



Sharon Lee
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Lisa Deller
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

Revised*

June 4, 2020

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

THIS MEETING WAS TELECONFERENCED USING WEBEX

Board Members – Present

Amparo Abel-Bey
Czarinna Andres
Anatole Ashraf
Diane Ballek
Thalia (Karesia) Batan
Nicholas Berkowitz
Sandra Bigitschke
*Bessie Cassaro
Tannia Chavez
Osman Chowdhury
Stephen Cooper
Warren Davis
Jake DeGroot
Lisa Deller
Sally Frank
Morry Galonoy
William Garrett
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos
Kenneth Greenberg
Benjamin Guttmann
Christine Hunter

Badrun Khan
Jordan Levine
Sheila Lewandowski
Kristen McGowan
Taina McShane
Thomas Mituzas
Dorothy Morehead
Patrick Murray
Patrick O'Brien
Clara Oza
Bianca Ozeri
Stephen Raga
Norberto Saldana
Lauren Springer
Mary Torres
Anthony Tudela
John Vaichunas
Adrienne Verrilli
Julie Jaehee Won
Frank Wu

Board Members – Absent

Richard Gundlach
Mohammed Jewel
Dr. Tara Niraula
Elliott Park
Dominic Lippolis

Dr. Tara Niraula
Elliott Park
Regina Shanley
Carol Terrano
Rebecca Trent

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert

MaryAnn Gurrado

Department of City Planning

Alexis Wheeler

Teal Delys

Sunnyside Community Services

Judy Zangwill

Jonathan Gensler

Elected Officials/Representatives

Honorable Sharon Lee, Acting Queens Borough President

Elaine Fan, Representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Jessica Schabowski, Representing Mayor's Office of Community Affairs

Jack Bernatovicz, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer

Ernie Brooks, Representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

Victoria Leahy, Representing Assembly Member Brian Barnwell

Guests

Michael Gervickas, NYS DOT

Jim Lau, NYS DOT

Johnathan Landsman, NYS DOT

Meira Berkower, NYS DOT

Phil Sparacio

Lisa Deller welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that she would be acting interim chair of this meeting and announced there would be an election of interim officers until the November meeting at which time regular elections would be held.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Deller introduced Guest Speaker Acting Borough President Sharon Lee.

Acting Borough President Sharon Lee reminded everyone of the following:

- She stated that she was not elected but is committed to doing her utmost and serving to the best of her ability and for as long as necessary and is committed to serving until the end of the calendar year.
- Congratulated newly appointed eight Board Members for the 2020-2022 term.
- Stated that she is confident in their ability and their commitment to serve.

- Discussed the issue of the fight for justice and said that she is proud to report that in Queens we have been able to manage to de-escalate and to prevent escalation of violence and the inciting of violence and that we show how it is done in Queens and that everyone should be proud of it and that there is much work to be done.
- Stated that she cannot wait to see all the great work that the whole full board of the fifty members will deliver for our constituents and the families of Queens.
- Reminded everyone to complete the 2020 Census at my 2002 Census.gov as it is critical to our future especially on the road to recovery and rebuild.
- Reminded everyone to apply for their absentee ballots and that everyone votes and votes safely in the upcoming primary election in June.
- In response to a question by a Board Member about the decision to not reappoint former Chair Denise Keehan-Smith to the Board, Acting Borough President Lee stated that she would not explain why she did reappoint or not appoint and that it would not be constructive. She stated that each member has a two-year term as outlined in the charter. At the conclusion of those two-year terms, at the conclusion of those twenty-four months, there is an application process for each member. Ms. Lee stated that a term expired; and she made her decisions on who to appoint for the next term. She stated that every single applicant is a community servant committed to public service. She respects every single person who applied for this 2020 to 2022 term. As for the timing, it probably felt abrupt. She explained that she had to extend the deadline for the application into March and reported there were a healthy number of applications. She said that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, she wanted to exercise the allowance in the city charter that allows for an extension of up to 60 days of service for existing community Board members. With the extension, those terms would expire on May 31st. So, the reappointments coincided with the end of the 60-day term extension.
- Acting Borough President Lee further stated that the twenty-five members on this board who she has had the honor and the privilege to appoint for the two years for a twenty two month term began their term on May 31 and it will expire on March 31, 2022 and that every single application was not made lightly.
- She stated that she is very proud of the quality of the applications and that she can assure that she is not legally required to go into all the reasons why that went into her decision and that she stands by the appointments she made. She stated that she is confident that every single appointee will serve the community.

