



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

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

Corrected Copy as per June 1, 2023 Vote

Revised

May 4, 2023

Queens Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom

Board Members – Present: Amparo Abel-Bey, Nellie Afshar, John Bahia, Ann Marie Baranowski, Karesia Batan, Nick Berkowitz, Sandra Bigitschke, Kat Bloomfield, Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Osman Chowdhury, Morry Galonoy, Somnath Ghimire, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Mohammed Hossen, Christine Hunter, Lelin Kandel, Diana Kichler, Pramett Kumar, Sheila Lewandowski, Benjamin Lucas, Patrick Martinez, Thomas Mituzas, Eric Narburgh, Zeeshan Ott, Reilly Owens, Clara Oza, Oumaya Saab, Norberto Saldana, Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Lauren Springer, Akello Thomas, Mary Torres, Leticia Vasquez

Board Members – Absent:

Unexcused: Badrun Kahn, Chhemang Lama, Megan O’Neill, Phuntsok Tashi, Frank Wu, Kalsan Yangtso

Excused: Anatole Ashraf, Tannia Chavez, Stephen Cooper, Kelly Craig, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller

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

Public Members – Present

Emelia Decaudin

Elected Officials/Representatives

Jessica Tang, Representing Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
Honorable Kristen Gonzalez, New York State Senator
Mahfuzul Islam, Representing NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez
Honorable Juan Ardilla, New York State Assembly Member
Mercedes Jennings, Representing New York State Senator Michael Gianaris
Victoria Leahy, Representing Assembly Member Steven Raga

Honorable Julie Won, New York City Council Member
Nick Gulotta, Representing New York City Council Member Julie Won
Javier, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz
Steve Mendivelso, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Department of City Planning

Teal Delys

Public Comment

David Brandt, Program Director, LaGuardia Community College
Ellen Quish, Program Director, LaGuardia Community College
Shyvonne Noboa, Sunnyside Community Services
Mercedes Jennings

Public Comment – Landmark Application – 21-37 45th Avenue

Ted Riederer
Mary Best
Justin Eyer

Guests

Dave Mendelsohn, Architect
Ben Herzog, Architect
Anthony Tsirantonakis, Architect, 21-26 45th Avenue

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)

0:00:20 Queens CB 2 Chairperson Danielle Brecker welcomed everyone to the CB 2 Meeting.

0:00:36 Pledge of Allegiance

0:01:35 Victoria Leahy, Representing Assembly Member Steven Raga discussed the following:

- Announced state budget has passed. Major items include MTA Bus Free Fare Universal Pre-K, Free School Lunches, All Electric Buildings Act and a version of the Build Public Renewables Act.
- Held a small business roundtable with Filipino small businesses that are from the Little Manilla area of Woodside.
- May 11, 2023, Paper Shredding Event outside of Big Six from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. To register contact their office at: (718) 651-3185
- May 13, 2023, Rain Barrell Give Away at Maspeth Federal Savings parking lot from.
- May 20, 2023, AAPI Heritage Month Celebration from 3:00pm 5:00pm at United Sherpa Temple.
- June 28, 2023, Self Defense workshop from 6:00pm to 7:00 pm with Assembly Member Jessica Gonzales Rojas and Grace Meng.
- Reached out to State DOT to discuss maintenance of the sewer grates on the area of the BQE that was flooded. Also contacted DEP to request inflatable flooding barriers. Their office is trying to figure out infrastructure solutions to avoid flooding in the area.
- Office Number: (718) 651-3185 or visit: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Steven-Raga>
- Q & A

0:07:37 Honorable Juan Ardilla, New York State Assembly Member discussed the following:

