



Community Board No. 5

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

Gary Giordano
District Manager

Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting March 8, 2017

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Henry Cross; Patricia Crowley; Brian Dooley; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoefflerle; Robert Holden; Paul A. Kerzner; John J. Killcommons; Michael LoCascio; John Maier; Lydia Martinez; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O’Kane; Michael O’Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Kelvin Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Carmen Santana; Connie Santos; Lorraine Sciulli; Jean Tanler; Barbara Toscano; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Peter Comber; Karamjit Dhaliwal; Thomas C. Dowd; Caroline Fuchs; Angela Giovannello; Patricia Grayson; Kathleen Knight; Alexander Maureau; Theodore M. Renz; Luis Rodriguez; David Sands; Catherine Sumsky

Elected Officials

NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, 30th CD and Staff Maggie Hayes
Don 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
Meredith Wittmann - NYS Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, 30th AD
Alison Cummings – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, 37th AD
Carmela Isabella - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38th AD
Boris Santos – NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, 34th CD

Staff Present

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

GUESTS

James Mituzas, Queens Director of Parks Landscape, NYC Dept. Of Parks, The Olmsted Center, Flushing, NY
Theresa Dewey, Landscape Architecture, NYC Dept. of Parks – Capital Projects
P.O. Charles Sadler, Community Affairs Unit, 104th Police Precinct
Victoria Gallego, Domestic Violence Advocate, 104th Police Precinct
Beverly Green, Unique People Services, 83-34 58 Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
Mario Matos, Assistant Principal of Maspeth High School, 54-44 74 Street, in Queens

DRAFT Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on March 8, 2017

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

PUBLIC HEARING RE: BSA Cal. No. 2017-22 BZ – 1645 Decatur Street, Ridgewood - IN THE MATTER OF AN Application to the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals by Eric Palatnik, PC, Attorney At Law, on behalf of Crossfit Bridge and Tunnel, the owner of record, for a Special Permit, under Sections 73-36, 73-03 and 42-31 of the Zoning Resolution, to legalize the physical culture establishment (Crossfit), in an M1-4D Zoning District, at 1645 Decatur Street in Ridgewood, Queens, NY.

He said that at the applicant's request, this matter will be laid over until next month's Board Meeting, at 7:30pm on Wednesday, April 12, 2017.

The Board Chairman invited NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley to address the Board.

Council Member Crowley said that this month and next, the City Council will be negotiating with the Mayor's office to reach an agreement on how to spend the proposed \$85 Billion in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for FY 2018, which begins on July 1st. She encouraged everyone to vote during the Participatory Budgeting process this year, to decide how to spend allocations of \$1 Million per Council District.

The Council Member reported that she met with representatives of the Dept. of Design and Construction and community residents, in St. Mary's Winfield school in Woodside on Thursday, February 23rd, to address the community's concerns about the year-long construction delay on the major sewer improvement project on 69 Street/Calamus Avenue in Maspeth and Woodside. She was happy to report that the contractor is back to work on this project, which is expected to be complete by May of 2018.

The Council Member announced that the rehabilitation of the Juniper Park Track and Football/Soccer Field is fully funded. She said that this project will not start until the Principe Park Soft Surface Ballfield project is completed. Dmytro Fedkowskyj asked if both the track and field area of Juniper Valley Park would be completed under the same contract. The Council Member replied that \$5 Million is budgeted for the entire project.

The Council Member was happy to report that the feasibility study for the potential passenger rail plan, along the LIRR Montalk line, is underway.

Regarding the Glendale Library project, she said that the project has been fully funded for the past 3 years, and is slated to go out to bid this spring.

The Council Member also announced that her office is sponsoring an Electronic and Paper Recycling Event between 12 Noon and 4pm on Saturday, April 22nd in the parking lot of Maspeth Federal Savings Bank on Grand Avenue at 69 Street. She welcomed everyone to participate. She also welcomed everyone to attend a Visioning Session for Rosemary's Playground in Ridgewood, to be held at 6pm on March 28th in the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council's Community Center, located at 776 Fairview Avenue, on the corner of Madison Street.

The Council Member also announced that this year, she was able to secure funds to improve the Glendale entrance to Forest Park in the vicinity of Union Turnpike. Flyers were distributed.

Fred Haller asked about the possibility of extending the Myrtle Avenue BID into Glendale. The Council Member replied that she would like to see the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District extend past Fresh Pond Road into Glendale, but it would depend on gaining the support of more than half of the property owners on both sides of Myrtle Avenue, in Glendale. She said that 20 businesses have expressed interest in it so far.

PRESENTATION Re: Spray Shower in Juniper Valley Park

By Theresa Dewey, Landscape Architect – NYC Dept. of Parks

James Mituzas, Queens Director of Parks Landscape in the Design Division
of the NYC Dept. of Parks

DRAFT Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on March 8, 2017

Theresa Dewey, Project Manager for the NYC Dept. of Parks, gave a power point presentation on the proposed reconstruction of the spray shower in the Children's Playground in Juniper Valley Park, which is located just inside the park entrance at the intersection of Juniper Boulevard South and 78th Street in Middle Village. Ms. Dewey said that this area is adjacent to the comfort station inside the park, just south of the bocce courts. She said that as part of this \$2 Million project, the entire spray shower section will be upgraded with new flooring, water play devices, additional seating and a newly reconstructed drainage system. While the water play equipment to be installed in this area will be a more interactive space where children can play, the footprint for this area will remain the same, she said. She pointed out that the spray shower area will be divided into two separate sections: a youth and active zone, with upright spray elements, such as water cannons, buckets to dump, and some ground spray elements; and in the other area, a child and family zone, with mostly ground sprays and shorter sprays for younger children.

As she spoke, Ms. Dewey pointed out the circles of colored concrete overlaid with geometric designs in this section of the park, which will replace all of the broken rubber mats to be removed under this contract. And, she explained that during the scoping meeting for this project, community residents requested that this section remain an open and flat area that could be used for exercise areas, such as tai chi, yoga, or other recreational activities. And, new benches will be installed around the perimeter of the spray shower, just inside the 2 ½ foot fence that will be installed around this entire area of the park.

Ms. Dewey also said that the entrances to the spray area will be reconfigured, bringing them to grade to eliminate the need for ramps, while keeping the space handicapped accessible.

In closing, Ms. Dewey said that the spray shower area would remain open for use this summer. She explained that the design phase for this project is expected to be complete by year-end, and construction is slated to begin in the late summer of 2018. This project is expected to take one year to complete, she said.

The Board Chairman opened the floor to questions and comments.

Robert Cermeli expressed his concern that small children might easily climb over the new fencing, since it's only 2 ½ feet high. Ms. Dewey said that the plans include the installation of 6 additional benches inside the fencing, along with a strip of grass and flowers planted between the fencing and the benches, which should deter a small child from straying outside of the spray shower area.

Steven Fiedler asked what material the benches would be made of. Ms. Dewey said that the Parks Department uses recycled plastic benches with the look of distressed wood to replace wooden slats on benches.

And, he asked if they had considered offsetting the entrances on the north and south sides of the spray shower area by a few feet to either side, to serve as a deterrent to older children, who very often ride their bicycles through the spray shower area. Ms. Dewey thanked him for the suggestion.

Kelvin Rodriguez asked if the concrete surface in the plans was dyed certain colors, or a composite substance. Ms. Dewey replied that the colored concrete surface will be poured in several sections, with orange, pink and aqua pigment in the concrete mix.

Don Passantino said that, very often, he has seen teenagers riding skateboards along the top of fencing inside public parks. He suggested that the surface of the new fencing have brackets or a raised surface that would prohibit that type of abuse. Ms. Dewey thanked him for the suggestion.

Eileen Moloney asked if it would be possible to install any other type of surface on the ground inside the spray shower area, to accommodate children with special needs. Ms. Dewey said that a poured concrete surface is replacing rubber matting in public parks throughout the City.

As there were no other speakers, the Board Chairman thanked Ms. Dewey for her presentation, and announced the next item on the Agenda.

Parks Services Committee

Steven Fiedler

Steven Fiedler reported that the non-profit organization, NYC H2O, prepared a proposal to nominate the Ridgewood Reservoir to both the State and Federal Historic Registers, in recognition of the importance of the

DRAFT Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on March 8, 2017

three basins, constructed in the 19th Century, to the city's water system. He said that copies of this proposal are available for review in the Board office. He said that the committee met on Thursday, March 2nd to review and recommend the proposed nomination of the Ridgewood Reservoir to both State and Federal National Historic Registers.

As there was no further discussion on the matter, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the committee recommendation in support of the Ridgewood Reservoir's historic designation, as proposed, which carried unanimously by a vote of – 32 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mary Elizabeth Smith, a retired teacher and Glendale resident, requested that PS/IS 119 school on 78 Avenue and 74 Street in Glendale be renamed in honor of the late Bernadette Boyle, a former principal of the school, who worked in that school for over 35 years. The Board Chairman informed her that the Community Education Council of School District 24 has jurisdiction over renaming of local public schools in this area and advised her to submit her request to them.

Karen Stone, a Glendale resident, reported that there's a rodent infestation problem in a multiple dwelling at 70-15 65 Place in Glendale. She said that she has called 3-1-1 repeatedly to report this problem, but lately, she has seen rats running to and from the building daily. She asked the Board what is being done about this situation. The Board Chairman directed staff to follow up on this complaint with the proper authorities.

P.O. Charles Sadler, in the Community Affairs Unit of the 104th Police Precinct, announced that a Crime Victims Assistance Program was recently initiated in the precinct. He introduced Victoria Gallegos as one of the domestic violence advocates who are assigned to work in the precinct. He said that calls for assistance from their program should be made directly to their office at (718) 386-3097. Flyers were distributed.

James Becker, a Ridgewood resident, complained about the loud music from the Fresh Pond Tavern at 68-69 Fresh Pond Road until the early hours of the morning. He said that he has reported this problem to 3-1-1 for the past 6 months. But, by the time the police arrive on the scene, it is closing time and the bar is empty. He said that he met with the bar owner as part of the Community Mediation process, but there's been no improvement. He requested that the Board recommend that the renewal application for this premises be denied by the State Liquor Authority when their current liquor license expires in October of 2017. The Board Chairman said that the matter would be taken under advisement.

Joe Dionisi, a Glendale resident, said that the roller hockey rinks inside Mafera Park and Juniper Valley Park are in very poor condition. He said that there are puddles on the playing surface, and players use garbage pails as nets on each end of the rink. He said that when he was growing up, there were plenty of teams playing in different leagues in both rinks. He requested the Board's support to restore both rinks.

Beverly Green, the house manager of Unique People Services at 83-34 58 Avenue in Middle Village, said that every night there is a crowd of teenagers and young adults hanging out in front of this home, playing loud music, smoking marijuana, and disturbing the peace. The Board Chairman advised her to speak with P. O. Sadler in the Community Affairs Unit of the 104th Police Precinct.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

Board Chairman Arcuri asked if everyone had received their copy of the Equal Employment Opportunity package, and if so, he asked that they sign the receipt for it that is being passed around at tonight's meeting. The Board Chairman welcomed representatives of local elected officials to address the Board.

DRAFT Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on March 8, 2017

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Joe Nocerino announced that later this month, the newly constructed Cultural Center on the 1st Floor of Queens Borough Hall will be dedicated in memory of the late Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, who passed away at the age of 87 on March 4, 2017.

He said that invitations to the celebration of her life and legacy will be sent to her friends, relatives and local community leaders later this month. The event will be held in Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Boulevard, in Kew Gardens.

On behalf of State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Jr., Neil Giannelli welcomed constituents to attend a Town Hall Meeting regarding Property Tax Assessments, from 6 to 8pm, in Greater Ridgewood Youth Council, at 59-03 Summerfield Street in Ridgewood on Thursday, March 9, 2017.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, Meredith Wittman announced that their office will co-sponsor a free paper-shredding event from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday, March 11th in front of the Big Six Housing Development at 59-15 47th Avenue in Woodside. She welcomed everyone to participate.

Ms. Wittman also announced that the Assemblyman is sponsoring a free legal clinic provided by the NY Legal Assistance Group, on Friday, March 10th from 10am to 3pm, in their offices located on 51st Street and 32nd Avenue in Woodside. She advised everyone that prior appointments are necessary, by contacting their office at (718) 651-3185.

On behalf of Congresswoman Grace Meng, Don Capalbi announced that a representative from the Department of Veterans Affairs will be available once a month in their main district office at 40-13 159th Street, on the corner of Northern Boulevard, in Flushing, to meet with local veterans and/or their beneficiaries to address any issues or concerns that they may have such as questions about VA benefits and services, information on pending claims, and assistance with filing claims. He advised that appointments to meet with a VA representative in their office must be made at least four days ahead of time, and the office phone number is 718-358-6364.

On behalf of Assemblyman Mike Miller, Carmela Isabella thanked everyone for their donations of cards and gifts for the annual Valentines for Veterans Drive at their office at 83-91 Woodhaven Blvd. She also announced that on April 23rd, the Assemblyman and State Senator Joe Addabbo will co-sponsor the Spring Recycling Event in the Bandshell parking lot inside Forest Park. For more information, please contact their office at (718) 805-0950. Flyers were distributed.

On behalf of State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Alison Cummings welcomed calls from constituents to their district office at 47-40 21 Street, in Long Island City, at (718) 784-3194.

On behalf of Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, Alexa Arrechi thanked Board members for their vote of support for the Assemblyman's legislative initiative referred to as the Home Stability Support Program. She said that this legislation has been gaining support this year and they look forward to the bill's passage during this session of the legislature in Albany. She welcomed constituents in need of assistance to visit their office at 70-50 Austin Street in Forest Hills, and requested that they call the office at (718) 263-5595 first to schedule an appointment.

On behalf of NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Boris Santos announced that this year's round of Participatory Budgeting will begin at the end of this month. He encouraged everyone to participate in the process. Flyers were distributed.

MINUTES

The Board Chairman asked Board members to review the minutes of the February 8th, 2017 Board Meeting. The minutes were approved by acclamation, on a motion to accept them as written by Walter Sanchez, seconded by Walter Clayton.

DRAFT Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on March 8, 2017

The Board Chairman introduced staff members present at the meeting: District Manager Gary Giordano, and Community Associate Catherine O'Leary. He recognized the press corps in attendance at the meeting, and thanked them for reporting on Community Board matters and events.

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 8, 2017. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) **Wyckoff Weirfield Corp.** 915 Wyckoff Avenue and 1609-1611 Weirfield Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **BRX PIZZA & SEAFOOD INC.** 52-20 Flushing Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) **B&B Espresso Bar Inc.** 66-07 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) * **Minderbinder Enterprises LLC d/b/a Milo's Yard** 564 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **Brinker Restaurant Corp. d/b/a Chili's Grill & Bar** 80-16 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 4) **K & A d/b/a Black Fish LLC** 66-48 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385

New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

- 1) **Palace of Zuly Inc.** 913 Wyckoff Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) **Karpenisi Donut Shop Inc. d/b/a Fame Diner** 69-67 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 2) **Sakura Myrtle Inc.** 64-19 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 3) **Goodfellas Grill Corp.** 56-26 Maspeth Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

*Outdoor Area

Demolition and Construction Notices

The Board Chairman reported that the Board received demolition notices since last month's Board Meeting for the demolition of 2 vacant buildings at **79-36 and 79-40 Cooper Avenue in Glendale** (formerly Hansel & Gretel's); a 2-family house and garage at **73-19 and 73-21 68 Avenue in Middle Village**; and a vacant warehouse at **1661 and 1671 Summerfield 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.

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

The District Manager requested a Moment of Silence in honor of the late Helen Marshall, former Borough President of Queens, who passed away at home after an extended illness over the weekend.

The District Manager announced that Sarah Feldman was recently appointed as chair of the Library Services Committee. Their next committee meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Monday, March 20th, 2017 in the Board 5 office on Myrtle Avenue.

The District Manager thanked Jean Tanler for her years of service on the Community Board. Ms. Tanler said that she would be moving to Florida next month, and thanked everyone for their good wishes.

The District Manager also announced that the Education and Youth Services Committee plans to hold a joint-committee meeting next Tuesday, March 14th, in the cafeteria of IS 5 (The Walter Crowley School) in Elmhurst. Regarding the roller hockey rink inside Juniper Valley Park, the District Manager reported that, to his knowledge, funding is available for the necessary repairs to that rink.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Special Committee on Homeless Issues
Dmytro Fedkowskyj

Mr. Fedkowskyj reported that the committee met on March 1st with Catherine Trapani, the Executive Director of Homeless Services United, Inc. (HSU) and Eric Lee, one of their program directors. He explained that HSU is a coalition of non-profit agencies serving homeless and at-risk adults and families in NYC, that promotes effective solutions to end the crisis of homelessness and is governed by a Board of Directors that consists of 17 nonprofit homeless service provider executives.

Mr. Fedkowskyj reported that: at their committee meeting, Ms. Trapani gave a power point presentation that described HSU's mission, and the types of services that may be provided in shelters by nonprofit service providers. She said that HSU has a membership of 50 agencies, including Catholic Charities, Coalition for Homeless Youth, Providence Houses, Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council, Salvation Army and Thorpe Family Residences. She explained that the benefit of joining HSU brings along an opportunity to be part of a community, to receive technical assistance and support with respect to program design, operations, funding opportunities, and to receive information about the sector including relevant policy changes and media alerts, job posting and recruiting support, discounted professional development workshops for all levels of staff, having a say in policy and informing HSU's position on issues relevant to the sector, and more. She said that HSU does not supervise or oversee the activities of their members. HSU is an independent entity that organizes their membership to harness their collective wisdom and experience in order to share information about best practices and promote sound policy and program design, and promote solutions to prevent and reduce homelessness in New York City.

Ms. Trapani also informed the committee that HSU believes strongly in its strategy that all families and individuals must have access to appropriate permanent housing options, as well as access to any services that may be necessary to obtain and maintain housing. She said that HSU believes that new purpose shelters need to be built, and the existing shelter capacity should be better utilized.

Ms. Trapani explained to committee members how non-profit service providers generally operate and what they do. She said that mission based non-profits do this work because they are legally and morally bound to operate for charitable purposes only. She said that most organizations that provide shelter services actually subsidize NYC to ensure high quality care is provided to their clients, because their reimbursement rates are so low. She explained that their rates have not increased in decades, and more and more resources must go to occupancy costs to provide basic shelter for their clients. The City generally pays 75% of their actual operating costs. She said that the City currently owes tens of millions of dollars to non-profits providing homeless services, the reason being they often begin to operate before their contract is registered and are sometimes waiting more than 7 months for reimbursement. She said non-profits that provide shelter services face chronic underfunding, and are constantly fund raising or worrying about administration. This underfunding means that positions sometimes go unfilled and clients experience gaps in care and services, she said.

Mr. Trapani said that purpose built and mission driven shelters do provide quality services but there are challenges because some shelters were designed for other purposes (like hotels) without proper retro-fits that allow for appropriate and specialized services.

Ms. Trapani described the range of shelter services: case management; housing and benefit advocacy (public assistance, food stamps); child care development and care; food service/preparation in facilities without kitchens; security personnel who specialize in mental health services; and specialized employment services. She also described the different types of shelter programs and shelter facilities: shelters for single adults, adult families, and families with children; shelters for victims of domestic violence, for persons living with AIDS, for disaster/fire victims; and shelters for runaway homeless youths.

As for the types of shelter facilities, Ms. Trapani said that there are several types of housing accommodations:

DRAFT Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on March 8, 2017

- Congregate care, which is provided in stand-alone facilities where the entire building is used as a shelter, and is usually designed for residential and community use, with 24 hour on-site staff where social services are delivered on site.
- Hotels, which involve room rentals and are sometimes retro-fitted for shelter use.
- Cluster sites, where apartments may be rented by non-profits or NYC in multi-family residential dwellings for shelter purposes. Generally, there is no on-site staff and services are only offered at a central office and Ms. Trapani said that this was HSU's least favorable option.

Ms. Trapani pointed out that as many as 5 city agencies, including the Dept. of Homeless Services, the Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development, Fire Department, Dept. of Buildings, and Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene, regularly inspect shelter facilities.

Ms. Trapani said that their intake procedures include eligibility screening, to ensure that people applying for shelter have no other housing options. She said that many applicants are refused entry to shelter and offered other services to help resolve their housing issues. As to why people stay in shelters for so long, she explained that the private housing market is hard to access for people with limited incomes, because apartment rentals are so high in NYC. She said that most of their clients either have poor credit, or little or no history as a tenant. And, some landlords are reluctant to rent to formerly homeless tenants even with a subsidy, she said. Currently, there is a huge waiting list for affordable and public housing, with more applicants on the public housing waiting list than there are apartments in the entire portfolio, she said.

Ms. Trapani said that HSU supports community engagement as an effective problem solving tool and the city administration should rely on community boards as a vehicle for engagement.

Mr. Fedkowskyj also reported that the committee briefly discussed the Mayor's new initiative – building 90 new shelters citywide while keeping people in the community where they last resided. He said that community based shelters in each borough seems to be the new direction that the Mayor's office is taking. Since the Mayor's new initiative, called "Turning the Tide on Homelessness," was released last week, the committee decided to invite Amanda Nasner, the Queens Borough Manager for the Dept. of Homeless Services, to discuss it at length at their next meeting on April 5th in Christ the King High School.

He gave a brief outline of the initiative by saying that it relies on three basic approaches to ending homelessness, neighborhood by neighborhood:

- First, doing more to keep people in their homes by making housing more affordable and stopping illegal evictions.
- Second, making long-needed operational reforms to better serve people in shelters and neighborhoods.
- Third, a re-imagined shelter strategy that would remove people from all cluster apartment units by the end of 2021, and commercial hotel facilities by the end of 2023; cut the total number of shelter facilities by almost 45%; and keep homeless people as close as possible to their own neighborhoods and on a path to get back on track.

He welcomed everyone to read the full 120-page report that can be found online on the city's website at:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dhs/downloads/pdf/turning-the-tide-on-homelessness.pdf>.

In response to questions from the floor, Mr. Fedkowskyj said that the committee unanimously agrees that more affordable housing units should be built and/or renovated throughout the city. He said that HSU does not supervise the non-profit agencies that form their coalition, and does not have any input regarding the employee compensation packages that their CEO's may receive.

Environmental Services Committee

Brian Dooley

Brian Dooley reported that, on March 13th, the committee met in the Board office with two guests who are associated with the Newtown Creek Clean Up: Mark Lavaia, a local resident and member of the Newtown Creek Alliance; and LaShaun Lesley, a representative of the Phelps Dodge site. He said that the Draft Remedial

DRAFT Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on March 8, 2017

Investigation of the Phelps Dodge site was released in November of 2016. He said that for the past two years, the water in Newtown Creek has been routinely tested, and core samples of the creek bed have been analyzed to assess the amount of pollutants that are present in both the soil and water samples. The Feasibility Study for the remediation of this Superfund site is due to be released by June, 2017, he said. Mr. Lavaia told the committee that the Community Advisory Group (CAG), which is made up mostly of Brooklyn residents, is actively seeking local Queens residents who are interested in joining their membership to improve the water quality in Newtown Creek and all of the tributaries that feed into the Creek. He said that Willis Elkins is the project manager for the Newtown Creek Alliance, a not-for-profit organization that was formed by the CAG. Mr. Dooley said that local community residents appear to be most concerned about the effects that dredging Newtown Creek could cause, and Ms. Lesley replied that there are other options besides dredging that could be employed. He said that the committee discussed inviting a knowledgeable representative to attend their next committee meeting, once the Feasibility Study is released to the public.

Mr. Dooley reported that the committee also discussed the need for a new sewer project on Edsall Avenue between 71 Place and 72 Place in Glendale, where there is a severe ponding condition whenever it rains.

For an update on the status of current water and sewer projects in the Board 5 area, he asked the District Manager to give the report.

Regarding the water and sewer replacement project in the vicinity of Penelope Avenue and 74 Street in Middle Village, the District Manager Gary Giordano said this project is proceeding on schedule. He said that the project is slated to be completed next year.

Regarding the sewer and water main reconstruction project on Calamus Avenue/69 Street in Maspeth, he said that the contractor is back at work on this job, which had been stalled for a year due to engineering problems. During a recent Town Hall meeting that was held on February 23rd in St. Mary's of Winfield school in Woodside, residents expressed their frustration with the construction delays, traffic congestion and bus detours of the Q47 Bus.

Regarding the Cypress Avenue Trunk Water Main Project, he said that this project was delayed for almost a year due to complications with relocating a large gas main and replacing a collapsed sewer main. He said that the contractor is back at work on this job, which is expected to be complete this year.

Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee

Vincent Arcuri

Toby Sheppard Bloch reported that on Tuesday, February 21st, the committee met in the Board 5 office to discuss the current Emergency Bridge Deck Replacement Project on Metropolitan Avenue at Fresh Pond Road, over the LIRR tracks. He said that the work is progressing on schedule. Committee members discussed the stationing of traffic control agents along the proposed traffic detour route, in order to relieve traffic congestion in that area. He said that the committee will continue to monitor this situation and try to resolve these problems.

Mr. Bloch also reported that, in a few weeks, the MTA's contractor will begin working on the structure of the M train BMT line that runs through Ridgewood, in preparation for the bridge replacement project between the Fresh Pond Road station and Metropolitan Avenue.

The Board Chairman reported that Phase I of the Kosciuszko Bridge replacement project was completed on time and under budget. He said that Phase II of this project is fully funded, and the State Dept. of Transportation plans to go out to bid, with a request for proposals, to design and build the Phase II portion of this cable-stayed bridge project as soon as possible. He said that under Phase II, a second span over the water will be constructed. He said that Phase II also includes plans to lower the main span of the old bridge onto barges, and towed into NY Harbor, and then to implode the approaches to the bridge.

DRAFT Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on March 8, 2017

He said that representatives of the State DOT plan to invite stakeholders on this project to a walk through on the new bridge span very soon. He said that the plans include the installation of LED lighting on the cables and towers of the new Kosciuszko Bridge, with color changes in the LED lights to commemorate holidays and special events in the city.

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez reported that the Department of City Planning is conducting a study of the impact that large storage facilities have on local manufacturing businesses that are located in manufacturing zones throughout the city.

Jean Tanler pointed out that large storage facilities do not employ many people, and tend to be more profitable than most small manufacturing businesses that are located in the same district.

The Board Chairman said that the Department of City Planning is currently drafting an amendment to the NYC Zoning Resolution, which would require storage facilities to obtain a Special Permit to occupy sites located within an area designated as an Industrial Business Zone.

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 9:25pm. He welcomed everyone to stay to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea immediately following the meeting.