

Friends and Residents of Greater Gowanus et al. v. City of New York et al.
Index. No. 501178/2021

Proposed Hybrid Hearing Protocol

- Date:
 - o Based on the Community Board 2 and 6's (collectively, the "Community Boards") time to review the certified application for the Gowanus Neighborhood Plan, staff availability at the Department of City Planning ("DCP"), and site availability, the selected date for the hybrid hearing, jointly hosted by the Community Boards, is Thursday, June 3, 2021.
 - o If it is not feasible to proceed with the outdoor location for the joint hearing due to sustained, widespread, hazardous weather; such as pouring rain, thunder, and/or lightning, in the neighborhood of Washington Park, as indicated by the National Weather Service, Thursday, June 10, 2021 has been selected as a contingency date.

- Time:
 - o To accommodate in-person testimony, work schedules, and the anticipated number of participants, the joint hearing will start at 3:30 p.m.
 - o The in-person location will close at 10 p.m., in compliance with permitting rules for events with amplified equipment.
 - o The remote hearing will close at 11 p.m. to accommodate the anticipated large number of participants.

- Joint Hearing Format:
 - o The joint-hearing will be chaired by either or a combination of the Chairpersons for Community Board 2 and 6 and the Chairs (or Co-Chairs) for the Land-Use Subcommittee of each respective Community Board.
 - o The joint hearing will be hosted through Zoom's Webinar platform, which will be accessible online and through a toll-free telephone number. In addition, an in-person location will be available to accommodate individuals who are not able to connect to the Zoom platform, view the online livestream or television broadcast (detailed below), or dial-in to testify.
 - o The joint hearing will be livestreamed through DCP's YouTube Channel and broadcast, via television, by BRIC TV. Both the internet livestream and television broadcast will be free, publicly accessible, and will not require pre-registration. Members of the public who are not registered to testify may be directed to either the livestream or broadcast to view the joint hearing.
 - o The Zoom platform will have a 1000 participant capacity (in addition to in-person capacity, as well as the unlimited viewing capacity of YouTube and BRIC TV). Zoom's Webinar platform recreates an in-person community board hearing by showing on the screen the community board members (referred to as panelists) throughout the hearing and allowing each person who is testifying to be seen and

heard. Members of the public who are waiting to testify will sign in as a participant and have the ability to see and hear the panelists and the person testifying, but the participant will not be seen or heard until such time that they are called to testify.

- The Zoom chat function will not be enabled to maintain decorum and ensure questions asked by members of the public are addressed. In recent remote meetings, the chat function was used to disrupt the orderly administration of the meeting, including by targeting individuals and making inappropriate remarks. Turning off the chat feature is similar to the well-established practice that hearing attendees be asked to hold any conversations outside the venue during in-person public hearings.
- A phone hotline will be available to assist individuals in accessing the joint hearing remotely. In addition, City staff will be available at the in-person location further described in the next section.

- In-Person Location

- The in-person location will be the area located in front of the Old Stone House within Washington Park (aka JJ Byrne Park), situated between Fourth and Fifth Avenues and Third and Fifth Streets in Brooklyn. The site consists of a stone plaza and a large turf area, which are each ADA accessible.
- This area of the park will only be accessible to members of the public registered to attend the joint-hearing. Restrooms adjoining the Old Stone House will also be available to hearing attendees.
- The in-person location will be managed by the DCP with assistance from the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation as well as the New York City Police Department.
- Audio-visual equipment will be placed in front of the Old Stone house facing west toward the plaza and turf field and will livestream what is being shown via the Zoom platform.
- Audio-visual equipment will also be made available to attendees to testify via the Zoom platform if a registered participant is not able to testify through his/her own device when called by the hearing facilitators.
- At least 75 socially distant chairs will be provided to accommodate individuals with physical limitations.
- In the event that there is not sufficient physical seating for individuals with physical limitations or sufficient space to safely accommodate all in-person participants, participants will be asked to leave after testifying to accommodate other members of the public who have registered to testify.
- All participants will be required to comply with applicable city, state, and federal health guidance, as well as complete a health check questionnaire. The health guidance followed will be that for unvaccinated individuals to ensure all individuals have an opportunity to participate and to protect the health and safety of City staff and other participants.
- To the extent that the Community Boards are unable to receive the testimony of registered participants from the in-person location due to sustained, widespread, hazardous weather; such as pouring rain, thunder, and/or lightning, in the

neighborhood of Washington Park, as indicated by the National Weather Service, , an additional opportunity to testify in-person will be provided on June 10, 2021.

- Notice and Registration:
 - o The joint hearing will be noticed through the City Record in compliance with the ULURP rules.
 - o In addition, each Community Board and DCP will post details regarding the joint hearing on their respective websites and newsletter (only applicable to Community Board 6) at least ten days prior to the joint hearing, and, to the extent possible, include the notice on local LinkNYC kiosks.
 - o The notices will provide that registration is required to attend the hearing, either remotely or in-person, and to testify.
 - o Advance registration by phone will be available Friday, May 28th, Tuesday, June 1st, and Wednesday, June 2nd from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - o On Thursday, June 3rd, online registration will be available from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m., and in-person registration at Washington Park will be available from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m.

- Hearing Agenda and Testimony
 - o The joint hearing will be opened by the Community Boards with a statement as to the purpose of the joint hearing and instructions on how to register and how to testify.
 - o The applicant (DCP) will then provide a short overview of the proposed Gowanus Neighborhood Plan and land use actions under review.
 - o Testimony will begin after the opening remarks by the Community Boards and overview by DCP.
 - o Participant testimony will begin with elected officials. Elected officials will not be subject to a time limit, which is a citywide practice for public hearings.
 - o Upon elected officials testifying, all other registered participants will be provided an opportunity to testify for two minutes, consistent with citywide practices for public hearings. After two minutes, each participant will cease to be a panelist, as described above, and no longer have the ability to be heard or be seen while still remaining as an attendee in the remote hearing.
 - o To the extent possible, groupings of four to six consecutive participants in opposition and then in support of the proposed land use actions will be alternated. The objective will be that each grouping contains participants testifying remotely through the Zoom platform, from the in-person location, and via phone.
 - o To the extent possible, the hearing facilitators will ask participants to testify in the order that they have registered. However, to prevent pre-registration from causing an undue advantage and to ensure participants at the in-person location have an opportunity to testify before 10 p.m., the Community Boards reserve the right to change the order in which registered participants testify.
 - o Written testimony will be accepted at the in-person location or via email/online until the joint-hearing closes.
 - o In the event that all registered participants have testified and it is not yet 11 p.m., the joint hearing will be recessed for one hour if it is before 7 p.m. or for thirty

minutes after 7 p.m. If, upon the joint hearing resuming, no additional participants have registered to testify or all participants registered have testified prior to 11 p.m., the joint hearing will be closed.

- In the event that twenty or more participants registered to testify at the in-person location cannot be provided an opportunity to testify before 10 p.m., such registered participants will be given an opportunity to testify in-person on June 10, 2021, in conformance with this protocol.
- In the event that twenty or more participants accessing the Zoom platform directly and registered to testify do not have an opportunity to testify before 11 p.m., such registered participants will be given an opportunity to testify remotely on June 10, 2021, in conformance with this protocol.