



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 Remote Community Board 5 Public Meeting

May 12, 2021

Board Members Present

Bhubaneshor Adhikari; Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Jessica Boiardi; Alyssa Bonilla; Eric Butkiewicz; Rachel Caracci; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Patricia Crowley; Maria de la Cruz; Brian Dooley; Derek Evers; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Dr. Sukh Gurung; Fred T. Haller; Fred Hoefflerle; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Diego Leclery; Edward Lettau; John Maier; Patricia Maltezos; Edgar Mantel; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Marcin Nadgorski; April Narsasian; Margaret O’Kane; Michael O’Kane; Donald Passantino; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Dennis Stephan; Catherine Sumsy; Katarzyna Syta; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Michaeline Von Drathen; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Antonetta Binanti; Kinga Kurzyna; Michael Porcelli; Kelvin Rodriguez; Walter H. Sanchez

STAFF

Gary Giordano, District Manager-CB5Q
Laura Mulvihill, Community Associate-CB5Q

GUESTS

Joy Chen, Borough Planner, and Sarit Platkin, Associate Planner, Dept. of City Planning
Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blvd, Kew Gardens, NY 11424
Lucille Songhai, Asst. Director, Government Affairs, NYC Transit, 2 Broadway, NY, NY 10004

Before proceeding, the Board Chairperson stated that due to the COVID19 pandemic, our Monthly Board Meetings are being conducted remotely and livestreamed on the Zoom platform. Board members, staff and guests were provided a link to participate. Members of the public are welcome to view the livestream of this Board Meeting on YouTube, which will be posted on our CB5Q Website Homepage at www.nyc.gov/qnscb5 tomorrow.

Following the Salute to the Flag led by Donald Passantino, the Board Chairperson announced the first item on the Board Agenda as:

**PUBLIC HEARING RE: ZONING FOR ACCESSIBILITY (ZFA) – SUBWAY STATION ELEVATORS
N210270-ZRY**

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on May 12, 2021

Presentation by Joy Chen, Queens Planner, and Sarit Platkin, Associate Planner, NYC Dept. of City Planning; and Lucille Songhai, Asst. Dir. - NYC Transit Government Affairs

According to the Dept. of City Planning, this proposed Zoning Text Change is intended to allow the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to leverage private developments to help create more accessible subway stations, to help expedite a fully accessible transit system. Today, only about 30% of the subway stations in New York City are fully accessible.

Ms. Chen gave a power point presentation on this proposed citywide zoning text amendment. She said that the goal of the proposed text amendment is to achieve more systemwide accessibility on public train stations by allowing the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to collaborate more efficiently with the Department of City Planning and private developers.

To this end, Ms. Chen said that this proposal includes a system-wide transit easement requirement; and an expanded transit improvement bonus in high density areas, such as, Long Island City and Jamaica, in Queens. She said that under this proposal, the Community District 5, Queens area does not qualify as a high density area.

Ms. Chen introduced Lucille Songhai, Assistant Director of the NYC Transit Government Affairs Office, to explain in greater detail the MTA's plans to improve accessibility in the public transit system.

Ms. Songhai pointed out that most stations in the transit system were built before 1950. Since then, the MTA has made limited progress toward creating greater accessibility in the transit system. To-date, only 136 out of 493 subway or Staten Island Rail System stations are ADA-compliant and fully accessible, and 25 of 39 LIRR and Metro-North train stations are ADA accessible, she said.

Ms. Songhai said that many New Yorkers would benefit from more accessible transit stations, including people with disabilities, parents with young children, seniors and people with temporary injuries. In too many instances, she said that a subway ride that should take 20 minutes can take hours, due to the lack of accessibility for their ridership.

Regarding how this proposal would benefit the borough of Queens, she said that there are currently 130,000 Queens residents with an ambulatory disability, and 150,000 children under 5 years of age and 340,000 seniors over 65 years of age are residents of Queens. She reminded everyone that as part of the reconstruction of the Myrtle-Wyckoff L/M train station in 2008, three new elevators were added to provide ADA access to all the platforms in the station.

Ms. Songhai pointed out that, under the MTA's 2020-2024 Capital Program, more than \$5 Billion is dedicated to making 77 train stations accessible.

In summary, Ms. Chen said that the goal of this proposal is to ensure ADA accessibility in most zoning districts throughout the City. To this end, she said that it would provide zoning relief for easements that are: 1) in new developments or enlargements that are located within 50 feet of mass transit stations, and 2) in residential districts that permit multifamily occupancy, and commercial or manufacturing occupancy on zoning lots of at least 50,000 sq. ft. She said that the proposed zoning relief would be applicable to floor area and open space requirements, height and setback requirements, parking regulations, restrictions on the use of the easement space, and amenities in the surrounding streetscape.

Sarit Platkin, Associate Planner in the Dept. of City Planning, said that under this proposal, developers are required to meet with representatives of the MTA in order to request site approval for the installation of an elevator to transport commuters to and from station platforms.

In closing, Ms. Chen said that this Zoning for Accessibility Text Amendment will complete the Public Review process on June 14th, 2021.

Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri opened the floor to questions and comment.

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on May 12, 2021

John Maier asked who would be responsible to maintain and service the elevators that would be used by commuters in the transit system. Ms. Songhai responded that the MTA would have the sole authority to decide on the eligibility of any proposed sites, as well as to build, install and maintain the elevators that are in service at these sites. She said that while the zoning text amendment would grant an easement for the use of each site to comply with ADA accessibility requirements, the MTA will reserve sole authority on deciding where and how to build, install and maintain all of the elevators that are in service at each site.

Mr. Maier said that, in other words, under this proposal the MTA would have the right to build, operate and maintain the elevators at each station.

Ms. Songhai explained that under this proposal, the MTA will meet with prospective developers who meet the eligibility guidelines established by the Dept. of City Planning and have requested that the MTA consider their site in order to meet mandated requirements for ADA-accessibility. She said that the MTA and the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission will have 60 days to decide if an easement is needed at each site. If the site does not meet their criteria, the developer is released from the easement requirement, she said. If it does meet their criteria, the MTA consults with the developer to determine the type of easement and its dimensions, and the developer submits a site plan to the MTA for approval.

Sukh Gurung, a Board member, asked for more specifics about the parameters of the 50 ft. easement, including whether or not the dimensions of the easement are both horizontal and vertical. The Board Chairperson asked if the 50 ft. radius is measured from the overhang, or from the MTA right-of-way? Sarit Platkin replied that the NYC Dept. of Buildings calculates the dimensions of a potential easement whenever the construction site plans are submitted for their approval. She said that the size and shape of an easement will vary depending on the location, and cited the example for a transit easement displayed in the power point presentation which shows not only the elevator shaft, but the staircase and fare booth, as well.

Fred Haller, a Board member, asked if there's any compensation paid to property owners in order to establish an easement on their property. Lucille Songhai replied that instead of monetary compensation in this case, it would provide zoning flexibility to offset the potential burden of placing an easement on the development. Sarit Platkin pointed out that the MTA and Dept. of City Planning will only select sites that are the most advantageous for the overall community.

Robert Cermeli, a Board member, asked what happens if the property owner opposes the installation of an elevator on their property. Lucille Songhai replied that the MTA is only targeting areas where the installation of an elevator would be most helpful, and therefore, the most welcome. He asked a follow-up question regarding the situation where a disabled person would have to take a bus to get to an ADA-accessible train station, would he/she get a free bus ride. Lucille Songhai replied that they'd have to pay the fare for the bus.

Derek Evers, a Board member, asked if the elevators that are installed under this proposal would be open and operational around the clock, even when the building is closed. Lucille Songhai replied in the affirmative. He asked a follow-up question about what would happen in the event that the building is sold before the easement is granted. Sarit Platkin replied that the easement is directly connected to the proposed development plan. She said that if the new owner decides not to pursue the proposed expansion or new construction, then the easement will not be granted.

Alyssa Bonilla, a Board member, asked if the installation of ADA-accessible elevators in subway stations is dependent upon private development in the City. Lucille Songhai replied that it's been very challenging to find train stations with enough space to accommodate an elevator shaft and other amenities that may be needed at each site. She said that this proposal would expedite the planning and construction process to the extent that private developers are willing to submit their applications for consideration.

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on May 12, 2021

Paul Kerzner, a Board member, asked for an estimate of the construction cost per elevator under this proposal. Lucille Songhai replied that the installation of a new elevator can cost as much as \$150 Million. Ken Rehberger, a Board member, asked who operates the elevator after hours, when the business is closed. Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri replied that there's no security before the business opens or after it's closed, except for those who are assigned to rotating patrols of the subway system.

Mr. Rehberger also asked if an elevator would be installed in the center of a train station that has tracks heading in two different directions. Lucille Songhai agreed that would be preferable, but sometimes an elevator has been installed on both sides of a train platform because of space constraints in narrow train stations.

Edgar Mantel, a Board member, asked if the benefits of the zoning bonus are transferrable to any other sites, comparable to air rights, for example. Sarit Platkin replied that the zoning relief that is granted in each case is tied to the site plan for each specific site, and is not transferrable.

The Board Chairperson closed the public hearing and referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further consideration. He announced the next item on the Board Agenda:

PUBLIC HEARING RE: CITYWIDE HOTELS ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT - # N210406-ZRY

Presentation by Joy Chen, Queens Planner, NYC Dept. of City Planning

According to the Dept. of City Planning, this proposed zoning text change would require City Planning Commission approval for new and enlarged hotels and motels, tourist cabins and boatels in commercial, mixed-use and paired M1/R Zoning Districts. This new, proposed Special Permit requirement would override existing hotel special permit requirements.

Joy Chen gave a power point presentation on the proposed text amendment that she said has a goal of creating a consistent framework for hotel development and ensuring that hotels do not negatively affect the surrounding area. She pointed out that over the past decade from 2009 to 2019, New York City saw record growth in the tourism industry and its hotel pipeline, expanding from a capacity of around 80,000 available hotel rooms in NYC in 2009 to over 120,000 available hotel rooms in NYC in 2019, to accommodate an ever-increasing number of tourists that reached its peak at 67 million visitors in 2019. She said that the rapid growth of new hotels throughout the city has led to the issuance of a variety of special permits in recent years.

In 2018, Ms. Chen said, a special permit was adopted for hotels in M-1 Districts citywide. However, different criteria for varying locations and zoning districts has resulted in an inconsistent review of new hotel construction. Besides, she said that transient accommodations may affect development patterns in ways that can affect the future use and development of a neighborhood and introduce conflicts with businesses.

Ms. Chen said that, in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had a disastrous effect on the NYC hotel industry and its workers. Between January and November of 2020, she estimated that a net total of 146 hotels out of 705 closed, which represents a total of 42,030 hotel rooms that were no longer available. She estimated that a total of 197,000 jobs were lost in the leisure and hospitality industry during 2020.

For this reason, Ms. Chen explained that the Dept. of City Planning proposes to establish new criteria for a special permit in zoning districts where hotels are currently allowed. The proposed citywide special permit will replace existing special district special permits, and the existing M1 Hotel special permit will retain its findings that are specific to light industrial areas. She said that the new special permit findings are proposed to be that the hotel use shall not impair the future use and development of the surrounding area.

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on May 12, 2021

Ms. Chen said that this proposed Zoning Text Amendment includes the following recovery provisions that are intended to restore the hotel inventory to pre-COVID levels:

1) **a 6-Year Window for Hotel Applications Filed with the Dept. of Buildings to be constructed**, which would establish modified vesting to allow projects in the Dept. of Buildings pipeline to advance, even if foundations are not complete by adoption of this Text Amendment;

2) **Exclusions of recent or active land use applications**, in order to establish that any project approved by the City Planning Commission or the Board of Standards and Appeals after 2018 will not require a special permit; and Applications that begin City Planning Commission public review, and are on file with the Board of Standards and Appeals prior to the adoption date of this Text Amendment, will not require a special permit; and

3) **6-Year Window for Vacant Hotels to Reopen**, in order to allow hotels that exist on the date of adoption, should they become vacant, to retain their use 6 years from the date of adoption, without a special permit; and to allow existing hotels to convert to another use and may convert back to hotel use until 6 years after the date of adoption of this Text Amendment.

Ms. Chen summarized the proposed changes in the Citywide Hotels Zoning Text Amendment as follows:

All new hotels will have to:

File for a Special Permit with the Dept. of City Planning;

Go through the full Uniformed Land Use Review Process (ULURP) for approval

Meet the findings of the Special Permit and will be subject to site plan approval

Ms. Chen explained that the current rules for Public Purpose Facilities (categorized as Use Group 5) that are developed solely for a public purpose, such as temporary housing for the homeless, will not change. She said that allowing these facilities in a variety of zoning districts has allowed the City to meet its legal obligations to provide emergency shelter and to provide for social services that serve the needs of these populations.

In closing, she said that the proposed Text Amendment is intended to address the land use concerns related to commercial hotels and is neutral with regard to current policies related to citing social service and shelter facilities that also have sleeping accommodations.

The Board Chairperson opened the floor to questions and comments.

Paul Kerzner, a Board member, commented that he doesn't think the Board's been allowed sufficient time to review and discuss either one of these Zoning and Land Use Review matters within 30 days.

Dennis Stephan, a Board member, requested further clarification on the proposed Citywide Hotels Text Amendment. He asked if the terms of this proposed Zoning Text Amendment would be applicable to the citing of public facilities, such as, temporary housing shelters for homeless. Ms. Chen replied that it does not apply to public facilities, such as homeless shelters.

The Board Chairperson closed the public hearing and referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further consideration and to report back to the Board at next month's Board Meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

The District Manager Gary Giordano read aloud the following statements from local residents:

Statement submitted by Will DeMaggio requesting the Community Board's support the creation of Cypress Central Community Garden in Glendale:

"Dear Community Board 5: I am writing to express enthusiastic support of the creation of Cypress Central Community Garden, located at the corner of Cypress Hills Street and Central Avenue, on the border of Glendale and Ridgewood.

This project also needs YOUR support, as our community board. A community garden in this location would greatly improve the lives of Glendale & Ridgewood residents who have very limited access to green space — the closest grassy park within safe walking distance is Forest Park, which is over two

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on May 12, 2021

miles from the garden's location.

Our neighbors deserve better. Gardening and being outdoors improves mental health and can be enjoyed by people of all ages. Additionally, a community garden in this location would bring more activity to Myrtle Avenue, and in turn, could help revitalize its economy.

We have a wonderful opportunity to beautify our neighborhood here. A community garden is desperately wanted and needed in this space. It could serve as an educational garden for the three public elementary schools and many other early childhood centers within walking distance. The site receives full sun nearly all day and could provide food for our hungry neighbors, as well a place for people to connect and relax. And a garden full of native pollinators would attract monarch butterflies—a crucial part of our ecosystem, whose habitats have dwindled in recent years.

The organizers of Cypress Central Community Garden have reached out to Stop & Shop, the owners of the land, to obtain permission to garden in the space, but they have not responded. We need the support of local elected officials like you to create this important space.”

The Board Chairperson replied that the Community Board has since received correspondence from the management of Stop and Shop Supermarket stating that they're currently planning to develop this site and are not interested in establishing a community garden there. They would, however, support the development of a community garden in another location, instead of this site.

The District Manager commented that this site's been vacant for the past 15 years or so. He said that when they originally purchased and cleared the site of 6 private homes, they had planned to expand the supermarket on that site, but nothing ever came of it. He commented that they're probably very concerned about the liability issues involved with establishing a community garden adjacent to their parking lot.

Diego Leclery, a Board member, asked what the Community Board could do to support a community garden on this lot. The Board Chairperson replied that the Community Board has no jurisdiction over private property. He explained that if the property owners don't want to pursue this idea, there's no further action that our Community Board can take in this matter.

Statement submitted by Nobin Miah, a homeowner in Maspeth:

“I recently purchased a home in Maspeth and would like to address the Community Board with the following: I live on a narrow 2-way street and there are cars always speeding by. What can be done to add a speed bump on my block and on every block on Maspeth? This is a very family-oriented neighborhood and with the weather turning warmer, more kids including mine will be playing outside. Speed bumps are the best way to slow cars down for the safety of our children.”

The Board Chairperson referred the matter to the Transportation Committee for further consideration.

Statement from Yuka Anziano, the owner of Saint Seneca Store, 797 Cypress Avenue, in Ridgewood:

“I would like to address the motorcycles and dirt bikes that continue to terrorize the neighborhood every weekend. They ride in extremely large packs, stop the traffic and run through red lights, riding up the public sidewalks and popping wheelies down the streets.

It's not only a danger to the public but to other motorists, and cyclists.

I would also like to address the upswing in mopeds and electric bicycles that are also riding on the sidewalks to bypass the streetlights, stop signs and traffic.

There is zero policing which is why it continues and the number of bikers in this motorcycle club is growing. The neighborhood is feeling lawless and as a business owner which is affected by these motorcycles in front of my business, I would like to know what is being done about this.”

The Board Chairperson referred the matter to the Transportation Committee for further consideration.

Mario Matos, Jr., Community Liaison at Maspeth High School, submitted the following statement:

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on May 12, 2021

“Greetings, We hope when you hear this message you, your families, and your loved ones are safe, healthy, and most importantly, vaccinated.

During April and May, our school community has been actively engaged in Blended Learning using the Google Classroom platform. Students engage with classroom teachers on a daily basis, both in person and via Zoom, departments actively collaborate virtually, and administration continuously provides support and guidance in all educational matters.

In addition to the daily updates and announcements provided by faculty and support staff, Maspeth High School’s guidance department continues to actively reach out to families in order to provide information regarding vaccine availability; ensure students are actively engaged in remote learning daily; and be available to support students and families with emotional and academic concerns.

Our Senior Class of 2021 will take part in a LIVE, in person and socially-distanced Commencement Ceremony on June 21st on the Great Lawn of St. John’s University, in Jamaica, Queens.

Lastly, our Maspeth Makes a Difference Club has been recognized for its community cleanup and graffiti removal efforts both in local newspapers and personally by Assemblyman Brian Barnwell.

One final note, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected Queens at the heart of where many of our school families reside. Our school community extends its utmost gratitude and appreciation to all the essential workers providing sorely needed services during this year-long crisis. Please visit our website at www.mhs.nyc daily for news and updates. Stay healthy.

Respectfully submitted, Mario Matos, Jr., Community Liaison for Maspeth High School”

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri

MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month’s Board Meeting which was conducted on April 14, 2021. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion by Walter Clayton, that was seconded by Diego Leclery.

Staff member Laura Mulvihill took attendance of Board members and staff who were present at the meeting.

Laura Mulvihill read the following statements from several local Elected Officials:

Statement from NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer submitted by Haris Khan

"Hope everyone is safe and well. Please reach out to us if we can be of help with any constituent concerns, you can reach me at hkhan@comptroller.nyc.gov or by phone at 929-512-1946.

I wanted to share an update on our work yesterday. Comptroller Stringer sent a letter to U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., outlining federal recommendations for advancing diversity, equity and inclusion nationwide based on successful Comptroller initiatives in New York City. This letter, alongside our other reports, and newsletters can be found on <https://comptroller.nyc.gov>."

Statement from NYC Council Member Robert Holden – 30th Council District

“Hello neighbors, Community Board 5 members, and fellow elected officials. As a civic president and former Community Board 5 member for over three decades, serving on nearly 7-committees at some point, I sincerely appreciate the service you all do for the residents of Middle Village, Maspeth, Glendale, and Ridgewood. My office continues to work hard serving the constituents of Ridgewood, Middle Village, Maspeth, Glendale, Woodside, and Woodhaven and can be reached via telephone, at 718- 366-3900 and via email, at District30@council.nyc.gov. No task is too big or too small for us to handle, and we welcome all inquiries. My office has been inundated with phone calls, emails, and social media inquiries, on several quality of life issues. We heard from constituents of increased drag racing, speeding, and reckless driving. We have also received complaints of illegal car meet up’s, including in

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on May 12, 2021

portions of the 104 Pct, where folks drink and play loud music at all hours of the night. Not to mention these cars are illegally altered with noisy exhaust pipes and tinted windows. I have been a voice on this issue, and we will continue working with local precincts to cease this infraction on our quality of life. This Saturday, we will be hosting the postponed Mother's Day event together with the Parks Department and Home Depot at Juniper Valley Park, from noon to 2 pm. At the same time, Puppy Kitty NYC will be hosting their pet adoption event, and there will be a children's concert to keep everyone in good spirits. With some sense of normalcy coming back to our city, we will be hosting several events, including pet food giveaways, concerts, animal vaccine, and spay/neuter clinics, thyroid scans, self-defense classes, and community clean-ups. I hope to see you all at these events! As always, feel free to contact my office with any of your questions or concerns. Thank you again for your continued dedication to our communities, and I hope to see all of you soon."

Statement from NY State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, 15th S.D.

"Good Evening. As always, my team and I appreciate your efforts on the Community Board. The NYS Legislature has begun to review bills that will complete our calendar until the end of session in June. Please contact me if you want to weigh in on any legislative matter.

My Middle Village office, which never closed during the COVID pandemic, has been busy assisting individuals with unemployment claims and vaccination appointments. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance to anyone in the community.

My team and I have a few upcoming events: For the month of May, the Middle Village office will be a drop off point for our Spring Food Drive to benefit the Sacred Heart Food Pantry.

Also for May, the office will be a drop off point for the recycling of small electronics in partnership with the NYC Department of Sanitation.

On June 8th we are sponsoring a Virtual Hiring Event with Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services with a Virtual Interview Tips session for the first half-hour. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call the office for the Zoom link.

Free Prostate Exam Screening at the Middle Village office on Friday, June 18, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Men 40+ get a free PSA blood test. Must call the Howard Beach Office, at 718-738-1111 and speak to Anthony to make an appointment, as spots are limited. Thank you and stay safe."

Statement from Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, 38th A.D.

"I am proud to announce that I was able to secure ample state funding for the Glendale Civilian Observation Patrol (G-COP) in this year's State Budget. I thank G-COP for all their fine work for our community. This month, G-COP's help was central at both the Queens COVID Remembrance Day and several Recycling Events in Forest Park.

I recently was one of only a handful of Democrats that voted against the bill legalizing Marijuana. If anyone would like to speak with me about this vote, please feel free to call my office at 718-805-0950 or email me at rajkumarj@nyassembly.gov.

I authored and introduced a bill to make a lifesaving COVID-19 treatment (the monoclonal antibody) widely available. It already has over 20 co-sponsors, and I am working to make it law. My office was proud to work with the Governor's Office to bring a successful pop-up vaccination site to the district at Emanuel United Church of Christ on Woodhaven Blvd. These past few months, my office secured hundreds of vaccination appointments for constituents.

Last week, I introduced a historic bill to make Diwali a School Holiday in New York City. The bill has gained widespread support from elected leaders across all boroughs, and from Nepali leaders in Ridgewood whose families celebrate Diwali.

I am a proud member of the Assembly's Veterans Committee. My Veterans Advisory Committee for the neighborhood is taking shape and will launch around Memorial Day. Thank you to the entire Community

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on May 12, 2021

Board 5 for your dedication and work for our community. I am always a phone call away, and please remember that my office has expanded weekend hours and is open Saturdays from 11am to 2pm as well. Thank you.”

Staff member Laura Mulvihill read aloud the following statement from P.O. Berish at the 104th Pct:

Statement from the 104th Police Precinct submitted by P. O. Michael Berish, Community Affairs Unit:

“We are PROUD to report that in the 104th Precinct is down 17.6% for the past 28 Day Period and down 30.3% for the Year-to-Date. Some crimes that we continue to see are crimes of theft. Please continue to lock your vehicles along with not leaving any valuables inside. Please do not leave your keys in the ignition/key fob in the vehicles while you run into the store quickly, because these account for the majority of Grand Larceny of Auto crimes and could easily be prevented.

We wish you all a Happy Memorial Day as we remember all who gave their life for our nation.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the 104th Precinct Community Affairs office. Michael.Berish@nypd.org Phone (718) 386-2446”

Laura Mulvihill, CB5Q staff member, read aloud the following Liquor License notifications that were received at the Board office since last month’s Board Meeting:

LIQUOR, WINE and BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS and RENEWALS

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) **Middle Village Eats Corp.** 62-27 Fresh Pond Rd., Middle Village, NY 11379
- 2) Fumo Hookah Lounge Corp. d/b/a **Mahal** 66-28 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **The Drunk Crab Restaurant** 68-17 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) **La Canoa, Inc.** 651 Onderdonk Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Milan Sport Inc.** 73-11 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 3) KRG Pub Inc. d/b/a **Bridie’s Bar and Grill** 63-28 Woodhaven Blvd., Rego Park, NY 11374
- 4) **O’Neill’s of Maspeth, Inc.** 64-15/23 53 Drive, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 5) Popper’s Locarno LLC d/b/a **Holo** 15-63 Decatur Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) 5526 69th Street Corp. d/b/a **Rosa’s Pizza** 55-26 69 Street, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 2) Mama’s Corner Pizzeria Corp. d/b/a **Julia’s** 675 Onderdonk Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) *Cooper Atlas Gardens, Inc. d/b/a **Cooper Beer Garden** 8000 Cooper Avenue - Building DD28, Glendale, NY 11385

Other Notifications

1) **Fontana Pizzeria Inc 65-26 Metropolitan Avenue, in Middle Village** will be submitting a Class Change Application to change their existing Restaurant Wine License to a full On-Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License.

2) ***Café Rum Ltd. at 1050 Wyckoff Avenue, in Ridgewood** has amended their notification for a new On-Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License to include a Licensed Outdoor Patio or Deck.

*Licensed Outdoor Area

Staff member Laura Mulvihill reported that there were no demolition notices received at the Board Office since last month’s Board Meeting.

Regarding the Fumo Hookah Lounge, located at 66-28 Forest Avenue, the Board Chairperson asked if the State Liquor Authority has lifted the COVID-19 Moratorium on issuing or renewing licenses to operate hookah lounges. Laura Mulvihill replied that the Moratorium has not been lifted. She said that the proprietor informed her that they have no plans to make hookah pipes available for patrons to smoke until the Moratorium is lifted.

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on May 12, 2021

Ken Rehberger asked if Poppers Locarno had obtained a permit to expand their premises into the basement of their establishment. The Board Chairperson replied that, to his knowledge, their alteration plans were approved by the Dept. of Buildings.

District Manager Gary Giordano reported that he recently wrote to the State Liquor Authority Chairman Vincent Bradley to express serious concerns about the on-premises sale of alcoholic beverages at both the Café Rum Bar, at 1050 Wyckoff Avenue, and the Seneca Bar Corp., formerly known as Aby's Bar, at 681 Seneca Avenue, in Ridgewood. He said that the Board has received complaints regarding problems in and around both establishments.

Edward Lettau, a Board member, agreed with the District Manager's concerns about the ongoing problems in and around the bar located at 681 Seneca Avenue, in Ridgewood.

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

The District Manager reminded everyone that memorial ceremonies will be held on Memorial Day Weekend to commemorate the lives of members of the American Armed Forces who fought and died for our freedom.

The Board Chairperson announced that while there won't be any parades to mark the occasion this year, wreath laying ceremonies are planned at all the monuments on Myrtle Avenue on Monday, May 31st to commemorate Memorial Day. He welcomed everyone to attend these ceremonies.

Mr. Giordano asked Board members to please reply in writing to acknowledge receipt of the Queens Borough President's Handbook re: Equal Employment Opportunity Policies and Procedures. He said that these guidelines have been adopted by all Queens Community Boards. He asked that they sign, print and date the receipt that's been emailed to all Board members before returning it to our Board office via email at: qn05@cb.nyc.gov. The District Manager also reminded Board members that several Training Sessions have been scheduled for newly-appointed and reappointed Board members to participate in. Attendance at these Training Sessions is mandatory, and they will be livestreamed on the internet over the next 30 days, he said.

Regarding the status of several major capital improvements in our Board area, the District Manager reported that the contractor has begun work on the Reconstruction of the Turf Soccer and Football Field and Running Track in Juniper Valley Park. He said this project is slated for completion next year, on or before April 19th, 2022.

Regarding the Water and Sewer Main Reconstruction Project in Ridgewood, he said that work is progressing on schedule on Himrod Street between Cypress Avenue and Grandview Avenue where the contractor is currently installing a new trunk water main and sewer main. This project is expected to be complete in 2022, he said.

The District Manager also reported that the sewer reconstruction project on 70 Street between Calamus Avenue and the Long Island Expressway, in Maspeth, is proceeding on schedule. He said the contractor has begun micro-tunnelling underground on 70 Street, down as far as 60 feet deep in certain locations, to install new sewer mains as part of this project. Project completion is expected within 2 years, he said.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation Services Committee

John Maier

John Maier, Co-Chair of the Transportation Services Committee, reported that the Committee met remotely via Webex, on Tuesday, April 27th, 2021.

He said that the committee reviewed the status of several current and planned major capital improvement projects in our Board area, as well as traffic safety requests.

Regarding the painting of the M-Train BMT-Line structure in Ridgewood, he said that MTA workers have resumed painting the structure in Ridgewood. He said that some committee members raised concerns

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on May 12, 2021

about the condition of the structure underneath the platform of the Fresh Pond Road station, which the committee plans to investigate further with representatives of the MTA.

Mr. Maier reported that the Reconstruction of Wyckoff Avenue from Flushing Avenue to Cooper Avenue is stalled now, due to concerns about potential underground contamination of adjacent infrastructure in the vicinity of the Wolff Alport site on Irving Avenue, in Ridgewood. He said that the Dept. of Design and Construction has submitted a Pre-Design Investigation Plan for cleanup of contamination near the Wolff Alport site to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Regarding the proposed plans to replace and rebuild the Grand Street Bridge over the Newtown Creek in Maspeth, Mr. Maier said that the design type for this bridge has not been determined yet. He said that in the meantime, the bridge is closed for structural repairs often.

Mr. Maier said that committee members were informed that, under the Open Restaurants Program, the Dept. of Transportation will consult with the Dept. of City Planning, to establish guidelines for determining what restaurants would be eligible to install permanent kiosks on the street in front of their establishment.

In closing, Mr. Maier welcomed input from residents regarding street resurfacing requests, as well as any traffic and pedestrian safety measures that may be needed in our Board area, preferably via email at qn05@cb.nyc.gov. He announced that the next Remote Committee Meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Tuesday, May 25th, 2021.

HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Robert Cermeli

Robert Cermeli announced that he's planning to schedule a committee meeting soon to discuss some very important issues. He said all are welcome to attend.

NOMINATIONS OF CB5Q EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS

The Board Chairperson gave the floor to the District Manager to conduct nominations for Executive Committee members in the annual elections that are scheduled to take place during next month's Remote Board Meeting.

The District Manager opened the floor to nominations and asked if there were any nominations for the position of Chairperson which is currently filled by Vincent Arcuri. Maryann Lattanzio nominated Mr. Arcuri for the position of Chairperson, and he accepted. As there were no other nominations, the District Manager proceeded to ask if there were any nominations for the position of First Vice-Chairperson, which is currently filled by Walter Sanchez. Walter Clayton nominated Walter Sanchez for the position of First Vice Chairperson. Mr. Sanchez was not present to accept the nomination. As there were no other nominations for this position, the District Manager proceeded to ask if there were any nominations for the position of Second Vice Chairperson, which is currently filled by Dmytro Fedkowskyj. Patricia Crowley nominated Dmytro Fedkowskyj to serve as Second Vice Chairperson, and he accepted. As there were no further nominations for this position, the District Manager proceeded to ask if there were any nominations for the position of Treasurer, which is currently filled by Kathy Masi. Margaret O'Kane nominated Kathy Masi to serve as Treasurer, and she accepted. As there were no other nominations for this position, the District Manager proceeded to ask if there were any nominations for the position of Secretary, which is currently filled by Margaret O'Kane. Ken Rehberger nominated Margaret O'Kane for this position, and she accepted.

Regarding nominations for four At-Large Members of the Executive Committee, the District Manager named the current At-Large Members: Fred Haller, Paul Kerzner, John Maier, and Theodore Renz. He opened nominations from the floor. John Maier nominated Theodore Renz; Maryann Lattanzio nominated John Maier; Barbara Toscano nominated Fred Haller; Walter Clayton nominated Paul Kerzner; Edward Lettau nominated Walter Clayton; and Margaret O'Kane nominated Edgar Mantel. All

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on May 12, 2021

the above-mentioned candidates accepted their nominations. John Maier had nominated Maryann Lattanzio for the position of Member-at-Large, but she declined the nomination.

As there were no further nominations from the floor, the District Manager closed nominations, and announced that nominations from the floor would be accepted prior to the election of Executive Committee members at next month's Remote Board Meeting.

New Business

Staff member Laura Mulvihill announced that she just received **a statement from Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez's Office**, and read the following statement:

"Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, New York's 7th Congressional District will receive \$496 million for Brooklyn; \$316 million for Manhattan; and nearly \$438 million for Queens. These funds will be used to support workers, small businesses, and vaccine outreach.

In addition, funds are available for **Funeral Assistance**:

FEMA has begun accepting applications for funeral assistance for those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19. If you have paid for funeral expenses after January 20, 2020, for an individual whose death may have been caused by (or was likely the result of COVID-19), you may be eligible for up to \$9,000 of assistance per funeral through FEMA's dedicated call center at (844) 684-6333; TTY (800) 462-7585, Monday-Friday, 9 AM ET - 9 PM ET. No online applications will be accepted. U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals, Green card holders, and other immigrants with legal status may be eligible to apply for funeral assistance. To qualify, you must have paid for funeral expenses after January 20, 2020, and the funeral expenses were for an individual whose death in the United States, territories or the District of Columbia, may have been caused by or was likely the result of COVID-19. If you lost multiple loved ones due to the pandemic, you may apply for assistance for multiple funerals. The applicant responsible for COVID-19 funeral expenses will need to provide all the necessary information when registering for assistance. FEMA recommends gathering this information ahead of the application process.

Regarding Restaurants, the federal **Restaurant Revitalization Fund** (RRF) provides non-taxable grants to restaurants hit hardest by the COVID-19 crisis. Restaurants may qualify for up to \$5 Million and restaurant groups may be eligible for up to \$10 Million in grant funding. This grant is designed to reimburse you for any revenue your business lost between 2019 and 2020. RRF registrations and Applications are open now.

FYI -- COVID-19 Vaccine Finder website is: <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov>.

Evelyn Cruz, District Director for North Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan

Office of Congresswoman Nydia M. Velazquez, 266 Broadway, suite 201 – Brooklyn, New York 11211

Phone: 718-599-3658 Email: Evelyn.Cruz@mail.house.gov "

Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri announced that the next monthly Community Board Meeting will be conducted remotely, starting at 7:30pm on Wednesday, June 9th, 2021. As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board Chairperson entertained a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:38pm.