



Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale
61-23 Myrtle Avenue • Glendale, NY 11385
(718) 366-1834
E-mail: qnscb5@nyc.rr.com



Vincent Arcuri, Jr.
Chairperson

Gary Giordano
District Manager

Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting November 12, 2014

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Daniel Creighton; Henry Cross; Patricia Crowley; Venera Lucy Dolce; Brian Dooley; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Caroline Fuchs; Angela Giovannello; Patricia Grayson; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoefflerle; Robert Holden; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Michael LoCascio; John Maier; Lydia Martinez; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Margaret A. O’Kane; Michael O’Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Theodore M. Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Connie Santos; John F. Schell; Jean Tanler; Barbara Toscano; Mercy Wong; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Peter Comber; Jerome Drake; Steven Fiedler; Dorie Figliola; John J. Killcommons; Lorraine Sciulli; Catherine Sumsky

Elected Officials

NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, 30th CD
Jordan Goldes - U.S. Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D.
Neil Giannelli - NYS Senator Joseph Addabbo, 15th SD
Lauren Capozzi - NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD
Mike Armstrong – NYS Assemblyman Margaret Markey, 30th AD
Anne Krzyzanowski – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, 37th AD
Angel Vazquez - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38th AD
Kevin Worthington - NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, 34th CD

Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens
Catherine O’Leary & Laura Mulvihill - CB5Q Staff
Catherine Moore – Queens Borough President’s Office

Guests

Jeffrey Chester, Partner - Gonzalez, Saggio & Harlan, LLP, Attorneys –at-Law, 292 Madison Ave – 19th FL, NY, NY 10017
Brenda Collazo, Manager – Lucille Roberts, 55-05 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
Sol Niego, Architect for Marmel Realty Associates Corp., 55-05 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
Gerald Caliendo, Architect, 138-72 Queens Boulevard, Briarwood, NY 11435
Lauren D’Amico, Manager – Massage Envy of Bayside, 38-03 Bell Boulevard, Bayside, NY 11361
Len D’Amico, Franchise owner - Massage Envy of Rego Park, 89-44 Metropolitan Avenue, Rego Park, NY 11374

Board Chairman Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:35pm, following the Salute to the Flag. He introduced the first item on the Board Agenda as:

Public Hearing RE: BSA Cal. No. 229-14 BZ - Lucille Roberts Women's Gym

In The Matter of an Application to the NY City Board of Standards and Appeals, by Gonzalez Saggio and Harlan, LLP, Attorneys at Law, on behalf of Marmel Realty Associates Corp., the owner of record, for a Special Permit, under Section 73-36 of the Zoning Resolution, to have a physical culture establishment for **Lucille Roberts Women's Gym at 55-05 Myrtle Avenue**, Block: 3450; Lot: 1, in Ridgewood, Queens.

On behalf of the owner of record, Marmel Realty Associates Corp., Jeffrey Chester, a partner in Gonzalez, Saggio and Harlan, LLP, Attorneys at Law, explained that his client seeks a Special Permit from the Board of Standards and Appeals to operate a physical culture establishment for Lucille Roberts Women's Gym at 55-05 Myrtle Avenue, which is located in a C4-3A zoning district, in Ridgewood.

Mr. Chester explained that the Lucille Roberts Women's Gym had been operating their fitness program in a building directly across the street from the proposed site since 1998. However, due to recurring sewer backups in the basement of 54-32 Myrtle Avenue, he said that his client decided to move out of there, and relocate into newly renovated space at 55-05 Myrtle Avenue. Their new site is located on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the building on the north side Myrtle Avenue, between St. Nicholas Avenue and Madison Street in Ridgewood. He said that for many years, the building had been occupied by a furniture store until that business closed its doors, and more recently, a retail store occupied the ground floor, with office space on the floors above.

Mr. Chester said that at present, there are 21 Lucille Roberts Women's Gyms that are located throughout New York City. He said that they are all well-run and have been operating successfully for years. He pointed out that their hours of operation from Monday to Friday are 7am to 8pm, and on Saturday and Sunday, they are open from 9am to 2pm.

Regarding the building renovations that have been completed in 55-05 Myrtle Avenue, he invited Sol Niego, the architect, to address the Board. Mr. Niego explained that the property owner has completely renovated the building over the past two years, including the installation of a new elevator this year, in order to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act regulations, in addition to installing new partitions, new bathrooms on each floor, and a new central air-conditioning system. He said that the newly renovated space on the 2nd and 3rd floors of this building provides more ample floor space than their prior location, which is located across the street.

Mr. Chester introduced Brenda Collazo, the current manager of the Lucille Roberts gym in Ridgewood, who estimated that as many as 300 to 400 members may visit their gym on any given day. She said that each member pays a fee of \$15 to \$17 per month to maintain their annual membership in the gym. She explained that while she's been working for Lucille Roberts at other locations for several years, she was recently promoted to manage the women's gym in Ridgewood.

Walter Sanchez asked how many active members belong to their gym on Myrtle Avenue, at present. Mr. Chester agreed to obtain those figures and provide them to the Board. Mr. Sanchez also asked if there were any parking accommodations for their members at this site. Mr. Chester said that the vast majority of their members either walk to and from the gym, or take public transportation. There is no on-site parking.

As there were no further questions or comments, the Board Chairman closed the public hearing and referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further consideration. Walter Sanchez, the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee Chairman, invited the applicant's representative to attend their next

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on Nov. 12, 2014

committee meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for the first Monday, or Tuesday, night in December, beginning at 7:30pm, in the Board 5 office.

Public Hearing

re: **BSA Cal. No. 269-14 BZ - Massage Envy Spa**

In The Matter of an Application to the NY City Board of Standards and Appeals by Gerald J. Caliendo Architect, P.C., under Section 73-36 of the Zoning Resolution, to have a **Massage Envy Spa** physical culture establishment at **89-44 Metropolitan Avenue** (Block: 3872; Lot: 33) in Glendale, Queens.

On behalf of his client, Gerald Caliendo explained that this is an application for a special permit under Section 73-38 of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York, to permit a new physical culture establishment (Massage Envy Spa) on the first floor level of an existing one-story commercial building located in a R4/R4-1 zoning district with a C2-2 commercial overlay. The proposed floor area of the physical culture establishment is 3,108 sq. ft., which will accommodate ten separate therapy rooms and a front desk. He said that his client is leasing the premises from the property owner, in order to operate a spa, under the widely known nationwide chain known as Massage Envy. He described the building as an existing one-story structure that is 22 feet high. He said that the proposed site fully complies with ADA requirements, and is fully handicap accessible. The premises will be equipped with all fire safety measures as required by the NYC Fire Code and NYC Building Code, he said.

Mr. Caliendo said that the premises are located on an 18,360 sq. ft. zoning lot on the south side of Metropolitan Avenue between Woodhaven Blvd. and Aubrey Avenue. He said there are 15 on-site parking spaces. The site has just been completely renovated in compliance with ADA regulations, he said. Previously, this site was occupied by four separate retail stores, including a Chinese take-out, and dry cleaners. An auto parts store is located adjacent to this site.

Mr. Caliendo said that as per Section 32-00 of the Zoning Resolution, the proposed physical culture establishment is a permitted use within the existing C2-2- zoning district. The current use of the space is commercial, Use Group 6, he said. However, , in order to operate their business in the City of New York, the owners of physical culture establishments are required to obtain approval for a Special Permit from the Board of Standards and Appeals, under Section 73-36 of the Zoning Resolution.

Mr. Caliendo introduced his client, Len D'Amico, as the owner of a Massage Envy Spa in Bayside, which has been operating very successfully for the past 10 years. Mr. D'Amico said that presently, over 1,000 members have joined the Bayside spa, and he is interested in expanding his business to other neighborhoods in the City. He invited his daughter, Lauren D'Amico, who will be the manager of the spa at the proposed location, to address the Board.

Ms. D'Amico said that the proposed maximum number of occupants in this spa at any one time is 39, based on occupancy load. She said that there will be approximately 10 employees working at the spa: 5 massage therapists, 1 aesthetician, 2 front desk clerks, and 2 administrative personnel. The proposed hours of operation are Monday thru Friday, from 9am to 9pm; on Saturdays, from 9am to 8pm; and on Sundays, from 9am to 6pm. Patrons will be accommodated by appointment only, she said. A monthly fee of \$69.99 is charged for membership dues, which would cover the cost of one customized massage every month, or a skin facial for \$10 more. Additional massage sessions are provided at a rate of \$59.99 per 1-hour session for members; non-members are charged \$119.99. She said that their certified therapists are trained to provide relaxation massage, deep tissue massage, sports massage, foot therapy massage, cranial sacral massage, geriatric massage and prenatal massage.

Board Chairman Arcuri stated that he has volunteered with Len D'Amico on several charitable events over the years. Walter Sanchez said that he has served as a Board member of local organizations in Queens with Len D'Amico for years.

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on Nov. 12, 2014

The Board Chairman recognized all of the local elected officials and their representatives who were present, and invited them to address the Board.

NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley said that she has been in continuous talks with the city administration to oppose the proposed shelter at 78-16 Cooper Avenue in Glendale. She thanked Board members for their vote to recommend to the School Construction Authority that a new school campus be constructed on this 9-acre site, considering the fact that Community School District 24 remains the most overcrowded school district in the city. Council Member Crowley said that she plans to introduce a bill in the City Council to co-name 67 Drive in Middle Village in honor of Steven Frosch, who died tragically in an accident while he was at work in the Q5-A Sanitation Garage located on 47 Street in Maspeth. She said that Mr. Frosch grew up on 67 Drive in Middle Village. The Council Member said that she is happy to announce that \$3.6 Million in funding is secured for major capital improvements in local parks, including the rehabilitation of the ballfields and improvement of the running track in Frank Principe Park, formerly known as Maurice Park, in Maspeth.

The Council Member also announced that her office is sponsoring a Veterans Food Drive between November 10th and November 20th, in cooperation with NYC Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and NYC Council Members Eric Ulrich and Stephen Levin. She said that according to recent reports, close to 30% of New York City's veterans rely on emergency food pantries to feed their families. She said that non-perishable food items are being collected at her district office, which is located in the Atlas Park Mall at 71-19 80th Street, Suite 8-303, in Glendale.

The Council Member invited everyone to attend the annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony, co-sponsored by the Ridgewood, Glendale and Middle Village Lions Club, from 4pm to 6pm on Saturday, December 6th at the Fred Haller, Jr. Triangle on Union Turnpike at Myrtle Avenue in Glendale. Flyers were distributed to those present.

Walter Sanchez asked Council Member Crowley if she had any information about when to expect the contract between the Department of Homeless Services and Samaritan Village to be forwarded to City Comptroller Scott Stringer's office. The Council Member said that according to what she's learned from recent conversations with representatives of the Department of Homeless Services and other local elected officials, the proposed contract would not reach the City Comptroller's desk anytime soon. She said that in the meantime, elected officials are advocating for homeless families to receive priority placement in available apartments in the NYC Housing Authority developments. She said that at present, there are 2,000 vacancies in local NYCHA apartments. In addition, she said that the State and City have agreed to fund a new housing voucher program that provides rental subsidies to homeless working families.

In closing, Council Member Crowley wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy Holiday Season.

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Catherine Moore welcomed everyone to attend the annual State of the Borough Address, scheduled to begin at 10 AM on Thursday, January 22nd, 2015 in the Colden Center Auditorium at Queens College. She said that parking is available on campus. Ms. Moore wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

On behalf of Congresswoman Grace Meng, Jordan Goldes said that the Congresswoman recently introduced new legislation to establish a new zip code for Glendale. He said that the Congresswoman plans to introduce legislation which would prohibit "spoofing" whereby callers, who claim to represent government agencies, such as, Social Security, Internal Revenue Service, or law enforcement offices, request that homeowners disclose personal financial information over the phone. He advised everyone not to comply with the request, and to contact their local precinct to report it. In closing, he said that the Congresswoman remains opposed to the proposed homeless shelter at 78-16 Cooper Avenue and supports the recommendation to build a public school on this site. He welcomed constituents to contact their district office, located at 118-35 Queens Boulevard in Forest Hills, by calling (718) 445-7861.

On behalf of State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Neil Giannelli announced that Alex Maureau recently resigned from his position on staff in order to take a new job in the Parks Department in Queens. He welcomed constituents to

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on Nov. 12, 2014

contact their office at (718) 497-1630, or visit their office located at 66-85 73 Place in Middle Village between the hours of 9am and 5pm, from Monday to Friday. He said that Senator Addabbo sends his apologies that he could not attend tonight's meeting, due to a family emergency.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Mike Miller, Angel Vazquez announced that their office is hosting a Food Drive until November 22nd, and he welcomed donations of non-perishable food items to be dropped off at their office at 83-91 Woodhaven Boulevard. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, Lauren Capozzi said that as Chair of the Assembly Oversight Committee, the Assemblyman is working to improve coordination between Child Protective Services with local law enforcement and social service agencies. Ms. Capozzi also reported that on October 19th, they co-sponsored their 3rd annual recycling event at the Forest Hills Jewish Center, where they collected 9,000 lbs. of household electronics. She welcomed constituents to contact their district office, located at 70-50 Austin Street in Forest Hills, by calling (718) 263-5595. She distributed copies of their newsletter to those present.

On behalf of State Assemblywoman Margaret Markey, Mike Armstrong announced that their staff will team up with Elmhurst Hospital to provide free flu shots for local residents on Tuesday, November 18th, from 9:30am to 12 Noon at 55-19 69th Street in Maspeth. He said that flu shots will be provided by appointment only. Please call their office at (718) 651-3185 for more information. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

On behalf of State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Anne Krzyzanowski said that the Assemblywoman wrote a letter to the State Liquor Authority regarding complaints about the amount of noise and garbage generated by the large crowd of people in the street outside the Knockdown Center at last night's event. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

On behalf of NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Kevin Worthington said that the Council Member plans to sponsor legislation in the City Council to recommend that Suydam Street at Cypress Avenue in Ridgewood be co-named in honor of Ann Maggio, the late Board member and long-time civic activist, who lived on this block for most of her life.

Regarding P.S. 305Q, the Learners and Leaders Early Childhood Center which is located at 382 Seneca Avenue, he said that the Council Member supports expanding the grade levels in this school to include Kindergarten through 5th Grade students.

The Board Chairman announced the next item on the Board Agenda as:

PUBLIC FORUM

Christina Wilkinson, president of the Newtown Historical Society, objected to the State Liquor Authority issuing a partial liquor license to the Knockdown Center for a techno concert that was held in the Knockdown Center last night. She said that patrons who were waiting in line on 54 Street at 11am to enter the Knockdown Center were not given access to bathroom facilities. As a result, nearby homeowners reported public urination and garbage thrown onto their neighbors' properties.

On a different note, Ms. Wilkinson reported that COMET (Citizens of Maspeth and Elmhurst Together) is working to restore the plaques on the arches that decorate the Ridgewood Plateau area. She distributed photos of the plaque on Jay Avenue at 65 Place which was recently restored. She and Len Santoro have both volunteered to paint over graffiti on mail boxes and fire boxes throughout Maspeth this month.

Henry Kielmanowicz, a Ridgewood resident, said that he has heard rumors that one of the buildings that is owned by Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, which is located at Bleecker Street and 60 Place in Ridgewood, is being sold and converted into a homeless shelter. He asked if the Community Board knows anything about these plans.

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on Nov. 12, 2014

The District Manager Gary Giordano replied that the Community Board has received several phone calls requesting information about this issue. He said that recently, Queens District Managers met with representatives of the Department of Homeless Services and various homeless service providers in Queens Borough Hall. Subsequently, Sister Janet of Providence House informed him that a proposal was submitted to the Diocese and it is under review. He said that, to his knowledge, the convent at this location had approximately 24 rooms.

Dawn Scala, a Glendale resident and member of the Glendale-Middle Village Coalition, said that she had requested information from the Brooklyn Diocese and Providence House regarding any plans to convert one of the buildings that are adjacent to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church and parochial school into a homeless shelter, but she has not yet received a reply. She said that local elected officials should propose legislation to amend New York State's Right to Shelter Law, in order to limit the number of homeless individuals from foreign countries and other states for whom City taxpayers may be required to provide shelter and public assistance. She said that a growing portion of homeless families include heads of households who are employed, and should be given priority in the housing lottery for affordable apartments in new housing developments in Queens, including Long Island City. Board Chairman Arcuri announced that the Mayor's Office of Contracts has scheduled a public hearing tomorrow morning in lower Manhattan, regarding the conversion of the Pan Am Hotel on Queens Boulevard in Elmhurst into a transient housing facility.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

The Board Chairman recognized the press corps in attendance at the meeting, and thanked them for their reporting on Community Board matters and events.

MINUTES

Board Chairman Arcuri asked Board members to review the minutes of the October 8, 2014 Board Meeting. John Maier made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Richard Huber. The minutes were accepted by voice vote.

LIQUOR, WINE and BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS and RENEWALS

The Board Chairman read aloud the list of establishments in the Community Board 5 area that are in the process of applying for liquor, wine and beer licenses since last month. Each Board member received a copy of the listing.

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) **Coyote Bohemio, Inc.** 55-19 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
(Change in class from Restaurant Wine to On-Premises Liquor, Wine & Beer)
- 2) **Core Food & Catering LLC d/b/a Maurya** 63-108 Woodhaven Boulevard, Rego Park, NY 11374

Liquor License Renewal

- 1) **Fajitas Sunrise Restaurant Corp.** 59-24 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

- 1) **Baez Mini Market Corp.** 61-22 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 2) **Drunken Fish CT, Inc.** 52-35 Metropolitan Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) **La Cocina de Mama Inc.** 56-13 Metropolitan Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Sabor Y Rumba Inc.** 666 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Alteration Notification

- 1) ***Phillies Pizzeria II, Inc.** 74-02 Eliot Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
(Adding additional space with an additional bar and seating on 2nd Floor)

* Indicates Licensed Outdoor Area

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on Nov. 12, 2014

Demolition Notices

The Board Chairman reported that the Board received notification of several building demolitions in Ridgewood:

- 1) a vacant garage and warehouse at **335 and 337 St. Nicholas Avenue**, corner of Palmetto Street;
- 2) a vacant 2-family house with accessory garage located at **1815 Linden Street**; and
- 3) a vacant 1-story frame house located at **1738A Harman Street**.

Theodore Renz, Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District, pointed out that a developer plans to convert the vacant commercial property, located on the south side of St. Nicholas Avenue between Palmetto Street and Woodbine Street in Ridgewood into a new housing development, known as the Ridgewood Tower. He said that the developer recently acquired 3 large tracts of land on the block, but has not filed new building plans, as yet.

He asked Board members to remain vigilant and to advise the Board 5 staff about any questionable construction work in the area, so they can investigate further.

STAFF REPORT

District Manager Gary Giordano

The District Manager thanked everyone who participated in the fifth annual Queens Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 9th, 2014, beginning at 12 Noon, on Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village. He encouraged everyone to thank veterans for their service, particularly at this time of year.

The District Manager said that unfortunately, there were two recent traffic fatalities during the early morning which both involved pedestrians crossing at busy intersections in the Board 5 area. In one incident, a man was killed on his way to work, when he was struck by a car at the intersection of 80 Street and Cooper Avenue in Glendale. In the second accident, a man was headed across the intersection of Myrtle Avenue, Wyckoff Avenue and Palmetto Street, in Ridgewood, on his way to Wyckoff Hospital for kidney dialysis, when he fatally struck and killed. He said that the Transportation Committee plans to review existing traffic safety measures at their next meeting.

Regarding the status of the proposed transitional housing facility at 78-16 Cooper Avenue in Glendale, the District Manager reported that on October 20th, the Department of Buildings disapproved building alteration plans that were submitted on behalf of the owner, seeking to convert the vacant factory into a homeless residence.

Regarding current capital improvement projects in the Board 5 area, the District Manager said that the contractor is scheduled to begin work on Monday, November 17th on the \$20+ Million project to replace the combined sewer and water mains along Calamus Avenue, between 69 Street and 74 Street, and in 69 Street, between Calamus Avenue and 47th Avenue. He said that under this contract, a 5 ft. by 8 ft. reinforced concrete box sewer will be installed in Calamus Avenue and in 69 Street, along with new water mains.

Regarding the Penelope Avenue Sewer Replacement Project, the District Manager said that the utilities are currently being relocated, prior to the start of work on this project next Spring. Under this contract, new sewer mains with increased capacity will be installed along Penelope Avenue and Juniper Valley Road, and adjoining streets, between 71 Street and 77 Street in Middle Village. He said that this project should alleviate the severe street and basement flooding that has occurred after heavy rainfall in this section of Middle Village. This project will also include new water main installation.

The District Manager announced that this coming weekend, during the early morning hours on Saturday, the NYC Department of Transportation plans to close the Metropolitan Avenue Bridge over English Kills Creek, from 1am to 6am, in order to perform maintenance on this bridge. In addition, he said that the Department of Transportation plans to close the Grand Street Bridge over Newtown Creek for repairs to the bridge deck grating on the next four Saturdays, November 15th, 22nd, 29th and December 6th, 2014, from 7am to 1pm.

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on Nov. 12, 2014

Regarding the current resurfacing work schedule, the District Manager said that the Department of Transportation has completed milling and begun resurfacing local streets in Middle Village, Maspeth, and Glendale. All of the work is slated for completion this month. John Maier asked whether Palmetto Street between Fairview Avenue and Grandview Avenue would be resurfaced this year. The District Manager said that it would likely have to be added to next year's list of resurfacing requests.

