



Vincent Arcuri, Jr.  
*Chairperson*

## Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens  
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Gary Giordano  
*District Manager*

### Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting

May 8, 2019

#### Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.; Antonetta Binanti; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Patricia Crowley; Brian Dooley; Jerry Drake; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Patricia Grayson; Mohan Gyawali-Ghhetri; Fred Haller; Fred Hoeffler; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; Mike Liendo; John Maier; Patricia Maltezos; Edgar Mantel; Kathy Masi; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Ken Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Carmen Santana; Connie Santos; Megan Tadio; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Michaeline Von Drathen; Crystal Wolfe; Nan Zhang

#### Board Members Absent

Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Michael O'Kane; Kelvin Rodriguez; Dennis Stephan; Cathy Sumsky; Maryanna Zero

#### Elected Officials

Joseph Nocerino - Queens Borough President  
Melinda Katz  
Alex Medina – Mayor Bill de Blasio  
Aneta Golaszewski – Office of the Comptroller, Scott Stringer  
Julio Salazar – US Congressional Representative  
Nydia Velazquez  
Cristian Romero – US Congressional Representative  
Grace Meng  
Alexa Arrechi – NYS Assemblyman  
Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD  
Steven Tarcuri - NYS Assemblyman  
Brian Barnwell, 30th AD  
Alison Cummings – NYS Assemblywoman  
Catherine Nolan, 37th AD

#### Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens  
Laura Mulvihill, Community Associate - CB5Q Staff  
P.O. Belish, P.O. Sanad - 104th Precinct Community Affairs Officers  
P.O. Lee, 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct Neighborhood Coordination Officer  
P.O. Singh, 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct Auxiliary

#### GUESTS

Kim Morales, CUNY Start (LaGuardia Community College)  
Stefania Sinnona – LaGuardia Community College  
Benjamin Fang, Queens Ledger  
Mark Hallum – Queens Courier  
David Russell – Queens Chronicle

Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:37pm, following the Salute to the Flag.

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### **PRESENTATION Re: CUNY Math Start Program at LaGuardia Community College by Kim Morales**

Ms. Morales addressed the Board and discussed how the rising cost of tuition is creating a debt crises, and the demands of the modern work place requiring a college degree. She provided a brief history of how CUNY has evolved, since offering tuition free education in 1947. She stated that: since 1976 the city colleges started to charge students, and her organization believes there is a way to provide free tuition. Ms. Morales said that: the CUNY Math Start program eliminates or minimizes the required remedial need that applicants to CUNY schools take an assessment test, and many are not proficient in reading, writing and math for college level work. This program is available to help. She noted that CUNY colleges charge up to \$2,400 for 12 units; remedial classes do not provide college credits, nor do they provide support to students in the classrooms which too often results in a cycle of repetition and failure; the rate of college remedial class success is 16%, and the rate of their program's success is 75%. According to Ms. Morales, Queensborough Community College has a Reading Start Program. Students can apply to these CUNY schools for free, through these programs and they will also receive a free MetroCard. Traditional remedial classes do not offer the same financial incentives, tutoring, dual support from a core and support instructor and they do not provide a strong advisory component.

Ms. Morales stated that the CUNY Match Start Program runs for 8 weeks, and provides an opportunity for any student, at any stage of life, to successfully enter college. Sarah Feldman asked how this program works for people with Math Disabilities. Ms. Morales replied that students should always seek resources that helps themselves and their unique needs; that they should register with the Office of Students with Disabilities, and their program will work in conjunction with that office. Ms. Feldman also asked if there was a focus on women in STEM as well, to which Ms. Morales replied that this is a pre-college program, and that there are many programs, events and workshops that focus on getting more STEM identified people. Carmen Santana said that when you enter CUNY, she believed that funding for remedial classes was more available to high school students. Ms. Morales said that usually financial aid pays for these remedial classes, although there are no college credits. Ms. Santana stressed that high schools should better prepare students for college, and questioned what academic support was given to special needs students. Ms. Morales reiterated that students have to self-report to the Office of Students with Disabilities. Bob Cermeli asked if the program was 8 weeks. Ms. Morales said it could be 8-12 weeks depending on the scheduling, and while traditional remedial classes are upwards from \$1,000, the Math Start Program is \$35, and the CUNY Start which is Reading, Writing and Math is \$75. She asked the Board to please spread the word about this program, and to call (718) 482-5137 or e-mail them at [mathstart@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:mathstart@lagcc.cuny.edu) for more information.

