



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

January 9, 2019

#### Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Antonetta Binanti; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Peter Comber; Deborah Cox; Patricia Crowley; Brian Dooley; Jerome Drake; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Patricia Grayson; Mohan Gyawali-Chhetri; Fred T. Haller, III; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; Michael LoCascio; John Maier; Edgar Mantel; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Carmen Santana; Connie Santos; Christopher Sperrazza; Dennis Stephan; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Maryanna Zero

#### Board Members Absent

Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Fred Hoeffler; John J. Killcommons; Katherine Masi; Michael O'Kane; Theodore M. Renz; Kelvin Rodriguez; Catherine Sumsky

#### Elected Officials

Joseph Nocerino - Queens Borough President  
Melinda Katz  
Julio Salazar – US Congressional Representative  
Nydia Velazquez  
Timothy Hopper – US Congressional Representative  
Grace Meng, 6<sup>th</sup> CD  
Neil Giannelli - NYS Senator  
Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr, 15<sup>th</sup> SD  
Lesi Hreb - NYS Assemblyman  
Brian Barnwell, 35<sup>th</sup> AD  
Alison Cummings – NYS Assemblywoman  
Catherine Nolan, 37<sup>th</sup> AD  
Samantha Kung - NYS Assemblyman  
Michael Miller, 38<sup>th</sup> AD  
Greg Mitchell - NYC Council Member  
Robert Holden, 30<sup>th</sup> CD  
Alexis Rodriguez – NYC Council Member  
Antonio Reynoso, 34<sup>th</sup> CD

#### Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens  
Laura Mulvihill and Catherine O'Leary, Community Associates - CB5Q Staff  
Sgt. Edward Reiman, P.O. Richard Teemsma and P.O. Jonathan Combs, NCO Unit of the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
P.O. Edyta Bielicka, Community Affairs Unit, 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct

#### GUESTS

Felice Bassin and Brendan Ratner – Partners, Rentar Plaza – Vertical Industrial Park Associates, Garden City, NY  
Jaclyn Peranteau, PE, Prime Engineering, 664 Blue Pt Rd – Unit B, Holtsville, NY 11742  
Ave McCracken, Dir. of Public Affairs & Development, Transitional Services Inc, 10-16 162 St, Whitestone, NY  
Catherine Lind, RN, Elmhurst Hospital – Express Care, 79-01 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY 11373  
Sean Graves, Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps, 503 Onderdonk Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:35pm, following the Salute to the Flag. He announced the first item on the Board agenda as:

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**PUBLIC HEARING Re: Proposed Revocable Consent Modification for Property located at  
66-26 Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village, Queens, NY. (File #: 1107)**

This is an Application to the NY City Dept. of Transportation, by Vertical Industrial Park Associates, for the removal of a planting area that is part of a revocable consent and is within the NYC DOT Right-of-Way, which, if approved, would be replaced by a curb cut and driveway on Metropolitan Avenue. This address is commonly known as Rentar Plaza, or Metro Mall.

Board Chairman Arcuri explained that when this structure was originally built, it was set back from the eastbound driving lane on Metropolitan Avenue to accommodate the mapped width of the street on the south side of the avenue, which is actually wider than the paved roadway indicates.

Felice Bassin introduced herself and Brendan Ratner as partners in Rentar Plaza, which was originally built in 1973, with 960,770 sq. ft. of retail space and storage in the existing 2-story and cellar structure on Block: 3605; Lot: 1. Ms. Bassin explained that they are proposing to convert a portion of the building, that faces onto Metropolitan Avenue, into several additional loading docks. She said that there's currently 145,000 square feet of retail space available for lease in this shopping mall, ever since both tenants on the first floor, Toys R Us and K-Mart, filed for bankruptcy last year. She explained that the brick-and-mortar retail market has changed a lot in the past 8 years. In order to attract retailers to move in, she said that they decided to redesign the floor space, to include 3 new store fronts along with 2 additional loading bays to accommodate the additional shops.

Otherwise, she said that their other option would be to convert this space into a logistics warehouse. But, because the building was designed for retailers, they'd prefer to retain its retail use.

Ms. Bassin introduced the project engineer, Jaclyn Peranteau, who displayed the building alteration plans that were submitted to the Dept. of Buildings last Summer. Ms. Peranteau explained that this property is located in an M1-2/R4B zoning district, with a C1-3 overlay, and the proposed building alterations comply with the current zoning. She said that they discovered during the application process that there is a strip of land in front of the building that is governed by a revocable consent. As she spoke, she pointed to the stretch of property, where there are 8 loading bays located to the right of the front entrance where patrons enter the building, a long driveway, two planting areas and a wide sidewalk. She said that they plan to remove one of the planting areas in order to construct two additional loading bays about 125 feet east of the front entrance, install a new driveway and 35' wide curb cut. She said that an existing Bus Stop in front of the building limits their options for locating a new driveway and a new 30' curb cut.

The Board Chairperson opened the floor to questions and comments from Board members.

Lee Rottenberg asked if there were any prospective tenants for the new store fronts. Ms. Bassin replied that when they approached TARGET stores, she found out that they would only be interested in leasing a maximum of 60,000 square feet of floor space.

John Maier asked when this application was originally filed. Ms. Peranteau replied that their building alteration plans for the new curb cut and overhead doors were filed with the Dept. of Buildings in September. She said that they are now in the process of obtaining a permit from the Dept. of Transportation in connection with the revocable consent that governs the proposed alterations to the front of the building.

Steven Fiedler asked what size trucks would be permitted to deliver products into the proposed loading bays.

Ms. Peranteau said that deliveries would be made by 53' tractor trailers.

Margaret O'Kane asked if the delivery trucks would block Metropolitan Avenue when they're making deliveries. Ms. Peranteau pointed to the illustration on the proposed plans and said that delivery trucks would pull up into the eastbound parking lane of Metropolitan Avenue, and then pull back into the loading bay, without blocking traffic lanes on Metropolitan Avenue. The Board Chairman said that would necessitate eliminating the planting area at the east end of the property.

Carmen Santana asked why the Board is considering this application before the committee has had the opportunity to review it. The District Manager Gary Giordano explained that the Community Board received this

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application on December 10<sup>th</sup>, only 2 days prior to our last Board Meeting and committees haven't met since then. He explained that, in this case, there are time constraints for the Board's response.

Edgar Mantel asked how many feet deep inside the building does the loading dock extend. Ms. Peranteau replied that it extends 60 feet into the interior of the building.

Paul Kerzner said that they should consider requesting that the MTA-NYC Transit relocate the Bus Stop in order to avoid a conflict between pedestrians and truck traffic at this busy location.

Deborah Cox asked if they would consider restricting store deliveries to overnight hours only.

Fred Haller pointed out that a low wall was built on the west side of the front entrance to the building, in order to separate the pedestrian traffic from the delivery trucks pulling into the existing loading bays in front of the building. He said that a similar wall should be built along the east end of the property, to ensure the safety of the general public and local shoppers.

Steven Fiedler opposed the proposed alterations by saying that it would create a traffic nightmare on Metropolitan Avenue while the tractor trailers are entering or pulling out of the loading bays there. He said that there are very many commuters, pedestrians and students of Christ the King High School who travel back and forth in front of the Metro Mall every day.

The Board Chairperson opened the floor to public speakers.

Dorothy Werkmeister, a resident of 65 Lane, opposed the proposed alterations to the public space in front of Metro Mall, at 66-26 Metropolitan Avenue, by saying that they would pose a safety hazard for pedestrians and shoppers. She pointed out that the M Train station is located on the east side of the driveway exit, as well as Christ the King High School, Middle Village Preparatory and the Early Childhood Center. In addition, she said that many commuters get on or off the buses at that stop in front of the Metro Mall. She pointed out that lots of speeders were apprehended by the 104<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct last year, when a speed camera was stationed on Metropolitan Avenue, right across the street from Metro Mall. In closing, she said that the response time of emergency vehicles will be negatively impacted by the 53' tractor trailers while they block traffic lanes on Metropolitan Avenue in order to pull into one of the proposed new loading bays.

The Board Chairperson referred the matter to the Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee as well as to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further consideration.

### **PRESENTATION Re: New Express Care Facility in Elmhurst Hospital**

by Catherine Lind, RN, NP, NEA-BC – Associate Exec. Dir. of Emergency Services

Cathy Lind, a Registered Nurse and Nurse Practitioner, introduced herself as the new Associate Executive Director of Emergency Services in Elmhurst Hospital, who supervises the staff in the Express Care Center that opened in September in Elmhurst Hospital. She explained that the entrance to Express Care Center is located on the north side of the hospital's main entrance at 79-01 Broadway, right off the parking lot.

Ms. Lind said that in this new facility, patients are offered a faster, easier way to see a doctor and get treated for common health issues, including cold and flu symptoms, earaches, tooth pain, skin infections, UTIs, pink eye, cuts, scrapes and sprains, and such. In addition, the medical staff is trained to administer flu vaccines, providing prescriptions for refills, and testing for STDs and HIV. She said that if a patient presents with shortness of breath and chest pains, or signs of a stroke, are immediately transferred to the Emergency Room.

She said that the new facility is equipped with an on-site lab and x-ray services, and is open seven days a week, from 3:30pm to 12 Midnight, including holidays. The facility is staffed with a combination of Board-certified doctors, nurses and patient care staff at all times, she said. In addition to treating walk-in patients on a case by case basis, the staff helps patients with locating a primary care doctor to provide follow up care that may be necessary. Pamphlets about the new facility were distributed.

### **PRESENTATION Re: Transitional Services for New York Inc.**

By Eva McCracken, TSI Director of Public Affairs & Development

Eva McCracken said that TSI was founded in response to the closing of the Creedmore State Psychiatric Hospital in 1975, where 6,000 resident patients who were diagnosed with psychiatric illnesses had been living and

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received treatment for their illnesses. She said that there are 645 patients who reside there now. She explained that her agency offers residential programs to help people get back on their feet and recover from a debilitating mental breakdown, severe depression, etc.

She said that one in five people in this country suffer from mental health issues annually. She said that one in four residents of New York City are afflicted with mental illness each year. She said that depression is on the rise in our city. She encouraged everyone to take a proactive approach to dealing with mental health issues by recommending that if you 'see something, say something' to the proper authorities. She pointed out that statistics show that one person commits suicide every 11 minutes in the United States.

She said that their services are available in all five boroughs of NYC, as well as on Long Island. At present, she said 20 or 30 residents who live in the Community Board 5 area are clients of TSI. She welcomed calls for information and assistance at her office (718) 746-6647. Pamphlets were distributed.

### Public Forum

Rochelle Friedman, Service Coordinator for JMD Learning Services, Inc., doing business as A-Plus Early Intervention, described the programs and services that their organization for children, from birth to 3 years old, who are either suspected of having or are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities. She said that their staff provides special education instruction, speech therapy, physical and occupational therapy, social work and service coordination for client families who live in Queens or on Long Island. She said that their agency staff is multilingual, so they are able to communicate with clients who are non-English speaking. She pointed out that early intervention services are provided at no out-of-pocket cost to the parents of children with special needs. She said that their organization is licensed and their services are provided with funding from the NYC Dept. of Health. For more information, she directed everyone to their website at [www.aplusearlyintervention.com](http://www.aplusearlyintervention.com), and distributed pamphlets about their services.

Linda Kyan spoke on behalf of her father, the owner of a 2-family house located at 60-71 68 Road, in Ridgewood. She explained that last year, her father hired a contractor to replace the front stoop and railing on his home. At the time, he didn't realize that as a property owner located in the Ridgewood Landmark District, he is required to obtain a Work Permit from the Landmarks Preservation Commission prior to making repairs on the front façade. She said that the front steps were slowly deteriorating and were becoming a tripping hazard. She asked for the Board's assistance in resolving this matter. The Board Chairperson referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further review at their next committee meeting.

Sebastien Augustin, the Membership Director of the Ridgewood-YMCA, located at 69-02 64 street, corner of Catalpa Avenue, welcomed everyone to attend their Family Day and Open House from 11am to 3pm on two upcoming Saturdays, January 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. He said that free fitness classes, including Zumba and dance classes, and information sessions about their weight loss programs, will be available for adults. In addition, free arts and crafts sessions will be provided for children, along with assorted family games and other youthful activities. Flyers were distributed.

