



Donovan Richards  
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# Community Board No. 2

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Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

*this was a teleconference zoom meeting*

### Attendees

Laura Shepard, Chair  
Carlos Castell Croke, Vice Chair  
Nellie Afshar  
Lauren Springer  
Benjamin Lucas  
Ryan Smith

### Absentee

Chhemang Lama  
Danielle Brecker  
  
Mariana Mogilevich, Public Member  
Pearl Brady, Public Member

### Community Board 2 Staff

MaryAnn Gurrado

### Guests

Nick Gulotta, Chief of Staff, Council Member Julie Won's Office  
Daniel Abram, New Yorkers for Parks  
David Chuchuca

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

Laura Shepard introduced Nick Gulotta to discuss the green infrastructure/porous pavement pilot in Sunnyside Gardens.

- Nick Gulotta is Councilmember Julie Won's Chief of Staff and reached out to the Environment Committee for a letter of support that the Councilmember's office has been advocating for DEP.
- Nick Gulotta mentioned that the councilmember's office gets a lot of complaints concerning flooding in the district. He talked about one area in Sunnyside Gardens concerning the flooding. The location of Skillman Avenue and 47<sup>th</sup> Street.
- DEP suggested a porous pavement project to help with this issue.
- Porous pavement is suggested when rain gardens cannot be placed in the area and the sidewalk is too narrow.

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

- DEP will be doing an assessment of this area. The assessment should be done this year. The project could take a two to three-year timeline.
- A discussion took place regarding DEP and their awareness of the areas that have flooding issues.
- Porous pavement is a longer-term investment, the city will maintain it and it doesn't take away parking.

Laura Shepard introduced Daniel Abram, New Yorkers for Parks.

- Daniel Abram is the Project Manager for Research and Policy at New Yorkers for Parks. (*presentation is attached*)
- They are the only independent advocacy organization for the parks department.
- Daniel Abram's spoke about supporting the 1% for parks campaign essentially it is asking for 1% of the Mayor's city budget.
- 1% of the City Budget for parks is specifically talking about the expense budget, this funding goes towards maintenance work and all the frontline staff that does that maintenance work.
- NYC spends less on parks than other major cities.
- NYC Parks have 1 gardener for every 114 acres, whereas San Francisco and Chicago have 1 gardener for every 18 acres.
- Daniel Abram, New Yorkers for Parks is looking for a letter of support from the community board.
- They presently have 45 letters of support from community boards.
- A support letter and resolution will be comprised and Laura Shepard made a recommendation to support 1% for Parks for language to go to the full community board.

QSWAB update:

- Benjamin Lucas gave an update on QSWAB.
- Composting was not discussed at QSWAB meeting.
- There was a presentation on waste management at Terminal 4 at JFK.
- There is some composting at the vendor areas.
- Food wastes is kept on site for one month before being transporting to another area.

Laura Shepard and committee had a short discussion on the compost collections and the sites of where there are no longer bins.

Laura Shepard made a motion to make a recommendation to DSNY to expand food scrap collection sites throughout the district. Either by siting more bins in a given zip code or suggesting specific sites that have demonstrated a need. In the letter it should state not only to restore but to increase the composting budget.

Laura Shepard made a motion to recommend that the city go forward with the porous pavement pilot program and equitably expand the program to other areas with a lot of severe flooding.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber