



COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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Greenwich Village ♦ Little Italy ♦ SoHo ♦ NoHo ♦ Hudson Square ♦ Chinatown ♦ Gansevoort Market

Equity Working Group (EWG) Minutes

The Equity Working Group of Community Board 2, Manhattan held a meeting on Tuesday, November 30, 2020 @ 5:30pm via Video Conference.

CB2 Board Members Present: Mar Fitzgerald (Co-Chair), Patricia Laraia (Co-Chair), Akeela Azcuy, Katy Bordonaro, Amy Brenna, Betty Kubovy-Weiss, Matt Metzger, Sandy Russo and Antony Wong

Other CB2 Members Present: Susanna Aaron, Carter Booth, Robert Ely, Brian Pape, Lois Rakoff, Donna Rafferty, Frederica Sigel, Dr. Shirley Smith, and Susan Wittenberg

Guests: Pete Davies, Dalene Lutz, Michael Wiggins

Agenda

1. Presentation of CB2 Committees Processes & Protocols (Part 2): The purpose, participants, laws and City policies that inform the work of each of our committees
2. Discussion of CB2 Processes through an Equity Lens

Introductions were made and meeting guidelines were discussed. Each committee on CB2 filled out an excel spreadsheet with questions about what is the mandate, purpose of their committee/whether or not they worked with a government agency. How often they meet, how is an agenda determined and who writes their resolutions. Other questions proposed were how does the committee meet the needs of their diverse community and how does this committee work to further social justice?

Mar Fitzgerald and Patricia Laraia presented slides on the following committees: SLA 1 & 2, Traffic & Transportation, ReOpening Working Group and Social Services. We gathered a lot of recommendations and are looking forward to implementing them within the Community Board.

Robert Ely and Donna Rafferty, of SLA 1 & 2, gave a brief description of what their committee does followed by a discussion on how they could further meet the needs of our diverse communities. Updating the questionnaire, creating an info page on the CB 2 website, "a liquor license cheat sheet", and including high frequency terms like: *500-foot rule* and what does a *30-Day notice* means. Bob highlighted that the committee notifies the community with Bob Gormley's help, but sometimes that it's not enough. He concluded that he would solicit help from the EWG and in a year review if these measures helped improve transparency.

We discussed Traffic & Transportation in its essence as an equity issue because we all deal with traffic and transportation. Discussion followed that benches could meet the needs of the community as we have the 14th Street busway in our area and the need of a bus clock. The [city bench program](#) was discussed along with the need for better access to the subway systems. The use of language was discussed in relation to how we refer to older adults and people with disabilities.

Akeela Azcuy suggested we put together a google document looking at identifying places in the community where we can have more assistance.

Donna Rafferty, of the ReOpening Working Group, discussed that there's a lack of clear regulations and guidance around Open Streets and Restaurants in our community which makes it inequitable between storefront operators and restaurants. Further discussion ensued around service workers who travel into our community to work and how we might elevate those voices.

Susanna Aaron, of Social Services Committee, said that her committee isn't agency driven and could in essence talk about whatever. She described our district profile as mostly white with, with higher wealth and health outcomes, stated that 1% of residents receive SNAP benefits and that Chinatown has very different social needs than Greenwich Village and Soho. Discussion followed about food insecurity among families in our district, and SNAP recipients. The women's shelter coming to our district on 11th street is an opportunity to bridge that divide with our community.

Carter Booth raised the question about the huge loss of rent stabilized and affordable programs that we don't have a clear picture of in our district and need to be investigated more to understand our neighborhood a little better. In addition, there isn't a clear picture of who handles homeless outreach in our district either.

We concluded the meeting by inviting all to submit any other issues not discussed at hello@cb2manhattan.org, and to check the CB 2 website regularly for our next meeting in January 2021. The slide deck can be found below.

Traffic & Transportation
 Shirley Secunda - Chair

Addresses the design, planning, operation and regulation of streets, neighborhood plazas, bridges, tunnels and other transportation options, including pedestrian, motor vehicle and bicycle traffic, street safety and street activities.

Major topics include: traffic calming, parking, signage, signalization, bicycle lanes, street amenities and upgrading transit routes, stations and stops.



Traffic & Transportation

ASSOCIATED AGENCIES, GROUPS, ORGS, LAWS, STANDARDS
 Department of Transportation (DOT), Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), and other city agencies.

WHO USUALLY PARTICIPATES IN MEETINGS
 Community members, government officials, sometimes business such as Citibike and Ravel Scooters. Most requests come through the CB2 office, which receives correspondence or phone calls; often through direct consultation with DOT and other government agencies and community groups, they are scheduled for a meeting. Additionally, a community member may report conditions that need improvement, or request to do a presentation or discuss new initiatives.

HOW ARE RESOLUTIONS WRITTEN

- The committee chair most often writes the resolutions, but committee members also write some resolutions.
- The draft report with whatever minutes and resolutions have been decided upon during the business session is circulated by the committee chair to all committee members for edits, comments, and other feedback in advance of the Full Board meeting.
- Committee members send back their responses. The chair makes revisions and finalizes the report.
- Draft resolutions are circulated to the entire committee several days in advance of the Full Board meeting and are revised based on feedback from the committee.

Traffic & Transportation

HOW DOES THIS COMMITTEE MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY?

Transportation should serve the needs of the entire community by providing comfortable, accessible, safe facilities - that includes streets and sidewalks or transit. This is what the T&T Committee strives for, to have safe, easy to cross streets in every part of the community with attractive comfortable amenities that enhance the experience of street life. It also strives to provide transit choices that accommodate all, including the disabled, the senior population, school children, parents with small children, and everyone else so that they have safe and comfortable access throughout the city.

HOW DOES/CAN THE COMMITTEE'S WORK FURTHER SOCIAL JUSTICE?

The committee works hard to have all types of transportation upgraded for all to provide street safety and enjoyment for everyone in the community, whether resident or visitor, as well as many different transportation/transit alternatives for various needs. We work to enable access to all of the city for all of the community.

Liquor Licensing 1 & 2
 Robert Ely & Donna Rafferty

PURPOSE: To review applications for liquor licenses and changes to existing licenses for eating and drinking establishments within Community Board 2.



ASSOCIATED AGENCIES, GROUPS, ORGS, LAWS, STANDARDS
 New York State Liquor Licensing Committee and the Alcohol, Beverage and Control Laws

Liquor Licensing 1 & 2

OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY?

- Questionnaire: Update questions
- Info Page on CB2 Website
 - Licence 101
 - High-Frequency Terms
- Community Outreach
- 30-Day notice



Liquor Licensing 1 & 2

WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED STEPS FOR AN APPLICATION TO BE HEARD AT A MONTHLY MEETING

- The committee asks applicants for written submissions and the community board's preprinted questionnaire by a set date so that the committee can determine if they have provided all the necessary information and therefore, can be added to community board website calendar. Community residents watch the calendar to gauge at what meeting an application will be heard. You can find out more about monthly deadlines and download the questionnaire at <https://cb2ny.org/362640> - September 2020. Please note the questionnaire and guidelines are currently being rewritten.
- Often applicants who provide a 30-day notice find that they aren't ready to proceed within 30 days. They can ask to have their application laid over to the next month.
- It's important to emphasize that the committee only hears applications that are complete and submitted all information required by New York State and for which the community board questionnaires have been submitted in advance.

WHO USUALLY PARTICIPATES IN THE COMMITTEE'S MEETINGS

- Committee members
- Applicants and if they have one, their lawyers. An applicant has the opportunity to give an oral presentation to the committee, at which time questions are permitted by committee members followed by members of the public.
- Community members who are interested in one or more applications. That can include block associations or groups of residents and people who live near an applicant location, or those who are generally interested in the workings of this committee.
- Community residents can testify for or against an application and are often asked questions by committee members for clarification or further information. They can also submit written testimony. This testimony is provided to committee members prior to the meeting.
- Residents are often helpful in working out stipulations and agreements with the applicant so that establishments can operate in a way that works for the establishment without imposing significant impacts on nearby residents

Reopening Working Group • Valerie De La Rosa, Chair

PURPOSE: To address the needs of the community as it reopens during the Covid-19 pandemic.



ASSOCIATED AGENCIES, GROUPS, ORGS, LAWS, STANDARDS

- The agenda is set by the committee Chair and members. It follows existing City Council legislation that is directly related to reopening plans and phases that are still unfolding. Ensuring a diversity of voices and neighborhoods represented in the district is a core criterion in assembling a
- Engaging members of the public in a meaningful way is the North Star of this working group. Feedback is solicited ahead of monthly meetings at least twice and usually with a second, separate email blast. The goal is to ensure a large attendance at meetings with people who respond to the email blasts and therefore have a vested interest in attending the meetings. This approach helps to create a more cohesive meeting that uses time efficiently while still addressing community concerns.
- During the meeting, the committee Chair uses a presentation to visually drive the meeting. It includes the agenda, Zoom functionality tips, and a summary of the community organized into themes.
- This is followed by a committee presentation, or a panel or a city-agency partner presentation.
- Following the meeting intro, the committee Chair presents, or there is a panel, or city agency partner presents. Next is Q&A with public attendees, followed by questions from committee members and then CB2 board members.
- The committee makes decisions during the business session of the meeting and if necessary, after the meeting through email.

WHO USUALLY PARTICIPATES IN THE COMMITTEE'S MEETINGS

- Residents, neighborhood groups, BIDs, business owners and operators, and institution administrators.

HOW ARE RESOLUTIONS WRITTEN

- They are written by the committee Chair with review, comment, and edits from committee members.

Reopening Working Group

Reopening Working Group

HOW DOES THE COMMITTEE MEET THE NEED OF OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

This working group actively works to ensure equity among residents, business owners, and institutions in our community as each of these groups navigates reopening. Whether that is through participation in our meetings or by ensuring that all voices are heard, the committee tries to use the lens of seeking out systemic disadvantages in our community that can be addressed to ensure an equitable reopening, and to right existing wrongs.

HOW DOES/CAN THE COMMITTEE'S WORK FURTHER SOCIAL JUSTICE

- There is always more to do. There are several hidden voices in our community such as the service workers who travel into our community every single day to ensure our district is vibrant.

Social Services • Susanna Aaron, Chair

PURPOSE: To highlight and discuss the social services and health needs of our community, and that will assist the community board's recommendations for the year end District Needs Statement and the list of Budget Priority Requests. Our purview is social services and health.



Social Services

WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED STEPS FOR AN APPLICATION TO BE HEARD AT A MONTHLY MEETING

- Applications are rarely if ever part of the bimonthly meetings.

WHO USUALLY PARTICIPATES IN THE COMMITTEE'S MEETINGS

- The committee regularly invites from Greenwich House (seniors, substance abuse), DHS (homeless), Mobilization for Justice (tenant issues), The Door (youth), LHSV (health) and other community organizations to present their work and discuss community issues and needs.

HOW ARE RESOLUTIONS WRITTEN

- Our committee discusses possible resolutions during the business session of the bimonthly committee meetings. Resolutions are usually written by the Chair, who shares drafts with the full committee for comments and suggested edits.

HOW DOES THE COMMITTEE MEET THE NEED OF OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY AND HOW CAN ITS WORK FURTHER SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Our residents generally exceed city standards in terms of health, income, education and the like. However, detailed, drill-down data is needed to tease out the pockets of need in our community, for instance on topics about housing, senior income, health and other issues, and many others.
- Our community board rarely gets a Chinatown perspective on issues (food insecurity, poverty, etc). Our CB2 board members representing Chinatown should be encouraged to serve as ambassadors for their neighborhood; our board needs more members who represent Chinatown.
- Our board should have a better understanding about the policing experience for all members of our diverse community. We also need to know more about the police's experience serving in our district. We should deepen our ties to our precincts so as to aid them in providing the best service they can and so that they are supported by the community board.