



*Donovan Richards*  
*Queens Borough President*

# Community Board No. 2

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*Anatole Ashraf*

*Chairperson*

*Debra Markell Kleinert*

*District Manager*

## Revised

March 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, Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia (PV), Ann Marie Baranowski, Karesia Batan, Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Tannia Chavez (PV), Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Warren Davis (PV), Lisa Deller (PV), Morry Galonoy, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Alexandra Gonzalez (PV), Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Mohammad Hossen, Christine Hunter, Chhemang Lama, Sheila Lewandowski, Patrick Martinez, Eric Narburgh, Zeeshan Ott, Reilly Owens, Jolly Patel, Oumaya Saab (PV), Norberto Saldana, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Lauren Springer, Akello Thomas (PV), Leticia Vasquez, Michael Zoorob*

### Community Board 2 Board Members – Absent

#### Unexcused:

*Nellie Afshar, Nicholas Berkowitz, Lisa Charles, Somnath Ghimire, Lelin Kandel, Badrun Khan, Diana Kichler, Benjamin Lucas, Andie Olivares*

#### Excused:

*James Kim, Prameet Kumar*

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

### Elected Officials/Representatives

*Tiffany Echevaria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez  
Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng  
Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris  
Shawna Morlock, Representing Kristen Gonzalez, NY State Senator*

*Jamey Battle, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga  
Steff McGraw, Representing NY State Assembly Member Claire Valdez  
Farah Salam, Representing NYC Council Member Julie Won  
Clare Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards*

### **Department of City Planning**

*Lara Merida, Katie Crawford, Hye-Kyung Yang*

### **Sunnyside Community Services**

*David Espinosa*

### **Public Comment**

*Matthew Sooknanan, Julia Forman, Lauren Travers, Alice Davis, Audrey Lee, Luisa Leme, Alicia, Francesc Anselmi, Dan Marco Arvelio, Laura DeAnda, Barry Druss, Seth Slalde, Gene, Barbara,*

*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)**

**0:05:28 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).

### **0:05:38 Pledge of Allegiance**

**0:08:34 Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng** provided the following update:

- Congresswoman Meng held a telephone town hall and heard everyone's concerns. They will keep monitoring and seeing what they can do and try as best as they can to fight against whatever the administration is planning to do. If anyone has more concerns to reach out to their office.
- Last week, the Congresswoman voted against the Budget which would allow deep cuts. She reported their office will fight against it as much as they can.

- Announced that after the Congresswoman and her colleagues sent a letter to the Health and Human Services Secretary, the administration reversed their previous position on making funding and the staff cuts to the World Trade Center Health Program. This program would provide medical monitoring and treatment to eligible firefighters, law enforcement, rescue recovery and clean-up workers who responded to the September 11 attack.
- Their office is also concerned by the Con Edison proposal concerning a rate hike. The Congresswoman and her colleagues sent a letter to Con Edison urging against this proposal and encouraged them to identify a better plan.
- Announced their office will be open on Saturday, at their Forest Hills Office from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- Q & A

**0:12:19 Tiffany Echevaria, Representing Congresswoman Velazquez** provided the following update:

- Reported on February 19, 2025, the Congresswoman hosted an in-person town hall at Sunnyside Community Services. Slides are available on her Facebook page at Nydia Velazquez.
- The Congresswoman attended the St. Pat's for All Parade.
- The Congresswoman is fighting for any type of discriminatory and unjust policies in the courts and in state legislation.
- The Congresswoman voted against the budget.
- Announced that on March 14, 2025, the congressional budget is due.
- Announced the Congresswoman sent a letter with her congressional colleagues to the Republicans on the Ways and Means Committee asking them to reconsider the proposed cuts that they have in terms of all the children's programs that would eliminate free schools lunches and breakfasts.
- Encouraged all to view the Congresswoman's twitter. Her handle is NydiaVelazquez.
- Announced on March 8, 2025, there will be an Immigration Know Your Rights Virtual Workshop from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm.
- Q & A

**0:14:58 0:38:52 Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris** provided the following update:

- Thanked all for the opportunity to present online last month.
- Announced Senator Gianaris is pushing hard to honor those that are still displaced by the Sunnyside fire. That legislation with his advocacy has just been presented in committee for the assembly as well. Both the Senate and the Assembly are trying to pass this legislation. Their office received an email from Council Member Won's office who is trying to find a way to support it as well. They are hoping this legislation will pass this session.

- Provided an update about Foundation Aid that the senator is working hard to advocate for. Governor Hochel has passed a proposal using SAIPE which doesn't take into account regional income index, so for NYC this is a problem and if it passes, schools will lose up to \$350 million dollars. The Senator is not for that, he still supports 100% funding for public schools.
- Reported the Senator attended the St. Pat's for All Parade.
- Announced their office is in the process of trying to set up four (4) Real ID events before the new law in May 2025.
- Q & A

**0:22:42 Shawna Morlock, Representing Kristen Gonzalez, NY State Senator**

- On behalf of Senator Gonzalez, she extended best wishes for a safe Ramadan Mubarak for all who observe and a blessed Lenten season.
- Discussed Congestion Pricing and if anyone has any concerns or questions to reach out to their office. Their office will be sending a survey to all Community Boards.
- Announced they have submitted their Budget Requests to the governor. The Senator is fighting hard for funds to come back to the district and there is still time to submit a request for discretionary and capital funds before April 15.
- Their office will be holding monthly office hours on the fourth Monday of this month from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Astoria Houses Community Center.
- Their office will be hosting a monthly Tenant Legal Clinic with Communities Resist. If anyone has issues with their landlord or if there are any questions about the Good Cause Eviction Legislation, reach out to their office.
- Their office has recently toured the Court Square Subway Station to see the new accessibility upgrades.
- Announced a legal clinic with the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection. The Commissioner of the DCWP is going to do a tax event with their office on March 15, 2025, at the new Sunnyside Community Center on Vernon Boulevard.
- Q & A

**0:27:45 Jamey Battle, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga provided the following update.**

- Announced the Assembly and the Senate are currently in budget negotiations. The Assembly Member is pushing hard for funding for Mitchell-Lama's especially Big Six in our district.
- The Assembly Member is also pushing for the Medical Debt Alleviation Program.
- Their office will be hosting free tax preparation services in partnership with Urban Upbound each week and on each Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Call their office to schedule an appointment. These appointments are with IRS certified tax preparers.
- Announced that on March 10, 2025, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, they will be hosting a Homeowner Benefits Program an Enrollment Event.

- Announced a free Health Screening on March 12, 2025, from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm at 67-10 Roosevelt Avenue, Woodside.
- Announced their office will be hosting an MTA Fair Fairs enrollment on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the 74<sup>th</sup> Street Station in Jackson Heights Roosevelt station in partnership with the MTA, Assembly Member Cruz and Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez Rojas.
- Announced they will be hosting their Women of Distinction Award Ceremony on Saturday, March 22, 2025, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Elmhurst Hospital.
- Their office will hold mobile-office hours throughout the entire District and are listed as follows:
  - March 6, 2025, Queens Public Library in Elmhurst from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm on
  - March 12, 2025, at the Queens Public Library in Woodside from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
  - March 13, 2025, at the Queens Public Library in Maspeth from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.
  - March 18, 2025, at the Queens Public Library in Jackson Heights from 2:00pm to 4:00 pm.
- Reported the Assembly Member is a huge advocate of the Automated Camera Curb Enforcement Program.
- If anyone has any items, please feel free to stop by their office at 55-19 69<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Q & A

**0:32:43 Steff McGraw, Representing NY State Assembly Member Claire Valdez** provided the following update:

- Announced their office is located in the office of their predecessor on Skillman Avenue and they are open from Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on Monday through Thursday, Friday they are open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- Announced their office is holding monthly mobile office hours in Ridgewood at the Ridgewood Library, the first one will be this coming Saturday from 10:00 to noon.
- It is state budget season, and the Assembly Member has been advocating for resources for the people of this district. They are the prime sponsor of the bill that was inspired by the Sunnyside fire, and this is down as one of her top priorities.
- Announced the Assembly Member attended the St. Pat's for All parade.
- Announced their office has teamed up with Make the Road to host a Know Your Rights Training. They plan to do more in the future and continue to stay abreast of all that is going on and that their office can provide resources that our community needs to keep our neighbors safe.
- Q & A

**0:35:00 Farah Salam, Representing New York City Council Member Julie Won** provided the following update:

- Wished everyone Ramadan Mubarak for all who celebrate and wished all a wonderful Lenten season.

- Provided an update about the playscape issue at the Q studio lab on 46<sup>th</sup> Street. The Council Member's office has been in contact with the DOB. They have been working with the Educational Director. DOB contacted their office saying that they are going to continue to work with Lauren and to make sure the playscape has the appropriate permits so students can go back to playing on the playscape and not go to Lou Lodati Park. Will provide more updates as they become available.
- Provided an update on the Sunnyside dog owner who had trained their dog to bite several of our neighbors. The Council Member's office was notified that the owner was arrested, and the dog is being held at an ASPCA location and will be trained to not bite people. Thanked all who alerted their office.
- Their office met with DOT recently regarding the crash that occurred in front of Court Square. The DOT will be looking into street safety in that area. Thanked all the first responders who were on the scene.
- Their office continues to have Communities Resist Housing Lawyers in their office on March 10, 2025, April 7, 2025, and April 21, 2025. If anyone would like to book an appointment, to reach out their office.
- Their office continues to provide support for community members by organizing Know Your Rights.
- Legislative update, on February 25, 2025, Council Member Won co-hosted a hearing examining the quality of the food in the shelters focusing on nutritional content, the condition of food served in shelters in compliance with diet, religious dietary needs for New Yorkers who live in shelters. Their office is still hearing from Muslims who live in shelters that their food continues to not be Halal or do not meet Halal diet restrictions. Council Member Won held a hearing hoping that shelters continue to work to make food Halal for the residents.
- Participatory Budgeting season vote week is at the end of March 29, 2025, to the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April. They are taking volunteers if anyone is interested in helping. Email their district office at [district26@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district26@council.nyc.gov)
- Q & A

**0:43:00 Clare Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards** provided the following update:

- Announced the following events:
  - March 11, 2025, Holi Celebration at Queens Borough Hall.
  - March 26, 2025. Irish American Heritage Cultural Celebration at Queens Borough Hall at 6:00 pm.
  - April 3, 2025, at 12:00 pm, Salute to the Gold Star Spouses Ceremony.
  - April 3, 2025, College and University Fair at Richmond High School from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
  - RSVP to these events at [www.queensbp.nyc.gov](http://www.queensbp.nyc.gov)

**0:44:33 David Espinosa, Sunnyside Community Services** provided the following update

- Announced that on behalf of Judy Zangwill, Executive Director, SCS she would like to send a message that Sunnyside Community Services is monitoring the developments at the federal level and are working with their partners to do everything that they can to support the community, their clients, their employees and are doing everything they can to keep the community safe.
- SCS is seeking volunteers. For more information visit their website under Volunteer Services.

**0:46:16 Matthew Sooknanan, Chhaya Community Development Center**

- Thanked the Land Use Committee of CB 2 and the Chair for drafting a letter to DOB and HPD.
- He discussed the conversation concerning how important it is to have the community involved throughout this process concerning the Basement Apartment Conversation Program.
- Announced they will be hosting a town hall around basement apartments. It will take place in two weeks at Sunnyside Community Services at 6:30 pm.

**0:47:46 Public Comment**

**0:48:08 Julia Forman** spoke about the Q Studio Lab located on 46<sup>th</sup> Street and the play gym being out of commission. There is no structural or safety issue, but that complaints were made. She was glad to hear that Council Member Won was able to work with Lauren to get to a resolution.

**0:50:01 Lauren Travers, Q Studio Lab** spoke about the play structure and the Department of Buildings which has increased the amount of pressure they are placing on small businesses that serve the community. She reported they are working with Council Member Won to look at what needs to be done. Their facility has been located at All Saints Church for the last 17 years and they have had programming there, the structure is in the back garden. The DOB told them they needed a permit without the Department of Health ever saying they needed anything, both agencies issued violations for the play structure, and no one was able to tell them what type of permit they required.

**0:56:41 Alice Davis** spoke about Q Studio lab and the playground issue. She thanked Council Member Won for helping to resolve the issue and requested the assistance of CB 2 intervening with the DOB.

**0:59:41 Audrey Lee** spoke about the Q Studio Lab, and thanked Council Member's Won's office for her advocacy. Spoke about the benefits of the school and the play structure of the school.

**1:02:36 Louisa Leme**, spoke about the Q Studio Lab and about the fines that the school has received and the fundamental importance of the gym and requested the fines be removed.

**1:06:15 Dan Marco Arvelio** spoke about the Q Studio Lab and asked for DOB to help. This is an institution that helps the community and the children. Requested the assistance of the elected officials.

**1:07:49 Alicia** spoke about the Q Studio Lab and the DOB inspection that required the school's jungle gym to be taken out of commission. She is requesting the elected officials help to advocate for getting the play space back.

**1:12:23 Francesca** spoke about the Q Studio Lab and advocated for the importance of children to be outside.

**1:13:42 Marco** spoke about the Q Studio Lab spoke about the children who are not able to use the playground and requested assistance.

**1:16:57 Laura** spoke about the Q Studio Lab and not being able to use the playground and thanked the elected officials and looks forward to the issue being solved.

**1:18:10 Barry Druss** discussed a sustainable project in Sunnyside Yards. He spoke about the potential of developing a train station, a bus depot and a park and they will all be sustainable and work together.

**1:20:18 Seth Slade** reported he was a public member of the Transportation Committee and has attended a variety of Community Board meetings. He discussed Board Member attendance and that he has created an excel spread sheet which has everyone's attendance record. He stated some board members are awesome, and some don't show up and need to be asked to resign. He stated that he has applied for board membership five times and has been rejected five times and said this is about fairness for all.

**1:22:50 Gene** spoke about the Q Studio Lab and his advocacy for the playground.

**1:23:39 Barbara** spoke about the Q Studio Lab and said outdoor space is an amazing resource for the community. She thanked all for their advocacy.

#### **1:25:10 Department of City Planning - Presentation on the OneLIC Draft Zoning Proposal**

**1:25:36 Hye-Kyung Yang provided** a power point presentation on the OneLIC Neighborhood Plan Draft Zoning Proposal.

- This is a draft zoning proposal that was presented in January to the Land Use Committee. The draft zoning was something the public saw in June of last year.
- This is the last piece of the core LIC neighborhood not already covered by a special district. The other parts of the neighborhood Queens West, Hunters Point South, Queens Plaza, Court Square and Dutch Kills are either governed by the special district or have already been substantial developed.



- LIC is a transit rich mixed neighborhood with a diverse economy.
- There has been an increase in population growth since 2010 to the east and south of the study area.
- They believe there are opportunities for diverse job growth and workforce development alongside housing opportunities.
- They have seen interest in individual rezonings via private application routes with similar density proposals.
- The neighborhood plan has advantages to these private applications because they are not looking at only developers lots. They are looking at how they can address the needs of the community and work with other agencies.
- The work has been based off comments throughout the engagement plan and includes comments from other local nonprofit organizations including comments from YourLIC.
- They address density and baseline open space along the Waterfront by creating a new WAP and exploring open space needs within the special district. They are conducting the Waterfront resiliency planning and addressing the street network concerns by including a loop road along the waterfront.
- They want to encourage a mixed-use environment that is reflective of the surrounding area and create open space opportunities.
- They want to strengthen the economic vitality of light industrial district, and their hope is to encourage active diverse and dynamic corridors.
- Q & A

**2:13:51** Board members requested clarification of the numbers they had in their presentation specifically; DCP reported the population had grown 100% in the past 15 years. The Board member pointed out that there is data to support a much larger population growth, as much as 300% between 2010 and 2020. DCP offered to check the data and get back to the Board.

- The DCP reported they would have to get back to the board on this. DCP requested to have this information emailed to their attention.
- A Board Member asked if the surrounding area infrastructure needs were being considered such as in Blissville and Hunters Point South or just the area targeted for rezoning? They asked if investments in the target area would cause a greater deficit to surrounding areas?
- Multiple Board Members asked why the answer is “no” to a two-year waiting period between the study and the ground breakings to allow for infrastructure improvements?
- DCP reported the Neighborhood Plan takes into consideration the area around where the zoning actions, the context area and will have this information. It varies in some areas depending on what they are studying. It could be half a mile. It could be further, it could be closer, but at the end of the day what is being considered is what is happening in this particular area. How is it going to impact not just that area but how does it impact the area around it.
- A Board Member asked if the EIS Study would make clear what the new open green space per capita would be at the highest point of the proposed development.

- The DCP stated they will be back with the information.

### **Transition to Board Business:**

#### **2:20:56 Attendance (Ryan Smith)**

Board Members Present:	26	Board Members Absent:	9
Present Virtual:	8	Excused:	2
		Quorum:	Yes

#### **2:24:20 Approval of the CB 2 Board Meeting Minutes (February 2025)**

Anatole Ashraf made a motion to approve the February 2025 CB 2 Board Meeting Minutes with a friendly amendment to change Morry Galonoy's and Lauren Springer's attendance from absent to excused. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and 3 (three) abstentions

#### **2:25:48 Chairperson's Report (Anatole Ashraf) provided the following update:**

- Wished all a Happy Lenton season.
- Wished all a Happy Ramadan Kareem and EID Mubarak.
- Reported it was great seeing everyone at the St. Pats For All Parade.
- Thanked Tannia Chavez and Patrick Martinez for leading the charge. There was a good turnout.
- Reported on an article about life expectancy in New York City from 2013 to 2022, Sunnyside and Woodside had the highest life expectancy.
- Reported that at the February Borough Board Meeting at Borough Hall, he reported on they worked on the Queens BP's budget request to the city for Fiscal Year 2026.
- There is a request for funding for a Land Use Consultant for all Community Boards and there is funding for live streaming for all Community Boards.
- Announced the Borough President was kind enough to accept his help in creating a Tech Committee for all Community Boards for next year.
- He is seeking another year as Chair to see these things through as it will be his last year and then he will be out.
- Announced new members will be coming in.
- Will be working an onboarding document for new members next month.
- Announced Kat Bloomfield, CB 2 Treasurer has resigned and thanked Kat for their service.
- Announced the new treasurer must be elected and we have Michael Zoorob who is interested.

**2:30:51 Michael Zoorob** presented his bio for Treasurer. He lives in Sunnyside and is humbled to ask for everyone's vote to serve as treasurer of the Board. He is seeking to do a better job with outreach that informs our budget request. He is also seeking to create continuity of

information. He would like to create a record of all the historical budget requests we have made and their outcomes and track that over time.

**2:34:08 District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert)** provided the following update:

- Met Captain Hameed Armani from the 108<sup>th</sup> Precinct. She discussed parking on the sidewalks and double parking throughout the district.
- Reminded everyone to move the clocks ahead one hour on Sunday.
- Reminder it is Woman's History Month.
- MTA is planning on attending the Transportation Meeting this quarter to provide an update on the implementation of the Bus Redesign in two phases. Announced Lucille Songhai is back as our liaison for the Bus Redesign. Megan is still our rep for the #7 Line.
- PARKS UPDATE –
  - Construction start date for Court Square is delayed. They are waiting for permits from the MTA.
- CB 2 had approximately 17 complaints since the February meeting
  - The top complaints were:
    - DOT– potholes, pedestrian walkways
    - DOS – dirty sidewalks, vendor issues
    - PD – illegally parked vehicles
- Reported that CB 2 received emails concerning the Q Studio Lab and she will bring this up to the attention of the District Service Cabinet.

**2:40:48 Carlos Castell Croke, Environment, Parks & Recreation Committee** provided the following update:

- Announced on March 12, 2025, there will be a public meeting that DEP is putting together on the draft scope of work for the Newtown Creek project. The public comment period starts on the 12<sup>th</sup> and ends on April 11, 2025. Will circulate the link as it will be online.
- Murray Playground Dog Run has been closed due to environmental remediation issues, and they do not have any plans to open it as they are doing a reconstruction which will take three plus years to complete. Parks sent a list of vacant lots in the surrounding area that could potentially be used for a temporary dog run. We asked them to explore each of

Board Members requested CB2 advocate for parks as well as a site walk through to have a better way to advocate for this.

- Reported Parks presented a draft plan for the reconstruction of Lou Lodati Playground. They have added more greenery to the area, a new turf in the playground area, tables and benches and are seeking a letter of support.

A board member suggested an amendment to the letter of support for the Lou Lodati Park redesign specifically to remove the request of hostile architecture elements which unfairly targets are our unhoused neighbors and makes a public peaceful environment into an inequitable and segregated space and that we need to design public spaces to include and not exclude and that they could not support this in our neighborhood.

Carlos Castell Croke stated he would be happy to remove this and reported construction will begin in 2027.

A board member requested Parks come back as they design the park to show the furniture, they will be installing so there could be more choices for tables and benches.

A board member suggested an amendment be made to the letter to clarify that Community Board 2 supports the design project for the Lou Lodati Playground Project. Carlos Castell Croke accepted this amendment and said we can request more information about the furniture and that it be included in the letter as the design develops.

**(Motion** made by Stephen Cooper) to table  
**(Motion** did not carry and was withdrawn.

**(Motion** made by Stephen Cooper and Seconded by Morry Galonoy) to authorize CB 2 to send a letter indicating our support for the Park's efforts for redesign and the changes they plan to make taking into account the following amendments:

- Request we remove the line requesting the bars on the benches.
- Clarifying that we are supporting the continuation of their design process.
- Request Parks consider neuro divergent design elements to the Park in terms of color and material.
- Request Parks continue involving us in the process and that they come back and clarify as they design the park.

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

A board member requested that we invite the DEP Commissioner to come back and provide an update on the sewer systems.

**3:01:03 Warren Davis** provided an update on the site visit with the DEP Commissioner, Tom Mituzas, Council Member Won, the Newtown Creek Alliance. They discussed flooding and particularly with sewage. More conversations need to be had regard resolution. They look forward to another meeting to follow up.

**3:03:07 Patrick Martinez** announced that on Monday night at the Wynwoode Garden Civic Association meeting, DEP Queens Borough Commissioner Alfonso Lopez, will be in attendance. All were invited to attend.

**3:06:10 Christine Hunter, Chair, Land Use & Housing Committee** provided the following update:

- Reported there were no actions to vote on.
- The Land Use Committee heard a presentation from Chaya CDC concerning a pilot project on basements. CB 2 sent a letter clarifying questions that we had, and they are requesting that the study be done in conjunction with the community so that it doesn't negatively impact tenants or owners that would like to improve their properties but supports them in that process.

**3:06:54 Reilly Owens, Chair, Transportation Committee** provided the following update:

- Reported that the Committee heard from the businesses along Review Avenue, and they have concerns about the Blissville Greenway and the protected bike lane going into Review Avenue. They presented their case and gave us their recommendations and what their design person thinks should happen. This is an open-court case.
- The Transportation Committee is in support of the Blissville Greenway, protected bike lanes, protected bike infrastructure and the lack of open space and the lack of places to go, a beautiful greenway stretching from bridge to bridge and all the way to the waterfront, we are in support of this.
- The deadline for this summer Open Street Program is March 31, 2025.
- Reported that the community was out and about at the St. Pat's for All Parade in the street without fear of traffic and it is a place where people could congregate.
- Announced that to request accessibility improvements at your MTA station visit: [www.mta.info/accessibility](http://www.mta.info/accessibility)

A board member made a request for follow up on possible vouchers for seniors as opposed to Access-A-Ride because public transportation can be hard for people getting around in wheelchairs.

**3:10:30 Lauren Springer, Chair, Health and Human Services & Education & Unhoused and Shelter Committee** provided the following update.

- Reported Evie Litwok, founder and CEO of Witness to Mass Incarceration provided a presentation at the Health and Human Services Committee Meeting in February. There is a link to the presentation in our newsletter.
- The next committee meeting will take place on Monday at 6:00 pm and is virtual. There will be a presentation from Dr. Lisa Forman about measles.

**3:22:20 Eric Narburgh, Vice Chair, Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee** provided the following update:

- The committee discussed the status of the Bliss Theater and that Dirk McCall from Sunnyside Shines was present and he talked about pursuing a conversation with a developer that has bought the space.
- We are still interested in pursuing cultural preservation efforts. He stated that Dirk McCall discussed that Sunnyside Shines applied to the Historic District Council for Sunnyside to be designated among the Six to Celebrate Program. He announced that Sunnyside will be selected for that designation.

**3:12:33 Karesia Batan, Chair, Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee** provided the following update:

- Provided an update on the Bliss Theater and announced that she had a meeting this week with the developer. They are not even quite at the design process yet because the current tenants, which are the Jehovah Witnesses, will be using the space for about another year.
- They were very open to working with the Community Board and the community in creating an arts and culture shared space to include in their design.
- Karesia Batan thanked Eric Narburgh for his work on the Historic Commission and the landmarking.

**3:15:17 Danielle Brecker, City Services & Public Safety Committee** provided the following update:

- Reported there were approximately 30 applications.
- Announced Little Chef's application was approved.
- The next meeting will take place on March 12, 2025, at 6:30 pm.
- Announced Stephen Cooper will be attending the grand opening of dispensary in Hunters Point, in LIC which was approved by OCM.

**3:16:29 Morry Galonoy, Chair, Small Business & Local Economy** provided the following update:

- Reported Small Business did not have a meeting.
- The next meeting of Small Business & Local Economy will take place on April 22, 2025, at 5:00 pm.

**3:17:09 Tannia Chavez, Chair, Technology and Engagement Committee** provided the following update:

- Thanked everyone that joined the St. Patrick's for All Parade.
- Reminded everyone sign up for the CB 2 Newsletter.
- Next meeting will take place on March 25, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

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

03062025CB2MM