



*Donovan Richards*  
Queens Borough President

## Community Board No. 2

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*Morry Galonoy*  
Chairperson

*Debra Markell Kleinert*  
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YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_EHc2NP3nNr18zsOxYqwww](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EHc2NP3nNr18zsOxYqwww)

### ***\*Revised February 3, 2022*** ***Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes***

**Board Members – Present:** Amparo Abel-Bey, Thalia (Karesia) Batan, Nicholas Berkowitz, Sandra Bigitschke, Danielle Brecker, Tannia Chavez, Osman Chowdhury, Warren Davis, Jake DeGroot, Lisa Deller, Morry Galonoy, Rosamond Gianutsos, Kenneth Greenberg, Benjamin Guttmann, Christine Hunter, Badrun Khan, Sheila Lewandowski, Dominic Lippolis, Kristen McGowan, Thomas Mituzas, Clara Oza, Elliot Park, Steven Raga, Norberto Saldana, Regina Shanley, Laura Shepard, Lauren Springer, Mary Torres, Anthony Tudela, Frank Wu

**Board Members – Absent:** Kat Bloomfield, Johanna Carmona, Gianna Cerbone, William Garrett, Somnath Ghimire, Mohammed Choudhury Jewel, Karla Perez, Selena Romero, Katherine Sabal, John Vaichunas

**Board Members – Excused:** Anatole Ashraf, Stephen Cooper, Sally Frank, \*Camille Gray

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

#### **Elected Officials/Representatives**

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  
Mercedes Jennings, Community Liason for Senator Mike Gianaris

#### **Guests**

Brian Fagnoli, Office of Emergency Services  
David Espinosa, Sunnyside Community Services  
Dirk McCall, Sunnyside Shines

*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 elapsed time stamps provided in these minutes refer to this video)

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

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

**Time (Approximate, from YouTube Video)**

00:00:56 At 6:31 PM, CB2Q Chairperson Morry Galonoy welcomed the community together with elected representatives and other guests. He asked for a moment of silence to recognize victims of gun violence.

00:02:08 **Pledge of Allegiance.**

00:04:40 **Farah Salam, District Manager for Council Member Julie Won** – Contact: Email: District26@council.nyc.gov Tel.:718-383-9566. Council Member Won hosted President Biden’s visit to PS111 where they addressed issues of gun violence, met violence interrupters, and discussed the beauty of building community to promote safety. She also toured Woodside Houses with Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Assemblyman Barnwell, and State Senator Jessica Ramos to investigate issues associated with inconsistent heat and hot water. They are continuing school tours and have started running pop-up sites in the district, starting with Sunnyside. The council member has been assigned to chair the Contracts Committee, and is on other committees. Discretionary funding applications are now live and due this month.

00:13:02 **Craig Caruana, Representing Council Member Holden** – COVID testing is continuing in their office on Sundays. The council member has been assigned to be chair of the City Council’s Veterans Committee.

00:15:04 **Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez** – Contact: Tel.: 718-662-5970 or visit [Representative Ocasio-Cortez's website](#). The congresswoman hosted a town hall with Health Commissioner Dave Chokshi. Next town hall is 2/15 at 5:30 PM. The House will vote on the “America Competes Act” which will include the congresswoman’s bill “Support for Debt Relief for Developing Countries.” Tax season is here and the IRS has free services to assist in preparation.

00:18:45 **Ernie Brooks, representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney** – Contact: Tel.: 212-860-0606 or visit [Rep. Maloney constituent services](#). The congresswoman was happy to be part of the group which welcomed the president to PS 111, a school which has turned around from being troubled. They were joined by community groups which are successfully combating violence. The congresswoman introduced a bill in the Fall aimed at cutting off the flow of weapons into the city. She also had a press conference in front of the “Big Alice” power plant where she promoted a bill to stop all fossil fuel plants in the area, including in Astoria and North Brooklyn. She supports renewable sources of power, including a line which will bring such power from Canada.

00:22:24 **Mercedes Jennings, representing State Senator Michael Gianaris** – Contact: Tel.: They responded to demand for testing. They still have two run by Health Line in Woodside and Sunnyside. Senator Gianaris has been making robocalls to constituents regarding

eviction. The Senate is in session now and he has been working on legislation and expects expanded opportunities with an increased budget. Ms. Jennings responded to questions regarding parks on the Queens side of the Kosciuszko Bridge, delays in the bill for nursing home care and the privacy act (6701A/S56701A).

00:38:50 Questions were raised about the re-districting maps for the congress, state senate and assembly which have just been approved by the Governor Hochul. The new districts will be in effect Jan 1, 2023. Voting will occur this year for candidates who will take office next year. A request was made for Senator Gianaris to attend our March meeting.

00:29:46 **David Espinosa, Representing Sunnyside Community Services** – Virtual open house re free pre-school programming for three- and four-year-old children: 2/9, 2/15, and 3/10 - enrollment now available for next year. They are partnering with Monarch Medical for testing and vaccine outreach. Mr. John Balthazar described their services, including clinics at Sunnyside Community Services.

00:25:43 **Kahleel Bragg, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards** – Advisor on Community Engagement - Cure Violence/Sports Outreach Contact: Email: [kbragg@queensbp.org](mailto: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: Virtual Black History event 2/23. The deadline for capital funding requests is 2/24.

00:37:28 **Dirk McCall, Representing Sunnyside Shines** as their new director. He has just started, looks forward to working with the CB2Q and will have more next month.

### **Guest Speaker**

00:45:45 **Brian Fagnoli, Office of Emergency Management, Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs**, described the work of the [OEM](#) which coordinates emergency response in NYC. They have a very useful book: [Ready New York](#) available in many languages. He described the important features of the emergency plans which everyone should make: Contact list, "Go" bag, supply kit. Register with Con Ed if you rely on electrically powered medical equipment. Sign up for [Notify NYC](#). Consider volunteering for [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\)](#). If you work, consider having a "Stay" bag, so you can stay at work overnight if necessary in an emergency.

### **Public Comment**

01:11:00 **Margaret Perrin** concerned about changes relating to safety in the street. Many changes were made that we asked for, but does not feel the community was consulted.

She needs efficient ways to park and travel, as well as safety in the streets. She does not need a “Bike Boulevard.” She is fearful of motorized vehicles on the sidewalk. A member of the committee stated that [Rules regarding motorized vehicles in bike lanes](#) are available. Ms. Perrin says enforcement is lacking.

01:20:36 **Steven Bodzin** speaking as co-chair of Western Queens Transportation Alternatives Queensboro Bridge (QBB) Committee. Bike – pedestrian path is very dangerous. DOT is committed to opening the south outer lane for pedestrians. DOT just announced a further delay in implementation to 2024. Mr. Bodzin urges CB2Q to help reverse this.

01:24:00 **William Kregler** on two matters: (1) concerned that placement of Citi Bike near Big Six is being implemented without consulting local residents; (2) solution to gun violence is strict enforcement including mandatory jail time.

01:26:25 **Gil Lopez** is a water protector who started Smiling Hogshead Ranch and more recently started composting and gardens at 45<sup>th</sup> St. They are planning a community design charrette to receive neighbors’ input on their future directions at their financial sponsor, Sunnyside Community Services, Sat Feb 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. Mr. Lopez agrees on the need for a responsible time-line for the pedestrian lane on the QBB. He reported on the collapse in Nov 2021 of a bulkhead into Dutch Kills on 29<sup>th</sup> St near LaGuardia Community College. The street is now 3 ft from the unstable shoreline. The bulkhead needs to be re-constructed for street safety and to provide waterfront access for the community. Members of Transportation and Land-Use Committees are aware and supportive.

01:33:30 **Daniel Solow** is concerned about the danger on the bike-pedestrian shared use path on the QBB. Urges CB2 to press DOT to speed up implementation of the south pedestrian lane.

01:35:04 **Brian Howald** implores the board to ask DOT to explain the slippage of the time-line on the implementation of the QBB pedestrian lane and to reverse it.

01:38:00 **Jim Burke** echoes the concerns for making the QBB safe. The shared path is dangerous and because of medical issues he does not feel safe when he needs to stop to rest. It’s dangerously crowded and will become even more so with the expansion of CitiBike.

01:40:10 **Kristal Milla** requesting a street re-naming at 39<sup>th</sup> Ave and 52<sup>nd</sup> St for her son who passed away 6 months ago. She was connected with Farah Salam from Council Member Won’s office who will help her work on this.

01:43:23 **Phillip Leff** speaking in support of bike boulevard, Citi Bike expansion and concerned about the shared bike-pedestrian lane on the QBB. It is too narrow and unnecessarily dangerous. Use has more than doubled in the last two years. Why do we prioritize cars, many of whom are not from here. There are 9 car lanes. For safety and climate, need to change.

01:45:25 **Kathleen Walsh D’Arcy** announced the [St. Patrick’s Day for All parade](#) on March 6th. She talked about the history of this parade and encourages all to come and enjoy.

01:48:15 **Walt Costanza** appreciates the CB2 support for the completion of the QBB lane project as quickly as possible, even before the completion of the project for motor vehicles.

## **Public Hearing**

01:53:00 **Landmark Application for 39-38 45<sup>th</sup> St., Sunnyside Historic District** which involves placement to 2 2’x3’ skylights in the slate roof at the back of the building. Keith Buckley of Pro-Design Collective gave a presentation, which had previously been reviewed and approved in the Land Use Committee. Committee members commented that the skylights have an environmentally positive effect, increasing ventilation and livable space in the home. Two community members commented by e-mail, one of which expressed concerns for the integrity of the slate and that the windows should not be overwhelming in visual effect. The other comment did not pertain to the skylights.

02:04:15 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** Christine Hunter moved and Rosamond Gianutsos seconded to close Public Comment and move to Board Business

**Motion carried:** All were in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

## **Attendance**

02:04:39 Board Members Present 31 Absent 11 Excused 3 Quorum: yes

02:14:10 **Motion** Amparo Abel-Bey moved as follows, seconded by Frank Wu to approve the January 6, 2022 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes.

**Motion carried:** All in favor, none opposed and one abstention.

02:09:52 **Chairperson’s Report (Morry Galonoy)** – The chairperson announced that City Services Committee will not meet this month. He has asked the Tech Committee to reorganize the website. Our CB2 newsletter has been launched. Please [subscribe](#). Meetings are now being live-streamed on YouTube. Please subscribe to [our YouTube channel](#). Once we have over 100 subscribers we will be entitled to have a simpler name. The chairperson has asked committee chairs to formulate a mission statement and to identify stakeholders in the community. He has appointed Tania Chavez and Nicholas Berkowitz as co-chairs of the new Engagement and Inclusion Committee. He is working with the office to bring data and transparency: there were 50 complaints, with DOT having the most – streetlights, pot holes, damaged signage. Rat complaints came after

that, then homeless and garbage complaints. He honors those who celebrate Black History month and the Lunar New Year.

02:14:55 **District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert)** – 108<sup>th</sup> Precinct has a traffic zoom meeting on 2/9 at 6 PM. To sign up, call Officer Singh at 718 784-5412. The Zoom meeting # 6501457539 and password is traffic108. The office has a supply of KN95 masks available. Ms. Markell Kleinert reminds all to apply for community board membership – new members and those who need to renew.

02:19:16 **Land Use Committee (Christine Hunter, Lisa Deller)** – (1) The LUC heard the Landmark application regarding the skylights at 39-38 45<sup>th</sup> St in the Sunnyside Gardens Historic District. The committee voted unanimously to approve the application. Discussion addressed care with regard to the slate roof and the fact that the skylights would not be visible from the front.

**Motion:** Lisa Deller made a motion which Kenny Greenberg seconded for the full board to approve the application to the Landmarks Commission. **Motion Approved** Unanimously by show of hands. (2) The committee considered the DCP Waterfront Plan updated (required every 10 years) for 2022. It seemed non-specific and the committee proposed that CB2 meet with DCP to share their more specific recommendations. (3) Lauren Springer shared that in response to the expiration of the eviction moratorium, there is a petition for the Statewide Right to Counsel bills (S06678A/A07570A). In NYC there is currently a right to counsel law.

02:33:33 **Arts & Cultural Committee (Karesia Batan)** MOMA PS1 came to speak about the 46<sup>th</sup> Ave plaza that they are stewarding with DOT. They are open to local artist collaboration. Reach out to DOT or to Jinelle Thompson at MOMA PS1. They will be proposing a mural for their entry walls. The committee discussed grants – Queens Borough President, DOT, Culture Lab LIC for their Black History Month exhibit. Queens Council for the Arts joined us to tell us of their grant - deadline 2/13 – and they will return to introduce their new interim director, Rodney Fuller. The committee is planning outreach to religious groups with arts interests and to groups in Woodside and Maspeth.

02:37:00 **Transportation Committee (Sheila Lewandowski, Thomas Mituzas)** – The committee is starting their meetings with a 10 minute opportunity for public input – one minute per speaker. Individuals from LaGuardia Community College, including several with disabilities, asked for safety measures in the street crossings near the college, e.g., on Thompson Ave. The committee wants to alert the board about the 108<sup>th</sup> Traffic Zoom meeting on Feb 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM, mentioned earlier by the DM - The Zoom meeting # 6501457539 and password is traffic108. Discussion of the DOT Glacier Rock Plaza proposal ensued. Committee stressed the importance of providing bathroom access, as this space is for the public and not just for the adjacent businesses. DOT presented a [map showing locations for new CitiBike deployments in our district](#). This month there is an opportunity for residents to have input. Send an e-mail to: [bikeshare@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:bikeshare@dot.nyc.gov). Committee unanimously supported and is now requesting CB2Q to write a letter of support for one way southward conversion of 5<sup>th</sup> St from Borden Ave to 50<sup>th</sup> Ave. The committee also voted to support an all-way stop on 47<sup>th</sup> Rd and 5<sup>th</sup> St. This is near a school and parents groups have requested it. The committee is concerned about further delay in implementing the pedestrian path on the south side of the QBB. We will try to coordinate with adjacent districts (in Astoria, Manhattan) to pressure DOT for an expedited time line or an

alternate interim plan. Since the DOT and the new administration have placed a priority on safety treatments at the 1000 most dangerous intersections, we urge them to move forward, especially given the requests voiced in the earlier public comment about the crossings on Thompson Ave near LaGuardia Community College.

02:46:25 **Environment Committee (Frank Wu)** A speaker came to discuss Intro 2317 new legislation enacted by the City Council which requires new construction to have 100% electrical power by 2024 or 2028. 40% of NYC emissions are produced by water heaters and furnaces. Consistent with this concern, is it possible to include this requirement of buildings which are coming to our review in the ULURP process? Environmental considerations should be included in re-zoning review.

02:48:34 **Tech Committee (Jake DeGroot)** – Discussed improvements to the web site: Will stay within the Mayor’s Office of Technology and Innovation (MOTI) - formerly DOITT- framework. Reviewed newsletter template which will afford a printable document as well as support our online presence. The Tech Committee solicited board member response to a survey on preferred meeting format: Results: Exclusively in person: 3 Hybrid: 15 Exclusively virtual: 14. Implementation of any hybrid format will require assistance from higher up, e.g., the city or state Accordingly, the present effort will be to make virtual (Zoom) better, e.g., livestreamed to YouTube. Next meeting Tues Feb 22.

02:50:31 **Health and Human Services & Education – (Tai McShane, Lauren Springer)** Tai McShane announced that she has decided to leave our board. She realizes that she cannot meet the responsibilities at this time. She has enjoyed her involvement with the board and appreciates everyone’s support. The new chair, Lauren Springer is glad to have worked with Tai. Committee discussion included follow-up on the Test and Trace Corps, the idea of supporting using hotels for quarantine, an organization, Invisible Hands, which may have services for people living alone who need help. Two testing sites are now operating in the district. Old business remaining for consideration: anaphylactic shock training for cafeteria workers in schools, a letter to support fee waiver for high school students taking the advanced placement tests.

02:55:40 **Homeless Shelter Task Force (Tom Mituzas)** – The Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting for the North Star shelter in Blissville will be on Monday, Feb. 7. The goal is to help make this the best shelter for the residents and to foster positive community relationships. CB2Q members are encouraged to become involved by participating in meetings. Recently, serious complaints regarding the veterans shelter on Borden Ave (run by Institute for Community Living - ICL), have arisen from employees of a media business across from the shelter. They report intravenous drug use, hiding weapons outside the shelter and fighting within the shelter. Mr. Mituzas confirmed these reports in a site visit. He said that, by law, permanent shelters, like this one, are required to have CAB meetings and he urged CB2Q to become involved. CB2Q member Mary Torres stated that she had been on the veterans shelter CAB and would like to help going forward. Mr. Mituzas would like CB2Q to press Department of Homeless Services (DHS) to comply with the law and activate the CAB for the veterans shelter.

03:05:30 **City Services (Danielle Brecker)** – At the last meeting they approved a “cool” volleyball / bar in Sunnyside. They have been getting requests for late (e.g., 4 AM) closings, which generally are not approved. The only exception was distant from any residences. The February meeting is postponed.

03:08:13 **By-laws Task force (Sheila Lewandowski and Lisa Deller, co-chairs)** – They have been working closely with Allan Swisher, General Counsel to the Queens Borough President. Members are: Nicholas Berkowitz, Kat Bloomfield, Danielle Brecker, Sally Frank, Morry Galonoy, Norberto Saldana and Lauren Springer. Meetings where the public can observe will be on 2/28, 3/14, and 3/28. Subsequent to that, the proposed by-laws will be presented to the full board and then reviewed by the Executive Committee. There will be a public hearing before the board has a final vote.

**Meeting Adjourned**

03:11:20 **Motion:** Lisa Deller moved, and Tom Mituzas seconded that the meeting be adjourned.  
**Motion Carried:** The meeting adjourned at 9:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rosamond Gianutsos, Secretary

Reviewed / revised and approved for distribution by

☒ Rosamond Gianutsos, Secretary

☒ Morry Galonoy, Chairperson

☒ Debra Markell Kleinert