



Vincent Arcuri, Jr.
Chairperson

Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale
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Gary Giordano
District Manager

Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting November 9, 2016

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Peter Comber; Henry Cross; Patricia Crowley; Karamjit Dhaliwal; Brian Dooley; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Fred Hoeflerle; Robert Holden; Paul A. Kerzner; John J. Killcommons; Michael LoCascio; John Maier; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O’Kane; Michael O’Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Theodore M. Renz; Kelvin Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Connie Santos; Lorraine Sciulli; Catherine Sumsy; Jean Tanler; Barbara Toscano; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Thomas C. Dowd; Caroline Fuchs; Angela Giovannello; Patricia Grayson; Fred T. Haller, III; Kathleen Knight; Lydia Martinez; Katherine Masi; Alexander Maureau; Luis Rodriguez; David Sands; Carmen Santana

Elected Officials

NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr, 15th S.D. – Staff Neil Giannelli
NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, 34th CD
Don Capalbi – US Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D.
Alexa Arecchi – NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD
David Aglialoro – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, 37th AD
Carmela Isabella - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38th AD
Sergio Galeano – NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
Stacey Eliuk – NYC Public Advocate Letitia James
Maggie Hayes - NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, 30th CD

Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens
Catherine O’Leary and Laura Mulvihill, Community Associates - CB5Q Staff
Catherine Moore, Joseph Nocerino and Jeong-ah Choi – Queens Borough President Melinda Katz
Thomas Smith – Associate Planner, NYC Dept. of City Planning

GUESTS

Jacqueline Franco and Elkin Munoz, owners, Pollos Mario Restaurant, 63-20 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY

Board Chairman Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:42pm, following the Salute to the Flag. He introduced the first Item on the Agenda as:

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**PUBLIC HEARING Re: ULURP Application # N 160361 ECQ – Pollos Mario Woodhaven Corp.
and DCA Application # 1305734-DCA**

doing business as Pollos A La Brasa Mario, for renewal, pursuant to Section 366 a(c) of the NYC Charter, of a revocable consent to operate an existing Enclosed Sidewalk Café, with 20 tables and 40 seats, at 63-20 Woodhaven Blvd, on the Northwest corner of 63 Avenue, in Rego Park, Queens, NY 11374.

Jacqueline Franco, the owner of the Pollos A La Brasa Mario Restaurant, located at 63-20 Woodhaven Boulevard in Rego Park, informed everyone that she purchased the restaurant from the prior owner 8 years ago. Speaking on behalf of everyone on staff, she said that they've always been happy to accommodate the needs of all of their patrons, most of whom nearby. She said that she is requesting to renew the sidewalk café license and looks forward to operating the restaurant at this site, with the help of her manager Elkin Munoz. She said that the renewal application for the existing enclosed sidewalk café on this corner was submitted to the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs on May 31, 2016.

Peter Comber asked if the owner plans to change their hours of operation or existing operations at this site. Ms. Franco replied that they plan to continue operating as they have been.

There being no further questions or comments from the floor, the Board Chairman thanked them for their presentation and referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Committee. Walter Sanchez said that due to time constraints, he would ask that Board members take action on this application at tonight's Board Meeting, during his committee report.

PUBLIC FORUM

Michael O'Kane, a Board member and president of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Queens Chapter 32, requested that the Board establish a Veterans Affairs Committee in CB 5 Queens. He said that while there are currently 54,000 veterans who live in Queens, there is no working committee in any Community Board that deals specifically with veterans' issues. He said that the purpose of forming this committee would be to assist veterans with identifying what benefits they may be eligible for and how to apply for them; showing them how to navigate the bureaucracy of the Department of Veterans Affairs on the local, state and federal level; and referring veterans to a qualified Veterans Service Officer in the Board area. He said that the committee should consist of at least 5 members, who are preferably veterans themselves, and meet on a bi-monthly basis in the Board 5 office, depending on the availability of space.

Peggy O'Kane suggested that initially, members could form a sub-committee of the Health and Human Services Committee, prior to amending the Board's By-Laws in order to create another standing committee of the Board. The Board Chairman directed Mr. O'Kane to discuss his request with Robert Cermeli, chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Chrystal Wolfe, a Maspeth resident, spoke about the need to help the homeless throughout the city. She pointed out that a large portion the homeless population are either veterans or children, and that families make up two-thirds of the homeless population in the city. Regarding the fears expressed by local residents during recent protests outside the Holiday Inn Express in Maspeth, about the reduction in their property values due to the siting of the homeless shelter there, she said that it's not always the case. She emphasized the need for mental health services among the homeless population, particularly domestic violence victims who become homeless in their attempt to escape from abuse in their homes. She said that there is a segment of the homeless population who need substance abuse and/or drug rehabilitation services, as well.

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Ms. Wolfe also said that there are currently 600 vacant city-owned buildings that could provide housing for homeless people. In closing, she said that America wastes more food than is actually consumed each year. She advocated for programs that would reduce food waste by redistributing food and meals to families in need, instead.

In response to questions from the floor, Ms. Wolfe offered to provide documentation to the contrary regarding the proposition that property values drop whenever a homeless shelter opens nearby. And, she said that she is willing to volunteer for a local non-profit agency that helps homeless families. Sarah Feldman agreed with her statement that many in our society may become homeless overnight, depending on the circumstances.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

MINUTES

The Board Chairman asked Board members to review the minutes of the October 19th, 2016 Board Meeting. Jerry Drake made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Walter Clayton. The minutes were accepted by voice vote.

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

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Catherine Moore thanked everyone who attended the Veterans Memorial Ceremony in front of Queens Borough Hall at 120-55 Queens Boulevard, in Kew Gardens this morning. She said that veterans were given commendations for their service at the ceremony, including Board member Michael O'Kane.

Ms. Moore also announced that starting this week, she begins working in a different capacity in the Queens Borough President's office. She thanked Board members who have worked hard over the years to improve the quality of life of community residents, particularly Board Chairman Vincent Arcuri and District Manager Gary Giordano. In closing, she introduced Joseph Nocerino as her replacement as the Community Board's liaison in the Borough President's office. Mr. Nocerino said that he is a long-time resident of Middle Village and former staff member of Council Member Karen Koslowitz, and looks forward to working with local residents and businesses to resolve any problems that may arise.

Jeong-ah Choi, Assistant Planner in the Queens Borough President's Office, said that she works on all of the land use issues that affect the Community Board 5 area.

NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso thanked Board members for their advocacy for traffic calming measures in the vicinity of the Myrtle/Wyckoff Transit Hub, particularly the creation of a pedestrian plaza on Wyckoff Avenue between Gates Avenue and Palmetto Street.

The Council Member announced that PS 75, located at 1663 Hancock Street in Ridgewood, was recently awarded a grant of \$1.5 Million to construct a new school playground adjacent to the school. And, he reported that he met with Assemblyman Hevesi earlier today to discuss proposed legislation that would re-establish rent subsidies for low-income New Yorkers to prevent evictions. He pointed out that the number of homeless families and individuals in the city has risen steadily during the past 4 years, to the point that 60,000 people are now homeless. He said that, in response to this crisis, nine homeless shelters were opened in his district.

The Council Member said that his staff has been working closely with local community groups to ensure that unscrupulous landlords cannot force any existing legal tenants out of their apartments in this area, by providing free legal services to tenants who are being harassed by their landlords and lack adequate building services, such as, heat and hot water. He welcomed everyone to attend next month's Tenant Workshop Forum, at 6:30pm on Thursday, December 1st, in the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council, located at 59-03 Summerfield Street, on the corner of Forest Avenue, where the staff of local non-profits as well as several city and state agencies will be on hand to offer advice and assistance to local residents.

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In closing, he urged Board members to advocate for credible solutions to the current crisis in affordable housing units throughout the city. He said that every community must do their fair share in response to this crisis.

On behalf of NYC Public Advocate Leticia James, Stacey Eliuk said that she recently met with the District Manager in the Board office to offer assistance in resolving problems and issues that local community residents face on a daily basis. She pointed out that the Public Advocate's office has been working with community organizations throughout the city to identify the worst landlords in the city and to prevent tenants in their buildings from becoming homeless, due to the lack of building services. She welcomed local residents to contact her office at (212) 669-7250, or via email at seliuk@pubadvocate.nyc.gov. Newsletters were distributed.

On behalf of NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, Maggie Hayes welcomed everyone to attend the street co-naming ceremony for the Easter Rising Way at 53rd Avenue and 64 Street, at the bottom of the 53rd Step Street, in Maspeth, at 11am, on Saturday morning. Newsletters were distributed. She welcomed everyone to attend.

On behalf of Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, David Agliodoro announced that the Assemblywoman plans to hold mobile office hours in the Ridgewood Library from 10am to 1pm on Wednesday, November 30, 2016. He said that the Library is located at 20-12 Madison Street, on the corner of Forest Avenue. He welcomed calls from constituents at their main office, located at 47-40 21 Street, Room 819, in Long Island City, at (718) 784-3194.

On behalf of Congresswoman Grace Meng, Don Capalbi thanked everyone who participated in the Emergency Preparedness Workshop that was held last Tuesday night in the American Legion Hall, located at 68-01 Cooper Avenue in Glendale. He also said that the Congresswoman is sponsoring H.R. Bill 6303 to create a unique zip code for Glendale and will bring it to the floor for a vote this year. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

State Senator Joseph Addabbo thanked everyone for their support on his re-election to another term in the State Senate. He said that he is happy to report that this year the State adopted legislation to strip pension benefits from state elected officials who are convicted felons during their term in office, and he plans to continue working to pass additional ethics reform measures in Albany. And, he said that he supports programs that provide affordable housing for low-income New Yorkers, but remains opposed to the city's current policy of housing homeless individuals and families in hotel rooms throughout the city.

The State Senator announced that he is sponsoring a year-round food drive, and donations of canned goods, cereals, pasta, and other food staples may be dropped off at his district office, located at 66-85 73 Place, in Middle Village for distribution to a local food pantry.

The State Senator also announced that his office is once again partnering with the American Italian Cancer Foundation to sponsor free mammogram screenings from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 16th, at Maspeth Federal Savings Bank, located at 56-18 69th Street. For more information, he said to call his office at (718) 738-1111. In closing, he wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Mike Miller, Carmela Isabella announced that their office is sponsoring a Thanksgiving Food Drive. She said that they're collecting donations of food for Thanksgiving Dinner, such as, turkeys, corn, stuffing mixes, mashed potato mixes, cranberry sauce, gravy, canned vegetables, and dessert mixes. All food items may be dropped off until November 22nd at their district office at 83-91 Woodhaven Blvd. For more information, she welcomed calls to their office at (718) 805-0950. Flyers and newsletters were distributed.

On behalf of NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, Sergio Galeano said that the Comptroller had a very candid conversation with those who attended the recent Juniper Park Civic Association meeting, where the discussion centered around the current crisis in homelessness throughout the city. He said that the Comptroller is in the

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process of completing audits of the taxpayer supported network of programs and services that serve the homeless population in the city. He welcomed calls from local residents for information and assistance at (212) 669-3546.

On behalf of Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, Alexa Arrechi wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and welcomed calls from constituents to their district office at (718) 263-5595.

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

The Board Chairman thanked everyone who participated in this year's Queens County Veterans Parade along Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village, from 80 Street to Christ the King High School, on Sunday, November 6th. And, he said that kids of all ages marched in their costumes in the Halloween Day Parade on Myrtle Avenue in Glendale, on October 31st. The event was a huge success, he said.

Board Chairman Arcuri welcomed everyone to attend the Glendale Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at 5pm on Sunday, December 4th, on the Glendale Memorial Triangle at the intersection of Cooper and Myrtle Avenues.

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. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) **Ltauha Restaurant LLC** 55-50 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

- 1) *Mt. Everest Indian Restaurant Inc. d/b/a **While in Katmandu** 758 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Kings Juice Bar Inc.** 955 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) **La Cocina de Mama Inc.** 56-13 Metropolitan Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Banatul Folklore and Soccer Club Inc.** 18-80 Menahan Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **Lucky Station Inc.** 57-54 Maspeth Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

*Outdoor Area

Demolition and Construction Notices

The Board Chairman reported that the Board received several building construction notices, as well as demolition notices since last month's Board Meeting, including planned demolitions at: **80-01 Metropolitan Avenue**, a 1-story restroom facility inside St. John's Cemetery, in Middle Village; **46-81 Metropolitan Avenue**, vacant 1-story commercial building, in Ridgewood; **350 St. Nicholas Avenue**, vacant 1-story garage, and **336 St Nicholas Avenue**, vacant 1-story laundromat and storefront, and **54-27 Myrtle Avenue**, vacant 1-story building with 4 commercial storefronts, in Ridgewood. The Board Chairman pointed out that these plots of land have been combined into one zoning lot, and construction of a 17-story mixed-use residential tower is expected to begin soon.

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

The District Manager reported that many local streets and thoroughfares in the Board 5 area were recently resurfaced by the Department of Transportation.

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Regarding that major water and sewer main reconstruction project in the vicinity of Penelope Avenue in Middle Village, the District Manager said that the contractor completed Phase 1 of this project last month. He said that Phase 1 included the installation of new 8" and 12" water mains on Penelope Avenue, between 71 Street and 74 Street, on 74 Street from Juniper Boulevard South to Juniper Valley Road, on Juniper Valley Road from 74 Street to 77 Street, and several side streets south of Juniper Valley Road. He said that the contractor is set to begin Phase 2 of this project this Winter, which will include Installation of Catch Basins and Combined Sewer as well as installation of manholes/chambers.

Regarding the 69 Street/Calamus Avenue water and sewer reconstruction project, the District Manager reported that work has been stalled on this \$29 Million project since the end of September.

Regarding the Emergency Bridge Deck Replacement project at Fresh Pond Road and Metropolitan Avenue, he said that this project is slated to cost \$14 Million and was originally scheduled to begin during the early Summer, this year. However, the project has been delayed for months, due to the fact that the contractor has not obtained all of the work permits that are needed, as yet. He said that the contractor reportedly only has 5 or 6 employees, and he questioned this contractor's ability to complete this project in a timely manner.

Regarding the emergency replacement of the M train bridge that is located between Fresh Pond Road and Metropolitan Avenue, he said that the project is slated to begin in July, 2017.

The District Manager wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

COMMITTEE REPORTS **Parks Services Committee** **Steven Fiedler**

Steven Fiedler reported that the committee met last Wednesday, November 2nd, in the Board 5 office to review the schematic designs for Phase II of the Evergreen Park Capital Improvement Project, which was presented to them in a power point presentation. He said that this neighborhood park is bordered by St. Felix Avenue, 60 Place, Seneca Avenue and 75 Avenue, and serves as the playground for students who attend P. S. 68, which is located on the northeast corner of Seneca Avenue and St. Felix Avenue. He said that representatives of the N.Y. City Dept. of Parks and Recreation in attendance at this meeting included: JoAnne Amagrande, Chief of Staff and Director of Capital Projects for Queens; James Mituzas and Nicholas Magiltas, of the Capital Projects Division. Anne Marie Scalfaro, Principal of P.S. 68, and Barbara Malave, the Parent Coordinator of P.S. 68, attended the committee meeting as well, he said.

Mr. Fiedler informed everyone that \$2.4 million has been allocated for this capital project, and that this park design is the result of public input obtained from the Evergreen Park Visioning Session, conducted on March 1, 2016, which was sponsored by the Dept. of Parks and Recreation and City Council Member Elizabeth Crowley.

As he spoke, he gave the power point presentation regarding the proposed Phase II part of this project, which included an aerial view of this city park. He pointed to the proposed area and pointed out that these are the playground areas directly adjacent to P.S. 68, which is located along the west side of this park. He explained that the Phase II playground area is being divided into playground 1 and playground 2, and is intended for children ages 5 to 12.

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Mr. Fiedler pointed out the area of the park that was reconstructed as part of the Phase I capital project and was completed earlier this year: the playground area inside the Saint Felix Avenue entrance, to the east of the planned Phase II park area. This completed Phase I area is primarily for the use of children, ages 2 to 5. He explained that the proposal for the Playground 1 section includes: new pavement and safety surfacing; a bank of 12 swings, including 2 adaptive swings for the handicapped; new benches; 2 new security light poles; a drinking fountain with a bottle filling station; and green shrub plantings. He said that the Playground 2 section of this Evergreen Park – Phase II Reconstruction includes: new pavement, including safety surfacing as appropriate and some permeable pavers; installation of at least 4 new pieces of play equipment; new benches; 6 new security light poles; and plantings, to include mixed perennials, shrubs and several trees. Mr. Fiedler said that there was unanimous consent among committee members present at the November 2nd meeting to recommend approval of this Phase II project.

As there was no further discussion, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the recommendation to approve the proposed Phase II of the Evergreen Park Capital Improvement Project, which carried unanimously by a vote of - 34 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez reported that the committee met on Monday night, November 7th, in the Board 5 office to review and discuss several different matters, including the following applications:

Re: ULURP Application # N 160361 ECQ – Pollos Mario Woodhaven Corp.

and DCA Application # 1305734-DCA for 63-20 Woodhaven Boulevard, Rego Park, NY

Doing business as Pollos A La Brasa Mario, for renewal, pursuant to Section 366 a(c) of the NYC Charter, of a revocable consent to operate an existing Enclosed Sidewalk Café, with 20 tables and 40 seats, at 63-20 Woodhaven Boulevard, on the northwest corner of 63 Avenue, in Rego Park, Queens, NY 11374.

Mr. Sanchez said that in the past, the Community Board voted in favor of granting the applicant's request for permit to operate an enclosed sidewalk café, as proposed. He said that the Board has not received any complaints about the operation of this enclosed sidewalk café, while it has operated under the current management.

Mr. Sanchez said that the consensus of committee members present at the meeting was to issue a statement of no objection in this case. The Board Chairman opened the floor to questions and comments.

Sarah Feldman asked him to clarify what a ULURP application is. Mr. Sanchez replied that a ULURP application pertains to the Uniform Land Use Review Process which is outlined in the NY City Charter. In this case, the enclosed sidewalk café is treated as an encroachment on the public right-of-way on the sidewalk. He pointed out that the sidewalk café extends a few feet from the building line, which leaves a very wide path on the sidewalk for pedestrians to walk past this restaurant.

As there was no further discussion, Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the matter which carried unanimously by a vote of - 34 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

Re: BSA Cal No. 2016-4222 BZ – 57-40 Mazeau Street, in Maspeth

IN THE MATTER OF an Application to the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals by Mango & Iacoviello, LLP, Attorneys at Law, on behalf of Omar A. Alabed, the owner of record, for a variance, under Sections 72-21 and 23-461 (b) and (c) of the NYC Zoning Resolution, to permit the proposed construction of a zero lot line, residential two-family home, contrary to side yard requirements, in an R4-1 Zoning District, at **57-40 Mazeau Street** (Block: 2798, Lot: 138) in Maspeth, Queens, NY.

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Mr. Sanchez said that the committee recommends that the Board have no objection to this request for a zoning variance, with the following stipulations: the owner be required to obtain a 4 foot wide easement from the next-door neighbor on the south side of this vacant lot to permit driveway access to the backyard area; that two on-site legal parking spaces be provided; and one street tree be planted in front of this house.

After a brief discussion, Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the matter which carried unanimously by a vote of - 34 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

RE: Application # C170079 PCQ

IN THE MATTER OF an Application to the NYC Planning Commission by the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Dept. of Citywide Administrative Services, pursuant to Section 197-c of the NYC Charter, for the site selection and acquisition of property located at **72-42 60 Lane**, (B: 3590, L: 42), in Glendale, NY for storage use and related program uses.

Mr. Sanchez reported the following committee recommendation:

WHEREAS, Community Board 5, Queens conducted a Public Hearing regarding this application on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, shortly after 7:30pm, in the cafeteria of Christ the King High School, which is located at 68-02 Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village, Queens. Jonathan Carey of the Louis Berger Group gave a power point presentation at this hearing, regarding the proposed lease acquisition of this warehouse property for use by the N.Y. City Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). He explained that the New York City Dept. of Citywide Administrative Services, on behalf of DOHMH, proposes to enter into a long-term lease agreement and complete necessary renovations to the existing one to two story 45,100 square warehouse, on a 45,600 square foot lot, which has 2 parking lots at 72-42 60th Lane in Glendale, Queens.

