



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

September 12, 2018

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; 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; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; Michael LoCascio; John Maier; Edgar Mantel; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O’Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Theodore M. Renz; Kelvin Rodriguez; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Connie Santos; Christopher Sperrazza; Dennis Stephan; Catherine Sumsky; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Antonetta Binanti; Peter Comber; Richard Huber; John J. Killcommons; Michael O’Kane; David Sands; Carmen Santana

Elected Officials

NYC Council Member Robert Holden, 30th CD and Staff Greg Mitchell and Daniel Kurzyrna
NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr, 15th SD and Staff Neil Giannelli
NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD and Staff Alexa Arcchi
Julio Salazar – U.S. Representative Nydia Velazquez, 7th C.D.
Dom Capalbi and Cristian Romero – US Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D.
Alison Cummings – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, 37th AD
Carmela Isabella - NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38th AD

Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens
Laura Mulvihill and Catherine O’Leary, Community Associates - CB5Q Staff
John Perricone – Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

GUESTS

P. O. Edyta Bielicka, 104th Pct Community Affairs Unit
Crystal Wolfe, founder of Catering for the Homeless, Maspeth, NY 11378
Matthew Alesu, Baruch College student and Ridgewood resident

Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:35pm, following the Salute to the Flag. The Board Chairperson requested a Moment of Silence on the untimely death of NYPD Police Officer Joseph Simone, a 14-year veteran on the police force who was assigned to patrol the 104th Precinct.

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Before proceeding, the Board Chairperson invited NYC Councilmember Robert Holden to take the floor to address the Board.

Councilmember Robert Holden said that after having met several times with School Construction Authority Commissioner Lorraine Grillo, he thinks that the site of the former factory, located at 78-16 Cooper Avenue, is likely to become the site of a new school. He pointed out that the Independent Chemical Company no longer occupies the building adjacent to this site, and the test results for contaminants in the soil are encouraging, so far. He said that last week, a partial stop work order was issued by an inspector from the Dept. of Environmental Protection for asbestos contamination on the ground floor and roof of the building.

The Councilmember said that according to the Dept. of Homeless Services Commissioner Steven Banks, there are 287 people from our district who are living in the city's shelter system. He said that he would prefer to rely on faith-based homeless shelter programs to accommodate the homeless population. He was also informed that the Dept. of Homeless Services plans to create a new 5-story shelter in the vicinity of Wyckoff Avenue, between Decatur Street and Summerfield Street, in Ridgewood.

The Councilmember also reported that plans have been filed with the Dept. of Buildings to create an assisted living facility with 66 apartments at 80-97 Cypress Avenue, in Glendale. He said that he plans to research the feasibility of locating smaller shelters in several sites that are located in his district.

The Councilmember also reported that this year, the City Council allocated funding to contract with the Wildcat Cleaning Service to clean commercial strips, as well as to shovel snow for seniors, clean graffiti, and remove illegal posters from lampposts, and so forth, in the Board 5 area.

Lastly, the Councilmember spoke about a disturbing increase in the number of mail theft incidents that were reported in the 104th Precinct, particularly 'fishing' for mail by retrieving envelopes from mail drop boxes located on street corners. He said that there have been 50 incidents, involving mail box fishing, reported in the 104th Precinct this year. As a result, 47 of the 189 local mail boxes in our district have been retrofitted to deter this type of crime, he said. He warned that these crimes usually occur during the evening and overnight hours, and advised everyone to check their bank account statements regularly.

The Board Chairperson announced the first item on the Board Agenda as:

Public Hearing Re: The Fiscal Year 2020 Capital and Expense Budget Needs of the City of New York, as they relate primarily to the Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale Communities

The District Manager Gary Giordano explained that Capital Budget items generally involve construction projects and major public works, such as, sewers, parks, libraries, roadways and bridges. He said that Expense Budget items involve allocations for salaries and supplies for agency personnel. He said that the Executive Committee plans to meet on Monday, September 17th in the Board office, when they will review the current Capital and Expense Budget Priorities of the Board, and formulate the list of FY 2020 Capital Budget requests for distribution to Board members next week. He said that the Budget Survey package will include explanations of all of the Board's Capital and Expense Budget Items.

