



Melinda Katz
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

www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Denise Keehan-Smith
Chairwoman

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

September 5, 2019

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present

Anatole Ashraf
Bessie Cassaro
Osman Chowdhury
Stephen Cooper
Warren Davis
Jake DeGroot
Lisa Deller
Sally Frank
William Garrett
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos
Kenneth Greenberg
Benjamin Guttmann
Mohammed Jewel
Denise Keehan-Smith
Badrun Khan
Nancy Kleaver
Jordan Levine
Sheila Lewandowski

Kristen McGowan
Taina McShane
Thomas Mituzas
Dorothy Morehead
Patrick Murray
Dr. Tara Niraula
Clara Oza
Elliot Park
Steven Raga
Norberto Saldana
Regina Shanley
Lauren Springer
Carol Terrano
Mary Torres
Karolina Tosi
Rebecca Trent
Adrienne Verrilli
Maria Magdalena Vielma

Board Members Absent

Czarinna Andres
Diane Ballek
Sandra Bigitschke
Richard Gundlach
Christine Hunter
Ellen Kang
Dominic Lippolis

Elizabeth McKenna
Patrick O'Brien
Jeremy Rosenberg
Michael Son
Anthony Tudela
Santiago Vargas

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager
MaryAnn Gurrado

Department of City Planning

Alexis Wheeler

Elected Officials/Representatives

Honorable Brian Barnwell, New York State Assembly Member
John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

Kenny Medrano, Representing NYC Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer
Elaine Fan, Representing New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer
Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Mark Papish, Representing NY State Assembly Member Brian Barnwell

Guests

Judy Zangwill, Sunnyside Community Services

Ms. Keehan-Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Keehan-Smith welcomed the following individuals:

Honorable Brian Barnwell, New York State Assembly Member

Assembly Member Barnwell provided the following update:

- His office will be focusing on the issue of affordable housing. They have made progress but there is still more to do.
- His office sponsors mammogram services, sock, coat, toy and school supply drives.
- Announced that on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at St. Sebastian 's Parish Center, volunteers make sandwiches for the needy. Anyone interested in volunteering is welcome to attend at 7pm.
- Assembly Member Barnwell informed everyone to contact his office with any issues or concerns.

John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

Mr. Perricone provided the following update:

- Announced that Borough President Melinda Katz looks forward to a new year working with Community Board 2.
- Announced that September is Senior Appreciation Month. There will be a celebration with seniors at the Helen Marshal Cultural Center on September 24, 2019 from 10 to 2 pm. This is event is open to the public. More information is on the website at: www.queensbp.org.
- Announced that an Aviation Job Fair was held on August 14, 2019. It was a great success and 900 people attended.

- Announced that the Annual Back to School Project Back Pack for needy children was a success. Donations will be distributed to homeless children across the city.

Kenny Medrano, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer

Mr. Medrano provided the following update:

- Announced that Council Member Van Bramer will be holding a Street Co-naming to honor the late Gertrude McDonald former CB 2 Board Member. The Co-naming of *Gertrude McDonald Way* will be on the north east corner of Queens Boulevard and 39th Street, Saturday, September 7, 2019 at 1:00 pm.
- Announced the budget passed in June. Council Member Van Bramer was proud to have worked with the City Council and secured \$564 million for the city's public libraries.
- Announced that \$385 million in new funding was allocated for public libraries and cultural organizations.
- \$200,000 was secured for Woodside on the Move for vital programs for youth, housing assistance and tenant advocacy.
- \$400,000 was secured for Sunnyside Community Services for various initiatives including after school programs and senior services.
- Announced Council Member Van Bramer will be holding the 10th Annual Back to School Drive. His office will be collecting until September 6, 2019.
- Announced that the Hunters Point Library will be holding a grand opening on September 24, 2019. The Council Member has allocated \$10 million for this project.

