



## Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens  
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale  
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Vincent Arcuri, Jr.  
*Chairperson*

Gary Giordano  
*District Manager*

### Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting July 11, 2018

#### Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Antonetta Binanti; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Deborah Cox; Patricia Crowley; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Patricia Grayson; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoefflerle; Richard Huber; John J. Killcommons; Paul A. Kerzner; Edward Lettau; John Maier; Edgar Mantel; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O’Kane; Michael Porcelli; Theodore M. Renz; Kelvin Rodriguez; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Carmen Santana; Dennis Stephan; Patrick J. Trinchese

#### Board Members Absent

Peter Comber; Brian Dooley; Mohan Gyawali-Chhetri; Kathleen Knight; Maryann Lattanzio; Michael LoCascio; Michael O’Kane; Donald Passantino; David Sands; Connie Santos; Christopher Sperrazza; Catherine Sumsky; Barbara Toscano; Maryanna Zero

#### Elected Officials

NYS Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, 30<sup>th</sup> AD and Staff Mark Papish  
Julio Salazar – US Representative Nydia Velazquez, 7<sup>th</sup> C.D.  
Neil Giannelli - NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr, 15<sup>th</sup> SD  
Brent Weitzberg – NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28<sup>th</sup> AD  
Alison Cummings – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, 37<sup>th</sup> AD  
Christine Stoll - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38<sup>th</sup> AD  
Stacey Eliuk – NYC Public Advocate Letitia James  
Greg Mitchell - NYC Council Member Robert Holden, 30<sup>th</sup> CD

#### Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens  
Laura Mulvihill and Catherine O’Leary, Community Associates - CB5Q Staff  
Joseph Nocerino – Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

#### GUESTS

Jonathan Turer, Director of Programs, NYC H2O and Matt Malina, founder of NYC H2O  
Crystal Wolfe, founder of Catering for the Homeless, Maspeth, NY 11378

Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:37pm, following the Salute to the Flag. The Board Chairperson announced the first item on the Board Agenda as follows:

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### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Jason Wang, a representative of Cents-Ability and a Maspeth resident, spoke about the mission of this nonprofit organization that involves volunteers who teach free financial literacy workshops to teens throughout the City since their founding in 2004. He said that Cents Ability is sponsored by the Societe Generale Investment Banking firm in NY, and affiliated with the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE). He said that their financial education courses are divided into eight 45-minute classes and include practice activities. The course work emphasizes the importance of goal setting, in addition to setting smart financial goals that will help students to achieve their objectives. To this end, students are given workbooks filled with dozens of interactive activities as a supplement to their class work modules, enabling them to continue learning once they've completed their course work, he said.

In closing, he said that Americans now owe \$1.5 Trillion in student loan debt, as compared to auto loan debt of \$1.1 Trillion and credit card debt of \$977 Billion, according to the most recent Federal Reserve data for these statistics. He said that now more than ever before, high school and college students need to learn how to budget their money and pay down debt as soon as possible.

Mr. Wang said that Cents-Ability is interested in networking with local community groups and organizations to provide free financial literacy courses in our Board area. He welcomed calls for more information about their programs and services to their office at (212) 678-6144, or via their website at <https://cents-ability.org>.

Jonathan Turer, Director of Programs for NYC H2O, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was founded in 2009 by Matt Malina, the Director of NYC H2O, for the purpose of educating and inspiring New York's citizens about the city's water and sewer system. He said that to-date, they've taken 15,000 students on educational tours and recreational trips to local parks and waterways, including 5,000 public school students who visited the Ridgewood Reservoir on class trips. He said that NYC H2O has sponsored an additional 500 trips for local community groups and residents who are interested in exploring nature in the City's park system. Over the past year, he said that their organization was successful in advocating for the protection of the natural wetlands in the Basins of the Ridgewood Reservoir. Right now, he said that they are preparing a grant application that would enable them to expand the scope of their activities at the Ridgewood Reservoir, and work with the staff of the Museum of Natural History to initiate a series of events and educational activities for the purpose of raising the public's awareness and appreciation of the beautiful natural habitat at this site. He thanked the Community Board and local elected officials for their past support for their efforts, and welcomed their continued support. He announced that their next guided tour of the Ridgewood Reservoir is scheduled to begin at 10am on Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. He advised that pre-registration is required, by going on-line to their website at [www.nych2o.org](http://www.nych2o.org).

Ethan Briganti, a participant in the Summer Youth Employment Program at the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council (GRYC), said that the GRYC plans to organize an event in Ridgewood Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District, called the Ridgewood Art Extravaganza, this Fall. He said that the purpose of the event is to enrich the cultural life of the neighborhood and serve as a platform for local artists to display their art. The Board Chairperson advised him to discuss his proposal with Theodore Renz, the Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue BID, and long-standing Community Board member.

Anna Aybar, the owner of Aby's Bar, located at 681 Seneca Avenue in Ridgewood, said that she is in the process of renewing the liquor license for the bar at this location. She asked that the Board support her request to keep the bar open until 4am every day of the week, in compliance with the rules and regulations of the State Liquor Authority. She said that under the existing liquor license, there is a stipulation that this bar close at 12 Midnight on weekdays, which is not the case for the other local bars in the area.

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Carmen Santana asked how many patrons frequent this bar, on average. Ms. Aybar replied that the bar can accommodate 60 patrons.

Walter Sanchez asked if their entertainment includes live music, or a DJ. Ms. Aybar said that she hires a DJ to entertain patrons on Friday and Saturday nights; on weeknights, patrons listen to music from the juke box. Staff member Laura Mulvihill informed everyone that the Board received the notification of a change in operation from this establishment earlier today. The Board Chairperson said that he would take the matter under advisement, with the relevant local authorities and staff.

Kelvin Rodriguez, a Board member and the manager of Billy's Marketplace at 870 Cypress Avenue in Ridgewood, welcomed everyone to celebrate the first anniversary of the supermarket's grand opening at the block party on Jefferson Avenue between Wyckoff Avenue and Cypress Avenue, in Ridgewood, on Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. Flyers were distributed.

Frank Artim, a Middle Village resident, asked if he could ask a question from the floor during the Board Meeting. The Board Chairperson explained that Board Meetings are not open public forums. He said the Agenda is prepared in advance of each Board Meeting, and time does not permit the Board to address every issue that may come before it during any given meeting. He advised him to contact the Board office to request information or report complaints.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Vincent Arcuri, Jr.**

Board Chairperson Arcuri 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.

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

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Joseph Nocerino presented certificates of appreciation to several long-standing Board members, including Dmytro Fedkowskyj and John Maier for their 10 years of service on the Board, as well as Fred T. Haller for his 30 years of service as a Board member. He also presented a certificate of appreciation in absentia to Michael O'Kane for his 10 years of service as a Board member. There was a general round of applause. He wished everyone a good Summer. Flyers were distributed regarding the City Resource Fair that will be held in Queens Borough Hall next Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, between 9 AM and 1 PM, at 120- 55 Queens Boulevard, in Kew Gardens.

On behalf of NYC Public Advocate Letitia James, Stacey Eliuk said that while households in all income ranges have seen their property tax burdens increase since 2000, the most significant impact of these local tax increases has been on households with annual incomes below \$50,000. With this in mind, she said that the Public Advocate supports reforms to the City's Property Tax system that would include:

- expanding the eligibility for tax rebates that are available to seniors and disabled property owners;
- eliminating the eligibility loophole for non-permanent residents who own apartments or condominiums that serve as their own personal 'pied-a-terre';
- adding vacant lots to the City's real estate tax base; and
- limiting property tax increases by instituting a 6% cap on local property tax assessments, except for properties with assessed valuations of more than \$5 Million, or condominiums with assessed values of more than \$1 Million.
- taxing the profits that real estate speculators make when they buy and then flip residential properties on a capital gains basis, and eliminate existing tax loopholes that they may apply for.

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In closing, she announced that starting this Friday, she plans to take an extended leave of absence from her job, and advised that anyone interested in reaching the Public Advocate's office regarding community concerns to call their main office at (212) 669-4576.

On behalf of U.S. Representative Nydia Velazquez, Julio Salazar said that the Congresswoman joins with the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District and Greater Ridgewood Restoration Corporation in requesting a moratorium on new building construction or expansion in the residential and industrial areas of the Board area, as outlined in the Board's resolution regarding the proposed Ridgewood Rezoning which was adopted on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Carmen Santana asked for a complete list of addresses where overdevelopment is occurring in Ridgewood.

Mr. Salazar informed everyone that in May of this year, the Congresswoman introduced the Superfund Enhancement Act of 2018 in Congress which would reinstate a tax on big oil and petrochemical companies, in order to finance the cleanup of Superfund sites in our country. He explained that in 1995, Congress let a tax on these kinds of companies expire, shifting the cost of Superfund cleanups at certain sites to the taxpayer. He pointed out that there are several Superfund sites in the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, including Newtown Creek in Maspeth, and the Wolff-Alport site on the corner of Irving Avenue and Cooper Avenue, in Ridgewood. The proposed legislation would reinstate the "Superfund Tax" requiring industries that are linked to pollution to pay for environmental remediation.

Mr. Salazar asked Board members to support this measure because there is a long list of contaminated sites in the greater metropolitan area. The Board Chairperson referred the matter to the Environmental Services Committee for their consideration.

On behalf of NYC Council Member Bob Holden, Greg Mitchell, his Chief of Staff, said that this year, they will launch a district-wide graffiti-removal program. He welcomed constituents to call their office with information on locations that are covered with graffiti. He said that their staff is currently working on developing plans for capital projects that are needed in this district, and welcomed input from constituents, by calling their office at (718) 366-3900. In closing, he welcomed everyone to enjoy the concerts in Juniper Valley Park on Tuesday nights through August 10<sup>th</sup>, this year.

Dmytro Fedkowskyj asked for an update on the status of the rehabilitation of Principe Park, located on Maurice Avenue in Maspeth. Mr. Mitchell said that reportedly work is progressing on schedule there.

On behalf of State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Neil Gianelli announced that the MTA's MetroCard Van will be on-site at the Maspeth Federal Savings Bank on 69 Street at Grand Avenue, from 10am to 12 Noon, on Thursday, August 23rd, to assist seniors and disabled residents interested in obtaining a half-priced Metrocard. He said that from 1pm to 3pm on the same day, the Metrocard van will be stationed in front of St. Margaret's Church on 80 Street in Middle Village to provide assistance to local seniors or disabled residents who are interested in obtaining a half-priced Metrocard.

Mr. Gianelli welcomed veterans to participate in their annual B-B-Q for American Veterans that will be held from 12 Noon to 3PM on Saturday, September 29th, 2018 at the Howard Beach Motor Club, located at 59 Russell Street, at the south end of 102 Street, in Howard Beach. He welcomed volunteers to attend this event, as well. He advised everyone interested in participating in this year's event to RSVP by calling their main office at (718) 738-1111.

On behalf of NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28<sup>th</sup> AD, Brent Weitzberg, his Chief of Staff, reported that both houses of the state legislature approved the initial allocation of \$15 Million in this year's budget, for an enhanced voucher system to be spent to prevent evictions of needy families and individuals throughout the city. He said that for the past two years, the Assemblyman has been advocating for the establishment of the Home Stability Support Initiative, with statewide funds in the amount of \$450 Million, to create a safety net for low-

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income families and individuals who are facing eviction. He said that the initial funding allocation is the first step toward realizing that goal.

Mr. Weitzberg said that tomorrow, the Assemblyman will hold a press conference to announce his legislative proposal regarding the need to establish culturally competent shelters for victims of domestic violence and their families. For more information, he welcomed calls to their district office, located at 70-50 Austin Street, in Forest Hills, at (718) 263-5595.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, Mark Papish thanked everyone who participated in the annual live reading of the Declaration of Independence from 6pm to 8pm on Friday, June 29th in front of the Maspeth Federal Savings Bank at 56-18 69 Street. He said that it was well attended and much appreciated.

He announced that on Tuesday, July 24th, from 10am to 3pm, representatives from the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) will be available in their district office to offer free legal advice to local residents on whatever issues are of concern to them. He advised that all appointments must be scheduled in advance by calling their office at (718) 651-3185.

Mr. Papish announced that representatives from the City's Department of Finance will be on hand to assist local property owners and renters to apply for programs and services that they may eligible for, including the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption or the Disabled Persons Rent Increase Exemption for renters, as well as a variety of tax rebate programs for local property owners.

