



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 14, 2018

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Peter Comber; Deborah Cox; Patricia Crowley; Brian Dooley; Jerome Drake; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Patricia Grayson; Paul A. Kerzner; John J. Killcommons; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; John Maier; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O’Kane; Michael O’Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Theodore M. Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; David Sands; Carmen Santana; Connie Santos; Christopher Sperrazza; Catherine Sumsky; Patrick J. Trinchese; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Henry Cross; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Angela Giovanniello; Mohan Gyawali-Chhetri; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoefflerle; Kathleen Knight; Michael LoCascio; Lydia Martinez; Kelvin Rodriguez; Barbara Toscano

Elected Officials

NYC Council Member Robert Holden, 30th CD and Chief of Staff Greg Mitchell
Dom Capalbi – US Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D.
Neil Giannelli - NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr, 15th SD
Alexa Arcchi – NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD
Mark Papish - NYS Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, 30th AD
Alison Cummings – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine T. Nolan, 37th AD
Carmela Isabella - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38th AD
Stacey Eliuk – NYC Public Advocate Letitia James
Boris Santos – NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, 34th CD

Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens
Laura Mulvihill and Catherine O’Leary, Community Associates - CB5Q Staff
Joseph Nocerino – Queens Borough President Melinda Katz
P.O. Edwin Collado – Crime Prevention Unit - 104th Precinct

GUESTS

Nancy Lee Paul & Diwaker Gupta – Nasir J. Khanzada LLC, 181-24 Hillside Ave, Jamaica, NY 11432
Alphonso Smith, Human Rights Specialist, NYC Human Rights Commission, 153-01 Jamaica Ave, Queens, NY

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

The Board Chairman announced the first item on the Board Agenda as follows:

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PUBLIC HEARING RE: 66-15 Borden Avenue - BSA Cal. No. 867-55 BZ

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION to the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals by Nasir J. Khanzada LLC, Structural Engineer, on behalf of Manny Kumar, the owner of record, requesting a waiver of the Rules of Practice and Procedure for an extension of time to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy, to extend the term of variance for an additional 10 years beyond 6/9/2011, and to request an amendment of previous Board approval to alter a lawfully established gas station by enlarging the building and conversion of an auto repair shop to a convenience store at **66-15 Borden Avenue** (Block 2394; Lot 8), at the corner of Clinton Avenue and Perry Avenue, in Maspeth, Queens, NY, in an R4-1 Zoning District.

On behalf of the owner of record, Nancy Lee Paul of Nasir J. Khanzada LLC, Structural Engineers, gave a power point presentation on this application. She explained that her client, Manny Kumar, recently purchased this property and seeks a variance in order to eliminate the auto repair shop at the existing gas station, and enlarge the structure in order to convert it into a convenience store. She pointed out that this Sunoco Gas Station, that is located on the north side of the Queens Midtown Expressway Service Road, at the corner of Clinton and Perry Avenues. Photos of the site were displayed while she spoke.

Ms. Paul said that the proposed plans for the building show a 1-story structure, with a small addition of 262 sq. ft. onto the side and front of the existing 1,239 sq. ft. structure, for a total of 1,501 sq. ft. on a lot that covers 12,262 sq. ft. In addition, she said that the proposed plans call for a condenser unit for a new air-conditioner to be installed on the front left area of the roof-top, a new handicapped accessible restroom, a handicapped accessible ramp, and a parking space for handicapped patrons will be provided. The total number of 6 parking spaces on this lot will remain the same.

Ms. Paul said that her client plans to install planters along the curb on the Clinton Avenue side of this corner lot, and plant grass along the rear fence, adjacent to the residential property. She said that there are no plans to change the existing canopy, tanks, or sign poles on the property.

In closing, she said that her client, Manny Kumar, is the new property owner, and he is requesting a waiver of the rules of procedure in this case in order to permit the late filing of this application to request an extension of the 10-year term variance which expired in 2011. She said that it was the prior owner's obligation to file a request to extend the 10-year term variance in a timely manner.

The Board Chairman opened the floor to questions and comments.

Walter Sanchez asked if the owner plans to rent parking spaces on this lot for overnight parking of commercial trucks. Ms. Paul said that she did not know of any plans to rent parking spaces on this lot, and she would contact the owner to ask about it.

Debbie Cox asked if the proposed plans indicate any change in the elevation of this structure. Ms. Paul replied that the existing height of the 1-story building will remain the same.

Michael O'Kane asked what the hours of operation would be. Ms. Paul said that the gas station and convenience store would remain open at all hours of the day and night. She said that two employees will be hired to work at the station, one person to pump gas, etc. while the other person works inside the convenience store.

Maryann Lattanzio asked about the distance between the proposed structure and the rear fence, adjoining the residential property. Ms. Paul said that the new building line would be 8 feet away from the property line.

The Board Chairman thanked her for the presentation, and referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further consideration. The Committee Chair Walter Sanchez invited her to attend the next committee meeting which is scheduled for Monday, April 9th, at 7:30pm, in the Board 5 Office at 61-23 Myrtle Avenue, in Glendale.

PRESENTATION RE: The Rights of Persons with Disabilities

By Alphonso Smith, Human Rights Specialist - NYC Human Rights Commission

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Alphonso Smith explained that the New York City Human Rights Law prohibits discrimination based on a person's disability and promotes independent and equal access for people with disabilities in New York City. The Law is generally more protective than the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It requires an individualized assessment of a person's needs and creates an obligation to provide an accommodation that addresses those needs. It also presumes all accommodations are reasonable unless it would cause an "undue hardship" on the employer, housing provider, or business owner to do so. He said that his agency is charged with enforcing the provisions of the City's Human Rights Laws. He said that this legislation prohibits discrimination against people who fall into 26 protected categories, including race, creed, color, gender, or disability.

Mr. Smith said that the Human Rights Commission has four separate divisions: a Law Enforcement Bureau; Community Affairs; Office of Mediation; and Office of the Chairperson. He said that their main office is located at 22 Reade Street, in Manhattan. He works out of the Queens office, which is located in Jamaica.

Mr. Smith covered several aspects of the City's Human Rights Law, including:

- What does equal and independent access mean? He explained that employers, housing providers, and business owners must provide accommodations or modifications in policy or physical space to allow a person with a disability to continue working, living in their home, or accessing the public space.

- What does equal and independent access look like? He gave some examples, including: 1) A housing provider installs a ramp at the front entrance of the building so residents using wheelchairs may enter and exit independently; or 2) A customer brings his service animal into a restaurant and enjoys service like any other customer. He explained that service animals provide service assistance and emotional assistance to their owners. He said service animals are covered by the equal access provisions of the City's Human Rights Law, as it applies to housing accommodations, not public accommodations. The only question that one can ask someone with a service animal is what service does the animal provide?

- Who covers the cost for the accommodation? He said that it is the responsibility of the employer, housing provider, or business owner to cover the cost for the accommodation in almost all instances.

- How does an employer, housing provider, or business owner determine an appropriate way to accommodate a person with a disability? He said that they must first discuss the situation with the person requesting the change in order to determine feasible options that would allow the person with the disability to continue working, living in their home, or accessing the public space or business. He said that his agency provides mediation services regarding any unresolved disputes between these two parties. Their last resort is to seek legal remedies in court. He pointed out that the maximum fine levied in a discrimination case could be as high as \$250,000.

Robert Cermeli asked why no provisions for handicapped accessibility were incorporated into the design for some recent subway station improvement projects. Mr. Smith said that issue involves an ongoing legal battle with the MTA-NYC Transit Authority.

Carmen Santana said that several local stores in the Myrtle Avenue shopping district are not accessible to people in wheelchairs, such as, the TELCO Clothing Store. She also said that Burger King, located on Myrtle Avenue, does not allow service animals inside their restaurant. She asked that the Human Rights Commission ensure that local stores are in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Mr. Smith replied that their agency responds to requests for assistance that are reported to 3-1-1, or to the info-line at (718) 722-3131. He said that representatives of local community groups, civic or business associations may request that he speak at one of their meetings in order to educate the public on all aspects of the Human Rights Law, by calling his office at (718) 657-1097.

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Peter Comber asked if a volunteer for a local historical site is allowed to request proof of disability from someone who wants to enter their facility with their pet. Mr. Smith replied that the only questions that are permitted involve whether or not the animal is a service animal, and what service the animal provides, if any. The Board Chairman thanked him for his informative presentation.

PUBLIC FORUM

Randy Wasserman, the owner/operator of Laser Bounce, located at 80-28 Cooper Avenue in Glendale, said that he and his partner opened a family entertainment business in Atlas Park a few months ago, where they signed a 15-year lease for approximately 20,000 sq. ft. of space on the Ground Floor level. He said that in their new location, they're able to accommodate up to 680 patrons at one time, where interactive arcade games are available for all ages. He said that most of their employees are local hires. During peak hours, he said that they have 40 employees on site. He explained that when they began the process of applying to the NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs for a license to operate at this location recently, he realized that the local Community Board's recommendation is required. He asked the Board to consider this request for approval at tonight's Board Meeting.

Maryann Lattanzio, a Board member and member of the 104th Civilian Observation Patrol, announced that she had just completed training on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of domestic violence and human trafficking, and how to document this type of abuse for referral to the proper authorities. She said that unfortunately, human trafficking is a modern form of slavery that often involves international crime rings, whose proceeds far exceed that of drug trafficking.

Ms. Lattanzio offered to meet with local civic associations, PTAs, or block associations in order to advise local residents how to identify and address this criminal activity on a local level. In closing, she welcomed anyone interested in joining their organization, the 104COP, to fill out an application on-line on their website: www.104cop.org. She pointed out that anyone over the age of 18 years old, who lives within the confines of the 104th Precinct, is eligible to join. She said that monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, at 8pm, in St. Pancras School, 68-20 Myrtle Avenue, in Glendale. Flyers were distributed.

Board Chairman Arcuri commented that human trafficking is a severe problem in immigrant communities.

Michael Naumowicz, coordinator of the Polish American Voter Registration Drive in NYC Council District 30, said that he hopes to be able to register between 15,000 and 20,000 naturalized citizens to vote this year. He said that he plans to canvass the neighborhoods in our Board area on a door-to-door basis, and set up tables at public events, street fairs, and in public squares. He asked Board members to encourage their neighbors, friends and relatives to register to vote, so they'll be eligible to vote in local, state and federal elections.

Ellen Knechel, a member of the Friends of Rosemary's Playground in Ridgewood, thanked the Board and local elected officials for their support for the proposed revisions to the design plans for the rehabilitation of the playground area that is slated to begin this year. She reported that 3,461 lbs. of electronic items were collected for recycling at the playground in January, and their next electronic recycling event is planned for Saturday, May 12th, 2018.

Crystal Wolfe, a Maspeth resident and founder of Catering for the Homeless, said that she was happy to report that the management of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in Manhattan recently agreed to her request to give City Harvest permission to pick up excess catered meals and distribute them to local food pantries and soup kitchens in the city.

Since last year, she said that she's been working with volunteers to collect and distribute donations of 25 bags of clothing, 30 pounds of food items, and 5,600 toiletry items to churches and homeless shelters throughout NYC. In addition, she said that her organization has provided approximately 6,850 meals to the homeless and poor in church sponsored lunch and dinner ministries, and distributed approximately 760 meals and 150 packages of

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toiletries to homeless individuals who live on streets and subway platforms throughout the City. In closing, she thanked Community Board members, Council Member Bob Holden, and Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi for their continued support for her work.

Richard Huber, a Glendale resident, spoke about the need for tougher laws regarding distracted driving, which he said claims the lives of 10 teenagers in traffic accidents each day in our country. He asked local elected officials to support legislation to increase penalties for the use personal electronic devices by motorists while they are driving.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

On behalf of all of the members of Community Board 5, the Board Chairman offered heartfelt condolences to Brian Dooley on the untimely death of his brother Kevin last month.

He welcomed representatives of local elected officials to address the Board.

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Joseph Nocerino welcomed volunteers to participate in a Spring Clean-Up at Frank Principe Park, on Maurice Avenue in Maspeth, on Saturday, April 21st, between 10am and 12 Noon. He said that last year, he worked with local residents who cleaned up 18 local parks in Queens, including Mafera Park, and Grover Cleveland Park.

He also announced that student internship positions in the Borough President's Office will be available this Summer. He explained that all of these positions are unpaid, but they are ideal for high school or college students who are seeking academic credit and/or experience. For more information, he welcomed anyone interested in applying for a student internship to contact him via email at: jnocerino@queensbp.org. Flyers were distributed.

On behalf of Congresswoman Grace Meng, Dom Capalbi said that today, the Congresswoman joined students at the U.S. Capitol for National School Walk Out Day to commemorate the lives of 17 students and teachers who were killed in a mass shooting inside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on February 14th, 2018. He said that the Congresswoman supports the passage of tougher gun safety laws. He also announced that the Congresswoman will hold mobile office hours at the Maspeth Self-Help Senior Center on Grand Avenue from 9:30am to 11:30am on Friday, March 23rd, and on Friday, April 27th, in addition to meeting with seniors at the Cardella Senior Center at 68-52 Fresh Pond Road in Ridgewood from 9:30am to 11:30am on Tuesday, March 27th, 2018. He welcomed constituents to call their office for information or assistance at (718) 358-6364.

NYC Council Member Robert Holden spoke about his tour of Rikers Island earlier today. He said that the current proposal under consideration by the City Council to close the prison on Rikers Island is not practical. He said that where personal safety and security of the correction officers and the general public is concerned, there is no comparison between the detention of the prison population on Rikers Island, as compared to existing county and precinct jail cells. He said that he also inspected the Dept. of Corrections Training Facility at the Metro Mall, at 66-26 Metropolitan Avenue, in Middle Village, where there are 800 new recruits who are currently training to become correction officers. He said that the City has budgeted \$100 Million to build a new training facility for the Dept. of Corrections, but a potential site has not been identified yet.

Regarding the issue of gun control, the Council Member said that new federal legislation should include a prohibition of the sale and possession of assault weapons for personal use.

Kathy Masi invited him to attend the next meeting of the Education and Youth Services Planning Committees on April 26th, where the committees plan to address school safety issues.

Lee Rottenberg suggested that the new recruits for Correction Officers be trained at Rikers Island, instead of the Metro Mall. The Council Member agreed.

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In closing, he welcomed everyone to visit him at his new office, located at 64-69 Dry Harbor Road, in Middle Village. He said that their office phone number remains the same: (718) 366-3900.

On behalf of Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Boris Santos reported that today is the Council Member's first day back at work, after his newborn son's birth. He reported that he was recently appointed Chair of the City Council's Sanitation Committee. He said that their office plans to hold a series of Participatory Budgeting Sessions between April 7th and April 15th, 2018, when local community residents will be able to give input on the types of programs and services that are needed in their area. He also announced that at 6PM on Tuesday, April 17th, their office will host a meeting to discuss proposed plans for the rehabilitation of Starr Playground, located on Onderdonk Avenue in Ridgewood. He welcomed anyone interested in this project to attend this on-site meeting. For more information, he welcomed constituents to call their office at (718) 963-3141.

