



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

October 10, 2018

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.; Antonetta Binanti; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Peter Comber; Deborah Cox; Patricia Crowley; Brian Dooley; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Patricia Grayson; Mohan Gyawali-Chhetri; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoefflerle; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; Michael LoCascio; John Maier; Edgar Mantel; Margaret O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Theodore M. Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Walter H. Sanchez; Connie Santos; Christopher Sperrazza; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

John J. Killcommons; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Michael O'Kane; Kelvin Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Carmen Santana; Dennis Stephan; Catherine Sumsky

Elected Officials

NYS Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, 35th AD – Mark Papish
Dom Capalbi – US Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D.
Julio Salazar – U.S. Representative Nydia Velazquez, 7th C.D.
Neil Giannelli - NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr, 15th SD
Alexa Arecchi - NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD
Alison Cummings – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, 37th AD
Samantha Kung - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38th AD
Aneta Golaszewski – NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
Greg Mitchell - NYC Council Member Robert Holden, 30th CD

Staff Present

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

GUESTS

Jeffrey Margolies, Exec. Dir., DDC Intergovernmental Affairs, 30-30 Thompson Ave, LIC, NY 11101
Eric Macfarlane, Deputy Cms, DDC Infrastructure, 30-30 Thompson Ave, LIC, NY 11101
Andrew Hollweck, DDC Communications, 30-30 Thompson Ave, LIC, NY 11101
Joseph Dorsey, Resident Engineer, KS Engineers, Penelope Ave Project, 64-64 Dry Harbor Rd, MV, NY 11379
Torre Coley, Community Construction Liaison, KS Engineers, “ “
Gavin Kendall, Education & Engagement Specialist, NYC Conflicts of Interest Board, 2 Lafayette St, NY, NY
P. O. Edyta Bielicka, 104th Pct Community Affairs Unit, 64-02 Catalpa Avenue, Ridgewood, NY
Crystal Wolfe, founder of Catering for the Homeless, Maspeth, NY 11378
Jean Kim, Kate Gallan and Yaxin Jiang, Columbia University students

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Before proceeding to conduct the Board Meeting, Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri requested that all visitors enter and exit the school cafeteria through Door #22, which is located at the other end of the hallway. He said that the other doors off the cafeteria are Emergency Exits and should only be used in the event of a fire, or other emergency. He thanked everyone for their cooperation.

Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:30pm, following the Salute to the Flag. He announced the first item on the Board Agenda as:

PRESENTATION re: Plans to Resume Sewer Installation Project in the Penelope Avenue/74 Street Area of Middle Village – by Representatives of NYC Dept. of Design & Construction

Jeffrey Margolies, Executive Director of Intergovernmental Affairs in the Dept. of Design and Construction (DDC), gave a power point presentation about the major capital improvement that has resumed in the area of Penelope Avenue and 74 Street, under Contract # SEQ-2623. The contract includes the replacement of the combined sewer system and water mains in the area of Middle Village, south of Juniper Valley Park. He said that the purpose of this project is to alleviate the severe flooding on local streets and in basements in this area due to excessive run-off during heavy rainstorms. As he spoke, he pointed out the area on the map on the overhead screen. He introduced Eric Macfarlane, the Deputy Commissioner for Infrastructure at DDC, Torre Coley, as the Community Construction Liaison (CCL) for this project, and Joseph Dorsey, the Resident Engineer for this project who works with Torre in the Field Office. He said that additional DDC personnel were on hand at tonight's meeting to answer questions about this project.

Beginning in mid-2016, he said that the contractor, CAC Industries, replaced the old, unlined cast iron water mains on all of the local streets that are included in Phase 1 of this project. In November of 2016, he said that construction crews began excavating sewer trenches in order to replace the combined sewer main in 75 Street between Juniper Valley Road and 66 Drive; 66 Road between Gray Street and 77 Street; and 77 Street between 66 Road and Gray Street, under Phase 2 of this project. However, construction work was halted months ago, when soil that was excavated from the trench on 74 Street and stored on an empty lot on 69 Street, located one block from PS/IS 128, was found to be contaminated with lead, he said. According to recent test results of soil samplings on the site, he said that the excavated soil was found to contain only trace amounts of lead and did not pose a public health risk because it was contained in the soil and not air-borne. He said that all of the contaminated soil has been hauled away by truck to a landfill site in New Jersey.

Mr. Margolies explained that, due to these unforeseen circumstances, his agency re-negotiated the terms of this contract and awarded the contractor an additional \$8 Million in order to complete this project. He said that work is expected to resume on Phase 2 of this project on October 29th, 2018. On the map, he pointed out the remaining blocks that are part of this sewer project, including Penelope Avenue between 71 Street and 74 Street; and 74 Street between Juniper Boulevard South and Juniper Valley Road, in Middle Village.

Mr. Margolies said that the contractor will begin staging heavy construction equipment in this area prior to resuming work on Phase 2 of this project. He said that on-street parking will be impacted when construction crews dig up the roadway to install sewer trenches on one side of the street, while maintaining access to one lane of traffic at all times for emergencies, and for block residents to get back and forth from their homes. The contractor will work on one block at a time for the duration of this project, he said. Residents will receive prior notification from Torre Coley, the Community Construction Liaison, regarding any intermittent water shut-offs that may be required.

He said that sheeting will be installed on both sides of the sewer trenches that will be excavated on each block to protect the safety of the workers. He said that the contractor has resurfaced streets where new water mains were installed under Phase 1 of this project. In closing, he said that the estimated completion date for this project is December 31, 2019.

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Dmytro Fedkowskyj asked what kind of controls will be in place in order to ensure that residents are not exposed to contaminants in the air. Mr. Margolies said that from now on, any soil that is excavated from the sewer trenches will be removed from the site and hauled away by trucks each day to a lot that's located in an industrial area. He said that clean fill will be used to replace the excavated soil, as needed. In addition, he said that air monitors will be installed at the construction site, so that any problems that may arise can be identified and addressed right away. He said that the contractor will be using auger piles which screw into the ground to install the sewer trenches, in an effort to reduce the noise and vibrations that have been associated with this job. He said that vibrations and noise caused by the construction equipment will be monitored daily.

PRESENTATION Re: Conflicts of Interest Training

By Gavin Kendall, Education & Engagement Specialist
NYC Conflicts of Interest Board

Gavin Kendall gave a brief overview of the role of the Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB). He said that the COIB is authorized to issue rules to implement and interpret the provisions of Chapter 68 of the City Charter, as well as to administer and enforce the requirements of the law. He said that the law's purpose is to ensure that public servants do not use, or appear to use their public positions, to benefit their private interests or those of their families or associates. He explained that the term "public servant" means all officials, officers and employees of the city, including community board members. Public members of the Community Board's committees are not subject to the provisions of this law because they don't vote on any actions of Community Board, he said. Mr. Kendall explained how the COIB enforces the requirements of Chapter 68. He said that, after conducting a hearing and determining that a violation of the law occurred, the COIB may impose civil fines or other penalties. He said that the fines levied by COIB range from \$1,000 to \$25,000, depending on the type of infraction. In order to avoid possible conflicts of interests, he welcomed Board members to call their advice unit at (212) 442-1400, and request to speak with the lawyer of the day for confidential advice. He said that all callers may remain anonymous, except for those callers who request an advisory opinion in writing, in which case they must provide their name and address. In any event, the content of their conversation will remain completely confidential, he said. Regarding voting at Community Board meetings, he said that the rule is that Board members may discuss any matter that is under consideration, provided they disclose any financial interest they may have in the matter at hand. However, he said that a Board member is not entitled to vote on any matter that is under consideration which may result in a personal and direct economic gain to the member or any person or firm with whom the member is associated. Likewise, he said that a Community Board member who is a City employee is not entitled to vote on any matters concerning the member's agency, but may take part in discussions on such matters. He said that a City employee would be permitted to serve on a committee, but must recuse themselves from voting, or serving as committee chair, when the committee considers matters that may come before the member's agency. For the purposes of establishing a quorum, he said there must be a majority of the appointed Board members present at a Board meeting in order to conduct business. However, when a vote is taken, he suggested that a Board member who is not entitled to vote due to a conflict of interest, should be marked "present but not entitled to vote" so that the member is counted as present for the purpose of maintaining a quorum, and not considered "abstaining for cause." Lastly, he said that a Community Board member may run for public office while continuing to serve on the Board. However, pursuant to Section 1115 of the City Charter, which prohibits individuals from holding more than one civil office, a Community Board member would need to resign from the board upon assuming elective office.

In closing, he said that anyone who has any questions regarding these provisions, opinions and procedures, or need advice about possible conflicts, can contact the Conflicts of Interest Board at: <http://nyc.gov/ethics>. For more information, copies of the Conflicts of Interest Training Handbook were distributed to all Board members. Fred Haller asked if a quorum for a meeting is affected when a Board member leaves the meeting before a vote is taken. Mr. Kendall replied that it would not affect a quorum, once it's been established.

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Toby Sheppard asked if the Conflicts of Interest Board's regulations apply to "public members" who serve on the Board's committees. Mr. Kendall replied that only public employees are subject to the regulations of the Conflicts of Interest Board. "Public members" who serve as committee members are not entitled to vote on any actions taken by the Community Board, therefore they're not subject to the rules and regulations of the Conflict of Interest Board.

PUBLIC FORUM

Adrian Pamparau, homeowner and occupant of 60-38 70 Avenue, said that the Dept. of Buildings issued a violation on his property, a 2-family house in the Ridgewood Landmark District, because he installed new front windows on his house without obtaining a work permit from the Landmarks Preservation Commission. He said that he wasn't aware of this requirement. He said that the staff at the Landmarks Preservation Commission objected to the new windows that were installed because they don't conform to the windows in surrounding properties on his block. He said that he replaced these windows because his wife could not open them herself. He said that in order to obtain a work permit, he needs the Community Board's input as part of the application process. He displayed photos of the new windows that were installed on his house, showing that a cross bar was installed in order to appear more similar to wooden sash windows. The Board Chairperson referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further consideration at their next meeting.

Barbara Ortiz, whose mother owns 58-23 70 Avenue, said that the Dept. of Buildings issued a violation on her property, a 2-family house in the Ridgewood Landmark District, because she recently rebuilt the front stoop of her house and replaced the brownstone steps with bricks, similar to work that was performed on other homes in the neighborhood. She displayed several photos of the new brick stoop, as well as photos of the deteriorated condition of the brownstone stoop, and photos of several properties with similar stoops. She requested the Board's support for the installation of the new stoop, as part of her application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to obtain a Work Permit. The Board Chairperson referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for further consideration at their next meeting.

Carina Fortuna, a representative of Car2Go, described it as a free floating carsharing company, similar to CityBike. She said that their business is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Daimler N.A. Corporation that is the largest, fastest growing carsharing service in the world with a customer base of nearly 3.4 million people in 9 different countries. She said that in the metropolitan area, they offer members who live in Queens and Brooklyn a flexible, one-way car-sharing service, specializing in one-way trips. She said that members can reserve one of their cars a minimum of 30 minutes in advance of each trip that they're planning to take. There's no monthly fee or annual fee for their service; their fees are based on usage, where members may choose to pay by the minute or select a trip package that may vary according to time and cost, she said. Members can pick up and drop off a car2go vehicle anywhere within a 44 square mile radius in the service area, at whatever time is convenient for them, she said. She cited statistics from a one-way car-sharing study compiled by UC Berkely that found that for each one of their vehicles, there are 11 vehicles that are removed from the street in each city where they operate, which is the equivalent of 28,000 vehicles in the past year.

The Board Chairperson asked if the vehicles use dedicated parking spaces on the street. Ms. Fortuna replied that they don't use dedicated parking spots. She said that their fleet is parked in a lot in an industrial area in Brooklyn when not in use.

Fred Haller asked if customers are responsible for any tickets that are issued to their vehicles, if they are parked on a local street that is subject to Alternate Side Parking restrictions. Ms. Fortuna replied that their members are required to notify them at least 10 hours prior to leaving their vehicle on the street, so that one of their fleet of drivers could relocate it to a legal parking spot in order to avoid any parking summonses.

Peter Comber asked if their customers are permitted to drive to a destination that is outside of the Queens/Brooklyn area, and leave it parked on the street there, to be picked up by Car2Go. Ms. Fortuna said that

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members may drive to a destination anywhere within their designated service area, and notify the office where they have parked the vehicle for pick up by one of their fleet drivers.

Richard Huber asked if Ms. Fortuna would be available to meet with members of the Transportation Services Committee to discuss this business at their next meeting. The Chairperson invited her to meet with the committee at 7:30pm on Tuesday, October 23rd, in the Board 5 office. Ms. Fortuna agreed.

Rebecca Shakespeare, a graduate student at the University of Illinois, said that she is working on a research study regarding renters in the New York City area. She said that she is interviewing both long-term and short-term tenants who live in the Board 5 area of Queens, as part of a study that is funded by the National Science Foundation. She said that all of the personal information that is collected in this study will be deleted, as soon as the statistics have been compiled. She welcomed anyone interested in learning more about this study to contact her after the Board Meeting, or via email at renterstudy@gmail.com. She said that any volunteers who are interested in participating in this study should first complete the screening survey at www.renter-study.com. She will be conducting personal interviews, either in person or by phone, until the end of November, she said. Flyers were distributed.

Edgar Mantel asked if she would share the results of the study with the Community Board. She said that she believes that the data would be made public once the study is completed. Her target date for completion of this study is May of 2019, she said.

Slavomir Platta, introduced himself as a former candidate in this year's Republican Party primary election for the State Senate. While he was not successful, he said that he enjoyed meeting with many people who live in this district. He thanked everyone for their support during the race.

Crystal Wolfe, founder of Catering for the Homeless, reminded everyone that she is working with volunteers to collect donations of toiletries to distribute to the homeless. She said that the drive ends on Monday, October 15th, with drop off locations at the offices of NYS Senator Joseph Addabbo, NYS Senator Michael Gianaris, Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, Councilmember Anthony Reynoso, Councilmember Bob Holden, the Community Board 5 Office, and the Queen of Angels. For more information, she welcomed people to contact her at: cateringforthehomeless@gmail.com.

Ms. Wolfe also welcomed volunteers to join a chapter of the Friends of Maspeth Library that she's planning to re-establish this year. Due to lack of membership, she said that their charter had lapsed in the 1990's. The focus of the Friends chapter would be to generate ideas for more programs and services to be offered in their local library, she said. In closing, she thanked the local elected officials, members and staff of Community Board 5, and residents for their generosity and support over the past few years.

Justin Carter, a partner in Nowadays, located at 56-06 Cooper Avenue, announced that their business has continually expanded over the past 4 years, going from a seasonal venue to an all-year round operation now. He welcomed everyone to enjoy their Saturday afternoon barbeques, and a whole range of performers.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

Board Chairperson Arcuri introduced staff members present at the meeting: District Manager Gary Giordano, and Community Associates Laura Mulvihill and Catherine O'Leary. He recognized the members of the press corps in attendance at the meeting, and thanked them for reporting on Community Board matters and events. Regarding the tabling motion taken at last month's Board Meeting, in connection with a recommendation to oppose a new liquor license application submitted by Knight's Ridge LLC at 1647 Weirfield Street in Ridgewood, the Board Chairperson said that he met with the District Manager to review this matter. He said that their recommendation remains the same, to oppose this application for the following reasons: 1) because this former

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factory site is located on the same block as Outreach House, that is a residential outpatient facility for 30 youth, ages 12 to 18, who attend school at 1614 Weirfield Street; 2) in addition, P.S. 239 is located in close proximity, at 1715 Weirfield Street; 3) our Community Board is not favorable to permitting sites in manufacturing zones to be used as bars, taverns or clubs; and 4) to our knowledge, there is no valid Certificate of Occupancy for such use.

Peggy O’Kane asked what their hours of operation would be. The District Manager said that their application states that they will remain open until 4am daily. The Chairperson pointed out that under State law, they must close their business for at least 4 hours a day.

As there was no further discussion on the matter, the Board Chairperson asked the pleasure of the Board on this recommendation. Paul Kerzner requested that the Chairperson move the question.

The Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on this recommendation which carried unanimously by a vote of – 33 – in favor; -0- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

The Board Chairperson congratulated Antonetta Binanti on her nomination by the Queens Borough President for an award at this year’s Salute to Italian Heritage at 7pm on Monday, October 22nd, in St. John’s University. She received a general round of applause.

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

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Joe Nocerino announced that their office is sponsoring two important workshops this month:

- 1) Surviving Partner Violence and Abuse - from 10am to 12 Noon, this Friday, October 12th, at the Queens Family Justice Center, 126-02 82 Avenue, in Kew Gardens. He said that information will be available regarding prosecutorial procedures, the effects of intimate partner violence and abuse of children, as well as options and resources that are available for survivors. He advised anyone interested in attending to RSVP to Marissa Beckett, at (718) 575-4504, or via email at: marissab@fjcnyc.org.
- 2) Seal Your Records – from October 24 to October 26 - workshops will be conducted by appointment in various locations throughout Queens. He said that attendees will be able to meet with lawyers to discuss how they can apply to seal their non-violent criminal conviction records. All services and legal consultations that are provided will be free and confidential, he said. For more information, he welcomed everyone to contact their office at (718) 286-2661, or RSVP on their website at www.queensbp.org/RSVP.

P. O. Edyta Bielicka, of the 104th Precinct’s Community Affairs Unit, announced that the Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCO’s) for the 104th Precinct will be introduced to local community residents at an open meeting next Monday night, October 15th, at 7pm in Christ the King High School, at 68-02 Metropolitan Avenue, in Middle Village. She advised that pre-registration is required, by emailing her at: edyta.bielicka2@nypd.org.

On behalf of NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, Aneta Golaszewski introduced herself as the new representative for Queens in the Community Action Center. She said that she looks forward to working with the Community Board and local community organizations to address local issues.

On behalf of U.S. Representative Nydia Velazquez, Julio Salazar said that, last week, the U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation to establish federal guidelines for death tolls following disasters, as sponsored by Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez. He said that the bill was incorporated into the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill, H.R. 302, which received bipartisan support.

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He also reported that the Congresswoman recently sponsored legislation to create the Women Veterans Health Program, in order to provide targeted assistance to survivors of domestic violence in the veterans and military community. He said that it would establish an outreach program in the Veterans Administration to address problems that confront victims of domestic violence and their family members.

In addition, he said that after attending the recent Health and Human Services Committee meeting, their office is looking forward to working with committee members to support their proactive response to the current epidemic of opioid overdose. In closing, he welcomed calls for more information or assistance at (718) 664-5149.

On behalf of Congresswoman Grace Meng, Dom Capalbi reported that the Congresswoman was successful in sponsoring legislation this year to ensure that houses of worship are eligible to apply for reimbursement from the federal government in the event of a natural disaster or catastrophe. In addition, he said that legislation to provide consumer protection against "spoofing" phone calls has passed both houses of Congress. He also said that legislation to create a unique zip code for Glendale was passed by the House. He said that their office is currently working on a draft of new legislation that would protect children from harmful food additives.

Regarding the incidence of mail theft that has been reported this year, he said that the Post Office has finished retrofitting all of the corner mail boxes in her district, which has proved to be successful in deterring 'fishing' for mail, which is a criminal activity.

In closing, he said that on Wednesday, October 24th, a representative of the Veterans Administration will be available to meet with local veterans and family members, by appointment only, in their office at 40-13 159 Street, in Flushing. He welcomed constituents to call their office at (718) 358-6364, to schedule an appointment.

On behalf of Council Member Robert Holden, Greg Mitchell announced that their office will host a High School Fair from 5pm to 9pm tomorrow night, in PS/IS 49, located on 80 Street at Juniper Blvd. South, in Middle Village. In addition, he said that their office will sponsor two separate Halloween Festivals from 11am to 3pm in local parks, on two consecutive Saturdays, October 20th in Juniper Valley Park, and on October 27th in Vito Maranzano's Glendale Playground on Central Avenue at 70 Street. Flyers were distributed.

In addition, he said that the Council Member continues to advocate for the construction of a new school on the site at 78-16 Cooper Avenue in Glendale, which is currently a vacant factory building. He said that their office is also working to address the problem of stalled construction sites in the district.

On behalf of State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Neil Giannelli announced that from 11am to 1pm on Saturday, October 13, the Senator will host an Information Session at Metropolitan High School, for junior and senior high school students who are interested in learning how to apply to CUNY colleges and local community colleges. He also said that from 10am to 12 Noon on Tuesday, October 30th, their office will sponsor a MetroCard van to be stationed in the Maspeth Federal Savings Bank parking lot, at 69 Street and Grand Avenue, for residents to apply for reduced fare cards. He said that from 1pm to 3pm, the MetroCard van will be stationed in front of Stop and Shop on Myrtle Avenue in Glendale, to accommodate local residents.

Regarding the Penelope Avenue sewer replacement project, he advised homeowners in the affected area to take photos of their property now, before work on this construction project resumes.

On behalf of Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, Alexa Arecchi said that the Assembly Member continues working hard to improve the social safety net for New Yorkers, particularly low-income tenants facing eviction. She welcomed calls from constituents to their office at (718) 263-5595.

On behalf of Assembly Member Brian Barnwell, Mark Papish said that their staff is currently processing real estate tax abatement renewals for eligible homeowners. He welcomed constituents to call their office at (718) 651-1385 to make an appointment to visit their office at 55-15 69 Street in Maspeth.

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On behalf of Assembly Member Catherine Nolan, Alison Cummings wished everyone a safe and Happy Halloween.

On behalf of Assembly Member Michael Miller, Samantha Kung announced that their office will host the Mammogram Mobile Unit in conjunction with the American Italian Cancer Foundation, in front of their district office at 83-91 Woodhaven Blvd from 9 AM to 12 Noon, on Sunday, October 14th. She said that pre-registration is required, by calling their office for an appointment at (718) 805-0950. Flyers were distributed.

MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's Board Meeting which was conducted on September 12, 2018. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion by John Maier, seconded by Theodore Renz.

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 September 12, 2018. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) NY George's Catering Corp. d/b/a **Mama Pio** 53-05 65 Place, Store #1, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 2) **The Citrine Agency, LLC** 79-17 Cypress Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) **Lhauta Restaurant** 55-50 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Krolewski Jadio of Ridgewood Inc.** 66-21 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **Lugo Lounge and Restaurant Corp.** 1089 Cypress Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) O'Reilly's Daughter Inc. d/b/a **Yer Man's Irish Pub** 70-26 88 Street, Glendale, NY 11385

New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

- 1) SSC Group LLC d/b/a **Sugarmcoal-Aroma** 63-40 Woodhaven Blvd., Rego Park, NY 11374
- 2) **Greek Grill Taverna** 65-17 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) **La Cocina de Mama Inc.** 56-13 Metropolitan Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Class Change

We also received notification from **Exotic Seafood Inc.** located at **62-27 Fresh Pond Road** in Middle Village, that they will be filing an application with the NYS Liquor Authority to change the class of their existing Restaurant Wine License #1193097 to a Liquor, Wine, Beer and Cider License.

Demolition Notices

The Board Chairperson reported that the Board received 4 demolition notices since the last monthly Board Meeting on September 12, 2018: demolition of a 1-fmly house at **70-28 73 Place, in Glendale**; Interior demolition of a 1-family home in connection with a rear enlargement at **60-62 69 Lane, in Maspeth**; and demolition of two 1-family wood frame residential buildings with a garage, in connection with the new construction of a 5-story, 15 unit residential building on two combined lots at **453 and 455 Onderdonk Avenue, in Ridgewood**. Each Board member received the current listing.

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to remain vigilant and to advise the Board 5 staff about any questionable construction work in the Board area, so they can investigate further.

The Board Chairperson announced that as of October 1, Queens West residents can make an appointment to have their electronic waste picked up by the NYC Dept. of Sanitation. He said, residents can call 3-1-1, or visit the department's website at: www.nyc.gov/electronics. Flyers were distributed.

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The Board Chairperson reported that the Executive Committee met this month, to discuss the budget surveys and recommend a list of budget priorities for the coming fiscal year. He said that the FY 2020 Budget Surveys were distributed to all Board members and the results were tabulated by staff upon receipt. He said that copies of the CB5Q FY2020 Capital Budget Survey results were distributed to all Board members for their review and vote at tonight's Board Meeting.

He gave the floor to the District Manager Gary Giordano who explained that the Executive Committee is recommending a total of 34 Capital Budget Priorities for submission to the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget this year. He said that the maximum number of Expense Budget Priorities per Community Board is limited to 25 Budget Items each year.

The District Manager read aloud the list of the proposed Capital Budget Priorities of Community Board 5, Queens for FY2020, as follows:

- 1 Redesign and Reconstruct Sewer System in Portions of CB5Q Area Having Worst Flooding Problems
- 2 Reconstruct Deteriorated Catch Basins and Provide New Catch Basins in the CB5Q Area
- 3 Reconstruct Edsall Ave from 71st Place to 73rd Place, in Glendale
- 4 Evaluate the Structural Condition of the Elevated Portions of the "M" Train Line in the CB5Q Area, Perform Repairs, Abate Lead, etc. and Paint the Structure
- 5 Reconstruct Sidewalks, Curbs and Pedestrian Ramps along Myrtle Avenue, from Fresh Pond Road to Wyckoff Avenue
- 6 Rehabilitate Ridgewood Reservoir - Phase II and the Surrounding Area, Including Portions of Highland Park
- 7 Provide New Street Tree Plantings, and Provide Funding for Stump Removals, Planting of Replacement Trees, and Street Tree Removals
- 8 Construct New School Space, where Needed, in the CB5Q Area, Including a New High School at 78-16 Cooper Avenue and Perform Capital Budget Upgrades to Existing School Buildings
- 9 Replace Existing Bridge on Grand Ave over Newtown Creek in Maspeth
- 10 Make Capital Improvements to Improve Pedestrian and Vehicle Safety on Grand Avenue at 69th Street, at Grand Avenue/LIE East Bound Service Rd, and at the 69 Street/LIE Service Rd Intersections
- 11 Provide Replacement of the Synthetic Turf Field and the Running Track at the West End of Juniper Valley Park
- 12 Replace or Repower Polluting Stage Zero Freight Engines Hauling NYC Municipal Waste through District 5, Queens
- 13 Reconstruct South Middle Village Streets
- 14 Reconstruct Dry Harbor Playground - Phase II to Also Include Nearby Tunnel and Pathways
- 15 Continue Comprehensive Study of the Sewer System, in the CB5Q Area and Throughout Queens County, Considering Flooding Problems and Anticipated Future Growth
- 16 Reconstruct Wyckoff Avenue, from Flushing Avenue to Cooper Avenue
- 17 Construct an Athletic Field at the DEP Newtown Creek Aeration Facility Property
- 18 Reconstruct Fresh Pond Road from Myrtle Avenue to Eliot Avenue, and Provide Traffic Facilitation Improvements
- 19 Extend Street/Roadway Widening along the South Side of Metropolitan Ave. - Woodhaven Blvd. to Aubrey Avenue
- 20 Improve the Children's Play Area, and Reconstruct Softball Field Area at Rosemary's Playground
- 21 Reconstruct DeKalb Ave, Halsey Street & Jefferson Street BMT-L Train Stations
- 22 Reconstruct and Widen the East Sidewalk of 80th Street, on the 80th Street Bridge, Over the LIRR and Review the Structural Stability of the Bridge
- 23 Establish a Community/Recreational Center at a Site in Maspeth
- 24 Improve Myrtle Ave Commercial Strip from Fresh Pond Rd to 82nd Street

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- 25 Reconstruct Palmetto Street from St. Nicholas Avenue to Seneca Avenue, and from Onderdonk Avenue to Forest Avenue
- 26 Reconstruct LIRR and 71st Avenue Bridge Abutments above the Cooper Avenue Underpass and Paint the LIRR Bridge
- 27 Provide a New Elevator for the I.S. 93 Main Building
- 28 Reconstruct 75th Street from Eliot Ave to Juniper Blvd No.
- 29 Rehabilitate the 104th Police Precinct Interior
- 30 Reconstruct Evergreen Park, Phase II
- 31 Provide Funding for the Establishment of a Dog Run in CB5Q
- 32 Provide Toilet Facility in Area of Juniper Valley Park bordered by 80th Street, Dry Harbor Road, Juniper Boulevard North & Juniper Boulevard South
- 33 Provide Decorative Lighting and Restore Deteriorated Curbing along Fred Haller's Union Turnpike Mall (Myrtle Avenue to Woodhaven Boulevard)
- 34 Provide Funding for the Historic Restoration of St. Savior's Church.

The District Manager pointed out that two projects that were listed last year, Principe Park and the Rehabilitation of the Glendale Branch Library, were deleted from the list because construction is well underway. Paul Kerzner commented that, this week, the Chancellor of the NYC Dept. of Education announced plans to make all local public schools handicapped-accessible. He said that he looks forward to the installation of an elevator in IS 93 in Ridgewood this year, which is listed as Item #27 on the Board's list of Capital Budget Priorities.

In addition, the District Manager said that the contract for the Reconstruction of Wyckoff Avenue is expected to be awarded by Spring of 2020. He said that Reconstruction of the Running Track and Soccer/Football Field at Juniper Valley Park is slated to begin in the coming year. The Board Chairperson pointed out that this project will not begin until the reconstruction of Principe Park is completed.

As there was no further discussion on the recommendation, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the Board's FY2020 Capital Budget Priorities which carried unanimously by a vote of -32- in favor; -0- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

Regarding the Executive Committee's recommendations for Queens Community Board 5's FY 2020 Expense Budget Priorities, the District Manager said that copies of the list of our Board's 25 Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2019 were emailed and/or mailed to all Board members. He read aloud the list of proposed Expense Budget priorities as follows:

1. Assign Additional Personnel for the 104th Police Precinct Patrol Force
2. Provide Field Workers for the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations
3. Hire Inspectors and Plan Examiners, in Sufficient Numbers, to Cope with Illegal Uses of Property and Questionable Construction
4. Provide Sanitation Department Cleaning Personnel to Clean Illegal Dumping and for Litter Basket Collection
5. Provide Funding for Educational and Recreational Programs for Children and Teens
6. Provide Funding for Fire Department Services
7. Provide Needed Services for Senior Citizens
8. Provide More Frequent Garbage and Recycling Pick-up for Schools and Institutions
9. Allocate Funds for the Operation and Enhancement of the Division of Forestry in Queens
10. Provide Sufficient Personnel for Traffic Safety Inspections, Sign Installations, Pavement Markings and Sign Manufacturing
11. Fund Additional Street Maintenance for Queens Roadways
12. Provide Six-Day-a-Week Service at Local Libraries

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13. Increase the Number of Sanitation Police and Enforcement Agents, Especially in Plain Clothes, to Significantly Reduce Excessive Abuse of Litter Baskets and Illegal Dumping
14. Assign Sufficient Personnel for Maintenance of Parks in District 5, Queens
15. Provide Funding for Rental Assistance Programs to Combat Homelessness
16. Allocate Funding for Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development Services
17. Hire Traffic Control Agents, School Crossing Guards and Additional School Safety Officers
18. Hire Additional Personnel for Pest Control to Combat the Enormous Rat Population in our City
19. Continue Funding of the Ridgewood Family Health Center
20. Hire Operations Staff for the Bureau of Wastewater Pollution Control
21. Hire Forestry Personnel
22. Provide Funds for Tools and Equipment for Local Fire Department Personnel and for Fire Prevention Program Supplies
23. Fund a Bureau of Child Welfare Satellite Office in Queens
24. Improve Arterial Highway Cleaning and Maintenance
25. Increase Funding for Community Consultant Contracts

As there were no questions or comments about this list of budget recommendations, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee's recommendation which carried unanimously by a vote of – 32 - in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

Lastly, the District Manager said that the Board's FY2020 Capital and Expense Budget recommendations must be submitted to the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget no later than October 31st, 2018.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health and Human Services Committee

Robert Cermeli

Robert Cermeli reported that the committee met last Wednesday, October 3rd, in the Conference Room of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center to hear from leaders of our community about the drug and opioid epidemic and how it may affect our community. He said that he did not realize the extent of the problem until he read about it recently in the New York Times. He quoted from the first paragraph: "A new preliminary estimate by the Center for Disease Control stated that the 72,000 Americans who were killed by drug overdose last year represent a rise of about ten percent from the year before. The death toll is higher than the peak yearly death totals from H.I.V. Aids, car crashes, or gun deaths."

He said that Ramon Rodriguez, the CEO of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center (WHMC), was present at the meeting, and told the committee that the opioid epidemic has been a problem throughout the US. Mr. Rodriguez pointed out that the closest hospital to WHMC is Woodhull Hospital. With 177 beds, WHMC gets over 100,000 ER patient visits annually, with 20% of their in-patient visits coming from Ridgewood, he said. Patients who visit the clinics in the hospital live within one half mile of WHMC.

Mr. Rodriguez told the committee that WHMC is not a trauma center; the closest trauma center is located in Elmhurst Hospital. He said that Woodhull Hospital is a mental health and detox center. He informed the committee that WHMC does not get a high percentage of opioid admissions, but there are admissions of patients for opioid pain management. He said that WHMC has seen as many as 10 people per night who are virtually paralyzed by the synthetic drug known as K2, and hospital staff has administered Narcan occasionally. In addition, Mr. Rodriguez said that there are at least 3 or 4 alcoholics per day who visit the hospital, with some of them returning another 40 times per year. Some homeless shelters can be breeding grounds for violence and drug abuse, he said.

When asked about limiting the amount of pain killers that a doctor might prescribe in a single prescription, Mr. Rodriguez said that in some instances, doctors can be influenced by the pharmaceutical companies who are marketing opioids for pain. He said that New York has a very cautious oversight process now for opiate

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prescriptions. He said that a major problem is that medical doctors have not been taught enough about pain relief, and patients may see more than one doctor to treat their chronic pain condition. In the past few years, medical practitioners have begun sharing data in order to curtail over-prescribing pain medications.

NYPD Captain Gregory Mackie, CO of the Overdose Prevention Unit in the Queens Detective Bureau, said that between late 2016 and early 2017, their unit realized there was a big problem with drug overdoses. He said that fentanyl is especially deadly, and most of it is being exported from China to the US by mail. He cited statistics related to the number of overdoses reported in Queens: in 2017, there were 253 overdoses; in 2018, year-to-date, there have been 175 overdoses, with 52 fatalities being reported. With respect to the 104th Precinct, he said that there have been 31 overdoses reported, with 11 fatalities, in 2018, which is considered a high incidence of drug abuse proportionate to the overall population. The Captain said that his main mission is to save lives and prevent overdoses. He said that by administering Narcan in a timely manner, overdose victims can be saved and may be given the option to go to a drug rehab center, instead of prison. However, he said that many overdoses occur at home. He pointed out that there's a new drug, known as ANPP, which can be manufactured at home and is just as deadly as fentanyl.

Captain Mackie said that the Neighborhood Coordinator Officer program has been very successful in reducing the number of drug overdose cases. P.O. Edyta Bielicka, in the Community Affairs of the 104th Precinct, said that the NCO policing program will begin rolling out in the precinct this month. Kathleen Sexton, Captain of the Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps, said that there were 33 overdoses with K2 in the vicinity of Myrtle Avenue and Broadway in May of this year, and 99% of them had to be transported to the hospital for treatment. Julio Salazar, on the staff of Congresswoman Velazquez, said that K2 is hard to designate as a controlled substance because they keep changing the chemical makeup of it from one week to the next. Lynn Pham, the director of Friendly Connections, said that lately, she has seen an increasing number of people who appear to be drugged on Myrtle Avenue in Ridgewood.

In closing, Mr. Cermeli said that there are several recent studies on the use of a Cannabis extract called CBD as a possible alternative to opioids to relieve pain. He also said that in Kentucky, legislation was adopted that allows judges to remand someone who is a drug addict into a drug treatment facility so they can be treated, and hopefully cured. He said that the committee plans to continue to study this issue.

Maryann Lattanzio said that during the committee meeting, she learned that under the Good Samaritan law, anyone who witnesses a person who is overdosing should call 9-1-1 to report it, without fear of being arrested themselves.

Sarah Feldman thanked Mr. Cermeli for addressing the major epidemic of drug abuse in America today. She said that it is known as the silent killer because, in most cases, friends or relatives of drug overdose victims don't want to talk about it.

Library Services Committee

Sarah Feldman

Sarah Feldman reported that the committee met in the Board 5 office on Monday, September 24th, to discuss the capital needs of local library branches in our Board area. She said the Maspeth Public Library is slated to get a new flat roof that is projected to cost \$1 million. But, some structural issues have to be addressed before this work begins, she said.

She reported that there have been problems this Fall with disruptive teenagers who frequent the Ridgewood Public Library after school on weekdays. The committee plans to work with local youth organizations to address the problem.

She said that the Middle Village Public Library needs a children's librarian, and welcomed input from Board members on filling this position.

Regarding the Glendale Public Library, she said that the library has moved into temporary accommodations inside Atlas Park, for the duration of the renovation project. She said that renovations should be completed by September of 2019.

Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee

John Maier

John Maier, co-chair of the Public Transit Services Committee, reported that the committee met with representatives of the NYC Dept. of Transportation in the Board 5 office on Tuesday, September 25th, to review plans to construct a pedestrian plaza on Wyckoff Avenue, between Myrtle Avenue/Palmetto Street and Gates Avenue, in Ridgewood, where there's been a temporary plaza for the past year. He said that this project is currently in the design stage, and will be developed in conjunction with the Wyckoff Avenue Reconstruction Project, from Flushing Avenue to Cooper Avenue. He said that the design for this project is expected to be completed in 2019, and work is expected to begin in 2020. He said that the committee is requesting input on this project from local residents who shop, commute or travel through the area regularly.

Regarding the Metropolitan Avenue/Fresh Pond Road Bridge Deck Replacement project, Mr. Maier said that construction is expected to be completed by the end of November, 2018. This project is proceeding on schedule, he said, once the new contractor was hired to complete this job.

Regarding the current milling and resurfacing work that was completed on local streets this Fall, Mr. Maier asked Board members to report broken curbs or missing pavement markings on local streets to the Board office so that they can be addressed.

Parks Services Committee

Steven Fiedler

Steven Fiedler reported that the rehabilitation project at Principe Park is almost complete now, except for drainage problems in the area of the fencing of the new ball fields on Maurice Avenue. The Parks Department is currently in consultations with staff of the NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection to correct the drainage problems there.

He also reported that the contract to install new spray showers in the children's playground at Juniper Valley Park has been awarded and work will begin soon.

Mr. Fiedler announced that Portia Dyrenforth was hired as the new administrator of Forest Park and Highland Park in Queens, including the Ridgewood Reservoir.

New Business

The Board Chairperson announced that the Halloween Day Parade will begin at 6:30pm at 68 Street and Myrtle Avenue and then head down Myrtle Avenue to the parking lot of Stop and Shop in Glendale, where the annual costume contest will be held and prizes will be awarded to all contestants.

Maryann Lattanzio announced that there will be a Halloween Day Parade in Maspeth along Grand Avenue, from 65 Street to the parking lot of the Maspeth Federal Savings Bank, beginning at 7pm.

Theodore Renz, Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District, announced that the annual Seneca Avenue Stroll will be held in Ridgewood this coming Saturday, October 13th from 12 Noon to 5 PM. He welcomed everyone to attend.

Mr. Renz also announced that from 6pm to 8:30pm on Wednesday, November 7th, the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District and Greater Ridgewood Youth Council will host a community forum to discuss the vacant storefronts on the Myrtle Avenue shopping strip and come up with ideas to make them more attractive. He said that the forum will be held in the lobby of the Ridgewood Savings Bank at 71-02 Forest Avenue. He said that dinner will be served to attendees who RSVP, as required. He welcomed everyone to participate. Flyers were distributed.

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 9:40pm. He thanked Pastor Dan Klaus for providing the light refreshments for Board Meetings this year.