



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Lisa Deller
Chairperson
Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

January 7, 2020

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom

Board Members – Present

Amparo Abel-Bey

Czarina Andres

Anatole Ashraf

Thalia Batan

Nicholas Berkowitz

Sandra Bigitschke

Bessie Cassaro

Tannia Chavez

Osman Chowdhury

Stephen Cooper

Warren Davis

Jake DeGroot

Lisa Deller

Sally Frank

Morry Galonoy

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos

Kenneth Greenberg

Benjamin Guttman

Christine Hunter

Badrun Khan

Jordan Levine

Kristen McGowan

Thomas Mituzas

Dorothy Morehead

Clara Oza

Steven Raga

Norberto Saldana

Lauren Springer

Rebecca Trent

Anthony Tudela

Adrienne Verrilli

Julie Won

Frank Wu

Board Members – Absent

Diane Ballek

William Garrett

Mohammed Choudhury Jewel

Sheila Lewandowski

Dominic Lippolis

Taina McShane

Patrick Murray

Patrick O'Brien

Bianca Ozeri

Elliot Park

Regina Shanley

Carol Terrano

Mary Torres

John Vaichunas

Elected Officials/Representatives

Honorable Chuck Schumer, US Senator

Honorable Brian Barnwell, NY State Assembly Member
Honorable Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, NY State Assembly Member
Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Jack Bernatovicz, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer
Victoria Leahy, Representing Assembly Member Brian Barnwell
Ernie Brooks, Representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney
John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Department of City Planning

Teal Delys

Guests

Neil Weisbrod

Ms. Deller welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the meeting was being teleconferenced.

She wished all a Happy New Year.

Pledge of Allegiance

Jack Bernatovicz, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer

Mr. Bernatovicz provided the following update:

- Announced that neighborhoods in CB 2 have seen an increase in COVID-19 positivity rates with an almost 11% rate in Woodside.
- Mr. Bernatovicz reminded everyone to continue practicing social distancing, wearing a mask and to get tested as often as possible.
- Announced that Council Member Van Bramer shared his Annual Report for 2020 this week. Every January for the past 11 years, they have shared this report via email, and it is also accessible on all social platforms.
- In December, Council Member Van Bramer and members of Team JVB joined the staff and volunteers at the Mosaic Food Pantry in Sunnyside to help distribute food and masks.
- They also joined the staff and volunteers at Jacob Riss and Queensbridge to drop off hot meals to homebound seniors.
- Thanked Kelly Craig with LIC Relief for helping their office connect with Nafira at Communita in LIC with hand sanitizer.
- Announced that Council Member Van Bramer joined Justin Green, Big Reuse and neighborhood composting advocates at a virtual council hearing on composting opposing the administration's plan to move the Big Reuse Composting site under the Queens Borough Bridge and replace it with parking spots. He thanked all those that submitted testimony and helped to make it clear to Parks and the Mayor's Office that composting is essential for New York City.
- Earlier this month, Parks held a virtual community scoping meeting for Lt. Michael Davidson Playground. He thanked all those that participated and stated that parks has started the design process and they will be coming to CB 2 with proposals and draft ideas in a few months.

- Announced the newly reconstructed Hart Playground has officially been finished and is open to the public. They are planning an official ribbon cutting which will be announced.
- Announced that last month the Council approved Council Member Van Bramer's Open Culture Bill. The program is scheduled to start on March 1, 2021. Their office is looking for recommendations of streets and roadways that would be great spaces to host Arts & Cultural Programs. The program includes open streets, but they are open to adding more to the list. Anyone interested can message Mr. Bernatovicz with ideas or recommendations.
- Announced the Committee on Cultural Affairs will be holding a hearing on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 on the impacts of COVID and New York City artists. The Committee will be hearing two bills:
 - Requiring the City to study Arts & Cultural Real Estate
 - Expanding Artists Certification Program
- Mr. Bernatovicz wished all a happy 2021.

Mr. Bernatovicz entertained questions.

Ms. Deller congratulated the Council Member on the Open Culture Bill.

Mr. Brooks asked if there will be a NYCHA Public Housing Committee Hearing. Mr. Bernatovicz would provide the information in the chat.

In response to a question by Stephen Cooper regarding the Artist Certification Process, Mr. Bernatovicz explained that, currently, the City has an Artist Certification Program that can connect artists with live workspace in Soho. We want to expand this program to connect artists across the city with additional resources and programs and potential grant opportunities. It would be an expansion of the Municipal IDNYC and would be a special arts ID and they would go through the same certification process and it would automatically put you in the city's network of artists to connect you with programs and other city resources.

Mr. Cooper requested this information be sent to the CB 2 office in order that Kenny Greenberg, Karesia Batan and Stephen Cooper can distribute the information to those that are interested.

Mr. Bernatovicz announced that he would put all the information requested in the chat and will also provide it in an email to CB 2.

Honorable Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, NY State Assembly Member

Assembly Member Gonzalez-Rojas provided the following update:

- Assembly Member Gonzalez-Rojas announced that she is the newly elected Assembly Member for District 34, which includes Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, and Corona.
- Assembly Member Gonzalez-Rojas introduced her staff members.
- She stated that she is excited to represent this community and that she has a portion of CB2 and will have representation at the CB 2 Meetings.
- She is currently working out of the previous Assembly Member's office in East Elmhurst and her office is encouraging people to contact them at: (718) 457-7038 and her email address is: gonzalerojasj@nyassembly.gov.

- Assembly Member Gonzalez-Rojas announced her committee assignments, which include Cities, Corporations, Children and Families, Social Services and Environmental Conservation. Corporations oversees the MTA and stated she has been a big advocate for public transportation. She is excited to be appointed to the Corporations committee and to have oversight of the MTA.
- Assembly Member Gonzalez-Rojas is coordinating some events, including town halls and that they have contacted health and hospitals to set up mobile testing sites. Will share any information to get to the Community Boards.

Assembly Member Gonzalez-Rojas entertained questions.

Karesia Batan reported the mobile testing site on Northern Boulevard is overwhelmed and asked how soon can we get more sites up? Assembly Member Gonzalez-Rojas stated her office is working on identifying more sites and is working with the Queens Borough President's Office and will communicate the information as soon as it is confirmed.

Ms. Batan also discussed the self-swabbing section, which is done by a third party, this is experiencing delays in them receiving the samples, she requested the City to follow up.

Ms. Deller stated we are working with the Queens Borough President's Office and Sunnyside Community Services office to get a mobile testing site and CB 2 is advocating for the site under the 7 Line at the 40th Street Station.

Ms. Deller stated that we have had a number of discussions with the Queens Borough President's Office concerning this matter.

Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Mr. Bonthius provided the following update:

- Reported the staff is safe and the Congresswoman is safe.
- Congress certified the results of the 2020 Presidential Election, despite the violent disruption and threat to our democratic institutions.
- Thankful for the safety of lawmakers and colleagues in DC and appreciates the concern from everyone that reached out to their office.
- The Congresswoman is in support of representative Omar's motion to start impeachment proceedings immediately and of Representative Bush's resolution to censure the members of Congress who incited yesterday's violence.
- Discussed the developments in DC and discussed the resignations at the White House.
- Announced that both Senator Chuck Schumer and Speaker Nancy Pelosi pushed for the 25th Amendment.
- The Congresswoman is very concerned about the President remaining in office for the remainder of his term.
- The Congresswoman will be hosting her first town hall of the 2nd term on Thursday, January 22, 2021 at 6:30pm. She will discuss her goals for the 2nd term and take questions from constituents.
- Mr. Bonthius stated that if anyone wished to see recordings of previous town halls, to visit their You Tube page @repaoc.

- If anyone is interested in signing up for their mailings, to contact their office.
- Mr. Bonthius discussed legislative issues:
 - House Paygo Rule - Point of Order
 - 2nd Stimulus Package which included \$600 stimulus checks
 - Extension of eviction and foreclosure moratorium
 - Expanded Small Business Support
 - Extension of the unemployment insurance.
- The Congresswoman continues to fight for monthly \$2,000 checks. The Congresswoman will continue to push to include both undocumented and adult dependent's in the stimulus.
- You can check the status of both stimulus payments at the Get My Payment site. For any eligible constituents who haven't received the first stimulus or don't receive the second stimulus, the IRS has announced the addition of the Recovery Rebate Credit to next year's tax return, so there will be a section where you report whether or not you received the stimulus money and how much you are still owed. The missing funds will then be included in your tax rebate that you file next year.
- The Congresswoman unveiled the winner of the congressional app challenge from New York 14. The app is called Crown Catch by Michael Batavia. Crown Catch is a mobile app designed to help users minimize their risk of catching and spreading COVID-19 by providing news from reputable sources, notify users of local case counts and encouraging users to socially distance through a points reward system video.
- Their office continues to assist constituents with federal case work.
- The staff continues to work from home, and they continue to accept cases at their website at casio-cortez.house.gov or over the phone at: (718) 662-5970.

Mr. Bonthius entertained questions.

Ernie Brooks, Representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

Mr. Brooks provided the following update:

- Announced the Congresswoman is calling for the invocation of the 25th Amendment and immediate impeachment.
- Announced the Congresswoman is safe and her staff in Washington is safe.
- Mr. Brooks read a statement from the Congresswoman. "Yesterday domestic terrorists – incited and inspired by President Trump – violently overtook our nation's Capital Building in a deadly insurrection that attempted to block the completion of a fair and free election. Trump's peddling of conspiracy theories about this election and voter fraud and his directing his followers to march on the Capitol was a direct attack on our democracy and our freedoms. Throughout the day yesterday, I remained focused on the task at hand – certifying the Electoral College results. After casting my vote and arriving home early this morning and thinking through how we as a nation and a government respond to the insurrection, one thing is very clear: Trump must be removed from office either via the 25th Amendment or impeachment. Invoking the 25th Amendment is the quickest way to do this, and expedience must be our goal. He is clearly unfit and cannot be trusted to carry out his duties and peacefully transfer power to the next President – he must be removed from office as soon as possible. If the Vice President and Cabinet fail to act, we have a duty to pursue impeachment. Finally it became clear yesterday that security and enforcement measures were woefully inadequate and it appears that many of

the perpetrators were allowed to walk free while I commend the bravery of our law enforcement officers with perseverance throughout this deadly attack, we must ensure that these domestic terrorists are brought to justice quickly and these systemic failures do not happen again particularly with the inauguration less than two weeks away. We will be coordinating with other committee plans to review the steps taken by federal agencies in preparing for and responding to this attack.”

- Thanked Daniel Bonthius for his report.
- There is a lot of legislation that is being worked on.
- The information may be found at maloneyhouse.gov.
- Thanked Lisa Deller and the Community Board members.

John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Donavan Richards

Mr. Perricone provided the following update:

- Wished all a Happy New Year.
- Announced there will be a press release that will be going live on Monday, concerning the Community Board Membership applications may be found on the Queens Borough President’s website at queensbp.org and the deadline is February 19, 2021.
- The Borough President will be hosting Haiti Independence Day Celebration at queensbp.org on January 13, 2021 at 6pm and will be live streamed on You Tube. You can RSVP on the Queens Borough President’s website.
- In response to question, Mr. Perricone reported the board member applications will not have to be notarized, but he will confirm with Director of Community Boards and will share the information with everyone.

Victoria Leahy, Representing Assembly Member Barnwell

Ms. Leahy provided the following update:

- Wished all a Happy New Year on behalf of Assembly Member Barnwell. He was unable to attend as he had another meeting.
- Assembly Member Barnwell will be hosting a meeting with DDC on a sewer project.
- Thanked all those who participated in the toy drive last month.
- Their office continues to work remotely and are available to help individuals with any issues, including property tax exemption applications.