### **Public Forum**

Thony Reveio, a Ridgewood resident, said that during the past 5 years, there has been a big problem with homeless men on the corner of Forest Ave and Putnam Avenue. Problems he reports include fighting, drinking, feces and urine. He reported that they used to drink under the M Line. Now they are in a residential community. He said that: everyday there is an issue, including somebody picked up in an ambulance; the police respond to complaints regularly regarding these homeless men, but the problem continues to worsen. The other day he counted at least 16 men and they are becoming more aggressive. Chairman Arcuri referred him to the Community Affairs Officers present at the meeting, stating that Police Officers can only do what they are allowed to do, such as assess the situation and offer them help. Mr. Reveio stated that he observed Breaking Ground, a homeless outreach organization, offering help to these men, which they do not accept.

Ben Geremia reported that Council Member Holden will be hosting two spring festivals. One will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Rosemary's Playground between 12 and 3pm, and another one on May 25<sup>th</sup> which will include an NYPD rock wall.

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Maryann Lattanzio invited anyone interested to join the Friends of Maspeth Library, saying the cost is \$5 for a basic membership and \$25 for a Support Membership. She said that they will be conducting a Book Fair on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Martin Luther High School.

Geoffrey Elkind, President of the Ridgewood Property Owners & Civic Association, asked the Board's support to address filming pressures negatively affecting Ridgewood and neighboring communities in the CB5Q area. He said that recently the area bounded by Metropolitan Avenue and Myrtle Avenue, Forest Avenue and Fresh Pond Road has had numerous filming abuses, with Production companies putting up yellow no parking signs prior to receiving permits and exceeding their permits. Mr. Elkind said that the Mayor's Office sends a newsflash to the Community Boards, but it is sent a day or two before the shoot, yet the signs are going up before the permits are approved. He has been in contact with David Moy, Supervisor of Field Operations for the Office of Film, Theater and Broadcasting, but he reports that he has not come out to the community. He further said that: the scale, scope, and frequency of film shoots has increased in the past year; that, in the past month, 6 multi day film shoots have occurred in Ridgewood; and that the parking taken up is too often taken 24 hours prior to filming. He said a single day filming can be a 3 day disruption between putting up the no parking notices, the day of the actual shoot and then waiting for the film company to remove their vehicles and equipment. He reports that of the 10 disclosed film days, 22 days of parking were taken up, covering at least 22 blocks. He appealed to members of the Board to work with RPOCA to establish policy guidelines for more advance notification to the Community Board, elected officials and area neighbors affected.

Chairperson Arcuri stated that he has been working to get film companies to notify the Board further in advance of their filmings, and has recommended that they reduce the amount of parking taken away from the community and the number of hours. When there is only one day notice, Mr. Arcuri said he has asked the Mayor's Office of Film Production to hold off on allowing filming until we get more information. Mr. Elkind noted that Central Ward production has over reached recently, in that what they reported they were going to do is not what they did.

The Chairperson closed the Public Forum and announced the next item on the Agenda.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** **Vincent Arcuri, Jr.**

The Board Chairperson recognized the staff present, Gary Giordano and Laura Mulvihill, and then introduced Elected Officials' Representatives to address the Board.

