



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

Revised

September 12, 2024

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held in person and teleconferenced on Zoom

Community Board 2 Board Members – Present

Amparo Abel-Bey, Nellie Afshar, Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia, Ann Marie Baranowski, Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Lisa Charles (PV), Osman Chowdhury, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Morry Galonoy, Somnath Ghimire, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Alexandra Gonzalez, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Mohammad Hossen, Christine Hunter, Lelin Kandel, Badrun Khan (PV), James Kim (PV), Prameet Kumar, Thomas Mituzas, Eric Narburgh, Andrea Olivares, Zeeshan Ott (PV), Jolly Patel, Reilly Owens, Oumaya Saab (PV), Norberto Saldana, Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Akello Thomas (PV), Leticia Vasquez, Michael Zoorob

Community Board 2 Board Members – Absent

Unexcused:

Karesia Batan, Benjamin Lucas, Patrick Martinez,

Excused:

Nicholas Berkowitz, Kat Bloomfield, Tannia Chavez, Stephen Cooper, Diana Kichler, Chhemang Lama, Sheila Lewandowski, Lauren Springer, Mary Torres, Mai Tran

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

Elected Officials/Representatives

Honorable Steven Raga, NY State Assembly Member

Honorable Julie Won, New York City Council Member

Tiffany Echevarria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velaquez

Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng

Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris

Katherine Demny, Representing NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez

Issac Blasenstein, Representing NYC Council Member Julie Won

*Jamey Battle, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga
Clare Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Javier Figoroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz*

Department of City Planning

Katherine Crawford, Hye-Kyung Yang, Lara Merida

Sunnyside Community Services

Monica Guzman

Guests

*Henry Smith, Long Island City Partnership, Matt Dienstag, LeNoble Lumber, Hannah Engler,
Mandana Limbert, Bill Kregler, Leo Guttman, Victoria Mayo, Irina Costache*

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)

0:01:18 Anatole Ashraf welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided housekeeping rules and reminded everyone their vote is their opinion. He requested everyone follow the WAIT Rule, (Why Am I Talking).

0:01:21 Pledge of Allegiance

0:02:35 Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, provided the following update

- Announced on October 15, 2024, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, their office will be hosting the next Veterans Affairs in Take Day the VFW Post 551. Representatives from VA will help Veterans apply for benefits and help them with any questions. The address is 61-55 69, Street, Middle, Village, NY

0:03:49 Tiffany Echevarria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez provided the following update:

- Announced the Texture Protective Act which will incentivize educational training in cosmetology schools.
- Announced the Liver Illness, Visibility, Education and Research (LIVER) Act.
- Announced on August 1, 2024, the Congresswoman held an event at LaGuardia Community College.
- Thanked Community Board 2 Chairperson and the Chair of the Small Business and Local Economy.
- Announced the Corporate Transparency Act. The deadline is January 1, 2025.

0:06:17 Mercedes Jennings, Representing New York State Senator Michael Gianaris provided the following update:

- Announced Senator Gianaris was present on Sunday, with Council Member Julie Won's office to pay homage and honor to Ann Cotton Morris. The street was 50th Street and 31st Avenue.
- Announced their office conducted an ID DMV event. Will be conducting another event at the Broadway library on September 26, 2024 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
- Announced their office is located at 45-02 Ditmars Boulevard.

0:08:04 Honorable Steven Raga, New York State Assembly Member provided the following update:

- Thanked everyone for their continued hard work.
- Reported his office held four community cleanups over the summer across the district. There will be one in September and one in October.
- Reported his office distributed over 400 school supplies and backpacks across our district. Thanked all partners.
- Reported his office hosted 20 mobile office hour sessions across our district in Maspeth and held three community workshops over the summer as well as a Mental Health session for Mental Health Awareness Month.
- Reported his office held a legal clinic for tenants and held two rain barrel giveaway events and thanked NY State Senator Gianaris and Council Member Won for their partnership.
- Reported his office held a paper shredding event and held a Youth Appreciation Day in August.
- Stated his team's priorities are prioritizing constituent cases, but also addressing Health Services in the district.
- Announced this is his second year working with Weill Cornell Medicine to help do studies within our district regarding air quality.

- Announced the following upcoming events: On Saturday, his office will be hosting their second Annual Health Fair. This is going to be on Woodside Avenue and 61st Street, from 12:00 to 3:00 pm. On September 28, 2024, his office will be hosting their second annual Hispanic Heritage Month. This will be in the Worlds Boro book shop in Jackson Heights.
- Announced they we will be hosting a workshop for nonprofits.
- Reported there have been a few fires within the district. His office has been working with the Red Cross recently to help install free smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Announced the next remote office hours in Woodside will be held on September 20,2024 on Woodside Avenue and 59th Street.
- Announced he is now on the Executive Board of the Black Puerto Rican Hispanic Asian Caucus and serving as Chaplain. He is also still part of the Puerto Rican Hispanic Task Force and the Asian Pacific American Task Force.
- Announced a big budget victory and that he is trying to get funding for Mitchell Lama's, such as Big Six.
- Reported he is working with the governor's team in helping to secure \$27.5 million dollars for Elmhurst Hospital.
- Q & A

0:24:29 Honorable Julie Won, NYC Council Member provided the following update:

- Reported that her office distributed over 1,700 backpacks to students in the district and thanked all those who have donated.
- Reported her office gave away 100 rain barrels in partnership with Assembly Member Raga and Senator Gianaris's office.
- Hosted several Movie Nights this summer, in partnership with parks and our public parks for legislation.
- For Legislation, she announced the following hearings coming up. As the Chair of the Contracts Committee, Council Member Won reported they are having a hearing on September 30, 2024, on school bus contracts, with Department of Education now known as New York City Schools, another hearing coming up in October in partnership with the committee on contracts, the Committee on Small Business Services, as well as the committee on DSNY Department of Sanitation on the new containerization requirements in our city.
- Announced the budget passed in June and she fought hard to secure funding for CUNY, Libraries, Parks and Schools.
- Announced a newsletter that goes out to everyone in the fall will have the itemized breakdowns and it will be on their website.
- Announced that she allocated an additional \$43,000 for weekly rat mitigation services in the district.
- Announced her office was able to get these new containerization bins for Lou Lodati and for the Green Market areas, as well as Noonan and those will be delivered sometime this year.

- Announced Participatory Budgeting is back and is encouraging students in the district to participate.
- Reported that she conducted a walk through at the site where Jael Zhinin, the 16-year-old that was killed along with her sister who was badly injured outside of IS 125 with the Queens Borough Commissioner's Office.
- Reported that due to the multiple crashes and fatalities there she will be introducing a bill for Universal Daylighting in the coming weeks.
- Thanked all for their advocacy and thanked Isacc Blasenstein, Legislative Director and Land Use Director.
- Provided an update on the OneLIC.
- Q & A

0:54:45 Representative from New York State Senator Kristen Gonzalez's provided the following update:

- Announced the Senator made the cover of the City and State under 40 this month.
- The Senator joined the OneLIC Scoping meeting on September 12, 2024, to call for an inclusion of the maximum amount of deeply affordable housing in this plan, as well as essential infrastructure upgrades and a fully connected accessible Waterfront, including plentiful green space and climate resilient infrastructure.
- Gave away 1,200 backpacks to students.
- Celebrated the graduation of the Green City Force Cohort and are excited for their work in sustainability.
- Joined the MTA to celebrate the end of the Phase Three G train improvements and the reopening of the G train from Court Square to Church Street and to advocate for more modernization across our system and MTA upgrades.
- Looking into the Midtown Tunnel and working with city agencies to understand what happened and requiring city and state agencies and what safeguards we can put in place.
- Legislatively, they are working very hard to get the governor to sign many of their bills, especially the Loading Act and the other bill is a fight against excessive noise from non-essential, helicopter and sea planes that affect both sides of our district.
- Q & A

0:59:22 Clare Collins, Representing Queen Borough President Donovan Richards provided the following update:

- Announced the 2024 Community Board Demographic Report is available on their website: at www.queensbp.nyc.gov
- Announced September 17, 2024, at 6:00 pm their office will be hosting Mexican Independence Day Celebration at Queensboro Hall
- Announced on September 28, 2024 at 4:00 pm they will be hosting the Queens Climate Expo at the Hall of Science, and they will also be hosting a Young Adult Professional Mixer at Kiko Studios at 6 pm.

- September 30, 2024, at 5:00 pm, they will be hosting the Queens High School Fair.

1:00:56 Javier Figoroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz provided the following update:

- Announced the DA's office shut down an illegal cannabis dispensary that was operating out of a converted school bus on the corner of 43rd and Queens Boulevard.
- District Attorney Katz has also finalized her RFP's or request for proposals for Youth Development and crime prevention programs.
- District Attorney Katz has given \$100,000 or \$50,000 a year to the Sunnyside Community Services Center in Woodside Houses to implement various Youth Development programs to not only engage with our youth, but most of all to keep them out of our Criminal Justice System.
- Q & A

1:02:44 Monica Guzman, Sunnyside Community Services provided the following update:

- Announced Council Member Julie Won and the rest of the Council was able to restore the funding to deliver English classes to over 400 New Yorkers beginning in a month.
- Announced SCS will be hosting a jazz concert on Saturday, September 21, 2024, at 2 pm. Information is on their website and on social media.
- Announced on October 26, 2024, the 8th Annual Sunnyside Postmile Run/Walk fundraiser will take place. This event supports programs that are underfunded at Sunnyside Community Services.
- Announced this year they will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary.
- Thanked all for their continued support and partnership.

1:05:00 Public Comment

1:05:21 Matt Dienstag, LeNoble Lumber

Discussed the redesign of the intersection of Greenpoint, Avenue and Van Dam and Review by the bridge is welcome and long in coming. The proposed narrowing of Review Avenue and Borden Avenue to install dedicated and protected bike Lanes needs another look. They are completely industrial streets, already congested with heavy truck traffic trailers, backing into and pulling out of loading docks trucks having to double park, to make deliveries and pickups forklifts having to enter the street to load and unload trucks. These are not safe streets to funnel bicycle traffic and narrowing these streets will negatively impact all the businesses along this corridor.

1:08:00 Henry Smith, Long Island City Partnership

Discussed Borden Avenue, Starr Avenue redesign and streetscape improvements. Heard from businesses in the area that the existing plans will interrupt business operations and they are not

confident that it will improve the safety in the area due to the high truck traffic of the industrial businesses.

1:20:08 Mandana Limbert

Resident of Court Square discussed the toll that the scale of overdevelopment along Jackson Avenue and Queens Plaza. She discussed the lack of almost no open space and almost no control overshadows and the local law 1065 passed just last year, mandates that the city planned to increase its tree canopy to 30%. Yet the tree canopy in Court Square is at about zero to 10 and in an article published in Gothamist earlier this year, documenting each new tree planted and planned to be planted this year, there were none in Court Square and to further the degradation and instead of working toward environmental repair, the draft scope of work projects 50 to 65 new high higher and highest Towers High higher and highest they are purposely vague.

1:25:00 Victoria Mayo, Office Manager, Pursuit

Discussed a new migrant shelter which houses about a thousand people just across the street from their facility. She reported issues of concern that have come up in the neighborhood. One woman in their program who was physically assaulted just around the corner on Skillman Avenue and another gentleman from their office was followed by a group of men yelling homophobic slurs and making threats on his life. A handful of women from their office have had men expose themselves to them on the street and just a lot of concerning behaviors. She thanked Council Member Julie Won's office for their assistance.

1:27:48 Katie Crawford, Department of City Planning provided an update on the Long Island City Neighborhood Plan - Draft Scope of Work for the OneLIC.

- Thanked Council Member Won.
- Provided an overview and power point presentation of the plan, background, planning process and overview and timeline, draft scope of work, next steps, public comment and Q & A.
- The project area is generally bounded by Queens Plaza South to the North Court Square to the West 44th drive to the South and the East River to the West.
- The draft zoning proposal and the draft strategies were released at the June Town Hall. Then the next step was to release the draft scope of work.

1:40: 10 Public Comment

1:40:12 Leo Guttman spoke about his support and excitement about a plan that can create new homes for many New Yorkers, who really need them.

1:42:19 Corey Hannigan, resident of Sunnyside and public member on the CBT Transportation committee spoke in support for this project.

1:44:08 Jenny Dubnau, Western Queens Community Land Trust, spoke about the need for more affordable housing.

1:47:30 Hye-Kyung Yang, Department of City Planning reported the following:

- Thanked CB 2 for the comment letter the Board drafted.
- This is a draft scope of work, and so no full analysis has been done yet, but that is in the work.
- All comments about infrastructure needs and the sewer capacity flooding will be in analysis as we close this chapter of the draft scope of work.
- Will have more detailed analysis to share little by little.
- The context is we're voting on something to help all figure out what to study. This is just a way of communicating something we want you to study.
- Q & A

2:08:05 Lisa Goren, Long Island City Coalition and Hunters Point Community Coalition

- Provided a Vision Plan for the Northern LIC Waterfront introduced her colleague Mr. Salazar, Western Queens Community Land Trust.
- Spoke about the vision plan for resiliency for Hunters Point North that they are promoting which includes the reimagining of the Department of Education building at 44th Drive as the Queensboro People's Space.
- Q & A

2:14:00 Mr. Salazar, Western Queens Community Land Trust

- Spoke about the DOE building being converted into a community hub with artist studio space, rooftop farm, parking for street vendors, etc.
- Q & A

2:21:52 Transition to Board Business

2:22:10: Attendance (Ryan Smith)

Board Members Present: 37

Present Virtual: 7

Excused: 10

Board Members Absent: 13

Quorum: Yes

2:25:22 Motion to approve June 6, 2024, Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

(Motion made by Mohammad Hossen and seconded by Dr. Rosmond Gianutsos and Amparo Abel-Bey) to approve June 6, 2024, Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes. All were in favor with (0) none opposed and one (1) abstention.

2:26:06 Chairperson's Report (Anatole Ashraf) provided the following update:

- Wished all a belated Labor Day, happy beginning of the school year.
- Community Board 2 had a busy summer, and the Personnel committee was busy as we did some administrative tasks.
- Announced Kat Bloomfield did a wonderful job on the Capital Expense Budget Priorities. CB 2 will vote on the Capital and Expense in November.
- CB2 held their summer meet and greet at Ottomanelli's at Hunter Point.
- Thanked Tannia Chavez and Patrick Martinez for organizing the event and thanked every who came.
- Announced calendar invites will be sent out and thanked Debra Markell Kleinert for helping with this.
- Thanked the newsletter committee: Nellie Patrick, Tannia and Mai.
- Announced that he and Patrick Martinez, are working on a digital process document and a new member onboarding document.
- Provided an update about the Check-In-Survey. Some of you responded to this a few months ago. Will resend as he has not heard from everyone.
- Announced a new policy that all committee chairs will have access to the email for their committee members. If someone asks you for a fellow board member's contact information, please let them know. If somebody's asking about someone's contact information from the context of community board relationship, please just check in with them first.
- Announced only the Chair of the community board is allowed to speak to the press unless he delegates someone. If the Press comes to you asking for a quote, please check in with him.
- If you are not on the community board, you are welcome to apply to be a public member of a committee. The deadline is October 4, 2024.

2:31:04 Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager provided the following update:

- Acknowledged a moment of silence for 911 Responders, 23 years ago.
- Reminded everyone that if you have community complaints about quality-of-life issues please submit to the CB 2 Board office for follow-up and send CB2 an email.
- Provided an update on the barbecue vendor on Greenpoint and 46th Street was issued a summons, and the complaint was responded to immediately.
- CB2 thanked Mark and his team from Harish Studios, for their live streaming services.
- Anyone who has changed their information submit your new contact information to the CB2 office.
- Borough Consultations with the agencies has begun.
- CB 2 has had approximately 70 complaints since June
 - The top complaints were DOS, PD, Department of Transportation
- CB2 attended ribbon cutting at Noonan Dog park with the Parks Commissioner, Council Member Won, and Chairman Anatole Ashraf.
- CB2 continues to post more information on our facebook, and website.
- Wished all the school children a happy and safe school year.

- Wished all who celebrate, a Happy Rosh Hashanah.
- The next Community Board 2 meeting will be held on 2nd Thursday, October 10. 2024, at 6:30pm.

2:35:42 Katie Crawford, Department of City Planning provided the following update:

- Announced she will be sharing upcoming engagement events once dates and times are finalized.
- Continuing to conduct Outreach with Community stakeholders of all types. If there is a nonprofit or community group that's interested in speaking with DCP send them her way and she will set up a time to meet and talk about the plan and any concerns.
- Reserved about 30 minutes on each of the Land Use Committee agendas every month to discuss the plan and make sure that there is an open dialogue with the Land Use Committee.

2:37:07 Christine Hunter, Land Use & Housing Committee provided the following update:

- Thanked the Department City Planning for their presentation and for all the meetings held with CB2.
- She announced CB 2 had a very busy summer because we didn't even know until after the last board meeting that this hearing was going to take place in August. It is a complex proposal.
- We looked at the OneLIC EIS Draft Scope of Work and have commented on specific language that we think either needs correcting or amplifying and have advised of some actions and types of analysis that we feel should be handled differently in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.
- A discussion followed
- Q & A

(Motion made by Lisa Deller and seconded by Danielle Brecker) to support the proposed CB 2 Comments on the OneLIC Draft Scope of Work.

Motion carried: The motion carried with (31) thirty-one in favor and (1) one opposed; (0) no abstentions.

3:15:23 Reilly Owens, Transportation Committee provided the following update:

- Announced Queens Boulevard, Street safety improvements and protected bike, lane is starting within two weeks from east to west. Some loading zones were adjusted as they talk to businesses, but the plan remains.
- South Outer roadway is still due waiting on the construction to finish on the upper deck, but DOT is pushing ahead with things that they can do on our side.

- The Blissville Greenway is also moving ahead. It's being installed this fall Laurel Hill Boulevard to Borden Avenue, including the Greenpoint Bridge intersection, some Lane widths and buffer zones were adjusted.

3:16:37 Laura Shepard, Environment, Parks & Recreation Committee provided the following update:

- Reported in June, we had a presentation from the Little Manila Park Improvement Project. CB 2 wrote a letter of support.

3:15:52 Morry Galonoy, Small Business and Local Economy Committee provided the following update:

- Announced we had stakeholders involved in the community, Small Business Leaders organizations, the bids.
- Discussed this new requirement that small businesses will have to register with the Department of United States Government of Financial Crimes Enforcement, and nobody knows about, and small businesses will be fined \$ 500 a day. Worked with Congresswoman Valasquez's office, and there will be a video online about it from her office on how to file.
- The next meeting will take place on September 24, 2024, at 5:00 pm with a representative from LaGuardia Small Business Development Center.
- If people are looking to start a business or have a business already and need ideas, resources, help, counseling for their small business they can come to this meeting and learn more about the resources.
- Lelin Kandel has agreed to be Vice Chair for a small business committee.

3:20:14 A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado

Reviewed/Revised and approved for distribution by:

 X Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, CB 2
 X Ryan Smith, Secretary, CB 2
 X Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

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