



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

Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting DECEMBER 9, 2015

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Peter Comber; Daniel Creighton; Henry Cross; Patricia Crowley; Karamjit Dhaliwal; Brian Dooley; Thomas C. Dowd; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Dorie Figliola; Patricia Grayson; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoefflerle; Robert Holden; Paul A. Kerzner; John J. Killcommons; Michael LoCascio; John Maier; Lydia Martinez; Katherine Masi; Alexander Maureau; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Theodore M. Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; David Sands; Carmen Santana; Connie Santos; Jean Tanler; Barbara Toscano; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Sarah Feldman; Caroline Fuchs; Angela Giovanniello; Kathleen Knight; Raquel Namuche; Lorraine Sciulli; Catherine Sumsky; Mercy Wong

Elected Officials

NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr., 15th S.D., and Staff Neil Giannelli
NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, 30th CD, and Staff Deirdre Feerick
NYS Assemblywoman Margaret Markey, 30th AD, and Staff Mike Armstrong
Don Capalbi – US Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D.
Evelyn Cruz – US Representative Nydia Velazquez, 7th C.D.
Lauren Capozzi – NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD
Anne Krzyzanowski – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, 37th AD
Diana Santana - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38th AD
Jennifer Gutierrez – NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, 34th CD

Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens
Catherine O'Leary and Laura Mulvihill - CB5Q Staff
Catherine Moore – Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

GUESTS

NYC DOT Queens Borough Commissioner Nicole Garcia, 120-55 Queens Blvd, Kew Gardens, NY 11424
Joannene Kidder, Community Affairs Exec. Director, NYC DOT Division of Bridges, 55 Water St, NY, NY 10041
George Klein, P.E., NYC DOT Division of Bridges, 55 Water Street, New York, NY 10041

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First Vice-Chairperson Walter Sanchez called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:05pm, following the Salute to the Flag. He explained that Chairman Arcuri is unavoidably detained at another meeting tonight, and is expected to arrive shortly. He invited City Council Member Elizabeth Crowley to address the full Board at this time.

NYC Council Member Crowley began by extending Seasons Greetings to everyone present. The Council Member invited everyone to attend the annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at Fred Haller, Jr. Triangle at Myrtle Avenue and Union Turnpike, at 4pm on Saturday, December 12th. The tree-lighting ceremony is co-sponsored by the Ridgewood, Glendale, Middle Village Lions Club.

In addition, the Council Member welcomed input from everyone in the City Council's Participatory Budgeting process this year. She explained that through Participatory Budgeting, community members can decide how to spend at least \$1 Million of the city's budget in each participating Council District. She welcomed everyone to visit the City Council's website at council.nyc.gov/PB during Vote Week, March 26th through April 3rd in the Spring, to see which projects are on the ballot in the Community District 5-Queens area.

Council Member Crowley also informed everyone that the City Council restored funding in this year's budget to maintain 6 days service in all local branch libraries throughout the city this year.

Council Member Crowley thanked everyone who participated in CB5Q Public Hearing for Frank Principe Park, formerly Maurice Park, that was conducted with representatives of the Dept. of Parks and Recreation from 6pm to 8pm, last Wednesday, December 2nd, in Maspeth Town Hall. She said that community residents and park users were given an opportunity to review and comment on the first rendering of proposed improvements to the park, which are planned to include two new ball fields, a new soccer field, and related improvements. The overall project is slated to cost \$5 Million, she said.

Regarding Evergreen Park, located on St. Felix Avenue between Seneca Avenue and Forest Avenue, adjacent to PS 68-Q, the Council Member reported that work on the playground rehabilitation resumed this Fall, and is expected to be completed within months.

Council Member Crowley spoke at length about proposed plans to provide more convenient public transit options for local commuters. She said that the first step in the process would be to hire engineering consultants to perform a feasibility study regarding the use of existing freight rail lines into a commuter rail system through this section of Queens. She described light rail cars as quite, clean, and efficient. She estimated that the proposed light rail service between Glendale and Long Island City could cut an hour-long commute down to 15 to 20 minutes during daily rush hours. She said that she envisions light rail cars arriving at 10-minute intervals in either direction during rush hour commutes. She explained that under this proposal, there are plans to create four stations along the light rail line, roughly equivalent to bus stops, starting in Glendale. She said that she has been advocating for the proposed light rail service to be Metrocard-accessible, with free transfers between buses and subway service.

The Council Member cited the example of Hudson County, New Jersey's installation of light rail service which has led to large scale development of the industrial sector and economic growth. Photos of the proposed light rail service were distributed.

Moreover, the Council Member pointed out that during a recent meeting with the vice president of the Long Island Rail Road, she was informed that the MTA-LIRR wants to add more freight trains moving by rails in Glendale. She said that local residents and commuters deserve better transit options.

First Vice-Chairperson Sanchez opened the floor to questions and comments.

Kathy Masi said that she was concerned about pedestrian safety at the grade crossings, such as, 88 Street in Glendale, and asked what safeguards would be implemented at these crossings. The Council Member said that

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she proposes to incorporate this light rail system into the MTA's NYC Transit system. She said that the engineering study would determine the parameters of the proposed light rail system, including safety assessments, location of stations, and route of the proposed overall commuter light rail system. She explained that at this point, the proposed plans are preliminary and require further study, prior to discussing any specific details regarding grade crossings, etc.

In response to questions from the floor, the Council Member said that the existing freight rail line and right-of-way will remain intact. She said that the proposed plan is to utilize the existing right-of-way for commuter rail service during the day, and not to interfere with the existing freight trains that haul freight along the rail lines overnight.

Jean Tanler, coordinator of the Maspeth Industrial Business Association, said that attempts to implement light rail commuter service should be undertaken as part of a Master Plan of the entire City's public transportation system. She cited the recently completed study of bus service in northeast Queens as one phase of a citywide study of public transportation options. She said that initiating light rail service along this rail line would cost \$50 Million to implement, which is much less costly than constructing new subway and/or elevated lines.

Bob Holden objected to the proposed terminus of any commuter rail line being located in Glendale, saying that the additional commuter traffic would tie up traffic in Glendale with commuters driving into the area to park their cars on local streets in order to ride the train to and from work. Fred Haller and Eileen Moloney agreed. Council Member Crowley pointed out that members of this Community Board have consistently voted in favor of retaining the existing commuter rail tracks along this right-of-way ever since the LIRR discontinued commuter rail service over 20 years ago. The Council Member said that she believes this project would boost the local economy, as was the case in Hudson County, in New Jersey.

In closing, Council Member Crowley assured Community Board members that if they voted to support this concept, she would approach elected officials in Queens and Brooklyn to discuss the possibility of extending the light rail system into their jurisdictions, as well. Regarding questions about the potential cost of this project, the Council Member compared the cost of one commuter train car at \$3.5 Million each, as opposed \$1 Million each per City bus. She estimated that construction could realistically be completed within three years.

Board Chairman Vincent Arcuri referred the matter to the Transportation and Public Transit Services Committees who plan to present their committees' recommendation regarding the proposed light rail commuter service during the committee report at tonight's meeting.

The Board Chairman announced the next Item on the Board Agenda.

PUBLIC FORUM

Stephanie Sauer, a Ridgewood resident and co-founder of the Friends of Rosemary's Playground, thanked everyone who helped to clean-up the Playground on Saturday, September 26th, this year. She said that volunteers worked with Parks Department staff to plant daffodil bulbs and paint play equipment inside the Playground. She also reported that everyone enjoyed their first Halloween Day celebration in the Playground on Saturday, October 31st. She thanked Council Member Crowley for securing \$250,000 in funding for improvements in Rosemary's Playground, and asked the Board for their continued support for new play equipment inside this Park.

Ms. Sauer also welcomed everyone to participate in an E-Waste Recycling Event that is scheduled to take place from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, January 30th, 2016 in Rosemary's Playground, at Fairview Avenue between

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Woodbine Street and Madison Street in Ridgewood. She said that this event is being co-sponsored in conjunction with the Lower East Side Recycling Center.

