



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>

*Revised

September 7, 2023

Queens Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held in person and teleconferenced on Zoom.

Board Members – Present: Ann Marie Baranowski, Nick Berkowitz, Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Lisa Deller, Morry Galonoy, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Christine Hunter, Lelin Kandel, Badrun Khan, Diana Kichler, Prameet Kumar, Chhemang Lama, Sheila Lewandowski, Patrick Martinez, Eric Narburgh, Oumaya Saab, Laura Shepard, Caroline Spitzer, Lauren Springer, Akello Thomas, Mary Torres, Leticia Vasquez

Board Members – Absent:

Unexcused: Kat Bloomfield, Kelly Craig, Mohammed Hossen, Benjamin Lucas, Reilly Owens, Phuntsok Tashi, Kalsan Yangtso

Excused: Amparo Abel-Bey, Nellie Afshar, Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia, Karesia Batan, Sandra Bigitschke, Tannia Chavez, Warren Davis, Somnath Ghimire, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Thomas Mituzas, Zeeshan Ott, Norberto Saldana, Ryan Smith

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

Elected Officials/Representatives

Honorable Julie Won, New York City Council Member
Isacc Blasenstien, Representing New York City Council Member
Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng
Mahfuzul Islam, Representing NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez
Melissa Villalobos, Representing, Juan *Ardila, New York State Assembly Member
Natalie Rajabian, Representing Juan Juan Ardilla, New York State Assembly Member
Victoria Leahy, Representing Assembly Member Steven Raga
Javier Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz
Alan Swisher, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Claire Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Department of City Planning

Teal Delys

Brie Meji

Public Comment

Judy Zangwill, Sunnyside Community Services

Michael Borderon, Workforce 1

Rob Basch, Hunters Point Parks Conservancy

William Jourdain, Woodside on the Move

Laura Rothrock, LIC Partnership

Elon Okechukuu, Transitional Services for NY (TSINY)

Pat Dorfman, Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce

Manny Gomez, Sunnyside Artists, Inc.

Dorothy Morehead

Ana Sanchez

Guests

Daniel Jeong, Con Edison

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)

0:00:17 Queens CB 2 Chairperson Danielle Brecker welcomed everyone to the CB 2 Meeting at Sunnyside Community Services.

0:00:35 Pledge of Allegiance

0:01:35 Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng discussed the following:

- Announced anyone with any issues or concerns to contact their office.

- Announced a passport event will take place on September 24, 2023 in Flushing from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

0:02:52 Mahfuzul Islam, Representing New York State Senator Kristen Gonzalez discussed the following:

- Anyone with any issues or concerns to feel free to speak to their office.
- Reported they had a series of backpack giveaway events.
- Announced their office is working with Asylum Seekers.
- Will be doing a clothing giveaway.
- Will be signing people up for IDNYC and will be working with HRA to sign people up.

0:04:45 Victoria Leahy, Representing New York State Assembly Member Steven Raga

- Announced first Pride Celebration.
- Held First Independence Day Celebration.
- Presented their resolution honoring Ecuadorian Independence Day to the Ecuadorian Consulate.
- Hosted legal clinic workshops.
- Hosted a Mammogram Mobile Scan.
- September 9, 2023 first health fair from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Woodside Avenue Open Street.
- Saturday, September 16, 2023 will be hosting a paper shredding event with Assembly Member Cruz's office at Elmhurst hospital.
- September 19, 2023 Veterans Advocacy project at their district office from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
- September 24, 2023 will be hosting Hispanic Heritage month Celebration from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the World's Borough Book Store on 73rd Street and 34th
- September 26, 2023 Queens Legal Services will be providing a session on SNAP benefits at their district office from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Announced mobile office hours at the Woodside Library on Skillman Avenue and will be there from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
- Host recurring monthly office hours every second Wednesday of the month at the Woodside Library.
- To stay up to date with any of their upcoming events or important information, call their office or sign up online to join their contact list.

0:7:48 Melissa Villalobos, Representing Honorable Juan *Ardila, New York State Assembly Member discussed the following:

- Announced they hosted their first new woman, New Yorker's event in front of their district office. An organization that helps out with women who are trying to get into the tech field.
- Announced the Assembly Member signed onto a letter to the President to declare a state of emergency to help expedite work authorization and release federal resources to our city and state due to the growing migrant crises.
- Announced the Assembly Member submitted a request to co-sponsor two new bills in the Assembly to help bring the immediate relief to our city.
- Every Thursday through September they will be hosting a clothing event for immigrants who are new to the district. Their office is located at 45-10 Skillman Avenue.
- If anyone has any constituent concerns, they are available from Monday through Thursday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Friday is 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Q & A

0:10:40 Claire Collins, Representing the Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

provided the following update:

- Announced they wrapped up their third series of Borough Hall on your Block. A week-long initiative launched by the Borough President back in August of 2022. Goal is to bring programs and services to each part of the borough.
- Announced Queens Climate Expo on Wednesday September 20, 2023 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Queens Borough Hall at Helen Marshall Cultural Center at Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Boulevard.

0:12:40: Javier Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melina Katz

- Announced their office hosted a backpack giveaway and handouts.
- The District Attorney has started a Trespass Affidavit Program. Any businesses that want to opt-in or any questions about the program to contact their office.

0:14:31 Honorable Julie Won, NYC Council Member

- Welcomed everyone back and that it was good to see everyone in person.
- Announced a backpack drive to ensure every child was going back to school with a school supplies. Donated 1,200 backpacks to various locations. Thanked all for their partnership.
- Discussed rat mitigation in the district. Rat Czar toured the district to look at all the hotspots. Working with teams to continue to keep track of them and make sure we are seeing a decrease in the rat population.
- Announced she is working closely with DEP on the flooding issues that we have in the district to ensure catch basins are cleaned regularly, implementing new rain gardens and discussing capital improvements.

- Announced her office is partnering with CUNY Law and will be hosting a bi-weekly in-house housing lawyer to provide legal services on Wednesday's. Call their office for an appointment.
- Hosted movie nights for families all over the district in every single park.
- If anyone has anyone has any specific legislation that they would like for her to sponsor to reach out to her office.
- Introduced Isaac Blasenstein, Legislative Director.
- Follow her on social media to stay up to date on all important legislation.
- Announced Participatory Budgeting is about to start again and thanked all who participated last year. Reach out to her office if anyone has any interest in participating.
- Budget Analysis is live on their website. If anyone has any questions, reach out to her office.
- Q & A

0:28:32 Public Comment

0:28:38: Judy Zangwill, Executive Director, Sunnyside Community Services discussed the following:

- Announced flu vaccine will be distributed on September 26, 2023 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. It will be open for their seniors who participate at the center for older adults from 10:00 am to 12pm.
- Announced free concert will be held on September 30, 2023 at 2:00 pm.
- Announced the Sunnyside Post Mile Run Walk will be held on October 28, 2023. The proceeds go to Sunnyside Community Services. More information will be coming at.
- For information about Sunnyside Community Services visit their website at:
<https://www.scsny.org>

0:31:00 Michael Borderon, Workforce 1 provided the following update:

- This organization is part of NYC Small Business Services.
- Work in the community to help individuals who are looking for employment.
- Work with companies that are looking for employees.
- Services are free of charge.
- Must register with them and be documented.
- Provide seasonal internships that are paid.
- Q & A

0:36:52 Rob Basch, President, Hunters Point Park Conservancy

- Spoke about the need for more green space in Hunters Point development lots D and E that are scheduled to be developed. Thanked Lisa Deller and CB 2 for the letter submitted in support of the plan.
- Announced Hunters Point is going to be opening up the Queen's Landing Boathouse and environmental center.
- Q & A

0:43:32 William Jourdain, Woodside on the Move provided the following update:

- Were able to provide services including their summer festival.
- September 23, 2023 upcoming Fall Festival.
- Will commence a new program for a commercial District Needs Assessment Program.
- Supported over 1200 young scholars through their summer camp program.

0:46:04 Samantha Johnson, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez provided the following update:

- Attended a meeting with the Federal Railroad Association.
- Discussed the migrant shelters and smoke shops and their office is actively trying to figure out a resolution.
- For migrant shelters the Congresswoman is seeking to push for funds from the federal government to better support NYC.
- Q & A

0:48:02 Laura Rothrock, President, LIC Partnership provided the following update:

- Discussed the many initiatives that the partnership works such as the Business Improvement District, a public private partnership where property owners pay an additional assessment and in return they provide services such as sanitation, beautification, trash cans.
- They are looking to expand the BID and have met with the Land Use Committee as part of the process.
- They have to go through planning, outreach and then a legislative process. They are in the outreach phase and will be coming to CB 2 for a full presentation. Anyone interested in more information can visit the website:
<https://www.longislandcityqueens.com/licbid/lic-bid-expansion/>
- Q & A

0:49:42 Elon Okechukuu, Transitional Services for NY (TSINY) provided the following update:

- The organization is located in Jamaica and is a non-profit organization and provided information about their programs.

0:52:36 Pat Dorfman, Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce

- Discussed the real estate board of New York and the new way for publishing of their goals through business improvements districts and needs assessments. She requested that the board be open to other points of view rather than the ones they hear and from those in power. It changes every 12 years.

0:54:13 Manny Gomez, Sunnyside Artists

- Welcomed everyone back and thanked everyone for the live in person meeting and hopes they will remain in person.

0:55:09 Dorothy Morehead, former CB 2 Member & Chair, Environmental Committee

- Discussed the closing of 39th Avenue between 45th and 46th Street and how it affects the community. Traffic is backing up due to one lane of thru traffic in front of Sunnyside Towers

Lisa Deller made a made a recommendation for DOT to come back to do an assessment of the area.

0:58:42 Ana Sanchez

- Discussed what the City of new York is doing to the retirees concerning the medical health program and place them on a Medicare advantage plan and discussed Intro 1099.

Morry Galoney recommended Ana Sanchez attend the Health and Human Services & Education Committee Meeting.

1:04:45 Daniel Jeong, Con Edison

- Discussed the Energy Affordability Program. For more information visit the website at: www.coned.com.

1:16:34 Alan Swisher, Attorney for Queens Borough President Donovan Richards provided the following update:

- Discussed the Open Meetings Law. Summarized what the law provides and answered questions. He reported remote participation is permitted under very specific limited circumstances. The board would have to pass a resolution that would allow members to participate remotely under what the law describes as extraordinary circumstances in the law. He distributed a handout by the Committee on Open Government that provides a sample resolution that can be adapted to the Board's needs.

1:37:51 Transition to Board Business

1:37:52: Attendance

- Board Members Present: 26 Board Members Absent: 21

- Unexcused: 8 Excused: 13 Quorum: Yes

1:42:31 Motion to approve the June 1, 2023 CB 2 Meeting Minutes

(Motion made by Akello Thomas and seconded by Sheila Lewandowski)

Motion carried: All in favor with none (0) opposed and two (2) abstentions.

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

1:44:30 Chairperson's Report (Danielle Brecker)

- Discussed the Open Meetings Law and state the Open Meetings law is a state law and we try to follow the law.
- Announced Morry Galonoy will lead a task force to get us a resolution that allows us to have hybrid meetings that is within the law and within our by-laws.
- He and the committee will create a resolution for what we can do for committee meetings and if he chooses ways we can advocate our state elected officials to change the law to make it work for community boards.
- Morry Galonoy has already assembled a list, however if anyone interested in joining the task force they may reach out to the CB 2 office.
- Danielle Brecker announced the next Borough Board meeting will take place on September 18, 2023 and she will report back in October.
- Wished all a Happy Rosh Hashanah and wished everyone an easy fast for Yom Kippur to all who celebrate.
- Announced Lisa Deller will step down as chair of the Land Use and Housing Committee and that Christine Hunter will become the Chair.
- Thanked all for attending the meeting this evening.

1:49:37 District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert)

- Thanked Lisa Deller.
- Reminder, please note all CB2 official meeting requests and agency correspondence must go through the CB 2 office.
 - All CB2 scheduling of events, presentations and meetings must be coordinated through the CB2 office.
 - Reminder: committee chairs all agendas need to be in to the CB2 office at least 7 days before the meeting to be posted to the community.
- Committee attendance records are important and they are submitted to borough hall. Everyone must participate on and attend at least one committee meeting a month as required.
 - If you cannot attend a CB2 meeting or a committee meeting please call or email the CB 2 office.

- Provided an update on audits from the Comptroller's Office.
- Remember if you have community complaints, quality of life issues please call or email the CB2 board office for follow up.
- CB 2 thanks the Engagement and Inclusion Committee and for the annual summer social at Windmuller Park.
- CB2 attended national night out on crime. This was a successful event, and we wish to thank Diane Ballek, President of the 108th Police Precinct Community Council and our 108th partners for their hard work on this annual endeavor. We also thank Sheila Lewandowski who was honored and for her assistance. Maryann and I attended this important community event and giving out CB 2 items.
- CB2 sent out the capital and expense budget register over the summer to all board members, civics, and community leaders for their summer homework and to review. We thank Kat Bloomfield for her continued work on this endeavor.
- Announced she is attending Borough Consultation meetings.
- Announced CB 2 sent letters to the agencies have gone out however we have not received responses as of yet.
- CB2 had approximately 73 complaints from June 5, 2023, to present.
 - The top complaints were:
 - Sanitation (DOS) – 21 garbage issues
 - Department of Transportation - 20
 - Signage, signals, potholes
 - NYPD -14
 - Vehicles blocking sidewalks, prostitution.
 - Parks - 7
 - Tree issues, request for new and cleanup dead trees
 - DEP - 7
- Wishing all the school children a good year.
- Wish all a happy Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

1:51:17 Department of City Planning (Teal Delys) provided the following update:

- Introduced her colleague Brie Meji who has joined the Queens team.

1:55:39 Department of City Planning (Brie Meji) provided the following update:

- Application of 24-02 49th Avenue DEP Site Selection and Acquisition, will certify on September 11, 2023.
- Community Boards Needs and Budget Requests needs to be submitted by October 31, 2023.
- City-wide amendments with the City of Yes, specifically the zoning for Economic Opportunity. This is expected to refer on October 2, 2023 and so as a reminder the next public virtually on September 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm.
- Q & A

1:59:54 Committee Reports and Deliberation

2:00:17 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/June-21-2023-Land-Use-Committee-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

- Announced the Land Use Committee Meeting will be held on September 27, 2023 and will include a public hearing about the LIC BID Expansion to accommodate the BID scheduled for public approval. This will be an in-person meeting and will be held at Sunnyside Community Services.

***02:03:25 Transportation Committee (Sheila Lewandowski) The committee held their meeting and minutes are posted to the website**

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb2/downloads/pdf/committee-agendas-minutes/transportation/2023/May-30-2023-Transportation-Committee-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

- Discussed the NY State Department of Transportation – Bridge Rehabilitation of BQE Viaduct over Laurel Hill Blvd. CB 2 sent a letter advocating for certain changes on the BQE overpass at Laurel Hill Boulevard. CB 2 received a detailed response and it didn't actually take any of our recommendations into account. Sheila requested CB 2 advocate for greater consideration of greening possibilities, safer infrastructure and to treat that part under the BQE more like a highway than it is being used as.

Christine Hunter made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

CB 2 Staff

Reviewed/Revised and approved for distribution by:

X Anatole Ashraf, Secretary, CB2
 X Danielle Brecker, Chairperson, CB 2
 X Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, CB 2

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