The District Manager announced that he plans to attend the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's briefing for elected officials and representatives tomorrow morning, regarding their Draft Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate alternatives that will enhance the transportation of freight across New York Harbor. He said that construction of a rail freight tunnel from New Jersey to Brooklyn would put tremendous pressure on our community, since the Bay Ridge line of the LIRR comes directly into Fresh Pond Yards in Glendale.

Katherine Masi asked when the Department of Environmental Protection plans to begin installing bioswales in the Board 5 area. The District Manager replied that he expects them to begin work next Spring. They are still in the process of performing test borings at possible locations, and have not provided specific locations where they plan to install bioswales.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation Services Committee

John Schell

John Schell, Co-Chair of the Transportation Services Committee, reported that on October 28th, the committee met with representatives from the NYC Department of Transportation to review traffic safety improvements that are being proposed in the vicinity of P.S. 239Q at 1715 Weirfield Street in Ridgewood, in connection with the Safe Routes to Schools Program. He reported that 25 pedestrian related accidents had occurred in this area, between 2005 and 2014. He said that the proposed traffic safety measures should help to reduce the number of traffic accidents in this vicinity, particularly those that involve pedestrians. He reported that after careful review, the committee recommends the preliminary traffic safety design, as proposed. He said that the plan design is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2016.

As there were no further questions or comments on the committee's recommendation, Board Chairman Arcuri requested a Roll Call vote on the matter, which carried unanimously by a vote of – 36 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstaining; and - 0 – not voting.

Mr. Schell reported that the committee also discussed and recommends in favor of Council Member Antonio Reynoso's proposal to co-name Suydam Street, between Cypress Avenue and the Dead-End, in honor of Ann Maggio, the late Board member and long-time resident of this block. He said that the committee received a petition signed by many block residents requesting the new designation.

As there were no further questions or comments on the committee's recommendation, Board Chairman Arcuri requested a Roll Call vote on the matter, which carried unanimously by a vote of – 36 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstaining; and - 0 – not voting.

Mr. Schell reported that the committee received a request to co-name 67 Drive between 78 Street and 79 Street in Middle Village in honor of Steven A. Frosch, the Sanitation Department mechanic who was killed instantly when struck by a mechanical broom in the Q5-A Sanitation Garage this Summer. He said that the committee recommends in favor of co-naming 67 Drive between 78 Street and 79 Street, as Steven A. Frosch Way.

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on Nov. 12, 2014

As there were no further questions or comments on the committee's recommendation, Board Chairman Arcuri requested a Roll Call vote on the matter, which carried unanimously by a vote of – 36 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstaining; and - 0 – not voting.

Mr. Schell said that last week committee members reviewed the final design plans for the major sewer and water main improvement project that is scheduled to begin in the Spring in the Penelope Avenue area of Middle Village. He said that the Board has received requests to relax some parking restrictions, on the south side of Juniper Valley Park, for the duration of the Penelope Avenue sewer and water main replacement project.

Mr. Schell reminded everyone that the new 25 MPH Speed Limit on local streets throughout New York City is now in effect.

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez reported that on Monday, October 6th, 2014, committee members met with Gerald Caliendo, the applicant's representative, in the Board 5 office to review the application for a Special Permit, BSA Cal. 269-14-BZ, to operate a new physical culture establishment at **89-44 Metropolitan Avenue** in Rego Park, Queens, NY (Block 3872; Lot 33), in an R4/R4-1/C2-2 Zoning District.

Mr. Sanchez said that committee members had no objections to the proposed physical culture establishment, doing business as Massage Envy Spa, occupying the first floor level of an existing one-story commercial building located at 89-44 Metropolitan Avenue.

As there were no questions or comments, Board Chairman Arcuri asked the pleasure of the Board regarding this matter. Katherine Masi made a motion to recommend that a letter of no objection be sent to the Board of Standards and Appeals regarding the proposed physical culture establishment, which was seconded by Patricia Grayson.

As there was no further discussion on the motion on the floor, Board Chairman Arcuri requested a Roll Call vote on the recommendation which carried by a vote of – 35 - in favor; -0 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and - 1 – not voting.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Board Chairman Arcuri adjourned the public meeting of Community Board 5, Queens on a motion from the floor at 9:20pm.