



Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale
61-23 Myrtle Avenue • Glendale, NY 11385
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Vincent Arcuri, Jr.
Chairperson

Gary Giordano
District Manager

Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting May 13, 2015

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Peter Comber; Daniel Creighton; Henry Cross; Patricia Crowley; Karamjit Dhaliwal; Thomas C. Dowd; Jerome Drake; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Dorie Figliola; Angela Giovannello; Patricia Grayson; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoefflerle; Robert Holden; Paul A. Kerzner; Kathleen Knight; Michael LoCascio; John Maier; Lydia Martinez; Eileen Moloney; Raquel Namuche; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Theodore M. Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; David Sands; Carmen Santana; Connie Santos; Lorraine Sciulli; Catherine Sumsky; Jean Tanler; Barbara Toscano; Mercy Wong; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Brian Dooley; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Caroline Fuchs; John J. Killcommons; Alex Maureau; Katherine Masi

Elected Officials

NYS Senator Joseph Addabbo, and Staff Neil Giannelli
Jordan Goldes - U.S. Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D.
Lauren Capozzi - NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28th 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
Kevin Worthington – NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, 34th CD

Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens
Catherine O'Leary & Laura Mulvihill - CB5Q Staff
Catherine Moore, Community Liaison - Queens Borough President's Office

Guests

William Carry, Dir. of Special Programs, NYC Dept. of Transportation, 55 Water St, 6 Floor, NY, NY 10041
Alex Keating, Senior Project Manager of NYC Go Smart, NYC Dept. of Transportation
Samantha Dolgoff, Borough Planner, NYC DOT Queens Borough Commissioner's Office
Amanda LaBarbera and Hilary Atzrott of Sheldon Lobel, P.C., 18 E. 41st St, NY, NY 10017
Naohisa Matsumoto, 1623/25 Hancock Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Board Chairman Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:35pm, following the Salute

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to the flag. The Board Chairman asked that everyone remain standing to honor the members of the NYC Police Department for their dedication and service to the community, particularly those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. He said that local precinct community councils are holding candlelight vigils in front of every precinct throughout the city between 7pm and 8pm tonight to honor the service of all police officers, past and present.

The Board Chairman announced the first item on the Board agenda as:

PUBLIC HEARING Re: BSA Cal No. 241-47 BZ - 1623 Hancock Street, Ridgewood

In The Matter of an Application to the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals by Sheldon Lobel, P.C., Attorneys at Law, on behalf of Naohisa and Yasuko Matsumoto, the owners of record, for a variance extension, and to legalize the change in use at **16-23 Hancock Street** (B: 3548; L: 97) in Ridgewood, Queens, NY, on the ground floor from a Use Group 16A contractor's establishment to a Use Group 16A custom woodworking shop and furniture shop and a Use Group 9A art studio; to amend the previously granted variance to eliminate the term; and for a waiver of the Rules of Practice and Procedure to allow the filing of this application after the permitted filing period. The site is located in an R5B Zoning District.

The Board Chairman introduced the applicant's representative, Amanda LaBarbera and invited her to address the Board. Ms. La Barbera began by explaining that this application is filed pursuant to Sections 11-412 and 11-413 of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York, as amended, to request an amendment to legalize the change in use on the ground floor of the above-referenced premises from a Use Group 16A contractor's establishment to a Use Group 16A custom woodworking and furniture shop and a Use Group 9A art studio; an amendment to eliminate the term of the previously granted variance, which was initially granted under BSA Cal. No. 241-47 BZ as amended, to permit the continued operation of the ground floor manufacturing/commercial use; and a waiver of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure to allow the filing of this application after the permitted filing period.

According to the BSA approved plans for this site in 2009, records show that this plot of land is about 50 feet wide and 100 feet deep, with a two-story, plus cellar, mixed-use building that contains a total floor area of 5,750 sq. ft. And, she said that the building is built lot line to lot line, with a small backyard behind this building, which is similar to most of the residential homes on this block.

As Ms. LaBarbera spoke, photos of this property, as well as architectural drawings of the prior and existing layout and floor plans were displayed by her colleague, Hilary Atzrott, on the screen behind her, in a power point presentation. Photos of the facades of the adjacent factory building and the two-story attached row houses on the block were displayed on screen, too.

Ms. LaBarbera explained that the only change from the previously approved floor plans is the separation of work space on the ground floor from a contractor's establishment into two separate areas: a custom woodworking and furniture shop, and an art studio. She said that the second floor will remain residential, where the owners live in a single apartment. And, the cellar will remain a storage area. She said that the only change in use of this property would reduce it from Use Group 16, to Use Group 9A in order to legalize the portion of the ground floor that is currently occupied as an art studio.

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In response to questions from the floor, Ms. LaBarbera said that no retail sales will take place on premises. She said that her client is a carpenter who specializes in custom-made woodwork. Mr. Matsumoto said that most of his woodwork are relatively small pieces that are delivered by mail-order directly to customers, so there is no foot traffic to and from his shop. He said that there is a No Parking - 8am-6pm – Monday to Friday sign, in front of his building and the factory next-door.

Ms. LaBarbera explained that when her client, Mr. Naohisa Matsumoto, the owner/occupant of the property, hired an architect to file building alteration plans with the Dept. of Buildings, he was not aware of the requirement to seek approval from the Board of Standards and Appeals, and as a result, the permitted filing period to renew the zoning variance had lapsed.

As there were no further questions from the floor, Board Chairman Arcuri referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further consideration and recommendation at their next meeting, scheduled for 7:30pm on May 26th, 2015 in the Board 5 office on Myrtle Avenue.

He announced the next item on the Board agenda as:

Presentation

Re: Go Smart NYC Program

by William Carry, Director of Special Programs, and
Alex Keating, Senior Project Manager,
NYC Department of Transportation

William Carry said that Go Smart NYC is a pilot program that is being launched by the Department of Transportation in June to encourage walking, biking, carpooling, and traveling by public transportation. He said that Go Smart NYC's mission is to make sure everyone who lives, works or runs a business in the pilot program area of Community Board 5, Queens, which includes Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village, and Glendale, is aware of all the options that they have to get around, improve their fitness, save money, reduce traffic congestion, and help to maintain a sustainable environment in the city. He introduced his colleague, Alex Keating, to give a power point presentation about this pilot program.

Alex Keating began by saying that this pilot program is funded by a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) grant provided by the US Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). He said that a major goal of this pilot program is to assist local residents and commuters to find the best way to get to their destination, in travelling around the city. He said that as part of this pilot program, 46,000 local residents who live in the target area will receive a package of information in the mail, beginning the week of June 16th, 2015. He said that anyone who signs up to participate in this pilot program will receive a free gift of a custom travel kit, as well as information about local events. As he spoke, a map of the target area in the Board 5 area was displayed on screen, showing a portion of Ridgewood, and most of Glendale, Middle Village and Maspeth.

Mr. Keating said that their plan will involve local businesses in the Board 5 area in attracting pedestrians to walk along commercial corridors, instead of driving to and from each shopping trip.

In response to questions from the floor, Mr. Keating said that targeted mailings will be sent to homes where there is a much greater degree of car ownership in the Board 5 area. Anyone who lives, works or travels through the Board 5 area is eligible to participate in this pilot project, he said. He explained that, as part of this project, a local ad campaign will be designed to involve local businesses with the goal of encouraging shoppers to walk, bike or carpool to and from destinations in this Board area, as well as any other destinations in the city. In addition, Mr. Keating said that the pilot program includes funding

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for the installation of a City Bench and City Rack placements in the target area. He said that, beginning on June 17th, 2015, participants may register for this pilot project by visiting: www.LetsGoSmart.nyc.

When asked how much money was allocated for this pilot program, Mr. Carry said that \$2.5 Million was awarded to the Dept. of Transportation under this grant program. However, the project has to meet certain benchmarks on a quarterly basis, in order to be fully funded, he said. The Board 5 area is the first pilot area to be included in this project. Over the next two years, three to four other community districts will be invited to participate, he said.

In response to a question from the floor, Mr. Carry said that local historic sites and places of interest will be designated on the travel map that will be available to everyone who chooses to participate in this project.

Board Chairman Arcuri thanked them for their informative presentation and encouraged them to meet with Theodore Renz, a Board member, and Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue BID, to discuss outreach for this project.

PUBLIC FORUM

Tyler Myers, manager of the Knockdown Center, located at 52-19 Flushing Avenue in Maspeth, asked that Board members reconsider their vote recommending that the State Liquor Authority deny their application for a liquor license at this site. He said that he personally lives with his family within walking distance of this site, and that he has 12 years' work experience in promotional events. He welcomed everyone to attend an open house on Saturday and Sunday, May 16th and 17th, from 2pm to 6pm, and from 4pm to 8pm on Wednesday, May 20th. He described the building as a beautiful historic structure, with large windows along the outer walls that let in a lot of light. He said that the building contains 45,000 sq. ft. and is located on a lot that covers more than 100,000 sq. ft. Packets of information about this site were distributed.

Board Chairman Arcuri said that the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee will meet to review this matter at their next committee meeting at 7:30pm on May 26th, in the Board 5 office. He said that Executive Committee will meet to discuss this matter, subsequent to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee's meeting.

Laura Regan, a principal of Outerborough Arts, Inc., said that she is very interested in hearing more about the proposed NYC Go Smart Program, particularly the aspect of promoting local businesses and shops to the general public. She said that she was disappointed to learn that a Starbucks coffee shop is planning to open near the Myrtle/Wyckoff Avenue transit hub in Ridgewood.

Kori Petrovic, a representative of the YouthMarket/GrowNYC, announced that the Youth Green Market will be open once again on Saturdays throughout the summer, beginning on July 11th, 2015 at Ridgewood Memorial Plaza, located at Cypress Avenue and Myrtle Avenue, in Ridgewood. He said that the Farmers Market will be open from 8am to 4pm on Saturdays, from July 11th to November 21st, this year. He said that the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District is a sponsor of this project, and local youth hired by the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council will operate the market. He welcomed everyone to shop for farm fresh produce at this local farmers market stand. Flyers were distributed.

Glenn Dyer, a founder of the Ridgewood Tenants and Neighborhood Association, said that their organization plans to hold more community forums to address the loss of rent-stabilized apartments in this area. He said that he believes that tenant cooperatives could help to preserve the affordable housing stock in the city.

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Lucy Dolce, Program Director of the Federazione Italo-Americana di Brooklyn & Queens and a former Community Board member, announced that the Mayor's Office granted their organization a permit to hold the annual Fresh Pond Road Festival on Sept. 3rd through Sept. 6th, 2015. She welcomed local not-for-profit organizations to participate in this year's festival by offering services free-of-charge to the community at this local event. She welcomed calls for more information about where and when to set up a table at her work phone number: (718) 366-9077, and cell phone number: (347) 702-1433. She said that she would be happy to provide whatever accommodations are necessary to local service organizations free-of-charge.

Martyna Florczak, President of Polish Gift of Life, Inc., spoke about her organization's mission to raise funds to pay for medical care for children who have been diagnosed with cancer. She said that their organization recently held a fundraiser at the Knockdown Center, which was attended by more than 600 people, and everyone enjoyed themselves. She asked the Board to reconsider their opposition to granting a liquor license to these premises.

David Sklar, owner of the Knockdown Center, located at 52-19 Flushing Avenue, in Maspeth, gave a brief history of his family's origins in the Maspeth community and ownership of this property. He said that he will always remember working in the window factory which his father operated. He said the family business closed after his father's death. Now, his two young boys look forward to visiting this building with him, when local events are held there. He said that he treasures his childhood memories of living in Queens, and wants to preserve his family legacy for all to enjoy. He requested the Board to reconsider their opposition to granting a liquor license at this site.

Dawn Scala, a member of the Glendale-Middle Village Coalition, gave a brief update on the status of their organization's Article 78 Proceeding in State Supreme Court on April 29th, 2015. She said that no decision in this case has been rendered; the case is under advisement by the court. She said that the Coalition also filed a zoning challenge to the building alteration plans that were approved by the Dept. of Buildings, which would permit a transitional housing facility at 78-16 Cooper Avenue in Glendale.

Ms. Scala also said that the NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer recently rejected the contract signed by Samaritan Village and the former Pan Am Hotel on Queens Boulevard.

Board Chairman Arcuri said that the Comptroller's office has not approved the contract between the owner of the building and Samaritan Village. He said that he believes the Dept. of Buildings incorrectly approved the plans.

Paul Kerzner, President of the Greater Ridgewood Restoration Corporation, spoke about the graffiti removal program that Greater Ridgewood Restoration has been operating for the past 23 years. He welcomed calls to their office at (718) 366-8721, to report graffiti-prone locations in the Board 5 area. He said that their crews use a power-wash spray to clean graffiti off brick buildings, and paint over metal or wood surfaces.

Joseph Zakrzewski, homeowner of 59-59 59 Place, in Maspeth, reported that the roof of his neighbor's Garage, behind 59-61 59 Place, appears to be collapsed, and the rest of the structure is in hazardous condition now. He said that his neighbor refuses to take any responsibility to maintain his property.

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.

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Board Chairman Arcuri recognized the newly-appointed Board members who were absent from last month's Board Meeting, and asked them to introduce themselves to the full Board. Kathleen Knight, a long-time Ridgewood resident, said that she attended local public schools in Ridgewood, and is currently employed in the New York City Public Affairs office of Google, Inc. Tobias Sheppard-Bloch, a Glendale resident, said that he is self-employed as a contractor, and very interested in transportation issues. Karamjit Dhaliwal, a Glendale resident, said that he came to this country with his family 27 years ago, and is very grateful for the opportunity to become a U.S. citizen and raise his family in Glendale.

The Board Chairman advised everyone that the State Liquor Authority scheduled a reconsideration hearing on May 5, 2015, regarding the Knockdown Center's application for a liquor license, under the corporate name of DMI, Inc. He said that last year, the Board voted to oppose this request for a liquor license. Due to the time constraints involved, he directed the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee to review this matter at their next meeting and submit a recommendation to the Executive Committee for their consideration and action.

Regarding the FY 2015 Internal Budget of Community Board 5-Queens, the Board Chairman said that the District Manager has not received a merit increase in the past 8 years. He said that in carefully reviewing the Internal Budget, he found that there is currently a surplus of \$5,000 in the Board's overall operating budget, which could be allocated to cover the cost of a 2% salary increase for the District Manager, that is retroactive to July 1st, 2014. He noted that other staff members of the Board received 2% raises this year, as part of union negotiations with Mayor de Blasio. He said that the Executive Committee recommends the adoption of the proposed budget modification. Copies of the proposed budget modifications were distributed to each Board member for their review. The Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the matter, which carried unanimously by a vote - 43 - in favor; -0 - opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

MINUTES

Board Chairman Arcuri asked Board members to review the minutes of the April 8, 2015 Board Meeting. John Maier made a motion to approve the Minutes, and was seconded by Peter Comber. 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.

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) Connbro Tavern Corp. d/b/a **Connolly's Corner** 71-15/17/19 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 2) Esperanza Food Corp. d/b/a **Caribe Bar** 54-55 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **Serbian Association of NY** 72-54 65th Place, Glendale, NY 11385
- 4) * **Hush Brothers Inc.** 70-10 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 5) Scorpion Café Sporting Social Club Corp. d/b/a **Scorpion Café** 792 Onderdonk Ave, Ridgewood, NY
- 6) **R&B Restaurant** 54-20 Flushing Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

- 1) **Bambino Pizza III Corp.** 56-56 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Sports Club Tirana LLC** 756 Fairview Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

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- 3) **Milk & Pull 2 Inc.** 778 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) Victoria Grimaldi d/b/a **La Pizzeria** 89-05 Metropolitan Avenue, Rego Park, NY 11374
- 5) GLK Bakery & Café Inc. d/b/a **59 Grand** 58-16 59 Street, Maspeth, NY 11378

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) 55-26 69th Street Corp. d/b/a **Rosa's Pizza** 55-26 69th Street, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 2) **La Canoa Inc.** 651 Onderdonk Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **Andrew & MJ, Inc. d/b/a Andrew's Pizza** 79-22 Eliot Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 4) **Ridgewood K and K Inc.** 341 St. Nicholas Avenue – Space 6, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Alteration Application

- 1) * **Julia's Beer and Wine Bar** 818 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
(Amended to include seating in outside gated area)

*Indicates outdoor seating area.

Board Chairman Arcuri pointed out that the Community Board did not receive any new liquor license notifications in the past month.

Demolition Notices

The Board Chairman informed Board members of the following demolition notices that were received by Board staff during the past month: **64-27 75 Street**, a 2-car garage, in Middle Village; **1714/1716 Summerfield Street**, a 2-family house with rear garages, and **336 St. Nicholas Avenue**, a vacant warehouse, and **350 St. Nicholas Avenue**, a former laundromat, 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.

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

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Catherine Moore invited everyone to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony in front of Queens Borough Hall at 11am on Thursday, May 21st, 2015. Ms. Moore reminded everyone that all newly-appointed Board members and reappointed Board members are required to attend the Orientation and Training Session tomorrow night, from 5:30pm to 9pm, May 14th, 2015 in the NY Hall of Science, in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. The Swearing-In Ceremony will be conducted at the same location on Monday, June 8th, 2015, beginning at 6pm. She announced that awards will be given to several Board members for their many years of service, including: Robert Cermeli, for 25 years of service; Lorraine Sciulli, for 20 years of service; and Peter Comber, Katherine Masi, Catherine Sumsky and Maryanna Zero, for 10 years of service on Community Board 5, Queens. They received a round of applause.

On behalf of NY State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Neil Giannelli congratulated all of the Board members who will receive awards for their service this year. He said that Senator Addabbo plans to hold a Town Hall Meeting at Maspeth Town Hall, starting at 7pm tomorrow night. Regarding the proposed plans to convert the vacant warehouse at 78-16 Cooper Avenue into a homeless residence for families, he said that the Senator remains opposed to this proposal and continues to meet with state and local elected officials to raise the community's concerns about this matter.

Regarding the Recycling Day Event in the Forest Park Bandshell Parking Lot on Sunday, April 26th, he said

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that two truckloads of clothing were donated to the Salvation Army, over 4 tons of paper were shredded at the event, and countless tons of recycled electronics were removed from the City's waste stream. He thanked State Assemblyman Mike Miller for co-sponsoring this event for the past several years. He also announced that the annual Job Fair for Seniors will be held this Friday, May 15th, from 10am to 2pm in the Kew Gardens Community Center, which is located at 80-02 Kew Gardens Road. Flyers were distributed.

On behalf of Congresswoman Grace Meng, Jordan Goldes announced that the Congresswoman was recently appointed the Assistant Majority Whip in the House of Representatives. He said that their office has been working on airport noise reduction issues with the Federal Aviation Administration. He welcomed constituents to contact staff in their office, located at 118-35 Queens Boulevard, Suite 1610, in Forest Hills by calling (718) 445-7861.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Mike Miller, David Renz welcomed everyone to participate in their Health and Safety Event from 10am to 2pm on Saturday, June 13th in the Forest Park Bandshell Parking Lot in Glendale. For more information, he welcomed calls to their office at (718) 805-0950. Flyers were distributed.

On behalf of Council Member Reynoso, Kevin Worthington said that their office is working to create a housing coalition in Ridgewood to raise awareness of housing rights and responsibilities, and coordinate a local housing task force with city and state agencies, to address the increasing number of buy-out offers to tenants who live in rent stabilized apartments, harassment cases, reduction in building services, and illegal construction work and partitioning of rent stabilized apartments. Flyers were distributed.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT **Gary Giordano**

The District Manager reported that on Thursday, April 29th, a candlelight vigil took place at the Ridgewood Veterans Triangle, at Cypress and Myrtle Avenue, in order to mourn the earthquake victims in Nepal, pray for all those who were injured by the quake, and to honor all of the volunteers. He said that the vigil was coordinated by the Nepalese American Youth Association and Ridgewood Nepalese Society. He pointed out that over 3,000 Nepalese immigrants reside in the Board 5 area.

District Manager Giordano reported that, as part of a citywide bridge painting project, the NYC Department of Transportation plans to begin sand-blasting the paint on the Myrtle Avenue Bridge over the Jackie Robinson Parkway this week. He said that most of the work is being completed at night. Traffic lanes in one direction on the Parkway will be closed while this work is underway. This project is expected to be complete within the next few weeks. He said that another major capital improvement of the Jackie Robinson Parkway, from Pennsylvania Avenue to the Grand Central Parkway, is expected to begin in June. The project includes a new roadway surface and replacement of concrete, where needed, and the installation of new lighting, guard rails and signage. For the duration of this project, there will be times when both lanes in one direction will be closed to traffic. Most of this work will be completed at night, between 11pm and 5am.

Regarding current sewer and water improvement projects in the Board 5 area, the District Manager said that the water main replacement work has been completed on Calamus Avenue between 69 Street and 74 Street. And, most of the utility lines have been relocated, he said, so the next phase of this project can begin. He said that the contractor will install a 5 ft. by 8 ft. reinforced concrete box sewer in Calamus Avenue and in 69 Street, between Calamus Avenue and 47 Avenue. He advised everyone to try to avoid driving up 69

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Street for the duration of this \$20 Million project. Lee Rottenberg said that the contractor has been doing a great job monitoring traffic flow on 69 Street.

The District Manager reminded everyone that another major sewer and water main improvement project in the Board 5 area is scheduled to begin this year 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 this section of Middle Village. This project will also include new water main installation.

The District Manager stated that over the past 10 years, the Board has allocated funds to cover the cost of graffiti-removal at thousands of sites in the Board 5 area. This year, the program was interrupted due to concerns raised by the Queens Borough President's staff. He said that in the interim, the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council has been allocating funds for this program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez reported that the Board Chairman Vincent Arcuri, Mercy Wong and he recently attended a presentation regarding the Department of City Planning's proposed Zoning for Quality Housing Affordability which was conducted in Queens Borough Hall. He said that there were lots of questions raised regarding the potential impact that the proposed zoning text amendment might have on the surrounding community. He said that the consensus of everyone in attendance was to request further study.

Mr. Sanchez welcomed input from Board members regarding the request to reconsider the Board's opposition to the application for a liquor license submitted to the State Liquor Authority on behalf of the Knockdown Center, at 52-09 Flushing Avenue, in Maspeth. He said that the committee will meet in the Board 5 office at 7:30pm on Tuesday, May 26th to review this request for reconsideration.

Transportation Services and Public Transit Services Committee

John Maier, Co-Chair

John Maier reported that the committee met with representatives of the Department of Transportation on Tuesday, April 28th, 2015 in the Board 5 office to review plans to improve the pedestrian corridor at the Intersection of Forest Avenue, Myrtle Avenue and George Street. He said that there has been a high incidence of vehicular and pedestrian accidents at this intersection in the past few years. The committee approved plans to reconfigure the intersection by increasing the width of the sidewalk where George Street meets Forest Avenue and Myrtle Avenue, in addition to widening the angle of the painted lines of the Pedestrian Crosswalks at this intersection.

Mr. Maier reported that the Grand Street Bridge will be closed on Saturdays for the next four weeks, to permit extensive repair of the bridge deck. He said that no committee meeting is scheduled this month.

Public Safety Services Committee

Robert Holden

Bob Holden reported that the committee met in the Board 5 office on Monday, May 7th, with the Executive Officer of the 104th Police Precinct and Community Affairs Officer Charles Sadler. He reported that there has been an 8% decrease in the incidence of crime in the precinct, year-to-date, as compared to the prior 12 month period. He said that the number of arrests have also decreased since last year. He said that there were

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8,600 radio runs by officers responding to calls for assistance in this precinct during the month of January. He pointed out that the precinct needs an additional 15 police officers in order to improve their response time to 911 calls about crimes in progress.

Mr. Holden said that the Board received a letter of complaint from a resident of Doran Avenue who objected to the controlled explosion that took place last month, in connection with the film studio adjacent to Atlas Park.

Mr. Holden said that the committee reviewed the policies and procedures that several other Community Boards have adopted regarding liquor license applications and renewals. He suggested that the Executive Committee might consider revising the Board's By-Laws in order to adopt some of their provisions. John Maier agreed that the Board should adopt a much more proactive role with regard to applications for liquor licenses and their renewals.

Parks Services Committee

Steven Fiedler

Steven Fiedler reported that he just attended a Visioning and Scoping Meeting for the proposed rehabilitation of Frank Principe Park on Maurice Avenue, at the Long Island Expressway Westbound Service Road. He said that the meeting was hosted by Council Member Elizabeth Crowley and the NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation at Maspeth Town Hall. He said that the budget allocation for this project is \$5.7 Million. He welcomed everyone to view the artist rendering of the proposed project in the back of the cafeteria.

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 requested that all current Executive Committee members stand up, so they could be recognized by all of the Board members who were present at the meeting.

Dorie Figliola nominated Vincent Arcuri to serve as Chairperson of the Board. Walter Clayton nominated Walter Sanchez to serve as 1st Vice-Chair. Patricia Grayson nominated Katherine Masi to serve as Treasurer. Peter Comber nominated Patricia Grayson to serve as a Member-at-Large. John Maier nominated Margaret O'Kane to serve as Secretary. Steven Fiedler nominated Walter Clayton to serve as a Member-at-Large. Connie Santos nominated Fred T. Haller to serve as a Member-at-Large. Theodore Renz nominated John Maier to serve as a Member-at-Large. Walter Clayton nominated Steven Fiedler to serve as a Member-at-Large. Walter Sanchez nominated Theodore Renz to serve as a Member-at-Large. And, Tom Dowd nominated Dmytro Fedkowskyj to serve as 2nd Vice-Chair. All of the nominees who were present at the meeting accepted their nominations. Katherine Masi and Dmytro Fedkowskyj were both 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.

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 9:40pm.