



Sharon Lee
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Lisa Deller
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

September 3, 2020

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present

Amparo Abel-Bey
Czarinna Andres
Anatole Ashraf
Diane Ballek
Thalia (Karesia) Batan
Nicholas Berkowitz
Sandra Bigitschke
Bessie Cassaro
Tannia Chavez
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
Sheila Lewandowski
Kristen McGowan
Taina McShane
Dorothy Morehead
Patrick O'Brien
Clara Oza
Bianca Ozeri
Elliot Park
Steven Raga
Regina Shanley
Lauren Springer
Carol Terrano
Mary Torres
Anthony Tudela
John Vaichunas
Adrienne Verrilli
Julie Won
Frank Wu

Board Members Absent

Osman Chowdhury
Mohammed Jewel
Jordan Levine
Dominic Lippolis

Thomas Mituzas
Patrick Murray
Norberto Saldana
Rebecca Trent

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert
MaryAnn Gurrado

Elected Officials/Representatives

Honorable Donovan Richards, NYC Council Member
Honorable Jimmy Van Bramer, NYC Council Member
Honorable Brian Barnwell, NYS Assembly Member
Jack Bernatovicz, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer
Victoria Leahy, Representing Assembly Member Brian Barnwell
John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Sharon Lee
Daniel Kurznya, Representing Council Member Robert Holden
Daniel Bonthieus, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Elaine Fan, Representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
James Mongeluzo, Representing, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
Jessica Schabowski, Mayor's Office of Community Affairs
Vicky Garvey, Representing Queens Borough President Sharon Lee
Ernie Brooks, Representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney
Tara Chester, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

Department of City Planning

Teal Delys

School Construction Authority

Michael Mirisola
Ben Goodman

Guests

Bonnie Harkin, Nautilus
Frank St. Jacques

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest Speaker – NY City School Construction Authority – Mike Mirisola, and Ben Goodman provided a general update for CB 2 on school projects within the district.

Mr. Mirisola introduced Ben Goodman who will be the liaison for the CB 2 District.

Mr. Goodman reported on the following:

- The majority of the SCA construction work is on pause.
- The pause is due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to the city's fiscal condition.
- They are providing electrical upgrades for air conditioning units so they can function in the classrooms.

Mr. Mirisola reported the Capital Plan is still intact and as soon as they get the green light, they will be ready to go for the schools that have been contracted out already. He reported on the following:

- Announced the school on 48th Street is on pause.
- No changes have been made; it is still in the 5-year capital plan.
- Mr. Mirisola stated that both two schools, PS 384 and the middle school in Sunnyside Gardens are at the top of their priorities list.
- Mr. Mirisola confirmed that PS 384 is still scheduled to open in September and the middle school the following September.

Questions were entertained.

Guest Speaker – NY City Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer

Council Member Van Bramer provided the following update:

- Thanked Lisa Deller.
- District Office has been closed and his staff continues to work each day and that they have assisted over 3,000 people since the middle of March.
- Thanked Norberto Saldana for his work with the St. Teresa Food Pantry.
- Announced that the Council office distributed masks, hand sanitizer and that he secured additional funding for food for the food pantries in the community.
- Councilman Van Bramer updated the Board about recent concerns and legislation. He discussed:
 - his concern for small businesses suffering due to the COVID virus.
 - the Queensboro Bridge Outer Roadway initiative to provide a protected lane for pedestrians and bicycles. He said that they are making progress to expand the outer roadway and that DOT Commissioner has agreed discuss this issue.
 - the uprisings in the community and the country over the murder of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and said that he had marched in several of the marches and that we have to change the way public safety works in the city.
 - his vote against the budget of the City of New York in June, as he believes it did not go far enough and that he pledged to the activists that he would not vote for the budget unless it reduced the NYPD budget by 1 billion dollars and then to reallocate funds to service organizations, non-profit organizations and communities of color that have been desperately underfunded. These are the reasons why he voted against the budget.
 - the chokehold ban which he co-sponsored.
 - the homeless population in the district. His office is working with Breaking Ground, DHS, and Commissioner Banks to reach the homeless and to provide services that they need.
 - the Hurricane Isaias and the damage to trees in the area.
 - the study the Land Use Committee worked on and the announcement from the Mayor's Office that the public land portion proposal has been removed from this plan.
 - Discussed his opposition to the yourLIC and other land use proposals that are before us.
- Congratulated all the new board members that were appointed in June.
- Discussed his opposition to Sunnyside Yards.
- Council Member Van Bramer encouraged everyone to wear their masks and entertained questions from the Board.

Guest Speaker – NY City Council Member Donovan Richards

Council Member Richards provided an update and overview of his work in the City Council and announced that he had won the Democratic Primary for Borough President and encouraged everyone to vote in the November election.

Council Member Richards entertained questions.

Assembly Member Brian Barnwell

Assembly Member Barnwell provided the following update:

- His office is working from home
- His office is working on unemployment, food and rent cases.
- Discussed legislation concerning the AMI Bill cosponsored by Senator Gianaris.
- Discussed legislation to mandate that if a developer wanted to rezone an area that sells units 60% or higher of AMI, the Community Board can deny the application and it would be binding on a developer.
- Thanked everyone for their work

Assembly Member Barnwell entertained questions.

Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Mr. Bonthius provided the following update:

- the Congresswoman has been in and out of DC and the house is currently working on the next Corona Virus relief package.
- Congresswoman Ocasio Cortez has hosted virtual town halls.
- The office hosted an informational session for service academy candidates along with Congresswoman Grace Meng.
- Discussed legislative initiatives that the Congresswoman has been working on
- Census is in the final month and it is still ongoing and encouraged anyone that has not completed the census to visit: my2020.gov.
- The office continues to do federal case work. For more information contact the Congresswoman's Office at (718) 662-5970.

Mr. Bonthius entertained questions.

John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Sharon Lee

Mr. Perricone welcomed everyone back and announced the Queens Borough President is looking forward to continuing to work with everyone from Community Board 2. If anyone has any questions, they may contact: (718) 286-3000.

James Mongeluzo, Representing Comptroller Scott Stringer

Mr. Mongeluzo provided the following update:

- Discussed the Comptroller's Bureau of Labor Law which enforces prevailing wage and benefit rates for construction and building service works employed by contractors on NYC public work projects. When companies on these public contracts fail to pay the proper wages and benefits, the Comptroller enforces the law to recover the money owed to workers and ensures that they receive the money through outreach.
- Discussed the issue of filing a claim for property damage during the storm.

Ernie Brooks, Representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

Mr. Brooks provided an update Congresswoman Maloney's work in Washington:

- Discussed the Hero's Act.
- Discussed the US Census.
- Thanked Lisa Deller and the Land Use Committee for their work on the yourLIC.
- Discussed the issue of gun violence.

Vicky Garvey, Representing Queens Borough President Sharon Lee

- Working on applications that have been certified.
- Discussed the issue of remote public hearings.

Lisa Deller provided the following update:

Discussed the LIC Waterfront Development and the news that the public land was withdrawn from the rezoning.

The plan is to spend some time discussing the CB2 LIC Waterfront Development Comments document that was circulated. She said that she hoped everyone got to read at least the executive summary. Discussed the work that was done for the past 8 months and discussed the many local advocates and community-based organizations who contributed to ideas and preservation for the kind of waterfront and community and development that we want to see.

Ms. Deller thanked everyone for authorizing the use of the special allocation of city funds that we voted on in June. This money was used to hire a Land Use Consultant, Bonnie Harken, and her assistant Andrew Buck who worked with the sub-committee (Kenny Greenberg, Christine Hunter, Lauren Springer and Karesia Batan and ad-hoc member Patrick O'Brien)

Ms. Deller stated we went back and forth with many drafts and discussed the issues and reviewed the history. The document circulated is the sub-committee's final draft.

Thanked the NYC Council for making this special allocation of city funds that CB's could use for purposes outside of just office expenses. The money that we spent on the Land Use Consultant was a special and valuable contribution by the NYC Council which we are not likely to see in the future due to the budget cuts.

Ms. Deller reported that our analysis of the preliminary plans shows that there are significant goals raised for years by the community that continue to go unaddressed. Embedded in the preliminary plans by yourLIC is a fundamental vision of the future which relies on the privatization of the last public land and many public streets on this waterfront, an inadequate recognition of the threats of climate change, and the belief that by up zoning “underutilized” land enough economic activity will be generated that the tradeoffs and costs to the existing community are worth it in return for promises of future jobs and “community benefits.”

Ms. Deller discussed the issue of the Corona Virus which has raged in our city. She further stated that while it is too early to predict the course of the pandemic, some changes are already emerging that effect development, hundreds of thousands of workers are unemployed and many others are working from home or leaving the city. Evictions and moratoriums are keeping the lid on homelessness and temporary shelters are sprouting all over our community board and around the city and this is not the answer. Vacancy rates are climbing and there is massive unemployment.

The majority of the SCA work remains on pause due to budget cuts and the need for COVID-19 improvements to existing schools. Significant support is needed to protect existing jobs, businesses healthcare and neighborhood services. There is an acute citywide shortage of affordable housing that can be expected to become even more critical based on economic projections. It will take years for our city to recover economically from this devastation and rezoning and building our way out of the problem is not going to cure the ills from which we are suffering.

Ms. Deller stated that in our report, CB 2 strongly urges the city to refrain from advancing the current plans that will have such far reaching consequences without allowing time to absorb and comprehend longer term implications of the corona virus pandemic, which, may create in and of itself, a new paradigm for development.

We urge the city to take a step back for now on the northern LIC waterfront to allow for a stronger more realistic plans for long term sustainable revitalization. We hope that with pulling the public land from the yourLIC Proposal that the city has heard us and that the Mayor has heard our cry for more inclusive, more community friendly, more livable waterfront development.

Ms. Deller invited Kenny Greenberg, Karesia Batan, Christine Hunter and Lauren Springer to provide further updates on the LIC Waterfront Development: CB2 Comments on proposed plans.

Ms. Deller invited Bonnie Harkin to provide an update on the Infrastructure Plans.

21-10 44th Drive, Long Island City - BSA 2020-5-BZ

Application Seeks a new physical culture establishment and Orangetheory Fitness Gym, on the First Floor of the Existing eight-story mixed commercial and residential building.

Frank St. Jacques provided the following update.

This is a gym and a special permit is required.

- The site is located at 21-10 44th Drive.

- The studio opened before they got the special permit. It opened on January 18 and it is still closed. They are working to reopen based on the guidance from City and State.
- It is located on the ground floor of a mixed-use building with residential apartments above. It is shy of 3,000 square feet. The short time it was in operation before COVID and was operating with no issues in the building. It is fully equipped with fire protection and received a sign off from FDNY. It is ADA compliant and does not have the BSA special permit. Their intention is to be a good neighbor.

Questions were entertained.

Attendance

Board Members Present 42 Board Members Absent 5 Quorum Yes

Sheila Lewandowski made a motion and it was seconded by Mary Torres to table the vote on the June 2020 CB 2 Meeting Minutes at the October Meeting. All were in favor to table the minutes.

Chairperson's Report

Ms. Deller provided the following update:

- CB2 sub-committee has been working on a comprehensive plan for the waterfront rezoning. Attended the Joint Borough Board Meeting which was virtual. There was a presentation from the Department of Education on the status of re-opening schools. Overview of restarting the ULURP Land Use Process.
- ULURP clock to restart September 14, 2020.
- Ms. Deller announced that there was a virtual meeting with Borough Hall for new members and that she met with the new members virtually to discuss board operating procedures and committee structure and assignment requests and is working on the committee structure and assigning board members to the committees.
- CB2 responded rapidly to the hurricane in early August and worked with the agencies to ensure downed trees, and Con Edison outages were cleared and restored so areas would be safe. Ms. Deller thanked Debra Markell Kleinert and the CB 2 Staff.
- Wished all a Happy New Year for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
- Ms. Deller announced that the next Community Board 2 meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 6:30pm.

District Managers Report

Ms. Markell Kleinert provided the following update:

- Provided an update by the 108th Police Precinct with regards to a shooting in LIC.
- CB 2 has attended all virtual and COVID-19 Pandemic conference calls with the Mayor's office, Con Ed, and the Food Czar.
- CB 2 sent masks and gloves to all Community Board 2 members. If anyone needs additional PPE, please call, or email our office.
- Filming has resumed. CB 2 has been notified our first filming notice from the Mayor's Office. Please alert CB2 of any issues.
- Remember if you have complaints please submit to the board office for follow up.
- CB 2 has sponsored a Halloween candy drive for the Metro for many years CB 2 regrettably will be unable to have this drive due to COVID-19 and the pandemic. We appreciate your support and hope to resume in the future.
- Please check the website for updated information. Website www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Department of City Planning

Teal Delys provided an update on the NYC Engagement Portal for Department of City Planning Hearings.

Land Use Committee Report

Ms. Deller reported on the following:

The request from the Land Use Committee and the sub-committee is to accept a motion to reaffirm and present our current and historic positions on rezoning by accepting publication of the paper.

Patrick O'Brien made a motion and it was seconded by Stephen Cooper to accept and approve the product and the last draft as representing both the current and historical position of the board as it relates to the development of the waterfront and the various sub-categories that should be addressed in any EIS that comes out from any proposed development.

All were in favor of the motion with 34 in favor; none opposed and 2 abstentions.

Ms. Deller announced that the document will be made public.

21-10 44th Drive, Long Island City - BSA 2020-5-BZ

Ms. Deller announced the Land Use Committee voted this down.

Karesia Batan made a motion and it was seconded by Lisa Deller to oppose the application unless they meet the conditions and that they come back to CB 2 and that they actively work with the neighborhood to support physical activity in the neighborhood and contribute to events in the area and make every attempt to hire employees from the community.

All were in favor of the motion with none opposed and no abstentions.

Transportation Committee

Ms. Lewandowski provided an update on the following:

- Announced the next Transportation Committee Meeting will take place on September 8, 2020.
- There will be a discussion about the Open Streets Program.
- Revel will come back to present.
- CB 2 has requested the MTA to come in October.
- Discussed the proposal for the south lane of the Queensboro Bridge converted into a pedestrian only lane for safer options for cyclists on the north and pedestrians on the south. CB 2 wrote a letter in support of this initiative; however, DOT has not acted so far.
- Ms. Lewandowski requested that if anyone has any matters for the Transportation Committee, to please send things into CB 2 so they can be added to the agenda.
- Ms. Lewandowski requested that the members think about what their vision for this community is for the capital and expense priorities.

Environment Committee

Ms. Morehead provided on the following update:

The Environment Committee did not meet in June.

Willis Elkins will present the status of Newtown Creek at the next meeting of the Environment Committee on September 24, 2020.

Arts & Cultural Committee

Mr. Greenberg provided an update on the following:

- Some of the Arts & Culture businesses was overlapped with Land Use Committee.
- Discussed sculpture in Court Square by Jack Howard Potter. No date has been set for installation.
- Presentation at the Gaston Lachaise for a sculpture going up in Hunters Point South Park.
- Mr. Greenberg announced that Karesia Batan has accepted the position of Co-Chair of the Arts and Cultural Committee.
- The next meeting of the Arts & Cultural Committee Meeting will take place on September 15, 2020 at 6 pm.

City Services & Public Safety Committee

Mr. O'Brien provided the following update:

- The next City Services & Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on September 9, 2020 at 6:30 pm.
- Mr. O'Brien discussed some of the quality of life issues along the southern end of Hunters Point South Park. He also reported about complaints concerning the many food trucks in the area.
- Mr. O'Brien reported there was a discussion with the DOH, Parks and the 108th Police Precinct concerning enforcement at the location concerning the food trucks along the park.

A board member reported that she has noted a marked difference in the number of food trucks at the site.

Public Comment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado

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