Jonah Gensler, Sunnyside Community Services

Mr. Gensler provided the following update:

- They are actively working remotely serving 16,000 people. They are also at their school sites and Woodside Houses, serving as well.
- Sunnyside Community Services will be hosting a Blood drive with the New York Blood Center on January 28, 2021 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Sunnyside Community Services on 39th Street.

- Food security has been huge in the community and two days a week they provide food to community members and thanked all who donated and for their contributions.
- There are over 1200 home health aides in the homes of seniors each day, providing critical services. On Monday, they are slated to start getting vaccinations and Aviation High School is listed as one of the sites. Sunnyside Community Services is looking at becoming a site as well.
- Mr. Gensler reported that tomorrow they will be talking to their staff on how they can start to get ready for all of their program participants, because they know that communities of color and communities have been marginalized for health care for years because they have also been impacted terribly by this Pandemic. SCS is in a unique position because of their cultural sensitivity and language and reach to be able to reach these communities as well.
- They have a COVID 19 outreach team and are willing to participate in any online forums. They are offering to give out masks and information in English, Arabic and Spanish to move forward and get vaccinated.

Mr. Gensler entertained questions.

Benjamin Lucas, Woodside Sunnyside Composting Group

Mr. Lucas provided a presentation about the Woodside Sunnyside Composting Group.

- The site is located outside of Lt. Michael Davidson Playground on 50th Street and 39th Avenue.
- It is 0.23 square miles.
- It is called a pantry garden and a space where the community comes together to grow food for distribution to food pantries.
- The Woodside Sunnyside Composting Group cleaned the space and removed garbage.
- They temporarily grow food in a currently unutilized space to donate to the Sunnyside Mutual Aid until the Parks Department has funding and is ready to break ground.
- They have no plans for retaining the space once the ground is broken for a permanent installation. Probably for 1 or 2 growth seasons given the schedule of capital projects.
- Mr. Lucas discussed what they have done so far, including acquiring petitions of over 1000 signatures, started providing food to Sunnyside and Woodside Mutual aid in May. Contacted Green Thumb Outreach Coordinator for Queens in June 2020 and received a very positive and supportive response. Contacted Commissioner Dockett mid-June, then in July, then in September. Commissioner declined to have a conversation. Had multiple discussions with Council Member Van Bramer over the summer.
- Provided an overview of what they have done so far, and reported Parks removed everything.
- Reached out to signatories to help commenting on the scoping meeting last month.
- They are looking into finding sources for building and filling clean soil into raised beds. They are reaching out to other organizations in search of support to Woodside on the Move and Queens Neighborhood United.
- Announced they attended the last Land Use Committee.
- Preparing to reach out the new Borough President.
- They are a main core of four volunteers with direct experience, cumulatively the four core volunteers have over 25 years of experience composting, gardening, and rat abatement.
- There is an immediate urgent need for food.
- Mr. Lucas discussed what the site could be and provided before and after photographs.

- He discussed that they used 320 square feet this year for 470 pounds.
- Mr. Lucas believes they can provide about 500,000 meals.
- Mr. Lucas is seeking direct support with direct assistance in communicating with city government and a statement of support in the annual report to the mayor.

Ms. Deller stated that they need an organization to partner with that has insurance and stated CB 2 will be happy to work with the organization and everyone is in support of composting and gardens.

Karesia Batan asked if the Land Use Committee had provided a letter of support.

Ms. Deller stated this organization does not have a 501c3 and it needs to have more legitimacy in terms of a viable organization. They want to pursue the raised beds around the park.

Jack Bernatovicz stated Council Member Van Bramer has been supportive, but they are getting push back from the Mayor's administration and Parks as well.

Mr. Lucas stated he has met with the Council Member many times to present their ideas and reiterated this is for a temporary use.

Stephen Cooper stated that he was concerned about why Parks had torn their beds down and discussed the history of the location and the number of people who came to CB 2 for temporary housing, temporary shelters. He suggested they reach out to local organizations who are concerned with this park to be a part of this.

Morry Galonoy suggested Queens Together as a start, a group run by Jamie Faye-Bean and Jonathan Forgash who are focused on food insecurity. They are waiting for the final of their 501c3 and have been working very hard. Jamie Faye-Bean runs the Sunnyside Shines BID. Mr. Galonoy stated he is in support but recommends they reach out to team that has structure and a group that has a 501c3.

Nick Berkowitz thanked Mr. Lucas for the thoughtful and well put together presentation as it is clear this was well thought out and that he appreciates it deeply. He also expressed his appreciation to Stephen Cooper for providing the historical background on this park. Mr. Berkowitz stated some of his concerns with regards to the discussion and more from Parks feels capricious and that there has been no public discussion or engagement at all on the pantry garden—especially as it pertains to the short term; between now and when the park opens.

In response to Mr. Berkowitz's comments, Ms. Deller stated that there has already been a meeting with Parks and with various interest groups to contribute their ideas. They continue to reach out. Unfortunately, it was during our Land Use Meeting that there was a meeting with Parks. They are collecting a lot of information from neighborhood groups. The issue is broader than just this composting site. There are folks here from Big Reuse, in LIC who are talking about their site which has also has a short-term agreement with the City until December 2021. Ms. Deller stated the whole issue is about composting and how to enable organizations to have a more permanent location in their community. It is an issue for the Michael Davidson Park, LIC and 45th Street. She would invite Benjamin Lucas to come to Land Use Committee and the Board as we are not ready to do anything but state a general support of composting in our community. Ms. Deller stated she wants to continue to work with Benjamin Lucas and the Council Person and get it to a place where we have some facts.

Mr. Berkowitz stated he is not suggesting that we say anything specific except that we are in the middle of a pandemic, a massive economic challenge as well and that parks have not done enough to engage the community, not talking about supporting this particular project.

Julie Won reported that there was a Parks hearing and there were more than 150 people in attendance. She hears the message about having insurance and a partner willing to sponsor them, and stated she is on the board of Queens Together and will partner with Benji and Eric and that they have a sponsor and will come back to Land Use.

Ms. Deller stated she will work with the Council Member and try to schedule a meeting with Parks.

Justin Green, Big Reuse

Mr. Green provided the following update:

- Supportive of Sunnyside Composting.
- Have been composting for a decade under the Queensboro Bridge.
- Will attend the Land Use Committee and provide a presentation.
- Have a three-year license agreement with Parks under the Queensborough Bridge for community composting and have been there since 2011.
- They cleared off 50 30-yard containers of garbage and other machinery under the bridge, cleared a site and landscaped it and now compost there. They compost parks leaves and woodchips from Queens districts 1, 2 3 and 4 and for parks along with food scraps and give it back to community gardens, Street Tree Care, Green Thumb and Queens Horticulture.
- They have 1000 volunteers.
- The area under the Queensborough bridge is not usable for recreation space due to power lines that feed Manhattan and run through the site.
- Signed a lease agreement.
- Parks is pushing them off.
- They are seeking a letter of support to continue with Parks to allow them to stay on the site and support the environment, parks sustainability and continue to green western Queens.
- There may be a scoping meeting in January.

Ms. Deller stated we will continue to work with everyone to support their efforts with Parks.

Ms. Deller welcomed and thanked the Honorable Chuck Schumer, US Senator for attending the meeting this evening.

Honorable Chuck Schumer, US Senator

Senator Schumer provided the following update:

- Thanked Ms. Deller and Ms. Markell Kleinert for the job they do.
- Senator Schumer thanked the Board Members for all they do and that he appreciates the work Community Boards do. He said everyone does a great job. He knows what it is like to serve on a Community Board.
- He knows CB 2 well and that he rides his bicycle through the area and knows what a great Board we have.

