



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>

November 2, 2023

Queens Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held in person and teleconferenced on Zoom.

Board Members – Present: Nellie Afshar, Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia, Ann Marie Baranowski, Kat Bloomfield, Danielle Brecker, Stephen Cooper, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Christine Hunter, Diana Kichler, Prameet Kumar, Chhemang Lama, Sheila Lewandowski, Benjamin Lucas, Thomas Mituzas, Eric Narburgh, Reilly Owens, Oumaya Saab, Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Lauren Springer, Akello Thomas, Leticia Vasquez

Board Members – Absent:

Unexcused: Carlos Castell Croke, Badrun Khan, Phuntsok Tashi, Mary Torres, Kalsang Yangtso

Excused: Amparo Abel-Bey, Karesia Batan, Nicholas Berkowitz, Tannia Chavez, Osman Chowdhury, Kelly Craig, Lisa Deller, Somnath Ghimire, Mohammad Hossen, Lelin Kandel, Patrick Martinez, Zeeshan Ott, Norberto Saldana, Caroline Spitzer

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

Elected Officials/Representatives

Samantha Johnson, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Valazquez
Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris
Mahfuzul Islam, Representing NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez
Honorable Steven Raga, New York State Assembly Member Steven Raga
Natalie Rajabian, Representing Juan Juan Ardila, New York State Assembly Member
Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won
Claire Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Department of City Planning

Teal Delys
Bri Mejia

Department of Environmental Protection

Terrell Estes
Sue Dennis
Paul Belec
Robert Olivari
Chris Campbell, Hazen and Sawyer

Economic Development Corporation

Tara Das
Nina Versosa

Public Comment

Ronald Komito
Asif Ali, Woodside on the Move
Monica Guzman, Sunnyside Community Services
Asif Ali, Woodside on the Move
Spiri Moulinos

Public Comment – Enoch Hawthorne Gregory

Carre Cuthbertson

Guests

Anthony Dow

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 You Tube 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)

0:00:36 Queens CB 2 Chairperson Danielle Brecker welcomed everyone to the CB 2 Meeting at Sunnyside Community Services.

0:00:45 Pledge of Allegiance

0:01:50 Assembly Member Steven Raga, discussed the following:

- Just returned from DC and announced he took part in Senator Gillibrand's Policy Summit.
- Hosted multiple outreach and office hours in the community.
- Their office has staff that speaks multiple languages.
- Gearing up for Albany.
- Priorities for their office is to finalize legislation on flood mitigation and infrastructure.
- Announced he is co-chair of the Black/Puerto Rican, Asian Caucus committee on housing.
- Announced his office will be holding a Turkey Drive, Toy Drive and Clothing Drive.
- Announced that the committee's he sits on is listed as follows:
 - *Banks, Agriculture, Social services, Government operations, Veterans, Labor*
- Q & A

0:24:44 Samantha Johnson, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez provided the following update:

- Announced the Congresswoman the new commissioner of NYPD and expressed her concerns with regard e-bikes as well as accidents and robberies that have been happening with them.
- Discussed the Ban Ops Bill which is a Ban of Neurotoxic Organophosphate Pesticides from Our Food Act.
- Discussed the Greater Accountability and Pay Act.
- Provided an update on Water Infrastructure Bills that have been proposed.
- Congresswoman Valesquez did an Op Ed with regards to encouraging the DEP to talk about federal funding and investments.
- her email address: samantha.johnson@mail.house.gov
- Q & A

0:30:26 Mercedes Jennings, Representing New York State Senator Michael Gianaris discussed the following:

- Announced their new office location is at 45-02 Ditmars Boulevard. Their office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- Reported their office did a G-Mobile event yesterday at the Elmhurst Library and many people attended.
- Announced there were a few high school students in the district that were nominated last year, and two individuals won the Betty A. Rosa Presidential Scholarship Award. This year, they have 12 candidates, the announcement will be made if there are any winners in our district at the end of January.
- Announced the Senator's Office holds an annual Thanksgiving Celebration. Their office conducts an essay competition, and it can be any type of artistic work which can be submitted to the Senator's Office at gianaris@nysenate.gov. Submissions are due by November 17, 2023.
- Q & A

0:34:14 Mahfuzul Islam, Representing New York State Senator Kristen Gonzalez discussed the following:

- Reported their office was proud to coordinate with HRA and the offices of Council Member Tiffany Caban, Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani and Jessica Gonzales-Rojas with regard to helping constituents who have had their SNAP benefits stolen. Announced their office welcomes constituents to reach out to their office with any SNAP skimming cases.
- Their office attended the renewable Ravenswood event at the Variety Boys and Girls Club and had a follow-up meeting with the developers.
- Announced the Senator's Economic Abuse Bill was signed by Governor Hochel this month.
- Email is islam@nysenate.gov
- Q & A

0:38:33 Melissa Villalobos, Representing Honorable Juan Ardila, New York State Assembly Member discussed the following:

- Wished everyone who celebrates a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Their office will host a treat and greet with the Assembly Member for Halloween at their office and distributed 500 bags of candy to their constituents.
- On November 11, 2023, they will host an event with Central Paraguayo of New York a free mammogram bus with the American Italian Cancer Foundation from 9:00 to 4:30 at 50-15 Roosevelt Avenue in Woodside. To see if there is any occupancy left call: (347) 368-9459.

- Email her at: villalm@nyassembly.gov
- Q & A

0:40:02 Claire Collins, Representing the Queens Borough President Donovan Richards provided the following update:

- Discussed the Israel Palestine conflict. After the war began on October 7, 2023, the Queens Borough President held a vigil on Monday to mourn the lives lost. Joining the BP were elected officials from across the Borough and more than 100 community members in a show of solidarity. The Queens Borough President's Office is working with both our Jewish and Muslim communities.
- Announced the Queens Tech and Innovation Challenge and reported that BP Richards has teamed up with the Queens Economic Development Corporation to relaunch the Queens Tech and Innovation Challenge for a second year. Applications are open until March 1, 2024, and to apply go to www.queensstartup.org.
- Announced November 8, 2023, at 11:00 am they will be hosting their Veterans Day event at Borough Hall, includes free lunch and entertainment.
- Announced November 8, 2023, at 6:00 pm they will be hosting their Diwali Celebration at Borough Hall.
- Announced November 9, 2023, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at 6:00 pm they will be holding their High School Selection and Awareness Fair. Representatives from dozens of high schools across Queens will be on hand and for a list of the schools visit www.queensbp.org/education
- Announced on November 21, 2023, at 6:00 pm there will be a Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony.
- For more information visit: www.queensbp.org.
- Email collins@queensby.org.
- Q & A

0:43:58 Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won provided the following update.

- Announced Council Member Won is launching a Comprehensive Community Planning for District 26. This is composed of two distinct projects. There is one for Long Island City. There is a town Hall Launch event this Monday, November 6, 2023, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Culture Lab located at 5-25 46th Avenue.
- Announced another project for those that live near Northern Boulevard, called the Heart of District 26. This will take place on November 16, 2023, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Legal Outreach located at 36-14 35th Street in Astoria.

- If anyone has any questions, they may reach out to their Land Use and Legislative Director Isaac Blasenstein at iblasenstein@council.nyc.gov or call their office at: (718) 383-9566.
- Discussed Participatory Budgeting Process. The deadline for ideas is November 10, 2023. If anyone is interested in being a Budget Delegate, please reach out to their office or email them at district26@council.nyc.gov or reach out to Nellie Martinez at nveramartinez@council.nyc.gov
- Q & A

0:50:04 Javier Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz provided the following update:

- Announced the DA has a monthly newsletter.
- Discussed the issue of hate crimes and a recent event that happened in Queens. Read a statement from the Queens DA.
- Q & A

0:54:30 Public Comment

0:54:40 Ronald Komito, Pensky Truck Rental discussed the following issues:

- ✓ Review and 37th Street, illegal parking.
- ✓ Railroad Avenue has cement columns that block the area.
- ✓ Requested a change in the traffic pattern near St. Raphael's church.
- ✓ Expressed concerns with regard to a Bar on Bradley and Greenpoint Avenue.

0:57:25 Asif Ali, Representative from Woodside on the Move

- Announced they have been canvassing tabling and phone banking to make sure community members are aware of the upcoming election.
- Announced they hosted a movie screening for the street project safety.
- WOTM hosted a Haunted House Halloween Event at a Beacon Program at PS 361.
- WOTM hosted a Virtual Legal Clinic. On the last Tuesday of the month, they have a housing case manager and housing attorney.
- Announced WOTM will be hosting a day of Thanks dinner at their Beacon Program at PS 361 for Kids and their families on November 17, 2023.
- Announced WOTM are looking for volunteers for upcoming projects coming up for the holidays.

0:59:41 Spiri Moulinos discussed the following:

- Announced the DOE is planning to co-locate an incubator school within William Cullen Bryant High School and is asking for community support and help to prevent this from happening.

1:02:17 Monica Guzman, Sunnyside Community Services provided the following update:

- Announced National Alzheimer’s Awareness Month and National Caregivers Month.
- SCS has programs that support families who are living with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia.
- If there is someone in need to refer them to SCS.
- Last month was Domestic Violence Awareness month.
- Announced a new program called Elder Justice. SCS can offer support for this issue.
- SCS is seeking volunteers for online conversations with people seeking to learn English once a week for one hour.
- Thanked all who came out on Saturday to run and raise money to support SCS.

1:04:46 Tara Das, Economic Development Corporation (EDC) provided a presentation on the Hunters Point South Ferry Landing Engagement and Strategy. She introduced her colleague, Nina Versosa.

- Reported the current Ferry Landing at Hunters Point South, which is one of the oldest in the system, is in need of being replaced and that it is coming to the end of its useful life. They want to make sure that they are able to continue operating service, which will require replacing the landing.
- She provided an overview of the project and discussed what they have learned from their study.

1:10:54 Nina Versosa, Economic Development Corporation (EDC) provided an update on the Alternative Analysis study.

- This study is to evaluate the alternative locations and design for the replacement of the ferry landing at Hunters Point South.
- They recently opened the location preference survey for the replacement of the Hunters Point Ferry landing, and it will be open through December 10, 2023.
- They will be handing out postcards with a QR code access to the survey and have created a website for the study.
- Q & A

1:30:29 DEP Site Selection & Acquisition – 24-02 49th Avenue

Terrell Estes, DEP provided a presentation and provided the following information:

- Discussed DEP’s Mission.

- NYC DEP is seeking to relocate testing laboratories from three of its facilities: at Lefrak City Plaza in Queens, Wards Island Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) in Manhattan and Newtown Creek WRRF in Brooklyn to a proposed site in Queens Community District 2.
- To facilitate the laboratory relocation, DEP and the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) are seeking approval for a site selection and acquisition (PC) land use action.
- Land Use application was certified in September 2023 and is in CB 2 Review phase.
- Proposed project site is 24-02 49th Avenue, LIC (Block 71, Lot 7501) and is within an M1-4 Zoning district.
- Proposing to enter into a 20-year lease.
- 25-20 Borden Avenue LIC Queens (Block 68, Lott 55) identified as proposed site for DEP fleet vehicle storage facility. Site is within an M3-2 zoning district.
- DEP seeks to lease space for move in by November 2024.
- Q & A

1:58:15 Dual Street Renaming – Enoch Hawthorne Gregory – 41-30 58th Street

- Anthony Dow provided information concerning a dual street renaming in honor of his father, Enoch Hawthorne Gregory.
- He was one of the first African American disc jockey and program director in Woodside Queens, located at 41-30 58th Street, Woodside, which was started in 1922.

2:01:05 Public Comment – Dual Street Renaming

2:01:17 Carre Cuthbertson spoke in favor of the dual street renaming.

2:03:07 Public Comment – Capital and Expense Budget Priorities

2:03:16 Transition to Board Business

2:03:28 Attendance

- Board Members Present: 27 Board Members Absent: 19
 - Unexcused: 5 Excused: 14 Quorum: Yes

2:06:48 Motion to approve the Revised October 5, 2023, CB 2 Meeting Minutes (Motion made by Ann Marie Baranowski and seconded by Akello Thomas)
Motion carried: All in favor of the motion with none (0) opposed and two (2) abstentions.

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/queenscb2/meetings/meeting-agendas-minutes.page>

2:07:44 Chairperson’s Report (Danielle Brecker)

- Wished all a Happy Halloween.
- Wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

- Reminded everyone to go out and vote on Election Day.
- Thanked Kat Bloomfield for her work on the Capital and Expense Budget.
- Announced we would be accepting Nominations for Election of the Executive Board in December.

2:08:28 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities

2:09:02 Kat Bloomfield discussed the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities.

(Motion made by Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos and seconded by Kenny Greenberg to approve the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities – Capital Budget Priorities

Motion carried: All in favor of the motion with none (0) opposed and one (1) abstention.

Shiela Lewandowski discussed a typo that needs to be corrected.

(Motion made by Sheila Lewandowski and seconded by Thomas Mituzas to approve the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities – Expense Budget

Motion carried: All in favor of the motion with none (0) opposed and no (0) abstentions.

2:12:59 Kat Bloomfield thanked the following individuals for their advocacy and discussed several items from last year that were funded. City of New York Parks and Recreation, CB 2 Board Member Karesia Batan, Queens Borough Dance Festival, Council Member Julie Won, Department of Homeless Services, CB 2 Board Member and Co-Chair Transportation Committee Tom Mituzas, Woodside on the Move, DSNY, CB 2 Board Member and 1st Vice Chairperson Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, CB 2 Board Member and Environmental Chair Laura Shepard, District Manager Debra Markell Kleinert, and the CB 2 Office.