Joe Nocerino, representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, distributed flyers regarding the Borough President's Annual Memorial Day Observance Ceremony, to be conducted on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 11am, in Queens Borough Hall. Lunch will be available for all attendees

Board Chairperson Arcuri introduced 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Affairs Officers Michael Berish and Asar Sanad. PO Michael Berish introduced PO Singh, Auxiliary Coordinator, and Middle Village Neighborhood Coordination Officer (NCO) Eugene Lee. He addressed the issue of the homeless men previously discussed in the Public forum, and said that the precinct is very aware of this issue. He stated that Police Officers often respond to complaints regarding these homeless men in Ridgewood, and have been dealing with the situation for years. Police Officer Berish further stated that the precinct does what they are allowed to do, and if the problem homeless men are arrested or hospitalized, they find their way back to the community. Staff of Breaking Ground, a homeless outreach organization, try to work with these men there regularly. He said they have done everything they are allowed to do based on department guidelines. Police Officer Berish recommends that residents call 911 if they see anything that requires reporting, and precinct Police Officers will respond.

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Police Officer Berish informed the Board that a new commanding officer, Capt. Victoria Perry, joined the 104<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct approximately two weeks ago. He said that Captain Perry was an Executive Officer in the 79 Precinct, in Brooklyn North; that Captain Perry is excited to be in Queens, and has gone to meet with numerous community leaders and there are more to meet; and has heard how well the community works with the Precinct. DI Mastronardi became the commanding officer of the 75 Precinct in Brooklyn North, where he started in his career.

Al Medina, representing the Mayor's Office, was promoting the Mayor's initiative Thrive NYC. Thrive NYC is the Mayor's initiative to combat the stigmas of mental health, and connect New Yorkers to the mental health services available in institutions and organizations. Mr. Medina said they are trying to build a bridge within the gaps to help people address stigmas not talked about, and help communities be creative in addressing mental health issues in the city. This weekend is a call to action amongst faith leaders, May 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Weekend of Faith for Mental Health". Mr. Medina said that they have reached out to faith leaders in all the boroughs, and also nationwide to incorporate mental health within their own faith community through meditation, homilies, and other means. He said there are toolkits available for stress and depression and how to incorporate Mental Health discussion in your own faith based community. He explained NYC Well is a free and accessible 24 hour peer to peer support line, available in different languages, that provides Mental Health Assistance available 24 hours by contacting 311 or 1(888) NYC Well (692-9355).

Aneta Golaszewski, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, said the Comptroller recently issued a report on playgrounds. She stated that: out of 100 large cities in America, we are ranked 48<sup>th</sup> in playgrounds per capita, or 2.4 per 10,000 residents; and that the most underserved communities include North Corona, Jackson Heights, Richmond Hill and Woodhaven. She invited anyone who would like more information to see her, and she said the reports she had included the Comptroller's recommendations for the Parks Department. She invited Board Members to the Comptroller's Roundtable, with Community Board 5, Queens and area community leaders, on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Community Meeting Room in Atlas Park, Glendale.

Julio Salazar, representing Congress Member Nydia Velazquez, said they are in the early stages of putting together a Census 2020 Community Roundtable with residents, which he will share with the entire Community Board. He thanked District Manager Gary Giordano for working with their office on making the intersection of Flushing Ave and Metropolitan Avenue a lot safer for drivers and pedestrians. Residents reported that there had been a lack of roadway markings at this intersection, causing significant safety risks and traffic jams. Mr. Salazar said that he contacted the District Manager, and he was able to resolve the matter.

Cristian Romero, representing Congress Member Grace Meng, invited anyone needing assistance with Veteran's issues to come to Congresswoman Meng's Office, on May 28 to meet with a representative from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The office phone number is 718-445-7861.

Alexa Arecchi, representing Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, invited everyone to attend the Austin Street Fair in Forest Hills on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> between 10am and 6pm. She also informed the Board that the Assembly Member's initiative, Home Stability Support, passed out of the Finance Committee of the State Senate, and they sincerely hope that State funding for this program, to address homelessness, will be allocated this year.

Steven Takouri, representing Assembly Member Brian Barnwell, advised the Board of two events coming up. The Department of Finance will conduct a homeowner and tenants event on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 2-5pm at the Big Six Towers Community Room, 59-15 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in Woodside. He said there will also be a mobile

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mammogram at the Broadway Library, from 2-5pm on May 30<sup>th</sup>. He welcomed constituents to call their office with any concerns at (718) 651-3185.

Alison Cummings, representing Assembly Member Catherine Nolan, said they will be conducting Mobile District Office hours over the next 4 months, and will be at the Ridgewood Library on Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 5-7pm.

Chairperson Arcuri thanked the members of the press corps in attendance, including Benjamin Fang of the Queens Ledger, Mark Hallum of the Queens Courier/Ridgewood Times and David Russell of the Queens Chronicle, for keeping the community well informed.

He invited Stefania Sinnona, a student from LaGuardia College to say hello to the Board.

### MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's Board Meeting conducted on April 10, 2019. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion by John Maier, and seconded by Walter Clayton.

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

#### New Liquor Licenses

- 1) **\*Night Restaurant LLC d/b/a Cream Ridgewood**, 59-09 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **I.O. Café Inc.**, 793 Fairview Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

#### Liquor License Renewals

- 1) **Brinker Restaurant Corp. d/b/a Chili's Grill & Bar**, 80-16 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 2) **R&B Restaurant Inc.**, 54-20 Flushing Avenue, Maspeth NY 11378
- 3) **Scorpion Café Sporting Social Club Corp. d/b/a Scorpion Café**, 792 Onderdonk Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **Connbro Tavern Corp. d/b/a Connolly's Corner**, 71-15/17/19 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

#### New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

- 1) **Las Viandas Corp.**, 61-02 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 2) **The City Diner Corp.**, 65-35 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

#### Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) **The Original Sal's Pizzeria Inc.**, 60-48 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood NY 11385
- 2) **Andrew & MJ Inc. d/b/a Andrew's Pizza**, 79-22 Eliot Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379
- 3) **5526 69<sup>th</sup> St. Corp d/b/a Rosa's Pizza**, 55-26 69<sup>th</sup> Street, Maspeth, NY 11378

#### Corporate Change/Alterations

- 1) **Coyote Bohemio Inc.**, 55-19 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, has notified us of their intention to file an application for a "class change" from a Beer and Wine License to a Full Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License.
- 2) **5103 Buildings Corp. d/b/a Knights of Columbus**, 79-03 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, has notified us that they will be submitting an application for a "Corporate Change". Charles Otero, who was their ABC (Liquor License) Officer, recently passed away and another member, who has not yet been confirmed will take over this position.
- 3) **Grint Deli Corp. d/b/a Matson's 1 Delicatessen**, 64-66 Dry Harbor Road, Middle Village has informed us of their intention to submit a renewal application to the NYS Liquor Authority for the renewal of their grocery store beer license.

\* Indicates Outdoor Area

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### **Demolition Notices**

The Board Chairperson reported that the Board received the following demolition notices since the last monthly Board Meeting on April 10, 2019: **55-15 Grand Avenue (2 buildings on site) in Maspeth; 10-62 Cypress Avenue and 63-57 Fresh Pond Road, in Ridgewood.**

### **District Manager's Report**

#### **Gary Giordano**

District Manager Giordano welcomed new Board Members. He acknowledged Deborah Cox, former Board Member at the meeting, and mentioned Toby Bloch. He informed the Board that there is a new Captain at the 104<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct that he had not yet met. He congratulated Deputy Inspector Mastronardi on his new post at the 75<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

He read aloud an e-mail from William Svilar, Chief Engineer of CAC Industries, the contractor for the Penelope Avenue Sewer Project (SEQ-0002693). Mr. Svilar is requesting the Board's endorsement to perform non-intrusive work on Saturdays when the opportunity presents itself. This would enable them to complete the subsurface quickly, and backfill and temporary pave trenches to re-open closed streets as soon as possible. Edgar Mantel thought that sounded like a regular work day. Patrick Trinchese said moving the project along to completion would be advisable. Mr. Giordano said there were two more sewer chambers to install. Chairperson Arcuri asked Board Members if they knew of any churches having 1<sup>st</sup> Communion, or any other events on Saturdays, to please inform staff at the Board office.

Mr. Giordano said that his goal, and that of the Transportation Committee, is to get major roadways in poor condition to be resurfaced at night. The milling of Myrtle Avenue, east of Cooper Avenue to 88<sup>th</sup> Street, has begun. He said that the N.Y. City Dept. of Transportation's Queens Street Maintenance Division does not consider Myrtle Avenue, from 76<sup>th</sup> Street to 79<sup>th</sup> Lane, in poor enough condition to warrant resurfacing. There was a commitment to resurface Fresh Pond Road from the Myrtle Avenue to the Bridge on Metropolitan Avenue but the gas company is intending to do a lot of work on Fresh Pond Road. Mr. Giordano said that he has a NYC DOT commitment that this portion of Fresh Pond Road will be resurfaced later in calendar year 2019. The District Manager said that Metropolitan Avenue, both east and west of Fresh Pond Road, is also scheduled to be resurfaced at night. He also said he would like to get Forest Avenue resurfaced at night, as requested by Board Member Luis Rodriguez. He asked Board Members to alert the Board Office if they observe roadway conditions that need resurfacing.

Lee Rottenberg asked if there would be complete resurfacing of the streets worked on during the Penelope Avenue Area Sewer Project. Mr. Giordano replied that, if it's a sewer project, resurfacing is almost always done curb to curb due to the extent of the trench. He stated that, when there is a water main project, resurfacing is almost always limited to the area of and immediately adjacent to the water main trench.

Mr. Giordano stressed the importance of public transit in our city, stating that CB5Q succeeded in having the Myrtle/Wyckoff Train Station (L&M Trains) completely reconstructed, and have prioritized capital improvements to every station in our neighborhoods. He credited former Senator Serf Maltese for funding upgrades to the Metropolitan Avenue station. With help from people like Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan, there have been important structural upgrades to the Fresh Pond Road, Forest Avenue and Seneca Avenue "M" train stations in recent years.

Connie Santos asked about a tree that had been removed in front of her home, and she is waiting for a new tree to be planted. Both District Manager Giordano and Chairman Arcuri said that service complaints could not be

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taken during a Board Meeting, and to contact the Board Office for further assistance. Barbara Toscano said it often takes 3-4 years to get a new tree planted.

Carmen Santana said she is concerned that none of the train stations between Metropolitan Avenue and Wyckoff Avenue have elevators. She suggested the former Madison St/Woodward Ave entrance of the Forest Avenue Station for the placement of an elevator. She also asked Mayor DiBlasio's representatives in the room to find out where to get applications for Metro Card reduced fares, as MTA says they know nothing about this.

Ted Renz said that when the Myrtle/Wyckoff Ave Train Station was reconstructed we received valuable support from Assembly Member Nolan, but Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez succeeded in obtaining federal funding.

Chairperson Arcuri discussed a complaint about poor bus service on Myrtle Avenue, where a resident reported waiting over an hour. He believed it may have been due to the scarifying of the roadway. He appealed to Board Members to let us know what is happening, and it will be looked into. He said that we are still waiting to find out when Myrtle Avenue will be resurfaced.

Mr. Arcuri mentioned that the Executive Committee has not designated Committee assignments since new Board Members have been appointed this year. Some assignments that have already been made were for people who were active on a committee, and were recently appointed to the Board. After the June Executive Committee election, the Executive Committee will meet to discuss committee assignments. Mr. Arcuri said that New Board Members are eligible to vote in the June Election for Executive Committee Members.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS** **Parks Services Committee** **Steven Fiedler**

Parks Services Committee Chairperson Steven Fiedler conducted a power point presentation, on the Revised Plans for a New Glendale Entrance into Forest Park in the Area of Myrtle Avenue at Forest Park Drive, near Union Turnpike. This presentation was provided by the NYC Dept. of Parks at the Parks Services Committee Meeting of April 29<sup>th</sup>. He said the original plan, which was estimated to cost \$2.3 million, was revised by the Parks Department when the bids came in between \$3.0M up to \$3.29M. Mr. Fiedler stated that in an effort to reduce the cost of the project, unless additional funding becomes available, the Revised Parks Department Plan would: reduce the planned asphalt pathway inside Forest Park from a 10 foot wide path as originally planned to a 5 foot wide path; leave the existing concrete area inside the park concrete, instead of having the concrete excavated, removed and replaced with an asphalt path; eliminate the exercise stations and equipment from the plan; eliminate the 15 planned picnic tables ; eliminate the planned new barbecue grills; and eliminate the bike rack installations.

He pointed out that the Committee recommendation includes: keeping the existing concrete road as part of the planned pathway in to Forest Park to save on the project cost; installing a 10' wide path from the Jackie Robinson Parkway Bridge up to the picnic area; installation of sufficient lighting for safety and security; and installation of metal bollards, placed 5' apart, on the side of the road where cars enter the eastbound Jackie Robinson Parkway. He said that he has been in discussion with Councilmember Holden and Borough President Katz's Office to come up with a sufficient amount of money to fund our requests for this project. He pointed to the revised plans for this project which provides a 5' wide path from the Jackie Robinson Parkway, and he reiterated that we are asking for a 10' wide path, for bicyclists and pedestrians. He showed where the concrete road continues all the way up to the Parking Lot.

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Mr. Fiedler stressed that the revised project plans show the lighting being installed in the middle of the planned park pathway, and said that the Parks Department plan is to have light poles with fixtures placed up to 60 feet apart. He said the Committee wants sufficient park lighting installed to provide a safe and secure environment, and believes that the park light poles with LED fixtures should be installed at a distance closer to 30 feet apart. He said more lighting is needed to better assure security for park users, in a desolate area of the park. Mr. Fiedler said that the Committee strongly recommends that protective bollards be installed, 5 feet apart, in the path area that begins adjacent to the eastbound entrance to the Jackie Robinson Parkway, and that protective bollards be installed along the sidewalk area, adjacent to the curb, from Myrtle Avenue to the start of the planned new park entryway. Mr. Fiedler said the Committee also recommends that bike racks be in the new plans.

Chairperson Arcuri mentioned that through the office of Assembly Member Miller, security cameras are spotted throughout Forest Park, and suggests we ask for an extension of security cameras to the proposed pathway with funding from the elected officials.

Brian Dooley said residents in the area are concerned about security in that area, and believes the cameras are a good idea. He said he believed the 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct was responsible for security in the Park, and asked if the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct could swing through there once in a while. Chairperson Arcuri responded that the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct cannot patrol outside of their jurisdiction, but they may respond to 911 calls. He said Park Enforcement Police, housed in the Dry Harbor Playground building, should be able to provide some enforcement patrol. He said we would ask the Council and Assembly Members to speak to the precincts to advocate for additional security in Forest Park.

Bob Cermeli asked if the security safety net separating the baseball fields and the children's playground in Juniper Valley Park has been put up. Steve Fiedler replied that all he knows is that Council Member Holden said he would fund it.

Kathy Masi stated that security should take precedence over the discretionary funds available for the entrance to Forest Park. She further stated that the 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct has been sweeping through the park because of noise problems and believes they can add this area to their patrol focus.

Chairperson Arcuri recommended to Steven Fielder that they should arrange to meet with the 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Community Affairs Officers, to advise them of the timetable for this construction so they can plan ahead.

Parks Committee Chairperson Steven Fielder announced that the Reconstruction of Rosemary's Playground, in Ridgewood, is scheduled to begin the week of May 28<sup>th</sup>. He said that the Reconstruction of Starr Playground is funded for \$2.5 million, and Reconstruction of the Softball Field Area in Evergreen Park is currently funded for \$1.6 million, but additional funding will be needed for this project. Mr. Fiedler informed those present that the Parks Dept. has just started testing the water fountains in local parks, for lead contamination in the water.

