



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

December 12, 2018

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Antonetta Binanti; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Peter Comber; Deborah Cox; Patricia Crowley; Brian Dooley; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Sarah Feldman; Mohan Gyawali-Chhetri; Patricia Grayson; Fred Hoefflerle; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; Michael LoCascio; John Maier; Edgar Mantel; Katherine Masi; Margaret O’Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Theodore M. Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Carmen Santana; Connie Santos; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Fred T. Haller, III; John J. Killcommons; Eileen Moloney; Michael O’Kane; Kelvin Rodriguez; Christopher Sperrazza; Dennis Stephan; Catherine Sumsky

Elected Officials

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and Staff Joseph Nocerino
NYC Council Member Robert Holden, 30th CD
Julio Salazar – US Congressional Representative Nydia Velazquez
Dolores Capace – NYS Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli
Neil Giannelli - NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr, 15th SD
Alison Cummings – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, 37th AD
Lesi Hreb - NYS Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, 35th AD
Dennis O’Hara - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38th AD
Boris Santos – NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, 34th CD

Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens
Laura Mulvihill and Catherine O’Leary, Community Associates - CB5Q Staff
P.O. Edwin Collado, Crime Prevention Officer of the 104th Police Precinct

GUESTS

Margaret G. Pratnicki and John Wilczynski -104COP
Crystal Wolfe - Catering for the Homeless, Maspeth, NY 11378

Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:10pm, following the Salute to the Flag. He introduced Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and invited her to address the Board. The Queens Borough President thanked everyone for their years of service on the Board and said that she opposes the imposition of an 8-year term limit on all Community Board members, which was approved as a City Charter amendment during this year’s General Election. She said that in Queens, where 190 different languages are spoken at home, each Community Board has a unique character, and all of their members have been working very successfully together over the years to improve their neighborhoods. She said that she hopes that

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the most experienced Board members remain involved in their Board's work, by serving as Committee members on the Board, while they wait a two-year term to be reappointed to the Board whenever their term expires.

The Queens Borough President said that she proudly attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Elmhurst Park last week, where the names of all of the Queens residents who served and died in combat in the Vietnam War will be inscribed.

The Queens Borough President welcomed everyone to join her this Friday morning when a groundbreaking ceremony is planned for the revamping of the Children's Playground in Juniper Valley Park, where new spray showers and play equipment will be installed next year. In closing, she wished everyone Happy Holidays and a safe, healthy Happy New Year. She received a round of applause in appreciation for her remarks.

The Board Chairperson announced the first item on the Board Agenda as:

Public Forum

Phillip Robinson, a district manager for 1st Light Energy Corp., said that the company was founded in October of 2004 with the vision to provide solar energy solutions that positively impact our environment, and provide financial returns for their customers – both residential and commercial. He said homeowners can participate in this program at relatively little out-of-pocket cost to them, by having solar panels installed on their roof to offset their demand for electricity that is currently being supplied by Con Edison.

He said that free consultations are provided to property owners who may be eligible to receive a 30% tax credit on their federal return, a \$5,000 tax rebate on their NYS real estate taxes, in addition to NYC tax incentives on this investment. For more information about their services, he distributed flyers and brochures, and welcomed anyone interested to contact him at (347)873-8347, or by email at: probinson@1stlightenergy.com.

Ernie Searle, president of the Friends of the Ridgewood Library, said that their Branch Librarian Slaven Lee is relocating out of state soon, which will create a job vacancy. He asked everyone for their help in finding a good candidate to fill this vacancy as soon as possible so that the programs and services that are offered in this branch don't suffer from lack of direction. He said that he's currently working to form new Friends chapters in the Maspeth and Middle Village branch libraries.

Crystal Wolfe, founder of Catering for the Homeless, said that this year, they collected 3,577 toiletry items to distribute to the homeless population in Queens, and thanked the Community Board and local elected officials for their generous donations toward this year's toiletry drive. She said that she's also working to revive the chapter of the Friends of the Maspeth Library.

Peter Bogado, a Corona resident, thanked local police for their efforts to reduce crime in their area. He suggested that in order to improve police response times to emergency situations, 9-1-1 operators should be retrained so that they can answer and re-direct emergency calls more efficiently and effectively. He said that, at present, patrol officers are being inundated with calls for assistance on a wide range of local issues. He also suggested that in order to improve police protection, additional surveillance cameras should be installed on commercial strips, as well as at busy intersections in Queens.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

Board Chairperson Arcuri requested a Moment of Silence in memory of two civic activists who passed away recently: Don Capalbi, a staff member of Congresswoman Grace Meng, who passed away last week, after being hospitalized due to a fall in his home last month; and Constance DelVecchio, the wife of former State Senator Serphin Maltese, who passed away this week after an extended illness. He also thanked Board members for their thoughtfulness on the passing of his brother this week.

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He introduced staff members present at the meeting: District Manager Gary Giordano, and Community Associates Laura Mulvihill and Catherine O'Leary. He recognized the members of the press corps in attendance at the meeting, and thanked them for reporting on Community Board matters and events.

On behalf of the Federazione Italo Americana di Brooklyn and Queens, the Board Chairperson presented a check to the secretary of 104COP, Margaret Pratinicki, and John Wilczinski, vice president of 104COP, in appreciation for their assistance in patrolling last year's Fresh Pond Road Street Fair. There was a general round of applause. He gave the floor to Ms. Pratinicki, who explained that 104COP members volunteer to assist local police on patrol in the precinct several times a week, and during Street Fairs, parades, emergencies, and natural disasters. She welcomed anyone interested in volunteering to attend their membership meetings, at 8pm on the second Thursday of the month in St. Pancras School Hall, located on the corner of 68 Street and Myrtle Avenue, in Glendale. She explained that members must be at least 18 years of age, a resident of the 104th Precinct, and successfully complete a background check. For more information, she said to call (718) 497-1500.

The Board Chairperson thanked Toni Binanti, a Board member and the owner of Rudy's Bake Shop, for donating all of the cookies to serve during the festivities after tonight's Board Meeting.

The Board Chairperson welcomed representatives of local elected officials to address the Board. NYC Council Member Robert Holden said that he is looking for a site to locate a new state-of-the-art police stationhouse for the 104th Precinct, currently located at 64-02 Catalpa Avenue. He said that the current stationhouse was originally built to accommodate 80 police officers, as compared to the 200 police officers who are currently assigned to the precinct. He pointed out that on a recent tour of the stationhouse, he saw mold growing on the walls of their exercise room, and the Detective Squad's quarters on the 2nd Floor are very limited because that's where the locker rooms are located. He also pointed out that no security cameras have ever been installed around the perimeter of the precinct. For the past two weeks, he said that work crews have been cleaning up and removing debris from the stationhouse, as well as installing upgrades to the electrical system along with new security cameras in and around the stationhouse.

The Councilman said that he sponsored 9 new pieces of legislation in the City Council this year including: Intro 1124 that requires the Department of Buildings commissioner to commence proceedings to seal, secure and close a property where \$25,000 or more in unpaid fines is owed to the city with respect to the property; Intro 1126 to create an interagency task force on illegal conversions and occupancies; and Intro 1128 to require that the plywood fences at construction sites where work has been stalled for over two year be replaced with chain link fences.

The Councilman thanked Board Chairman Arcuri for all his efforts, volunteering as a member of the Glendale Kiwanis Club, COP104 patrol, marching in local parades, and serving meals on holidays at local senior centers, in addition to serving as Chairman of the Board.

P. O. Edwin Collado, Crime Prevention Officer in the 104th Precinct, advised everyone that this month, thieves have been stealing packages that are delivered and left on the front steps of homes throughout the precinct. He said that there's been an increase in the number of burglaries reported in the precinct this month. He warned everyone not to leave any valuables inside their cars when they are parked on the street, as there have been too many car break-ins recently. He distributed leaflets with information about all of the free programs and services that are offered by 104th Precinct's Crime Prevention Unit, and wished everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season.

Richard Huber, a Board member, urged that if anyone's property is stolen from in front of their house or their car to file a report in the precinct stationhouse.

Ed Lettau, a Board member, commented that there's plenty of vacant space inside Rentar Plaza, where a new 104th Police Precinct facility could be located.

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On behalf of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, Julio Salazar reported that the Congresswoman is meeting with the Dept. of Buildings next week regarding violations issued to businesses for their awnings, and will likely propose amnesty for many of the awning violations.

On behalf of State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Neil Giannelli invited everyone to attend their annual Holiday Party from 6:30pm to 8:30pm on Monday, December 10th in the Woodhaven Manor at 96-01 Jamaica Avenue, in Woodhaven. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

On behalf of Assembly Member Brian Barnwell, Lesi Hreb announced that they're conducting their annual Coat Drive until December 31st, and the Toy Drive is ending on Friday, December 21st. She said that all donations can be dropped off at their district office located at 55-19 69 Street, in Maspeth. She wished everyone Happy Holidays.

On behalf of Assembly Member Catherine Nolan, Alison Cummings announced that the Dept. of Parks and Recreation will begin offering tests for lifeguards in January. All candidates must be at least 16 years of age. Flyers were distributed. She thanked Board members for volunteering to serve on the Board, and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

On behalf of Assembly Member Michael Miller, Dennis O'Hara announced that their office is hosting a Toy Drive and said that donations could be dropped off at their district office located at 83-91 Woodhaven Boulevard between 9am and 5pm until Friday, December 21st. He welcomed everyone to attend their annual Holiday Party in the Woodhaven Manor, at 96-01 Jamaica Avenue, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

On behalf of Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Boris Santos wished everyone Happy Holidays and a healthy and Happy New Year. He said that it's been a pleasure working with all the Board members to improve the quality of life in their community. He announced that he's accepted a new position working in Albany for a member of the State Legislature, starting January 1st, 2019.

On behalf of State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, Dori Capace reported that last week, the Comptroller added another \$3 Billion to the New York State Common Retirement Fund's Sustainable Investment Program, raising its total commitment to \$10 Billion this year. She said that the Comptroller a New York State Pension Fund greater than \$200 Billion. Ms. Capace stated that the Comptroller remains committed to making the goals of the Paris Climate Accord a reality, by investing Pension Funds in the low emissions index, green bonds, LEED Gold real estate investments, and other large-scale sustainable investments opportunities around the globe. She also reported that over the past year, their office successfully distributed over \$1 Million per day in Unclaimed Funds to local New Yorkers. For more information, she welcomed everyone to go to their official "**FIND LOST MONEY**" website at <https://www.ny.gov/services/Find-Lost-Money>, or by calling their office at: (212) 383-1388. In closing, she wished everyone Happy Holidays.

MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's Board Meeting which was conducted on November 14, 2018. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion by John Maier, and seconded by Katherine Masi.

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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 November 14, 2018. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) RAN NY Group LLC d/b/a **Joya Hall** 63-108 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY 11374
- 2) **Johnnys Café NYC LLC** 60-39 Fresh Pond Road, Maspeth, NY 11378

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) **Loyal Order of Moose Ridgewood Lodge #1642** 72-15 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 2) **Nicole Kelly Pub Inc.** 62-10 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY 11374
- 3) JNS Venture Ltd. d/b/a **Vixen** 60-07 Metropolitan Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) Jungo Road LLC d/b/a **The Deep End** 10-80 Wyckoff Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 5) ****The Maspeth Pizza House Inc.** 55-60 60 Street, Maspeth, NY 11378

New Wine, Beer and Cider License

- 1) **Balcon de Quito Rest. Inc.** 666 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine, Beer and Cider License Renewals

- 1) **Banatul Folklore and Soccer Club** 18-80 Menahan Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) ***Julia's Beer & Wine Bar** 818 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **Guadalajara de Dia No. 2, Corp.** 566 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Corporate Change/Alteration and/or Method of Operation

- 1) **Krolewski Jado of Ridgewood Inc. 66-21 Fresh Pond Road, in Ridgewood**, has notified us that their outgoing President/Stockholdre is Krzysztof Drzewiecki and their incoming proposed corporate principals are Bogdan Ludjan, President/Stockholder and Danuta E. Ludjan, Secretary/Treasurer –Stockholder.
- 2) 64-63 Dry Harbor Tavern Inc. d/b/a **Harbor Inn Sports Bar, 64-63 Dry Harbor Road, in Middle Village** has notified us that they will be submitting a Corporate Change application to the NYS Liquor Authority. We are waiting to hear back from them to clarify exactly what that change will be.
- 3) ****The Maspeth Pizza House Inc. 55-60 60 Street, in Maspeth**, has notified us that they will be submitting a renewal application for their current On-Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License. Once that is submitted, they will be adding new partners making minor alterations as well as changing their method of operation. We are waiting for them to provide us with a completed questionnaire to clarify exactly what those changes will be.

* Indicates Outdoor Area.

Demolition Notices

The Board Chairperson reported that the Board received 2 demolition notices since the last monthly Board Meeting on November 14, 2018: demolition of a house and garage at **53-83 69 Street, in Maspeth**; and demolition of a garage in the rear yard of **63-30 84 Street, in Middle Village**.

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to remain vigilant and to advise the Board 5 staff about any questionable construction work in the Board area, so they can investigate further.

Regarding the Board's Internal Budget, the Board Chairperson reported that the Executive Committee recommends a proposed salary increase for the District Manager, as follows: a 2% raise that is retroactive to 9/24/2017; along with a 2.25% raise effective 9/24/2018; and a 3% raise, effective 9/24/2019, with funds added to the Board's budget by the city. He explained that the District Manager was not included in the round of pay increases that were approved for Board staff, as part of union contract negotiations for municipal employees, effective 9/24/2017.

As there were no questions or comments on the matter, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the

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committee recommendation which then carried by a vote of -33- in favor; -0- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

The District Manager wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwansaa, and a healthy and Happy New Year. He announced that the Dept. of Sanitation has begun their winter schedule, known as "Night Plow," to allow for snow fighting preparedness. He said that regular trash and recycling collection times may change during the Winter Schedule. Residents should place their household garbage, recyclables and compost out for collection after 4pm the evening before their regular collection day, because a certain number of routes will be collected on the 4pm to Midnight shift or the Midnight shift.

He reported that the Metropolitan Avenue Bridge Deck Replacement at Fresh Pond Road, over the LIRR tracks, in Ridgewood, was completed ahead of schedule.

Regarding the drainage problem on the ballfields in Frank Principe Park, he said that the Parks Department is still working to resolve the problem with the Dept. of Environmental Protection.

He announced that funding has been secured for the Reconstruction of the Soccer Field and Track in Juniper Valley Park, which is expected to begin later this coming year.

The District Manager announced that a new large sewer installation project is slated to begin on 71 Street, between Juniper Boulevard South and the Queens Midtown Expressway, and connect with the sewer improvement project in the vicinity of Calamus Avenue in Maspeth. He said that there's no estimated timeline for this project, as yet.

He reported that the Board continues to advocate for a sewer replacement project on 77 Avenue in Glendale, to alleviate severe street flooding and sewer backups that occur whenever there's a heavy rain.

In response to a question from Peter Comber, the District Manager replied that new water mains have been replaced in almost all of the blocks in North Ridgewood this year. In addition, he said that National Grid has been working to replace defective gas mains and install new gas valves in Ridgewood, and throughout the rest of our Board area. He said that he has advocated for both Onderdonk Avenue and Woodward Avenue to be repaved but NYC DOT would not do this because of the water main project in that area.

He said that the contractor continues to work on installing new sewer chambers in the vicinity of 74 Street, between Juniper Boulevard South and Penelope Avenue, and in Penelope Avenue at 74 Street.

Carmen Santana asked whether there was any update on the reconstruction of Rosemary's Playground. The District Manager replied that this project is in the final design stage now. She asked if the MTA plans to repaint the M Train structure that's adjacent to the park, prior to the start of this parks project. The District Manager said that the MTA advertised bids for the repainting of the M Train structure, but the bids they received were excessively high so they could not proceed to contract, as yet.

Ms. Santana also commented that she has not seen any progress this year, regarding improved accessibility for handicapped people who'd like to shop in local stores on Myrtle Avenue in Ridgewood. Theodore Renz, the Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District, said that, this year, they distributed information about the legal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act to all of the shop owners in the BID district. Mr. Renz asked her to give him a call at work to discuss any remaining issues.

The District Manager informed everyone that Michael O'Kane is back at home, recuperating from hip surgery. He said that he's looking forward to getting back on his feet soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez reported that on Monday, December 10th, the committee met in the Board office to review two zoning variance applications that were presented to the Board during public hearings at last month's Board Meeting. He said that committee members met with representatives of Manny Kumar, the applicant, who seeks an amended zoning variance to operate a service station at 73-13 Cooper Avenue, in Glendale, as well as the representatives of WellLife Network to review their BSA application to permit the construction of a 66-unit housing development at 80-97 Cypress Avenue, in Glendale.

He described the first variance application as **BSA Cal. No. 58-30-BZ** - IN THE MATTER OF an application to the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals by Nasir J. Kanzada, PE, on behalf of Manny Kumar, owner of record, to allow the alteration of an existing gas station for the installation of a new canopy, legalization of a convenience store, legalization of a new dispenser arrangement, and to waive the rules of practice and procedure for the gas station at **73-13 Cooper Avenue in Glendale**, Queens, N.Y. (Block: 3691, Lot 19), in an R4 Zoning District. This site was first granted a variance in 1930, on Cooper Avenue at the northwest corner of 73 Place.

Mr. Sanchez reported that the committee has no objection to granting a zoning variance in this case, provided that the excessive LED lighting which was recently removed from around the perimeter of this gas station, is not replaced. As there were no further questions or comments on this matter, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the committee recommendation which carried unanimously by a vote of – 35 - in favor; -0- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

Regarding **BSA Cal. No. 2018-156-BZ**, Mr. Sanchez described the application as follows: 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 PSCH Cypress Ave. Housing Development Fund Corp., d/b/a WellLife Network, Inc., for a variance, under Sections 72-21, 24-111, 24-31/23-45, 24-521, 24-551 and 25-31/25-253 of the Zoning Resolution to permit the development of a 6-story, plus cellar, 100% permanently affordable UG 3 non-profit residence with sleeping accommodations (supportive and affordable housing), with 66 units, at **80-97 Cypress Avenue** (Block 3731/3732, Lot 65, and parts of lot 54 and lot 412), in Glendale, Queens, NY., in an R5 Zoning District. This is contrary to ZR Section 24-111 (floor area and FAR), 24-31/23-45 (front yard), 24-521/24-551 (height and setback) and 25-31/25-253 (parking).

Mr. Sanchez reported that the committee recommends in favor of supporting this zoning variance application because it meets all of the Board of Standards and Appeals findings in this case. He said that according to their application, WellLife Network proposes to develop a 66-unit Intergenerational Residence to:

- Provide supportive housing units for homeless or at-risk individuals, young adults or families with children, where one adult household member has serious mental illness or another disabling condition. (20 apartments)
- Provide supportive housing units for senior citizens who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and also have a disabling condition. (20 apartments)
- The remaining affordable housing units would be designated for individuals from the community who meet low-income eligibility criteria. (26 apartments)

He said that the approval of this development demonstrates the Board's commitment to creating affordable housing units, of reasonable size, for residents and/or their families who are either homeless themselves or at-risk of homelessness in our City.

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As there were no further questions or comments on this matter, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the committee recommendation which carried by a vote of – 33 - in favor; -2- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

Regarding the feasibility of downzoning several residential areas in the CB5 Board area, he reported that Committee members met recently with staff of the Dept. of City Planning (DCP) in Queens Borough Hall to discuss the status of the Board's request to rezone certain portions of Ridgewood. He explained that when DCP staff completed their analysis of the existing as-built conditions of homes in the areas that were identified by the committee as in need of downzoning, they found that only 30% of the existing residential development would be in compliance with the proposed zoning restrictions. However, at least 70% of the proposed residential district would have to be in compliance with the proposed zoning classification, before DCP will agree to consider the Board's rezoning request, he said.

Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee

Tobias Sheppard Bloch

Toby Bloch, co-chair of the Transportation Services Committee, reported that on Tuesday, November 27th, the committee met with Shane Anderson, a community organizer with the Center for Independence of the Disabled in NY, which offers assistance and information regarding any problems that are experienced by people with disabilities. He said that their office is located at 80-20 Kew Gardens Road, in Queens. He said that they discussed the operation of the Access-A-Ride program, under mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Bloch gave a brief update on the status of several major capital improvement projects in our Board area. He said that the Metropolitan Avenue Bridge Deck Replacement at Fresh Pond Road has been completed on time. He also reported that work is proceeding on scheduled on the second span of the new Kosciuszko Bridge, which is expected to be complete in 2019.

Regarding the Wyckoff Avenue Reconstruction Project, he said that the final design for this project is expected to be complete at the end of June, 2019. He said that the project will include capital improvements to many of the side streets between Wyckoff Avenue and Irving Avenue.

Regarding the Replacement of the Grand Street Bridge over Newtown Creek, he said that the project design is expected to begin soon, and construction is slated to begin in Fiscal Year 2022.

And, regarding the Safe Routes to Schools project, he said that the contractor has been working to improve pedestrian safety at various intersections in the vicinity of PS 239, which is located on Weirfield Street, in Ridgewood. He said that the contractor will install bump outs and widen the sidewalk at several intersections on Myrtle Avenue between Onderdonk Avenue and Cypress Avenue, as part of this project. He said that the project is expected to be complete by Summer, 2019.

In closing, he said that the committee continues to review a number of traffic safety requests at each meeting. Requests for traffic safety improvements can be called into the Board office at (718)366-1834.

Library Services Committee

Sarah Feldman

Sarah Feldman reported that the committee met with Luisa Benedetto, Community Affairs Manager in the Queens Central Library, on Monday, November 26th, in the Board 5 office. She said that they reviewed the recent progress on the current construction project at the Glendale Public Library, as well as ongoing programs and services at local libraries.

Ms. Feldman reported that the contractor is currently completing excavation work at the Glendale Branch Library, as part of the rehabilitation project there. She said that work is proceeding on schedule, with a completion date in August of 2019. For the duration of this project, the library agreed to provide temporary accommodations for patrons in rented space in Atlas Park. She said that 1,271 people have registered to use the temporary library facility, according to the Central Library's statistics.

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Regarding the Maspeth Public Library, she reported that in conjunction with the roof replacement project, a new H-VAC unit may be replaced on the roof this year, as well.

Regarding the Middle Village Public Library, she said that they are still searching for a replacement for the Children's Librarian. She also said that patrons of the Middle Village library have requested relocating the library to a new site.

Regarding the Ridgewood Public Library, she reported that the Friends of the Ridgewood Library have been instrumental in interviewing teen patrons of the library who would like to see greater computer access at this library, as well as writing classes, and instruction in computer coding. She said that the Central Library is reviewing the decision that was made several months ago to close the Periodicals Room in this branch. She said that Slavin Lee, the Branch Librarian, will be relocating to Seattle, Washington soon, and leaving her position vacant until a replacement is hired. She asked for input on finding a replacement as soon as possible.

In closing, Ms. Feldman thanked Ernie Searle for designing a flyer that is being circulated to attract patrons of local libraries to join a Friends of the Library group in each local branch. Flyers were distributed. She wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy Healthy New Year, and welcomed anyone interested in joining the committee to attend their next meeting.

Parks Services Committee

Steven Fiedler

Steven Fiedler reported that the reconstruction of the roller hockey rinks in Juniper Valley Park and in Mafera Park has been completed.

Regarding the Rehabilitation of Frank Principe Park, he reported that this park is still under construction. He said that the Parks Department is currently working with the Dept. of Environmental Protection to increase the capacity of the sewer connection on the west side of the park, in order to alleviate flooding there whenever it rains.

He also reported that the design plans for the Rehabilitation of the Juniper Valley Park Soccer/Football Field and Running Track are completed. He said that funding has been allocated for this project to begin in the Fall of 2019.

Regarding the new spray showers inside the Children's Playground in Juniper Valley Park, he said that this project includes the installation of a new drainage system in this section of the park, along with new spray showers and play equipment. He said that work is expected to be complete by Summer of 2019.

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 8:40pm. He thanked Pastor Dan Klaus for providing coffee and donuts at Board Meetings during the past year, and thanked everyone for their donations of gifts for the WIC program in Ridgewood. He welcomed everyone to stay to enjoy light refreshments to celebrate the holiday.