



Vincent Arcuri, Jr.  
Chairperson

## Community Board No. 5

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

### Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting

March 11, 2020

#### Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.; Antonetta Binanti; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Patricia Crowley; Brian Dooley; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; John Maier; Edgar Mantel; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Theodore Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Walter H. Sanchez; Dennis Stephan; Patrick J. Trinchese; Michaeline Von Drathen

#### Board Members Absent

Patricia Grayson; Fred T. Haller; Fred Hoefflerle; Mike Liendo; Patricia Maltezos; Kenneth Rehberger; Kelvin Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Carmen Santana; Connie Santos; Catherine Sumsky; Megan Tadio; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Crystal Wolfe; Maryanna Zero; Nan Zhang

#### Elected Officials

Acting Queens Borough President Sharon Lee and Staff Joseph Nocerino  
City Councilmember Robert Holden, 30<sup>th</sup> CD and Staff Charles Vavruska  
Jessica Schabowski – NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio  
Julio Salazar – US Congressional Rep. Nydia Velazquez, 7<sup>th</sup> C.D.  
Kevin Wisniewski – NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28<sup>th</sup> AD  
Lesi Hreb – NYS Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, 30<sup>th</sup> AD  
Alison Cummings – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, 37<sup>th</sup> AD  
Carmen Torres – NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38<sup>th</sup> AD

#### GUESTS

Chae No, Queens Community Liaison – NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene  
Sgt. Edward Reiman, NCO Unit, 104<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct  
P.O. Michael Berish and P.O. Asar Sanad, Community Affairs, 104<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct  
P.O. Aiesha Perez, Community Affairs Unit, NYPD Patrol Borough Queens North  
Benjamin Fang, Queens Ledger, and David Russell, Queens Chronicle

Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:30pm, following the Salute to the Flag. He informed everyone that tonight's Board Meeting will be livestreamed. The video will be posted on YouTube during tonight's meeting. He welcomed all who will be watching the Board Meeting in progress from the comfort of their own homes, in an abundance of caution. He said the link to the livestream will appear on our Community Board 5 website at [www.nyc.gov/qnscb5](http://www.nyc.gov/qnscb5) soon. He announced that next month's Board Meeting will be conducted on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Passover.

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The Board Chairperson announced the first order of business on the Board's Agenda as the Executive Committee's report regarding the application for a Fresh Pond Road Street Festival in Ridgewood, that is planned for 4 consecutive days in September. He said that, upon further review prior to tonight's Board Meeting, the Committee has decided to withdraw their motion to deny the permit for this street festival, which makes the tabling motion null and void.

He announced the next item on the Board Agenda as the Public Forum. He reminded everyone that speakers are limited to 3 minutes speaking time; and that no personal attacks or foul language are permitted during the Public Forum.

### Public Forum

Katherine Masi, a Board member and member of Civics United for Railroad Environmental Solutions (CURES), asked for support to the pass a Bill that is currently under consideration by the Environmental Committee in the State Assembly, Bill A-03269, to mandate solid covers on all railroad freight cars that transport waste by rail through residential communities in New York. She said that the State Senate passed this piece of legislation Bill last year, but it has not moved out of Committee in the Assembly. She encouraged everyone to sign one of the postcards that are being circulated at tonight's meeting, in support of this Bill, and hand it over to staff member Catherine O'Leary at the end of the meeting, so it can be sent directly to State Assembly Member Steve Englebright, the chair of the Environmental Committee in the State Assembly.

Jackie Gorgelnik and Jeffrey O'Keefe, the new proprietors of Table One for Two, LLC, located at 68-38 Forest Avenue, Storefront D, in Ridgewood, announced that they're applying for a new liquor license for a café bar that will occupy a 350 sq. ft. space in a storefront on the corner of Catalpa Avenue. Ms. Gorgelnik said that they plan to open at 7am each morning, providing counter service by day and then operating as a tapas bar at night. She said that Jeffrey, her partner, has 25 years of experience working as a chef and that she has worked in the restaurant service industry for over 15 years.

The Board Chairperson asked how many establishments already have liquor licenses at this address. Ms. Gorgelnik introduced their legal counsel, Aaron Pierce, who said that there's only one other bar in this building with an on-premises liquor license, which is Sundown. He explained that the Dept. of Buildings recently approved the building alteration plans for the entire building, including the renovation of four storefronts at this location. He identified the other 3 establishments as: Sundown, which is currently expanding into a portion of the basement; a pizzeria next-door; a liquor store; and this small café at the very end of this building. He said that this new bar is not affiliated with any of the other businesses at this location.

Peggy O'Kane, a Board member, asked if this new bar faces onto Catalpa Avenue. Mr. Pierce replied that their front door opens directly onto Forest Avenue.

The Board Chairperson introduced Queens Borough President Sharon Lee who expressed her gratitude for the honor and privilege of serving as Borough President for the past several months. Firstly, she reminded everyone to vote in the upcoming Special Election to elect a new Borough President that is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, March 24th. She said that she'll be leaving shortly after the election, and wished everyone a fond farewell. She pointed out that early voting in the Special Election begins this Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. She urged eligible registered voters to vote in the Presidential Primary Election on April 23<sup>rd</sup>; the Statewide Primary Elections that will be held in June, and finally, the General Election in November, when voters will be voting to elect a President, State elected officials, and the Queens Borough President.

In addition, Borough President Lee reminded everyone that the 2020 Census Count starts tomorrow and urged them to complete and return their Census questionnaire as soon as possible. She pointed out that for the first time, the Census can be filed online, by phone, or returned by mail. She said that in a few



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weeks, Census workers will begin going door-to-door to fill out the Census forms for residents who haven't already completed and returned their Census questionnaires. For more information about the 2020 Census, she encouraged everyone to log onto their official website at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov), or go to [www.queensbp.org](http://www.queensbp.org).

Borough President Lee explained that the data compiled in this year's Census will be used to determine the budget allocations of federal funding for states and local governments each year. She stated that the borough of Queens has been shortchanged over the past decade, due to the severe undercount of Queens residents during the 2010 Census. She cited three glaring examples of the impact that the undercount had on Queens. First, she pointed out that while over one third of the city's school children live in Queens, the City spends the least amount of money per pupil in Queens, as compared to funding for education in all the other boroughs. Secondly, per capita funding for senior programs and services in Queens is the least of any borough in the city, despite the fact that Queens is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most populous borough and one-third of the elderly in NYC live in Queens, she said. Thirdly, she reminded everyone that 4 hospitals in Queens were closed in bankruptcy proceedings over the last 10 years, and said that Queens now has the lowest number of hospital beds per 1,000 residents of any borough in the city. In closing, she urged everyone to participate in this year's Census Count because it's so critically important to the future viability of the borough of Queens and, by extension, the entire City. In closing, she wished Board members a fond farewell and thanked them for volunteering their time and energy to improve their communities.

Rob Ismoilov, founder of Parkble, a new service that involves a new mobile application, said that this app is a community-based platform that would enable drivers to find free parking spaces at the curb and share their future departure time on this peer-to-peer network. He said that New Yorkers spend at least 100 hours annually looking for parking on the street. He developed this mobile app in response to the problem that's been cited in citywide traffic studies: 3 in 10 cars just cruise through local streets because drivers can't easily find on-street parking spaces. He said that his app would help to decrease traffic congestion and air pollution in local neighborhoods by making it easier for drivers, shoppers and other visitors to find on-street parking spaces. He said the Dept. of Transportation is not interested in this venture because it's not designed to generate any capital. He plans to reach out to all of the Community Boards throughout the city to ask residents if they'd be interested in joining this network. He welcomed feedback on this mobile app, and distributed business cards.

Jason Ho, the owner of Sang Kung, a restaurant supply business located at 65-75 Traffic Avenue in Ridgewood, said that over the past year, there have been at least 5 or 6 instances of illegal dumping, including old furniture and debris, on Traffic Avenue, in front of his business. He also said that there's always a heavy accumulation of litter and debris underneath parked cars on this street. He requested the Community Board's help in resolving these complaints.

The Board Chairperson asked if he's requesting additional Alternate Side Parking Regulations on Traffic Avenue, to please put his request in writing and send it to the Board 5 Office. In addition, he asked Peggy O'Kane, a Board member, to speak with Mr. Ho regarding his request, since she lives near Traffic Avenue. He referred the matter to the Sanitation Committee.

John Maier, a Board member, asked if there were any surveillance cameras facing onto the street in front of this business and, if so, could Mr. Ho show the film to the authorities in the event that there's a continuing problem with illegal dumping there. He agreed.

Tiara Utley introduced herself as a recruiter for Forestdale's Foster Family Program. She invited all those who are interested in becoming a foster parent to attend their next Orientation Program, scheduled to



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begin at 6pm tomorrow night, Thursday, March 12th, in Forestdale's headquarters, located at 67-35 112 Street, in Forest Hills. The next round of Foster Parent Training sessions begin on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. In closing, she welcomed calls for more information about becoming a Foster Parent to their main office at (718) 263-0740, or by visiting their website at [www.forestdaleinc.org](http://www.forestdaleinc.org). Flyers were distributed. Robert Quebrada, a Ridgewood resident, requested that a traffic calming study be conducted by the NYC Dept. of Transportation on Forest Avenue between Palmetto Street and Putnam Avenue, which includes the block in front of IS 93 in Ridgewood. He said that drivers speed both ways past this school, often driving into the opposing lane of traffic around buses on this route. He said that there's lots of foot traffic and several intersecting bus routes pick up passengers on Forest Avenue by this school. He said that drivers pay no attention to the 25 MPH Speed Limit signs that are posted near the school. He requested that Speed Bumps be installed on Forest Avenue to deter speeding. The Board Chairperson replied that prior requests for Speed Bumps on designated bus routes have been denied by the NYC Dept. of Transportation. He asked Mr. Quebrada to put his request in writing and send it to the Board 5 office, and referred the matter to the Transportation Committee for further consideration.

Tony DiPiazza, the applicant for the Fresh Pond Road Festival sponsored by the Federazione Italo Americana di Brooklyn & Queens, responded to several concerns expressed by Board members at last month's Board Meeting. He informed the Board that there haven't been any incidents at this Festival in the past 25 years. And, he said, additional documentation of the income and expenses from last year's event were submitted to the Executive Committee. Regarding the traffic congestion that's associated with this Festival, he said that traffic is detoured onto three alternate routes, Forest Avenue, Traffic Avenue and 60 Place, for the duration of the festival. He said that there are no parallel streets where traffic can be directed during the other local Street Fairs. In closing, he said that with the \$28,000 in net proceeds from last year's festival, the Federazione has donated \$1,000 each to five local community nonprofit groups, and plans to re-open a community assistance office on Myrtle Avenue to help seniors this year. He thanked the Board for giving this application further consideration.

Jerry Drake, a Board member, said that Board members have also objected to the number of days of this festival, which is four times longer than all the others conducted locally.

### **Chairperson's Report**

#### **Vincent Arcuri**

The Board Chairperson introduced the Board's staff members present: Gary Giordano, the District Manager, and Catherine O'Leary and Laura Mulvihill, Community Associates.

Next, he gave the floor to Community Affairs Officers Michael Berish and Asar Sanad, and Sgt. Edward Reiman, supervisor of the NCO Unit in the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct. In addition, he acknowledged P.O. Aisha Perez, Community Affairs Unit in Patrol Borough Queens North.

P.O. Berish reported an increase in the incidence of crimes that were reported in the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct over the past 28 days, including one more rape, 4 more robberies, 12 more felonious assaults, 17 more grand larcenies, and 2 more grand larceny auto crimes, as compared to the crime statistics for prior 28 day period. He explained that there's been a rash of robberies in Ridgewood, particularly in the area closest to the Brooklyn-Queens borderline. He warned everyone to watch out for auto thieves who steal tires and rims from Honda Civics and Accords that are parked on local streets, and then leave the cars jacked up on crates. He also warned everyone not to leave any valuables in their cars, and to be sure to lock your car doors whenever you park at the curb.

P.O. Sanad announced that there will be a Blood Drive tomorrow from 12 Noon to 6PM at the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct. She said that there's a severe shortage in New York's blood supply and she asked that anyone who is able to donate blood to do so during tomorrow's Blood Drive.

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P.O. Berish announced that the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct will host an Open House at the Stationhouse on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 6:30pm when Captain Victoria Perry will be on hand to answer questions and address issues of concern to the local community.

Kathy Masi, a Board member, urged local residents to attend this Meet and Greet event with the Commanding Officer when they'll have an opportunity to speak face to face with her about their most important concerns.

The Board Chairperson invited local elected officials and their representatives to address the Board.

Jessica Schabowski, the Queens Borough Director in the Mayor's Community Affairs Office, announced that the City has set up an official Hotline for information and updates about the Novel Coronavirus that's begun spreading throughout the City over the past month. She reported that 53 cases of the COVID-19 virus have been confirmed since the first of this month in NYC. For regular updates and the latest medical advice about this epidemic, she said to text "COVID" to 692-692. She said that this disease has affected elderly people most severely, and advised everyone to wash their hands often, cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough, and stay at home if you feel sick.

Ms. Schabowski urged everyone to fill out their 2020 Census questionnaire. She said that, beginning tomorrow, you can go online to fill out your questionnaire. She also reminded everyone that early voting in the Special Election for Queens Borough President starts this Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and the election is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at polling sites.

On behalf of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, Julio Salazar reported that the Coronavirus has now been classified as a pandemic. He said that the Congresswoman has been a strong advocate for the passage of a package of small business emergency loans in response to this crisis, which passed in the House and is now being sent to the Senate for their consideration.

Regarding the long-awaited project for the Reconstruction of Wyckoff Avenue from Flushing Avenue to Cooper Avenue, he said that their office is working with both Community Board 5 in Queens and Community Board 4 in Brooklyn, and several city agencies to get an update on the scope of this project, as well as information on the status of the project design. He said that they expect to receive a response to their requests by the end of the month.

Council Member Robert Holden said that last night's MTA Bus Route Redesign Workshop that was held in his office was very productive, with over 120 residents in attendance. He said that MTA Chairman Patrick Foye was present and listened carefully to residents' concerns. He said that local residents were mainly opposed to the elimination of local bus routes, but said they would welcome changes that would improve the bus service along existing routes.

The Council Member also spoke about the danger that the Coronavirus poses to public health in this city. He said that the City has to do much more testing at more testing sites with much faster results, in order to be able to isolate anyone who's infected with it, to keep it from spreading any further. He said that the problem is that only people who already show symptoms of this disease are being tested, when so many people can transmit this virus before they show any symptoms at all. He said that City Council is considering shutting down their offices and forwarding all calls to their office to their cell phones until further notice.

Regarding the homeless shelter at 78-16 Cooper Avenue, the Council Member reported that when he and several other elected officials inspected the facility last Friday, they saw security guards and metal detectors at the front door, and on each of the floors above. He said that the sleeping quarters looked



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very cramped, with 10 beds per room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors. The whole layout looked like a minimum security prison, he said. While they were there, he said that they encountered one resident who was preparing to leave the facility as his application for permanent housing had just been approved. He said that the City administration informed him that they plan to house 50 men in this facility, under a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy that was issued by the Dept. of Buildings. As a result, he's requested an investigation of the approval process in this case. He said that there are several safety concerns that have never been addressed, including the lack of fire exits and connecting walkway around the exterior of this building. He also stated concerns regarding security issues when the men leave this facility.

The Council Member also relayed information of a disturbing incident that occurred recently outside Sacred Heart School in Glendale, while school was still in session. He said that a patrol car responded to their 911 call for assistance a few hours later, which he said was unacceptable. He pledged to work to adopt the same safety protocols at local parochial and private schools that apply to local public schools. He also cautioned everyone to beware of roofing scammers who've been victimizing elderly homeowners in his district, by claiming to make roof repairs at bargain prices, when in fact they charge thousands of dollars for nothing. He also warned about scammers who call people at home pretending to represent the Social Security Administration. He advised that no one who works for the Social Security Administration ever calls anyone up on the phone to speak with them.

Kathy Masi, a Board member, said when members of the Coalition asked Mr. Orlock, the site manager, why so many residents in this facility are from the Bronx, he replied that they all have a history of living in Queens. She asked the Council Member if that was a reference to Rikers Island. He replied that, as a member of the City Council's Criminal Justice Committee, he has learned that 40% of former inmates are housed in homeless shelters. In response to a question from Jerry Drake, the Council Member responded that he was informed on Friday that there are 23 men who are currently living in the facility at 78-16 Cooper Avenue. He said that he plans to continue fighting against the City's plans to turn this site into a homeless shelter. He said he may support the creation of smaller shelters, such as faith-based shelters.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, Kevin Wisniewski reported that the Assemblyman is up in Albany, working on budget negotiations for the coming fiscal year. He said that they're hopeful that additional funding will be allocated for the Rental Supplement Fund to prevent homelessness this year. Regarding the Coronavirus, he said that their office is closely monitoring the news regarding this pandemic by texting "COVID" to 692-692 where you can find all of the latest updates. He welcomed calls from constituents with questions or suggestions to their office.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, Lesi Hreb announced that they will be sponsoring Breast Cancer Screenings in front of their office at 59-55 69 Street this year, but the date has not been determined yet. She said that prior appointments are required by calling (877) 628-9090. She also asked that anyone interested in picking up a free rain barrel this month can do so by calling their office at (718) 651-3185 to reserve one.

On behalf of State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Alison Cummings welcomed calls to their office regarding questions or concerns about the Coronavirus at (718) 784-3194. Newsletters were distributed.

On behalf of Assemblyman Michael Miller, Carmen Torres announced that they're planning to hold three events in the coming months: 1) The annual Recycling Event in Forest Park Bandshell Parking Lot on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 3pm; 2) A Rain Barrel Giveaway while supplies last on May 30<sup>th</sup> in

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front of their office; and 3) Free Mammography Screenings for eligible women in a Mobile Unit in front of their office, located at 83-91 Woodhaven Boulevard. She requested that anyone interested in participating in any these events to please call their office at (718) 805-0950 for more information.

**PRESENTATION Re: 2019 Novel Coronavirus**

**by Chae No, NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene**

Mr. Chae No, Queens Borough Liaison for the Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene, gave a power point presentation with the latest information about the Coronavirus Disease that is currently spreading throughout the entire City.

He began by explaining that this Coronavirus is referred to as COVID-19, which is considered a Novel virus, because it's a strain of virus that's been transmitted from animals to humans and has not been detected in humans before. He said that Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe illnesses, like pneumonia. He explained that, in 2003, there was an earlier version of the Coronavirus, known as SARS for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, that was a zoonotic virus that had emerged in Asia and resulted in 8,000 cases being detected worldwide, but it did not spread to the United States. Since then, a second Coronavirus, known as MERS for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, was originally detected in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and resulted in 2,400 case worldwide. He said that the first cases of COVID-19 were originally detected in China in late 2019. He said that it has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) today with more than 137,000 confirmed cases detected in more than 100 countries.

While most people have minor illness and recover on their own, more than 5,000 deaths have been reported so far on a worldwide basis, mostly involving older adults and people with underlying health conditions. Currently, he said that 53 confirmed cases have been detected in the City, with another 137 confirmed cases in NY State, and over 1,000 confirmed cases in the United States.

He cautioned everyone that, apparently, most people have no immunity to this disease and no vaccine is available to protect anyone from this infection. As a result, the Center for Disease Control has issued travel warnings to avoid nonessential travel to China, Iran, South Korea and European countries which have been the most impacted by this virus. He said that under the CDC guidelines, travelers who are returning to the U.S. from any of the countries listed above are required to remain at home for 14 days after their journey.

He cautioned everyone to stay informed about the progress of this disease because it can prove fatal.

He recommended that the best sources of information are the official government websites at: [www.nyc.gov/health](http://www.nyc.gov/health) and [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). He warned against getting information through social media because too often it isn't accurate. He urged everyone to protect themselves by washing your hands often, not touching your face with your hands, and cough or sneeze into a tissue or your sleeve. He advised everyone not to go outside if you feel sick, but wait 24 to 48 hours before calling 3-1-1 for information about medical care.

He pointed out that it's illegal to discriminate against anyone who wears a mask to protect against the spread of this virus. At this point, it's not required to wear a face mask, according to the CDC guidelines.

The Board Chairperson asked for guidance on house keeping guidelines after someone falls ill at home with the Coronavirus and is transported by ambulance to the hospital. For example, he asked how long does the virus stay alive on the surface of household items, and what type of cleaning solution should be



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used to wash down any surfaces in the house before they return home. Mr. No said that surfaces should be cleaned with either a mild bleach solution, or a disinfectant such as Lysol.

Kathy Masi, a Board member, asked who will decide when to close the schools in New York City. Mr. No said that it's too early to say. He said that the Mayor will most likely rely on advice from the Center for Disease Control when he decides whether or not to close public schools in the City.

Jerry Drake, a Board member, asked how long is the incubation period for the Coronavirus. Mr. No said that the incubation period for this virus is 14 days.

The Board Chairperson thanked Mr.No for his presentation.

He acknowledged the members of the press corps present and thanked them for their accurate coverage of Board business.

### **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 February 12, 2020. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

#### **New Liquor Licenses**

- 1) \***Table One for Two, LLC** d/b/a to be determined, 68-38 Forest Avenue-Storefront D, Ridgewood, NY 11385. (Formerly *Esencia Café*).
- 2) **Fumo Hookah Lounge Corp.** 66-28 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **La Casita Mexicana Inc.** d/b/a to be determined, 62-36 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

#### **Liquor License Renewals**

- 1) \*1563 Decatur Café LLC d/b/a **Houdini Kitchen Laboratory** 1563 Decatur St, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) Bermeo Food Corp. d/b/a **El Manaba Restaurant** 341 St. Nicholas Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **The Avenue Restaurant Bar & Grill** 71-22 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 4) \*DMI Inc. d/b/a **The Knockdown Center** 52-19 Flushing Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 5) **861 La Rubia Restaurant Corp.** 861 Wyckoff Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

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

- 1) **Tendo Sushi Inc.** 66-26 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385

\* Indicates Outdoor Area

### **Demolition Notices**

The Board Chairperson reported that the Board received the following demolition notice since last month's Board Meeting on February 12th: **69-20 Juniper Valley Road, in Middle Village** - demolition of a residential garage.

For more information about work permits that have been issued for construction at these locations, click on the link to the NYC Dept. of Buildings website at: [www.nyc.gov/buildings](http://www.nyc.gov/buildings). The Chairperson asked that anyone who has questions or comments about possible illegal construction in our Board area to please contact our Board 5 Office at (718) 366-1834.

### **Minutes**

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's Board Meeting that was conducted on February 12, 2020. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion by Kathy Masi, seconded by Walter Clayton.



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The Board Chairperson reported that the Executive Committee met earlier tonight to review the revised application for the Fresh Pond Road Street Festival that is proposed to take place from September 3<sup>rd</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. He read aloud the days and times of the proposed Street Festival on FRESH POND ROAD btw Woodbine Street & Menahan Street in Ridgewood, sponsored by the FEDERAZIONE ITALO-AMERICANA di BROOKLYN QUEENS, as follows:

THURSDAY - SEPT. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5:30pm to 10:00pm

FRIDAY - SEPT. 4<sup>th</sup> - 5:30pm to 10:00pm

SATURDAY - SEPT. 5<sup>th</sup> - 5:30pm to 10:00pm

SUNDAY - SEPT. 6<sup>th</sup> - 12:00pm to 8:00pm

Walter Sanchez spoke in favor of this application. He said that the vote of the Executive Committee was tied with 4 votes in favor and 4 opposed to this application. He made a motion to approve it as read, which was seconded by Walter Clayton.

As there was no further discussion on the motion, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the matter which carried by a vote of 16 in favor, 11 opposed, -0- abstentions, and -0- not voting.

### **District Manager's Report**

#### **Gary Giordano**

The District Manager thanked Jessica Schabowski, from the Mayor's Office, for keeping the Board informed of all the updates regarding the Novel Coronavirus. He said that it's spreading a lot faster than expected now.

Mr. Giordano announced that there's a new Sanitation Superintendent in the Q5 garage, William Miley, who's been very responsive to the problem of illegal dumping in our district.

He also announced that the current sewer project in the area of 74 Street and Penelope Avenue and local side streets in Middle Village is finally nearing completion, after a series of construction delays. He said that the contractor will begin to replace the damaged curbs and sidewalks on 74 Street on Monday. He said that the recent upward trend in crime statistics in the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct and throughout the City is disturbing. He said that the Public Safety Committee will meet with representatives of the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct in the Board office on Monday to discuss the continuing rise in the incidence of crimes locally.

He also announced that the Library Services Committee plans to hold their meeting in the Ridgewood Library on Monday night.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Parks Committee**

##### **Steven Fiedler**

Steven Fiedler reported that the Committee recently met in the Board office with representatives of the Parks Department to review the Phase 2 Design Plans for Capital Improvements that are planned for Starr Park, located on Onderdonk Avenue at Starr Street in Ridgewood. He said that local community residents who attended the meeting were very pleased with the design plans that include a spray shower, a children's play area and a seating area. He said the Committee liked the presentation very much.

Mr. Fiedler announced that CB5Q received notice from Kip Stein, Senior Forester for the Natural Resources Group of the N.Y. City Parks Department, who will be supervising the \$2.3 Million contract for the removal of invasive species in Basins 1 and 3 in the Ridgewood Reservoir. He said that Mr. Stein wrote that the contract does not call for the use of heavy equipment to remove any of the invasive species, and if the contractor wants to do so, they'll have to request Board approval.

Regarding the Relay for Life annual fund-raising event that's been held in Juniper Valley Park for the past 15 to 20 years, for the American Cancer Society he said that there may not be enough room in the park

to accommodate such a large event due to the Upcoming Reconstruction of the Running Track and the Turf Soccer/Football Field. He said that it may be possible to accommodate this event to Elmhurst Park on Grand Avenue, instead, unless this event can be moved to the lower ballfields area of Juniper Valley Park.

## **Transportation & Public Transit Services Committee**

### **John Maier**

John Maier reported that the committee met together with representatives of the NYCT/MTA at their meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>, in the cafeteria of Christ the King High School, to review the Queens Bus Route Redesign Plans. He said that the committee received a lot of good input from those in attendance and plans to meet again on March 31<sup>st</sup> in order to formulate the Board's responses to the proposed changes in bus routes in our Board area. He said that there's an interactive map of the MTA's website at [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info) that shows both the existing and proposed Express Bus Routes and Local Bus Routes. He encouraged everyone to visit their website to see what's being planned for our area.

Walter Sanchez asked for an update on the status of a request for a One-Way Street Conversion of 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Maspeth. The District Manager replied that the Committee is requesting that the Dept. of Transportation complete a study of street directions in the surrounding area of Maspeth, including 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Old and New Business**

Walter Clayton asked for an update on the status of Amazon's plans to move into Rentar Plaza. The District Manager replied that Amazon signed a lease for 300,000 sq.ft. of space on the ground floor where K-Mart and Toys R Us were located, as well as warehouse space used by the Metropolitan Museum.

The Board Chairperson said that their lease is for a material storage, sorting and distribution center. He said that the Board may request a meeting with their management soon to ask if they're making any revisions to the alteration plans that were submitted to the Board last year.

Brian Dooley asked everyone to be mindful of the negative impact that the Coronavirus pandemic will have on the budgets of local non-profits, many of whom hold their fund-raising events in the Spring. He said that due to an abundance of caution associated with the Coronavirus, they're unlikely to conduct their annual fund-raising events.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board Chairperson adjourned the meeting of Community Board 5, Queens at 9:15pm.