2:16:10 Danielle Brecker announced the acceptance of nominations for Election of Executive Board Members. Each read a brief statement.

Chairperson, Community Board 2

Danielle Brecker, Chairperson, Community Board 2, Long Island City
Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, Community Board 2, Sunnyside

1st Vice Chairperson, Community Board 2

Stephen Cooper, Sunnyside
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Sunnyside

2nd Vice Chairperson, Community Board 2

Patrick Martinez, Woodside, submitted a statement, read by Stephen Cooper
Thomas Mituzas, LIC

Treasurer, Community Board 2

Kat Bloomfield, Woodside

Secretary, Community Board 2

Ryan Smith, Sunnyside

Parliamentarian, Community Board 2

Akello Thomas, Woodside

2:41:01 District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert)

- Thanked the all the members for their hard work.
- Thanked Kat Bloomfield for her work on the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities.
- Announced CB2 distributed the EEO policy by email and have a few left here. Please sign the document that you received for your EEO policy. If you have not done so already, please see MaryAnn or me.
- Reminder the Marathon is Sunday, November 5, 2023, beware of street closures.
- This is a reminder that at the December board meeting CB2 will vote for the executive board.
- Thanked Detective Diaz, Community Affairs, 108th Police Precinct for his hard work in our community as he is moving on to Patrol Borough Queens North. We congratulate him and wish him well.
- Attended a meeting with Small Business to discuss universal approach to liquor licenses. The discussion was on how Boards process them.
- Within the confines of CB2 we currently have a DDC Project 37th street and Van Dam Street, it is a Ped Ramp Compliance Project. This is a 2-year project, and they are paving corners. They are currently near 48th avenue from 38th to 40th street.
- CB2 had approximately 18 complaints from October 2, 2023, to present.
 - The top complaints were:
 - Department of Transportation - 7
 - Signage, signals, potholes
 - NYPD -4
 - Graffiti, vehicles blocking sidewalks, prostitution.
 - Parks - 3
 - Tree issues, request for new and cleanup dead trees
- Announced we fall back an hour, change your clocks and batteries.
- The CB2 office is closed for the official holiday of Election Day, November 7, 2023, Veterans Day, November 10, 2023, and Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2023.

- The next Community Board 2 meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 6:30pm.

2:48:52 Department of City Planning (Bri Mejia) provided the following update:

- Announced an application that will be going to the City Planning Commission is the DOT site selection and acquisition at 47-25 34th Street.
- City of Yes Text amendments, Zoning for Economic Opportunity Proposal was referred out to all 59 Community Boards on October 30, 2023.
- Announced the One LIC Planning Kick Off Meeting will take place on Monday at 6:30 pm at Culture Lab in LIC.
- Q & A

2:51:10 Department of City Planning (Teal Delys) conducted a Q & A and addressed concerns.

3:10:29 Committee Reports and Deliberation

3:10:32 Land Use Committee Report (Christine Hunter) - The Committee held their meeting and minutes are posted to the website:

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb2/downloads/pdf/committee-agendas-minutes/land-use/2023/October-18-2023-Land-Use-Housing-Committee-Meeting-Minutes-Final.pdf>

Motion to approve the DEP Site Selection & Acquisition at 24-02 49th Avenue, LIC, NY with the stipulation that DCAS negotiate green improvements to the building by its owner and that such improvements be negotiated as part of any substantial lease of city space within an existing facility.

(Motion made by Sheila Lewandowski and seconded by Laura Shepard)

Motion carried: All in favor of the motion with none (0) opposed and no (0) abstentions.

Motion to approve the Dual Street Renaming – Enoch Hawthorne Gregory 41-30 5^{8th} Street as well as a plaque on the building.

(Motion made by Kenny Greenberg and seconded by John Bahia)

Motion carried: All in favor of the motion; none (0) opposed and no (0) abstentions.

Christine Hunter discussed the two working studies that will be undertaken (Long Island City and Northern Boulevard and Roosevelt Avenue) and she recommended forming a working group for each study made up of people from all our different committees who are interested in that particular study. The groups can follow the study and report back to the Board.

03:23:44 Transportation Committee (Sheila Lewandowski) The committee held their meeting and minutes are posted to the website.

- Announced City Hall has come down with new rules and new guidelines for Open Streets, Open Restaurants and Open Culture and moratorium on Street Fairs. The public

comment period closes November 20, 2023. All are encouraged to sign up for the hearing or they may submit written comments.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

CB 2 Staff

Reviewed/Revised and approved for distribution by:

Anatole Ashraf, Secretary, CB2

Danielle Brecker, Chairperson, CB 2

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, CB 2

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