



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

March 13, 2019

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Antonetta Binanti; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Deborah Cox; Peter Comber; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Patricia Grayson; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoeffler; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; Michael Locascio; John Maier; Edgar Mantel; Kathy Masi; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Carmen Santana; Connie Santos; Christopher Sperrazza, Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Tobias S. Bloch; Patricia Crowley; Brian Dooley; Sarah Feldman; Mohan Gyawali-Chhetri; John Killcommons; Eileen Moloney; Ted Renz; Kelvin Rodriguez; Dennis Stephan; Catherine Sumsky

Elected Officials

Joseph Nocerino - Queens Borough President
Melinda Katz
Julio Salazar – US Congressional Representative
Nydia Velazquez
Neil Giannelli - NYS Senator
Joseph Addabbo, 15th SD
Mark Papish - NYS Assemblyman
Brian Barnwell, 30th AD
Alison Cummings – NYS Assemblywoman
Catherine Nolan, 37th AD
Samantha Kung - NYS Assemblyman
Michael Miller, 38th AD
Kevin Wisniewski – NYS Assemblyman
Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD
Ryan Kelley – NYC Council Member
Robert Holden, 30th CD
Alexis Rodriguez – NYC Council Member
Antonio Reynoso, 34th CD

Staff Present

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

GUESTS

Benjamin Fang, Queens Ledger
David Russel, Queens Chronicle
Mark Hallum – Qns.com
Sarah Dougherty – Waterfront Alliance

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

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PRESENTATION by Sarah Dougherty, Waterfront Alliance

Sarah Dougherty gave a power point presentation. She stated that: the Waterfront Alliance is reaching out to all community boards with waterfront areas to get support for their WEDG Plan. The alliance is asking community boards to promote resilient, economically sustainable waterfront developments by taking the WEDG (Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines) Pledge. She said that certified WEDG projects include Hunters Point South in Queens.

Ms. Dougherty stated that the alliance has worked with Guardians for Flushing Bay and Riverkeeper to do a visioning session, meet with land owners and advise them regarding making their property more resilient and sustainable, considering that flood risk is a significant issue. She pointed out the importance of a resilient shoreline, that public access to the water is a right, and having a public access option when properties are developed is a priority for the Waterfront Alliance. She stressed that climate change and sea level rise are growing risks, noting that more than 85% of wetlands areas in NY City have been lost due to coastal development. Ms. Dougherty stated that wetlands are one of the best long-term defenses against sea level rise.

Ms. Dougherty said that citywide we need to be thinking about flood risk today and in the future. She displayed a map of what a 100 year and 500 year flood plain will look like in the NY City region. The Waterfront Alliance has created a harbor scorecard which shows flood risks, water quality and waterfront access points by community district. Resilient, sustainable and accessible waterfront design is the goal of WEDG, according to Ms. Dougherty. She stated that flooding risks can be reduced by not building in flood plain areas, and by using materials in construction that are salt and rot resistant. She noted that Oak Point and Starlight Park in the Bronx are examples of WEDG certified projects, and that developments can help the environment through storm water retention.

Ms. Dougherty distributed a draft resolution, which she asked Community Board 5, Queens to consider adopting, saying that the Brooklyn Borough Board has adopted a resolution in support of WEDG. Vincent Arcuri said that there are current efforts to establish waterfront access in the area of the Kosciuszko Bridge. Walter Sanchez said that the NY City Dept. of Environmental Protection proposed an aeration facility on 47th Street, north of Grand Avenue, adjacent to Newtown Creek, and our Board recommended that waterfront access be provided at this site. Mr. Sanchez also said that Board 5 also recommended that a sports facility be built on the unused portion of this NYC DEP property on 47th Street, and asked Ms. Dougherty for assistance from the Waterfront Alliance in this matter. Fred Haller said that rock jetties should be installed in the Rockaways to protect the shore and the boardwalk.

Chairperson Arcuri referred this matter to the Zoning and Land Use Committee for review and consideration.

Public Forum

Chris Sperrazza, CB5Q Board Member, said that tonight will be his last board meeting for a while. He said that he is going to Beijing, China in August, as he has been selected as one of only 140 scholars from around the world to pursue a graduate degree there. Chris said that he looks forward to representing Queens and the U.S.A. in this international forum, and said he loves his community more, thanks to the 2 years he has been a member of Board 5. He said that he hopes to see his fellow board members after his return from Asia. There was much applause for Chris.

Maryann Lattanzio, CB5Q Board Member, said that free Narcan Training is scheduled for March 26, at 7pm, at the Peter Cardella Senior Center on Fresh Pond Road in Ridgewood, and that anyone wishing to be trained needs to sign up by March 19. She spoke of the epidemic of opioid use, and that the use of Narcan can save lives as it is an antidote to opioids.

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Ernie Searle, President, Friends of the Ridgewood Library, announced that this year is the 90th Anniversary of the Ridgewood Branch Library and that celebrations are planned throughout the year. He noted that the chartering ceremony for the Friends of the Maspeth Branch Library will be conducted tomorrow evening, at 6:30pm, at the Maspeth Branch Library. He said that there are major renovations currently at the Glendale Branch Library, that a temporary branch library has been opened at the Atlas Park Mall, that a lot of people who rarely went to the Glendale Library are going to the temporary library, and that consideration should be given to keeping the Atlas Park Mall site as an annex after the Glendale Library reopens on Myrtle Avenue at 73 Place.

Mr. Searle said the Middle Village Branch Library is somewhat hidden in an apartment building. He spoke of the possibility of moving this library to a better location, possibly at a former bank location.

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

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

The Board Chairperson introduced staff members present at the meeting: District Manager Gary Giordano, and Community Associate Laura Mulvihill. He also introduced Joe Nocerino, representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz.

The Board Chairperson welcomed representatives of the 104th Police Precinct to address the Board. Police Officer Asar Sanad, Community Affairs Officer, and Police Officer Abbondandolo, from the NCO Unit, were present representing the Precinct. Officer Abbondandolo said he covers Sector David, which is Middle Village. He pointed out that there have been recent problems with car break-ins and burglaries. He said that too many people tend to leave their car doors open and too often leave valuables visible in the vehicle that thieves would want. He said that installing cameras at your home is a burglary deterrent and one of the best tools to help catch thieves.

Edward Lettau, a CB5Q Board member, said that last night there were 4 wheelers and a dirt bike riding on Seneca Avenue, and they were seen travelling toward the Jackie Robinson Parkway and Highland Park. Steven Fiedler stressed that there are numerous tractor trailers in the morning coming from the Long Island Expressway on 69 Street to Eliot Avenue, where the truckers take Eliot Avenue westbound. Carmen Santana, a CB5Q Board member, spoke about people double parking vehicles in bicycle lanes, restaurants parking electronic bikes on sidewalks and delivery people driving on the sidewalks. She stated that these are growing problems, posing dangerous conditions.

The Board Chairperson then welcomed representatives of local elected officials to address the Board. Julio Salazar, representing Congress Member Nydia Velazquez, said that the President's proposed federal budget seeks to totally cut capital budget allocations to the NYC Housing Authority, which is a major concern for the Congresswoman. He stressed that the proposed federal budget also seeks cuts of \$845 billion to Medicare, which he estimated would affect 6.5 million in New York.

He said that Congresswoman Velazquez is looking to have both parties agree on a common sense budget and avoid a federal government shutdown. Mr. Salazar stated that Congresswoman Velazquez voted with other members of the House of Representatives for a gun safety bill that will mandate background checks of individuals for all gun sales, including private sales, in an effort to better assure that guns do not get into the hands of people who should not have a gun. He said that he can be reached at 718-599-3658.

Ryan Kelley, representing Council Member Holden, said that today the Council Member's first bill passed in the Council and is expected to be signed by the Mayor soon. He stated that this bill is directly related to the Penelope Avenue Area Sewer Project, where lead contamination was found in the soil. He said that the bill

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requires that N.Y. City agencies to report any kind of lead contamination found of dangerous levels, within 5 business days, to the local Council Member and the local community board.

Mr. Kelley announced that on Thursday, March 21, at 6:30pm, a town hall meeting is scheduled at the 64-69 Dry Harbor Road office. He said that on Saturday, March 23, from 10am to 1pm, the Council Member has partnered with Animal Care and Control to provide free vaccines for dogs and cats at Rosemary's Playground in Ridgewood. On April 27, a rain barrel giveaway is planned at Maspeth Federal Savings Bank, and asked that anyone wishing to reserve a rain barrel call the office of Council Member Holden at 718-366-3900.

Mr. Kelley said the Council Member asked him to give an update regarding the property at 78-16 Cooper Avenue. He stated that Council Member Holden recently spoke to Commissioner Banks of the NYC Department of Homeless Services, who told the Council Member that no agreement is in place for any homeless shelter at this site, and the Council Member is working to have a school built at this location. He asked that anyone having any questions please call the office at 718-366-3900.

Walter Clayton, a CB5Q Board member, said that construction work seems to be constant at 78-16 Cooper Avenue. Mr. Kelley said that there are active building permits at this site. Chairperson Arcuri said that interior construction is being done, and there is some confusion regarding 2 permits. He said the original building permit application was for a transient hotel, which was afterwards withdrawn, and they refiled for office space construction. The Chairperson said that permits at this site have included electrical work and asbestos abatement. Kathy Masi, a CB5Q Board member, said that a person from the community spoke to the property owner of 78-16 Cooper Avenue and has the impression that there are plans to construct a homeless residence at this location. Paul Kerzner, a CB5Q Board member, said a stop work order should be issued for this site and the Council Member should go unannounced, with Dept. of Buildings representatives, to this site with a set of plans that the agency has, and that these plans should be compared to the plans that the contractor is working from. He said that, to his knowledge, too often one set of plans is filed with the agency and the contractor works from a different set of plans. He said that people need to be held accountable.

Neil Giannelli, representing State Senator Joseph Addabbo, said that this is N.Y. State Budget negotiations season, and the Senator has been busy in Albany. He stressed that some controversial issues are being discussed during this legislative season, including congestion pricing, and the Senator is seeking feedback from residents. Mr. Giannelli announced that the Senator is sponsoring a Job Fair at the Central Queens YMCA, at 67-09 108 Street in Forest Hills, on March 29, from 9am to 2pm. He said that on April 9 a Veterans Resource Fair is planned at the Queens College Student Union, in conjunction with the N.Y. State Division of Veterans Affairs, and that various agencies will be present to assist veterans. Mr. Giannelli announced that on Wednesday, April 17, free mammograms are being sponsored by Senator Addabbo and Assembly Member Brian Barnwell. He said that pre-registration is necessary, and to register you can call the office of Senator Addabbo at 718-497-1630 or the office of Assembly Member Barnwell at 718-651-3185. On Sunday, April 28, the Senator is co-sponsoring a Spring Recycling Event, with Assembly Member Mike Miller, at the Forest Park Bandshell, from 10am to 2pm.

Samantha Kung, representing Assembly Member Mike Miller, announced that the Assembly Member is sponsoring a Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony on March 21, at 7pm, at the Richmond Hill Block Association which is located at 110-08 Jamaica Avenue. She also announced that on March 23, from 11am to 2pm, Assembly Member Miller is co-sponsoring Free Citizenship Application Assistance, with Council Member Adrienne Adams. She said that residents can call their office at 718-805-0950 for information or to register.

Kevin Wisniewski, representing Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, said that the Home Stability Support Program (HSS), to prevent homelessness, is the Assembly Member's priority initiative in this State legislative session. He said the Assembly and Senate have agreed to include this plan in the budget for the upcoming State fiscal year, at a \$100 million allocation for the first two program years. He said the objective of HSS is to keep people in their homes and stop the growth of homeless shelters throughout N.Y. State.

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Alison Cummings, representing Assembly Member Catherine Nolan, said she intends to take the Narcan Training on March 26th, considering that the opioid problem has reached historic proportions. She said that free income tax return preparation is still available for those meeting income guidelines, and that if anyone has any questions regarding the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), or the Disabled Residents Increase Exemption (DRIE), she will be available this evening, and can be reached at 718-784-3194.

Alexis Rodriguez, representing Council Member Antonio Reynoso, said that the Council Member is in the process of hiring a Ridgewood representative. He said that the Council Member recently had a bill passed providing for the Business Integrity Commission to oversee what he called fake unions that have people working for private sanitation carters, so that the commission can put these unions out of business. He said that this bill is expected to be signed next week.

Mark Papish, representing Assembly Member Brian Barnwell, announced that on April 17, from 9am to 4pm, the Assembly Member and State Senator Addabbo are co-sponsoring Free Mammograms, along with the American Italian Cancer Foundation. He asked that people pre-register by calling the Assembly Member's Office at 718-651-3185. He reminded everyone that March 15 is the deadline to file for property tax exemptions, which especially help seniors stay in their homes. Mr. Papish stated that residents can call their office or visit the office at 55-19 69 Street for assistance.

Lee Rottenberg, a CB5Q Board member, said that the tax exemption for disabled homeowners also has to be filed by March 15. There was discussion that the Basic Star Exemption does not have to be renewed once granted, other exemptions have to be renewed every 2 years, and the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption for tenants has to be renewed annually.

The Chairperson thanked members of the press for attending the meeting tonight and for covering Community Board 5, Queens.

MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's Board Meeting conducted on February 13, 2019. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion by Kathy Masi, 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 January 9, 2019. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) **DC Bar & Billiards Inc. d/b/a El Coqui Bar & Billiards**, 54-19 Myrtle Ave, 2nd Floor, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) ***Dhaka Inc. d/b/a Hush**, 70-10 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) **B&B Espresso Bar**, 66-07 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Serbian Association of NY Inc.**, 72-54 65th Place, Glendale, NY 11385
- 3) ***Minderbinder Enterprises LLC d/b/a Milo's Yard**, 564 Seneca Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **Mitoushi 8 Queens Inc.**, 70-11 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) **Karpenisi Donut Shop Inc.**, 69-67 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

Corporate Change/Alterations

- 1) ***DMI Inc. d/b/a Knockdown Center**, 52-19 Flushing Avenue, Maspeth has notified us that they will be adding

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three (3) new service points inside their existing facility to include a new bar in the basement space, and two seasonal Bars in their backyard space

- 2) **Taj Village Inc. d/b/a TBD**, 79-28 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village has notified us that they will be submitting an application to the NYS Liquor Authority to change the class of their license from Restaurant Wine to full Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

* Indicates Outdoor Area

Jerry Drake, a CB5Q Board member, said that he recalls complaints regarding loud music, over the years, regarding the bar located at 70-10 Grand Avenue, which had previously been named Hush. Chairperson Arcuri said that this will be looked into.

Demolition Notices

The Board Chairperson reported that the Board received the following demolition notices since the last monthly Board Meeting on February 13, 2019: **54-31 Myrtle Avenue; 453 Onderdonk Avenue and 455 Onderdonk Avenue** (Excavation Work for a Multi-Family Residential Building), and **1637 Woodbine Street, 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.

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

Mr. Giordano said that he doesn't know of any recent complaints regarding the Hush Bar location, but that doesn't mean that this bar isn't a problem some of the time. He said that it is good to see Michael O'Kane back from his injury. There was much applause for Mike.

The District Manager reported that the sewer project continues in the Penelope Avenue/74 Street area, and that the contractor is currently working in Penelope Avenue and moving toward 71 Street. He thanked Edgar Mantel for paying good attention to this project and alerting him of problems. He said that this sewer installation project is very important, considering that during heavy rains some homeowners in this area of Middle Village have had more than a foot of storm water in their basements.

Mr. Giordano said that street tree plantings locally are expected to begin approximately May 15. He stated that the CB5Q area doesn't get as big an allocation as we once did, but we still try to get street trees planted in all of our neighborhoods. He thanked Paul Kerzner for his decades of tree planting advocacy and leadership.

He stated that he has a commitment from the NYC Dept. of Transportation to resurface several major roadways in the CB5Q area this Spring, including: Fresh Pond Road, from Myrtle Avenue to the Metropolitan Avenue Bridge (just north of Bleecker Street); Metropolitan Avenue from Flushing Avenue to Fresh Pond Road; Metropolitan Avenue, from Fresh Pond Road to Pleasantview Street; Myrtle Avenue, from 88 Street to 80 Street; and Myrtle Avenue from Cooper Avenue to 76 Street.

In response to a question by Dymtro Fedkowskyj, Mr. Giordano stated that, from the most recent information he has, work will begin in September, 2019 on the Reconstruction of the Turf Soccer/Football Field and Running Track in Juniper Valley Park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks Services Committee

Steven Fiedler

Steven Fiedler reported that the problem with flooding conditions on the ball fields in Frank Principe Park has been resolved. He said that he requested representatives from the NYC Dept. of Parks to give a presentation to

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the full Board regarding the proposed design changes to their plans to restore the Myrtle Avenue entrance to Forest Park, in Glendale.

Sanitation Services Committee

Patricia Grayson

Patricia Grayson reported that the Committee met in the Board 5 office on Wednesday, February 27th, to discuss several issues, including ongoing illegal dumping problems in the Board 5 area, preparations for snow removal in the district, as well as proposed legislation in the City Council that addresses waste and recycling collection rules and regulations.

Ms. Grayson said that the Committee reviewed a list of 12 regular illegal dumping locations in the Board 5 area, which the committee decided to investigate further, and suggested that the Dept. of Sanitation provide additional surveillance of the worst locations.

Regarding snow removal preparation in our district, Ms. Grayson reported that there are 9 large salt spreaders, 6 small spreaders and 2 dumpsters that are deployed for snow removal purposes. In addition, she said that there are 12 to 31 plow trucks that are available for plowing snow, depending on the severity of the storm. This winter, there's been very light snowfall in the city, she said.

Ms. Grayson reported that the committee reviewed a comprehensive list of proposed legislation regarding waste and recycling collection in NYC, sponsored by Council Member Antonio Reynoso. She said that Committee members are opposed to the adoption of Intro 1259-2018, which is a local law to amend the administrative code of NYC in relation to the collection of waste and recyclables from not-for-profit corporations by the Dept. of Sanitation.

Ms. Grayson pointed out that the list of proposed legislation is very extensive. She said that the Committee briefly reviewed the material. Paul Kerzner offered to read through each piece of the proposed legislation, and follow up with his recommendations to the committee.

Transportation Services Committee

Vincent Arcuri

Board Chairperson Arcuri reported that the Committee met in the Board 5 office on Tuesday, February 26th, with representatives of the MTA-NYCT to discuss current and upcoming L Train Line upgrades and service changes. In addition, the Committee reviewed the status of local capital improvements projects, and the list of streets on the night-time resurfacing list, as well as traffic and pedestrian safety issues and requests in the Board 5 area. The Chairperson reported that Lucille Songhai, a representative of the MTA- NYC Transit Office of Public Relations, told the Committee that they plan to hold a series of four Open Houses in Brooklyn and Manhattan in the next few weeks to continue discussions and receive feedback from the public on the plans to rehabilitate the L Train Tunnel , which is slated to begin in April, 2019.

The Chairperson said that Mark Roche, the L Train Project Executive, gave a power point presentation regarding all of the subway station and track improvements that will be completed as part of this project. He said that the vast majority of this project will involve the rehabilitation of the L Train Canarsie Tunnel, including replacing 8,000 feet of rail that will be continuously welded into place. He pointed out that a new staircase and elevator are being installed in the L Train subway station at First Avenue in Manhattan as part of this project, and 2 new sub-stations on the L Train Line will be installed in connection with this project.

At the meeting, the Chairperson questioned whether the revisions to the original construction plans will be cost effective, considering what the life cycle of this revised project will be. He said that Mr. Roche explained to the committee that when the concrete wall was more closely analyzed this year, it was found that only 15% of the Canarsie L Train Tunnel, between Bedford Avenue in Brooklyn and First Avenue in Manhattan, was found to be in poor condition.

The Chairperson reported that, the revised plans include the reduction of service on the L Train Line, from Monday to Friday, from approximately 10:15 PM to 5 AM between Lorimer St, Brooklyn and 8 Av, Manhattan.

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Alternate service will be provided to L Trains commuters on the A, F, and J trains, and M14 and free shuttle buses for commuters. He said that on weekends, starting on Saturday, April 27, single-track service will be provided at 20 minute intervals between the Bedford Avenue Station, in Brooklyn, and First Avenue, in Manhattan. He said that NYC Transit plans to increase the number of buses on connecting bus lines, such as, the M14A in Manhattan, for the duration of this project.

The Chairperson reported that the contract for the removal of peeling paint and repair and repointing along the M Train Structure between Fresh Pond Road and Wyckoff Avenue, in Ridgewood, was recently re-bid and awarded.

Regarding the Kosciuszko Bridge Project, the Chairperson reported that work is progressing on schedule. The contractor has begun constructing the columns and piers for the new bridge approach.

Regarding the Safe Streets to Schools Project that is currently underway in the vicinity of PS 239 in Ridgewood, Theodore Renz reported that under this project, the Carl Clemens Triangle, at the intersection of Cypress Avenue and Myrtle Avenue, is being enlarged and rebuilt with a new concrete surface and new curbing.

Old and New Business

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 9:10 pm.