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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

October 18, 2023

Land Use & Housing Committee Meeting Minutes

Land Use & Housing Committee Meeting Members – Present

Christine Hunter, Ann Marie Baranowski, Tannia Chavez, Lisa Deller, Danielle Brecker, Kenneth Greenberg, Diana Kichler, Lauren Springer, Mary Torres

Land Use & Housing Committee Meeting Members – Absent

Karesia Batan, Nicholas Berkowitz, Stephen Cooper, Morry Galonoy, Prameet Kumar

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleiner, District Manager, MaryAnn Gurrado

Elected officials/Representatives

Isaac Blasenstein, Representing Council Member Julie Won

Department of City Planning

Teal Delys, Bri Mejia

Department of Environmental Protection

Robert Olivari, Sue Dennis, Paul Belec, Terrell Estes, Karme Tenzigg

Guests

Chris Campbell, Hazen and Sawyer

Anthony Dow

Christine Hunter, Chair, Land Use and Housing Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

DEP Site Selection & Acquisition – 24-02 49th Avenue

Chris Campbell, Hazen and Sawyer provided a presentation and provided the following information:

- NYC DEP is seeking to relocate testing laboratories from three of its facilities: at Lefrak City Plaza in Queens, Wards Island Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) in Manhattan and Newtown Creek WRRF in Brooklyn, to a proposed site in Queens Community District 2.
- To facilitate the laboratory relocation, DEP and the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) are seeking approval for a site selection and acquisition (PC) land use action.
- Land Use application was certified in September 2023 and is presently in Community Board Review phase.
- Proposed project site is 24-02 49th Avenue, LIC (Block 71, Lot 7501) and is within an M1-4 zoning district.
- 25-20 Borden Avenue, LIC Queens (Block 68, Lot 55) identified as proposed site for DEP fleet vehicle storage facility. Site is within an M3-2 zoning district.
- DEP seeks to lease space for move in by November 2024.
- Proposed Relocated Laboratory Facility – Four DEP bureau laboratories would be housed at the proposed 24-02 49th Avenue location.
- DEP is proposing to lease approximately 157,110 sf within the 5th and 6th floors and the loading dock area at 24-02 49th Avenue for the relocated facility.
- No parking spaces are being proposed for DEP employees' personal cars, only official DEP fleet vehicles.

Christine Hunter invited the applicant to attend the November 2, 2023, CB2 Board Meeting.

Mary Torres made a motion to approve the application and it was seconded by Ann Marie Baranowski with the stipulation that DCP include a discussion of Fair Share in their analysis of the two proposed leases.. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

City of Yes Economic Opportunity Zoning Text Amendment –

Teal Delys reported this will be presented to the Land Use Committee in November and to the Full Board in December.

Dual Street Renaming – Enoch Hawthorne Gregory – 41-30 58th Street, Woodside, NY

Enoch Hawthorne Gregory was one of the first African American Disc Jockeys and Program Directors in history at the radio station WWRL, which was located at 41-30 58th Street.

Anthony Dow provided a presentation and presented numerous petitions.

- Enoch Hawthorne Gregory was a disc jockey and program director in the 1960's and 1970's.
- He organized and scheduled time slots for all other disc jockeys at the radio station and played music throughout NYC. By playing singers' and entertainers' records on the radio station, Enoch helped to create a generation of super stars. He went on to release his own album and single, Soul Heaven, which charted number 8 around the world.
- Mr Dow is seeking to have 58th Street in Woodside Queens to be co-named Enoch Hawthorne Gregory.

Kenny Greenberg made a motion to approve the Dual Street Renaming and it was seconded by Tannia Chavez with the stipulation that it also includes a plaque on the building. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

City Planning – Update

Update by City Planning including new comprehensive planning effort in LIC.

Christine Hunter reported that Council Member Julie Won has announced a comprehensive planning effort for Long Island City called One Long Island City. The Long Island City Neighborhood study will be led by the NYC Department of City Planning. It will cover the Long Island City Waterfront and some distance inland from Anable Basin to Queens Bridge Park. A consultant has been hired called WXY and they are hoping to conduct a study for the next six months, with recommendations finalized by June 2024.

Teal Delys announced a series of working groups, public meetings and surveys. The process will begin with a public town hall November 6, 2023 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Culture Lab in LIC at 5-25 46th Avenue, LIC, NY.

Bri Mejia provided the following update:

- Announced that the ULURP Application for 47-25 34th Street DOT site selection and acquisition Lease will be presented at the next Land Use Committee meeting in November.
- City of Yes – Economic Opportunity will be presented at the November Land Use Committee and then to the full Board in December.

Discussion of comprehensive planning effort along Roosevelt Avenue and Northern Boulevard.

Isacc Blasenstein, representing Council Member Won, announced that the consultant Hester Street has been hired to conduct a neighborhood study of these two corridors, and that a town hall meeting has been scheduled to take place concerning this on November 2, 2023 with CB 1 and CB 2. The Committee raised concerns that this would take place on the night of the full board meeting and requested consideration of alternate dates.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

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