



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

43-22 50th Street, 2nd Floor
Woodside, New York 11377

(718) 533-8773

Fax (718-533-8777

Email qn02@cb.nyc.gov

www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

April 25th, 2024

Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee

and Technology and Access and Engagement and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes

this was a teleconference zoom meeting

Attendees

Laura Shepard, Chair
Carlos Castell Croke, Vice Chair
Lauren Springer
Anatole Ashraf
Patrick Martinez

Absentee

Nellie Afshar
Danielle Brecker
Benjamin Lucas
Ryan Smith

Mariana Mogilevich, Public Member
Pearl Brady, Public Member

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert

Guests

Dirk McCall dePaloma, Sunnyside Shines
Devin Reitsman, Big ReUse
Alan Chan, di Domenico & Partners
Masha Tsimiring, Queens Lighting Collective
Krit Robinson, Queens Lighting Collective

Laura Shepard, Chair of the CB2 Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting welcomed everyone to the meeting. This is also a joint meeting with Technology and Access and Engagement and Inclusion Committee.

Laura Shepard introduced Dirk McCall, Executive Director of Sunnyside Shines.

Dirk McCall shared a presentation on Sunnyside Shine Public Spaces Project.

(presentation is attached)

- Sunnyside Shines Business Improvement District was recently awarded a grant from the Urban Design Forum.

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

- The Urban Design Forum does a lot of public space redevelopment to make space more actively involved by the public.
- Sunnyside Shines was one of three BIDS in the city that received this grant.
- To figure out the design process Sunnyside Shines was partnered with a design firm.
- Sunnyside Shines was also partnered with a lighting design collective located in Sunnyside.
- Sunnyside Shines had a community survey on this project and will share some of those results.
- Sunnyside Shines Manages the area from 38th Street to 50th Street on Queens Blvd. and the first six blocks on Greenpoint Avenue.
- Sunnyside Shines manages Bliss Plaza for DOT on 46th Street and Lowery Plaza on 40th Street.
- Sunnyside Shines manages the Triangle, the little park on Queens Blvd. in front of Tito Rads and some involvement in Noonan Playground.

Dirk McCall introduced Alan Chan from di Domenico & Partners

- Alan Chan is the designer for this project.
- He shared with the committee a powerpoint presentation of the projects they have worked on.

Alan Chan passed the presentation to Masha Tsimring from the Queens Lighting Collective:

- Masha Tsimring stated that part of this grant is specifically designated towards temporary lighting installations.
- The background of the Queens Lighting Collective is mostly to design for live performances, but they are also community engaged.

Alan Chan from di Domenico & Partners spoke about the project:

- This project is called The Local Center Initiative: Sunnyside Public Space Project
- This project will be focused on the boundaries of the BID in the public spaces.
- The outcome of this project will be three main things:
 - Sunnyside Public Realm Vision Plan - this will be worked on throughout the year and released in December 2024
 - Pilot Public Space Activation
 - Lighting Installation - Installed in June-August 2024
- There are four main goals of this project, enhance public spaces, community engagement, economic revitalization and sustainable operation and lasting impact.
- They will be working with the city agencies DOT, MTA and NYC Parks.
- Krit Robinson of Queens Lighting Collective spoke about the engagement strategy.
- The strategy consisted of community surveys, local experts advisory group and engagement through activation.

- The Project Process consists of three sections. The Discovery Phase which is now, The Implementation Phase which is June-August and the Refinement of Vision Plan which is December.
- Masha Tsiming spoke about Upcoming Dates for community engagement.
 - May community engagement at Noonan Park
 - June - Sunny Pride engagement on the 14th
 - July - Pilot activation at Lowery and Bliss Plazas.
 - August - Sabba Park Opening Launch off Lighting Installation.
- Alan Chan spoke about the survey asfara who participated and what locations. The surveys were done in both English and Spanish.
- Masha Tsiming spoke about inspiration research throughout Sunnyside and share some lighting ideas.
- Solar power is being explored for these lightings.
- Alan Chan spoke about and shared preliminary sketches on how the space under the #7 train would look.

Discussion took place on what location would be worked on first.

A question was asked about the structure under the #7 train in the viaduct area and how some pieces have fallen off. Alan Chan stated this space is run by DOT. The structure above is MTA.

A question was asked about considering local artists on this project.

A discussion took place about Sabba Park.

A short discussion took place on reaching more of the community regarding the survey especially the seniors. Below is a link to the survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSexTnpGj0HrMnS-E8aScTccY_5keJx4P7vK2jFdVD6LFNicQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

A suggestion was made to reach out to street vendors regarding the lighting installations.

Laura Shepard introduced Devin Reitsma regarding a presentation on Big ReUse located in Queensbridge Baby Park.

- Devin Reitsma runs the compost project on Big ReUse.
- He also talked about the public space under the Queensbridge, the location of the compost site.
- He stated that Big Reuse is facing eviction from the Parks Department.
- Big ReUse is an environmental non profit that's dedicated to promoting circular economy in NYC.

- Big ReUse has been composting NYC Parks Department's leaves, horticultural waste and food scrapes under the Bridge for over ten years.
- The site was opened in 2017. Big ReUse had a three-year license agreement with the Parks Department. Presently the NYC Parks Department is not giving them a renewal as the Parks Department plans on building Queensbridge Baby Park in that location.

Climate Plan Continued Discussion

Carlos Castell Croke, Vice Chair led the discussion on the CB2 Climate Action Plan with the committee:

- At the last meeting the committee discussed what the purpose of the plan would be and what CB2 can do to advocate for certain things.
 - Carlos Castell Croke mentioned listing all the things the committee would want to advocate for from Land Use issues.
 - Green roofs are cool roofs
 - Composting
 - Providing EV charging
 - Secure bike parking
 - No additional parking
 - Solar panels
 - Also high level priorities:
 - Flooding and ponding issues
 - Opening green spaces
 - Air quality
 - The committee discussed these priority issues as well as adding tree planting.
 - Discussion on the sidewalks.

Discussion of neighborhood flooding in CB2 in the Spring.

- It was stated for the community to call 311 and to take photos regarding flooding as it's a good advocacy tool for elected officials to see and for the committee from DEP.
- Suggestions were made to invite a representative from 311 and from DEP to a meeting.

Old Business

- Laura Shepard made a motion for a letter of support for Big ReUse to stay at the current location. It was seconded by Lauren Springer.

The daily CO₂ reading is 428.42 ppm of CO₂ in the atmosphere and that is up from a year ago when it was 423.96 ppm.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber