



Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale
61-23 Myrtle Avenue • Glendale, NY 11385
Tel (718) 366-1834 Fax (718) 417-5799
E-mail: qn05@cb.nyc.gov
www.NYC.gov/qnscb5



Vincent Arcuri, Jr.
Chairperson

Gary Giordano
District Manager

Minutes of Remote Community Board 5 Public Meeting

September 14, 2021

Board Members Present

Bhubaneshor Adhikari; Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Jessica Boiardi; Alyssa Bonilla; Eric Butkiewicz; Rachel Caracci; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Patricia Crowley; Maria de la Cruz; Brian Dooley; Derek Evers; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Dr. Sukh Gurung; Fred T. Haller; Richard Huber; Kinga Kurzyna; Diego Leclery; Edward Lettau; John Maier; Patricia Maltezos; Edgar Mantel; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Marcin Nadgorski; April Narsasian; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Dennis Stephan; Catherine Sumsy; Katarzyna Syta; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Antonetta Binanti; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Fred Hoefferle; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Kelvin Rodriguez; Gyanal Thapa; Michaeline Von Drathen

STAFF

Gary Giordano, District Manager-CB5Q

GUESTS

Joseph Nocerino – Office of the Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Joy Chen, Borough Planner, Sarit Platkin, Queens Team Leader, and Luis Garcia Martinez, NYC Dept. of City Planning, Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blvd, Kew Gardens, NY 11424
Andres Ledesma, Corporate Affairs Manager - Queens Regional and Community Affairs, Con Edison and Richard S. David, Director of Queens Regional and Community Affairs; Robert Ahad and Noemi Menesis– Electric Operations; Alexis Simeonidis - Energy Services; and Jeff Mah, Aziz Almassoudi and Alicia Demarco - Engineering Division

Before proceeding, the Board Chairperson stated that due to the COVID19 pandemic, this meeting will be conducted remotely and electronically via Zoom. Members of the public can view this meeting in progress, via livestream on YouTube, by clicking on this link: https://youtu.be/P1_qhbcldDA, in addition to our Community Board's webpage at www.nyc.gov/qnscb5.

Following the Salute to the Flag led by Donald Passantino, the Board Chairperson announced the first item on the Board Agenda as:

PUBLIC HEARING RE: The Fiscal Year 2023 Capital and Expense Budget Needs of the City of New York, as they relate primarily to the Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale Communities

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on September 14, 2021

The District Manager Gary Giordano read aloud the following budget testimony from local residents:

Linda Byszynski, a founding member of the Friends of Mafera Park, submitted the following budget testimony in support of improvements to Mafera Park:

“Dear Community Board 5,

Mafera Park also known as Farmer's Oval is a large NYC public park on the borderline of Glendale and Ridgewood Queens. It serves as a recreational outdoor space for over 140,000 people. During this pandemic Mafera Park has become a refuge for many residents of both communities.

Unfortunately, the park has been neglected and is in disrepair. The playground equipment is old, small, crowded and broken. The rubber padding is torn and a tripping hazard. The park garden was abandoned and turned into a makeshift doggie run, right next to the infant swings, which could cause children to become ill if infected with bacteria from dog poop.

The metal scoreboard is falling apart and could potentially fall on someone. The cemented baseball field is crumbling and the astro-turf in the football field is in need of repair. There is a large portion of fencing falling towards the turf with barbed wire hanging. There is no lighting in half the park which makes it dangerous to use after sunset.

This park is a large outdoor space with potential to become a jewel and haven for the 140,000 Glendale and Ridgewood residents. The park is large enough to avoid the overcrowding at the playground area if it were designed better and if it made good use of the open spaces. The football/baseball field is a large green space but doesn't have a much-needed running track, outdoor gym equipment or adequate lighting.

This pandemic has shown how vital these spaces are to the people who live in urban settings and why we need to continue to invest and upkeep our neighborhood parks. I am asking Community Board 5 to place Mafera Park on its list of Capital Budget Priorities for FY 2023.”

Vanessa Gonzalez, a Ridgewood resident, submitted the following budget testimony:

“There is a high unmet need for speech therapy for young children who live in Ridgewood, Queens.

We also need resources for providing food to the families who are in need. While also providing food and services for these families who wait on these food pantry lines for 2 to 3 hours at a time, water and sandwiches should be provided to the people while they wait.”

Annie Hart submitted the following budget testimony in support of improvements to Mafera Park:

“My name is Annie Hart and I am a mother of two kids, aged 6 and 10. I love going to Mafera Park: it is in a beautiful location, so isolated from the noise and pollution of cars. My kids are always so impressed with the great play equipment there. Sadly, it is a bit run-down these days and could use some sprucing up. I wanted to let you know I support budgeting for its renovation. Thank you so much! Annie Hart, Ridgewood, NY 11385”

Theodore Renz, Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue BID and a member of the Executive Committee of our Board, submitted the following FY 2023 Capital Budget testimony:

“On behalf of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District, we thank you for supporting a new Capital Improvement Project for Myrtle Avenue in Ridgewood, as a high priority for Fiscal Year 2022.

The last time Myrtle Avenue in Ridgewood between Wyckoff Avenue/Palmetto Street & Fresh Pond Road was included for a major capital project was in 1983 and 1984. At that time, the project, under the New York City Commercial Revitalization Program, included major improvements to the shopping corridor, including the following:

- New concrete sidewalks with decorative brick pavers building line to curbside, new street trees and new steel faced curbing.

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on September 14, 2021

- Creation of three pedestrian plazas:
 1. Woodbine Street/St. Nicholas Avenue/Myrtle Avenue now known as Venditti Square named for Detective Anthony Venditti who lost his life in the line of duty in January 1986;
 2. Ridgewood Memorial Triangle (named for the Veterans of WW1) Myrtle Avenue/Putnam Avenue/Cypress Avenue; and
 3. Times Triangle now known as Clemens Triangle (named for the owner of the Ridgewood Times).

Over the years, other improvements have included the installation of historic M Poles, World's Fair benches along various curbside locations and in the plaza areas, historic marker signs along the Avenue and in Plazas, historic marker signs on M poles, a new Plaza at 71st Avenue, Myrtle Avenue & Stephen Street as well as a new raised planting area at the northwest corner of Myrtle & Catalpa Avenues. Many of these improvements, particularly the brick pavers imbedded in the sidewalk, have seriously deteriorated causing tripping hazards and unsafe conditions for pedestrians. This has also resulted in a number of lawsuits, in many cases also naming the BID, which has resulted in higher insurance premiums for the BID.

While there are a number of very important projects for this board to support, we kindly ask for your continued support for this important improvement project.

Myrtle Avenue in Ridgewood is a major comparison-shopping corridor serving the Greater Ridgewood area, including Ridgewood, Glendale, Middle Village, Maspeth in Queens and Ridgewood/Bushwick in Brooklyn and beyond. Along this corridor, there are approximately 345 retail and service establishments. The improvements we are asking for may include but are not limited to new sidewalks without brick pavers; new curbs; new M poles on side streets within the boundaries of the BID; removal of all Belgium blocks from over 300 tree pits; additional benches and other amenities. And, since the prior project only included a repaved street bed, it may be wise to consider a total reconstruction project, including new water and sewer lines, as well as upgrades to utilities. Thank you again for your support."

Olga Raskin submitted the following testimony in favor of capital improvements in Mafera Park:

"Dear Community Board 5,

I am writing to express my support for renovating Mafera Park. My family and I recently settled in Ridgewood and have fallen in love with the neighborhood and community. We're so grateful to have found a home near Mafera. We have a toddler who loves strutting around the playground and we're excited that it will be part of her life as she grows up. However, the park is sorely in need of renovations to ensure that our children can stay safe and the whole community can enjoy the park for years to come.

Both the playground and dog park need updates, and the fenced area between the park and the train yard needs to be secured rather than being a place for garbage to collect, and for children to climb on, as I have witnessed several times. I have also witnessed adults using the playground as their gym while I'm there with my toddler, highlighting the need for a dedicated fitness area. Furthermore, the park needs more grass and trees to make it a comfortable place for people to gather.

It has been disappointing to see how much funding parks like Juniper Valley Park have received while basic upgrades to Mafera go unfunded. We must invest in renovations now before the park falls into deeper disrepair and loses its place in our community.

For these reasons, I am asking Community Board 5 to place Mafera Park on its list of Capital Budget Priorities for FY 2023."

Tania Pavsic-Dublejevic submitted the following testimony in support of rehabilitating Mafera Park:

"Dear Community Board 5 Members,

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on September 14, 2021

Please consider allocating funds for the renovation of Mafera Park in Ridgewood. The playground was last renovated in 1995, and it is in need of replacement. The paint is peeling off the structures, the rubber safety mats are coming up and causing children and adults to trip and fall.

There isn't enough lighting in the evening leaving half of the playground in darkness, and there isn't adequate fencing around the play area, just to name a few of the many issues. Other parks in the area have been renovated more recently (Rosemary's in 2020 and Evergreen in 2019) and it is time for Mafera to get some attention as well. Thank you for your attention."

Theresa Giacopasi submitted the following budget testimony in favor of a rehabilitation project in Mafera Park:

"I'm writing to express my support as a Ridgewood resident for renovation at Mafera Park/ Farmer's Oval. The neighborhood would be greatly boosted by a proper accessible running track, as well as an updated/safe playground for children. People of all ages use this park and would benefit from it being renovated, a track being added for runners, more trees planted for all and safety updates made for the playground and dog run (the only one in Ridgewood). Thank you for your consideration!"

Randy Ohmen, a Ridgewood resident, submitted the following budget testimony in favor of capital improvements in Mafera Park:

"My name is Randy Ohmen. I am a lifelong Queens resident and I have been a home owner in Ridgewood for 17 years and have lived here for 20 years. My wife Jessica and I have chosen to build a life here. We are raising two boys here and they attend public school in Ridgewood. In our 20 years in Ridgewood we have seen a lot of change in our community, and much of it has been for the better. While this may be true, we cannot say the same thing for the state of the largest public park in our neighborhood - Mafera Park. The park is in dire need of renovations. The park and equipment is terribly outdated and in bad condition. Mafera Park should be the crown jewel of Ridgewood - with its beautiful setting and spaciousness, but instead it is a dilapidated eyesore. For these reasons we often choose not to bring our two boys to play at Mafera, even though we would love to be able to do this because it is a short walk from our home and the boys can ride their bikes or scooters there. Please allocate the appropriate funding to renovate Mafera Park so that it becomes the sort of place our neighborhood sorely needs and deserves. We want a park that is worthy of our wonderful neighborhood; a place we will be proud of and eager to have our children spend time in. Thank you."

The Board Chairperson closed the public hearing and thanked everyone for their input, and announced the next item on the Agenda as:

SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF CON EDISON RE: UNDERGROUND WIRING PROJECT THAT WILL BEGIN IN A SMALL PORTION OF MIDDLE VILLAGE IN SEPTEMBER, 2021

Andres Ledesma, the Corporate Affairs Manager of Con Edison, said that this new project is being called the Juniper Valley Underground Project because it will replace a portion of the overhead electric wires in the electrical grid system known as the Juniper Valley Loop. He said that the purpose of this project is to reduce the number of outages experienced by customers in the area of Middle Village that is bordered by Furmanville Avenue on the north, 66 Road on the south, 75 Place on the west and 78 Street on the east. He stated that approximately 497 customers of Con Edison live in this section of Middle Village where there have been 19 power outages since 2012. He said that what makes this pilot project unique is that Con Edison will cover the cost of undergrounding the service lines to a group of approximately 15 customers, most of whom are on Gray Street. Previously, customers requesting a service wire to be undergrounded, would have to incur the cost of the internal electrical work. He said that Con Edison has

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on September 14, 2021

already engaged with these customers and obtained their consent to perform this work on their property.

Mr. Ledesma said that the reliability of their electric service will be improved for many of their surrounding customers, as well. He said that by establishing more underground electric feeds, Con Edison aims to minimize the impact that overhead outages have. Some of their customers are already fed by an underground source, but the primary feed to some of these sources are located overhead in some cases. He said that this work will commence on September 15th and entails the installation of underground transformers, manholes and underground cables. He invited press inquiries about this project to Con Edison at (212) 460-4111.

Robert Ahad, Con Edison's project engineer, gave a power point presentation that provided a brief overview of this project. He pointed out that since 2012, they estimate that 8,970 customers have experienced power outages in Middle Village. He said that large tree limbs that engulf their electric wires are often the source of the power outages, particularly during storms. He explained that as part of this project, crews will remove 3 overhead electric transformers, 11 spans of overhead primary electric wires, and 28 spans of overhead secondary electric wires. He estimated that the new electric service for 152 customers in this quadrant will be served by underground wires, a new underground transformer and a backup overhead transformer. In addition, they plan to install 15 new manholes and service boxes in connection with this pilot project.

Noemi Meneses pointed out when their crews are working on Juniper Valley Road, traffic will be closed in one direction at a time for site safety. She also said that parking restrictions would be in effect and barricades would be installed on a block by block basis as the work progresses. She explained that contractors will be hired to excavate the street, and all of the electrical work will be performed by in-house crews. While this project is underway, she advised customers to call 1 (800) 752-6633 (1-800-75ConEd) regarding any questions or concerns they have.

Alexis Simeonidis, the manager of BQ Energy Services, explained that Triangle Electric will make the service connections to Con Edison's lines. Any problems with service connections should be reported to 1 (800) 752-6633 or (1-800-75ConEd).

Lee Rottenberg, a Board member, asked a question about what precautions will be in place to prevent transformers from catching fire underground. Mr. Ahad replied that the underground transformers will be an immersible kind that will be installed in underground vaults in the street for added security.

Richard Huber, a Board member, asked a question about the type of electric service that will be installed underground. Mr. Ahad replied that the primary cables that will be installed underground are 27 KV.

Jessica Boiardi, a Board member, asked what safety measures will be in place regarding local school children who walk back and forth from schools in that area. Mr. Ahad replied that safety is Con Edison's number 1 priority. He said that work crews will be reminded every morning to be careful when pedestrians approach their job and flaggers will be on site to divert traffic as needed. He said that they have already sent mailings to local residents in this area, and reached out to local schools to inform them about the parameters of this pilot project.

Edgar Mantel, a Board member, said that calling the 1(800)75CONED phone number is not always helpful, and asked if someone on staff would be responsible to field questions from the public. He also asked whether any lines would be painted around the designated work area. Ms. Meneses replied that their work area would be barricaded on a block by block basis, beginning with the intersection of 77 Street and Juniper Valley Road.

Kathy Masi, a Board member, said that this area of Middle Village gets flooded during heavy rainstorms. She also pointed out that during the Winter months, as snow and salt melt into the electric manholes,

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on September 14, 2021

there are frequent fires in the manholes. Mr. Ahad replied that new materials have been developed that are more impervious to salt corrosion from snow melt. He also pointed out that the new underground cables are rubber-insulated cables which are much less corrosive than lead cables. Sukh Gurung, a Board member, asked why Con Edison has chosen to bury the electric service underground in this area of Middle Village. Mr. Ahad replied that there was an unacceptable incidence of outages in this particular area of Middle Village since 2012.

Patrick Trinchese, a Board member, questioned what the legal authority of Con Edison's contractors to place orange cones on the street in order to reserve parking spaces for their crews.

Mr. Huber, a Board member, asked about the possibility of rescinding the parking restrictions in effect overnight on Juniper Boulevard South while this work is underway. The Board Chairperson requested the District Manager to investigate it.

Mr. Huber also asked what actions Con Edison is taking to forecast the increased demand for electric service, particularly to serve customers who plan to purchase electric cars. Mr. Ledesma replied that Con Edison forecasts the demand for electric service at least 5 years into the future.

In response to a question from Alyssa Bonilla, a Board member, Mr. Ledesma said that Con Edison trims tree limbs near overhead electric lines on a regular timeline.

As there were no further questions from the floor, the Board Chairperson thanked Con Edison's representatives for their informative presentation and announced the next item on the Agenda as:

PUBLIC FORUM

The District Manager Gary Giordano read aloud the following statements from members of the public: Maureen Tompkins, a Maspeth resident, submitted the following request:

"I would like to propose a dedication in the memory of Maryanne Verbil Walter.

Her family has deep roots in the community and she recently passed away from a long battle with cancer. We all have seen the flags placed on the overpass at 69 Street and Grand Avenue. Maryanne and her family put them there every year, as well as at the graves of Veterans. These are just two of the many things that she did so effortlessly for the community. She has received the highest honor that an adult can receive from the Girl Scouts of America, and she has been an active member of the St. Stanislaus community her entire life.

If you would consider some appropriate type of dedication to honor this very unique and special woman, I am sure that many people who her generous heart has touched throughout her life would be in support of this. Thank you."

Gabrielle Napolitano, a caseworker for PS Family NYC, submitted the following statement:

"I would like to introduce PS Family to the board and community. We are an agency funded through the Dept. of Education, responsible for managing one of the largest Family Child Care Networks in NYC. PS Family works directly with in-home child-care providers, supporting their businesses, and helping families find low cost and free childcare in Brooklyn and Queens. We provide resources to build child-care businesses with professional development workshops and training, and assistance navigating the Dept. of Education's requirements and paperwork for both families and providers.

In an effort to offer more services to our network, PS Family formed Flourishing Projects, a 501c3 non-profit. On September 18th at 4pm, we are hosting our first fundraiser with the Brooklyn Cyclones in Coney Island. PS Family child-care providers will be honored at the game for their contribution to our community throughout the pandemic. You are invited to join us at the game to cheer on the team and our providers. Tickets are \$20, and \$10 goes directly to Flourishing Projects, allowing us to expand the services we offer providers and families. Tickets can be purchased at <https://fevo.me/psfamnyc>. Attached is a flyer for the game and an information sheet about PS Family with my contact information. Thank you for allowing me time to introduce PS Family to the community. We are excited to serve you.

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on September 14, 2021

Thank you for all that you do for the community."

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri

The District Manager took attendance of Board members who were present at the meeting.

He read aloud statements to the Community Board from our local Elected Officials:

Statement from Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, 7th C.D.

"Good evening Chairperson, District Manager, and Board members,

Now that we are a few months into the start of the 117th Congress, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on two components of our work that affect New York's working families.

I've listened to your calls and read your mail, and I appreciate each one of you who took the time to make your voice heard. Whether you brought a local issue to my attention or demanded sweeping change for our entire country, I've been fighting to make sure your concerns result in meaningful progress.

The American Rescue Plan unleashed millions in federal grant funding to go to a series of healthcare organizations within New York's seventh district, all to help combat COVID-19 and expand comprehensive care to working families.

Through a series of set-asides and reforms, I spearheaded the effort to ensure women, minorities, and other traditionally underserved businesses had access to PPP and additional small business relief programs throughout the recovery effort.

Over the past couple of decades, Congress has neglected our nation's infrastructure. As a result, communities throughout America are now facing crumbling roads and bridges, outdated safety systems, unsanitary housing, and drinking water that is poisonous.

I will continue to push the Biden Administration to include NYC-focused provisions in the American Jobs Plan.

My staff is in the office and ready to address your questions or concerns. So please feel free to call 718-599-3658. Thank you."

Statement from Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD submitted by Kevin Wisniewski

"Good Evening, Hope everyone is remaining safe and well. First and foremost, as we reached the 20th anniversary of the 9-11 attacks, our office would like to remember those we lost, as well as those still affected by grief, trauma, or illness. Our office would also like to take a moment to thank our first responders for everything they did that day and continue to do to keep us safe.

On the local side, a significant number of constituents are working to recover from the flash flooding. We are keeping in contact with federal and city relief agencies, as well as Governor Hochul's office to ensure relief is implemented as swiftly as possible. If you or someone you know needs assistance, we ask that you call us at (718) 263-5595 or email Hevesia@nyassembly.gov.

Also, locally, Assemblyman Hevesi joined Senator Addabbo and Council Member Holden in sending a letter to the MTA requesting that existing safety hazards in Mafera Park be addressed immediately, particularly the removal of barbed wire hanging from a chain link fence between the railroad and park. We're happy to relay that as of Friday, that hazard has been removed, and we thank the MTA for their quick response. We're meeting with the Parks Department later this week to discuss other improvements for the location.

Legislatively, we have identified a problem in New York State law that prevents parents of adult children with developmental disabilities from exercising their Due Process rights and having a fair say as to where their child will be residing after aging out of youth treatment facilities at 21 years old. This means that those with such disabilities can currently be placed in facilities unsuitable for their needs, which can cause them to regress. Assemblyman Hevesi has started developing legislative solutions to address the

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on September 14, 2021

issue and is working with the Governor's office and the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to resolve a number of outstanding cases that are currently under review.

Finally, Assemblyman Hevesi has been organizing park cleanups throughout the district that have doubled as distributions for free Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). We will keep the Board apprised of cleanup efforts. Additionally, if anyone is in need of PPE, or has any other issue in which we can assist, please contact our office at (718) 263-5595 or Hevesia@nyassembly.gov. Thank you and stay safe and well."

Statement from State Senator Joseph Addabbo:

"Good Evening, and as always my Middle Village Office team and I thank the Community Board for their volunteerism and efforts in the community. I also want to thank all the organizers, such as CB5 Chair Vinny Arcuri, and community participants who assisted in the respectful 20th Anniversary 9/11 memorial gatherings over the weekend. If anyone has any questions regarding any recently passed or future legislation, please call the Middle Village Office at (718) 497-1630. The office continues to work on COVID issues, such as Unemployment Benefit claims and Excelsior Pass issues. As well as assisting constituents who were affected by Hurricane Ida, with filing property damage claims with the New York City Comptroller, as well as applying for FEMA relief.

Some of our upcoming events include: a FREE COVID-19 Antibody Testing Event with Valhalla Medics and the Woodhaven BID on Friday, September 24th, from 12 pm to 2 pm, (address is 89-07 Jamaica Ave, Woodhaven).

On Saturday, September 25th, we are hosting a Veterans BBQ at the Howard Beach Motor Club (59 Russell Street in Howard Beach) from 10 am to 2 pm, registration is required; please call 718-738-1111 and ask for Anthony to register. Lastly, through the month of September, my Middle Village office will be a drop off site for food and feminine products donations.

We are co-hosting three recycling events this month. On Saturday September 25th, along with Congresswoman Grace Meng, Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, and Councilman Bob Holden, there will be a free paper shredding event at Juniper Park, from 11 am to 2 pm, located on 80th Street between Juniper Blvd North & Juniper Blvd South. On Sunday, September 26th, along with Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, there will be a paper shredding / household goods donations event from 10 am to 2 pm, at the Forest Park Bandshell Parking Lot in Woodhaven. And, on the following Sunday, October 3rd, along with Assemblywoman Rajkumar and Councilman Holden, there will be an E-Waste Recycling Event, from 10 am to 2 pm, at the Forest Park Bandshell Parking Lot. Both events at the Forest Park Bandshell Parking Lot are TENTATIVE, please call 718-497-1630 if you have any questions about these events.

As for tonight's presentation by Con Edison's representatives, my intention is to work with this utility provider for the benefit of my constituents. I believe that the concept of placing the utility wires underground would improve this critical service and better protect Con Ed's equipment."

Statement from NYC Council Member Robert Holden, 30th CD

"Hello neighbors, Community Board 5 members, and fellow elected officials. I hope that you are all staying safe and healthy, and I thank you for your continued work and volunteerism as we navigate this unprecedented pandemic together. My staff and I gladly continue to serve our constituents. As some may know, our district office has roof issues that are currently being repaired and was unfortunately flooded during Tropical Storm Ida. Please do not hesitate to call (718-366-3900) or email (district30@council.nyc.gov) my office any time when you need assistance or visit the temporary office located at 64-73 Dry Harbor Road in Middle Village.

As we seek a sense of normalcy during these difficult times, my office is planning several events for the community to enjoy. Next month, we'll work with the Parks Department to host movies under the stars and Halloween festivals. Please follow my social media pages for more information as it becomes

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on September 14, 2021

available. This Friday, September 17, at 4:30 PM, we are renaming the street outside of O'Neill's Restaurant after the beloved George O'Neill, who passed away in 2018. On Saturday, October 2nd, at 10 AM, we'll be renaming the street outside Frontera Park after Ruth and John Kempisty. All are welcome to attend.

Tonight, Con Edison reported on the Middle Village underground wiring project, which is a welcome relief for the residents in that area. I co-sponsored legislation with Council Member Mark Gjonaj of the Bronx, requiring that the Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability conduct a study on the feasibility of relocating above-ground power lines underground. In the New York City Council, I will continue to advocate for a transition from overhead to underground wiring so that my constituents suffer fewer unnecessary power outages. Once again, I thank all of you for your service to this community. My staff and I are at your disposal so please don't hesitate to reach out whenever you need assistance. Thank you."

On behalf of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Joe Nocerino said that the Borough President has opened a Welcome Center for Immigrants at Queens Borough Hall to offer assistance with filing applications for citizenship, as well as to provide information on any jobs, programs or services that they may qualify for.

He also announced that as of July 1st this year, a Farmers Market has been stationed in front of Queens Borough Hall from 10am to 3 pm every Thursday until November 4th, 2021.

Statement from State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, 38th AD

"I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer. This summer I was busy working every day for you and I loved every minute of it. Last week I hosted a backpack and school supplies distribution for hundreds of children in the community. On Monday, I greeted kids throughout our district on their first day of school, wishing them well and giving them encouragement for the school year ahead. I also congratulated children who completed my summer reading challenge and will be presenting them awards for their great accomplishment. Over the summer I hosted my own "Jenifer On Your Block" events throughout Ridgewood and Glendale. This was a fantastic opportunity to connect with community members and to bring my office right to your block! On my Birthday, I went back to Albany for an emergency session called by the Governor and was able to vote in support of providing homeowners, landlords and renters with much needed funding and assistance. There was no place I'd rather be on my Birthday than in the State Capitol serving you! For any help accessing housing assistance or any other services, please contact my office. The very first committee I chose to sit on in Albany was the Veterans Committee. I am proud to report that I introduced new legislation in Albany for our veterans. My legislation will help veterans obtain college credit by ensuring college equivalency credits for any of their applicable military service. Indeed, military service members receive an education each day, whether is on the battlefield, through training, or through on the job experience. Based on their military experiences and training, service members may have college credit recommendations to apply toward a degree requirement or program of study. My legislation will ensure that veterans receive the appropriate college equivalency credits. This Fall, I am sponsoring a lot of exciting events in the district:

- This Sunday, my office will become an art museum! Join us for an art show in my office featuring gifted local artists. Indeed as I often say, Woodhaven is the new Art Haven! September 19th from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm in my office. "Women in Art Haven." An art exhibit where two wonderful local artists will display their artwork until October 19th.

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on September 14, 2021

● I am sponsoring the OATH civil summons court to come to my district. OATH experts will be present to help constituents with all the questions regarding OATH summonses, Tuesday, September 21st 10:00am - 4:00 pm.

● September 26th at 12:00 pm "Paper Shredding Event". In partnership with Senator Joe Addabbo my office is hosting the annual paper shredding event in the Forest Park Bandshell. Please also remember that my office is even open weekends, on Saturdays from 11am to 2pm! My office is also open Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm. You can always reach me at 718-805-0950 or by email at rajkumarj@nyassembly.gov.

I look forward to continuing to serve you for many years to come. It is an honor and a privilege to be working for you."

MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of the last Board Meeting which was conducted on July 14, 2021. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion by Walter Sanchez that was seconded by Walter Clayton.

The Board Chairperson read aloud the following Liquor License notifications that were received at the Board office since the last Board Meeting:

Liquor, Wine & Beer License Applications and Renewals

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) **EL ALTO DELI & MEXICAN FOOD** 60-01 Metropolitan Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **BARCODE NYC LLC d/b/a TBD** 1661 Weirfield Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **Malo's Bar LLC d/b/a RETAZOS BAR & RESTAURANT** 859 Wyckoff Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **The Grand Palazzo Inc. d/b/a THE PARTY LOUNGE TAVERN** 73-30 Grand Ave, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 5) **BierWaxQueens, LLC d/b/a to be determined** 1680 Madison Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 6) **Stupa Group LLC d/b/a ODAAN** 907 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) **SUPER POLLO Restaurant** 865 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Taj Village** 79-28 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 3) **LA FLOR DEL PARAISO** 1715 Cornelia Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **Knights Ridge, LLC d/b/a TV Eye** 1647 Weirfield Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 5) **EAST COAST BURGERS INC.** 53-21 Metropolitan Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 6) **NY George's Catering Corp. d/b/a Mama Pio** 53-05 65 Place, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 7) **TEEDEES TAVERN Inc. d/b/a DROMORE WEST** 64-31 Cooper Ave, Glendale, NY 11385
- 8) **The Bad Old Days LLC** 16-84 Woodbine Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 9) **Grove Productions LLC d/b/a Nowadays** 58-06 Cooper Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

New Wine, Beer and Cider Licenses

- 1) **CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL of COLORADO LLC** 59-02 Maurice Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 2) **Gonzo's Restaurant LLC** 52-35 Metropolitan Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **Y&Z NYC INC d/b/a to be determined** 58-12 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine, Beer and Cider License Renewals

- 1) **Phillies Pizzeria II Inc.** 74-02 Eliot Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 2) **Bozena Olcan d/b/a I. O. Café** 790 Fairview Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **JANUS NEW YORK INC. d/b/a BILLY'S MARKETPLACE** 870 Cypress Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **DANNY PIZZERIA & RESTAURANT** 57-29 61 Street, Maspeth, NY 11378

Other Notifications

- 1) **Glen Patrick Pub 53-73 65 Place, in Maspeth** is applying for a Corporate Change to remove the

principal for the premises.

- 2) **Planet X, at 801 Seneca Avenue, in Ridgewood** is applying to change their Method of Operation in order to add a DJ and Live Music to their On-Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License.

*Indicates Licensed Outdoor Area

Demolitions

The Board Chairperson announced that since our last Board Meeting, the Board received a notification about plans to demolish 54-31 Myrtle Avenue, a vacant storefront property, in Ridgewood. Theodore Renz, the Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District, stated that the entire building has been demolished.

The Board Chairperson reported that the Executive Committee met recently to review Committee assignments and all newly-appointed Board members have been informed of their new Committee appointments. In addition, he said that the Committee appointed Vice-Chairs to each Committee, to assist their Committee Chairperson with the conduct of business.

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

The District Manager reported on the extensive street flooding that occurred in the Board 5 area on September 1st this year, due to heavy rains that fell that night. He said that work is underway on several major capital sewer projects in our Board area. He pointed out that, for example, the Cooper Avenue Underpass was flooded from 74 Street to 79 Street, to the top of embankment wall. He said that 77 Avenue, between 80 Street and 88 Street, may need a separate stormwater runoff sewer system to retain water during flash floods.

The Reconstruction of the Turf Soccer/ Football Field and Running Track in Juniper Valley Park has stalled due to collapsed and clogged drainage pipes in that area of the park. He said this project had been slated for completion next year, on or before April 19th, 2022.

Robert Cermeli, a Board member, asked if there was a problem with the sewer main there because he has seen ponding conditions in that area of the park after it rains.

Ken Rehberger, a Board member, asked the Board to request that catch basins been cleaned and flushed on a regular basis.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez reported that on Thursday, September 9th, 2021, the Committee met together in the Board 5 office to review and discuss the proposed Citywide Open Restaurants Zoning Text Amendment (ULURP #: 2021Y0291).

He began by explaining that the Dept. of City Planning feels that the outdoor dining structures have energized city sidewalks and streets. He said that they feel that the ability for restaurants to offer outdoor dining to their patrons has saved thousands of local businesses and tens of thousands of jobs. He said that they've decided that making the Open Restaurants program streamlined and permanent would be a good thing.

Mr. Sanchez said that, like it or not, the City wants to make it easier for restaurants to put these structures up on streets and sidewalks across the City, including in our area of Community Board 5, Queens, which reportedly has about 100 street structures currently and about 180 restaurants using the sidewalk (including some that occupy space on the street and sidewalk).

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on September 14, 2021

He said that the City wants fewer agencies to handle the use and complaints for these structures, to make it easier for the restaurant owners to manage their businesses. Currently, the Dept. of Buildings, Consumer Affairs and Worker Protection, the Dept. of Transportation and other agencies all play a small part in regulating these outdoor restaurants.

He said that in future, the City would prefer that the Dept. of Transportation oversee their regulation and administration. He said that the Dept. of City Planning also wants to streamline the application process for outdoor restaurants.

There will be additional hearings about streamlining the regulations. At present, there's been no word yet on whether they plan to charge the restaurant owners more to apply for a license, or where the State Liquor Authority stands with regards to the additional floor area that's used for the sale of liquor to patrons.

Mr. Sanchez reported that committee members agreed to move forward with this process of amending the text of the NYC Zoning Resolution, with a few reservations:

- Streamlining cost and design procedures is all good, but we would rather any extra liquor license fees are waived;
- We are not comfortable with a percentage of sidewalk space needed to be left open. We would prefer that the structure, after installation, allows a minimum of 5 feet of room for a pedestrian to walk on the sidewalk, unobstructed.
- Food must be served. These structures should not be just for drinking. We would like to see any outdoor business close no later than 10PM Sunday through Thursday, and no later than Midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

As there was no further discussion on the matter, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee recommendation which carried by a vote of – 32 - in favor; - 6 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 2 – not voting.

Joy Chen informed the Board that she will be working in another capacity in the Queens office of the Dept. of City Planning from now on, and introduced her replacement on staff, Luis Garcia Martinez. Walter Sanchez thanked Joy Chen for all her good work with our Community Board over the years.

Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee

Vincent Arcuri

Theodore Renz, Vice-Chair of the Public Transit Services Committee, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, August 17th, to discuss and review the roadway resurfacing requests, capital projects that are planned or currently underway, and traffic safety requests. He said that MTA crews are still working on the M-Train BMT-Line structure in Ridgewood, scraping away old paint from the steel structure, making repairs to it, and re-painting the entire structure in Queens and Brooklyn. He said that, according to Lucille Songhai, a representative from MTA-NYCT Office of Community Relations, the Queens portion of this project is expected to be complete by year-end.

Regarding the Reconstruction of Wyckoff Avenue from Flushing Avenue to Cooper Avenue, he reported that this project is slated to begin in 2025 and is estimated to cost \$75.5 Million.

Regarding the Grand Street Bridge Project, he said that structural repairs are ongoing overnight and on weekends now. He said that Committee members are scheduled to review a power point presentation on the proposed bridge replacement project with representatives of the NYC Dept. of Transportation's Bureau of Bridges next week.

Regarding public transit operations, he reported that the Queens Bus Route Redesign project will be delayed until 2023.

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on September 14, 2021

In closing, the District Manager read the following resolution that was adopted by the Committee at their meeting:

“Whereas, there has been an increase in the use of emerging micro-mobility options throughout NYC and the Queens CB5 area; and

Whereas, the members of the Transportation Committee believe that the operation of motorized vehicles, known as emerging micro-mobility options, are inherently dangerous; and

Whereas, NYC and NYS currently do not require drivers of emerging micro-mobility options to have insurance, driver’s licenses, or registrations; and

Whereas, operators of emerging micro-mobility options often drive the wrong way on one-way streets, ride on sidewalks, do not stop for red lights and stop signs; and

Whereas, such operation of emerging micro-mobility options because the rules of the road are not enforced; and therefore, be it

Resolved, That Community Board 5, Queens supports the requirement of operators of emerging micro-mobility options to have license plates, registration, and insurance in line with other motor vehicles in NYC and NYS.”

After a general discussion of the issue, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee recommendation which carried by a vote of -26- in favor, -11- opposed, -0- not voting, and -0- abstentions.

New Business

Fred Haller, a Board member, announced that Glendale Community Day will take place in Atlas Park this Saturday, from 10am to 2pm, and the Relay for Life, that is sponsored by the American Cancer Society in conjunction with the Glendale Kiwanis Club, will take place on Saturday night, from 6pm to 9pm, inside Juniper Valley Park.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board Chairperson entertained a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:07pm.