Wylie Goodman, an urban planner who lives in Ridgewood, said that last year, she led a group of teenage volunteers from the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council (GRYC) in a pilot project to generate ideas on how to activate vacant storefronts in Ridgewood. In late November, the GRYC hosted a Visioning Event that was held in the lobby of the Ridgewood Savings Bank on Forest Avenue to gather input from local residents about the kind of pop-up events they'd like to see at one of these vacant storefronts.

She thanked Ted Renz, the Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District for his help on this project, and asked anyone else interested in making a suggestion or working on this idea to contact her by email at [wyliegoodman@gmail.com](mailto:wyliegoodman@gmail.com).

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Michael Pellerita, a Ridgewood resident, reported that many parishioners of the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church, located at 62-56 60 Place, double-park their cars and block the driveways of local residents on this block while they attend church services. He asked for additional police patrols of the area by the 104<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct in order to address this situation.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Vincent Arcuri, Jr.**

Board Chairperson Arcuri gave the floor to Sgt. Edward Reiman, with the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Patrol Unit, who introduced P.O. Teemsma and P.O. Combs, as the newly-assigned Neighborhood Coordination Officers who cover Glendale. Sgt. Reiman urged everyone to remove personal property from their vehicles when they are parked on the street. He said that there's been a recent spike in the number of car break-ins throughout the precinct. P.O. Teemsma announced that their first Build-the-Block meeting with local residents is scheduled for 7pm on Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, in Sacred Heart School, at 83-14 78 Avenue in Glendale. He said that they will be on hand to answer any questions or complaints that residents bring up at the meeting.

Sgt. Reiman explained that the NYPD has created 4 NCO sectors in the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct, with two police officers assigned to daily patrols in each sector. He said that Build-the-Block meetings will be held in each of the 4 sectors, with one meeting each month in a different sector on a rotating basis.

In response to a question from Peter Comber, Sgt. Reiman encouraged property owners to install video surveillance cameras in front of their homes or businesses, by saying that they are helpful in identifying suspects who may have been involved in a street crime. He advised that it's best not to post the LOGO of the electronic surveillance system on the perimeter of your building.

Richard Huber encouraged everyone to report crimes that occur in their vicinity because it helps the police to identify when and where there's a pattern of crimes in any given neighborhood.

P.O. Combs informed everyone that 17 new Police Officers were just assigned to the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct upon graduating from the Police Academy.

The Board Chairperson 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 their accurate reporting on Community Board matters and events.

The Board Chairperson welcomed representatives of local elected officials to address the Board.

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Joe Nocerino invited everyone to attend the State of the Borough address at 10:30am on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City. He said that invitations will be mailed out to all Board members. Anyone interested in attending is advised to RSVP by calling (718) 286-2661, or via email at [www.queensbp.org/rsvp](http://www.queensbp.org/rsvp).

He said that the Queens Borough Board's FY2020 Capital and Expense Budget Hearing is tentatively scheduled to take place on Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, in Queens Borough Hall - Room 200, beginning at 10am.

Mr. Nocerino reminded Board members that the deadline to apply to become a new Community Board member or to renew your Community Board membership is February 8<sup>th</sup>. He said that application forms are 4-pages long this year. The completed original application forms must all be signed and notarized prior to delivery to the Queens Borough President's Office, 120-55 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens, NY 11424.

On behalf of US Representative Nydia Velazquez, Julio Salazar extended her Best Wishes for 2019. He reported that the Congresswoman introduced new legislation this month to address Student Debt Relief. He said that she voted for a spending package to end the government shutdown and authorize funding for border security. He said that the Congresswoman is seeking a moratorium on the violations issued to local storeowners for awnings that were installed without a permit. He welcomed calls to their office at (718) 599-3658, from anyone

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who may have received a violation for a storefront awning, as well as from constituents who have unresolved issues with the WIC Program, SSI or SNAP (Food Stamps).

On behalf of US Representative Grace Meng, Tim Hopper announced that this month, a representative of the Veterans Administration will be available to meet with veterans and their family members in their office at 40-13 159 Street, Suite A, in Flushing, to provide assistance in filing for benefits or services. He advised that appointments are required, by calling their office at (718) 358-6364. He welcomed Board members to attend a memorial service for their late staff member Don Capalbi, that will be held on Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, in Queens College.

On behalf NYC Council Member Robert Holden, Greg Mitchel announced that the deadline to apply for local Councilmanic funds for local community programs and services in the 30<sup>th</sup> Council District is February 15<sup>th</sup>. He said the applications are available in their office, located at 64-69 Dry Harbor Road, in Middle Village. He also reported that the Councilmember recently sponsored legislation to create an interagency task force to address illegal occupancies and abandoned buildings. He also sponsored legislation authorizing the issuance of waivers for the Dept. of Building fines for awning violations, affecting local storefronts. He welcomed calls to their office at (718)366-3900 for more information on obtaining the proper Work Permit.

Mr. Mitchell also reported that the Councilmember sponsored new legislation that would mandate notification be given to local Community Boards and Councilmembers by the contractor, within 4 days of a determination that there are lead contaminants in the soil or on the property that they are working on.

On behalf of Councilmember Antonio Reynoso, Alexis Rodriguez said that their office is in consultations with the MTA-NYC Transit regarding the service interruption changes that are under discussion in connection with the L Train Shutdown, which is scheduled to begin in April of this year. He encouraged local constituents to participate in the FY 2020 round of Participatory Budgeting sessions which has just begun. He also reported that the Councilmember introduced legislation to protect non-union workers in the Trade Waste industry. For more information, he welcomed calls to their office at (718) 963-3141.

On behalf of State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Neil Giannelli announced that they will host an E-Waste Recycling Event in Rosemary's Playground on Woodward Avenue between Woodbine Street and Madison Street in Ridgewood on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm.

On behalf of Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, Alexa Arrechi reported that the Assemblyman continues to lobby for additional funding for the Home Stability Support Program in order to prevent homelessness throughout NY State. Literature was distributed.

On behalf of Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, Lesi Hreb thanked everyone for their donations toward their annual Coat Drive, and Toy Drive. She said their staff will assist local residents who are eligible to file applications for the basic STAR, and Enhanced STAR benefits until March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. She welcomed constituents to call their district office located at 55-19 69 Street, in Maspeth, at (718) 651-3185 to make an appointment. Flyers were distributed.

On behalf of Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Alison Cummings wished everyone a Happy New Year. Newsletters were distributed.

On behalf of Assemblyman Michael Miller, Samantha Kung announced that they will collect Valentines for Veterans Drive from local residents until Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, in their office at 83-91 Woodhaven Boulevard. She said that they are hosting a Toiletry Drive for the homeless until February 2<sup>nd</sup>, as well.

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## MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's Board Meeting which was conducted on December 11, 2018. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion by Jerry Drake, and seconded by Walter Clayton.

### 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 December 11, 2019. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

#### Liquor License Renewals

- 1) **Mickey's Little Garden Inc.** 61-21 Fresh Pond Road, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 2) **Frank Kowalinski Post #4** 61-57 Maspeth Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 3) **Baha Lounge Corp. d/b/a Don Tequila Urban Cantina** 83-38 Woodhaven Blvd, Glendale, NY 11385
- 4) **Seneca Fiesta Corp.** 603 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 5) **Gottscheer Holding Co. Inc.** 655/657 Fairview Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 6) **Ridgewood Lodge 1642 Loyal Order of Moose** 72-15 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 7) **Soranpub LLC d/b/a Bukowski's** 69-47 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

#### New Wine, and/or Beer License

- 1) **Esencia Café Inc.** 68-38 Forest Avenue – Storefront D, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Twin Slice of Pizza Corp.** 57-64 Maspeth Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

#### Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) **Carlo Pizza of Metropolitan Ave Inc.** 74-02 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 2) **Craft Culture NY Inc.** 59-04 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **Wakamatsu Japanese Restaurant** 70-18 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 4) **6265 Exclusive Rosa's Corp. d/b/a Rosa's Pizza** 62-65 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385

#### Corporate Change

\*San Cecilio Restaurant Inc. d/b/a **Capybara, at 853 Wyckoff Avenue, in Ridgewood**, sent a corrected Corporate Change Notification that supercedes what was previously reported in November of 2018. The new notification states that Rodrigo F. Gonzalez acquired 95% of the assets and shares. They further reported that Rodrigo Gonzalez replaced Marvin Carbajal as President, and Marvin Carbajal will serve as Vice President.

\* Indicates Outdoor Area.

### Demolition Notices

The Board Chairperson reported that the Board received a demolition notice since the last monthly Board Meeting on December 12, 2018: demolition of a residential garage in the rear yard of **66-49 74 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.

The Board Chairperson announced that this year, five Street Fair applications were submitted to the Mayor's Office to request permits to hold events in our Board 5 area. He read aloud the names of the sponsoring organizations, locations and dates of the proposed Street Festivals, as follows:

- 1) The Ridgewood Local Development Corp – Myrtle Avenue Street Festival on Sunday, April 28, 2019
- 2) Maspeth Chamber of Commerce, Lions and Kiwanis Club – Grand Avenue Fair on Sunday, June 9, 2019
- 3) Glendale Kiwanis Club – Myrtle Avenue Street Festival on Sunday, July 21, 2019
- 4) Federazione Italo-Americana of Bklyn & Queens – Fresh Pond Road Festival on Thursday thru Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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5) Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District – Myrtle Avenue Festival on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019  
He said that the Executive Committee will meet with the applicants to review their Street Fair applications at the next committee meeting and make their recommendation to the full Board to consider at the next monthly Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

The Board Chairperson announced that preparations for the Census 2020 are currently underway. He encouraged everyone to participate in the census in the coming year.

### **District Manager's Report**

#### **Gary Giordano**

The District Manager wished everyone a Happy New Year. He announced that beginning in April, Board members will be limited to serving four 2-year terms as Board members, after which they would have to wait out one term before they could reapply. He said that there is an exception for Board members who were newly-appointed in 2018. They are eligible to serve for five 2-year terms.

Regarding the Landmarks Preservation Commission, he announced that at 7pm on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, the Greater Ridgewood Restoration Corporation and Ridgewood Property Owners Civic Association will host a workshop, in the auditorium of IS 93, for property owners on how to obtain a work permit for building alterations on the front exterior of properties that are located in the Ridgewood Historic District.

Representatives from the Landmarks Preservation Commission will be on hand to answer any questions.

The District Manager reported that the installation of a new sewer chamber in the intersection of 74 Street and Penelope Avenue was finished, as part of the Penelope Avenue and 74 Street and vicinity sewer replacement project in Middle Village. He said that the contractor will begin installing the next sewer chamber on 74 Street soon.

The District Manager announced that a new sewer installation project is slated to begin on 71 Street, run underneath the LIRR tracks north of Juniper Boulevard South and extend all the way to the Queens Midtown Expressway.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Zoning and Land Use Review Committee**

##### **Walter Sanchez**

Walter Sanchez reported that while the committee hopes to see additional retail development in the Metro Mall in Middle Village, he and John Maier, representing the Transportation Services Committee, are opposed to the current proposal, as presented at tonight's Board Meeting. He said that we should request an additional 35 days in which to meet with the applicant and the applicable agency representatives.

As there was no further discussion on the matter, the Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the recommendation, which carried unanimously by a vote of -35- in favor; -0- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

Mr. Sanchez reported that the committee decided at last month's committee meeting, that they would prefer not to take sides in cases involving violations issued to homeowners who have made repairs to the building envelope, stoop and railings on the front of their property and received violations from the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

#### **Parks Services Committee**

##### **Steven Fiedler**

Steven Fiedler reported that the Parks Department has been working to resolve the drainage problem on the ballfields in Frank Principe Park with the Dept. of Environmental Protection. He said that the drainage system repairs are expected to be complete within the next two weeks.



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Mr. Fiedler announced that funding has been secured to complete the reconstruction of the soccer field and track in Juniper Valley Park, and the project has gone out to bid. It is expected to begin this Autumn and be complete within 12 months.

He announced that the Ridgewood Reservoir, in addition to being added to both the State and Federal Historic Districts last year, now has all three basins classified as natural wetlands by the State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. There was a general round of applause.

### **Old and New Business**

Sarah Feldman announced that the Friends of Maspeth Library are scheduled to meet at 6:30pm on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> in the Maspeth Public Library on Grand Avenue.

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 9:40pm.