



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

June 12, 2019

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.; Antonetta Binanti; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Brian Dooley; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Patricia Grayson; Fred T. Haller; Fred Hoefflerle; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; Mike Liendo; John Maier; Edgar Mantel; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Kelvin Rodriguez; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Carmen Santana; Connie Santos; Dennis Stephan; Catherine Sumsky; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchesi; Michaeline Von Drathen; Crystal Wolfe; Maryanna Zero; Nan Zhang

Board Members Absent

Patricia Crowley; Mohan Gyawali-Chhetri; Patricia Maltezos; Megan Tadio

Elected Officials

Joseph Nocerino - Queens Borough President
Melinda Katz
Cristian Romero – US Congressional Representative
Grace Meng, 6th C.D.
Katie Hawkland – NYS Senator
Michael Gianaris, 12th SD
Neil Giannelli – NYS Senator
Joseph P. Addabbo, 15th SD
Alexa Arrechi – NYS Assemblyman
Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD
Mark Papish - NYS Assemblyman
Brian Barnwell, 30th AD
Alison Cummings – NYS Assemblywoman
Catherine Nolan, 37th AD
Samantha Kung – NYS Assemblyman
Michael Miller, 38th AD
Greg Mitchell – NYC Council Member
Robert Holden, 30th CD
Fatima Elmansy – NYC Council Member
Antonio Reynoso, 34th CD

Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens
Catherine O'Leary and Laura Mulvihill, Community Associates - CB5Q Staff

GUESTS

Benjamin Fang, the Queens Ledger; Jacob Kate, the Ridgewood Times, and David Russell, the Queens Chronicle
Jason Banrey, NYC Dept. of Transportation - Deputy Queens Borough Commissioner, Queens Borough Hall
John O'Neill, Queens Borough Planner, NYC Dept. of Transportation, Queens Borough Hall
Avraham Metal and Ryan Cuffe, Associate Planners, NYC Dept. of Transportation, Queens Borough Hall
Kyle Gebhart and Ryan Feller, NYC Dept. of Transportation Commissioner's Office
Matt Kroll, MTA NYC Transit
Mario Matos – Maspeth High School
Michael Michel – President of Christ the King High School
Christian Quezada – Middle Village Preparatory Charter School

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Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:35pm, following the Salute to the Flag.

PRESENTATION re: PROPOSED BUS LANE ON THE SOUTHBOUND SIDE OF FRESH POND ROAD

By Representatives of the NYC Dept. of Transportation and MTA NYC Transit

Jason Banrey, Deputy Queens Borough Commissioner of the NYC Dept. of Transportation, introduced his colleagues present, John O'Neill, Avraham Metal and Ryan Cuffe, who work in his office at Queens Borough Hall, Kyle Gebhart and Ryan Feller, who work in the DOT Commissioner's Office in Manhattan. He explained that they are all collaborating on the design plans for Fresh Pond Road Transit Improvements. He said that the Transportation and Public Transit Services Committees recently reviewed this proposal, in addition to several local civic associations and 65 local surveys were conducted on a dozen walk-throughs. At this point, he said that they're requesting input from the entire Board.

Mr. Banrey began the power point presentation by saying that their study area is a half-mile long, on Fresh Pond Road between Metropolitan Avenue and Putnam Avenue, which serves the Bus routes of the Q58, QM24, QM 25, and QM 34. He said that the total daily ridership along these Bus routes is 30,000 passengers, and the average bus speeds are 5.9 MPH (AM), and 3 MPH (PM) on weekdays.

He said that this section of Fresh Pond Road was identified in 2017 as one of 24 Bus Forward segments citywide, due to slow bus speeds, especially in the southbound direction during the afternoon and evening rush hours. He said that there is also heavy off-route bus traffic heading into the Fresh Pond Bus Depot at 67 Avenue. Earlier this year, he said that the City's EMS representative reported complaints about traffic congestion on Fresh Pond Road. He described some of the proposed improvements as:

- Installing curbside southbound bus lane for buses and right-turns, in effect 2pm-8pm on weekdays
- Consolidating a Q58 local bus stop to improve stop spacing
- Installing loading zones on the east curb of Fresh Pond Road, as warranted
- Installing a loading zone on Grove Street and parking meters on western spur side streets
- Further study of the northbound bus queue jump signal at Putnam Avenue.

Mr. Banrey explained that when his colleagues interviewed shoppers, storeowners and local residents on Fresh Pond Road, most people said that on-street parking is very hard to find within the study area. In addition, Mr. Banrey pointed out that 61% of the respondents in the survey said that the average commercial delivery takes less than 15 minutes, and that 66% of the shop owners requested more delivery zones along this commercial strip. In response, DOT is recommending installing 2-hour metered parking spaces on side streets off Fresh Pond Road, in effect Monday to Saturday, 9am-7pm, with Alternate Side Parking regulations in effect at other times. He said that this would create 61 new metered parking spaces on the spur streets which would offset the proposed elimination of 55 metered parking spaces on Fresh Pond Road between 2pm and 8pm on weekdays, where the dedicated bus lane would be installed in the southbound direction. In addition, he said that a new truck loading zone will be implemented at a key location on Fresh Pond Road, and daylighting will be installed in the vicinity of the Fresh Pond Bus Depot to prevent vehicles from blocking buses that are attempting to pull into the bus depot.

Mr. Banrey said that under this plan, truck deliveries will be prohibited between the hours of 2pm and 8pm on weekdays on the southbound side of Fresh Pond Road, when the designated Bus Lane is in effect. He also said that some additional measures are being considered in order to improve the traffic flow on Fresh Pond Road, such as, modifying the signal timing on Fresh Pond Road, installing additional metered parking spaces and a new part-time loading zone on one spur block, and consolidating one bus stop on Fresh Pond Road.

He said that they plan to continue developing this plan through the month of June, and hope to implement it over the Summer months.

Kyle Gebhart explained that this section of Fresh Pond Road is one of the street segments identified in the citywide Better Buses Action Plan, announced as part of the Mayor's State of the City address this year. He said

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that the goal of this plan is to improve bus speeds across all five boroughs by 25% by next year. Improving the traffic flow along this segment of Fresh Pond Road has been identified as one of the 24 priority project areas in this year's plan, he said.

Mr. Gebhart said that the slowest speeds that their team measured on the Fresh Pond Road corridor had occurred in the southbound direction, between the hours of 1pm and 7pm, which coincides with the highest volume of vehicular traffic between 2pm and 8pm on weekdays. He informed everyone that in April, they conducted a survey of double-parked and illegally parked vehicles in this corridor and found that 74% of them were personal vehicles, 67% of the drivers planned to stay for 5 minutes or less, and 78% supported shorter-term parking zones in this area. He also pointed out that 71% of shoppers who were surveyed reported that they walk to and from Fresh Pond Road, 42% ride the train, 40% ride the bus, 22% drive their personal cars, while 16% ride bikes.

Mr. Gebhart said that they found that the average time that cars are parked at a meter on Fresh Pond Road between Madison Street and Woodbine Street on weekdays, from 8am to 7pm, is 18 minutes. He compared this statistic to their finding that the median stay is over 3 hours on the block of Fresh Pond Road between Menahan Street and Grove Street, where no parking meters are located.

Mr. Gebhart noted that a large percentage of the vehicles that travel southbound on Fresh Pond Road between 2pm and 8pm on weekdays are buses, which he compared to Fulton Street in Brooklyn where they improved traffic flow by as much as 31% after a dedicated bus lane was established there.

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

Michael O'Kane commented that the designated bus lane that was installed on Woodhaven Boulevard has proven to be a disaster for local businesses, and he's opposed to implementing it on Fresh Pond Road.

Mr. Banrey replied that the traffic improvement project on Woodhaven Boulevard and Cross Bay Boulevard is an ongoing project. He said that they just finished working on the westbound turn onto Myrtle Avenue from northbound Woodhaven Boulevard, where a new left-turn signal and elongated turn lane was installed. He said they identified 48 additional parking spots, and traffic flow has improved in Woodhaven.

Chairperson Arcuri said that the signal timing at the intersection of Myrtle Avenue and Woodhaven Boulevard needs to be adjusted. He said that it's geared for northbound traffic only.

Edgar Mantel suggested shortening the bus lane times to 3pm to 7pm, instead of 2pm to 8pm, so as not to conflict with school dismissals, and after-school pickups in that area. He also said that most of the buses that pull into the Fresh Pond Bus Depot do not service our community. He requested a walk-through inspection of the Bus Depot with representatives of the MTA to see how many buses are stored there that actually serve our community.

Margaret O'Kane agreed that more than half of the buses that travel to and from the Bus Depot are actually out of service. She said that on her way to tonight's meeting, she saw 10 out-of-service buses in a row.

Mr. Banrey responded that the MTA-NYC Transit is looking into relocating a number of buses that dead head at the Fresh Pond Bus Depot.

Dennis Stephan requested that the Q58 Bus route be modified so that instead of turning west at Putnam Avenue and Fresh Pond Road, it should continue southbound to Myrtle Avenue before it turns westbound. He also reported that several buses sit idling in the bus stops on either side of the Bus Depot on Fresh Pond Road which always impedes the flow of traffic there. He suggested that signs stating Don't Block the Box should be installed at the entrance to the Bus Depot.

Carmen Santana reported that 2 parked cars were sideswiped by a bus at the corner of Forest Avenue and Putnam Avenue, but she didn't know if it was a Q58 Bus that hit them. She also asked if Fresh Pond Road is on a Select Bus Service route.

Mr. Banrey replied that the NYC Transit is currently working on a Bus Network Redesign which is due to be released this Summer. He referred Ms. Santana's questions to Matt Kroll, a representative of NYC Transit, who said that he'd speak with her privately.

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Ed Lettau commented that he takes the Q58 Bus home every day, and walks home from Metropolitan Avenue to Woodbine Street rather than spend another 35 minutes in traffic on the bus. He pointed out that there are 80 bus drivers who park their personal cars on the blocks surrounding the Fresh Pond Bus Depot, and suggested that their cars should be parked in the back of the Bus Depot instead. Mr. Kroll said that he would look into it. Richard Huber commented that a 22% increase in the speed of buses travelling southbound on Fresh Pond Road would mean they'd travel at 5MPH instead of 4MPH, without improving the flow of vehicular traffic. Regarding the percentage of bus traffic on Fresh Pond Road in their survey, he asked how many of the buses were actually carrying passengers. He also commented that most small businesses are open from 10am to 6pm on weekdays. He objected to the proposal, by saying that the designated bus lane would eliminate parking for shoppers from 2pm to 8pm on weekdays, which represents the busiest hours of the day when these local businesses are open. John Maier said that Fresh Pond Road is congested all day long, from 8am to 9pm every day. He said that the Board should bring the manager of the Bus Depot into the discussion about improving traffic flow on Fresh Pond Road. Mr. Banrey agreed with him.

Sarah Feldman said that if your goal is to increase bus ridership, then you have to consider how to improve the service. She cited several instances where a bus driver failed to stop the bus to pick her up at a bus stop, or a bus driver who had no passengers on board actually did stop for her, until she realized that it was out-of-service. She said that the MTA should prioritize its customer service. Some members of the public interrupted her while she spoke and the Board Chairperson requested that all comments be directed to the Chair.

Paul Kerzner requested that the Dept. of Transportation first synchronize the signal timing on Fresh Pond Road in order to improve the flow of traffic, before anything else is done. He also requested information about how many buses dead head in the Fresh Pond Bus Depot, and what neighborhoods do they service, prior to any vote on the merits of the proposed designated bus lane on Fresh Pond Road.

The Board Chairperson invited the representatives of the Dept. of Transportation to attend the next meeting of the Transportation and Public Transit Committee on Tuesday, June 18th in the Board office to review their proposed plans.

Public Forum

Jeppe Jarnit-Bjergsoe, general manager of Evil Twin Brewery NYC, at 1616 George Street in Ridgewood, welcomed everyone to visit his family-owned brewery as soon as it's open for business this Summer. Ted Renz, the Executive Director of the Ridgewood Local Development Corporation, welcomed him to the Ridgewood Industrial Business Zone and said that he was happy to see the brewery industry making a comeback in Ridgewood.

Neal Trivedi, Esq., spoke on behalf of his client Mohammad Bashir, the new owner of Dhaka Inc. d/b/a Hush, 70-10 Grand Avenue in Maspeth, who just applied for a new liquor license for this establishment. He asked for the Board's support for his client's application to operate at this location. He said that his client pledges that he will sign a stipulation agreement that includes:

- Closing the rear yard area at 11pm on Sunday through Thursday, and at 12pm on Friday and Saturday, and not allow patrons to congregate back there so as not to disturb the surrounding residential community.
- Closing by 4am, which remains the same as the previous business hours.
- Making sure that the music inside this establishment will not exceed a reading of decibels louder than permitted by the NYC Noise Code, as measured outside this establishment.
- No music being played in the rear yard of this establishment, and
- Adhering to the "Best Practices for Nightlife Establishments" as sponsored and coordinated by the NYPD.

Mr. Bashir, the owner, said that he understood that neighbors who lived behind this bar had reported noise complaints about this bar, but there haven't been any complaints since one neighbor moved away.

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Mr. Trivedi said that the State Liquor Authority has scheduled a hearing on this liquor license for tomorrow morning. The Chairperson replied that he will ask the Board to consider a motion on this matter during his report to the Board at tonight's meeting.

Peggy O'Kane, Board member, asked what agency is responsible to maintain the bioswales, aka rain gardens that were installed on Traffic Avenue a few years ago. On another note, she requested donations of men's underwear for clients who visit the St. Matthias Food Pantry program.

Michaeline Von Drathen, Board member and Vice-President of the Friends of the Ridgewood Library, announced a series of events that are scheduled over the Summer at the Ridgewood Branch Library at 20-12 Madison Street, including a Family Fun Day this coming Saturday, from 10am to 4pm. Flyers were distributed. She also announced that the Friends of the Ridgewood Library has begun collaborating with the Queens Memory Project to collect historic photos of the community to add to the library's digital archives, and will begin hosting oral history workshops to document the social history of Ridgewood.

Giuseppe Palmieri, owner of Gemelli Jewelers on Fresh Pond Road, objected to the proposed plan to create a designated bus lane on the southbound side of Fresh Pond Road. Regarding the proposed metered parking on the spurs on both sides of Fresh Pond Road, he asked where will local residents park. He asked the Dept. of Transportation to improve the traffic flow on Fresh Pond Road by synchronizing the traffic signals. He said that right now, you can only drive the length of one block before you have to stop at the next red light. He asked who distributed the surveys to local merchants, because his store is located at 66-10 Fresh Pond Road and he was never contacted about this plan. He requested a follow-up meeting between representatives of the Dept. of Transportation and local merchants on Fresh Pond Road.

Dotty Wenzel, a member of the Glendale Community Supported Agriculture, invited local residents to join their organization that provides their membership with farm fresh foods, including vegetables, fruit, bread, meat, cheese, beer and flowers, at a reasonable price. Members may only sign up once a year during their Summer registration period, which is now, she said. She welcomed those interested in joining the CSA to visit their FACEBOOK page, contact them at info@glendalecsa.org or by visiting them between 8am and 10am, at the Glendale Community Garden, located at 74-10 88 Street, where they deliver and distribute the food every Saturday morning.

Brian Dooley, Board member and President of the Glendale Property Owners Association, said that last year, he was alerted to the fact that vacant storefronts on Myrtle Avenue had been converted into illegal massage parlors. He said that police enforcement was needed to curtail these operations. He said that he is strongly opposed to any type of legislation in the State Legislature that would legalize prostitution.

Maryann Lattanzio, Board member and volunteer with the Glendale Civilian Observation Patrol (GCOP), welcomed local residents, who are over the age of 18, to join their volunteer patrol of local neighborhoods in the 104th Police Precinct. She said that the volunteers assist police with traffic control during parades, street fairs and religious processions, as well as patrolling the precinct in their own cars, during the day or night, for at least 3 hours a month. For more information, she said to visit their website at www.104cop.org, or speak with her after tonight's meeting ends.

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

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

Chairperson Arcuri recognized the staff present: the District Manager Gary Giordano, and Community Associates Catherine O'Leary and Laura Mulvihill. He also recognized members of the press: Benjamin Fang, of the Queens

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Ledger; Jacob Kate, of the Ridgewood Times; and David Russell, of the Queens Chronicle, and he thanked them for keeping their readers very well informed about Board business. He invited elected officials' representatives to address the Board.

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Joe Nocerino announced that the Awards Ceremony for Board Members has been postponed until Fall this year. He welcomed everyone to attend a Family Concert sponsored by the Borough President in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, from 3pm to 5pm, ending with a free performance by Sheila E. at 5pm on Sunday, June 23rd. Flyers and newsletters were distributed.

On behalf of Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Fatima Elmansy announced that local community residents enjoyed a series of free yoga sessions on Saturdays over the past three weeks, as well as a Catch the Reading Bug storytelling session in Grover Cleveland Park that took place yesterday. She also reported that last night, the Council Member hosted a Community Forum in PS 305 on Seneca Avenue regarding the proposed affordable housing development at 1590 Gates Avenue by the Avery Group. She said that the developer was on hand to discuss this project and answer questions about it. She said that the Council Member is also planning to host a Landmarking Forum in Grover Cleveland High School at 6pm on Monday, June 17th, to give local homeowners the opportunity to learn from the staff of the Landmarks Preservation Commission about the procedures and criteria for establishing a city landmark district in Ridgewood. In closing, she wished all fathers in the audience a Happy Father's Day.

On behalf of State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Neil Giannelli reported that their annual Senior Job Fair in the Queens Community House was very well attended in May, with over 100 employers present to interview job applicants. He also reported that over the past year, 69,000+ visitors were able to take out books and over 300 programs were attended by over 2,000 youth in the satellite branch library, temporarily located in Atlas Park, while the Glendale Library branch is being rehabilitated. He also reported that Senator Addabbo recently received an award from the NYC Metropolitan Council in recognition of his advocacy for programs and services to meet the needs of elderly and disabled constituents.

On behalf of Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, Alexa Arecchi informed everyone that this session, the Assemblyman sponsored and is working to pass three separate bills to expand access for people who are applying for public benefits; to expand eligibility for Foster Care Housing to include youth over the age of 18; and to mandate the placement of trauma-informed caseworkers in homeless facilities in order to address the needs of teenagers and families in shelters.

On behalf of Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, Mark Papish reported that the Assemblyman is currently reviewing hundreds of new bills that are under consideration in Albany, with only 5 working days left in this session. He invited everyone to join them in commemorating the July 4th holiday with a reading of the Declaration of Independence from 6pm to 8pm on Tuesday, July 2nd, at the Maspeth Federal Bank Plaza at 56-18 69 Street, off Grand Avenue. He welcomed constituents to report any graffiti they see in their neighborhood to their office at (718) 651-3185, or by visiting their website at www.nyassembly.gov-mem.Brian.Barnwell.

On behalf of Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Alison Cummings said that with 5 days left in the legislative session in Albany, the Assemblywoman is working hard to represent her constituents. She said that this Spring, the Assemblywoman held Mobile District Office hours in four different areas in the District. She said that their last session is scheduled to take place in the Ridgewood Library at 20-12 Madison Street, on Thursday, August 1st, 5-7pm. She wished all the fathers present a Happy Father's Day.

On behalf of Assemblyman Mike Miller, Samantha Kung reported that the Assemblyman is working hard on behalf of his constituents. She said that this session officially ends on June 22nd, and lots of bills are still pending approval by the legislature.

MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's Board Meeting conducted on May 8, 2019. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion by Richard Huber, and seconded by Walter Clayton.

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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 May 8, 2019. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

New Liquor License

- 1) Sandy Mouse LLC d/b/a **The Acre** 68-22 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) **Milan Sport Inc.** 73-11 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 2) **Pat's Sports Bar Inc.** 73-13 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 3) Myrtle Dorado Restaurant Corp. d/b/a **El Dorado Restaurant** 54-66 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) Poppers Lucarno LLC d/b/a **Holo** 15-63 Decatur Street (Basement), Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 5) **San Cecelio Restaurant Inc.** 863 Wyckoff Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 6) Mt. Everest Indian Restaurant Inc. d/b/a **Nepalese Indian Restaurant** 907 Seneca Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 7) KRG pub d/b/a **Bridie's Bar & Grill** 63-28 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY 11374

New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

- 1) **7306 Toyo Japanese Cuisine Inc.** 73-06 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 2) RTA Foods Inc. d/b/a **Burrito Blvd** 72-64 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 3) **Marito Urban Kitchen Corp.** 1170 Cypress Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **OneFourNine LLC** 880 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 5) * Olivares Max LLC d/b/a **Ridgewood Taco Company** 66-89 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 6) City Deli NY Corp. d/b/a **City Deli & Café** 55-12 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) **La Cinoa Inc.** 651 Onderdonk Avenue, Ridgewood NY 11385
- 2) A&J Juniors Pizza Corp. d/b/a **Maspeth Pizza** 71-09 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 3) Sakura 4 Myrtle Inc. d/b/a **Sakura 4** 64-19 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 4) * Cooper Atlas Gardens Inc. d/b/a **Cooper Beer Garden** 8000 Cooper Avenue, #DD28
- 5) **Nova Soccer Club Inc.** 775 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Corporate Change/Alterations/Other

- 1) **Frank's Deli of Maspeth, 53-18 72 Place in Maspeth**, has informed us of their intention to submit a renewal application to the NYS Liquor Authority for their grocery store beer license.

* Indicates Outdoor Area

Demolition Notices

The Board Chairperson reported that the Board received the following demolition notices since last month's Board Meeting on May 8th: **73-23** and **73-25 57 Avenue** – two 1-family homes; and **58-61 56 Street**, 1-family home, in Maspeth.

The Chairperson asked that anyone with questions or comments about any of these locations to please contact the Board Office at (718) 366-1834.

The Board Chairperson said that the Executive Committee has not designated Committee assignments since new Board Members have been appointed this year. Some assignments that have already been made were for people who were already active committee members and are newly-appointed Board members. He said that the Executive Committee plans to meet in the coming month to discuss committee assignments.

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

District Manager Gary Giordano brought up for discussion the matter of the liquor license renewal for the bar known as **HUSH**, located at 70-10 Grand Avenue, in Maspeth.

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He explained that for several years, there had been complaints about noise coming from this bar, particularly in the rear yard area. And, he pointed out that there's no record of any complaints about the operation of this establishment for the past year or so.

District Manager Gary Giordano pointed out that in keeping with the Board's policy, the new owner, Mr. Bashir, was notified about our Board's policy to request that applicants for on-premises beer, wine and liquor licenses for establishments in our Board area sign a stipulation. He said the stipulation agreement presented to Mr.

Bashir states:

- That any music inside this establishment will not exceed a reading of decibels louder than permitted by the NYC Noise Code, as measured outside this establishment.
- No music is played in the rear yard of this establishment.
- That I will close the rear yard area at 10pm on Sunday through Thursday, and at 11pm on Friday and Saturday, and not allow patrons to congregate back there so as not to disturb the surrounding residential community.
- That I will close by 2am, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.
- That I will adhere to the "Best Practices for Nightlife Establishments" as sponsored and coordinated by the NYPD.

According to his lawyer's statements during tonight's Public Forum, the District Manager said that Mr. Bashir apparently prefers not to close at 2am, Monday through Thursday night, but remain open until 4am every night, and keep the rear yard open until 11pm on Sunday through Thursday, and until 12 Midnight on Friday and Saturday nights, instead of closing at 10pm on Sunday-Thursday, and at 11pm on Friday and Saturday nights.

On a point of clarification, Laura Mulvihill said that the State Liquor Authority has scheduled a 500 foot hearing on the location of the HUSH Bar, which is customary for cases that involve new liquor licenses.

Jerry Drake said that, given the past history of complaints about loud noise at this location, he strongly objects to amending the Board's stipulations in this case.

Dmytro Fedkowskyj asked if the Board has ever waived any of these stipulations in the past. The Chairperson replied that in some cases, where bars may be located in an industrial zone and set apart from residential homes, such as, the Knockdown Center, some of the stipulations have been amended.

Patrick Trinchese asked if there's any enforcement action taken when a bar owner or manager does not comply with the stipulations. The Chairperson replied that the stipulation agreement is completely voluntary. However, whenever they renew their license, the Board has an opportunity to voice opposition. He explained that in the past 5 years, since the Board has adopted this policy, the incidence of street brawls and other felonious assaults that take place on the street after 12 Midnight in our precinct has dropped significantly.

After a general discussion of the issue, Walter Clayton made a motion to recommend to the State Liquor Authority that the Community Board's stipulations, as written, be included in their liquor license agreement, which was seconded by Richard Huber. The Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the motion on the floor which carried unanimously by a vote of - 40 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez reported that the committee met in the Board office on Monday, June 3rd to discuss the need to remain proactive in protecting residential areas, especially in Ridgewood, from overdevelopment. He said that the committee also plans to continue monitoring development that may encroach on local community drives, which should remain free of obstruction. He said that in some instances, they are reportedly being turned into personal backyards instead.

Mr. Sanchez also reported that representatives of the Waterfront Alliance have sought support from both the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee and the Environmental Services Committee for their initiative that seeks to create healthy, resilient access for community residents to local waterways, under the Waterfront Edge

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Design Guidelines (WEDG). He said that other Community Boards have adopted resolutions that would, in effect, hold policy makers to a higher standard with regard to any future development along the City's waterfront. He said that committee members support their guidelines.

He reported that the committee also discussed the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene's decision to put on hold their proposal to lease space for a temporary animal care center in a ground floor storefront on the corner of 69 Street at Metropolitan Avenue, in Middle Village, and instead acquire property where they plan to build a permanent full service Animal Care and Control Shelter at 151 Woodward Avenue, in Ridgewood. He said that the existing structure on this vacant site burned down during a fire a year ago and the ground was contaminated with hazardous substances. He said that representatives from the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene will give a full presentation on the scope of their proposed project in the coming year.

Mr. Sanchez said that he attended last night's Community Forum at PS 305, in Ridgewood, sponsored by NYC Council Member Reynoso, regarding plans to build a new mixed-use residential and commercial structure at 1590 Gates Avenue, on a site that borders on St. Nicholas Avenue, Palmetto Street and Gates Avenue. This lot is currently occupied by a large supermarket with a parking lot. He said that the current zoning, C4-3, would permit a new development of 16 stories, up to 165 feet tall, with 200 dwelling units, as-of-right. He said that the Avery Group, the prospective developer, is seeking to rezone this entire lot to a C8x zoning district, which would permit more expansive development, namely, a partially affordable housing development that is 24 stories high, with a maximum height of 300 feet, and as many as 525 dwelling units, with parking accommodations for 100 vehicles. He said that this lot is adjacent to the M Train elevated line. The builder has not filed any plans with the Dept. of Buildings as yet, he said.

Environmental Services Committee

Brian Dooley

Brian Dooley reported that the committee met in the Board Office on Thursday, May 30th to review the status of remediation projects on contaminated sites in the Board 5 area, including Newtown Creek, the Wolff-Alport site in the vicinity of Irving Avenue and Cooper Avenue in Ridgewood, and 151 Woodward Avenue, in Ridgewood. He said that the clean-up of contaminants that pollute Newtown Creek will not begin until 2021, due to the budget constraints of the Federal Superfund. He said that the Superfund is now very depleted. Regarding the Wolff-Alport site, he said that the Environmental Protection Agency determined that all of the buildings located on this site are contaminated and are slated for demolition. He said that they are investigating whether State funding is available to clear this site. And, regarding the former auto-wrecking site located at 151 Woodward Avenue in Ridgewood, he said that there are contaminants in the soil that require remediation prior to the proposed development of a full service Animal Care and Control Shelter.

Mr. Dooley reported that the committee also reviewed the status of several sewer and water main replacement projects in our Board area. He said that work on the Penelope Avenue/74 Street and surrounding streets in Middle Village is proceeding on schedule and is expected to be complete by year end. He said that all of the water main replacement in this area has been completed. He said that the contractor requested the Board's approval to work on Saturdays, in order to ensure the timely completion of all the installations of new sewer mains and chambers in the few remaining blocks included in this contract.

Regarding the sewer replacement project in the vicinity of Calamus Avenue and 69 Street, he said that the installation of a 96" sewer main in 70 Street, beginning at Calamus Avenue, is slated to begin in the Spring of 2020. He said that this new sewer project will tie into the new sewer main project that is planned for 71 Street in Middle Village.

He said that the Board requested the Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) to conduct a study of the area along 77 Avenue in Glendale, where residents have experienced severe flooding. He said that the study is still underway.

On a lighter note, he said that DEP has started installing catch basins on Edsall Avenue between 71 Place and 72 Place in Glendale, where there's been a serious ponding condition for the past 10 years. He said that a new

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sidewalk and curbs are slated to be installed on the north side of Edsall Avenue this Summer, which should eliminate the ponding conditions there.

Regarding the Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines (WEDG), he said that committee members reviewed their proposal and supports their efforts to raise the City's standards regarding granting approvals for any future development along the City's waterfront.

In closing, he said that the committee continues to monitor complaints regarding water and sewer maintenance issues, such as: roadway cave-ins, clogged catch basins and ponding conditions, in the Board area.

Public Safety Services Committee

Maryann Lattanzio

Maryann Lattanzio reported that the committee met with P. O. Asar Sanad, of the Community Affairs Unit of the 104th Precinct, in the Board office on Tuesday, May 28th, to review recent crime statistics, as compared to the same time period for last year. She reported that there's been an increase in the number of major crimes reported in the precinct, namely, a 20% increase in Grand Larceny Auto crimes (from 39 to 46); a 22% increase in Grand Larceny (from 179 to 219); a 15% increase in Robberies; a 100% increase in the Murders committed (from 1 to 2); and a 266% increase in the number of rapes reported (from 3 to 11). She pointed out that the reported rapes involve people who know each other, and that they don't involve strangers attacking others on the street. She said that the committee discussed problems with youth who are riding and parking quads, dirt bikes and motorized scooters on the sidewalk, and don't observe traffic regulations. The committee also requested additional truck enforcement throughout the precinct. She said that Officer Asad plans to address these issues. Ms. Lattanzio reported that there's been a change in command of the 104th Precinct. Captain Victoria Perry is replacing D.I. John Mastronardi, who has been assigned to the 75th Precinct in East New York.

Regarding staffing levels at the precinct, Ms. Lattanzio reported that there are currently 198 police officers and supervisors assigned to the 104th Precinct.

Regarding complaints about homeless people blocking the sidewalk or bus shelter, particularly in the vicinity of Putnam Avenue and Forest Avenue, she reported that complaints should be called into 3-1-1 whenever people feel threatened by homeless individuals or groups.

She said that the precinct has begun holding Build-a-Block meetings in order to meet and greet local residents in an informal setting, but these meetings have not been advertised widely.

Over the Summer, the precinct will work closely with the Park Enforcement Patrol officers to ensure that local parks remain safe and secure.

Education Services Committee

Patricia Grayson

Patricia Grayson said that, considering the late hour, she would hold over the report.

Transportation Services Committee

John Maier

John Maier reported that the committee met on Tuesday, May 21st with representatives of the NYC Dept. of Transportation to discuss their proposed plans to create a designated bus lane on Fresh Pond Road between Metropolitan Avenue and Putnam Avenue, in Ridgewood. He said that the committee plans to review their plans once again at their next meeting at 7:30pm on Tuesday, June 18th in the Board Office. He welcomed anyone interested in learning more about their proposal to attend their next meeting.

Regarding the Kosciuszko Bridge construction project, he reported that work is expected to be complete by the end of December, 2019.

Regarding roadway resurfacing, he reported that Myrtle Avenue from Cooper Avenue to 88 Street is slated for contract milling this month, followed by In-House Resurfacing. He said that Fresh Pond Road is scheduled to be milled and resurfaced this Summer, once National Grid has finished working in that area. He asked everyone to

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submit their street resurfacing requests, particularly deteriorated roadways, to the Board Office. He said that committee members continue to review many traffic safety requests at each meeting.

Nomination of CB5Q Executive Committee Members

Board Chairperson Arcuri announced that newly-appointed Board Members are eligible to vote in this annual Election of Executive Committee Members and gave the floor to the District Manager Gary Giordano to conduct the election. The District Manager explained the process of elections, and said that the goal is to have at least one representative from each of the communities of Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale serving on the Executive Committee. He read aloud all the names of candidates who were nominated to serve on the Executive Committee and copies of the list were distributed to all Board Members present. He re-opened the floor to nominations.

The District Manager read aloud the list of the current incumbent Executive Committee members, as well as the names of those who were nominated and accepted their nomination at last month's Board Meeting. Copies of the list were distributed to Board members who were present at the meeting. He said that Dmytro Fedkowskyj was nominated for the position of 2nd Vice-Chairperson but he was absent. He asked if he accepted the nomination, which he did.

The District Manager asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Chairperson, other than Vincent Arcuri. As there were none, nominations were closed and Board Secretary Margaret O'Kane cast one unanimous ballot to elect Vincent Arcuri, the Chairperson of Community Board 5, Queens.

The District Manager asked if there were any other nominations for the position of First Vice- Chairperson, other than Walter Sanchez. As there were none, nominations were closed and Board Secretary Margaret O'Kane cast one unanimous ballot to elect Walter Sanchez, as First Vice-Chair of Community Board 5, Queens.

The District Manager asked if there were any other nominations for the position of 2nd Vice- Chairperson, other than Dmytro Fedkowskyj. As there were none, nominations were closed and Board Secretary Margaret O'Kane cast one unanimous ballot to elect Dmytro Fedkowskyj, as 2nd Vice-Chair of Community Board 5, Queens.

The District Manager asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Treasurer, other than Katherine Masi. As there were none, nominations were closed and Board Secretary Margaret O'Kane cast one unanimous ballot to elect Katherine Masi, as Treasurer of Community Board 5, Queens.

The District Manager asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Secretary, other than Margaret O'Kane. As there no other nominations, Mr. Giordano closed the nominations and Board Secretary Margaret O'Kane cast one unanimous ballot to elect Margaret O'Kane, as Secretary of the Board.

The District Manager asked if there were any other nominations for Members-at-Large positions on the Executive Committee. Patricia Grayson nominated Paul Kerzner for the position of Member-at-Large, which he accepted.

The District Manager read aloud the names of the six candidates who were nominated to fill the four positions for Member-At-Large on the Executive Committee, as follows: Patricia Grayson, of Glendale; Fred T Haller, III, of Glendale; John A. Maier, of Ridgewood; Theodore M. Renz, of Middle Village; Walter Clayton, of Middle Village; and Paul Kerzner, of Ridgewood.

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As there were no other nominations for the positions of Member-at-Large, Mr. Giordano closed nominations from the floor. Voting ballots were distributed to all Board members, who were instructed to elect 4 of the 6 candidates for the Member-At-Large positions. After collecting the ballots and tallying the results, the District Manager announced the election of Patricia Grayson, John A. Maier, and Theodore M. Renz, who each received a majority of the votes cast, to serve as Members-At-Large on the Executive Committee. He said that two of the remaining candidates received 22 votes each, while the third candidate, Walter Clayton received 15 votes. On a point of clarification, Peggy O’Kane said that, in accordance with the Board’s By-Laws, in the event that no candidate receives a plurality of votes that were cast, the candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated, and a second ballot is required to elect the remaining candidate. The District Manager distributed ballots to all Board members present and instructed them to vote for one of the two remaining candidates, Fred Haller or Paul Kerzner, in order to fill the one remaining Member-at-Large seat on the Executive Committee. Once the ballots were collected and tallied by the District Manager, he announced that Paul Kerzner was elected with 19 votes, while Fred Haller received 17 votes. The Board Chairperson congratulated everyone on their election.

Old and New Business

Maryann Lattanzio made a motion, seconded by Kathy Masi, directing the Board not to hold Board Meetings in July or August, unless it’s absolutely necessary, effective July, 2020. Currently, the Board meets in July and only meets in August when necessary.

After a general discussion of the matter, the Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the motion on the floor which failed to carry by a vote of – 7 – in favor; - 29 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

Fred Haller, as chair of the Glendale Kiwanis Club’s fundraising committee, welcomed everyone to participate in the American Cancer Society’s annual fundraiser, The Relay for Life, that will take place on the weekend of June 22nd and 23rd in the area of the running track in Juniper Valley Park, in Middle Village. He said that hundreds of local residents join in this rally to save lives every year, and everyone has a good time at this event every year.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Board Chairperson Arcuri adjourned the public meeting of Community Board 5, Queens on a motion from the floor at 10:26pm.