



Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale
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Vincent Arcuri, Jr.
Chairperson

Gary Giordano
District Manager

Sept. 10, 2014 Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Henry Cross; Patricia Crowley; Venera Lucy Dolce; Brian Dooley; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Dorie Figliola; Caroline Fuchs; Angela Giovanniello; Patricia Grayson; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoeffler; Robert Holden; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; 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; Catherine Sumsky; Jean Tanler; Barbara Toscano; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Peter Comber; Daniel Creighton; Jerome Drake; John J. Killcommons; Michael LoCascio; Lorraine Sciulli; Mercy Wong

Elected Officials

NYS Senator Joseph Addabbo, 15th SD, and Alex Maureau
NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, 34th CD, and Staff Kevin Worthington
Jordan Goldes – U.S. Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D.
Christopher Kaznowski and Lauren Cupozzi - NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD
David Aglialoro – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, 37th AD
David Renz - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38th AD
Roman Paprocki - NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, 30th CD

Staff Present

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

Guests

Audrey I. Pheffer, Queens County Clerk – State Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435
Todd Dale – Erik Palatnik, P.C., Attorney at Law, 32 Broadway, New York, NY
Tamara Lindsay – NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs, 42 Broadway, New York, NY 10004
Sgt. Garcia and P.O. Medaffesi and P.O. Romero – NYPD Auxiliary Unit - 104th Police Precinct

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Board Chairman Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:40pm, following the Salute to the Flag. He requested a Moment of Silence in memory of all those who lost their lives in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attack on 9/11/2001. He thanked everyone who participated in Sunday afternoon's prayer service and ceremony in the Memorial Garden in Forest Park to honor the memory of all of the local residents and first responders who died as a result of the attack on September 11th, 2001. And, he encouraged all present to attend the Candlelight Vigil Service tomorrow night in Juniper Valley Park in Middle Village, from 7pm to 8pm.

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

State Senator Joseph Addabbo said that he met recently with Mayor Bill de Blasio and expressed his opposition and concerns about the proposed homeless shelter at 78-16 Cooper Avenue, in Glendale. He said that they had a lengthy discussion of this issue and agreed to meet again about it. He said that he supports the community's request to build a public school at this site, provided it meets the School Construction Authority's criteria for siting a new school campus.

Regarding upcoming events that his office is sponsoring, he said that TJ Maxx will be hosting a job fair in Atlas Park on September 16th through September 18th, next Tuesday through Thursday. He also announced that he and Assemblyman Mike Miller will co-sponsor their semi-annual Electronic Recycling Event in the Band Shell Parking Lot in Forest Park from 10am to 2pm on Sunday, September 28th, 2014. He welcomed everyone to participate in this event.

NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso said he has been working to preserve affordable housing units in Ridgewood. He said that he recently obtained a firm commitment from the developer of the proposed housing development, on Woodward Avenue between Starr and Troutman Street, to rent at least 50% of the apartments at affordable rates, for eligible local residents with annual incomes ranging from \$23,000 to \$105,000. Rents for the remaining units will be set at market rates, he said.

The Council Member congratulated the Parks Committee for their strong advocacy in favor of creating a nature preserve in the Ridgewood Reservoir.

Council Member Reynoso announced that this year, Council Members will allocate at least \$1 million in discretionary capital funding to be decided upon by district residents. He said that this year, he is one of 24 Council Members who will hold participatory budgeting sessions to give the community real decision-making power over more than \$25 million in taxpayer money. He welcomed constituents to attend a brainstorming session on project ideas in the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council Center at 59-03 Summerfield Street at 6:30pm on September 25th, 2014. In addition, he said that he has secured funding for the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District, and an anti-graffiti campaign in the Board 5 area.

On behalf of Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, Roman Paprocki announced that the Council Member has secured \$2.5 Million in funding this year for the rehabilitation of the Soccer Field and Track in Juniper Valley Park. He said that the project will be completed in stages. Replacement of the running track is included in Phase I, and Phase II will include the rehabilitation of the Soccer Field, he said.

In addition, Mr. Paprocki announced that Council Member Crowley secured \$3 Million in funding to rehabilitate the ball fields and running track in Francis J. Principe Park, on Maurice Avenue in Maspeth. He said that due to poor drainage in the ball fields, there are huge ponding conditions in the middle of the playing fields whenever it rains. He said that the project plans include 2 new ball fields, a soccer field with a running track around the perimeter of the park, and additional holding tanks to store rainwater runoff from the fields.

He also announced that Council Member Crowley is sponsoring a Free Tree Giveaway from 1:30pm to 3:30pm on Saturday, October 4th, 2014, in the parking lot of Maspeth Federal Savings Bank on Grand Avenue at 69 Street.

On behalf of Congresswoman Meng, Jordan Goldes said that the Congresswoman sponsored legislation to increase both criminal and civil penalties for desecrating of cemeteries, including headstones. He said that their office is also

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working to pass legislation that would crack down on con-artists and unscrupulous telemarketers for “spoofing,” displaying bogus names and numbers on caller IDs that trick millions of Americans into answering their phones or replying to text messages.

On behalf of State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, David Aglialoro thanked everyone for their support in advocating for the Ridgewood Reservoir to remain a nature preserve.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Mike Miller, David Renz announced that the American Italian Foundation’s Mammogram Mobile will be stationed in front of their office at 83-91 Woodhaven Boulevard in Woodhaven, from 9 am to 4pm on Sunday, October 19th, 2014. He said that no appointments are required. Flyers were distributed.

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Catherine Moore announced that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. She said that the Borough President plans to sponsor several workshops on this topic next month. She welcomed anyone interested to attend.

The Board Chairman announced the first Item on the Board Agenda as:

PUBLIC HEARING – Re: Fiscal Year 2015 Budget of the City of New York as it affects communities in District 5, Queens

Brian Dooley, Board member and president of Glendale Property Owners Association, stressed the need to improve the sewer system in Eastern Glendale. He said that many of the homes on both sides of 77 Avenue, from 80 Street to 88 Street, experienced basement flooding during heavy rainfalls. He urged Board members to consider this one of their top priorities in the capital budget, since there are no current plans to increase the capacity of the combined sewer system in Glendale. He said that, for instance, a new sewer main is needed on Edsall Avenue between 71 Place and 73 Street, where rain water constantly floods over the entire roadway.

Mr. Dooley commented that if the proposed homeless shelter on Cooper Avenue is ever approved by the City, it would certainly require a lot more city services be provided in Glendale, including a major expansion of the sewer infrastructure.

As there were no other speakers, the Board Chairman gave the floor to District Manager Gary Giordano who reported on the status of two major sewer and water main replacement projects that are slated to begin between this Fall and next Spring.

The District Manager said that this Fall, work is expected to begin on a \$20+ Million project to replace the combined sewer and corner catch basins along Calamus Avenue, and adjoining streets, between 69 Street and 74 Street in Elmhurst. He said that this project also includes installation of a 5 foot by 8 foot concrete box sewer in 69 Street, from Calamus Avenue to 47 Avenue.

Regarding the Penelope Avenue Sewer Replacement Project, the District Manager also said that work is expected to begin next Spring, replacing existing sewer lines with new sewer mains with increased capacity 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.

Regarding the sewer mains in Eastern Glendale, the District Manager reported that undertaking a major capital improvement in this section of Glendale requires further study, because the sewer mains connect and flow into three separate sewer systems, with each one flowing in a different direction. In the interim, he said that the Department of Environmental Protection has initiated a comprehensive inspection of sewer lines and has cleaned and flushed out sewer mains and catch basins throughout Glendale in order to minimize the possibility of sewer backups. He said that the Department continues to monitor the sewer system to discover where backups and sewer

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breaks occur, and respond accordingly in each case.

District Manager Giordano reported that the Glendale Library renovation project, including the installation of an elevator to provide ADA-handicapped accessibility, is slated to begin in Calendar Year 2015.

Regarding the Metropolitan Avenue Bridge over the LIRR at Fresh Pond Road, the District Manager reported that this bridge carries a high volume of traffic, including trucks, buses and passenger vehicles, and is not in good condition. He said that according to recent inspection results, it was rated 3.6, out of a possible 7. He said that replacement of this bridge is estimated to cost \$30+ Million.

The District Manager also reported that the Grand Street Bridge over Newtown Creek on the Brooklyn-Queens border is in poor condition, and requires emergency repairs to replace the deck gratings now. The existing bridge deck is not wide enough to allow two cars to pass each other as they cross over the bridge. He said that this bridge should be replaced, instead of continually being repaired.

District Manager Giordano explained that Expense budget items are included in the Board's Service Program Priorities. He said that the FY 2016 Capital & Expense Budget Priority Surveys will be prepared for distribution next week, after the Executive Committee meets to review and discuss their budget recommendations for the next fiscal year. He reminded everyone that the FY 2016 begins on July 1, 2015. He asked board members to return their budget surveys as soon as possible, so that staff will have time to tabulate the results for the Executive Committee's review prior to the next Board Meeting, on October 8, 2014.

