



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

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

March 7, 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, Karesia Batan, Nicholas Berkowitz, Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Somnath Ghimire, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Mohammad Hossen, Christine Hunter, Lelin Kandel, Badrun Khan, Prameet Kumar, , Sheila Lewandowski, Patrick Martinez, Thomas Mituzas, Eric Narburgh, Zeeshan Ott, Reilly Owens, Norberto Saldana, Laura Shepard, Lauren Springer, Akello Thomas, Leticia Vasquez,

Board Members – Absent:

Unexcused: Osman Chowdhury, Kelly Craig, Benjamin Lucas, Phuntsok Tashi, Kalsang Yangtso

Excused: Nellie Afshar (PV), Kat Bloomfield, Tannia Chavez (PV), Stephen Cooper, Morry Galonoy (PV), Somnath Ghimire, Diana Kichler, Chhemang Lama, Oumaya Saab (PV), Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Mary Torres

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

Elected Officials/Representatives

Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President
Tiffany Echevarria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez
Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng
Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris
Katherine Demby, Representing NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez
Victoria Leahy, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga
Brenda Quinio, Representing NY State Assembly Member Juan Ardila
Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won

Department of City Planning

Bri Mejia

New York City Department of Sanitation

Adam Dobrzynski

Sunnyside Community Services

Judy Zangwill

Guests

Asif Ali, Representing Woodside on the Move

Joseph Sbarro, Akerman, LLP

Steve Sinacori, Akerman, LLP

Charles Yu, LIC Partnership

Henry Smith, LIC Partnership

Public Comment

Manny Gomez

Pat Dorfman

Edjo Wheeler, Culture Lab

Corey Hannigan

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)

0:02:40 Queens CB 2 Chairperson Anatole Ashraf welcomed everyone to the CB 2 Meeting at Sunnyside Community Services.

0:02:47 Pledge of Allegiance

0:03:35 Anatole Ashraf announced this is our first Hybrid meeting and reviewed ground rules for the meeting. He requested everyone follow the WAIT Rule, (Why Am I Talking).

0:04:34 Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President provided the following update:

- Congratulated Anatole Ashraf.
- Thanked all board members for their service.
- Announced Borough Hall is watching attendance and encouraged everyone to attend meetings unless there is a real excuse.
- Recently closed the community board application process. Received approximately 841 applications.
- For any questions, Kahleel Bragg is the Director of Community Boards and CB 2 Liaison Claire Collins.
- Thanked Debra Markell Kleinert for all that she does.
- Announced his office has allocated more than \$220 million across the borough and capital funding for schools, parks and libraries, health and cultural organizations, and Transportation as well.
- Allocated \$100,00 to Sunnyside Community Services so they can out fit their new space in LIC.
- Discussed allocation of funding to schools. If anyone knows of any schools that have challenges, get the locations to Claire Collins.
- His office is funding Hydroponics labs.
- Discussion capital allocations to CUNY colleges in CB2. Allocated \$4.2 million into LaGuardia Community College and \$1.2 of that will go towards the construction and renovation of their science labs, specifically their occupational and physical therapy labs. \$2 million was allocated to adapt their training spaces in order to facilitate hands on education and skill development and another \$2 million will go towards the renovation of their pool facility which will address many of the safety concerns.
- \$1million for the CUNY school of law.
- \$1 million into the Court Square Library.
- \$1.5 million allocated to Lawrence Virgilio Playground
- \$3 million into the Queens Borough Bridge South Outer Roadway and expected to open exclusively to pedestrians to be open for mid-2024. Anticipate the summer.
- Announced DOT received a 23.75 million Capital Grant
- \$1 Million aside for 73rd Street and Roosevelt Avenue.
- Announced LaGuardia received some major investments, \$8 billion of redevelopment money, \$850 million of those dollars went to contracts, for Queens based small businesses and now they are working on JFK for which he is the co-chair of the Advisory Board and that is a \$ 20-billion-dollar investment, 10,000 jobs are on the line.

- Proud of the work that we are doing to bolster the economy and to ensure we are creating pathways for our young people.
- Discussed housing production and that we have a long way to go. Talking to the city about 1500 units of real affordable housing. Announced 15% set aside for what will be formally homeless families.
- Working on Creedmore. 3,000 units on that site continue to have discussions.
- Rezoning downtown Jamaica
- \$ 2million for free mental health services. If anyone knows of someone in need, reach out to their office.
- Launched Operation Urban sustainability and are pushing to make sure community composting returns.
- Wished all a happy Women's History Month.
- Q & A

0:32:54 Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng provided the following update:

- Discussed the mail theft problem is a big issue and are happy to announce that the federal investigation started by USPS has officially begun.
- Announced the Veteran Affairs has expanded their health care for veterans who were exposed to hazards during their service. Veterans who qualify for this health care can start their enrollments on March 5, 2024. If anyone knows of a veteran in need to reach out to their office.
- Together with Assembly Member Raga, they wrote a letter to the MTA asking them to address the issue of the escalator at 74th Street.
- Q & A

0:35:04 Mercedes Jennings, Representing New York State Senator Michael Gianaris provided the following update:

- Announced their Youth Leadership Recognition Awards will be ending on March 22, 2024. If anyone knows of a high school in the community that is doing great work, please submit their information to their website.
- They have started their Earth Day 2024 event. They are accepting essays, poems, artwork and short stories that talk about the environment, the due date for this is April 12, 2024. Please provide submissions which is not just limited to students so adults can be a part of it as well.
- Finalized their Woman of Distinction and the announcement will be made next month.
- The city has been seeking more red-light cameras in our district. The Senator has been in huge support of this. One of the bills that he passed was S451 which allows the DMV to actually suspend licenses if they run red lights five or more times in the state.

- The Senator has been doing a lot of legislation right now more specifically to pass the budget in a decent amount of time.
- He is meeting with a lot of constituents from CB 2 and is pushing for more funding and support for our education, especially our schools.
- The Senator is also doing a lot of work to promote more housing in our community as well as lower emissions from businesses to help air quality in our environment.
- Their office is located at 45-02 Ditmars Boulevard, and they are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- Q & A

0:40:30 Katherine Demby, Representing New York State Senator Kristen Gonzalez provided the following:

- Provided an update about the G-Train extension efforts.
- Announced their office is fighting for a housing package that priorities tenants and keeping tenants in their homes and for deeply affordable housing in our communities.
- Fighting for funding for low-income tenants and homeowners to close the eligibility gap and enable them to access these green energy programs.
- Discussed climate resilience, arts and cultural institutions in our communities.
- Working for more funding for health and hospitals.
- Q & A

0:48:18 Tiffany Echevarria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez provided the following update:

- Announced the Congresswoman was the original co-sponsor for the Women's Health Production Act.
- Provided an update on the Survivor Financial Safety Inclusion Working Group Act.
- The Appropriations Committee finally able to come to a long-awaited finalization for the budget. She was able to secure over 11 million dollars for local projects for government funding packages throughout the district in Queens and Brooklyn.
- Announced \$450,000 for renovations and improve accessibility and building efficiency is Sunnyside community Services.
- Announced that she has a list of all the Queens organizations that received funding should anyone be interested.
- Q & A

0:51:15 Victoria Leahy, Representing New York State Assembly Member Steven Raga

provided the following update:

- Announced that currently the Assembly Member is conferencing their one house budget resolution.
- Advocating for crucial inclusions like climate resiliency infrastructure and funding for programs to push back on the governor's proposed cuts to hold harmless funding to our Public Schools as well as funding in district projects like Ali Forney Center and the inclusion of the Mitchell Lama repair fund.
- Introduced a number of new bills, one including 9051 which would require a study of the Guardian at **Leum Program** which is a vital program that helps litigants resolve landlord tenant conflicts in court.
- Their office will offer free tax prep services to those constituents who make under %59,000 or less. This will start in the middle of March and run through tax prep season. They will be hosted on Saturdays.
- Announced on March 23, 2024, at 1:00 pm, they will be hosting their annual Woman of Distinction Awards at Elmhurst Hospital. RSVP will be required.
- Q & A

0:54:48 Brenda Quinio, Representing New York State Assembly Member Juan Ardila provided the following update:

- Announced the Assembly Member attended the 25th Annual St. Pats for All Parade.
- In Albany, the Assembly Member has been meeting with labor unions environmental advocates and more while pushing for a fair and equitable state budget.
- He has signed onto budget letters that call for an undoing of the proposed changes to Foundation Aid so that our schools remain fully funded.
- Allocated \$250 million for housing access voucher programs.
- \$40 million for Homeowners Protection Program.
- \$5 million for runaway and homeless youth programs.
- \$200 million for the Child Victims Act.
- Enhance affordable housing standards and prevailing wages to be included in any housing package that replaces 421-a.
- \$150 million for emergency food programs.
- Expanding funding for childcare providers and facility enrollment programs rejecting cuts to Medicaid while increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for our hospitals and more.
- The member has signed onto letters to leadership demanding that the one house budget includes funding for climate change Superfund Act.
- \$600 million for Clean Water Infrastructure.
- \$200 million in storm water grants

- \$100 million for full day pre-K programing
- Tier Six Reform and other vital legislation that will keep New York Affordable safe and climate change ready for those who live, work and do business here.
- Their office is looking for outstanding honor students in our community. If anyone knows of someone who fits this description, please submit their name.
- Email: quiniob@nyassembly.gov
- Contact their office at (718) 784-3194.
- Q & A

0:57:14 Farah Salam, Representing New York City Council Member Julie Won discussed the following:

- Announced they were happy to have honored the 25th Anniversary of the St. Pats for All Parade with a street co-naming and also honored the organizers.
- Thanked Borough President Donovan Richards and his team for sharing the news about the South Outer Roadway.
- Announced their office has also providing \$20,000 to ACE for extra rat mitigation services throughout district.
- Let their office know if they there are any residential areas or commercial corridors with a lot of rat activity. File 311 reports as they are actually using the data from 311 to inform ACE.
- Announced the Rat Academy training on March 27, 2024, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Please email their office or use the QR code on the flyer. Everyone who signs up for the webinar will be eligible to receive a free rodent resistant garbage bin.
- Eligible New Yorkers with disabilities or who are over the age of 65 can save money on their rent or on their property taxes. Apply now before the Mach 15, 2024 deadline.
- Hosting a CUNY Law Partnership where they host a housing lawyer once every week to provide one on one constituent services. Contact their office if anyone needs assistance.
- Provided an update on Lt. Michael Davidson Playground. Council Member Won wrote a letter to prioritize completion of the park.
- Council Member Won has been selected to be Co-Chair of the Black Caucus.
- Council Member Won introduced bill number Intro 100 which would suspend alternate side parking on Losar Tibetan New Year.
- Council Member Won has advocated along with 38 other colleagues to allow City Hall's Adult Literacy RFP to open it to organizations serving tens of thousands of New Yorkers with limited English proficiency including asylum seekers.
- If anyone has any questions, please email their office.

- Q & A

1:07:29 Judy Zangwill, Sunnyside Community Services provided the following update:

- Provided an update about the Adult Literacy RFP. DYCD designated neighborhood target areas and most of western Queens was left out. It has had a profound effect on Sunnyside Community Services.
- Thanked Council Member Won as she has taken the lead with this and there has been a lot of advocacy to change this.
- Doing everything, they can to provide service.
- Thanked Congresswoman Velasquez for allocating \$450,000 for capital improvements.
- Thanked Borough President Donovan Richards for allocating \$100,000 for capital improvements.
- Provided an update for the victims of the fire in Sunnyside. SCS started a Go Fund me and those funds have been distributed to most of the residents. There are still nine residents that haven't picked up their checks. They raised \$155,876.
- SCS will be hosting a career day at Queens Tech on April 12, 2024.
- Q & A

1:10:38 Asif Ali, Woodside on the Move provided the following update:

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- Hosted a variety of workshops such as Know Your Rights, Legal Clinics, Housing, Social Services Programs, every Tuesday.
- Social Services workshop will take place on March 12, 2024.
- March 9, 2024, they will be hosting a food distribution in Little Manilla at the corner of Roosevelt Avenue and 69th Street at 12:00 pm
- March 16, 2024, they will be doing graffiti removal for local small business in Woodside and are looking for volunteers.
- March 23, 2024, they will be hosting an Easter Carnival at PS 11 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- February 6, 2024, their office will help senior apply for housing through Housing Connect.

1:11:55 Adam Dobrzynski, NYC Department of Sanitation provided an update on the following:

- Commercial Waste Containerization requirement for all businesses effective March 1, 2024.
- This does not apply to businesses that use loading docks. It does not pertain to recyclables.
- They will be holding info sessions regarding the containerization. All businesses in NYC must use bins with secure lids. For more information visit nyc.gov/usebins or call 311.
- Q & A

Public Comment

1:22:04 Corry Hannigan, resident of Woodside, and Active Transportation Program Manager at Tri State Transportation Campaign Supports the proposal resolution for dedicated bus lanes in CB 2.

1:04:58 Many Gomez requested the Board table the motion and to pass a real public hearing ad stated there is no reason to extend the Long Island City BID Expansion.

1:27:30 Patricia Dorfman requested the board table the Long Island City BID Expansion.

1:32:42 ULURP 58-75 Queens Midtown Expressway Rezoning – CEQR: 24DCP014Q

1:33:05 Joseph Sbarro, Akerman LLP introduced his colleague **Steve Sinacori** and provided an presentation on the application and provided the following information:

- Represent the applicant Lucky Supply.
- Zoning Change from M1-1 (1.0 FAR) to M1-4 (2.0 FAR)
- Maspeth Industrial Business Zone IBZ
- Enlargement of Lucky Supply, wholesale restaurant business.
- Increases onsite inventory storage, reducing incoming deliveries.
- Q & A

1:45:37 Long Island City Business Improvement District Expansion

1:45:54 Laura Rothrock introduced her colleagues and provided a power point presentation for the Long Island City Business Improvement District BID Expansion.

- Discussed the highlights and some clarifying points and questions that came up at the recent Land Use and Housing Committee Meeting.
- The BID is an organization where property owners pay an additional assessment, and it is a public private partnership. Four elected officials sit on their board of directors.
- The BID provides supplemental services such as sanitation, beautification, holiday lighting. It was formed in 2005 and expanded in 2017.
- There is a north subdistrict and south subdistrict, and each have their own service budget but shared management and administrative costs.
- Total assessment budget of \$1 million, capped by law.
- They are hoping to start providing services this July.
- Q & A

1:56:45 Public Comment – Long Island City Business Improvement District Expansion

1:56:46 Inaudible public comment

2:01:41 Maya Brewster Dorian spoke in favor of the BID Expansion.

2:02:38 Navid Moradi spoke in favor of the BID Expansion

2:04:52 Edjo Wheeler spoke about the BID Expansion and spoke about the arts and culture sector. Wants to make sure that we have proper representation and there is currently no organization at the top of the spear for arts and culture in Western Queens. Want to make sure arts and culture is properly represented while we figure out what we are doing with the \$10 million dollars and want to make sure we are not forgotten.

2:31:20: Transition to Board Business

2:31:54 Attendance

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|-----------------------|-----|
| • Board Members Present: | 30 | Board Members Absent: | 16 |
| • Unexcused: | 11 | Excused: | 5 |
| | | Quorum: | Yes |

2:35:05 Motion to approve the February 1, 2024, CB 2 Meeting Minutes
(Motion made by Laura Shepard to table the vote on the minutes. They will be revised and voted on next month).

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/queenscb2/meetings/meeting-agendas-minutes.page>

2:35:49 Chairperson's Report (Anatole Ashraf) provided the following update:

- Thanked Warren Davis, Tannia Chavez and Somnath Ghimire and the GPK Foundation for pulling off a successful CB 2 coat drive on February 24, 2024. They delivered 15 bags of coats socks and winter gear.
- Warren and Tannia thanked all for their support and to make it a successful drive.
- Thanked all for those who participated in the St. Pat's for All Parade event.
- Thanked all for the accomplishments, committee assignments and Hybrid meetings. There much more to do.

2:39:39 Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager provided the following update:

- Thanked Mark Moss and his team.
- Thanked Anatole Ashraf and Patrick Martinez and the technology team for the technology expertise and working together with Sunnyside Community Services to execute tonight's hybrid meeting.
- Thanked Sunnyside Community Services and their technology team.
- Thanked her staff.
- Announced a CB 2 has a new intern from LaGuardia Community College.
- The 108th Council Meeting is March 26, 2024, at 7:00pm here at Sunnyside Community Services.
 - Posted on our website is the NCO build a block meeting for the month of March with the dates and times.
- Remember if you have community complaints, quality of life issues please submit to the CB2 board office for follow up send CB2 an email.
- Reminded everyone that CB 2 holds a District Service Cabinet Meeting each month.
- Community board 2 attended an update by the MTA on the repairs of the #7 train line. The anticipated completion will be 2026.

- CB 2 had approximately 12 complaints for the month of February 2024.
 - The top complaints were:
 - Department of sanitation
 - Graffiti, blocking sidewalks, abandon vehicles.
 - Department of transportation
 - Signage, signals, potholes
 - Parks
- DSNY as of March 1, 2024, all businesses must use bins with secure lids.
- Happy St. Patrick's Day, Happy Women's History, Happy Easter, Happy Ramadan.
- The Next Community Board 2 Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 6:30pm.

2:43:08 Department of City Planning (Bri Mejia) provided the following update:

- Provided an update on the City of Yes for the Zoning for Economic Opportunity has passed.
- They are no focusing on what's coming up which is City of Yes - Housing Opportunity. This is scheduled to go up for review in the spring. And is expected to be brought to the council for a vote by the end of this year. Encouraged all to keep attending the informational sessions scheduled each month.
- The next one will take place on March 27, 2024, and another one on April 17, 2024.
- Visit their website at: www.nyc.gov/planning.
- Discussed the One LIC Plan and they are currently in the process of organizing the next town hall meeting.
- They are collecting and analyzing all the data from the previous focus area meetings and preparing materials for the next round. The meeting will be held at Jacob Riss Settlement Center.
- Q & A

2:47:41 Reilly Owens, Chair, Transportation Committee provided the following update:

- Reported at the February meeting the MTA presented the proposed final plan for the Queens Bus Network redesign. There was a plan to highlight corridors within our district that needed bus priority.

Motion to approve the resolution for the Queens Bus Network Redesign on two priority corridors identified within CB 2 by the MTA in the Queens Bus Network Redesign: Northern Boulevard West and Queens Boulevard; and in addition to study the implementation of dedicated bus infrastructure or bus lanes on the Long Island Expressway, in the Queens Midtown Tunnel and on the Queensboro Bridge.

(Motion made by Sheila Lewandowski and seconded by Laura Shepard to approve the MTA Bus Plan

Motion carried: All in favor of the motion with 32 in favor of the motion; one (1) opposed and no (0) abstentions.

2:51:35 Christine Hunter, Land Use and Housing Committee provided the following update:

- The Arts & Cultural Committee and the Land Use and Housing Committee have worked extensively to develop these draft guidelines document which would govern in the future the space we have been committed to by the developer at 23-10 Queens Plaza South. It is a thorough document which outlines the size, that its irrevocable, that the developer will foot the costs of the administration, the furnishing and the administration of the space.
- The mission of this space is to meet the ongoing shared community space needs of Community Board 2 district and other neighboring areas as needed, prioritizing the accommodation and support of local Arts, Culture and Community Groups. This shall be a multi-purpose space for community benefit. It is intended for entities who neither own their own space in which to operate, nor have the budget to pay for leased space.

Motion to support the draft document Guidelines for 23-10 Queens Plaza south with the following friendly amendments:

- The ceiling height should be mentioned and amount of power that is needed.
- maintenance should be in perpetuity instead of life of the project.
- The developer in consultation with community board shall select, we want to make sure the control stays within the community.
- We want to make sure that the administrator that is hired would have to furnish on whatever basis we want it, semi-annually data about how is using it and how it is being used for the board's review.

(Motion made by Lisa Deller and seconded by Anatole Ashraf)

Motion carried: All in favor of the motion with (0) opposed and (0) Abstention.

3:02:33 ULURP 58-75 Queens Midtown Expressway Rezoning

(Motion made to approve by Lisa Deller and seconded by Danielle Brecker)

Tom Mituzas made a friendly amendment that the developer looks at opportunities to mitigate water entering our water system to include green infrastructure and on-site infrastructure and detention.

Motion carried: All in favor of the motion with (0) opposed and (0) Abstention.

3:09:22 Christine Hunter announced that both Alexis Wheeler and Teal Delys have left the Department of City Planning.

3:11:23 Long Island City Business Improvement District Expansion of the BID in two separate subdistricts with the stipulation that we want more participation by tenants of the new east expansion.

3:23:07 Motion to table by Morry Galonoy and seconded by Tannia Chavez)
(Motion did not carry)

(Motion made to approve the BID Expansion with the stipulation agreed on by the Land Use Committee Meeting by Nicholas Berkowitz and seconded by Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos)

Motion carried: All were in favor of the motion with (20) voting in favor; (12) opposed and (1) Abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

CB 2 Staff

Reviewed/Revised and approved for distribution by:

_X_Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, CB2

_Ryan Smith, Secretary, CB 2

_X_Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, CB 2

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