- Announced the budget was passed and that they worked hard on the budget which is over a month late.
- Discussed the Bill for Public Renewables.
- All Electric Buildings Act.
- Adding mobile office hours, hearing about climate issues, climate initiatives.
- Pilot Program for buses, there will be one per borough and it is up to the discretion of the MTA.
- Discussed opportunities for low- and moderate-income owners to low- and moderate-income earners to become first time home buyers.
- Discussed E-Wrap
- Disappointed that Good Cause did not pass.
- Discussed Criminal Justice Reform
- Discussed Minimum Wage Increase
- Announced that within this budget they included 10,000 dollars for CUH Churches United for Housing, 90,000 for Make the Road New York's Legal Services, 250,000 YMCA and 461,000 Bard High School.
- Held community cleanups in the southern portion of the district, clothing drive, addressing issues they are seeing all over the district, will be doing it on the northern side.
- Discussed Discretionary Funding Phase and if there is a CBO that is need of support to reach out to his office.
- Q & A

0:17:12 A discussion concerning the Assembly Member continuing to remain in office took place and if he had any comments. Assembly Member Ardilla announced that the community will be hearing from him directly regarding personal matters.

0:19:58 Honorable Kristen Gonzalez, New York State Senator discussed the following:

- Discussed her concerns with Assembly Member Ardilla
- Discussed the budget process and updates.
- She passed her own parts of the budget including a law passed that law enforcement cannot sell, cannot buy data on our health.
- Senator Gonzalez also discussed discretionary funding.
- Discussed one billion dollars allocated for refugees and migrants.
- Provided an update on Sammy's Law.
- Q & A

0:25:36 Honorable Julie Won, NYC Council Member

- Announced Nick Gulotta was present at the meeting.
- Discussed the one billion dollars for Migrant Asylum Seeker Refugees.
- Discussed messages she has received from constituents concerning the current situation with the Assembly Member Ardilla.
- Q & A

0:37:05 Danielle Brecker discussed what the community wants to discuss concerning Assembly Member Ardilla

0:40:05 Assembly Member Ardilla stated the community will hear from him.

0:10:33 Steeven Mendivelso, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards discussed the following:

- May 9, 2023, Mother's Day Celebration at Queens Borough Hall.
- May 17, 2023, on MWBE contracting opportunities at Queens Borough Hall at 3:00 pm
- May 22, 2023, AAPI Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration at 6:00 pm at Queens Borough Hall.
- May 23, 2023, Haitian Flag Racing Ceremony at Queens Borough Hall at 5:30 pm.
- May 25, 2023, African Day Celebration at Queens Borough Hall at 6:00 pm
- Queens Borough Hall is going through some constructions in front of the building and the entrance will be on the right side by the ramp and it is the third door to your right.
- For more information contact: (718) 286 0644.
- <https://queensbp.org/>
- Q & A

0:57:45 Jessica Tang, Representing Public Advocate Jumaane Williams discussed the following:

- Public Advocate went to Capitol Hill to advocate for additional federal resources to address long term failures of our immigration infrastructures.
- Legislative updates, two of his bills recently passed Homelessness Bill of Rights Legislation and Street Safety Bill.
- Their office is having their third annual state of the people on May 15, to 18, 2023.
- Sign up for their bi-weekly newsletter: <https://www.pubadvocate.nyc.gov/>
- Individuals can watch monthly segments on air which is live every third Monday from 7 to 8 pm.

1:00:35 Mercedes Jennings, Representing New York State Senator Michael Gianaris discussed the following:

- The budget passed.
- Senator proud that he was able to support along with other Democrats in the Senate that there were no hikes to SUNY a CUNY Schools.
- The Child Tax Credit was left alone.
- Expanding Build Public Renewables Act
- Was able to Fight for fiscal responsibility as it pertains to the MTA.
- CB 2 received the Senator's support as he wrote a letter to the DOT showing support to try to cross honor for the construction that is happening there.
- Senator is doing a lot of work with the LIRR and feel free to contact their office with any concerns. He is in constant MTA and LIRR and the Senator is also trying to make sure the MTA is actually free.
- Q & A

0:13:23 Nick Gulotta, Chief of Staff, Representing NYC Council Member Julie Won discussed the following:

- Council Member stands by everything her constituents have told her directly about Assembly Member Juan Ardilla.
- Focus has been constituent services.
- Discussed flooding issues.
- HPD will do a major SCRIE event this weekend at Big Six Towers on Saturday
- Helping Big Six Towers access legal counsel to deal with their maintenance increase.
- Council Member Won has been working hard around the rent guidelines board increase and signed city council resolution as well as two letters that have come out of the council.
- Announced the LaQuinta Hotel on Queens Boulevard between 37th and 38th Street is a shelter for our newest neighbors and asylum seekers and met with individuals at their office.
- Working with DEP to identify locations for rain gardens.
- Email their office at: district26@council.nyc.gov or call: (718) 383-9566.
- Q & A

1:27:27 Public Comment

1:27:52: David Brandt, Director of Programming and Ellen Quish, Program Director at LaGuardia Community College discussed the following:

- Discussed a new program called College and Career Connect, a comprehensive program that will offer 40 students the opportunity to take a free three credit course and a 500 stipend to those who complete the program successfully. For more information visit the website at: <http://lagardia.edu/c3/>
- David Brandt may be reached at dbrant@lagcc.cuny.edu or (718) 730-7563, Ellen Quish may be reached at dquish@lagcc.cuny.edu or (718) 482-5382.

1:34:15 Shyvonno Noboa, Sunnyside Community Services discussed the following:

- May 13, 2023, Health Fair, PS 343 will host a health fair from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Noonan Playground, music games and prizes for the whole family.
- May 13, 2023, Free Live concert at 2:00 pm at Sunnyside Community Services, to register visit their website at: <https://www.scsny.org>

1:35:32 Mercedes Jennings, Resident of Ravenswood Houses, provided the following update:

Spoke about two events that are coming up in May. Her son was accepted into St. John's Preparatory School and has been unable to afford his tuition. Her family set up a GoFundMe as well as cupcake sales at local flea markets and activities and events in the community. A local playwright and producer will be doing two plays at PS 111 to be able to raise money for him for his tuition.

- Q & A

Landmark Applications:

1:38:28 David Mendelsohn, Senior Project Designer, Ben Herzog, Architect for 21-37 45th Avenue, LIC, NY provided the following information:

- Provided a slide presentation.
- House is on 45th Avenue between 21st and 23rd Street.
- Landmarks asked them to present the project relation to a proposed addition at the back of the house.
- Provided a shadow study.
- Q & A

1:46:42 Public Comment 21-37 45th Avenue

1:49:27 Mary Best, spoke about her concerns with regard to communication, vibration monitoring, engineering and structural issues.

1:54:55 Justin Eyer spoke about the concerns his wife Mary Best brought up, he supports minor additions, raised concerns about water drainage, risk of redirecting water to neighboring rooftops, top

floor rooftop and third floor terrace. Requested to review plans, requesting temporary protection placed over skylights and roof.

1:56:04 Ted Riederer spoke about the concerns raised by the previous individuals; the plan is misleading and extends 20 feet out to the yard and is 2 stories with a terrace. Concerned about the issues that were raised. It is not a modest addition and is a big deal for the area.

2:09:07 The homeowners of 21-37 45th Avenue clarified some miscommunication and spoke about their application.

2:22:35 Anthony Tsirantonakis, Architect for 21-26 45th Avenue, LIC, NY provided the following information:

- South side of 45th Avenue, middle of the block.
- The windows are passive house windows, low carbon footprint.
- The project is completed, and they are going through the C of O process.
- The Landmarks Commission has one objection for the front façade of the windows as they differ from the approved certificate of appropriateness. The staff feels that they can't approve of them as they do not feel they have jurisdiction.
- This is for an amendment for a minor window framing thickness due to compliance with the high level of energy efficiency that is the heart of this one family renovation project. The submission shows an approximate ¾" to 1" increase in the window frame size and slightly unequal top and bottom sash due to triple thermopane construction and the fact that the windows are not double hung but the more energy efficient hopper type. This dwelling maintains a very small carbon footprint and is cutting edge for the future of renovations.
- The windows at the upper levels vary slightly with nominal dimensional differences from the approved drawings. The overall dimensions, the patterns and the color are all within what was approved as well as the manufacturer. The difference is the sashes are slightly different from the bottom sash. The mid rail is a little bit lower than the adjacent rails of the buildings to the right and to the left. It is true at the top floor and the bottom floor and the basement lee.
- The triple-glazed windows conform to passive house standards.
- In the architects' opinion they do not take away from the experience of the block as a historic neighborhood.
- Replacing them would be an enormous burden.
- Q & A

2:37:16 Transition to Board Business

2:25:10 Attendance

- Board Members Present: 38 Board Members Absent: 12
 - Unexcused: 6 Excused: 6 Quorum: Yes

2:47:31 Motion to approve the April 13, 2023 CB 2 Meeting Minutes
(Motion made by Thomas Mituzas and seconded by Amparo Abel-Bey)
Motion carried: All in favor with none (0) opposed and no (0) abstentions.

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

2:47:01 Chairperson's Report (Danielle Brecker)

- Wished all a happy May and AAPI month.
- Great events at Borough Hall.
- Acknowledged next week is Nurses Week.
- Will announce committee assignments and at the next meeting they will be announced and ask new members to provide information about their background and why they want to serve on the Community Board.
- Announced that she attended the State of The Borough with Debbie, Sheila and Laura. The BP has ambitious plans for CB 2, and it will be a busy rest of the year and a busy future for us.
- Next meeting will take place on June 1, 2023, 6:30 pm and it will most likely be on Zoom.
- Stated that we have some strong opinions about the Assembly Member in AD37 and discussed consideration of a resolution and possibly to make a statement about the situation about something that is impacting our community in a negative way.
- Thanked all for attending the meeting this evening.

2:53:34 Motion made to call on Assembly Member Ardilla to resign.

(Motion made by Laura Shepard and seconded by Amparo Abel-Bey)

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos proposed an amendment in the form of a deletion of two paragraphs to the motion. It was accepted by Laura Shepard.

3:11:04 Morry Galonoy requests this be tabled until next month's meeting.

3:15:15 Maricela Cano, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards reminded everyone about the role of Community Boards which is to discuss, deliberate and vote on issues presented to the Board.

3:21:24 Mary Torres asked Laura Shepard if she would be amiable to tabling this until next month when we can discuss this further and amend this to be a vote of no confidence.

3:25:38 Laura Shepard withdrew her motion. A discussion took place about a motion for a Vote of No Confidence or to table any motion until the next meeting after CB2 Chair Danielle Brecker speaks to council at Borough Hall. A motion was made to wait until the Chair speaks to Borough Hall by Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos. It was seconded by Christine Hunter. All were in favor of the motion to table by show of hands with 29 in favor of the motion 8 opposed and 1 abstention.

3:51:34 District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert)

- Congratulated the new Board Members and announced Danielle Brecker will go over the committee assignments next month.
- Attended the State of the Borough
- Attended the Borough Presidents Swearing in Ceremony.
- CB2 has been notifying Parks – numerous tree planting requests, please call-in requests, and locations. Parks can take up to a year or more, but we will get it on the list. Parks have been pruning trees with the CB2 district. Thanked Patrick Martinez for the 150 sites he submitted.

- Noonan playground will be completed for the renovation is March 2024
- Sohncke Square construction is delayed due to electrical design concerns.
- Virtual visions sessions for Laurence Virgilio May 9, 2023, 7:00 pm Murray Playground Dog Run Reconstruction is May 11, 2023, at 6:30 pm, Murray Playground Synthetic Turf, May 9, 2023, 7:30 pm
- The Land Use Committee and LIC Partnership will have an LIC BID Expansion walk through on May 9, 2023, at 4:00 pm meeting at the corner of Borden Avenue and 21st Street at the footbridge, anyone wishing to participate RSVP to the Board Office.
- CB 2 has hired a new intern with LaGuardia Community College.
- CB 2 had approximately 24 complaints from April 1, 2023, through April 30, 2023, the top complaints were:
 - Department of Transportation
 - Signage, signals, potholes
 - Parks
 - Tree issues
 - Sanitation (dos) – garbage issues
 - NYPD
 - Vehicles blocking sidewalks, prostitution.
- Wished all a Happy Mother's Day, and a Happy and Safe Memorial Day.

3:56:11 Department of City Planning (Teal Delys) provided the following update:

- 23-10 Queens Plaza South, 26 story commercial office building was adopted by the City Council and so that project can move forward when it is ready.
- Provided an update on the City of Yes Text Amendment, and the Carbon Neutrality Text Amendment. This was referred out to the Community Boards this week. Will provide a presentation to the Land Use Committee, need a recommendation by the end of July.
- Q & A

3:59:07 Committee Reports and Deliberation

3:59:15 Land Use Committee Report (Christine Hunter) - 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/April-19-2023-Land-Use-Housing-Committee-Meeting-Final.pdf>

Landmark Application 21-37 45th Avenue, LIC, NY

Motion made to reject the application as the proposed design is inappropriately large, obtrusive and inconsistent with the additions on the rest of the block.

(Motion made by Kenny Greenberg and seconded by Mary Torres)

Motion carried: All in favor with none (32) opposed and (4) opposed no (0) abstentions.

Landmark Application 21-26 45th Avenue, LIC, NY

Motion made to support the application.

(Motion made by Sheila Lewandowski and seconded by Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos)

Motion carried: All in favor with none (37) opposed and (0) opposed no (0) abstentions.

04:33:07 Transportation Committee (Sheila Lewandowski) The committee held their meeting and minutes are posted to the website

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb2/downloads/pdf/transportation/2023/Transportation-Committee-Meeting-Minutes-April-4-2023.pdf>

The Committee voted to send out the following letters:

1. NY State Department of Transportation – Bridge Rehabilitation of BQE Viaduct over Laurel Hill Blvd. Sending a letter to reject it without some more work on environmental, traffic, etc.
2. DOT request for New York City DOT Proposal Include Seniors, the Disabled and those with different Physical Disabilities and Needs to make sure their voices are included in design.
3. Northern Blvd Redesign.
4. Vernon Mall Redesign.

04:35:32 Health & Human Services & Education Committee (Lauren Springer & Clara Oza) The committee held their meeting and minutes are posted to the website.

- Announced next Meeting is on Monday, May 8, 2023, 5pm.

4:35:57 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-culture/April-11-2023-Arts-Culture-Affairs-Committee-Minutes.pdf>

- Thanked Anatole Ashraf for Chairing the meeting.
- There were a number of grants that came out that were shared with everyone.
- Frank Ottomanelli was a guest who is working on a project of getting artists to do murals in Hunters Point Park.
- Annie Ferdous, Bangladesh Institute of Performing Arts was a presenter.
- Next Meeting on May 9, 2023.

4:36:49 Engagement and Inclusion Committee (Nick Berkowitz)

- Announced the spring social to take place on July 8, 2023, in conjunction with the Queensborough Dance Festival's Performance and Windmiller Park from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.
- More information to follow.

4:37:24 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/April-12-2023-City-Services-Public-Safety-Committee-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

No Report

4:37:40 Small Business and Local Economy (Kenny Greenberg/Mary Torres)

- Announced CB 2 will have a table at the LIC Springs on May 20, 2023, and we are looking for volunteers from CB 2 to rotate people throughout the day on Vernon Blvd from 46th to 50th Avenue.
- National Small Business week

04:39:04 Technology and Access (Anatole Ashraf)

No report

04:39:10 Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee (Laura Shepard) The committee held their meeting and minutes are posted to the website.

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb2/downloads/pdf/committee-agendas-minutes/environment/April-27-2023-Environment-Parks-and-Recreation-Committee-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

- Clare Miflin, Center for Zero Waste Design presented Put Waste to Work: vibrant Streetscapes and Open Dining” Campaign
- Christine Berthet, Executive Director of CHEKPEDS, Co-Chair, CB 4 Transportation Committee, Manhattan discussed the residential trash container pilot program in Hell’s Kitchen.
- Terrelle, DEP discussed a new quality testing lab to be located at 24-02 49th Avenue.
- The Committee passed a resolution requesting the DSNY and DOT pilot residential trash containers in CB2.

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Amparo Abel-Bey.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado
CB 2 Staff

Reviewed/Revised and approved for distribution by:

 X Anatole Ashraf, Secretary, CB2
 X Danielle Brecker, Chairperson, CB 2
 X Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, CB 2

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