



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

November 7, 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, Kat Bloomfield (PV), Danielle Brecker, Lisa Charles, Tannia Chavez (PV), Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Warren Davis, Morry Galonoy, Somnath Ghimire, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Alexandra Gonzalez (PV), Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Mohammad Hossen, Christine Hunter, Lelin Kandel, Badrun Khan (PV), Diana Kichler, Prameet Kumar, Chhemang Lama, Patrick Martinez, Eric Narburgh, Reilly Owens, Jolly Patel, Norberto Saldana,, Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Lauren Springer, Akello Thomas (PV), Leticia Vasquez, Michael Zoorob

Community Board 2 Board Members – Absent

Unexcused:

John Bahia, Ann Marie Baranowski, Nicholas Berkowitz, Benjamin Lucas, Andie Olivares, Zeeshan Ott, Mary Torres

Excused:

Karesia Batan, Carlos Castell Croke, Lisa Deller, James Kim, Sheila Lewandowski, Thomas Mituzas, Oumaya Saab, Mai Tran

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

Elected Officials/Representatives

Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng
Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris
Clare Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Janey Battle, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga

*Farah Salam, Representing NYC Council Member Julie Won
Tiffany Echevarria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez
Javier Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz
Shauna Morlock, Representing NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez*

Department of City Planning

Katherine Crawford, Hye-Kyung Yang, Lara Merida

Sunnyside Community Services

Jose Miranda, Sunnyside Community Services

Guests

Jordan Green

Public Comment

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)

0:03:38 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).

0:05:33 Pledge of Allegiance

0:06:18 Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng provided the following update:

- Announced the Congresswoman is going to strive to bring resources and services to our local community and community-based organizations and try to deliver for Queens and the constituents. She reminded everyone to reach out to their office if anyone is need of assistance.

0:07:29 Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris provided the following update:

- Announced their office is located at 45-02 Ditmars Boulevard. Their office is a resource and a support to the community. If anyone has any questions or is in need of services, please contact their office.
- Announced on October 25, 2024, the Senator went to Astoria Park and distributed candy and activity books to the children.
- Announced their office has finalized their DMV event. They conducted four events and serviced close to 500 people getting their real ID's. Starting in March 2025, individuals will need a real ID to enter federal office buildings and flights for domestic travel. The Senator will be doing more events in the spring.
- The Senator collaborated with Assembly Member Raga's office on October 26, 2024. Spoke to the attendees that attended the Filipino American History Month Community Town Hall.
- The Senator will be back in session in January working on legislation.
- Q & A

0:11:57 Tiffany Echevarria, representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez provided the following update:

- Congresswoman Velazquez attended LaGuardia Community College to celebrate the grand opening of the new Little Flower Farm which the Congresswoman contributed community funding to.
- The Congresswoman attended and delivered remarks at the 50th Anniversary of Sunnyside Community Services. She is looking forward to improvements for SCS such as the ADA accessibility for the building upstairs which she contributed \$450,000.
- With regard to DEP, the Congresswoman's office has asked for a public meeting regarding CSO's for long term sewer control since there have been modifications to the long-term control plan.
- Newtown Creek. Comment period for proposed clean up plan for the east branch of the tributary ends on November 12, 2024. For more information visit their website at www.newtowncreekalliance.org.
- Medicare enrollment is now upon and ends December 7, 2024.
- DACA recipients can now apply for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act as of November 1, 2024.

0:14:43 Jamey Battle, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga provided the following update.

- Announced on November 7, 2024, they had a collaboration with the Department of Buildings. There will be a community clean-up in Mapeth.
- Announced on November 12, 2024 there will be a Veterans lunch with CCA Metro. If anyone is interested, they can call their office.
- On November 23, 2024, they will have a non-profit training session in partnership with the Astoria Worker Project and QEDC from 10:00 am to 1 pm at Elmhurst Hospital.
- On November 23, 2024, they will be having a Thanksgiving distribution.
- Held a Filipino American History Month celebration.
- Provided an update on the issue of bird pooping
- Q & A

0:18:08 Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won provided the following update:

- Reminded everyone if they need any services their office is available to assist.
- Announced Council Member Won celebrated the passing of Intro 803.
- The Council Member participated in a march and rally last month to reopen the Queensboro Bridge South Outer roadway.
- The Council Member became a co-sponsor of the Safe Hotels Act.
- Council Member Won co-hosted MoMA's PS1 neighbor night in LIC to showcase the museum's programming.
- Council Member Won's Office and Woodside on the Move, AN&HD and released a survey with regard to one LIC. Encouraged all to take the survey if they live, work or have a connection with LIC. This is crucial to ensure that we can invest in the community's priorities.
- Discussed the call to submit ideas for Participatory Budgeting and how to become a volunteer delegate.
- Q & A.

0:20:48 Clare Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards provided the following update:

- Reminded everyone that Community Board application process opens in January.
- Announced on November 14, 2024, their office will be celebrating the Veterans Celebration at Borough Hall at 6:00 pm.
- November 19, 2024 at 6:00 pm, they will be having the Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony at Queens Borough Hall.
- For more information or to RSVP visit the Borough President's website at www.nyc.gov/queensbp.gov

0:21:51 Javier Figaroa, Representing the Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz provided the following update:

- Announced the District Attorney observed National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and participated and hosted many events throughout the office.
- Reported the DA's office shut down an illegal cannabis dispensary in Sunnyside.
- If anyone has any concerns over illegal cannabis dispensary's to reach out to their office.

0:23:14 Jose Miranda, Sunnyside Community Services provided the following update:

- Announced Sunnyside Community Services is celebrating 50 years of service to the community this year and held a series of events.
- Thanked Senator Gianaris and Council Member Won for attending the event.
- They had 300 plus attendees at the Sunnyside Post Mile event.
- Held a gala at their space in LIC with dinner after to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Thanked Congresswoman Velazquez and Council Member Won for attending the event.
- Thanked everyone for their participation.

0:24:35 General Public Comments

0:24:36 Jordan Green, Sunnyside Woodside Mutual Aid provided the following update:

- Announced every Saturday, they host pop-up food pantries at 61st Street under the train by Dunkin Donuts and at Woodside Houses.
- Will be hosting a meeting on Monday to talk about post-election and organizing.
- Sunday they are having a fundraising bake sale at All Saints Church on 46th Street and 43rd Avenue.
- Visit their website at www.swma.nyc.com

0:26:06 Bill Kregler spoke about the following:

- The Election
- Proposition 1
- Proposition 2
- Speed cameras
- Congestion Pricing

0:29:01 Alysse Janet spoke the following:

A rooftop establishment that operates as a nightclub and has been ruining her quality of life for the past year and a half. They are open until 4:00 am. She has spoken with the owners, the manager, PD and DEP. She has filed multiple complaints.

Danielle Brecker recommended that she attend the City Services & Public Safety Committee meeting.

0:33:30 Megan Yuan, Representing the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit provided the following update:

- Announced CAU's primary goal is to engage with all communities. She would like to attend events to show support to community groups and to feel free to send her any event notices.
- Announced that December 23, 2024, is a school day but recently an announcement was made that this will be a non-school day for New York Public School Students. This decision will give staff and students an extra day.
- Q & A

0:36:27 Elizabeth representing Smiling Hogs Head Ranch spoke about the following:

- This is a community Garden operating for 14 years and that they have encountered issues due to the two migrant shelters in the vicinity. There is no infrastructure to hang out there and no shade.
- These individuals have found a spot in the garden where they store their belongings, deposit trash.
- Smiling Hogs Head Ranch is seeking assistance from their landlord MTA, the Police and DOS.
- They have worked with some of the migrants.
- They have received an eviction notice from the MTA.
- A call with MTA and elected officials has taken place.

0:38:22 Anabelle representative from Smiling Hogs Head Ranch spoke about the following:

- Reported they hold public events; school tours and it is a space that is not in a residential area and is a green oasis.
- There is not a lot of public green space. They grow food, have created an environment and an ecosystem. They are a food scrap drop off site. They are seeking to keep the space open to the community and want to continue.

0:41:25 Representative from Smiling Hogs Head Ranch spoke about the following:

- They have started a petition called www.change.org. Encouraged everyone to sign
- Requesting the public create a two-minute testimonial video of how the garden has impacted you or what the garden means to you.
- Everyone is welcome to come and visit.
- It is located on Skillman Avenue and Pearson Place.

0:50:47 Presentation by Department of Sanitation – Residential Containerization – Joseph Ottomanelli

- Announced that on November 12, 2024, residential containerization of 1 to 9 units will be required to place trash out in bins 55 gallons or less with a secure lid. This is for garbage alone. Recycling can continue to be placed out as residents have been doing so. Residents can use their own bin or the official NYC bin. For more information visit their website at www.nyc.gov/sanitation.
- Q & A

0:57:52 Kat Bloomfield, Treasurer provided an update on the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities and reviewed the top ten Capital and Expense Priorities for Fiscal Year 2026.

(Motion made by Stephen Cooper and seconded by: motion was made and seconded to review this after attendance)

1:03:39 Transition to Board Business

1:03:47 Attendance (Ryan Smith)

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

1:07:28 Approval of the CB 2 Board Meeting Minutes (September & October 2024)

(Motion made by Amparo Abel-Bey and seconded by Christine Hunter to approve the September 2024 CB 2 Meeting Minutes). All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and 3 abstentions.

(Motion made by Amparo Abel-Bey and seconded by Christine Hunter to approve the October 2024 CB 2 Meeting Minutes). All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and 6 abstentions.

1:09:39 Chairperson's Report (Anatole Ashraf) provided the following update:

- Welcomed all the new Public Members:
 - ✓ Stephanie Carr, Land Use & Housing
 - ✓ Fanny Chang, Land Use & Housing
 - ✓ Robert Wohner, Health & Human Services
 - ✓ Olivia Jackson Lewis, Health & Human Services
 - ✓ Alania Van Slooten, Environment, parks & Recreation
 - ✓ Kevin Davis, Environment, Parks & Recreation
 - ✓ Monil Jhaveri, Technology & Engagement
 - ✓ Leo Guttman, Technology & Engagement

1:10:08 District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert) provided the following update:

- Attended a DEP meeting and provided an update on the drought and reminded everyone to conserve. Megan Yuan from the Mayor's Office will send an update.
- Attended an informational session with DA Katz on domestic violence awareness.
- CB 2 has had approximately 16 complaints for October
 - The top complaints were:
 - DOS – Illegal dumping/garbage/vendor issues
 - Parks – Dead Trees
 - PD – Illegally parked vehicles
- Veterans Day is November 11, 2024, no trash collection.
- Construction on Court Square Park in front of the Queens County Courthouse will begin the week of November 18, 2024, and will continue for about a year. They are going to install new lighting shrubs, drinking fountains, game tables, benches, spray showers, seating area and bistro tables and a new tree.
- MTA Update, ADA project for 33rd Street/Rawson, and 46th Street/Bliss Station will start November and December and no planned service changes at the moment during construction.
- Thanked all our Veterans for their service.
- Wished all a Happy Thanksgiving to all who celebrate and reminded everyone the board office is closed.
- Please check the website for updated information.
 - WEBSITE WWW.NYC.GOV/QUEENSCB2

1:16:04 Kat Bloomfield, presented the Top 10 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities and discussed a survey that was sent out.

(Motion made by Stephen Cooper and seconded by Patrick Martinez) to approve the top 10 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities – Capital

(Motion carried) All were in favor with none opposed and no abstentions.

(Motion made by Stephen Cooper and seconded by Patrick Martinez) to approve the top 10 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities – Expense

(Motion carried) All were in favor with none opposed and no abstentions.

1:40:58 Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson reported on the following:

- Announced Tom Mituzas is stepping down as 2nd Vice Chairperson and thanked him for his service on the Executive and Personnel Committees.
- Announced Nellie Afshar is being recommended for the 2nd Vice Chairperson position

- Accomplishments – Hybrid Meetings, activated a personnel committee, conducted first ever performance review of the District Office.
- Improved the efficiency of the full board meeting.
- Improved outreach and onboarding of new members.
- Increased public engagement.
- Calendar invites.

1:43:46 Nominations for the Executive Board

- Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, Community Board 2 self-nominated and thanked everyone for the privilege to work with the team. The core motivations are still bringing in more accountability, visibility, accessibility and engagement with the Community Board. Wants to have as many resources documented so those who are still here and all new members are going to be here have at least things to read.
- Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos self-nominated for First Vice Chair and read a statement.
- Nellie Afshar self-nominated for 2nd Vice Chair and read a statement.
- Kat Bloomfield self-nominated for Treasurer and read a statement.
- Ryan Smith self-nominated for Secretary.
- Akello Thomas self-nominated for Parliamentarian and read a statement.
- Patrick Martinez self-nominated for Parliamentarian and read a statement.

Anatole Ashraf announced there will be one race for December.

2:00:49 Department of City Planning (Feigle Lechtiner) provided the following update:

- 50-02 Queens Boulevard by PC Richards will certify in spring or summer.
- Q & A

2:04:37 Reilly Owens, Transportation Committee provided the following update:

- Provided an update on the 33rd Street and 46th Street subway station as work is beginning there and installing elevators and stairs so they will be ADA compliant. Will be completed approximately 3rd quarter 2026.

2:11:07 Christine Hunter, Land Use & Housing Committee provided the following update:

- There are three 100% affordable projects.
- Phipps Houses on Barnett Avenue.
- 50th Street and 43rd Avenue next to the CB 2 Office.
- Sunnyside Community Services announced they will be sponsoring 100% affordable senior housing. This property is being donated by Harry Otterman to SCS.
- Encouraged all to stay involved in the OneLIC. Invited all to attend the Land Use Committee Meeting on November 20, 2024.

2:17:17 Laura Shepard, Environment, Parks & Recreation provided the following update:

- Thanked Carlos for Chairing the October meeting.
- Thanked Christine Hunter for sending a letter to DEP asking them to come and speak with us about local flooding concerns.
- Reminded everyone about the drought watch.
- Announced on November Environment Committee is cancelled as it falls on Thanksgiving.

(Motion made by Laura Shepard made a motion and it was seconded by Morry Galonoy to send a letter to the MTA and local elected to send a letter to the MTA and our local elected supporting Smiling Hogs Head Ranch remaining at its current location and acknowledging the tremendous benefits to our community.

(Motion carried) All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

Motion made by Laura Shepard made a motion and it was seconded Kat Bloomfield to send a letter to the Department of Homeless Services and the Office of Emergency Management requesting adequate sanitation facilities at the adjacent shelters, within the vicinity of Smiling Hogs Head Ranch and secured storage lockers for the residents within the shelters.
(This was tabled for the December Meeting).

Anatole Ashraf announced there will be a joint meeting with Health and Human Services Committee and Environment Parks and Recreation will be held on November 18, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

2:24:46 Patrick Martinez, Technology and Engagement Committee provided the following update:

- Thanked Tannia Chavez and Somnath Ghimire.
- Announced CB 2 will hold its annual coat drive.
- Heart of the District will be included in the next newsletter.

2:33:37 Small Business and Local Economy (Morry Galonoy) provided the following update:

- Next meeting will take place on November 26, 2024, at 5:00 pm.
- Reminded everyone if you have a small business, you have to go to www.FINCEN.gov and register as a beneficial organization or you can get find \$500 a day after the new year.
- Small Business Services will run education seminars.
- CB 2 conducted one cosponsored with Congresswoman Valasquez and there will be video released on this.

Amparo Abel-Bey 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

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