Borough President Lee entertained questions.

Totee Wadwah, US Census 2020

Ms. Wadwah reminded everyone to complete the 2020 Census at my 2020census.gov.

Guest Speaker – NYS Department of Transportation – Kosciuszko Bridge Project Team

Presentation of New Queens Maspeth Park. Jim Lau, NYS DOT, Johnathan Landsman, Interagency Coordinator, Meira Berkower, Queens Director of Planning, Chief of Operations.

Mr. Lau provided a power point presentation and answered questions.

Presentation on Sohncke Square Reconstruction Project located between Woodside and Roosevelt Avenues at 58th Street.

Attendance

Board Members Present: 40 Board Members Absent: 9 Quorum: Yes

Approval of the May 7, 2020 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Kenny Greenberg made a motion and it was seconded by Mary Torres to approve the May 7, 2020 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

Election of CB 2 Executive CB 2 Officers

Stephen Cooper made a motion and it was seconded by Kenny Greenberg to nominate Lisa Deller as the Interim Chair. The motion carried with 36 in favor of the motion, none opposed and 3 abstentions.

Stephen Cooper made a motion and it was seconded by Kenny Greenberg to nominate Patrick O'Brien as 1st Vice Chair. The motion carried with 19 in favor of the motion, 7 opposed and 11 abstentions.

Ms. Deller welcomed the newly appointed Board Members and announced that she will have a meeting over the summer to discuss assignments:

- Amparo Abel-Bey
- Nicholas Berkowitz
- Tannia Chavez
- Morry Galonoy
- Bianca Ozeri
- John Vaichunas
- Julie Jaehee Won
- Frank Wu

Ms. Deller requested that the Members observe a moment of silence for George Floyd.

Sally Frank made a motion and it was seconded to draft a resolution based on the state of the city and to reaffirm the commitment that Black Lives Matter. The motion was seconded. All were in favor with none opposed and no abstentions.

Ms. Deller discussed the supplemental allocation for 2020 CB2 City Council Funding and explained that CB2 has been in communication with a Land Use Consultant who would assist the Land Use Committee to:

- Analyze the documents issued by the private developers' group and public agencies involved and help translate those for CB2.
- Build on CB2's testimony and responses to previous rezoning proposals, as well as, CB2 initiatives related to the LIC waterfront, such as the CB2's Comprehensive Plan Working Group and District Needs Statement.
- Organize and consolidate the recommendations and issues.
- Highlight CB2 stated priorities and focus on how they make use of public resources and infrastructure, require public subsidies, or impact the public realm.
- Study the sites of the proposed plans and compare them to other waterfront developments.
 - Analyze the proposed plans through the lenses of Covid-19, community resources and social equity.

Sheila Lewandowski made a motion and it was seconded by Kenny Greenberg for the Land Use Consultant not to exceed \$25,000. All were in favor of the motion with none opposed and no abstentions.

Sheila Lewandowski reported that the Transportation Committee voted to send a letter of support to the NYC Department of Transportation to support the southbound lane on the Queens Borough Bridge to be used for pedestrians and leaving the northbound lane to be used for cyclists in order to improve the overall safety of the public and that this change be implemented immediately as part of COVID 19 response and the open street program.

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos made a motion and it was seconded by Jake DeGroot to send a letter to the NYC Department of Transportation to support the southbound lane on the Queens Borough Bridge to be used for pedestrians and leaving the northbound lane to be used for cyclists and that this change be implemented immediately as part of COVID 19 response and the open street program. A vote was taken, and all were in favor by a show of hands with 39 present; none opposed and 1 abstention.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado
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