Mary English
William Garrett

Mohammed Choudhury Jewel
Donald McCallian
Norberto Saldana
Elba Santiago
Moitri Savard
David Shin
Nick Troya
Anthony Tudela

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager
MaryAnn Gurrado

Elected Officials

Honorable Michael Gianaris, NY State Senator
Helen Ho, Mayor's Office
Allen Bucy, Public Advocates Office
Yoni Bokser, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz's Office
Javier Lacayo, Council Member Elizabeth Crowley's Office

Jason Banrey, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer's Office

Public Comment

Erin Keyes, Sunnyside Community Services
Melissa Orlando, Sunnyside Artists
Patricia Dorfman, Sunnyside Artists
Manny Gomez, Sunnyside Artists
Paul Salow
Sandra Abeles, Department of Consumer Affairs
Jim Condes
Christian Amez
Leonor White
Georgia Katsalis, Forestdale
Witold Rak
Miriam Allen

Guests

Captain John Travaglia, 108th Police Precinct
Officer Luis Diaz, 108th Police Precinct
Officer Juan Toro, Patrol Borough Queens North
John S. Cnapich, NYC Human Resources Administration
Cristina Schreil, Queens Chronicle
Susan Sheim
Claudia Chan, LaGuardia Community College
Christian Murray
Lisle Noll

Mr. O'Brien, Chairman, Community Board 2 welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. O'Brien welcomed Senator Michael Gianaris.

Senator Mike Gianaris

Senator Gianaris discussed the Sunnyside Yards proposal that the Mayor spoke about in his State of the City address. He advised that he and his colleagues would not support any actions that were opposed by the community. There is a focus on transit, schools and open space. The Mayor wants to explore the possibilities of developing the area, but the Senator assured the attendees there is no need for alarm. He will ensure community members have a seat at the discussion table and that all concerns will be properly addressed.

Senator Gianaris expressed gratitude for Assembly woman Cathy Nolan's outstanding representation of her community and she continues to make us proud.

Senator Gianaris entertained questions.

Captain John Travaglia, Commanding Officer, 108th Police Precinct

Captain John Travaglia provided the following update:

- For the 28 day period January 5, 2015 to February 1, 2015 crime is down by 26% overall. Year to date, crime is down 28 percent.
- Overall there were 73 major crimes versus 99 during the same period last year, representing a 26% decrease.
- Traffic Precinct Accidents are down by 11%.
- Total injuries are down 24 for a 30% decrease.
- For the DWI Enforcement Program, there were 18 arrests versus 14 in the same period last year
- Bike Enforcement - there were 20 violations issued versus 6 in the same period last year
- There was an arrest made for the individual that robbed the Chase bank on Woodside Avenue.
- 108th Police Precinct has been experiencing an increase in stolen hybrid batteries and that they have received nine complaints concerning this crime. It is an issue affecting the cab industry mostly. There is a big demand on these batteries. It is a pattern that is developing here and in other places.
- There were three burglaries on Vernon Boulevard and 51st Avenue in the business district. Extra coverage has been assigned to this area.
- An 85 year old man was assaulted near St. Sebastian's Church. The police believe this is an isolated incident. They know who committed the crime and believe the perpetrator may possibly suffer from mental illness.
- I phones may be registered with the NYPD through the crime prevention officer or the NYPD website.

Mr. John Cnapich, Office of Child Support Enforcement, NYC Human Resources Administration.

Mr. Cnapich discussed the various services available. They include how to properly engage the child support system, and the benefits the system provides to custodial and noncustodial parents and children. Mr. Cnapich stated his agency is currently embarking on a comprehensive public awareness and education campaign.

Mr. Cnapich distributed information and stated that more information can be obtained on the NYC Human Resources Administration website at www.nyc.gov/hra

Public Officials

Mr. O'Brien recognized the following representatives:

- Javier Lacayo, Council Member Elizabeth Crowley's Office
- Yoni Bokser, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz's Office
- Allen Bucy, Public Advocates Office
- Jason Banrey, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer's Office
- Helen Ho, Mayor's Office

Public Comment

Erin Keyes, Sunnyside Community Services

Ms. Keyes provided an update about the following programs:

- SCS Friendly Visiting Program where they connect interested and eligible volunteers with homebound older adults who would enjoy companionship. Matches are based on geography and shared interests. For more information, contact (718) 784-6173 Ext. 479.

- Queens Literary Event with Atticus Lish and Akhil Sharma on February 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm.
- Sunnyside Community Services has started a new program to help individuals with their Medicaid applications. For more information, contact (718) 784-6173 x 358.

