



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 Community Board 5 Public Meeting February 11, 2015

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Peter Comber; Daniel Creighton; Henry Cross; Patricia Crowley; Venera Lucy Dolce; Brian Dooley; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Dorie Figliola; Caroline Fuchs; Angela Giovanniello; Patricia Grayson; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoeffler; Robert Holden; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Michael LoCascio; John Maier; Lydia Martinez; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Theodore M. Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Lorraine Sciulli; Catherine Sumsky; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Robert Cermeli; John J. Killcommons; Connie Santos; John F. Schell; Jean Tanler; Barbara Toscano; Mercy Wong

Elected Officials

Jordan Goldes - U.S. Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D.
Neil Giannelli - NYS Senator Joseph Addabbo, 15th SD
Lauren Capozzi - NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD
Mike Armstrong – NYS Assemblywoman Margaret Markey, 30th AD
Anne Krzyzanowski – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, 37th AD
David Renz - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38th AD
Deidre Feerick – NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, 30th CD

Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens
Catherine O'Leary & Laura Mulvihill - CB5Q Staff
Jeong ah Choi– Queens Borough President's Office
Thomas Smith – Associate Planner, NYC Dept. of City Planning

Guests

Philip Gallina, owner, Phillis Pizzeria, 74-02 Eliot Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
Ray Meshkati, Project Engineer - NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection, 59-17 Junction Blvd, Queens, NY 11373
Mitchell Wimbish, Project Manager – NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection, 59-17 Junction Blvd, Queens, NY 11373
Karen Ellis, Queens Coordinator of Community Affairs, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection

Board Chairman Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:35pm, following the Salute to the Flag. The Board Chairman announced the first item on the Board agenda as:

Public Hearing I – Application # N 130330 ECQ by Phillies Pizzeria II, Inc.

IN THE MATTER OF an Application from Phillies Pizzeria II, Inc., doing business as Phillies Pizza, pursuant to Section 366-a (c) of the NYC Charter, for renewal of a revocable consent to operate an existing enclosed sidewalk café, with 16 tables and 33 seats, at **74-02 Eliot Avenue**, on the east side of 74 Street, in Middle Village, Queens, NY 11379. This application is filed with the NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs and the Dept. of City Planning.

The Board Chairman gave the floor to Philip Gallina, the owner of Phillies Pizzeria, to inform the Board regarding his application to renew the permit to operate their existing enclosed sidewalk café at 74-02 Eliot Avenue. He said that the sidewalk café has been operating very successfully at this location for the past five years. In response to several questions from the floor, he said that the café is located directly adjacent to the parking lot of Our Lady of Hope Church on Eliot Avenue.

Mr. Gallina said that initially, they paid for the relocation of one streetlight pole and installation of a new concrete sidewalk, between Eliot Avenue and the Dead-End. He said that there is no traffic along this Dead-End block.

As there was no more discussion, the Board Chairman referred the matter to the the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for their recommendation.

Public Hearing II – ULURP Application # C 150218 PSQ - Newtown Creek East Branch Aeration Facility by Representatives of the NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection

IN THE MATTER OF an Application to the NYC Planning Commission by the NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection and the Dept. of Citywide Administrative Services, pursuant to Section 197-c of the NYC Charter, for the site selection of property located at **58-26 47th Street** (Block: 2601; Lot: 25) for use as an aeration facility. 3. The subject property is adjacent to the Newtown Creek, in Maspeth, Queens, NY.
by Representatives of the NY City Dept. of Environmental Protection

Mitchell Wimbish, the Project Manager for the Newtown Creek Oxygen Aeration System of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, introduced Ray Meshkati as the Project Engineer for the proposed aeration facility to improve water quality on Newtown Creek in Maspeth. He said that their Department is seeking the Board's support for this application, which is part of an overall project that would meet both state and federal mandates to increase the oxygen content in Newtown Creek from zero to at least 3 milligrams of dissolved oxygen per gallon of water.

Mr. Meshkati gave a power point presentation that included recent photographs of the site, along with renderings of the proposed facility on the Newtown Creek waterway. He explained that because there is no ebb and flow at the east end of the Creek, several aeration facilities are required to oxygenate the waterway. He said that given the success of a similar aeration facility that was built on the English Kills section of Newtown Creek on the Brooklyn border in 2006, the department now plans to build 3 more facilities along Newtown Creek, where the water remains stagnant due to the fact that there is no ebb and flow in the current along the creek. He explained that increasing the oxygen content in the creek would serve to eliminate most of the heavy odors of sulfur dioxide emissions from the creek.

Mr. Meshkati said that the 1.64 acre-site on 47 Street is located about 150 feet north of Grand Avenue, in the industrial area of Maspeth. He said that the site is a city-owned property, which was abandoned by the prior owner.

He explained that the design and construction of the proposed aeration facility is being undertaken as part of a four- stage plan to meet the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's water quality standards that apply to

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all local waterways, including Newtown Creek. He said that the construction of the aeration facility at English Kills on the opposite bank of Newtown Creek was completed during the first phase of the overall plan. He pointed out that this phase of the project includes the installation of 6 pipelines that fan out across the bed of the creek from the proposed facility, in order to pump air into the water. He said that the pipes would be installed at a depth of between 15 to 20 feet on the creek bed.

Mr. Meshkati said that this aeration facility would operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during warmer weather. He estimated that the blowers inside the building would operate continuously from late April through the end of September each year. He said that while staff will monitor conditions at this site, the pumps will operate in a stand-alone facility. There are no plans to staff this site, he said.

Mr. Meshkati said the proposed facility will occupy 4,900 square feet adjacent to the Creek. He pointed to the illustration which showed several trees to be planted along the Creek, and another dozen trees in open tree pits on the site to assist in retaining rainwater run-off from this vacant lot. He pointed out that the design of the proposed steel structure includes a ribbon of windows along the roof-line of the building to allow as much natural light as possible to filter into the building. He said that construction of this facility is estimated to begin in 2017, pending approval of the building application and the operating permit for this facility.

Walter Sanchez asked how this project would impact the amount of pollution in the water in Newtown Creek. Mr. Meshkati said that, as part of this project, hundreds of tons of polluted sediment were dredged up and removed from the bed of the creek. He said that this phase of the project involves increasing the oxygen content of the water at the south end of Newtown Creek, where there is no tidal flow or water current. He said that in the absence of oxygen, bacteria in the water can flourish and emit the heavy odor of sulfur dioxide. He explained that sulfur dioxide emissions are greatly reduced whenever the dissolved oxygen in the water increases above 1 milligram per gallon of water.

Mr. Sanchez asked what provisions are being made to ensure waterfront access at this site. Mr. Meshkati replied that public access to Newtown Creek at this site would be difficult because of the 15 foot drop from the bank down to the water. And, since there are no plans to staff this site, it would not be safe for the public to enter the water at this point, he said.

Board Chairman Arcuri objected to the fact that the presentation does not include any waterfront access for the public at this site. He stated that in June of 2013, our Community Board recommended to approve the plans for this facility, with the understanding that there would be some accommodation for public access to Newtown Creek in the overall design plans for this site. And, he said that earlier this year, he and the District Manager Gary Giordano met on-site with Emily Lloyd, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, when they were assured that the Board's request for waterfront access would be accommodated.

Thomas Smith, Associate Planner in the Queens office of the Department of City Planning, explained that in this case, a Mayoral override was issued regarding providing waterfront access to Newtown Creek since the water is setback about 270 feet from the street, and a boat launch would be difficult because of the inaccessibility of the water.

Richard Huber asked about the noise level of the equipment on this site. Mr. Meshkati said that the pumps will operate at 90 decibels. He said they will be installed inside the facility, where sound proofing will be installed on the ceilings to buffer the sound.

As there were no further questions or comments on this matter, the Board Chairman referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further review and recommendation at their next meeting at 7:30pm on Monday, March 9th, 2015 in the Board 5 office.

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The Board Chairman welcomed local elected officials and their representatives to address the Board.

On behalf of Congresswoman Grace Meng, Jordan Goldes informed everyone that Christopher Lu, the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Labor, toured Queensborough Community College at the Congresswoman's invitation recently. He said that Secretary Lu was very impressed with the range of excellent educational programs and services that are provided for many thousands of matriculated students.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Mike Miller, David Renz informed everyone that their office is currently working on a Valentines for Veterans Drive to distribute cards, gifts and good wishes to disabled American veterans in February. For more information, he welcomed constituents to contact their office at (718) 805-0950, or stop by their office at 83-91 Woodhaven Boulevard. Flyers were distributed.

On behalf of State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Anne Krzyzanowski announced that from 6 PM to 8 PM on Tuesday, February 17th, 2015, the Assemblywoman will host a State of our Schools Town Hall in Sunnyside Community Services, located at 43-31 39th Street in Sunnyside, Queens. For more information, she welcomed calls to their office at (718) 784-3194. She welcomed everyone to attend this event.

Board Chairman Arcuri introduced the first item on the Board Agenda as:

PUBLIC FORUM

Phil Konigsberg, a Board member of CB 11 in Queens, requested that the Board's support for the public health resolution that was adopted by CB 11 Queens regarding smoke-free multiple dwellings legislation. He said that the proposed legislation would mandate that property owners indicate whether or not smoking anywhere inside their building is prohibited when they rent apartments to their tenants. He provided a copy of their resolution.

Eileen Miller, a Nurse Practitioner who is a Board Member of CB 11 in Queens, also spoke in favor of the proposed legislation regarding smoke-free dwellings by stating that people who are asthmatic, particularly young children and older adults, can go into cardiac arrest, as the result of an asthma attack that is brought on by cigarette smoke. For this reason, she asked the Board to support the resolution recently adopted by CB 11 in Queens.

On behalf of Nelson Rockefeller, the owner of the Queens Brewery, District Manager announced that he plans to open a local brewery at 15-39 Covert Street in Ridgewood, once renovations are complete at this site. He explained that under the Craft Beer Act that was adopted in New York State last year, the applicant is not required to obtain a beer or wine license unless they produce more than 75,000 barrels of beer annually.

Margaret Chance, a Ridgewood resident, objected to the proposed Fresh Pond Road Street Festival this year. She said that the festival operates for longer hours and on more days than it did originally. She said the relocation of bus stops, an excessive traffic congestion, and illegally parked cars on local streets are major disruptions to the lives of surrounding residents. She said that Fresh Pond Road is way too narrow to accommodate the number of rides and vendors who set up too early and are too wide to allow 2-way traffic to drive down Fresh Pond Road for the duration of the festival.

Claudia Velez, a member of PTA of the Middle Village Preparatory School on the campus of Christ the King High School, announced that this year, they will sponsor their first Prima Perpetual Gala on the evening of May 9th, 2015 in the school. She said that the proceeds raised by this event will go toward scholarships for eligible students at school. She welcomed everyone to attend.

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Mary Parisen, Chair of Citizens United for Railroad Environmental Solutions (CURES), said that for the past ten years CURES has advocated for updated technology, equipment and improvements to the freight rail transportation system. She said that this year, the Port Authority of NY and NJ has scheduled a series of public hearings to obtain public input on several different options that are included in the lengthy Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cross Harbor Freight Program. She said that this program is part of a study of ways to improve the flow of freight containers into and out of New York City. She said that there is a public hearing on this matter that is scheduled for 4pm to 8pm on March 3rd in Queens Borough Hall.

Ms. Parisen said that while the goal of the Cross Harbor Freight Program is to reduce truck traffic into New York City, the local freight rail system is already congested by the amount of freight that is being hauled daily through the Fresh Pond Rail Yard in Glendale. According to the proposed plan, an additional 16 to 21 trains a day could be hauling freight through local residential communities, including Ridgewood, Glendale, Middle Village and Maspeth, she said. She said that CURES calls for planning and action that includes technological updates for the existing rail freight system, such as, upgrading the antiquated diesel engines that are used to haul freight on the LIRR railroad tracks through residential areas. In closing, she encouraged all civic leaders to attend the upcoming public hearing on this issue that is scheduled to be held in Queens Borough Hall on March 3rd.

Tyler Myers, manager of the Knockdown Center, located at 52-19 Flushing Avenue in Maspeth, announced that a new season of public events is scheduled to begin next month, including a series of short films that have been produced and directed by new immigrants, and a Pysanka Egg Decorating Session for children and families to be held on Sunday, March 29th, 2015. He also announced that Carnegie Hall is planning a new production of West Side Story in their space next year, from March 4th to March 6th, 2016. He welcomed everyone to attend these events.

Dawn Scala, a Glendale resident and member of the Glendale-Middle Village Coalition, said that there have been new developments recently regarding the proposal to establish a transitional housing facility at 78-16 Cooper Avenue, in Glendale. She said that plans have been submitted to the Department of Buildings to convert the warehouse on the site into a homeless shelter, but they were disapproved in December. Regarding the issue of housing registered sex offenders and families with children in the same facility, she said that several State Senators have promised to introduce legislation in Albany that would prohibit this practice.

The Board Chairman announced the next item on the Board Agenda as:

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT **Vincent Arcuri, Jr.**

The Board Chairman recognized the press corps in attendance at the meeting, and thanked them for their reporting on Community Board matters and events.

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, the Board Chairman announced that the Queens Borough Board will conduct a public hearing on the FY 2016 Capital and Expense Budget of the City of New York on Monday, February 23rd, 2015, beginning at 10am. He advised that anyone who wishes to speak at the hearing should register in advance by contacting the Borough President's Office at (718) 286-2900.

MINUTES

Board Chairman Arcuri asked Board members to review the minutes of the January 14, 2015 Board Meeting. John Maier made a motion to approve the Minutes, and was seconded by Michael O'Kane. The minutes were accepted by voice vote.

LIQUOR, WINE and BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS and RENEWALS

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

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of the listing.

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) **San Cecilio Restaurant** Inc. 653 Wyckoff Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) Mt. Everest Indian Restaurant Inc. d/b/a **Nepalese Indian Restaurant** 907 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) **Assembly Bar & Grill** Inc. 73-02 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 2) * Gmina Polska Inc. d/b/a **Polish National Hall** 61-60 56th Road, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 3) Glendale Restaurant Group 2830 Inc. d/b/a **Edison Place** 71-28/30 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 4) **Maspeth American Legion Post No. 783** 66-28 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

- 1) GW Ridgewood LLC d/b/a **Gyro World** 66-57 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

None reported.

* Indicates Licensed Outdoor Area

Demolition Notices

The Board Chairman reported that the Board received two building demolition notices in the past month, including:
67-41 73 Place – house and garage - in Middle Village
1823 Palmetto Street – residential garage – in Ridgewood
He asked Board members to remain vigilant and to advise the Board 5 staff about any questionable construction work in the area, so they can investigate further.

STAFF REPORT

District Manager Gary Giordano

The District Manager advised everyone that during the snow season, from November through March, whenever snow and ice accumulate on community drives and alleys, the Department of Sanitation does not salt or plow these thoroughfares and they are often inaccessible and potentially unsafe. He said that if there is no safe access to community drives, residents should put their household garbage out for collection at the curb in front of their homes, instead of in their community drive.

Regarding current capital improvement projects in the Board 5 area, the District Manager said that the contractor has begun work on the \$20+ Million project to replace the combined sewer and water mains along Calamus Avenue, between 69 Street and 74 Street, and in 69 Street, between Calamus Avenue and 47th Avenue. He said that under this contract, a 5 ft. by 8 ft. reinforced concrete box sewer will be installed in Calamus Avenue and in 69 Street, along with new water mains.

The District Manager said that another major sewer and water main improvement project in the Board 5 area is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2015 in the Penelope Avenue area, in Middle Village. He said that this project should alleviate the severe street and basement flooding that has occurred after heavy rainfall in this section of Middle Village. This project will also include new water main installation.

The District Manager reported that the roadway improvement project on the Jackie Robinson Parkway is expected to begin this Spring. He said that for the duration of this project, there will be times when both lanes in one direction will be closed to traffic. Most of the work will be completed at night, between 11pm and 5am. He said that this project will include a new asphalt surface and replacement of concrete, where needed. Lighting and signs will also be replaced.

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The District Manager reported that the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey postponed their public hearing regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cross Harbor Freight Project until Tuesday, March 3rd, 2015, due to inclement weather on January 29th. He said he plans to testify on behalf of our Board at the upcoming hearing in Queens Borough Hall.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Mr. Sanchez reported that the Committee reviewed the application submitted by Phillies Pizzeria to renew their license to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café at 74-02 Eliot Avenue in Middle Village, and recommends in favor of approving this application.

As there were no questions or comments, Board Chairman Arcuri requested a Roll Call vote on the committee's recommendation, which carried unanimously by a vote of – 35 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstaining; and - 0 – not voting.

Mr. Sanchez reported that despite the fact that the area surrounding the lot at 174 Woodward Avenue between Starr Street and Troutman Street was rezoned last year to permit residential development, the developer has reportedly put the property up for sale.

Paul Kerzner made a motion that the Board consider adopting a resolution to recommend that the new residential zoning designation for this site be revoked.

Thomas Smith, Associate Planner in the Queens office of the Department of City Planning, said that the developer has met with staff in his department repeatedly to arrive at a mutually agreeable conclusion.

After a general discussion of the matter, Walter Clayton made a tabling motion of this matter, which was seconded by Margaret O'Kane.

As there was no further discussion on the matter, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the tabling motion, which then carried unanimously by a – 35 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstaining; and - 0 – not voting.

Executive Committee

Vincent Arcuri

The Board Chairman informed everyone that on Tuesday, February 3rd, the Executive Committee met in the Board office with all of the applicants in order to review the Street Festival applications for the coming year. He reported that the Committee voted to recommend approval of all of the One-Day Only street festivals, but there was no consensus among Committee members regarding the Fresh Pond Road Street Festival application. He explained that four Committee members were in favor of approving their application, while the remaining four Committee members recommended against approval, so there is no recommendation from the Committee. He said that for this reason, he is requesting that separate Roll Call votes be taken for each of the Street Festival applications in the Board 5 Queens area this year.

The Board Chairman announced the proposed 2015 Street Fairs, as follows:

The **RIDGEWOOD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION's MYRTLE AVENUE FESTIVAL**,
on Myrtle Avenue from Wyckoff Avenue to Fresh Pond Road in Ridgewood,
scheduled for Sunday, April 19th, 2015 from 12 NOON to 6PM.

Board Chairman Arcuri and Paul Kerzner said they would not vote on this application because they are officers on the Board of Directors of the Ridgewood LDC, and Theodore Renz said he would not be vote because he is the

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Executive Director of the Ridgewood LDC. The vote in favor of recommending approval of this application was: -31- in favor; -1- opposed; -0- abstaining; and -3- not voting.

The **MASPETH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE-LIONS CLUB-KIWANIS CLUB's GRAND AVENUE FESTIVAL** on Grand Avenue btw 65 Street and 72 Street in Maspeth, planned for Sunday, May 31st, 2015 from 12 NOON to 6 PM

Maryanna Zero said she would decline to vote as she serves on the Board of the Chamber. The vote in favor of approval of this application was -33- in favor; -1- opposed; -0- abstaining; and -1- not voting.

The **MYRTLE AVENUE BID's MYRTLE AVENUE FESTIVAL**

on Myrtle Avenue from Wyckoff Avenue to Fresh Pond Road in Ridgewood, planned for Sunday, September 13th, 2015 from 12 NOON to 6PM

Theodore Renz, Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue BID, said that he declined to vote on this matter.

The vote in favor of approval of this application was -33- in favor; -1- opposed; -0- abstaining; and -1- not voting.

The **GLENDALE KIWANIS CLUB'S MYRTLE AVENUE FESTIVAL**

on Myrtle Avenue from Forest Avenue to Fresh Pond Road in Ridgewood, planned for Sunday, August 16th, 2015 from 12 NOON to 6 PM

The vote in favor of approval of this application was -34- in favor; -1- opposed; -0- abstaining; and -0- not voting.

The **GLENDALE KIWANIS CLUB's METROPOLITAN AVENUE FESTIVAL,**

on Metropolitan Avenue btw 73rd Place and 79 Street in Middle Village, planned for Sunday, May 3rd, 2015 from 12 NOON to 6 PM

The vote in favor of approval of this application was -34- in favor; -1- opposed; -0- abstaining; and -0- not voting.

The **FRESH POND ROAD STREET FESTIVAL**

sponsored by the Federazione Italo Americana di Brooklyn & Queens on Fresh Pond Road from Menahan Street to Woodbine Street in Ridgewood, planned for Thursday, Sept. 3rd, through Sunday, Sept 6th, 2015 from 5:30 PM to 10 PM daily, except for Sunday, when their hours of operation will be 2 PM to 6 PM

John Maier made a motion on the floor to recommend that the Board object to holding this festival this year. He said that each year, the Board receives complaints from local residents about this event. By contrast, no one has reported complaints regarding any of the other One-Day Street Festivals in our Board area. Peter Comber seconded the motion.

Mr. Comber said that he objected to holding this Street Festival because it disrupts the lives of working families and senior citizens who live in the community. He said that it should be limited to One-Day Only event, similar to all the other street fairs that are held in Community Board 5, Queens.

Peggy O'Kane said that she agrees with Mr. Comber's objections to the noise, traffic congestion and public nuisance that results from this 4-day Street Festival on Fresh Pond Road every year.

Paul Kerzner objected to approving this Street Festival, based on a number of complaints regarding the operation of this festival. He said that every year, residents who live on the side streets between Fresh Pond Road and Traffic Avenue cannot drive their personal vehicles, due to the number of booths and rides that are blocking both sides of Fresh Pond Road for four consecutive days in September each year. He said that local residents object to the amount of garbage and litter that the festival generates, in addition to the noise, air pollution and traffic congestion that is associated with this event. He said that in the past, he suggested relocating this event to a more suitable location with a wider thoroughfare, such as, Eliot Avenue between Fresh Pond Road and Metropolitan Avenue.

Lucy Dolce said that she has been coordinating the Fresh Pond Road Street Festival for the past decade. She said that this Festival has been held every September for the past 21 years, without incident. She explained that the festival has always been in full compliance with all of the city's rules and regulations because she meets with representatives of the Community Board and the 104th Police Precinct prior to this event every year to discuss

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issues related to this event and ensure a clean, well-maintained safe environment for everyone. She assured everyone that she personally inspects and monitors the vendors and their activities, along with inspectors from several City agencies as well as a contingent of police officers who are assigned to patrol this event each year. She pointed out that all of the proceeds from this event support the social services that their organization provides to seniors and families in this community. She said that while she volunteers her own time, without public funds to cover their operating expenses, their organization would not be able to continue providing services to the community.

Besides, Ms. Dolce said that the festival provides inexpensive entertainment in a safe environment for families with children who live and work in the community. She estimated that about 1,000 people attend the festival during the week, and that on the weekend, there are over 1,500 people who attend the festival each day.

Don Passantino said that he recalled that one year, the Police Department reportedly spent approximately \$80,000, including overtime pay, to cover the cost of patrolling this event. He suggested that it would be much more cost effective for the City administration to award a grant instead to their organization in order to provide social services for the community.

On a motion to call the question, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the motion on the floor.

Ms. Dolce said that she declined to vote on this motion.

The vote to oppose approval of this application was -22- in favor; -12- opposed; -0- abstaining; and -1- not voting.

New Business

Henry Cross, a Board member, thanked everyone who participated in the Public Forum that he recently conducted at 788 Woodward Avenue in Ridgewood. He said that the event was well attended by local residents who obtained information about local issues, including affordable housing, job opportunities and more.

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 9:50pm.