

Community Board 1, Queens – Board Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2022

Meeting opens with Chairperson, Marie Torniali at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEM:

New York City Department of City Planning

Presentation by Julien Sneck, Senior Urban Designer, Urban Design Office, NYC Department of City Planning on “Principles of Good Urban Design” website.
(Presentation Attached- Walk through of Website)

Eugenia Di Girolamo – I will just give a super brief overview. We are presenting this effort, called the Principles of Good Urban Design. It is an update to the current principles and we wanted to include all New Yorkers, practitioners, Community Board Members, any citizen into the rewrite or the update to the principles and we have created a website called “Good Urban Design NYC” that we shared with you. It launched in the fall and mid-September and thank you so much for your early interest in the site. Your feedback received a lot of entries to the survey on the site from this Community Board. We are really thankful for your engagement; we are here to present the effort to the Full Board and really making sure that you are aware that this effort is coming to a close and the survey will close in a couple of weeks. We want to make sure that as many people as possible in your district are aware of the site and engage with the site before the deadline. I leave it to Julien who will walk you through the website in a little bit more detail and then we are here to answer any questions.

Julien Sneck – I am going to walk you through this website that the Department of City Planning, created a few months ago to open discussions with every New Yorker on what urban design is and why it is important for every New Yorker to have a look at the public realm that surround them and to be really involved in the making of the City that surrounds them. I am going to walk you through the website. What you can see when you go on the website, which is called <https://www.goodurbandesign.nyc/>.

Eugenia Di Girolamo - I really invite you to play with the site. As Julien alluded to, we really think of the site as a tool that you can use in your work at the Community Board or any citizen can use using the video to understand what is urban design, and there we really go and start to break down some very complex language and topics around urban design and planning. We have a tab that relates to how to use the principles in practice. We have a glossary of terms where we try to really break down some of the key concepts of urban planning and urban design in a little bit more of layman terms. The guide, with everything that is offered through the site, we of course were asking for your feedback on the principles themselves and the language that we are using and how we will be updating the sites to, depending on what is important to you, but also I just want to reiterate that the site will remain in place and that you can use it as a tool in your work at the Community Board. We hope that you will and as Julian said, that you will share it with everyone in the Community.

Chair, Marie Torniali - It seems like a wonderful resource. Can you put the link into the Chat? That would be very helpful, so people can go on there. Just curious, what do you do with all the information that you gather? Does it go into a report or do we have access to it after or is it just there?

Julien Sneck - No, it is the idea. Actually, we are going to process all this information starting next month, once the survey and the forum will be closed and the idea is really to create a report by the end of the summer and to share with our community boards what the different Community Boards shared with us, because we are going to be able to see what mattered in what neighborhood and we would be very happy actually to come back at the end of the summer during the fall to come back to Community Board 1, Queens to share some of this information.

Sarit Platkin – You know this is an incredible resource that you all have created. I have worked with this team through a bunch of this process too, but you know one of the things that I think this report, or the results that Julian is bringing up, will be really useful to the Board for in the future, really could be for community district needs statements. It really will be a new tool to understand some of the dynamics that play in the Board, and you know we right now do not have great ways of measuring urban design and needs around public space, and this will be a great way to bring some more of those aspects of the kind of community needs into those conversations.

Chair, Marie Torniali - I personally think it is wonderful.

Q &A with the Board Members:

Evie Hantzopoulos - I just had a question because this is open until the end of February, but it is the first we are hearing about it. I mean there might have been a few things on social media, but like what is the outreach that is being done on this, especially to communities who may not speak English or may not be on social media or anything like that?

Sarit Platkin – Sorry, Evie. I will let the team fill in the broader outreach strategy, but I will say that I did share this, definitely with Florence kind of early on. I know that Florence shared it with Board Members and also tweeted about it. It was definitely shared with this Community Board, but I will let the team fill in more broadly about other outreach and kind of the broader strategy.

Julien Sneck - Something that we also did through the process, we met with a lot of Community Boards city-wide and some Community Boards expressed a very deep concern about accessibility and language accessibility. We tried to make the website as accessible as possible, and we translated the survey in seven to eight languages, just to make sure that this tool would be also accessible for them. We were also supposed to outreach to senior citizens, especially in January and in February, and unfortunately, because of the pandemic coming back we had to postpone those plans. We discovered through the outreach that we have a lot of New Yorkers that do not necessarily use internet, and/or they do not interact with those kinds of websites very often or they do not have social media to know about them. We really try to find other ways to share information with them. We were in touch a lot with our colleagues at NYCHA and they really tried with us to spread the word within their communities and we also tried a lot to communicate on that project at the very beginning, like back in October November, using ferries in New York City to communicate on the project and the video was played at some point on the ferry for the commuters using the ferry.

Amy Hau – I am kind of curious about the release of regular intervals of reporting, because you know with the open streets, DOT plan for restaurants and whatnot? How does that get folded into this? First series of reporting.

Eugenia Di Girolamo - The open restaurant team that is working directly with DOT, is in the same office as we are, the two teams are definitely talking to each other. They are slightly different questions, but one is very specific to the open restaurant effort and the design guidelines that will follow. This is more general, it is about principles for the entire city that could apply to any project, there is definitely conversations that are happening between the two teams and, as we release, findings or feedback that we have received, I think we should definitely talk to each other and then cross-reference. What we hear for that effort as well. I think that is a great idea.

Doreen Mohammed - Is there a possibility to extend the time period of the outreach for this survey since it was limited by the pandemic? It does not sound like there was any type of outreach that was at the food distributions or religious institutions, like most just churches. It sounds like it is primarily going to be for college educated, privileged folks who have access to computers and internet that were able to participate in this, and that are also on community boards. I wanted to hear some more dedication how to represent the most disenfranchised and vulnerable in our society.

Eugenia Di Girolamo - We already extended the deadline twice actually. The survey was supposed to close at the end of the year and then we have heard from Community Boards that they needed more time. We presented it at almost all borough boards and then the deadline shifted from early February to early March to make sure that we could actually speak to as many people as possible. We talked to the public libraries, the public libraries have helped us with outreach as well and we are trying really everything we can to reach as many people as possible and we actually asked community boards as well if they can put us in contact with local organizations that they think could benefit from learning about this. If you have any specific organizations or groups in your district, that you think could benefit from these conversations, we are very much available to even meet on-site with them and have a conversation around this.

Doreen Mohammed - As a follow-up to that, then, can you give us some examples of community-based organizations that you have worked with. Have you collaborated with the groups like Desis Rising up and Moving (DRUM), CDC? I am just mentioning South Asian ones. I would like to I would want to hear some more perspectives on examples of community-based organizations you have engaged with already.

Eugenia Di Girolamo - I do not know that. It escapes from me, unfortunately, the City has reached out to specifically to community-based organization. If you have anything off the top of your head as well, but it is definitely been difficult and that is why we have asked Community Boards to help us with that, and what we can do is also follow up with you.

Doreen Mohammed - Okay, great I will write my email in the Chat, thank you.

Eugenia Di Girolamo - That would be great, thank you.

Helen Ho – I was just taking a look at the survey, I had a couple of questions also echoing what Evie and Doreen had mentioned, but also on language. I appreciate that it has been translated into the mandatory languages, but as someone who is worked with a lot of immigrant communities, it is not enough just to have it translated into the languages, you need somebody, oftentimes with a survey who speaks those actual languages to guide people through what the survey is-and it is not super clear to me.

Julien Sneck - It is something that we tried to improve through the process of this website, and we met with NYCHA residents. For instance, back in November, senior residents living in Staten Island, we really tried to help them. We did not have the survey on the computer, but we brought the survey printed on paper and to accompany them to complete the survey, and it is very true that this form of engaging is much more successful with people who are not familiar with this kind of work or the kind of subject that we are talking about on that website. That is why we try to be part of many conversations with many other city agencies working with local communities, more like locally that than we might do here at the Department of City Planning. It was really about with the public libraries, with NYCHA, with the Department of the Aging and trying to reach out to people we usually do not reach out to, and it is the opportunity to meet in person. We would have probably had more input from a more diverse people, but we really did a lot of outreach with thanks to other city agencies, to communities that we usually have difficulties to reach out to. Talking about NYCHA again, we had the chance to reach out to youth in public housing in New York City, something that usually is very difficult for us to achieve. It is something we are kind of learning in the process, also how to better engage with a broader community, especially like on a citywide initiative like this one. We still have a lot to learn on that, but the good thing about this website, even if the survey and the forum will be closed at some point just for us to put together all the information together and to digest them and to see what we

missed actually from how the principles are today, the website will still exist after that, and even if the surveys won't be there anymore, we will still have an activity where people will still be able to interact with what those principles are, and they will still be able to share their ideas with us. It is the fact that you have is just a small piece of the website that is going to be closed by March 4th and we will continue the outreach with New Yorkers on that.

Eugenia Di Girolamo - I want to address very quickly parts of two questions and apologies, I forget who exactly they came from. One was about potential additional language than the ones that are the most common in New York City, there is a feature on the site through Google translate, though, not perfect, we recognize that, but that allows you to translate the entire site, even the survey in any language that Google Translate offers-and really this allows us to reach even more people that do not just fall in the categories of those seven or eight languages that we have right now, which is great. The other I wanted to address, the question of how this data will be used, and the idea is really as Julien mentioned. As this survey and the forum parts of the site will be closing, there will still be a chance to submit comments, but at the same time, we will gather all the feedback that we received. We are really going to digest it and a key question that we ask in the survey is: what did we miss? and we really heard from New Yorkers loud and clear, some of the things that are not in the principles today that it is very important to them, that they should be there and we are going through a very extensive period of analyzing. The feedback analyzing the data that we have received stacking is against the current principles and looking at how to modify and change and even adding principles that we do not currently have and then come back to you and we will be happy to share the feedback we received for your Community Board.

Chair, Marie Torniali – I just want to point out, to everybody, all the Board Members, it is not too late to share it with your own networks, I think between all of us, we can really get it out there. I encourage everybody to do that. Thank you.

Dominic Stiller - Why is this being taken down in February? I want to suggest as well as groups in schools, I think that when I was a kid in elementary school “ Principle of Good Urban Design” sorry, not words that I spoke when I was in elementary school, but if somehow as well as local community groups, you can get into the elementary schools and try to empower the kids that would be a wonderful win for this and then I want to end by saying I had no idea what we were going to see here and I think mainly for Sarit, who I think is more of a local DCP rep we have had a recent awareness of lighting and how it can be rude and good and bad, and also air conditioners and noise of roofs and restaurant machinery and garbage and I just hope you can bring it back to the DCP. Put on your bandwidth, the how these three issues-lighting, air conditioner, noise and garbage can really affect good urban design.

Doreen Mohammed - You know some of the sentiments here, I mean I hear from Julien Sneck and the others that it sounds like the pandemic made everything very difficult. We were not able to do as much in person, outreach, etc. We see a lot of things are opening up back now etcetera, and it seems like if we would just take more time with this, that we could actually do it right. I want to really hear some more, like Asian women are being murdered and targeted and harassed like are our experiences being centered, the experiences of black people being brutalized by the police and all of that. Yes, you have your Sanitation and Parks and etc., but it does not sound like this survey is really encountering all New York voices.

Eugenia Di Girolamo - I think you have a great point and we are really trying to track who we are hearing from on the site and we are asking everyone to help us spread the word to be honest with you, because we know that we cannot reach everyone, and we really need your help to share this with your groups and your members and that is what we are asking every Community Board. We have reached out to schools, we have reached out to all the principals in the public school system in New York City, we have offered briefings, we partnered with a school in the South Bronx and we are working with them directly to explain what urban design is, what urban planning is and asking them to fill out the surveys. Other teachers have done it on their own, we have received feedback from several school-age children as well. Of course, we can always do better and we definitely recognize that and we want to you to tell us how we can reach more people in your community and something that we want to make clear is that we do not think of these principles as static, as we are revising them today we want to commit to revising them in the future as well. We have done it in a five-year span. Maybe we are going to do it sooner next time and really keep building on what we are doing now and keep improving on how we reach New Yorkers.

Doreen Mohammed - I just really want to put out there like I think it is something as simple as some weeks or months. Extension could really make an impact; I mean there are elected officials on this call that can help collaborate. They are voter based, there is a lot of possibilities, but it seems that this is kind of being rushed out.

Sarit Platkin - I really appreciate all of this feedback and I think one thing that I would just also highlight is that Julien alluded to this, but this is one of our first forays into doing this type of substantive city-wide outreach. Most of our outreach efforts are usually more locally based, and we are learning as we go with this, this is the kind of feedback that will help us reshape our outreach efforts for future initiatives. That kind of build on this type of pilot effort that we are currently taking on and as Eugenia said they are trying to develop these principles as something that will be evolving and we will definitely be in touch with you, Doreen and with the others here to have more conversations with you about who else we can be talking to for this initiative and going forward to make sure that when we do take on city-wide initiatives like this, we are reaching the right folks.

Chair, Marie Torniali - Yes and I also agree. I also want to point out, you know not everybody is against that it should go out on paper. I know we hate paper, but a lot of people are still not comfortable with websites. What is on this website is important to them. How do we reach that population right? If you did an in-person presentation. I know what you are saying about the senior centers, a lot of them in this area shut down in January, the end of December. How do we reach out to the people? This is important information and they probably have opinions, but how do we reach out to them, who are not necessarily computer savvy.

Julien Sneck - We had some opportunities to reach out to very specific senior groups in New York City, in between waves of the pandemic, and we managed to do that in November in Staten Island, and we were supposed to do that also in January, with colleagues in NYCHA developments in the Bronx and in East Harlem also. The goal for us was to go there and to share the survey in person with them, but because of the pandemic, we decided that our colleagues at NYCHA would share the document with them directly and there was probably a piece of information missing between us who created the survey and the people who are going to answer the survey at the end. For sure the setting was not ideal for us and against us most of the time.

Chair, Marie Torniali - Unfortunately the whole community is not just based in computer land.

Julien Sneck – It is really important for us to keep in mind.

Chelsea Lopez - I was looking at the link that was provided in the Chat and I had two quick questions. I had a question on why the deadline is not on the site itself. It seems like that is something people should know. You know some might visit the link and think I will respond to that later when I have time, but if you have the deadline actually posted on the site, people know that this is not some ongoing poll where they just can answer it, maybe when they have more free time. The second question I had was about the forum questions. I was looking at the site, and I saw that it said it was last updated in September of 2021, and I was wondering. Does that mean that the new comments and new replies are not shown on that site because it has not been updated in long or is that just like a something that is on the site but is not actually true.

Eugenia Di Girolamo - If it is not as clear where we say, how will your feedback be used, there is an update that says that the activities will remain open through February, there is an update on the timeline and the deadline, but I think that is a great point that we can just be a little bit more clear and upfront and maybe actually add it to the survey page as well. If it is not as clear where it is and as to the update to September 2021 unfortunately, that is the platform we are using, that it is through an engagement website that allows us to do some of these activities through a website. The website was launched in September 2021, this is what it is referring to, but everything you see is up until this minute is really in real life. It is updating, it is just when it was published.

Chelsea Lopez - When I look at the home page, the first thing people see, I do not see a deadline anywhere. The way it appears to me, it seems like there are three things that people can do, tell us about their neighborhood, share a story or engage in a discussion with others, but there is no deadline there. It really does appear to be an open, long-term, ongoing poll with the City. I think the deadline should be at least on the home page, if there is going to be a deadline.

Eugenia Di Girolamo – That is a great suggestion, thank you.

Chair, Marie Torniali – Any other Board Member have any questions. I see none, we are going to close this hearing. Thank you so much your time.

BUSINESS SESSION:

Adoption January 2022 Minutes

Motioned by Dino Panagoulas; Seconded by Gerry Caliendo

Chair Report:

Chair, Marie Torniali - I have no report except to let you know that tomorrow is the deadline to apply for the Community Board. If you have not already done so, I believe everybody who has been reappointed has done so. I am speaking to the public right now, if you have an interest, the deadline is tomorrow. The application is relatively smooth and short, go to: <https://queensbp.org/>. Thank you.

District Manager Report:

District Manager, Florence Koulouris – Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, it is good to see you all here. Our office has been working very closely with the Community Affairs Unit at the Mayor's Office, since we received the request from Board Member Jeff Martin to dive into the closure of Shore Towers gate. The closure was closed for a decade and we worked with the previous Council Office and were not able to get that gate open for more than a day or two. I am happy to report, thanks to CAU, the Mayor's Office the gate has been open for over a week and we are now looking at the fences' occupancy and the rules surrounding the fence. We are looking into the EDC hearing that will occur. We are also looking into dawn/dusk restrictions. We hope to see a long-term resolution to this matter with Community Affairs Units' assistance. We have been working on the RV mobile trailers in the vicinity of 40th Street to approximately 49th Street near 20th Avenue, in conjunction with the 114th Police Precinct. RVs have been moved and you can see a notable difference. Social services have been offered and we are moving forward on this matter to improve the quality of life for our community. Most notably, I recently attended a meeting at the Department of Homeless Services regarding the area of Dutch Kills in Community Board, 1 Queens and Queensbridge residents have been outspoken since last year, seeking assistance and doing tours with the Department of Homeless Services. Our local residents have seen remarkable events occurring that have residents of our community fearful for their safety. Due to the lack of desperately needed services for the new residents of the community placed in hotels, temporary housing, there have been complaints of alleged public defecation/urination, intimidation, sexual activity, drug use, videotapes of trespassing and theft. The Department of Homeless Services hotels have police reports for 911 calls on the information shared: Quality Inn 911-107 calls 311, 3 arrests; Sleep Inn 911-219 calls made 2-311; Pam's Place 1385-911 calls, 51 arrests; MOCJ residents: Fairfield 911-414, 311-7, arrests-6, aided reports-17, 17-complaint reports; Vue Hotel, 911-240, 311-5, 2-arrests, 8-aided reports, and 22-

complaint reports. We have now reached out to Community Affairs Unit of the Mayor's Office, because the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice has two sites identified and statistics stated in the report, showed the police resources are being utilized on sites, while our district has crimes and guns in our boundaries. Police are needed throughout the district for their day-to-day duties. The Peace Officers which were stationed at Pam's Place Shelter were removed when the Peace Officers in attendance, the numbers of incidents were notably less, resolutions need to be found and services need to be put in place that are meaningful to improve the quality of life for the Dutch Kills Queensbridge communities. Our paramount interest is the best interest of all residents in the community new and old.

Committee Reports:

Dino Panagoulis, Consumer Affairs Committee – Good evening, if we can take a look at the spreadsheet that Florence graciously sent to us. There was no Consumer Affairs meeting. There was nothing of note that was given to us by the 114th precinct about the individuals or the specific businesses that were coming up for a renewal, and with that in mind, I would like for someone to make a motion to unanimously approve all of the licenses that are currently on that spreadsheet.

Motion to Approve by Amin Mehedi; Seconded by George Alexiou

Chair, Marie Torniali – I see no objections. The motion carries.

Dominic Stiller, Environmental/Sanitation Committee - We had a meeting last Monday the 7th and the guests were Karen Napolitano of Sims Recycling. She gave a fantastic presentation. I will put her information for her website in the Chat, they give tours of their recycling facility and the whole process of collection to dispersion was really educational and entertaining. The second group of guests were concerning the Champlain Hudson Hydro Power supply, which will be coming from Quebec down the Hudson River through Randall's Island and into our area. The question on the table was about DOT permits, we will hear more in the Transportation synopsis by the Transportation Committee Chair. Thank you.

Evie Hantzopoulos, Housing Committee - No report, but our next meeting is March 14th.

Elizabeth Erion, Land Use & Zoning Committee - I was just going to report on the meeting that we are going to have we are having a meeting tomorrow, the 16th at six o'clock to discuss that we are going to have a presentation of the Innovation QNS Project. This is a Committee Meeting and a review of what they are proposing. The reason why we are moving on this is because we expect it to be certified within the next month or so, and this is a very big project. Our next meeting is on March 2nd. The regular meeting is on March 2nd and our agenda right now has an item that was just certified yesterday by the Commission, which is the 34th Avenue and 11th Street Rezoning. We will be getting that information shortly.

Gerald Caliendo - To emphasize about the Innovation QNS Project, I think the entire Board and the Committees that may have important impact and input on that should be involved in and be vocal about it. I think it is going to be very big and I think we are going to hear from the Community about it in great detail.

Elizabeth Erion - The input of the other Committees like the Parks Committee, our Transportation Committee etc. really should be taking a look at the project when it is available. I suppose, when it is made available to us or to listen to the meeting tomorrow night, listen to the presentation, we are looking into a way of getting comment from everyone. We would like to collect as many comments from the public and also from Board Members. We are looking into a how we can do this in an orderly way through the office. That information will be forthcoming as we get closer. Once the item is in public review and certified, we will be in touch.

Chair, Marie Torniali – Florence, that Committee Meeting it is going to be available on YouTube, is that correct?

Florence Koulouris - Yes.

Chair, Marie Torniali - I encourage the Board Members who cannot make it tomorrow night to go on YouTube and then submit any questions or comments to the office, so the Land Use Committee can have all the information they need. Thank you.

Katie Ellman, Parks/Recreation/Cultural Committee – We were able to hold our first meeting in a very long time. Last night there was nothing to vote on, but we were joined by Sheila Lewandowski of the Chocolate Factory and Joan Herrera of A.R.R.O.W. Recreation Center, and we look forward to everyone joining us at our next bi-monthly meeting on April 11th. Our Committee wants to work with Land Use on Innovation QNS and lend our parks lens to that project as well. Thank you.

Mitchell Waxman, Transportation Committee - We received a presentation at our combined Transportation and Environmental Committee meeting last week from an entity called the Champlain Hudson Power Express and an organization called TSI (Transmission Systems Incorporated) that is handling their project in New York State. The background of this project is that there are a couple of pre-existing hydroelectric dams in the Canadian province of Quebec and transmission lines are going to be run across the national border, down the Hudson River down the Harlem River under Randall's Island and they are going to make landfall here in the rolling hills of Astoria. There are two destinations for the transmission lines: one is going to go north to the Con Ed properties nearby, the former Poletti Power Plant, the other are going to go south along Vernon Boulevard to the Con Ed properties, alongside the Roosevelt Island Bridge. In our case, and I believe Florence-can you please confirm we have to ask for a vote on this, but the request that was specifically made to the Transportation Committee involved our support for the granting of a revocable NYC DOT permit for this Champlain Hudson Power Express to install their cables in trenches along a route that more or less follows the waterfront. The contentious part I imagine, would be Shore

Road by Astoria Park. It is also going to cross Broadway near Costco and Socrates, and it is going to also interrupt. It is also going to be dug along Vernon as you head down towards 39th Avenue. They estimate the time of their project as being 24 months long. Again, they are asking for this, the issue is our support for the issuance of a D.O.T permit?

Florence Koulouris – The applicant stated this is just a letter of support.

Mitchell Waxman – It looks pretty minimal. It is going to be a five-foot-deep trench. The entire project length is estimated at 24 months. It is all union labor, local hiring and so on, and it seemed like a pretty good alternative to continuing to burn fossil fuels to power our community. I believe I put forward a motion asking the Board to support sending the letter of support.

Seconded by Irak Dahir Cehonski

Chair, Marie Torniali – I am going to ask if there are any objections from anyone.

Mitchell Waxman - I can answer a limited amount of questions.

Daniel Aliberti - This is going to be five feet below the surface. I mean it is going to be tens of thousands of volts of electricity. Five feet sounds like it is very shallow. The potholes that we have had sometimes are pretty deep, not five feet, but we have also had sinkholes in Astoria and I just think that five feet sounds very shallow.

Mitchell Waxman - What they showed us in the blueprints were when they dig the trench, they create a concrete and steel structure which has caused ways for the wires to move through and again it seems pretty straightforward and it is under. They made it a point of saying they are, coordinating with every possible city agency, Parks Department in the case of Shore Road and when they cross Rainey (Park) and Socrates (Park). They are also coordinating with Con Edison and New York City DEP and everybody else that has a wire moving under the ground there. We have to presume it is going to be managed in the same manner that most things are managed when you are opening a street.

Daniel Aliberti - I would assume that too but I just had concerns about this. I am assuming we approve it and later on, we will get a chance to talk about it. Another issue that I would have possibly is electromagnetic radiation emanating from this really high-power voltage line. I know when you are on the highway and you go under these lines and you are 30-40 feet above it, you certainly can hear it on your radio or whatever you are running electronically.

Mitchell Waxman - That was a subject that was discussed in the Environmental Committee side of the meeting. Dominic, would you like to jump in there and sum up what the concern was?

Dominic Stiller - It is a concern and we did ask the Champlain Hudson installer TSI (Transmission Systems Incorporated) for data and we are still waiting for that. The vote is being streamlined to be specifically about the ability to provide a revocable consent access, and you know real estate for them to run their wires.

Chair, Marie Torniali – It is not for us to issue a revocable consent.

Dominic Stiller - To give the DOT a letter of support so that the DOT can issue a permit for revocable consent and then, regarding the Electric and Magnetic fields (EMFs). We drilled down a little deeper into. Could it be some type of maybe certified by a radiologist or an industrial hygienist for them to really declare that they have done their due diligence? That is still out there for some, for we seem to need to do this vote about opening up the street and closing the street. This seems to be a project that is already designed from Quebec down to New York City. It is such a shame, to address Dan's point that this 400-kilovolt power supply cannot come in right down the East River, but apparently what they told us was that the Army Corps of Engineers will not permit it. There seems not to be, but it would really save all these potential interactions with the 400-kilovolt buried EMFs if they would just come down the East River. I think Mitch has really stated well the positive effects of getting rid of the fossil fuel plants. Some data is that this line will supply more than half the power that is eliminated by the closure of Indian Point. This will supply the power to run approximately a million homes in New York City alone. It is thought of to be a lot cleaner. We are not looking for stipulations or any environmental considerations, but we do ask, and we do hope that they do not build any more dams, that they are sensitive to any indigenous populations, and we were assured verbally that they have got so much power they do not know what to do with it.

Mitchell Waxman - Just to amplify the reason why the Army Corps is not allowing the cable to go down the East River, is there is a separate renewable energy project at work in the east, in between Roosevelt Island and Astoria and Ravenswood, which is using turbines that are in the water column, to generate electricity. Our problem tonight is whether or not we support in a letter, the New York City DOT to dig the trench to have this equipment installed, which, again, from my point of view, is going to be minimal. We did bring up during the meeting a preference that they do not put metal plates over the trench at intersections because of the winter weather and the problem that it creates for people who have ADA oriented problems, wheelchairs, people who are compromised. They were very receptive to that feedback from us.

Dino Panagoulis - It just seems that there are lot of unknowns and again I voice the concerns that we have about the amount of power that's actually coming in and how individuals either walking across it or going across it or however, it is going to be situated are going to be affected and I do not know. I would just caution the Board on writing this letter of recommendation to DEP without these unknowns actually being answered.

Daniel Aliberti - I do have a comment. I said earlier, tens of thousands now I see it is hundreds of thousands of volts, hundreds of thousands of volts, just five feet below my feet. That is scary!

Chair, Marie Torniali - Is it just convenience that they are using Shore Boulevard?

Mitchell Waxman - It is strictly the proximity to the waterfront, and it is Shore Boulevard to which will then track down to I want to say 14th Street and but I may be incorrect on that. Then it goes to Broadway and from Broadway it goes down Vernon and this would all be sitting in the asphalt blacktop traveling, not under the sidewalk, and it would be alongside the curb. Their answer was they were going to coordinate with New York City Parks, and they are also in conversation with NYC DOT to minimize community impact. Tom, I believe you were in the meeting as well, can you confirm that?

Thomas Ryan - We are talking about power that is being encased properly five feet down. It is going to be impacted with five feet of soil and it is going to be grounded. I find it hard to believe that it would with that encasement and that much soil would cause any problems with voltage to come up to the surface. I don't think there is a health concern here or safety concern.

Florence Koulouris - This is not a ULURP item. This was a meeting strictly to request a letter of support to the Department of Transportation. We are at the tail end of this line and they just want to say it is okay for them to dig in our streets at the end of the day, in layman's terms, DOT wants to know that Champlain Hudson came, did their due diligence, notified the Community Board that they are going to be in the district for two years, digging in the streets.

Dominic Stiller - To Dan's point is more about the EMFs than any like short, with 400 kilovolts it is in and this EMF it does seem to emanate possibly 10-20 feet, and then dissipate if they are going to do it. Yes, they are going to put them in the street. If it was a perfect world, they would somehow be able to coordinate with those turbines in this river and come on to land there. It is just so logical, but the answer is no, so they have come up with this plan to put this power supply in our roadbed, not overhead. They are using an insulated wire, but the studies would be on instantly. What I would like to ask for is the EMF spectrum on that specific high-grade wire that you just held up Florence and we have not gotten that yet. I do not know if they are digging in the next 20 days. When do they plan to start digging? Does anybody know?

Mitchell Waxman - I do not, I did not record that in the presentation, but it is not far off. Not to relive the whole Environmental meeting. Elizabeth's thoughts, there is going to be a new building constructed on the site at the Con Ed property, but that is a whole separate thing. It is going to be some facility to hold their equipment, but I do not know if it is. To be honest from my point of view, this is a good thing. It is going to be minimally invasive and again getting to the core of what we are being asked here, which is it okay for them to dig a trench and put hydroelectric power into New York City, as opposed to what we currently have in Asthma Alley, which is multiple power plants that are burning gas. I am sure they are going to be working to New York City's best practices and beyond that. I am not an electrical engineer. I cannot really get into this nuance idea of electromagnetic fields coming out of the ground. Normally, when electricity is involved and the ground is involved, you are safe, but I am not an electrical engineer. All I can tell you is that, from the point of view of digging a trench over and in different places over 24 months, it is minimally invasive to the neighborhood, which is specifically what we are being asked about.

Daniel Aliberti - I am not against them bringing the power in, I am just concerned about their method of operation here and the other thing I just thought of is that once this is in place, what happens when they need to do any maintenance or repair or checking on this? You know this wire they are going to have to cut this power off and then we are going to be 50% of the power coming in, it is not going to be there. We will only have two lines coming in and, for instance, Astoria, is all of Astoria relying on that northbound one and they have to take it down. What do we do? Will they want to have a fossil fuel burning plant as a backup and will that come into play? Then in a year or something that we are working with fossil all over again? Will they fix the cable, a lot of questions.

Mitchell Waxman - I mean it is an interesting set of questions, but every answer would be speculative. We have to talk to the City of New York, the State of New York, the federal government and the government of Canada to find out about all this.

Daniel Aliberti - No, I am saying they will put the wire, give them permission to come in and then let's talk to them and maybe they most likely have already addressed all these questions, but we have not heard anything about it.

Gerald Caliendo - In the next couple of years, there is no more gas on any building. You know what the power grids are going to be like if everybody's going to be using electricity, they should lower the rates.

Thomas Ryan - I do not know about Astoria, but here in Woodside we have our power board underground, cable that runs across along the street, lined by the curb and it is safely delivered since it was put in. Secondly, this creates a government easement, it has nothing to do with a revocable commit once it is put in the ground, I believe they have a perpetual easement footage. Again, that is a non-issue too and when we all turn our air conditioners on, if the power is not there and we cannot relocate other power, that is one of the regrets making decisions against us.

Elizabeth Erion - I suspect the reason why this has not gone the usual ULURP route is because it is a state-led project and the state really is not subject to ULURP if they do not want to be, but the other thing that I would suggest to Mitch and to Dom when they are preparing their letter is they incorporate everything, every issue that has been brought up at this meeting today.

Dominic Stiller - What if someday we wanted to stop getting power from Canada for any reason and get it from upstate New York. Can the line be cut, spliced? It seems like no, but that might be another value to this project. You know just more flexibility down the line, but a few things I would like to put in the letter are the stipulation that they do not create any more dams up in Quebec. I will work with Florence about just certifying that they have done their research regarding this EMF, forward us the requested study and then have them declare and certify that yes, this is not harmful, because we do not know as a group we were talking about it, then, and we are talking about it now, there are two issues with it. One is the fact that it has a huge magnetic field, because it is so powerful, it is not a house line, and secondly, they have to know how far that emanates and then secondly, they have to know what type of effect that has on humans if it should cross into any people's bedrooms, people's living rooms. That is why I was hoping to see a coordination map of the wires in the streets so we could see if it is 10 feet from a house or if it is 30 from all the houses. I do not know how to get that in the letter. I do not know if that is of interest to anyone else, but that might be something I will try to get in that we will try.

Chair, Marie Torniali - Thank you, Dom, I do not know if this is possible, but seeing that there is some concern, would it be more feasible to table this until next month? Until we get all our questions answered.

Florence Koulouris - DOT requires that they prove they have met with the Board, and they asked for a letter of support, that is what they have asked for. We have this coming in, we are going to have another program coming in where they are going to be bringing wind power. Not too far behind that we are going to have another program coming in where they are bringing in solar power, so they are going to need access to the streets to run the lines.

Chair, Marie Torniali - I understand that there seems to be some concern here tonight. I am asking Mitch and Dominic if they would feel better or more at ease, to table this until next month until you get the information that you seem to require. Comfortable, I guess is the word putting this on the floor tonight, depending on your questions being answered.

Mitchell Waxman - Most of these questions are environmental in nature. I could say that from the transportation point of view, I think is going to be minimally invasive and, strictly speaking from that subject, you know the digging, the construction work and DOT's letter of support are not something I would stand in the way of, whereas most of these questions are environmental and would require a background in electrical engineering and a level of expertise that I do not possess. I am a member of the Environmental Committee, but I cannot form an intelligent opinion without some background from experts which I do not think we have time. Again, what we are being asked here is whether it is okay for DOT to issue a permit for them to dig a trench to lay this equipment in the presentation by the group. I believe it is on our presentation, on the YouTube channel, there are many questions that might be answered by looking through that presentation.

Chair, Marie Torniali – Does anyone have another question?

Dino Panagoulis - I think the biggest thing is that I personally feel that a group requesting this type of letter of support, which will affect many residents within the purview of the Community Board, I am just questioning why they were not also here doing a presentation for the Full Board, that is the first thing. A lot of those questions may have in fact been alleviated or answered and taking that into account, I think that if we are going to move ahead with some letter of support, I think there definitely needs to be stipulations where those representatives may in fact have to come in for a Full Board meeting and actually address the concerns of the Community members that have been voiced in the Chat.

Thomas Ryan - Listening to everybody who has concerns, it is a DOT matter. Can they dig or not? If you support or not, my suggestion is we just do not send a letter of support, that is it. You do not support it.

Amy Hau - It feels like the DOT should have been present tonight to present and number two, if, in fact, as Florence mentioned, we have other programs of renewable energy coming down the pipe, who is going to be overseeing? Is DOT or is it DOT joint with DEP? They should not, we have a more broader overarching understanding of all these different plans, because are all going to come to us three months down the road to ask for another opening of the street or I mean it should be a coordinated effort is what I am saying.

Chair, Marie Torniali – It is the company; it is not DOT. Maybe Champlain should have been here and maybe the others should come to the Full Board. Mitch, would you like to restate that motion as it was and then we will do a roll call vote?

Chair, Marie Torniali – I am asking Mitch if he would like to restate his motion, as it was

Mitchell Waxman - Okay for CB1 to send a letter of support to the New York City DOT, to grant the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project the right over a 24-month period to dig a trench along a set route in a waterfront route in Astoria. Somebody in the Chat mentioned to me that I neglected to say that they claim they are not going to be in any one location longer than about three months at a time over those 24 months, and this would allow them to connect north to the forum to the Con Ed property at the former Poletti Power Plant and south to 39th Avenue Con Ed right alongside the Roosevelt Island Bridge.

Chair, Marie Torniali - Do we have a second on that motion?

Seconded by Thomas Ryan

Roll Call Vote by Amy Hau

Evie Hantzopoulos - Yes, I would like it to reflect some of the concerns that people have, if that is possible.

Chair, Marie Torniali - Were you intending on incorporating the concerns?

Mitchell Waxman - Well again, the specific request is about digging this trench and putting the equipment in. I would suggest, Evie's idea, that perhaps the Environmental Committee should write a letter addressing its concerns as well, would not be a bad idea.

Amin Mehedi - Yes, I think we all should support it because you know we need the green energy and I believe they are going to keep in mind that people's safety first, they are going to take care of all of our concerns. I know that our board, whoever all of us are we have been in the meeting and I was asking them to go by the river. The mission was there, we do support this and it is yes.

Amy Hau - The vote was 20 in favor to 7 opposed

Chair, Marie Torniali - The motion carries.

Evie Hantzopoulos - It would be great if we could actually get a draft of what that letter is beforehand, so that when we vote we know what is in it and we can also possibly make some comments beforehand so we have something that is reflective of support or not support, but also just the nuances in between.

ELECTED OFFICIALS/REPRESENTATIVES – Announcements:

Ernie Brooks, Office of Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney:

Carolyn Maloney has been very active in trying to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, making sure no new Peaker plants are built and there is the hope that when this comes in that we will be able to shut down finally Big Allis, which has led to that part of western Queens being called Asthma Alley as it has been for a long time. Also, just one note about the rising, she has been writing a letter with other elected officials to Con Ed about the fluctuating and now tremendously high rates of electricity. Just a few things Carolyn's been doing, I mean she was at a press conference at Queensbridge last week. She introduced the Preventing Pretrial Gun Purchases Act, which goes along with a lot of bills. She introduced last fall introducing really practical measures to have a saner approach to guns and, of course, a lot of those are focused on how we close down what they call the Iron Pipeline where guns get brought into New York State. On Tuesday, the House of Representatives passed the Bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act, which Carolyn sponsored. The postal service's financial condition has been deteriorating over the past decade. This act is critical to helping the postal service remain financially viable, while continuing to provide high quality service. These provisions include increasing the transparency of delivery services, requiring that the postal service deliver mail six days a week and repealing the requirement for the postal service to pre-fund retiree health benefits a current requirement. She is pushing back against the decision that was made by the head of the postal service to buy these very inefficient new vehicles to replace the old postal fleet, more than 600,000 vehicles. She is also excited to share that last week, she co-sponsored and voted for the American COMPETES Act, which includes bold investment in research in innovation and American manufacturing. This legislation will strengthen our supply chain, accelerate production and turbocharge our capacity to create technologies of the future, all the while supporting strong labor standards and human rights. She is also announcing the COMPETES Act package that the complete package includes the women and minorities in STEM Booster Act, which she first introduced last year. Congresswoman Maloney has long believed that to maximize our economy and be competitive on the world stage, we must make investments to increase the participation of women and minorities in the stem fields. If there are questions, I am happy to take them and happy to address you.

Daniel Bonthius, Office of Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez:

- Contact the office of Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez, you can reach us at 718-662-5970 or on our website at ocasio-cortez.house.gov.
 - Submit a casework request: bit.ly/NY14casework
 - Legislative comments and general questions: bit.ly/NY14contact
- Rep. Ocasio-Cortez hosted a town hall on redistricting and some legislative updates this evening. You can watch past town halls at: bit.ly/RepAOCYouTube. Or sign up for our newsletter to hear about future town halls:
 - English Newsletter: bit.ly/NY14newsletter
 - Spanish Newsletter: bit.ly/NY14boletinelectronico
- This month the House passed the H.R. 3076 – Postal Service Reform Act of 2021. For information - <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3076>
- The Congresswoman has been working with her colleagues Rep. Neguse and Krishnamoorthi in the House and Senators Merkley and Brown in the Senate to bring the Ban Conflicted Trading Act to a vote.
- Tax season is here. The IRS is encouraging people to file early. Eligible New Yorkers can use NYC Free Tax Prep. Learn more at: www.nyc.gov/taxprep. Additionally, Taxpayers who received the advance child tax credit or received a stimulus check last year should receive correspondence from the IRS with more information on how to accurately file their upcoming return. Save this letter and use it during filing.
- Finally, the Congresswoman wanted me to acknowledge the new Congressional district lines that were passed this month in Albany. We look forward to representing a larger section of CB1 starting next year.

Assembly Member Zohran K. Mamdani:

This is Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani, I am the Assembly Member for the 36th AD. It is a pleasure and a privilege. I am going pick off from where Daniel left off about redistricting, I am sad to say that I will starting from next January, represent less of Community Board 1. I am losing much of what is north of Astoria Boulevard,

Ditmars, and Astoria Heights. 45% of my district is what I have lost and I would say the vast majority, if not all of it is going to Assemblywoman Gonzalez-Rojas', who is also here on this call, I can at least say at the very least you are in good hands, but it is still sad to say goodbye to so many constituents and neighbors. I will be going further south past the Queensboro Bridge, and that is the bulk of the area. The thing that is very exciting for me is that I will now have the privilege of representing NYCHA developments, which I have never had the privilege of doing. Thus far Astoria Houses, Ravenswood, and Queensbridge. Those will now finally be in my district, which is something that I have long hoped for, because I believe that in the 36th district many of them had been artificially cut out, they were just maybe one or two blocks outside of the boundaries. I think that is at least one positive outcome from this process. A couple other updates that I wanted to share with everyone on the Community Board is that the New York State Homeowners Fund, which is a fund of 500 million dollars, to assist homeowners, who have faced any kind of difficulty from COVID-19 with regards to mortgage arrears or utility arrears, that fund is expiring. It is expiring, in terms of its ability to accept applications on the 18th of February. Today is the 15th, the 18th is very close. If you have an opportunity to apply-and this is applicable to you-please do apply, you will see information on that in the Chat. Additionally, wanted to give an update to build on what Daniel and Ernie were talking about, so many of us across Astoria have faced skyrocketing Con Ed bills, double of the bill or triple, and we have been hearing from constituents across the district about this. There are a number of things that can be done in the immediate aftermath of this kind of a bill increase, and we list those, as well as the legislation that we are fighting for to deal with it in the long term. In a fact sheet and a guide that we made, which is: bit.ly/conedbill and you will find that link in the Chat. It goes through a couple of the different resources you can use, one of which is to call Con Ed to get an accurate meter reading. Another is to get assistance from an amazing organization named PULP which helps low-income individuals fight off their arrears or a potential of a gas shut off, and it also talks about how, in the future, to stop something like this. We have to move away from a corporate monopoly like Con Ed. We have to move into a system where the state develops generates and distributes that energy, and we can do so by passing a bill. That is in front of Albany right now called the Build Public Renewables Act and all of that information and more is in that link: bit.ly/conedbill and, in general, want to just let people know that if you have any issues in the district or you need assistance, please do get in touch with our office. The best way to do so is going to bit DOT Lee forward, slash, ad36 support or by calling 718-545-3889 again all this information will be in the chat or you can also email us at ad36@nyassembly.gov, and the last update I wanted to give you all is that yesterday, I passed my first bill in Albany. It was a bill that we had passed in the last session and the Governor requested a couple of chapter amendments, those were passed yesterday. I debated the bill, I am very excited about it, and the reason that I am so excited is because it connects to a lot of the work that you do, which is trying to make government more accessible, transparent and responsive to people's needs, and what this bill does is it permits state agencies to hold hearings on weekends and evenings. It allows individuals to act, direct questions of agency representatives and most excitingly it allows that if you collect 500 petition signatures or 750 for the two most popular departments in terms of the amount of rules that are made, you can trigger a public hearing. When the Department of Labor is changing its rules, vis-a-vis employment or the Department of Health is changing its rules about mask mandates, if you collect a requisite number of signatures, you now have the ability to trigger a public hearing and I think that is very exciting, because too often people feel as if government is unresponsive to them, that their voices are not heard, and this is something that in the mundane, but now aspects of rulemaking allows there to be more responsiveness in that. It was passed yesterday and should be signed into law almost immediately. If there are any questions, I would be more than happy to answer.

Assemblymember Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas:

Hello, everyone on the Community Board, I am thrilled to follow my brother Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani, because, as he mentioned, I will be gaining much of you all. Previously, I only had a few blocks of CB1, I am thrilled to have more of your community, I am really excited to work alongside you and Zohran and I will partner on this exchange. Happy Valentine's Day to all of you. The new lines do not actually go into effect until the new year, but again, as we start building towards that, I will be reaching out and meeting with many of you and just learning more about the issues that impact the Community. I want to share my first year, I have introduced 33 bills. I have related to everything, from mental health, to cyclist safety, to maternal health, to LGBTQ rights, sexual harassment, to health care. I passed, six bills and four were signed into law by the end of last year, like Zohran, we have been fighting for the needs of our communities of western Queens and I too recognize the challenges and have gotten lots of calls about what has been happening with Con Ed. I sit on the Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions. I got to question the Public Service Commission about these hikes. There is a lot we need to do. I am a co-sponsor on many of the bills that my colleague just mentioned, but we asked you all to please be engaged and keep up the fight, because these exorbitant prices are just not okay. I do want to share a program that is eligible for homeowners that New York State has offered, which is the Home Energy Assistance Program. I will, be typing everything in the Chat as soon as I wrap up, but it can provide up to \$750 depending on income and household size and how they heat their home. I also want to share that we host an e-waste drop-off. If you have an old computer, a VCR, we have seen lots of fun things in our office, but we have a drop-off center on Mondays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and I will also share the address of our office in the Chat, which is in East Elmhurst. In addition, my district has been impacted by a number of fires. Sadly, a commercial fire and a fire of a building that displaced, almost 400 people and I have been working really closely with the Red Cross to install free smoke alarms in the Community. Please reach out if you are interested in one. We have been hosting ongoing Webinars about fire safety and emergency preparedness. Those are things that we are providing ongoing and are excited to continue to partner with the Red Cross. I will leave our email address and everything. We have a newsletter that we send every week, just once a week, not too often. It has lots of resources, all the events that we host around the community. If you are interested in signing up, I will provide that in the link as well. Our office speaks English, Spanish and Bengali, and I am thrilled to be able to represent a larger swath of CB1 in the future and very excited to work alongside you this year.

Oriana Shulevitz Rosado, Council Member Tiffany Cabán:

- **Power (Cost) Surge.** This past week, many of our neighbors saw their Con Ed bills skyrocket. In a time of so much uncertainty and so many arbitrary decisions being handed down from large corporations and unaccountable politicians, a major energy price hike understandably caused immense concern. A few

avenues are available to people who need immediate assistance with utility costs, including the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) for low-income New Yorkers, Con Ed's own payment plans and other assistance programs Con Ed oversees. You can also make your voice heard by filing a complaint with the Department of Public Service. And making a public comment on Con Ed's case to increase prices again. If you need help with any of the above, you can call or email the Public Utility Law Project.

- **LICHS Ribbon Cutting.** The council member was honored to attend the ribbon-cutting celebration for Long Island City High School's food pantry, done in collaboration with Zone 126. She's been loving attending some safe, in-person events at schools and organizations across the district.
- **NICE Visit.** She was also proud to meet with the organizers and community members of the New Immigrant Community Empowerment at their Centro de Trabajo and hear their stories.
- **Non-profit expense funding workshop.** Last week, our team hosted a workshop with other Queens Council Members to help local non-profits navigate the expense funding application process! If you lead, work at, or know someone who is at a non-profit organization that you'd like to see our office fund, please encourage them to complete an application by February 22nd. Application: <https://council.nyc.gov/budget/fiscal-year-2023-discretionary-funding-expense-application-filing-period/>
- **Astoria Houses Listening Session.** Save the Date: Our office will be at HANAC Community Center at 6PM on February 24th, listening to the stories and concerns of Astoria Houses residents. This is the first in a series of listening sessions our office plans to host.
- **Join our PB volunteer committee.** Our team is continuing its participatory budgeting work. The idea submission deadline has now passed, and our team and a great group of volunteers are working with city agencies to further develop the ideas, determine the budgets, and their feasibility. If you want to join our volunteer team, please sign up! (drop link in the chat) <https://forms.gle/brDEOkD6zLrvYf9P6>
- **Legislative updates.** Last time I was here, I shared the CM's exciting committee assignments. And tonight, I can share that the CM's first oversight hearing as Chair of the Committee on Women & Gender Equity is next week. The hearing will explore existing barriers to accessing survivor services in the city. Our team is looking forward to hearing testimony from individuals and organizations working to combat gender-based violence by learning exactly where the gaps in services are (like language access challenges, temporary solutions, lack of coordination, fear of immigration), and what the city needs to improve upon.
- We are also thrilled to be co-hosting an internal briefing for other Council Members with Chair of the Education Committee, Council Member Rita Joseph, next week on what's in the Governor's Education Budget and how that will impact the city's education system.
- **Mailing List** Please sign up for my office's official District 22 neighbors mailing list, to stay in touch about local events and initiatives (*drop link in the chat*) - <https://mailchi.mp/cabanforqueens/government-side-email-list-sign-up>

Farah Salaam, Office of Council Member Julie Won:

I am the District Manager for Council Member Julie Won. I just wanted to give a quick update on all of the things that we have been doing. Our office is currently open for remote services, Monday through Friday 10 to 6 p.m. We are currently providing services on a variety of different things, as Oriana mentioned. We are also helping constituents with the Con Ed situation and helping them navigate on who to go to, what resources they will need when they do receive their Con Ed bills. In addition to that, we are helping with a variety of different housing concerns, immigration, etc. We hope that we will be taking in folks via appointment, starting next week or in two weeks, but in the meantime we are doing a series of satellite pop-up offices for the month of February, we already went to Sunnyside Community Services, and next week we are scheduled for Ravenswood, Queensbridge and Woodside Houses, the new immigrant organization in Woodside and then we will for the month of March, we will be planning to be in Dutch Kills in Astoria, as well as a few other places through these satellite pop-ups. We hope to provide in-person services and come to the Community so that the Community is able to you know, especially for those who have barriers in accessing phone technology or even language barriers, we will be there to provide assistance. Our office has staff members who speak Bangla, Spanish, Tibetan, Hindi as well, along with English, and we do have a staff member who speaks conversational Mandarin as well. In terms of legislative updates, Council Member Won was named the Chair of the Contracts Committee, she is also sitting on the Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection, she is sitting on the Committee on Finance on Immigration, on Oversight and Investigations on Public Housing Technology and, lastly, Transportation and Infrastructure. After taking office, the Council Member prioritized visiting every school within the district. So far, she has visited over 25 different schools taking in the needs and listening to what our students, teachers, staff and parents are in need of, this was in direct response to a lot of our students and teachers reaching out at the beginning of January, with the concerns with Omicron and other education related concerns, and after she is done visiting all the schools we will be moving on to other community-based organizations and meeting with other folks throughout the district to get a sense and understanding of what the needs are throughout the district so that we can effectively advocate for our community. If anybody has any questions, I am happy to answer them.

Old/New Business:

PUBLIC SESSION:

Jean Mac – I would like to ask the Community Board to hold a hearing on the fair share distribution of facilities that is required by New York City Charter section 304 F after the City submits a Statement of Needs which is supposed to list everything that the facility in the Community and anything moving forward. Two years, the Community Board's supposed to hold the hearing. Now the Statement of Needs is a sham, there is nothing on it. It is like a piece of paper, I think that the Community Boards need to hold these hearings so we know exactly what is coming into the community, what they are planning, the City is just circumventing all of the requirements of notice and any kind of public input by saying everything is an emergency nothing is an emergency anymore. This is what we live with, everything that is going on in the world today is how we are living. I am asking that the Community Board hold this hearing. I think we have talked about how Dutch Kills is greatly overburdened, let's get that hearing done,

let's get the facts out. There is a lot of miscommunication, there is a lot of misinformation on the internet and that is toxic. I would like to hold this hearing so that we can all know exactly who is overburdened, who is not. Thank you.

Chair, Marie Torniali – Are there any other members of the public waiting to speak?

The Chairperson, Marie Torniali asked for a Motion to Adjourn

Motioned by Thomas Ryan; Seconded by Jean Marie D'Alleva

Chair, Marie Torniali - Thank you for attending, see you in March, have a great night.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:53 p.m.

COMMUNITY BOARD 1, Queens

DATE 2-15-2022

ATTENDANCE FULL BOARD MEETING

Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.
Helene Abiola		✓		Cristina Lastres			E
Rose Anne Alafogiannis		✓		Diana Limongi	✓		
George Alexiou	✓			Chelsea Lopez	✓		
Daniel Aliberti	✓			Hannah Lupien			E
Avninder Aujla	Resigned			Jeffrey Martin	✓		
Louise Bordley	✓			Amin Mehedi	✓		
Shoma Brahmanandam			E	Antonio Meloni	✓		
Ann Bruno	✓			Doreen Mohammed	✓		
Gerald Caliendo	✓			Eric Mouchette	✓		
Irak Dahir Cehonski	✓			Stella Nicolaou	✓		
Jean Marie D'Alleva	✓			Mary O'Hara		✓	
Antonella Di Saverio			E	Dino Panagoulis	✓		
Katie Ellman	✓			Juliet Payabyab	✓		
Elizabeth Erion	✓			RoseMarie Poveromo	✓		
Mackenzi Farquer	✓			Yawne Robinson		✓	
Dean Feratovic	✓			Brian Romero	✓		
Shahenaz Hamde	✓			Thomas Ryan	✓		
Evie Hantzopoulos	✓			Dominic Stiller	✓		
Amy Hau	✓			Andre Stith	✓		
Helen Ho	✓			Marie Torniali	✓		
Vanessa Jones-Hall		✓		Rod Townsend			E
Richard Khuzami		✓		Judy Trilivas	✓		
Nancy Konipol	✓			Kathleen Warnock			E
Amr Kotb			E	Mitchell Waxman	✓		
Jerry Kril	✓			Rosemary Yelton	✓		

Number Board Members Present 36

Present 36

Absent 6

Excused 7

The “principles of good urban design” website

www.goodurbandesign.nyc

Main page – *What is urban design?* animation

Select Language



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[Ver este video en Español](#)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NGTR2V43pw&t=4s>



Main page – Activities

Every New Yorker has a role to play in shaping their city.

Think about the streets, buildings, and public spaces in your neighborhood. How do they make you feel? What do you like and what would you change?

These questions are important to **urban design**, which focuses on how the physical features of our city are built and arranged.

The Department of City Planning needs your ideas and opinions to **create a public urban design resource that you can rely on**. It's called the Principles of Good Urban Design and we're updating it with your help. Learn more about the Principles and share your voice in the activities below.



Tell us what matters in your neighborhood



Share a story about your neighborhood



Read and give feedback on the Principles of Good Urban Design

Activity 01: Survey – Tell us what matters in your neighborhood

Select Language



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[Home](#) » [Give your feedback](#) » [Tell us what matters in your neighborhood](#).

Tell us what matters in your neighborhood.

Your feedback will directly shape the **Principles of Good Urban Design**, which guide the City and the public in improving urban design in New York City.

Take this survey in: [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [русский](#) | [简体中文](#) | [繁體中文](#) | [عربي](#) | [বাংলা](#) | [kreyòl ayisyen](#) | [한국어](#) | [עברית](#)

Or choose "Select language" in the upper left corner.

Survey starts

Finish

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

1. What neighborhood do you live in? *

Please add your comment here...

If you live outside of New York City, please tell us the town/city and state.

0/255

2. How long have you lived in your current neighborhood? *



https://www.goodurbandesign.nyc/give-your-feedback-survey/survey_tools/what-matters-in-your-neighborhood

Activity 02: Ideas – Share a story and a picture about your neighborhood

Select Language



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[Home](#) » [Share a story and a picture about your neighborhood](#)

Share a story and a picture about your neighborhood



Community Planning Guide

[Tips and resources to make actionable change in your community \(536 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

We are collecting stories and photos about New York City's neighborhoods from the experts—the people who live and work there.

Think about the streets, buildings, and public spaces in your neighborhood. What is unique, what makes you feel good and what could be improved? Your ideas will inform the updated [Principles of Good Urban Design](#).



<https://www.goodurbandesign.nyc/share-your-idea>

Activity 03: Forum – Give your feedbacks on the Principles of Good Urban Design

Select Language



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[Home](#) » [Give Your Feedback on the Principles of Good Urban Design](#)

Give Your Feedback on the Principles of Good Urban Design

First developed in 2017, the Principles of Good Urban Design are meant to guide anyone working to improve the livability of New York City's neighborhoods and who shares our commitment to expand, protect, and promote good urban design for everyone.

Almost five years later, we recognize the importance of revisiting these Principles to ensure they acknowledge the needs and desires of New Yorkers today. What you see here is a first draft of the updated Principles that aim to reach a broader audience. With your feedback, we will release updated Principles of Good Urban Design early next year.

Thank you for sharing your input and ideas!

Documents

DISCUSSION FORUM

Discussions: [All \(5\)](#) [Open \(5\)](#)

Principle 1: Good urban design reinforces the sense of place of a neighborhood

about 1 year ago

[17 Responses](#)



<https://www.goodurbandesign.nyc/principles-of-good-urban-design-discussion>

Main page – The Community Planning Guide

How will your feedback be used?

UPDATE: The feedback activities **remain open through February**, following consultation with community groups and to build on the strong response we have seen.

Your feedback will inform the updated Principles of Good Urban Design, to be **released in spring of 2022**. We will publish the Principles on this site, along with reports about the feedback we received and **further opportunities to make your voice heard**.



This site is one of many efforts at NYC Planning to improve the way we collaborate with New Yorkers. Learn how to make actionable change in your community with the [Community Planning Guide](#), and read more about our approach to community engagement [here](#).

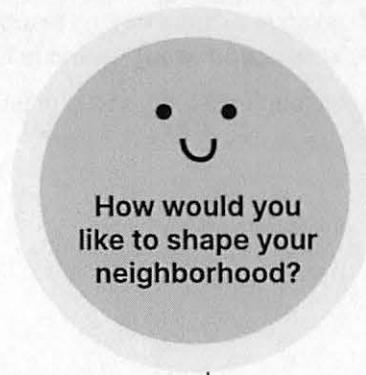
[Get the Community Planning Guide](#)

Resources – The Community Planning Guide

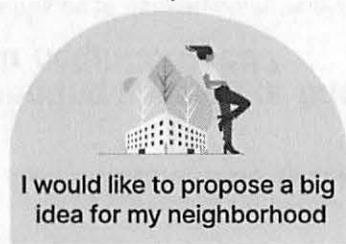
Community Planning Guide

Want to make a change in your neighborhood?

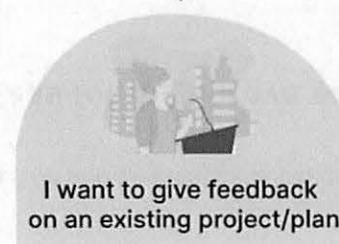
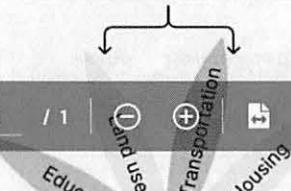
This community planning guide will help you navigate government to make actionable change in your community.



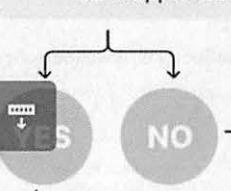
I would like to enhance the **beauty** and **comfort** of my neighborhood



Which topics are you most interested in?



Is the project/plan already under construction or has been approved?



Resources – The Citizen’s Guide to Planning

Select Language



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Home » The Citizen's Guide to Planning — Resources

The Citizen's Guide to Planning — Resources

The resources on this page will help you get the most out of the **Citizen's Guide to Planning**. The numbered stars in the guide each refer to a section below.

Star 1: Need help forming and implementing a vision or finding ideas for to improve safety, mobility, or comfort and beauty in your neighborhood?

Here are a series of resources and examples of how it has been done in other neighborhoods!

- Bike Lane: Talk to the Department of Transportation
- Bike rack: Suggest a bike rack
- Street trees: Request street tree planting
- Community Garden: Visit GreenThumb
- Bench: Suggest a bench location
- Streetlights: Suggest a streetlight location
- Sidewalk repair: Request sidewalk repair

Star 2: Is the project currently being reviewed by the City?

It's possible for multiple City agencies and Commissions to review a project, so you may want to check more than one of the following:

Approximately 90% of construction since 2010 on privately-owned land has not required city approval. These new buildings file permits with the Department of Buildings where you can check their status and learn more about them at the Department of Buildings here.

Check this first before moving on to check on other city approvals processes.

- Is this a landmark or related to a historic building or district? Check with the Landmarks Preservation Commission



<https://www.goodurbandesign.nyc/the-citizen-s-guide-to-planning-resources>

Thank you!
Now is your turn!

goodurbandedesign.nyc