



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>

Revised

October 5, 2023

Queens Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held in person and teleconferenced on Zoom.

Board Members – Present: Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia, Ann Marie Baranowski, Nick Berkowitz, Kat Bloomfield, Danielle Brecker, Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Somnath Ghimire, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Christine Hunter, Lelin Kandel, Badrun Khan, Diana Kichler, Prameet Kumar, Chhemang Lama, Patrick Martinez, Thomas Mituzas, Eric Narburgh, Zeeshan Ott, Reilly Owens, Oumaya Saab, Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Lauren Springer, Akello Thomas, Mary Torres, Leticia Vasquez

Board Members – Absent:

Unexcused: Carlos Castell Croke, Mohammed Hossen, Phuntsok Tashi, Kalsang Yangtso

Excused: Amparo Abel-Bey, Nellie Afshar, Karesia Batan, Tannia Chavez, Kelly Craig, Morry Galonoy, Sheila Lewandowski, Benjamin Lucas, Norberto Saldana

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

Elected Officials/Representatives

Samantha Johnson, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Valazquez
Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng
Irene Stathatos, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris
Mahfuzul Islam, Representing NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez
Victoria Leahy, Representing Assembly Member Steven Raga
Natalie Rajabian, Representing Juan Juan Ardila, New York State Assembly Member
Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won
Claire Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Department of City Planning

Teal Delys
Bri Mejia

Public Comment

David Espinosa, Sunnyside Community Services
Asif Ali, Woodside on the Move
Pat Dorfman, Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce
Manny Gomez, Sunnyside Artists, Inc.
Ana Sanchez
Debbie Farley
Elliot Park
Ken Campanelli

Guests

Laura Rothrock, LIC Partnership

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)

0:02:53 Queens CB 2 Chairperson Danielle Brecker welcomed everyone to the CB 2 Meeting at Sunnyside Community Services.

0:03:05 Pledge of Allegiance

0:04:26 Irene Stathatos, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris discussed the following:

- Announced their office is doing mobile hours in Woodside and 77th Street.
- Announced their new office is located at 45-02 Ditmars Blvd, Astoria.
- Q & A

0:06:59 Mahfuzul Islam, Representing New York State Senator Kristen Gonzalez discussed the following:

- Discussed the Shelter WiFi Bill statewide, along with highspeed internet at these shelters.
- Announced they just got the Cyber Security for Critical Infrastructure Bill signed by Governor Hochel
- Announced the Q4 Bus is now free which is out of Jamaica Queens.
- Email address is islam@nysenate.ny.gov
- Q & A

0:09:24 Victoria Leahy, Representing New York State Assembly Member Steven Raga discussed the following:

- Celebrated First Hispanic Heritage Month.
- October 13, 2023 there will be an EBT Skimming and Theft workshop which will take place 1:00 to 5:00 pm at the Samaritan Daytop Village Senior Center in Woodside from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. In conjunction with Sunnyside Community Services and with the offices of Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez Rojas, Council Member Julie Won, Senator Gianaris and Congresswoman Velazques, and NYC Social Services.
- October 24, 2023 Monthly Tenant Legal Clinic with CORE from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at their district office to make an appointment.
- October 28, 2023 Filipino American History Month Celebration at Diversity Plaza
- Discussed reports of flooding throughout the district. Anyone who has received damage to contact their office.
- Q & A

0:16:08 Nathalie Rajabian, Representing Honorable Juan Ardila, New York State Assembly Member discussed the following:

- Announced the Assembly Member has conducted a walk through the district and their office has been reporting numerous issues to 311.
- Their office has requested graffiti removal along the subway underpass below the elevated 7 line on Queens Boulevard, which has been completed.
- Contact their office for assistance with cleaning graffiti.
- Announced they have continued to partner with Universal Services Administrative Company to help struggling families and individuals obtain free tablets and free cell phones with free internet service for six years made possible by funding from the FCC.

- Their office is continuing to serve as a safe haven for asylum seekers and migrants with weekly clothing distribution.
- Discussed a piece of legislation which is the latest one addressing labor and public safety. The bill allows business and employers to sign up for NY State's Public Safety Mass Notification System which sends emergency alerts about severe weather warnings, hazardous material spills or other safety public safety emergencies.
- On the day of the flooding, the Assembly Member visited parts of the district to check on businesses and homes that have experienced extensive flooding to help out in any way that he could.
- Announced the Assembly Member visited a street closure on 48th Street between Barnett Avenue that had experienced severe flooding.
- Announced they are partnering with Centro the Paraguay of New York for free mammogram services on November 11, 2023, please contact their office in order to sign up.
- The Assembly Member's Office will be hosting a treats and greats event at their district office for kids trick-or-treating on Halloween between 4pm and 8pm.
- The Assembly Member joined the New York City Sheriff's Office in a series of inspections of unlicensed cannabis, dispensaries in Sunnyside and Woodside, resulting in a temporary closure of at least one location.
- Every Thursday through September they will be hosting a clothing event for immigrants who are new to the district. Their office is located at 45-10 Skillman Avenue.
- If anyone has any constituent concerns, they are available from Monday through Thursday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and on Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Questions or concerns regarding the New York City Sheriff's inspections of unlicensed cannabis dispensaries can be directed via email to publicrelation@sheriff.nyc.gov
- Email or concerns may be addressed to: Assembly Member Ardila at: ardilaj@nyassembly.gov or rajabiann@nyassembly.gov
- Q & A

0:21:20 Claire Collins, Representing the Queens Borough President Donovan Richards provided the following update:

- Announced the Queens Borough President held a virtual storm briefing with City Agencies, elected officials and community board leadership on Friday. Then on Monday, their office held a follow-up meeting to assure that all of the complaints and concerns had been addressed. The website to report damages is reportdamage@nyc.gov.
- Announced October 10, 2023, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Queens Museum, there will be a Hispanic Heritage Celebration.

- October 19, 2023, at 6:00 pm they will be holding a New York Voting Rights Town Hall which will be virtual and information is on their website.
- Announced that 11:00 am tomorrow at Borough Hall, Flood barricades and water pumps would be distributed at the back of the building.
- Email collins@queensby.org.
- Q & A

0:32:57 Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won provided the following update.

- Discussed the storm that took place and reported their office reached out to DEP ahead of time for areas they knew were high flood areas. DEP is working with their office.
- Their office is working on getting a meeting with DEP concerning issues in Blissville.
- Anyone who needs assistance may reach out to the Council Member's office at: district26@council.nyc.gov
- Reported their office has partnered with Woodside on the Move for those seeking shelter during the storm and may reach out to their office for assistance.
- Discussed the hearing the Council Member had with Oversight and Investigations and they were able to hold shelter providers accountable and that they are providing the services they are contracted for.
- She reported the Council member is dedicated to ensuring that everyone who arrives in NYC and Lives in NYC has access to school, health, water, food and everything everyone has access.
- Discussed Participatory Budgeting Process. Informational session on October 12, at 6:00 pm on Zoom. They are in the process of collecting ideas. Last year, they had a lot of school based ideas. Voting will take place in March/April.
- Discussed their office has been communicating with Parks concerning the possibility of putting a new park in Sunnyside. They are in the process of getting ideas.
- Q & A

1:02:05 Samantha Johnson, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez provided the following update:

- Provided her email address: samantha.johnson@mail.house.gov
- Announced that on October 14, 2023 the Congresswoman Velasquez will be hosting a community resource fair at PS 343 located at 45-45 42nd Street, Sunnyside, NY.
- Reported the Congresswoman has visited the shelters and emphasized the resource fair.
- Discussed the issue of infrastructure.
- Discussed the funding for migrants.
- Q & A

1:08:34 Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng

- Discussed the flooding and sewer system.
- Discussed the issue of infrastructure and reported the congresswoman helped secure federal funds for upgrading NYC infrastructure.
- Reported the Congresswoman continues to work with the Governor's office and City Hall to make sure money comes back to Queens and upgrades are made to sewers and infrastructure.
- Reported Congresswoman secured nearly two million in federal funding awarded to two nonprofits in Queens.
- Announced that beginning September 25, 2023 every household can order two free COVID 19 test kits.
- Announced mobile office hours will be held at the Jackson Heights Farmers Market on October 15, 2023 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and on October 22, 2023 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm it will be held at their Flushing Office.
- Email is evelynli@mail.house.gov
- Q & A

1:10:42 Public Comment

1:11:25 David Espinosa, Sunnyside Community Services

- Announced and encouraged everyone to register for the Sunnyside Post Mile Run on October 28, 2023. For more information visit: www.scs.ny.org

1:12:13 Asif Ali, Representative from Woodside on the Move

- Last month, held a successful community clean up and thanked their volunteers. They are hosted on the third of each month. The next one will be held on October 21, 2023.
- Hosted a Virtual Legal Clinic. They have a housing case manager and housing attorney.
- Woodside on the Move is a part of an emergency network in partnership with NYC Emergency Management. During the state of emergency they sent out notification to community members notifying them of the flood watch and shared resources.
- Provided shelter at PS 361.
- Announced they will be hosting a movie screening for the street project safety tomorrow from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.
- Will be resuming their civic engagement efforts and are looking for volunteer to assist with phone banking and canvassing.
- Announced they are registering folks to vote if anyone needs to register.
- October 27, 2023 will be hosting a haunted house at PS 361.

1:14:15 Patricia Dorfman, Sunnyside Artists

- Announced Sunnyside Artists will be hosting their annual art fair at Queens of Angels on December 2, 2023 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

1:17:31 Ana Sanchez provided the following information:

- She discussed that she is one of 250,000 NYC retirees who are fighting to keep their health care which was promised throughout their work with the city. She spoke about Intro 1099 and provided history and background. She is requesting CB 2 consider passing a resolution that CB 2 request the City Council Civic Service committee to hold a public hearing on Intro 1099 and that Community Board 2 supports Intro 1099 and that CB 2 asks Council Member Won to support and sponsor Intro 1099.

1:23:20 Debbie Farley

- Discussed they are fighting to keep the traditional Medicare that was promised. She discussed the Medicare Advantage Plan and that is not Medicare and is seeking support for Intro 1099 to protect and preserve the health plans of retirees.

1:39:26 Laura Rothrock, LIC Partnership

- Provided an update on the Long Island City BID Expansion.
- The BID presented to the Land Use & Housing Committee and they also held a public hearing.
- She discussed the boundaries and that they are looking at two different expansion areas. West Expansion includes areas west of Sunnyside Yards, East Expansion is east of Sunnyside Yards.
- A power point presentation was provided.
- Discussion of next steps and are seeking a letter of support for the BID to move forward with the public process.
- Q & A

2:16:30 Public Comments – LIC BID Expansion

2:16:34 Patricia Dorfman spoke in opposition to the BID Expansion

2:19:44 Manny Gomez spoke in opposition to the BID Expansion.

2:21:39 Elliot Park, Shine Electronics and former CB 2 Board Member spoke in support of the BID Expansion.

2:24:38 Ken Campanelli, LaGuardia Community College spoke in support of the Bid Expansion

2:27:02 Member of the Public spoke in opposition to the BID Expansion (name was inaudible)

2:28:00 Transition to Board Business

2:28:09: Attendance

- Board Members Present: 33 Board Members Absent: 13
 - Unexcused: 4 Excused: 9 Quorum: Yes

2:30:39 Motion to approve the October 5, 2023 CB 2 Meeting Minutes

(Motion made by Thomas Mituzas and seconded by Christine Hunter)

Motion carried: All in favor with none (0) opposed and five (5) abstentions.

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

2:31:27 Chairperson's Report (Danielle Brecker)

- Discussed the storm that took place and that she toured several businesses in LIC. She discussed the flooding back ups of sewers and announced she will be express these concerns to the BP's office.
- Reported on the public hearing concerning the BID Expansion which was held at Sunnyside Community Services and thanked all who attended.

2:33:11 District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert)

- Thanked outgoing board member Sandra Bigitchke for her many years of service.
- The office had flood and lots of damage. The landlord is in the process of repairs. Please be patient and understanding while we navigate through our office.
- We distributed the EEO policy by email and have a few here. Please sign the document that you received for your EEO policy. If you have not done so already, please see Maryann or me.
- This is a reminder that at the November board meeting nominations will be accepted for executive board.
- Attended a briefing concerning the flooding that took place with the BP's office and elected officials. Debbie discussed the flooding and sewer issues.
- CB2 attended several days with agencies for the borough consultations. The committee should meet this month probably twice to finalize the top ten budget priorities.
- CB2 had approximately 19 complaints from September 7, 2023, to present.
 - The top complaints were:
 - Department of Transportation - 5
 - Signage, signals, potholes
 - NYPD -6
 - Vehicles blocking sidewalks, prostitution.
 - Parks - 3
 - Tree issues, request for new and cleanup dead trees

- The CB2 office is closed for the official holiday of Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day on October 9, 2023.
- Discussed that she attended a meeting that was held with the Department of Homeless Services and the LIC Partnership and with CB 1.
- The next Community Board 2 meeting will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 6:30pm.

2:39:59 Department of City Planning (Teal Delys) provided the following update:

Introduced her colleague Bri Mejia

2:40:21 Department of City Planning (Bri Mejia) provided the following update:

Application of 24-02 49th Avenue DEP Site Selection and Acquisition, is now in ULURP. The applicant team will be ready to present whenever CB 2 is ready.

- City of Yes, Zoning for Economic Opportunity expected to be referred out this month in October. Information session was held on September 27, 2023 which focused on the Housing Opportunity Text Amendment.
- There will be future sessions for the Housing Text Amendment.
- Community Board Statement of Needs and Budget Requests needs to be submitted by October 31, 2023.
- Q & A

2:42:31 Department of City Planning (Teal Delys) provided the following update:

- Encourage all to visit the website and you tube for more information at www.nyc.gov/planning
- Q & A

2:52:47 Committee Reports and Deliberation

2:00:17 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/September-27-2023-Land-Use-Housing-Committee-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

Discussed the Land Use & Housing Committee held a public hearing on September 27, 2023 concerning the LIC BID Expansion. The committee voted to recommend the BID to move forward with a proposal for the bid expansion.

Motion to go forward with the legislative process for the Expansion of the LIC Business Improvement District (BID)

(Motion made by Rosamond Gianutsos and seconded by Mary Torres)

***Motion carried: The vote was twenty-four (24) in favor of the motion, four (4) opposed and two (2) abstentions.**

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

3:06:50 Engagement and Inclusion Committee (Nick Berkowitz) announced there will be a fall/winter mixer on October 22, 2023 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Bajeko Sekuwa at 43-16 Queens Boulevard, Sunnyside.

03:07:56 Transportation Committee (Tom Mituzas) The committee held their meeting and minutes are posted to the website.

- EDC presented an update on the Hunters Point Ferry locations 3 and 4 were eliminated within the body of Newtown Creek. Did not comply with the regulations of the navigational channel of the creek. Two other sites were added for consideration and further study.
- A survey will be coming out from EDC about more community input regarding the ferry. The Transportation Committee emphasized the need for further outreach regarding the survey.
- EDC has requested to come to the full board meeting in November.

3:11:32 Environment, Parks & 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/September-28-2023-Environment-Parks-and-Recreation-Committee-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

- Had a presentation from the Western Queens Community Land Trust specifically about the people space. They would like to create in the DOE building on 44th Drive which includes a lot of sustainability initiatives and how the Land Trust can facilitate a community garden and green space.
- The next Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee will take place on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 6:30 pm on Zoom.
- Had a discussion about the Climate Action Plan. Intend to create a survey to collect feedback.

3:41:54 Health & Human Services & Education Committee (Lauren Springer) The committee held their meeting and minutes are posted to the website.

- Announced they will discuss the Intro 1099 at the next Health and Human Services & Education Committee and will make a recommendation. The meeting will be held virtually.

3:15:45 Unhoused and & Shelter Task Force Committee (Warren Davis)

- Thanked Chair Springer for allowing him and Tom Mituzas to participate at their last committee meeting. Will continue to attend these meetings. Requested others within CB 2 to participate in holding the different departments accountable with services.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

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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