



Melinda Katz
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Denise Keehan-Smith
Chairwoman

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

February 7, 2019

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

THIS BOARD MEETING WAS LIVE STREAMED. TO VIEW THE LIVE STREAMING, PLEASE VISIT THE COMMUNITY BOARD 2 QUEENS WEBSITE AT: WWW.NYC.GOV/QUEENSCB2 UNDER THE MEETINGS SECTION, UNDER THE ARCHIVE TAB

Board Members Present

Czarinna Andres
Diane Ballek
Thalia (Karesia) Batan
Sandra Bigitschke
Bessie Cassaro
Lisa Deller
Sally Frank
Kenneth Greenberg
Benjamin Guttmann
Ellen Kang
Denise Keehan-Smith
Nancy Kleaver
Jordan Levine
Sheila Lewandowski

Dominic Lippolis
Elizabeth McKenna
Thomas Mituzas
Dorothy Morehead
Patrick Murray
Clara Oza
Steven Raga
Jeremy Rosenberg
Regina Shanley
Michael Son
Lauren Springer
Karolina Tosi
Anthony Tudela
Maria Magdalena Vielma

Board Members Absent

Claudia Chan
Osman Chowdhury
Stephen Cooper
William Garrett
Richard Gundlach
Mohammed Jewel
Badrin Khan

Patrick O'Brien
Elliot Park
Lakshmi Reddy
Norberto Saldana
Moitri Savard
Carol Terrano
Mary Torres

Marie Konecko
Donald McCallian
Taina McShane

Rebecca Trent
Santiago Vargas

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert
MaryAnn Gurrado

Elected Officials/Representatives

John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz
Kenny Medrano, Representing NYC Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer
Honorable Brian Barnwell, NY State Assembly Member
Greg Mitchell, Representing NYC Council Member Robert Holden

Guests

David Espinosa, Sunnyside Community Services

Landmark Application 46-01 Skillman Avenue

Matthew Mantilla
Michael Notaro

Department of City Planning

Coralie Ayres

Ms. Keehan-Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Keehan-Smith announced the following:

Reminded all attendees of the following. Speakers must sign up and will be called in turn, the public is allotted (2) two minutes of speaking time and you will be required to stop speaking at the end of that time.

Ms. Keehan-Smith stated there was some misinformation that was released on one of the news channels that Amazon was going to be at the meeting this evening and she insured everyone that Amazon would not be in attendance this evening. If anyone wants to speak about Amazon they can sign up to speak during the public comment section of the meeting.

Ms. Keehan-Smith welcomed the following representatives:

John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

Mr. Perricone provided the following update:

- Board Membership applicants for current and new applicants are due by Friday, February 8, 2019.
- Internship Applications for 2019 are now open for high school and college students. Anyone interested in academic credit can submit their resumes to: inocerino@queensbp.org.

Kenny Medrano, Representing NYC Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer

Mr. Medrano provided the following update:

- Discussed the Council Member's stance on Amazon and that the Council Member has been clear on his position about Amazon and that he is opposed to Amazon being here due to the circumvention of the process.
- There will be another oversight meeting concerning Amazon at the Land Use hearing which will be held on February 27, 2019 at 10:00 am.
- Announced that a new school in LIC broke ground, PS 384 on Parcel F in Hunters Point South. This is the 15th School built in the district since Council Member Van Bramer took office.
- Announced that Council Member Van Bramer joined parents in LIC and announced the installation of an All Way Stop Sign which was installed on 46th Avenue and 5th Street. They have been advocating for this for seven years.
- Anyone with questions can contact the Council Member's office at (718) 383-9566 X 7.

Mr. Mituzas discussed the following issues of concern:

- Homeless Shelters in Blissville and the promises made at the St. Raphael Meeting.
- Discussed the issue of traffic and safety concerns in Blissville.
- Inquired about the \$185 Million dollars awarded to LIC for infrastructure improvements yet Blissville which is located in Long Island City, saw none of this money.

Sandy Bigitschke reported that two homeless individuals from the community died. She stated that we need shelter for the homeless and that we need to take care of the homeless individuals from our community.

Honorable Brian Barnwell, NY State Assembly Member

Honorable Brian Barnwell provided the following update:

- Announced that on February 14, 2019, there will be a Lunar New Year Celebration at 78-14 Roosevelt Avenue, Woodside from 11- 1 pm.

- Announced that on February 16, 2019, there will be a Mobile Pet Adoption Event on Steinway Street and Broadway from 12 to 4 pm.
- Announced that on February 20, 2019, there will be a Women's Empowerment Session at the Woodside Library from 12 to 3 pm. This will focus on domestic violence.
- Announced that on February 22, 2019 Know your Rights Session at the Church of Jesus Christ Ladder Day Saints at 40-24 62nd Street from 6 to 8 pm.
- Announced that on February 27, 2019, Free Mammograms on 50th Street and Skillman Avenue from 9 to 4:30 pm.
- Announced that he has a team to help with graffiti cleanup. If anyone has a location that needs to be cleaned of graffiti throughout the district, to call his office.
- Announced that his office also helps to shovel snow for seniors.
- Assembly Member Barnwell announced that if anyone has any questions, please contact his district office at (718) 651-3185.

David Espinosa, Sunnyside Community Services

Mr. Espinosa provided the following update:

- Announced that Pre-K registration will take place now through March 15, 2019. There will be an open house on February 16, 2019 and February 28, 2019.
- Announced that Sunnyside Community Services has openings in their Adult Day Care Services Program.
- Announced that the 108th Police Precinct will hold their Build a Block Program to meet the Neighborhood Coordinating Officer. This will take place on February 19, 2019 at 6:30 pm Sunnyside Community Services.
- For more information visit their website at: www.scsny.org.

Greg Mitchell, Representing Council Member Robert Holden

Mr. Mitchell provided the following update:

- Announced that on February 28, 2019 they will be hosting a Notice of Property Value Session with the Department of Finance at their office from 6 to 8pm.
- Newsletters were sent out.
- Announced that it is budget time in the Council and they welcome community organizations to apply.
- Announced that Little Bush Park is in the design phase. Parks is proposing to reduce the height of the fence, however Council Member Holden is seeking to preserve the fence at the current height.
- Announced that their office has snow removal for seniors.
- Provided a legislative update and reported that Council Member Holder introduced two bills one is concerning concrete truck spillage and one is related to tow truck chasers.
- For more information, contact their office at: (718) 366-3900.

Presentation by Karen Imas, Waterfront Alliance

Ms. Imas provided a presentation concerning the WEDG campaign to improve waterfront development. Ms. Imas discussed the Waterfront Alliance's Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines Program which promotes resilient, ecologically sustainable, and accessible waterfronts from the bottom up in NYC and beyond. A copy of the presentation is attached (Attachment #1).

Ms. Imas encouraged all to visit the WEDGE website and requested the Board consider this resolution in support of the Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines Standard for NYC.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS APPLICATION

An application for an unenclosed sidewalk café with 10 tables and 20 seats at APU Foods Corp./dba Riko at 45-23 Greenpoint Avenue, Sunnyside

Ms. Deller reported that there was an amendment to the application that was never submitted to the Board.

A motion was made to table this until the next meeting. All were in favor with none opposed and no abstentions.

LANDMARK APPLICATION – 46-01 Skillman Avenue

Application is for the Sunnyside Historic District. After speaking with the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission MVN was notified that two applications would require a public hearing. The items requiring a public hearing are as follows:

Parapet Application

Height increase to Type-A decorative parapets

This application is seeking approval to raise the decorative Type-A parapets one (2) brick courses to comply with the parapet fall protection height requirement outlined in the NYC building code. The non-decorative parapets (Parapet type E) need to be raised 4 brick courses to comply with fall protection requirements.

Façade Application

Installation of four (4) new lantern post lighting fixtures at the rear pedestrian walkway of the building at the Northern portion of the lot.

Ms. Deller stated there is a lot of capital work that needs to be done on the exterior of the building. They came to the Land Use Committee meeting and did a presentation on the improvements they plan to make. They are consistent with preservation rules.

Michael Natro and Matthew Mantilla, MVN Architect LLC provided an overview of the project and distributed the presentation to the Board Members.

The representative reported that this is a repair project, as pieces of brick and slate have fallen off the building and it has become unsafe. There is a sidewalk bridge outside of the building. They must repair the façade. There is a new owner for the building. When they purchased the building a couple of years ago, it had some landmarks violations. There were changes to the buildings that were unsanctioned by Landmarks. The representative discussed the violations.

The representative also reported that this property is comprised of eight buildings, which make up the U Shaped footprint located at the southern end of the Hamilton Court Apartments. Six of the buildings are four stories, the two buildings at the North end of the lot are three stories. The four buildings along Skillman Avenue house both store fronts and residential apartments. The residential entrances are located along 46th and 47th Street as well as at the rear pedestrian pathway and throughout the interior courtyard which is accessed from Skillman Avenue. Repairs for this property have been divided amongst three applications as follows: parapet reconstruction, roof and bulkhead repairs, façade restoration.