On behalf of State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Neil Giannelli reported that the Senator is working on the annual budget negotiation process in Albany this month. He announced that the Senator will be available to meet with constituents during his mobile office hours from 5:30pm to 7pm at the Maspeth Public Library on Grand Avenue on Thursday, April 12th. He also reminded everyone that the next Electronic Recycling Event is scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 29th, from 10 am and 2pm, in the Band Shell parking lot in Forest Park. He said that this event will be co-sponsored by Senator Addabbo and Assembly Members Mike Miller and Andrew Hevesi.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, Mark Papish announced that their office will assist senior homeowners to apply for the STAR tax rebate this week, or before Friday's deadline, on March 15. He said that they are also sponsoring the Free Mammogram Mobile Unit outside their office at 55-19 69 Street, in Maspeth, on Thursday, March 22nd, from 9am to 5pm. He said that prior appointments are required, by calling their office at (718) 651-3185. In addition, he said that the Assemblyman and Council Member Holden will sponsor the NYLAG's Mobile Unit, parked on the corner of 80 Street and Eliot Avenue, in order to offer free legal services to constituents from 10am to 3pm, on Friday, March 23rd, 2018. Pre-registration is required by calling their office for an appointment at (718) 651-3185. Flyers were distributed.

On behalf of State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Alison Cummings reported that the Assemblywoman is currently in Albany, working on annual budget negotiations. She wished everyone a Happy Easter, or Happy Passover in the coming month.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, Alexa Arrechi wished everyone a happy holiday. She welcomed calls from constituents at their district office at 70-50 Austin Street, in Forest Hills, at (718) 263-5595.

On behalf of NYC Public Advocate Letitia James, Stacey Eliuk reported that their office is working to ensure that the City's infrastructure remains sustainable in the face of projected climate change. She said that the Public Advocate supports the recommendation to divest the City's Pension Funds' investments in the fossil fuel industry.

Ms. Eliuk said that the Public Advocate's Report on Pay Equity for City Employees will be released tomorrow. She also announced that their office is sponsoring a Minority and Women-Owned Business Event, from 4pm to 7pm on Thursday, March 29th, in Queens Borough Hall, to provide information about contracting opportunities with various city agencies. Flyers were distributed.

MINUTES

The Board Chairman wished everyone a Happy Easter and Happy Passover, whatever their pleasure. He introduced staff members present at the meeting: District Manager Gary Giordano, and Community Associates

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Laura Mulvihill and Catherine O'Leary. He recognized the press corps in attendance at the meeting, and thanked them for reporting on Community Board matters and events.

The Board Chairman introduced P.O. Edwin Collado, the Crime Prevention Officer in the 104th Police Precinct, and gave him the floor. P.O. Collado alerted everyone to a series of home break-ins that have occurred in Maspeth and Middle Village. He advised residents to install more secure locks on their windows and doors, because that has most often been the means of access for these criminals. The Board Chairman advised everyone to install long dead-bolt locks on their doors.

The Board Chairman asked Board members to review the minutes of the February 7, 2018 Board Meeting. The minutes were approved by acclamation, on a motion to accept them as written by Walter Clayton, seconded by Kathy Masi.

LIQUOR, WINE and BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS and RENEWALS

The Board Chairman 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 February 7, 2018. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) **Ludo, Inc.** 678 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) * **Café Rum Ltd.** 1050 Wyckoff Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) * Raheny 5 LLC d/b/a **Walsh's** 64-04 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 4) * Charlie Work LLC d/b/a **Evil Twin Brewing** 16-16 George Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) *1563 Decatur Café LLC d/b/a **Houdini** 1563 Decatur Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **California Pizza Kitchen** The Shops at Atlas Park 8000 Cooper Avenue – Bldg 7, Glendale, NY 11385
- 3) **861 La Rubia Restaurant Corp.** 861 Wyckoff Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **The Avenue Bar & Grill** 71-22 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 5) 70th Ave Restaurant Corp. d/b/a **The Cozy Corner** 60-07 70th Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 6) *Woodward 652 LLC d/b/a **Aunt Ginny's** 652 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) **Tendo Sushi Inc.** 66-26 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Jie Zhou ER, Inc.** 67-11 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 3) **C&B Luncheonette** 983 Wyckoff Avenue - Ground Floor, Ridgewood, NY 11385

*Outdoor Area

Demolition and Construction Notices

The Board Chairman reported that the Board received several construction and demolition notices since last month's Board Meeting: demolition of garages at **53-54 61 Street** and **52-20 66 Street**; and excavation of a vacant lot at **57-66 73 Place, in Maspeth** in order to build a 2-family house; and demolition of a 1-story 1-family house at **80-68 59 Street, in Ridgewood**.

The Board Chairman 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 Chairman announced that nominations from the floor for the election of Board Officers will be accepted at next month's Board Meeting. He said that the annual election of Board Officers will be conducted at the monthly Board Meeting on Wednesday, June 13th, 2018.

District Manager's Report
Gary Giordano

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The District Manager Gary Giordano reported that he expects work to resume soon on the Emergency Bridge Deck Replacement project on Metropolitan Avenue at Fresh Pond Road, over the LIRR tracks, because a new contractor has been selected to complete this project. He said that the City defaulted the previous contractor, Mugrose, due to a protracted work stoppage at this site.

Brian Dooley asked if new inspections of the bridge supports underneath the roadway would be required to determine their structural stability of the bridge now. The District Manager replied that engineers from the City's Division of Bridges have already inspected the condition of the bridge, as well as potential bidders.

He said that the Resident Engineer for this project reported that there's been no indication that the structure itself is weak. There's been no further deterioration of the structure since the project began, he said.

Peggy O'Kane and Jerry Drake both pointed out that a section of the CVS parking lot has numerous holes in it. They said that jersey barricades have been installed around it, to prevent cars or pedestrians from falling into the sink hole there. The District Manager said that he would investigate this situation further.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks Services Committee

Steven Fiedler

Steven Fiedler reported that the committee met in the Board office on Tuesday, February 21st with representatives of the Parks Department to review the preliminary design plans for a new Forest Park Glendale Entrance in the area of Myrtle Avenue at Union Turnpike. He said that the committee plans to monitor the progress on the design plans for this new entrance to Forest Park in Glendale.

Mr. Fiedler also reported that committee members attended the recent public hearing sponsored by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) that was held at 7pm in Redeemer Lutheran School on Monday, March 5th, regarding the designation of the Ridgewood Reservoir as natural wetlands, which would protect it from further development. He said that DEC has found that "the majority of the western basin, as well as the majority of the southern half of the western basin contain forested wetlands that are seasonally flooded. The majority of the central basin contains open water, surrounded by emergent wetlands." He said that everyone who spoke at the public hearing fully supported the wetlands designation for all three basins of the Ridgewood Reservoir. He said that the public comment period on the proposed wetlands delineation ends on March 22nd, 2018.

He said that the committee reviewed the status of upcoming capital projects, including the rehabilitation of two roller hockey rinks, one at Juniper Valley Park and the other at Mafera Park. He said that work on this project is slated to begin soon.

Regarding plans for the Reconstruction of the Running Track, Artificial Turf Soccer/Football Field and the proposed plans for a Fitness Area at the Western End of Juniper Valley Park, he said that the committee requested that a concrete slab be poured under the running track, to prevent it from sinking below grade, as it has in the past few years.

Environmental Services Committee

Brian Dooley

Brian Dooley reported that the committee met in the Board office on Tuesday, March 6th to review the status of needed repairs at sunken catch basins and collapsed sewer mains in the Board 5 area. He said due to the severe backlog in requests for these types of repairs, the City recently hired private contractors to perform the repairs in a timely manner.

Regarding the sewer and water main installation project along Calamus Avenue and 69 Street, in the area of Maspeth and Woodside, Mr. Dooley said that the project is nearing completion now. He said that it is slated for completion by May 31st, 2018.

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Regarding the sewer and water main installation project in the vicinity of Penelope Avenue and 74 Street and adjacent streets in Middle Village, he reported that the contractor will install a larger sewer line in 74 Street between Juniper Boulevard South and Penelope Avenue that should help to reduce the problem of street flooding, with related sewer back-ups, that occur during heavy rain storms. He said that this work was expected to be complete by the end of June, 2018.

Regarding the emergency sewer project on Catalpa Avenue between Fresh Pond Road and 60 Lane, he said that the contractor is hopefully nearing completion on this job.

Mr. Dooley reported that the committee also discussed the need for sewer system improvements in eastern Glendale, especially east of 73 Place, along 77 Avenue.

He said the committee also reviewed the status of Green Infrastructure Projects, such as, the bioswales that were installed in the Board 5 area last year. Maryann Lattanzio asked what agency is supposed to maintain them. She said that the bioswales that were installed on Grand Avenue in Maspeth look like waste bins.

The District Manager said that the Dept. of Environmental Protection is in the process of hiring a contractor to maintain them adequately.

Peggy O’Kane reported that in response to her complaint about the bioswales that were installed on Traffic Avenue last year, DEP recently inspected the ones behind her home. She said that she was happy to report that DEP decided to remove two of the bioswales that were installed there, because they were not absorbing storm water run-off at that location.

Mr. Dooley also reported that the committee reviewed plans to clean up several Superfund sites, including Newtown Creek and its tributaries, and the Wolff Alport site that is bordered by Irving Avenue and Cooper Avenue, in Ridgewood.

Transportation Services Committee

Theodore M. Renz

Theodore Renz reported that the committee met with representatives of the MTA/NYC Transit Authority on Tuesday, February 27th, in the Board Office to review plans for the Renovations to the “L” Train Tunnel between Brooklyn and Manhattan. He said that they are planning to close the Canarsie ‘L’ Train tunnel, between the Bedford Avenue station in Brooklyn and the First Avenue subway station in Manhattan, for 15 months, beginning in April, 2019. He said that they plan to divert passengers to the J, Z and M train lines as much as possible. Their plans may also include One-Way traffic over the Williamsburg Bridge during morning rush hours for several bus lines, and reversing the traffic flow for evening rush hours. Additional Ferry Service will also be available for commuters, he said.

He announced that MTA representatives plan to hold a series of Open Houses in the communities that will be most severely impacted by the disruption in service on the L Train line this Spring.

Regarding the Construction of station platforms and rail lines on the “M” Train line between the Myrtle and Wyckoff train station and the Myrtle and Broadway elevated station in Brooklyn, he reported that all of the track work and station improvements are slated for completion in May, 2018.

Regarding the Kosciuszko Bridge Project, he said that the contract to build the second bridge span between Brooklyn and Queens has been awarded. Work on the new span is expected to begin this Summer, he said. In closing, he said that the next Committee Meeting is scheduled to take place at 7:30pm on Tuesday, March 27th, in the Board 5 office.

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez explained that the committee did not meet in the past month, but he would like to bring to the floor and recommend action on the matter presented to the Board at tonight’s meeting regarding the

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application submitted to the Dept. of Consumer Affairs by Laser Bounce LLC, in Atlas Park. Mr. Sanchez said that he has personally visited the site and found that it was very well managed and maintained. Both Kathy Masi and Lee Rottenberg spoke in favor of the business at this location.

On a motion by Kathy Masi, seconded by David Sands, in favor of sending a recommendation of No Objection to the Dept. of Consumer Affairs regarding the new arcade, known as Laser Bounce, in Atlas Park, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the motion on the floor, which carried unanimously by a vote - 32 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 - no abstentions; and - 0 - not voting.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Board Chairman Arcuri adjourned the public meeting of Community Board 5, Queens on a motion from the floor at 9:35pm. He thanked Pastor Dan Klaus for providing the light refreshments for the meeting.