



Donovan Richards  
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# Community Board No. 2

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Danielle Brecker  
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

*this was a teleconference zoom meeting*

### Attendees

Laura Shepard, Chair  
Carlos Castell Croke  
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos  
Benjamin Lucas  
Ryan Smith  
Lauren Springer

### Absentee

Chhemang Lama  
Benjamin Lucas  
Frank Wu  
Pearl Brady, Public Member  
Mariana Mogilevich, Public Member

### Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, CB2 District Manager

### Guests

Sue Denis, DEP  
Clare Miflin, Center for Zero Waste Design  
Paul Belec, DEP  
Christine Berthet, CHEKPEDS  
Karen Ellis, DEP, Public Affairs & Communications  
Terrelle, DEP  
Naomi Wolfgang, DEP  
Teal Delys, DEP  
Phil Simmons, Bureau of Analysis Planning  
Christopher Campbell, Hazen - a consultant to DEP  
LaShaun  
Emily Chingay

Laura Shepard, Chair of the CB2 Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Laura Shepard introduced Clare Miflin from the Center for Zero Waste Design.

*“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”*

Clare Miflin of the Center for Zero Waste Design shared a presentation with the committee.

- The power point presentation was called "Put Waste to Work: Vibrant Streetscapes and Open Dining" campaign.
- Clare Miflin stated there is lack of space on the sidewalks due to trash.
- The trash bags bring litter and rats.
- Bags attract litter as people will put trash on top of them.
- Neighborhoods without BIDS have fewer staff for maintenance.
- DSNY will toss the bags into the trucks.
- Waste bags are presently put into corrals for pick up.
- There are bins in some neighborhoods that will hold the waste bags, but these bins take up a lot of space.
- The presentation showed different container options from different countries.
- The presentation showed different solutions for different types of residential and commercial buildings.
- To learn more about the advocacy campaign; Put Waste to Work for Vibrant Streetscapes, Green Jobs and Healthy Neighborhoods, visit [www.putwastetowork.org](http://www.putwastetowork.org) and sign up.
- Discussion took place on the cost of the containers and a hoist on the DSNY trucks.

Laura Shepard introduced Christine Berthet from CB4 in Manhattan to talk about the residential trash container pilot program in Hells Kitchen.

- Christine Berthet is the Executive Director of CHEKPEDS.
- CHEKPEDS is an organization for pedestrian safety and that is how she got involved with the trash on the sidewalk.
- Some neighborhoods have very narrow sidewalks and when the trash is placed on the sidewalk, there is little to no room for the pedestrian.
- CHEKPEDS started working on this trash situation in 2019.
- DSNY expressed an interest and is right now doing a pilot with CHEKPEDS to clear the curb.
- Clear curb pilots are underway for BIDS and commercial buildings.
- Residential pilot is new.
- The container program started November 2022.
- The building staff is in contact with the DSNY project manager through text messages. Buildings are receiving no summonses due to these containers and there has been an increase in bins.
- Building staff and residents are very satisfied with this program and the sidewalks are clean.
- Sanitation would maintain around the containers and clean the inside of the containers.

- Building staff can move the trash quickly from the basement of buildings at any time to the outside container eliminating the rat population.

Laura Shepard introduced Terrelle from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to discuss a new quality testing lab to be located at 24-02 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

- Terrelle talked about moving their testing lab to the new location at 24-02 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue called the Bridge.
- In 2021 DEP came before the Environment Committee to discuss moving their lab to a location on Skillman Avenue. The Skillman Avenue location was not successful.
- Terrelle stated DEP's mission statement and how the labs support the mission statement.
- DEP is seeking to relocate laboratories from its Lefrak City, Wards Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant facilities to 24-02 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue in LIC, Queens.
- Four bureau laboratories would also be housed at this new location.
- These laboratories would be used during the week at daytime.
- Existing facilities cannot support the current functions of the laboratories due to issues that include:
  - insufficient space for existing staff and new equipment
  - insufficient storage space for lab supplies
  - insufficient electrical power
  - aging infrastructure
- 25-20 Borden Avenue LIC is the proposed site for parking facility for approximately 23 cars.
- DEP will be putting electric charges in the parking location as they have an electric fleet.
- DEP is seeking to lease space for move in by November 2024.
- DEP plans to complete ULURP in March 2024.
- All of the 5<sup>th</sup> floor would be used and about half of the 6<sup>th</sup> floor at the new location.
- The other floors are rented by NYCHA and used by them.
- All the windows will be replaced in the building with triple dense windows to make them more efficient.
- Laura Shepard, Chair of the Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee asked if any green infrastructure will be installed in or around the building location citing the lack of green infrastructure at other DEP locations in CB2.
  - Terrelle of DEP answered that this building is on Borden Avenue under the elevated expressway and that they will be entering into this building by lease.
  - DEP will ask if any green infrastructure is feasible at this location.

Laura Shepard, Chair of the Environment, Parks & Recreation Committee tabled the discussion of the CB2Q Climate Action Plan.

### New Business

Laura Shepard, Chair asked the committee for their comments on the trash disposal presentations:

- The committee members liked these presentations and would want to see them in the CB2 district.
- The cost to add containers on city streets was discussed.
- Another suggestion was to ask for the containers on the streets that are narrower and have had rat complaints.
- The container method is the way the community would want to move towards. Streets are already too narrow for people with disabilities and for strollers to go by and when trash is there it's even more difficult.
- It was mentioned that the older complexes that have older chutes have not resolved their trash issues and are more problematic.
- Laura Shepard requested the committee look at language to propose a resolution to be drafted for containerization in the CB2 area.
- The link to the google doc containing the resolution language:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Foy-ItXHH3qTPdHfN6vA-Dx6UrzrFODfhletCb7Sms0/edit?usp=sharing>
- The Environment Committee discussed the language for a proposed resolution for containerization in the CB2 area.
- Laura Shepard, Chair of the Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee made a motion to pass a resolution as stated in the google doc requesting that DSNY and DOT pilot residential trash containers in CB2. Lauren Springer seconded it.
- All of the committee members in attendance were in favor of this motion with one abstention. Laura Shepard stated motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber