



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 Sept. 13, 2017

#### Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Deborah Cox; Patricia Crowley; Brian Dooley; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Patricia Grayson; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoeflerle; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; Michael LoCascio; John Maier; Lydia Martinez; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Theodore M. Renz; Kelvin Rodriguez; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; David Sands; Carmen Santana; Connie Santos; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese

#### Board Members Absent

Peter Comber; Henry Cross; Angela Giovanniello; Mohan Gyawali-Chhetri; Robert Holden; John J. Killcommons; Kathleen Knight; Lorraine Sciulli; Christopher Sperrazza; Catherine Sumsky; Maryanna Zero

#### Elected Officials

NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr, 15th SD and Staff Neil Giannelli  
NYS Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, 30th AD  
NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, 30th CD and Staff Tiffany Card  
Jordan Goldes – US Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D.  
Julio Salazar – US Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, 7<sup>th</sup> C.D.  
Ricki Rodriguez - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38th AD  
Stacey Eliuk – NYC Public Advocate Letitia James

#### Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens  
Laura Mulvihill and Catherine O'Leary, Community Associates - CB5Q Staff  
Joseph Nocerino – Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

#### GUESTS

Frederick A. Becker, Attorney-at-Law, 122 E. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10168  
Crystal Wolfe - Catering for the Homeless, Maspeth, NY

Board Chairman Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:30pm, following the Salute to the Flag. He announced the first item on the Board Agenda as:

**PUBLIC HEARING I Re: Fiscal Year 2019 Capital and Expense Budget Needs of the City of New York as they relate primarily to the Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale communities**

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Brian Dooley, president of the Glendale Property Owners Association and Community Board member, spoke about the continual problem with street flooding conditions on Edsall Avenue, between 71 Place and 72 Place, where there's no city sewer main or catch basins. He said that whenever it rains, stagnant water remains on the street for days if not weeks at a time, creating a breeding ground for mosquitoes. He asked that Board members give this budget item a high priority on this year's survey of Capital Budget Priorities.

Regarding the city sewer system in Glendale, he said that there's not enough capacity in the storm sewers to retain the amount of rain that falls during a typical rainstorm. He said that when storm water overflows both sides of 77 Avenue in Eastern Glendale during a rainstorm, it causes sewers to back-up in that area. He said that the Dept. of Environmental Protection's maintenance crews have worked to alleviate flooding conditions at several intersections in Glendale this year, but the problem with the sewer system's capacity still exists. He asked that Board members continue to stress the need for further capital improvements to the sewer system in the Board 5 area.

As there were no other speakers, the Board Chairman gave the floor to the District Manager Gary Giordano to explain the next step in the Capital and Expense Budget process for FY 2019.

The District Manager informed Board members that the Executive Committee plans to meet on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> in the Board office, in order to review the current Capital and Expense Budget Priorities of the Board, and formulate the list of FY 2019 Capital Budget Surveys for distribution to Board members next week. He said that the Budget Survey package will include explanations of all of the Board's Capital Budget Items and 25 Expense Budget Items. He explained that the Capital Budget Items generally involve construction projects, and Expense Budget Items require budget allocations for city service delivery, such as, salaries and supplies for agency personnel, etc.

The District Manager requested that Board members fill out their Capital Budget surveys and return them to the Board office as soon as possible. He said that input from Board members regarding Expense Budget Items is also welcome. However, he pointed out that Community Boards are restricted to submitting no more than 25 Expense Budget Priorities on an annual basis. He said that Board staff would tabulate the survey results and present their input to the Executive Committee for review at their next meeting, on October 10<sup>th</sup>. The Executive Committee's FY2019 budget recommendations will be presented to the full Board for a vote at next month's Board Meeting, on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, in the Cafeteria of Christ the King High School. In closing, he said that the Board's Capital and Expense Budget recommendations will be submitted to the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget as well as to local elected officials no later than October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

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

### **PUBLIC HEARING II Re: BSA Application # 97-07 BZ II for 80-16 Cooper Avenue**

IN THE MATTER of an Application to the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals by the Law Office of Frederick A. Becker on behalf of Atlas Park LLC, the owner of record, to extend the term of a Special Permit, for a 10-year term, to allow the continued operation of a physical culture establishment, to amend the hours of operation and to request a waiver of the Rules of Practice for a late filing by TSI Glendale LLC, doing business as **New York Sports Club**, located at **80-16 Cooper Avenue** (Block: 3810; Lot: 50) in Glendale, Queens, NY, in an M1-1 Zoning District.

Frederick Becker, Attorney-at-Law, explained that he represents Atlas Park LLC, the owner of record, in their application to the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals to request the Extension of Term of a previously approved Special Permit (§73-36) permitting the operation of a Physical Cultural Establishment (New York Sports Club) on the second floor of a two-story commercial building within a commercial mall complex. He said that his

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client had originally obtained a Special Permit to operate at this location in 2007. And, since his client's Special Permit expired on December 31, 2016, he said that they are seeking a Waiver of the Board of Standards' Rules regarding the late filing. He also explained that their renewal application includes an amendment to request a change in the hours of operation.

Mr. Becker explained that his client's business is classified as a physical culture establishment, and as such, the Board of Standards and Appeals requires that they renew their Special Permit to operate the gym in Atlas Park every ten years. He said that the NY Sports Club is a well-established business that operates facilities throughout the New York area. He said that they have been providing classes, instruction and programs in physical fitness, body building, weight reduction and aerobics in their gym in Atlas Park without incident since they opened for business there. There have been no complaints about their operation, he said. The facility is located in an M1-1 zoning district.

In response to questions from the floor, he said that the renewal application indicates the change in their hours of operation, as follows: from 6am-9pm on Monday-Friday, and 8am-7pm on Saturday and Sunday; to 5:30am-11pm on Monday-Thursday, 5:30am-10pm on Friday, and 8am-8pm on Saturday and Sunday.

As there were no further questions or comments, the Board Chairman referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further consideration. He said that the full Board would vote on the committee's recommendation regarding this matter at the next monthly Board Meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Kelvin Rodriguez, Board member and the new manager of Billy's Marketplace at 870 Cypress Avenue in Ridgewood, announced that after extensive renovations, this new supermarket is open for business from 6am to 12 Midnight every day. He pointed out that the front entrance to the store is located on the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Cypress Avenue, and the entrance to their parking lot is on Jefferson Avenue. He welcomed everyone to attend their Grand Opening celebration in the next few weeks.

James Becker, a Ridgewood resident, said that he's been reporting complaints after 11pm to 3-1-1 for months about loud music coming from the Fresh Pond Tavern, located at 68-69 Fresh Pond Road in Ridgewood. He said that their music is so loud that it causes vibrations in the floor of his apartment above the bar. He said that in response to his 3-1-1 calls about noise coming from the bar, they lower the volume of the music whenever a patrol car responds to the scene. However, the volume is turned up again about 15 minutes after the patrol officers leave the premises. He said that this situation has not improved at all since the last time he came to the Board to complain about it. He asked for an update on what action has been taken regarding his complaint, and requested that the Board vote to recommend to the State Liquor Authority that their liquor license renewal application be denied this year. The Board Chairman said that he requested an on-site meeting with the bar owner and the property owner, but the Board hasn't received a response from either one of them yet.

Paul Kerzner advised that in this case, a much simpler solution would be for the complainant to file a complaint against the landlord and/or business in the Housing Part of State Supreme Court, instead of requesting that the Community Board recommend denial of the bar's liquor license by the State Liquor Authority. The District Manager replied that, to his knowledge, the State Liquor Authority has either denied and/or revoked liquor licenses of existing bars only in public nuisance cases where police have issued multiple citations and/or made arrests for alleged felonies, such as, serving alcohol to minors, prostitution and/or drug dealing. He said staff would try to contact the landlord and the owner of the establishment again in order to resolve this situation.

Crystal Wolfe, founder of Catering for the Homeless in Maspeth, announced that the first draft of her book, titled "Our Invisible Neighbors - Accounts, Causes and Solutions to the Epidemic of Homelessness" is finished. She thanked members of the Board's Special Committee Regarding Homeless Issues and the Board staff for the

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help and advice that they gave her while she was researching this topic over the past year. She said that her book will be out in print soon. She said that it will be available for sale through Amazon, Barnes and Nobles, and independent book stores, as well. In closing, she said that she plans to continue working with Catering for the Homeless to provide donated meals to homeless individuals and families throughout the city.

Willis Elkins, director of the Newtown Creek Alliance, informed everyone about their non-profit organization's work in conjunction with Riverkeeper to improve the water quality and ecology of the East River, Newtown Creek and its tributaries. He welcomed everyone to attend their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kingsland Wildflower Festival that will be held from 12 Noon to 4pm on Saturday, September 23, where tours will be conducted of three large green roofs, planted with native grasses and wildflowers, on the waterfront. In addition, he invited everyone to attend their next Open House in McGoldrick Park in Brooklyn, to see a variety of projects that have been funded by the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund on Saturday, October 14, from 11am to 3pm.

He also welcomed everyone to attend the next meeting of the Superfund Community Advisory Group from 6pm to 8pm on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, when a representative from the Environmental Protection Agency will give a presentation on their Remedial Investigation Report, regarding the toxicity levels of the water and sediment at the bottom of the Creek. He said that the Dept. of Environmental Protection plans to upgrade the existing Sewage Treatment Plants on Newtown Creek, and undertake a Newtown Creek Long Term Control Plan to improve the water quality of Newtown Creek. The proposed project involves containing the flow of combined sewer overflows at three outfalls on Newtown Creek, by building a massive underground tunnel, about 200 ft. deep and 2 miles long, that would contain the effluent that now flows into the Creek from these outfalls and direct it straight toward the Water Pollution Plant on the waterfront. He said that this project is estimated to cost \$600 Million.

John Maier asked whether they've considered building large holding tanks underground, similar to the tanks that were installed in the Flushing Bay area in the past 10 years. Board Chairman Arcuri replied that the proposed project would act as a holding tank and storm water retention system, with a capacity to collect up to 4 million gallons of combined sewer overflows at one time. He said that the proposed pipeline would also serve as a filtering system, separating liquid from solids and slowly releasing the liquid into the Water Pollution Plant on Newtown Creek in order to be treated and released into the waterway.

Tasia Jensen and Charu Ramon, Columbia University Graduate students in the School of Journalism, informed everyone that they have been assigned to cover the communities and residents in Queens. They said that they plan to attend many Community Board Meetings and report on local issues and events in our Board area.

Ellen Knechel, a member of the Friends of Rosemary's Playground, said that she and a few other local residents attended last night's Parks Committee Meeting in the Board office to review the proposed plans to redesign the playground. On behalf of the Friends of Rosemary's Playground, she said that the proposed design of the playground is very attractive, except for the fact that by reducing the footprint and size of the play equipment for 5-10 year olds in the proposed plans, the Parks Dept. would be eliminating the play equipment where most of the children spend most of their time playing together. She asked the Board to support their request to revise the proposed plans in order to provide more space and play equipment that is suitable for the 5-10 year olds who frequent the park on a daily basis.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Vincent Arcuri, Jr.**

Board Chairman Arcuri thanked everyone who organized and participated in the annual September 11th memorial services in the Board 5 area this past weekend. He said that the memorial services in Board 5 were well attended this year.

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The Board Chairman introduced the Board's District Manager Gary Giordano, and staff members Catherine O'Leary and Laura Mulvihill.

The Board Chairman invited local elected offices and their staff to address the Board.

NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley reported that two local streets will be co-named in memory of two outstanding individuals who lived and worked in our community: 1) 66 Place between Myrtle Avenue and Central Avenue, in Glendale, will be co-named in honor of Firefighter William N. Tolley, who died in the line of duty battling a roof-top fire in Ridgewood this past April; and 2) Bleecker Street between 60 Place and 61 Street, in Ridgewood, will be co-named in honor of the deceased Deacon Fabio Flaim, who had volunteered countless hours of his time to assist local residents and parishioners of Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church, located on 60 Place at Bleecker Street in Ridgewood.

Regarding the FY 2019 NYC Capital and Expense Budget, she welcomed everyone to participate in a series of Participatory Budgeting sessions that she is hosting, beginning on September 18th, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, in the Community Room at the Shops at Atlas Park, 8000 Cooper Avenue, in Glendale. She said that these budgeting sessions give local residents an opportunity to decide how to spend \$1 Million in public funds in her district. She welcomed anyone interested in attending these sessions to call her office at (718) 366-3900 to register. Flyers were distributed.

The Council Member also reported that renovation of the hockey rinks in both Juniper Valley Park and Mafera Park is slated to begin this Fall. She said that the reconstruction of Rosemary's Playground in Ridgewood is currently in design.

The Council Member explained that she is currently working with the Queens Chamber of Commerce to survey merchants and storeowners along Grand Avenue in Maspeth, regarding a proposal to develop a local business improvement district along the commercial strip.

State Senator Joseph Addabbo welcomed constituents to attend several upcoming events that the Senator is sponsoring:

- 1) Their annual free B-B-Q for Veterans at the Howard Beach Motor Boat Club at 59 Russell Street on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.
- 2) A Job Fair at the Resorts World Casino at 110-00 Rockaway Blvd, in South Ozone Park, on Friday, October 6, 2017.
- 3) A Fall Electronics and Clothing Recycling and Paper Shredding Event that will be co-sponsored by State Assemblyman Michael Miller, from 10am to 2pm on Sunday, September 24, 2017, inside the parking lot at the Forest Park Bandshell . He said that home appliances, batteries and light bulbs are not accepted.

Senator Addabbo welcomed constituents to meet with him during his mobile office hours in several local libraries this Fall. He said that he will be in the Maspeth Public Library at 69-70 Grand Avenue on Thursday, September 21, from 5:30pm to 7pm, and in the Ridgewood Public Library at 20-12 Madison Street on Thursday, September 28, from 5:30pm to 7pm. Copies of his newsletter were distributed.

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Joe Nocerino presented Community Service Awards to three Board members: Brian Dooley and Michael LoCascio for their 10 years of service on the Board; and Walter Sanchez, for his 30 years of service on Community Board 5 Queens. There was a general round of applause. Mr. Nocerino announced that a public hearing on the future of Fort Tilden, in the Rockaways, will be held at the base at 7pm on September 19<sup>th</sup>. He explained that Fort Tilden is a military base that is listed for closure by the federal government.

He also announced that this Fall, their office will be working with the Dept. of Parks and volunteers from local high schools and community residents to spruce up Mafera Park in Glendale.

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On behalf of Congresswoman Grace Meng, Jordan Goldes welcomed local high school students who are interested in attending a US Service Academy to attend an orientation program on September 17, where representatives from each Service Academy will be on hand to explain the application process and their admissions criteria. He asked that anyone interested in attending this orientation session to register by calling their district office at (718) 358-6364.

Mr. Goldes also announced that a representative from the Department of Veterans Affairs will be on hand to meet with local veterans and/or their beneficiaries to address their questions or concerns on Wednesday, September 27th in their main district office at 40-13 159th Street, in Flushing. He said that all appointments to meet with a VA representative in their office must be made at least four days in advance, by calling (718) 358-6364.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Mike Miller, Ricki Rodriguez welcomed constituents to call their office at 83-91 Woodhaven Blvd for information or assistance regarding local issues or agencies by calling (718) 805-0950.

State Assemblyman Brian Barnwell announced that he is sponsoring a local Science Fair for 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Graders in his district this Fall. He said that there will be an open competition among entrants who construct a scientific experiment, record the results, and give their presentation at the fair. The date, time and location of the Science Fair has not been determined yet, he said. Flyers were distributed.

The Assemblyman said that he and his staff will be conducting a Coat Drive and a Turkey Drive again this Fall. He welcomed calls for information and assistance from constituents to his office located at 55-19 69 Street, by calling (718) 651-3185.

On behalf of NYC Public Advocate Letitia James, Stacey Eliuk reported that their office pushed for free lunch for all public school students during a pilot program in School Year 2014-2015. She said that she's happy to report that this program has been fully funded for all public schools this year. She also said that there are 200,000 students in NYC public schools who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs). They represent 20% of the entire school population. In many cases, their schools do not have the required number of specialists to provide the individualized instruction that is needed to accommodate these students with special needs. She said that in these cases, parents may be issued vouchers to pay for their child's instruction in their home. However, the results of a recent study conducted by their office indicate that there's a severe shortage of specialists who are willing to travel to the neighborhoods where many school children with special needs live. She said that their office will work to improve educational instruction opportunities for these students. She welcomed constituents to call their office for information and assistance at (212) 669-7250.

### MINUTES

The Board Chairman asked Board members to review the minutes of the July 12, 2017 Board Meeting. The minutes were approved by acclamation, on a motion to accept them as written by Katherine Masi and seconded by Walter Clayton.

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

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

#### New Liquor Licenses

- 1) **1080 Kafe Corp.** 1080 Cypress Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Suad Sports Café LLC** 70-20 60 Lane, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **\*Grove Productions LLC d/b/a Nowadays** 56-06 Cooper Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **John Cregan or Entity to be Formed** d/b/a to be determined 63-98 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY 11374  
(formerly **The Woodhaven House**)

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### Liquor License Renewals

- 1) C&Q on Myrtle Inc. d/b/a **Celtic Gasthaus** 64-04 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 2) Conneely & Quinn, Inc. d/b/a **Glenlo Tavern** 64-16/64-18 Fresh Pond Rd, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **Fresh Pond Tavern Inc.** 68-69 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **Tee Dee's Tavern** 64-31 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 5) **El Manaba Restaurant Corp.** 341 St. Nicholas Avenue – Unit 5, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 6) **The Bad Old Days LLC** 1684 Woodbine Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 7) **Anchor Inn** 59-30 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

### Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) **La Flor del Paraiso Rest. Corp.** 1715 Cornelia Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **CJ Banquete Latino Corp.** 56-41 59 Street, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 3) **Sakura 7 Queens Inc.** 65-54 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 4) \*Leonies Pizzeria & Restaurant d/b/a **Biagio's Trattoria** 84-02 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 5) **Maca Restaurant Corp.** 62-12 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY 11374

*\*Indicates Outdoor Area*

### Proposed Alteration

- 1) **San Cecilio Restaurant** 853 Wyckoff Avenue, in Ridgewood, NY 11385 submitted notification of proposed alterations, that includes 1) replacing 3 rectangular windows with one circular window, 2) extending the bar into an L shape, 3) relocating toilets to the rear of the building, and 4) placing a storage closet in the middle of the establishment.

Kathy Masi asked if there's an outdoor seating area at 63-98 Woodhaven Blvd in Rego Park. Laura Mulvihill replied that the Woodhaven House had an outdoor seating area at one time, but use of the outdoor seating area has been discontinued for few years.

The Board Chairman asked the pleasure of the Board regarding the notification by Fresh Pond Road Tavern that they plan to renew their liquor license. After a general discussion of the matter, he agreed to contact the bar owner in person to discuss the complaints that were raised at tonight's meeting, since there's been no response to the Board's written correspondence on this matter in the past few months.

### **Demolition and Construction Notices**

The Board Chairman reported that the Board received the following demolition notices since our last Board Meeting on July 12, 2017: partial demolition of a 1-family house at **88-20 Doran Avenue, in Glendale**, where the owner plans to convert it into a 2-family house, on a plot of 4 tax lots that have been combined into 1 zoning lot; and the full demolition of three 2-story mixed-use attached buildings at **72-08, 72-10 and 72-12 Myrtle Avenue, in Glendale**, which were destroyed by fire earlier this year; full demolition of a 1-story garage at **60-18 56 Avenue**, a 1-family house at **61-49 56 Avenue**, a 1-family house at **58-64 57 Street**, and a 1-family house at **52-54 68 Street, in Maspeth**.

The Board Chairman asked Board members to remain vigilant and to advise the Board 5 staff about any questionable construction work in the Board area, so they can investigate further.

The Board Chairman announced that the 104<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct plans to hold a Community Safety Day from 5pm to 8pm on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, in Juniper Valley Park, Middle Village. He welcomed everyone to participate in this event. Flyers were distributed.

The Board Chairman also announced that the Ridgewood Neighborhood Women and Infant Children (WIC) program has moved to a new address at 55-05 Myrtle Avenue in Ridgewood. He welcomed everyone to attend their grand opening celebration from 11am to 3:30pm on Monday, September 18, 2017. For more information about this event, he said to call their office at (646) 619-6454. Flyers were distributed.

## **District Manager's Report**

### **Gary Giordano**

The District Manager requested a moment of silence in honor of Paul Narson, the Past President of the Vietnam Veterans Association – Chapter 32, who passed away today after an extended illness.

The District Manager reported that the Dept. of Transportation will begin milling local streets in our Board area next Monday, in preparation for the resurfacing work that is planned for this Fall.

Regarding the Penelope Avenue/74 Street area sewer replacement project, he said that the contractor on this \$22 Million project, C.A.C. Industries, is proceeding on schedule now. He said that the contractor plans to begin excavating a trench and installing a large box sewer on 74 Street between Juniper Boulevard South and Juniper Valley Road, in Middle Village. He said that 74 Street will likely be closed to traffic, except for block residents and emergency vehicles, for the duration of this portion of the project.

Regarding the major sewer replacement project on 69 Street, from 48 Avenue to Maurice Avenue, and Calamus Avenue from 69 Street to 74 Street, the District Manager reported that C.A.C. Industries, Inc., the contractor for this \$25 Million project, has completed the installation of a big box sewer on Calamus Avenue between 72 Place and 74 Street, and a new sewer chamber was installed at the intersection of Calamus Avenue at 74 Street, in Maspeth. He said that this week, the contractor began excavating and replacing the combined sewer system on 69 Street, from 48 Avenue to Maurice Avenue. The project is expected to be complete by mid-year in 2018. The District Manager said that street flooding conditions due to heavy rains will be less likely to occur in sections of Maspeth and Middle Village, once both of these major capital improvements have been completed.

Regarding the Bridge Deck Replacement Project on Fresh Pond Road at Metropolitan Avenue, over the LIRR, he said that the contractor has poured a concrete deck on part of the north side of Metropolitan Avenue, and will begin demolition and replacement of the remainder of the deck at this intersection. He said that even though this job was delayed 8 months in starting, the contractor expects to complete the project by their deadline of January 11, 2018, but the District Manager said that this is very unlikely.

The District Manager thanked Don Passantino for his help and advice with setting up the computer, sound system, projector and screen for our monthly Board Meetings. There was much applause.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Parks Services Committee**

#### **Steven Fiedler**

Steven Fiedler reported that committee members met last night in the Board 5 office with representatives from the Dept. of Parks and members of the Friends of Rosemary's Playground to review the design plans for the Reconstruction of Rosemary's Playground. He gave a power point presentation about this proposed project, which had been delivered to the committee and local residents in the Board office at last night's meeting. He said that the overall project is estimated to cost more than \$2.7 Million.

Mr. Fiedler pointed out that there are two other local parks within a 10 minute walk from this playground: Benninger Playground on Woodbine Street, just west of Fresh Pond Road, and Mafera Park at the end of 68 Avenue on 65 Place.

Regarding the proposed project, he said that the design plans include the installation of new swing sets and play equipment for 2-5 year olds, which is separate and apart from the type of play equipment in the 5-12 year old play area; a new spray shower area with 2 separate water play areas for each age group, with hand-activated controls for each shower; new benches and tables in a picnic area. He also pointed out that the proposed plans



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include a new water fountain, garbage cans, bike racks, six LED lamp posts, and a new flagpole inside the playground.

He pointed out that new plantings will include 6 small flowering trees and 2 small street trees, replacing the two large elevated flower beds inside the playground area. He said that the comfort station on the north side of the playground, and the mosaic wall along the east side of the playground will remain in place.

He pointed out that the plans call for reducing the height of the existing wrought-iron fence around the perimeter of this park, from a height of 7 feet down to just 4 feet. He said that the stated purpose of lowering the fence would be to give parents and patrolling police officers a clear line of sight into the park. He pointed out that there have been problems with homeless men hanging out inside the playground overnight. Some committee members expressed their concerns that by lowering the height of the perimeter fencing, vagrants and/or miscreants might easily jump over the lowered fencing at all times of the day or night.

He said that committee members also suggested extending the fencing around the new spray shower area, in order to prevent young children from running straight through the sprinklers and then out the gate onto the sidewalk.

The Board Chairman requested that the yard-arm flag pole in the playground be restored, instead of being replaced by another type of flag pole.

Carmen Santana expressed her concern about the peeling paint on the elevated structure of the M train line, which is directly adjacent to this playground. She requested that the MTA-NYCT coordinate plans to paint the elevated structure with the Parks Department's proposed reconstruction of Rosemary's Playground, in order to avoid exposing children in this playground to any toxic dust that is related to scraping and painting the elevated train structure. She also requested a dog run be included in the design plans for this park, and an emergency call box be installed on the exterior wall of the park house.

After a general discussion of the proposed plans, Mr. Fiedler said that the committee will relay their concerns to the Dept. of Parks before the park renovations begin.

## Zoning & Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez reported that the committee met in the Board office on Tuesday, September 5, to review several zoning matters.

Regarding the amended Application # **N170425 ZRY**, a proposal by the NYC Department of City Planning to require a Special Permit, under the jurisdiction of the City Planning Commission, for all new self-service storage facilities in newly established Designated Areas within manufacturing districts, Mr. Sanchez reported that the Committee's recommendation is to oppose this amendment to the Zoning Resolution because this amended application to amend the NYC Zoning Resolution would ease restrictions on the construction of new self-service storage facilities in Industrial Business Zones throughout the city.

As there were no questions or comments on this matter, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the committee's recommendation, which passed unanimously by a vote of – 34 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions, and – 0 – not voting.

Mr. Sanchez reported that the committee also reviewed the application for a Special Permit under **BSA Cal No. 2017-148 BZ** for **64-25 Central Avenue, in Glendale**, with Kris Kozlowski, the architect for this project and Thomas Gilbert, the applicant's representative. He said that the application involves plans to develop a medical diagnostic and treatment facility, including the addition of a second story and the provision of 21 indoor parking spaces, instead of 42 spaces, as required by the NYC Zoning Resolution.

He reported that committee members questioned the availability of on-street parking spaces, as presented in their zoning analysis. He said that this case has not been calendared yet for a public hearing before the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals, and the committee will continue their review of this matter.

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Mr. Sanchez reported that committee members are investigating reports of overdevelopment in the Board 5 area, particularly in Ridgewood.

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

#### **Tobias Sheppard-Bloch**

Toby Sheppard-Bloch, Committee Co-chair, reported that the committee met in the Board 5 office on Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, to review the status of several capital projects underway in the Board 5 area.

He said that the replacement of the train trestle on the M Train line, between the Fresh Pond Road and Metropolitan Avenue stations, is completed. He said that passenger service on the M train line had been suspended since July 1<sup>st</sup>, and free shuttle buses have been transporting commuters between the closed stations on a continuous basis around the clock ever since this project began. Free shuttle bus service will continue to be provided for M train riders who wish to travel between the Myrtle/Wyckoff Avenue station in Ridgewood and the Myrtle/Broadway station in Brooklyn, for the duration of the reconstruction of the Myrtle/Broadway station platform, staircase and westbound approach to the station. He said that the next phase of this overall capital improvement project is expected to be complete in March of 2018.

Regarding the status of the pedestrian plaza projects, he reported that the plaza at the Glendale Memorial Triangle, where Cooper Avenue and Myrtle Avenue intersect with 70 Street, has been completed, except for the planting of small shrubs and several trees on the plaza. He said that the pedestrian plaza at the intersection of Myrtle Avenue, Forest Avenue and 71 Avenue is expected to be complete by the end of September, 2017. He announced that the City has awarded a contract to Triumph Construction Corp. to begin installing bump outs and other safety improvements in the vicinity of PS 239 in Ridgewood, as part of the Safe Routes to Schools program of the Dept. of Transportation.

In addition, he said the committee reviewed requests for roadway resurfacing on local streets, traffic safety improvements, such as speed bumps, stop signs and traffic signals. He said that the next committee meeting will be held in the Board office at 7:30pm on Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

### **Special Committee Regarding Homeless Issues**

#### **Dmytro Fedkowskyj**

Dmytro Fedkowskyj reported that committee members met on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> in Christ the King High School. He said that their guest speaker, Amanda Nasner, the Queens Director at the Office of External Affairs of the NYC Dept. of Homeless Services (DHS), was not available to meet with them last week, and called the Board office in order to re-schedule for a later date. He explained that Ms. Nasser was originally hired by the Mayor's Office in January, as the community relations liaison between DHS and Community Boards, while the Mayor rolls out his plan "Turning the Tides on Homelessness" to deal with the homeless crisis by 2023.

He reported that the committee had posed a list of questions to Ms. Nasner at their meeting in May, and she responded in writing to their questions in June. He said that the committee discussed the answers that were provided to them, but found them to be somewhat bureaucratic in nature.

He said that their main question was: Has a site been determined for a shelter in CB5, to which Ms. Nasner replied: "At this time, no site has been identified in the CB5 area. Communities will be the first to know as new sites are identified. Communities also have input in site selection by identifying viable sites that not-for-profit providers can propose to us through the open-ended Request for Proposal procurement process."

He said that another key question that was posed by the committee was a request for a breakdown of the most current figures for the homeless population. He cited the following statistics that were provided in response:

- "Currently there are about 59,000 individuals in the shelter system, with nearly 70% consisting of families with children, and 34% of the families with children have an adult who is working.
- About 90 percent of all families with children are headed by single mothers.

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- There are more children age 6 and under, than single male adults.
- Children under the age of 18 account for more than a third of the shelter population
- Seniors age 65 and older constitute 2% of the shelter system.
- About 30% of individuals in the shelter system are single adults.

He reported that the committee reiterated its desire to be proactive in dealing with DHS and would welcome meeting with their representative in order to discuss any long-term plans for serving our community.

Mr. Fedkowskyj said that Maryann Lattanzio, a committee member, had contacted Ms. Nasner about the unruly people who were acting out in the vicinity of the Holiday Inn Express in Maspeth during the summer months. It was determined that not all of the suspects were from the Holiday Inn Express. However, after her discussions with Ms. Nasner, security was increased around the perimeter of the hotel by Acacia, the not-for-profit contractor at this site. He said that security personnel have been making additional rounds of patrol to make sure that nobody violates the good neighbor policy.

He also reported that Crystal Wolfe, who is nearing completion of her book on homelessness, attended the committee meeting along with Father Michael, who volunteers to provide weekly meals for the homeless at the Ridgewood Presbyterian Church, Pastor Victoria Moss and Christopher Winter. He said that Reverend Moss spoke about their interest in establishing an "Emergency Bed Stabilization Program" to provide 15 beds for homeless adults to sleep overnight at the church. Mr. Winter, who would serve as the director of the program, said that they would serve mostly seniors from Ridgewood. However, due to a lack of funding from Breaking Ground, a non-profit agency that assists street homeless by taking them off the street and providing shelter for them, they have not been approved for any funding yet.

Mr. Fedkowskyj said that a start-up grant from Breaking Ground would enable them to buy the furniture and set up bathroom facilities. But, their plans are on hold until they are awarded funding, he said. Committee members were told that it could take up to 45 days to get the facility ready before anyone could be taken off the street. In closing, he said that the committee is tentatively scheduled to meet again at 7:30pm on Wednesday, October 4th, in the cafeteria of Christ the King High School, subject to availability of the space. He said that the committee continues to work on preparing a position paper for distribution to Mayor Bill de Blasio and local elected officials.

### **Old and New Business**

Theodore Renz, Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District, welcomed everyone to attend the Myrtle Avenue Street Fair, between Wyckoff Avenue and Fresh Pond Road in Ridgewood, this coming Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Board Chairman Arcuri adjourned the public meeting of Community Board 5, Queens on a motion from the floor at 9:29pm.