Sandra Abeles, Department of Consumer Affairs

Ms. Abeles provided the following update:

- Office of Financial Empowerment can assist with Free Tax Preparation.
- Earned Income Tax Credit, DCA has been making sure that people are aware of this tax credit.
- Office of Financial Empowerment can assist with identify theft.
- Anyone in need of information can contact the DCA at (718) 392-6944

Ms. Abeles distributed information and reminded everyone to visit their website at nyc.gov/dca for more information.

Melissa Orlando, Sunnyside Artists

Ms. Orlando spoke about her opposition to the Sunnyside Yards proposal.

Patricia Dorfman

Ms. Dorfman announced the following:

- February 24, 2015, Irish Eyes 2 will take place at Murphy's Lobster Grill and Bar from 5:30 to 8:00 pm.
- February 25, 2015, Sunnyside Chamber Luncheon at the Dog and Duck at 12:30 speaker is Dan Hendrick.
- Chairman Patrick O'Brien attended the last Sunnyside Chamber Luncheon.
- Diane Ballek, President of the 108th Police Precinct Community Council will be holding a Valentine's Day Breakfast for the 108th Police Precinct officers.
- Ms. Dorfman read an Op Ed concerning her opposition to the Sunnyside Yards proposal.

Paul Salow

Mr. Salow stated he is a resident of Woodside and resides on 53rd Street and Queens Boulevard. He reported that an unidentified person arrived on his block and began spraying bright red numbers and lines in front of his home and on his block. Mr. Sallow stated he was informed that they were going to be doing underground electric work and the whole street would be dug up to replace gas lines and valves. Mr. Sallow was concerned about his block not being notified of this work and requested more information.

Mr. O'Brien stated Keyspan has a project that is beginning and that residents should have been notified. Ms. Markell Kleinert reported this is a DDC project and that the utilities are there to mark up the street. The Board Office has been in contact with Keyspan with regard to this issue and notices will be distributed.

Jim Condes

- Wished Board Member Mary English a speedy recovery.
- Thanked CB 2 for wishing him a speedy recovery.
- Mr. Condes spoke about ongoing problems with Access-A-Ride. Mr. Condes stated that since the voucher system has been discontinued, it is very difficult for senior citizens to utilize the services. Since they changed to a broker service, there are many problems. Drivers do not speak

English, they do not know where to go, and cars are full of people going to many different places. Nothing has been done, and Mr. Condes has requested the assistance of the elected officials.

Mr. O'Brien stated CB 2 will follow up to see what can be done concerning this matter.

Leonore White

Ms. White spoke about the Sunnyside Mile Run Race to be held on May 31, 2015 and explained that the proceeds will go to the Coalition for the Homeless.

Georgia Katsalis, Forestdale

Ms. Katsalis reported that Forestdale assists families with the following:

- Immigration
- Deportation
- Obtaining a work permit
- Learning English
- GED/HSE
- Other free community and social services.
- For more information contact Georgia Katsalis at (718) 263-0740 ext. 279.

Christian Amez

Mr. Amez spoke about the following:

- City Council voted to approve street name changes in honor of the NYPD Police Officers Liu and Ramos. Mr. Amez thanked Council Member Van Bramer's office and the Mayor's office for signing the bill into law in honor of the fallen officers.
- Thanked Council Member Van Bramer's office for the written legislation to get more community input from people that are affected by large public art projects.

Witold Rak

Mr. Rak spoke about the following:

- When they will be building on the Phun Factory lot.
- Sunnyside Yards proposal.
- Asked when the escalator on 61st Street is going to be repaired.
- Raccoons and opossums have been sighted where the new school is being built.

ULURP Application-N15016ZRY – Proposed Stairwells Text Amendment

Mr. Dakota Hendon, Department of City Planning introduced, Assistant Chief, Fire Prevention, Ronald Spadafora of the FDNY.

Mr. Hendon provided a presentation about the Proposed Stairwells Text Amendment for Non-Residential Buildings application. This is a joint effort of the Department of Buildings and the Department of City Planning with the support of the FDNY.

He stated this stems from Sept 11, 2011 and that the building code was changed to facilitate evacuations and the amendment is to require a wider stairwell. The international building code

discovered that buildings that exceed 420 feet need to have wider stairwells and greater accommodations. This is for Fire Safety enhanced full building evacuation.

Buildings that exceed 420 feet or taller that are commercial or residential and commercial, need to have wider stairwells or greater accommodations. i.e. offices, hotels, and mixed use.

There are two locations in the special Long Island City C5-3 district, Court Square sub district and the M1- 6 mapped zone around Queens Plaza.

The Text Amendment would allow three different options for improving safety.

1. Elevators that run on separate generators and can run in an emergency. They need to be designated all passenger elevators as "Occupant Self Evacuation Elevators with emergency generators capable of running all of them simultaneously
2. Increased Fire Stair Width
3. Additional Fire Stair

Assistant Chief, Fire Prevention, Ronald Spadafora of the FDNY entertained questions.

Landmark Application – 39-90 44th Street

The applicant stated they have applied to legalize the installation of windows, façade and is proposing a balcony fence. The applicant presented architectural drawings, pictures and a board of the location with the proposed changes. The applicant displayed before and after photos of the type of windows and what they will present to Landmarks. The applicant discussed the type of fencing they would like on the balcony.

Attendance

Total Present 31

Total Absent 16

Approval of the January 2015 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Carol Terrano made a motion and it was seconded to approve the January 2015 CB 2 Meeting Minutes.

Chairman's Report

Mr. O'Brien provided the following update:

- Moment of Silence for the passing of Tony Mazarella of the Waterfront Crabhouse.
- CB2 attended Borough President Melinda Katz/s State of the Borough Address.
- Chairman attended Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce Luncheon.
- Chairman met with various elected officials and still making the rounds.
- Attended Long Island City Partnership Bid meeting.
- Attended the Department of City Planning Court Square / Hunters Point Rezoning Study.
- Spoke about EDC Sunnyside Yards Feasibility Study.
- CB2 will attend budget hearing at the Borough Presidents office to present our priorities.

- CB 2 and Queens Boards will be meeting with the Parks Commissioner at the end of February.
- PD notified CB 2 that an arrest was made on January 22 for the bank robbery of the Chase bank in Woodside.
- CB 2 attended the press event with Council Member Van Bramer that the Hunters Point library is funded and will be built.
- CB 2 received weekend community walk applications and CB 2 is working with each community.
- On the tables are brochures of the Sunnyside Shines map and business directory.
- CB2 requested the graffiti clean-up at the 52nd Street Station. New York City transit has cleaned that station of the graffiti.
- CB2 received an inquiry on parking tickets issued at the location of 5th street from 49th to 50th Avenue and along 50th Avenue from 200ft east of 5th street. The 108th Precinct stated they were flyers for Sugar Daddy's Club.
- State DOT Charles O'Shea responded to CB 2 about the beam at 61st street and Laurel Hill Blvd. They stated that they are making things safer. They will be doing work at that location and they are waiting for parts. Work is expected to be completed by the end of Spring, 2015.
- Mr. O'Brien spoke about the problems raised by Jim Condes with regard to Access-A-Ride and that it is not the service our seniors deserve. It is on CB2's radar.
- Board Member Al Volpe announced that Berkley Towers, in Woodside is celebrating their 50th Anniversary and there is an article in the Woodside Herald.
- In response to a question about the possible loss of parking spaces at the Vernon Mall, by a Board Member, Mr. O'Brien provided a brief update about the Western Queens Transportation Study. DCP is working with EDC, recommendations are being formulated and have not been made. Parking is an issue there.
- Mr. O'Brien stated people wanted to make a study and make recommendations as to what might be done and this is what is ongoing.

A discussion about the Vernon Mall took place.

District Manager's Report

Ms. Markell Kleinert provided the following update:

- The new website is coming along and by the end of March we should be able to fully test it.
- District Manager attends a monthly Borough Cabinet and this one is with the Queens Chamber and the BP Cabinet for a borough update
- Anyone who has snow cleaning complaints or issues should report their complaints to the Board office.
- CB 2 Newsletters are informative and contains good information and she encouraged everyone to review it.
- CB 2 continues with our internship program with LaGuardia Community College.

Penny Lee, Department of City Planning

- Ms. Lee clarified what occurred at the Transportation Committee with regard to the Western Queens Transportation Study.
- The Study is being undertaken by DCP solely, which received federal funding.
- Its genesis was to try and plan for additional transportation capacity in Western Queens given all the development that occurred and it is continuing to occur in CB 2 and CB 1 from Newtown Creek all the way north.
- Developed preliminary recommendations and will make recommendations to the NYCDOT.
- DOT will do the analysis and they will make the decisions with input from the community.
- DCP made a series of recommendations that will be given over to DOT, New York City Transit Authority for subways and the New York City Transit Authority for buses. They will decide what to do with these recommendations.
- DCP is not working with EDC on this study.
- CB 2 will always be included as they do these analyses and there is continued room for discussion
- In response to concerns raised by Board Member, Al Volpe, with regard to the drawing he spoke about, Ms. Lee clarified the drawing was done in house by the Department of City Planning.
- Ms. Lee stated there is an application to change the zoning to allow for a new day care facility in the DOH building at Queens Plaza. The ULURP application is complete and just received their environmental assessment statement which needs a few small modifications and it should be referred to CB2 for public review soon.
- Ms. Lee provided an update on a meeting that took place with elected officials, reps from city and state agencies, civic groups, representatives of CB 1 and CB 2 regarding the proposed Queens Plaza/Court Square, Long Island City Core Neighborhood Planning Study. For more information on the description and map of the boundaries, visit nyc.gov/planning. Ms. Lee reported there will be numerous public meetings and discussions will take place between now and Spring.
- Ms. Lee advised there is not an affordable housing requirement in CB2. They are looking at ways to require affordable housing in the neighborhood and for ways to increase economic development opportunities. They want to look at infrastructure and capital budget needs for current and projected development.

