



## Community Board No. 5

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



Vincent Arcuri, Jr.  
*Chairperson*

Gary Giordano  
*District Manager*

### Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting September 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; Brian Dooley; Thomas C. Dowd; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Dorie Figliola; Angela Giovanniello; Patricia Grayson; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoeffler; Robert Holden; Paul A. Kerzner; Kathleen Knight; 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; Lorraine Sciulli; Catherine Sumsky; Jean Tanler; Barbara Toscano; Mercy Wong; Maryanna Zero

#### Board Members Absent

Karamjit Dhaliwal; Caroline Fuchs; John J. Killcommons; Raquel Namuche

#### Elected Officials

Don Capalbi – US Representative Grace Meng, 6<sup>th</sup> C.D.  
Evelyn Cruz – US Representative Nydia Velazquez, 7<sup>th</sup> C.D.  
Neil Giannelli - NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr., 15<sup>th</sup> SD  
Mike Armstrong – NYS Assemblywoman Margaret Markey, 30<sup>th</sup> AD  
Anne Krzyzanowski – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, 37<sup>th</sup> AD  
Anne He - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38<sup>th</sup> AD  
Deidre Feerick - NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, 30<sup>th</sup> CD  
Jennifer Gutierrez – NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, 34<sup>th</sup> 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

Jay Goldstein, Esq., Attorney for YGS Yeshiva, 74-10 88 Street, Glendale, NY 11385  
Rabbi David Neidermann, United Jewish Association - YGS Yeshiva

Board Chairman Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:35pm, following the Salute to the Flag. He requested a Moment of Silence in memory of all those who lost their lives in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attack on 9/11/2001. He welcomed everyone to participate in this Sunday afternoon’s

## Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 9, 2015

prayer service and ceremony in the Memorial Garden in Forest Park to honor the memory of the 42 local residents, as well as first responders and volunteers, who died as a result of the attack on September 11th, 2001. And, he encouraged all present to attend the Candlelight Vigil Service on Friday night in Juniper Valley Park in Middle Village, from 7pm to 8pm. Flyers were distributed.

The Board Chairman announced the first item on the Board agenda as:

### **PUBLIC HEARING Re: The Fiscal Year 2017 Capital and Expense Budget of the City of New York as it Relates to the Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale Communities**

The Board Chairman announced that speakers would be limited to 2 minutes each, due to the number of people who are registered to speak at tonight's Board Meeting. He gave the floor to the District Manager Gary Giordano to explain the NYC Capital and Expense Budget process. The District Manager said that every year, Community Boards throughout the City hold an annual budget hearing in order to give local residents and businesses an opportunity to request funding for major capital improvements or services in their neighborhoods. For example, he said that the two major capital projects that are currently underway in the Board 5 area: one on 69 Steet and Calamus Avenue in Maspeth, and the other, along Penelope Avenue in Middle Village, are designed to increase the capacity of the sewer system in those neighborhoods and help to alleviate severe street flooding conditions, as had occurred in 2007, 2008, 2012, and during Super Storm Sandy in 2013. He said 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. He said that Fiscal Year 2017 will begin on July 1, 2016.

Katherine Masi, Board member and president of the Glendale Civic Association, stressed the need to improve the infrastructure in Glendale, in order to preserve the quality of life of local residents. For example, she said that there are no current capital improvement plans to increase the capacity of the sewer system in Glendale.

Christina Kalpaxis, a Glendale resident who spoke on behalf of her father, Timon Kalpaxis, requested that more funds be allocated to construct new ball fields, and expand the number of recreational sports programs where local youth can practice and play a variety of sports. She said that all of the local sports facilities are heavily utilized by high school sports programs, and organized athletic leagues.

Stephanie Sauer, a Ridgewood resident, thanked Council Member Crowley for securing \$250,000 in funding for improvements in Rosemary's Playground, which is located on Woodward Avenue between Madison Street and Woodbine Street, in Ridgewood. She said that new play equipment and softball field improvements are needed. She welcomed everyone to participate in their volunteer clean-up of the park on Saturday, September 26th. Flyers were distributed.

Carmen Santana said that there is a need for a dog run in Ridgewood, and requested that the Board investigate the feasibility of locating a dog run in Rosemary's Playground.

The Board Chairman thanked everyone for their input. He said that the Executive Committee is scheduled to meet in the Board office on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> in order to formulate the FY 2017 Capital and Expense Budget surveys that will be distributed to Board members for their input. Once these surveys are completed and returned to the Board office for tabulation, the Executive Committee will meet to review the survey results, and deliver their budget recommendations to the full Board for a vote at next month's Board Meeting.

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 9, 2015

The Board Chairman announced the next Item on the Board Agenda and invited Jay Goldstein, the applicant's representative, to address the Board:

**PUBLIC HEARING Re: BSA Cal. No. 135-15 BZ for Congregation YGA Property at  
74-10 88 Street in Glendale, Queens, NY (B: 3810; L: 93)**

IN THE MATTER OF AN Application to the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals by the Law Office of Jay Goldstein, on behalf of Congregation YGS, the owner of record, for a variance, under Sections 72-21 and 42-00 of the NYC Zoning Resolution for a proposed change in use and building enlargement, from the existing Use Group 9 Trade School to a Use Group 3 Religious School with additional classrooms and dormitories, in an M1-1 Zoning District, at 74-10 88 Street (Block: 3810; Lot: 93) in Glendale, Queens, NY. This is the current site of the YGS Yeshiva School. Their application information states that: the site in question has a total lot area of 135,587 square feet; the existing building measures approximately 60,366 square feet of floor area; and the proposal is for a building expansion to 138,182 square feet of floor area, to accommodate a total of 28 classrooms, 710 dormitory beds and bathrooms.

Jay Goldstein, Esq., said that his client, Congregation YGS, operating as the United Talmudic Seminary, seeks a zoning variance under Section 42-00 of the NYC Zoning Resolution, to permit a change of use from the existing vocational trade school (Use Group 9) to a religious school (Use Group 3) in order to meet the programmatic need of the Yeshiva. He said that this Yeshiva is part of the Satmar community's school system, which educates in excess of 10,000 students, in 15 facilities in New York. On their property, there is a 31' high one-story and partial two-story building which opened as a Use Group 9 vocational trade school in 2003. He said that when their school originally opened, they focused on instructing the students on matters regarding the business end of the Rabbinate. Their students studied the laws and methods of ritual slaughter, kosher supervision of food preparation, and such. However, over the years, their focus has shifted to include spiritual aspects of the Rabbinate as well, he said. He explained that their new emphasis on instruction is more appropriately described within the Use Group 3 religious school (yeshiva) classification, not under the former Use Group 9 – trade school.

In addition to the proposed change in use, Mr. Goldstein said that his client seeks to enlarge the existing building to include much needed additional classroom space and dormitory space. He said that while the bulk of the proposed building is permitted as-of-right in an M1-1 zone, the proposed use is not, which necessitates their filing for a zoning variance.

Mr. Goldstein said that with the proposed building expansion, the Yeshiva would be able to accommodate approximately 1,050 students, aged 16-22 years, and provide sleeping accommodations for as many as 710 students in their dormitory. He said the existing dormitory currently accommodates 360 students, with the remaining students travelling to and from their homes in 15 buses each day. Presently, he said that the Yeshiva is utilizing movable trailers that are stationed in their parking lot, in order to provide much needed classroom space for their students. Once the building expansion is completed, he said that they plan to remove these transportable classrooms from the property, and reduce the number of buses travelling to and from school daily because most of their students will be sleeping in their dormitory. He said that currently, there are 600 students who are bused to and from their homes daily. The Yeshiva could cut down the number of students who are bused in daily by half, if their proposed plans are approved.

He described the property as a large odd-shaped lot that contains 135,587 square feet, and fronts onto 88th Street, in Glendale. He said the property abuts a variety manufacturing uses, including railroad tracks, factories and warehouses, which are situated in a predominantly residential neighborhood of one and two-family homes. The existing building contains approximately 60,366 square feet of floor area, which

## Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 9, 2015

represents a floor area ratio of 0.44 (FAR). He said that the proposed plans would expand the existing buildings from 60,366 square feet to 138,182 square feet, which would be the equivalent of 1.02 FAR. He pointed out that both commercial and manufacturing uses with a 1.0 FAR, and community facilities with a 2.4 FAR, are permitted as-of-right in an M1-1 zoning district.

Mr. Goldstein said that the existing structure contains a large cafeteria, separate meat and dairy kitchens, mikvah and shower area, a large study hall, large library, teachers/administrative offices, classrooms and dormitory rooms. The proposed plans would add 3 stories to the existing eastern-most 1-story wing of the building, and add an additional cellar and 4-story enlargement on the new wing next to it. He said that the wall height of the proposed structure is 51 feet. However, since the proposed structure will be set back 140 feet from 88 Street, and the Yeshiva maintains a community garden along the 88 Street side of their property, it complies with zoning regulations in this regard.

The Board Chairman opened the floor to questions and comments.

Katherine Masi, a Board member, said that to her knowledge, sleeping accommodations are not permitted in a Use Group 9 – trade school classification, according to the NYC Zoning Resolution. Mr. Goldstein replied that the NYC Dept. of Buildings issued a Certificate of Occupancy which included a dormitory on this site. He said that the Yeshiva seeks to change the use to a Use Group 3 – religious school, which is why they are applying for this variance.

Daniel Creighton, a Board member, asked what would prevent the Yeshiva from boarding more than 710 students in this school, once it is built. Mr. Goldstein said that it is not feasible to accommodate more than 1,050 students, with 710 students sleeping in the dormitory. Speaking as a former graduate of the Yeshiva, he said that the students spend most of their time studying together in the large study hall each day, and the physical limitations of the study hall would preclude any additional enrollments beyond 1,050 students.

Walter Sanchez, Zoning and Land Use Committee Chairman, asked what food services are provided in the Yeshiva. Mr. Goldstein replied that all of their food is prepared on-site by their staff, to accommodate their dietary restrictions. He said that students consume all of their food on-site, as well.

Ms. Masi said that the students who attend this school are a pleasure, and that she has never heard any complaints from local residents about their behavior and daily routine. However, she asked why the students must sleep in the Yeshiva, instead of taking a bus back and forth from their homes in Williamsburg each day. Mr. Goldstein pointed out that their daily study routine comprises 14 hours per day, and travelling back and forth each day by bus adds another 2 to 2 ½ hours to their day, leaving less than 8 hours to sleep.

Mr. Sanchez asked if he could arrange for committee members to tour the facility, before their next committee meeting. Mr. Goldstein said that could be arranged.

Richard Huber, a Glendale resident, expressed his objection to granting the Yeshiva a variance in this case, because they have created their own hardship in purchasing this land so far away from where their student body lives.

Christina Kalpaxis spoke on behalf of her father, Timon Kalpaxis, in objecting to this large scale expansion of the Yeshiva. She said that the existing infrastructure in Glendale cannot handle such a large facility at this location. She said that it could ruin the quality of life of local property owners and residents.

Brian Dooley, President of Glendale Property Owners Association, said that local residents' fears about the impact that this proposed expansion might have on local infrastructure are well-founded. He said that it could affect how the proposed residential facility for the homeless is considered by the City administration.

Dawn Scala, a Glendale resident, said that in 2006, the Certificate of Occupancy issued by the Dept. of Buildings did not mention any dormitory facilities on-site. She also said that their Temporary Certificate of Occupancy did not mention a dormitory, in October of 2007. Only in 2008, when their new Certificate of

## Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 9, 2015

Occupancy was issued, did it include a dormitory. She questioned how their Certificate of Occupancy now permits sleeping quarters in a manufacturing zone.

Ms. Scala also raised her concerns about the impact that his school expansion could have on the local infrastructure, and the negative impact that could have on homes in the surrounding community.

Marie Hedbavny, a Glendale resident, said that she lives one-half block from the Yeshiva site on 88 Street. She said that she believes that the community was deceived in 2006, when the sleeping quarters were originally built inside the Yeshiva. She said that she is concerned about the impact this new school expansion might have on the surrounding community, considering that a new kidney dialysis center is scheduled to open soon, opposite the Yeshiva on 88 Street, in Glendale.

Joseph Plut, a Glendale resident, said that he has lived in the area for over 25 years, and he bought a home in eastern Glendale because it is made up of one and two family homes, for the most part. He said that he is opposed to such large scale development in this area.

Kevin Driscoll, a Glendale resident, said that he is worried about the potential impact of this large expansion of the Yeshiva, considering the history of severe street flooding in this area over the past decade. In closing, he requested that an environmental impact study be completed, related to the proposed expansion of the Yeshiva.

Lawrence Cirullo, a Glendale resident, agreed with the prior speaker's concerns about the impact that such a large scale development could have on the quality of life of local residents and homeowners.

Rabbi Neidermann said that the Yeshiva has always been a good neighbor in the community, and said that he looks forward to speaking with committee members and community residents, in order to resolve their differences in connection with this proposal.

Walter Sanchez announced that the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee is scheduled to meet in the Board 5 office on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:30pm, to discuss this matter. He said that the meeting is open to the public, but space is limited. He explained that the committee's recommendation will be voted on by the full Board at next month's Board Meeting, at 7:30pm on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, when members of the public can sign up to speak during the Public Forum section of the meeting.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Gabriella Carmona, a Glendale resident, said that she is opposed to granting a variance for the proposed expansion of the Yeshiva, and that she has collected 184 signatures from friends and neighbors who are opposed to this expansion.

Caitlin Shann, a Ridgewood resident, said that there has been a rise in the number of burglaries reported in the 104th Precinct this month, and wondered if there was any correlation to the increased number of bars opening in Ridgewood. She asked the Board to develop a questionnaire for new liquor license applicants to submit along with 30-day notifications to the Community Board.

Orfa Wilson, a Ridgewood resident, spoke about the need for sports facilities in Rosemary's Playground, in order to accommodate the large groups of school-aged children who play soccer after school together. She said that the asphalt surface inside the playground is not a safe surface for them to play on.

Joel Bahuiyan, a member of the NYC SMOKE FREE coalition, asked the Board to consider supporting new legislation in the City Council which would mandate that landlords in multiple dwellings disclose their smoking policy to prospective tenants, prior to renting their dwelling units. He said that there is no safe level of smoke in the air you breathe.

## Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 9, 2015

Mary Parisen, co-founder of CURES, spoke about the proposed Expansion of Solid Waste Transport by One World Recycling and Coastal Distribution LLC that Community Board 5 members voted against at their July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Board Meeting. She said that, in the interim, New York and Atlantic Railway has decided not to transport their municipal solid waste by rail through local residential communities. She thanked everyone for their efforts to preserve the quality of life of local community residents.

Francesca Pellot and Norma Canepa, residents of Maspeth, said that they live next to the Metropolitan Oval Soccer Field, where a huge crowd of people congregate on Saturday nights until the early hours of Sunday morning. They said that they have collected over 100 signatures on a petition objecting to the loud music, late hours, consumption of food and alcoholic beverages on premises, and lack of security on premises. They asked the Board for their support in resolving these problems.

Mark Pearson, President of 104COP, said he recently replaced his predecessor Frank Kotnik as the civilian observation patrol's president. He said that the 104COP will investigate the complaints at the Metropolitan Oval Soccer Field and work with the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct to resolve the quality of life issues conditions there. He welcomed everyone to attend their meeting with the Glendale Property Owners Association at 8pm tomorrow night in Pfeiffer Hall at St. Pancras School on Myrtle Avenue at 68 Street in Glendale.

Peter Comber welcomed everyone to attend this weekend's Drag Queen Festival, a fundraiser at the Onderdonk House, located at 1820 Flushing Avenue in Ridgewood. Flyers were distributed.

Dawn Scala said that the Dept. of Buildings revoked the work permits to convert the factory at 78-16 Cooper Avenue into a proposed transitional housing facility for homeless families. She said that there have not been any recent developments in the Article 78 proceedings in State Supreme Court regarding the proposed facility at this site. The judge has taken the matter under advisement, she said.

Sarah Feldman said that she supports the idea of establishing a dog park in Ridgewood, similar to the ones that have been created in other Queens communities.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Vincent Arcuri, Jr.**

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 welcomed representatives of local elected officials to address the Board.

On behalf of Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Jennifer Gutierrez announced that their office will host their next task force meeting of Ridgewood Housing Matters on September 17<sup>th</sup>, in the St. Matthias program offices on Catalpa Avenue in Ridgewood, beginning at 5pm. She also welcomed everyone to participate in their upcoming Participatory Budgeting Session on September 27<sup>th</sup> in Cafeteria of St. Matthias School, starting at 7pm. Flyers were distributed.

On behalf of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, Evelyn Cruz said that the Congresswoman fully supports the Health and Human Services Committee's recommendation regarding the 3-day gap in Medicare coverage that can occur while seniors are being admitted to hospital. She said that their office drafted new legislation that will address this situation.

## Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 9, 2015

On behalf of State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Neil Giannelli welcomed everyone to participate in their semi-annual Electronic Recycling Event that is scheduled to take place in Forest Park Bandshell on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 3pm. He said that this event is co-sponsored by State Assemblyman Mike Miller every year.

### **MINUTES**

Board Chairman Arcuri asked Board members to review the minutes of the July 8, 2015 Board Meeting. Walter Clayton made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Katherine Masi. The minutes were accepted by voice vote.

### **LIQUOR, WINE and BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS and RENEWALS**

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

#### **New Liquor Licenses**

- 1) **Jungo Road LLC** d/b/a TBD 1080 Wyckoff Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Super Pollo Restaurant, Inc.** 865 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) MIFRA Corp. d/b/a **Sit & Sip** 779 Wyckoff Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **Brisas del Mar Restaurant Corp.** 675 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 5) **\*David Rosen on behalf of an entity TBD** 552 Grandview Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

#### **Liquor License Renewals**

- 1) **El Manaba Restaurant Corp.** 341 St. Nicholas Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) Cascada Café II Inc. d/b/a **Cascada Café** 675 Seneca Avenue – Rear Store, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) Joseph Felle d/b/a **Anchor Inn** 59-30 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 4) C&Q on Myrtle Inc. d/b/a **Celtic Gasthaus** 64-04 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 5) Coneely & Quinn, Inc. d/b/a **Glenlo Tavern** 64-16/18 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 6) Maria y Howie Corp. d/b/a **El Coqui Billiard & Lounge** 54-19 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 7) **Fresh Pond Tavern Inc.** 68-69 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385

#### **New Wine and/or Beer Licenses**

- 1) **El Montanero Bakery Rest, Inc.** 56-21 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 2) **\*Saverio's Brick Oven Pizza Corp.** d/b/a **Piecasso** 79-08 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 3) **Pravue Café, LLC** 70-02 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **\*Cosmo Bjorkenheim d/b/a Topos Bookstore Café** 788 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

#### **Wine and/or Beer License Renewals**

- 1) **La Flor del Paraiso Rest. Corp.** 1715 Cornelia Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **CJ Banqueta Latino Corp.** 56-41 59 Street, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 3) **New Toyo Japanese Restaurant Corp.** 73-06 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 4) **Buon Gelato & Euro Bar of NY Corp.** 74-02B Eliot Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 5) **Manor Oktoberfest Inc.** 80-28 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 6) **Dallas Coffee Shop Inc.** 68-64 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 7) **Chiquita's Restaurant LLC** 60-59 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 8) **Phillies Pizzeria II Inc.** 74-02 Eliot Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379

#### **Corporate Change**

- 1) **El Fogon Restaurant Inc.** 1701 Palmetto Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385  
New Officer: Angel Sarmiento

## Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 9, 2015

**ALTERATION**

**Fajitas Sunrise Restaurant Corp.** 59-24 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385 notified CB5Q of their intention to apply for an alteration with the NYS Liquor Authority which would allow them to store alcohol in the basement of the building.

\*Indicates Outdoor Seating Area

The Board Chairman informed everyone that the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct closed down **La Cascada** at 675 Seneca Avenue, where several citations were issued recently.

Evelyn Cruz said that there were reportedly problems with the operation of **El Fogon Restaurant** on Palmetto Street in Ridgewood. She said that there was a major crime in that vicinity recently.

**Demolition Notices**

The Board Chairman reported that the Board was notified about several building demolitions over the past month, including: **62-11 Flushing Avenue**, a house and garage in Maspeth; **1814 Gates Avenue**, the legalization of a garage demolition, in Ridgewood; **1728 Himrod Street**, a 1-family house in Ridgewood; and **63-02 Fresh Pond Road**, a commercial garage, in Ridgewood.

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 the contractor began repaving the roadway of the Jackie Robinson Parkway this month. He said that guardrails and jersey barriers will be replaced as needed, as part of this roadway improvement project. Most of the resurfacing work will be completed at night between 11pm and 5am, when both lanes of traffic in one direction may be closed to traffic. Lighting and signs are also being replaced under this contract. The work is expected to be completed by the end of calendar year 2015.

Regarding current capital improvement projects in the Board 5 area, the District Manager said that the contractor has begun work on the \$29 Million project to replace the combined sewer and water mains on Calamus Avenue, between 69 Street and 74 Street, and in 69 Street, between Calamus Avenue and 47th Avenue. He said that new water mains have been installed. And, the contractor is waiting for the 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 this Fall.

The District Manager said that another major sewer and water main improvement project in the Board 5 area is scheduled to begin soon in the area of 74 Street and Penelope Avenue, in Middle Village. He said that this major capital project is expected to take 2 years to complete.

The District Manager also announced that contract resurfacing has been completed overnight on Grand Avenue between the LIE Eastbound Service Road and Rust Street, and on Flushing Avenue from 64 Street to 61 Street, in Maspeth. He said that over a dozen local streets in the Board 5 area are scheduled for to be resurfaced this Fall.



## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Executive Committee**

#### **Vincent Arcuri**

Board Chairman Arcuri reported that the Executive Committee has met to discuss adopting a new review process in connection with the liquor license applications. He said that this matter is currently under review, pending further investigation.

### **Transportation Services and Public Transit Services**

#### **Combined Committee**

#### **John Maier**

John Maier reported that the committee met with local Myrtle Avenue merchants in the Board 5 office on Tuesday, August 18th to discuss traffic congestion and traffic flow problems resulting from the recent changes in the timing of traffic signals at the intersection of Forest Avenue, Myrtle Avenue and George Street in Ridgewood. He said that a follow-up meeting with representatives from the Department of Transportation was scheduled for the afternoon of August 20<sup>th</sup>, to review and discuss the adjustments to the signal timing that are requested.

Mr. Maier also reported that funding has been allocated for the Reconstruction of Wyckoff Avenue from Myrtle Avenue to Cooper Avenue in Ridgewood.

He announced that Council Member Elizabeth Crowley plans to meet with the committee at their next combined committee meeting in the Board office at 7:30pm on Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The Board Chairman announced that the south tower of the Kosciuszko Bridge is now in position. He said the new bridge span will be 150 feet lower than the existing bridge deck.

### **New Business**

Tom Dowd announced that the Ridgewood Library has acquired 150 WiFi Hot Spots to lend to elderly or disabled residents in the community. He also announced that an Art Show will be on display in the Ridgewood Library starting next week and run through September 20<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged everyone to visit the library to see the work of local artists.

Sarah Feldman announced that the Ridgewood Market will re-open this Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, in Gottscheer Hall, located at 657 Fairview Avenue, in Ridgewood. She welcomed everyone to shop at the market where there will be over 40 local artisan vendors and many vintage gift items to choose from.

Regarding a recent request that the Community Board submit a letter of no objection to the State Liquor Authority's granting a one-time only permit to DMI, Inc., doing business as the Knockdown Center at 52-19 Flushing Avenue in Maspeth, the District Manager reported that this event is a dinner dance that is scheduled for Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, for 250 guests to arrive between 8pm and 10pm and over 1,000 patrons in attendance after 10pm. He said that, to his knowledge, they still have not completed the process of obtaining a new Certificate of Occupancy at this site. He asked the pleasure of the Board on this matter. He reminded everyone that the Board voted against granting their establishment a new liquor license until they are issued a new Certificate of Occupancy by the Dept. of Buildings.

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 9, 2015

After considerable discussion of this matter, the Board Chairman called the question, and Michael LoCascio made a motion in favor of the request that the Community Board submit a letter of no objection to the State Liquor Authority, which was seconded by Carmen Santana. The Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the motion on the floor which was defeated by a vote of 15 in favor; 24 opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Board Chairman Arcuri adjourned the public meeting of Community Board 5, Queens on a motion from the floor at 9:35pm.