PUBLIC HEARING – Re: BSA Cal No. 973-57 BZ

60-04 Metropolitan Avenue, in Ridgewood

In the Matter of an Application to the NY City Board of Standards & Appeals by Eric Palatnik, PC, on behalf of the owner of record, Bill Wolf Petroleum Corp., for extension of the term variance, for a period of 10 years, to permit the operation and maintenance of a gasoline service station and accessory uses thereto at 60-04 Metropolitan Avenue in Ridgewood, Queens, NY (Block 3492, Lot 45), in an R6B/C2-4 Zoning District.

Todd Dale, an attorney with the firm of Erik Palatnik, said that this is an application filed to extend the term of a variance pursuant to ZR # 11-411, for an existing 1-story gasoline service station, located at 60-04 Metropolitan Avenue, on the southwest corner of Metropolitan Avenue and 60th Street, in Ridgewood, on Block: 3492 and Lot: 45. He said that the lot covers a total of 15,812 square feet, including 145 feet along the front on Metropolitan Avenue, and 91 feet along the 60th Street side of the lot.

Mr. Dale said that the existing 10-year term variance permits the operation and maintenance of a gasoline service station, and accessory uses thereto. He said that the application also seeks a waiver of the Rule of Practice and Procedure, since the application is being filed after the permitting filing period.

He explained that the existing gasoline service station is considered to be a Use Group 16, located in an R6B/C2 zoning district, and their temporary Certificate of Occupancy expired on October 28, 2013.

He said that in 1957, the Board of Standards and Appeals originally granted a 15-year term variance for the erection of a gasoline service station on this site. The zoning variance has been renewed several times over the years, he said. He said that there have been no significant changes in the operation of the gasoline station in the past decade, and the applicant has no plans to expand the operation, structure or use of this site in the future.

In closing, Mr. Dale said that there are no current violations on the property.

As there were no questions or comments, the Board Chairman closed the public hearing on this matter and referred it to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further review and recommendation to the full Board.

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Walter Sanchez, chairman of the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee, invited him to attend the next committee meeting that is scheduled for October 6, 2014 in the Board office.

Presentation

Re: Jury Duty Requirements

by Audrey Pheffer, Queens County Clerk

Audrey Pheffer began by asking for a show of hands from all those who have served on Jury Duty. She said that she was pleasantly surprised to find that almost everyone in the room had raised their hand. She said that juries touch the lives of millions of New Yorkers each year. More than 600,000 people serve annually and each one has family, friends, employers and co-workers who are affected by their jury service. She said that jurors can be summoned to serve once every four years.

Ms. Pheffer reminded everyone of the qualifications for jury duty service, by stating that all jurors must be: a United States citizen; at least 18 years old; a resident of the county to which you are summoned ; and able to understand and communicate in the English language. However, convicted felons are excluded from jury duty service, she said.

Ms. Pheffer advised that willfully disregarding a jury notice subjects you to non-compliance proceedings that can result in: civil fines of up to \$250; or a criminal contempt fine of up to \$1,000; or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, or both. And, you still may be required to serve Jury Duty, she said.

In closing, Ms. Pheffer said that anyone over the age of 75 will be excused from serving on a jury trial in New York State.

PUBLIC FORUM

Yibin Mu and Myra Iqbal invited everyone to join the People's Climate March, the largest march demanding action on climate change in U.S. history, which is scheduled to begin at 11:30am on Sunday, September 21st, 2014, north of Columbus Circle on Central Park West at 86 Street, then head down to 59 Street and Broadway, then west to 11th Avenue, and end up on 34 Street in Midtown Manhattan. Mr. Mu said that a recent investigation by Reuters found that sea level rise is already costing coastal communities billions of dollars – with no end in sight. He said that every new report reveals a shorter timeframe for action. Ms. Iqbal spoke about the increasing frequency of “extreme weather” event and urged everyone to “Go Green” by reduce their energy consumption on a daily basis. For more information, they said to register on their website at: www.peoplesclimatemarch.org. Flyers about the event were distributed to all present.

Dawn Scala, a Glendale resident, announced that various local organizations have joined together to form the Glendale-Middle Village Coalition to oppose the proposed plans to create a homeless shelter at 78-16 Cooper Avenue in Glendale. She said that the Coalition plans to hire a lawyer to represent local homeowners and businesses to fight the proposed plan to warehouse homeless families at this site. She called the proposal to convert this vacant factory into a housing facility, an ineffective and inefficient use of taxpayers’ money.

Ms. Scala said that instead, she supports a proposal to build a new public school on this site, considering the problem of school overcrowding in Community School District 24. She distributed flyers, and asked everyone to show their support by signing their on-line petition, located on www.Change.org.

Stacie Kruk, a member of the Glendale-Middle Coalition, said that their coalition was recently formed by local civic associations, businesses and local residents, to fight against the plan to warehouse homeless families in 78-16 Cooper Avenue in Glendale. She announced plans to hold their first informational meeting at 7:30pm on Wednesday, October 1st in the cafeteria of Christ the King High School. To-date, the coalition has raised over \$15,000 to cover the cost of the initial legal fees that will be required to fight the city’s proposed plans to house homeless families at 78-16 Cooper Avenue, she said.

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Mary Parisen, co-founder of CURES (Civics United for Railroad Environmental Solutions), thanked the Board for their continued support in requesting capital budget funds to upgrade the diesel engines in the locomotives that haul freight on the rail lines into and out of the Fresh Pond Road Yard in Glendale. She said that since most of the municipal garbage from Long Island is transported by rail through Glendale, additional regulations are required to protect the quality of life of local residents.

Ms. Parisen said that Queens Borough President Melinda Katz recently formed a task force to address the issues that CURES has raised regarding the fact that, while freight rail terminals are intended for significant expansion on Long Island, the Glendale Yard remains the only transit hub for all of the freight rail shipments through Queens, by the New York and Atlantic Railway.

Tom Dowd thanked members of the Parks Committee and the Board for conducting a public meeting with representatives of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation regarding the Plans to Decommission the Ridgewood Reservoir as a high hazard dam. He said that, in response to questions that were raised during the meeting on June 30, 2014, local elected officials wrote to Governor Cuomo requesting a review of the criteria used to determine the classification of this reservoir as a high hazard dam. He said that after careful review, they have decided to seriously consider changing the designation of the reservoir to a low hazard dam, which would eliminate the necessity to breach the walls of the reservoir. He said that this facility could serve as a scientific station on the Atlantic Flyway for migratory birds through North America.

Tamara Lindsay, a representative of the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs Financial Empowerment Center, spoke about their agency's new initiative to assist small businesses throughout the city to comply with local laws and regulations, by providing information and one-on-one financial counseling services. She reminded everyone that a new Paid Sick Leave Law has taken effect this Summer, and said that it will affect the lives of more than 1 million employees in the City of New York.

For more information, she said to contact 3-1-1, or visit the City's website at www.nyc.gov to find out where to find free financial counseling services in your community.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

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

Chairman Arcuri announced that on September 23rd, Community Board 5 Queens will host a National Voter Registration Day at the Board 5 office, located at 61-23 Myrtle Avenue, in Glendale. He welcomed volunteers to participate in this event. Patricia Grayson volunteered.

MINUTES

Board Chairman Arcuri asked Board members to review the minutes of the July 9th, 2014 Board Meeting. Richie Huber made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by John Maier. 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) 60-59 Myrtle Avenue Bar Corp. d/b/a **The Juice Spot** 60-59 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Jorge Restaurant Corp.** 689 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
(Upgrading existing Beer/Wine License to Liquor, Beer & Wine License)

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Liquor License Renewals

- 1) Bray Head Inc. d/b/a **Mooney's Public House** 82-11 Eliot Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 2) **Shiro's at Atlas Park** 8000 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 3) **Lugo Lounge & Restaurant Corp.** 1089 Cypress Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

- 1) Maspeth Food Corp. d/b/a **Angelo's Pizza** 57-64 Maspeth Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
 - 2) JK Foods, Inc. d/b/a **Gyro Village** 66-57 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
 - 3) * Justin Carter on behalf of an entity to be determined **56-06 Cooper Avenue**, Ridgewood, NY 11385
(Capacity of 600+ Patrons, Dancing, Live and Recorded Music, Café Bar in Ridgewood SOMA IBZ)
- * Indicates Proposed Licensed Outdoor Area

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) **Banatul Folklore & Soccer Club** 1880 Menahan Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **The Maspeth Ale House** 64-14/16 Flushing Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

The Board Chairman informed everyone that the Board office also received notification form a Jordan Ziskin, 1831 Starr Street Realty, of his intention to apply for a 1-day beer only license for an event in the parking lot at 1831 Starr Street in Ridgewood, that was scheduled to take place on September 6, 2014. Our concerns, as well as the concerns of the 104th Precinct were forwarded to the permit unit of the NYS Liquor Authority. He said the State Liquor Authority reported that the application was never completed.

Jean Tanler, Board member and Coordinator of the Maspeth Industrial Business Zone, expressed strong opposition to granting an alcoholic beverage license at **56-06 Cooper Avenue** in Ridgewood. She said that this warehouse is located south of Myrtle Avenue, in the newly-designated Industrial Business Zone of Ridgewood. She said that the site is a large vacant warehouse located on Cooper Avenue, which is a designated local truck route. She pointed out that light manufacturing industry is one of the major drivers of the city's economic growth today. She objected to proposed plans to convert this warehouse into a catering hall, bar and/or restaurant, because it would discourage future plans to develop light industry in the area.

Theodore Renz, Board member and Executive Director of the Ridgewood Local Development Corporation, objected to granting a liquor license at this location because he said that this vacant warehouse site is an optimal location for light manufacturing uses that could provide good-paying jobs for local residents, and help the overall business climate in Ridgewood.

After a general discussion of the matter, Paul Kerzner made a motion to oppose granting a liquor license for this site for the same reasons that were raised in opposition to the Knockdown Center's application, which were based on its size, use and occupancy. Peggy O'Kane seconded the motion.

The Board Chairman reminded everyone that the Knockdown Center was not granted a proper Certificate of Occupancy to accommodate over 600 patrons in their facility.

As there were no questions or comments, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the motion on the floor which then carried unanimously by a vote of 35 in favor, - 0 - opposed, - 0 - abstentions, and - 0 - not voting.

Demolition Notices

The Board Chairman reported that the Board received the following demolition notices:

- 60-04 Madison Street**, 1-story residential garage, in Ridgewood
- 745 Wyckoff Avenue**, vacant 2-story warehouse, in Ridgewood
- 749-773 Wyckoff Avenue**, vacant 1-story gasoline service station, in Ridgewood

He asked Board members to remain vigilant and to advise the Board 5 staff about any questionable construction

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work in the area, so they can investigate further.

STAFF REPORT District Manager Gary Giordano

The District Manager announced that Community Board 5 plans to participate in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer March in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park on Sunday, October 19th, 2014. He welcomed everyone to join the march which begins at 10am in front of the Unisphere. For more information, he said to contact Laura Mulvihill in the Board office, at (718) 366-1834. Flyers were distributed to all.

Regarding the request for capital budget funding to repower additional freight locomotive engines used by NY & A Railway, he said that additional funds are needed to repower 9 more engines to haul freight north and south, east and west, along the freight rail line through the Board 5 area.

Regarding the status of the proposed transitional housing facility for homeless families at 78-16 Cooper Avenue in Glendale, the District Manager reported that the Department of Buildings still has not approved the alteration plans to convert the vacant factory at 78-16 Cooper Avenue into a transitional housing facility. He said that the Board's Special Committee on the Proposed Housing Facility met in the Board office on August 20th to discuss this matter. At their meeting, committee members agreed that this site is not a suitable location for people to live, in light of the likely contamination at this site, and its close proximity to the Independent Chemical Corp, right next door. And, committee members agreed to contact local businesses, homeowners, civic associations and others to form a coalition to oppose this type of facility at this site.

In addition, he said that earlier this week, the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee and Education Services Committee met together to discuss Community Education Council of District 24's recommendation to build a new public school on this site. He said that the committee will present their recommendation to the Board for a vote at tonight's meeting. He said that, in any case, Community Board 5 remains opposed to siting a transitional housing facility at 78-16 Cooper Avenue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS **Zoning and Land Use Review &** **Education Services**

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez, chairman of the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee, reported that on Monday, August 25, 2014, committee members met with the Education Services Committee members to discuss the resolution adopted by Community Education Council 24 at their August 26th meeting in favor of recommending that the School Construction Authority construct a new school campus at 78-16 Cooper Avenue in Glendale. He read the following resolution for the Board's review and recommendation:

"The School Construction Authority has indicated that they are interested in three Glendale sites on Cooper Avenue for the construction of a school campus. Community Board 5 recognizes the dire need for additional seats within Community School District 24, the most overcrowded school district in the City of New York. Community Board 5 supports building an educational campus on the sites in Glendale, currently occupied by Hansel & Gretel, Independent Chemical Corporation and 78-16 Cooper Avenue, to service the children of Community School District 24 and the City of New York."

Mr. Sanchez said that the School Construction Authority has indicated that they are interested in building a school at this site, on the condition that the entire site would be large enough to accommodate a school campus. He said that both adjoining property owners have said that they would agree to a negotiated sale of their property.

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Chairman Arcuri pointed out that the Board was informed that the Department of Education will not consider the site at 78-16 Cooper Avenue, because there is an existing lease agreement in effect between the property owner and Samaritan Village.

Jean Tanler asked about the possible contamination of this site. Walter Sanchez replied that the School Construction Authority would complete a comprehensive environmental assessment and remediate any hazardous waste conditions prior to constructing a school on the site.

Katherine Masi said that the representatives from the School Construction Authority, who attended the Community Education Council D24 meeting on August 26th, indicated that they were interested in acquiring all three sites in order to build a school at this location.

As there was no further discussion of the resolution, Board Chairman Arcuri requested a Roll Call vote on the committee's resolution which carried by a vote of 32 in favor, - 3 – opposed, - 0 – abstentions, and - 0 – not voting.

Parks Services Committee

Steven Fiedler

Steven Fiedler announced that the Committee conducted a public meeting with representatives of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation regarding the Plans to Decommission the Ridgewood Reservoir as a high hazard dam. He said the meeting was held on June 30, 2014, in Pfeiffer Hall of St. Pancras School, which is located at 68 Street and Myrtle Avenue in Glendale. He said that their meeting was well attended by committee members and the general public.

Mr. Fiedler said that at their meeting, the representatives of the State Dept. of Environmental Conservation were questioned as to why the reservoir was classified as a high hazard Class C dam, when it appears that this reservoir meets low hazard dam criteria, that no longer impounds any water. He said that objections were also raised to plans to remove as many as 470 trees on this site, as part of the decommissioning project. He said that, as a result, DEC representatives have decided to revise the classification of the Ridgewood Reservoir. And, he said that they plan to map the entire reservoir in order to designate it as a wetlands area. He thanked everyone for supporting the committee's recommendation to maintain the reservoir as a nature preserve.

In addition, Mr. Fiedler said that the USTA has indicated that they plan to resurface the tennis courts in Juniper Valley Park, and reserve two of the courts for junior tennis players, 10 years old and under.

Transportation Services Committee

Vincent Arcuri

Board Chairman Arcuri reported that the committee met with members of the Queens Public Transit Committee about their efforts to reactivate the passenger service on the abandoned Rockaway rail line, which extends from Forest Park, east of Woodhaven Boulevard, down to the shore in Queens. He said that the committee continues to review service requests for additional traffic control measures throughout the Board area.

Environmental Services Committee

Brian Dooley

Brian Dooley reported that the committee met recently to review the plans for sewer projects in the Board 5 area. He said that the Calamus Avenue/69 Street Sewer Replacement Project will begin soon, and a second sewer replacement project on Penelope Avenue in Middle Village is expected to begin next year.

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Regarding the possible contamination of the property located at 78-16 Cooper Avenue in Glendale, he said that the committee plans to continue working closely with Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, to follow up on the questionable responses that she had received from the Department of Homeless Services, in response to her comments about the Environmental Assessment Statement that was conducted for the proposed transitional housing facility at this location.

Old and New Business

Theodore Renz welcomed everyone to attend the Myrtle Avenue Street Festival this coming Sunday afternoon, on September 14th, 2014 from 12 Noon to 6 PM. He said that Myrtle Avenue will be closed to traffic between Wyckoff Avenue and Fresh Pond Road. He said that in addition to a variety of antique cars on display, courtesy of the East Coast Car Association, there will be vintage buses on display, courtesy of the New York City Transit Authority. Over 200 merchants will participate in this years' event, and plenty of game booths and children's rides will be available.

Maryanna Zero announced that the Kiwanis Club of Maspeth will host a Neighborhood Flea Market from 10 am to 3 pm on Sunday, October 5th, 2014 in the parking lot of Maspeth Federal Savings Bank on Grand Avenue at 69 Street. She welcomed everyone to participate. For more information, contact her at (718) 326-2400.

Board Chairman Arcuri welcomed everyone to participate in Glendale Community Day from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, September 13, 2014, in Atlas Park on Cooper Avenue. He said that this annual event is hosted by the Glendale Kiwanis Club.

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 9:43pm.