



Sharon Lee
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Lisa Deller
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

November 5, 2020

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced on WebEX

Board Members Present

Amparo Abel-Bey

Czarinna Andres

Anatole Ashraf

Diane Ballek

Thalia (Karesia) Batan

Nicholas Berkowitz

Tannia Chavez

Osman Chowdhury

Warren Davis

Jake DeGroot

Lisa Deller

Sally Frank

Morry Galonoy

William Garrett

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos

Kenneth Greenberg

Benjamin Guttmann

Christine Hunter

Badrun Khan

Jordan Levine

Sheila Lewandowski

Kristen McGowan

Taina McShane

Thomas Mituzas

Dorothy Morehead

Patrick Murray

Patrick O'Brien

Clara Oza

Bianca Ozeri

Elliot Park

Steven Raga

Norberto Saldana

Regina Shanley

Lauren Springer

Mary Torres

Rebecca Trent

Anthony Tudela

John Vaichunas

Adrienne Verrilli

Julie Won

Frank Wu

Board Members Absent

Sandra Bigitschke

Bessie Cassaro

Stephen Cooper

Mohammed Choudhury Jewel

Dominic Lippolis

Carol Terrano

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert

MaryAnn Gurrado

Elected Officials/Representatives

Honorable Brian Barnwell, NY State Assembly Member
Ben Geremia, Representing Council Member Robert Holden
Jack Bernatovicz, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer
Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Victoria Leahy, Representing Assembly Member Brian Barnwell
John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Sharon Lee

Department of City Planning

Teal Delys

Guests

Monica Guzman, Sunnyside Community Services
Ray Webb, LIC Partnership
Charles Yu, LIC Partnership

Ms. Deller welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:47 pm and announced that she stated our goal is to open the meeting next month at 6:00 pm in order that people may begin to log in in order to begin the meeting promptly at 6:30 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Honorable Brian Barnwell, New York State Assembly Member

Assembly Member Barnwell provided the following update:

- Announced his office will be conducting the annual turkey and toy drives. Anyone interested in donating a turkey or needs a turkey or is interested in donating toys may contact his office at (718) 651-318 or email him at barnwell@nyassembly.gov.
- Recently purchased a power washer to clean graffiti in the neighborhood is available for use by constituents.
- Will be back in session in January 2021.
- Wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Jack Bernatovicz, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer

Mr. Bernatovicz provided the following updates:

- Congratulated all those nominated to the CB 2 Executive Board and wished everyone good luck.
- Announced the following Council Member activity updates:
- Staff dropped off 10,000 face masks throughout the district. Thanked everyone who helped to distribute these across the neighborhoods.
- The Council Member continue to support St. Teresa's Food Pantry with additional funding through council funding which helps to feed families across the district.
- The Council Member joined:

- Michael Vaz, and the team at Woodside on the Move announced the funding of nearly \$200,000 to continue to work to protect tenants and advocating for affordable housing funding in Woodside and Western Queens.
- The Newton Creek Alliance at Hunters Point Community School introduction of a new carbon neutral mural.
- Community members in celebrating the 39th Avenue open streets celebration.
- Spooktacular ride from Sunnyside to Queens Bridge.
- Queens Parks Commissioner Dockett and members of CB 2 as they broke ground at Doughboy Plaza. The Council Member allocated \$1.8 million dollars to the Plaza and the Park. Construction is starting now.
- Announced that Hart Playground, has gone through \$7 million for renovations and is nearly complete. They look forward to a future ribbon cutting.
- School Construction for the school in and Sunnyside Gardens, PS 384 has resumed, and construction will continue for those school projects.
- Council voted to extend the Open Restaurants Program to make it an all-year round program.
- Discussed the Open Storefronts Program.
- Announced Council Member Van Bramer has introduced a bill for Open Culture, which would open public spaces for arts and culture.

Mr. Bernatovicz entertained questions.

John Perricone, Representing Queens Borough President Sharon Lee

- Mr. Perricone announced the Queens Borough President will be hosting a Virtual Recruitment Fair which she hosts on a monthly basis. It will take place on November 18, 2020 at 2:00 pm. Anyone interested in attending can RSVP at queensbp.org.
- Mr. Perricone wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Mr. Bonthius provided the following update:

- Announced the Congresswoman will be holding a town hall meeting for NY-14 constituents on Thursday, November 12, at 6:30 pm. Anyone who is interested can watch on You Tube @rep AOC
- Mr. Bonthius invited everyone to sign up for their mailing.
- Announced the House will go back into session on November 16, 2020.
- Reported that at this time, they did not have any updates on a new COVID stimulus package, however they are hopeful discussions will continue in the near future.
- Announced the Congresswoman released a Public Banking Bill.
- Their office continues to assist constituents with federal case work. Anyone in need of assistance can email the Congresswoman's office at Ocasio-Cortez@house.gov or call the office at: (718) 662-5970.

Mr. Bonthius entertained questions.

Ben Geremia, Representing Council Member Robert Holden

Mr. Geremia provided the following update:

- Announced Council Member Holden's office has been physically closed since March 17, 2020; however, the staff is working remotely and are available to take questions and concerns.
- Anyone in need of assistance may contact their office at: (718) 366-3900 or email their office at: district30@council.nyc.gov
- Their office continues to receive calls on issues with unemployment and they have assisted hundreds of constituents since April in getting unemployment benefits and retroactive pay. If anyone is in need of assistance contact their office.
- Announced Council Member Holden reallocated discretionary funds to DOS to restore public waste basket collections and allocated funding to two non-profits Wildcat and Ace to conduct clean ups along commercial strips, shovel snow, revitalize tree pits and remove graffiti. If there are specific conditions with regard to sanitation, please contact their office.
- Council Member Holden met with the new Commissioner of the Department of Sanitation and discussed issues plaguing the city currently. Some of the issues are littering, dumping, the influx of home garbage being dumped in street baskets, illegal postings, sidewalk obstructions and the abundance of RV's and campers parked on residential streets. The Council Member looks forward to working with him to improve the quality of life issues for his constituents.
- Many constituents are still waiting on the City to restore sidewalks that were damaged due to fallen trees from Hurricane Isaias. Council Member Holden has been in touch with Parks and DOT and stay on top of these agencies to get moving on finally fixing the sidewalks.
- Announced Council Member Holden as Chair of the Technology Committee, recently held a joint hearing with the Committee on Small Businesses on how businesses can utilize technology during the pandemic.
- Reported that businesses are struggling and need all the help they can get. During the hearing, Council Member Holden along with others, pressed the administration on why city inspectors are being so heavy-handed when inspecting establishments at a time when businesses are struggling and need all the help they can get. The City needs to do more to educate store owners instead of handing out \$1,000 violations.
- Announced that on November 13, 2020 at 1:00 pm, Council Member Holden will Chair a hearing on ethical invocation of using Artificial Intelligence and automated decision systems. Anyone interested in viewing the hearing can visit www.council.nyc.gov/livestream.
- Announced that on November 15, 2020 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Council Member Holden, Assembly Member Mike Miller and State Senator Joe Addabbo will host a Shredding Event. For more information contact their office.

Mr. Geremia entertained questions.

Monica Guzman, Sunnyside Community Services

Ms. Guzman provided the following update:

- Ms. Guzman stated that on behalf of Sunnyside Community Services, she thanked the community for their support during this difficult time.
- The Senior Center remains closed.

- Staffers are working with seniors remotely with activities and counselling and ensuring they have meals and resources to stay at home.
- Some staff members have returned including at the main site.
- Celebrated the opening of their Pre-K Program and a few openings remain. This is a hybrid model. For more information, visit their website.
- They are part of a coalition of Queens Organizations called COVID Free Queens which is raising awareness of the importance of testing, mask wearing and social distancing.
- Handed out more than 2,000 packages of food, helped 700 students with remote and in person summer programming and distributed 50,000 masks throughout the community.
- They have 1000 front line home health aides that are their frontline hero's.
- SCS continues to be a vital resource. If there is anyone who needs support contact Sunnyside Community Services at: (718) 784-6173 or [visit their website](#).

Ms. Guzman entertained questions.

Attendance

Board Members Present 41 Board Members Absent 6 Quorum: Yes

Approval of the October 1, 2020 Community Board Meeting Minutes.

Sheila Lewandowski made a motion and it was seconded by Lauren Springer to approve the October 1, 2020 CB 2 Meeting Minutes. All were in favor with none opposed and no abstentions.

Chairperson's Report

Ms. Deller provided the following update:

- Announced that she met with the Executive Committee, Committee Chairs and Budget Committee to begin working on the budget process. Ms. Deller reported we have had six meetings to look at what we need to do to put the budget together. There is a new form for the budget process, and it asks for more lengthy narrative statements about our community needs and it enables us to discuss our priorities. Ms. Deller encouraged everyone to visit the [DCP website on NYC Planning Community District profiles](#), [the statement of district needs will be posted on the website](#).
- Ms. Deller spoke about the top three budget requests which are as follows:
 - Land Use Trends
 - Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency
 - Parks, Culture and Other Community Facilities
- Announced that we will accept nominations for the Executive Board as voting will take place this evening.
- Announced the School Construction Authority will restart work on the new building of PS 375 on Parcel F. The anticipated occupancy remains for September 2021. Ms. Deller thanked the parents and the Council Member who pushed for this to happen.
- The Public Hearing for Phipps Project called ["The Barnett" on Barnett Avenue](#) will be virtual and will take place on November 18, 2020 at 6:30pm. The WebEx link information will be sent out

beginning next week. We are separating the public hearing from the full board meeting so as to enable more public comment and not make the board meeting very long. This is a ULURP and it was certified on October 5, 2020 and we have until December 3, 2020 meeting to vote. Ms. Deller announced we will do a mailing and a posting next week and it will be posted to Facebook.

- The Land Use Committee Meeting will be held on November 24, 2020 at 6:00pm.
- Indoor dining has resumed as of September 30th, 2020 to serve customers at a maximum capacity of 25%. press release on website.
- Ms. Deller thanked our Veterans for their service in remembrance of Veterans Day.
- Ms. Deller wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Capital and Expense Budget

Ms. Deller provided the following information:

- Announced that this year the Board continue to make improvements on the Budget Process.
- Thanked all the members who helped with the budget process and for their help in crafting the narrative.
- Ms. Deller stated that she would like to improve the outreach process and that we can get more input from external organizations and not-for-profits. She announced the deadline is October 31, 2020 for submission to enter the priorities into the city system by the CB 2 Office.
- Ms. Deller reported that we have sent around the narrative and the capital and expense items and discussed the list of priorities which is a list categorized by capital and expense items. The first 10 on each list are the most important.

Ms. Deller reviewed the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities, a copy of which is attached (Attachment #1).

Ms. Hunter discussed the language in the first two priorities that deal with the DOE building. Ms. Deller said that we can incorporate this language into the priority.

Capital and Expense Budget Priorities – Capital #1 through #46

Rebecca Trent made a motion and it was seconded by Benjamin Guttmann/Frank Wu to approve Capital and Expense Budget Priorities – Capital Budget. All were in favor of the motion to approve with none opposed and no abstentions.

Capital and Expense Budget Priorities – Expense #1 through #10

Ms. Batan asked why graffiti removal was under NYPD. Ms. Deller stated that we will make the amendment and change it to a more appropriate agency and that we would like it to be under EDC, however, we have to do research to see which agency is more appropriate.

