



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Morry Galonoy
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Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EHc2NP3nNr18zsOxYqwww

January 6, 2022

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Board Members – Present: Amparo Abel-Bey, Anatole Ashraf, Thalia (Karesia) Batan, Nicholas Berkowitz, Sandra Bigitschke, Danielle Brecker, Tannia Chavez, Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Warren Davis, Jake DeGroot, Lisa Deller, Sally Frank, Morry Galonoy, Somnath Ghimire, Rosamond Gianutsos, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Benjamin Guttmann, Christine Hunter, Badrun Khan, Kristen McGowan, Thomas Mituzas, Steven Raga, Selena Romero, Norberto Saldana, Laura Shepard, Lauren Springer, Mary Torres, Anthony Tudela, John Vaichunas, Frank Wu

Board Members – Absent: Kat Bloomfield, Johanna Carmona, Gianna Cerbone, William Garrett, Mohammed Choudhury Jewel, Dominic Lippolis, Taina McShane, Eliot Park, Karla Perez, Katherine Sabal, Regina Shanley, Adrienne Verilli

Board Members – Excused: Sheila Lewandowski, Clara Oza

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

Elected Officials/Representatives

Honorable Brian Barnwell, NYS Assembly Member

Honorable Julie Won, NYC Council

Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Ernie Brooks, Representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

Craig Caruana, Representing Council Member Robert Holden

Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won

Kahleel Bragg, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

James Mongeluzo, representing NYC Comptroller Brad Lander

NYC Department of City Planning

Teal Delys

Guests

Jason Sloan, Sunnyside Community Services

Adriana Beltran, Woodside on the Move

Nemo Persaud TSINY-Transitional Services for New York.

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

Note: Reference to the You Tube video and the associated 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

(Approximate time stamps provided in these minutes refer to this video)

Link to [Block Party archive](#) where you can navigate to a transcript of this meeting.

Time (Approximate, from YouTube Video)

00:00:48 At **6:35 PM**, CB2Q Chairperson Morry Galonoy welcomed the community together with elected representatives and other guests.

00:01:46 **Pledge of Allegiance.**

The chairperson reminded all to be respectful and to mute themselves when they are not talking. Board Members have priority speaking. Non-board members may reserve time to speak in the Public Comment part of the meeting. The sign-up link will be put in the chat. Public Comment will follow remarks by elected officials.

00:06:07 **Council Member Julie Won** – addressed CB2Q on the occasion of the first board meeting of her tenure. Councilmember Won stated the focus is on the present COVID health emergency; and her office is virtual. Councilmember Won is working with local agencies to increase [testing sites](#). She stated that problems exist in turn-around times. She announced that take-home tests are prioritized for use in schools. Councilmember Won spoke about price gouging ([NY State - Report Price Gouging City](#)). She stated that anyone who is 65+ or immunocompromised can request testing at home. Call (929) 298-9400 between 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM (7 days a week).

00:19:28 **Ernie Brooks, Representing Honorable Carolyn Maloney, US Congresswoman** – Contact: Tel.: 212-860-0606 or visit [Rep. Maloney constituent services](#). Ernie Brooks stated that Congresswoman Maloney is proud that Protecting our Democracy Act passed in the House, supporting attempts to close Big Alice plant and to enact an act to block new permits for fossil fuel plants in areas like western Queens adversely affected by pollution. The Congresswoman is seeking to extend student loan moratorium and make it permanent.

00:23:30 **Daniel Bonthius, Representing Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, US Congresswoman** – Contact: Tel.: 718-662-5970 or visit [Representative Ocasio-Cortez's website](#). He stated anyone can submit a [casework request](#). He noted to contact the Congresswoman for [legislative comments and general questions](#). He discussed legislation. He stated their [youth town hall](#) went well and they have more meetings planned.

00:25:43 **Kahleel Bragg, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards** – Advisor on Community Engagement - Cure Violence/Sports Outreach. Contact: Email: kbragg@queensbp.org, Tel.: 718-286-2853, Anyone wanting to attend special events can: [RSVP to Queens Borough President Office's Special Events](#). Kahleel Bragg stated [Community Board Applications](#) are now available online. Deadline is 02/16. No longer necessary to have application notarized, nor endorsed by the council member, although the council member will remain involved in the selection process. Details on the borough president's web page for the following: Scholarships for African American heritage students. Application deadline 01/10. Webinar on seniors' issues on 01/13. Webinar on Marijuana Act on 01/25. COVID updates on 01/10.

00:29:58 **Craig Caruana, Representing Council Member Holden** – Craig Caruana stated Councilman Holden is planning more testing and offering PPE for schools including non-DOE schools. Councilman Holden's bill making it illegal to sell devices to obscure license plates has passed, as well as one relating to sharing location information to address flooding in storm emergencies.

00:39:25 **Tiffany Hurtado, Representing Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas** – Jackson Heights Shopping Center, 75-35 31 Ave, Suite 206B, East Elmhurst. Contact: Tel: 718-457-0384. Email: gonzalezrojasj@nyassembly.gov. Assembly Member Gonzalez-Rojas is working on extending eviction moratorium, homeowner assistance. If you have yet not been able to obtain your second COVID vaccine dose or booster shot, please use the [vaccine finder](#). Call 718-457-0384 for the following: E-Waste Drop off in our office Mondays from 10 AM-4 PM. No Air Conditioners, Appliances, Batteries, Light bulbs. Details on our social media platforms We also have partnered with the Red Cross to install free smoke alarms in your home. We are having our first paper shredding of the year; it will be on January 22 on Saturday from 10 AM- 2PM located here in the Shopping Center - max set of 5 boxes per person. for everyone to be fully masked during the event.

00:46:25 **James Mongeluzo, Representing Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller** Contact: Tel.: 646-689-6509. Email: jmongel@comptroller.nyc.gov Mr. Mongeluzo will continue with the new comptroller. Before the end of his term, Comptroller Scott Stringer published [Audit Report on the Fourteen Queens Community Boards' Compliance with New York City Charter and New York City Administrative Code Requirements for Public Meetings and Hearings, and for Websites](#). See also [statement by New York City Comptroller Brad Lander on Property Tax Commission Final Report](#).

00:49:30 **Jonah Gensler, Representing Sunnyside Community Services** – Home Health Aid program now in new quarters in Hunters Point South. Testing efforts ongoing with outreach to those not on social media. Grab and go meals for seniors. Free pre-school programming for three- and four-year-old children continues – enrollment now available for next year.

00:53:20 **Adriana Beltran, Woodside on the Move** - Housing Legal Clinic is virtual in January 26th. Their office is virtual now. They are offering COVID testing on site and elsewhere. Distributed toys. Their Youth on the Move program distributed masks. Now allied with NY Immigrant Coalition.

00:56:50 **Nemo Persaud MOP Case Manager/TSINY-Transitional Services for New York** – Mental Health services with mobile outreach available to all five-boroughs. Contact: Email: neemwattee.persaud@tsiny.org 90-27 Sutphin Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11435, Tel.: 718-526-8400

01:00:10 **Assembly Member Brian Barnwell** announced they are adding testing and appreciates the partnership with Woodside on the Move. He mentions the legislation in Assembly to permit virtual meetings of legislature and other boards is in the works

01:05:50 **Farah Salam, District Manager for Council Member Julie Won** – introduced herself. Contact: Email: District26@council.nyc.gov Tel.: 718-383-9566. She will be primary contact for CB2 with CM Won's office.

Guest Speaker

Brian Fargnoli, Office of Emergency Management was unable to attend, as he was needed at OEM to address impending snowstorm.

Public Comment

01:08:24 **Seth Slade** asking about By-Laws revision – who's on the committee, public meetings, wants a deadline. Chairperson Galonoy responded that it's a temporary working group, rather than a committee. The Board is awaiting review by Borough President Corporation Counsel. After we receive feedback from Counsel we will finalize the Task Force Meeting Schedule and it will be posted on the CB2 web site with confirmed Task Force members for 2022. CB2 welcomes community input on this or any other CB2 matter by contacting the office. There will be a scheduled public hearing before the full board votes on the proposed By-Laws.

01:16:30 **Wayne Jones**, LIC resident, seeks help with reaching and getting service from Test and Trace Corps. He was encouraged to call the CB2 office. HHSE committee will discuss this at 1/10/2022 meeting. A suggestion was made in the chat: [Invisible Hands](#), an organization that does homebound outreach in our district. District Manager responded that CB2 office will need to review the organization before it can share or promote.

01:24:28 **Prameet Kumar** introducing himself. He has moved to LIC from Forest Hills where he was a Vice Chair and in charge of Land Use / Housing on CB6.

01:25:40 Chairperson Galonoy announced a transition from the portion of the meeting during which the public can participate to the board business portion where the public can observe the Board discussing and deliberating board business.

MOTION CARRIED: Move to close Public Comment and move to Board Business

Lisa Deller made the motion. Norberto Saldana seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed and no abstentions.

Attendance

01:27:50 Board Members Present 32 Absent 12 Excused 2 Quorum: yes

01:33:35 **Approval of the December 2, 2021 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes –**

Amparo Abel-Bey made a motion, seconded by Stephen Cooper to:

MOTION CARRIED: approve the December 2, 2021 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes.

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

01:34:40 **Chairperson's Report (Morry Galonoy)** – Chairman Galonoy announced CB 2 attended the Groundbreaking for new high school at 53-16 Northern Blvd; Ribbon cutting for Sunnyside Community Services Home Health Aide facility in Hunters Point South, a space which will also have community programming. With the help of the Tech Committee the board is working on web site content audit and update, digital newsletter. The bylaws committee is working on a revision to the CB 2 bylaws. There is now a YouTube channel for CB 2: Please subscribe so we get to give it a more meaningful name. Check out the video recording and the link to the Block Party transcript of our meeting. We have a new Twitter handle: @QueensCB2 and we are in the process of resolving an issue where someone has associated a different Twitter account with a CB2 email address. CB2 tracks all complaints. However, we are working on developing a better system. Tech Committee will share results of meeting format survey.

01:46:00 **District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert)** –Office is increasing postings on [CB2Q website](#) and [CB2 Facebook page](#). Committee listings have been updated on the web page. Ms. Markell Kleinert announced she attended Blissville monument design hearing with Parks; Stated they will come back to CB 2 with final design. Ms Markell Kleinert attended the street co-naming for Tony Mazzaella. Ms. Markell Kleinert reported on community complaints: Overall decrease in calls from ~ 100-200 / month to ~ 50 calls for the month of December and attributed to holidays. The top issues within CB 2 were drag racing, illegally parked cars and derelict vehicles were tops, followed by flooding, sanitation, and homeless encampments CB2 is working with Street to Home, NYPD, DOB, and DOS with regard to these issues. Ms. Markell Kleinert encouraged everyone to report complaints to the CB2 office.

- 02:04:00 **Department of City Planning (Teal Delys)** – Citywide text amendments regarding Health & Fitness and Hotels have passed. Open Restaurants is pending. DOT has community outreach (online survey, roundtables). [DOT Open Restaurants Website](#). Teal Delys stated they are likely to soon to sign off on an application by TF Cornerstone in Hunters Point South / Newtown Creek with 1300 residential units and much open space. [Special Southern Hunter's Point District \(SHP\) Regulations](#) and [SHP map](#)
- 02:22:56 **Transportation Committee (Thomas Mituzas)** – COVID spike has had impact on transit, e.g, cancellation of #7 express service. DOT had a presentation regarding a one-way conversion, which included daylighting, bike lane, abandoned cars on 5th St in LIC – DOT is requesting a letter of support. Co-Chair Mituzas discussed the following issues. using boulders to prevent parking on public areas, and body shops using sidewalks as parking lots. Tom Mituzas discussed the DOT activity in Wynwood Gardens. 50th 51st Ave conversions and bus routes (which may change), 63rd reverse direction. He would like to learn more on use of underutilized rail, e.g., from [Friends of the QNS](#), governor's proposed Interborough line, lower Montauk branch. Requests more education about the [Crashmapper tool](#)
- 02:35:25 **Land Use Committee (Lisa Deller)** – Lisa Deller reported the committee did not meet. However, on January 20, 2022 Land Use will meet with Department of City Planning on the Comprehensive Waterfront Plan. New as-of-right building on 50th Street raises questions about the need for comprehensive planning along the Roosevelt Ave. corridor.
- 02:41:05 **Environment Committee (Frank Wu)** Learned more about action on the state level: green school buses; bottle recycling. New [green buildings law](#) has been signed by former Mayor DeBlasio. Pilot of sidewalk composting in Astoria, reached out for expansion into our district.
- 02:44:09 **Tech Committee (Anatole Ashraf)** – BetaNYC presented “[BetaNYC Presentation to Queens CB2 \(google doc\)](#)”. The Tech Committee is soliciting board member response to a survey on preferred meeting format.
- 02:46:48 **Health and Human Services & Education** – (Lauren Springer) Melissa Bair, Nurse Midwife, local resident, spoke about a bill allowing midwives to set up birthing centers. Currently there is no place in our district to give birth. Bill had passed state legislature and was awaiting governor's signature. The committee voted to send out a letter of support on behalf of the committee. The governor did sign it. Also resolved to investigate further the need in our schools for training in awareness of and response to episodes of anaphylactic shock, e.g., associated with food allergies.
- 02:49:38 **Arts & Cultural Committee (Karesia Batan)** Parks Dept discussed history of installation of new heart sculpture in Hunters Point South park – future location for work of other local artists. Manager of Mosque and Turkish Cultural Center (on 43 Ave between 45th and 46th streets) came to discuss how they have a new president, are expanding and re-opening in March. Woodside Arts Collective presented – mothers who have been presenting materials for children. Kavka Designs are local interior fabric artists. Many grant opportunities for artists that have deadlines in next 4 weeks (DOT, Queens Council on the Art, Cultural Tourism Queens BP). Reaching out to other such groups.
- 02:55:55 **City Services and Public Safety Committee –(Stephen Cooper)** No report. Next meeting 1/12.

Meeting Adjourned

02:57:10 Amparo Abel-Bey made a motion to adjourn the meeting and, Thomas Mituzas seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 9:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rosamond Gianutsos, Secretary

Reviewed / revised and approved for distribution by
Rosamond Gianutsos, Secretary
Morry Galonoy, Chairperson
Debra Markell Kleinert