



Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale
61-23 Myrtle Avenue • Glendale, NY 11385
(718) 366-1834
E-mail: qnscb5@nyc.rr.com



Vincent Arcuri, Jr.
Chairperson

Gary Giordano
District Manager

Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting September 18, 2019

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Patricia Crowley; Brian Dooley; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Patricia Grayson; Fred Hoefflerle; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; Mike Liendo; John Maier; Patricia Maltezos; Edgar Mantel; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O’Kane; Michael O’Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Kelvin Rodriguez; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Carmen Santana; Connie Santos; Dennis Stephan; Catherine Sumsky; Megan Tadio; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Michaeline Von Drathen; Crystal Wolfe; Maryanna Zero; Nan Zhang

Board Members Absent

Antonetta Binanti; Mohan Gyawali-Chhetri; Fred T. Haller

Elected Officials

NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, 34th CD
Joseph Nocerino - Queens Borough President Melinda Katz
Jordan Goldes – US Congressional Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D.
Neil Giannelli – NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, 15th SD
Alexa Arrechi – NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD
Mark Papish - NYS Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, 30th AD
Alison Cummings – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, 37th AD
Christine Stoll – NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38th AD
Charles Vavruska – NYC Council Member Robert Holden, 30th CD

Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens
Catherine O’Leary and Laura Mulvihill, Community Associates - CB5Q Staff

GUESTS

Benjamin Fang, the Queens Ledger; and Mark Hallum, Queens Courier

Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:30pm, following the Salute to the Flag.

He thanked everyone who participated in last week’s memorial ceremonies that were held in our district to commemorate the lives of all those who died as a result of the World Trade Center Attack on September 11th, 2001. He pointed out that next month’s Board Meeting will be conducted on the 3rd Wednesday of October, on October 16th, in observance of Yom Kippur, which falls on October 9th this year.

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 18, 2019

The Board Chairperson informed everyone that, beginning with tonight's meeting, our Board Meetings will be live-streamed. He said that the video will be posted to YouTube, and will appear on our Community Board's website at www.nyc.gov/gnscb5 tomorrow.

He informed everyone that Council Member Bob Holden will conduct a Town Hall Meeting at 7pm tomorrow night, in IS/PS 119 in Glendale, regarding the Dept. of Homeless Services plans to open a homeless shelter for 200 adult men in the former factory building at 78-16 Cooper Avenue, in Glendale. He explained that both he and District Manager Gary Giordano were invited to attend a meeting in City Hall to learn more about their plans. At last week's meeting, they met with local elected officials, City agency representatives and executives of WestHab, the non-profit service provider that was selected to operate this shelter. He said that they were told that they plan to establish a job training facility with a dormitory style residence for 200 homeless men at this site, beginning early next year. In response to their presentation, he told them that Community Board 5 Queens would conduct a Public Hearing on this proposal in order to give members of the public an opportunity to learn more about their plans and to voice their opinion. He said that the Board's Public Hearing is scheduled for 7:30pm on Monday, October 7th, in the Auditorium of Christ the King High School and everyone is welcome to attend.

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

Public Hearing Re: The Fiscal Year 2021 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 next week in the Board office, when they will review the current Capital and Expense Budget Priorities of the Board, and formulate the list of FY 2021 Capital Budget requests for distribution to Board members. 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. He said that the Board's Expense Budget Priorities usually remain the same each year, with police personnel assigned to the Precinct as a top priority. He said that Community Boards are limited to submitting no more than 25 Expense Budget Priorities on an annual basis.

He said that Board staff would tabulate the survey results for the Executive Committee's review at their next committee meeting. The Executive Committee's FY 2021 budget recommendations will be presented to the full Board for a vote at next month's Board Meeting, on Wednesday, October 16th, 2019. In closing, he said that the Board's FY 2021 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, 2019.

He gave the floor to the first speaker:

Theodore Renz, Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District, thanked the Board for their support for a new Capital Improvement Project for Myrtle Avenue in Ridgewood, Community Board 5's number 5 priority for FY 2020.

He said that the last time Myrtle Avenue in Ridgewood between Wyckoff Avenue/Palmetto Street & Fresh Pond Road was included in a major capital project was 1983/1984. At that time, the project was awarded under the New York City Commercial Revitalization Program and included major improvements to the shopping corridor, such as:

- New Sidewalks with decorative brick pavers building line to curbside, new street trees and new steel faced curbing, and

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 18, 2019

- Creation of three pedestrian plazas: 1) The plaza at Woodbine Street/St. Nicholas/Myrtle Avenue, now known as Venditti Square and named for Detective Anthony Venditti who was killed in the line of duty in January 1986; 2) The Ridgewood Memorial Triangle, which was named for the Veterans of WW1, at Myrtle Avenue/Putnam Avenue/Cypress Avenue; and 3) The Times Triangle, now known as Clemens Triangle and named for the original owner and editor of the Ridgewood Times.

He said that other capital improvements have included the installation of historic M Poles, World's Fair benches along various curbside locations and in the plaza areas, historic marker signs along the avenue, in plazas as well as on M poles, and a new raised planting area at the northwest corner of Myrtle and Catalpa Avenues.

Mr. Renz said that over the years, many of these improvements, particularly the brick pavers imbedded in the sidewalk, have seriously deteriorated causing tripping hazards and unsafe conditions for pedestrians. He said that there have been a number of lawsuits, which in many cases name the Myrtle Avenue BID, that have resulted in higher insurance premiums. In closing, he requested the Board's continued support for a capital improvement project to address the deteriorated sidewalk conditions and other pedestrian hazards on the Myrtle Avenue shopping corridor.

Paul Kerzner, a Board member, said that he recently learned that \$13 Million has been allocated for the Ridgewood Reservoir, much of which will be spent to shore up one of the reservoir buildings. He requested that this funding be reallocated to fund street tree plantings throughout the Board 5 area. Steven Fiedler, Parks Committee Chair, said that the Parks Department's estimates for stabilizing one of the buildings at the Ridgewood Reservoir is about \$5 Million.

As there were no further speakers, the Chairperson closed the Public Hearing and announced the next item on the Agenda as:

PUBLIC FORUM

Crystal Wolfe, a Board member and founder of Catering for the Homeless, said that she will coordinate a Fall Toiletry Drive from October 7th through November 8th that is being co-sponsored by Community Boards 4 and 5, in Queens, local elected officials, and a network of local nonprofit organizations. She said that the list of items for donation include: personal care products, such as, shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, diapers, baby wipes, socks, feminine products, combs, blankets, new clothes and toys. She said that to-date, 14,000 toiletries were distributed to homeless people and families in Queens through this annual Toiletry Drive.

In closing, she said that she is petitioning the City's Department of Education to allow schools to donate their excess food to non-profits, like Catering for the Homeless, Inc., who could then distribute the food to those who desperately need it in our community. For more information, she asked everyone to visit her organization's website at: www.cateringforthehomeless.com and to please sign the Petition to the Department of Education. Flyers were distributed.

Matthew Dean, project coordinator for NYSERDA, (the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority) spoke about one of their new programs, called the Home Energy Score, which provides free energy assessments for homeowners, that includes providing a list of what could be done to lower your energy usage and possibly assist with filing applications for weatherization funding to help lower your energy score. For more information, he said to visit their website at: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov>. Flyers were distributed.

Geoffrey Elkind, president of the Ridgewood Property Owners Civic Association (RPOCA), gave a brief update on the status of DOT's proposal to install a Dedicated Bus Lane on the southbound side of Fresh Pond Road between Metropolitan Avenue and 67 Avenue, in Ridgewood. He said that over 30 local business owners joined with RPOCA and local elected officials to form a Coalition to oppose this project, and filed an Article 78

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 18, 2019

proceeding in court today to enjoin its implementation. In closing, he said that congestion threatens everyone's health, but the current proposal does not include congestion reduction actions.

John Ortiz and Jamie Eldridge, owners and Ashley James, manager, of Chicken Soup and Rice LLC d/b/a Sundown Bar, informed the Board that they're planning to expand the existing restaurant into the basement space below. They held up a new set of building plans, indicating that there will be two egresses and a sprinkler system. The Board Chairperson said that a basement must have a minimum of 5 feet above street grade, which to his knowledge, this location is not. Ms. James said that they're scheduled to meet with a Plan Examiner in the Dept. of Buildings to review this set of plans tomorrow. She said that she'll inform us of their findings.

Maryann Lattanzio, a Board member and 104COP / G-COP civilian patrol member, urged everyone to volunteer a few hours once or twice a month to join their patrol of Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale in the 104th Precinct. She said that in addition to patrolling the precinct in their own cars, the civilian patrol assists the police in the 104th Precinct with diverting traffic during processions, parades, street fairs and public events, in order to free up patrol officers so they could respond to calls for assistance, when needed. She welcomed everyone to a B-B-Q fundraiser at 20-29 Himrod Street, on Saturday, September 28th from 12 Noon to 5pm. Requested donations are \$20 per person. Flyers were distributed.

Collen Bock, the owner of Sandy Mouse LLC d/b/a The Acre at 68-22 Forest Avenue in Ridgewood, said that she's planning to open a new restaurant on the corner of 68 Road in the near future. She said that their hours of operation will be from 10am to 2am daily, with 4 staff on site to serve fresh juices and coffee or tea with breakfast in the morning and cocktails and beer with dinner at night. She said that she plans to host local school fundraisers there, as well.

Rev. Joshua Ramos of the Radiant Church at 60-35 Eliot Avenue in Maspeth welcomed everyone to join their congregation's services every Sunday morning at 11am to pray with them.

Mike Papa, a member of the Glendale Middle Village Coalition against the Proposed Homeless Shelter in Glendale, asked why the Executive Committee and members of the entire Community Board were not informed about last week's meeting with the City administration regarding their plans to create a homeless shelter for 200 men at 78-16 Cooper Avenue in Glendale, prior to the meeting. The Board Chairperson replied that he and the District Manager were the only representatives of the Community Board who were invited by the Mayor's Office to attend the meeting in City Hall. He said that they met with City officials, several local elected officials who had also been invited, along with representatives of WestHab, the service provider selected to operate the facility at 78-16 Cooper Avenue. He said they were informed that this facility will provide job training as well as shelter for 200 men who are currently employed or employable. He said for more information, the Board invited the City officials and representatives of WestHab to answer questions from the public at the Public Hearing that will be conducted by Community Board 5 Queens on Monday, October 7th in the Auditorium of Christ the King High School. Anyone wishing to speak at the Public Hearing will be required to register prior to 7:15pm on the evening of October 7th. He welcomed everyone to attend the hearing.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

Chairperson Arcuri recognized the staff present: the District Manager Gary Giordano, and Community Associates Catherine O'Leary and Laura Mulvihill. He also recognized members of the press: Benjamin Fang, of the Queens Ledger; and Mark Hallum of the Queens Courier, and he thanked them for keeping their readers very well informed about Board business.

The Chairperson invited elected officials' representatives to address the Board.

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 18, 2019

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Joe Nocerino announced that beginning at 5PM on Wednesday, October 2nd, the Borough President will present Community Service Awards to two members of Community Board 5, Walter Clayton and Steven Fiedler, along with members from other Community Boards in Queens at a reception that will be held in the Helen Marshall Conference Hall on the first floor of Queens Borough Hall. He said that attendees are required to RSVP in advance, to ensure that staff will have time to make proper accommodations for everyone. Food and refreshments will be served.

In addition, Mr. Nocerino announced that the Borough President is co-sponsoring a free Opioid Overdose Prevention Training session from 10am to 12 Noon on Thursday, September 26th in the auditorium of Elmhurst Hospital at 79-01 Broadway in Queens. He said that attendees will learn how to recognize an opioid overdose and how to safely administer naloxone medication to reverse the effects of the drug overdose. He distributed copies of the Borough President's Summer Newsletter to those present.

On behalf of Congresswoman Grace Meng, Jordan Goldes reported that the Congresswoman has been successful this year in securing additional funding for senior programs in her district. In addition, he announced that the US Postal Service has just completed retrofitting the lids on corner mail boxes, as well as drop boxes located inside Post Offices in the district, in order to prevent mail theft, particularly 'fishing' for mail by retrieving envelopes from mail drop boxes that are located on street corners. He said that it's proven very effective in reducing the incidence of mail theft in her district over the past year.

Mr. Goldes said that any U.S. Veterans or their immediate family members who'd like to meet with a representative of the Veterans Administration in their office located at 40-13 159 Street in Flushing, should call their office at (718) 358-6364 for an appointment at least one week prior to Thursday, September 26th when they'll be on hand to meet with constituents. He also announced that from 12 Noon to 3pm on Sunday, October 6th, representatives from the US Military Academies will be on hand at Forest Hills High School to advise high school juniors and seniors on how to apply for entrance into a U.S. Military Academy. He said that all are welcome to attend.

On behalf of NYC Council Member Bob Holden, Charles Vavruska announced that the Council Member is hosting a Town Hall Meeting tomorrow night that is scheduled to begin at 7pm in PS/IS 119, on 78 Avenue between 74th and 75th Street, in Glendale. He said that the Council Member remains strongly opposed to the planned homeless shelter at 78-16 Cooper Avenue. He said that elected officials and representatives of the Community Board have been invited to this solution-oriented meeting and he welcome constituents to attend.

NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso informed everyone that he is 100% in support of the Dept. of Homeless Services plan to establish a homeless shelter for homeless families at another site in the Board 5 area, at 1616 Summerfield Street in Ridgewood. He said that he supports efforts to help the needy. He welcomed constituents to call his office at (718) 963-3141, or send him an email at: areynoso@council.nyc.gov, to express their concerns.

On behalf of State Senator Joe Addabbo, Neil Giannelli welcomed US Veterans and their families to call their main office at (718) 738-1111 to make a reservation for their Annual Veterans B-B-Q which will be held this Saturday, from 12 Noon to 3pm. In addition, he announced the following events:

1) On Sunday, Sept. 29th, the State Senator is co-sponsoring another recycling and paper shredding event in the Bandshell Parking Lot in Forest Park from 10am to 3pm. He said that Assemblymen Mike Miller and Andrew Hevesi will also co-sponsor this event. He welcomed everyone to participate.

2) On Tuesday, October 1st, from 10am to 2pm, Resorts World Casino will host an Annual Job Fair where 120 vendors will be present to interview and hire prospective employees for retail, sales and government jobs. Mr. Giannelli reported that the Senator has been working hard to reverse National Grid's policy of denying service to any customers who had requested temporary shut-offs in order to complete renovations on their

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 18, 2019

property. He advised anyone who's experiencing this problem to call the Public Service Commission, and welcomed calls to their office at (718) 497-1630 for more information.

On behalf of Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, Alexa Arrechi announced that their office, in partnership with the Consulate General of the Bahamas to New York, is hosting a relief drive for communities that have been affected by Hurricane Dorian. Items needed include: water, soups/spaghetti, noodles, mackerel, sardines, Vienna sausage, tuna, crackers, grits, rice, assorted cookies, bread, peanut butter, jams, soap, Vaseline, detergent, wipes, pampers, PediaSure, juice, baby formula and powdered or evaporated milk. She welcomed donations delivered to their office at 70-50 Austin Street, Suite 118, in Forest Hills.

On behalf of NYS Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, Mark Papish announced that in cooperation with NYLAG, they are sponsoring a free legal assistance event on Friday, October 11th at Our Lady of Hope. He said that prior appointments are required and requested that anyone interested in this event contact their office at (718) 651-3185 to make an appointment.

On behalf of Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Alison Cummings announced that the Assemblywoman is sponsoring a State Resource Fair from 10am to 12 Noon on Thursday, October 3rd in Sunnyside Community Services Center located at 43-31 39 Street, in Queens. Copies of their newsletter was distributed.

On behalf of Assemblyman Michael Miller, Christine Stoll announced a free Narcan Training program for constituents on Tuesday night, September 24th. She said pre-registration is required. Anyone interested in registering should call their office at (718) 805-0950. In addition, she said that anyone seeking a free mammogram screening should call their office to make an appointment for Tuesday, September 24th when the Mobile Mammography Unit will be stationed in front of their office at 83-91 Woodhaven Boulevard, Queens.

MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's Board Meeting conducted on July 10, 2019. Carmen Santana said that she had asked about the status of a liquor license application at 68-38 Forest Avenue in Ridgewood because there are several small stores on the ground floor of this corner building, including a bar, but she could not find the building's certificate of occupancy. The Board Chairperson replied that she should contact the staff in the Board office to follow up on complaints. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion to amend the minutes as proposed, by Walter Clayton, and seconded by Brian Dooley.

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 10, 2019. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) **4 Caminos Mexican Restaurant Corp.** 67-22 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) Conneely & Quinn Inc. d/b/a **Glenlo Tavern** 64-16/18 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) C&Q on Myrtle Inc. d/b/a **Celtic Gasthaus** 64-04 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 3) ***Super Pollo Rest, Inc.** 865 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **Fresh Pond Tavern Inc.** 68-69 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 5) **East Coast Burgers Inc.** 53-21 Metropolitan Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 6) **The Bad Old Days** 1684 Woodbine Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 7) Grove Productions LLC d/b/a **Nowadays** 56-06 Cooper Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 18, 2019

- 8) Dromore West d/b/a **Tee Dee's Tavern** 64-31 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 9) Joseph R. Felle d/b/a **Anchor Inn** 59-30 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 10) Bozena Olcan d/b/a **I.O. Café** 793 Fairview Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

New Wine and/or Beer License

- 1) **Mr. Thai Inc.** 57-42 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Fontana Pizzeria Inc.** 65-26 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 3) Fatima Restaurant Corp. d/b/a **New Estrella Del Mar Restaurant** 552 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) **Sakura 7 Queens Inc.** 65-54 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 2) **La Flor Del Paraiso Restaurant Corp.** 1715 Cornelia Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **La Oficina Bar Corp.** 859 Wyckoff Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) * JCM Pizza Ltd. d/b/a **Corato Pizza II** 60-91 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 5) Janus New York Inc. d/b/a **Billy's Marketplace** 870 Cypress Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 6) **Maca Restaurant Inc.** 62-12 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY 11374
- 7) **Jin Noodle Inc.** 66-41 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 8) * **Phillies Pizzeria II Inc.** 74-02 Eliot Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 9) E Chiban Asian Inc. d/b/a **E Chiban Sushi Japanese Restaurant** 66-47 Fresh Pond Rd, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 10) ***Manor_Oktoberfest Inc.** 80-28 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 11) *Leone's Pizzeria & Restaurant Inc. d/b/a **Biagio's Trattoria** 84-02 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 12) Corp. to be formed by David Kornbluth d/b/a **Onderdonk & Son's** 566 Onderdonk Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Corporate Change/Alterations/Other

- 1) **While in Kathmandu** at 758 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood notified us of their intention to submit a "Method of Operation Change" to the State Liquor Authority for live acoustic jazz and traditional folk music to be performed in their establishment.
- 2) **Chicken Soup & Rice LLC d/b/a Sundown Bar** at 68-38 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood will be submitting a "Method of Operation Change" application to the NYS Liquor Authority for use of the basement, increasing the number of seats by 35 (total of 79), adding two bathrooms, a bar with seating for 6, a platform, sound booth and a change in the stairwell to the basement to allow public access to the space. They also intend to provide live jazz and traditional music, excluding loud electronic rock music, poetry readings and performances 5 nights a week.
- 3) **Borja's Deli Grocery Corp.** 55-33 69 Street, Maspeth will be submitting an application to the NYS Liquor Authority to renew their existing Deli Grocery Store License.

* Indicates Outdoor Area

Kathy Masi asked why the New Estrella Del Mar Restaurant is applying for a new liquor license, when they just applied to renew their liquor license in July. The Board Chairperson said that we report the notifications that the Board receives each month.

Mike Liendo asked why the Community Board requests that businesses close at 2am. The Board Chairperson replied that several years ago, the Board initiated a policy to request that bar and restaurant owners sign a stipulation stating their intention to close at 2am on four nights of the week, whenever they apply for a new license, or to renew their existing license. He said that, over the past few years, the incidence of late night brawls and fights on the street outside bars throughout the precinct has significantly declined.

Mr. Liendo said that Nowadays at 56-06 Cooper Avenue remains open for business on Friday nights until 5am or 6am on Saturday mornings. The Board Chairperson requested that complaints be reported to staff in the Board 5 office during normal business hours.

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 18, 2019

Demolition Notices

The Board Chairperson reported that the Board received the following demolition notices since our last Board Meeting on July 10th: **71-50 71 Street** – interior demolition, **in Glendale**; **61-12 56 Road** – residential garage at rear lot line; and **58-98 54 Street** – full demolition of 2-story residence, **in Maspeth**; **19-02, 19-08 Flushing Avenue and 19-01 Troutman Street** – full demolition of commercial garages, **in Ridgewood**.

The Chairperson asked that anyone with questions or comments about any of these locations to please contact the Board Office at (718) 366-1834.

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

District Manager Gary Giordano reported that the Dept. of Transportation recently completed street resurfacing on Fresh Pond Road between Metropolitan Avenue and Myrtle Avenue, Forest Avenue between Metropolitan Avenue and Myrtle Avenue, and Myrtle Avenue between Cooper Avenue and Woodhaven Boulevard. He said that he requested night time resurfacing on these commercial strips in order to avoid disrupting traffic flow and commercial business operations.

Regarding the application for a new liquor license at 68-38 Forest Avenue, he reported that he wrote a letter to the State Liquor Authority stating that to his knowledge, the space that the applicant refers to as a “basement” is in fact a “cellar.”

Carmen Santana commented that patrons leave this bar at 2am or 3am on weekends. She said that the ground floor looks like a row of garages that have been converted into bars. She also said that there are more and more double-parked cars in the area now, and asked if there's a limit to the number of bars that are permitted on one block. The District Manager replied that no more than 3 establishments are permitted within a 500' radius.

The District Manager reported that earlier this month, Amanda Nasner, the Queens Borough Director of the Dept. of Homeless Services, advised him that they are planning to establish two Homeless Shelter Residences in the Board 5 area: one at 78-16 Cooper Avenue in Glendale for 200 adult homeless men, planned for opening in early 2020, and a second one for 132 homeless families located at 1616 Summerfield Street in Ridgewood, planned for opening in 2021. The following week, both he and the Board Chairperson were invited to attend a meeting in City Hall to meet with City officials, local elected officials and representatives of WestHab, a non-profit service provider that was selected to operate both facilities. He said that the population in the facility at 78-16 Cooper Avenue facility will be made up of homeless men who are either currently employed or employable. In addition to housing these men, they plan to provide job training and placement services, as well as medical attention and social services to meet their needs. He said that they plan to hire 46 security personnel on three shifts around the clock and the installation 75 cameras on premises. He said that their clients will be required to leave their rooms by 10am daily, but will not have to leave the facility, and they will have to observe a 10pm curfew at night. He said that their expectation is that their clients would be living in the proposed facility for a minimum of 9 months, which means that it should be categorized as a residential facility.

Mr. Giordano reported that to his knowledge, 240 homeless people whose last known residence was located in our Board area were identified in the shelter system. The District Manager said that in his opinion, this type of facility adds the equivalent of one-two residential blocks at a single site which is out-of-character with the surrounding community of one and two family homes in Glendale.

The District Manager reminded everyone that over the past 6 years, the Dept. of Buildings disapproved the plans to convert this site into a homeless shelter several times. However, due to the Citywide Zoning Text Amendment that was adopted by the City last December, it's questionable whether the same reasoning is still applicable in this case. He said that the Glendale Middle Village Coalition plans to seek legal action to oppose the creation of the proposed shelter at 78-16 Cooper Avenue.

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 18, 2019

In order to allow public comment on this proposal, the Community Board will conduct a Public Hearing regarding the Planned Homeless Shelter Residence at 78-16 Cooper Avenue, on October 7th at 7:30pm in the Auditorium of Christ the King High School. He welcomed everyone to attend, but cautioned that no placards, posters or other public displays would be permitted inside the school facility during the Public Hearing.

In response to a statement by Mr. Giordano regarding the disrespect he cited at the CB5Q Public Hearing regarding the City using the Holiday Inn Express, in Maspeth, to house homeless men, Jerry Drake commented that the City finally stopped placing homeless men there because Maspeth residents rallied and protested outside the hotel and in front of private homes of City officials, and the owner of the hotel won a lawsuit to stop this placement.

Maryann Lattanzio said that local residents also filed a lawsuit against the City and won their case in court.

Kathy Masi, a member of the Glendale Middle Village Coalition, asked about the qualifications of WestHab, the nonprofit service provider that was selected to operate the proposed shelter at 78-16 Cooper Avenue. She said that, to her knowledge, they have no experience providing job training and placement services on this scale. She also stated that, based on the State's Multiple Dwelling Law, the site at 78-16 Cooper Avenue in Glendale cannot accommodate 200 residents.

Ms. Masi also said that she was recently informed that both Level 1 and Level 2 Sex Offenders who were homeless could be admitted to this proposed homeless shelter. She said that's unacceptable.

The Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri replied that the Board would take all of her comments under advisement.

Carmen Santana said that if Board members object to the proposed homeless shelters, they should propose a different solution. She urged Board members to support the creation of more affordable housing units throughout the City.

Lee Rottenberg recommended that Board members watch a recently released video, titled "Seattle is Dying" that demonstrates how they successfully dealt with their homeless crisis. He urged everyone to support Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi's Bill to provide rent subsidies for low-income families and individuals to prevent them from being evicted.

Crystal Wolfe said that there are as many solutions to the homeless crisis as there are causes. She said that one of the most frequent causes of eviction is domestic violence. She encouraged everyone to read her book on the subject.

The Board Chairperson thanked everyone for their input.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks Services Committee

Steven Fiedler

Steven Fiedler reported

Steven Fiedler announced that Frank Principe Park is now open to the public. He said that the contractor is currently working to address some remaining punch list items under this contract.

He said that work on the new running track and exercise equipment planned for Juniper Valley Park is expected to begin this month.

Regarding the capital improvement project at Rosemary's Playground, he said that this project is currently underway.

Mr. Fiedler reported that the new Forest Park Entrance in the vicinity of Union Turnpike is fully funded with additional allocations from the Queens Borough President and Council Member Holden. He said that the project is still in design at this time.

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez reported that on Wednesday, September 4th, the committee conducted a Public Hearing on the Site Selection and Toxic Clean-Up for the Proposed Animal Care and Control Shelter on land located at 151

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 18, 2019

Woodward Avenue. He said that the hearing was conducted at 7:30pm in the Knockdown Center, 52-19 Flushing Avenue, in Maspeth, with about 20 people in attendance.

He said that representatives from the Animal Care and Control Center were on hand to give a power point presentation regarding their plans to remediate this site, along with site plans and architectural renderings. He said that he forwarded copies of the presentation to Board members earlier today.

There were no objections to the proposed plans to accommodate 70 dogs and 100 cats in the new facility, he said. However, in light of the capacity of this shelter, he said that the committee requested that noise abatement be included in the acoustical design of the shelter, and that new street trees be planted in the sidewalk around this site to improve the surrounding environment to the greatest extent possible.

He said that the address of the new building on this site is 1902-1908 Flushing Avenue, in Ridgewood.

The Board Chairperson opened the floor to questions and comments.

Maryann Lattanzio asked if the new facility would be a "no kill" shelter. Mr. Sanchez replied that representatives from Animal Care and Control said that is their policy.

As there were no further questions from the floor, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the motion on the floor which carried unanimously by a vote of -39- in favor; -0- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee

John Maier

John Maier, Co-Chair of the Public Transit Services Committee, reported that the committee met on Tuesday, August 20th, in the Board office to review the status of the Kosciuszko Bridge construction project, which is slated to open to the public ahead of schedule this year. He said that the committee also reviewed the Dept. of Transportation's proposal for a Dedicated Bus Lane on the southbound side of Fresh Pond Road from Bleecker Street to Putnam Avenue, between the hours of 3pm and 7pm. In connection with this project, the committee seeks a full analysis of retiming the signal systems on Fresh Pond Road from Metropolitan Avenue to Myrtle Avenue, in Ridgewood. He said that the committee continues to review many traffic safety requests at their monthly meetings. He announced that the next committee meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Tuesday, September 24th, 2019.

Census 2020 Committee

Crystal Wolfe

Crystal Wolfe reported that Phase 1 of the US Census will start with preliminary surveys being mailed out to random local residents this year. She said that it's very important to return the surveys within six weeks. She explained that whenever there's an undercount in the City's population, our area loses representation in Congress as well as Millions of dollars in federal funding for projects and services, including bridges, roadways, public transportation, hospitals and other essential services. She said that every person counts in the Census. She said that committee members are targeting the hard-to-reach population, including children under 5 years old, single people and immigrants.

She welcomed volunteers to help get out the word on the upcoming Census and to assist those who may need help with completing their surveys.

Ken Rehberger said that he attended a workshop on Census 2020 where he was informed that the Queens Borough President plans to mail letters out to local residents this year to encourage them to participate in Census 2020. He said that an on-line Census will be available in 59 languages in the City.

The Board Chairperson urged everyone to participate in the upcoming Census because New York City was drastically undercounted in the year 2010, the last time the Census was taken.

Environmental Services Committee

Brian Dooley

Brian Dooley reported that he just learned about work that will begin soon on the installation of a huge sewer system in the area of Calamus Avenue and 70 Street, extending south to the Long Island Expressway in Maspeth.

Minutes of CB5Q Board Meeting on September 18, 2019

He said that the plans include the installation of a 96" sewer main at a depth of 70 feet underground, at an estimated cost of \$101 Million.

The Board Chairperson pointed out that in Community Board 7, they are doubling the capacity of the underground holding tanks in the sewer system as part of a new project that is currently underway there.

Old and New Business

Paul Kerzner recommended that the Special Committee re: Homeless Issues adopt many of the same recommendations regarding the proposed homeless shelter residence at 78-16 Cooper Avenue in Glendale. Dmytro Fedkowskyj replied that when the Special Committee met with representatives of the Dept. of Homeless Services several years ago, a number of specific recommendations were made about how to most effectively reduce homelessness throughout the City, particularly by siting smaller shelters.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Board Chairperson Arcuri adjourned the public meeting of Community Board 5, Queens on a motion from the floor at 9:37pm.