



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

December 5, 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 (PV), Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia (PV), Ann Marie Baranowski, Karesia Batan, Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Morry Galonoy, Somnath Ghimire (PV), Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Christine Hunter, Lelin Kandel, Diana Kichler, Prameet Kumar, Sheila Lewandowski, Patrick Martinez, Thomas Mituzas (PV), Eric Narburgh, Andie Olivares (PV), Zeeshan Ott, Reilly Owens, Jolly Patel (PV), Laura Shepard (PV), Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Lauren Springer, Akello Thomas, Leticia Vasquez, Michael Zoorob

Community Board 2 Board Members – Absent

Unexcused:

Nicholas Berkowitz, Kat Bloomfield, Lisa Charles, Mohammad Hossen, Badrun Khan, James Kim, Chhemang Lama, Benjamin Lucas, Oumaya Saab, Mary Torres, Mai Tran

Excused:

Tannia Chavez, Alexandra Gonzalez, Norberto Saldana

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

Elected Officials/Representatives

Honorable Claire Valdez, NY State Assembly Member
Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris
Peyton Schultheis, Representing NYS Senator Kristen Gonzalez
Jamey Battle, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga
Farah Salam, Representing NYC Council Member Julie Won
Javier Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

*Clare Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Megan Yuan, Mayor's Office, CAU*

Department of City Planning

Katherine Crawford, Hye-Kyung Yang, Lara Merida

Sunnyside Community Services

David Espinosa, Sunnyside Community Services

Guests

Public Comment

Vanessa Leong, Ben Robinson

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)

0:01:19 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).

0:01:24 Pledge of Allegiance

0:02:00 Honorable Claire Valdez, New York State Assembly Member newly elected member for District 37 introduced herself. Looks forward to working with everyone.

0:06:14 Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris provided the following update:

- Announced on November 25, 2024, the Senator went to Woodside Houses and distributed turkeys to residents.

- Announced the Senator connected Sunnyside Community Services to several turkeys to be given out to the members of the Sunnyside Community.
- The Senator along with other elected officials have been diligent about following up with Woodside Community Center NYCHA which was supposed to break ground in March, but still have not and they are still in the planning phase.
- Senator Gianaris is pushing to make sure that the funding goes through FEMA and other agencies.
- Senator Gianaris has collaborated with the New York Islanders for December 29, 2024, from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm open to the public. He is doing a community free public skate day at the ice-skating rink at the City Ice Pavillion in LIC.
- Starting in January the Senator will be going back to Albany for Session.
- Reminded everyone if there is any other legislation that they want the Senator to push for while he is there, contact their office.
- Their office is located at 45-02 Ditmars Boulevard.
- Q & A

0:09:39 Jamey Battle, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga provided the following update.

- Thanked all volunteers and the organizations that partnered with their office to distribute turkeys.
- Thanked all those who donated and participated in their Veterans Drive.
- Announced the Assembly Member's Office will be conducting a new sock and toy drive which started on November 25, 2024, until December 16, 2024. Partnering with then on profit Solution to Hunger.
- If anyone has any items, please feel free to stop by their office at 55-19 69th Street.
- Q & A

0:11:02 Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won provided the following update:

- Reported they distributed turkeys in November to folks in the community.
- Announced they are hosting housing appointments for people who need housing assistance and need to see a housing lawyer.
- The Council Member who is Chair of the Contracts Committee worked with Council Member Abrue to do an oversight hearing on the containerization requirements. The Council Member had advocated for support for Sunnyside Shines and LIC Partnerships so they can continue doing the work they do without receiving fines.
- Council Member Won introduced Intro 1114 which creates a capital track for DOT, so the public can review the status of DOT capital projects.
- Announced Council Member Won voted on a modified City of Yes proposal taking into account the investments for the community that she had negotiated for.

- In terms of budget Participatory Budgeting, the idea collection closed out, however they are still accepting delegates. If anyone is interested in being a delegate visit or contact their office.
- Q & A

0:22:44 Clare Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards provided the following update:

- Reminded everyone that the Community Board application process opens on January 7, 2025.
- Announced the Borough President's Office will be holding a toy drive on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm.
- Announced they will be holding their annual tree lighting at Queens Boro Hall on December 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm.
- Announced 988 is the mental health hotline in New York 24/7 always available in numerous languages.
- For more information or to RSVP visit the Borough President's website at www.nyc.gov/queensbp.gov
- Q & A

0:25:21 Javier Figaroa, Representing the Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz provided the following update:

- Announced the District Attorney is aware and continues tackling the issue of human trafficking that we see on Roosevelt Avenue.
- Provided an update on a recent case of sex trafficking.
- DA Katz remains fully dedicated to eradicating sex trafficking from all communities across the borough.
- Q & A

0:28:08 David Espinosa, Sunnyside Community Services provided the following update:

- Announced Sunnyside Community Services will be holding a public event called Strengthening the Social Work Workforce on December 12, 2024, from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.
- Provided an update on the daily lunch program for seniors at SCS Monday through Friday.
- Provided an update on the Thanksgiving holiday feast on Thanksgiving Day held at SCS.
- Announced SCS has Transportation Services.
- Visit their website for more information.
- Q & A

0:31:02 Peyton Schultheis, Representing New York State Senator Kristen Gonzalez provided the following update:

- Announced their office distributed turkeys to constituents in the district.
- Senator Gonzalez is preparing for the next legislative session.
- For assistance reach out to their office to share opinions on potential legislation.
- Their office is in the process of collecting budget requests in preparation for the upcoming legislative session.
- The deadline to submit a funding request is on December 31, 2024.
- Their telephone number is (718) 765-6674 or email: gonzales@ny.gov

0:32:56 Public Comment

0:32:58 Vanessa Leong spoke about Murray Park and that it is in bad shape. She and her neighbors have conducted clean ups and put their own money into improving the park. The park has been padlocked due to soil contamination so there is no longer a community space for the dogs. She reported Parks will be doing renovations and it will not begin until spring of 2027. She is requesting assistance to accelerate the timeline and to help create an interim solution.

0:40:16 Ben Robinson spoke the Murray Park dog run and said this is a vital part of the neighborhood.

0:43:48 Transition to Board Business

0:43:51 Attendance (Ryan Smith)

Board Members Present:	30	Board Members Absent:	8
Present Virtual:	5	Excused:	7
		Quorum:	Yes

0:47:59 Approval of the CB 2 Board Meeting Minutes (November 2024)

Anatole Ashraf announced the meeting minutes were not finalized for this month and would be tabled for January 2025.

0:48:13 Chairperson's Report (Anatole Ashraf) provided the following update:

- Welcomed all newly appointed public members.
- Announced that he attended the groundbreaking for PS 341 in Hunters Point, a new school will hold 550 seats, a pre-K and many other facilities. It s scheduled to open in 2027. Thanked all the elected officials and SCA for making this happen.
- Announced the Executive Board Election and reported the only contest for this evening is for the Parliamentarian.

(Motion made by Stephen Cooper and seconded by Anatole Ashraf) that the secretary cast one vote for the unopposed people.

(Motion Carried: The motion carried with all in favor of the motion; none opposed and no abstentions

Ryan Smith cast the vote for the Executive Committee as follows:

- Anatole Ashraf – Chairperson
- Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos – First Vice Chair
- Nellie Afshar – 2nd Vice Chair
- Ryan Smith - Secretary
- Kat Bloomfield - Treasurer

0:52:26 Statements by Candidates for Parliamentarian

- Akello Thomas read a personal statement
- Patrick Martinez read a personal statement

1:05:43 District Manager’s Report (Debra Markell Kleinert) provided the following update:

- Reported there will be no trash collection, recycling, compost on December 25, 2024.
- Reported on an MTA update on the construction activities at Queens Plaza station to be on or about December 16, 2024. Please check the website for details.
- The Board office will be official closed on December 25, 2024, and January 1, 2025, for New Year’s.
- CB 2 has had approximately 15 complaints for November.
 - The top complaints were:
 - PD /DOT – Illegally parked vehicles, sidewalk and double parking
 - DOS - Dumping of Garbage, Vendor Issues
 - Parks - Dead Trees
- Wished all Happy Holidays.
- Announced the next Board Meeting will take place on January 9, 2025.
- Provided an update on the search for the Community Assistant position.
- Please check the website for updated information.
 - WEBSITE WWW.NYC.GOV/QUEENSCB2

1:08:44 Department of City Planning (Feigle Lechtiner) provided the following update:

- City of Yes was passed and was adopted, and we are still waiting for all the details about the modifications. Will look at all the requirements and they are hoping to present the Housing Opportunity Modifications at the Land Use Committee Meeting on December 18, 2024.
- Send any questions to DCP in advance.

- Q & A

1:11:32 Department of City Planning (Katie Crawford) provided the following update:

- Explained the polling process which is a letter to explain what the mapping actions are and what their intentions are. This will be discussed at the Land Use Committee Meeting.

1:17:17 Ryan Smith, Secretary announced the vote for the Parliamentarian was Patrick Martinez. Thanked Akello Thomas for his service.

1:18:10 Christine Hunter, Land Use & Housing Committee provided the following update:

Announced there are no actions to report.

1:19:00 Reilly Owens, Transportation Committee provided the following update:

- Announced the south outer roadway on the Queensboro Bridge and is slated to open late quarter 1 in 2025.
- Blissville Greenway is still hung up in court proceedings.
- Queens Boulevard was mostly completed but DOT says it is not a finished project.
- Provided an update on Congestion Pricing which starts in one month.
- Please call 311 with any complaints regarding illegal parking.

1:24:56 Lauren Springer, Health & Human Services & Education & Unhoused and Shelter Task Force provided the following update:

- Announced there will be a December 9, 2024, Joint Meeting with Health and Human Services Committee and Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee. Invited Smiling Hogs Head Ranch.
- Invited Elmhurst Hospital to discuss Youth Suicide Prevention.

1:25:35 Amparo Abel-Bey announced Council Member Julie Won's office is co-sponsoring a youth suicide prevention training at SCS and online on December 14, 2024, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

1:28:34 Warren Davis announced that he will be taking a step back from the responsibility of being the point person on the Health & Human Services Committee.

1:33:29 Danielle Brecker, City Services & Public Safety Committee provided the following update:

- Announced a member of the community came to our board meeting last month to speak about a club on a rooftop of a hotel that is making a lot of noise at all hours of the

day and night. The Precinct has visited the site, and it seems we are making progress there. The location is being monitored.

- Announced we have seen some progress with shuttering of illegal cannabis shops.
- The next City Services & Public Safety Committee Meeting will take place on December 11, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the CB 2 Office.

1:40:12 Karesia Batan, Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee provided the following update:

- Announced the \$10 million DRI grant that was awarded to LIC via the LIC Partnership has been allocated. Thanked everyone on the board who supported this and for writing a letter. An overwhelming majority of that money went towards public arts and culture projects.
- Discussed an initiative that they are working on in tandem with Walk NYC.
- Announced the Arts & Cultural Committee will have a joint meeting with Small Business Services this month.
- Wants to connect small businesses and property owners who have space for a mural. Wants to connect them with local artists. This will help to create jobs and bring more arts and culture into the public eye. Going to pilot this in Sunnyside and then replicate it across the district.
- They have already finished the renovation of Sohncke Square in Woodside and will reinstate the bulletin board.
- Announced that she would like to see artists more civically engaged.

1:44:57 Morry Galonoy, Small Business and Local Economy Committee provided the following update:

- Announced Small Business did not meet in November. Will be having a joint meeting with Arts & Culture on December 17, 2024.
- Encouraged anyone who is interested to join the Small Business and Local Economy Committee. The Committee meets every other month.

1:45:28 Carlos Castell Croke, Environment, Parks & Recreation Committee announced the committee did not meet in November.

1:45:44 Patrick Martinez, Technology & Engagement Committee provided the following update:

- Announced Tannia Chavez Chaired the meeting last month.
- Announced you can add closed captions for all meetings and is available on mobile, laptop or desktop. Available in over 30 languages.
- Announced CB 2 will be holding the coat drive.

1:49:18 Warren Davis provided an update about the coat drive.

Anatole Ashraf made a motion 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, CB 2

12052024CB2MM