



FRED R. GUINTA.
CHAIR

DEBRA A. DERRICO
DISTRICT MANAGER

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Community Board 2
BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND

EXECUTIVE SUITES AT THE PARK
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MINUTES
Full Board Monthly Meeting

Date: June 16, 2026

Time: 7:00P.M.

Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Fountain Room, 1100 South Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/live/2FHNEaEw-rU>

Call to Order: Chair Fred Guinta called the Full Board meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the attendance roll call conducted by the Second Vice Chair Rosanne Clift. Upon completion of the roll call, Ms. Clift announced that a quorum was present.

Board Member Attendance Present:

Shawn Abraham
Valerie Aliffi-Maroney
Thomas V. Backis
Rosanne Clift
Dr. Deborah Cognata
Benjamin D'Amato
Roy J. Garlisi
Fred R. Guinta

Gurdev Kang
Michael Lanza
Dr. Allan B. Perel
Leutrim Qoku
Dr. Donna Seminara
Stephen W. Zaderiko
Steven J. Zboinski

Board Members Absent:

Olu A. Ajayi
Igor Baboshkin
Simone DiTrapani
Andrew Guido

Florida Qello
Dr. Ram Raju
Gerard Ruggiero
Joseph Torres

Staff Present:

Debra A. Derrico, District Manager

Representatives of Elected Officials Present:

Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella: Marie Carmody-LaFrancesca
RC District Attorney Michael E. McMahon: Elizabeth Bianco
State Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton: Vincent Lepani
State Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo: Nicholas Robbins
State Assembly Member Michael Tannousis: Andrew Suarato
Council Member David Carr: Jordan Hafizi
Council Member Frank Morano: Jordan Hafizi

Guests Present:

Jennifer Miller: NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (Representative)

Jermaine Williams: NYC Police Department (Ambassador)

Robert Oliveri: Con Edison (Representative)

Jenn Rodriguez: Con Edison (Representative)

Elizabeth Granatelli

Marcia Heinert

Mike Shane

Richard Roius

Leo Heinert

Karina Litvin

Chair Fred Guinta requested a motion to approve the proposed agenda. The motion was made and seconded, and passed unanimously.

Chair Fred Guinta called for a motion to accept the May 19, 2026 Full Board Meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Session Speakers:

Elizabeth Bianco & Karina Litman (Representing District Attorney Michael McMahon): Highlighted the recent top-count convictions of Raymond Wall (child sexual abuse crimes) and Michael Mendes (sentenced to 16 years for violent robberies).

Discussed gun violence awareness provisions in the new state budget targeting "ghost guns" and 3D-printed weapons blueprints.

Announced a "Cash for Guns" Buyback Event: Anonymous and no-questions-asked, taking place on July 11, 2026 (10:00 AM – 4:00 PM) at New Hope Community Church in West Brighton

Jennifer Miller (Representing NYC Department of Parks and Recreation): Announced upcoming community park activities:

Zumba at Midland Beach Splash Plaza (June 20 & 27), Summer Hikes at the Greenbelt Nature Center (June 21 & 27), and Freshwater Fishing at Willowbrook Park (Father's Day).

Highlighted the "Kids in Motion" Drop-in Program running this summer at Schmul Playground and Arrochar Playground.

Noted that city beaches are open daily for swimming (10:00 AM – 6:00 PM). Outdoor mini-pools at MacArthur Park and Old Town Playground will open June 27, 2026 (11:00 AM – 7:00 PM).

Distributed flyers for the "Movies Under the Stars" series, including a screening of *Ronaldo* on June 30 at the Greenbelt Recreation Soccer Field.

Leo Heinert (Skate to Elevate & The Skatepark Project): Advocated for equitable action sports spaces on Staten Island, noting a historic disparity in park renovations and the downgrading of the Ben Soto Skatepark in Midland Beach.

Requested an administrative update on promised shoreline park renovations and formally recommended that NYC Parks incorporate a public indoor skatepark or skate space into upcoming indoor youth sports initiatives.

Deborah Phelps Seola (Community Constituent): Provided a positive update regarding the historical sewer gas odor issue impacting her neighborhood block extended formal thanks to the Community Board, local elected officials (Senator Scarcella-Spanton, Council Member Carr), and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) engineers.

Confirmed that DEP continues to perform diligent weekly monitoring of local gas levels to ensure neighborhood health and peace of mind.

Jordan Hafzi (Representing Council Member Frank Morano): Read a statement on proposed legislation allowing City Council members to directly appoint half of their respective local community board seats. The bill has secured 26 sponsors and a Governmental Operations Committee hearing is scheduled for June 22, 2026. If passed, it will appear as a charter amendment referendum on the November ballot.

Announced a co-hosted America 250 Celebration featuring live music, food vendors, and a fireworks show at 9:00 PM on July 8, 2026, at Conference House Park.

Marie Carmody-La Francesca (Representing Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella): Promoted a community rally scheduled for Saturday, June 20, 2026, at 11:00 AM to protest the proposed Victory Boulevard commercial bus lanes, highlighting concerns over the elimination of over 300 neighborhood parking spots.

Capital Budget: Announced that for the second consecutive year, every single public, intermediate, high school, and special education school (including PS 37) on Staten Island will receive direct capital project funding from the Borough President

Nick Robbins (Representing Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo): Announced the annual Family Fun Day and Back-to-School Giveaway on August 19, 2026 (11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.) at the Staten Island Zoo Carousel. The event features free carousel rides and school supplies provided by Madison Square Garden.

Jermaine Williams (NYPD Borough Ambassador): Announced Harmony Day on July 22, 2026 (10:00 AM – 2:00 PM) at Midland Beach (Lot 9), featuring interactive displays with NYPD specialist units.

Promoted National Night Out Against Crime on August 4, 2026 (4:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.) at Midland Beach.

Andrew Saurato (Representing Assembly Member Michael Tannousis): He announced the 2026 Boardwalk Bash in conjunction with Staten Island University Hospital on June 25, 2026 (10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) at the FDR Boardwalk in South Beach (Rain date: June 26).

Board Officers' Reports:

Chair: Fred R. Guinta: No report.

Treasury Report: Treasurer Roy J. Garlisi reported the Financial Report for the month of May 2026 is complete and accurate. A copy of the report is available for review and is maintained on official record at the Board Office.

Standing Committee Reports:

Traffic & Transportation Committee:

Committee Agenda Item: NYC DOT proposed One-Way Street Conversion Study for Elmhurst Avenue.

Chair Guinta said “Though originally recommended for approval by committee review, subsequent administrative evaluation detailed severe public safety risks. Converting Elmhurst Avenue to a one-way street would sever critical northbound egress to Ocean Terrace for Merrick Avenue residents, trapping them on heavily congested local streets and hindering emergency vehicle access.

Chair Guinta entertained a motion to amend the recommendation from approval to denial. A motion to OPPOSE and DENY the initiation of the NYC DOT Elmhurst Avenue one-way conversion study was made, seconded, and passed. An official opposition letter will be delivered to the NYC DOT.

Environmental & Parks Committee: (Steve Zaderiko):

Stephen Zaderiko reported that the Environmental Protection and Parks Committees convened on June 15, 2026 for the review of the following projects:

Item #1: (Dongan Playground Addition): Review of NYC Parks' Phase II active recreation plan for the Mason Avenue site. The project includes several new recreational features designed to improve the playground and expand opportunities for community use, including a small running track, a climbing wall, and additional basketball courts.

Item #2: (Willowbrook Park Sports Complex): Review of a long-term property lease on the abandoned Eaton Place tennis courts to construct an indoor air dome (bubble). The project consists of a proposed \$6 million privately funded indoor sports facility that would replace the long-abandoned tennis courts currently located within Willowbrook Park. The facility is intended to provide expanded recreational opportunities for the community and would include space for pickleball, tennis, gymnastics and other athletic activities. The board requested an evaluation of a pedestrian entrance on Richmond Avenue to ease localized parking issues on Eaton Place.

A motion to send official letters of support for both the Dongan Playground renovation and the Willowbrook Park Sports Complex project was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Elections of Officers: Chaired by Stephen Zaderiko in the absence of Florida Quello, Nominating Committee Chair.

Chair:

Dr. Raju withdrew his name from consideration for the position of Board Chair due to a conflict of interest. A vote was held, and incumbent Fred Guinta was re-elected as Chair of the Board by a unanimous vote.

First Vice Chair:

Shawn Abraham withdrew his name from consideration for the position of First Vice Chair. Incumbent Jerry Ruggiero ran unopposed and was re-elected First Vice Chair by a unanimous vote.

Second Vice Chair:

Roseanne Clift ran unopposed and was re-elected Second Vice Chair by a unanimous vote.

Third Vice Chair:

Ben D'Amato ran unopposed and was re-elected Third Vice Chair by a unanimous vote.

Treasurer:

Roy Garlisi ran unopposed and was re-elected Treasurer by a unanimous vote.

Secretary:

Tom Backis withdrew his name from consideration for the position of Secretary.

Shawn Abraham ran unopposed and was re-elected as Secretary by unanimous vote.

New Business: None.

Old Business: Chair Guinta emphasized a reminder to all appointed members regarding mandatory attendance at committee and full board sessions, requesting timely notifications to the board office if a conflict arises.

Adjournment: Upon a regular motion made, seconded, and passed, the meeting was officially adjourned at approximately 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred R. Guinta

Chair, Community Board 2