



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Lisa Deller
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

April 8, 2021

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced

Board Members – Present

Amparo Abel-Bey
Czarinna Andres
Anatole Ashraf
Karesia Batan
Nicholas Berkowitz
Danielle Brecker
Johann Carmona
Gianna Cerbone
Tannia Chavez
Osman Chowdhury
Stephen Cooper
Warren Davis
Jake DeGroot
Lisa Deller
Morry Galonoy
William Garrett
Somnath Ghimire
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos
Camille Gray
Kenneth Greenberg

Benjamin Guttmann
Christine Hunter
Sheila Lewandowski
Kristen McGowan
Taina McShane
Thomas Mituzas
Clara Oza
Karla Perez
Steven Raga
Katherine Sabal
Norberto Saldana
Laura Shepard
Lauren Springer
Mary Torres
Anthony Tudela
John Vaichunas
Adrienne Verrilli
Julie Won
Frank Wu

Board Members – Absent

Sandra Bigitschke
Kat Bloomfield
Sally Frank
Mohammed Jewel
Badrun Khan
Jordan Levine

Dominic Lippolis
Bianca Ozeri
Elliot Park
Selena Romero
Regina Shanley

Community Board 2 Staff

“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager
MaryAnn Gurrado

Elected Officials/Representatives

Honorable Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney
Ernie Brooks, Representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney
Ben Geremia, Representing Council Member Robert Holden
Jack Bernatovicz, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer
Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Joe Nocerino, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Vicky Garvey, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Department of City Planning

Teal Delys

Guests

Rob Johnson, NY City Mesh
Philip Composto, Department of Education

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Deller announced the following general housekeeping rules for the meeting:

- Please mute yourselves when not speaking.
- If your microphone is on and you're not speaking, we will mute you.
- This is a Community Board Meeting. Board members have priority when asking questions of guests or elected officials.
- You can make a public comment during the public comments section. The link to sign up is in the zoom chat. We'll post it every 30 minutes.
- If you are not a board member and speak before board members...we don't want to have to mute you.
- Please use the chat if you would like to ask guests and elected officials a question.
- Board members, please raise your hand using the raise hand function on Zoom to ask a question.
- And as always, please be courteous and respect the space and time.

Ms. Deller welcomed the following individuals to the meeting:

Andrea Thomas, Sunnyside Community Services

Ms. Thomas provided the following update:

- Announced Judy Zangwill, Executive Director, Sunnyside Community Services was featured this morning on the NBC Today show discussing one of their programs. Anyone interested can view the segment on the Sunnyside Community Services website.
- Sunnyside Community Services partnered with Queens Post and Resettlement which held a forum for City Council candidates. If anyone is interested, they can view the recording on the Sunnyside Community Services website.
- Announced Sunnyside Community Services will be hosting a Blood Drive on April 22, 2021 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Ms. Thomas entertained questions.

Honorable Carolyn Maloney, US Congresswoman

Congresswoman Maloney provided the following update:

- Announced they passed \$1.9 trillion-dollar bill and reported on the \$100 billion to NY City and state, which is desperately needed.
- We led the nation in how to respond to the coronavirus with research on all the possible cures etc.
- Congresswoman Maloney reported that she is the Chair Oversight and Reform Committee and reported on the following funding: \$1.9 billion to states, \$5.9 billion to city, \$1 billion in relief to renters, \$25 million that was put in the budget earlier.
- Announced that she went to small businesses earlier, the PPE is giving them the support they needed.
- Program has billions of dollars for vaccines.
- Her top priority is to get people vaccinated and stop the spread.
- Hope to have \$200 million vaccinated in the first 100 days, by end of May, we will have enough doses for everyone in America who needs it.
- \$6.5 billion in aid for MTA.
- \$22 billion in direct payments to individuals and families in the form \$1,400 checks, the 3rd wave is going out now.
- \$8 billion for the expansion of the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit. This program will help lift children out of poverty.
- Extended unemployment assistance.
- Distribution of food with public private partnerships has been extraordinary.
- Announced that earmarks have come back and if anyone had any ideas for programs to send them to her office. The forms are on the website.
- When they get back to work in Washington next Tuesday, they will be working on \$2.2 trillion American Jobs Plan and infrastructure package to modernize our infrastructure.
- One of her top priorities is getting an opening in Sunnyside Yards for the Queens Connector that expands the LIRR. There is no stop in Queens and we have to have a transit hub in Sunnyside Yards, a park and an entrance into that line.
- Congresswoman Maloney plans to hold hearings on high cost on prescription drugs.
- She is happy to work with a democrat president, house and senate and this is why they were able to pass the \$1.9 trillion dollar bill directed at helping people.
- Announced that the House passed her bill on the Women's History Museum.

- Announced that the House passed a law enforcement bill which will allow them to go behind LLC 's to see if they have sufficient evidence of criminal activity so they can go after anti-terrorism, financing, and money laundering areas
- Discussed the Green New deal for public housing is another priority they are pushing
- Discussed the modernization for trucks for post office.
- She said it is a great honor to work for us.
- In response to a question by Laura Shepard for an upgrade to the Greenway network from Pulaski Bridge to Astoria Park, to Flushing Bay, Congresswoman Maloney requested she write a proposal and it would be helpful to get the support of the Community Board.

Ms. Deller stated there is a proposal around the Dutch Kills greenway which would include a portion in Blissville, this idea has a legitimate design. Congresswoman Maloney stated she will put this request in.

- The application deadline is Friday, and if you can't get it in, we can get it in for the next budget.
- Provided an update on the Immigration Bill.

Congresswoman Maloney entertained questions.

Jack Bernatovicz, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer

Mr. Bernatovicz provided the following update:

- Reported that neighborhoods in CB2 are still seeing high COVID-19 positivity rates, with rates of 8.64% in parts of the district. Remember to keep social distancing, wear your masks, get tested, and schedule your vaccination appointment as soon as you can.
- Welcomed all of the newly appointed and reappointed members of CB2. Council Member Van Bramer wanted to welcome them to Community Board 2 and their office looks forward to working with everyone serving this district.
- Announced on Monday, Council Member Van Bramer toured Hunters Point South Park along with Rob Bash and Casey Chamberlain from the Hunters Point Park Conservancy, to discuss outstanding issues and the upcoming spring and summer in the Park.
- Reported that last night the Council Member joined the Hunters Point Park Conservancy's community safety meeting via zoom to discuss community concerns. The Council Member wanted to thank all of those that joined the conversation along with the 108th Precinct, Parks, State Parks, and DOT.
- Reported this past month, Council Member Van Bramer in partnership with Council Member Inez Barron, CM Alicka Ampry-Samuel, and advocates introduced the Community POWER Act (Intro 2245), which would create an Elected Civilian Review Board. This new ECRB would replace our currently toothless Civilian Complaint Review Board and revoke the Police Commissioner's power to determine punishment.
- The City Council also voted to end qualified immunity in New York City reining in police misconduct by making it easier to sue officers for the use of excessive force or conducting illegal searches. These two bills are steps towards more accountable policing here in New York City.
- In March the Council Member met with Queens Public Library President Dennis Walcott to discuss library projects throughout the district. Our office is working closely with QPL to help improve our libraries and their services. Also, I have exciting news that the Sunnyside Branch has

reopened for To-Go services, along with new ADA accessibility features at the entrance, funded by the Council Member.

- Also, this past month the Council Member joined leaders of Kinding Sindaw and National Alliance for Filipino Concerns in Woodside's [Little Manila](#) to distribute masks and hand sanitizer to folks along Roosevelt Avenue, and calling on the City and State to work with community based organizations at vaccination sites.
- Yesterday, the City Council just released its response to the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2022 City budget. As always the Council Member will be fighting for a more just and equitable budget which must include culture and libraries as priorities. The Council Member plans to attend the May meeting to brief you all on the budget negotiations.

Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Mr. Bonthius provided the following update:

- Introduced Najae Phillips who has joined their team through the Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program as a Constituent Liaison and Field Representative.
- Najae will be taking over as the CB2 liaison as he will be out on parental leave next month, and this is likely his last meeting until the fall.
- In his absence, you can reach Najae at najae.phillips@mail.house.gov.
- The Congresswoman hosted a virtual town hall Wednesday, March 31 at 6:30pm. She presented updates on the very busy start to the legislative year and took from constituents. If you weren't able to attend the event, the recording of this and previous town halls will be available on our YouTube page: @RepAOC (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6XBnYptBnproA_ydn-b0A).
- We send out notifications about upcoming events, including our monthly Town Halls, through our mailing list. If you aren't already signed up for our mailing list you can do so at this link that will share in the chat in either English or Spanish.
- English Newsletter: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/newsletter-subscribe>
- Spanish Newsletter: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/boletin-espanol>
- Over the past weeks our office has been collecting proposals for community projects to be included in this year's appropriations package. The requests will now undergo a vigorous screening and vetting process to ensure the requests our office submits to the Appropriations Committee meet the needs of NY14 and are of the highest ethical standards. Each member is allowed to submit 10 requests, which will be posted on our website by the end of this month with a summary of the request, an explanation for why it would be a good use of taxpayer funds, and a signed certification from the Congresswoman ensuring no financial interest in the project for herself and immediate family.
- On March 23rd, the Congresswoman introduced The Fair Debt Collection Act with Reps. Cohen and Bonamici. It would prohibit a debt collector from attempting to collect a debt after the statute of limitations has expired in order to ensure accuracy in debt collection, to prevent abusive tactics in the debt collection industry, and to allow consumers to get on with their lives. Details can be found [here](https://cohen.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/representatives-cohen-bonamici-and-ocasio-cortez-introduce-fair-debt): <https://cohen.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/representatives-cohen-bonamici-and-ocasio-cortez-introduce-fair-debt>.

- Our office continues to assist constituents with federal casework. Our staff continue to work from home and we continue to accept cases at our website, ocasio-cortez.house.gov, or over the phone at 718-662-5970.
- Last year, the Congresswoman and Senator Schumer worked together to pass FEMA funding for Funeral Assistance for the families of victims of the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting next week, those funds will be available. Applicants will need a copy of the death certificate and proof of funeral expenses incurred. Starting on April 12th, those who are eligible will be able to apply through FEMA (<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>). There will also be a hotline available from questions and language support (844-684-6333). Constituents can call our office for support.
- The Small Business Administration began taking applications for their Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program today, (<https://www.svograntportal.sba.gov/s/>). Applicants must have been in operation as of February 29, 2020. A venue or promoter who received a PPP loan on or after December 27, 2020, will have the SVOG reduced by the PPP loan amount. Click (<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/shuttered-venue-operators-grant>) for more information about who can apply.
- This year our office is participating in the **Congressional Art Competition**. This is a nation-wide competition hosted by the Congressional Art Institute. In collaboration with art teachers across our district, high school students submit entries to our office where a panel selects the winning art piece to be displayed in the halls of the U.S. Capitol building. If you are interested in participating, please contact Destiny Cruz via email at Destiny.Cruz@mail.house.gov and CC: daniel.bonthius@gmail.com

Mr. Bonthius entertained questions.

Ben Geremia, Representing Council Member Holden

Mr. Geremia provided the following update:

- Announced that Council Member Holden thanks you all for your continued volunteerism, and the work you do on behalf of the residents of CB2.
- As a community board member for over three decades, serving on nearly 7 committees at some point, Council Member Holden sincerely appreciates the work you do.
- This past Saturday, at Juniper Valley Park in Middle Village, Council Member Holden hosted an Easter egg hunt.
- Our office has been inundated with phone calls, emails, and social media inquiries. on several quality of life issues.
- We have heard from constituents about increased drag racing, speeding and reckless driving.
- We also received complaints of illegal car meet up's in portions of CB2 and the 108pct, where people are drinking and playing loud music at all hours of the night.
- These cars are also illegally altered with loud exhaust pipes and tinted windows.
- On April 1st, Council Member Holden and Assembly Member Barnwell met with top brass of the NYPD, including the 108 Pct Commander Captain Wise, and several others to discuss solutions to this issue. The hope is that this meeting will bring much needed relief to constituents.

- Council Member Holden was thrilled to hear the city's plan for increased Sanitation services. Mayor de Blasio recently announced the restoration of Sanitation services that were cut during the early days of the pandemic. The plan includes an increase in dedicated litter basket services and restores funding for Sunday trash receptacle pickups.
- During last year's budget cycle, Council Member Holden made sure to use his discretionary money to fund extra basket collections and non-profit services like Wildcat and ACE which provide graffiti removal, snow shoveling, and cleaning streets.
- We thank Middle Village's own, Ed Grayson, for his partnership in keeping our neighborhoods clean and healthy.
- If anyone has any locations with graffiti, illegal dumping, or litter, please call or email the office.

Mr. Geremia entertained questions.

Joe Nocerino, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Mr. Nocerino provided the following update:

- Welcomed all new Board Members and reappointed Board Members.
- Swearing in Ceremony will take place on April 19, 2021 and will be virtual.
- Borough President Richards will be holding a job recruitment fair Assembly Member Catalina Cruz on April 9, 2021 from 11:00 to 11:30 am and April 15, 2021 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm.
- Announced that on May 15, 2021 at 12:00 noon, the Borough President will be hosting a Bicycle Jamboree for kids ages 5 through 12 in the back of the parking lot at Borough Hall with Bike New York and Transportation Alternatives to teach bike safety. The first 100 will receive free bike helmets, there will be giveaways. Anyone interested must RSVP.

Dr. Composto, Department of Education

Dr. Composto provided an update about the New York City Schools and provided an update about District 30. He reported that District 30 believes that students, families, school staff, and the community will work together to equip students with literacy, numeracy and social, emotional and wellness skills necessary for the 21st century for college and career ready.

- There are 5 Pre-K Centers.
- 26 elementary schools
- Provided the locations of the Pre-K Centers
- Discussed the 3-K Program
- Discussed 4 K Program
- Discussed registration for programs.
- Many great programs in District 30, many special ed programs.
- Discussed District 75 Program
- 5 schools gifted and talented
- Discussed Gifted and Talented program.
- Only district that has dual language.
- Discussed Algebra for All Program
- Discussed Computer Carts Program.
- Middle School College Access Program.
- 37 schools have mental health programs.

- Discussed NY Kids Rise Program.
- Discussed the \$3 million dollar grant that was received.
- PS 398 opened on 34th Avenue, PS2 on 21st Avenue, PS 375 384, Lot C will open in September
- IS 429 on Barnett Avenue September 2023, 725 students.
- PS 341 on 54th Avenue, 2024 opening with 572 seats, PS 85 on 29th Street, September 2024, 476 students.
- 2 new high schools Academy of American Studies on 28th Street, opening 2022 and, 472 on Northern Blvd in Woodside opening in September 2025, holding 3,079 students.

Ms. Deller inquired about the curriculum for the school in Sunnyside Gardens. In response, Dr. Composto stated once they get a principal they will follow through with the plans. They try to work with the community and will ask someone from CB 2 to be on this committee to discuss the theme of the school.

Dr. Composto entertained questions.

Ms. Deller thanked Morry Galonoy for introducing us to Rob Johnson, NYC Mesh.

Rob Johnson, NY City Mesh

Rob Johnson provided a presentation about NY City Mesh and discussed the following:

- NYC Mesh is a community owned network for fast, affordable and fair access to high-speed internet.
- NYC Mesh believes that all people should have the power to determine their digital future, no matter where they live or how much they can afford.
- There is no cost to join besides the install fee. They request a monthly donation to help maintain and grow their network. Most members choose to donate between \$20 and \$30 per month.
- For more information visit their website at: www.nycmesh.net or email info@nycmesh.net.

Mr. Johnson entertained questions.

Attendance

Total Present 39 Total Absent 11 Quorum: Yes

Approval of the March 4, 2021 CB 2 Meeting Minutes

Anatole Ashraf a motion and it was seconded by Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos to approve the March 4, 2021 CB 2 Meeting minutes. The vote was 38 in favor of the motion with none opposed and 1 abstention.

Chairperson’s Report

Ms. Deller provided the following update:

- Attended Queens Borough President's Zoom Press Conference on Community Board appointments.
- Ms. Deller welcomed and announced the following new Board Members and asked each of them to introduce themselves. Ms. Deller discussed each of the committees and their responsibilities:
 - ✓ *Kat Bloomfield*
 - ✓ *Danielle Brecker*
 - ✓ *Johanna Carmona*
 - ✓ *Gianna Cerbone*
 - ✓ *Somnath Ghimire*
 - ✓ *Camille Gray*
 - ✓ *Karla Perez*
 - ✓ *Selena Romero*
 - ✓ *Katherine Sabal*
 - ✓ *Laura Shepard*
- Ms. Deller thanked all of our outgoing members for their dedicated service to CB 2.
 - *Diane Ballek*
 - *Bessie Cassaro*
 - *Dorothy Morehead*
 - *Patrick Murray*
 - *Patrick O'Brien*
 - *Rebecca Trent*
- Announced the Borough President's Swearing in will be held on April 19, 2021 at 6:00pm.
- Announced that she will be meeting and assigning committees to the new board members. Any board member can attend any committee meeting however, they cannot vote at the committee meeting. She encouraged everyone to shop around to see where their interests are and align it with what the Board's needs are. She stated the importance of committee involvement.
- Discussed a serious matter, and acknowledged Anatole Ashraf, Julie Won, Frank Wu, Kareisa Batan, Elliot Park and Morry Galonoy for asserting the need for CB 2 to make a statement to condemn the recent attacks against Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Together these members of our Community Board drafted a statement and we will circulate the statement and post it to the website. She read the following:
 - The sharp rise in anti-Asian violence and discrimination only compounds the struggle of the Asian American community as they face disproportionately high levels of impact due to the pandemic itself. While comprising 9% of the state's workforce, Asian American's account for nearly 15% of those claiming unemployment benefits. Some victims of these very public hate crimes are local

residents of CB 2 district. Where Asians make up to 35.4% of residents compared to 17% citywide. The violence and bigotry is unacceptable and has no place in our neighborhood and district. We members of Community Board 2 condemn these attacks in the strongest possible terms and stand in allyship with our Islander neighbors at this time and don't just stand by and accept this behavior, speak up if you see an attack, call and report it to the 108 Police Precinct and protect our elderly and Asian American neighbors. We urge unity active vigilance for all.

Stephen Cooper made a motion and it was seconded to approve. All were in favor with none opposed and no abstentions.

Mr. Deller stated this will be circulated.

- Provided an update about the Borough President's press conference and we look forward to working with the BP's office and the some of the initiatives that were discussed.
- Announced the ULURP presentations that will be coming up in the next couple of months have been certified on Wednesday and have to be voted on by our June meeting. Ms. Deller urged everyone to attend the public hearing.
- Announced the by-law committee is being formed. Borough President sits on all of the committees.
- Announced public hearing for 62-04 Roosevelt Avenue on April 28, 2021 at 6:30pm will be teleconferenced on zoom. Ms. Deller discussed the proposal.
- Continue regular meetings with Tech Committee and CB 2 staff on calendar for website. Ms. Deller recognized the efforts of Anatole Ashraf and Jake DeGroot for their assistance.
- Announced Stephen Cooper has been appointed Chair of City Service Committee and Public Safety Committee.
- Reported on the number of complaints received for the month of March total 207, total complaints resolved 156.
- Queens COVID testing sites are on our website.
- Announced the next Land Use Committee Meeting will be held on April 21, 2021 at 6:00pm.
- Ms. Deller wished all who celebrate the Ramadan holiday, a month of blessings.
- Announced the next Community Board 2 meeting will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 6:30pm and will be zoom teleconferenced.

District Manager's Report

Ms. Markell Kleinert provided the following update:

- Remember if you have complaints please submit to the board office for follow up.
- CB 2 as per the Tech Committee request has posted the CB 2 Board Agenda to Link NYC.

- Mr. Markell Kleinert welcomed all the new board members and thanked all the outgoing Board Members for their many years of dedicated service.
- Ms. Markell Kleinert thanked the Tech Committee for all their assistance on behalf of herself and the CB 2 office staff.
- CB2 has been posting more information on our Facebook page and website including the COVID 19 testing sites.
- Please check the website for updated information at: www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Teal Delys, Department of City Planning Report

Teal Delys provided the following update:

The following were certified on Wednesday:

- 62-04 Roosevelt
- 48-18 Van Dam Street
- Zoning for Accessibility
- Citywide Hotels Special Permit Text Amendment, expected to certify in April
- Health and Fitness Text Amendment, expected to certify in mid-May
- Open Restaurants Text Amendment, expected to certify in mid-May

Ms. Delys entertained questions:

Land Use Committee

Christine Hunter provided the following update:

Consumer Affairs Application on the Northeast corner of Jackson Avenue and 42d Road

- We received multiple letters opposing this location because of its awkward proximity to restaurants that want to be able to have seating in front or on the side. The applicant was not present at the meeting. The Committee voted to oppose the application as it would have a negative impact on the community at this location and that the applicant would be reinvited back to the committee to discuss another location. We are trying to be flexible and give the applicant another chance.

62-04 Roosevelt Avenue

- The developer brought the non-profit Mare Nostrom, that they are working with to establish a community arts center for dance and performance in the basement space which the developer will be providing.
- Ms. Hunter urged Board Members to attend the public hearing on April 28, 2021 for 62-04 Roosevelt Avenue as the full board will be voting on this application on June 3, 2021.

Comprehensive Planning Proposal

- Annie Levers, Mayor's Office of Strategic Initiatives, NYC Council provided a presentation on Comprehensive Planning Legislation being proposed by the NYC Council, Intro 2186. It is

important that CB 2 take a position on this and our proposal is to invite Annie Levers back in September to present the proposal for the Board to respond to. Ms. Hunter stated the presentation was sent out with the Land Use Minutes.

Arts & Cultural Committee

Kenny Greenberg provided the following update:

- Reported Jack Bernatovicz, Representing Council Member Van Bramer's office provided information about the Open Culture Program Guidelines. The information is available on the Council Member's website as well as CB2's website under the Arts & Cultural Committee Section.
- Kendal Henry, Director of Percent for Art Program provided a presentation on the Percent for Art Program.
- The committee has lost two members and is looking forward to new members that may wish to join the committee.

Karesia Batan provided the following update:

- Discussed the process for artists that would like to have a public art installation.
- Discussed the process for Open Culture and thanked the Council Member's office for their work.
- If anyone has any further questions, to reach out to her.

City Services & Public Safety Committee

Stephen Cooper provided the following update:

- Announced that he is seeking board members that care about city services to serve on the committee.
- Announced that he is seeking to expand the committee and develop it.
- Mr. Cooper stated that serving on the Community Board is to help the community and to try to find out what the community's needs are and to serve the community.

Transportation Committee

Sheila Lewandowski provided the following update:

- Announced that she and Thomas Mituzas attended a meeting that was held at the 108th Police Precinct with Captain Wise, Traffic Sergeant and Detective Torres. Discussed the conversion of 5th Street between Borden and 50th and the precinct is on board.
- Discussed the drag racing issues.
- Announced traffic sergeant will be joining the Transportation Committee Meeting monthly. This will be very helpful on the issue of enforcement and direction of roads and that we want emergency services to chime in on these issues.
- In May, CB 2 has asked DOT to attend the Transportation Committee to discuss the Plaza Equity Program.
- Announced that Co-Chair Tom Mituzas has been asking for a study of the protected bike lane as a part of a greenway from the Kosciuszko Bridge to Hunters Point to the Queens Borough Bridge.

- Provided an update about the Vernon Boulevard Bulkhead. Ms. Lewandowski reported that EDC and DOT are ready to start construction on the Vernon Blvd. Bulkhead street end. The design is a concrete wall. CB 2 has been opposed to it being a concrete wall and we want to make sure there is waterfront access. Ms. Lewandowski stated there is a petition and encouraged all to sign it and to also reach out to the Council Member and other elected officials.
- Ms. Lewandowski reported that there was a walk through with the Newtown Creek Alliance. They discussed the Montauk cutaway where there is a construction company behind LaGuardia College which has a lot of concrete dust and they are not maintaining the area. We are pressing them for some controls over what is happening there.

Health & Human Services Committee

Taina McShane provided the following update:

- Welcomed all the new members and invited them to check out the Health Committee.
- The Health & Human Services and Education meeting is held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 5:00 pm.
- Announced that at the March 8, 2021 meeting, Andy McCord Cahir of Programming and Recruitment at ESPI provided a presentation about their organization.
- Announced that at the next meeting, there will be a presentation by Kellie Phelan, Program Director, Hour Children.

Environment Committee

Frank Wu provided the following update:

- The Environment Committee met for the first time.
- Two professors, Steven Markowitz and Halger Eisl from CUNY Queens College provided a presentation on NYC Air Quality. They discussed how they collect data and health outcomes.
- Within CB 2 area we have far worse air quality than other areas in Queens.
- Will have experts from Waterfront Alliance at the next Environmental Committee meeting, to discuss viability of the technology for LIC Waterfront and Green Energy Plant.
- The meeting will be held on the last Thursday of the month.

Mary Torres discussed Environmental Grades.

Gianna Cerbone discussed a study that took place approximately 20 years ago

Tech Committee

Anatol Ashraf provided the following update:

- The Tech Committee is trying to create more access, visibility and transparency and the needs for members and tech needs for the district.
- Google calendar is up on the website.
- Discussed the plans for digitizing the CB 2 Newsletter and the Committee is working to establish a working group. If anyone is interested to please reach out.
- The Tech Committee meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 5:00 pm.

A discussion about meeting recordings took place. Ms. Deller stated this is something we have been discussing and that we need to have protocols in place for participating in a meeting.

Public Comment

Seth Slade, Woodside

- Discussed the time frame for public comment and would like to see a set time. Requested a deadline for when the Borough President's initiatives will be met.
- Attended the Transportation Committee Meeting and inquired about public membership and is requesting a deadline to know when this will happen.
- Congratulated the new board members and stated he requested stats and a breakdown from the BP's office of where members are from as he did not see representation from Maspeth or Council Member Holden's area.
- He is seeking transparency and does not want people waiting until 10pm to make a public comment.
- Asked when public members of committees will happen.

Ms. Lewandowski clarified that it was never said at the Transportation Committee.

Dr. Gianutsos discussed the By-Laws and that public members can vote. Ms. Deller stated they need to be appointed to be a public member and we have not historically had many public members. Ms. Deller stated we need to have some rules about who gets appointed and that we have to look at this as an issue. She thanked Dr. Gianutsos and invited her to be a part of this discussion.

Marie Hanlon, LIC

- Concerned about the proliferation of food vendor trucks and cart on Center Boulevard. They are causing traffic congestion, blocking fire hydrants, blocking sidewalks. There is smoke, music, noise, generators and trash and she is requesting enforcement of existing laws.

Ms. Deller requested that she take photos and sent them to the Board office. Ms. Deller reported that CB 2 worked on this last year and that we need to follow up on this.

Mary Torres discussed major legislation changes are needed.

Morry Galonoy discussed similar issues that are happening in his community.

Ms. Deller said that maybe we can do a task force and convene it through the City Services Committee to discuss the issue of food trucks.

Sarah Sacks

- Reported that she has developed a civic tech project called Block Party with the goal to make local policy information easily accessible. Her goal is to get people to know what is going on and serve as a resource.

Michael Sharp, Department of Finance

- Discussed 2 sets of programs that they administer.
- Help individuals for those that are in rent stabilized apartments and rent freeze program (SCRIE and DRIE).
- Discussed six homeowner tax exemptions that they administer.
- Want to raise awareness about these programs.
- On April 21, 2021, they will be posting on how to manage property taxes for those that have fallen behind. It will be a virtual meeting and an in-depth discussion.
- Will do further outreach with the Community Board in the future.

Mercedes Jennings, Representing Senator Michael Gianaris

- Reported the Senator is in upstate and passed a lot of great things.
- Full funding for foundational aid for city schools.
- \$300,000 million going to NYCHA funding to help rebuild infrastructure in NYCHA.
- Discussed the marijuana legislation.
- Call their office for more information.

Jake DeGroot thanked the Senator for his support of the marijuana legislation that was passed.

Karesia Batan discussed the public comment portion of the meeting and suggested we set a time early in the meeting for 30 minutes so the first 15 people that signed up can go and then everyone else that does to go at that time, would have to wait until later in the meeting as a compromise.

Mary Torres made a motion and it was seconded by Morry Galonoy to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

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