- Senator Schumer stated he normally likes to spend 45 minutes with Community Boards but would have to finish by 8:00 pm. He promised to return within the next six months and spend more time for questions and answers.
- Senator Schumer discussed the incident that occurred at the Capital which was despicable and an insurrection and stated this was not a protest. He stated that these people were thugs and goons and they were violent, and he has never seen nor has he ever imagined something like this would happen. He reported that he was ushered out of the senate chamber and was only about 30 feet from some of these thugs who came from all over the country.
- He stated he believes these people are domestic terrorists and they bear full responsibility and that he will make sure that they are fully prosecuted. He called the Attorney General and the Acting Attorney General and that he has very little faith that this Acting Attorney General will do much but that he is going to make sure that our new attorney general just nominated by President Elect Biden, Merrick Garland goes after and makes sure that the FBI and our federal agencies go after these people and spare no leniency but the main person who bears the blame for this is Donald Trump. Senator Schumer stated that Donald Trump incited this riot. It would not have happened without him. If there was no Donald Trump this would not have happened and that he encouraged the violence.
- He stated that he requested the attorney general and the DOD to get Trump to make a statement to get them to leave the capital and he would not do it.
- When he finally issued a statement, Senator Schumer and Speaker Pelosi shammed him into doing it, it was statement that hurt more than it helped.
- He stated this is despicable and we have to prosecute and today he called for two things. He called on the Vice President to use the 25th Amendment. He refused and so he called on speaker Pelosi in a few hours and later she agreed to begin impeachment proceedings.
- Senator Schumer stated that he doesn't feel Donald Trump deserves to be in office for one day more and if they impeach him which he hopes they would do, he would never be allowed to run for office again, given what he did and encouraged yesterday in the capital.
- Senator Schumer discussed COVID-19 Relief, it has been a very tough year, with the worst health care crisis since the Spanish Flu 100 years ago.
- We have had the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression 75 years ago and we have seen a brazen assault on democracy nothing seems to be worse.
- But the year ended in three good ways, first Trump lost.
- We got a vaccine and it was a great scientific exercise and scientists and researchers and everyone else has created a vaccine.
- In the COVID bill, there is enough money so everyone gets a free vaccine and we provide 19 billion dollars to the states to distribute the vaccine. New York will receive \$45 billion dollars so that we may provide particularly that poor communities and communities of color get some help distributing. Free with no insurance for everyone.
- We passed the COVID bill and it has a lot of good things, which will give \$600 direct payments to low- and middle-income individuals. If you are a family of two you get \$1,200 if you are a family of 4 you get \$2,400. They are fighting to get that up to \$2,000, with him as Majority Leader we have a very good chance. He will have the ability to put bills on the floor of the senate.
- \$25 billion in rent relief for 4 months, and got the moratorium extended and money so people can pay their utilities. They will fight for more in the next bill.

- Senator Schumer announced the various amounts of funding for Save Our Stages, MDI's in CFD's (Minority Development Institutions and Community Financial Development Institutions). Pell Grants, the MTA, Schools and Broadband, and money for the distribution of vaccines and unemployment insurance, small business money applies to non-profits and churches.
- Senator Schumer will send a list for MDI's and CFD's.
- Senator Schumer announced that he and Elizabeth Warren have proposed that the first \$50,000 of student loan debt be forgiven by the Federal Government. Trying to get 10 million emails to get this to President Biden.
- Wished all a good 2021.

Ms. Deller thanked Senator Schumer for his time.

Honorable Brian Barnwell, NY State Assembly Member

Assembly Member Barnwell thanked everyone and wished everyone a happy new year.

BSA Application

BSA Calendar Number 2016-1185-A-45-14 and 45-40 51st Street

The Application filed on behalf of Treasure Island of Asbury Park Self Storage LLC seeks an amendment to the BSA resolution, dated November 1, 2016 to extend the time to obtain: all DOB and related agency applications (s) filed. The extension of time is to enable the Applicant to construct a three-story with cellar, 34,320 square foot, use group 16 self-storage facility on a zoning lot which includes Tax Lots 53 and 54 on Block 2283, Borough of Queens

Neil Weisbard provided the following update:

- In April 2016, the Board issued a favorable recommendation. The BSA approved it in November 2016. He stated the final certificate of occupancy be obtained by November 1, 2020.
- Treasure Island is the potential purchaser of this property.
- They have been in a legal dispute with the current owner. He stated therefore construction has not begun. The dispute has been resolved in favor of Treasure Island and they are waiting for the referee to finalize the case and give permission to transfer the property to Treasure Island. This is a straight amendment application asking for the BSA for more time to complete construction.

Ms. Deller reported that the Land Use Committee heard this in 2016 and voted in favor and then they came for a meeting in December and we voted to approve the application for an extension.

Attendance

Board Members Present 33 Board Members Absent 14 Quorum Yes

Approval of the December 3, 2020 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Kenny Greenberg made a motion and it was seconded by Rebecca Trent to approve the December 3, 2020 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes. The vote was all in favor of the motion to approve with none opposed and 1 abstention.

Chairwoman's Report

Ms. Deller provided the following update:

- Wished everyone a happy New Year.
- Reported that one of our goals is establishing a By-Laws Committee to update the CB 2 By-Laws.
- Ms. Deller thanked the Tech Committee for great input and participation. Ms. Deller announced that CB 2 will be teleconferencing utilizing Zoom.
- Ms. Deller reported that we are Improving Tech Capacity and she thanked the following board members, Morry Galonoy, Jake DeGroot, Anatole Ashraf for their assistance.
- Reported she has participated in the Borough President's meetings on Test and Trace, COVID-19, and Vaccines.
- Announced that the Borough President's office is supportive of advances in Technology. It is very exciting to work with folks at the BP's office.
- Ms. Deller reminded everyone to stay safe and spoke about the numbers are high, over 9%.
- Ms. Deller stated that CB 2 is working on getting a mobile site in CB 2 and hopes it comes to fruition.
- Ms. Deller reported that we had a Homeless Services Committee and we had a meeting with the LIC Partnership, CB 2, Tom Mituzas, serviced providers from temporary shelters. They are not leaving anytime soon, and it is good to engage with them about the issues in our community.
- Ms. Deller reported CB 2 will reconvene the Homeless Services Committee and if anyone was interested in participating to let her know.

Christine Hunter asked for a list of homeless shelters in CB 2.

Nick Berkowitz made an inquiry concerning the budget cuts. Lisa Deller stated that a meeting was held with the Borough President's Office and other Chairs and District managers. The issue of Budget Cuts came up and there was a lot of discussion about whether the BP's office and the cost of technology could come out of the BP's office rather than the CB 2 office. It is likely there could be more cuts. Ms. Markell Kleinert stated that approximately \$3,800 was cut from our budget today and in 2022, there will be an \$8,000 cut to our budget. She stated we are looking at significant cuts.

Ms. Deller stated we have to do more with less. We used to pay for Sunnyside Community Services rent for our meetings and now we are not doing that. It is unlikely that we will not be going back to in person meetings before the end of the year and it is important that we get comfortable with virtual meetings.

District Manager's Report

Ms. Markell Kleinert provided the following update:

- The Board is busy and following up and working hard to get the website to be live.
- We are working to put more things on Facebook.
- We are trying to meet the needs of the Board.
- CB 2 has masks in the office if anyone is interested.

Department of City Planning

Teal Delys provided the following update:

- Projects that are in ULURP are 42-11 9th Street, was approved by CPC and it will be going to the City Council.
- 50-25 Barnett Avenue will have its Public Hearing most likely at the CPC on January 20, 2021, however the agenda has not been established yet.
- Upcoming ULURP Projects:
 - 62-04 Roosevelt Avenue
 - 48-18 Van Dam Street

These are on deck for certification in February or March.

BSA Application – Calendar No 2016-1185-A-45-14 and 45-40 51st Street

Stephen Cooper made a motion and it was seconded by Christine Hunter to approve the extension for BSA Application. The vote was 32 in favor of the motion with 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

City Services & Public Safety Committee

No Report

Transportation Committee

Tom Mituzas provided the following update:

Speed reducer that was installed in Sunnyside.

There are approved speed reducers which include:

- 48th between 39th and Woodside Avenue
- 59th Place and Laurel Hill Boulevard and 52nd Avenue
- 50th Avenue between 46th and 47th Streets

Mr. Mituzas stated there are a number of items that continue to be under review:

- Long awaited transition of the Queens Borough Bridge for a pedestrian only lane on the south lane and a cyclist lane on the north lane. There is a delay as they are awaiting funds for the installation of a fence on the south bound lane.
- Follow up on open streets and that they are not accepting more open streets. In Blissville, a community devoid of Parks, the DOT reported they would not consider because the 108th Police Precinct does not have any more barriers.
- Bulkhead at the end of Vernon Boulevard, which is an emergency repairs, the community has raised concerns about public access. There is a petition going around about this.
- Lack of movement of Parks on Kosciuszko Bridge, nothing has been done on the Queens side
- There are people there playing in the area and the Park that was promised has not built yet.
- Thanked Council Member Van Bramer for his continuing and ongoing support regarding a meeting for the Flagpole that DOT and Parks refused to take responsibility for restoration.

- Mr. Mituzas stated that he and Sheila Lewandowski are looking forward to a great year and if anyone has anything, they would like the Transportation Committee to address to please let them know.

Arts & Cultural Committee

Kenny Greenberg provided the following update:

- Developing an interactive arts event calendar to integrate with CB 2 website and Facebook. It is a work in progress, and they hope to activate it soon.
- Met with local artist Jack Howard Potter who has the beautiful sculptures in Court Square Park. He is an artist who has had several public projects throughout the country. He was very generous with his time in putting together a successful proposal to encourage more public works from local artists and help them through the process.
- Mr. Greenberg thanked Karesia Batan, Culture Lab LIC and Plaxall for the Little Libraries which are open and active.
- The next Arts & Cultural Committee meeting will take place on January 12, 2021 at 6pm.

Kareisa Batan encouraged everyone to use the CB 2 website especially the Arts and Cultural page as a resource to submit arts and cultural events that are happening in the district, especially virtual ones.

She reported that we also want to populate the events page with images to so there will be a form that you can fill out to submit your work and to upload any images to promote your event. Please keep an eye out for announcements.

Thanked CB 2 and everyone for getting behind this effort.

Ms. Batan stated that the plan on working with more community partners in a similar fashion to be able to put up more little libraries in the neighborhood which will be decorated and made by the neighborhood.

Environment Committee

Ms. Morehead stated she has not had a meeting in November and December due to the holidays, however, will be holding a meeting in this month on the 4th Thursday on January 28, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Health and Human Services Committee

Ms. Deller announced the next meeting will take place on January 12, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

She reported the we would like to get the committee to deal with the COVID-19 issues and messaging we need to get out about health and education.

She spoke with Judy Zangwill, Sunnyside Community Services and they may be interested in participating.

Dr. Gianutsos proposed a motion to Queens Community Board 2 recognizes that the pandemic and associated financial consequences have exacerbated the existing issue of hunger in the community. We stand in support in the way our neighbors have come together to address this emergency to help one another in the form of donations to food pantries and mutual aid associations and the creation of community gardens.

Ms. Deller requested this be sent to the CB 2 office by email and this is a great support of a broader issue and asked who the intended audience is.

Dr. Gianutsos stated that it could be made public for instance in newspapers we have to strongly emphasize our concern about the pandemic and that many things have to be done different and to reinforce the incredible efforts going on in the community. This could be a tool in trying to get parks to be more flexible.

Tom Mituzas stated the shelter residence would benefit.

Dr. Gianutsos made a motion and it was seconded by Stephen Cooper. The vote was 30 in favor of the motion, none opposed and no abstentions.

Public Comment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

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