Kenny Greenberg made a motion and it was seconded by Ellen Kang to approve the application. All were in favor with 25 in favor of the motion; 3 opposed and 0 abstentions.

Attendance

Board Members Present 28 Board Members Absent 19 Quorum Yes

Approval of the January 3, 2018 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Tom Mituzas made a motion and it was seconded by Anthony Tudela to approve the January 3, 2018 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes.

Nancy Kleaver stated the minutes did not make mention of the conversation they had in the writing of another alternative statement from CB 2 and requested if this could find its way into the notes.

A discussion followed.

Ms. Deller stated that we can amend the minutes to note that the letter was read.

Nancy Kleaver made a motion and it was seconded by Elizabeth McKenna to oppose the minutes and that they would like to add an amendment.

All were in favor by a show of hands with 2 opposed, no abstentions.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the January 3, 2019 Meeting Minutes from last month that there was a discussion about drafting an alternative letter and that Ms. Deller read the letter.

The vote was all in favor with 3 opposed and no abstentions.

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Keehan-Smith provided the following update:

- Announced that Chief Martin Morales has been appointed to NYPD Patrol Borough Queens North replacing Chief Holmes
- Announced the appointment of Captain Michael Gibbs, the new Captain of the 108th Police Precinct replacing Deputy Inspector Forgione.
- Announced that Nancy Kleaver has accepted the position as the new Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee replacing Dr. Moitri Savard. Ms. Keehan-Smith stated that she looks forward to working together with Ms. Kleaver.
- Announced that Amazon has started the Community Advisory Council and the full council has met. They have three (3) sub committees which will run 12 to 18 months. Every month the committees will meet and every quarter the full council will meet.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith reported the committee she serves on is the Project Plan. They still do not have a site yet and it is still a work in progress.
- Announced that Empire State Development (ESD) is expected to host a town hall meeting on February 28, 2019 at 6:30pm at LaGuardia Community College and is open to the public. This will be officially announced by Empire State Development.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith discussed that the Sunnyside Yards Steering Committee has met and reviewed a technical presentation talking about what it could look like, structures, challenges and that it was a thorough presentation. Ms. Keehan-Smith will be in touch soon and the location is to be determined.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith provided an update on the FDNY letter that CB 2 sent concerning Skillman Avenue, as the Fire Department truck buckets do not reach the top floors. CB 2 sent a letter to Commissioner Daniel Nigro's office and heard back from their staff and the studies were completed and that the buckets do reach the top floors and we have this in writing.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that she attended the CAB meeting with Northstar and the Blissville Civic Association, the Department of Homeless Services and there is an uptick in crime and there are some challenges. They have assured that they are addressing these issues and security is patrolling every 30 minutes. We will continue to stay on top of this.
- Announced that a press conference was held on January 17, 2019 on the new school site (Parcel F) with Councilman Van Bramer and SCA.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith wished everyone a Happy Lunar New Year, Happy Valentine's Day and a Happy Presidents Day.
- The next Community Board 2 Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 6:30pm CB 2 will be live.

District Managers Report

Ms. Markell Kleinert provided the following update:

- Homeless joint operations with Breaking Ground and the 108th Precinct was held on 1/15/19. It was stated the weather was extremely cold. They did not have any homeless at these locations: next joint operations is mid-February.
 - 65th St. And 35th Ave
 - 57th and 37th Ave
 - Hart Playground
 - Sports Authority
 - Woodside Plaza
 - St. Sebastian's Roman Catholic Church parking lot
- Attended a meet and greet with the new chief of PBQN Chief Martin Morales. They discussed many scams.
- The Fishing Scam which is the white washing of checks, you should use the gel pen "Uniball Pen 207" fraud protection when writing checks.
- Discussed credit card scams. We must pay attention as they can have erroneous charges. Report to your banks immediately. If someone from a bank states they are calling you, state you will call them back. Only call the bank from the number on the back of your card.
- Reminder to all Board Members, please submit any complaints to the board office and we will follow up.

Department of City Planning

Coralie Ayres provided the following update:

- Mana Product Text Amendment which was referred on January 28, 2019 with CB and BP for 45 Days, will present at the next Land Use Committee Meeting.
- Residential Tower Voids Text Amendment is a citywide text amendment that would regulate excessive mechanical voids within residential buildings in high density residential districts citywide. This affects one site in LIC. This will be discussed at the next Land Use Committee Meeting.
- Private Application for Court Square Block 3 Text Amendment – 23-10 45th Avenue. The applicant will present at the Land Use Committee Meeting.

Sheila Lewandowski spoke about 44th Drive and 23rd Street across from the Citibank building, there was no notice or information about work taking place there. Parking spots are being taken away. Ms. Aryes will follow up on this matter.

Committee Reports

Land Use Committee

Ms. Deller announced that at the February Land Use Committee Meeting the following text amendments will be presented:

- Court Square Block Text Amendment
- Mana Products

Education Sub-Committee

Ms. Keehan-Smith introduced the members of the Education Sub-Committee:

- Lisa Deller
- Nancy Kleaver
- Taina McShane
- Clara Oza
- Lakshmi Reddy
- Lauren Springer
- Karolina Tosi

Ms. Deller invited anyone In Long Island City who is interested in participating in the Education Sub-Committee to join. Jeremy Rosenberg expressed an interest in participating.

Ms. Deller reported there will be a hearing concerning the Success Academy Charter School on February 25, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Court Square Public Library.

Ms. Deller discussed the issue of charter schools.

City Services & Public Safety Committee

Mr. O'Brien was not present at the meeting.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Lewandowski provided the following update:

- Lucille Songhai, MTA attended the Transportation Meeting and discussed the following:
 - CB2 was advised there is a station manager Steven Carson who also addresses station issues.
 - There are planned diversions for spring. MTA will provide notifications as soon as they have the exact dates.
 - Fast Forward program has been announced.
 - MTA stated at this no bus route modifications. MTA is planning to review all of the bus routes.
 - Provided an update on capital projects for stations.
 - 52nd And 69st Street Station – Overcoat Project
 - New paint, steel work, scheduled to be award end of 2019 and start 1st Quarter of 2020.
 - 61st Street- Full Capital Project.
 - RFP to go out end of 2019 award spring of 2020.
 - Vernon / Jackson Project is slated to be completed end of June. Tile work, stair work this project is being completed by MTA in house.

- Provided an update about the L Train.
- Provided an update on the Queens Boulevard Safety Improvements around LaGuardia Community College.
- Discussed there will be a walk through concerning the Blissville Safety Improvements with DOT.
- Announced that stop signs were installed at 46th Avenue and 5th Street.
- Announced the Street Seats Project for 26-01 Jackson Avenue. We will have a public meeting which will be at PS 1 MoMa at 22-25 Jackson Avenue on Tuesday, February 26 2019 at 6:30pm.
- Announced there will be a Press Conference with Congresswoman Maloney demanding we get East Side Access Connection now. The press conference will be held on Monday, February 1, 2019 at noon, location to be determined.
- DOT is continuing to work on 50th Avenue one way conversion which DOT has stated they can only convert when school is not in session and it will possibly be converted during spring break which would be April but most likely summer.
- Calamus Avenue Sewer Project – CB2 received an email response from DDC that the Calamus Avenue Phase II Project is in bid and DDC is in the process of contract registration. The start date is not finalized but expect actual work to begin in late spring or early summer.
- Provided an update concerning a walking tour with John O’Neil, DOT/
- DOT will no longer seek Community Board support on speed bumps. District Managers wrote a letter to DOT opposing this. Thanked Debra Markell Kleinert and all the DM’s for sending this letter.
- Next Transportation Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 4th, 2019 at 6:00pm in the CB 2 Office.

Environment Committee Meeting

Ms. Morehead provided the following update:

Announced that Karen Imas, WEDG attended the Environment Committee Meeting and provided a presentation on the WEDG Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines.

Ms. Morehead requested a resolution, so they can be incorporated for the waterfront in LIC.

Ms. Morehead reported there was a unanimous vote at the Environment Committee to incorporate these guidelines to be considered in development on the waterfront.

Lisa Deller requested that this item be tabled until next month.

Arts & Cultural Committee Report

Stephen Cooper was not present at this meeting.

Mr. Greenberg announced that the committee is looking to invite arts groups to their committee meeting to speak to them about common needs. Regardless of Amazon moving to the area, we need to have community arts performance and exhibition space. Mr. Greenberg has compiled a list of organizations. Mr. Greenberg stated he would send a copy of the draft to the CB 2 Office.

Ms. Keehan-Smith asked that we put this on our website.

Health & Human Services

Dr. Savard was not present at the meeting.

Regina Shanley announced that the Sock Drive is continuing and anyone wishing to donate new socks and new gloves may drop them off at Council Member Van Bramer's office, Community Board 2 Office or at St. Sebastian's Parish Center by the end of February.

Public Comment

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The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado

Attachment #1

02072019CB2MM