He also announced that in cooperation with the American Italian Cancer Foundation, the Assemblyman will sponsor a Mobile Care Clinic to provide no cost digital mammograms and clinical breast exams for women between the ages of 40 and 79, at 59-26 Woodside Avenue, in Woodside on Thursday, July 26th from 9AM to 4:30PM. He advised that pre-registration is required by calling the foundation at (718) 478-5502, or 1(877)628-9090. For more information, he welcomed constituents stop in to visit them in the district office, at 55-18 69 Street, in Maspeth. Flyers were distributed.

On behalf of Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Alison Cummings thanked Board members for their work to improve the quality of life in their district over the past year. She wished everyone a good Summer.

On behalf of Assemblyman Mike Miller, Christine Stoll, his Chief of Staff, announced that the Assemblyman will sponsor free legal counseling sessions for local constituents on Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 3pm, in the District office, located at 83-91 Woodhaven Blvd. Pre-registration is required by calling their office at (718) 805-0950. She wished everyone a Happy Summer.

On a point of information, the Chairperson said that property taxes on local homeowners are increasing every year, as a result of the Dept. of Finance's practice of raising property tax assessments on residential properties every year, based on the average sale price of real estate, particularly one and two family homes, in your area.

### MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's Board Meeting which was conducted on June 13, 2018. The minutes were approved as submitted, on a motion by Katherine Masi, and seconded by Dmytro Fedkowskyj.

### 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 June 13, 2018. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

#### New Liquor Licenses

- 1) \* **Rolo's LLC**, 853 Onderdonk Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

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**Liquor License Renewals**

- 1) 64-63 Dry Harbor Tavern Inc. d/b/a **Harbor Inn Sports Bar** 64-63 Dry Harbor Rd, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 2) **The Celi House** 69-56 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 3) ARD Group LLC d/b/a **Slide Bar-B-Q** 52-75 65 Place, Maspeth, NY 11378

**New Wine and/or Beer Licenses**

- 1) **Joe & John's LLC** 74-25 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378  
(NOTIFICATION WITHDRAWN)
- 2) **HS Yim's Deli Corp.** 466 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385  
(Grocery Store/Off Premises Beer License)

**Wine and/or Beer License Renewals**

- 1) **61-01 Big Apple Deli Grocery Corp.** 61-01 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378  
(Grocery Store/Off Premises Beer License)
- 2) Salt and Pepper Delicatessen d/b/a **Slovianka** 62-42 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385  
(Grocery Store/Off Premises Beer License)

**Method of Operation Change**

**Aby's Bar Corp, 681 Seneca Avenue in Ridgewood**, has submitted notification that they will be applying to the NYS Liquor Authority for a change in their method of operation. The NYS Liquor Authority approved License #1294824, for an On-Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License with a stipulation that they close by 1am on weekends, and 12 am on weekdays. They are looking to remain open until 4am, 7 days a week.

\* Outdoor Area

**Demolition Notices**

The Board Chairperson reported that the Board received the following demolition notices since last month's Board Meeting:

Full demolition of a 1-family house at **80-68 59 Street**, at the dead-end south of Cooper Avenue, where the owner plans to build a 3-story, 2-family house, in **Glendale**;

Full demolition of a 1-car residential garage at **53-54 61 Street**, in conjunction with a vertical and horizontal addition to the existing 2-family house, in **Maspeth**;

Full demolition of a 1-story vacant brick warehouse at **1619 Decatur Street, in Ridgewood**;

Full demolition of a 1-story vacant brick warehouse at **1614 Summerfield Street, in Ridgewood**;

Interior demolition of a 2-story mixed-use building at **614 Woodward Avenue**, in conjunction with Alteration Plans to add a third story and convert the building into 12 residential units, in **Ridgewood** ; and

Full demolition of 1-story brick warehouse at **1661 Summerfield Street**, where plans were approved for the construction of a new 5-story residential building with 28 residential units, in **Ridgewood**;

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 reported that on Monday night in Queens Borough Hall, the Queens Borough Cabinet met jointly with the Queens Borough Board to discuss and vote on a recommendation regarding the proposed M1 Hotel Zoning Text Amendment, as presented by Jackie Sunwoo, City Planner with the Dept. of City Planning. He said that the Board voted in favor of the proposed text amendment, with conditional approval, by a vote of 11 to 4. He said that basically, the recommendation is to require that developers be required to obtain a Special Permit in order to construct new hotel buildings and/or significantly expand hotels in M-1 Zoning Districts throughout the city.

