

# 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

# February 6, 2025 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, Ann Marie Baranowski, Karesia Batan, Nicholas Berkowitz (PV), Kat Bloomfield (PV), Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Tannia Chavez (PV), Osman Chowdhury, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Somnath Ghimire, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Alexandra Gonzalez (PV), Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Mohammad Hossen, Christine Hunter, Diana Kichler, James Kim (PV), Prameet Kumar, Chhemang Lama (PV), Patrick Martinez, Eric Narburgh, Reilly Owens, Jolly Patel, Oumaya Saab (PV), Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer (PV), Akello Thomas (PV), Leticia Vasquez, Michael Zoorob

# <u>Community Board 2 Board Members – Absent</u>

# **Unexcused**:

John Bahia, Lisa Charles, Morry Galonoy, Badrun Khan, Benjamin Lucas, Zeeshan Ott, Lauren Springer

#### Excused:

Stephen Cooper, Lelin Kandel, Sheila Lewandowski, Andie Olivares, Norberto Saldana

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

### **Elected Officials/Representatives**

Tiffany Echevaria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris (PV) Honorable Kristen Gonzalez, NY State Senator Jamey Battle, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga Nick Gulotta, Representing NYC Council Member Julie Won Clare Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards James Mongeluzo, Representing NYC Comptroller, Brad Lander Javier Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

# **Sunnyside Community Services**

Andrea Thomas

# **Guests**

Victor Han, Architect

#### **Public Comment**

Usury Sacramento, Thomas Mituzas, Leo Guttman, Vishnu, Dan, Barry Druss, Emilia Decaudin, Mia Confads, Scott Lester, Charles Wang, Kieran Gallaher, Matthew Sooknanan, Nina Young

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 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@queenscb2">https://www.youtube.com/@queenscb2</a>
(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)

**0:07:46 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).

0:07:56 Pledge of Allegiance

**0:08:55 Tiffany Echevaria, Representing Congresswoman Velazquez** provided the following update:

- Reported the Congresswoman did an immigration round table with all the Western Queens Community leaders.
- Announced the Congresswoman's Office has prepared a flyer called Know Your Rights Flyer is provided in both English and Spanish and there will be more languages to come.
- Congresswoman Velazquez co-sponsored the Department of Education Act.

- This Tuesday, the Congresswoman rallied at the Department of the Treasury for ending Musk's government take over.
- Congresswoman Velazquez is the ranking member of the House Committee of Small Business, and she wrote a letter to address the Small Business Administration acting Administrator to clarify the extent of Musk's access to the SBS systems.
- Reported on the plummet of the stock market due to the tariffs on Canada and Mexico, which have been paused but now we are having one on China. The Congresswoman is opposed to all these tariffs because she believes they will hurt working class families.
- Q&A

# **0:14:58 Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng** provided the following update:

- Reported their office is worried about the cut on funding and the attack on our human rights and our immigrant community.
- Their office is working with local elected officials to protect the community.
- The Congresswoman asked the Department of the Treasury to fight against Elon Musk's access. In the coming days there will be letters and bills.
- The Congresswoman's office is advocating for the community. She encouraged everyone to reach out to their office with any concerns.
- If anyone is affiliated with a non-profit organization looking to upgrade its security, their office may be able to assist with identifying available grant programs.
- Announced that the IRA has the direct file and its tax season, so be sure to take advantage of this.
- Q&A

### 0:18:09 Honorable Kristen Gonzalez, New York State Senator provided the following update:

- Announced she attended the inauguration of New York State Assemblywoman Claire Valdez.
- Announced she is back in session.
- Wished all who celebrated a Happy Lunar New Year.
- Thanked LIC Partnership for the many events they put together.
- Provided an update on Congestion Pricing and that their office is collecting data on the impacts and surveying our communities. If anyone has any questions, the MTA is putting out some information in an FAQ.
- Provided an update on Heat reminders, landlords are required to provide heat until May 31<sup>st</sup>. Their office can provide assistance if anyone needs help.
- Announced their office held a successful pet adoption event at the Chocolate Factory Theater.
- Provided an update on the federal administration's executive order threatening to cut federal funding to any hospital providing gender affirming care and discussed NYU's

- decision to cancel appointments for trans youth under the age of 19 who were receiving care. Her office is speaking with the Attorney General's office.
- Her office held a rally on Monday planned by DSA in her district and held a press conference with her colleagues.
- They have been organizing with other offices to do roundtables on what to do in terms
  of protecting the immigrant community. Gave a shout out Congresswoman Valazquez
  for her roundtable in LIC and thanked her, and the overlapping elected officials for
  working together and coordinating with community-based organizations and nonprofits
  to do Know Your Rights Trainings and to hand out flyers.
- Her office is continuing to work on the budget process and are submitting their letter on Monday. There are a number of proposals that they are supportive of in the governor's budget including the child tax credit.
- Provided an update on bills that have passed.
- Discussed the OneLIC and that she has been excited to have been a part of these conversations with the community and recognized Council member Won's Office. Her office is looking through what the Community Board has proposed in the points of agreement.
- Q&A

# **0:38:52 Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris (PV)** provided the following update:

- Announced Senator Gianaris, in response to the ongoing displacement of residents in the five-alarm fire at 43-09 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Sunnyside last year, has introduced legislation to prevent this from happening in the future. The legislation proposes that landlords have to pay the rent of the displaced residents until they can get the residence fixed and they can move back in.
- The Senator will be at an event this Saturday for Lunar New Year at Moore Homestead Playground.
- Announced their office will be hosting more Real ID events so people can get the Real ID before May 2025.
- Their office has been receiving calls and emails concerning Congestion Pricing.
- Announced she attended on behalf of the Senator, the town hall by the New York City
  Public Schools Chancellor and provided an update. Reported that schools are going to
  continue with the same protections for students who are newcomers as was prior, and
  they are not allowing ICE in the schools. Want to make sure students feel protected and
  safe.
- Q&A

**0:41:45** Jamey Battle, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga provided the following update.

- Announced we are in budget season and there are a few budget letters that the
   Assembly Member is circulating. One of them is a Mitchell Llama Letter to have \$500
   million to be invested specifically in New York City Mitchell Llama's.
- The Assembly Member was able to secure \$80 million last year, but a lot of that funding went to Michelle Llama's upstate, and we are in a housing crisis. He wants to make sure we are investing in NYC Mitchell Llama's.
- The Assembly Member is also working on a budget letter in partnership with Assembly Member Reyes to alleviate medical debt in New York State.
- The Assembly Member is working with the non-profit organization Open Plans in order to do an automated enforcement curb program in the city to create safer streets for pedestrians and drivers and provide citations for those blocking crosswalks.
- Their office will be hosting a legal clinic with Communities Resist on Wednesday, February 25, 2025, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at their district office. Please call their office at (718) 651-8135 to schedule an appointment.
- Their office is hosting free tax preparation in partnership with Urban Upbound. They have appointments from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Call their office to schedule an appointment. These appointments are with IRS certified tax preparers.
- Provided an update on the bird poop issue and that their office is speaking with the LIRR. They have also spoken with the Department of Sanitation concerning this matter. They are also speaking with ACE. There are conversations occurring with the LIRR concerning bird netting.
- If anyone has any items, please feel free to stop by their office at 55-19 69<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Q&A

### **0:44:56 Nick Gulotta, Representing NYC Council Member Won** provided the following update:

- Reported a number of organizations have reached out to their office that they have recently lost federal funds particularly the immigration legal services funding funded by USCIS.
- This past week, they announced \$2 million of immigration legal services for rapid response, legal funding for non-profits in NYC, a brand-new city council initiative.
- Announced \$3.8 million for language access co-op in NYC. There are five community
  organizations who are going to be doing a lot of this work and getting that work from
  the city.
- The City Council budget for specific to immigrant New Yorkers is about \$65 million for about 40% of our city. We have these direct services that go to non-profits that serve our communities.
- Announced their office has produced Know Yor Rights information.
- Q&A

**0:52:02 James Mongeluzo, Representing NYC Comptroller, Brad Lander** provided the following update:

- Announced their office has an internship program, applications are due by the end of this month. They are for undergraduates and grad students. Visit their website for more information at: <a href="https://comptroller.nyc.gov">https://comptroller.nyc.gov</a>
- Provided an update about contracts. NYC gets about \$8 billion in non-emergency federal
  grants used by their agencies to pay contractors. Nonprofit contractors and their office
  put together a downloadable database. This can be used to see what impact various
  federal cuts might have on the city and on the agencies. Visit their website on the
  newsroom section.
- Announced that their office declined to register the shot spotter contract that the NYPD uses
- Provided an update on the investigation on buildings that get temporary orders that
  allow them to be utilized like the one connected to the Turkish government. They found
  it is by far the largest building that has been given this special treatment. They also
  found many buildings that do not have certificates of occupancy that are operating,
  hundreds of them.
- Anyone interested in contacting him may do so by calling: (646) 689-6509.
- Q&A

# **1:01:29 Clare Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards** provided the following update:

- Announced Community Board applications are still open now and will close on February 14, 2025. If you are a current board member up for reappointment, submit your application at <a href="www.queensb.nyc.gov">www.queensb.nyc.gov</a>. Their office will be conducting interviews by the end of the month.
- If you are a current community board member and you are not sure of your current status of needing to reapply, reach out to Michael Carlier at <a href="mailto:mcarlier@queensbp.gov">mcarlier@queensbp.gov</a>.
- Announced all the appointments will be made via email in late March.
- Announced the following events:
  - February 8, 2025, they will be hosting a FAFSA financial aid workshop from 10:00am to 2:00 pm at Queensboro Hall. RSVP on their website.
  - February 20, 2025, at 6:00 pm, their office will be hosting a Dominican Independence Day celebration at Queensboro Hall.
  - February 25, 2025, at 6:00 pm they will be hosting their monthly hybrid parent advisory board meeting. If anyone wishes to attend in person it will be held at 118-35 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills.
  - On February 26, 2025, their office will be hosting Black History Month celebration.
  - February 27, 2025, North Queens Town Hall at Queens Borough Community College in Bayside.
- RSVP to these events at www.queensbp.nyc.gov
- Q&A

**1:04:47** Javier Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, was present but did not provide a report.

# 1:04:59 Andea Thomas, Sunnyside Community Services provided the following update

- Announced it's the pre-k enrollment season for the upcoming school year. SCS has a pre-k on site.
- Please visit the Department of Education website for enrollment information.
- Announced Pre-K 3K is free for students aged three for school year 2025-2026. Your child must turn three by December 31, 2025, this year for pre-k, its free for students age four for school year 2025-2026, your child must be four by December 31, 2025.
- Provided information about the Elder Justice Program which supports older adults over 60 years of age who are experiencing emotional or physical abuse, neglect, financial exploitation or other circumstances that limit their independence.
- Sunnyside Community Services can provide case assistance, counseling, crisis intervention, support groups, transportation and referral for legal services.
- Provided an update about their social Adult Day Program that is geared for Dementia or Alzheimer's disease. They have slots available to enroll any participants in the program similar to their senior center that provides one-on-one supervision.
- Q&A

#### 1:08:32 Public Comment

# **1:08:43 Usury Sacramento** spoke about the following:

Requested information on how to reach Council Member Won's office about OneLIC
and inquired about the survey that is being conducted. She requested how they are
reaching out to the residents of Queensbridge and hear their concerns.

### 1:12:28 Thomas Mituzas, spoke about the following:

- Announced he is a resident of Blissville, secretary to the Blissville Civic Association.
- Thanked the Board and specifically Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, on behalf
  of those residing and sheltering in Blissville for her testimony at the Queensboro
  President's Budget Hearing.
- He thanked CB2 for the many initiatives and items that are paramount to enhancing the lives of those living and sheltering in Blissville.
- He requested CB2 continues to champion these needs for those living and sheltering in Blissville. This year they have included items related to green space and the environment namely the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Park, Dutch Kills Loop, completion of the Blissville Veterans Memorial, Newtown Creek superfund clean-up and the tree canopy.
- He reported on the infrastructure needs specifically concerning the sewers and sewer backflows into the homes, street safety at Borden Avenue, Star and Review Avenue.
   DOT project and a variety of concerns with streets and sidewalks which have been taken over by trucks and cars as well as the needs of the most vulnerable residing in the

shelters.

- **1:14:25 Leo Guttman** spoke about his support of the OneLIC Plan. He is excited about the new housing, new public spaces and a chance to make the community better.
- **1:16:39 Vishnu,** resident of Sunnyside, spoke about the OneLIC Plan and expressed his enthusiasm and support. He requested CB 2 support the plan.
- 1:18:05 Dan, resident of Astoria, urged CB 2 to support the OneLIC Rezoning Plan.
- **1:20:47** Barry Druss discussed transportation issues and that we need additional mass transit. He discussed that we need to run Bus Rapid Transit into the city to reduce the impact on our roadways.
- **1:23:13 Emelia Decaudin**, resident of Hunters Point South waterfront voiced support for the draft OneLIC Proposal.
- 1:25:44 Mia Conrads requested clarification on the City of Yes Plan.
- **1:27:04 Scott Lester, resident of Queens** spoke about the neglect of the Dutch Kills Green at Queens Plaza and that the area is riddled with garbage and graffiti and is in need of clean up. He recommended jurisdictional transfer to formally request NYC Parks to take over dominion
- 1:33:39 Charles Wang, Dutch Kills resident spoke about his support for the OneLIC Proposal.
- **1:35:27 Kieran Gallaher**, resident of Sunnyside, spoke about his support of the draft plan for the OneLIC and the need for housing.
- **1:37:31 Matthew Sooknanan**, BASE Organizer, Chhaya Community Development Corporation spoke about a new state proposal that legalizes basement apartments in the city and District 2 is the only district included.
- **1:38:54 Nina Young** stated she is a member of the Abolished Tax Lean Coalition. They have certain activities that they are conducting to mitigate for the next tax lean sale which is taking place on May 20, 2025. The lists will be made public on the Department of Finance website for more information on February 12, 2025, and the site is <a href="www.nyc.gov/liensale">www.nyc.gov/liensale</a>. If anyone is interested in volunteering, email her at: <a href="misoyo@gmail.com">nisoyo@gmail.com</a>
- 1:44:34 Landmark Application 21-20 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Long Island City, Enlargement of Existing Building within a Landmark District

Victor Han, Architect provided the following update:

• The property is located in the Hunters Point District located at 21-20 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue, LIC.

- Any renovations and enlargements require Landmark Preservation Commission review and approval. As part of their review and approval process the application gets referred over to the Community Board for comments and recommendations.
- The application does not seek any relief whether it is the zoning resolution, building code or fire code.
- The proposal is to replace the basement sunroom that is already there in the rear yard they are going to reframe that so that they can add two floors above the existing sunroom, the sunroom comes out approximately 20 ft and they are only coming out on the first and second floor, approximately 10 ft. Rear yard at the basement level will be about 38 ft, the rear yard at the first and second floor level will be about 48 ft, so they will far exceed the 30 ft minimum requirement for the rear yard floor area. They are below what the zoning permits height lot coverage and are below whatever the zoning requirements are.
- The project cannot be seen from the street level. It is an existing two family, but the
  enlargement is 10 ft. On the first floor it will allow for an extension for a dining room
  adjacent to the kitchen and on the second floor 10 additional feet would allow for
  bedrooms.
- Q&A

#### 1:51:19 Transition to Board Business:

# 1:51:22 Attendance (Ryan Smith)

Board Members Present: 26 Board Members Absent: 7

Present Virtual: 9 Excused: 5 Quorum: Yes

### 1:54:31 Approval of the CB 2 Board Meeting Minutes (January 2025)

Kenny Greenberg made a motion to approve the minutes, and they were seconded by Anatole Ashraf. All were in favor of the motion with none opposed and one abstention.

# 1:55:10 Chairperson's Report (Anatole Ashraf) provided the following update:

- Announced he attended Congresswoman Velazquez Immigration Round Table. Thanked all our elected and thanked Tiffany Echeverria for helping to organize.
- Encouraged everyone to Know Your Rights and call your representatives.
- Requested committee meeting calendars invite go to committee members as well as public members of those committees.
- Reminded everyone about conduct as board members and no matter how frustrating an issue is, everyone here is a guest and to respect everyone. We are a city agency, and our representatives and colleagues are effectively our colleagues. We should show everyone respect.
- Discussed and reminded that everyone signed the Borough President's Code of Conduct.
- Announced there will be a training session for public members.

