



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>

Revised as of March 8, 2024

February 1, 2024

Queens Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held in person and teleconferenced on Zoom.

Board Members – Present: *Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia, Ann Marie Baranowski, Karesia Batan, Kat Bloomfield, Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Osman Chowdhury, Morry Galonoy, Somnath Ghimire, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Kenneth Greenberg, Mohammad Hossen, Christine Hunter, Lelin Kandel, Diana Kichler, Prameet Kumar, Chhemang Lama, Sheila Lewandowski, Benjamin Lucas, Patrick Martinez, Eric Narburgh, Zeeshan Ott, Reilly Owens, Oumaya Saab, Norberto Saldana Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Lauren Springer, Akello Thomas, Leticia Vasquez,*

Board Members – Absent:

Unexcused: *Nicholas Berkowitz, Kelly Craig, Kalsang Yangtso*

Excused: **Amparo Abel-Bey (PV), Nellie Afshar (PV), Tannia Chavez, Stephen Cooper, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Camille Gray (PV), Badrun Khan, Thomas Mituzas, Phuntsok Tashi, Mary Torres*

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

Community Board 2 Public Members

Seth Slade, Patrica Pan (PV)

Elected Officials/Representatives

*Honorable New York State Senator Kristen Gonzalez
Samantha Johnson, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez
Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris
Victoria Leahy, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga*

*Nathalie Rajaban, Representing NY State Assembly Member Juan Ardila
Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won
Claire Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Javier Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz*

Department of City Planning

John O'Neill, Bri Mejia

Sunnyside Community Services

David Espinosa

Guests

*Asif Ali, Representing Woodside on the Move
Charles Yu, LIC Partnership
Henry Smith, LIC Partnership
Deborah Howes*

Public Comment

*Corey Hannigan, TSTC
Raphael Schweizer, Comic Store Tour
Christine Kim, Animal Care Centers of NYC*

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)

0:00:18 Queens CB 2 Chairperson Anatole Ashraf welcomed everyone to the CB 2 Meeting at Sunnyside Community Services.

0:00:27 Pledge of Allegiance

0:01:00 Senator Kristen Gonzelez, NY State Senator provided the following update.

- Wished all a happy new year.
- Started legislative session.
- Reported on the Governor's State of the State and then the Executive Budget was introduced announced she will be working on negotiations this budget session.
- Announced the Young Achievers Program and if anyone had someone they would like to nominate to reach out to their office.
- She announced her office is preparing budget letters and if anyone would like to know about their submission to reach out to their office.
- Q & A

0:15:30 David Espinosa, Sunnyside Community Services provided the following update:

- The Department of Youth and Community Development are requesting a new request for proposal for their adult literacy program. The new proposal leaves out western Queens. SCS would be unable to apply in this RFP process. SCS is seeking a letter of support from CB 2 to be sent to the DYCD Commissioner Howard to have this new RFP reconsidered.

0:20:27 Samantha Johnson, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez provided the following update:

- Discussed the SBA Loan and the deadline is tomorrow for the physical damage on September 4 is the deadline for the Economic Recovery for the injury loan.
- Provided a recap of their Community Project Funding that was submitted.
- The Congresswoman is fighting in Washington to ensure that budget is passed.
- The Congresswoman is also proposing is \$650,00 for the Department of Environmental Protection for the Dutch Kills Shoreline to reconstruct the eroded bulkheads as well as the salt marsh, on 29th Street in LIC and announced \$16,000 for Sunnyside District Management Association to help with the street scape in Sunnyside.
- Discussed the watershed in Newtown Creek.
- The congresswoman has been fighting and working with Congresswoman Clark to ensure that there is some conversation and federal push for AMI to be adjusted. It is called the Income Fairness Act.
- Q & A

0:29:55 Mercedes Jennings, Representing New York State Senator Michael Gianaris discussed the following:

- Announced session has started this month.

