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Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson

March 26, 2026

Environment, Parks, and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced using zoom

Committee Members Present:

Carlos Castell Croke

Lauren Springer

Alaina Van Slooten

Committee Members Absent:

Alexandra Gonzalez

Benjamin Lucas

Andie Olivares

Jolly Patel

Committee Public Members Present:

Kevin Davis

Committee Members Excused:

Nellie Afshar

Community Board Members Present:

Camille Gray

Community Board Staff:

Rafael Nava

Guests:

Doug Korman

Wendy Brawer

Lashaun Lesly

Kathryn Issac

Note: Reference to the YouTube video and the associated time-in-meeting stamps are offered here as a service to community members who wish to review the meeting.

Time (Approximate, from YouTube Video)

YouTube Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_WphTgV1H8

0:00:25 Carlos Castell Croke, Chair of the Environment, Parks, and Recreation Committee, welcomed everyone to the committee meeting.

0:01:11: Finalize letter of priority NYS Environmental bills

The Committee worked on a letter to be sent to New York State elected officials representing areas within Queens Community Board 2, encouraging them to co-sponsor specific environmental bills if they have not already done so. The Committee will continue working on the letter offline and intends to send it after the New York State budget is finalized around mid-April.

A motion was made by Carlos Castell Croke to send the letter once the New York State budget is finalized, and it was seconded by Lauren Springer. All committee members in attendance were in favor, with no abstentions or oppositions.

0:11:17 Dutch Kills Community Parks Proposal

Doug Korman provided a PowerPoint presentation on a Dutch Kills community parks proposal. He shared an overview of the site's history and renderings of what he hopes the park will include, such as a skate park and an area where LaGuardia Community College can have a base of operations to do research. He noted that the site has multiple avenues to receive funding, though he did not elaborate.

- As the presentation was not fully visible on the YouTube recording, CB2 has requested a copy, and the minutes will be revised once received to incorporate it.
- Mr. Korman did not request a letter of support; instead, he wanted to inform the Committee members of his proposal.

0:38:47 Discussion of budget responses from agencies

There was a discussion of budget responses from agencies, including the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Carlos Castell Croke will follow up with the agencies to seek clarification.

43:51 Committee Discussion

Last year, the Committee and Parks agreed to tour parks in CB2's district. As the tour did not take place, the Committee expressed interest in following up to see if it could occur in May or June.

A motion to adjourn was made by Carlos Castell Croke, and it was seconded by Lauren Springer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rafael Nava