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The Board Chairperson also reported that representatives of National Grid gave a status update on ongoing infrastructure upgrades throughout Queens. He said that after their presentation, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz requested corrections of all the job sites that were incorrectly identified as located in the wrong Board's jurisdiction.

Dmytro Fedkowskyj asked when the Board plans to take action in response to the request for approval for the change of operation at Aby's Bar that was presented at tonight's meeting. The Board Chairperson replied that he intended to review the matter, in consultation with the proper authorities, tomorrow morning. But first, he wanted to know if Ms. Aybar would agree to sign a stipulation to limit the bar's hours of operation, namely, to close at 2AM on weeknights, from Monday to Thursday, as is the current practice in our Board area. He explained that a few years ago, based on input from the local Precinct Commander, the Board adopted this practice of requesting that all on-premises liquor license applicants agree to this stipulation. He said that the incidence of crime reportedly committed after Midnight in the vicinity of local bars in our precinct has dropped significantly over the past 5 years. Ms. Aybar had stepped out of the Board Meeting momentarily.

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

#### **Gary Giordano**

The District Manager reported that the sewer and water main project in the vicinity of 74 Street and Penelope Avenue in Middle Village remains stalled this month, due to the excavation of contaminated soil underneath the roadway earlier this year. The contractor has scheduled resurfacing on local streets where work was completed, including Juniper Valley Road and several side streets.

The District Manager gave a brief status report on the proposed Ridgewood Rezoning recommendation, which was adopted by the full Board at their monthly Board Meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>. He reported that on June 5<sup>th</sup>, several local elected officials met together with members of the Zoning and Land Use Committee and Dept. of City Planning staff in Queens Borough Hall to raise their concerns about the potential negative impacts of overdevelopment in the Federal and State Historic Districts of Ridgewood, and adjacent residential areas that merit historic designation, as well as the Industrial Business Zone in the Board 5 area. Subsequently, the Board has received several complaints about the expansion of residential buildings which appear to be out-of-character with the existing housing stock in Ridgewood. Consequently, as part of the Zoning and Land Use Committee Report at tonight's meeting, he said that Theodore Renz will present another recommendation for the Board's consideration tonight in an attempt to curtail any further overdevelopment in the area.

Regarding recent crime statistics reported by the 104<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct, he said that criminal activity is down overall in most categories in our precinct, as well as citywide, except for a few precincts in the city where street crimes remain a threat to public safety. Regarding the proposed change the hours of operation at Aby's Bar, located at 681 Seneca Avenue, he asked Ms. Aybar if she would consider signing a stipulation that states that the bar will remain open until 2AM on weekdays, from Monday thru Thursday. Ms. Aybar consented.

Regarding the Board's Internal Budget for FY 2019, he said that the City Council and Mayor agreed to increase the annual budget allocations of all 59 Community Boards citywide by \$42,000. He said that the additional allocation will raise our Board's annual budget allocation to \$233,000 this year. However, he said that the additional funds may only be spent on budget items that are categorized as Other Than Personnel Services (OTPS). He said that he plans to present some suggestions to the Board's Executive Committee at their next meeting, on how the additional funds might best be spent. He cited the example of how the Board voted in 2003 to authorize a budget amendment to reallocate funds from the Personnel Expense category in the Board's budget into Contractual Services, in order to cover costs related to graffiti removal by two crews of young

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workers, who worked under the supervision of the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council. He said that over the past 15 years, there have been at least 30,000 sites where graffiti has been removed by local grass roots programs in the Board 5 area.

He informed Board members that Michael O’Kane has been hospitalized due to a fall in his home recently. He asked that everyone keep him in their thoughts and prayers for a full recovery.

In Brian Dooley’s absence from tonight’s Board Meeting, the District Manager reported that the committee met last month in the Board office and that Mr. Dooley would give the Committee report at the next monthly Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Parks Committee**

##### **Steven Fiedler**

Steven Fiedler reported that the committee met in Starr Playground, on Onderdonk Avenue between Willoughby Avenue and Starr Street in Ridgewood, on Monday night, June 25th, to tour the playground, and discuss plans for the Ridgewood Reservoir.

He said that the committee voted in favor of adopting a resolution regarding a proposed partnership between the NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation and NYC H2O, based on their past record of introducing several thousand public school students and local residents to the beautiful natural habitat in the Ridgewood Reservoir. He commended them on their successful lobbying efforts to preserve and protect this natural environment for everyone to enjoy. He read aloud the following resolution for the Board’s consideration:

“Whereas, we celebrate that the Ridgewood Reservoir was added to the National Register of Historic Places on February 12, 2018, the New York State Register on December 7, 2017, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation issuing its initial report designating the Reservoir as a Class I wetland on February 22, 2018; and

Whereas, the Ridgewood Reservoir should be protected through its adaptive reuse as an interpretive center highlighting both the environment and the history of the site, to enlighten students in this community and the greater community in Queens and Brooklyn; and

Whereas, any work at the Ridgewood Reservoir should be performed in a way that is sensitive to and protective of the Ridgewood Reservoir’s unique ecology in keeping with its wetlands designation and its National Register status. Moreover, the historic gatehouses should be renovated and repurposed as public space that maintains its original features to the greatest extent possible; and

Whereas, any physical improvements proposed for any of the three Ridgewood Reservoir basins or the immediate surrounding area should be presented to the N.Y. City Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Community Board 5, Queens and Community Board 5, Brooklyn for review, which could include a public hearing, so that there is opportunity for public input and comment prior to any significant work being performed; Therefore, Be It Resolved, that NYC H2O, a not-for-profit organization, having proven itself over the last four years, to be an effective advocate for the Reservoir and partner with Community Board 5, Queens, is recognized for its excellent efforts at the Ridgewood Reservoir. We call upon the New York City Parks Department to enter into a formal partnership with NYC H2O, to work in conjunction with Community Board 5, Queens, Community Board 5, Brooklyn and community groups in the Reservoir area, to develop plans that will enhance this site’s well-being as per the above guidelines, and to continue to work to foster education, safety and to improve the environment at the beautiful Ridgewood Reservoir.

NYC H2O is a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation that provides education programs about NYC’s water and ecology. Over the past 4 years NYC H2O has helped protect the Reservoir and increase community access by accomplishing the following:

- Drafted the successful National and State Historic Register nominations.



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- Partnered with this Community Board's advocacy efforts to delineate the Reservoir as a Class I Wetland.
- Advocated successfully to the NYC Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) for the installation of a pedestrian activated signal on Vermont Place to allow for safe passage from the parking lot to the Reservoir. In addition, NYC DOT has just committed to installing a speed hump on Highland Boulevard further enhancing pedestrian safety at the Reservoir.
- Organized 2 volunteer landscaping events in which invasive plants were removed and native ones planted. A total of 85 volunteers participated in these 2 events
- Engaged over 3,500 students in STEM learning on Water Ecology and Engineering Field Trips to the Reservoir
- Provided 20 free tours of the Reservoir to 400 community members
- Held 4 listening meetings about the Reservoir, engaging 150 community members including community board members, elected officials, and DOT and Parks Department staff and management.
- In conjunction with architecture and landscape design partners, created 'visioning' materials to help foster and inspire conversation about the future of the Reservoir.

Resolved, as per the above, that we call on the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation to promptly implement said formal partnership with NYC H2O, in order to better protect the Ridgewood Reservoir, while at the same time work with NYC H2O to provide safe community access to, and respectful use of the Reservoir and its immediate surroundings."

As there were no comments or questions on the committee report, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the recommendation, as presented, which carried by a vote of – 31 – in favor; - 1 - opposed; - 0 - abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

Mr. Fiedler also reported that the rehabilitation project of Frank Principe Park, located on Maurice Avenue in Maspeth, is proceeding ahead of schedule and might possibly be completed by year end. He said that the Board has received several complaints about a drainage problem on the new ball fields that should be addressed. Bob Cermeli asked if there have been any recent changes in the design of the project to reconstruct the running track and soccer field in Juniper Valley Park. Mr. Fiedler said that an additional allocation of \$300,000 was awarded, to cover the cost of installing exercise equipment in that area of the park. Mr. Cermeli pointed out that safety nets that were in place on the fencing along the interior walkway, between the children's playground and the softball field, were removed. He advised that it should be replaced as soon as possible due to the safety hazard that it poses to all of the pedestrians who walk through the park there. Mr. Fiedler said that he would look into it.

### **Transportation Services Committee**

#### **Vincent Arcuri**

Toby Sheppard-Bloch, co-chair of the committee, reported that the committee met with representatives of the Division of Bridges in the NYC Dept. of Transportation in the Board office on Tuesday, June 26th to review the status of the emergency bridge deck replacement project on Metropolitan Avenue at Fresh Pond Road, over the LIRR tracks. He reported the new contractor that was selected has completed Phase I of this project, and work will begin on Phase II and III soon. He said that the contractor will shift the eastbound and westbound traffic lanes on Metropolitan Avenue to facilitate their work. He said that the contractor expects to complete this project by Thanksgiving, 2018.

He said that the committee also reviewed plans to reconstruct the tunnel bridge for the CSX Railway, which is located underneath the roadway on Metropolitan Avenue, between 69 Street and Christ the King High School. He said that this project will likely not involve any traffic detours.

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Mr. Bloch informed everyone that the NYS Dept. of Transportation recently awarded a contract to paint three bridges over the Long Island Expressway at 69 Street, Grand Avenue, and Hamilton Place, in Maspeth.

Regarding requests for some traffic safety improvements, including One-Way conversions and speed bumps, the committee has decided to request that residents draw up a petition that is signed by neighbors who are in favor of their recommendation, prior to the committee's consideration.

Steven Fiedler asked about the status of the sink hole in the CVS parking lot on the northwest corner of Fresh Pond Road at Metropolitan Avenue, immediately adjacent to the bridge deck replacement project. The Board Chairperson replied that the property owner was advised about the sinking condition there, and will hire a contractor to restore the pavement as soon as possible.

Katherine Masi asked about the status of requests for safety improvements in the vicinity of PS/IS 113, on 88 Street and 78 Avenue. Mr. Bloch replied that the committee is working with the NYC Dept. of Transportation and the school principal to identify possible solutions to the traffic problems in that area.

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

#### **Walter Sanchez**

Walter Sanchez reported that committee members have been working to address community concerns regarding the potential for overdevelopment in the Ridgewood area. He said that the Board has received complaints about several building sites where contractors have already begun working on vertical and horizontal extensions to properties that are located in the State and Federal Historic Districts in Ridgewood. He said that this type of construction, particularly when the buildings are located mid-block, detracts from the architectural integrity of the overall street scape in Ridgewood. He gave the floor to Theodore Renz to report the committee's recommendation.

Mr. Renz said that committee members are concerned about certain building alterations and new construction in Ridgewood, where developers are constructing buildings that are much larger in height and dimensions than in the rest of Ridgewood's State and Federal Historic Districts. He cited the example of the building expansion that is currently underway at 1664 Woodbine Street, located between St. Nicholas Avenue and Cypress Avenue, in Ridgewood, and distributed accompanying photos of this property.

He explained that, since our Community Board has already begun the formal process of trying to have Ridgewood rezoned, as was last undertaken in 1998-2000, the committee recommends in favor of requesting a moratorium on the issuance of work permits for new construction that involves building additional stories or adding height onto an existing residential building and/or adding additional housing units, in Ridgewood. He said that furthermore, the committee requests that the moratorium be retroactive to June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018, which is when committee members met together with representatives of the Dept. of City Planning and local elected officials to discuss the Board's request to rezone Ridgewood, as outlined in the Board resolution adopted by the full Board on April 11, 2018.

After a general discussion of the matter, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the committee recommendation, which carried unanimously by a vote of – 32– in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

#### **New Business**

The Board Chairperson welcomed everyone to join the 104<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct and Community Council in attending the National Night Out Against Crime on Tuesday night, August 7<sup>th</sup>, in Juniper Valley Park, in Middle Village.

## Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on July 11, 2018

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 9:25pm. He thanked Pastor Dan Klaus for providing the light refreshments for tonight's meeting.