



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 May 11, 2016

#### Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Peter Comber; Daniel Creighton; Henry Cross; Brian Dooley; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Angela Giovannello; Patricia Grayson; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoefflerle; Robert Holden; Paul A. Kerzner; John J. Killcommons; Kathleen Knight; Michael LoCascio; John Maier; Lydia Martinez; Katherine Masi; Alexander Maureau; 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; Connie Santos; Lorraine Sciulli; Catherine Sumsky; Jean Tanler; Barbara Toscano; Maryanna Zero

#### Board Members Absent

Patricia Crowley; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Karamjit Dhaliwal; Thomas C. Dowd; Caroline Fuchs; Eileen Moloney; Carmen Santana

#### Elected Officials

Don Capalbi – US Representative Grace Meng, 6<sup>th</sup> C.D.  
Neil Giannelli - NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr., 15<sup>th</sup> S.D.  
David Aglialoro – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine T. Nolan, 37<sup>th</sup> AD  
Diana Santana - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38<sup>th</sup> AD  
Maggie Hayes - NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, 30<sup>th</sup> CD  
Alex Rodriguez – NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, 34<sup>th</sup> CD

#### Staff Present

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

#### GUESTS

Joannene Kidder, Exec. Dir. - Community Affairs, NYC DOT Division of Bridges, 55 Water Street, NY, NY 10007  
James Tarpey, P.E., NYC DOT Division of Bridges, 59 Maiden Lane, New York, NY 10038  
Jason Banrey, Deputy Queens Borough Commissioner, NYC DOT, 120-55 Queens Blvd, Kew Gardens, NY 11424  
Luke DePalma, Asst. Dir., Govt & Community Relations, MTA-NYC Transit, 2 Broadway, NY, NY 10004  
Nancy Catapano, Community Construction Liaison, The LiRo Group, 111 Broadway, Suite 501, NY, NY 10006  
Amanda LaBarbara, Attorney-At-Law, Sheldon Lobel, P.C., 18 E. 41<sup>st</sup> Street – 5<sup>th</sup> FL, New York, NY 10017

## Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on May 11, 2016

Board Chairman Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:35pm, following the Salute to the Flag. He introduced the first Item on the Agenda as:

### **PUBLIC HEARING      Re: BSA Cal No. 2016-4147BZ for Property at 57-12 58 Place, Maspeth**

IN THE MATTER OF AN Application to the NY City Board of Standards and Appeals by Sheldon Lobel, P.C. Attorneys At Law, on behalf of Pietro Alesci, the owner of record, for a variance, under Sections 72-21 and 42-10 of the Zoning Resolution, to permit the development of a 3-family residential building, at **57-12 58 Place**, in Maspeth, Queens, NY (B: 2672; L: 96) in an M1-1D Zoning District, where residential use is not permitted as-of-right.

Amanda LaBarbara, a representative of Sheldon Lobel, P.C., spoke on behalf of the owner of record, Pietro Alesci, regarding this application for a zoning variance to build a 3-story three-family house on this 2,375 square foot vacant lot, which is located 50 feet north of 57 Drive on 58 Place, in Maspeth. She said that the owner is seeking a zoning variance in this case, pursuant to Sections 72-12 and 42-10 of the Zoning Resolution, wherein residential development of a vacant lot in an M1-1D District is not permitted as-of-right. She said that there was a longstanding residential use of this property, where a 2-story house had stood since the early 1900's, until it was demolished in 2014. She said that due to the dimensions of this long and narrow lot, it is unsuitable for light manufacturing development.

Ms. LaBarbara described the lot as a 25' by 95' foot vacant interior lot that is surrounded by single and multi-family residential, mixed-use commercial and residential, and light manufacturing uses. She said that the proposed building conforms to all of the bulk requirements pursuant to Section 43-16 of the Zoning Resolution, regarding residential development in an M1-1D District. She said that the total floor area of 3,873 sq. ft. of the structure has the equivalent of a 1.63 Floor Area Ratio. She said that the ground floor will be occupied by a 1 bedroom apartment, a 2-car garage and an additional partially enclosed parking space. The two additional apartments will occupy the second and third floors, respectively.

Ms. LaBarbara gave a brief history of this site to the Board by saying that this property was purchased from the city in 2006, subject to a Deed Restriction by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to retain the residential use of this site, pursuant to Section 42-47 regarding residential uses in M1-1D through M1-5D Districts, and subject to the regulations of Section 43-61 regarding bulk regulations for residential uses in M1-1D through M1-5D Districts, and Section 44-28, regarding parking regulations for residential uses in M1-1D through M1-5D Districts. She said that the original Deed Restriction prohibited the demolition of the existing residential structure for 20 years.

Ms. LaBarbara said that several years ago, after a leak in the roof of the existing 2-story house led to extensive water damage throughout the building, the house was determined to be uninhabitable. In 2013, their client sought a modification of the Deed Restriction on the property, to permit the demolition of the existing structure and the construction of a new 3-story, 4-family multiple dwelling, with parking spaces for 4 vehicles on this site. She reminded everyone that Board members voted in favor of issuing a Letter of No Objection to their request to modify the Deed Restriction, as proposed, at the Queens Community Board 5 Meeting that was held in March of 2013.

Ms. LaBarbara explained that the former 2-story house on this lot was demolished in August of 2014, pursuant to a work permit issued by the Department of Buildings. However, when their client's architect filed plans to construct a new 3-story, 3-family multiple dwelling on this lot, the plans were denied this year by the Department of Buildings, pursuant to Section 72-21 of the Zoning Resolution, which restricts residential development on vacant lots in M1-1D Districts, which are not occupied by a residential use in over two years.

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In closing, Ms. LaBarbara said that the proposed residential development is in keeping with the surrounding character of the neighborhood, and provides the owner an opportunity to realize a reasonable return on his investment in this case. She offered to circulate a copy of the proposed building plans to show everyone the floor plan, etc.

The Board Chairman opened the floor to questions and comments.

Board Chairman Arcuri asked why the owner did not proceed with the original set of building plans that were presented to the Board in 2013. Ms. LaBarbara explained that the owner needed additional time to secure financing for the proposed residential development of this site.

Peter Comber asked if the plans have been altered in any way since this case was originally presented to our Board. Ms. LaBarbara replied that the current plans are for a 3-family house on three separate floors with 3 parking spaces, instead of a two-story 4-family house, with 4 parking spaces.

As there were no further questions or comments from the floor, the Board Chairman referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further consideration and a recommendation to the full Board at next month's Board Meeting.

The Board Chairman announced the next item on the Board Agenda, by introducing Joannene Kidder, as the Executive Director of Community Affairs for the NYC DOT Division of Bridges, who had served as the District Manager of Community Board 5 prior to Gary Giordano, who has served as District Manager for over 25 years.

### **PRESENTATION Re: Upcoming Emergency Replacement of Metropolitan Avenue Bridge Deck at Fresh Pond Road over the Long Island Rail Road – HBQ-1112**

by Joannene Kidder, Exec. Dir. Community Affairs, NYC DOT Division of Bridges  
James Tarpey, P.E., Resident Engineer, NYC Dept. of Transportation Division of Bridges  
Jason Banrey, NYC DOT Deputy Queens Borough Commissioner

Regarding the Bridge Deck Replacement Project, Joannene Kidder informed everyone that this bridge supports the roadway on both sides of the intersection at Fresh Pond Road and Metropolitan Avenue. The bridge also crosses over the LIRR Montauk Line, two Freight Rail tracks and Right-of-Ways that are located underneath this intersection. She noted that the members of Community Board 5 have been advocating for the reconstruction of this railroad bridge for the past 20 years. She explained that due to the very deteriorated and hazardous condition of the bridge deck at this busy intersection, the contract was bid and awarded this year for an emergency bridge deck replacement project. She said that this project is scheduled to begin during the first week of July, 2016, and is expected to be complete by January, 2018.

Ms. Kidder introduced the Resident Engineer James Tarpey, along with the Community Construction Liaison Nancy Catapano. She gave the floor to Mr. Tarpey to give a power point presentation on this project.

As he spoke, Mr. Tarpey displayed slides of the proposed project area, showing aerial views of the intersection of Fresh Pond Road and Metropolitan Avenue, with slides of the various phases of the construction work in progress. He gave a brief description of the work scope of this construction project which involves: removal and replacement of the bridge deck and approach slab; curb and sidewalk replacement over the bridge deck and approach areas; repairs to the superstructure steel framing; substructure repairs; shielding over the railroad track area; and maintenance of traffic.

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Regarding traffic maintenance for the duration of this project, Mr. Tarpey said that there are thousands of trucks, buses and cars rolling through this busy intersection daily, particularly during the morning and evening rush hours. He said that at least one lane of traffic in each direction will be diverted onto other north-south and east-west corridors. He said that throughout the entire project, 6 traffic enforcement agents will be stationed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at 6 separate intersections along the proposed traffic detour route, as shown on the map of this area. These six intersections include: Metropolitan Avenue at Fresh Pond Road; Metropolitan Avenue at 60 Lane; Eliot Avenue at 60 Lane; Eliot Avenue at Fresh Pond Road; Eliot Avenue at 69 Street; and 69 Street at Metropolitan Avenue.

Mr. Tarpey said that buses or trucks will be prohibited from turning where NO TURN signage is posted, as follows: 1) from the southbound lane on Fresh Pond Road onto either eastbound or westbound lanes of Metropolitan Avenue; 2) from the northbound lane on Fresh Pond Road onto the eastbound lane on Metropolitan Avenue; and 3) from the westbound lane on Metropolitan Avenue onto the southbound lane on Fresh Pond Road. In addition, he said that vehicles will be prohibited from turning east onto Metropolitan Avenue, from the southbound lane on Fresh Pond Road, for most of the time during this project. In order to improve traffic flow through this intersection and the surrounding area, he said that the timing of several traffic signals will be adjusted and temporary traffic signals will be installed, as indicated on the map of this area. In addition, he explained that it will be necessary to convert 60th Lane, between Eliot Avenue and Metropolitan Avenue, into a One-Way Southbound direction in order to improve the flow of traffic through this area.

When Mr. Tarpey pointed out that two bus stops on Metropolitan Avenue, east of Fresh Pond Road, must be relocated for the duration of the project, Luke DePalma, Assistant Director of NYC Transit Governmental Affairs Office, offered to coordinate an on-site meeting with the MTA's Bus Operations Unit in order to arrive at the safest and most convenient locations for the two new temporary bus stops.

Mr. Tarpey explained that during Stage 1 of this project, construction crews will remove and replace curbing and sidewalks on both sides of Fresh Pond Road and Metropolitan Avenue. A 5 foot wide temporary sidewalk will be maintained while this work is underway. In addition, crews will remove and replace one westbound lane of the roadway on Metropolitan Avenue and one northbound lane of the roadway on Fresh Pond Road, and the railroad bridge deck over the LIRR tracks. He said that once the debris is cleared from this area, consultant engineers and the design team will inspect the condition of the underlying steel structure and concrete bridge abutments in order to determine what, if any, additional measures are warranted. He said that this phase of the job is expected to take at least six months to complete.

Mr. Tarpey said that all work will be performed overnight during Stage 2 of this job. He said that during the first half of Stage 2, a 100 foot long concrete barrier will be installed on Metropolitan Avenue, extending from the center of Fresh Pond Road eastward. One lane of traffic in both directions will be diverted around this barricade while crews work on replacing the railroad bridge deck under the road, and related work. This part of the project is expected to take up to 3 months to complete. During the second half of Stage 2, the concrete barrier will be relocated to the center of Fresh Pond Road, just north of Metropolitan Avenue, when one lane of traffic in both north and south directions will be diverted around this barricade while work crews replace another section of the railroad bridge deck under the roadway. He pointed out that the lot on the northeast corner of this intersection will be used to store heavy equipment for the duration of this project. He explained that this property was acquired by the city during Eminent Domain proceedings, and is now the property of the NYC Department of Transportation.

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During Stage 3, the last phase of this project, Mr. Tarpey said that work will continue on the sections of the bridge deck and steel structure under the roadway, that are located on the west side of Fresh Pond Road, and on the south side of Metropolitan Avenue. This portion of the job is expected to take six months to complete.

In response to questions from the floor, Mr. Tarpey said that during certain stages of this project, local city buses and school buses will have to be detoured from Eliot Avenue southbound onto 60<sup>th</sup> Lane in Middle Village. When a local businessman asked why this work could not be performed at night, Mr. Tarpey pointed out that most of the work will be performed during the daytime so that work can be completed as soon as possible. He said that the concrete barricades would remain in place, regardless of whether construction crews are working overnight or during the day. He said that occasionally, there may be a need to work through the weekend in order to complete this project on time.

Mike Porcelli suggested that No Parking signs be posted on 60 Lane and 60 Place, between Metropolitan Avenue and Eliot Avenue, in order to improve traffic flow along those two local streets. Mr. Tarpey replied that they will be monitoring traffic flow through this area on a daily basis, and make changes accordingly to their traffic safety plan.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Matt Malina, NYC H2O director and founder, spoke about the free programs and tours that are offered to visitors at the Ridgewood Reservoir in Highland Park. He said that this year, he is planning to lead tours for 20 classes of students who are scheduled to visit this park on school trips. He welcomed everyone to join one of their weekend walks through the reservoir on Saturday mornings.

In addition, Mr. Malina said that his organization has requested additional traffic calming measures to be installed on Vermont Place, between the parking lot and the reservoir. In closing, he said that NYC H2O is currently conducting a survey of local residents' opinions about the reservoir, and invited everyone to participate in the survey by visiting their website at: [www.NYCH2O.org](http://www.NYCH2O.org).

Matt Peterson, Ridgewood Community Garden volunteer, said that he and other volunteers worked to plant a community garden under the elevated M train tracks, located between Woodward Avenue and Woodbine Street, after clearing lots of trash and debris there last year. However, after being notified by the MTA that they were not permitted to use that site, he said that they've been searching for another space where they could create a community garden. He asked for the Board's assistance in identifying a suitable space in Ridgewood. Two volunteers who accompanied him supported his request.

Shirley Cesario, a Ridgewood homeowner for over 18 years, said that she and her neighbors are opposed to the proposed pop up beach bar at 176 Woodward Ave, in Ridgewood, that has been advertised in many local news outlets. She said that their hours of operation are advertised as: 5pm to 12 Midnight from Sunday to Thursday; and from 12 Noon to 12 Midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. On behalf of her neighbors who live on this block, she said that they're opposed to opening this type of establishment where alcohol will be served, which bring an increase in noise, crowds and traffic, whether on foot or in vehicles requiring parking spaces, On street parking is already very limited in this area, she said. She asked the Board to investigate their application for an alcoholic beverage license at this site. The Board Chairman replied that since Rockaway Brewing Company holds a Farm Brewer's license, they are not required to provide 30-day prior notification to the Community Board. He directed staff to inquire about the status of this application.

Stephanie Sauer, founder of the Friends of Rosemary's Playground in Ridgewood, thanked the Board members for their past support for capital improvements that are needed at the children's playground. She said that last Fall, they organized several groups of volunteers who worked alongside Parks Department staff in sprucing up

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the playground equipment and planters inside the park, and they held several local events that were very well attended by young families with children. She said that more events open to the public are being planned for next month. For more information, she welcomed everyone to visit their website at: [www.Facebook.com/LetsFixRosemarysPlayground](http://www.Facebook.com/LetsFixRosemarysPlayground). She said that capital improvement funding is still needed to rehabilitate this section of the park.

Joan Bruno, a Ridgewood resident, asked for an update on the status of the Fresh Pond Road Street Festival. The District Manager replied that after the Board voted to deny their application in February, the applicant filed an appeal with the Mayor's Office. And, subsequently, he met with the Mayor's Citywide Event Coordination and Management staff along with the applicant where the community's concerns were discussed. However, the Community Board has not received any communication from the Mayor's Office regarding the outcome of the appeal process, as yet.

Brian Dooley, president of the Glendale Property Owners Association and Board 5 member, requested the Transportation Services Committee reconsider its approval of the proposed reversal of the One-Way direction on 81 Street, between 77 Avenue and 78 Avenue, in Glendale. He said that there is a dog-leg bend in the road and a Bus Stop near the corner of 81 Street and 78 Avenue, which presents a safety hazard for pedestrians and commuters if the direction of 81 Street is converted into One-Way Southbound. He said that traffic calming measures have been requested along 77 Avenue from 80 Street to 88 Street, instead.

Richard Huber, a Glendale resident and former Board 5 member, supported the request that the Board reconsider the recommendation to convert 81 Street into a One-Way Southbound.

Rosa Rizzo, a resident of 80 Street in Glendale, also objected to the proposed conversion of 81 Street between 77 Avenue and 78 Avenue into a One-Way Southbound. She said that this conversion will make it very difficult for residents to drive in or out of their driveway safely, because of the dog-leg angle of the roadway at mid-block. She asked the Board to reconsider this proposal.

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

#### **MINUTES**

The Board Chairman asked Board members to review the minutes of the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Board Meeting. Walter Clayton made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Peter Comber. The minutes were accepted by voice vote.

Board Chairman Arcuri welcomed representatives of local elected officials to address the Board.

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Catherine Moore announced that the Queens Borough President is sponsoring a Memorial Day Observance Ceremony at 11am on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> in the Veterans Memorial Garden at Queens Borough Hall, with a reception to follow in Room 200. She welcomed everyone to attend, and requested that they contact the office at (718) 286-2661 to RSVP.

Ms. Moore also announced that the Queens Borough President is sponsoring the Summer Festival in Queens in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, beginning with the Summer Stage Concert that is planned for 1 PM on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016. She said the event is free and open to the public.

Ms. Moore thanked everyone who attended the Orientation and Training Session on Monday night, May 9<sup>th</sup>, in the Queens Hall of Science in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. She said that the Swearing In Ceremony for new and reappointed Board Members will be conducted, starting at 5pm on Wednesday, June 22<sup>th</sup>, 2016, in the same location. She said that invitations will be mailed out to Board members.

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On behalf of Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Alex Rodriguez reported that 6,000 residents cast ballots during the Participatory Budgeting process this year. He said that PS 239 in Ridgewood is slated to receive computer technology as their number one budget request.

On behalf of State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Neil Giannelli announced that the Senator will be on hand to host Mobile Office hours in the Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale libraries in mid-June. He said to contact the district office at (718) 497-9492 for more information.

On behalf of State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, David Aglialoro informed everyone that she wrote a letter of objection to the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation regarding the proposed conversion of 81 Street in Glendale into a One-Way Southbound. He also announced that their office is sponsoring a free Rain Barrel Giveaway on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 10am to 1pm at All Saints Church, located at 43-12 46 Street in Sunnyside. He asked that anyone interested in picking up a rain barrel to register first by calling their office at: (718) 784-3194,

On behalf of City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley, Maggie Hayes distributed copies of a letter that was addressed to Thomas Prendergast, Chairman and CEO of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, regarding their announcement to replace the M train bridge that is located between the Metropolitan Avenue and Fresh Pond Road stations in Community District 5, Queens. She said that the Councilmember is requesting a delay in the start of this M train bridge replacement project until 2018, because work is expected to begin in July, 2016 on the emergency bridge deck replacement project at the intersection of Metropolitan Avenue and Fresh Pond Road which is not scheduled for completion until the end of the 2017 calendar year.

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

The Board Chairman announced that two parades are planned in the Board 5 area on Memorial Day weekend. He welcomed everyone to attend the Maspeth Memorial Day Parade that will be held on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. He said that ceremonies begin at 1pm on Grand Avenue at 72 Place, and proceeds along Grand Avenue and ends at the Maspeth Memorial Triangle. He also encouraged everyone to participate in the Annual Memorial Day Parade of Ridgewood and Glendale on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, starting at 11am on Myrtle Avenue at Cypress Avenue, in front of the Ridgewood Memorial Triangle, and proceeds along Myrtle Avenue to Cooper Avenue, where the Glendale Memorial Triangle is located.

### **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's Board Meeting. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

#### **New Liquor Licenses**

- 1) Real Spice Kitchen Inc. d/b/a **Spice Kitchen** 71-04 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 2) **\*Fumo Hookah Lounge Corp.** 66-28 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Notification)
- 3) **\*63-28 Woodhaven Inc. d/b/a Bridie's** 63-28 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY 11374  
(Transferring License from KRG Pub, Inc.)

#### **Liquor License Renewals**

- 1) **\*Nostro Joe's Inc. d/b/a Joe's Restaurant** 66-11 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

#### **New Wine and/or Beer Licenses**

- 1) 5220 Flushing Ave, Inc. d/b/a **Sal's Pizzeria** 55-20 Flushing Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

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### Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) Room 55 Corp. d/b/a **Room 55** 75-01 88 Street, Glendale, NY 11385

### Corporate Change

- 1) The Corner Venture Ltd. d/b/a **The Live Oak** 59-93 Fresh Pond Road, Maspeth, NY 11378  
(Lorraine Ferry is buying Partner's share)

Copies of the Board's liquor license application questionnaires were emailed to Board members today.

### **Demolition Notices**

The Board Chairman reported that the Board received several building demolition notices over the past month, including: 65-11 Metropolitan Avenue, a partial demolition in rear of store, in Middle Village; **62-90 Woodhaven Blvd**, aka 84-47 63 Drive, a vacant storefront, in Rego Park; **976 Cypress Avenue**, a 1-story warehouse, in Ridgewood.

The 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.

## **District Manager's Report** **Gary Giordano**

Regarding the Penelope Avenue Sewer and Water Main Project, the District Manager reported that work is slated to begin on or about Monday, May 23rd. He said that the project extends on Penelope Avenue from 71 Street to 74 Street, on 74 Street from Juniper Boulevard South to Juniper Valley Road, on 75 Street and Gray Street from Juniper Valley Road to 66 Drive, and a portion of 77 Street between Juniper Valley Road to Gray Street, in Middle Village. According to their plans, he said that the water mains will be replaced first. Once sewer construction work begins, the contractor will likely need to eliminate parking on both sides of the street, one block at a time. He said that the contractor will provide access to block residents only, when the trench cut is open on their block. And, steel plates will be installed to cover the open trenches overnight. He said that this project is expected to be complete in 700 days.

Regarding the MTA's plans to replace the M train railroad bridge that is located between the Metropolitan Avenue station and Fresh Pond Road, he said that this project is slated to begin on July 1, 2017. He said that the start date of this project may be pushed back to the end of next year in order to avoid conflict with the emergency replacement of the bridge deck over the LIRR at Metropolitan Avenue and Fresh Pond Road.

John Maier commented that the MTA scheduled the M train bridge replacement to begin during the Summer months, because more City buses are available to transport commuters during the Summer. Theodore Renz said that the representatives from the MTA have agreed to give a presentation to the full Board this Summer regarding the plans for this project.

The District Manager announced that Woodhaven Boulevard between Queens Boulevard and Eliot Avenue is being milled today, in preparation for resurfacing work.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS** **Housing Services Committee** **Henry Cross – Co-Chair**

Henry Cross announced that committee members met on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> with representatives from the NYC Dept. of Finance to discuss past and future property tax increases, particularly regarding one and two family homes. He said that over the past ten years, local homeowners have received real estate tax increases on 1, 2



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and 3-family homes ranging from 11% to 19%, according to the committee's findings. He said that representatives from the Department of Finance agreed to give a presentation to the full Board this year, regarding all of the tax exemptions and relief programs that local homeowners may be eligible for. Mr. Cross said that the committee is looking at issues that have been raised by Ridgewood Housing Matters, a group of local volunteers, community organizations and legal services to preserve affordable housing units in the Board 5 area. He said that through their efforts, hundreds of residents have participated in the housing forums that were held during the past year. He said that they are planning to organize more housing forums in the coming year. He welcomed everyone to attend their next committee meeting.

### **Transportation Services and Public Transit Services Combined Committee**

#### **John Maier and Theodore Renz**

John Maier, Co-Chair of the Public Transit Services Committee, announced that the Committee will meet with representatives from the Department of Transportation in the Board 5 office on Tuesday, May 24th, to discuss the issues that have been raised regarding their proposal to convert 81 Street in Glendale into a One-Way Southbound.

Theodore Renz announced that work will begin soon on the Pedestrian Plaza Project at the intersection of Myrtle and Cooper Avenues at 70 Street in Glendale, where the Glendale Memorial Triangle is located. He said that work on the Pedestrian Plaza located at the intersection of 71st Avenue and Myrtle Avenue, in Ridgewood, is slated to begin later this year.

Mr. Renz said that the One Day Plaza event on Saturday, April 30th, 2016, on Wyckoff Avenue between Myrtle Avenue and Gates Avenue, was very well attended by local residents and families. He said that representatives from the Department of Transportation conducted a survey of the participants, with overwhelmingly favorable results. He said that they're planning to hold additional events there this year.

### **Public Safety Services Committee**

#### **Robert Holden**

Bob Holden reported that the committee met with Captain Wachter, Commanding Officer of the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct, in the Board 5 office on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. He reported that the incidence of crime in most of the major categories has declined over the past year, except for a 7% increase in rapes, 10% increase in felonious assaults, and 6% increase in grand larcenies that were committed in the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

Mr. Holden said that Executive Officer Gregory Mackey was assigned to the 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct in Flushing. He said that he was happy to report that response times to crimes in progress in the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct have dropped from 4.3 minutes to 3.5 minutes. He pointed out that there has been a steep drop in the number of traffic accidents involving bodily injury in our precinct, where the responding officers can remain on the scene for hours, at times. In addition, he said that two traffic enforcement agents have been assigned to work in the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct this year. He reported that there has been a 21% increase in the number of hazardous driving summonses issued in the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct this year. He said that the number of speeding tickets issued year-to-date has risen significantly from last year. He said that during 2015, there were 343 arrests for the possession and sale of illegal drugs. Over the past 12 months, there have been 13 arrests for graffiti vandalism, he said.

Lee Rottenberg commented that 14 additional police officers will be assigned to the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct this Summer.

### **Health and Human Services Committee**

#### **Robert Cermeli**

Robert Cermeli announced that a combined committee meeting of the Health and Human Services and Housing Committees is scheduled for 7:30pm on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, in the Board 5 office.

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### **Parks Services Committee**

**Steven Fiedler**

Steven Fiedler announced that the Parks Department has agreed to install artificial turf on Frank Principe Park Soft Surface Ballfields, as part of the overall rehabilitation project that is expected to begin later this year. He said that on April 1<sup>st</sup>, the contractor resumed work on the capital improvements that are being performed at Evergreen Park, adjacent to PS 68-Queens.

### **NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS**

Board Chairman Vincent Arcuri opened nominations for officers to serve on the Executive Committee in the coming year. He said that elections of officers will be conducted at next month's Board Meeting. He said that a list of all of the current Executive Committee members was distributed to all Board members, which was read aloud by the District Manager. He gave the floor to the District Manager to conduct nominations from the floor. John Maier nominated Vincent Arcuri to serve as Chairperson of the Board. Michael LoCascio nominated Walter Sanchez to serve as 1st Vice-Chair. Michael O'Kane nominated Toby Sheppard-Bloch to serve as Second Vice-Chair, and Walter Sanchez nominated Dmytro Fedkowskyj to serve as Second Vice-Chair. Patricia Grayson nominated Katherine Masi to serve as Treasurer. Connie Santos nominated Margaret O'Kane to serve as Secretary. For the Member-at-Large positions, Henry Cross nominated Patricia Grayson; John Maier nominated Theodore Renz; Patricia Grayson nominated John Maier; Connie Santos nominated Fred T. Haller; and Daniel Creighton nominated Walter Clayton. All of the nominees accepted their nominations, except Dmytro Fedkowskyj who was absent.

As there were no further nominations from the floor, the Board Chairman closed nominations, and informed everyone that the nominating process would resume during next month's Board Meeting, on June 8th.

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 9:30pm.