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Community Board No. 2

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Lisa Deller
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

September 9, 2021

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom

AMENDED

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FULL BOARD MEETING PRESENTATION IS AVAILABLE ON OUR QUEENS COMMUNITY BOARD 2 YOUTUBE CHANNEL.

Board Members – Present

Amparo Abel-Bey

Czarinna Andres

Anatol Ashraf

Thalia (Karesia) Batan

Nicholas Berkowitz

Sandra Bigitschke

Kat Bloomfield

Danielle Brecker

Tannia Chavez

Osman Chowdhury

Stephen Cooper

Warren Davis

Jake DeGroot

Lisa Deller

Morry Galonoy

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos

Camille Gray

Kenneth Greenberg

Benjamin Guttmann

Christine Hunter

Sheila Lewandowski

Kristen McGowan

Taina McShane

Clara Oza

Karla Perez

Steven Raga

Norberto Saldana

Laura Shepard

Lauren Springer

Mary Torres

Anthony Tudela

Adrienne Verrilli

Julie Won

Frank Wu

Board Members – Absent

Joanna Carmona

Gianna Cerbone

Sally Frank

Dominic Lippolis

Thomas Mituzas

Elliot Park

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

William Garrett
Somnath Ghimire
Mohammed Choudhury Jewel
Badrun Khan

Selena Romero
Katherine Sabal
Regina Shanley
John Vaichunas

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager
MaryAnn Gurrado

Elected Officials/Representatives

Honorable Brian Barnwell, NY State Assembly Member
Honorable Jimmy Van Bramer, NYC Council Member
Matthew Wallace, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer
Pekyi Tenzin, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer
Najee Philips, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Ernie Brooks, Representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney
Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Mike Gianaris
Tiffany Hurdato, Representing Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas

NYC Department of City Planning

Teal Delys
Carolyn Grossman

Department of Transportation

Nicole Garcia, Queens Borough Commissioner
Gretha Suarez
Julie Schipper

Public Comment – ULURP APPLICATION

Diane Hendry
Melisa Bieri
Lisa Goren

Public Comment – General Comment

Ahsia Bade

Lisa Deller welcomed everyone back to the virtual CB 2 Board Meeting tonight and said that until further notice all CB 2 meetings and committee meetings will be conducted by Zoom teleconference.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Lisa Deller discussed the general housekeeping rules:

- Please mute yourselves when not speaking.
- If your mic 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'd 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.
- Elected officials please consider a 3-minute time frame as we have a busy agenda.

Lisa Deller welcomed the following individuals:

Honorable Jimmy Van Bramer, NYC Council Member

Council Member Van Bramer provided the following update:

- Welcomed everyone back.
- Discussed Hurricane Ida Recovery and spoke about a tragedy at 64th and Laurel Hill where a family of three drowned in their basement apartment, including a child.
- Council Member Van Bramer stated his office has been assisting people who live on that block and have requested from DEP a walk through of this location along with other places in the district which include Sunnyside north and south of the Boulevard.
- Met with Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez, Senator Gianaris and Julie Won to check in on La Adelita and Maggie Maes. He also spoke about the area of 48th Street and 37th Avenue near Stop and Shop where there was horrific flooding
- Council Member Van Bramer announced that ACE will go out to help out with clean up on 48th Street.

- Spoke about the Emergency Service Center at IS 125 and will be there until 8 PM tonight and announced that FEMA was there along with other agencies which were there for support. However, they will have to move the location from IS 125 as the space will be needed for when school opens. OEM is working on a new location.
- Council Member Van Bramer's Office will continue to assist people with their claims.
- Discussed that there have been additional sanitation pick-ups there has been improvement there.
- Discussed the short term and long-term issues.
- Spoke about the Barnett Avenue middle school which took in a lot of water and that construction of the school continues.
- Announced PS 384 is opening on Monday.
- Discussed the Northern Blvd High School which is currently the site being used as a COVID testing site.
- Announced Doughboy Park is nearing completion.
- Announced Open Culture is a great success and that he is excited to introduce an extension of Open Culture at the City Council.
- Announced that he has allocated funding for WNET in the amount of \$40,000 for CB 2 meetings to be recorded.
- Spoke about the need for traffic calming measures on Northern Boulevard and that he has spoken with DOT concerning the streetscape which needs to be dramatically changed for pedestrians and young people that will be going to that future school

Council Member Van Bramer entertained questions.

Lisa Deller thanked Council Member Van Bramer for allocating the funding for WNET which will be a big help to us.

Lisa Deller thanked Assembly Member Barnwell for his help with Hurricane Ida and for his assistance in amending the Open Meetings Law.

Honorable Brian Barnwell, NY State Assembly Member

Assembly Member Barnwell provided the following update:

- Assembly Member Barnwell stated that If anyone is in need of assistance with regard to Hurricane Ida, they should visit or contact the following: www.disasterassistance.gov or call: 1 800 621-3362.

- FEMA service center located at: Queens College Student Union at 152-55 Melbourne Avenue, Flushing, New York, 11367
- Comptroller Claims: <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/services/for-the-public/claims/e-filing>.
- Must be filed within 90 days and must file a claim in court 90 days from the incident and file an internal complaint with the comptroller's office.
- Group Flood Insurance Policy – FEMA offers Group Flood Insurance Policies to individuals who do not have flood insurance and have received assistance from FEMA after President declared disaster strikes. For more information about Group Flood Insurance program or flood insurance call 1 800638-6620 option 2.
- For assistance with legal help, you may contact the NYC Bar Association at: (212) 626-7373.
- Announced the CEC will be having a meeting on September 20, 2021 at 6:30 concerning the school on Northern Blvd. They will present the new rendering and floor plans. He is engaging with DOT to make this area safe.
- Eviction moratorium has been extended to January 15, 2022.
- Every Sunday at 10 am and Wednesdays 2 pm his office conducts clean ups in the community. If anyone is interested in volunteering the meeting location is 55-19 69th Street.

Assembly Member Barnwell entertained questions.

Tiffany Hurdato, Representing Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas

Tiffany Hurdato provided the following update:

- Spoke about the Hurricane Ida Resource List which is available and anyone who needs a copy may contact the Assemblywoman's office with their email address.
- Their office is helping constituents with E-Wrap applications as well as the Exclude Workers Fund and to apply as soon as they can.
- Call their office to set up an appointment for assistance.
- Their office held a backpack giveaway.
- The Assembly woman's Office is hosting two paper shredding events on the following dates:
 - September 18, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in front of St. Marks at AME Church at 95-15 Northern Blvd.,
 - November 13, 2021 from 10:00 to 2:00 in front of 398Q on 69th Street and 34th Avenue

- Their office will be hosting an e-waste drop off site at 75-35 31st Avenue, Suite 286B, East Elmhurst, NY.

Questions were entertained.

Sheila Lewandowski asked about the curbside composting program and asked for an update and inquired about larger buildings participating. Matt Wallace stated you have to sign up online. They are encouraging neighbors to sign up.

Matt Wallace stated that the Curbside program is only focused on 1 to 4 family homes and that people have to sign up. He would provide the link in the chat.

Christine Hunter discussed the lack of public outreach and asked for more information and that the community understand what is at stake. Matt Wallace will provide the information and their office will help with the push to get people to sign up.

Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris

Mercedes Jennings provided the following update:

- Senator Gianaris's Office is helping people with issues concerning Hurricane Ida. His office is encouraging people to apply for FEMA. His office has received confirmation that FEMA is accepting applications for those individuals that had damage.
- The Senator's Office is helping constituents to apply for E-Wrap.
- Anyone who needs assistance may contact their office.

Lisa Deller thanked Senator Gianaris for his help with the Open Meetings Law, the Eviction Moratorium, and the E-Wrap program.

Ernie Brooks, Representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

- Anyone who needs assistance with Hurricane Ida may contact their office.
- Congresswoman Maloney toured the area's devastated by Hurricane Ida with the President on Tuesday.
- The Congresswoman is supportive of the composting program.
- Mr. Brooks discussed traffic issues around schools.

Lisa Deller congratulated CB 2 Board Member Steven Raga as the new Executive Director of Woodside on the Move.

Public Comment

Adriana Beltran, Woodside on the Move

Adriana spoke about the following:

- Announced a rededication for the unveiling of the mural for the 9/11 attacks which will take place on September 14, 2021 at 6:30 pm between Roosevelt and 39th Avenue
- Housing Monthly Meeting will be held on Zoom.

- Registration is taking place for all the after-school programs and they are accepting applications.
- Positions are available for housing specialists at their office, anyone interested may reach out to her.

Ahsia Badi, NY State Independent Redistricting Commission

Ahsia Badi provided a power presentation and stated all information she would provide may be viewed on their website at: www.NYIRC.gov.

Jonathan Miller, Sunnyside Community Services

Jonathan Miller provided the following information:

- Will be welcoming Pre-K students on Monday.
- Will be welcoming after school students for Woodside, Sunnyside, and Elmhurst.
- For those in need to contact Sunnyside Community Services and to visit their website.
- They do not have spaces for three- and four-year-old children, as they are full.

Najee Phillips, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Najee Phillips provided the following update:

- Expressed sincerest condolences to the families that lost loved ones and belongings in the wake of Hurricane Ida, particularly the Lama Sherpa Family who were lost in Woodside. Their office is working with the state department to facilitate their relatives attendance at the funeral services.
- Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez will be hosting a virtual town hall on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 5:30 pm to discuss Hurricane Ida recovery efforts and resources. FEMA and Small Business Administration will be in attendance.
- Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez, Mayor de Blasio, and Governor Hochul joined FEMA to survey the damages in the wake of Hurricane Ida throughout 64th Street and 48th Avenue.
- Their office worked with FEMA and President Biden to expedite individual assistance with disaster grants up to \$34,000.
- On September 7, 2021, the Congresswoman, the President, and several members of the delegation toured Queens to survey the damage from Hurricane Ida and spoke to residents who were impacted.

ULURP/CITYWIDE APPLICATION

CITYWIDE PROPOSED OPEN RESTAURANTS TEXT AMENDMENT ULURP# N210434ZRY

The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) and Department of City Planning (DCP) are proposing a citywide zoning text amendment that will allow the DOT to administer the Permanent Open Restaurant Program (POR). The proposal will remove sidewalk café

regulations from the Zoning Resolutions to increase geography eligibility as sidewalk cafes will become part of a unified sidewalk and roadway outdoor dining program administered at DOT.

Lisa Deller stated at the Land Use Special Meeting the DCP presented their piece of the text amendment and at that time the DOT was unable to present. We realized at this meeting was that This is not a DCP Program but a DOT program. Lifting the zoning to allow for open restaurants that will be supervised by the DOT is something we are interested in hearing a lot about. Zoning has huge control over the use of the street and to give the DOT purview over controlling access is a sea change. This gives the DOT huge purview over control and access to the streets.

Lisa Deller welcomed representatives of City Planning:

Teal Delys stated she will be providing the information on the zoning text amendment for open restaurants.

She introduced the following individuals:

- Julie Schipper, Department of Transportation
- Carolyn Grossman, Department of City Planning
- Nicole Garcia, Department of Transportation
- Gretha Suarez, Department of Transportation

Public Comment – ULURP APPLICATION

Diane Hendry

Melisa Bieri

Lisa Goren

All three individuals were opposed to the Open Restaurants Text Amendment.

Questions were entertained.

Attendance

Board Members Present 34 **Board Members Absent** 14 **Quorum - Yes**

Approval of the May and June 2021 Meeting Minutes

Jake DeGroot made a motion, and it was seconded by Kenny Greenberg to approve the May and June 2021 Meeting Minutes. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

***Jake DeGroot amended his motion to include the May 6th and June 3rd meeting minutes specifically only, as the June 23rd meeting minutes were not shared with the board. Jake DeGroot accepted the amendment to his motion. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions to approve the May and June 3rd, 2021 Meeting minutes.

Chairperson's Report

Lisa Deller provided the following report:

- Moment of silence for the family who died in the flood from Hurricane Ida in Woodside at 44-60 64th street.
- Moment of silence on the 20th anniversary of 911 for all of those who perished.
- Moment of silence for former CB 2 Board Member Barbara Coleman.
- Discussed that she spent time with other Board Chairs advocating to have the Open Meetings law amended and it was recently signed into law by Governor Hochul until January 2022. We have time to come up with a hybrid format for in person and remote meetings.
- Council Member Van Bramer allocated \$40,000 to WNET for us to have technical assistance. We are grateful to him for doing this.
- Thanked Frank Wu, Christine Hunter, Thomas Mituzas, Rosamond Gianutsos Kenny Greenberg, Morry Galonoy, Karesia Batan, Camille Gray and Anatol Ashraf for their work on the Capital and Expense Budget over the summer. This will go to the full board in October.
- We circulated a survey on the most pressing issues in our community district. We did not get a great response and it was recirculated again tonight. She encouraged everyone to answer the questionnaire and elaborate on what you think are the most pressing issues are as it would be helpful to work on the survey to make it useful for local agencies and individuals to contribute to the development of our district needs statement and the budget
- Thanked Sheila, Sally, Kat, Norberto, Nick, Danielle, Frank, and Tai for their work on the By-Laws. Hopefully this will come to the Board in November.

- Chairwoman attended a roundtable with Deputy Inspector Wise of the 108th precinct to discuss community issues.
- Reminder: if you haven't done so already, please email / return your EEO Policy signature page to the CB2 office. It is important that the office receive these documents asap. CB2 still has 7 board members outstanding.
- COVID Testing sites are on our website.
- The next Land Use Committee meeting will be held on September 22, 2021 at 6:00pm.
- Wished all who celebrated Rosh Hashanah Happy New Year.
- The next Community Board 2 meeting will be Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 6:30

District Manager's Report

Debra Markell Kleinert provided the following report:

- Reminded everyone to provide the CB 2 Office with updated contact information.
- CB2 has been posting more on information on our Facebook page and websites. Reminded the Arts & Cultural Committee to continue providing updates.
- The 108th Precinct Community Council Meetings will now be meeting on the last Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be held on September 29, 2021 at Sunnyside Community Services at 7:00pm. Masks are required. Only 35 guests will be allowed on a first come first serve basis.
- Announced that she will be participating in the Budget Consultations are coming up.
- The office is up and running.
- Please check the website for updated information.
 - Website www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

City Planning Report

Teal Delys did not have any further updates currently.

Land Use Committee Report

Christine Hunter provided an update and discussed the recommendation by the Committee.

Reported that we heard the presentation by City Planning and concluded and because we didn't have the presentation by DOT, we could not recommend approval of the text amendment. Questions and comments presented this evening amplified a lot of issues.

Lisa Deller made a motion, and it was seconded by Christine Hunter to oppose the text amendment at this time. The vote was 21 in favor of the motion to oppose with 8 opposed and 1 abstention.

Transportation Committee Report

Sheila Lewandowski provided the following report:

- Announced the 39th Avenue Bike Boulevard is being implemented.
- There are a number of open culture events throughout the district including a number in Blissville.
- Center Blvd meeting on Hunters Point Park on August 3, 2021 to discuss improvements.
- Open Restaurant and complaints regarding lack of enforcement.
- October 5, 2021 Transportation Committee Meeting.
- She is grateful to the members of the By-Laws working group, Nick, Kat, Lauren, Danielle, Norberto, Sally and Lisa.

Arts & Cultural Committee Report

Kenny Greenberg provided the following report:

- Had a presentation from Chashama and Storefront start up. The Committee discussed the various questions about how artists are treated in these programs.
- Talked about their meeting with the Teamsters.

Karesia Batan reported that Flushing Town Hall will present at the meeting on Tuesday at 6:00 pm to discuss their new artist service department.

Environment Committee Report

Laura Shepard provided the following update:

- Met in June they had two presenters about street trees an organization that identifies places to add them and a program for maintaining them.
- Had a presentation by DEP which will move into the building on Skillman Avenue and 39th and that it will become a ULURP at a future date.
- She and Frank discussed attending Solid Waste Advisory Board Meetings.

Health and Human Services Committee Report

Tai McShane announced that the next meeting is September 13, 2021, at 5:00 pm.

City Services & Public Safety Committee

No report.

Tech Committee

Anatole Ashraf provided the following update:

- Spent the summer trying to come up with a hybrid meeting system and a scope of work and a request for proposal to shop around for vendors. We were saved by the special session held by the Governor.
- Working on digitizing the newsletter and hope to have a draft by this month's Tech Committee Meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

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