- Congratulated and thanked Tannia Chavez, Leticia Vasquez, Somnath Ghimere, Warren Davis and Eric Narburgh for helping to deliver the coats for the CB 2 Coat Drive.
- Announced the Board Members who are up for reappointment: Nellie Afshar, Anatole Ashraf, Ann Marie Baranowski, Kat Bloomfield, Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Warran Davis, James Kim, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Camile Grey, Mohammad Hossen, Christine Hunter, Lelin Kandel, Badrun Khan, Diana Kichler, Premeet Kumar, Eric Narburg, Zeeshan Ott, Oumaya Saab, Laura Shepard, Mary Torres, Leticia Vasquez

# 1:59:13 District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert) provided the following update:

- Requested a moment of silence for those individuals who perished in the two plane crashes.
- Attended hearing on the budget with Borough President Richards where she presented CB2's annual Community Board 2 speech on the FY 2026 budget.
- Announced our Parks Manager, Monet Davis will no longer be covering our community board. She has moved to a new assignment. For the time being Eric Goetz will be covering.
- The construction start date for Court Square is February 17, 2025.
- Woodside Memorial, the bulletin board is being restored. This was not originally in the contract. More work is still needed.
- Kim, our part time employee retired in January. She recognized and thanked her for her many years of dedicated service to the CB2 office. We wish her well in the next chapter of her life.
- Thanked Chairman Ashraf and the Personnel Committee as we have a new employee who started a month ago, his name is Rafael. We have received positive feedback.
- Announced CB 2 had approximately 9 complaints since the January meeting. The top complaints were:
  - DOS illegal dumping/garbage, vendor issues
  - DOT /PD— illegally parked vehicles
  - DEP cave-ins and dirty rain gardens
  - Parks
- Wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.
- The office will be closed on Monday, for President's Day February 17, 2025.
- The next Community Board 2 Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2025.
- Announced the 108<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct has a new Captain. We will be inviting him to a future meeting.

#### 2:05:06 Land Use & Housing Committee Report

**2:05:12** Christine Hunter, Chair, Land Use & Housing Committee provided the following update:

Landmark Application – 21-20 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Long Island City, Enlargement of Existing Building within a Landmark District

**(Motion** made by Lisa Deller and seconded by Danielle Brecker) to support the Land Use and Housing Committee's recommendation to support the application.

**Motion carried**: All were in favor of the motion to support with the application with (35) thirty-five in favor of the motion with (0) none opposed and (0) no abstentions.

### 2:09:57 OneLIC Draft Zoning Proposal

Christine Hunter reported on the following:

- City Planning reps came to the Land Use and Housing Committee to provide a detailed breakdown of the zoning proposal itself and the nature of the zoning districts.
- It is quite complex and why they are proposing for the range of districts that they are proposing throughout the area that they are proposing to change.
   It would be helpful for the full board to see this. DCP were unable to attend, however will attend the March meeting, which is pending.
- It may be among the largest scale rezonings the city has done.
- It is going to change the neighborhood, the Queens waterfront.
- We try to listen to many aspects of the community and have an obligation to look at the stated goals of every aspect of the community and try and balance them.
- She reported that late in the fall they asked for and had a meeting with the Council Member's office where City Planning was also part of the meeting and presented to them these draft points of agreement which we tried to align to points that the Council Member actually has on her website, land use guiding principles for community engagement, affordability, community investment and labor.
- This is not a document that we have to entertain any motions on tonight.
- It was reported that there have been some public meetings where some more information has become available, and more detail of what City Planning is thinking.
- She discussed a recent workshop on January 25, 2025, which was about these public sites. We have expressed a strong conviction as a board that we think the public sites should be maintained for public use and no simply rfpd. Another request has also been that they prioritized open space and community facilities in the DOE building.
- There are two main sites, currently owned by the DOT and a parking lot owned by the DOT and part of the city planning proposal is to connect through the DOE site with a new road that would connect two city streets 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 44<sup>th</sup> Drive. This would create a new loop road.
- They discovered the DOE building has a major structural expansion joint, and it would be easy to save part of the building.
- Announced on February 18, 2025, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm there will be a panel discussion which will be held at Culture Lab and will include Anatol Ashraf, CB 2, Lisa Goren, LIC Coalition and a representative from the Western Queens Land Trust. She encouraged everyone to attend.
- Christine Hunter discussed the Waterfront Access Plan which should include the widening of the standard 40-foot-wide walkway to accommodate both an anticipated bike and foot traffic to include the continuation of the Blissville LIC Greenway.

- Christine Hunter discussed setting up a working group from within the Community Board to meet on a regular basis.
- Q&A

# 2:23:46 Prameet Kumar, Vice Chair, Land Use & Housing Committee provided the following update:

- Reported DCP and Council Member Julie Won's office released a survey, a public sites workshop survey. He encouraged everyone to take the survey to make your voices heard and what you want to see with the public sites.
- He spoke about the Loop Road and that we need to follow up with DCP which is a separate public action.

# **2:46:35 Reilly Owens, Transportation Committee** provided the following update:

MTA has opened a survey to select stations for accessibility upgrades. The MTA is seeking input on which stations to prioritize for access accessibility improvements over the next 5 years, the proposed 2025 to 2029 Capita Plan identified in an initial 30 stations. The MTA plans to make at least an additional 30 stations accessible for a total of more than 60 station within the next 5 years. The survey is <a href="https://www.mta.info/accessibility/select-stations">www.mta.info/accessibility/select-stations</a>

# 2:51:13 Amparo Abel-Bey, Health and Human Services & Education & Unhoused and Shelter Committee provided the following update.

- Wished all a Happy Black History Month.
- The committee met on January 13, 2025, and had a presentation by Live on NY and urged board members and constituents to sign up as organ donors. This information was listed in the CB 2 Newsletter.
- The next committee meeting will be held on February 10, 2025, 6:00 pm. They will have a presentation from the founder and executive director of Witness to Mass Incarceration.

### **2:52:03 Karesia Batan, Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee** provided the following update:

- In January, we had the Lawyers Alliance come and speak concerning the recent legal alert that was published about making sure nonprofit organization's remain in compliance.
- Encouraged everyone to read the Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes.
- Will be doing project updates for the next meeting on Tuesday regarding the murals and the Bliss Theater.

# **2:39:36 Danielle Brecker, City Services & Public Safety Committee** provided the following update:

Announced the next Committee meeting will be held on February 12, 2025, at 6:30 pm.
 We have a long agenda with a lot of outdoor applications.

# **2:54:05 Tannia Chavez, Technology and Engagement** Committee provided the following update:

- Reported that Technology and Engagement Committee delivered the collected items from the CB 2 Coat Drive to St. Raphael's Church.
- Thanked Leticia, Eric and Osman helped to bring in the items.
- She reported that each Saturday, they host a food pantry. Which is open to everyone in the community.
- The donations were put to good use.
- Thanked Anatole and Debbie and gave a shout out to Somnath and Warren for helping to make the coat drive run smoothly.
- Announced that Sunday, March 2, 2025, is the St. Pat's for All Parade.

# **2:53:16 Patrick Martinez, Technology and Engagement Committee** provided the following update:

Announced before the next board meeting, March 2, 2025, is the St. Pat's for All and we
will be present and will be carrying the banner.

# 2:59:39 Anatole Ashraf announced the following:

- The Technology and Engagement Committee will now be called the Engagement & Inclusion Committee and Tannia Chavez will be the Chair of this committee.
- Technology will come under the Executive Committee.
- Thanked Patrick Martinez.
- We are looking for a Vice Chair for the Engagement & Inclusion Committee.

# **3:00:18 Laura Shepard, Environment, Parks & Recreation Committee** provided the following update:

- Reported the Parks Department attended the meeting, and they are interested in working with the community members to identify an alternative temporary location for the Murray Playground dog run.
- Discussed lead testing of playground equipment. It was suggested putting AED machines in parks.
- Announced Carlos Castell Croke will be the Chair of the Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee.
- Announced her resignation from CB 2 as she has accepted a position with the Queens Borough President's Office as the Transportation and Parks Liaison.

Anatole Ashraf made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by: MA Gurrado

Reviewed/Revised and approved for distribution by:

- **<u>X</u>** Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, CB 2
- X Ryan Smith, Secretary, CB 2
- X\_Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, CB 2

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