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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

February 23rd, 2023

Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

this was a teleconference zoom meeting

Attendees

Laura Shepard, Chair
Chhemang Lama
Benjamin Lucas
Lauren Springer

Absentee

Karla Perez
Frank Wu
Mariana Mogilevich, Public Member

Public Member

Pearl Brady

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, CB2 District Manager

Public Comment

Odette Wilkens, Public Comment - President & General Counsel of Wired Broadband
Theodora Scarato, Public Comment - Executive Director of Environmental HealthTrust
Julie Mardin, Public Comment on Link5G
Sue Peters, Public Comment

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

Odette Wilkens started the meeting with a public comment.

- She spoke about the Link5G towers that are slated for the CB 2 area.
- The towers are 3 stories high.
- 16 towers are slated for the CB2 area.
- The Office of Technology will be installing these towers.
- The deadline to respond in the comment period has passed for 4 but is still open for the other 16 towers until March 4th, 2023.
- The Public Design Commission was to notify the community about these cell towers.

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

- Wired Broadband is recommending disapproval and moratorium on all Link5G cell towers, just as other community board have done, in order to protect the residents of our district.
- They are also requesting from OTI an extension of time to respond.

Theodora Scarato, also spoke about the Link5G cell towers

- This organization sued the FCC about its outdated wireless radiation limits.
- There are many issues concerning the safety of these cell towers.
- The link to other moratoriums visit: <https://ehtrust.org/5g-in-new-york/>
- To read more about the Science on 5G,4G visit: <https://ehtrust.org/science-on-health-risks-of-cell-towers-5g-exposure-small-cell-densification-and-new-wireless-networks/>

Julie Mardin, also following the Link5G cell towers issue.

- She stated how CB1 had a good discussion on this issue and how community and industry get to the core of the problem.
- The area of Bushwick wanted to have live testing done on the areas that already exist with the cell towers.
- The summary of the Queens CB1 meeting <https://newyorkers4wiredtech.com/2023/01/31/queens-community-board-1-special-joint-committee-meeting-on-link5g-poles/>

Sue Peters, also spoke of the Link5G cell towers issue.

- Sue Peters suggested to have the members of the community board listen to the January 25th, 2023 Queens CB1 public presentation on this topic as there was an enormous amount of information and the incredible pushback from other community boards for the installation of these cell towers.

Laura Shepard spoke about the DEP Borden Avenue Pumping Station located at 28-45 Borden Avenue.

- One year ago DEP gave a presentation to this committee and it included plans to build a pumping station on an empty lot close to Newtown Creek with no green infrastructure
- The Committee motioned to send a letter requesting they include green infrastructure as well as utilize the City's Percent for Art Program.
- The Environment Committee was informed that this work has not been started.

Laura Shepard mentioned the Army Corp. of Engineers Study.

- This evening February 23, 2023 there is a town hall on this study in North Brooklyn.
- Laura Shepard shared these two links regarding this study:

- <https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Portals/37/NYNJHATS%20Draft%20Integrated%20Feasibility%20Report%20Tier%201%20EIS.pdf>
- <https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Portals/37/NYNJHATS%20Draft%20Integrated%20Feasibility%20Report%20Tier%201%20EIS.pdf>
- Laura Shepard explained how the Environment, Transportation and Land Use committees are working on feedback for the CB2 formal comments for the March 2nd, 2023 full Board Meeting.
- Army Corp deadline is March 7th, 2023.
- Army Corp presented at the February CB2 full board meeting.
- This is a plan for all of NY Harbor and up the Hudson River and several tributaries. A multi-billion dollar undertaking to protect from storm surges.
- These storm surges will become more frequent as the sea levels rise due to climate change.
- Laura Shepard shared and read with the committee the Land Use comments.
- The Environment Committee had a discussion about these comments.
- One comment that Environment Committee member Benjamin Lucas noted in the chat was: The damage to Gantry and Hunter's point parks ecosystem based solutions to climate change will lock us in further emissions, and reduce locally the water absorption ability of the recent developments of these parks. These artificial wetlands and graded shore are the real solutions to protect NYC and further from the consequences of out of control emissions of CO₂, by increasing local resilience to floods, and capturing CO₂ through photosynthesis, locking CO₂ in the plant material, and finally into the soil/sediments.
- Bulletpoints needed for the Army Corp. of Engineers Study:
 - Language to be more aggressive
 - Concerned that when project is built, everything will be obsolete.
 - Lack of protection for low income areas.
 - Unintended or adverse consequences for other areas, such as what happened in the Bronx.
 - Other places that have dycks and levies.
 - Infrastructure locally that will drive down emissions.

New Business

- Laura Shepard, Committee Chair suggested creating a Climate Action Plan for the community district, similar to one created for NYC Council District 33
<https://www.lincolrestler.nyc/climate>
- More green space is needed in the community.
- Laura Shepard, Chair of the Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee mentioned to the committee to send her an email regarding future requests for presentations.
- The presenters can come from city agencies or non-profits.

- One topic of interest was the lack of tree cover in our district which contributes to the heat island effect.
- Big Reuse is an organization to invite to a future meeting.
- DOT - to discuss the trees on the streets.
- The committee can suggest problem areas to the agencies.
- How do we beautify the parks in our area? So much garbage.
 - 39th Avenue and 58th Street - Food is distributed creating much garbage.
 - 40th Street and Barnett Avenue - construction material left in this area.
Hard for people to walk around.
- Lack of shade in the playgrounds - shade is needed to increase comfort and prevent the metal from getting too hot for children.
- More pools to be built
- Open streets - getting more people to apply for them and manage them.

Every meeting the committee records the levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Today's reading was 419.42 ppm.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kim Waber