



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

43-22 50th Street, 2nd Floor
Woodside, New York 11377

(718) 533-8773

Fax (718) 533-8777

Email qn02@cb.nyc.gov

www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

You Tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@queenscb2>

January 4, 2024

Queens Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held in person and teleconferenced on Zoom.

Board Members – Present: Amparo Abel-Bey, Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia, Ann Marie Baranowski, Kat Bloomfield, Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Tannia Chavez, Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Mory Galonoy, Somnath Ghimire, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Mohammad Hossen, Lelin Kandel, Badrun Khan, Diana Kichler, Chhemang Lama, Benjamin Lucas, Patrick Martinez, Thomas Mituzas, Eric Narburgh, Zeeshan Ott, Oumaya Sabb, Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Lauren Springer, Akello Thomas,

Board Members – Absent:

Unexcused:

Karesia Batan, Phuntsok Tashi, Mary Torres, Kalsang Yangtso

Excused:

Nellie Afshar (PV), Nick Berkowitz, Kelly Craig, Christine Hunter, Prameet Kumar, Sheila Lewandowski, Reilly Owens, Norberto Saldana, Leticia Vasquez

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

Elected Officials/Representatives

Honorable Julie Won, NYC Council Member

Dan Wiley, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez

Tiffay Echevarria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez

Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng

Mahfuzul Islam, Representing New York State Senator Kristen Gonzalez

Victoria Leahy, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga

“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”

*Brenda Quinio, Representing NY State Assembly Member Juan Juan Ardila
Claire Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Javier Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz*

Department of City Planning

Teal Delys, Bri Mejia

Sunnyside Community Services

Andrea Thomas, Sunnyside Community Services

Public Comment

*Corey Hannigan, Tri-state Transportation Campaign
Lisa Goren, LIC Coalition
Kevin Winslow*

Note: Reference to the You Tube Video and the associate time-in-meeting stamps are offered here as a service to community members who wish to review the meeting. The video and Block Party transcript are not considered part of these minutes.

Link to You Tube Video of this meeting <https://www.youtube.com/@queenscb2>
(Approximate elapsed time stamps provided in these minutes refer to this video)

Link to <https://blockparty.studio/Archive> where you can navigate to a transcript of this meeting.

Time: (Approximate from YouTube Video)

0:02:50 Queens CB 2 Chairperson Anatole Ashraf welcomed everyone to the CB 2 Meeting at Sunnyside Community Services.

0:03:00 Pledge of Allegiance

0:04:20 Dan Wiley, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez introduced his colleague Tiffany Echevarria and provided the following update:

- Wished all a Happy New Year
- Announced the Congresswoman is the ranking Democrat on the Small Business Committee, Housing Subcommittee and tenants rights and affordable housing is a key priority for her.

- She appreciates all the work here at Sunnyside Community Services as well as Council Member Won and all those who are stepping up to help the tenants impacted by the Fire.
- Thanked Sunnyside Community Services for setting up the Go Fund Me.
- Discussed the flooding on September 29 and that there is a disaster declaration that happened and wanted to make sure to advise everyone there are resources available.
- Discussed flooding problems and that they want to prevent flooding from storm surge. The Congresswoman has been pressing the Army Corp to deal with rain fall and sewer back up.
- Discussed the Water Resources Development Act
- Congresswoman will be doing a ribbon cutting for a hydroponic lab at LaGuardia Community College on January 23, 2024, at 10 pm.
- Q & A

0:05:48 Tiffany Echevarria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez discussed the following:

- Provided facts from the Disaster Loans which could include physical, economic injury disaster loans and home disaster loans which are available for those individuals that were severely affected by the storm. These are available for businesses, non-profits, homeowners and renters.
- The deadline to apply for physical disaster loans would be February 2, 2024, and economic injury will be September 4.

-

0:09:12 Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng provided the following information.

- Wished all a Happy New Year.
- Looking forward to working with everyone.
- Congresswoman Meng is trying to get more funding and resources for a lot of things we need in the community including the infrastructure and flooding related things.
- Will be holding a Veterans Services Day in February.
- If anyone has any suggestion or ideas to contact their office.

0:10:24 Honorable Julie Won, NYC Council Member provided the following update:

- Discussed the fire that took place in Sunnyside and reported that they were given 24 hours' notice on Tuesday that starting on Wednesday people had to vacate their apartments.

- She is working with a team of volunteers, storage unit companies and Barn Truck Rental. She discussed the moving dates.
- Council Member Won is working with the landlord and reported there were 104 units displaced. HPD and DOB have both deemed the apartment inhabitable and it is under vacate order. They are working with Red Cross and her office has registered almost all of them. She has asked for extensions and the landlord has agreed to pay until January 9th for the hotels.
- Council Member Won asked if anyone knows of anyone who has property or knows someone else who can rent property or has a short-term rental. They are looking in the neighborhood to keep people here as many children attend school at Children's Lab or at the Middle School IS 125 and many seniors want to stay in the neighborhood.
- Council Member Won reported they have been able to get hundreds of coats, and socks that were donated.
- Council Member Won's office has a free store, and the collection will go on as long as people are willing to donate free things to give away. She stated they cannot accept used items as they work in partnership with the Red Cross.
- Council Member Won reported Sunnyside Community Services started Go Fund Me that has raised more than \$100,000. However, more funds are needed.
- Council Member Won's office is working with Legal Services for legal aid.
- Council Member Won thanked all those who volunteered to help.
- Thanked everyone in the community who donated as they were able to give out over 2000 toys to NYCA residents. Every shelter child received toys for the holidays, as well as providing toys for EID for the Muslim community coming up as well as Losar our Nepali and Tibetan Community coming up.
- Continue to work on constituent services.
- Sending out a round up of everything her office has accomplished this year and is excited to start the second term.
- Thanked all for their continued support.
- Q & A

0:34:04 Victoria Leahy, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga provided the following update:

- Congratulated the new executive board members.
- Session reconvened for the 247th legislative session.
- January 9, 2024, the Governor will reveal her state of the state address.

- Their office will be hosting a housing clinic at their district office on January 23, 2024, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please call their office to schedule an appointment.
- Will be organizing the following drives, toys, canned foods and toiletries.
- Canned food drive and toiletry drive that will run through January 18, 2024, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.
- Reminded homeowners that this is the time to file or renew Senior Citizen Homeowner Exemption or your disabled homeowner exemption. If anyone needs help, they can reach out to their office to schedule an appointment.
- Q & A

0:38:43 Brenda Quinio, Representing Juan Ardila, New York State Assembly Member discussed the following:

- Wished all a Happy New Year.
- Announced that during the month of December they joined the holiday season with multiple organizations within the community end of the year performance at IS 125.
- The Assembly Member presented state proclamations for organizations for the incredible work and certificates to students for excelling in their studies and extracurricular activities and celebrating our Jewish brothers and sisters as we joined a menorah lighting with JCC Shabad LIC and their synagogue.
- Provided an update on the devastating fire at 43-09 47th Avenue. Their office swiftly mobilized to provide assistance such as rent reduction order forms, directed tenants to Red Cross registrations, distributed clothing, hygiene kits, new coats and socks, toys for children and pet supplies to all tenants affected by the fire at the district office.
- On January 2, 2204, the Assembly Member joined forces with the Legal Aid Society to extend a valuable service to the tenants affected by the fire at Sunnyside Community Services.
- Free Legal consultations were provided to offer crucial guidance to over 100 tenants and they are working with state agencies to ensure the tenants basis needs are being met.
- Announced accommodations was approved until January 9, 2024.
- The Assembly Member will be working with all the other residents in the building to provide them access to their units. If anyone has any questions, please contact their office at (718) 472-0648.
- Q & A

0:43:09 Claire Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards provided the following update:

- Announced there was a hearing between all of the city agencies and elected officials that represent Sunnyside on the day of the fire. They will be having another one of those tomorrow.
- Will be back with more updates about the HPD issue.
- Announced the Community Board applications are now live on their website. And will be available until Friday February 16, 2024, at 5:00 pm. She encouraged everyone to spread the word to community members that may be interested in serving on any of the 14 board through the borough. If anyone has any questions, they may reach out to Kahleel Bragg at kbragg@queensbp.org
- On January 24, 2024, at 6:30 pm, they will be hosting the 220 Haitian Independence Celebration at Queensboro Hall.
- Queens Tech and Job Fair will be held at the Jamaica Performing Arts Center from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and also on January 27, 2024, they will be hosting a basketball game between Queens Elected Officials to support MentalWellness Awareness month at St. Francis Prep high school at 1pm.
- There is a surge in COVID-19 cases and announced that she passed out COVID-19 test kits. If anyone needs additional tests, to reach out to their office.
- For more information visit: www.queensbp.org.
- Q & A

0:48:14 Javier Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz provided the following update:

- Their office recently hosted a toy drive for families and children in need.
- The DA has joined individuals who are working on an innovative alternative to incarceration so that serious offenders have adequate treatment and equitable rehabilitation for substance and mental issues that her than being incarcerated.
- Q & A

0:49:19 Andrea Thomas Sunnyside Community Services provided the following update:

- Thanked everyone who donated to the fire relief.
- They are still collecting through the Go Fund Me.
- Announced they have raised over \$120,000 for the relief effort.
- Announced a group of volunteers will be hosting an event on January 19, 2024, at Sunnyside Community Services to raise additional dollars to support the fire relief.
- Q & A

0:52:01 Captain Tony Wong, Commanding Officer, 108th Police Precinct provided the following information:

- Provided an update on crime stats in the 108th and that there is an increase in robberies and burglaries. The 108th Police Precinct is investigating by doing thorough investigations.
- Q & A

1:34:57 Mahfuzul Islam, Representing Kristen Gonzalez, New York State Senator provided the following update:

- Senator Gonzalez toured the Chocolate Factory in LIC to hear about the artist residency program they offer and hear about improvements and developments they are planning. Provided an update on the Ravenswood generating facility with team Vasquez and AOC to learn more about the renewable energy projects they are working on.
- The Senator attended the ribbon cutting for the 11th Street bike lane.
- Senator Gonzalez joined Assembly Member Gallagher to call for a major investment in the City's sewer infrastructure by restricting water fees which would raise revenue for infrastructure projects.
- Q & A

1:37:47 Public Comment

1:37:48 Corry Hannigan, resident of Woodside, and Active Transportation Program Manager at Tri State Transportation Campaign discussed the following:

- Requested the board pass the resolution in support of intersection daylighting.
- Discussed concerns about the mountable curb bike lane proposed for Queens Boulevard.
- Discussed support for bringing dedicated bus lanes to CB 2.

1:39:49 Lisa Goren, LIC Coalition and Hunters Point Community Coalition discussed the following:

- Advocating for comprehensive resiliency and well-managed growth in LIC and particularly.
- Discussed an eight-month project to do comprehensive resiliency planning and come up with a community-based resiliency vision plan for resiliency at Hunters Point North. They are planning a workshop on Saturday, January 20, 2024, from 11:30 to 2:30 at Culture Lab.

1:45:19 Morry Galonoy discussed the Draft Hybrid Remote Meeting Policy Resolution. He announced he will work with Hybrid Task Force and incorporate ideas into a revised resolution and come back maybe next month and maybe have a public hearing and vote on it.

2:17:06: Transition to Board Business

2:17:08 Attendance

- Board Members Present: 33 Board Members Absent: 13
 - Unexcused: 5 Excused: 8 Quorum: Yes

2:20:15 Motion to approve the December 7, 2023, CB 2 Meeting Minutes
 (Motion made by Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos and seconded by Thomas Mituzas
 Motion carried: All in favor of the motion with none (0) opposed and no (0) abstentions.
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/queenscb2/meetings/meeting-agendas-minutes.page>

2:20:55 Chairperson's Report (Anatole Ashraf) provided the following update:

- Wished all a happy new year.
- Thanked all for their vote and the privilege of serving.
- Thanked Danielle Brecker, previous Chairperson, CB 2.
- Discussed the priorities for 2024 which are inclusivity, engagement, transparency, visibility, accountability.
- His priority is to the Board and to empower the rest of the members to tackle the big issues.
- Discussed initiatives such as Tech Modernization, Hybrid meetings.
- Discussed a project with the Small Business Committee with a concept for Small Business Survival Kit.
- Anatole announced he can be reached on social media and to copy the board office on all official CB 2 business.
- Discussed Committee Chairs, more conversations to come. Chairs will be paired up with Vice Chairs.
- Announced that and that if someone is serving on the Executive board, not being in one position for more than 4 years. Seeking to extend that to Committee Chairs as well.
- Announced that Patrick Martinez has graciously accepted as Chair of the Technology and Access Committee.
- All other committee decisions will be sorted by February.
- Reminded everyone to make sure to send their agendas to the office 7 to 10 days in advance.
- Encouraged individuals on Zoom to consider applying for board membership.

2:25:30 Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager provided the following update:

- Congratulated Anatole Ashraf and looks forward to a good partnership.
- Board Office is closed on January 15, 2024, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- CB 2 worked with the Parks Department to have a dead tree replanted at Sabba Park in honor of Lily Gavin, former owner of Dazies.
- All CB 2 board members that are up for reappointments must fill out and submit applications on the borough presidents website and submit to borough hall.
- CB2 had approximately 28 complaints from November 15, 2023, to present. The top complaints were:

- Department of Sanitation
 - Department of Transportation
 - Signage, signals, potholes
 - NYPD -4
 - Graffiti, blocking sidewalks, abandon vehicles.
 - DOB
 - Open construction site
- DSNY will collect clean Christmas trees and wreaths from Friday January 5, 2024, through Saturday, January 13, 2024, the CB2 office is closed for official holidays for:
 - Martin Luther King Day January 15
 - CB2 continues to post more information on our Facebook, and website.

2:31:09 Department of City Planning (Bri Mejia) provided the following update:

- ULURP – DOT application was certified last year and received confirmation that they will be presenting at the January 17, 2024, Land Use Committee Meeting.
- Announced the next round of our focused area meetings for the One LIC study will take place in the next few weeks, meetings will be from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The meetings will take place at the Jacob Riis Settlement Center. There will be another round in March and April. Anyone interested in attending may RSVP on their website at: www.licplan.nyc.gov
 - January 22, 2024
 - January 29, 2024
 - February 8, 2024
- Discussed a online forum to help answer some questions regarding the City of Yes Zoning for Economic Opportunity. This will take place over zoom on January 9, 2024, at 11:00 am and invited all to attend.
- Q & A

2:37:57 Motion to Table the Hybrid Meeting Proposal as there needs to be a second draft. (Motion made by Anatole Ashraf and it was seconded by Ryan Smith)
 Motion carried: All in favor of the motion with none (0) opposed and no (0) abstentions.

2:39:14 Ann Marie Barnowski discussed 23-10 Queens Plaza South and that we have been working with both the Land Use Committee and Arts & Culture to come up with draft guidelines for what we could append, hopefully to a developer letter that would be worked out for the use of the space. The Office will send a packet which would include draft guidelines and includes sketches for the space and in February will have a more in-depth discussion.

2:40:26 Thomas Mituzas, Transportation Committee provided the following update:

- Street safety was discussed during public comment section of Transportation Committee Meeting.
- Recommendation was received regarding Bus Redesign and entering the midtown tunnel.
- Please visit the website as it is nearing the end of the time to comment on the Queens Bus Final Plan Redesign.
- IBX there is a presentation on January 18, 2024.
- The Committee voted unanimously to support sending DOT a request to consider connecting the Greenway from the 59th Street Bridge to the Pulaski Bridge.
- The Committee voted unanimously and are seeking the support of the full board. The New York State Law 1202 mandates intersections are daylighted to enhance pedestrian safety by preventing vehicles from stopping, standing or parking within 20 feet of a crosswalk or intersection. Although NY State Law mandates daylighting at all intersections, NYC currently disregards this law. In order for daylighting to be effective, daylight spots need to be protected to prevent drivers from illegally parking or standing in them. Physical treatments such as bollards, boulders, bike corals and other elements can be used to safeguard the 20 feet. Transportation Committee voted unanimously in support of telling NYC to adopt New York State Law and apply the law. Seeking CB 2 support from the board and are seeking a motion for a vote.

2:42:24 Laura Shepard made a motion to support the daylighting safety measure and it was seconded by Amparo Abel-Bey. The motion did not carry.

2:45:05 Motion to table the daylighting safety measure until everyone has a chance to understand it completely and the public should be aware of it.

(Motion made by Stephen Cooper seconded by Lisa Deller)

Motion carried: All in favor of the motion to table with 16 in favor of the motion, 15 opposed and no (0) abstentions.

- Tom Mituzas reported on two intersections that we are asking DOT to look at again, 50th Street and 39th Avenue.
- A discussion about congestion pricing took place.
- Q & A

2:55:33 Lauren Springer, Health & Human Services & Education/& Unhoused & Shelter Task Force Committee provided the following update:

- Monday meeting was cancelled and the next meeting will take place on February 12, 2024.

2:56:00 Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee – No Report

2:56:01 Small Business Services & Local Economy – No Report

2:56:09 Laura Shepard, Environment, Parks & Recreation Committee provided the following update:

- Announced no meetings were held in November and December.
- Congratulated Benjamin Lucas who will continue to represent CB 2 on the Queens Solid Waste Advisory Board.
- Announced Carlos Castell Croake will be the Vice Chair of the Environment Committee.
- Next meeting will take place on January 25, 2024 at 6:30 pm on Zoom.

2:59:16 Tanna Chavez, Technology & Access/Engagement & Inclusion Committee provided the following update:

- Planning a coat drive for January
- Planning a winter meet and greet event and will be sending a doodle poll.

3:00:16 Warren Davis, Unhoused & Shelter Task Force provided the following update:

- Discussed the number of coat drives and wants to make sure that we do not overlap what has already been done and to focus on those who have been overlooked and to see what those needs are.
- Several cab meetings will be taking place at the end of this month and next month, will provide more information.

Morry Galonoy made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by John Bahia.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

CB 2 Staff

Reviewed/Revised and approved for distribution by:

_X_Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, CB2

_X_Ryan Smith, Secretary, CB 2

_X_Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, CB 2

01/04/2024CB2MM

