



Melinda Katz  
Queens Borough President

## Community Board No. 2

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Denise Keehan-Smith  
Chairwoman

Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager

June 6, 2019

### Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

#### Board Members Present

Czarinna Andres  
Anatole Ashraf  
Sandra Bigitschke  
Osman Chowdhury  
Stephen Cooper  
Warren Davis  
Jake DeGroot  
Lisa Deller  
Sally Frank  
William Garrett  
Rosamond Gianutsos  
Kenneth Greenberg  
Benjamin Guttmann  
Christine Hunter  
Denise Keehan-Smith  
Nancy Kleaver  
Jordan Levine

Dominic Lippolis  
Kristen McGowan  
Taina McShane  
Thomas Mituzas  
Dorothy Morehead  
Patrick Murray  
Tara Niraula  
Clara Oza  
Elliot Park  
Steven Raga  
Regina Shanley  
Lauren Springer  
Karolina Tosi  
Anthony Tudela  
Adrienne Verrilli  
Maria Magdalena Vielma

#### Board Members – Absent

Diane Ballek  
Thalia (Karesia) Batan  
Bessie Cassaro  
Richard Gundlach  
Mohammed Jewel  
Ellen Kang  
Badrin Khan  
Sheila Lewandowski  
Elizabeth McKenna

Patrick O'Brien  
Jeremy Rosenberg  
Norberto Saldana  
Michael Son  
Carol Terrano  
Mary Torres  
Rebecca Trent  
Santiago Vargas

#### Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert  
MaryAnn Gurrado

## **Department of City Planning**

Alexis Wheeler

## **Elected Officials/Representatives**

Kenny Medrano, Representing NYC Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer  
Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Jessica Schabowski, Mayor's Office of Community Affairs Unit  
Greg Mitchell, Representing NYC Council Member Robert Holden  
John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz  
Mark Papish, Representing NY State Assembly Member Brian Barnwell

## **Guests**

Jonathan Miller, Sunnyside Community Services  
Robert Briskin, American Brass  
Richard Lobel, Sheldon Lobel

Ms. Keehan-Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced we are not live streamed for this meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Kenny Medrano, Representing NYC Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer**

Mr. Medrano provided the following update:

- The budget will be closing soon.
- June is Pride Month and there will be a statue to honor transgender women of color; Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson.
- Discussed the MTA Issues with the debris falling on Roosevelt Avenue under the 7 train. They finally have some netting that will protect pedestrians.
- Announced that on June 10, 2019 there will be an MTA Town Hall Meeting at LaGuardia Community College at 6:30 pm.
- Announced the winners for Participatory Budgeting and that the celebration was held on May 9, 2019 and announced Clara Oza and Czarinna Andres were very helpful.
- The winners are listed below:
  - Bus Count Time Clocks
  - Bathroom Renovation at PS 112
  - PS 150 Hydroponic Science Lab
  - Tech upgrades at 5 libraries, Broadway, LIC, Court Square, Sunnyside and Woodside.
  - Tech upgrades for PS 112, PS150 PS 166 and Academy of American Studies
  - Council Member Van Bramer will fund a bonus winner for a bathroom at the Ravenswood Community Center.
- On May 18, 2019, Council Member Van Bramer along with CB 2 honored the late Terri Adams by co-naming the street Terri Mona Adams Way on the corner of 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Vernon Blvd.

Mr. Medrano entertained questions.

## **Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**

Mr. Bonthius provided the following update:

- Announced he has been working in DC with the Congresswoman, however he is back now and will be working out of the Jackson Heights Office.
- Announced that he will be attending regular CB 2 meetings.
- Welcomed all new board members.
- Announced it was Pride Day on Sunday and EID
- Provided a legislative update and announced the Congresswoman had four hearings.
- The Congresswoman took part in Foster Youth Shadow Day.
- The Congresswoman sent a Letter to the Sears CEO urging him to pay workers their earned severance pay.
- Announced the Democrats in the house passed the HR6 American Dream and Promise Act.
- The Congresswoman participated in a housing town hall in the Bronx.
- There will be two town halls coming up:
  - Health Care which will be held on City Island on June 29, 2019
  - Immigration Town hall for July 23, 2019. Details to follow.
- For more information, anyone can sign up for their newsletter and can follow them on all social media.
- The Congresswoman's Office is open for federal assistance. Case workers are available from 9 to 5 at the Jackson Heights Office and for Bronx Residents, there is a case worker working in Parkchester.
- For more information visit their website at [www.Ocasio-Cortez.house.gov](http://www.Ocasio-Cortez.house.gov)

**Jessica Schabowski, Mayor's Office of Community Affairs Unit**

**Greg Mitchell, Representing NYC Council Member Robert Holden**

Mr. Mitchell provided the following update:

- 69-02 Queens Boulevard Project – Announced that Council Member Holden was able to reduce the size of the development, increase the ratio of two bedroom apartments, increase the parking, reduce the size and the density, and got a 476 seat K to 5 public school included as part of this development.
- Announced it is budget time in the Council. Council Member Holden is working hard to deliver a substantive budget and bringing back resources to the district.
- Wished a Happy Father's Day to all the Dads.
- Wished a Happy Summer to all.

**John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz**

Mr. Perricone provided the following update:

- Announced that on June 19, 2019, Pride Month Celebration in Partnership with Council Member Van Bramer and Council Member Dromm at Borough Hall at 5:30 pm. RSVP at [Queensbp.org/rsvp](http://Queensbp.org/rsvp).
- Announced that on June 11, 2019, Philippine Independence Day will be celebrated at Queens Borough Hall at 6:00 pm.

- Announced that on June 23, 2019 the Annual Only in Queens Summer Festival in partnership with Comptroller Scott Springer, NYC Parks and the NYC Parks Foundation. Food at 3:00 pm and the concert begins at 5:00 pm.
- Wished all a great summer.

**Mark Papish, Representing NY State Assembly Member Brian Barnwell**

Mr. Papish provided the following update:

- Announced that on June 21, 2019 there will be an Immigrant Heritage Celebration that will take place at 38-02 61<sup>st</sup> Street from 5 to 7 pm.
- Announced that on July 2, 2019 the Annual Independence Day Reading will take place at 55-19 69<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Provided a legislative update and discussed the housing and rent regulated housing package.

Mr. Papish entertained questions.

**Jonathan Miller, Sunnyside Community Services**

Mr. Miller provided the following update:

- Thanked everyone that came out for the Queens DA Forum that took place at Sunnyside Community Services.
- The SCS will have a Gala on June 17, 2019 and encouraged all to visit the website for more information.
- Announced there is a Pre-K Program for 3 year olds.
- Summer Camps spots are available.

**Michael Mirisola, School Construction Authority – 69-02 Queens Boulevard, Woodside on the Proposed New School**

Mr. Mirisola discussed the Proposed New School at the location of 69-02 Queens Blvd. read the following Notice of Filing:

Thanked all for this opportunity, and thanked Council Member Holden for making this possible. Introduced his colleague Kelly Murphy.

Pursuant to §1731 of the New York City School Construction Authority Act, notice has been filed for the proposed site selection of all or portions of Block 2432 Lots 41, 44 & 50 for the construction of a new, approximately 476-seat primary school facility in community School District No. 24.

The proposed site is located at the corner of 70<sup>th</sup> Street and 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the Woodside section of Queens. The proposed site consists of a school condominium within a planned, new, mixed-use development. The proposed site to be acquired by the New York City School Construction Authority, on behalf of the New York City Department of Education, will be an approximately 7,400 square foot school condominium, with outdoor play, to accommodate the proposed school facility.

The site plan and supplemental materials summarizing the proposed action are available at:

New York City School Construction Authority  
30-30 Thomson Avenue  
Long Island City, New York 11101  
Attention: Steve Lawitts, Executive Vice President

Comments on the proposed action are to be submitted to the New York City School Construction Authority at the above address or by email to [sites@nycsca.org](mailto:sites@nycsca.org) and will be accepted until June 28, 2019.

They are seeking a letter of support from Community Board 2.

Mr. Mirisola entertained questions.

### **Consumer Affairs Applications**

#### **An application for an unenclosed sidewalk café with 15 tables and 30 seats at JAKK LLC /dba The Lowery Bar and Kitchen at 43-02 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Sunnyside.**

The applicant was present at the meeting and provided the following information.

- The establishment closes their sidewalk café at 10:30 pm.
- They do not have loud music.
- The owner and the neighbors have each other's telephone numbers if there are issues
- There have been no issues or complaints.

Ms. Deller stated the Land Use Committee voted unanimously to support the application and CB 2 has not received any complaints concerning the establishment.

#### **An Application for an unenclosed sidewalk café with 12 tables and 48 seats at Center Boulevard Restaurant LLC/dba American Brass at 2-01 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue, LIC.**

The applicant provided the following information:

- Took over Riverview which had an outdoor café for 15 years.
- The applicant provided the actual plan with the real footage of 7 ½ feet.
- There will be 12 tables and 48 seats on Center Blvd.
- They will have the same set up, however will remove the seating/tables at night.

Ms. Deller stated that this went to DCA and it was heard and approved.

#### **BSA – 37 – 98 Railroad Avenue – Calendar No 2017-99-A**

This application is seeking to legalize an existing one-story corrugated building (the "existing building") located at the premises. The existing building complies with all zoning regulations other than the requirement that the site possess adequate frontage on an officially mapped street.

Mr. Lobel provided the following information:

- The applicant is seeking to legalize an existing one-story corrugated metal building that complies with zoning regulations, but requires a General City Law § 36 waiver, as the Premises does not possess frontage on an official mapped street.

- It is located on Railroad Avenue south of Greenpoint Avenue between Newtown Creek and Review Avenue.
- Seeking to legalize a 15,000 corrugated shed.
- Green Asphalt LLC operates a 100% recycled hot mix asphalt business located on the Premises. Green Asphalt operates from 6:00 am to 4:30 pm on Monday through Friday, and is open nights and weekends upon request. Approximately 35 trucks arrive and depart from the premises daily.
- It is in an M3-1 zoning district.
- They have been there since 2010.
- The Fire Department looks at the application because emergency access is important.
- The FDNY wanted additional signage, so a fire truck could come in.
- The shed in this location requires BSA approval. The project is not yet calendared with BSA.

Mr. Lobel entertained questions.

### **Attendance**

Board Members Present	33	Board Members Absent	17	Quorum	Yes
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### **Approval of the May 2, 2019 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes**

Lisa Deller made a motion and it was seconded by Dr. Tara Niraula to approve the May 2, 2019 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes. All were in favor of the motion by a show of hands, with none opposed and 2 abstentions.

### **Chairwoman's Report**

Ms. Keehan-Smith provided the following update:

- Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that as a follow up to last month's meeting, she and Lisa Deller met with Chair of CB1 and the Chair of the CB 1 Land Use Committee, EDC and DCP to discuss the idea of a Waterfront Working Group; similar to what Ms. Deller created in 2016. After review and additional discussions, Ms. Keehan-Smith stated that she and Ms. Deller agreed that we have a good sense of the immediate needs along the waterfront. We will be focusing on Anable Basin and will engage with key stakeholders and determine the best plan to move forward. It is a work in progress and we will provide additional updates soon. Will work through the summer and will keep everyone informed through emails.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that we reviewed the space available at the Santander building. It is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and has multiple rooms. The space is available for approximately 2 years. Known artist/dance groups believe it is cost prohibitive, but we believe there may be other groups that are interested. We are making it public in the hopes another non-profit could benefit from the space. The space is approximately 7,000 square feet. If anyone is interested, please contact CB 2.
- CB 2 received noise complaints about the 24 hour operation of WB Mason on 39-34 43<sup>rd</sup> Street. Residents are hearing trucks backing up at 2am. Please continue to contact 311 so there is a record.

- CB 2 contacted the Department of Buildings. The DOB stated that unless there is a restriction on the C of O regarding operating hours, all occupancies may operate 24/7. Further investigation determined there is no restriction on this C of O. However, DEP has a noise code, and the idling of engine code can be enforced by DEP and/or the NYPD.
  - CB 2 notified 108<sup>th</sup> for enforcement.
  - CB 2 has notified the DEP.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith announced that she attended the 108<sup>th</sup> NCO meeting at Knights of Columbus. Overall crime is down. There is an increase in vehicle break-ins and motorcycles being stolen. Please remind neighbors not to give money to anyone calling them or knocking on their door.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith congratulated Sunnyside Shines on the Taste of Sunnyside on their successful event held on May 21, 2019 at the PC Richards Parking lot.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith announced that she attended the Terri Adams Street renaming on 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Vernon Blvd. Terri was a former CB 2 Board Member.
- Announce the Annual Taste of LIC will take place on June 12, 2019 at the Kaufman Astoria studios 5:30pm-8:30pm.
- Kiwanis Club Flag Day parade will be held on June 8, 2019 beginning at 41<sup>st</sup> Street to 48<sup>th</sup> Street along Greenpoint Avenue. Celebration is at noon at the location of Sabba Park.
- Announced that Fast Forward a Community Conversation with President Andy Byford and MTA NYC transit staff Monday, June 10, 2019 at LaGuardia Community College – mainstage theatre 6:30 pm -8:30 pm.
- Announced that Court Square Civic will host a block party on Crescent Street on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11am-6pm.
- Announced homework for the summer is to review Capital and Expense Budget Priorities which you received electronically.
- There will be a meeting concerning Noonan Playground at the Sunnyside Library to discuss plans for a dog run. Ms. Keehan-Smith invited anyone interested to attend.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith discussed the allocation of funding of \$42,500 to each of the Community Boards. CB 2 utilized the funds to upgrade technology and office equipment, etc.
- Wished everyone a Happy Father's Day, and a Happy and safe July 4<sup>th</sup> and a wonderful safe summer.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith announced the City Services and Public Safety Committee Meeting will be held on June 12, 2019 at 6:30pm.



- Ms. Keehan-Smith announced that on Sunday, June 16, 2019 Sunnyside Artists will be hosting the Sunnyside Artist Fair at Queens of Angels Parish Center from 9:30 to 5:00 pm. All are invited.
- The next Community Board 2 meeting will be held on Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 6:30pm.

### **District Manager's Report**

Ms. Markell Kleinert provided the following update:

- Ms. Markell Kleinert stated that the funding was spent on branding for CB 2 that that the branding items will be used for National Night Out on Crime. Ms. Markell Kleinert reported that we used the money for technology and branding so people would understand what a Community Board is and does.
- The viewing of the Fireworks on July 4<sup>th</sup> will not be in the CB 2 district this year and will be held in Brooklyn.
- Reminded everyone of the Community Leaders Breakfast at the Queens Zoo will be held on Sunday, June 9, 2019 from 8:30am-11:30am.
- Ms. Markell Kleinert reported that she attended the NYCAR – NY Community Airport Roundtable LGA Meeting.
  - There is a Public Scoping Meeting on June 6, 2019 for the EIS on the Air Train Proposal at the LaGuardia Marriott from 6:30-8:30pm.
  - There was a discussion of the Air Space Usage for landing with JFK Runway Usage and Wind Conditions.
  - They discussed paving runway 4- 22. It will be mostly weeknights from 12 Midnight To 5am.
- The Borough President Award Ceremony was cancelled and will be rescheduled.
- CB 2 requested refurbishment of faded pavement markings on Van Dam Street from Review Avenue to Borden Avenue. DOT will replace the signage.
- CB 2 received complaints about the Bismallah Poultry Market located at 37-15 55<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - DOS has visited the location and issued violations and they will revisit the site again.
  - DOH has visited the location. The extermination order was issued on June 4, 2019 and it will be assigned on a DOHMH exterminator's route by the end of this week or early next week. We expect extermination to begin sometime next week at the affected location.
  - DEP will visit the location.
  - Department of NY State Agriculture and Markets have visited the site and issued violations.
- National Night Out on Crime is the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in August 6, 2019.
- Reminded everyone that if they have complaints, please submit to the board office for follow up.



- Reminded everyone to please check the website for updated information. Website [www.nyc.gov/queenscb2](http://www.nyc.gov/queenscb2).
- Wished all a happy and safe July 4 and a safe and happy summer.

### **Department of City Planning**

Ms. Wheeler provided the following update:

- There has been a staffing change at the DCP. Ms. Ayres has moved on from the DCP.
- Ms. Wheeler will be covering for the time being.
- Mana Products Text Amendment was approved by the City Council on May 29, 2019.
- 22-44 Jackson Avenue was referred by the City Planning Commission. This application is for minor modifications. It does not go through a full URLURP.

### **Land Use Committee Meeting**

Ms. Deller provided the following update:

#### **School Construction Authority – 69-02 Queens Boulevard, Woodside on the Proposed New School**

Dorothy Morehead made a motion and it was seconded by Dr. Tara Niruala to support the application. All were in favor by a show of hands with 32 in favor of the motion; none opposed and 1 abstention.

#### **An application for an unenclosed sidewalk café with 15 tables and 30 seats at JAKK LLC /dba The Lowery Bar and Kitchen at 43-02 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Sunnyside.**

Dorothy Morehead made a motion and it was seconded by Nancy Kleaver to not oppose the application. All were in favor with 33 in favor of the motion; none opposed and no abstentions

#### **An Application for an unenclosed sidewalk café with 12 tables and 48 seats at Center Boulevard Restaurant LLC/dba American Brass at 2-01 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue, LIC.**

Dorothy Morehead made a motion and it was seconded to not oppose the application. All were in favor with 33 in favor of the motion; none opposed and no abstentions.

#### **BSA – 37 – 98 Railroad Avenue – Calendar No 2017-99-A**

Christine Hunter made motion and it was seconded by Kenny Greenberg to support the application. All were in favor by a 32 none opposed and no abstentions.

#### **22-44 Jackson Avenue**

Ms. Deller provided an update concerning 22-44 Jackson Avenue.

- Have a special permit to build two towers.
- In this process they made promises for community benefits.

- They cannot get a C of O for their building without having their current plans comply with the plans that were part of the special permit.
- They need this minor modification in order to occupy the building.
- They came to Land Use Committee on May 15, 2019 and they expected to have the application certified on June 3, 2019.
- They presented their modification.
- Working with Department of City Planning to finalize the application with the minor modification. On June 5, 2019 we got a call from Caroline Harris that the application was certified.
- We have not received official notification from City Planning saying they were certified until today and asked to attend the meeting this evening.
- Ms. Deller stated we need to review the application and that we have 45 days.
- This is not a regular ULURP. We need to respond to the DCP on this application.
- Ms. Deller stated that we have invited the applicant to return the Land Use Committee in June.
- There will be hearing on this and it is not yet scheduled at DCP and the community will have an opportunity to testify after the 45 days.
- Ms. Deller stated that they need to fulfill promises around affordable housing.
- There were things we asked for and things they were obligated to do.
- There was a letter they signed that they committed to providing. It is not legally binding but it was an agreement and a promise they made at the time.
- The next Land Use Committee will take place on June 19, 2019 and all are invited to attend.

Stephen Cooper made a motion and was seconded by Kenny Greenberg to have the Executive Committee make a recommendation to the DCP based on the recommendation of the Land Use Committee.

All were in favor by a show of hands the vote was 31 in favor of the motion 2 opposed and no abstentions.

### **Transportation Committee**

Ms. Keehan-Smith provided the following update:

- Attended a meeting with Sheila Lewandowski, DDC and DOT on the 21<sup>st</sup> Street and 51 Avenue Pedestrian Bridge. They continue to work on a solution that is ADA compliant. Currently, their plan includes creating Jersey Barriers along the exit ramp for pedestrians to safely reach their destination.
- Announced all way stop at 57<sup>th</sup> Street and Woodside Avenue event held on May 24, 2019.
- Announced that DOT notified CB 2 that effective July 1, 2019 the daily and monthly rates at the Court Square garage will increase.  
The new daily rate will be \$5.00/1<sup>st</sup> hour and \$2.25 each additional hour. New monthly rate is \$300.00.
- Update on the Hampton Jitney

The Hampton Jitney will have two embarkations on Friday afternoon/evening, and three dis-embarkations; two on Sunday evening and one on Monday morning. CB 2 recommended to use Borden Avenue near 2nd Street for their operations.

- The Committee again reviewed the K Bridge Bike Lane and Pedestrian Path Proposal. The committee voted to move forward with the plans.
- CB2 Continues to request a 4-hour limit to parking meters in the district, especially on Queens Blvd.
- DOT updated and stated 50th Avenue Conversion is scheduled for summer 2019.
- Bike lanes on Skillman/43rd Avenue continue to be a problem. We've had more accidents this year during the same time period than last year. One bicyclist suffered severe injury at 49th Street and Skillman by riding over the speed bump. No vehicle was involved. We flagged that intersection repeatedly as problematic. DOT believes there is no issue. The bicyclist incurred thousands of dollars in injuries and is suing the city.
- DOT stated they currently have no plans for Citibikes to be installed in Sunnyside.
- CB 2 requested speed cushions for Review Avenue and CB 2 requests the 108th Precinct have more enforcement regarding drag racing.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith discussed funding provided by Council Member Van Bramer for netting under the #7 line.

#### **Health and Human Services Committee**

Ms. Kleaver provided the following update:

- Meeting on May 22, 2019 was held to discuss brain storm of topics.
- The Committee would like to discuss the rat issue with the Department of Health and DOS and the Organics Disposal Program.
- Hosting in conjunction with elected officials to do a prescription medication safe disposal event in the fall.
- The next meeting of the Health Committee will take place on June 24, 2019 6 pm at the CB 2 office.

#### **Arts & Cultural Committee**

Mr. Cooper announced there is 7,000 square feet of space available. Contact CB 2 if anyone is interested in taking the space.  
LIC Arts Open was very successful.

#### **Environment Committee**

Dorothy Morehead provided the following update:

- Ms. Morehead discussed the issue of car traffic in the district.
- Public Comments until June 18, 2019 for review the various plans for public transportation and a link to the air train to bypass this community. Ms. Morehead informed everyone to visit the website at: [Lgaaccessseis.com](http://Lgaaccessseis.com) to view the various alternatives
- Newtown Creek Alliance is hosting a meeting on June 20, at 520 Kingsland Avenue, Brooklyn on Accessing information on NYC Environmental Reports on air quality. Ms. Morehead encouraged all to attend this meeting.
- There will be no June Environment Committee meeting.

**Public Comment**

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:  
MA Gurrado

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