



Community Board No. 5

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

Gary Giordano
District Manager

Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting November 8, 2017

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Peter Comber; Deborah Cox; Patricia Crowley; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Patricia Grayson; Mohan Gyawali-Chhetri ; Robert Holden; Paul A. Kerzner; John J. Killcommons; Kathleen Knight; Edward Lettau; Maryann Lattanzio; John Maier; Katherine Masi; Margaret O’Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Theodore M. Renz; Kelvin Rodriguez; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; David Sands; Connie Santos; Christopher Sperrazza; Barbara Toscano; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Henry Cross; Brian Dooley; Angela Giovannello; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoefflerle; Michael LoCascio; Lydia Martinez; Eileen Moloney; Michael O’Kane; Carmen Santana; Lorraine Sculli; Catherine Sumsky ; Patrick J. Trinchese

Elected Officials

NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr, 15th SD & Staff Neil Giannelli
NYS Assembly Member Brian Barnwell, 30th AD & Staff Meredith Wittmann
Don Capalbi – US Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D.
Julio Salazar – US Representative Nydia Velazquez, 7th C.D.
Angel Diaz – NYS Senator Michael Gianaris, 18th SD
David Renz – NYS Assembly Member Catherine T. Nolan, 37 AD
Samantha King - NYS Assembly Member Michael Miller, 38th AD
Barney Chow – NYC First Lady Chirlane McCray – Thrive NYC
Elaine Fan – NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
Stacey Eliuk – NYC Public Advocate Letitia James
Boris Santos – NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, 34th CD

Staff Present

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

GUESTS

Stephen Sheehan, Lorenzo Antigua and James Fuchs – Probationary Police Officers at the 104th Police Precinct
Nicholas and Lukas Mezc, members of Scout Troop 427 of St. Pancras School in Glendale

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Board Chairman 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:

PUBLIC FORUM

Grisselle De Frank, a Ridgewood resident, spoke in favor of proposed legislation that is currently under consideration in the State Legislature that would curb food waste by commercial and educational institutions in New York State. She estimated that the State could save billions of dollars each year by redistributing food that would otherwise be wasted by local restaurants, supermarkets, schools instead of paying to haul it off and dump it into landfills every year. For more information on this legislation, she asked everyone to contact State Senator Thomas O'Mara, the Environmental Committee Chair, or State Senator Joe Addabbo, a committee member.

Richard Huber spoke against the proliferation of bike lanes, pedestrian plazas and Select Bus Service lanes in the city. He objected to these measures being implemented because they impede the flow of traffic wherever they exist. He also objected to the excessive amount of taxpayer dollars that are spent on these types of projects, for example, painting the sidewalk and pavement green so it looks like a park. He predicted that the traffic-calming measures that were recently implemented on Woodhaven Boulevard will result in more traffic congestion on local streets, primarily caused by drivers who find a 'short cut' through our community.

Belkis Caicedo and Ioan Sita, the owners of 1879 Putnam Avenue in Ridgewood, requested the Board's approval for the installation of new windows in this 6-family house. Mr. Caicedo said that the Dept. of Buildings disapproved his plans to install replacement windows in this building because the new windows do not meet the Landmarks Preservation Commission's specifications. He said that the owner was not aware that his property was landmarked by the City in 2009. He demonstrated a model of the new windows. The Board Chairman pointed out that Ridgewood contains the largest historic district on the Eastern Coast of the United States. He referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for consideration.

Crystal Wolfe announced that the drive to collect toiletries for distribution to homeless individuals will begin this coming Friday night, from 7pm to 10pm, at St. Mary Winfield Catholic Church, at 70-31 48 Avenue, in Woodside. The drive will continue on the following day, Saturday, from 3pm to 6pm. In closing, she invited everyone to attend an official book-signing ceremony for her book, **Our Invisible Neighbors**, about the crisis in homelessness in NYC, on Friday night, December 15th in St. Sebastian's Parish Center, located at 39-60 57 Street, in Woodside. She said that copies of her book are available on Amazon.com for \$20.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

The Board Chairman invited local elected officials and their staff to address the Board.

On behalf of the City's First Lady Chirlane McCray, Barney Chow announced that in 2015, Mayor Bill de Blasio initiated a plan of action, known as Thrive NYC, which was developed with experts, providers and community organizations, to guide the city toward a more effective mental health system. He emphasized the need to act early to prevent mental breakdowns, and to intervene more quickly to provide New Yorkers with access to care. For example, he cited the statistic that 41% of adult New Yorkers with a serious mental illness said that they needed treatment at some point in the past year, but they either did not receive it or delayed getting help with their problem. He said that he is interested in working to develop partnerships with local senior centers, the Crime Victims Advocate Program in local police precincts, and local community organizations. He looked forward to working with members of the Community Board and local organizations to improve coordination of mental health services. For more information about this new initiative, he said to call their office at 1-888-NYC-WELL.

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On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Joe Nocerino announced that Community Board membership applications are available on-line at www.queensbp.org. He pointed out that all Board members are required to reapply every 2 years. He welcomed all interested parties to apply this year.

In addition, Mr. Nocerino reported that this past weekend, he worked with volunteers to clean up two local parks. He said that at Mafera Park, they collected 21 bags full of leaves, litter and debris; and at Grover Cleveland Park, they collected 61 bags full of leaves and litter. In addition, they planted a total of 525 daffodil bulbs in commemoration of the World Trade Center Disaster in 2001. He thanked everyone for their participation in these park cleanups. For more information, anyone interested in volunteering at either one of these parks may contact their office at: info@queensbp.org.

On behalf of U.S. Representative Nydia Velazquez, Julio Salazar reported that their office has been working closely with the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Small Business Services and FEMA to provide emergency assistance to the residents of Puerto Rico, in the aftermath of the devastation caused by hurricanes this Fall. He said that the Congresswoman has sponsored new legislation in the House, The Protecting Americans from Gun Violence Act, authorizing the Center for Disease Control to conduct research on the incidence of gun violence in our country, to be funded by a \$1 tax on all gun purchases in the U.S. He said that this legislation would codify common sense gun control measures on a federal level, and ensure a guaranteed funding stream to implement them. He said that the Congresswoman is strongly opposed to the proposed Tax Reform Bill in the House, which would either phase out or eliminate tax deductions for many working poor and middle income residents in NYC. For more information, he welcomed calls to their office at 266 Broadway, in Brooklyn, (718) 599-3651.

On behalf of U.S. Representative Grace Meng, Don Capalbi announced that the Congresswoman has been working to expedite the federal government's recovery efforts in Puerto Rico in response to this year's hurricanes. He said that the Congresswoman also opposes the proposed Tax Reform Bill in the House because it would cut personal medical deductions, in addition to eliminating mortgage interest deductions for home owners.

State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He also announced that the Metro Card van will be stationed in front of the Stop and Shop Supermarket on Myrtle Avenue at 65 Street, in Glendale from 1pm to 3pm on Wednesday, November 29th, 2017 in order to accommodate the needs of seniors and disabled residents who wish to apply for a new card or to replace their card. He also reported that during their Semi-Annual Recycling Event in Forest Park at the end of September this year, they collected 14.6 tons of recycling materials from local residents. He said that a total of 164 tons of recycling material has been removed from the City's waste stream since the first recycling event that he and Assemblyman Mike Miller hosted there 6 years ago. He announced that their next Recycling Event is scheduled for Sunday, April 29th, 2018 in the parking lot at the Bandshell in Forest Park. There was a general round of applause.

On behalf of State Senator Michael Gianaris, Angel Diaz wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He welcomed calls for assistance from their constituents to their office, located at 31-19 Newtown Avenue, in Astoria, (718) 728-0960.

State Assemblyman Brian Barnwell wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He announced that he is sponsoring a Coat Drive, and donations for a Turkey Drive will be accepted at his district office located at 55-19 69 Street in Maspeth. He said that all of the turkeys that are dropped off at their office will be donated to City Harvest. He said that he was happy to report that the Department of Transportation plans to install new safety measures on the LIE Westbound Service Road on the 69th Street Exit Ramp where a fatal accident had occurred this year. He

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welcomed calls for information and assistance from constituents to his office at (718) 651-3185. Flyers were distributed.

On behalf of NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Boris Santos wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He thanked everyone for their input in this year's Participatory Budgeting process.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Mike Miller, Samantha King wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. She welcomed constituents to contact their office at 83-91 Woodhaven Blvd by calling (718) 805-0950.

On behalf of State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, David Renz invited everyone to attend the upcoming State Fair from 10am to 12 Noon on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at Sunnyside Community Services, located at 43-31 39 Street, in Queens. She said that local residents will have an opportunity to meet with representatives of local city and state agencies and obtain information on a variety of issues. For more information, please call their office at (718) 784-3194. Flyers were distributed.

On behalf of NYC Public Advocate Letitia James, Stacey Eliuk thanked everyone for their support in re-electing the Public Advocate this week. She reported that their office recently published their annual list of the City's Worst 100 Landlords, and they are currently working to expedite the necessary repairs in the buildings that they own.

On behalf of City Comptroller Scott Stringer, Elaine Fan wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. She welcomed calls for assistance to their office at 1 Centre Street, in Manhattan, at (212) 669-3748, or messages via email at efan@comptroller.nyc.gov. Flyers were distributed.

P.O. Charles Sadler, of the Community Affairs Unit of the 104th Precinct, reported that a suspect, who allegedly was flashing young girls who live in Ridgewood during the past two months, was apprehended by police earlier today. He thanked everyone for their help in identifying the suspect. He also reported that as part of "Operation Move It or Lose It," 16 vehicles were recently towed off the street, another 16 vehicles were booted, and a total of 157 commercial vehicles were tagged for removal by the Night Hawks in the Traffic Enforcement Division during the last 2 months.

Officer Sadler introduced the Probationary Police Officers who were recently assigned to foot patrol in the 104th Police Precinct as Stephen Sheehan, Lorenzo Antigua and James Fuchs.

The Board Chairman recognized members of the Press Corps who were present at the meeting: Anthony Giudice of the Ridgewood Times, Christopher Barca of the Queens Chronicle and Benjamin Fang of the Queens Ledger. He introduced the District Manager Gary Giordano, and staff members Catherine O'Leary and Laura Mulvihill.

MINUTES

The Board Chairman asked Board members to review the minutes of the October 11, 2017 Board Meeting. The minutes were approved by acclamation, on a motion to accept them, as written, by Walter Sanchez and seconded by Walter Clayton.

LIQUOR, WINE and BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS and RENEWALS

The Board Chairman read aloud the list of establishments in the Community Board 5 area that are in the process of applying for liquor, wine and beer licenses since the last monthly Board Meeting on October 11, 2017. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) Bermeo Food Corp. d/b/a *El Manaba Restaurant* 341 St. Nicholas Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

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Liquor License Renewals

- 1) Inbing Inc. d/b/a **Chasers** 60-63 & 60-64 Flushing Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 2) **The Woodhaven House** 63-98 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY 11374
- 3) *5 Times Champs Inc. d/b/a **Courtside Lounge** 69-08 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385

New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

None Reported

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) Maspeth Food Corp. d/b/a **Angelo's Pizza** 57-64 Maspeth Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 2) Pollos a la Brasa Pio Pio Inc. d/b/a **Pio Pio** 62-30 Woodhaven Blvd. Rego Park, NY 11374
- 3) E Chiban Asian Inc. d/b/a **E-Chiban Sushi Japanese Restaurant** 66-47 Fresh Pond Rd, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **Exotic Seafood Inc.** 62-27 Fresh Pond Rd, Middle Village, NY 11379

**Indicates Outdoor Area*

Demolition and Construction Notices

The Board Chairman reported that the Board received the following demolition notice since last month's Board Meeting: demolition by hand of 2-family home at **64-14 Perry Avenue, in Maspeth**. The Board Chairman asked Board members to remain vigilant and to advise the Board 5 staff about any questionable construction work in the Board area, so they can investigate further.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Gary Giordano

District Manager Gary Giordano announced that the Department of Sanitation will begin collecting household garbage on the Winter Schedule next Monday to ensure that the Department will have the capability to respond effectively to snow and/or ice conditions around the clock. He said that during the Snow Season, the timing of household garbage collections may change temporarily in response to any snow alerts that may be issued. The two shift changes are 4pm to 12 Midnight, and 12 Midnight to 8am. The regular day shift starts are 6am. He said that the Department's Snow Schedule lasts through the end of April.

The District Manager also informed the Board that during this month's Public Hearing of the State Liquor Authority, the Knockdown Center was issued a liquor license that permits no more than 20 events on premises annually, with a maximum accommodation of 3,100 patrons, and a limit of 1,800 patrons per event through the rest of the year.

Peter Comber asked if there is any way to appeal this decision. The Board Chairman pointed out that Community Boards are notified about the State Liquor Authority's schedule of Public Hearings as a courtesy. He reminded him that Community Boards are Advisory Boards that have no standing to appear in court.

Regarding the Calamus Avenue water and sewer main project, the District Manager reported that C.A.C. Industries is currently working on sewer repairs on Calamus Avenue between 69 Street and 74 Street, in Maspeth. He said that the same contractor, C.A.C. Industries, is also working on the water and sewer main replacement project in the vicinity of Penelope Avenue and 74 Street. The contractor plans to begin working on 74 Street between Juniper Boulevard South and Juniper Valley Road very soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez reported the committee met in the Board 5 office on Monday, November 6th, to discuss the request from the owner of 1879 Putnam Avenue in Ridgewood for a waiver of the Landmarks Preservation Commission's objections to their plans to install new windows in this building. He said that after reviewing the request, the majority of committee members voted in favor of sending a Letter or No Objection to the NYC

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Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding the installation of new windows at this address in response to the building owner's request.

The Board Chairman opened the floor to questions and comments on this matter.

Paul Kerzner objected to issuing a Letter of No Objection in this case without prior consultation with the Landmarks Preservation Commission. He said that when he contacted their staff today, he was informed that this matter is still pending review by the commissioners. Peggy O'Kane supported his position.

After a general review of the recommendation, Kathy Masi made a motion to table the matter, which was seconded by John Maier.

The Board Chairman requested a voice vote on the tabling motion, which carried.

Mr. Sanchez also reported that the committee reviewed requests to rezone Ridgewood, he said that the committee unanimously recommends in favor of reclassifying the R4 districts as R3-2 districts, and reclassifying R5B districts as R4B districts, and reclassifying R6B districts as R5B districts, in order to protect the existing residential character of the surrounding community.

Regarding the existing M1-4D and M1-1 zoning districts in Ridgewood, Mr. Sanchez said that, in addition, committee members voted in favor of reclassifying the industrial area in Ridgewood as an M-X district with the provision for allowing residential development on floors above manufacturing uses.

Mr. Sanchez explained that in most cases, the present zoning would allow the height of buildings and the number of units to increase, which could increase the population by as much as 60 percent. The overcrowding, strain on infrastructure, schools, parking, and neighborhood ambience must be stopped in order to preserve the quality of life in Ridgewood. Handouts were distributed to all Board members.

The Board Chairman opened the floor to questions and comments on the committee recommendation.

On a point of clarification, Edward Lettau asked if the recommendation pertains just to new construction.

Mr. Sanchez said that this recommendation would apply to all of the properties that are located in the applicable zoning districts. The Board Chairman said that he did not agree with the premise of this recommendation because property owners should be permitted to build housing developments wherever they are determined to be feasible.

As there was no further discussion on the matter, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the recommendation, which carried by a vote of – 32 – in favor; - 1 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and -0 – not voting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE HOMELESS ISSUES

Dmytro Fedkowskyj

Dmytro Fedkowskyj reported that committee members met with Amanda Nasner, the Queens Director in the Office of External Affairs of the NYC Dept. of Homeless Services (DHS), last Wednesday, November 1st, in Christ the King High School's cafeteria. He reminded everyone that her position was created to help bridge community relations with the Department of Homeless Services and Community Boards while the Mayor rolls out his plan "Turning the Tides on Homelessness" to deal with the homeless crisis by 2023.

Mr. Fedkowskyj said that the committee had recently asked if a shelter site has been identified for CB5 and was informed that: "At this time, no site has been identified in the CB5 area. Communities will be the first to know as new sites are identified. Communities also have input in site selection by identifying viable sites that not-for-profit providers can propose to us through the open-ended RFP procurement process."

At the committee meeting, he said that Ms. Nasner was asked to provide DHS's requirements of the minimums and maximums of a shelter enrollment that would house homeless clients. The committee wanted to better

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understand how low enrollments could be for DHS to create a shelter if one is needed within a community. He said that the matter of scale is of great concern to the committee. He explained that it would be hard for any Community Board to understand scale limits without understanding the type of client enrollment and the DHS allowable scale size of a shelter. The type of client enrollment ranges from single males and females to families with and without children.

Mr. Fedkowskyj said that the committee also requested an update on the current homeless population by type within CB5. He said that committee members want to know the total count of homeless individuals, whether it's 100 clients or 300 clients. He said that the committee cannot be proactive in meeting the need, without a full understanding of the current situation.

In closing, he said that the committee finalized its outline for the CB5 position paper and the members present will be working on certain sections for its first draft for the next committee meeting, which is scheduled for Dec 6th at Christ the King. We are hopeful to present the position paper to the full board for January's meeting.

Transportation & Public Transit Services Committee

Toby Bloch

Toby Bloch, Committee Co-chair, reported that the committee met with Deputy Borough Commissioner Jason Banrey on Tuesday, November 21 in the Board 5 office to review the status of the Select Bus Service project on Woodhaven Boulevard, as well as several capital improvement projects that are currently underway in the Board 5 area.

He said that the current traffic restrictions at the intersection of Union Turnpike at Woodhaven Boulevard are only temporary in order to ensure the safety of workers who are constructing the Select Bus Service median at this intersection. He said that while construction of the stops for the Select Bus Service is underway, traffic patterns will be disrupted at and near this intersection.

Regarding the recent traffic safety requests for 88 Street between Myrtle Avenue and Cooper Avenue, in Glendale, he reported that the committee recommended several traffic safety measures in that vicinity and directed the District Manager to send the appropriate correspondence to the Queens Borough Commissioner of the Department of Transportation.

Regarding work on the emergency bridge deck replacement project on Metropolitan Avenue at Fresh Pond Road, over the LIRR tracks, he said that this project is behind schedule now. It is not expected to be complete by the completion date in January of 2018.

Kathy Masi said that the Select Bus Service is not needed on a 24x7 basis. She said that the restrictions on these bus lanes should be limited to morning and evening rush hours. Mr. Bloch said that the committee will continue to monitor this situation and make recommendations accordingly.

Old and New Business

The Board Chairman welcomed everyone to enjoy the Glendale Kiwanis Club's 32nd Annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, November 26th, from 8am to 12 Noon, in St. Pancras School Hall at 68-20 Myrtle Avenue in Glendale. He said the proceeds from this event will be earmarked to benefit children in our community.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Board Chairman Arcuri adjourned the public meeting of Community Board 5, Queens on a motion from the floor at 9:10pm.