



Donovan Richards
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Community Board No. 2

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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

You Tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@queenscb2>

***Revised**

June 1, 2023

Queens Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom

Board Members – Present: Amparo Abel-Bey, Nellie Afshar, Anatole Ashraf, Ann Marie Baranowski, Karesia Batan, Danielle Brecker, Tannia Chavez, Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Kelly Craig, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Morry Galonoy, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Mohammed Hossen, Lelin Kandel, Diana Kichler, Pramett Kumar, Chhemang Lama, Sheila Lewandowski, Benjamin Lucas, Patrick Martinez, Thomas Mituzas, Eric Narburgh, Zeeshan Ott, Reilly Owens, Oumaya Saab, Norberto Saldana, Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Lauren Springer, Akello Thomas, Mary Torres

Board Members – Absent:

Unexcused: Somnath Ghimire, Badrun Kahn, Megan O'Neill, Phuntsok Tashi, Leticia Vasquez, Frank Wu, Kalsan Yangtso

Excused: John Bahia, *Carlos Castell Croke, Nicholas Berkowitz, Sandra Bigitschke, Kat Bloomfield, Christine Hunter, Clara Oza

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

Public Members – Present

Sarah Obraitis, Patricia Pan,

Public Members – Absent

Edward Joseph Wheeler, Emilia Decaudin, Simon Peter Tangney, Pearl Brady, Mariana Mogilevich, Chia Julie Chou, Atanu Majumdar, Rayna Huber Erlich, William Jourdain, Seth Slade

Elected Officials/Representatives

Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng

*Samantha Johnson, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez
Jessica Tang, Representing Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
Mahfuzul Islam, Representing NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez
Melissa, Honorable Juan Ardilla, New York State Assembly Member
Victoria Leahy, Representing Assembly Member Steven Raga
Kalsang Yangtso, Representing New York City Council Member Julie Won
Javier Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz*

Department of City Planning

Nilus Klingel

NYC EDC

Tara Das, Nina Verzosa, Franny Civitano

Public Comment,

Maroua Righi, CCRB

William Kregler

James MaGee

Patricia Dorfman

Sarah Orbatis

Carlos Chacon, Neighborhood Housing Services

Guests

Laura Heim, Architect, Landmark Application

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)

0:00:57 Queens CB 2 Chairperson Danielle Brecker welcomed everyone to the CB 2 Meeting.

0:01:26 Pledge of Allegiance

0:03:37 Kalsang Yangtso, Representing New York City Council Member Julie Won discussed the following:

- If anyone has any concerns please forward to their office.
- Provided flyers concerning upcoming events.

- Reported they have partnered with shelters nearby. The Council Member's office is currently conducting a clothing drive to support the newly arrived asylum seekers. If anyone has any items they wish to donate to contact their office.

0:06:02 Melissa, Representing Assembly Member Juan Ardilla discussed the following:

- Reported the Assembly Member is driving down from Albany and is currently handling an emergency.
- Assembly Member has introduced 6 additional for a total of 14 bills introduced this session.
- His office has distributed clothing to migrant families in need. Anyone interested in donating may reach out to their office.

0:08:19 Victoria Leahy, Representing Assembly Member Steven Raga discussed the following:

- Announced the hosted a number of events such as their shredding event with AARP at Big Six Towers, AAPI Heritage Month Celebration and a job fair clinic with Good Temps, and a know your rights session with Core, as well as a legal clinic with Core.
- Assembly Member Raga's office will be hosting community service events such as the ones listed and they will share an updated calendar with the Community Board.
- Will be marching in the Queens Pride.
- June 28, 2023, Self Defense workshop from 6:00pm to 7:0 pm with Assembly Member Jessica Gonzales Rojas and Congress Member Grace Meng.
- Office Number: (718) 651-3185 or visit: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Steven-Raga>
- Q & A

0:10:05 Maroua Righi, CCRB

- Announced a public board meeting will take place on the second Wednesday of July and is open to all members of the public.

0:11:39 Evelyn Li, Representing Congress Member Grace Meng provided the following information:

- Congress Member Grace Meng introduced Diwali to make it a federal holiday. She has also pushed to make Diwali a school holiday in NYC and continues to advocate for state and local recognition of Diwali along with the Lunar New Year and EID. Congresswoman Meng has introduced the Mental Health Workforce and Language Access Act.
- The Congresswoman is still continuing the fight against mail theft. If anyone experiences any kind of mail theft or any mail problem please contact their office.
- Passport event will be held on June 11, 2023 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Woodside post office

0:13:50 Javier Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz wished all Happy Pride Month. If anyone has anything they wish to share to contact him.

00:15:08 Public Comments

0:15:37 Odette Wilkins, President and General Council of Wired Broadband discussed safe technology for the public. Discussed Link 5G Towers that are slated for this area. There are a number of health concerns regarding these towers along with other safety concerns and privacy concerns with respect to health issues. Her email is owilkens@wiredboardband.org.

Q & A

0:18:13 Jill McManus discussed the amount of emissions from these towers across the city and that it will be more extensive in the future as they are aiming to put up 7,500 of these towers up until 2026. People are being exposed wherever they walk. Discussed the health effects, wanted to make all aware and to get involved.

0:27:49 William Kregler discussed the following:

- Support the Blue without the police we would have lawlessness.
- Remember those in the military made the ultimate sacrifice.
- Request for the Citibike Program in and around Woodside Station at 61st Street, requested to move the bikes off the street area and under the trestles and onto the park areas that we have plenty of. This would free up badly needed parking for businesses around the area who are hurting.
- Discussed 58th Street and Woodside Avenue asked for DOT to look at this further.

0:30:10 Jim MaGee announced he is having a meeting for a new democratic club, it will be held on Sunday at Bar 43 at 7:00 pm. He announced Council Member Won will be there to speak and take questions.

0:31:43 Patricia Dorfman talked the 46th Street closing which already has 500 people and growing each day that have signed a petition against it and that many businesses are not for it.

0:33:33 Sarah Orbatis announced the Court Square Civic Association and M Wells will be hosting their fourth annual Square Block Party on June 18, 2023 from 12:00 to 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

0:36:00 Carols Chacon, Neighborhood Housing Services Queens (NHSQ)

- All are invited to new digital skills classes twice a week on Tuesday and Thursdays at the Queens Museum and are completely free.
- Working with LaGuardia Career Center should anyone be interested in employment opportunities there.
- They will also be hosting a webinar this month and next month for affordable housing.

0:39:07 Lisa Deller spoke on behalf of Sunnyside Community Services

Sunnyside Community Service will be hosting their annual gala at M Wells on June 20, 2023, everyone is invited to attend and come by tickets.

0:40:25 Tara Das, NYC EDC introduced her colleagues, Nina Verzosa and Franny Civiato

Announced they attended the Transportation Committee and provided this presentation. NYC Ferry and EDC have been working to update the Hunters Point South Ferry Landing, received feedback from Council Member and members of the community to study alternative sites for the Ferry Landing in Hunters Point South. Continue to work on engineering consultants on the study of the locations.

0:42:18 Nina Verzosa, Transportation Planner, EDC, Ferry Department

Presented a power point presentation on the Hunters Point South Ferry Landing - Alternatives Analysis Study Update.

- This is highly utilized landing and the oldest in the system and must be replaced, maintained and inspected regularly.
- A replacement landing in this location was previously considered but proved infeasible due to tunnels and water depths.
- The goal is to make the landing fully ADA accessible, ensure the structural integrity of the landing and install an additional slip to improve service reliability.

0:48:11 Tara Das, EDC stated they are still in the process of conducting the study and expect it to wrap up this summer. Will come back to the Community Board in the Fall in 2023.

Q & A

1:10:31 Landmark Application – 41-50 47th Street

Laura Heim, Architect, provided the following information:

- Located in Colonial Court, two family converting to one family.
- Doing major renovations.
- Two skylights in the rear of the house.
- Historic photos were presented.
- Faces small apartment building.
- Proposal is for two new 2'-2 1/2' by 4'-2 1/2' fixed skylights.
- Original slate will be removed and saved to use it to repair in other parts of the roof as required.
- Full application is in review at the staff level.
- Scheduled for June 6, 2023 Landmarks Hearing.

Q & A

1:20:41 ULURP City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality Text Amendment (N 230113ZRY)

Nilus Klingel, Department of City Planning presented a power point presentation. This is the first of three projects that DCP is developing as part of Mayor Adams broader City of Yes Initiative. It charges agencies to take a hard look at outdated regulations holding New Yorkers back from investing in their homes businesses and in the city overall. The two other initiatives included are Zoning for Economic Opportunity and Housing Opportunity. They will begin public engagement later in the summer. They are intentionally staggered.

