



*Donovan Richards*  
*Queens Borough President*

# Community Board No. 2

43-22 50th Street, 2nd Floor  
Woodside, New York 11377

(718) 533-8773

Fax (718-533-8777

Email [qn02@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:qn02@cb.nyc.gov)

[www.nyc.gov/queenscb2](http://www.nyc.gov/queenscb2)

*Anatole Ashraf*  
*Chairperson*

**March 5, 2026**

## **Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes**

***This meeting was held in person and teleconference on Zoom***

**Board Members – Present:** Amparo Abel-Bey, Nellie Afshar, Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia, Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Lisa Charles (PV), Tannia Chavez, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Morry Galonoy (PV), Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Alexandra Gonzalez (PV), Kenneth Greenberg (PV), Corey Hannigan (PV), Christine Hunter (PV), Prameet Kumar, Bradford Leibin (PV), Sheila Lewandowski, Eric Narburgh, Reilly Owens, Jolly Patel, Randy Plemel (PV), Pia Rahman, Alyssa Sawicki (PV), Ryan Smith, Lauren Springer, Alaina Van Slooten, Leticia Vasquez, Michael Zoorob

### **Board Members – Absent**

**Unexcused:** Nicholas Berkowitz, Mohammad Hossen, Chhemang Lama, Andie Olivares, Norberto Saldana, Phugelzen Sherpa, Akello Thomas

**Excused:** Karesia Batan, Evelyn Chango, Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Camille Gray, James Kim, Benjamin Lucas, Patrick Martinez, Oumaya Saab, Amaury Valdez

**Community Board 2 Staff:** Rafael Nava, Community Assistant

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

Adam Lee, Representing Congressman Grace Meng  
Tiffany Echevarria, Representing Congressmember Nydia Velazquez  
Mercedes Jennings, Representing State Senator Michael Gianaris  
Karen Sheu, Representing State Senator Kristen Gonzalez  
Isamar Brito, Representing State Senator Kristen Gonzalez  
Jamie Battle, Representing Assemblymember Steven Raga  
Erica Landau, Representing Assemblymember Claire Valdez  
Laura Shepard, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards  
Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won  
Nerissa Martinez, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

### **Guests:**

Marco Griego Duarte, Representing Woodside on the Move  
Shyvonne Noboa, Representing Sunnyside Community Services

### **City Agency Representatives**

Julia Dowling, NYC Parks  
Colleen Alderson, NYC Parks

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

Colin Ryan, Department of City Planning

**Public Comment**

Barry Druss, Rafael Moure, Ken Engel, Jordyn Rosenthal, John Zak, Zach McHugh

Note: Reference to the YouTube video and the associated time-in-meeting stamps are offered here as a service to community members who wish to review the meeting.

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

**YouTube Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-Csw-ftheE>

00:00:16 At 6:31 PM, Queens CB2 Chairperson Anatole Ashraf welcomed the community together with elected representatives and other guests.

**00:00:26 Pledge of Allegiance**

00:02:29 **Mercedes Jennings, representing State Senator [Michael Gianaris](#)**, provided the following update:

- The Senator and his office continue to work on New York State budget legislation.
- The office is considering organizing a Real ID DMV event in the district.  
The office continues to provide constituent services and address concerns, including those related to OMNY.
- Q&A

00:06:49 **Adam Lee, representing Congresswoman [Grace Meng](#)**, provided the following update:

- In response to ICE-related issues, the Congresswoman called for the impeachment of DHHS Secretary Kristi Noem and introduced the ICE Badge Visibility Act to promote accountability.
- Congresswoman Meng and Congressman Ted Lieu issued a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, urging the administration to help stranded Americans return from the Middle East.
- The Congresswoman's office continues to provide constituent services, including free tax preparation every Tuesday through April 14, 2026.
- Q&A

0:15:30 **Tiffany Echeverria, representing Congresswoman [Nydia Velázquez](#)**, provided the following update:

- The Congresswoman sponsored the Good Neighbor Act.
- Congresswoman Velázquez co-sponsored the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in ICE and CBP Custody Act.
- The Congresswoman supported a War Powers Resolution to end the congressionally unauthorized war with Iran.
- Shared information on upcoming events the office will host.
- Q&A

00:20:02 **Karen Sheu, representing State Senator [Kristen Gonzalez](#)**, provided the following update:

- State Senator Gonzalez advocated for increased arts funding in Senate District 59 and New York State.
- The State Senator held discussions with community advocates, elected officials, and stakeholders about challenges related to rising homelessness in Long Island City and ways to address them.
- The State Senator signed onto a letter demanding the restoration of NYU Langone's youth gender-affirming care program.
- Upcoming events.
- Q&A

00:22:24 **Jamey Battle, representing Assemblymember [Steven Raga](#)**, provided the following update:

- Events Assemblymember Raga hosted in partnership with elected officials and community partners, as well as upcoming events.
- Constituent services provided by the Assemblymember's office, including connecting constituents to legal services and free tax preparation services every Saturday through April 6, 2026.
- Legislation the Assemblymember is supporting during the ongoing budget season, including an affordable housing package.
- Q&A

00:28:41 **Farah Salam, representing Council Member [Julie Won](#)**, provided the following update:

- Participatory budgeting has returned. From April 11, 2026, through April 19, 2026, there will be a week-long vote on ten projects. Voting will take place in person at multiple pop-up locations and drop-in sites, including Woodside on the Move and Sunnyside Community Services. Links for online voting are forthcoming.
- Previous and upcoming events.
- Council Member Won's view on the Sunnyside Yards plan to build housing.
- Council Member Won continues to work to establish a community oversight committee for OneLIC.
- Q&A

00:33:48 **Laura Shepard, representing Queens Borough President [Donovan Richards](#)**, provided the following update:

- She extended an invitation to upcoming events at Borough Hall, including a Holi Celebration, an Eid Celebration, and a virtual Parent Advisory Board meeting.
- March 2026 is part two of the Community Mental Health Lab Series, which acknowledges Teen Violence Awareness Month and features a high school student panel to discuss youth empowerment and healing.

00:35:17 **Nerissa Martinez, representing Queens District Attorney [Melinda Katz](#)**, provided the following update:

- Cases the Queens District Attorney’s Office has worked on, including:
  - Deiby Vidal was sentenced to 22½ years in prison for killing his landlady, Zoraida Leo. The killing occurred in December 2023.
  - Antonio Quinones was arraigned and is being held on \$150,000 cash bail on charges including two counts of assault in the first degree, assault in the second degree, attempted assault in the second degree, criminal mischief in the fourth degree, and criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree. If convicted, he faces up to 25 years in prison.

00:38:20 **Shyvonne Noboa, of [Sunnyside Community Services](#)** provided the following update:

- Information on upcoming events and programming, including ESL classes with registration now open.

00:40:16 **Marco Griego Duarte, of [Woodside on the Move](#)**, provided the following update:

- Information on upcoming events, including a food pantry on March 28, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.
- Information on services, including free tax preparation, beginning March 12, 2026, every Thursday through April 2, 2026.

00:42:30 **Erica Landau, representing Assemblymember [Claire Valdez](#)**, provided the following update:

- Assemblymember Valdez’s office is offering free tax preparation sessions every Tuesday through April 15, 2026.
- The Assemblymember joined Climate Families NYC in Sunnyside last month to support the SUNNY Act, legislation that would make plug-in solar simple and accessible.
- Assemblymember Valdez joined the Girl Scouts of North Queens for a panel discussion alongside Assemblymember González-Rojas.
- The office encouraged constituents to sign up for emergency alerts with the City.
- Q&A

### **Public Comment**

00:45:51 Barry Druss shared what he believes are solutions to roadway congestion in CB2’s district, which he expects will result from population increases tied to new housing.

00:48:51 Rafael Moure, District Manager of Bronx Community Board 6, spoke about Queens Community Board 2’s decision regarding a personnel matter.

00:45:51 Ken Engel, of Cricket Wireless, shared that the company opened a location in CB2’s district. He expressed interest in working with the local community and associations, including through sponsorship.

00:52:00 Jordyn Rosenthal expressed strong opposition to Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz’s decision to charge Jabez Chakraborty. She shared her view that Jabez Chakraborty was experiencing a mental health crisis and that police were not requested because the situation was initially a medical transport request. She stated that the police presence escalated the situation and that a full non-police mental health crisis response system, such as B-HEARD, could have prevented the outcome.

00:53:42 Sabine shared that her dog, Neelu, was attacked by other dogs after their handler lost control, and that she was injured while trying to separate them. She stated that Neelu was later euthanized due to internal bleeding. She also said they have limited legal ways to pursue accountability beyond Small Claims Court, called for passage of Penny’s Law in the State Legislature, and thanked Council Member Won for arranging meetings with the handler.

00:56:09 **Colin Ryan, of the Department of City Planning (DCP)**, provided the following update:

- The rezoning application for 21-31 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue was certified. A notice will be sent to the Community Board shortly, followed by a referral period.
- Sideya Sherman was appointed by Mayor Mamdani to lead the Department of City Planning.

00:57:15 **Prameet Kumar, Chair of the Land Use Committee, introduced the Walk to a Park initiative.** The Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking approval for a ten-year walk-to-a-park acquisition strategy to purchase potential park sites from willing sellers without requiring a separate ULURP for each property. A full Board vote on the ULURP application is scheduled for the April 9, 2026, Board Meeting.

00:58:40 **Colleen Alderson and Julia Dowling of the Department of Parks and Recreation provided a presentation on the [Neighborhood Walk to a Park initiative](#).** The presentation included an overview of the actions requested, the initiative’s objectives, types of sites, the criteria used to identify sites, and the next steps the application will go through.

- Q&A
- The ten-year period applies only to the acquisition and does not place any restriction on development.

### **Public Comments Following the Walk to the Park Initiative Presentation**

1:21:40 John Zak, of Zack Properties LLC, spoke on behalf of the ownership of 53-20 46<sup>th</sup> Street, stating that the property is not vacant, is actively used for business, and does not support its inclusion for future acquisition.

1:21:40 Zach McHugh, who owns one of the identified properties (Site 29), shared that the site has been transitioned into an enterprise-level EV charging facility, with millions invested. He recommended that Parks consider other sites.

1:24:05 Attendance:

**Board Members Present in Person: 20**

**Board Members Absent: 7**

**Board Present Virtually: 10**

**Board Members Excused: 10**

**Quorum: No**

Since there was no quorum, the Community Board could not vote to approve the February 5, 2026, Board Meeting minutes, the February 12, 2026, Special Meeting minutes, or the 2026 Bylaws. All items were tabled until the April 9, 2026, Board Meeting.

**1:31:26 Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, delivered the Chairperson's Report. He shared the following:**

- He wished those celebrating Ramadan, Holi, Lent, and St. Patrick's Day a happy holiday.
- He also thanked Debbie Markell Kleinert and MaryAnn Gurrado for their service, as they will no longer work in CB2's office and introduced Rafael Nava as the point of contact during the transition period.

1:35:35 Lisa Deller gave a statement as her tenure as a Community Board member comes to a close. She has served on the Community Board since 1998, including as Chairperson.

1:38:45 Sheila Lewandowski gave a statement as her tenure as a Community Board member comes to a close. She held leadership roles including chairing committees and serving on the Executive Committee, and offered recommendations related to Bylaws Committee membership.

**1:43:08 Sheila Lewandowski, Vice Chair of the Bylaws Committee, provided the following update:**

- While bylaws are typically reviewed about every four years, the Board may amend them at any time with a majority vote.
- The proposed bylaws clarify roles, rules, responsibilities, and expectations. They focus on the duties of officers, voting procedures, the role of the District Manager, and expand the responsibilities of the Personnel Committee, including succession planning as part of ongoing operations. The revisions also include the addition of a dissenting opinions addendum.
- The proposed dissenting opinions addendum provides that if at least five Community Board members vote against a motion approved by the Board, they may submit a written dissenting opinion within one week following the final report.
- The proposed bylaws would allow votes for officers to be public. This change is based on a charter interpretation issued during the Bloomberg administration.

Committee member's feedback included discussion about whether ULURP matters should be excluded from the dissenting opinions provision. There was also discussion on language differences between the proposed bylaws and the 2022 bylaws, specifically referencing Article

8, Section 2 (page 4) of the proposed bylaws. They also discussed the possibility of omitting Article 21, Section 8 (page 14) from the proposed bylaws.

**2:09:06 Michael Zoorob, Treasurer, provided the Treasurer's Report. He shared the following:**

- An update on potential uses of the Community Board's remaining funds for the fiscal year, including the possible hiring of a land use consultant.

**2:10:48 Reilly Owens, Chair of the Transportation Committee,** provided the following update:

- A summary of the March 3, 2026, Committee meeting. The meeting minutes are available at the following link: [Transportation Meeting Minutes](#)
- Q&A

**2:29:40 Lauren Springer, Chair of the Health and Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter Committee,** provided the following update:

- A summary of the Committee's February 9, 2026, meeting.
- She noted the usefulness of including links to meeting recordings in the CB2 newsletter to amplify the voices of the Committee.
- The meeting minutes are available at the following link: [Health Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

**There was no update from the Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee.**

**2:31:26 Danielle Brecker, Co-chair of the City Services and Public Safety Committee,** provided the following update:

- A summary of the February 11, 2026, Committee meeting. She noted that the meeting proceeded as scheduled and that several applicants did not appear.

**2:32:11 Prameet Kumar, Chair of the Land Use Committee,** provided the following update:

- A summary of the February 18, 2026, Joint Land Use and Environment Committee meeting.
- The Committee is exploring engagement with a land use zoning consultant to strengthen its technical review capacity.
- Tannia Chavez is the Committee's new Vice Chair.
- The meeting minutes are available at the following link: [Joint Land Use and Environment Meeting Minutes](#)

**2:33:33 Morry Galonoy, Chair of the Small Business and Local Economy Committee,** provided the following update:

- The Committee will hold a meeting on March 24, 2026, at 5:00 PM.
- The Committee is planning to organize a small business fair in the community with several agencies.

2:34:05 **Tannia Chavez, former Chair of the Engagement & Inclusion and Tech Committee,** provided the following update:

- She and other Board members attended the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 1, 2026.
- Lisa Charles is the new Committee Chair.

2:35:21 **Carlos Castell Croke, Chair of the Environment Committee,** provided the following update:

- The Committee held a joint meeting with the Land Use Committee on February 18, 2026.
- The Environment Committee will hold a joint meeting with the Land Use Committee on March 18, 2026.
- The Committee will hold a separate meeting on March 26, 2026.

2:36:37 A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anatole Ashraf.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Rafael Nava

Reviewed / Revised and approved for distribution by

X Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, CB2

X Ryan Smith, Secretary, CB2