



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

You Tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@queenscb2>

January 5, 2023

Queens Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom

Board Members – Present: Amparo Abel-Bey, Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia, Thalia (Karesia) Batan, Nicholas Berkowitz, Kat Bloomfield, Danielle Brecker, Tannia Chavez, Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Sally Frank, Morry Galonoy, Somnath Ghimire, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Benjamin Guttmann, Christine Hunter, Badrun Khan, Chhemang Lama, Patrick Martinez, Kristen McGowan, Thomas Mituzas, Reilly Owens, Clara Oza, Norberto Saldana, Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Lauren Springer, Phuntsok Tashi, Akello Thomas, Mary Torres

Board Members – Absent:

Unexcused: Gianna Cerbone, Mohammed Chowdhury Jewel

Excused: Sandra Bigitschke, Kelly Craig, William Garrett, Sheila Lewandowski, Benjamin Lucas, Elliot Park, Karla Perez, Selena Romero, Frank Wu

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

Elected Officials/Representatives

Honorable Michael Gianaris, New York State Senator
Honorable Steven Raga, New York State Assembly Member
Honorable Juan Ardila, New York State Assembly Member
Mercedes Jennings, Representing New York State Senator Gianaris
Victoria Leahy, Representing Assembly Member Steven Raga
Isaac Blasenstein, Representing New York City Council Member Julie Won
Vicky Garvey, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Tiffany Eason, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
James Mongeluzo, Representing NYC Comptroller Brad Lander

Department of City Planning

Teal Delys

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

Public Comment

Andrew Thomas, Sunnyside Community Services

Guests

Penny Lee, Dynamic Star, LLC

Leo Mulvehill, SLCE

Jim Davidson

Rick Parisi

Allie Curreri

Andrea Benter

Charles Yu, Long Island City Partnership

Maroua Righi, CCRB

Vlad Pavlyuk

Jolly Patel

Jamie Kennelley

David Velez, VHB

Haidee Chu

Judith Flood

Kate Boehme, QDAO

Tom Cogan

Note: Reference to the You Tube Video and the associate 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 YouTube Video of this meeting <https://www.youtube.com/@queenscb2>
(Approximate elapsed time stamps provided in these minutes refer to this video)

Link to <https://blockparty.studio/Archive> where you can navigate to a transcript of this meeting.

Time: (Approximate from YouTube Video)

00:00:57: Queens CB 2 Chairperson Danielle Brecker welcomed everyone to the first CB 2 Meeting of 2023.

00:01:04 Pledge of Allegiance

00:01:48 Chairperson Brecker requested that a moment of silence be observed for Erie County residents concerning the storm that happened during holiday time.

00:02:07 Chairperson Brecker welcomed everyone and announced this was her first time chairing this meeting.

00:03:00 **Honorable Michael Gianaris**, New York State Senator discussed the following:

- Remarks about redistricting

- Kosciuszko Bridge Queens Park - updates will be done by the summer on the Queens side
- Legislative session
- Q&A
 - CLCPA
 - Chief judgeship - unprecedented situation to block nominated governor
 - Open meetings law - removing quorum requirement?
 - HSTPA
 - Ebike rebates in NYS - Senator agrees
- Mercedes Jennings Community Liaison for Senator Mike Gianaris office contact information: email: jennings@nysenate.gov/gianaris@nysenate.gov. Phone Number: (646)598-8583/(718) 728-0960

00:26:45 **Honorable Steven Raga**, New York State Assembly Member

- New exec director - William Jourdain
- Assembly funds for community orgs
- Q&A

00:29:03 **William Jourdain**, Executive Director, Woodside on the Move/Public Member Community Board 2

00:30:41 **Honorable Juan Ardila**, New York State Assembly Member

- Funding for Blissville
- Transit deserts
- EF7 train cuts –
- New Office is located at: 45-10 Skillman Avenue, ground level. Phone number: (718)784-3194 Monday through Thursday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Friday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Assembly Member Ardila may be reached at ardila@nyassembly.gov and Kevin Jesino, Chief of Staff may be reached at jesinoK@assembly.gov
- Q&A

00:46:38 **Isaac Blasenstein**, Representing NYC Council Member Julie Won

- Lincoln dealership
- Expand language access law

00:50:00 **James Mongeluzo**, Representing NYC Comptroller Brad Lander

- Reports – level of vacancies at Mayoral agencies

- Released Economic and Finance Report
- Telephone number: (646) 689-6509

0:50:55 **Tiffany Eason**, Representing, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

- Applications for Board Membership are open and their office has their link on their website.
- January 19, 2023, 6:00 pm Queens borough Hall Lunar New Year event.
- Queens Tech and Innovation Challenge.
- Contact information: (718) 704-8722, teason@queensbp.org.
- More information can be found on their website at: www.queensbp.org

0:52:30 **Andrea Thomas**, Sunnyside Community Services

- Elder Justice Program
- Visit Sunnyside Community Services website at: <https://www.scsny.org>

0:54:53 **William Jourdain, Executive Director, Woodside on the Move**

- Congratulated Danielle Brecker
- Discussed Education Programs at Woodside on the Move
- Wants to continue supporting families through housing services.

0:57:22 **Jamie Kennelley**, Queens Public Library

- Discussed upcoming programs at the Woodside Library.

1:02:07 **Maroua Righi**, Civilian Complaint Review Board

- Announced a youth advisory council and are taking applications until the end of January.
- Visit their website at: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/ccrb/index.page>

Public Meeting

1:08:43 **Andrea Bender**, NYC School Construction Authority provided a presentation:

- Site Selection Process Presentation.
- Notice of Filing 23-10 43rd Avenue, Block 436, Lot 1, for an approximately 547 seat primary school in Queens.
- Comments may be submitted to sites@nycsca.org
- No design details yet as they do not own the property.
 - CB 2 is requesting open recreation space on ground level or rooftop? Outdoor play is required by the health code - no determination yet on ground or rooftop
 - Why not build a bigger school?
 - Needs and number of seats is what's being filled
 - Do schools need to be freestanding? That's the preference.

- Recommendation for the pursuit of another lot.
- Q&A

Public Hearing – ULURP Application – 23-10 Queens Plaza South

01:20:50 – **Penny Lee**, Dynamic Star, LLC, presented drawings and summarized letter presented to Land Use Committee Meeting.

The Land Use Committee voted to support the application with the agreements and stipulations.

Q & A

Discussion about WiFi. The developer committed to support free or low-cost WiFi providers, such as a node for NYC Mesh, or any similar technology and infrastructure that may be available in the future.

Transition to Board business:

1:50:58 Attendance

- Board Members Present: 35; Board Members: 5 Unexcused; 6 Excused; Quorum: Yes

1:56:43 **Motion:** To approve the December 1, 2022 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes;

(Motion made by Nickolas Berkowitz and seconded by Mary Torres)

Motion carried: All in favor with none opposed, and four (4) abstentions.

01:58:01 Chairperson's Report (Danielle Brecker)

- Danielle Brecker discussed that her first priority is to make sure the community has the resources and representation it needs in all areas. Equally important are her fellow board members and making sure they support each other to work together to move the board and community forward.
- Requested that board members and the public attend as many meetings and there are exciting things coming. She stated that most of the work is done in committee meetings and encouraged members and the public to attend committee meetings and reminded all that they should be involved in at least one committee. Reach out to Danielle if anyone has any interest in serving on another committee or would like to chair a committee.
- Frank Wu stepping down from Environment, if anyone is interested to contact her.
- Works a 9:30 to 5:30 job and may not answer during work hours. Will do her best to get back to everyone.
- Attended that she joined neighbors and CB 2 members in front of the Jackson Heights library in support of our public libraries of the NYPL drag queen story hour.
- CB 2 delivered coats and socks to the needy.
- January 16, 2023 is Martin Luther King Day and that everyone takes time to reflect and act on Dr. King's legacy.
- Excited about what the next year will bring.
- Public Members will be announced at the next meeting.

02:02:39 District Manager Report (Debra Markell Kleinert)

- Moment of silence for Amparo Abel-Bey, Nick Berkowitz, Sandra Bigitschke

- Please note all CB2 official meeting requests and agency correspondence must go through the CB 2 office. All CB 2 scheduling of events, presentations and meetings must be coordinated through the CB 2 office.
- Committee attendance records are important they are submitted to Borough Hall. Everyone must participate on and attend at least one committee meeting a month as required.
- All board members that are up for reappointments must fill out applications on the borough presidents website and submit to Borough Hall. Borough Hall has sent CB 2 a hard copy of the application should anyone need the application we have them in the CB 2 office and can send it to you. You can also mail the application to borough hall.
- Remember if you have community complaints, quality of life issues please submit to the CB 2 board office for follow up.
- CB 2 had approximately 7 complaints from December 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, we are still waiting for updates, however the top complaints were:
 - Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) catch basins
 - Department of Sanitation (DOS) – garbage issues
 - City of New York Parks and Recreation (PARKS) – tree issues, fallen tree limbs
- Department of Sanitation (DOS) – has Mulchfest now through January 8, 2023.
 - Composting will resume sometime April 2023.
- Parks Department
 - The roof on the comfort station at hart playground the replacement of the roof has begun
- Work is started on December 19 and will last approximately two months.
 - Sohncke Square and woodside memorial are slated for capital reconstruction details to follow
- Community Board 2 had a coat and sock drive. Thank you to the engagement and inclusion committee chairs Tannia Chavez and Nick Berkowitz. In addition, we wish to thank Warren Davis, and John Bahia for their work in this endeavor. Thank you to the CB2 staff for all their assistance.
- CB2 has been posting more information on our Facebook, Twitter, and Website.
- On behalf of all the staff CB2 we want to wish you and your families a happy, joyous and prosperous new year.
- The Next Community Board 2 Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2023, At 6:30pm.
- Please check the website for updated information. Website www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

- 61-10 Queens Boulevard, Planet Fitness to change a commercial overlay to occupy 16,00 square feet of an existing building. The application certified December 12, 2022. Applicant team will be in touch with CB2.
- 23-10 Queens Plaza South, will go to City Planning Commission
- 58-02 Northern Blvd. will go to City Council, public hearing held today. City Council has to vote in 12 days.

02:09:04 Committee Reports and Deliberation

02:09:05 **Land Use and Housing Committee Report (Lisa Deller) – The committee held their meeting and minutes are posted to the website.** <https://www.nyc.gov/site/queenscb2/meetings/committee-agendas-minutes.page>

2:10:00 School Construction Authority Application – 21-10 43rd Avenue Court Square School

2:11:14 **Motion:** Letter of support to SCA with the stipulation that they would seek to acquire at grade recreation space for the school.

(Motion made by Christine Hunter and it was seconded by Sally Frank)

Motion carried: by show of hands without none opposed and no abstentions

2:14:48 ULURP Application – 23-10 Queens Plaza South –

Developer submitted a letter of community agreements they are seeking to make as part of their ULURP application. Land Use and Housing Committee voted to unanimously to support this application. Discussion about long term lease and working with the legal firm that the developer is with to execute a long-term lease and do it via an RFP to community based not for profits to manage the space and be a physical conduit. To facilitate a 22-story enlargement of the four-story former Eagle Electric Building; a zoning map amendment to rezone the zoning lot from M1-5/R9 to M1-6/R9; zoning text amendments to ZR 117-50 et seq.; and a special permit pursuant to ZR Section 117-533.

(Motion made by Kenneth Greenberg and seconded by Christine Hunter)

Motion carried by All in favor; none opposed and no abstentions

2:44:07 Lisa Deller discussed following up on the Northern Blvd corridor.

The goal is to have a source of funding to a professional with someone who is an expert in Land Use and Planning and can work with the board planning such as ULURP, BSA and to work on more long-range planning.

02:45:00 **Transportation Committee (Thomas Mituzas)**

Discussed the passage of the Governor's Bill on December 28, 2023, concerning Increased Funding for Complete Streets. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-signs-legislative-package-support-pedestrians-bikers-and-transit-riders#:~:text=This%20bill%20increases%20the%20state,to%20implement%20these%20street%20designs>. If anyone has any ideas to forward to the CB 2 office.

02:50:13 **Health and Human Services & Education Committee** (Lauren Springer)

William Fahey, Deputy Superintendent presented on the role of the superintendent and deputy superintendent in District 30 and lack of space for schools. How CB 2 can and has been of help to them, regarding signage and upcoming construction projects and crossing guards. The Committee voted to send a letter of support for additional crossing guards in the district. Discussion about the programming for new schools.

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb2/downloads/pdf/committee-agendas-minutes/health-human-services/Health-Human-Services-Education-Committee-Meeting-Minutes-12-12-2022.pdf>

Next meeting will take place on January 9, 2023.

2:51:58 Unhoused task force (Warren Davis)

Warren Davis thanked all who participated in the collection and distribution of coats to the Citi view and the Borden Avenue Veterans shelters. He thanked John Bahia for his work in this endeavor.

There will be three CAB meetings: Northstar in February, Borden Avenue Shelter in February, Family Shelter at the Metro 73-00 Queens Blvd., they will be scheduling a cab meeting. When dates become available, he will advise.

2:53:09 Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee (Thalia (Karesia) Batan)

Rep for Accessible Travel NYC presented on how to make arts and cultural events and venues more accessible for those with accessibility/disability issues. Visit the CB 2 website at for the minutes/presentations. <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb2/downloads/pdf/committee-agendas-minutes/arts-cultural-affairs/December-13-2022-Arts-Cultural-Affairs-Committee-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

Rep from the NY Foundation for the Arts discussed the Queens Art Fund Grants. Discussion on the empty mural space on 64th Street and Northern Blvd is State DOT and are trying to get in touch to get it locally activated. Brand new little library will be installed at the LIC corner café in the spring. Next meeting will take place on January 10, 2023.

02:55:30 Engagement and Inclusion Committee (Nick Berkowitz, Tannia Chavez)

Tannia Chavez thanked all for the support for the Coat drive especially Morry Galonoy, Nick Berkowitz, John Bahia, Chhemang Lama, Warren Davis and Debra Markell Kleinert for all their support. Donations were distributed to Two Bridges, New Life Shelters, St Jacobs Church, and the Borden Avenue Veterans Residence. Tannia thanked all the organizations and individuals who donated. The committee is trying to continue with more donations throughout the year.

The Committee is trying to do another event at the end of January to invite potential participants to join CB2 to understand what it means to join the Community Board.

2:57:00 Nick Berkowtiz thanked Tannia Chavez for her leadership over the past couple of months. She has kept the committee going during personal matters.

2:57:46 City Services & Public Safety Committee (Stephen Cooper, Danielle Brecker)

Danielle Brecker provided an update and reported that all the SLA applications were approved. Stephen Cooper thanked Danielle for chairing the meeting and announced the next meeting will take place on January 11, 2023 and invited anyone who wished to attend.

2:58:57 **Small Business and Local Economy** (Kenny Greenberg)

Announced Mary Torres will co-chair of this committee. Joint meeting with the Technology and Access Committee was held. Next meeting will take place on January 24, 2023

2:59:34 **Technology and Access Committee** (Anatole Ashraf)

Held a joint meeting with Small Business and Local Economy Committee, Jonathan Forgash, Queens Together works with restaurants and discussion of serving digital needs for restaurants and small businesses in our district and beyond. Tannia Chavez provided an update about the Link NYC. The next Technology and Access Committee Meeting will take place on January 24, 2023.

3:02:47 **Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee** (Frank Wu)

Danielle Brecker announced Frank Wu was not in attendance. Frank will step down as chair of this committee, and that she will be discussing this with board members to find a replacement. The next meeting will take place on January 26, 2023 at 6:30.

Laura Shepard reported there was a presentation from the Cement recycling business in Hunters Point that will be moving closer to the Creek so they can barge their debris.

03:04:07 Mary Torres made a motion, and it was seconded by Ampara Abel-Bey to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado
CB 2 Staff

Reviewed/Revised and approved for distribution by:

_x_Anatole Ashraf, Secretary, CB 2
_X_Danielle Brecker, Chairperson, CB 2
_X_Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, CB 2

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