



Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale
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Vincent Arcuri, Jr.
Chairperson

Gary Giordano
District Manager

Minutes of Remote Community Board 5 Public Meeting October 14, 2020

Board Members Present

Bhubaneshor Adhikari; Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Antonetta Binanti; Eric Butkiewicz; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Patricia Crowley; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Dr. Sukh Gurung; Fred T. Haller; Fred Hoefflerle; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Kinga Kurzyna; Maryann Lattanzio; John Maier; Patricia Maltezos; Edgar Mantel; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; 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; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Brian Dooley; Jerome Drake; Edward Lettau; Mike Liendo; Kelvin Rodriguez; Carmen Santana; Megan Tadio; Michaeline Von Drathen; Nan Zhang

Elected Officials

Joseph Nocerino – Acting Queens Borough President Sharon Lee

GUESTS

Eric Palatnik, P.C., and Elyse Foladare, 32 Broadway – Suite 114, New York, NY 10004
Jeff Mink, owner of FM Brush Company, 70-02 72 Place, Glendale, NY 11385
Frank Truglio, Architect for 70-02 72 Place, Glendale, NY 11385
Joy Chen, Associate Planner, Queens Office of NYC Dept. of City Planning

STAFF

Gary Giordano, District Manager
Laura Mulvihill, Community Associate

Following the Salute to the Flag that was led by Donald Passantino, the Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri welcomed everyone to attend this Community Board Meeting, including two Public Hearings, that is being conducted remotely via Zoom, and streamed live on YouTube tonight. He said that due to current constraints during this health emergency, all public meetings and committee meetings of our Community Board will be conducted remotely until further notice. He announced the first item on the Board Agenda as:

PUBLIC HEARING Re: BSA Application No. 599-76BZ for 70-02 72 Place (B: 3664; L: 7) in Glendale, Queens, NY 11385 In the Matter of an Application to the NY City Board of Standards and Appeals, by Eric Palatnik, P.C., to reopen and amend the term of the previously granted variance, which expired on

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December 21, 2016, for a term of 15 years. The variance permits an existing two-story Use Group 17 factory, for **FM Brush Co.**, with accessory storage, in an R4-1 Zoning District.

The Board Chairperson welcomed the applicant's representative, Elyse Folandare, of Eric Palatnik, P.C., to address the Board. Ms. Folandare explained that the FM Brush Company, namely Jeffrey Mink, as president, requests to amend the term of their zoning variance and apply for another 15-year term variance, and obtain a new Certificate of Occupancy that would permit them to continue operating their business in their 2-story factory that's located at 70-02 72 Place, on the southwest corner of Edsall Avenue, in Glendale.

Ms. Folandare explained that since this type of business is a Use Group 17 light manufacturing use and it's located in a residential zoning district, the Zoning regulations require them to renew their zoning variance in order to continue operating their business at this site.

Ms. Folandare said the FM Brush Company is located on a 15,501 sq. ft. corner lot and occupies both floors of the 10,846 sq. ft. building. She said that their hours of operation are from 8am to 4:30pm daily, except Sunday. She pointed out that their loading dock and parking lot for employees, with space for 22 vehicles, both face onto Edsall Avenue, across from the LIRR railroad tracks. She said that several other industrial businesses are located in close proximity on Edsall Avenue.

On a point of clarification, Walter Sanchez, Zoning and Land Use Review Committee Chair, said that the reason the applicant seeks a zoning variance is because this manufacturing business is considered a non-conforming use in a residential zone.

In response to a question from the Board Chairperson about the nature of the business, Ms. Folandare asked the owner of FM Brush Company, Jeffrey Mink, to explain the day to day operations of his business.

Mr. Mink, president and CEO of the FM Brush Company, began by saying that for over 90 years now, his family has owned and operated this company. He said that his grandfather first established the business on Evergreen Avenue in Brooklyn. Some 20 years later, he said that the company moved into a building located at 69-25 Cooper Avenue, in Glendale, and in 1972, they relocated their headquarters into a factory building at 70-02 72 Place, in Glendale, where they've been working ever since. He said that they've converted space on the second floor into offices, rest rooms, and shipping areas, while the ground floor remains a factory floor. He also pointed out that a sprinkler system was installed in the building since their last filing for a zoning variance.

Mr. Mink informed the Board that his company is the sole manufacturer of artist's brushes in this country. He said that their brushes are typically the size of a pencil and are assembled on-site before they're shipped out via FedEx or UPS to their customers all over the country, and worldwide.

Mr. Mink said that his company currently employs 38 workers, including several nieces and a nephew who help to run the company. He explained that, unfortunately, due to the untimely death of his beloved brother and business partner Fred five years ago, their 15-year term zoning variance lapsed in December of 2016 before he realized it. At this point, he said they've paid a fine for this lapse in procedure, and are formally seeking a waiver of the rules of procedure as part of this application to extend their 15-year term variance.

The Board Chairperson opened the floor to questions and comments.

In response to a question from the floor, about how to go about purchasing brushes from his company, Mr. Mink said that they have a web-based sales and shipping operation. He invited everyone to visit their website, which is listed in the www.MadeinNYC.org Directory of locally owned and operated manufacturing companies. He pointed out that, for example, the NYC Dept. of Education, Health and Hospitals Corporation, and the U.S. Dept. of Defense order their supplies online from his business.

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Mr. Mink said that he, his family members and/or employees love working in Glendale, and look forward to remaining in business at this site for many years to come. He pledged that they'll always remain a good neighbor to the community, just as they have always been since their founding about 90 years ago.

In recognition of the fact that this company doesn't use or produce any noxious chemicals or fumes, and has been an asset to the community over so many decades, Fred Haller asked the Board to consider requesting a more permanent status than a 15-year term variance. He said that this company has always been an asset to the community over so many decades, hiring local residents who can actually walk back and forth from home to work. Chairperson Arcuri and Board Member Ken Rehberger both agreed with him.

After a brief discussion, Walter Sanchez said that the Board's option is to recommend or deny approval of the applicant's request, as stated. Ms. Foladare stated that the Board of Standards and Appeals generally only grants a 10-year term variance, but they may consider extending the term of the variance to 15 years, if that is what the Community Board stipulates in its recommendation in this case. As there was no further discussion, the Board Chairperson closed the public hearing and referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further deliberation and recommendation.

The Board Chairperson announced the next Item on the Board's Agenda as:

PUBLIC HEARING Re: BSA Applic. No. 360-49BZ for 69-05 Eliot Avenue (B: 2838; L: 38) in Middle Village, Queens, NY 11379 In the Matter of an Application to the NY City Board of Standards and Appeals, by Eric Palatnik, P.C., for an Extension of Variance Term, which expired on Feb. 25, 2015, for the continued use of a gasoline service station (**British Petroleum**), with accessory uses, for a 10 year term, in an R4-1 Zoning District.

The Board Chairperson opened the public hearing on this matter by asking the applicant's representative, Elyse Foladare, for the name of the property owner. She replied that LEEMILTS Petroleum owns the property. She said that her client is British Petroleum, NA. She said that they are legally responsible for maintaining the site and making any upgrades that are necessary to the property. The Board Chairperson said that the owner of the property must be identified as party to this application.

District Manager Gary Giordano pointed out that the application on file does include the name of the owner of this site. He said that the committee will be provided with copies of the complete application when they meet to review the application.

Ken Rehberger asked if both the owner of the property and the lessee, British Petroleum, N.A., are properly identified on this application. Ms. Foladare affirmed that while both names appear in the filing, British Petroleum, N.A. hired her firm to file this application for an extension of their 10-year term variance, so that's their client.

As there were no questions or comments on this application, John Maier requested that this matter be referred to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further consideration at their next Committee meeting.

The Board Chairperson closed the public hearing on this matter and referred it to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further review at their next Committee Meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

The District Manager read aloud the following statement submitted by Mary Parisen, Chair of CURES:

Statement from Civics United for Railroad Environmental Solutions (CURES)

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Good evening. I'm Mary Parisen-Lavelle, Chair of Civics United for Railroad Environmental Solutions. I hope you and yours are well. Tonight I am respectfully asking Community Board 5 Members to share this information with your civic organizations and consider passing three Board Resolutions:

First, please ask the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to deny a permit to Omni Recycling, which wants to open a new waste-by-rail facility in Brentwood, Long Island. What I'm about to share with you is not good. Omni Recycling (ORB)'s proposed transfer station would ship 2,300 tons a day of Construction & Demolition Debris Residue and Municipal Solid Waste from Brentwood, Long Island into CB5. ORB wants to put 1,000 rail cars into constant circulation to serve this facility. ORB will not store rail cars at their site. Rail cars will leave their facilities twice a day. ORB's application means that about 250 more full and empty cars of waste will be hauled, staged, switched, classified, and interchanged in CB5 neighborhoods each week. Because the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation permits waste transfer stations on a site-by-site basis, DEC doesn't consider freight rail capacity issues, or the cumulative impacts of its permitting on CB5, including adverse impacts resulting from the operations and facility limitations of the New York & Atlantic Railway (NYA). NYA recently told CB5, local businesses, and residents that NYA has to store unsightly graffitied rail cars up on the bridge at Myrtle Avenue and Fresh Pond Road because NYA has nowhere else to put them. So how is there room for 250 more rail cars a week?! District Manager Gary Giordano and Board Chairman Vincent Arcuri have received information, including an online link to the permit application.

Second, please pass a Resolution that asks NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie to get Assembly Bill A3269 passed. Then if ORB's permit does get approved, at least ORB will be required to contain Construction and Demolition Debris Residue under solid covers. Open rail cars of "C&D Residue" emit particulates and stinking leachate. These cars must be covered, and DEC has refused to pass regulations to cover them, the way trucks already have to cover. So DEC is considering ORB's permit application in a regulatory vacuum that leaves covering rail cars of C&D Residue up to the applicant. ORB's application says they will abide by railroad tariffs, but the only tariff for C&D Residue is the CSX tariff for pervious orange netting.

Many of you filled out postcards asking for passage of A3269, which is still sponsored by Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, and co-sponsored by Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan, Assemblyman Mike Miller, and a score of other Assembly Members. Our Senator Joe Addabbo got the Senate version of the bill passed again this year. Our Congresswoman Grace Meng got legislation passed in the House of Representatives. Now the NYS Assembly must act to protect the health of communities.

Third, please pass a Resolution asking LIRR to use money the NYS Legislature already gave them to cost-efficiently repower and re-ballast MP-15 switchers to Tier 4 emissions standards for the New York & Atlantic Railway to use. The way things stand today, the 1,000 railcars ORB proposes to put into circulation will be hauled around by NYA's antiquated, high-polluting locomotives.

Vito Maranzano started advocating to stop this locomotive pollution when he was President of Glendale Property Owners. His campaign continued through the work of this Board, including giving 100 of my neighbors and me a public hearing. Then, a coalition of civics came together as CURES, and the CB5 electeds got funding to clean community air. Assemblyman Hevesi has sponsored bills that put \$21 Million in the Long Island Railroad's hands to repower the New York & Atlantic Railway's fleet to Tier 4 emissions standards (Comptroller's Contract #DR36644). All LIRR has to do now is issue a cost-efficient RFP that retrofits old MP-15 locomotives with Tier 4 power and pollution controls, as other railroads already have done. Tier 4 repowering of old locomotives is a practical, cost-efficient way to reduce air

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pollution from this source by at least 95%. At a time when COVID19 has shown us how vital wholesome air is, LIRR needs to use the People's money to protect community health.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider this request.”

The Board Chairperson referred this matter to the Transportation and Environmental Services Committees. However, John Maier, as a member of the CURES Board, said that since time constraints don't allow enough time for the Board's Committees to meet to discuss this matter, he requested that the Board consider what action they'd like to take on this matter at tonight's Board Meeting.

The Board Chairperson agreed to consider the matter under New Business at tonight's meeting.

The Board Chairperson gave the floor to the District Manager to read the statement addressed to Board members from the Mayor's Office.

Announcements from the Mayor's Office – October 14, 2020 submitted by Jessica Schabowski, Queens Borough Director of the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

“We encourage all New Yorkers to get a COVID-19 test as well as a flu shot. Please go to www.nyc.gov/covidtest to find your nearest test sites. Please go to nyc.gov/flu to find sites near you that are giving out flu shots.

The NYPD is undertaking a Department-wide initiative that is aimed at transforming policing in New York City. There will be a listening session in northern Queens this Friday, October 16th that will be broadcast on Facebook Live. Please also see here for the NYPD feedback survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/reformcollaborative>.

Indoor dining reopened in New York City on September 30th. The Mayor also announced that outdoor dining will be extended year-round and made permanent. The City will allow restaurants to expand seating to the frontage of adjacent property, to incorporate heating elements into outdoor dining setups, and to use tent enclosures to keep diners warm.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is October 27th and early voting starts in 10 days from October 24th - November 1st. The City is partnering with Curb to offer \$5 off for the first 5,000 people going out to vote for early voting, who participate. Folks can download the Curb app and use the code VOTEEARLY between October 24th and November 1st, 2020.”

On behalf of Queens Borough President Sharon Lee, Joe Nocerino urged everyone to go out and vote on November 3rd, Election Day, or by Absentee Ballot, or by visiting your Early Voting site beginning on October 24th, this year. He also welcomed everyone to attend the remote Veterans Day Ceremony on Tuesday, November 10th that the Borough President will host. He said that more information about their plans will be forthcoming.

Laura Mulvihill read aloud all of the following statements that were addressed to Board members:

Press Release submitted by NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

Comptroller Stringer Proposes Free Tuition at all City University of New York (CUNY) Community Colleges and Overhaul of New York City's Workforce Development Strategy

The Comptroller outlines comprehensive plan that will leverage CUNY to upskill New York City's workforce and compete in the global economy.

NYC Comptroller Stringer's workforce development plan includes tuition-free community college, a universal paid internship program for CUNY students, more Career and Technical Education and

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Early College High Schools, an expansion of Certified Apprenticeship, Subsidized Wage and Bridge Programs, and more.

The Comptroller stated that “The pandemic has upended our economy and displaced thousands of workers. If we don’t act right now to revolutionize how we support New Yorkers and get everyone on the ladder of opportunity, we risk leaving thousands of New Yorkers behind and deepening the inequality gap.”

Statement submitted by Julio Salazar, on behalf of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez

Good evening Community Board 5,

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy.

The Office of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez has been up and running since we transitioned to remote work and is assisting constituents on casework relating to: unemployment benefits, access small business resources, immigration casework, IRS Tax and Stimulus issues, among other concerns.

If any of the attendees are residents of NY Congressional District 7 and would like assistance, please e-mail me at Julio.salazar2@mail.house.gov, or call the office number is [718-599-3658](tel:718-599-3658).

From the start of the pandemic, our office has been working with small businesses from across the district. So far, because of the legislation that was passed earlier this year to address COVID-19’s devastating effects, the NY Congressional District 7 has received over \$1.5 billion in Payment Protection Program (PPP) funds, over \$18 million in Employment Insurance Disability Liability (EIDL) funds, and \$56 million in EIDL Advances.

The well-being and survival of our small businesses is an issue that remains a top concern on the Member’s agenda. As the Chair of the House Subcommittee on Small Businesses, the member will exercise her committees’ rights to advocate and advance reforms for additional transparency and a streamlining of the process to ensure our businesses can access these and future resources.

Finally, the House of Representatives has passed a package to address the ongoing effects of COVID, called the Heroes Act. Any final updates and information on a stimulus package will be sent directly to our Community Boards, community leaders, and stakeholders as soon as there is a final resolution.

For your records my contact information is: Julio Salazar at julio.salazar2@mail.house.gov, or by calling our office at 718-599-3658.

Statement to the Community Board by Council Member Robert Holden

Hello Neighbors, Community Board 5 members, and fellow elected officials. I hope you all enjoyed the month of September while staying safe and healthy, and I thank you for your continued work and volunteerism as we navigate this challenging year together. Our city continues to battle the Novel Coronavirus, and we must continue our collective efforts to practice social distancing, wear masks, and practice good hygiene.

The City Council continues to operate remotely. With the summer months over, our virtual hearings and Stated Meetings are beginning to pick up steam as we continue doing the work that impacts the lives of 8.6 million New Yorkers. Yesterday, as the Technology Committee Chair in the NYC Council, I held a joint hearing with Council Member Francisco Moya on how the city can expand access to broadband to our residents. In an ever more connected world, our city should be a leader on broadband accessibility and ensuring internet access to all. We heard testimony from the NYC Chief Technology Officer (CTO), NYC Dept. of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT), several advocates and constituents on the subject.

With the current New York City budget being slashed by billions of dollars, our Sanitation and Parks Departments have been hit particularly hard. Because of this, I recently reallocated discretionary funds to the Sanitation Department to restore public wastebasket collection, and I brought another non-profit

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sanitation company into our district to conduct more cleanups along our commercial strips. My office had organized several volunteer community cleanups and will continue to host more, including Saturday, October 24th, at Frontera, Reiff, and Mafera Parks. I welcome everyone who would like to help clean our communities together to these events. We will be sending out more details about this soon. As always, feel free to contact my office with any of your questions or concerns. Thank you again for your continued dedication to our communities, and I hope to see all of you soon.”

Statement from Assembly Member Brian Barnwell, 30th A.D.

“Our office hopes everyone and their families are safe, healthy, and well, and thank you to the Community Board for their continued service to our community. Our office has been working on various COVID19-related issues for constituents, such as issues related to food necessity, unemployment benefits, and much more. If you know of anyone that needs help, please do not hesitate to contact us at [718-651-3185](tel:718-651-3185).

The Assembly is not meeting right now for legislative session, so unfortunately we do not have any legislative updates, but we believe the Assembly will likely be meeting towards the end of 2020. Our office will keep the community posted on any legislative news as time goes on. Our office will also be hosting many of the usual drives as we do each year, such as the Turkey Drive (where we donate turkeys to those in need for [Thanksgiving](#)) and the Coat Drive (where we collect coats and donate them to those in need). We will also be having a toy drive as well. If you would like to donate to any of the drives, please contact our office at [718-651-3185](tel:718-651-3185) or email Assemblyman Barnwell at barnwellb@nyassembly.gov

We hope everyone continues to stay safe and healthy in these difficult times, and again, please reach out to us if you need help with anything.”

Statement from P.O. Michael Berish, Community Affairs Unit of the 104th Police Precinct

“Regarding crime statistics in the 104th Precinct, for the prior 28 day period, the incidence of Murder is down by 1; Rape is down by 3; Robbery is up by 6; Felony Assault is up by 4; Burglary is up by 15; Grand Larceny is up by 14; and Grand Larceny Auto is up by 10.

We welcome Captain Louron Hall to the 104th Precinct as the new Commanding Officer. Captain Hall comes to us from his previous assignment as Commanding Officer of the 100th Precinct in Queens. During his time there, he dealt with similar issues that we face here in the 104th Precinct. Captain Hall expresses his excitement to begin working together with the community.

We have seen an uptick in crime such as Burglaries and Grand Larceny recently. The Burglaries are a mix between commercial and residential. Some measures of security you can take to help prevent these crimes from occurring are: using roll down gates if you have them; having security cameras and making sure they’re in working condition; ensuring all points of entry are locked securely; using lights to brighten up the location. DO NOT LEAVE any cash or valuables out in the open, or in the cash register. Many times, thieves try to remove cash from the register. Felony Assaults are, for the most part, related to Domestic Violence, and are closed out to an arrest by Patrol Officers, Domestic Violence Officers or Detectives. We continue to urge everyone to refrain from leaving any valuables in your vehicles, as well as not leaving your keys or key fob in your vehicle, as this gives thieves an opportunity to steal your vehicle.

This past week, Officers made an arrest for graffiti. Officers were able to catch this individual in the act of making graffiti on property located in the vicinity of Palmetto Street and St. Nicholas Avenue, in Ridgewood. In addition, while conducting a business inspection of a night life establishment on Wyckoff Avenue, Officers issued numerous summonses, as well as confiscated an illegal firearm from the establishment.

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If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to write or call me at the 104th Precinct, 64-02 Catalpa Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385, and (718) 386-2446.

MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's Board Meeting that was conducted remotely on Sept. 9, 2020. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion by Walter Clayton, and seconded by Richard Huber.

LIQUOR, WINE and BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS and RENEWALS

The Board Chairperson read aloud the list of establishments in the Community Board 5 area that are in the process of applying for liquor, wine and beer licenses since the last monthly Board Meeting on Sept. 9, 2020. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) ***Krowlewskie Jadlo of Ridgewood, Inc.*** 66-21 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) O'Reilly's Daughters Inc. d/b/a Yer Man's Irish Pub 70-26 88 Street, Glendale, NY 11385

New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

- 1) Mary Restaurant Corp. d/b/a ***Estrella del Mar*** 552 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Other Notifications

- 1) ***El Montanero Bakery Restaurant Inc.***, 55-21 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood will be applying to the NYS Liquor Authority for a Class Change of their current Restaurant Wine License to an On-Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer and Cider License.
- 2) Bermeo Food Corp. d/b/a ***El Manaba Restaurant***, 341 St. Nicholas Avenue, Ridgewood will be applying to restore their "Method of Operation" after having their method of operation restricted by the NYS Liquor Authority due to COVID violations. The Board Chairperson pointed out that this establishment was fined and sanctioned recently for not observing the current health emergency restrictions, particularly social distancing, etc.

Peggy O'Kane pointed out that ***Krowlewskie Jadlo of Ridgewood*** is now doing business as ***Okresa***.

Demolition Notices

The Board Chairperson reported that the Board received the following demolition notices since last month's Board Meeting on Sept. 9th, 2020: **78-15 62 Street** – legalized demolition of a residential garage, **in Glendale**, and **55-19 Metropolitan Avenue** – interior demolition, **in Ridgewood**.

The Chairperson asked that anyone with questions or comments about any of these locations to please contact the Board Office at (718) 366-1834.

The Board Chairperson reported that the Executive Committee met earlier this week to review the FY 2022 Budget Survey results and unanimously agreed on the following list of Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for the coming year. Peggy O'Kane made a motion to adopt the Executive Committee's recommendations regarding the Board's Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2022, which are virtually the same as last year's recommendations for FY 2021. The motion was seconded by Antonetta Binanti. As there was no further discussion of the matter, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the motion to adopt the FY 2022 Expense Budget Priorities as presented to Board members via email during the past month. The motion carried unanimously by a Roll Call vote of – 36 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – not voting; and – 0 – abstentions.

The Board Chairperson read aloud the list of FY 2022 Capital Budget recommendations, as presented, as follows:

- 1 Redesign and Reconstruct Sewer System in Portions of CB5Q Area Having Worst Flooding Problems
- 2 Reconstruct Wyckoff Avenue, from Flushing Avenue to Cooper Avenue

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- 3 Replace Existing Bridge on Grand Ave over Newtown Creek in Maspeth
- 4 Reconstruct Sidewalks, Curbs and Pedestrian Ramps along Myrtle Avenue, from Fresh Pond Road to Wyckoff Avenue
- 5 Rehabilitate Ridgewood Reservoir - Phase II and the Surrounding Area, Including Portions of Highland Park
- 6 Reconstruct Deteriorated Catch Basins and Provide New Catch Basins in the CB5Q Area
- 7 Reconstruct Benninger Playground in Ridgewood
- 8 Provide New Street Tree Plantings, and Provide Funding for Stump Removals, Planting of Replacement Trees, and Street Tree Removals
- 9 Reconstruct Softball Field Area and Basketball Courts at Rosemary's Playground
- 10 Provide Replacement of the Synthetic Turf Field and the Running Track at the West End of Juniper Valley Park
- 11 Provide Safe Public Access to Newtown Creek and Construct an Athletic Field at the DEP Newtown Creek Aeration Facility Property at 58-26 47 Street, in Maspeth
- 12 Extend Street/Roadway Widening along the South Side of Metropolitan Ave. - Woodhaven Blvd. to Aubrey Avenue
- 13 Reconstruct South Middle Village Streets
- 14 Reconstruct Dry Harbor Playground - Phase II to Also Include Nearby Tunnel and Pathways
- 15 Reconstruct Evergreen Park, Phase III
- 16 Make Capital Improvements to Improve Pedestrian and Vehicle Safety on Grand Avenue at 69th Street, at Grand Avenue/LIE East Bound Service Rd, and at the 69 Street/LIE Service Rd Intersections
- 17 Continue Comprehensive Study of the Sewer System, in the CB5Q Area and Throughout Queens County, Considering Flooding Problems and Anticipated Future Growth
- 18 Improve Myrtle Ave Commercial Strip from Fresh Pond Rd to 82nd Street
- 19 Replace or Repower Polluting Stage Zero Freight Engines Hauling NYC Municipal Waste through District 5, Queens
- 20 Reconstruct Fresh Pond Road from Myrtle Avenue to Eliot Avenue, and Provide Traffic Facilitation Improvements
- 21 Reconstruct Palmetto Street from St. Nicholas Avenue to Seneca Avenue, and from Onderdonk Avenue to Forest Avenue
- 22 Evaluate the Structural Condition of the Elevated Portions of the "M" Train Line in the CB5Q Area, Perform Repairs, Abate Lead, etc. and Paint the Structure
- 23 Construct New School Space, where Needed, in the CB5Q Area, Including a New High School In Queens and Perform Capital Budget Upgrades to Existing School Buildings
- 24 Reconstruct DeKalb Ave, Halsey Street & Jefferson Street BMT-L Train Stations
- 25 Provide Historic Lighting and Restore Deteriorated Curbing along Fred Haller's Union Turnpike Mall (Myrtle Avenue to Woodhaven Boulevard).
- 26 Reconstruct and Widen the East Sidewalk of 80th Street, on the 80th Street Bridge, Over the LIRR and Review the Structural Stability of the Bridge
- 27 Reconstruct LIRR and 71st Avenue Bridge Abutments above the Cooper Avenue Underpass and Paint the LIRR Bridge
- 28 Rehabilitate the 104th Police Precinct Interior
- 29 Establish a Community/Recreational Center at a Site in Maspeth
- 30 Reconstruct 75th Street from Eliot Ave to Juniper Blvd North
- 31 Install Mini Comfort Stations at Starr Playground, Benninger Playground, and Uncle Vito Maranzano Playground

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- 32 Provide Funding for the Establishment of a Dog Run in CB5Q
- 33 Provide Toilet Facility in Area of Juniper Valley Park bordered by 80th Street, Dry Harbor Road, Juniper Boulevard North & Juniper Boulevard South

As there were no questions or comments about the proposed recommendations for the Board's Capital Budget Priorities for FY 2022, the Board Chairperson accepted a motion from Walter Sanchez, seconded by Fred Haller, to adopt the Executive Committee's recommendations, as stated. He requested a Roll Call vote on the matter which carried unanimously by a vote of – 36 - in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

The District Manager said that he plans to submit the Community Board's list of Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2022 to the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget on or about October 31st, 2020. The Board Chairperson thanked everyone for their input in the budget process this year.

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

The District Manager informed everyone that several of the Board's top Capital Budget Priorities are funded in whole or in part this year: the Sewer Main Replacement project in the vicinity of Penelope Avenue and 74 Street in Middle Village; the Sewer Main Reconstruction project in Maspeth, on Calamus Avenue and 70 Street; the Trunk Water Main Project on Troutman Street, Cypress Avenue, Himrod Street and local side streets in Ridgewood; and the Wyckoff Avenue Reconstruction Project in Ridgewood. He said that a new sewer project is needed in Glendale, as well.

The District Manager reported that the Dept. of Sanitation began preparations for the upcoming Snow Season by practicing simulated plowing along local streets this past weekend.

Regarding the current rate of community spread of COVID-19 infections in our Board area, the District Manager cautioned everyone that our Board area is located adjacent to a Red Zone, and though we remain in the Yellow Zone, we have to remain cautious about being exposed to the virus. He urged everyone to follow the Dept. of Health's guidelines: wear a mask; practice social distancing by remaining 6 feet away from others; wash your hands frequently; and stay at home if you're sick. He reminded everyone that between April and May, there were over 700 deaths per day in the City, due to COVID-19 infections, and currently deaths in NYC are less than 100 day, thanks to people in NYC respecting the Health Department's guidelines.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee

John Maier, Co-Chair

John Maier reported that the MTA's in-house crews are still working on painting the elevated M train structure between Fresh Pond Road and Seneca Avenue, in Ridgewood. This job has been delayed to COVID-19 this year, he said.

He informed the Board that the Reconstruction of Wyckoff Avenue is nearing completion in the design stage of this project.

He said that the Dept. of Transportation's in-house crews finished resurfacing local streets in our Board area, but still haven't completed marking the pavement on the streets that were milled and repaved.

Regarding traffic and pedestrian safety requests, he encouraged everyone to keep sending their requests in to the Board 5 office so that the Committee members can review during their next Committee meeting that is scheduled to be held remotely, via Webex, on Tuesday, October 27th, 2020.

Old Business

In light of the City's budget constraints this year, Paul Kerzner suggested that Board members study the list of the Board's Capital Budget Priorities and adopt at least one item on the list that they will personally advocate for.

Cathie Sumsky raised her concerns about the unkempt conditions inside and outside of All Faiths Cemetery in Middle Village. The Board Chairperson asked her to please be more specific and give the Board details about what, where, and when she notices anything amiss there, so that the Board could follow up on it.

New Business

Due to time constraints, John Maier suggested that, on behalf of Community Board 5 Queens, the District Manager write a letter to the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation to state that we are not in favor of granting this permit for a Demolition and Construction Debris facility on Long Island for all the reasons stated in Mary Parisen's statement, as read to Board members during the Public Forum. Walter Clayton concurred with his request.

The Board Chairperson opened the floor to discussion on the motion.

Mike Porcelli asked if anyone thinks that the construction and demolition debris that's accumulating on Long Island will disappear. He said that if it isn't transported by rail, then it will be transported by truck and the Long Island Expressway will be lined with large tractor trailers for miles on end.

The Board Chairperson agreed with Mr. Porcelli's statement, by saying that there are basically three ways to transport waste from Long Island: by barge, rail or trucks. He said if the C&D facility isn't located on the bay, then this C&D debris will not be transported by barge. He urged the Board to advocate that steel topped containers be used by rail freight companies to haul construction and demolition debris through the city.

Mr. Maier said that CURES has been advocating for hard-covers to be mandated on top of freight rail cars for almost 20 years. He said that until the freight rail companies clean up their operation, they should not be entitled to expand their business operations. He said that the State Dept. of Environmental Conservation is requesting public comment in this regard now, and if they don't hear from anyone about the problems associated with hauling C&D and municipal waste in open freight containers, then they won't have to take it into consideration.

Ken Rehberger pointed out that there are freight rail cars that are backed up onto the rail line east of the Fresh Pond Railyard every day now. He asked how many additional cars are estimated to haul freight by rail, if this permit is granted. Eric Butkiewicz estimated that the new facility could produce at least 250 containers full of C&D debris per day.

John Maier pointed out that a lot of the engines that New York & Atlantic uses to haul freight in the Fresh Pond Railyard are Tier 0, which means they have no pollution controls. He said that our communities are at the nexus point where freight from Long Island is transported anywhere else in the country. He explained that construction and demolition debris will first be ground into dust particles before being loaded into open-top freight rail cars, so they can fit more debris into each rail car.

Mike Porcelli contended that transfer stations don't produce debris. The debris is a by-product of new development. He said that opposing a permit for a new transfer station won't halt new construction on Long Island. Richard Huber pointed out that 216 freight rail cars can haul the equivalent freight in as many as 1,000 containerized tractor trailers. He said that the additional truck traffic could tie up the Long Island Expressway for miles if there's no alternative route available.

John Maier replied that the whole purpose of this motion is to voice public comment on the entire permitting process, which doesn't take into account any negative impacts their actions may have on surrounding communities on Long Island.

Minutes of Remote CB5Q Board Meeting on October 14, 2020

The Board Chairperson requested the District Manager to restate the motion. Mr. Giordano read from the recommendation submitted by CURES: “to deny a permit to ORB (Omni Recycling) for 2,300 tons of C&D and municipal solid waste that would be transported into Glendale by rail, and protest the amount of rail transport in and out of our area, that is estimated to be between 250 to 1,000 rail cars on a freight rail system that transports at least 100 cars per trip between Suffolk and Queens all night long now.”

Paul Kerzner agreed with John Maier’s statement that freight rail cars should be sealed with hard covers, and that old freight rail engines should be upgraded or replaced by modern equipment. He also recommended that the Montauk flyover rail line that runs through Queens to the Hells Gate Bridge in Astoria be utilized for any additional freight traffic, instead of the LIRR rail lines.

After an extended discussion of this topic, Kathy Masi made a motion, seconded by John Maier, authorizing the District Manager to send a letter of opposition to granting the proposed permit for the new waste transfer facility in Brentwood, Long Island, on the Board’s behalf.

Walter Sanchez said that he would support the motion, provided the Executive Committee has an opportunity to review the letter before it’s sent. Kathy Masi and John Maier agreed to amend the motion accordingly. The motion on the floor was adopted by a Roll Call vote of the full Board, by a vote of – 30 – in favor; - 2 – opposed; - 1 - not voting; and – 0 – abstention.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board Chairperson adjourned the public meeting of Community Board 5, Queens on a motion from the floor at 10:10pm.