Q & A

2:18:52 Transition to Board Business

2:25:10 Attendance

- Board Members Present: 36 Board Members Absent: 14
 - Unexcused: 8 Excused: 6 Quorum: Yes

2:47:31 Motion to approve the Revised May 4, 2023 CB 2 Meeting Minutes
(Motion made by Amparo Abel-Bey, seconded by Caroline Spitzer/Sheila Lewandowski)
Motion carried: All in favor with none (0) opposed and no (0) abstentions.

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/queenscb2/meetings/meeting-agendas-minutes.page>

2:25:50 Chairperson's Report (Danielle Brecker)

- Welcomed new board members. She discussed committee assignments and encouraged all to go to the committee meetings they are assigned to and take an active role. Will follow up next week.
- The Technology and Access Committee and Engagement and Inclusion Committee will be combined into one committee. Will count on everyone to work together.
- Anyone interested in being on this committee to let her know.
- On July 8, 2023 there will be a CB 2 gathering.
- Announced new board member committee assignments:
 - Environment Committee – Nellie Afshar, Carlos Castell Croke
 - Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee – Ann Marie Baranowski, Eric Narburgh
 - City Services & Public Safety Committee – Mohammad Hossen, Meghan O'Neill
 - Small Business & Local Economy Committee – Lelin Kandel, Kalsang Yangtso
 - Land Use & Housing Committee – Diana Kichler, Prameet Kumar, Ann Marie Baranowski
 - Transportation Committee – Zeeshan Ott, Oumaya Saab, Dr. Gianutsos
 - Health & Human Services & Education Committee - Leticia Vasquez
- Meetings will continue through June and we break for July and August, however the budget committee will meet during that time and reminded chairs of committees they are part of the budget committee.
- Tom Mituzas requested formalizing the unhoused and sheltered task force.
- Provided an update concerning the Executive Committee Meeting
- Lisa Deller requested Tech and Engagement do more outreach this year with regard to the budget process.
- Discussed June is Pride month and there are many events that will take place tomorrow at 6:00 pm at 40th Street at Lowery Plaza.

2:35:17 Morry Galonoy provided an update about the Sunny Pride event with Sunnyside Shines. Thanked Caroline Spitzer for her help. The event will take place tomorrow, there will be a march up to 46th Street at Bliss Plaza. There will be music, performances and an artist market and then an after party. All are welcome.

2:23:52 Danielle Brecker announced the following:

- Sunday is the Queens Pride parade in Jackson Heights and all are welcome.
- Will be a drag story hour at Woodside Library on June 14, 2023 at 12:00 noon.
- Attended Long Island City Springs at the CB 2 Table thanked all for their attendance and for volunteering.
- Discussed the situation with Assembly Member Ardilla in District 37. The motion was tabled at the last meeting so that she could consult with the lawyer and Conflict of Interest Board (COIB) to find out what we could legally do. Wrote to COIB and laid out the concerns and ideas and they responded this was not a conflict of interest and that we could proceed legally. Dr. Gianutsos, 1st Vice Chair, CB 2 drafted a resolution shared with the Executive Committee, it was seconded by Anatole Ashraf.

2:41:45: Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos read the following:

The CB2 Queens Executive Committee supports the following motion for consideration at the June 1, 2023 full board meeting.

Whereas, in response to accusations of sexual assault which came out after his election, Assemblymember Juan Ardila has released non-specific public statements apologizing for “past behavior” making it impossible for constituents to ascertain the truth;

Whereas, Assemblymember Ardila has failed to respond in a timely and public manner to the questions raised by Queens CB2 members at our May full board meeting;

Whereas, Assemblymember Juan Ardila’s district includes a large portion of Queens Community Board 2;

Whereas; Queens Community Board 2 is deeply concerned that constituents are not receiving the representation they are due;

Whereas, at least two of Assemblymember Ardila’s elected colleagues have reported to the board that they are unwilling to work with him and that he has not been fully engaged in legislative activities for which he was elected, and that, therefore, the district has suffered by his lack of effective advocacy;

It is hereby resolved that Queens CB2 takes this vote of no confidence in AM Ardila’s ability to represent his constituents within CB2.

2:44:07 Mary Torres requested two edits to the resolution to spell out CB 2 and AM to Assembly Member, the amendment was accepted by Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos and seconded by Tom Mituzas.

2:56:52 Tom Mituzas requested the first whereas clause and suggests an alternative could be statements, apologizing for past behavior. His constituents deserve to hear the truth. Dr. Gianutsos accepted the modification.

3:16:21 Motion made to call on the resolution for a Vote of No Confidence concerning Assembly Member Ardilla (motion made by R. Rosamond Gianutsos and seconded by Anatole Ashraf)

Motion carried: All in favor with 1 opposed and no abstentions

Whereas, in response to accusations of sexual assault which came out after his election, Assemblymember Juan Ardila has released non-specific public statements apologizing for “past behavior. His constituents deserve to know the truth;

Whereas, Assemblymember Ardila has failed to respond in a timely and public manner to the questions raised by Queens CB2 members at our May full board meeting;

Whereas, Assemblymember Juan Ardila’s district includes a large portion of Queens Community Board 2;

Whereas; Queens Community Board 2 is deeply concerned that constituents are not receiving the representation they are due;

Whereas, at least two of Assemblymember Ardila’s elected colleagues have reported to the board that they are unwilling to work with him and that he has not been fully engaged in legislative activities for which he was elected, and that, therefore, the district has suffered by his lack of effective advocacy;

It is hereby resolved that Queens Community Board 2 takes this vote of no confidence in Assembly Member Ardila’s ability to represent his constituents within Community Board 2.

3:21:01 District Manager’s Report (Debra Markell Kleinert)

- The 53rd Annual Flag Day Parade is Saturday June 10, 2023 11:00am along Greenpoint Avenue from, 40th Street to 48th Street. Celebration at Sabba Park Queen Blvd at 49th Street.
- CB2 sent out the Capital and Expense Budget Register yesterday to all board members, civics, and community leaders for their summer homework and to review.
 - CB2 sends out the register each year at our June meeting as summer homework for the community to send in requests for the upcoming budget cycle.
 - Reported Lisa Deller did an amazing job last year working with MaryAnn and thanked them for stepping in and being so helpful. She stated she looks forward to working with the entire committee this year and hopefully it will be a lot simpler and easier working from the register.
- Thanked Chairwoman Danielle Brecker and all the board members for all of their hard work. Thanked the staff and our LaGuardia College Intern, for being responsive and working hard and insuring all our information is correct.
- Congratulated all the new Board Members

- Announced we are open for business during the summer, please call in your complaints with the exact locations and very specific information.
- Attended community input meeting with parks on Lawrence Virgilio Playground (May 9)
 - Parks
 - The construction of Noonan Playground, which includes new plantings, benches, pavement, stairs, fencing, lighting, and drinking fountains has begun. The project scheduled completion date is March 2024.
- CB 2 had approximately 24 complaints last month and from May 1, 2023, through May 31, 2023, 55 complaints this month.
 - The top complaints were:
 - Parks
 - Tree issues, request for new and cleanup dead trees
 - NYPD
 - Vehicles blocking sidewalks, prostitution.
 - Department of Transportation
 - Signage, signals, potholes
 - Sanitation (dos) – garbage issues
- Wished everyone a Happy Pride Month, Happy Fathers Day and a Happy Summer.
- CB2 continues to post more information on our facebook, and website.
- The next Community Board 2 meeting will be held on Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 6:30pm.
- Please check the website for updated information.

3:25:30 Committee Reports and Deliberation

3:25:31 Land Use Committee Report (Lisa Deller) - The Committee held their meeting and minutes are posted to the website: <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb2/downloads/pdf/committee-agendas-minutes/land-use/2023/May-17-2023-Land-Use-Committee-Meeting-Minutes-Final.pdf>

Landmark Application 41-50 47th Street, Sunnyside, NY

Motion made to support the application

(Motion made by Stephen Cooper and seconded by Tom Mituzas)

Motion carried: (35) All in favor of the motion; (0) none opposed; and (0) no abstentions.

ULURP CITY OF YES FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY TEXT AMENDMENT (N 230113ZRY)

Motion made to support the application

(Motion made by Sheila Lewandowski and seconded by Amparo Abel-Bey)

Laura Shepard made an amendment to the motion to include that New York City should abolish parking minimums in new construction. The amendment was not accepted.

Motion carried: (34) in favor of the motion with (1) opposed; and (0) Abstentions.

Lisa Deller reported they are continuing to work with LIC BID with their proposal to expand the BID, one is south and one is east of the current BID. Went on walking tour. They will schedule another walk through on the north side of the expansion area.

Benjamin Lucas made a follow-up motion and it was seconded by Laura Shepard to add to the present motion that we need to seriously consider removing parking requirements as parking requirements only increase the number of cars that people have and we need to not increase cars that people have because we live in a city that is already packed with cars.

(Motion made by Stephen Cooper and seconded by Mary Torres) to table the motion until we can put it through a committee and get recommendations and have a full hearing on the subject.

Motion to table did not carry (16) in favor; (17) opposed; (0) abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to send resolution is to send a free standing comment to the Department of City Planning that will request that they expedite the removal of parking requirements in housing as part of this amendment. It is a free standing amendment supporting the removal of parking requirements in housing as part of this amendment.

Motion does not carry: (14) in favor of the motion; (18) opposed and (0) abstentions

04:11:14 Transportation Committee (Sheila Lewandowski) The committee held their meeting and minutes are posted to the website

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb2/downloads/pdf/committee-agendas-minutes/transportation/2023/May-2-2023-Transportation-Committee-Meeting-Minutes-Final.pdf>

- Provided an update on the presentation by EDC on the Ferry Landing.
- Presentation by the MTA, they will be adding an accessible station on Northern Blvd.
- Open Culture passed the City Council.

04:14:04 Health & Human Services & Education Committee (Lauren Springer & Clara Oza) The committee held their meeting and minutes are posted to the website.

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb2/downloads/pdf/committee-agendas-minutes/health-human-services/May-8-2023-Health-Human-Services-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

- Presentation by Laura Atlas, Senior Director of External Affairs at Health and Human Services.
- Next Meeting June 12, 2023 at 5:00 pm

4:15:51 Arts & Cultural Committee (Karesia Batan) The committee held their meeting and minutes are posted to the website. <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb2/downloads/pdf/committee-agendas-minutes/arts-cultural-affairs/May-9-2023-Arts-Culture-Affairs-Committee-Minutes.pdf>

- New mural over by Doughboy Park
- Met with Sunnyside Drum Corp. looking for more students to join them.
- Provided an update on Eagle Electric Building community space.
- Next Meeting on June 13, 2023.
- Announced Open Culture passed last week.

4:19:30 Engagement and Inclusion Committee (Tannia Chavez)

- Next meeting will take place on June 14, 2023 at 5:30 pm.
- Proposing a T-Shirt Drive
- Announced there will be a summer social on July 8, 2023 at Windmuller Park from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm and encourage everyone to stay for the Queensboro Dance Festival.
- (Motion made by Anatole Ashraf seconded by Tannia Chavez) to adjourn the next Technology and Access Committee and combine it with the Engagement and Inclusion Committee.
Motion carried with all were in favor, none opposed an no abstentions.

4:22:51 City Services & Public Safety Committee (Stephen Cooper) The committee held their meeting and minutes are posted to the website:

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb2/downloads/pdf/committee-agendas-minutes/city-services/May-10-2023-City-Services--Public-Safety-Committee-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

- Announced City Services & Public Safety will be reviewing two locations for Cannabis Licenses.
- Next meeting June 14, 2023, 6:30 pm.

04:29:50 Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee (Laura Shepard)

- Meeting for May was cancelled.
- Announced DSNY sent in a letter in response to CB 2's letter regarding Trash Containerization.
- Next meeting is on June 22, 2023

4:30:47 Small Business and Local Economy (Kenny Greenberg/Mary Torres)

- Announced the many showed up at the LIC Springs and thanked all for attending.
- Thanked Debra Markell Kleinert and the staff for preparing the swag and accommodating them for the pick up.
- Next meeting to be confirmed.

4:32:35 Technology and Access Committee (Anatole Ashraf)

- Announced furthering the Small Business and Local Economy directory page on the CB 2 Queens website
- Dirk McCall, Sunnyside Shines was in attendance.
- Discussed Queens Professional Meet up tentative dates are August 2, or July 26, 2023.

Danielle Brecker announced the next full board meeting is September 7, 2023, wished all a happy and safe summer.

4:35:33 Sheila Lewandowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Patrick Martinez.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado
CB 2 Staff

Reviewed/Revised and approved for distribution by:

✓ Anatole Ashraf, Secretary, CB2
X Danielle Brecker, Chairperson, CB 2

X Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, CB 2

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