The District Manager requested that Board members fill out their Capital Budget surveys and return them to the Board office as soon as possible. While welcoming input from Board members regarding Expense Budget Items, he reminded them that Community Boards are restricted to submitting no more than 25 Expense Budget Priorities on an annual basis.

He said that Board staff would tabulate the survey results and present their input to the Executive Committee for review at their next meeting, on October 9th. The Executive Committee's FY2020 budget recommendations will be presented to the full Board for a vote at next month's Board Meeting, on Wednesday, October 10th, 2018. In closing, he said that the Board's FY2020 Capital and Expense Budget recommendations will be submitted to the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, as well as to local elected officials, no later than October 31st, 2018.

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The Chairperson opened the floor to speakers.

Paul Kerzner, a Board member and president of the Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association, spoke about the need to plant hundreds of new street trees in the CB5Q area, particularly in those census tracts that meet the criteria for federal funding under the Community Development Block Grant program.

Brian Dooley, president of the Glendale Property Owners Association and Community Board member, spoke about the continual problem with street flooding conditions on Edsall Avenue where there is no sewer main and no catch basins, between 71 Place and 72 Place, in Glendale. He said that whenever it rains, stagnant water remains on the street for days if not weeks at a time, creating a breeding ground for mosquitoes. He asked that Board members give this budget item a high priority on this year's survey of Capital Budget Priorities.

Regarding the city sewer system in Glendale, he said that there's not enough capacity in the storm sewers to retain the amount of rain that falls during a typical rainstorm. He said that in 2007, 2012 and last month, during the first week in August of his year, storm water overflowed both sides of 77 Avenue, the Cooper Avenue Underpass was flooded, and local streets, such as, 85 Street between 77 Avenue and Myrtle Avenue, were flooded with sewers backing up into homes in that area. He said that local residents have been seeking relief from this situation for the past 15 years, but the city has not designed plans to increase the capacity of the sewer system in Glendale, as yet. He asked that Board members continue to rate the sewer system in Glendale as one of their top priorities.

Regarding the FY2020 Expense Budget, Mr. Dooley requested that additional police officers be assigned to the 104th Police Precinct; and that the Dept. of Environmental Protection deploy crews to clean and flush the sewers in Glendale on a routine basis.

The Board Chairperson thanked everyone for their input, and closed the public hearing. He announced the next item on the Board Agenda as:

PUBLIC FORUM

Sam Taffel, a Ridgewood resident, said that he has noticed several potholes in the designated bike lanes on Onderdonk Avenue and Woodward Avenue in Ridgewood. In order to avoid accidents, he requested that all of the streets along the bike routes in the Board 5 area be inspected and prioritized for repaving. John Maier, co-chair of the Public Transit Committee, said that the Transportation Committee had requested that both of these streets be repaved this year. He invited him to attend the next joint committee meeting of the Transportation and Public Transit Committees. The Board Chairperson pointed out that these two streets were probably not scheduled for repaving this year in order to avoid interfering with work that's currently underway on the major water main replacement project. He said that potholes can be reported directly to 3-1-1, or called into the Board office for staff to report them to 3-1-1.

Sebastien Augustin introduced himself as the new Membership Director for Ridgewood YMCA, located at 62-16 Catalpa Avenue. He welcomed everyone to visit their facility during their Open House from 11am to 3pm on Saturday, Sept. 15, when they will offer a whole range of free activities for adults and children. In addition, he said that the Open House will include free arts and crafts sessions, family games, and a scavenger hunt. For more information about the programs and services at the Ridgewood Y, he welcomed calls to his office at (212) 912-2180, or via email: saugustin@ymcanyc.org.

Kenneth Belkin, Esq., introduced his client, Brian Swier, a principal partner of Ludo, Inc, doing business as the Paradise Bar that is located at 678 Woodward Avenue, between Gates Avenue and Palmetto Street, in Ridgewood. On behalf of his client, Mr. Belkin submitted a petition signed by almost 200 local residents in favor of renewing their liquor license. He said that their renewal application includes the use of the backyard area,

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but they began using the backyard before their renewal application was approved by the SLA. He requested that the Board support their request to renew their liquor license, as submitted. After a general discussion of the matter, Mr. Belkin requested to meet with the Chairperson and District Manager in person, in order to resolve any outstanding objections or answer any remaining questions about their operation. Board Chairperson Arcuri agreed to set up a meeting with him, his client, and the District Manager at a mutually convenient time in the near future in order to discuss their renewal application.