Environment Committee

Ms. Morehead provided an update on the following:

- Representatives from the DEP provided a presentation at the Committee Meeting and requested approval for an expansion of a small building that houses motors. It is located on Borden Avenue under the LIE on City property. The project will raise the height of the building, clean it and use it for sustainability purposes as they want to get

the motors above flood level. They will be adding two motors to the building which are pumps for an aeration project which extends to Dutch Kill and other to Newtown Creek.

- Ms. Morehead advised this is a \$26 million project, but CB 2 was notified late in the process. She also stated remediation efforts have been ongoing with positive results with limited funding.
- The committee voted to send an approval letter regarding the project but expressed concern about being notified late in the process. The committee also noted we are not necessarily improving the aeration.

Land Use Committee

Ms. Deller provided an update about the following:

Consumer Affairs Application

An application was received for an Enclosed sidewalk café with 8 tables and 23 seats at Riz Bagel Inc., / AKA Bagels Plus, located at 57-20 Woodside Avenue, Woodside. The applicant was also present and spoke.

Ms. Deller stated the committee discussed this establishment and they do not have any violations or complaints against them.

The applicant spoke about his establishment.

Dorothy Morehead made a motion to approve the application and it was seconded by Dominic Lippolis. The vote was 30 in favor of the application with none opposed and no abstentions with the Chairman present and not voting.

Landmark Application – 39-90 44th Street

Ms. Deller stated the applicant attended the Land Use Committee Meeting and discussed the type of windows that may be used. The committee discussed the type of framing of the windows and the size. The committee had a discussion on all aspects of the changes being made to the windows. The committee made a motion to support the legalization of the facade bricking. They requested the applicant bring a sample to the full board meeting to show a picture of what they are selecting.

Santiago Vargas made a motion to approve the application and it was seconded by Sheila Lewandowski. The vote was taken and motion passed by a show of hands. None opposed and no abstentions were made with the Chairman of Community Board 2 present and not voting.

Miriam Allen, a resident of the community spoke in favor of this application.

ULURP Application-N15016ZRY – Proposed Stairwells Text Amendment

Ms. Deller stated the Land Use Committee voted not to oppose this application. This application will be at the full board meeting on February 5th, 2015. The committee discussed this application and everyone agreed to approve it.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Stairwells Text Amendment. The vote was 30 in favor of the motion; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions with the Chairman of Community Board 2 present and not voting.

Transportation Committee

Joseph Conley provided the following update:

- Provided an update on the closures for the #7 Line
- Trying to find out why the train was not running on the day of the snow storm.
- Asking for a report back on lessons learned.
- Provided an update on the Vernon Mall and regarding pedestrian and traffic improvements.
- 25 Mile hour limits are being enforced.
- Spoke about Access-A-Ride and reps will be contacted to follow up with Jim Condes.
- DOT held a meeting about Queens Boulevard from 50th Street to 72nd Street.
- Provided an update on the Pulaski Bridge Project.
- Asked DOT to revisit 41st Street and Greenpoint Avenue
- Snow removals at bus stops and bus shelters.
- The additional bench at 11th Street and Jackson Avenue should be installed on or about February 2nd.

Board Member, Anne Hart, reported a problem with a water pipe that is possibly creating a trip hazard about 8 inches high, on 58th Street and Woodside Avenue. She said about five years ago there was a problem at this location.

Health and Human Services Committee

Carol Terrano reported there was no committee meeting due to the snow storm, however there will be a meeting next month.

City Services & Public Safety Committee

Mr. O'Brien provided the following update:

- CB2 was notified there were 10 arrests on Roosevelt Ave on January 23rd.
- We are monitoring incidents that have occurred at Club Allure on 33rd Street.
- Next meeting City Services and Public Safety Committee Meeting will be held on February 11, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado