



Sharon Lee
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Community Board No. 2

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Denise Keehan-Smith
Chairwoman

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

January 2, 2020

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 UNDER THE MEETINGS SECTION, UNDER THE ARCHIVE TAB

Board Members Present

Czarinna Andres
Anatole Ashraf
Thalia (Karesia) Batan
Osman Chowdhury
Warren Davis
Jake DeGroot
Lisa Deller
Sally Frank
William Garrett
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos
Kenneth Greenberg
Benjamin Guttmann
Christine Hunter
Denise Keehan-Smith
Badrin Khan
Nancy Kleaver

Jordan Levine
Kristen McGowan
Taina McShane
Thomas Mituzas
Dorothy Morehead
Patrick Murray
Clara Oza
Steven Raga
Norberto Saldana
Regina Shanley
Lauren Springer
Mary Torres
Rebecca Trent
Anthony Tudela
Adrienne Verilli

Board Members Absent

Diane Ballek
Sandra Bigitschke
Bessie Cassaro
Stephen Cooper
Richard Gundlach
Mohammed Jewel
Ellen Kang
Sheila Lewandowski
Dominic Lippolis

Elizabeth McKenna
Dr. Tara Niraula
Patrick O'Brien
Elliot Park
Michael Son
Carol Terrano
Karolina Tosi
Santiago Vargas
Maria Magdalena Vielma

Community Board 2 Queens Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert

MaryAnn Gurrado

Department of City Planning

Alexis Wheeler

Elected Officials/Representatives

Honorable Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

Jack Bernatovicz, Representing NYC Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer

John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

Jessica Schabowski, Representing the Community Affairs Unit, Mayor's Office

Elaine Fan, Representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

Victoria Leahy, Representing NY State Assembly Member Brian Barnwell

Sabine French, Representing NYC Public Advocate

Guests

Monica Guzman, Sunnyside Community Services

Denise Keehan-Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced we are being live streamed tonight.

Ms. Keehan-Smith reminded all attendees of the following:

- Speakers must sign up and will be called in turn. She announced that you are allotted (2) two minutes of speaking time and will be required to stop speaking at the end of that time.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith stated there will be a public meeting where we have been asked by the developers from the LIC waterfront area to speak about open space and resiliency issues that we are facing in the area and the plans to address them.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Keehan-Smith welcomed Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney.

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

Congresswoman Maloney provided the following update:

- Thanked Chairwoman Denise Keehan-Smith and stated she is delighted to be at the CB 2 Meeting this evening.
- Discussed the waterfront site and stated this is an extraordinary opportunity to develop this site with parks, schools and other amenities.
- Congresswoman Maloney stated that she believes public land should be used for a public purpose and public use and that we should take public land and turn it into a park, as this is an opportunity to preserve it.

- Congresswoman Maloney reported that NY State does not have one federal park. If the community wants a federal park, the Congresswoman stated she would be willing to help to work with the Community. Congresswoman Maloney stated this is the fastest growing community in the country and that we need to address the infrastructure issues. The area is the most underserved in terms of green space.
- Discussed the LIRR East Side Queens Connector. This is an \$8 billion-dollar plan and there is no stop in Queens and now is the opportunity to build a stop while they are building the connector. Congresswoman Maloney said this is something we should get behind with a board resolution.
- Congresswoman Maloney discussed some of her accomplishments and Bills:
 - ✓ The building of the 63rd Street Tunnel Connector, and the new Kosciuszko Bridge
 - ✓ The superfund site for Newtown Creek.
 - ✓ \$25 million dollars funding that she secured for the Dutch Kills Park.
 - ✓ Bill, she introduced called the Debbie Smith Bill which was passed.
 - ✓ Paid Parental Leave for the birth of a child.
 - ✓ TRIA Bill, Terrorism Risk Insurance Plan.
- She discussed a press conference she attended with the NY Delegation concerning security grants for religious institutions.
- Congresswoman Maloney discussed her landmark legislation for the 9/11 Health and Compensation Bill that was passed.
- Congresswoman Maloney announced that Ernie Brooks and Victor Montisenos, member of her staff who are available to help answer any questions and that she is just a phone call away.
- Announced she was appointed to the Oversight Reform Committee and discussed the impeachment process.

Congresswoman Maloney entertained questions.

Jack Bernatovicz, Representing NYC Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer

Mr. Bernatovich provided the following update:

- Wished all a Happy New Year.
- Announced the Council Member's Office is still accepting donations towards their Annual Holiday Food Drive.
- Reported that Council Member Van Bramer toured the worst apartments in NYC with Public Advocate Jumaane Williams in Woodside, touring spaces that need attention and that he is working to advocate for tenant's rights.
- Council Member Van Bramer held a Cultural Affairs Hearing on the Public Art Selection process.
- Council Member Van Bramer sponsored Intro 1796, a rent control plan that will implement commercial rent stabilization citywide.

John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

Mr. Perricone provided the following information:

- Wished all a Happy New Year.

- Announced that the deadline for CB 2 Applications for both new and renewal applicants is January 31, 2020. The Application can be downloaded from the website at: www.queensbp.org. An original copy must be submitted to the Borough President's office by January 31, 2020.

Jessica Schabowski, Representing the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

Ms. Schabowski provided the following update:

- The Mayor has announced the Special Election for the Queens Borough President's Office will take place on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. Encouraged all Queens residents to participate in the special election.
- In response to the increase in hate crimes and anti-Semitic attacks, the Mayor's Office has increased NYPD Patrols and safety measures. They have put together neighborhood safety coalitions and on a citywide basis will be distributing resources to schools to encourage conversations about religious intolerance, discrimination and how students can promote acceptance, inclusion and diversity in their communities, as well as, a citywide advertising campaign to highlight the city's diversity and respect for all communities.

Elaine Fan, Representing Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office

Ms. Fan provided the following update:

- Announced that on December 30, 2019 the Comptroller sent a letter to Citizenship and Immigration Services at the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) urging the federal agency to not move forward with a proposed 61 percent increase in the citizenship application fee totaling \$1,170. For many immigrant families this fee is unaffordable, and it would pose a financial burden. The Comptroller is urging them to drop the proposal. For more information and to see the entire letter visit the comptroller's website.

Victoria Leahy, Representing Assembly Member Barnwell

Ms. Leahy provided the following update:

- Announced Assembly Member Barnwell was not in attendance as he was sick.
- Their office is offering free legal services. The mobile unit will be in front of their office at 55-19 69th Street, Maspeth. For more information contact their office.
- Continuing the Winter Drive. Coats, gloves, scarves, etc. can be dropped off at the Assembly Member Barnwell's Office.
- Sandwich preparation for the needy will take place at St. Sebastian's Parish Center on January 15, 2020 from 7 to 8 pm.

Sabine French, Representing the NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

Ms. French provided the following update:

- Announced she is the Queens Boro Advocate for the Public Advocate's office.
- The Public Advocate has put together an advocacy group to address the needs of every borough.

Monica Guzman, Sunnyside Community Services

Ms. Guzman provided the following update:

- Announced the Forum for the special election will take place at Sunnyside Community Services and is being hosted by SCS and the Sunnyside Post on January 14, 2020.
- Announced there will be a Pre-K Open House on January 24, 2020.
- Ms. Guzman announced that SCS has a call for volunteers to help the seniors.
- Thanked all those who donated their money and time to help deliver the services that Sunnyside Community Services provides.

Public Meeting – Resiliency and Public Open Space for the LIC Waterfront Presented by your LIC Development Team

Ms. Keehan-Smith welcomed and introduced the following individuals:

- John Barrett, SHOP Architects
- Gena Wirth, SCAP
- Jason Loiselle, SHERWOOD

Ms. Keehan-Smith announced that these individuals are subject matter experts representing the developers that plan to work on the waterfront regarding open space and resiliency.

John Barrett, SHOP Architects

Mr. Barrett introduced the design team and thanked all who attended the December 16, 2019 workshop. He reported that they are working on collecting feedback and compiling it and that they will publish it on their website.

He discussed the projects that his organization has worked on.

Gena Wirth, SCAP Landscape Architecture

Ms. Wirth introduced herself and stated she is the landscape architect and will discuss the open space component. She discussed the projects that her organization has worked on.

Jason Loiselle, SHERWOOD Design Engineers, Resilient Engineers.

Mr. Loiselle discussed the projects his organization has worked on.

Mr. Barrett stated that there are four private developers who were asked by the City to come together to create a cohesive master plan. It is important that everyone works together to come up with a comprehensive plan.

He discussed the boundaries of the site which is bounded by Vernon Blvd on the east, Queens West to the south and the Con Ed site to the north. They are seeking to provide continuous open space so that they could potentially connect in the future of the redevelopment of Con Ed through the site and around Anable Basin down to the Queens West site to the south.

A slide presentation of the working draft followed and more information is on the website at yourLIC.

Public Comment

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Questions were entertained by the team.

Attendance Report

Board Members Present	28	Board Members Absent	21	Quorum	Yes
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Approval of the December 5, 2019 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Lauren Springer noted that there was a discrepancy on page 12 of the December 5, 2019 CB 2 Meeting minutes, under 69-02 Queens Boulevard, the vote should read 25 in favor rather than 28.

Rebecca Trent made a motion and it was seconded by Kenny Greenberg to approve the December 5, 2019 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes with the correction to the CB 2 Meeting Minutes. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and 1 abstention.

Chairwoman's Report

Ms. Keehan-Smith provided the following update

- Ms. Keehan-Smith stated that the yourLIC presentation was important for everyone to know about. She stated the presentation was very thorough.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith clarified a possible misunderstanding that CB 2 will not be voting on this anytime soon. Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that she and Ms. Deller were asked to join by the EDC and DCP to come up with recommendations. As a result of the recommendations they came up with, there are 4-5 specific areas. Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that she and Lisa Deller met with the Waterfront Working Group over the summer and determined that Resiliency and Open Space were the top concerns and that is why we asked them to come to present tonight. There are further discussions that will occur.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith provided an update on the December 10, 2019 budget meeting. The committee voted to change the vote from the November meeting to the first meeting in October so that we have ample time to prepare the statements and what we think is important. Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that we talked about the top district matters such as homelessness and transit. She also reported that CB 2 recently heard that elevators will be installed at the following locations: 33rd Street, 46th Street, Queens Borough Plaza and Court Square. Ms. Keehan-Smith stated that we have asked for elevators at the Vernon and Jackson station.
- Parks will be presenting plans to the Land Use Committee on Noonan Playground within the next month. A dog run has been planned for the park and there is a rumor going around that CB2 is against it. Ms. Keehan-Smith stated this is not true. Parks will be coming up with a plan and we are trying to figure out where it will go. Once confirmed it will be on the agenda.

- The Queens Bus Network Redesign Draft Plan has been published to the project site. The website is: <https://new.mta.info/queensbusredesign>. There will be a test pilot to move the buses to the middle section on Queens Boulevard between 50th and 73rd Street. The bus will have to stop in the middle of the BQE exit and entrance ramps. We have asked the MTA team to come back to present.
- The next Community Board Meeting will be Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 6:30pm CB 2 will be live.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith reminded everyone to please submit their renewal applications.

A board member asked why the same curbs are being done over again on 41st and 44th Street and 43rd Avenue and Skillman Avenue. Ms. Keehan-Smith stated that DDC has been very responsive to any concerns we have and that we will follow up.

A board member discussed problems with the staircase of the #7 Train. He also stated there is a never-ending cycle of opening and closing the staircase. The handrail on the south west corner sticks out approximately 4 to 5 feet. There is a garbage can and a lamp post and it has an approximate three-foot wide corridor. It is a poor design and creates a bottleneck.

A board member request that the MTA be reminded to notify the community ahead of time when it is going to have planned closures.

District Manager's Report

Ms. Markell Kleinert provided the following update:

- The 108th Precinct is continuing to work with Street to Home to help the homeless get shelter. They can only move them in a code blue situation. If they do not want to go to a shelter, they cannot force them.
 - Breaking Ground conducted a joint operation in December with the 108th Precinct. They went to 8 locations and engaged 5 people. No one accepted services. They will be doing another operation in late January.
- Mulch Fest 2020 is at locations within Community Board 2
 - Hunters Point Park street tree care, will take place on Friday, January 10, 2020 from 9:30am to 12noon. The location will be at the LIC Landing event space at 51st Avenue and Center Blvd.
 - Windmuller Park - Lawrence Virgilio Playground street tree care will take place on Saturday, January 11, 2020 from 11:00am to 1:00pm.
- Ms. Markell Kleinert thanked the CB 2 community for a successful toy drive.
- Ms. Markell Kleinert reminded everyone that if you have complaints please submit to the board office for follow up.

- Please check the website for updated information.
 - Website www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Alexis Wheeler, Department of City Planning

Ms. Wheeler provided the following update:

- Queens Boulevard MIH Text Amendment is still in ULURP right now.
- January 21, 2020 the agency is expecting certification by the City Planning Commission on the more update resiliency standards which is the updated Zoning for Coastal Flood Resiliency and will begin ULURP at the end of January. Taking what was made temporary and making it permanent and there are different areas to provide credits and mitigation. There will be another presentation once it is in ULURP.

Land Use Committee Report

Ms. Deller provided the following update:

- The Land Use Committee had a robust conversation about the Noonan Park dog run by advocates in favor of placing the dog run in Noonan Park. We do not have an update but we will have Parks come to the next Land Use Committee Meeting so that we can have a conversation about this.
- There is a Home Depot going in at 59-02 Borden Avenue and that Home Depot will build a self-storage facility there. It will go through the ULURP process. They came to do a presentation at Land Use Committee Meeting.
- Ms. Deller stated that when there are workshops in the community to bring the yourLIC people here to give everyone an opportunity to ask questions.

A board member spoke about the frustration about the absence of important information. Ms. Deller we will still keep advocating for information and continuity. She explained that there are four distinct sites owned by 4 developers. Ms. Deller discussed that the city owned land is the DOT and the DOE building. She stated that she believes public land should be used for a public purpose.

Ms. Deller reported that we have asked the Western Queens Land Trust to attend a future Land Use Committee Meeting.

A discussion followed.

Transportation Committee Report

Ms. Keehan-Smith announced that Ms. Lewandowski was not present this evening and provided the following information:

- The next Transportation Committee Meeting will be held on January 6, 2020.

- The DOT has found feasible additional traffic controls. A traffic signal is approved at 49th Avenue and 69th Street. This is scheduled to be installed by April 2020.
- Ms. Keehan-Smith reported that Ms. Lewandowski took part in a conference call on the BQX and will provide an update at her next Transportation Committee meeting.

Environmental Committee

Ms. Morehead announced she did not have anything new to report and that there will be a January meeting.

Arts & Cultural Committee Report

Mr. Greenberg announced that the next meeting would take place on January 14, 2020 at 6 pm at the CB 2 Office.

City Services & Public Safety Committee

Ms. Keehan-Smith announced the next meeting will take place on January 8, 2020.

Health & Human Services Committee

No report.

Public Comment

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The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado

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