Michaeline Von Drathen, vice-president of Friends of the Ridgewood Library, announced that from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, September 15th, they will host a free Fun Day and Book Sale at the Ridgewood Library, at 20-12 Madison Street, on the corner of Forest Avenue. She said that there will be 30 tables full of hand-crafted items for sale, face painting, games and reading for children, and FDNY and NYPD activities at this event. She said that the rain date for this event is Saturday, September 22nd.

She also announced that Jerry Drake and the Front Page Band will perform at the Ridgewood Library at 6pm on Monday, September 24th, and the Sonido Costeno Trio will perform there at 3pm on Saturday, September 29, 2018. Flyers were distributed.

Crystal Wolfe, founder of Catering for the Homeless, spoke about her most recent milestone, the receipt of 501(c)3 Tax Exempt status for not-for-profit organizations. She said that so far, her organization has distributed 15,000 meals to homeless individuals and programs for the homeless throughout the city. Based on the success of last year's toiletry drive, with over 6,000 toiletry items collected in the CB2 and CB5 area, she said that Catering for the Homeless is hosting another toiletry drive, between September 15th and 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. She said that items that are donated will be distributed to homeless individuals and families through local volunteer programs for the homeless, as well as to several homeless shelters in the area of Community Board 2 and 5, in Queens. For more information, she welcomed everyone to visit her website at: www.cateringforthehomeless.org.

In closing, Ms. Wolfe said that she plans to form a Friends group for the Maspeth Library this year.

Mike Papas, a Glendale resident, asked a question about the status of the proposed M1 Motel/Hotel Text Amendment to the NYC Zoning Resolution. Walter Sanchez replied that our Community Board voted against the zoning text amendment, because Board members objected to a loophole in the language of the zoning text amendment that would exempt the city from seeking the Community Board's input regarding properties to be used for "a public purpose" which by definition includes homeless shelters. He said that the proposal is still under review by the City Planning Commission. The City Council will have an opportunity to make their recommendations regarding the language in this zoning text amendment whenever they schedule it for a public hearing and vote later this year.

The Board Chairperson commented that basically, the Queens Borough Board's recommendation is to require that developers be required to obtain a Special Permit in order to construct new hotel buildings and/or significantly expand hotels in M-1 Zoning Districts throughout the city.

Christine Cummings, a Glendale resident, recommended that the vacant warehouse located at 78-16 Cooper Avenue be converted into a full-service animal shelter to serve the entire borough of Queens. She said that the City Charter mandates that each borough in the city have at least one full-service animal shelter, which Queens does not have. She said that this site is convenient to pet food stores, grooming services, animal hospitals, and has plenty of parking accommodations for prospective pet owners and volunteers. She pointed out that there are 2,600 students attending schools in close proximity to this site, who could volunteer as "shelter buddies" in a program that improves the reading skills and reduces stress of the participants. In closing, she said that this site

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could be retrofitted to operate on solar energy with back-up battery storage. She said that this site could also accommodate a vertical farming and organic composting program.

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. The Board Chairperson welcomed representatives of local elected officials to address the Board. On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, John Perricone reported that the Borough President is opposed to establishing term limits for Board Members because it would place an undue burden on the functioning of Community Boards throughout the city. He said that this Charter Revision proposal will appear on the General Election ballot on Election Day, November 6th, 2018. Mr. Perricone also announced that the next meeting of the Queens Borough Board is scheduled for 5:30pm on Monday, September 17th in Queens Borough Hall, and the Queens Borough Cabinet will meet at 10am on the following day, Tuesday, September 18th, in Queens Borough Hall, at 120-55 Queens Boulevard, in Kew Gardens.

P. O. Edyta Bielicka, of the 104th Precinct's Community Affairs Unit, reported that there has been a spike in the number of mail thefts reported in the 104th Precinct recently. She said that police apprehended one suspect, but he's apparently involved in a ring of criminals who continue to commit these crimes. She asked that everyone pass this information along to their friends and neighbors. She said that homebound elderly residents should give their mail to their local postal carrier to deliver to the local Post Office for them.