Ms. Trent made a motion to approve the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities – Expense Budget #1-10. All were in favor of the motion to approve with none opposed and no abstentions.

Ms. Deller stated that Expense Priority #24 was a duplicate and should be deleted.

Capital and Expense Budget Priorities – Expense #11 through #37

Ms. Trent made a motion, and it was seconded to approve the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities – Expense Budget without number 24, #11-37. All were in favor of the motion to approve with none opposed and no abstentions.

In response to a comment, Ms. Deller stated that CB 2 has been in dialogue concerning the Community Land Trust.

Community Board 2 By-Laws

Ms. Deller discussed the ratification of the change in the CB 2 By Laws. At the October meeting we voted on an amendment to change the By-laws to accommodate and clarify the Article 6 section called nominations and election of officers. The change was from the language that said clarification of officers shall be held at the regular November meeting of the full board by ballot.

Election of Officers shall be held at the regular November meeting of the full board by written electronic or other forms of ballot. There was overwhelming approval for this vote. Tonight, we are voting to ratify this change and we need 2/3 vote of the members present to ratify the amendment. The By

Ms. Trent made a motion, and it was seconded by Patrick O'Brien to approve the change in the By-Laws. All were in favor of the motion to approve with none opposed and no abstentions.

Mr. DeGroot requested an amendment to the motion. He asked if we can get the By-Laws as a non-scanned document so that the text is searchable and more useable and it would be sent as a more complete PDF with actual usable copy-able text which would make it more accessible for members that are more interested in reading them a bit more closely.

Ms. Deller stated this can be done.

Nominations and Elections

Ms. Deller announced that we would be accepting nominations from the floor and announced the names of the Board Members that were running for the following positions:

Secretary

- Nick Berkowitz
- Norberto Saldana

Treasurer

- Lauren Springer
- Frank Wu

2nd Vice Chairperson

- Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos
- Kenny Greenberg

1st Vice Chairperson

- Sheila Lewandowski

Chairperson

- Lisa Deller

Ms. Deller asked the Board Members if they would like to submit any nominations from the floor. As there were none, Ms. Deller closed the nominations and announced that according to the By-Laws each member running has (2) two minutes to make a personal statement.

The following Board Members read their personal statement:

Secretary

Nick Berkowitz
Norberto Saldana

Treasurer

Lauren Springer
Frank Wu

2nd Vice Chairperson

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos
Kenny Greenberg

1st Vice Chairperson

Sheila Lewandowski

Chairperson

Lisa Deller

Election of Officers:

Secretary

Nick Berkowitz - The vote count was 23 in favor
Norberto Saldana - The vote count was 15 in favor

Nick Berkowitz was elected as Secretary of CB 2

Treasurer

Lauren Springer -The vote count was 15 in favor
Frank Wu – The vote count was 23 in favor

Frank Wu was elected as Treasurer of CB 2

2nd Vice Chairperson

Kenny Greenberg – The vote count was 17 in favor
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos – The vote count was 21 in favor

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos was elected as 2nd Vice Chairperson

1st Vice Chairperson

Sheila Lewandowski was elected as 1st Vice Chairperson

Chairperson

Lisa Deller was elected as Chairperson

Ms. Deller congratulated everyone and thanked everyone who has been an officer on this Community Board and thanked the following individuals:

- Patrick O'Brien
- Diane Ballek
- Norberto Saldano
- Kenny Greenberg
- Lauren Springer

Ms. Deller stated that we will have an orientation for the elected officers soon.

District Manager's Report

Ms. Markell Kleinert provided the following update:

- Borough President Sharon Lee in partnership with CB 2 and other boards has launched a borough-wide coat drive to support families in need as winter approaches. Now through November 13, 2020.
 - Please call the CB 2 office at [\(718\) 533-8773](tel:7185338773) for an appointment to drop off a new coat for someone in need.
 - You may also drop off a new coat to the CB 2 office on Tuesdays between 11-3 or call or email for an appointment to drop off the coat. Please visit the [CB 2 website](#).
- The 108th Precinct Build the Block Program is having a meeting of Sector D (Maspeth, Sunnyside and Woodside) on November 11, 2020 at Woodside Intermediate School I.S. 125 47th Avenue Woodside at 7:00 pm.
- Attended budget consultations and there is more in October. We are hoping to meet with DOE for the first time.

City Planning Report

Teal Delys provided an update on the following:

- [62-04 Roosevelt Avenue](#) will certify in December/January.
- [48-18 Van Dam Street](#)
- [Zoning for Coastal Flood Resiliency](#) will present to the Land Use Committee on November 24, 2020 and to the full board on December 3, 2020.

- Waterfront Planning Workshop will take place on November 10, 2020 4:00 pm to 6 pm and will be virtual.

Ms. Delys entertained questions.

Land Use Committee Report

Ms. Deller provided the following update:

- Phipps is proposing a zoning map amendment and a zoning text amendment to facilitate a new mixed-use development containing affordable housing and community facility space at the property located [50-25 Barnett Avenue](#).
- A public hearing has been scheduled for November 18, 2020. The community will be notified through social media and mailing and we will enable as much public comment as possible.
- [62-04 Roosevelt Avenue](#) will be certified in December or January. The building is taller and has more density and FAR and is much larger than what is there now.
- Land Use Committee Meeting will take place on November 24, 2020 and we will hear the zoning text Amendment for Coastal and Flood Resiliency.

Transportation Committee

Ms. Lewandowski provided the following update:

- DOT continues to look at ways to make open streets more widely used and where it is successful and where there are issues.
- Discussed the bill that Council Member Van Bramer has introduced concerning the [Arts and Cultural Programing in open spaces](#).
- Announced the Transportation Committee Meeting will take place on November 10, 2020.
- Discussed the committee's effort to convert the Queensboro Bridge's outer roadway into a pedestrian thoroughfare.
- Discussed Center Boulevard and 49th Avenue and reported that we have heard from the City that they do own the property and that we are talking about what can they do to make improvements.

Arts & Cultural Committee Report

Mr. Greenberg provided the following update:

- Mr. Greenberg reported that Edjo Wheeler attended the Arts & Cultural Committee meeting and that he spoke about [Culture Lab in LIC](#).
- Announced that Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer will be guest speaker at the next Arts & Cultural Committee Meeting on November 17, 2020 at 6:30 pm.
- Thanked Board Member Anatol Ashraf for his assistance with tech tools for the Committee.

Ms. Batan, Co-Chair, Arts & Cultural Committee provided the following update:

- The committee is working to install [Free Little Library Boxes](#), a program to put up and maintain free, freestanding book exchange boxes in the Community District. Ms. Batan is hoping that the committee will install its first such box before the end of this year.
- Announced that she wants to speak to more people about how to get more public art and art installations.
- Discussed the Artist Forum and are working to get a streamlined form for arts and cultural organizations.

City Services & Public Safety Committee

No report

Environment Committee

Ms. Morehead reported the Committee did not have a meeting and the meeting for November has been cancelled as it falls on Thanksgiving.

- Justin Green, [Big Reuse](#), is seeking support from CB 2 to getting back the space under the Queens Borough Bridge for composting.
- Ms. Morehead is requesting that CB 2 send a resolution to support the return of the space under the Queens Borough Bridge for composting.

Rebecca Trent made a motion and it was seconded by Lauren Springer to send a letter of support to DOS and DOT to support the return of the space under the Queens Borough Bridge for composting. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

Health & Human Services and Education

No report.

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos made a motion and it was seconded by Amparo Abel-Bey for a motion to urge the Parks Department to allow local groups particularly Sunnyside Composting on 50th Street and 39th Avenue to use the outer area of the land especially during the pandemic.

Ms. Deller requested this item be tabled until the next meeting.

Public Comment

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado