



Vincent Arcuri, Jr.  
*Chairperson*

## Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens  
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale  
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Gary Giordano  
*District Manager*

### Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting October 11, 2017

#### Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Robert Cermeli; Peter Comber; Deborah Cox; Henry Cross; Patricia Crowley; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Patricia Grayson; Mohan Gyawali-Chhetri ; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoefflerle; Robert Holden; Paul A. Kerzner; John J. Killcommons; Edward Lettau; John Maier; Lydia Martinez; Margaret O’Kane; Michael O’Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Theodore M. Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; David Sands; Carmen Santana; Christopher Sperrazza; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Maryanna Zero

#### Board Members Absent

Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Brian Dooley; Angela Giovannello; Kathleen Knight; Maryann Lattanzio; Michael LoCascio; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Kelvin Rodriguez; Connie Santos; Lorraine Sciulli; Catherine Sumsky

#### Elected Officials

NYS Assembly Member Brian Barnwell, 30th AD  
NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, 30th CD and Staff Tiffany Card  
Don Capalbi – US Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D.  
Julio Salazar – US Representative Nydia Velazquez, 7<sup>th</sup> C.D.  
Neil Giannelli - NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr, 15th SD  
Kevin Wisniewski – NYS Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, 28<sup>th</sup> AD  
Alison Cummings – NYS Assembly Member Catherine T. Nolan, 37 AD  
Ricki Rodriguez - NYS Assembly Member Michael Miller, 38th AD  
Boris Santos – NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, 34<sup>th</sup> 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 – 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Affairs Unit

#### GUESTS

Tyrone Ford – LaGuardia Community College  
Frederick A. Becker, Attorney-at-Law, 122 E. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10168  
Crystal Wolfe - Catering for the Homeless, Maspeth, NY  
Katlyn LaChance, Jarai Ross, Diamond Falcon, and Daniel Mailen – Fashion Industries HS students  
Mario Matos – Community Liaison for Maspeth High School

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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:

### **PRESENTATION      Re: Young Adult Internship Program of LaGuardia Community College**

By Tyrone Ford, Counselor

Tyrone Ford, a Counselor for the Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP), explained that this program offers a paid internship for NYC youth ages 16 to 24 years old, who are not currently employed, not enrolled in school, and not intending to return to school in the next three months.

Mr. Ford said that this program offers participants 3 weeks of paid orientation, 11 weeks of paid internship, job counseling, and work readiness training. He said that during the course of their internship, participants are enrolled in workshops in each of the following areas: academic/technology readiness; business etiquette; career development; financial literacy; healthy living; and leadership development. As part of their internship, during the 11<sup>th</sup> week of the program, participants are enrolled in an Employer/Trainee Workshop where they are exposed to a variety of occupational opportunities. In addition, members of the YAIP staff are assigned to follow-up with YAIP graduates for at least 9 months after completing their internship, in order to provide each individual with further professional guidance to pursue their career goals.

Mr. Ford said that by exposing applicants to a college environment, offering them professional guidance in preparing a job resume and applying for academic or vocational training programs, the YAIP program has enabled most graduates to turn their lives around.

After he finished speaking, he offered to answer questions on a one-on-one basis, regarding the goals of the YAIP program and their enrollment procedure. Flyers were distributed.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Adrian Jones, Branch Manager and Business Development Officer of First Central Savings Bank, at 58-02 Myrtle Avenue, on the corner of Centre Street in Ridgewood, said that his branch has budgeted \$55 Million in funding that is targeted for local economic development. He said that he is very interested in meeting with members of local business associations, civic and community leaders, to discuss their ideas and plans for the future development of this neighborhood. He welcomed calls to his branch office of First Central Savings Bank at (718) 366-8008, and extended an open invitation to meet with him to discuss their package of financial products.

Justin Carter, co-owner of NOWADAYS, a beer garden located at 56-06 Cooper Avenue in Ridgewood, said that their outdoor season is almost over now, and that they plan to move indoors in a few weeks, into newly renovated space on the ground floor of the former factory on this site. In response to a question from the floor, he said that they don't plan to provide parking accommodations for their patrons.

Crystal Wolfe informed everyone that, in addition to working with Catering for the Homeless to provide donated meals to homeless individuals and families throughout the city, she plans to collect toiletries for distribution to homeless people, as well. She said that volunteers at St. Sebastian's School will prepare packages of toiletries to give to homeless individuals, on Friday night, November 10<sup>th</sup>, from 7pm to 10pm, and on the following day from 3pm to 6pm, on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. In closing, she introduced her close friend Geri, who was featured in her new book, **The Invisible Among Us**, and announced that with the help of some friends and donations to a GoFundMe page that she had set up for her, Geri was able to find, furnish and move into an apartment in the neighborhood this past month. There was a general round of applause.

Esha Mahadeo, Outreach Coordinator of the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), explained that the CCRB investigates and mediates complaints from the public about misconduct by NYPD officers. She said that their agency is independent and impartial, and is not staffed by the Police Department. She gave a breakdown of the four types of complaints that the CCRB investigates: 1) excessive use of force; 2) abuse of authority; 3)

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discourtesy; and 4) offensive language. She pointed out that in the 104th Precinct, 25 complaints have been filed by members of the public so far this year, with 2 complaints filed during the past month. For more information on complaint statistics and their agency's reports, she encouraged everyone to visit the CCRB's website: [www.nyc.gov/ccrb](http://www.nyc.gov/ccrb).

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Vincent Arcuri, Jr.**

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

NYC Council Member Elizabeth Crowley said that she was happy to report that 5 of the Board's top 10 Budget Priorities are fully-funded this year. She said that the projects include: Phase 2 of Improvements to the Ridgewood Reservoir and surrounding area in Highland Park; the Rehabilitation of the Glendale Public Library; New Street Tree Plantings; Juniper Valley Park's new Track and Soccer Field; and the redesign and reconstruction of the sewer system in the vicinity of 77 Avenue in Eastern Glendale, which is now part of the City's 10-Year Capital Plan, and budgeted to cost \$43 Million.

Council Member Crowley also reported that renovation of the hockey rinks in both Juniper Valley Park and Mafera Park is slated to begin this Fall. She also said that the reconstruction of Rosemary's Playground in Ridgewood is currently in design. Regarding the rehabilitation of Frank Principe Park, she said that this project is slated to begin next month.

The Council Member reported that she supports the requests from several Board members regarding their ideas to rezone portions of Ridgewood, in order to retain the character of their neighborhood. She also supports requests from Maspeth and Middle Village residents to consider re-zoning certain residential areas in their neighborhoods, in order to protect them from over-development. She pointed out that the City Council is currently considering new legislation to require that the City Planning Commission issue a special permit before a site that is located in an Industrial Business Zone could be used as a hotel and/or a storage facility.

Regarding the issue of homelessness, the Council Member said that the City Council is currently considering legislation requiring the City to enter into contracts with property owners, not service providers, to provide shelter for homeless people. She explained that under the proposed legislation, property owners could be assessed damages for any or all life safety violations that are not resolved in a timely manner. She said that this legislation would go a long way to reducing the waste, fraud and abuse that surrounds the shelter system throughout the city.

In closing, Council Member Crowley invited everyone to participate in the free Electronic Recycling Event that she is sponsoring this coming Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm in the Maspeth Federal Savings Bank's parking lot, located at 56-18 69 Street, in Maspeth. She also welcomed everyone to visit the NYC Animal Care and Control's Mobile Pet Adoption Event at the same time, same place on Saturday afternoon. Flyers were distributed. She urged everyone to vote this coming Election Day, on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

On behalf of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Joe Nocerino announced that there will be a Parent Advisory Board Meeting and High School Fair tomorrow night, October 12<sup>th</sup>, from 5pm to 8pm in Room 218 of Queens Borough Hall, at 120-55 Queens Boulevard, in Kew Gardens. He said that representatives from 26 Public High Schools will be present to answer questions and give advice about the high school admission process and their criteria for admission. He welcomed all interested parties to attend.

In addition, Mr. Nocerino announced that their office is coordinating volunteer clean ups in two local parks in the Board 5 area: 1) in Mafera Park, located at Shaler Avenue and 65 Place, from 9am to 12 Noon on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>; and 2) in Grover Cleveland Park, on Stanhope Street and Grandview Avenue, from 9am to 12 Noon on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. For more information, anyone interested in volunteering at either one of these parks may contact their office at: [info@queensbp.org](mailto:info@queensbp.org).

Mr. Nocerino also announced that the Queens Borough President is now accepting applications from college and high school students who have an interest in public service to apply for an internship for the upcoming sessions:

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the Fall of 2017, Spring of 2018 and Summer of 2018. For more information, please email him directly at [jnocerino@queensbp.org](mailto:jnocerino@queensbp.org). Flyers were distributed.

On behalf of U.S. Representative Nydia Velazquez, Julio Salazar introduced himself as the new Community Liaison on staff. He informed everyone that the Congresswoman is sponsoring new legislation, 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 also welcomed everyone to attend the Ridgewood Health Resource Fair next Wednesday, October 18th, from 4:30pm to 7:00pm in PS 305, located at 378 Seneca Avenue, in Ridgewood. Flyers were distributed.

On behalf of U.S. Representative Grace Meng, Don Capalbi announced that a representative from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will be at their main district office to meet with local veterans and/or their beneficiaries to address their questions or concerns between the hours of 10am and 4:30pm on Wednesday, November 8th, 2017. Their office is located at 40-13 159th Street in Flushing. He said that all appointments to meet with a VA representative must be made at least four days in advance, by calling their office at (718) 358-6364.

Regarding the "App" competition that is being sponsored by Congresswoman Meng, he said that the deadline for middle and high school students to enter their designs for computer applications into this competition has been extended until November 1st, 2017.

On behalf of NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Boris Santos announced their next Participatory Budgeting Session on how to spend \$1 Million to improve the quality of life in the district will be held at 12 Noon on Sunday, October 15th, in St. Matthias School Cafeteria, located at 58-19 Catalpa Avenue, in Ridgewood.

On behalf of State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Neil Giannelli reported that on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 125 American Veterans were treated to their annual B-B-Q for Veterans at the Howard Beach Motor Boat Club at 59 Russell Street. He also reported that over 150 vendors hired approximately 200 job applicants at the Job Fair that was held at the Resorts World Casino at 110-00 Rockaway Blvd, in South Ozone Park, last Friday, October 6th, 2017. In closing, he reminded everyone that this Friday, October 13th is the deadline for voter registration this year.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Mike Miller, Ricki Rodriguez announced that they are sponsoring a Free Health Event from 11am to 2pm on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at EMU Health Center, 83-40 Woodhaven Blvd, in Glendale. For more information and to set up an appointment, he welcomed constituents to contact their office at 83-91 Woodhaven Blvd by calling (718) 805-0950. Flyers were distributed.

On behalf of State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Alison Cummings announced that from 11am to 1pm on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, they will hold Mobile Office hours in the Ridgewood Older Adult Center, located at 59-14 70 Avenue, in Ridgewood to give local residents an opportunity to discuss their concerns directly to the Assemblywoman. For more information, please call their office at (718) 784-3194.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, Kevin Wisniewski introduced himself as the Deputy Chief of Staff in the Assemblyman's office. He welcomed calls for assistance to the district office, located at 70-50 Austin Street, in Forest Hills, at (718) 263-5595.

State Assemblyman Brian Barnwell announced that he is sponsoring a local Science Fair for 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Graders in his district this Fall. He said that there will be an open competition among entrants to construct a scientific

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experiment, record the results, and give their presentation at the fair. The date, time and location of the Science Fair has not been determined yet, he said. Flyers were distributed.

The Assemblyman said that he and his staff will be conducting a Coat Drive and a Turkey Drive again this Fall. He welcomed calls for information and assistance from constituents to his office located at 55-19 69 Street, by calling (718) 651-3185.

P.O. Charles Sadler, of the Community Affairs Unit of the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct, personally thanked everyone who participated in this year's annual Relay for Life, which was sponsored by the American Cancer Society on the weekend of June 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the running track in Juniper Valley Park. He said that thousands of people contributed over \$250,000 in donations for cancer research this year, which made it the most successful Relay for Life event ever held at Juniper Valley Park.

The Board Chairman recognized members of the Press Corps who were present at the meeting: Anthony Giudice of the Ridgewood Times, Jon Cronin of the Queens Tribune, and Benjamin Fang of the Queens Ledger.

He introduced the District Manager Gary Giordano, and staff members Catherine O'Leary and Laura Mulvihill.

The Board Chairman announced that the Veterans Day Committee will host their annual Veterans Day Parade in Middle Village on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. He said that the parade will kick off at 12 Noon at 80 Street and Metropolitan Avenue and head west along Metropolitan Avenue to Christ the King High School, near 69 Street.

He invited Board members to march together behind Queens Community Board 5's banner.

### **MINUTES**

The Board Chairman asked Board members to review the minutes of the September 13, 2017 Board Meeting.

The minutes were approved by acclamation, on a motion to accept them, as written, by Walter Sanchez and seconded by Lee Rottenberg.

### **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 September 13, 2017.

Each Board member received a copy of the list.

#### **New Liquor Licenses**

- 1) Mattbeth Artisan Foods LLC d/b/a **Grill 66** 75-01 88 Street, Glendale, NY 11385  
(formerly **ROOM 55**)
- 2) **Hungry Burrito Tacos Inc.** 811 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

#### **Liquor License Renewals**

- 1) Bozena Olcan d/b/a **I.O. Café** 793 Fairview Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) The Corner Venture Ltd. d/b/a **The Live Oak** 59-93 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385

#### **New Wine and/or Beer Licenses**

- 1) **Balcon de Quito Restaurant Inc.** 666 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Restaurant Malecon Corp.** 55-33 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

#### **Wine and/or Beer License Renewals**

- 1) **Chiquita's Restaurant LLC** 60-59 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Dallas Coffee Shop Inc.** 68-64 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **Manor Oktoberfest Inc.** 80-26 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Level
- 4) **\*Phillie's Pizzeria II Inc.** 74-22 Eliot Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379

\*Indicates Outdoor Area

#### **Proposed Alteration**

**Poppers Locano LLC** 1563 Decatur Street - Basement, in Ridgewood, NY 11385 notified us of their intention to apply to the NYS Liquor Authority to alter their license, to include additional space behind the bar for expanded seating accommodations, and report a Corporate Change of LLC member Marc Arfus Greenwood who is leaving the business.

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### Demolition and Construction Notices

The Board Chairman reported that the Board received the following demolition notices since last month's Board Meeting: the partial demolition of 1-family home at **71-09 Penelope Avenue, in Middle Village**, where building alteration plans were approved for interior renovations and a horizontal extension on first floor rear; full demolition of 1-story home at **78-36 67 Drive, in Middle Village**; full demolition of 1-story home, rear building and 2 garages at **73-19 and 73-21 68 Avenue, in Middle Village**; and full demolition of 1-story brick warehouse at **16-61 Summerfield Street, in Ridgewood**, where construction plans were approved to build a 5-story residential building with 28 housing units, including off-street parking for 14 vehicles, and 16 bicycles. 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.

The Board Chairman reported that the Executive Committee met last month, to discuss the budget surveys and recommend a list of budget priorities for the coming fiscal year. He said that the FY 2019 Budget Surveys were distributed to all Board members and the results were tabulated by staff upon receipt since last month. He said that copies of the Capital Budget Survey results were distributed to all Board members for their review and vote at tonight's Board Meeting.

He gave the floor to the District Manager Gary Giordano who explained that the Executive Committee is recommending a total of 36 Capital Budget Priorities for submission to the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget this year. He said that the maximum number of Expense Budget Priorities per Community Board is limited to 25 Budget Items each year.

The District Manager read aloud the list of recommendations for the FY 2019 Capital Budget Priorities of Community Board 5, Queens, as follows:

1. Redesign and Reconstruct Sewer System in Portions of CB5Q Area Having Worst Flooding
2. Reconstruct Deteriorated Catch Basins and Provide New Catch Basins and in CB5Q Area
3. Make Capital Improvements to Improve Pedestrian and Vehicle Safety on Grand Avenue at 69th Street, at Grand Avenue/LIE Eastbound Service Road, and at the 69 Street/LIE Service Road Intersections in Maspeth
4. Evaluate the Structural Condition of the Elevated Portions of the "M" Train Line in the CB5Q Area, Perform Repairs, Abate Lead and Paint the Structure
5. Provide New Street Tree Plantings, and Provide Funding for Stump Removals, Planting of Replacement Trees and Street Tree Removals
6. Rehabilitate Ridgewood Reservoir – Phase 2 and the Surrounding Area, including Portions of Highland Park
7. Rehabilitate Glendale Branch Library
8. Repower Polluting Stage Zero Freight Engines Hauling NYC Municipal Waste Through CB5Q
9. Reconstruct Edsall Avenue from 71<sup>st</sup> Place to 73<sup>rd</sup> Place in Glendale
10. Provide Replacement of the Synthetic Turf Ballfield and the Running Track at the West End of Juniper Valley Park
11. Construct New School Space, Where Needed, including a new high school at 78-16 Cooper Avenue, in the CB5Q Area
12. Reconstruct South Middle Village Streets
13. Reconstruct Sidewalks, Curbs and Pedestrian Ramps along Myrtle Avenue, from Fresh Pond Road to Wyckoff Avenue, in Ridgewood
14. Reconstruct Dry Harbor Playground - Phase II to Also Include Nearby Tunnel and Pathways
15. Construct an Athletic Field at the DEP Newtown Creek Aeration Facility Property
16. Continue Comprehensive Study of the Sewer System, in CB5Q and Throughout Queens County, Considering Flooding Problems and Anticipated Future Growth
17. Reconstruct Wyckoff Avenue from Flushing Avenue to Cooper Avenue in Ridgewood
18. Reconstruct Soft Surface Ball Fields, Jogging Path and Add Security Lighting at Francis J. Principe Park (formerly Maurice Park)
19. Extend Street/Roadway Widening along the south side of Metropolitan Avenue, from

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Woodhaven Blvd to Aubrey Avenue in Glendale

20. Improve Children's Play Area and Reconstruct Softball Field Area at Rosemary's Playground
21. Replace Existing Bridge at Grand Avenue, over Newtown Creek in Maspeth
22. Reconstruct Fresh Pond Road from Myrtle Avenue to Eliot Avenue and Provide Traffic Facilitation Improvements
23. Reconstruct DeKalb Avenue, Halsey Street & Jefferson Street BMT-L Train Stations
24. Establish a Community/Recreational Center at a Site in Maspeth
25. Improve Myrtle Ave Commercial Strip from Fresh Pond Road to 82<sup>nd</sup> Street in Glendale
26. Reconstruct LIRR and 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue Bridge Abutments above the Cooper Avenue Underpass; and Paint the LIRR Bridge
27. Reconstruct Palmetto Street between St. Nicholas Ave and Seneca Ave, and between Onderdonk Avenue and Forest Avenue, in Ridgewood
28. Provide a New Elevator for the I.S. 93 Main School Building
29. Reconstruct 75th Street from Eliot Avenue to Juniper Boulevard North in Middle Village
30. Reconstruct and Widen the East Sidewalk along the 80th Street Bridge, over the LIRR
31. Rehabilitate 104th Police Precinct Interior
32. Reconstruct Evergreen Park Playground – Phase 2
33. Provide Funding for the Establishment of a Dog Run in CB5Q
34. Provide Toilet Facility in Area of Juniper Valley Park bordered by 80 St, Dry Harbor Rd, Juniper Blvd North, and Juniper Blvd South
35. Provide Decorative Lighting and Restore Deteriorated Curbing Along Fred Haller's Union Turnpike Mall (Myrtle Avenue to Woodhaven Boulevard) in Glendale
36. Provide funding for Historic Restoration of St. Saviour's Church

The District Manager pointed out that the Reconstruction of the Metropolitan Avenue Bridge Over LIRR Montauk Line at Fresh Pond Road would be submitted to the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget as a budget request for continuing support. He explained that the Board's top priority on the Budget Survey results is the budget item with the lowest number in the left hand column, and so on.

Lee Rottenberg asked if the resurfacing of 80 Street could be added to the list of Capital Budget Priorities. The Board Chairman replied that street resurfacing requests do not meet the criteria for major capital improvements. The District Manager replied that the Transportation Committee's request that 80 Street be resurfaced this year, between Caldwell Avenue and the Queens Midtown Expressway, was pulled from the Board's list of repaving requests by the Dept. of Transportation because it was already on their Trench Restoration Project List.

Jerry Drake asked why the request for funding for the Historic Restoration of St. Saviour's Church is still listed as one of the Board's Capital Budget Priorities, even though the structure was torn down during the 1990's. The Board Chairman replied that it's conceivable that an elected official may decide to fund this project, or the Queens Historical Society may be interested in fund-raising efforts to restore the structure.

As there were no further questions or comments on the matter, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee's recommendation which carried unanimously by a vote of – 33 - in favor; -0- opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

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

1. Assign Additional Personnel for the 104<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct Patrol Force
2. Provide Field Workers for the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations
3. Hire Inspectors and Plan Examiners, in Sufficient Numbers, to Cope with Illegal Uses of Property and Questionable Construction
4. Provide Sanitation Department Cleaning Personnel to Clean Illegal Dumping and for Litter Basket

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### Collection

5. Provide Funding for Educational and Recreational Programs for Children and Teens
6. Provide Funding for Fire Department Services
7. Provide Needed Services for Senior Citizens
8. Provide More Frequent Garbage and Recycling Pick-up for Schools and Institutions
9. Allocate Funds for the Operation and Enhancement of the Division of Forestry in Queens
10. Provide Sufficient Personnel for Traffic Safety Inspections, Sign Installations, Pavement Markings and Sign Manufacturing
11. Fund Additional Street Maintenance for Queens Roadways
12. Provide Six-Day-a-Week Service at Local Libraries
13. Increase the Number of Sanitation Police and Enforcement Agents, Especially in Plain Clothes, to Significantly Reduce Excessive Abuse of Litter Baskets and Illegal Dumping
14. Assign Sufficient Personnel for Maintenance of Parks in District 5, Queens
15. Provide Funding for Rental Assistance Programs to Combat Homelessness
16. Allocate Funding for Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development Services
17. Hire Traffic Control Agents, School Crossing Guards and Additional School Safety Officers
18. Hire Additional Personnel for Pest Control to Combat the Enormous Rat Population in our City
19. Continue Funding of the Ridgewood Family Health Center
20. Hire Operations Staff for the Bureau of Wastewater Pollution Control
21. Hire Forestry Personnel
22. Provide Funds for Tools and Equipment for Local Fire Department Personnel and for Fire Prevention Program Supplies
23. Fund a Bureau of Child Welfare Satellite Office in Queens
24. Improve Arterial Highway Cleaning and Maintenance
25. Increase Funding for Community Consultant Contracts

As there were no questions or comments about this list of budget recommendations, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee's recommendation which carried unanimously by a vote of – 33 - in favor; - 0 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

In closing, the District Manager said that the Board's Capital and Expense Budget recommendations will be submitted to the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, on or before October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The Board Chairman thanked everyone for their participation in the annual budget process.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Zoning & Land Use Review**

#### **Walter Sanchez**

Walter Sanchez reported that the committee met in the Board 5 office on Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, to discuss and review several zoning cases on the agenda, as well as to consider several proposals to re-zone certain areas of the Board 5 area.

Mr. Sanchez said that the committee discussed at length proposals to re-zone sections of the Board 5 area that are most at risk of overdevelopment. He said that the first proposal involves the proposed rezoning of the commercial strip along Fresh Pond Road from Myrtle Avenue to Metropolitan Avenue in Ridgewood. He gave the floor to Margaret O'Kane to explain the committee's recommendation in detail.

Several photos of new buildings were displayed that were built as-of-right in Ridgewood, under the existing zoning designation of R5B, with a commercial overlay of C1-4, C2-4, and C2-2. She reported that Fresh Pond Road is a convenience shopping district. She said that it is mostly made up of 3-story buildings, with some 4-story structures, that have ground floor retail uses. The committee recommends changing the existing combination of commercial overlay of C1-4, C2-4, and C2-2 zones, with all C4-1 classifications. She said that the



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committee also recommends that all residential districts that lie within 100 feet of both sides of Fresh Pond Road be re-zoned to R5B, with a maximum height limit of 33 feet.

Furthermore, Ms. O’Kane reported that the committee recommends:

- That the residential portion of Ridgewood, that lies east of Fresh Pond Road and is presently zoned R5B, should be re-zoned to an R4B district; and
- That the residential portion of Ridgewood, that lies east of Fresh Pond Road and is presently zoned R6B should be re-zoned to an R5B district; and
- That the residential portion of Ridgewood, that lies west of Fresh Pond Road and is presently zoned R5B should be re-zoned an R4B district.

After considerable discussion, Ms. O’Kane made a motion to table the motion on the floor, which was seconded by Carmen Santana. The Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the tabling motion which failed by a vote of – 15 – in favor; - 18 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

The Board Chairman then requested a Roll Call vote on the committee recommendation, as presented, which carried by a vote of – 25 – in favor; - 8 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 0 - not voting.

Walter Sanchez reported that the Myrtle Avenue shopping corridor between Fresh Pond Road and Wyckoff Avenue serves as a regional shopping area for neighboring communities. He said that it is mainly characterized by attached 3-story buildings that are built to the lot line and are occupied either completely by commercial uses or by a mix of residential and commercial uses.

He said that there are currently three different zoning districts on the shopping district:

- C4-3 on Myrtle Avenue between Wyckoff Avenue and St. Nicholas Avenue, and from Madison Street to Gates Avenue
- C4-3A on Myrtle Avenue between St. Nicholas Avenue and Forest Avenue (on the north side of Myrtle Avenue)
- C1-4 and C2-4 on Myrtle Avenue between Forest Avenue and Fresh Pond Road (on the south side of Myrtle Avenue)

He gave the floor to Theodore Renz, Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District, to explain the details of the committee’s recommendation to re-zone this area.

Mr. Renz said that the committee recommends changing the C4-3 zoning designation, along Myrtle Avenue between Wyckoff Avenue and St. Nicholas Avenue and from Madison Street to Gates Avenue, to a C4-3A contextual zoning designation. He explained that the proposed rezoning would affect the area that is adjacent to the Ridgewood Terminal, a multi-modal transit hub, where 6 bus lines terminate or pass through, and a major stop on the L and M train lines. In addition, the C4-3A district would be enhanced by the establishment of a Special Purpose District that contiguous with the Myrtle Avenue BID district, he said.

Mr. Renz said that the creation of a Special Purpose District in this area would preserve the mixed-use residential character of the buildings in this commercial corridor, where 345 local businesses are located.

He said that the general goals of the proposed Special Purpose District would be to:

- Ensure that the form of new buildings is compatible with and relates to the as-built character of the Ridgewood neighborhood;
- Preserve, protect and promote the special character of Myrtle Avenue as a regional shopping destination;
- Support a broad and vibrant mix of commercial and residential uses throughout the Special Purpose District;
- Enhance the pedestrian setting of Myrtle Avenue through appropriate ground floor uses and structural requirements.

Mr. Renz pointed out that the Forest Hills Business Improvement District was recently designated a Special Purpose District.

The Board Chairman opened the floor to questions and comments.

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Robert Cermeli asked whether the proposed zoning designation would conflict with Mayor's Housing New York Plan that would target areas located within a half mile of public transit hubs for the development of affordable housing units. Paul Kerzner replied that the Community Board is permitted to advocate for the adoption of zoning changes on a local level which would supercede the citywide guidelines of the Mayor's Housing New York Plan.

As there was no further discussion on this matter, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the committee recommendation which carried by a vote of – 26 – in favor; - 7 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and -0 – not voting.

Regarding **BSA Application # 97-07 BZ II for 80-16 Cooper Avenue**, Mr. Sanchez described the case as an Application to the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals by the Law Office of Frederick A. Becker on behalf of Atlas Park LLC, the owner of record, to extend the term of a Special Permit, for a 10-year term, to allow the continued operation of a physical culture establishment, to amend the hours of operation and to request a waiver of the Rules of Practice for a late filing by TSI Glendale LLC, doing business as **New York Sports Club**, located at **80-16 Cooper Avenue** (Block: 3810; Lot: 50) in Glendale, Queens, NY, in an M1-1 Zoning District. He said that the committee members had no questions or concerns about this application after the public hearing on this matter that was held during last month's Board Meeting.

Mr. Sanchez said that the committee has no objection to this application for an extension of the Special Permit for another 10 year term, and to amend their hours of operation, as submitted.

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

Regarding **BSA Application Cal No 2017-148 BZ for the property located at 64-25 Central Avenue**, Mr. Sanchez described the case as an application to the NY City Board of Standards and Appeals by Kris Kozlowski, Architect, on behalf of 64-25 Central Avenue LLC, the owner of record, for a Special Permit , under Sections 73-03, 73-44 and 44-21 of the Zoning Resolution, to develop a medical diagnostic and treatment facility, including the addition of a second story and a provision for 21 indoor parking spaces, instead of the 42 spaces required as per the zoning text, on the first floor at 64-25 Central Avenue (B 3641; L 18), in Glendale, Queens, NY, in an M1-1 Zoning District.

Mr. Sanchez said that committee members expressed their reservations about the lack of sufficient parking accommodations for the number of patients that are anticipated at the proposed diagnostic treatment facility at this site. He pointed out that most of the surrounding area is residential, with rows of attached 2-story houses on the side streets north of Central Avenue. Mr. Sanchez questioned the validity of the parking survey performed as part of this application, since committee members surveying the area found very little on-street parking available. For this reason, he said that the committee recommends opposing this request to grant a Special Permit for the proposed facility at this location.

The Board Chairman opened the floor to questions and comments.

John Maier said that generally, a health facility is looked on a lot more favorably than other commercial uses. The Board Chairman pointed out that the building has been vacant for several years. The owner is currently in the process of negotiating a lease agreement with medical professionals who are affiliated with Wyckoff Heights Medical Center (WHMC). He explained that in his position as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of WHMC, he is familiar with the on-going discussions regarding this property.

After a general discussion of the matter, the Board Chairman requested a Roll Call vote on the committee recommendation to oppose the granting of a Special Permit in this case, which carried by a vote of - 29 – in favor; - 2 – opposed; - 0 – abstentions; and – 2 – not voting.

Mr. Sanchez said the committee will continue to investigate reports about overdevelopment in the Board 5 area.

## **Education and Youth Services Planning Committee**

### **Patricia Grayson**

Patricia Grayson, Chairperson of the Education Committee, reported that the combined committee meeting of the Education Committee with the Youth Services Planning Committee was held on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> in the Board 5 office. She said that Dmytro Fedkowskyj, who serves as co-president of Community School District 24's Community Education Council, reported to the committee members that CEC 24's primary concern is the continuing need for more classroom space in some areas of the school district. He explained that while capital budget funding is available to construct additional schools or classroom additions, sites are needed. He said that the School Construction Authority plans to build a new school addition at PS 128 in the coming year, on Juniper Boulevard South at 69 Street, which will eliminate half of the school playground.

Regarding CEC 24's recent traffic and pedestrian safety survey, Mr. Fedkowskyj reported to the committee that 25 of 44 Principals responded to the survey that was distributed to all schools in the district this year. He said that their questionnaire included requests for School Crossing Guards, Crosswalk Markings, Signage, and Speed Bumps. He said that the City's budget for School Crossing Guards has been increased, so that additional Crossing Guards could be hired and assigned by the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct to cover more schools.

Ms. Grayson said that the committee will request information on what criteria is used to determine where School Crossing Guards can be assigned. Mr. Fedkowskyj said that all of their requests for new signage and crosswalk markings in the vicinity of local schools were forwarded to Jason Banrey, the Deputy Queens Borough Commissioner of the NYC Dept. of Transportation. He said that he requested that the crosswalk markings be installed prior to Winter this year.

At the committee meeting, Mr. Fedkowskyj announced that there are two vacancies on CEC24's Board, one of which has to be filled by the parent of an English Language Learner student. Regarding the Free Lunch for All program in local public schools, Mr. Fedkowskyj reported to committee members that this new initiative is being fully implemented this school year. Lydia Martinez pointed out to the committee that school students are still required to complete applications for the Free Lunch Program.

Ms. Grayson announced that Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina plans to attend the Town Hall Event at P.S. 199, located at 39-20 48 Avenue, in Long Island City, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on Thursday, October 19, sponsored by the Community Education Council of School District 24.

Ms. Grayson also reported that the committee addressed a complaint about disruptive behavior by students who attend IS 93 in Ridgewood, when they visit the Ridgewood Library after school. The committee reported the matter to the School Principal at IS 93, who assigned several teachers to monitor their student's behavior in the library on a rotating basis.

Ms. Grayson said that the committee also discussed the need for additional after school programs in our district. She said that while members of several organizations are willing to volunteer their time to supervise local youth groups, the problem is finding enough space. She pointed out that there is a significant cost to utilizing public schools in the evening.

In closing, Ms. Grayson announced that their next committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

## **Library Services Committee**

### **Sarah Feldman**

Sarah Feldman reported that the committee met with representatives of the Queens Borough Library's Central Division on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, in the Board 5 office.

Regarding the Maspeth Public Library, she reported that committee members discussed the problems caused by leaks in the roof of this one-story building. She said that when it rains, certain sections of the library have to be closed off, due to the leaking roof.

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Regarding the rehabilitation of the Glendale Library, Ms. Feldman said that this project is slated to begin in early 2018. For the duration of the project, a Book Mobile will be stationed outside the Library a few days a week to accommodate local residents.

### **Transportation & Public Transit Services Committee**

#### **Vincent Arcuri**

John Maier, Committee Co-chair, reported that the committee met on Tuesday, September 19 in the Board 5 office to review the status of several capital improvement projects that are currently underway in the Board 5 area.

He reported that work on the emergency bridge deck replacement project on Metropolitan Avenue at Fresh Pond Road, over the LIRR tracks, is behind schedule now. With the completion of the M train trestle bridge replacement, the contractor is expected to begin working on top of the bridge within the next week. The contractor will install the concrete barrier in the middle of the Metropolitan Avenue roadway, thereby reducing traffic to one lane in each direction.

Mr. Maier said that the committee has requested that crossing guards be assigned to assist pedestrians in crossing safely at the intersection of Metropolitan Avenue and Fresh Pond Road.

Regarding the Kosciuszko Bridge Replacement project, Mr. Maier reported that the contractor plans to implode both approaches to the old bridge soon. He said that the bridge would be closed to traffic in both directions for an entire weekend, while this work is underway.

Regarding the plans for the Wyckoff Avenue Reconstruction Project, from Myrtle Avenue to Cooper Avenue, he reported that the design for this project is expected to be completed by the Summer of 2018. He said that this project could start in the Spring of 2019, and be completed in the Spring of 2021.

Mr. Maier reported that the Dept. of Transportation is conducting a traffic study in the vicinity of 78 Avenue and Cypress Hills Street in Liberty Park, due to the number of traffic accidents that have been reported in the past few years.

He reported that the Dept. of Transportation has begun milling local streets in the Board 5 area this month, in preparation for resurfacing in the near future.

Peggy O'Kane said that there's a continuing problem with grid lock at the intersection of Union Turnpike and Woodhaven Boulevard. She asked what is causing it. Mr. Maier replied that the Dept. of Transportation has reconfigured the traffic lanes at this intersection temporarily, in order to accommodate the current Select Bus Service island construction on Woodhaven Boulevard.

Fred Haller agreed that there has been a serious problem with grid lock at that intersection for the past 2 weeks. Toby Bloch replied that while construction of the stops for the Select Bus Service is underway, traffic patterns will be disrupted at this intersection.

### **Old and New Business**

Peggy O'Kane welcomed everyone to enjoy an International Feast at St. Matthias Church in Ridgewood, starting at 12 Noon this Sunday.

Lee Rottenberg announced that the East Coast Car Show will be held in the Bandshell Parking Lot area of Forest Park on Sunday afternoon.

Fred Haller announced that Sacred Heart School will host a Taste of Glendale from 6pm to 8pm this Saturday night, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available at the door for \$25 per person, he said.

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 9:48pm.