Mr. Carey explained that this property abuts the LIRR freight line tracks to the west, on a site zoned M1-4D. He said that the proposed occupancy of this site is permitted as-of-right in industrial areas. He introduced Robert Weisberg, DOHMH Director of Space Planning, Analysis and Management. Mr. Weisberg explained that the proposed use of this building is for agency storage of: records, storage and distribution of vector (mosquito) control supplies and pest control supplies, vector control unit trucks, chemicals, janitorial supplies, emergency medical supplies, storage for the Public Health Laboratory Plant Operations and for the DOHMH print shop. He said the agency needs to have this warehouse replace their existing warehouse at 520 Kingsland Avenue, in Brooklyn, which was damaged by Superstorm Sandy.

Mr. Weisberg said that up to 50 employees would eventually work at this proposed 60th Lane location, and that an average of 47 daily truck trips (including arrivals and departures) are projected related to the proposed facility. He said that the trucks coming and going from this site would be mid-sized box-type trucks or vans and not tractor trailers. According to Mr. Weisberg, there is approximately 9,600 square feet of outdoor space at this site which would be used for parking 9 vector control trucks, and that 27 off-street parking spaces would be available for employee vehicles on-site.

Mr. Weisberg introduced Christine Abril, who he said would likely be the Warehouse Director of the proposed facility, and who is aware of the problems caused by tractor trailers delivering to the current tenant at this site. There are homes directly across the street from this site and the great majority of the surrounding area is residential. Mr. Weisberg reiterated that mid-sized trucks would make deliveries to this site and would travel from this location to conduct spraying operations for mosquito control. In addition, he said that trucks would not be parked on the street, especially not overnight.

In response to stated concerns about the storage of chemicals at this location, he assured all present at the public hearing that any chemicals for mosquito (vector) control and/or pest control stored at this proposed location would be self-contained, and secured in interior storage cabinets while not in use. Mr. Weisberg said that chemicals that would be stored on-site are in such low concentrations that they would not present any

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potential health dangers. He informed those present that a new sprinkler system would be installed throughout the entire building at this site, prior to agency occupancy, and that DOHMH plans to install security cameras, if they are permitted to relocate operations at this Glendale, Queens warehouse; and,

WHEREAS, the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee of Community Board 5, Queens met to consider this matter on Monday, November 7, 2016, at 7:30pm. After some discussion, Committee Members unanimously voted in favor of this application, provided that the N.Y. City Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Dept. of Citywide Administrative Services agree to have street trees planted wherever possible along the 60th Lane frontage of this location,

THEREFORE, BE IT, RESOLVED that the members of Community Board 5, Queens adopts the Resolution/Recommendation of their Zoning and Land Use Review Committee to approve this application for site selection and acquisition of the property located 72-42 60 Lane, in Glendale for storage use and related program uses.

As there was no further discussion, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the matter, which carried unanimously by a vote of - 34 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

Mr. Sanchez said that with respect to the controversy over the siting of transitional homeless facilities throughout the city, the committee proposes a recommendation to amend the NYC Zoning Resolution in order to prohibit Use Group 5, such as transient hotels, to be permitted as-of-right in manufacturing districts in the city unless a Special Permit is obtained through the Uniform Land Use Review Process.

After a general discussion of the committee recommendation, Jean Tanler made a motion to table the matter, seconded by John Maier.

The Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the tabling motion, which failed to carry, by a vote of – 10 – in favor; - 24 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

The Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the committee recommendation, which carried unanimously by a vote of - 34 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0- not voting.

Special Committee on Homeless Issues

Dmytro Fedkowskyj

Dmytro Fedkowskyj explained that the committee's main focus is to reach a better understanding of the needs of homeless individuals and families, besides their need for adequate living quarters. He said that it is important to understand that not all homeless people are drug addicts, ex-cons and violent people. Many of them have run into some bad luck, or have been subjected to domestic violence, he said. With this in mind, the committee met last week to discuss the following:

- 1) How to capitalize on this opportunity to help fix a broken system, that attempts to help people being serviced by the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) within the CB5Q area and NYC;
- 2) Work with all elected officials to mediate the current situation in hopes of reaching real solutions;
- 3) Better understand the process of what homeless people have to go through to obtain lodging and services and what options are offered to homeless people seeking shelter;
- 4) Better understand the mandated services provided through the Dept. of Homeless Services, and the time-line on when they should be provided, so people can get the help and support that they need; and
- 5) Better understand the community impact, based on homeless enrollments within a shelter facility.

Mr. Fedkowskyj said that, unfortunately, the Board was informed that a representative of "Breaking Ground" and an advocate from "Picture the Homeless" would not be available to attend their committee meeting on November 2nd, due to scheduling conflicts. At the meeting, committee members discussed the role of a Community Board and how we could establish standards that include a long term approach towards helping people. He said that the committee agreed that each community should be doing its fair share to address the crisis of homelessness.

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Committee members all agreed that homeless people need more than lodging to get back on their feet and that not all homeless people being served in the shelters are getting services. He said that each provider operates differently and maybe that's part of the problem. He said that they questioned their business models, their lack of transparency and accountability, as well as the lack of transparency in some city government agencies.

Mr. Fedkowskyj said that the committee also discussed the use of hotels as shelters on a short term/emergency basis with a transition to permanent/affordable housing. For instance, it was mentioned that the American Red Cross uses hotel rooms on an emergency basis, he said. The committee discussed zoning issues surrounding the use of hotels as homeless shelters, as well, he said.

Mr. Fedkowskyj said that their discussion also centered on the problems surrounding a large concentration of homeless people in a shelter, where as many as 25% of them could have mental health issues. He said that concerns were expressed about the fact that the city may not provide counseling services or address any of the mental health issues of the homeless population who are housed in temporary homeless shelters, and the impact that could have on the surrounding neighborhood.

In addition, the committee discussed housing options, such as, Section 8 Vouchers, existing vacancies in NYC Housing Authority developments, and the availability of affordable housing, instead of placing people in shelters. He said that committee members agreed that there is a strong need to focus on good transitional housing. They briefly discussed Assemblyman Hevesi's "Home Stability Support" initiative that would house people at a more affordable rate for taxpayers during the committee meeting, he said.

Mr. Fedkowskyj said that the committee briefly discussed the issue of student homelessness, as well.

In closing, he said that committee members were assigned to research various aspects of the overall issue of homelessness and report back to the committee with their findings at their next meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 2016. He said this research will be compiled into a position paper, and enable the Board to take a more proactive approach, instead of being reactive, regarding this matter.

Mr. Fedkowskyj said that he would update the Board at next month's meeting.

Transportation Services Committee

Tobias Sheppard-Bloch

Toby Bloch said that committee members met on October 25 with the community construction liaison for the Emergency Bridge Deck Replacement project, over the LIRR tracks at the intersection of Fresh Pond Road and Metropolitan Avenue, in Ridgewood. He said that committee members were informed that this project is delayed indefinitely at this point. He said that new signage has been installed along the detour route, in preparation for the start of this long-awaited project, but black mesh has been draped over them until further notice.

Regarding the 71st Avenue Pedestrian Plaza on Myrtle Avenue at Stephen Street, he said that the contractor will proceed with the replacement of the temporary plaza, after the underground utility lines have been relocated and are out of the way of the construction project.

Mr. Bloch also reported that the Dept. of Transportation has implemented a temporary plaza on Wyckoff Avenue between Gates Avenue and Palmetto Street. He said that it appears to be very successful at calming traffic and relieving congestion in that area of Ridgewood. He said that due to the number of accidents at this intersection in the past 3 years, it had been designated as one of the most dangerous traffic intersections in the city.

Mr. Bloch also reported that the committee supports a recommendation, proposed by Citizens United for Railroad Environmental Solutions (CURES) to send a letter to Thomas Prendergast, Chairman of the MTA, requesting that the MTA/LIRR rescind their agreement to renew the LIRR freight concession Transfer

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Agreement. He explained that the NY & Atlantic Railway's 20 year lease agreement for use of the LIRR's freight rail lines expires next year. And, due to the NY & Atlantic's poor safety record in maintaining and operating their equipment on these freight rail lines, the committee recommends that their Transfer Agreement be terminated and awarded to an entity with a better track record and a higher regard for the MTA-LIRR public assets. After a brief discussion of the matter, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the committee recommendation which carried by a vote of – 32 – in favor; - 1 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 - not voting.

New Business

Robert Cermeli, Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, announced that the next committee meeting will be held at 7:30pm in the Board 5 office on next Wednesday, November 16, 2016.

John Maier asked that the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee accelerate their investigation into the matter of conflicting commercial uses that are permitted in manufacturing zones throughout the city, which actually discourage the development of new manufacturing uses in industrial zones.

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 9:30pm.