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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

September 28th, 2023

Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

this was a teleconference zoom meeting

Attendees

Laura Shepard, Chair
Carlos Castell Croke
Chhemang Lama
Lauren Springer
Benjamin Lucas
Pearl Brady, Public Member

Absentee

Nellie Afshar

Mariana Mogilevich, Public Member

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, CB2 District Manager

Guests

Memo Salazar, Co-Chair Western Queens Community Land Trust
Lisa Goren, LIC Coalition
Willis Elkins

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

There will be a presentation by the Western Queens Community Land Trust. And then a discussion on the Queens Climate Action Plan.

Laura Shepard opened the meeting for public comment. No public comment.

Memo Salazar, Co-Chair of the Western Queens Community Land Trust started the presentation in partnership with Lisa Goren and the LIC Coalition.

- Memo Salazar discussed the Department of Education building on 44th Drive and Vernon Blvd. and talked about climate resiliency on the LIC waterfront.
- Western Queens Community Land Trust and LIC Coalition partner together on initiatives to prepare Western Queens ready for environmental changes.

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

- Western Queens Community Land Trust formed when the Amazon deal fell through and the community wanted the DOE building to remain public.
- Western Queens Community Land Trust found that the building is partially used by the Department of Education and a lot of the space is used for storage.
- The Community Land Trust would like to work with the DOE to utilize the space.
- They would like to move the storage and use the space for the people of Queens.
- In January 2020 the Western Queens Community Land Trust had their first public meeting to announce their ideas.
- They received a grant from Enterprise Community Development to form a feasibility study.
- They were able to hire an architect with the grant money.
- There were many meetings during 2021 and 2022 with community groups and stakeholders inquiring about if you needed space, what kind of space would you need.
- The purpose of Community Land Trust (CLT) is to take the land off the market and turn it into a community run space.
- The CLT would hold the deed but the community would run the space of the building.
- CLTs do exist. The largest one was in the 1990s Cooper Union.
- CLT's fundraise, receive grants, and are eligible for funding from the New York City Council.
- DOE uses the space for meetings, workshops, and storage.
- The DOE building is not zoned for residential.
- LIC Coalition has been partners with the Queens Community Land Trust since the beginning.
- The Queens Community Land Trust is doing outreach with the community as well as the City & State elected officials.
- Lisa Goren of LIC Coalition stated that the LIC Coalition has been working with the Queens Community Land Trust for a long time.
- LIC Coalition has been working on utilizing the DOE Building and the DOT site to make those public buildings and public properties along Hunters Pt Nt. and along the waterfront used for the community.
- LIC Coalition has started a project for a community-based vision plan for this area.
- Lisa Goren stated that she would like to work together on the CB2 Climate Action Plan.
- The Queens Community Land Trust is a very small group. Anyone is welcomed to join the steering committee. Information regarding monthly meetings can be found on their website: www.wqclt.org

Laura Shepard discussed the CB2Q Climate Action Plan with the committee.

- Laura Shepard placed the google document in the chat for the Environment Committee to review for the discussion.
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wnmuRaWz87DyQC9h5qsKVgzb90IV52q4jMCqbERsCHU/edit?usp=sharing>
- Carlos Castell Croke gave a brief overview of the CB2 Climate Action Plan.
 - The document shows an outline of the priorities and how they are related to climate for the CB2 area.
 - These priorities would work as a guide.
 - The document shows a list of goals and actions to reduce emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
 - The focus will be on the district and how these actions affect the district with a highlight on equity and justice.
 - Support city and statewide legislation as it relates to climate change.
 - Carlos Castell Croke read the list of items from the google document that affect climate change.
 - The committee plans to advocate for these priorities by communicating with elected officials, reaching out to the community and through education.
 - This work will be shared with the other committee Chairs.
- Laura Shepard mentioned they want to put together a survey to get community feedback.
- It was suggested to reach out to LaGuardia Community College and the Queens Climate Project for ideas the committee has not thought of.
- Willis Elkins of Newtown Creek Alliance stated he would like to work on this project and include projects involving Newtown Creek and the Dutch Creek Tributary, green infrastructure, and maintenance. He asked if CB2 will include climate action plan priorities in the district needs statement and send letters to various agencies.
- The survey will aid the committee in prioritization of goals.

Old/New Business:

Benjamin Lucas gave a brief report of the QSWAB meeting.

- Acknowledging the new members.
- There are new by-laws.
- Mini presentations were given. One was a group discussing plastic pick ups.
- Another presentation was on organizing community clean-ups.

Laura Shepard mentioned keeping this committee meeting as virtual as it is an advisory meeting. She opened it to the committee. Carlos Castell Croke agreed.

Every meeting the committee records the levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Today's reading was 418.3 ppm.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber