



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

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Morry Galonoy
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YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEHc2NP3nNr18zsOxYqwww>

October 6, 2022

Queens Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Board Members – Present: Amparo Abel-Bey, Anatole Ashraf, John Laurence Bahia, Thalia (Karesia) Batan, Sandra Bigitschke, Danielle Brecker, Tannia Chavez, Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Kelly Craig, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Sally Frank, Morry Galonoy, William Garrett, Rosamond Gianutsos, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Benjamin Guttmann, Christine Hunter, Badrun Khan, Chhemang Lama, Sheila Lewandowski, Patrick Martinez, Kristen McGowan, Thomas Mituzas, Reilly Owens, Clara Oza, Steven Raga, Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Lauren Springer, Phuntsok Tashi, Akello Thomas, Mary Torres, Anthony Tudela, Frank Wu

Board Members – Absent

Unexcused: Nicholas Berkowitz, Kat Bloomfield, Gianna Cerbone, Somnath Ghimire, Mohammed Choudhury Jewel, Elliot Park, Karla Perez, Selena Romero

Excused: Benjamin Lucas, Norberto Saldana

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

Elected Officials/Representatives

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Congressmember

Julie Won, Councilmember

Farah Salam, District Manager for Councilmember Julie Won

Daniel Bonthius, for Congressmember Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Ernie Brooks, for Congressmember Carolyn Maloney

Mercedes Jennings, for State Senator Michael Gianaris

Tara Chester, for Queens District Attorney, Melinda Katz

James Mongeluzo, for Comptroller Brad Lander

Malik Sanders, for Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Anissa Wilkens, for Assemblymember Gonzalez-Rojas

Guests

Teal Delys, Department of City Planning

Cinthia Kong, DSNY

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)

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

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

Time (Approximate, from YouTube Video)

00:00:40 At 6:37 PM, Queens CB2 Chairperson Morry Galonoy welcomed the community together with elected representatives and other guests.

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

00:02:43 **Chairperson Galonoy** asked for a moment of silence to honor the memory of EMT Alison Russo-Elling. He observed that we may be returning to in-person meetings next month and, in preparation, we need to take steps to shorten our meetings. He is asking for written announcements submitted in advance from electeds. In this meeting elected members present will speak at the beginning of the meeting, but representatives will be invited brief presentations later in the meeting. Committee reports will be abbreviated and will rely on committee meeting minutes posted on the Queens CB2 website.

00:07:40 **Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** expressed appreciation for Queens Community Board 2. Her work with us will conclude at the end of this term, after which she knows we will be served by her esteemed colleague, Representative Nydia Velazquez. Representative Ocasio-Cortez encouraged applications for [Service Academy Nominations](#) for the Sept 2023 year or the [Congressional App Challenge](#). Submissions for both programs are due November 1, 2022. Students may also apply for internships in the representative's office this month. Representative Ocasio-Cortez' office is focusing on housing, especially for migrants. Following her remarks she responded to many questions from board members. Contact: Tel.: 718-662-5970 or visit Representative Ocasio-Cortez's [website](#). Congressperson Ocasio-Cortez's office is now open for walk-ins from 9-5 Monday through Thursday.

01:16:00 **Councilmember Julie Won** discussed her work to bring free internet connectivity to NYCHA residents and other programs, e.g., Big Apple Connect, which will also include cable tv and discounted cell phone service. In preparation for hurricane season they have given out rain barrels and rain barriers. They have given out backpacks to returning students. Councilmember Won's office is running an [emergency donation drive for asylum seekers and refugees](#). Their office has been active in the budgeting process, securing funds for our parks and schools. Participatory Budgeting is underway and interested persons may find more information [here](#). They also have a link to [apply to volunteer with their office](#). Councilmember fielded many questions from board members. She says we can anticipate a My City website designed to offer "one stop shopping" for city services. She expressed support for safety through increased efforts to pedestrianize our streets. In response to Mr. Owens' concerns about delays in the Lt. Michael Davidson Park at 50th St and 39th Ave Councilmember Won cited the Parks Dept's [project tracker](#).

01:34:50 **Public Hearing - General**

01:35:24 **Laura Rothrock** introduced herself as the new president of the LIC Partnership which manages the LIC Business Improvement District.

01:38:20 **Manny Romero** is Vice President for Communications and Community Affairs for LaGuardia Community College. He invited participation in the 5K [LaGuardia Community Run](#) on Oct 22.

01:40:10 **Jonathan Miller** encouraged people to [sign up for the Sunnyside Post Mile Run](#) on Oct 22nd.

01:40:50 **Cinthia Kong** from the Dept of Sanitation Recycling and Sustainability encouraging participation in the [curbside organics collections](#) which has started in Queens.

01:51:15 Public Hearing ULURP Application 2022Q0276 Renewal of special permit 27-01 and 26-32 Jackson Avenue – LIC Ramps Project

01:52:00 **Daniel Egers** presenting for the owners seeking the renewal of the special permits pertaining to street walls. Mr. Egers introduced Jay Valgora (architect and planner) and Wo Wu who showed plans for a park they would like to construct under the ramps if they are allowed to not build the street walls. It was clarified that they are no longer seeking a special permit to build a parking garage.

02:11:40 **Board questions** were to be specific about the renewal of the special permits regarding the walls, not the park described in their presentation.

No one signed up for Public Comment.

02:33:40 **Transition to Board Business** - Chairperson Galonoy announced we will now be transitioning from the portion of the meeting during which the public can participate to the board business session where the public can observe the Board discussing and deliberating board business.

02:34:20 **Attendance** Board Members Present: 39; Absent: 8-Unexcused, 2-Excused.
Quorum: yes

02:40:02 **Motion:** To delay approval of the Sept 8, 2022 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes. (Motion made by Morry Galonoy and seconded by Stephen Cooper.)
Motion carried: All in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

02:44:50 Chairperson's Report (Morry Galonoy) –

- He announced that the [public member application](#) is posted. Deadline for applying is Oct 15.
- Please be sure to send communications through the board office for record-keeping.
- Please complete committee mission statements so they can be posted.
- Attendance at committee meetings is being monitored. Members may discuss committee assignments with the chairperson.
- The budget committee is actively working.
- The district manager reports that in September there were approximately 47 complaints, ranging from potholes and other road issues, catch basins (clogged or damaged) and garbage issues.

- CB2 wrote a [letter](#) to Councilmember Won with copies to other elected officials about the need for community to be informed and engaged regarding new and re-purposed shelters here.
- Chairperson Galonoy and District Manager Kleinert met with President Adams of LaGuardia Community College to build working relationships.
- At the Borough Board Meeting he raised the need for the School Construction Authority to find a location for a school in Long Island City which has the fastest growing population in the country.
- Our next meeting is Nov. 3, 2022. It is expected to be in person at Sunnyside Community Services.

02:50:40 District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert) –

- Remember to submit complaints to the board office for follow up.
- CB2 met with the LaGuardia Community College to secure interns to work at the community board.
- The Borough Cabinet meeting had speakers from FDNY and City Planning.
- The district manager joined her colleagues at the Borough Consultation Meetings.
- Lawn and leaf bags from DSNY are available through the district office.

02:56:30 Department of City Planning (Teal Delys) – They are awaiting the borough president's recommendation regarding the ULURP proposal for a zoning variance at 58th and Northern to allow construction of an automobile dealership. It will then go to hearing with the Department of City Planning on Oct 26th. The next project anticipated is 23-10 Queens Plaza South, a 26 story all commercial building which hopefully will certify in October. Finally, DCP is aware that at 61-10 Queens Blvd Planet Fitness wants to expand into a commercial building, using the Health and Fitness Text Amendment passed last year.

02:59:44 Representatives of elected officials – In the future these contributions are to be made in advance to the board office and opportunities to speak will come at the end of the meeting.

03:00:24 Malik Sanders, representing Borough President Donovan Richards, Jr. Contact: Email: msanders@queensbp.org. Event announcements: Hispanic Heritage Celebration, Parent Advisory Board Meeting and High School Fair, Diwali Celebration. All events can be found at <https://queensbp.org/calendar/>

03:03:25 Farah Salam, representing Councilmember Julie Won – Contact: Email: District26@council.nyc.gov Tel.: 718-383-9566. Reach out to the councilmember's office with concerns. They are also seeking volunteers and interns.

03:05:54 Tara Chester, representing District Attorney Melinda Katz Contact: Email TLChester@queensda.org Tel.: 718-286-6441. Queens District Attorney has a 24 hour Domestic Violence Hotline Tel.: 718-286-4410. Last month's gun buyback event netted

62 operational firearms. Ms. Chester announced the Queens District Attorney's Hispanic Heritage Celebration to be held Oct. 12.

03:09:52 **Ernie Brooks**, representing **Congressmember Carolyn Maloney** – Contact: Tel.: 212-860-0606 or visit [Rep. Maloney constituent services](#). Redistricting has resulted in Queens not being part of Congressmember Maloney's district. Until the end of the term, however, the present district lines apply. Congressmember Maloney is in Washington working on gun safety legislation.

03:16:45 **Mercedes Jennings**, representing **Senator Michael Gianaris** – The senator is working to stop the Con-Ed fare hikes. He has been actively supporting NYCHA residents, including those at Woodside Houses. The legislation would allow tenants to pay reduced rent in response to chronic power, heat, and water outages.

03:23:41 **James Mongeluzo**, representing **Comptroller Brad Lander** – Contact: e-mail Jmongel@comptroller.nyc.gov Tel: 646-689-6509. They are planning to audit NYCHA, the first of which is their [doors report](#). Their labor law bureau has found that [more than 1300 workers are entitled to nearly \\$3 million in prevailing wages](#). These are workers on city contracts. They are encouraged to file claims for this money.

03:28:45 **Anissa Wilkens**, representing **Assemblymember Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas** - Contact: Address: Jackson Heights Shopping Center, 75-35 31 Ave, Suite 206B, East Elmhurst. Tel.: 718-457-0384. Email: gonzalezrojasj@nyassembly.gov. Please call for an appointment. If you work or worked in Public Service, Non-profit, or Government, you may be able to have your student loans forgiven. For more information visit <https://studentaid.gov/pslf/>. Two events: [Apply for a rain-barrel](#) at their distribution event. A paper shredding event is scheduled for later in October. They host an e-waste drop-off Mondays and giving away free COVID-19 supplies.

03:32:42 **Committee reports and deliberation**

03:32:49 **Land Use and Housing Committee (Lisa Deller)** – The community board's 2018 resolution and the [borough president's opinion](#) were cited for reference. An extended discussion ensued ultimately resulting in a resolution captured in a [letter](#):

04:02:47 **Motion**: To approve the renewal of the extension of the two special permits with the following stipulations: (1) The developer participate in quarterly meetings with Community Board 2 on the design and construction of the Ramps project; and (2) The developer provide 20,000 square feet at ground level at no charge for community uses such as additional affordable housing units, artist studio space, medical facility, day care or a community center.

(Motion proposed by Lisa Deller and seconded.)

Motion passed by roll call vote: 28 Yes; 7 No; 1 Abstain. The chairperson was present and did not vote.

- 04:09:20 **Redistricting (Danielle Brecker)** – The Redistricting Commission voted today to approve the [revised maps](#) and these maps will now go to the City Council for approval.
- 04:10:44 **Transportation Committee (Thomas Mituzas)** – The [committee met](#) and passed a resolution which they wanted to be made as a motion to the full board.
Motion: On behalf of the sheltered populations in Community Board 2 of Queens, CB2 is requesting the installation of secure bicycle and micro-mobility device parking or storage location units inclusive of the means to safely store and charge batteries for the electronic versions within, adjacent to or within the immediate vicinity of all temporary and permanent shelters throughout Community Board 2.
 (Motion proposed by Rosamond Gianutsos and seconded by Laura Shepard.)
Motion approved by show of hands without opposition.
- 04:14:00 **City Services and Public Safety (Stephen Cooper)** indicated that details of their September meeting is in the [committee minutes](#). They are hoping to expand their scope beyond liquor licenses. Towards that end, they have planned a meeting with a representative of the NYPD 108th.
- 04:15:36 **Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee (Frank Wu)** The featured event of our [September meeting](#) was an informative presentation on recycling by Kara Napolitano of Sims Municipal Recycling. Next month we expect a presentation by Hunters Point Recycling.
- 04:16:53 **Technology and Access Committee (Anatole Ashraf)** – No report.
- 04:17:28 **Small Business and Local Economy (Kenneth Greenberg)** – No report.
- 04:18:00 **Health and Human Services & Education – (Lauren Springer)** At our [September](#) meeting the committee had a guest speakers from Elmhurst Hospital, CEO Helen Arteaga and Chief of Infectious Diseases, Maurice Policar. They shared information and updates regarding monkeypox, as well as polio and COVID-19. The committee agreed to send a letter of support to Elmhurst Hospital to expand eligibility of Monkeypox 4 vaccinations at Elmhurst Hospital to align with the eligibility requirements of the Department of Health.
- 04:19:20 **Subcommittee on Unhoused and Sheltered (Warren Davis)** – There was a Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting in September for the Northstar Shelter in Blissville. Mr. Clark, director of the Queens Department of Homeless Services (DHS) was expected to attend, but did not. We hope for a meeting in the future to discuss the other shelters in our community.
- 04:20:25 **Arts & Culture Committee (Karesia Batan)** Details and announcements from the September meeting are in [the minutes](#).
- 04:23:08 **Motion:** to adjourn the meeting. (Lisa Deller proposed, and Thomas Mituzas seconded)
Motion passed: without opposition and the meeting adjourned at 11:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rosamond Gianutsos, Secretary

Reviewed / revised and approved for distribution by

☒ Rosamond Gianutsos, Secretary

☒ Morry Galonoy, Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert