



Donovan Richards  
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# Community Board No. 2

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Danielle Brecker  
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

## Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

*this was a teleconference zoom meeting*

### Attendees

Laura Shepard, Chair  
Benjamin Lucas  
Lauren Springer  
Kenny Greenberg

### Absentee

Chhemang Lama  
Karla Perez  
Frank Wu  
Mariana Mogilevich, Public Member  
Pearl Brady, Public Member

### Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, CB2 District Manager

### Guests

Elizabeth Masella, NYC Parks  
Devyn Goldberg, Outreach Associate, Big Reuse  
Anthony Macari, NYC Parks  
Ed Carol, Architect, NYC Parks  
Frank Ottomanelli  
Lisa Goren  
Adam Palasciano  
Diane Hendry  
Tu Nguyen (SRA)

Laura Shepard made an announcement in the beginning of the meeting stating that if anyone was attending this meeting because of the 5G Network, the matter was referred to the Technology & Access Committee and the Environment Committee will not be taking any action. If anyone would like to make a Public Comment, comments will be taken at the of the meeting.

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

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

Laura Shepard introduced Devyn Goldberg, Outreach Associate from Big Reuse.

- Devyn introduced herself from Big Reuse.
- Devyn is the outreach lead for Queens CB2 on the Big Reuse Curbside Compost Outreach Team.
- Curbside Compost is starting again the end of March 2023.
- Devyn's team is involved with compost giveaways and kitchen compost containers at events.
- Devyn's team is working with DSNY on larger 40lb bags of compost giveaways.
- Devyn shared these links: <https://bigreuse.org/blogs/news>
- <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/our-work/composting/community-composting/get-compost>

Laura Shepard introduced Elizabeth Masella, Sr. Public Art Coordinator with NYC Parks to share with the committee some parks updates:

- Elizabeth Masella oversees the public art in the parks in all five boroughs.
- There are 50 to 60 exhibitions citywide.
- As part of this program, artist can exhibit their work for up to one year.
- They are responsible for all aspects of installing their work as well as maintenance.
- Liability insurance is required.
- There is no funding from the city so all projects are self-funded by the artist and organizations that work with the Parks Department.
- A new art-work will be coming to Hunter's Pt. So. Park in July after the fireworks display.
- The title of the piece is called *Compostela Fractal Shell* by Artist Manuel Ferreiro Badia. It is stainless steel and 6ft 8in in height and 4ft 5 in wide.

Laura Shepard introduced Frank Ottomanelli, Hunters Point South Concessionaire to present new designs for the kiosk prior to Public Design Commission (PDC) approval.

- Anthony Macari, Director of Concession Architect and Development to discuss new storage connection extension to the existing kiosk and new signage.
- Ed Carol the Architect spoke about the previous design and new design.
- Frank Ottomanelli's vision is to serve people year-round and to provide catering for events.
- They will keep the current permanent structure and add an additional permanent structure.
- The new signage will read as Frank Ottomanelli's and will be lit during the evening.
- This design will be going to the Public Design Commission for review.

Laura Shepard introduced Lisa Goren who spoke about the LIC Coalition Coastal Resiliency Plan.

- LIC Coalition and Hunters Point Coalition. Two sister group coalitions.
- LIC Coalition was founded in 2016.
- Hunter's Point Coalition was founded in the late 90s.
- LIC Coalition consists of a local group of artists and professionals, business owners mostly long-time residents of LIC who are concerned about the national and local matter of the environment and open space, infrastructure and equitable well-planned development.
- Lisa Goren mentioned the key issues facing LIC:
  - Overdevelopment
  - Lack of open space
  - The waterfront park is overcrowded
  - LIC has one of the lowest ratios of open space in the city.
- She stated parks not only anchor neighborhoods but they are also economic engines.
- One of their goals is to bridge the two sections of Queensbridge Park and the Gantry State Park and Hunter's Pt Park along the waterfront.
- She stated there are issues concerning the LIC parks and that they are located in a flood zone.
- The neighborhoods ancient sewer system which is inadequate to handle the rain.
- The overview of their project with initial funding from Senator Gianaris's office is organizing a community-based planning process that will culminate in a vision plan for an equitable waterfront from Anable Basin to Hunter's Pt North and up to Queensbridge Park.
- The coalitions want to show a positive vision for new development and well-planned growth that's sustainable and relatable.
- A resiliency plan which states how to live with rising waters.
- They want to create a habitat restoration, open space and recreational venues.
- As part of this project, they are planning community events as well as a site walk, workshops, presentations of alternative plans and then a follow-up presentation of a final vision plan.
- They invite the Community Board to stay connected on this project.
- Several organizations and elected officials are involved in this project.
- They are not just interested in the waterfront they are interested in a functional and equitable beautiful neighborhood that will serve all the residents.
- A discussion was held on funding and the need of it.

Laura Shepard had a discussion about the CB2 Climate Action Plan.

- The CB2 Climate Action Plan is a blank state at the moment.
- Laura Shepard started a google document with very broad categories and is asking the Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee to look at it and add their ideas.
- Laura Shepard stated she is open to any ideas or thoughts on this document.

- An example stated was that waste could be broken down into composting, recycling, and landfill.
- There are subcategories under the main categories.
- Laura Shepard wants the committee to be mindful of what the committee can and cannot do.
  - The committee cannot pass legislation.
  - The committee can write letters of support for legislation.
  - The committee can meet with groups in the community.
  - The committee can plan goals.

### New Business

- The Community Board received a letter from the Blissville Civic Association regarding tree coverage in Blissville.
- Laura Shepard stated the CB2 ranks 56 out of 59 regarding tree cover, which is bad.
- Only 9% is covered at all with tree covering.
- The citywide average is 20.4.
- Laura Shepard mentioned that she would like to send a letter to the NYC Parks Department and the Elected Officials insisting on more tree plantings.
- Removing any existing dead trees and filling any tree pits that are empty and identifying any new places to put trees.
- Laura Shepard shared the link of the map that the Newtown Creek Alliance created:  
<https://arem.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=8730dbcd3c9544cb8ba7b9c780a2f824>
- The map should be included in the letter.
- Laura Shepard made a motion to send a letter to the NYC Parks Department and all the Elected Officials representing CB2 requesting tree planting throughout the Community Board 2 district. Lauren Springer seconded it. The resolution was passed unanimously by the committee.
- Laura Shepard made a motion for a letter of support for the changes at Ottomanellis. Lauren Springer seconded it. The resolution was passed unanimously by the committee.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber