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Morry Galonoy
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

January 27th, 2022

Environment Committee Meeting Minutes

this was a teleconference zoom meeting

Attendees

Frank Wu
Anthony Tudela
Danielle Brecker

Absentee

Morry Galonoy
Dominick Lippolis
Karla Perez
Steven Raga
Laura Shepard
Lauren Springer

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, CB2 District Manager

Guests

Brian Beattie, DSNY
Ignazio Azzara, Chief of Queens West Boro, DSNY
Chris Halfnight, Urban Green Council
Joe Ottomanelli, DSNY

Frank Wu welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Frank Wu presented slides and spoke about the Court Square on-going sanitation issue. Frank Wu mentioned that this is an area in LIC that historically was not meant to be a residential area but a commercial / industrial one. He mentioned certain corridors have been very bad with street litter, especially near the MTA station. Money had been allocated in the past from elected officials for street cleaning these areas. The goal is to have the street sweepers loop around and clean the 21st Street area as well. CB2, a local civic organization and a local council member have all sent a letter of support.

The DOS provided an update. They reported this area was in need of street cleaning and went on to explain the street cleaning regulations are in a state of flux at the moment due to prior administration regulations. Currently in CB2 their street sweeping resources are spread very thin. DOS is hoping the new administration will return to the two days of

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

street cleaning prior to the pandemic until they re-examine the street cleaning procedures, it will be very difficult to add on resources.

Frank Wu mentioned that currently there is a street sweeper on 21 Street and was hoping the sweeper would be able to loop around 23rd Street where the litter has been very bad. Frank Wu mentioned that the sweepers come from the Sunnyside/Woodside area and that there is a 3-hour timeframe. Therefore, if it is a budget concern, Frank Wu mentioned adding it to the Budget priorities for the CB2 area could be a possibility. DOS would be in favor of this additional sweeping, unfortunately they need more time to look into the street sweeping situation as the administration changed and need to see priorities.

Debra Markell Kleinert mentioned that at the District Cabinet Meeting, there was a discussion about possibly doing a one-time clean up in this area with DOS. The representative mentioned that anything is possible, he suggested to doing some hand sweeping. Debra Markell Kleinert mentioned to Chair Wu that it is possible to add this to the capital expense.

DOS stated the current street sweeping happens overnight which means local residents cannot park their cars. Chair Wu recommended having the times changed for the street cleaning. Representative Ignazio Azzara suggested coming back to a future meeting with further updates.

Frank Wu welcomed Chris Halfnight, Director of Policy at an organization called Urban Green Council (UGC) (*information attached*)

- Chris Halfnight spoke about how his organization was very involved with Local Law 154 the so-called gas ban NYC.
- UGC noted they are a 501©3 environmental non-profit. UGC mission is to transform buildings for a sustainable future in NYC and around the world. Basically, working on reducing the carbon footprint of NYC buildings and sharing those lessons from that with other jurisdictions. They perform that with 4 key functions.
 - UGC convenes with Stakeholders, Building professionals, Architects, engineers, and environmental justice groups looking to get a lot of different perspectives around the table.
 - Research & analysis on a lot of buildings carbon data.
 - Policy work looking to city and state policy makers and advocating for environmental policies.
 - Education - a lot of green training for building professionals for architects and engineers and also trade professionals who are working with superintendents, plumbers, electricians, etc. to integrate green practices
- Buildings matter a great deal to the climate.
- Buildings make up about 2/3 of our carbon emissions.

- Some states are moving in the direction of gas bans or all electrical requirements in construction.
- LL 154 applies to new construction prohibiting fossil fuel systems in new buildings starting in 2024.
- Affordable Housing has a longer timeline due to more regulatory hoops to go through.
- Lower-rise buildings will start in 2024 and taller buildings of more than 7 floors will start in 2027.
- Hot water systems in all new construction, except 1-2 single family homes, do not need these requirements until 2027.
- The latest data shows, after incentives are factored in for electric technologies, that it will be not much more expensive.
- Single Family Homes - over a 15-year period it is cheaper to build all electric homes than mixed-use family homes.
- Commercial office buildings are much more electrical ready.
- Residential buildings have a longer way to go for all electrical use especially tall buildings.
- Domestic hot water systems are also a challenge.
- Fossil Fuel Burners to a heat pump, geothermal pumps pull heat from the ground.
- A question was asked regarding residential buildings going electric, does that mean the stove would be electric as opposed to a gas stove? The answer is yes.
- Gas stoves have a lot of negative effects. Methane is released into the air which affects the climate and indoor gas stoves have health implications.
- Induction electric stoves will be used for cooking and will be cost effective when implementing in new buildings.
- A question was asked about electricity cost with all electric? LL154 is building buildings that are efficient in cost and working with codes to keep the utility costs down.
- The electric grid is used more during the summer than the winter which means there is a lot of space and adding electricity demand is making better use of the grid.
- This Local Law 154 just passed. Department of Buildings will be implementing this law. The Urban Green Council will be working with the Department of Buildings to get information out to the public regarding this law.
- Frank Wu had asked about resources regarding this technology. Chris Halfnight mentioned the Building Energy Exchange, which showcases technology and the trade associations for the architects which has lots of focus on sustainability. As well as directing people to the Urban Green Council.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber