



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

April 10, 2019

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Antonetta Binanti; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Patricia Crowley; Brian Dooley; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Patricia Grayson; Fred Hoefflerle; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; Mike Liendo; John Maier; Edgar Mantel; Kathy Masi; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Ken Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Kelvin Rodriguez; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Carmen Santana; Connie Santos; Cathy Sumsy; Megan Tadio; Gyanal Thapa; Patrick J. Trinchese; Michaeline Von Drathen; Crystal Wolfe; Maryanna Zero; Nan Zhang

Board Members Absent

Robert Cermeli; Jerome Drake; Mohan Gyawali-Ghhetri, Fred T. Haller III, Patricia Maltezos; Dennis Stephan; Barbara Toscano;

Elected Officials

Joseph Nocerino - Queens Borough President Melinda Katz
Jessica Schabowski – Mayor Bill de Blasio
Julio Salazar – US Congressional Representative Nydia Velazquez
Cristian Romero – US Congressional Representative Grace Meng
Robert Holden - NYC Council Member , 30th CD
Daniel Kurzyna – NYC Council Member Robert Holden, 30th CD
Neil Giannelli - NYS Senator Joseph Addabbo, 15th SD
Kevin Wisniewski – NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD
Mark Papish - NYS Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, 30th AD
Alison Cummings – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, 37th AD
Samantha Kung - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38th AD

Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens
Laura Mulvihill, Community Associate - CB5Q Staff
P.O. Belish, P.O. Sanad - 104th Precinct

GUESTS

Angela Mirable, Executive Director, Greater Ridgewood Restoration Corp.
Joe Block, NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation
James Mituzas, NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Nicholas Magilton, NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Sean Graves – Public Information Officer, Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corp.
Walter Dziemian, Captain, Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corp.

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P.O. Perez – Community Affairs, PBQN
Benjamin Fang, Queens Ledger
Mark Hallum – Queens Courier

Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:33pm, following the Salute to the Flag.

The Chairperson introduced N.Y. City Council Member Robert Holden, who congratulated the newly appointed Members of Community Board 5, Queens and said that it is important for members to serve on board committees. He asked Board Members to take their appointment seriously, as the Community Board is the local government.

Council Member Holden stated that we are going to have sewer capital projects for years to come to relieve flooding problems, including along Edsall Avenue. He said that: a new school is planned for Woodside which he has pushed for; he identified property on 58 Street for a possible new high school; the funded Reconstruction of the Soccer/Football Field and Running Track in Juniper Valley Park will begin fairly soon; and he is looking to upgrade some of the baseball fields in Juniper Valley Park. He said that, in his opinion the Parks Department spends much more than they should on individual parks projects. The Council Member said he wants to have the tennis courts in Forest Park improved with capital project funding, but the estimated cost for the 7 courts is \$4 million. He estimated that a trail between basins 1 and 2 at the Ridgewood Reservoir is estimated to cost \$2.5 million.

He stated that he is trying to convince the Mayor to sign off on a school for 78-16 Cooper Avenue, but the property owner seems to need some convincing. In an effort to provide shelter for homeless people, the Council Member said that he is trying for smaller facilities, including faith based locations.

Mr. Holden stated that commercial overnight parking in residential and commercial areas is a significant problem. He asked that people call 311 to file complaints and they can follow-up with his office staff. He thanked Board Members for their service in leading the neighborhood.

PRESENTATION Re: New Plans for Construction of a New Myrtle Avenue Entrance to Forest Park in the Area of Union Turnpike ,in Glendale, by Representatives of the NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation

Chairperson Arcuri introduced Nick Magilton of the Capital Projects Division of the N.Y. City Dept. of Parks and Recreation who gave a power point presentation. Mr. Magilton said that Stantec is the design consultant for this project. He informed the Board that the Parks Department is dealing with rising prices in a competitive environment, and that the Parks Department seeks to provide a safe Glendale entrance into Forest Park from Myrtle Avenue. He stated that the first plan for this project included: a 10 foot wide asphalt pathway into the park, with a center median, that would be shared by pedestrians and bicyclists; fitness areas; enhancements to the park picnic area; additional benches along the planned pathway; bicycle racks; and security lighting along the planned pathway.

Mr. Magilton explained that because bids for the project came in above the \$2.39 million available for this capital project, the project has to be scaled back. He explained that: in the new plan the planned pathway into the park would only be 5 feet wide and would only be for pedestrians, the concrete portion of what will be part of the pathway in the park will remain concrete; the 3 planned fitness areas would be eliminated from the project; there would be fewer benches provided; and enhancements to the picnic area would be reduced.

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Security lighting along the new pathway remains in the project plans, and the light fixtures planned along the pathway would be spaced approximately 65 feet apart. He said that, because the planned entrance to the park is next to the entrance for the Jackie Robinson Parkway, a berm with plantings would be built and bollards installed, to prevent vehicles from entering the park. In the new plans, the entry circle remains.

Mr. Magilton explained that the new plan does not preclude expanding to most of the original scope of the project, if additional funding becomes available. He said that the Parks Department seeks the approval of this Board so that the project can move forward. He said that the project goal is to provide a safe connection into Forest Park for the Glendale community.

In response to a question by Steven Fiedler, Chairperson of the Parks Services Committee, Mr. Magilton said that the 5' wide pathway into the park in the new plans would only be for pedestrians and bicyclists, who would have to dismount and walk their bikes along the park pathway. Mr. Magilton stated that the Soldier's Field circle with benches is still in the new plan, and along the existing concrete part of the park path excavation will be done to install new lighting and lighting conduit. He said that there will not be any benches installed in the new plan from the Soldier's Field Circle to the picnic area. He noted that the \$2.39 million budget for this project includes \$1.89 million in City Council funding and a \$500,000. allocation from Queens Borough President Melinda Katz.

Edward Lettau asked if barriers, to prevent vehicles from entering the park from Myrtle Avenue, will be close enough together to prevent all- terrain- vehicles from entering the park. Mr. Magilton said that bollards can be adjusted and additional bollards can be installed. Mr. Arcuri suggested that bollards be placed approximately 2 feet apart. Kathy Masi said that originally our Board objected to pedestrians and bicyclists sharing the same pathway, with no protective barrier between them, but now the bike lane has been eliminated. She said that this is the perfect place for riding a bike. She asked if there was any way that that the plans could include pathway access for both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Mr. Magilton said that that current funding is insufficient, as bids received are higher than the budget allocation for this project. Ms. Masi stated that, in her opinion, few bike riders are likely to get off their bicycle and walk into the park, and the least that can be done is to provide bike racks. Mr. Magilton replied that bike racks can be added to the project.

Paul Kerzner asked: how many picnic tables are being removed from the original project plans? Mr. Magilton replied that 6 tables will not be installed per the new plans. He said that none of the existing picnic tables are planned for removal.

Mr. Fiedler stated that he would like to see a bicycle path as part of this project; and suggested that jersey barriers be installed at the beginning of the entrance to the park pathway, to prevent vehicles from entering the park, adjacent to the parkway. He suggested holding off on bidding the project so that there is an opportunity to obtain additional funding, so that the project can be done the right way to accommodate both pedestrians and bicycle riders. Mr. Magilton said that the plan is to provide a soil berm, so that vehicles will be stopped before going into the park, and at least one bollard will be installed in close proximity to the berm in the walkway entry. He said that the Parks Department has no guarantee of obtaining additional funding from elected officials for this project.

Mr. Fiedler replied that, with each City Council Member receiving a \$5 million capital project allocation annually from the City budget, he is confident that additional funding could be added to this project.

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Chairperson Vincent Arcuri said that the planned B poles for security lighting should be one uniform color, and that based on his experience, the lighting planned for installation would only light about 25 feet of area. He said having lighting fixtures placed 65 feet apart is insufficient. Mr. Fiedler stated that we had previously requested that lighting fixtures to be installed along the planned park pathway be 30 feet apart, since this area of the park would be very desolate at night. Edgar Mantel asked if there are NYC Dept. of Transportation roads in parks and whether the planned path could be turned into a NYC DOT road. Mr. Magilton replied that that this road has been de-mapped and is no longer under NYC DOT jurisdiction.

In response to a question from Carmen Santana, Mr. Magilton said that the Parks Department is looking at a 2 to 3 month timetable to start re-bidding this project. Mr. Arcuri requested that our Board be able to have another month to have the Parks Services Committee review this project, attempt to secure commitments for additional funding, and report their recommendations to the full Board at our May 8, 2019 monthly meeting. He thanked Parks Department representatives for their presentation, and said that it is always a pleasure working with the Parks Department.

PRESENTATION Re: Housing Issues – by Greater Ridgewood Restoration Corp.

Angela Mirabile, Executive Director of Greater Ridgewood Restoration Corp. (GRRC), said that she has worked for the GRRC for more than 35 years. She distributed flyers regarding subjects that would be part of her presentation. She informed the Board that Ridgewood has a Federal and State Historic District comprising 2,982 buildings. She said that tax credits are available for renovations to buildings in this historic district, as part of the N.Y. State Historic District Tax Credit Program, providing that: the house is owner occupied; at least \$5,000. of renovations are performed; the building is located in a designated community development area federal census tract, which almost all of the buildings in the Ridgewood Federal and State Historic District are.

Ms. Mirabile stated that the GRRC has a consultant working to add as many as 3,000 to 4,000 buildings to the Ridgewood Federal and State Historic Districts, and that these districts are not the same as a landmarked district. She stated that the Federal and State designations do not stop a homeowner from performing renovations, but you have to conform to specific tax credit guidelines. Angela said that: she is hopeful that portions of Myrtle Avenue and Fresh Pond Road can be added to the federal and state historic districts; a homeowner can call GRRC at 718-366-8721 to find out if their building is in the historic district; and an owner can go on-line to get details of the tax credit program.

Ms. Mirabile informed Board Members that the Greater Ridgewood Restoration Corp. (GRRC) has had a Graffiti Removal Program for more than 25 years throughout the Community Board 5, Queens area, and that the GRRC does not charge for graffiti removal. She said that: GRRC power washes brick buildings; have a NYC DEP permit to use water from fire hydrants from April 1 to November 30; paint non-brick buildings to remove graffiti; and may ask for a donation, but the donation is voluntary. Angela stated that GRRC will come back to remove graffiti on a building they have cleaned, and the GRRC has removed graffiti on more than 6,000 buildings. She asked that: you call the GRRC (718-366-8721) to report graffiti; GRRC tries to get the property owner to sign a waiver for the removal of graffiti, and if they can't get permission to remove graffiti a letter is sent to the owner informing them that GRRC can legally remove graffiti from a building, after a 30 day notification. Angela explained that the GRRC has a paid crew chief, an assistant and a van. GRRC get community service workers to assist them in removals. She stated that these are people who have committed a crime, but do not receive a prison sentence, and are assigned by the District Attorney's Office.

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The GRRC also has a Housing Counseling Program for tenants and landlords on Thursdays at the office of CB5Q and at the GRRC. Ms. Mirabile said that they have a watch list for our Board area which is set up for 6-8 unit buildings. She said that: every time a building is sold or gets a new mortgage the GRRC is informed by email; then a letter is promptly sent to everyone in the building in English, Polish and Spanish to inform tenants that the building was sold, and if someone starts to harass the tenants or begins construction, and the tenant does not see a permit on the building, the GRRC asks the tenants to contact the GRRC. She said that GRRC staff will visit the building and inform tenants of their rights, possibly organize the tenants and help the tenants obtain legal assistance. Ms. Mirabile stated that the GRRC also does random door knocking to see if anyone is being harassed in a building, and if a "for sale" sign is seen on a building GRRC tries to reach out to the tenants in that building.

Ms. Mirabile said that some tenants are harassed out of a building, many tenants are bought out, but too often the tenant accepts far less than they should receive to move out of an apartment. She pointed out that in many cases the landlord will renovate the apartment and ask for \$2,200. or more in rent. She said that a \$40,000. buy-out may sound like a lot of money, but if the tenant is planning to stay in N.Y. City this amount will not last long. Angela informed the Board that GRRC advises tenants who have received a buy-out offer to work with GRRC, and have an attorney review the written offer. She stressed that it is important for tenants to have offers put in writing to protect the tenant.

Angela Mirabile informed Board Members and others in attendance that the GRRC also provides counselling for property owners, and fills out forms that the owner needs completed including tax credit forms, leases and registrations for rent stabilized buildings. She suggests that someone looking to rent an apartment get a rent history for the apartment by calling the Office of Rent Administration at 718-739-6400 and go through the menu to obtain the rent history of a specific apartment. She stated that if a landlord acts fairly and responsibly, and they have a good tenant, the landlord and tenant can have a very good relationship.

Tax Credits for homeowners can reduce their property taxes significantly, according to Ms. Mirabile, who said that these credits/exemptions include Basic STAR, Enhanced STAR, Senior Citizen Exemptions and Veterans Exemptions. She stated that the SCRIE Program (Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption) and the DRIE (Disabled Rent Increase Exemption) are available to qualifying tenants to freeze their rent, and the landlord doesn't lose anything as they receive a tax abatement. Angela stated that these programs are administered by the N.Y. City Dept. of Finance, and the tenant has to have annual gross income less than \$50,000 and be paying at least 1/3 of their income in rent.

Ms. Mirabile said that the GRRC will assist people in the completion of these applications. Sarah Feldman thanked Angela Mirabile for her presentation, saying that she is a tenant and knows the difficulty of owning a home in Ridgewood when housing prices are so expensive.

Public Forum

Sam Zeneli, of Middle Village, said his complaint concerns ice cream trucks at Juniper Valley Park, where the truck engines are run for extended time causing polluting fumes. He also spoke of young people parking cars with the engine running, causing additional pollution. He spoke of concern as to what these young people are doing in their vehicles by the park.

Carmen Santana thanked Council Member Holden for his March 23rd sponsorship, with the Animal Control Center, of a pet vaccination event at Rosemary's Playground in Ridgewood. She noted that 151 pets were vaccinated, and received shots for distemper and rabies, all of which was free. Ms. Santana stated that harnesses, leashes and pet gift bags were distributed. She spoke of Rosemary's Playground and displayed a picture of the park area by the Forest Avenue M train station, which is adjacent to the playground. She said that this playground is scheduled for refurbishment in the near future, and stated her concern regarding lead contamination possibilities from the peeling paint of the M train elevated structure. The Board Chairperson replied that Ms. Santana will likely hear something about the planned M Train Structure Improvement Project later in the meeting tonight.

Mike Papa voiced his disapproval regarding the recent removal of Deborah Cox, as member of Community Board 5, Queens. He said that Deborah was in her first term of service, and described her as a very educated, dedicated, informed and active Board Member. He said that she served as a member of the Special Committee for Homeless Services, the Housing Services Committee, and worked with the Land Use Committee, the Transportation Committee and the Library Services Committee. He stressed that Deborah was clearly an asset to this Board. He questioned that when there are vacant seats on this Board, why Deborah or anyone else was removed. Mr. Papa asked: who advised this removal action and who made the final decision? Chairperson Vincent Arcuri replied, stating that the Borough President appoints community board members, with the advice and consent of City Council Members.

Sean Graves, Public Information Officer for Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps, spoke of EMS Week, giving recognition to Emergency Medical Service Workers nationally. He said that there will be a celebration on May 19th, from 11:30am to 4pm at the Middle Village Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and the community is welcome to attend. He informed those present that volunteer ambulance services locally have been consolidated. Mr. Graves said that: on March 25th the Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Middle Village VAC officially merged operations, to assure the longevity of volunteer ambulance services in the community; Glendale VAC has subsequently joined this merger; and, as of today, Ridgewood VAC owns and operates these 3 ambulance services. He stressed that the only way that volunteer ambulance services can be provided is with community support. Mr. Graves stated that there have been too many recent instances when N.Y. City EMS has taken too long to respond, and, therefore, local VACs are especially vital in the evening hours. He asked people to help, by reaching out into the community, because the VACs need volunteers, which may not necessitate riding in the ambulance. He said that there are administrative needs to fill. Mr. Graves stated that this merger of the 3 local VACs will maintain the names of Middle Village Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps and Glendale Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Richard Huber said that he is a member of this Board and the Environmental Services Committee. He spoke of a recent letter from National Grid to the public, and that his lock installation business is involved with those distributing energy throughout the country and the world. He spoke of natural gas being a transitional fuel before we have more eco-friendly forms of energy. Mr. Huber said that natural gas is a cleaner burning fossil fuel and electric heat is unaffordable. He stated that the president of National Grid has stated that, if the additional gas pipeline permit to bring additional natural gas into the N.Y. City area is not approved in the next few weeks there will be no permits given for any gas upgrades, new construction or any project with natural gas. He said that means the energy options are electric or burning oil. Mr. Huber stated that elected officials have gone on record against this proposed new gas pipeline, which would bring as much as 20% more gas to the area. He spoke of plans to shut down the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant, and the possibility of rolling brownouts this summer. He respectfully requested that this Board review this issue.

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The Chairman closed the Public Forum and announced the next item on the Agenda.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

The Board Chairperson introduced Police Officers Belish and Sanad of the 104th Police Precinct, and Officer Perez of the Patrol Borough Queens North Community Affairs Unit. He then introduced staff members present at the meeting: District Manager Gary Giordano, and Community Associate Laura Mulvihill. He also introduced Joe Nocerino, representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz. Mr. Arcuri said that he first wants to introduce the newly appointed Members of the Board, and asked them to state where they are from and provide some personal background.

Mike Liendo, of Glendale, stated that: he is president of the Liberty Park Homeowners Association, located in the Glendale area near Cypress Hills Street; is proud to be part of something great here; looks forward to accomplishments with Board committees; and looks forward to learning from everyone else.

Ken Rehberger said that he is a resident homeowner in the Liberty Park Area of Glendale, a lifelong Glendale resident, and president of a local political club.

Gyanal Thapa informed members that he lives in Maspeth and is involved with several local ethnic organizations.

Crystal Wolfe stated that: she is the founder of Catering for the Homeless, which utilizes food access for the homeless and poor; an author; and founded the Friends of the Maspeth Library. She said she is excited to join this Board, which has been her biggest supporter, and looks forward to learning from fellow Board Members. She said that she is honored to be a Board Member.

Nan Zhang stated that he lives in Maspeth, is a licensed attorney, was an assistant prosecutor for the City of New York, now owns his own law practice, is on the Board of Community Education Council 24, and is part of the C.O.M.E.T. Civic Organization. He said he looks forward to working with everyone.

Meghan Tadio informed members that she is a Ridgewood resident, works for the City Council and previously worked for the State Assembly.

Michaeline Von Drathen stated that: she lives in Ridgewood, is a 4th generation Ridgewood resident, is a Board Member of the Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association, is vice-president of the Friends of the Ridgewood Library, is a Board Member of the Greater Ridgewood Historical Society and a Ridgewood Kiwanis Club Member. She said that she is honored to be a Member of Community Board 5, Queens.

Chairperson Arcuri said that Board Members who were not reappointed or did not reapply include: Deborah Cox, Toby Bloch, Michael Locascio, Peter Comber, John Killcommons and Christopher Sperrazza.

He recognized Barbara Toscano, a member of this Board, who is being inducted into the Christ the King High School Hall of Fame on May 18th. Barbara is the Executive Director of the Peter Cardella Senior Center in Ridgewood. Mr. Arcuri thanked Donald Passantino for all his excellent efforts and electronic knowledge, which have been a big help to CB5Q.

The Board Chair then introduced Elected Officials Representatives, who wish to address the Board.

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Joe Nocerino offered greetings from Borough President Melinda Katz, and distributed copies of the Borough President's newsletter. He read a statement saying that to assure that Queens is counted accurately in the 2020 Census, Borough President Katz and the Census Bureau will host a Census Job Fair on May 1st, from 10am to 3pm, at Queens Borough Hall. He said the U.S. Census Bureau is hiring for a variety of temporary jobs, including census takers, recruiting assistants, office staff and supervisory staff. Mr. Nocerino noted that Census Jobs in N.Y. City pay a minimum of \$25. per hour, and applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

Mr. Nocerino congratulated new Board Members, stating that on April 30th there will be a Swearing In and Orientation Session for new members. Attendance is mandatory, food will be provided at 5pm and the orientation will begin at 6pm. He spoke of the Borough President's Park Cleanup Program, asked for suggestions regarding parks needing attention, and said that the Borough President's Office will recruit volunteers. He wished everyone happy holidays on behalf of Borough President Katz.

Jessica Schabowski of the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, said that: she just started working at CAU, CB5Q is one of the community board she will work with and she looks forward to it.

Julio Salazar, representing Congress Member Nydia Velazquez, said that the Congresswoman is leading the effort in the N.Y. Congressional Delegation advocating for additional funding for the federal Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, because part of the federal administration's budget proposal seeks to: cut HUD funding by 16%, and cut Section 8 Housing Vouchers for 10,000 people. He said this would affect approximately 8,000 voucher recipients in N.Y. City, and the congressional effort is to get these vouchers fully funded for the next 2 years. Mr. Salazar stated that federal cuts are also proposed for the Community Development Block Grant Program, which he said would hurt many community organizations who provide numerous programs and services. He said that federal budget cuts are also proposed to: the HUD Capital Project Fund; the Home Funds Program, which provides first-time home buyers with down payment assistance and provides rental assistance to some populations. He stated that Congress Member Velazquez seeks to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to assure funding in the next federal budget.

Neil Giannelli, representing State Senator Joseph Addabbo, welcomed the new Board Members, and said he applauds Board Members for giving their time to make their community better. He said that the Senator is returning from Albany and distributed State Budget Highlights, saying that in the next 2 months budget adjustments will likely be made. Mr. Giannelli noted that: tomorrow evening the Senator will be at the Maspeth Library for mobile office hours; in cooperation with Assembly Member Brian Barnwell free mammogram screening will be conducted on Wednesday, April 17th, from 9am to 5pm, at Maspeth Federal Savings on 69 Street, north of Grand Avenue, in Maspeth; in cooperation with Assembly Member Mike Miller rain barrels will be distributed; there will be a Spring Recycling Event on Sunday, April 28th, from 10am to 2pm, at Forest Park Bandshell, where clothing, paper and electronics will be collected. He noted that there will be a large paper shredder available at this event, but cardboard will not be collected.

Mr. Giannelli reported that the N.Y. City Dept. of Transportation will be performing a Street Survey along Fresh Pond Road. Gary Giordano, District Manager said he is informed that NYC DOT representatives will speak with shoppers and merchants to obtain their input, and he believes the main objective is to see how traffic movement can be improved. Mr. Giannelli wished everyone happy holidays.

Ken Wisniewski, representing Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, reported that the Assembly Member is partnering in a forum next week regarding the Specialized High Schools Admission Test. He said that Assembly Member Daniel Rosenthal, State Senator Joseph Addabbo, State Senator Leroy Comrey and others will be co-sponsoring this event, which will be conducted at the Russell Sage Middle School in Forest Hills, at 6:30pm.

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Mr. Wisniewski stated that Assembly Member Hevesi is partnering with the Floating Hospital, to coordinate a Mother's Day Goods Drive, for mothers facing homelessness due to domestic violence. He said that all types of toiletries and beauty products will be collected until May 10th, which is the Friday before Mother's Day. If anyone is interested in participating, he said items can be brought to the Assembly Member's Office or they can try to pick up items.

Mark Papish, representing Assembly Member Brian Barnwell, said that the Assembly Member just returned from Albany. He noted that: on April 17th the Assembly Member will partner with State Senator Addabbo to provide mammogram screening at Maspeth Federal Savings, at 55-19 69 Street, in the bank parking lot, from 9am to 4:30pm. He asked anyone interested to call their office at 718-651-3185, to schedule an appointment, and screening is free if you qualify. Mr. Papish stated that on April 25th, in partnership with Assembly Member Catherine Nolan, there will be an Irish Heritage Month Celebration in Long Island City, 7-9pm, and you don't have to be at all Irish to attend.

According to Mr. Papish, Assembly Member Barnwell is sponsoring a constitutional amendment that would essentially force the Governor, State Senate and State Assembly to work together more closely regarding the N.Y. State Budget, so that the Governor cannot simply strike out budget items proposed by the legislature or put forth late hour proposals. Board Chairperson Arcuri stated concerns regarding how the new Tappan Zee Bridge, named for former Governor Mario Cuomo, will be paid for. He said that now that the bridge is built he would like to know how the bridge is being paid for.

Alison Cummings, representing Assembly Member Catherine Nolan, spoke of important issues related to tenant's rights and housing legislation. She said that the Assembly Member is seeking public input. She congratulated new Board Members and wished everyone happy and safe holidays.

Samantha Kung, representing Assembly Member Mike Miller, said that: there will be another recycling event in the Forest Park Bandshell Parking Lot, from 10am to 2pm, that the Assembly Member is sponsoring with State Senator Addabbo; a Mammogram Screening Van will be in front of the Assembly Member's office on Woodhaven Blvd. on May 29th, from 9am to 12pm, and asked that anyone interested call the office at 718-805-0950 to schedule an appointment. Ms. Kung stated that the State budget was just adopted for a total of \$175.5 billion, and asked that anyone having a budget question call the office and speak with Christine.

Cristian Romero, representing Congress Member Grace Meng, informed the Board that he will be the new representative. He said that: Congress Member Meng has re-introduced legislation for the U.S. Postal Service to designate a zip code for Glendale; and introduced a Menstrual Equity for All Act, to insure access and affordability of Menstrual hygiene products; and introduced a bi-partisan Access to Medication Act, to help people afford their medications and health products they need. He distributed flyers. He said that if you need assistance with federal agencies, such as the Social Security Administration and Veterans Affairs, you can contact their office.

Mr. Arcuri thanked the members of the press corps in attendance, including Benjamin Fang of the Queens Ledger and Mark Hallum of the Queens Courier and Ridgewood Times, for keeping the community informed.

MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's Board Meeting conducted on March 13, 2019. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion by Walter Clayton, and seconded by Michael O'Kane.

LIQUOR, WINE and BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS and RENEWALS

The Board Chairperson read aloud the list of establishments in the Community Board 5 area that are in the process of applying for liquor, wine and beer licenses since the last monthly Board Meeting on March 13, 2019. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) ***Nova Soccer Club Inc.***, 775 Woodward Ave, Store 1, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) ***82-11 Eliot Avenue Corp.***, 82-11 Eliot Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) ***The Ridgewood Ale House***, 57-38 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) ****Black Fish LLC d/b/a K&A Bar***, 66-48 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) ***Little Havana Cigar Co., Inc. d/b/a Havana Dreams***, 63-10 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY 11374
- 2) ***GW Ridgewood LLC d/b/a Gyro World***, 66-57 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) ***El Montanero Bakery Restaurant Inc.***, 55-21 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) ***Corato I Pizza & Restaurant Corp.***, 60-94 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 5) ***Taj Village Inc.***, 79-28 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379

Corporate Change/Alterations

- 1) ***Maspeth Liquor Inc. d/b/a New Grand Ave. Wine & Liquor***, 70-03 Grand Avenue, 1st Floor, Maspeth, NY 11378 has notified us that they will be renewing their license to sell alcohol at their liquor store.
- 2) ***Taj Village Inc. d/b/a TBD***, 79-28 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village has notified us that they will be submitting an application to the NYS Liquor Authority to change the class of their license from Restaurant Wine to full Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

* Indicates Outdoor Area

Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri announced that the 104th Police Precinct Community Council will meet the evening of April 18th. He said at this meeting you can speak with the Commanding Officer, and/or other Precinct supervisors.

He said that only 60% to 65% of residents living in the Ridgewood, Maspeth and Glendale communities responded to the 2010 Census; that this poor response has skewed the census count in these communities; he believes too many Eastern European residents did not respond; and that there is a large Eastern European population that has not been counted. He asked Board Members to make themselves available to promote the Census, and said he would appreciate input on how to improve the Census count in the CB5Q area. He noted that Census Jobs pay a minimum of \$25. per hour for a 20 hour work week. Kathy Masi said that the ability of people to respond to the 2020 Census electronically may boost response.

Mr. Arcuri said that Borough President Katz has organized a Census 2020 Committee, and N.Y. City intends to do a pre-count for the 2020 Census. Flyers were distributed regarding the 2020 Census. Mr. Huber pointed out that 10 years ago we lost 2 congressional seats in N.Y. State, and we could lose more seats if there is a Census undercount and continue our tax policy. Mr. Arcuri stated that projections for 2030 are for an older population in N.Y. City and in our Board area. He said that the school age population is dropping significantly. Carman Santana said that many Eastern Europeans attend church services, and suggested that the churches may be a place to approach, in an effort to increase response to the 2020 Census. Ed Lettau informed those present that

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the Board of Elections needs poll workers, Spanish and Korean language interpreters, that testing and training sessions are going to be conducted soon, that they are in desperate need of good poll workers, and that people can register to vote on-line. Brian Dooley asked if landlords of 1 to 4 family buildings are required to submit information regarding their tenants. He said that he had a tenant that he believes would not answer the door for a Census taker.

Demolition Notices

The Board Chairperson reported that the Board received the following demolition notices since the last monthly Board Meeting on March 13, 2019: **71-61 70th Street (Garage)** in Glendale and **77-12 85th Street** in Glendale.

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

Mr. Giordano wished everyone a Happy Passover and a Happy Easter. He reported that MTA N.Y. City Transit alerted the Board today that work to repaint the M train structure is going to begin very soon, and that the existing peeling paint is to be carefully sanded down before the steel structure is painted. He said that: work is being done in sections and the Queens portion of the M train structure is scheduled to be sanded and painted first; and 40 months is the projected time for all the work on the entire portion of the elevated line to be accomplished. According to information he has received, this work will be performed by MTA workers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning and Land Use Committee

Walter Sanchez

Regarding BSA Cal. No. 2019-15 BZ, which is an application to the Board of Standards and Appeals, submitted by Akerman LLP, on behalf of CS Cooper Avenue LLC for a Special Permit, pursuant to Sections 73-19 and 42-10 of the NY City Zoning Resolution, to allow the development of a new Use Group 3 school (daycare), within an M1-1 Zoning District, at 79-40 Cooper Avenue (Block 3803, Lot 39; and Block 3804, Lots 1, 39, 164 and 178), in Glendale, Queens, N.Y., Mr. Sanchez said that the primary concerns are traffic and pedestrian safety, egress and parking. He stated that: 32 parking spaces are planned for this proposed pre-school, day care and after school program; and 10 parking spots are planned for the adjacent self-storage facility. Mr. Sanchez reported that the Committee recommends approval of this application, provided that traffic and pedestrian safety issues at this location can be resolved.

Lee Rottenberg stated concern regarding the possibility of a homeless shelter being located nearby the proposed pre-school and day care center. Mr. Sanchez said that the property owner at the proposed school site and the organization that would run the school are aware of this possibility.

The vote regarding the Committee recommendation was: 39 in favor, -0- opposed, -0- abstaining, and -0- not voting.

Mr. Sanchez stated that at 151 Woodward Avenue, Animal Care and Control is planning to operate an animal shelter for as many as 100 cats and 70 dogs. He said the site is 44,000 square feet, Animal Care & Control informs us that the average stay for an animal is 6 days, and they report a 95% placement rate. They could close on buying the site in mid-May, and contaminants would have to be cleaned from the site prior to a new building being constructed. He reported that the Committee reviewed a 421a Tax Abatement Application, submitted for 70-18 through 70-30 57 Drive, but could not understand how this abatement is still possible, considering that construction for these homes started as long as 15 years ago. Mr. Sanchez said that the Committee has concerns regarding development in the rear of homes in Middle Village that have community drives, and is concerned about overcrowding.

Housing Services Committee

Kathy Masi

Kathy Masi said that Angela Mirabile, of Greater Ridgewood Restoration Corp., is a member of the Committee and attended the recent committee meeting. She stated that Senior Housing and the Need to Protect Tenants were two of the main subjects that the Committee intends to work on. She said that the Housing Committee needs more members, including tenants and possibly an attorney.

Transportation Services Committee

Vincent Arcuri

Mr. Arcuri reported that the Committee met on March 26th and issues discussed included L Train Tunnel Repairs. He said that the M train will have service increases during the upcoming L Train Project, and will run to 92 Street during certain hours. Regarding the Planned Reconstruction of Wyckoff Avenue, Mr. Arcuri stated that design is scheduled to be completed in 2019. Regarding Replacement of the Grand Street Bridge Over Newtown Creek, he said design is scheduled to begin in June, 2019, and construction should begin in 2023. He said that the Completion of the New Kosciuszko Bridge is scheduled for later this year. He spoke of concerns related to the pedestrian and bike lane part of this project and safe passage, especially at the Brooklyn end of the bridge. He thanked John Maier and Don Passantino for their help regarding this important issue. Mr. Arcuri stated that the review of pedestrian and traffic safety requests were a significant part of the Committee Meeting, as usual.

Mr. Arcuri stated that the Committee reviewed a new application for the installation of a newsstand on Wyckoff Avenue, at the NE corner of Wyckoff Avenue and Palmetto Street, which was very similar to the application opposed by our Board previously. He said that the Committee is opposed to this newsstand installation because this a busy intersection and the proposed newsstand is in close proximity to similar businesses. Mr. Renz made a motion to oppose this application, which was seconded by Walter Clayton. The vote to oppose this newsstand installation was: 39 in favor, -0- opposed, -0- abstaining, and -0- not voting.

Old and New Business

Sarah Feldman announced that the Library Services Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, April 15th.

Mr. Arcuri announced that the Transportation Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 23rd.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board Chairperson adjourned the public meeting of Community Board 5, Queens on a motion from the floor at 9:55 pm.