P.O. Bielicka said that she is on duty in the 104th Precinct from 3pm to 11:30pm daily. She said that she visits the sites where homeless men congregate at least 2 or 3 times a week, including Rosemary's Playground and the pedestrian plaza on Myrtle Avenue and 71 Avenue, in Ridgewood.

Christopher Sperrazzo asked if information about the illegal 'fishing' in corner mail boxes is being mailed out to elderly residents. P.O. Bielicka said that P.O. Collado in the 104th Precinct Crime Prevention Unit has been distributing flyers with information about this crime via mailers, community meetings and personal contacts. Sarah Feldman asked if the new retrofitted mail boxes are safe to mail checks to pay her bills. P.O. Bielicka replied that apparently some thieves are still able to steal one or two pieces of mail from the retrofitted mail boxes. She advised everyone to either deposit mail directly into the Post Office or deposit mail in the corner mail box early in the morning, before the first collection of the day.

Ed Lettau asked if plain clothes police officers have been assigned to patrol in Ridgewood lately. P.O. Bielicka replied that plain clothes officers are assigned by Borough Command to certain details on a daily basis, without prior notification to the local precinct. She said that it depends on when and where there's a spike in the number of violent crimes that are reported daily. For more information, she welcomed calls to the Community Affairs office at (718) 386-2446, or via email at edyta.bielicka2@nypd.org.

On behalf of U.S. Representative Nydia Velazquez, Julio Salazar said that the Congresswoman recently wrote a letter to the Senate Leadership urging the chamber to reject Peter Wright's nomination to a top post in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that oversees the Superfund program. He said that the Superfund program was created in 1980, mandating that corporate parties that are found responsible for a site's pollution, be held accountable by contributing to cleanup costs. He said that the Congresswoman argues in her letter that Wright's track record of defending major corporate polluters, namely, Dow Chemical, makes him unfit to be trusted to advance the cleanup of Superfund sites.

He also reported that the Congresswoman has been working to save a federal program that helps finance the completion and preservation of affordable rental housing. He said that if no action is taken, the Federal Financing Bank & Risk-Sharing Program would expire at the end of September. This week, Velázquez led New

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York City Democratic Members of Congress in writing to Dr. Ben Carson, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), calling on the agency to extend the program, which is a partnership between HUD, the Treasury Department, and state and local Housing Finance Agencies. This program anticipates a future pipeline of at least 21 new housing developments, totaling over \$488 million in loans, and the creation of over 7,800 units of affordable housing.

In closing, he said that the Congresswoman supports the Community Board's proposed Ridgewood Rezoning Plan, as well as their request to landmark more of the housing stock in the Ridgewood area.

On behalf of Congresswoman Grace Meng, Dom Capalbi said that their office has been focused on the mailbox fishing issue by holding regular meetings with representatives of the U.S. Postal Service to address this type of crime and increase local enforcement efforts. He said that 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 on Wednesday, September 26th, 2018. He welcomed constituents to call their office at (718) 358-6364, to schedule an appointment.

Mr. Capalbi also announced that the Congresswoman will host the annual Service Academy Information Day from 10:30am to 12:30pm on Sunday, September 30th, in Forest Hills High School.

Regarding the Congresswoman's efforts to reduce air pollution caused by local freight trains hauling municipal waste in open container cars, he reported that she recently introduced new legislation in Congress, H.R. Bill 6497, that requires the Department of Transportation to prescribe regulations requiring materials transported by rail to be completely covered while in transit, including while being held, delayed, or transferred.

State Senator Joseph Addabbo advised everyone that they should remain vigilant regarding the possibility of siting a homeless shelter at 78-16 Cooper Avenue, unless and until there is proof that another occupant or agency is moving into this site. He said that he supports Councilmember Holden's efforts to locate a new school at this site. In the meantime, he said that last week, he met with Mayor De Blasio and his staff to voice his opposition to the proposed homeless shelter at this site, as well as to a proposed homeless facility for 113 mentally ill men in a vacant church building in Ozone Park. He said that he had just come from a rally involving more than one thousand Ozone Park residents who are opposed to this homeless facility being located in such close proximity to several local elementary schools and day care centers.

He welcomed veterans and their families to participate in his annual Veterans' B-B-Q that is planned for Saturday, September 29th, 2018, from 12 Noon to 3PM at the Howard Beach Motor Club, located at 59 Russell Street, at the south end of 102 Street. He welcomed volunteers to attend this event, as well. He asked that anyone interested in attending to please RSVP to his main office in Howard Beach, by calling (718) 738-1111.

The State Senator announced that he will hold mobile office hours, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm on Thursday, September 20th, at the Middle Village library on Metropolitan Avenue. He welcomed everyone to participate in the next Paper Shredding and Recycling Event that is scheduled for Sunday, September 23rd in the parking lot of the Forest Park Bandshell, between the hours of 11am and 3pm. He also announced that his office is sponsoring two local Job Fairs next month: the first one will be in the Ridgewood Public Library at 20-12 Madison Street, corner of Forest Avenue on Wednesday, October 3rd and the second one is scheduled for Friday, October 5th in the Resorts World Casino, located at 110-00 Rockaway Boulevard, in Queens. He welcomed calls for more information about these job fairs to his district office at (718) 497-1630.

Kathy Masi agreed with the State Senator's statement, saying that until the Board receives solid confirmation from the School Construction Authority that they plan to build a school at 78-16 Cooper Avenue in Glendale, local residents should continue to voice their opposition to any proposed homeless shelter at this site. She welcomed everyone to participate in a rally on Sunday, September 23rd, to oppose a proposed homeless shelter at this site. More information about the time and place of the rally will be posted on-line, she said.

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Lee Rottenberg said that in his experience working with the homeless population who were admitted to the Emergency Room of Bellevue Hospital, he found that most service providers operating homeless shelters for the mentally ill do not provide adequate programs and services to meet their clients' needs, and their clients repeatedly end up homeless again. The State Senator replied that when he inquired about what programs would be provided on-site at the proposed facility in Ozone Park, he was told that a meditation session is scheduled at 9am each morning, and the next activity on their daily schedule would be conducted at 4pm. He said that he considered their response to be grossly inadequate.

Christopher Sperrazza asked about the feasibility of developing smaller homeless shelters for the mentally ill that would house no more than 50 clients per site. The State Senator replied that, in his opinion, small homeless shelters for mentally ill people would be a better option, by limiting occupancy to no more than 10 or 20 clients per site, depending on their degree of disability.

NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD, informed everyone that he has been appointed to Chair the Social Services Committee of the State Assembly. He also reported that this past year, he sponsored a bill to create Safe Houses for Human Trafficking Victims, which was passed by both houses in the state legislature and signed by Governor Cuomo last week.

In response to the current crisis of homelessness in New York State, he said that this year, the State legislature approved an initial allocation of \$15 Million for an enhanced voucher system that will be spent to prevent evictions of needy families and individuals throughout the city. He said that funds will be allocated to prevent the evictions of 200 needy families, under this pilot program. He said that for the past two years, he has visited homeless shelters all over the state, advocating for the establishment of a rent subsidy program, known as the Home Stability Support Initiative. The purpose of the program is to create a safety net for low-income families and individuals who are facing eviction, he said. Under this program, he said that additional funding will be allocated on an annual basis for the next 4 years, with a total allocation of \$450 Million. He also described his legislative proposal regarding the creation of culturally competent shelters for victims of domestic violence and their families. For more information, he welcomed calls to their district office, located at 70-50 Austin Street, in Forest Hills, at (718) 263-5595.

On behalf of Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Alison Cummings thanked Board members for all of their hard work in improving the quality of life in their community. Newsletters were distributed.

On behalf of Assemblyman Mike Miller, Carmela Isabella announced that the Assemblyman will sponsor free legal counseling sessions for local constituents who visit the NYLAG Mobile Van, stationed in front of 789 Wyckoff Avenue, at the corner of Putnam Avenue, on Friday, October 5th, 2018. Pre-registration is required by calling their office at (718) 805-0950. She also reported that the Assemblyman has written three letters to the Mayor's Office stating his opposition to several different proposals to locate homeless facilities in the former warehouse 78-16 Cooper Avenue in Glendale; on the site of a vacant lot between Summerfield Street and Decatur Street, in the South of Myrtle Avenue Industrial Area (SOMA); and in a vacant church building located on 101 Avenue in Ozone Park.

She welcomed constituents to visit their district office, located at 83-91 Woodhaven Boulevard, to address local concerns.

MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's Board Meeting which was conducted on July 11, 2018. John Maier made a motion to approve the minutes, with the following correction on Page 1: the names of Donald Passantino and Christopher Sperrazza should appear as absent, and was seconded by Walter Clayton.

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LIQUOR, WINE and BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS and RENEWALS

The Board Chairperson read aloud the list of establishments in the Community Board 5 area that are in the process of applying for liquor, wine and beer licenses since the last monthly Board Meeting on July 11, 2018. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) **Biesiadna Restaurant Corp.** 60-39 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Fumo Hookah Lounge Corp.** 66-28 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) Coche Payaso LLC d/b/a **Happy Birthday Bar** 801 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **City Café Grill & Bar Inc.** 67-24 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) **Sherwoods Keep, Inc.** 205 Cypress Avenue, Store #2, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Fajitas Sunrise Restaurant Corp.** 59-24 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

- 1) **Z&Y NYC Inc.** 79-20 Eliot Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 2) **My Jarabacoa #1 Inc.** 65-13 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) * Raheny 5 LLC d/b/a **Walsh's** 68-67 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **Zenith Thai Inc.** 70-02 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) United Seneca Corp. d/b/a **New Mexico Place II** 778 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) Ridgewood Coffee & Liquor Co Inc. d/b/a **Onderdonk & Sons** 566 Onderdonk Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Method of Operation Change

*Ludo Inc. d/b/a **Paradise Lounge** 678 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood License #1309771 has notified us of their intention to apply to the NYS Liquor Authority to extend their operation to include a "Licensed Outdoor Area."

We also received notification from J&W Wine & Liquor Corp. at 60-03 Eliot Avenue, in Maspeth, that they will be filing an application with the NYS Liquor Authority for a Liquor Store License.

* Outdoor Area

Demolition Notices

The Board Chairperson reported that the Board did not receive any demolition notices since the last monthly Board Meeting on July 11th, 2018.

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.

Chairperson Arcuri welcomed everyone to attend the Memorial Service for victims of the World Trade Center disaster that is planned for Sunday, September 16th, starting at 12:30pm, in Dry Harbor Playground at Forest Park in Glendale.

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

The District Manager announced that the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene notified the Board office that their crews will be spraying for mosquitoes in trucks that will travel through parts of Ridgewood and Maspeth tonight, weather permitting. He advised that everyone stay indoors if and when they see the truck spraying chemicals into the air on local streets.

The District Manager reported that work is expected to resume on the sewer and water main project in the vicinity of 74 Street and Penelope Avenue in Middle Village on or before October 31st, 2018. He said that work was halted on this project, due to the excavation of contaminated soil underneath the roadway earlier this year.

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Local streets where work was completed, including Juniper Valley Road and several side streets, were resurfaced by the contractor. He said that an additional \$8 Million has been added to the contract to complete this job by year end.

Regarding the status of the Emergency Bridge Deck Replacement on Fresh Pond Road at Metropolitan Avenue, over the LIRR tracks, the District Manager reported that work is proceeding on schedule on this project and is expected to be complete by year end, possibly by Thanksgiving.

Regarding the capital project that is currently underway at Frank Principe Park on Maurice Avenue, the District Manager reported that the project stalled recently due to a ponding condition that developed where the new ball fields are located. He said that the Dept. of Environmental Protection is working on plans to improve the connection from the sewer main in the street with the drainage system inside the Park.

Regarding the list of local streets that will be milled and resurfaced this year, the District Manager reported that this week the Dept. of Transportation roadway resurfacing crews will begin milling Cypress Hills Street, between Myrtle Avenue and Cooper Avenue, and Cooper Avenue between Cypress Hills Street and 70 Street, and 69 Street between Eliot Avenue and the LIE Eastbound Service Road. He said that numerous local streets will be milled and resurfaced in the coming month.

The District Manager reminded everyone that the NYC Charter Revision Commission approved a proposal on the ballot that would set limits on the service of Community Board members to a maximum of 8 years. He said that this proposal will be on this year's Ballot, and urged everyone to vote in this year's General Election.

The District Manager reported that a new party place, where alcoholic beverages will be served, is proposed in a vacant factory building that is located at 1647 Weirfield Street, between Wyckoff Avenue and Cypress Avenue, in Ridgewood. He said that the proposed party place is located on the same block as the Outreach House, at 1614 Weirfield Street, where 30 youth, between the ages of 12 and 18 years old, are housed and educated in a local treatment facility. In addition, he said that PS 239 is located on Weirfield Street, at the corner of Cypress Avenue. He said that due to the close proximity to both facilities, it would not be advisable to grant this establishment a new liquor license. He asked the pleasure of the Board regarding the proposed establishment. Theodore Renz made a motion to adopt a resolution in opposition to granting the proposed establishment at 1647 Weirfield Street a new liquor license, and was seconded by Lee Rottenberg.

Jerry Drake asked if the new establishment would be a bar, a restaurant, or a catering hall. The Board Chairperson replied that he believed it would operate as a restaurant.

Deborah Cox stated that she did not think that there is not enough information about the proposed establishment to vote on the merits of their application, and made a tabling motion.

The Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the tabling motion which then carried by a vote of 25 in favor; 9 opposed; -0- not voting; and -0- abstentions.

The Board Chairperson said that this matter would be referred to the Executive Committee for further consideration and recommendation to the full Board at next month's Board Meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee

Vincent Arcuri

Toby Sheppard Bloch, co-chair of the Transportation Services Committee, reported that the committee met with representatives of the NYC Dept. of Transportation in the Board 5 office on Tuesday, August 28th, to discuss traffic safety issues at various intersections in the Board 5 area. He said that the committee requested traffic safety studies in the vicinity of the new pedestrian plaza where Myrtle Avenue crosses Cooper Avenue, in

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Glendale, as well as in the vicinity of PS 290, located 55-20 Metropolitan Avenue, in Ridgewood. He said that the committee is currently considering the conversion of 71 Place into a One-Way northbound direction between Cooper Avenue and Myrtle Avenue, in order to deter traffic from driving onto the pedestrian plaza at this intersection. He said that the committee also discussed additional traffic safety at the intersection of 60 Street and Myrtle Avenue where a pedestrian was killed recently by a passing vehicle, while she was walking across Myrtle Avenue. He announced that their next committee meeting will be held in the Board 5 office at 7:30pm on Tuesday, September 25th, 2018.

Library Services Committee

Sarah Feldman

Sarah Feldman announced that the committee is scheduled to meet in the Board 5 office at 7:30pm on Monday, September 24th, 2018. She reported that the Glendale Library has moved into temporary accommodations inside Atlas Park, for the duration of the renovation project which is currently underway on the branch library building that is located on Myrtle Avenue at 73 Place.

She said that the meeting agenda includes a discussion of the Maspeth Branch Library, including the need for a new roof, as well as issues with noisy and disruptive students who frequent the Ridgewood Library on weekdays after school dismissal. She welcomed everyone to attend the meeting.

Parks Committee

Steven Fiedler

Steven Fiedler reported that work on the hockey rinks in both Juniper Valley Park and Mafera Park is near completion. He said that there is a ponding condition inside the rink in Juniper Valley Park that will be addressed by the Parks Department. Installation of the new spray showers in the children's playground in Juniper Valley Park, near 78 Street, should begin soon.

Regarding Frank Principe Park, he said that there are severe drainage problems in the new ball fields whenever it rains. The Parks Department is currently in consultations with staff of the NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection to correct the drainage problems there.

Health and Human Services Committee

Robert Cermeli

Robert Cermeli announced that the next meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee is planned for Wednesday, October 3rd, at a location to be determined.

Environmental Services Committee

Brian Dooley

Brian Dooley reported that the committee met with Julio Salazar, on the staff of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez in the Board 5 office on Monday, June 18th, to review the proposed Superfund Enhancement Federal Legislation that is being sponsored by the Congresswoman. He said that the committee continues to review this issue and will report its recommendation regarding the proposed legislation at a later date.

New Business

Theodore Renz, Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District, announced that the Myrtle Avenue Street Fair will be held in Ridgewood on Sunday, September 23rd from 12 Noon to 5 PM. He welcomed everyone to attend.

Fred Haller advised everyone to be careful when they are mailing checks to pay their bills. He said that two of his checks that were hand-delivered to the Ridgewood Post Office were both stolen and washed by thieves who changed the amounts on the checks to thousands of dollars and cashed them immediately.

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 10:05pm. He thanked Pastor Dan Klaus for providing the light refreshments for tonight's meeting.