- Senator Gianaris is working with the State Budget, and he's spoken about how the governor's housing proposal is too developer friendly and is pushing his Affordability Bill and is hoping it passes and is also fighting for the tenants of our district.
- He made a recent comment about the high court transparency that is needed. He pointed out that such speeding was wrongly exempt from disclosure and wrote a bill to close the loophole, which was vetoed by the Governor because it was passed the deadline. He is pushing it again this session.
- March 4, 2024, the State Senators are going to be presenting their Women of Distinction Awards.
- Will make the announcement at the next meeting in March, if not April.
- Their office also presents awards to High School Students in the district.
- Their office attended today's legislative brunch at D30 giving representation and a special support to the new superintendent Lisa Helado.
- Q & A

0:32:24 Victoria Leahy, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga provided the following update:

- Discussed Bill 8909 which would require NYC Public Schools to offer Halal School Lunch meal options.
- Recently introduced a Bill that would limit the amount of time that government agencies have to respond to FOIL Requests.
- Discussed two major capital investment campaigns for the district, in the Ali Forny Center and working to establish the Mitchell Lama Repair Fund.
- Q & A

0:35:01 Natalie Rajabian representing New York State Assembly Member Juan Ardila provided the following update:

- The Assembly Member has been actively present in Albany advocating for policies that reflect the values and priorities of our community and working to enact positive change for the betterment of the district.
- Co-sponsored bill which includes the New Deal for Education Legislative Package.
- Co-sponsored and signed onto A1559 which would require Public Pre-K elementary and secondary schools to establish age-appropriate courses on climate education through the lens of environmental justice.
- Co-sponsored legislation that helps make sure hospitals are properly reimbursed for providing Medicaid services.

- Singed onto the Smoke out Act which will give local authorities the ability to permanently close illegally operating pot shops in our district.
- Announced they have introduced Saturday office hours from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm.
- Their office is working on a fire safety event.
- Recently they attended the Queens Community Education Council 24 and 30 meetings,
- If anyone has any concerns, they may reach out to their office.

0:387:29 Farah Salam, Representing New York City Council Member Julie Won discussed the following:

- Announced the Long Island City Focus Area meeting will take place on February 8, 2024, which focuses on Economic Development, Arts and Culture and Community Resources. Encouraged everyone to attend at Jacob Riis Houses at 7:00 pm. For more information, reach out to their office or visit their website.
- Provided an information on legislative updates. Council Member Won was reappointed as the Chair of Contracts.
- Council Member Won has been doing oversight in the past with DHS and making sure the newly arrived Asylum Seekers are getting the resources they need through city resources.
- Council Member Won voted yes to override the mayor's veto to make sure we end solitary confinement and support the How Many Stops Act so there is greater transparency and accountability in the NYPD.
- Applications for 3 K and Pre-K are currently open. If anyone needs to apply, they are encouraging individuals to apply as the applications end on March 1, 2024.
- Budget applications for discretionary funding are open and will close on February 20, 2024.
- Q&A

0:43:57 Claire Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards provided the following update:

- 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 boards throughout the borough. If anyone has any questions, they may reach out to Kahleel Bragg at Kbragg@queensbp.org
- On February 12, 2024, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm they will welcome the Year of the Dragon and host the Lunar New Celebration at Borough Hall.

- On February 15, 2024, from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Their Gender Justice Coordinator will host a stalking prevention and intervention workshop at Borough Hall on Friday,
- On February 23, 2024, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, their office will be hosting a celebration of Dominican Independence at Queens Borough Hall.
- For more information visit their website at: www.queensbp.org.
- Q & A

0:46:15 Javier Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz provided the following update:

- Their office recently hosted a meeting to discuss a Human Trafficking.
- More information can be found in their newsletter.
- They will be hosting Black History Event and Lunar New Year Event.
- Looking for RFP applications to implement into their youth development and crime prevention Program.
- Q & A

0:52:05 Asif Ali, Woodside on the Move provided the following update:

- Held a community clean up to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Next month will be conducting graffiti removal.
- Held Tax Prep for community members.
- Held a virtual legal clinic last month.
- Next month their legal clinic will be in person on the last Wednesday of the month. They will have a housing case manager and a housing attorney during the clinic.
- They held their first in-person Know your rights workshop for tenants and they will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.
- February 6, 2024, their office will help senior apply for housing through Housing Connect.
- Q & A.

0:53:53 Henry Smith, Long Island City Partnership discussed the following:

- Announced that LIC Partnership was awarded \$10 million from the Downtown Revitalization Initiative from Governor Hochul. This is awarded by the state to the neighborhood and LIC Partnership.
- Working on their Lunar New Year initiative to promote Asian and Asian-American businesses.
- Visit their website for more information.
- Q & A

0:56:35 Charles Yu, Long Island City Partnership discussed the following:

- Announced there will be a committee that will be formed, and they will decide where the money would go. Once the committee will be formed there will be period of basically like an RFP process. They are encouraging organizations in the community to apply.
- Q & A

Public Comment

1:03:30 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 housing affordability and HPD's Home First Program was taken off-line with no public notice. Requesting CB 2 pass a resolution for more transparency from HPD on this matter.

1:05:11 Rafael Schwitzer, discussed the Comic Book Store Tour. This is an effort to support comic bookstores.

1:13:17 David Morant discussed his support for the daylighting resolution.

1:14:30 Seth Slade discussed the Hybrid meetings vote. He reported it is not fair to members of the community that you have to show up to this room and wait a long time to make a public comment.

1:16:39 Christine Kim, Board of Directors, Animal Care Centers of New York announced organization will be opening a new care center in Queens, which will be opening this spring and will be located in 1906 Flushing Avenue, Ridgewood, NY.

1:20:39 Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, CB 2 Board Member announced that on April 2, 2024, at 10:00 am until 4:30 pm, the Woodside Community Library will be hosting an ARP Smart Driver Class which is a defensive driving course.

1:22:55 Department of Transportation – 47-25 34th Street – ULURP #2020Q0Q0275 – DOT Site Selection and Acquisition for 47-25 34th Street

- Deborah Howes provided a power point presentation and discussed the following: Project site and DOT Programs, expansion and relocation of DOT Units, description of surrounding area and project site, description of the proposed project, fair share analysis CEQR EAS, and summary. They will look into the issue of planting street trees.
- Q & A

1:41:52 CITY OF YES FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY TEXT AMENDMENT

1:42:32 Bri Mejia, Department of City Planning provided the following update:

- Introduced her colleague, John O'Neill.

- Presented a power point presentation on the City of Yes for Economic Opportunity Text Amendment.
- Q & A

2:32:46: Transition to Board Business

2:32:48 Attendance

- Board Members Present: 32 Board Members Absent: 13
 - Unexcused: 4 Excused: 9 Quorum: Yes

2:25:53 Motion to approve the January 4, 2024, CB 2 Meeting Minutes

(Motion made by Akello Thomas and seconded by Carlos Castell Croke

Motion carried: All in favor of the motion with none (0) opposed and no (4) abstentions.

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

2:36:56 Chairperson's Report (Anatole Ashraf) provided the following update:

- Provided an update on the last Executive Committee Meeting.
- Discussed the Hybrid Meeting Policy.
- Discussed Public Members and that applications will be sent out after the new Board Members have been appointed.
- Will do a checking survey for current board members and assigned committees.

2:39:28 Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager provided the following update:

- 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 by February 16, 2024.
- Announced she attended the Borough Presidents Preliminary Budget Hearing.
- Reminded everyone to report any complaints to CB 2.
- CB2 had approximately 27 complaints for the month of January. The top complaints were:
 - Department of Sanitation
 - NYPD -4
 - Graffiti, blocking sidewalks, abandon vehicles.
 - Department of Transportation
 - Signage, signals, potholes
 - Open construction site
 - MTA
 - DOB
- Announced the DOS has announced that as of March 1, 2024, all businesses must use bins with secure lids.

- Requested offered heartfelt condolences and requested a moment of silence for former Council Member Paul Vallone.
- Announced DA Katz has indicated she will be a guest speaker possibly between our March and May meeting.
- We all work together for the good of the community.
- Reminded all Committee chairs to get their agendas in on a timely manner.
- Thanked her staff for their hard work.
- CB2 continues to post more information on our Facebook, and website.

2:43:12 Department of City Planning (Bri Mejia) provided the following update:

- Provided an update on the One LIC Plan and general updates about zoning for Housing Opportunity.
- Announced the next round of our focused area meetings for the One LIC study will take place on February 8, 2024, meetings will be from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The meetings will take place at the Jacob Riis Settlement Center. Will be focused on economic development, arts and community resources.
- Announced the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity will have sessions that will be virtual. The first session was on the 30th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. This covered the universal affordability preference. There are going to be one for each month. There is one on March 27, 2024, and April 17, 2024. He recommends checking out the website.
- Q & A

2:49:36 Christine Hunter, Land Use and Housing Committee provided the following update:

Department of Transportation – 47-25 34th Street – ULURP #2020Q0Q0275 – DOT Site Selection and Acquisition for 47-25 34th Street

Motion to approve the application with the stipulation that they include in their lease that the landlord add more street trees.

(Motion made by Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos and it was seconded by Patrick Martinez)

Motion carried: All in favor of the motion with none (0) opposed and no (0) abstentions.

2:53:11 City of Yes for Economic Opportunity

Motion to support the application with the following stipulations:

- #9 Nightlife – All current regulations regarding noise and property damage must be strictly enforced. This stipulation aims to safeguard community well-being, public safety, and the overall quality of life for residents.
- #13 Auto Repair Shops – The establishment of new auto repair businesses in transit zones or on Vision Zero priority corridors should be restricted at the time of new applications. This stipulation is aimed to regulate the placement of such businesses to align with transportation and safety priorities.

- #14 Micro-distribution – New micro-distribution facilities shall not be located any closer than 1000 feet apart from one another. This stipulation aims to prevent the displacement of other businesses and community organizations by micro-distribution facilities.
- #15 Campus Commercial – A mechanism for review and approval by a vote of campus residents shall be added to the Special Permit procedure and shall be binding. This stipulation aims to ensure that developments targeting campus areas, particularly those like NYCHA, have the support of the residents within those communities.

(Motion made by Ryan Smith and seconded by Kat Bloomfield)

Motion carried: All in favor of the motion with 27 In favor of the motion; (3) opposed and (0) abstentions.

3:38:32 Anatole Ashraf discussed the Resolution on the Hybrid Meeting Policy

(Motion made by Sheila Lewandowski and seconded by Christine Hunter to support the resolution)

Motion carried: All in favor of the motion with (1) opposed and (0) Abstention.

3:40:31 Laura Shepard, Environment, Parks & Recreation Committee discussed the following recommendations:

Advocacy to get Porous Pavement in Sunnyside Gardens to prevent flooding.

(Motion made by Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos and seconded by Morry Galonoy to support for more areas and to pursue more green infrastructure)

Christine Hunter made a motion to table this resolution pending a more detailed presentation on the technical feasibility of the proposed green infrastructure. No vote was taken.

Resolution in Support of 1% for NYC Parks Funding campaign.

(Motion made by Kat Bloomfield and seconded by Anatole Ashraf to support the resolution.

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

(Motion made by Reilly Owens and seconded by Laura Shepard to call on NYC to implement universal intersection and daylighting by appealing the city's exemption to the NY State Law that forbids vehicle parking within 20 feet of a crosswalk.

Motion carried: The vote was (27) in favor of the motion; two (2) Opposed and (1) one abstention.

Morry Galonoy made a motion, and it was seconded by Sheila Lewandowski to adjourn the meeting.

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

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