



Melinda Katz  
Queens Borough President

## Community Board No. 2

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May 2, 2019

Denise Keehan-Smith  
Chairwoman

Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager

### Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

THIS BOARD MEETING WAS LIVE STREAMED. TO VIEW THE LIVE STREAMING, PLEASE VISIT THE COMMUNITY BOARD 2 QUEENS WEBSITE AT: [WWW.NYC.GOV/QUEENSCB2](http://WWW.NYC.GOV/QUEENSCB2) UNDER THE MEETINGS SECTION, UNDER THE ARCHIVE TAB

#### Board Members Present

Czarinna Andres  
Anatole Ashraf  
Thalia (Karesia) Batan  
Bessie Cassaro  
Osman Chowdhury  
Stephen Cooper  
Warren Davis  
Jake DeGroot  
Rosamond Gianutsos  
Kenneth Greenberg  
Christine Hunter  
Denise Keehan-Smith  
Badrin Khan  
Nancy Kleaver  
Jordan Levine  
Sheila Lewandowski  
Dominic Lippolis

Kristen McGowan  
Taina McShane  
Thomas Mituzas  
Dorothy Morehead  
Patrick Murray  
Nira Niraula  
Clara Oza  
Steven Raga  
Regina Shanley  
Michael Son  
Lauren Springer  
Mary Torres  
Karolina Tosi  
Rebecca Trent  
Anthony Tudela  
Adrienne Verrilli  
Maria Magdalena Vielma

#### Board Members Absent

Diane Ballek  
Sandra Bigitschke  
Lisa Deller  
Sally Frank  
William Garrett  
Richard Gundlach  
Benjamin Guttmann  
Mohammed Jewel

Ellen Kang  
Elizabeth McKenna  
Patrick O'Brien  
Elliot Park  
Jeremy Rosenberg  
Norberto Saldana  
Carol Terrano  
Santiago Vargas

**Community Board 2 Staff**

Debra Markell Kleinert

MaryAnn Gurrado

**Department of City Planning**

Coralie Ayres

**Elected Officials/Representatives**

Honorable Michael Gianaris, New York State Senator and Deputy Majority Leader

Honorable Brian Barnwell, NY State Assembly Member

Michelle Hernandez, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

Leis Hreb, Representing Assembly Member Brian Barnwell's Office

Alex Medina, Mayor's Office of Thrive

Kenny Medrano, Representing NYC Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer

Greg Mitchell, Representing NYC Council Member Robert Holden

Ed Babor, Representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

Ms. Keehan-Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**Guest Speaker – New York State Senator and Deputy Majority Leader Michael Gianaris**

Senator Michael Gianaris provided an update concerning the following:

- Voting Reform, it will be easier to vote now.
- Primaries will take place in June beginning this year.
- Early voting in New York will take place for the first time in November.
- There will be a 9-day period before Election Day when people can vote. Senator Gianaris stated that he is pushing for more voting sites before November.
- Discussed the lease for the Library in Court Square. Their lease was up and there has been an agreement for the Library to stay until March which will provide more time to help them find a new location. It is a very widely used library.
- Discussed that he is pushing for legislation to prohibit the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits at retail pet shops, as these animals come from puppy mills. Want to encourage people to adopt shelter animals and want to work with pet stores to work with shelters.
- Announced that the budget was passed in March, many local groups were funded.
- Discussed the rent laws.
- Discussed the elimination of the MCI Program.
- Discussed Congestion Pricing.
- Discussed the homeless population issue.

- Discussed the issue of affordable housing.

Senator Gianaris entertained questions.

**Michelle Hernandez, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**

Ms. Hernandez provided the following information:

- The Congresswoman's District Office opened in April.
- Held a Breakfast in Lefrak City for the residents there.
- Held a Town Hall in Elmhurst.
- Reported that mail boxes have been upgraded including the two in front of 74<sup>th</sup> Street and 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Launched their new Newsletter.
- Follow them on social media at @repaoc.
- Office is open for constituent services.

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

Mr. Perricone provided the following information:

- Announced the Annual Memorial Day Observance Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at Queens Borough Hall in the Veterans Memorial Garden at 11:00 am with a reception to follow. Please RSVP at: [rsvp.queensbp.org/rsvp](https://rsvp.queensbp.org/rsvp) or call (718) 286-2661.
- Park Clean ups will be taking place and requested that if anyone has any suggestions for locations, to please call: (718) 286-2777.
- The Borough President's Office is seeking interns for the spring and summer session. Please contact Joe Nocerino at: [jnocerino@queens.bp.org](mailto:jnocerino@queens.bp.org).

**Leis Hreb, Representing Assembly Member Brian Barnwell's Office**

Ms. Hreb provided the following information:

- Announced there will be a free Shredding Event on May 4, 2019 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Emerald Isle Immigration Center.
- Announced that there will be a Mammogram event on May 30, 2019 from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm at the Broadway Branch of the Queens Library at 40-20 Broadway.
- Announced that they will be hosting a Department of Finance Enrollment Event. For more information, contact Assembly Member Barnwell's Office.
- Thanked Sunnyside Community Services for hosting their previous event.
- Announced they will be holding a Peanut Butter and Jelly making event for the homeless on Wednesday on May 15, 2019 at 6:30 pm at St. Sebastian's Parish Center. Anyone interested in volunteering can call their office for more information.

**Honorable Brian Barnwell, New York State Assembly Member**

Assembly Member Barnwell provided the following information:

- Discussed the budget process in Albany.
- Discussed that he introduced a Bill to change the budget process on voting.
- Requested volunteers for the reading of the Declaration of Independence which will take place in Maspeth.
- Discussed Bill 5253.
- Discussed the nine bills to fix housing for tenants.
- Discussed the Major Capital Improvement Bill (MCI).
- In response to a question, Assembly Member Barnwell announced that he will provide the information for the AMI numbers for our district.

**Guest Speaker - Alex Medina, Mayors Office, Thrive NYC**

Mr. Medina provided information about Thrive NYC. There will be an event for a Save the Date for a Weekend of Faith. He requested that all reach out to faith leaders in the community informing them about this program. Thrive NYC is a program that helps with problems like depression, anxiety and drug or alcohol misuse. He encouraged all to visit the website for more information at: [www.nyc.gov/thrive](http://www.nyc.gov/thrive) or to call 1-888-NYCWell (1-888-692-9355).

Mr. Medina entertained questions.

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

Mr. Medrano provided the following information:

- Discussed the Participatory Budgeting Program.
- Announced that Beats on Bliss will be taking place and that it is hosted by Sunnyside Shines and has been funded by Council Member Van Bramer.
- There will be outdoor movies in the parks.
- Discussed CASA Funding - Cultural Afterschool Adventures.
- Court Square Library lease has tentatively been extended to March 2020 and there is a search for a permanent home.
- Wildcat Program helps with local clean ups. Reach out to their office if there are any areas in need of clean up.
- Announced the passing of Frank Corrado, a long-time resident of LIC. Council Member Van Bramer presented the possibility of renaming the street in his honor and has presented this proposal to Mr. Corrado's family.
- Provided an update on the waterfront library, tentatively scheduled for the summer. Council Member Van Bramer will be meeting with the Queens Library concerning this issue.
- Provided an update on the James Frawley Street renaming and reported the Council Member's Office is waiting on the family.
- Mr. Medrano announced that if anyone has any concerns, he may be reached at: (718) 383-9566 X 7.

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

Mr. Mitchell provided the following information:

- Announced that the Parks Department has agreed to keep the fence at Little Bush Park at the current height of 7 feet and will not be lowered to 4 feet as was proposed by Parks.
- Thanked the efforts of CB2 and the Wynwoode Gardens Civic Association and the Parks Department for hearing the concerns of the community.
- Spring Festival will take place on May 25, 2019, from 12 pm to 3:00 pm at Principe Park. All are welcome.
- Council Member Holden provides funding for the Wildcat Clean-up Program in the district. If anyone needs an area cleaned, to contact the Council Member's Office.

Ms. Keehan-Smith recognized Ed Babor, representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney.

**Guest Speaker - MTA Queens Bus Network Redesign Overview – Mark Holmes and Lucille Songhai**

Ms. Songhai, Assistant Director of Government and Community Relations introduced her colleague Mark Holmes, Chief Officer of Operations Planning for MTA Bus Company.

Ms. Songhai provided the following information:

- Announced the MTA is engaged in the Queens Bus Network Redesign.
- They will be out having meetings on how to revamp and re-envision what the new bus network will look like.
- Presented two maps that have all the bus lines that run through the district.
- Will be visiting local civic groups to provide workshops and presentations.
- They will be having nine open houses in Queens, beginning on May 13, 2019 6:30 pm at PS 69 and on May 20, 2019 at 6:30 pm at PS112Q.
- Encouraged all to complete the survey at: [www.new.mta.info/queensbusredesign](http://www.new.mta.info/queensbusredesign).

Mr. Holmes provided an overview of the MTA Queens Bus Network Redesign Overview. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Questions were entertained.

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**CONSUMER AFFAIRS APPLICATIONS**

**Application for an Unenclosed sidewalk café with 24 tables and 48 seats at Donato's Pizzeria Restaurant Corp. at 50-22 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Woodside, NY**

The applicant was not present at the meeting.

**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, LLC.**

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

- Acquired the old Riverview Restaurant, and they are redoing the entire place.
- The applicant is seeking the same amount for the outdoor café.
- The applicant stated he wants to have tables and chairs and dividers and everything is movable at night.
- The applicant has lived in the community for 10 years.
- He discussed the traffic patterns in the area and reported he did a lot of research of the area.
- The applicant discussed the dimensions of outdoor café and the seating.
- The hours of operation were discussed.

The applicant entertained questions.

Board members raised concerns about the narrow sidewalk and reported that the area is a heavily trafficked area and that they are concerned about the increase in the population, commuters, the handicapped, baby strollers and people who walk their dogs.

**Attendance**

Board Members Present	34	Board Members Absent	16	Quorum	Yes
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**Approval of the April 4, 2019 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes**

Kenny Greenberg made a motion and it was seconded by Stephen Cooper to approve the April 4, 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 thanked WNET and announced that this is the last night and that we look forward to having them come back as soon as the funding is approved.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith thanked Sunnyside Community Services for allowing CB 2 to hold our meetings in their space.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith announced that the Department of City Planning has reached out to CB 2 to request the formation of another Waterfront Working group. The purpose of the group will be to look at the waterfront development and for a comprehensive plan. CB 2 will lead the charge and CB 1 will be included. The meeting will take place on May 6, 2019. Ms. Keehan-Smith stated that we want it to be thoroughly reviewed and to work in the best interest of our community.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that Stephen Cooper had a conversation with Tavros Capital and the people at Santander bank have 6,000 square feet of space that they are willing to make available for Arts and Culture groups. Ms. Keehan-Smith will be meeting to discuss this and stated that our



goal is to make it open to everyone. Ms. Keehan-Smith attended the Arts and Culture Meeting and spoke to the artists and she would like to go through an open process.

- Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that Sheila Lewandowski participated in a meeting with DOT to walk over the Kosciuszko to look at the new bike lane and pedestrian path. Will be meeting with DOT on May 8, 2019.
- Thanked Lisa Deller for representing CB 2 at the Press conference for the Court Square Library. She has been a strong advocate for libraries and affordable housing.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that she met with the new board members and reviewed committee assignments. Ms. Keehan-Smith stated it was nice to meet everyone and looks forward to working with everyone and wished all congratulations.
- Announced that on April 5, 2019, TF Cornerstone broke ground at Hunters Point South, Parcel C and F.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that she chaired the public meeting for the DOT proposal on the street seats which will be at the location of 43-13 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The meeting was held on Tuesday, April 30, 2019. The maintenance partner will take responsibility for it.
- Announced that Little Bush Park will be retaining the height of the wall.
- Announced that LIC Springs will take place on Saturday, May 11, 2019 on Vernon Blvd between 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 12-5pm.
- Announced the Taste of Sunnyside will be held on May 21, 2019 at 6-9pm at the PC Richard's Parking lot at 50-02 Queens Blvd, Woodside.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith requested that Sunnyside Yards will have an info session at the Big Six Towers on May 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm.
- Announced the Memorial Day event at John Vincent Daniels Square will be held on Monday, May 27, 2019 at 11:00am.
- Announced the Memorial Day Parade to honor our Veterans will be held on Monday, May 27, 2019 at 11:00am at St. Sebastian's school yard on the corner of Woodside Avenue and 57<sup>th</sup> street.
- Announced the Annual Taste of LIC will be held on June 12, 2019 at the Kaufman Astoria Studios at 5:30pm-8:30pm.
- Announced the 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 Sabba Park.

- Announced that the Borough President Award Ceremony will be held on June 25, 2019 at 5pm at the Borough Hall Atrium.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith thanked the newly and reappointed CB2 members for attending the Swearing in Ceremony and Training Seminar.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith reminded everyone of the following:
  - Ask the chair if you're not sure about something.
  - Advise the board if you have a conflict of interest regarding a vote.
  - Do not abstain from a vote unless you truly have a conflict.
  - Do not represent CB2 to the press unless authorized to do so by the chair.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day and a Happy Memorial Day and a big thank you to all our Veterans for their service to our country.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith announced the Greenpoint Avenue Sunnyside Community Services Street Fair will take place on May 26, 2019.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith announced the LIC Post 5K Run will take place on June 1, 2019 at 8:30 at Hunters Point South Park.
- The next Community Board 2 Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 6:30pm

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

Ms. Markell Kleinert provided the following update:

- Thanked WNET for all their hard work on the live streaming. We look forward to be funded next year.
- Announced that the agenda was posted to Facebook and that she reposted our live feed
- Reminded everyone that if they have complaints, please submit to the board office for follow up.
- Ms. Markell Kleinert wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day and a Happy Memorial Day and thanked our Veterans for their service to our country.

#### **Department of City Planning**

Ms. Ayres provided the following update:

- DCP released a set of preliminary recommendations for Zoning for Coastal Flood Resiliency.
- All were encouraged to visit the Department of City Planning website.
- Provided an update on the Mana Products Text Amendment.
- Provided an update on the Court Square Block 3 Text Amendment.
- Waterfront Working Group boundaries not established yet.

#### **Education Sub-Committee**

Ms. Kleaver provided the following update:

- Request City Planning and the DOE to provide a better understanding of enrollment.



- Looking for ways to plan for community voices from PS 150 and PS 11 to give input on the Barnett Avenue naming and commemorating the historic nature of the space. They would also like to give the superintendent ideas for programming.

### **Transportation Committee**

Ms. Lewandowski provided the following update:

- Provided an update on the Street Seat Proposal on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Vorea is the property partner and they will take care of the location and put the furniture away at night. A public meeting was held at the Local. Everyone supported the project. There will be no loss of parking.

Stephen Cooper made a motion and it was seconded by Rebecca Trent to approve the DOT Street Seat proposal. All were in favor of the proposal with none opposed and no abstentions.

- Ms. Lewandowski reported she did a walk through with DOT on the Kosciuszko Bridge Bike Path and Pedestrian Walkway. There is an area of concern under the overpass, narrow sidewalk. Presented some suggestions.
- The following locations were approved for speed humps: 65<sup>th</sup> Street between 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 59<sup>th</sup> Street between Queens Boulevard and 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 59<sup>th</sup> Street between 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Confirmed that the one-way conversion of 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue will happen this summer.
- Will continue to follow up on changing 12 - 14 hour meters to 4 hour meters in the Sunnyside and LIC areas.
- Provided an update on the Blissville walk through markings on the road along the Greenpoint Avenue Bridge. This will take place late spring or early summer.
- New York State approved renewal and expansion of the speed cameras around schools.
- Encouraged all to send suggestions to the CB 2 Office.
- Provided an update on the Sunnyside Yards Transportation Workshop.

Dorothy Morehead requested a Stop sign on 57<sup>th</sup> Street and Woodside Avenue near St. Sebastian's and has gathered petitions.

Thomas Mituzas requested enforcement on Review Avenue, as drag racing has returned there.

### **Land Use Committee**

**Application for an Unenclosed sidewalk café with 24 tables and 48 seats at Donato's Pizzeria Restaurant Corp. at 50-22 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Woodside, NY**

Dorothy Morehead made a motion and it was seconded by Nancy Kleaver to approve the application. The vote was 34 in favor none opposed and no abstentions.

**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.**

Rebecca Trent made a motion and it was seconded by Kenny Greenberg to table the vote on the application until Land Use Committee can review the application. The vote was 30 in favor of the motion to oppose with 4 opposed and no abstentions.

**Arts & Cultural Committee**

Mr. Cooper provided the following update:

- Queens Council on the Arts attended the Arts & Cultural Committee Meeting.
- The next meeting of the Arts & Cultural Committee will take place on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs will be in attendance.
- Announced that the LIC Arts Open will take place on May 15, 2019 LIC Arts Open. There will be many exhibitions.
- Mr. Cooper reported they are planning a forum at LaGuardia Community College in the future.

**City Services & Public Safety Committee**

Ms. Keehan-Smith announced the City Services & Public Safety Committee Meeting will take place on May 21, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

**Environment Committee**

Ms. Morehead announced there will be a Waterfront Alliance Annual Conference which will take place on May 7, 2019 on the Hornblower at Chelsea Piers from 9 to 5pm, tickets are still available.

**Health & Human Services**

Ms. Keehan-Smith announced the meeting will take place on May 22, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

**Public Comment**

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The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

Attachment #1 Fast Forward Queens Bus Network Redesign

05022019CB2MM