Elaine Fan, Representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Mr. Bonthius provided the following update:

- Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez is finishing up the summer recess this week and will be going into session next week.
- Their team has been moving forward with top legislative priorities.
- Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez is proud to be a lead sponsor in the Fair Chance at Housing Act.
- Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez is paying close attention to the issue of gun violence. She has co-sponsored legislation on this issue.
- Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez has been active in the past few weeks attending town halls on immigration and visits to community events and meetings.
- Announced the Congresswoman's Office sent out their summer newsletter and anyone interested can sign up to receive it.
- The Congresswoman's office assists with federal issues and case workers are available from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- Discussed the metrics of their first 200 days in office
- Reported that their office opened 447 cases and closed upward of 313 of them.

Mr. Bonthius entertained questions.

Judy Zangwill, Executive Director, Sunnyside Community Services

Ms. Zangwill provided the following update:

- Announced Sunnyside Community Services offers Pre-K for 3 to 4-year-old children. There are slots still available. Visit their website for more information.
- Middle School and After School Program for 6, 7 and 8 graders are available.
- Announced the 5th Annual Sunnyside Post Mile will take place on Saturday, October 5, 2019. Proceeds go to Sunnyside Community Services.

Captain Michael Gibbs, Commanding Officer, 108th Police Precinct.

Captain Gibbs provided the following crime stats report for the 92-day period beginning on June 1, 2019 and ending August 2019.

- Murder 0
- Rape up 3
- Robbery down 2
- Felony Assaults up 13 42 versus 29
- Burglary up 13 43 versus 30
- Grand Larceny up 148 35 from 113
- Grand Larceny Auto up 7 39 versus 32

Captain Gibbs reported that for the year 2019, the 108th Police Precinct has no recorded homicides. However, this will change in the next few weeks. It was determined by the Medical Examiner's office that an infant was a victim of a homicide and classified as a victim in 2019 even though it happened in 2018. There was a victim of a shooting in 1983 who recently died, and the Medical Examiner made the determination that he prematurely passed away as a result of being shot and robbed in 1983. For statistical purposes, it will be reported in 2019.

Captain Gibbs reported there were 6 rapes, who were known perps to the victim. 5 were apprehended and 1 is outstanding. They expect an apprehension soon.

Announced the 108th has a Special Operations Lieutenant and there has been excellent police work as a result.

There has been an increase in Felony Assaults. He has closed the cases and the perps have been arrested.

There has been an up-tick in burglaries due to one individual who began his crime spree in June. He has been apprehended.

Reported that people are leaving their unattended property in their cars and other locations.

Discussed various scams where people are calling individuals on the telephone and people are falling for these scams. No agency will contact and ask people for money. He encouraged people to just hang up the phone.

Discussed the issue of Grand Larceny Auto where people are stealing mini vans and motorcycles. The Captain informed everyone that motorcycles should be attached to something and cannot be parked on the sidewalk.

Captain Gibbs stated the 108th Police Precinct detectives are working hard and going after career criminals and discussed smart policing. He stated his detectives are doing great work.

Captain Gibbs reported that his officers are working on Quality of Life issues such as loose dogs in parks.

Captain Gibbs discussed the car/bicycle balance where the officers are encouraging cyclists to use the dedicated bike lanes, through measured enforcement and education. They are encouraging cyclists to use safety equipment and bike lanes. The 108th Police Precinct is also doing enforcement for those who block the bike lanes.

Discussed the issue of drag racing on Review Avenue and there will be a meeting to discuss this issue.

Captain Gibbs thanked all who attended National Night Out on Crime.

Captain Gibbs entertained questions.

Attendance Report

Board Members Present	36	Board Members Absent	13	Quorum	Yes
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Ms. Keehan-Smith requested that all observe a moment of silence for the victims and first responders of September 11th.

Approval of the June 6, 2019 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Nancy Kleaver made a motion and it was seconded by Dr. Niruala to approve the June 6, 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 discussed in June she had informed the members that CB 2 would be working on a Waterfront Project. They are looking at Anable Basin to identify what the needs are and possible development requirements. She reported that Lisa Deller started the Waterfront Working Committee in 2016. During the summer, they met with community leaders for about 8 weeks on a weekly basis to discuss areas that they felt were important. These areas are resiliency, sustainability, open space, housing and industrial affordability programs, community services and amenities, transportation and infrastructure. They focused only on Anable Basin although they will be taking a comprehensive look at the entire waterfront going up to CB 1 in the future. Anable Basin is critical now due to recent activities and plans that were made that are no longer coming to fruition.

- Ms. Keehan-Smith announced the names of the attendees that participated in these meetings and they are listed as follows:

Lisa Deller
 Alexis Wheeler
 Liz Lusskin
 Giana Cerbone
 Kenny Greenberg
 Michael Son
 Tom Paino
 Rob Basch
 Judy Zangwill
 Irving Poy

Rep from Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney's Office

Rep from Senator Gianaris's Office

Kenny Medrano from Council Member Van Bramer's Office

Jack Bernatovich from Council Member Van Bramer's Office

- Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that meeting minutes were taken for all these discussions and that Ms. Deller is in the process of compiling the notes. Once finalized, they will be reviewed by the Land Use Committee and then to the full board. It is their plan to come up with recommendations and present them to developers in the future. She will update the board.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith discussed the \$42,000 funding by the City Council to all the Community Boards. She reported that the CB 2 Office spent the previous \$42,000 on technology upgrades for the office, as well as office chairs, and other upgrades. The City Council will be allocating these funds once again. Ms. Keehan-Smith asked the Board if they have any ideas or suggestions on how they'd like to allocate the money.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith reminded everyone of the Street Renaming to honor Gert McDonald on Saturday, September 7, 2019 at 1:00 pm on Queens Boulevard and 39th Street.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith reminded everyone that we are in the process of reviewing the Capital and Expense Budget and that recommendations should be submitted to the Board Office.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith announced the September 24, 2019 Grand Opening of the Hunters Point Library.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith announced that the January 2, 2020 the Community Board 2 Meeting may be a hardship as people may be still on vacation. A motion was made and seconded to move the Community Board 2 Meeting from January 2, 2020 to January 9, 2020. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions. *As an update, CB 2 is unable to obtain space and the Executive Board agreed that the date will remain January 2, 2020.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that she attended the Kiwanis Flag Day Parade on June 8, 2019.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith attended the Kosciusko Bridge grand opening and ribbon cutting with the Governor, elected officials and community leaders.

- CB 2 continues to respond to noise complaints about the 24-hour operation of WB Mason on 39-34 43rd street. Residents are hearing trucks backing up at 2am. She encouraged everyone to please continue to contact 311 so there is a record. CB 2 has met with the representatives from WB Mason and has worked with East Side Access to put quiet sounds on the trucks backing up. WB Mason has been cooperating.
- CB2 has received many complaints concerning filming in Sunnyside and LIC. CB 2 sent a letter To the Mayor's Office of Film Theatre and Broadcasting on the oversaturation of the filming in LIC and the taking of parking that is impacting businesses. CB 2 is waiting for a response.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that a meeting was held with the Executive Committee over the summer. Kenny Greenberg has accepted the position as Chair of the Arts and Culture Committee. She thanked Stephen Cooper for his many years of service as the Chair of Arts and Cultural Committee.
- There is an informational session for the 2019 Charter Commission on September 9, 2019 at Queens Borough Hall at 6:30pm-8:00pm.
- Sunnyside Yards Public Meeting will take place at Aviation High School on September 16, 2019 from 5 to 8 pm.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith thanked Sheila Lewandowski, Tom Mituzas, Debbie Markell Kleinert and MaryAnn Gurrado for their work on Blissville.

District Manager's Report

Ms. Markell Kleinert provided the following update:

- CB 2 attended National Night Out on Crime, on Tuesday, August 6, 2019. There was a great turnout at Andrews Park. CB 2 handed out bags, pens, pins, cups to advise the community of the important work of CB 2. She thanked Captain Gibbs, 108th Officers, NCO Officers, Community Affairs, Council President Diane Ballek for an outstanding partnership with the CB 2 community.
- Ms. Markell Kleinert reminded everyone to remember to thank our front-line heroes on September 11th and every day.
- Department of Sanitation is hosting a community forum on Tuesday September 10th at 7pm at Sunnyside Community Services. Registration is required on their website at: makecompostsunnyside.eventbrite.com.
- We are in hurricane season please remember to have a To Go Bag with you ID, water, medication etc.
- CB 2 will be converting over to a digital phone system within the next few weeks.

- CB2 received many complaints from the Wynoode Gardens community on tree complaints, from 63rd Street, 64th Street, 65 Street, 65th Place and 51st Avenue. CB 2 has submitted these complaints to the Parks Department Forestry Division for pruning and blocked signage.
- CB2 received complaints about the Bismallah Poultry market located at 37-15 55th Street.
 - DOS has visited the location and issued violations they will revisit again.
 - DOH has visited the location and the extermination order was issued in June and DOHMH exterminator's were out to the area.
 - Department of NY State Agriculture and markets have visited the site and issued violations and had the owners wash down the sidewalks and clean the standing water to reduce the odors. They will revisit location.
- Reminded everyone about the Annual CB 2 Halloween Drive. If anyone is interested in donating a bag of candy, they can drop it off at the CB 2 Office through October 23, 2019.
- Attended Noonan Playground Public Scoping meeting in June and they will come to the CB2 Board once they have a design.

Ms. Markell Kleinert thanked the Board Members for the hard work that they do.

Alexis Wheeler, Department of City Planning

Ms. Wheeler provided the following update:

- Announced that during the Spring, a Public Scoping Meeting for Zoning for Coastal Resiliency took place which is a city-wide action that is being undertaken. It will be presented to the Land Use Committee on September 25, 2019. Then it will go to the full board next month.
- There will be Community Board Training which is being coordinated by the Borough President's Office. The date is not finalized however, they are holding October 23 and 24 in the evenings at Boro Hall. The training will cover ULURP, Zoning, District Needs, the Environmental Review Process, and CEQR.
- Ms. Wheeler encouraged all to attend and it will give everyone an opportunity to meet more of the City Planning staff.

Land Use Committee

Ms. Deller provided the following update:

- The next meeting of the Land Use Committee will take place on Wednesday, September 25, 2019.

- During the summer they held meetings to discuss more comprehensive planning on the waterfront.
- They worked on recommendations for the Anable Basin site which encompasses about 5 sites that surround Anable Basin, the city owned land, the EDC site, the Lake Vernon site and the Paragon Paint site.
- Ms. Deller provided an update on the 22-44 Jackson Avenue application. We are not allowed to make reference to 5Pointz. The name belongs to the artists. The applicant provided information at the last minute and the information was incomplete, and the matter dragged on. CB 2 sent a letter requesting that they give CB 2 more time to review the minor modification. They have not withdrawn the application and extended the time period for review and will come back to Land Use. They will come back to the full Board in October. Wolkoff and his team requested the DCP extend the time for review. Ms. Deller stated this is a very controversial project.
- Ms. Deller discussed the co-branding of the Pepsi Sign with Jet Blue. The Land Use Committee voted to send a letter that CB 2 can send to Landmarks that the sign is for an iconic sign and not for other advertising purposes. This matter will go to the Land Use Committee.

Transportation Committee

Sheila Lewandowski provided the following update:

- DOT finally completed the 50th Avenue Conversion. Those who received tickets during the conversion, please write to the CB 2 office as they are allowed another week for a grace period.
- 52nd Street between 43rd Avenue and Queens Boulevard will be getting a speed reducer when resources become available.
- Kosciuszko Bridge Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting took place and opened four years ahead of schedule. The bike lanes and pedestrian lane are open and there is some lack of coordination between the State and City. They are still working on the bike lanes DOT will provide marking crews for a safe connection.
- Announce NYC DOT implemented safety improvements at the intersection of Maspeth Avenue and Rust Street in late August.
- Discussed the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations throughout the City and that there are several sites being evaluated and the city is looking for recommendations for other sites. Visit nyc.gov/charge.
- Attended a meeting for the proposed Cross Harbor Freight Program and provided an update.

Blissville Update

- Marking and peg refurbishment at Van Dam/Greenpoint Review intersection as well as Greenpoint Avenue Bridge will be completed soon.

- DOT has approved a study to evaluate the request for signal timing at intersection of Greenpoint Avenue and Bradley Avenue.
- Conversion of 37th Street to a one-way between Bradley and Review Avenue has been approved.
- Speed cushions along Review and Laurel Hill Boulevard to curtail drag racing has been approved.
- A traffic light has been approved for the corner of Review Avenue and 37th Street.
- Flag pole issue is trying to be resolved with the assistance of CB 2 and DOT.

LIC update:

- 46th Avenue and Jackson Avenue left turn signal was approved by DOT.
- Center Boulevard between 49th and 48th Avenue section that is still with the State and has not been transferred to the City. No improvements can be done until it is transferred.
- 21st Street Bridge is a bridge that goes over the LIE. Ms. Keehan-Smith and Ms. Lewandowski attended a meeting on this issue. Met with property owners, for safety reasons and DOT have added a pedestrian walk way.
- Discussed the Bike Safety Plan.
- Announced the Ice Cream Social event at the new 12th Street Glacier Rock Street Seat being hosted by Vorea on Friday evening. DOT will be doing an advisory and DOT and press will be in attendance and taking candid photos between 5 and 8 pm. All are invited to attend.
- Spoke about the Revel bikes. If they are parked in an illegal spot the person who put it there will be penalized.
- Discussed the issue of all 12-hour meters changed to 4-hour meters. CB 2 has been working on this for a long time and will continue.
- The next Transportation Meeting will be held October 1, 2019.

City Services & Public Safety Committee

Ms. Keehan-Smith announced the next meeting of the City Services & Public Safety Committee will take place on September 12, 2019.

Environment Committee

Dorothy Morehead provided the following update:

- Announced that there will be a Boat Ride next Thursday sponsored by Newtown Creek Group at 5pm and it is a free event. Mitch Waxman is organizing it and if anyone is interested to let Dorothy Morehead know.
- Newtown Creek Alliance having another event called Tidal Toast. It will take place on September 7, 2019 and September 22, 2019. If anyone is interested, they can contact Dorothy Morehead for the information.
- Announced that the Sunnyside Jewish Center is doing a clothing drive for the needy and will be collecting on Sunday, September 8, 2019 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Jewish Center located on 47th Avenue and 41st Street.

Health & Human Services Committee

Nancy Kleaver provided the following update:

- A productive Committee Meeting was held in June.
- Announced that Adrienne Verrilli, CB 2 Member and VP of Communications and Marketing of Planned Parenthood discussed the new health Center in Queens in LIC.
- Ms. Verrilli provided an overview of the newest health center in LIC and the services they provide at Planned Parenthood.
- The Committee may conduct a tour of the facility for the October Health & Human Services Committee Meeting.
- The Committee discussed the safe disposal of medications in the community.
- The next meeting will take place on September 17, 2019 at 6:30 pm.
- Ms. Kleaver stated that Brian Barnwell's office has offered to partner with us to help get the word out once there is a more centralized idea concerning the safe disposal of medications.
- The Health & Human Services Committee is working on collecting information to help Immigrants and Veterans where they can access health care services.

Arts & Cultural Committee

Mr. Greenberg announced the next meeting of the Arts & Cultural Committee will take place on September 10, 2019, 6 pm.

Public Comments

Ms. Keehan-Smith announced that speakers must sign up and will be called in turn and that they are allotted 2 minutes of speaking time.

Ms. Keehan-Smith announced the next Community Board 2 meeting will take place on October 3, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado