



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 May 10, 2017

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Peter Comber; Deborah Cox; Brian Dooley; Jerome Drake; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Patricia Grayson; Mohan Gyawali-Chhetri; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoeflerle; Robert Holden; Paul A. Kerzner; John J. Killcommons; Kathleen Knight; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; Michael LoCascio; John Maier; Lydia Martinez; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O’Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Theodore M. Renz; Kelvin Rodriguez; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; David Sands; Carmen Santana; Connie Santos; Christopher Sperrazza; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Henry Cross; Patricia Crowley; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Angela Giovanniello; Michael O’Kane; Lorraine Sciulli; Catherine Sumsky

Elected Officials

Don Capalbi – US Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D.
Neil Giannelli - NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr, 15th SD
Alexa Arecchi – NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD
Nanette Alvarado- NYS Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, 30th AD
Carmela Isabella - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38th AD
Maggie Hayes and Tiffany Card - NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, 30th CD

Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens
Laura Mulvihill and Catherine O’Leary, Community Associates - CB5Q Staff
Joseph Nocerino – Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

GUESTS

Luke DePalma, Asst. Dir. of Govt. and Community Relations, MTA-NYC Transit, 2 Broadway, NY, NY 10004
Raymond Wong, Program Manager, MTA-NYC Transit, 2 Broadway, NY, NY 10004
Judy McClain, Senior Director of Service Planning, MTA-NYC Transit, 2 Broadway, NY, NY 10004
Matt Kroll, Staff Analyst, Service Planning Operations, MTA-NYC Transit, 2 Broadway, NY, NY 10004
Aracely Diaz, on behalf of The Factory Café, 779 Wyckoff Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Board Chairman Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:45pm, following the Salute to the Flag. He requested a moment of silence in memory of FDNY Firefighter William Tolley, of Ladder Company

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135 on Myrtle Avenue, who died on April 20th, 2017, while fighting a fire on the roof of 1615 Putnam Avenue in Ridgewood.

The Board Chairman announced the first item on the Board Agenda as follows:

PRESENTATION RE: UPCOMING RECONSTRUCTION ALONG THE “M” TRAIN LINE & PLANNED SUSPENSION OF “M” TRAIN SERVICE

Work is scheduled to begin in JULY, 2017, between the Train Stations at Metropolitan Avenue and Myrtle Ave/Broadway in Brooklyn

by Luke DePalma, Asst. Director of Governmental Relations – MTA-NYC Transit

Raymond Wong, Program Manager, MTA-NYC Transit

Judy McClain, Senior Director of Service Planning, MTA-NYC Transit, and

Matt Kroll, Staff Analyst, Service Planning Operations, MTA-NYC Transit

During a power point presentation, Luke DePalma announced that on July 1, 2017, NYC Transit will begin a major capital improvement project that includes: replacement of the M train bridge over the LIRR freight rail line, located between the Fresh Pond Road station and the Metropolitan Avenue station at the end of the line; and the demolition and replacement of the Myrtle Avenue Viaduct at the westbound approach to the Myrtle Ave/Broadway elevated train station in Brooklyn.

Mr. DePalma said that this project will be completed in two separate phases. Under Phase 1, the M Train Trestle Bridge, between the Fresh Pond Road and Metropolitan Avenue stations, will be removed and replaced, and is scheduled to begin on July 1st and be completed by August 31, 2017. During Phase 2 of this project, the Myrtle Avenue Viaduct Bridge on the M train line in Brooklyn will be demolished and rebuilt, beginning this summer and ending in May, 2018. He said that during the period of July 1st to August 31st, all passenger service on the M train line will be suspended, between the Myrtle Avenue/Broadway elevated train station in Brooklyn and the Metropolitan Avenue station in Middle Village. During the power point presentation, maps were displayed on screen to show the M train service interruptions and shuttle bus service routes in connection with this project, as well as photos of the structural defects in the Viaduct and Trestle Bridge on the M train line.

Mr. DePalma explained that, in light of the fact the M and L trains run along roughly parallel lines through Brooklyn, all work on this major capital improvement project will be completed prior to the start of work on the rehabilitation of the Canarsie-L Train tunnel under the East River into Manhattan, which is slated to begin in April, 2019. He said that their staff is currently working on preparing several alternate service routes for daily commuters who ride the L Train to and from Manhattan when the Canarsie-L Train tunnel rehabilitation project gets underway in 2019.

Mr. DePalma pointed out that this Spring, MTA-NYC Transit has been completing track replacement work on the elevated M train line in Bushwick and Ridgewood, in preparation for the demolition and replacement of the Myrtle Avenue Viaduct at the westbound approach to the Myrtle Ave/Broadway elevated train station. He said that large cranes have been hauled into place on some local streets where detour signs have been installed, adjacent to the M train tracks, in order to complete this track work. He said that crane locations are determined based on what section of track is being replaced on each specific weekend.

In connection with this track work, he said that M train service has been suspended on weekends from 11:45pm on Friday nights until 5am on Monday mornings, with regular M train service resuming each Monday at 5AM, following this weekend work. He said that free shuttle buses have been making stops at all closed M train stations between the Metropolitan Avenue and Myrtle Avenue/Broadway stations on weekends in order to accommodate ridership. The shuttle bus service on weekends has been running smoothly this Spring, he said. According to their work schedule, this track work on the M Train line is expected to be completed by the last weekend in June, this year, he said.

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Mr. DePalma introduced Raymond Wong, from the Operations Planning Dept. in the MTA-NYCT's Capital Project Management Division, to answer questions with respect to technical aspects of this capital improvement project. Mr. Wong explained that the M Train Trestle Bridge over LIRR was built 100 years ago and, over the years, has been damaged by collisions with the tops of the freight train cars that run underneath this bridge span.

In response to a question from Michael Porcelli, Mr. Wong said that as part of this Myrtle Viaduct/Fresh Pond Bridge Project, the new bridge span will be built a few inches higher than the original trestle bridge, and that the freight rail tracks underneath this bridge have already been lowered by the NY and Atlantic Railway and they will be lowered a few more inches, in order to avert any future accidents at this location. The Board Chairman said that 14'7" is the current standard clearance for a railroad bridge. He said that he hopes that in future, there will be at least that much clearance between the new bridge span and the tracks running beneath it.

Mr. Wong explained that the contractor will begin preparing to work on the Phase II portion of this capital improvement project this summer, on the Myrtle Viaduct at the M Train's westbound approach to the Myrtle Avenue/Broadway station, where the M Train line connects with the J and Z Train lines. He said that this structure was built in 1913 and must be completely rebuilt. He said this project is much more extensive than the replacement of the Fresh Pond Trestle Bridge on M Train line. Under this project, the contractor will demolish and remove the existing 310 foot-long concrete deck under two separate train tracks, remove the rusted steel deck and corroded bridge girders, and build a brand new steel structure, third rail, signals, walkway, and a low vibration deck over the train tracks. He said that work is expected to be complete by the end of April, 2018.

In response to questions from the floor, Mr. Wong explained that the contract to paint the steel structure of the elevated M-Train line was bid out this year, but the contract was not awarded. He said that they will re-submit the bid package for this work sometime in the near future. With regard to the MTA's plans to paint the M Train structure, Carmen Santana spoke about problems, such as, an accumulation of lead-based paint chips and air borne asbestos dust particles on the ground in Rosemary's Playground, in connection with the work on the elevated M Train structure during the early 1990's. She said that the children's playground is directly adjacent to the elevated M Train line, on the corner of Woodward Avenue and Madison Street, in Ridgewood, and she hopes that there would be better safeguards in place when any future repairs are made to the elevated train structure.

Mr. De Palma introduced Judy McClain and Matt Kroll, from the MTA-NYCT's Service Planning Unit of their Operations Planning Department, to outline the planned revisions in bus service routes related to the suspension of the M Train service, starting on July 1st, 2017. She pointed out that 50,000 weekday commuter trips are travelled on the M train line. She introduced Matt Kroll, the Bus Planner for this project, who pointed out 3 free shuttle bus options for commuters which were displayed on the overhead projector screen. He explained that according to their plans, Route 1 will operate during daytime hours only. This shuttle bus service will start at the Fresh Pond Road station and make all stops at the closed train stations on the M Train line toward Manhattan, ending at the Myrtle Avenue-Broadway station in Brooklyn. The return shuttle bus on this route will follow the same basic route, in reverse, he said.

Mr. Kroll pointed out that the shuttle bus service on Route 2 will operate at all times of the day and night. He said that this shuttle bus option begins at the Metropolitan Avenue station, make a stop at the intersection of Fresh Pond Road and Metropolitan Avenue during evenings and late night only, and proceed to make all stops at the closed M Train stations along the route to the Myrtle Avenue-Broadway station. The return shuttle bus will follow this same route, in reverse, until September 1st, 2017 when Phase I of this project is expected to be complete.

Mr. Kroll said that the shuttle bus service on Route 3 will operate at all times of the day and night, from July 1st to September 1st, 2017. This shuttle bus service will transport passengers between the Metropolitan Avenue

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station and Jefferson Street station on the L-Train line, and then, proceed to the Flushing Avenue station on the J, M and Z lines, without picking up any more passengers or stopping at any closed M Train stations. This shuttle bus route will be discontinued on September 1, 2017, when Phase II of this major capital improvement project is expected to start.

In addition, Ms. McClain explained that under Phase II of this major capital improvement project, beginning on September 1st, shuttle train service will be provided on the M Train line between Metropolitan Avenue and the Myrtle/Wyckoff Transit Hub, making all local stops at the stations in Ridgewood. In addition, she said that passenger service on the M Train line will be extended along the J Train line from the Essex Street station in Manhattan to the Broadway Junction station in Brooklyn, where local residents would have the option of transferring to the L Train to travel back and forth to the Myrtle/Wyckoff Transit Hub.

Ms. McClain said that their shuttle bus service on Routes 1, 2 and 3 will be discontinued, when the shuttle train service on the M train line begins operating on September 1, 2017. Instead, a new shuttle bus service will begin transporting commuters around the clock, between the Myrtle/Wyckoff Transit Hub in Ridgewood and the Myrtle Avenue/Broadway station on the M Train line in Brooklyn, making stops at all of the closed train stations along their route.

In response to questions from several Board members about the number of shuttle buses that will be needed to accommodate daily commuters on the M Train line, Ms. McClain said that there will be 4-minute headways on the free shuttle bus service on Route 3, and 6-minute headways on both Routes 1 and 2. She said that for the duration of this major capital improvement project, additional bus service will be provided on the Q-55 Bus route, as well.

Mr. DePalma said that their road operation supervisor will monitor the customer demand for the shuttle bus service and recommend adjustments to their schedule accordingly. Nevertheless, Bob Cermeli insisted that additional buses will be needed during the morning and evening rush hours.

John Maier pointed out that ridership is always lighter on weekends than on weekdays on the M train line. He asked if they would consider implementing the 3rd free shuttle bus service route prior to the start of Phase I of this capital improvement project on July 1st, to give commuters some lead time to test out the different transportation options, prior to this project's start date on July 1st.

Ted Renz asked if they are considering the use of articulated buses on the free shuttle bus routes. Ms. McClain said that they would have to test drive the articulated buses on each of these shuttle bus routes, to see if the articulated buses could maneuver around all of the corners along any of these routes.

Chris Sperrazza asked if they would consider adding additional buses to the existing Q38, Q54, and Q58 bus routes that transport daily commuters along their routes to the closest M Train stations.

Katy Knight asked if any consideration was given to adding additional buses on the QM24, QM25, and QM34 Express Bus service. She said that all of these bus lines are already overcrowded. Ms. McClain agreed to take it under advisement.

Mr. DePalma encouraged commuters to visit the MTA website for updates about train service diversions and interruptions at: www.mta.info and read the 'Service Advisories.' Katy Knight commented that the MTA website is slow to post notices about daily disruptions to the train service, and there are many dead spots in reception for cell phone service in the subway system. He replied that updates on this construction project will be posted on their website at <http://web.mta.info/nyct/service/MyrtleAvenue>. He said that the MTA is in the process of printing up brochures and posters, with detailed information on the planned train service interruptions and free shuttle bus service options for commuters.

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Mr. DePalma said that he plans to attend the next CB5Q Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee Meeting in the Board office on Tuesday night, June 27th, 2017. In closing, Mr. DePalma welcomed suggestions, comments and feedback about this major capital improvement project as well as the transportation alternatives that will be provided for commuters who will be impacted by this project.

Board Chairman Arcuri thanked the MTA's representatives for their informative presentation on this important capital improvement project.

PUBLIC HEARING RE: APPLICATION to the NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs by MIFRA Corp.,

to permit an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café, for 9 tables and 18 chairs, on the Madison Street side of **779 Wyckoff Avenue, in Ridgewood** (Application #: **5772-2017-ASWC**)

Aracely Diaz, the applicant's representative, explained that Francisco Valerio, the owner of The Factory Café at 779 Wyckoff Avenue, recently completed renovations to open a new bar and restaurant on the ground floor of this 5-story mixed use commercial and residential building on the corner of Madison Street, in Ridgewood. She said that he has just submitted an application to the Dept. of Consumer Affairs to open an unenclosed sidewalk café with 9 tables and 18 chairs on the Madison Street side of this corner building.

She said that the plans for this sidewalk café show a 1,400 sq. ft. area, adjacent to the front entrance of this restaurant on the Madison Street side of the building, to accommodate patrons sitting in two rows of tables, with two chairs per table. She said that a collapsible 30" high metal railing will be installed around the perimeter of the sidewalk café, separating patrons from the pedestrian walkway on this 15' wide sidewalk. She displayed a photo of the site.

In closing, she pointed out that Francisco Valerio and his partner have owned and operated the Franja Liquor Store around the corner at 785 Wyckoff Avenue for almost 10 years now. She said that their store is located among a strip of several commercial storefronts on Wyckoff Avenue, between Putnam Avenue and Madison Street.

In response to questions from the floor, she said that their hours of operation will be from 12 Noon until 9pm on weekdays, and until 10pm on Friday and Saturday nights, for the sidewalk café.

After a general discussion of this matter, the Board Chairman asked Ms. Diaz if the owner would agree to limit the number of tables and chairs at this location, in order to ensure that an 8 foot wide path is maintained between the sidewalk café and any trees, light poles, or other sidewalk obstructions on Madison Street.

After consulting with Mr. Valerio by phone during the meeting, she replied that the owners are agreeable to limiting the number of tables and chairs accordingly, and will revise the plans accordingly. She said that a revised set of plans would be presented to the Board for review, prior to next month's hearing before the Dept. of Consumer Affairs.

As there were no more questions or comments, the Board Chairman referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further consideration.

PUBLIC FORUM

Caitlin Shann, a Ridgewood resident and a member of the Ridgewood Tenants Union, spoke about her concerns regarding gentrification in the Ridgewood area, which threatens to displace long-time residents from the neighborhood, particularly senior citizens and disabled tenants with fixed incomes. She urged local residents to attend the Rent Regulations Board Meeting Public Hearing for Queens from 5:30pm to 8:30pm on Monday, June 5, 2017 in the Jamaica Performing Arts Center at 153-10 Jamaica Ave, Jamaica. This Board decides if rents will increase, be frozen or decreased in rollbacks in rent-stabilized and rent-controlled apartments throughout the city. She said the more people who attend in support of rents being frozen or decreased, the more likely the Board will be to vote in favor of this at the end of the month, when rent regulations will be decided upon for the coming year. Flyers were distributed.

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Peggy O’Kane, a Board member, complained that too much water runs off the street into the bioswale that was recently installed behind her house, on Traffic Avenue in Ridgewood. She said that it fills up with so much water that the ground cannot absorb it all, and requested that DEP investigate the operation of this bioswale, before the mosquito season begins this summer.

Robert Gervasi, a Glendale resident, requested that No Standing Anytime signs be posted on the north side of Myrtle Avenue, where it intersects with Union Turnpike, in Glendale. He said that whenever cars are parked there, it blocks the visibility of drivers who try to turn onto Myrtle Avenue from 86 Street, where he lives. He also complained that he sees dozens of electric motor bikes being driven on the sidewalk, riding through red lights, and without lights at night. He said that the police should be issuing summonses for these traffic violations. The Board Chairman replied that the Transportation Committee has requested that additional parking restrictions be installed on the Myrtle Avenue side of the traffic triangle at Union Turnpike, in Glendale. Regarding the electric scooters, he said that some of them were already confiscated by police officers in the 104th Police Precinct very recently.

Nicole Davis, a website publisher, announced that she is organizing a Total Ridgewood Immersion event on Saturday afternoon on June 3rd for participants to enjoy an awesome day of beer, food, friends, and special deals from participating shops, all within walking distance of local train stations in Ridgewood. She welcomed anyone interested in participating in this event to contact her at Nicole@brooklynbased.com.

Crystal Wolfe, a Maspeth resident and founder of Catering for the Homeless, said that she has delivered over 800 meals to homeless people since February, when she started her organization to distribute meals to homeless people on the street. In speaking with homeless people that she encounters while she’s delivering meals at subway stations, she has found that domestic violence and poverty, or a combination of both, are two of the main causes for their homelessness. She thanked the Community Board for forming a Special Committee to address the crisis in homelessness, and looked forward to working with the committee members to solve this crisis.

Nikki and Nick Baron, co-owners of Sweet Jane’s Bar at 64-02 68 Avenue, in Ridgewood, said that they have been operating very successfully at this location for the past year, and welcomed everyone to stop in for a visit with them.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

Board Chairman Arcuri reported that the Executive Committee met last night in the Board office with James Coakley, the owner of the vacant property located at 79-40 Cooper Avenue, where the Hansel and Gretel factory was located in Glendale, to discuss the planned development of this site. He said that their new construction plans were approved as-of-right by the Dept. of Buildings, to permit the construction of a large storage facility, with several retail stores on the ground floor and a parking lot facing onto Cooper Avenue. He said that their discussion was very informative.

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

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Joseph Nocerino invited everyone to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony in front of Queens Borough Hall at 11am on Thursday, May 25th, 2017. He said that refreshments will be served in the Cultural Center on the First Floor immediately following the ceremony, and asked that everyone who’d like to attend to please RSVP via internet to: www.queensbp.org/RSVP, or by calling their office at (718) 286-2660.

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On behalf of Congresswoman Grace Meng, Don Capalbi said that the Congresswoman recently wrote letters to Johnathan McDade, the Regional Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration, and Mark D. Hoffer, the Director of Port Initiatives at the Port Authority of NY and NJ, about the next phase of studies for the proposed Cross Harbor Freight Tunnel Tier II project. He said that her letters emphasized the need for the development of an efficient and environmentally sound freight rail system in her district.

He also reported that the Congresswoman and other local elected officials sent correspondence to Patrick Nowakowski, President of the MTA Long Island Railroad, insisting that the LIRR only procure locomotive engines that adhere to or exceed all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tier 4 emission standards. For more information on these issues, he welcomed calls to their office at (718) 358-6364.

On behalf of Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, Maggie Hayes introduced the new chief of staff in their office, Tiffany Card. She welcomed homeowners to pick up a free tree or rain barrel at their annual Tree and Rain Barrel Giveaway event, from 11am to 3pm this Saturday, May 13th in the parking lot of Atlas Park in Glendale. She said that the Council Member is hosting a Light Rail Public Information Workshop at 7pm on Tuesday, May 16th in the Community Meeting Room on the 3rd Floor at the Shops at Atlas Park, in Glendale. All are welcome to attend.

On Wednesday, May 24th, starting at 7PM, she said that the Council Member will host an Informational Meeting on the Penelope Avenue Sewer and Water Main Project in PS/IS 128 at 69-10 65 Drive, in Middle Village, for local residents to learn more about the next phase of this project.

In addition, she welcomed everyone to attend the Street Co-Naming Ceremony of Forest Park Memorial Drive, in front of 1 Forest Park Drive, at 12 Noon on Saturday, May 20th, to memorialize the lives of those who lost their lives in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War I and in memory of whom, the trees on Forest Park Drive were planted.

In closing, Ms. Hayes also announced that the Council Member is sponsoring the performance of the Queens Symphony Orchestra on Friday, June 9th at 7:30pm at Maspeth Federal Savings Bank parking lot on 69th Street and Grand Avenue. The free concert will celebrate 375 years of Maspeth's history. She said that this event is open to the public.

On behalf of State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Jr., Neil Giannelli announced that the Senator will be available to meet with constituents during his mobile office hours from 5:30pm to 7pm at several local libraries, including the Glendale Public Library on Thursday, May 18th, the Middle Village Public Library on Thursday, June 1st, and the Maspeth Public Library on Thursday, June 29th, 2017. He said that the Senator recently sponsored legislation that would require that putrescible and non-putrescible waste that is transported by rail in New York State be covered with hard tarping, in compliance with Federal Railroad Administration regulations.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, Alexa Arrechi said that constituents are welcome to meet and greet the Assemblyman at the Austin Street Fair on Saturday, June 10th. She said that they will have a table at this event in front of their office at 70-50 Austin Street, in Forest Hills.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, Anette Alvarado announced that in conjunction with the NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection, their office is sponsoring a Rain Barrel Giveaway event on Saturday, May 20th in the Maspeth Federal Savings Bank parking lot at Grand Avenue and 69 Street in Maspeth. She advised everyone that pre-registration for this event is required, and welcomed calls to their office at (718) 651-3185.

MINUTES

The Board Chairman asked Board members to review the minutes of the April 12th, 2017 Board Meeting. The minutes were approved by acclamation, on a motion to accept them as written by Peggy O'Kane, seconded by Walter Clayton.

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The Board Chairman welcomed Board members to participate in the Memorial Day parades that are scheduled in the Board 5 area this year: on Sunday, May 28th, on Grand Avenue, starting at 1pm in front of the Garlinger Memorial Triangle at 72 Place and ending at the Maspeth Memorial Plaza on 69 Street; and on Monday, May 29th, beginning at 11am on Myrtle Avenue, in front of the Glendale Memorial Triangle and ending at the Ridgewood Memorial Monument at Cypress Avenue in Ridgewood. He welcomed everyone to march as members of Community Board 5, Queens.

The Board Chairman announced that Christ the King High School's Alumni Association plans to honor the District Manager Gary Giordano by inducting him into their Hall of Fame, in recognition of his community service. He said the induction ceremony will be held during their annual dinner on Saturday, May 20th, from 7pm to 11pm, in the school cafeteria. Tickets to the dinner are available by contacting the alumni association office.

The Board Chairman introduced staff members present at the meeting: District Manager Gary Giordano, and Community Associates Laura Mulvihill and Catherine O'Leary. He 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 the last monthly Board Meeting on April 12, 2017. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) Connbro Tavern Corp. d/b/a **Connolly's Corner** 71-15/17/19 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 2) Esperanza Food Corp. d/b/a **Caribe Star** 54-55 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **R&B Restaurant Inc.** 54-20 Flushing Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 4) * Hush Bros. Inc. d/b/a **Hush** 70-10 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 5) **Scorpion Café Sporting Social Club Corp.** 792 Onderdonk Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 6) **The Ridgewood Ale House, Inc.** 57-38 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

- 1) * **Cooper Atlas Gardens, Inc.** The Shops at Atlas Park 8000 Cooper Ave, Bldg #DD28, Glendale, NY 11385
- 2) * **Café Monk Inc.** 68-67 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **El Pin Pollo Restaurant Inc.** 392 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) **La Canoa Inc.** 651 Onderdonk Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) 55-26 69th Street d/b/a **Rosa's Pizza** 55-26 69 Street, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 3) Andrew & MJ Inc. d/b/a **Andrew Pizza** 79-22 Eliot Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 4) **Bonavita Deli Corp.** 465 Fairview Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 5) **Gates Deli & Grocery Corp.** 1701 Gates Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

*Outdoor Area

In response to a question from Kathy Masi, the Board Chairman said that the Manor Oktoberfest plans to operate the Cooper Atlas Gardens open air café adjacent to the outdoor parking area in Atlas Park.

Ms. Masi also asked if the Cafe Monk plans to open a sidewalk café. The Board Chairman replied that they're planning to use the backyard area.

Demolition and Construction Notices

The Board Chairman reported that the Board received several construction and demolition notices since last month's Board Meeting: demolition of a backyard shed in a vacant lot where construction of a 2-story 2-family house is approved at **72-41 73 Street in Glendale**; demolition of 2-story 2-family house at **72-33 Caldwell**

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Avenue in Maspeth; demolition of 2-story 2-family house at **70-11 62nd Drive, in Middle Village;** and demolition of vacant 1-story and 2-story attached warehouses at **48-05 Metropolitan Avenue, in Ridgewood.**

The Board 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

The District Manager Gary Giordano reported that work on the Penelope Avenue sewer project is progressing on schedule. He said that the contractor has begun saw-cutting the trench on Juniper Valley Road in order to install a new sewer main. He pointed out that a 6 foot by 8 foot box sewer will be installed in 74 Street, as part of this project.

Regarding the major sewer replacement project on 69 Street and Calamus Avenue, he reported that work on this project has been delayed for the past year, due to design problems. He said that C.A.C. Industries, Inc., the contractor for this \$25 Million project, is back to work on this job, and the project is expected to be complete by mid-year in 2018.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Regarding the application to permit an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café, for 9 tables and 18 chairs, on the Madison Street side of **779 Wyckoff Avenue, in Ridgewood, under** Application #: 5772-2017-ASWC, which was presented for consideration to the Board at tonight's meeting, Mr. Sanchez said that the committee recommends no objection to this application, provided that an 8 foot clearance be maintained for the pedestrian pathway between the railing and the closest sidewalk obstruction, such as, tree pits and streetlights. He said that the number of chairs and tables in this unenclosed sidewalk café must be reduced accordingly, and a revised set of plans be drafted and presented to the Community Board prior to their hearing before the NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs.

After a general discussion of the matter, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the committee recommendation which carried unanimously by a vote - 40 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 - no abstentions; and - 0 - not voting.

Walter Sanchez reported that the committee met on Tuesday, May 2nd, in the Board 5 office to review the application for **BSA Cal. No. 2017-22 BZ – 1645 Decatur Street, Ridgewood.** Mr. Sanchez explained that the owner of the Crossfit Bridge and Tunnel gym is requesting a Special Permit for a term of 10 years, under Sections 73-38, 73-03 and 42-31 of the NYC Zoning Resolution, to legalize the operation of a physical culture establishment at 1645 Decatur Street, in Ridgewood. He said that this gym occupies 5,000 sq. ft. on the ground floor of an existing 20,000 sq. ft. warehouse and complies with all applicable regulations of the City of New York. He said that the committee recommends that the Board has no objection to this request for a Special Permit. John Maier said that the applicant should have applied for a Special Permit prior to their opening.

As there was no further discussion on the matter, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call on the committee recommendation which carried by a vote of - 38 - in favor; - 2 - opposed; - 0 - abstentions; and - 0 - not voting.

Regarding the potential for overdevelopment as-of-right in the Community Board 5 area, Mr. Sanchez reported that the committee discussed what sections in the Board 5 area are likely to be most at risk of large scale

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development. For instance, he said that developers are permitted a bonus floor area ratio to build on corner lots. He said that outside of Jamaica, Ridgewood has the most industrial space available in central Queens. Bob Holden said that more and more 1-family homes in Middle Village are being converted into 2-family homes, particularly homes with community drives in the back.

Mr. Sanchez said that the committee will work with the Department of City Planning to identify what zoning restrictions could be initiated to protect the residential character of local neighborhoods.

Public Safety Services Committee

Robert Holden

Robert Holden reported that the committee met with Captain John Mastronardi, the new Commanding Officer of the 104th Precinct, on Monday, May 8th, in the Board 5 office to review recent crime statistics, staffing levels in the Precinct, and response times to calls for assistance.

Mr. Holden said that the incidence of crimes reported in the 104th Precinct has declined in most major crime categories over the past year. He said that the Captain told committee members that the overall crime rate has decreased by 7% this year, compared to the year-to-date crime statistics for 2016. He pointed out that the number of grand larceny theft cases has increased by 2.7% this year, as compared to last year, and mostly involving car break-ins and scams. He also said that the number of rapes reported this year has declined by 80% this year, as compared to last year.

Regarding traffic enforcement in the Precinct, the Captain reported that many pedestrians have been hit by vehicles that are operated by drivers who fail to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in the crosswalk area. According to the Captain, there are lots of accidents involving trucks travelling on local streets, and the most dangerous intersection in this Precinct is Union Turnpike at Woodhaven Boulevard.

Regarding staffing levels at the Precinct, the Captain said that no Executive Officer has been assigned to the Precinct yet this year. He said that currently, there are 150 police officers and supervisors assigned to the 104th Precinct. He said that response time in the Precinct is 7 minutes, on average.

Regarding the number of scams targeting elderly residents in our Precinct, Mr. Holden said that many elderly homeowners fall prey to scams involving home repairs. Fred Haller pointed out that consumers have 3 days to rescind payment for faulty work on their property. Mr. Holden said that in most cases, these scams are cash transactions.

Walter Sanchez asked if there has been any increased police activity in the vicinity of the Holiday Inn Hotel in Maspeth. Mr. Holden said that the Captain reported that there was one incident at the hotel, but did not say whether a homeless person was involved.

Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee

Vincent Arcuri

Toby Sheppard Bloch reported that the committee met on Tuesday, April 25th, in the Board 5 office to discuss numerous traffic safety requests. He said that representatives from the NYC Dept. of Transportation attended the meeting to give a presentation on the proposed traffic safety improvements along Cypress Hills Street, between Cooper Avenue and the Jackie Robinson Parkway. He said that this corridor ranks third in the number of traffic accidents in Queens per year.

He said that the proposal includes installation of one 12' driving lane and one 6' bicycle lane in each direction on Cypress Hills Street. He said that the proposal would also extend the left-turn ban on northbound traffic at 78 Avenue to all day long. He said that the committee supports adopting all of the traffic safety measures that were presented in their report.

Regarding traffic congestion related to the current Emergency Bridge Deck Replacement Project on Metropolitan Avenue at Fresh Pond Road, over the LIRR tracks, Mr. Bloch said that committee members have

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observed fewer traffic tie-ups occurring there, than originally was the case. He said that he hopes this trend will continue.

Regarding the Kosciuszko Bridge Project, Mr. Bloch reported that one span of the bridge was officially opened to traffic on April 27th, with a bridge light show at 7pm to celebrate the opening of the new span.

Regarding the Myrtle Avenue-Cooper Avenue Plaza project, Mr. Bloch said that the sidewalk has been extended to eliminate 70 Street, between Myrtle Avenue and Cooper Avenue, and the project is moving toward completion. Regarding the Myrtle Avenue and 71 Avenue Plaza project, he said that the Bus pad has been poured, but most of the sidewalk area is plated over and barricades are still in place. He said that this plaza is slated for completion by September, 2017

He said that committee continues to review numerous traffic safety requests during every meeting. He welcomed more participation from Board members on this committee.

Parks Services Committee

Steven Fiedler

Steven Fiedler announced that NYC H2O is sponsoring two Community Listening Sessions regarding the Ridgewood Reservoir in the coming month. He said that they are looking for community input regarding the future possibilities of this site, as well as to address any existing problems or concerns regarding the maintenance and accessibility of this parkland. He said that the first session will be held at 7pm on Tuesday, May 23rd, in PS 68, located at 59-09 St. Felix Avenue, in Ridgewood. The second session will be held at 7pm on Thursday, June 1st, in the North Brooklyn YMCA, located at 570 Jamaica Avenue, in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn. He said that all are welcome to attend.

Nomination of CB5Q Executive Committee Members

The Board Chairman announced that the annual election of Community Board 5 Executive Committee members will take place at next month's Board Meeting, and opened the floor to nominations when he gave the floor to the District Manager.

The District Manager read aloud the current list of Executive Committee members. He said that nominations for the Executive Committee members would be opened at next month's Board Meeting, prior to the election of Board Officers.

John Maier nominated Vincent Arcuri to serve as Chairperson, and he accepted. The District Manager asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Chairperson, and there were none.

Katherine Masi nominated Walter Sanchez for the position of First Vice- Chairperson, and he accepted the nomination. The Chairperson asked if there were any other nominations for this position, and there were none.

Peter Comber nominated Dmytro Fedkowskyj for the position of Second Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson asked if there were any other nominations for this position, and there were none.

Walter Clayton nominated Katherine Masi for the position of Treasurer, and she accepted. The Chairperson asked if there were any nominations for this position, and there were none.

Patricia Grayson nominated Margaret O'Kane for the position of Secretary, which she accepted.

The Chairperson asked if there were any other nominations for this position, and there were none.

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The District Manager read aloud the names of the four Board members who currently serve as Members-at-Large on the Executive Committee, and opened the floor to nominations for the Member-at-Large positions. Tobias Sheppard Bloch nominated Theodore Renz. Margaret O’Kane nominated Patricia Grayson. Connie Santos nominated Fred T. Haller. Margaret O’Kane nominated John Maier. Walter Sanchez nominated Walter Clayton. Connie Santos nominated Kathleen Knight. Kathleen Knight nominated Tobias Sheppard Bloch. Katherine Masi nominated Steven Fiedler. All of the above candidates accepted their nominations. Peter Comber nominated Luis Rodriguez; he declined the nomination.

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 9:40pm. He welcomed everyone to stay to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea immediately following the meeting.