Richard Huber, a Glendale resident, stated his objections to the proposed light rail service that was voted on by the Transportation Services Committee at this month's committee meeting on December 1st. He criticized the proposal by saying that while it would add new passenger rail service between Long Island City and Glendale, which is an east-west route, he said that it does nothing to relieve the most severely congested traffic corridor in Queens, which is a north-south route between the Rockaways and Long Island City. He said that committee members have drafted a resolution that recommends extending the proposed light rail service to Jamaica, which would double the cost of this project. In closing, he urged Board members to vote against this proposal.

Julia Kingrea, Nikki Koch and Keith Satnik, co-owners of Sweet Jane's, a new bar at 64-02 68 Avenue, wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

Tom Dowd, a Board member and president of the Friends of the Ridgewood Library, welcomed everyone to attend a free performance of a Jingle Bell Jazz concert with Linda Ciofalo and Company, at 2:30pm on Saturday, Dec. 12th, in the Ridgewood Library. He said that this performance is sponsored by Lincoln Center of Performing Arts. He also announced that from 6pm to 8pm on Thursday, December 17th, the library will host an exhibit of I.S. 93 student art work inspired by Science. He pointed out that 2015 is the second year in a row that the Ridgewood branch library has been ranked first in the number of programs and services of all 62 branches in Queens. He said the Ridgewood Library is located at 20-12 Madison Street, on the corner of Forest Avenue.

Len Santoro, president of the 104th Precinct Community Council, explained that the Community Council is the official arm of the 104th Precinct, working to resolve quality of life issues throughout the precinct. He welcomed everyone to join the Council and attend their next monthly meeting with Captain Wachter, the Commanding Officer of the 104th Police Precinct, at 7:30pm on Tuesday, December 15th, in the Frank Kowalinski American Legion Post at 61-57 Maspeth Avenue, in Maspeth. He also invited everyone to attend the 104th Precinct Community Council's Holiday Party at the stationhouse on Saturday, December 19th from 12 Noon to 3pm. He said that the festivities will include a petting zoo, light refreshments, and photos with Santa Claus. In closing, Mr. Santoro announced that the 104th Precinct Community Council will host their 1st Annual Cop of the Year Award Dinner, from 12:30pm to 4:30pm on Sunday, December 20th at Villa Erasmo, at 69-61 Juniper Boulevard South, in Middle Village. He said that reservations are required, either by email at: council@104pcc.org, or by calling the 104th Precinct Community Affairs office at: (718) 386-2431.

Justin Carter, a co-owner of Nowadays, a beer garden located at 56-06 Cooper Avenue in Ridgewood, said that their business has been so successful ever since they opened this past Summer, that he and his partners have now decided to apply for a liquor license. He said that they plan to serve patrons on a year-round basis in 5,000 sq. ft. of indoor space that is adjacent to the outdoor area. He offered to answer questions about the new application.

Jean Tanler, a Board member and director of the Maspeth Industrial Business Association, said that the light rail option along the Montauk Line of the LIRR would benefit commuters who travel from east to west to get to and from work and/or school on a daily basis. She said that there are thousands of commuters who live in Brooklyn and face long daily commutes eastward into Queens, Manhattan and/or the Bronx, to work in the industrial sector. She suggested that a comprehensive study of the commuter rail transit system should be undertaken to improve the City's public transit system, instead of adopting proposals on a piecemeal basis.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

MINUTES

The Board Chairman asked Board members to review the minutes of the November 4th, 2015 Board Meeting. Walter Clayton made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Peter Comber. The minutes were accepted by voice vote.

The Board Chairman recognized several representatives of the NYC Department of Transportation in attendance at tonight's meeting, including: NYC Dept. of Transportation Queens Borough Commissioner Nicole Garcia; Joannene Kidder, Executive Director of Community Affairs in NYC DOT's Division of Bridges; and George Klein, Director of Maintenance for the Division of Bridges. He pointed out that all three representatives are current or former residents of Board 5. He said that Ms. Kidder had preceded Gary Giordano, as District Manager of our Community Board. He welcomed everyone to remain after tonight's Board Meeting is adjourned in order to enjoy some light refreshments and celebrate the Holiday Season with local residents.

Board Chairman Arcuri welcomed representatives of local elected officials to address the Board.

NY State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo extended Holiday Greetings to everyone present. He thanked Board members for their efforts on behalf of the community. He said that, in the coming year, the State Senate will take up legislation regarding Mayoral Control of NYC's Public Schools, as well as proposed changes to the Common Core Educational Curriculum, and Ethics Reform.

NYS Assemblywoman Margaret Markey, representing the 30th Assembly District, wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and a Happy New Year. She said that she recalls when Joannene Kidder served as the Board's District Manager, because it dates back to her years of service as a member of Community Board 5. She said that she has always enjoyed working with Board members and staff to improve the quality of life throughout the community.

On behalf of Congresswoman Grace Meng, Don Capalbi extended Holiday Greetings to everyone. He reported that the Congress just passed an Omnibus Spending Bill that was signed into law by President Obama, which provides funding for new School Bus Safety regulations sponsored by the Congresswoman, in addition to an investigation by the Government Accounting Office of existing child safety car seat regulations. He said that the Congresswoman will remain focused on guaranteeing consumer protections and personal privacy, particularly with respect to business transactions and communications transmitted over the internet.

The Board Chairman pointed out that the Queens County Traffic Safety Council is a proud sponsor of car seats for infants and toddlers, and provides training for parents on how to properly install these car seats in a vehicle.

On behalf of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, Evelyn Cruz extended Holidays Greetings to everyone. She said that the Congresswoman recently authored a bill, which was recently signed into law, that provides assistance to small business owners who are trying to overcoming financial hardships they suffered as a result of Superstorm Sandy. She said that the Congresswoman also authored legislation to regulate Hedge Fund Investment Funds, by ensuring that there is timely public information on how their funds are invested.

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Catherine Moore wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and Happy Kwanzaa, and a Happy New Year. She welcomed everyone to attend the annual State of the Borough Address at 10 am on Thursday, January 21st, 2016 in the Colden Auditorium at Queens College. For more information, she said to contact their office at (718) 286-2661, or RSVP directly on-line at www.queensbp.org/rsvp.

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On a personal note, the Board Chairman congratulated Ms. Moore on her granddaughter's induction into the Marine Corps, which was followed by a standing ovation from everyone present.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, Lauren Capozzi announced that their office is conducting a Toy Drive until the end of next week. She said that gifts for young children may be dropped off at their district office, located at 70-50 Austin Street in Forest Hills. For more information, she welcomed calls to their office at (718) 263-5585. Ms. Capozzi wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

On behalf of State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Anne Krzyzanowski wished everyone Happy Holidays. On behalf of State Assemblyman Mike Miller, Diana Santana extended Holiday Greetings to everyone.

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

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.

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) * **Ridgewood Trading Co.** 68-38 Forest, Store B, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) * **BJ Maspeth Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a Dempsey's** 64-14 Flushing Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 3) * **Grove Productions LLC d/b/a Nowadays** 56-06 Cooper Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
(Upgrade to year round, full liquor license)
- 4) **D'Elia Bar & Lounge Corp.** 464 Onderdonk Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 5) **Buon Gelato & Euro Bar** 74-02B Eliot Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
(Upgrade from a Restaurant Wine & Beer License)

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) * **5 Time Champs Inc. d/b/a Courtside Lounge** 69-08 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 2) **Maspeth Public House d/b/a The Gibbons Home** 54-12 69 Street, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 3) **Cahill Enterprises Inc. d/b/a Glen Patrick Pub** 63-73 65 Place, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 4) **Bleachers 67 Inc.** 67-14 Forest Avenue, 1st FL, Ridgewood, NY 11385

New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

- 1) * **Pomodoro Inc. d/b/a Joe & John's Pizzeria** 59-10 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **GAV Restaurant Corp. d/b/a Good Eats Diner** 69-32 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) **71-08 Restaurant Corp. d/b/a Glendale Diner** 71-08 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 2) **El Fogon Rest Inc.** 1701 Palmetto Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385

*Indicates Outdoor Area

Paul Kerzner asked about the terms of the lease agreement for **Nowadays** at 56-06 Cooper Avenue. Mr. Carter replied that they entered into a 10-year lease for this site, which includes 5,000 sq. ft. of space inside the existing warehouse. He said that a woodworking shop occupies most of the 37,000 sq. ft. warehouse. He said that originally, he planned to use the indoor space just for storage. But, since patrons have asked them to remain open all year-round, they hope to move indoors as soon as possible.

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Demolition Notices

The Board Chairman reported that the Board was notified about several planned building demolitions over the past month, including: **58-60 Brown Place**, a former gas station in Maspeth; **1873 Starr Street**, excavation in Ridgewood; **803 Wyckoff Avenue**, a 1-story warehouse in Ridgewood; **1814 Gates Avenue**, a 2-story attached house in Ridgewood; and **1814 Bleecker Street**, a 2-family house in Ridgewood.

Walter Sanchez said that the Dept. of Buildings recently disapproved plans to build a 2-story mixed-use building at **58-60 Brown Place**, where the gas station garage will be demolished. He said that several years ago, members of Community Board 5-Queens and the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals denied the owner's application for a zoning variance to permit the construction of a mixed-use building on this corner lot. He said that there may still be underground gas tanks at this location.

Regarding **1873 Starr Street**, Mr. Sanchez reported that the Dept. of Buildings approved new building plans for 125 new housing units and 63 off-street parking spaces at this location.

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

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Gary Giordano

District Manager Gary Giordano reported that two major sewer and water main replacement projects are currently underway in the Board 5 area and/or will begin soon. He said that the contractor has been replacing sewer and water lines in 69 Street between 47 Avenue and Calamus Avenue this year. He said that water mains have already been replaced along Calamus Avenue in Maspeth, and the contractor is waiting for utility lines to be relocated before work can begin on the installation of a 5 ft. by 8 ft. reinforced concrete box sewer in Calamus Avenue and in 69 Street, as part of a \$24 Million project. Beginning in 2016, he said that another major sewer and water main improvement project in the Board 5 area is scheduled to begin in the area between 74th and 78th Street and Penelope Avenue, in Middle Village. He said that this major capital project is expected to take 2 years to complete, at a cost of \$22 Million. Both projects are expected to increase the capacity of the sewer system in that catchment area in order to alleviate severe street flooding conditions, such as those that occurred in 2007, 2008, and 2012.

The District Manager explained that both projects were undertaken by the City, subsequent to the Community Board's vote to recommend these local sewer reconstruction projects in the Board's top ten capital budget priorities, as part of this annual budget process.

The District Manager also reported that, beginning in 2016, hundreds of new bioswales will be installed in the Board 5 area. He reminded everyone of the presentation given by representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) during a Board Meeting last Spring. He explained that the purpose of installing these bioswales is to reduce combined sewer overflows into local waterways, such as, Newtown Creek and Flushing Bay. Regarding regular maintenance of the bioswales, he said that, while they were originally supposed to be maintained by personnel working for the Dept. of Parks, DEP has since taken over the responsibility of maintenance of the bioswales.

The District Manager said that he was happy to report that Grand Avenue between the Grand Street Bridge and Rust Street, Grand Avenue between 64 Street and the LIE, and Flushing Avenue from 64 Street to 61 Street in Maspeth were resurfaced overnight this year at the urging of CB5Q. He said that he requested that Fresh Pond Road be resurfaced from Metropolitan Avenue to Myrtle Avenue, and 69 Street between Eliot Avenue and the Long Island Expressway, during 2016. He thanked everyone for their input and ideas over the past year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

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Walter Sanchez reported that the committee met on Monday, December 7th in the Board 5 office to review the application for a zoning variance that was submitted on behalf of the owner/occupant at 1677 George Street, in Ridgewood. He said the committee has no objection to the application to the NYC Board of Standards and Appeal by Sheldon Lobel, P.C., Attorneys at Law, on behalf of George Acquisition LLC, the owner of record, for a variance, under Section 72-21 and 43-304 of the Zoning Resolution, to permit a bulk variance for the development of a 2-story and cellar commercial building at **1677 George Street**, in Ridgewood, Queens, NY, (Block: 3551; Lot: 68) which requires a waiver of the minimum front yard regulation.

The Board Chairman opened the floor to questions and comments.

Brian Dooley asked if the residential unit is confined to less than 5% of the lot area. Mr. Sanchez said that the residential floor space is very minimal. Peggy O’Kane replied that the residential unit will be occupied as a caretaker’s unit, according to the proposed plans.

As there was no further discussion, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the committee recommendation which carried unanimously by a vote of – 41 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and - 0 - not voting.

Transportation Services and Public Transit Services Combined Committee

John Maier, Co-Chair

John Maier reported that the committee met on Tuesday, December 1st in the Board 5 office to review the Department of Transportation’s proposed plans to initiate Select Bus Service along Woodhaven Boulevard corridor in Queens, as well as other matters. He said that the current proposal includes dedicated bus lanes in both directions, enhanced roadway markings, traffic signal timing priority, off-board fare collection, and bus lane cameras to enforce the restricted traffic lanes, with a goal of improving pedestrian and driver safety, as well as commuters’ travel times. He said that committee members expressed concerns about the elimination of left-turn lanes along Woodhaven Boulevard, as part of the implementation process for this project. He said that at present, the Department of Transportation has delayed further implementation of this project and plan to hold additional Listening Sessions for local residents to participate in. He urged local residents to attend.

Regarding Council Member Elizabeth Crowley’s proposal to initiate a feasibility study for commuter rail service along the abandoned LIRR-Montauk line through the Community Board 5 area, Mr. Maier reported that the committee discussed the idea with Council Member Crowley at their committee meeting in mid-August, and again discussed the pros and cons of the proposed plan at last week’s committee meeting. He said that after considerable deliberation at their meeting, committee members voted in favor of Council Member Crowley’s concept. He read aloud the committee’s recommendation, as follows:

WHEREAS, much of the Borough of Queens suffers from lack of transportation options;

WHEREAS, the communities of Queens County, such as Maspeth, Middle Village, Glendale, and Ridgewood are in need of better east-west transportation options to serve our residents and business communities;

WHEREAS, there exists rail infrastructure available to capitalize on in the Long Island Railroad’s Montauk Branch that could easily accommodate public transit services;

WHEREAS, CB5, Queens is committed to providing modern and safe transportation and public transit options to all the residents of our communities and the Borough of Queens;

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 5/Queens Transportation Services Committee and Public Transportation Committee recommend supporting Council Member Elizabeth Crowley's concept for a light rail commuter system being installed in the existing LIRR Lower Montauk Line Right of Way.

This concept would include considering new passenger stations located at appropriately determined facilities such as: Jamaica LIRR Station, Atlas Park Mall, the M train Metropolitan Avenue Station, the abandoned Fresh Pond Road Station beneath the existing Fresh Pond Road/Metropolitan Avenue bridge, Flushing Avenue where a connection could be made to the Bushwick Branch of the LIRR, and Hunters Point Terminal in Long Island City.

This Light Rail Commuter Line should be considered as part of a Master Plan for a new commuter rail system for the residents of Queens County that would connect the Jamaica LIRR station to the Hunters Point Terminal in Long Island City. Further phases to possibly include the re-activation of the old Rockaway Branch Line of the LIRR, re-activation of the Bushwick Branch of the LIRR, and connections to LIRR's East Side Access to Grand Central Station or LIRR's existing Penn Station Access should also be considered.

After considerable discussion of the committee recommendation, Board Chairman Arcuri called the question by requesting a Roll Call on the committee recommendation which carried by a vote of - 34 - in favor; - 6 - opposed; - 0 - abstentions; and - 1 - not voting. He commended committee members for conducting their work in a very professional manner.

New Business

Tom Dowd announced that the Ridgewood Library has registered 4,000 people to enroll in English as a Second Language classes this year, while 1,000 prospective registrants were put on a waiting list due to lack of space. He said that 12,000 applicants are expected to apply for ESL classes in the coming year.

Patricia Grayson announced that the Community Education Council for District 24 will host a Town Hall with NYC School Chancellor Carmen Farina, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm tomorrow night, in PS 58-Queens, the School of Heroes, located at 72-24 Grand Avenue, in Maspeth. She said that she plans to attend this information session and report back to the Board at next month's Board Meeting.

The Board Chairman announced that the Ridgewood Market will host a Holiday Market this Sunday, December 13th, from 11am to 6pm in Gottscheer Hall, located at 657 Fairview Avenue, in Ridgewood.

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 9:00pm. He welcomed everyone to join the festivities immediately following the Board Meeting.