Gary Giordano asked that a Board vote be taken regarding the recommendations of the Parks Services Committee, concerning the Proposed New Glendale Entrance into Forest Park. Chairman Arcuri said that we are going to respond to the Department of Parks with the recommendations of the Parks Committee, including the need for security cameras along the planned Forest Park pathway. District Manager Giordano took the roll call vote, and the vote was: 40 in favor of the Committee Recommendations, -0- opposed, -0- abstaining and -0- not voting.



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## **Library Services Committee**

**Sarah Feldman**

Library Services Chairperson Sarah Feldman reported that the Committee met on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. She reported that current construction at the Glendale Library includes installation of an elevator, for handicapped access, and pointing the building. The project is scheduled to be completed in late 2019. There is a temporary Library branch at the Atlas Park mall. Sarah Feldman stated that there are plans for a new roof and other upgrades, possibly a new HVAC, at the Maspeth Library. She said there is discussion of relocating the Middle Village Branch Library, and Councilmember Holden is recommending possibly a former bank located on Metropolitan Avenue. Ms. Feldman informed those present that a Friends of the Maspeth Library group has recently been formed; the Friends of the Ridgewood Library meet on the first Monday of the month; and Ernie Searle, President of Friends of the Ridgewood Library, has been discussing reestablishing a Friends of the Middle Village Library group. She reported approximately 30 Library Friends groups in Queens, and asked if you're interested in joining a group in this district to see her. She asked if members of this Board, or residents in District 30 e-mail her if they have concerns about any library in the district, or if they would just like to let her know about something happening in a library, i.e., someone being rude, too loud or something positive. She provided her e-mail [sarah.t.feldman@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.t.feldman@gmail.com).

Ms. Feldman announced that on Saturdays, May 18<sup>th</sup>, June 29<sup>th</sup> and July 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm, the Queens Library is looking for photos of Ridgewood to be part of the Queens Memory Project. Please speak to Michaeline Von Drathen, Board Member, for more information. There will also be a monthly Book sale on Saturdays, May 18<sup>th</sup>, June 29<sup>th</sup> and July 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Ridgewood Branch Library.

Friends of the Ridgewood Library is having a letter writing campaign asking Mayor DeBlasio to continue to fund libraries. Michaeline Von Drathen had letters available to anybody interested in participating. This year, the city's three library systems are asking for \$35M dollars in additional operating funding to maintain 6 day service, strengthen their collections and support expanded library services offered outside the branches to schools, senior centers, homeless shelters, jails and more. Libraries are also asking for \$963M in capital funding over the next 10 years, a necessary investment that is critical to ensuring all branches are modernized and equipped to meet the growing demand.

Ms. Feldman encouraged everyone to turn off social media and read!

## **Transportation Services Committee**

**John Maier**

John Maier reported that their monthly meeting took place on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Board office. He said that NYC DOT representatives talked to them about upcoming work to scrape away peeling paint, abate lead and other possible contaminants, and repaint the "M" train structure, which the Board has included in their budget requests for at least the last 3 years. Mr. Maier stated that: the scraping/painting of the elevated M train has just started up; work is scheduled to be performed Mondays through Friday starting at 7am, with occasional Saturday work; there will be minor hold backs to certain trains at the point where they're at the top of the structure where it gets to the tracks; and there will be no major changes to service. He said that Rehabilitation of the L Train tunnel, between Brooklyn and Manhattan, has begun; and M train service is extending into Manhattan weeknights and weekends to 96<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Mr. Maier stated that MTA N.Y. City Transit are looking to get two sections completed per day, through wet scraping, shielding, containing, and properly disposing of lead paint.

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Mr. Maier stated that another item discussed at the Committee Meeting was the Queens Bus Network Redesign, and one can find information regarding this on the MTA web site at mta.info. He said that there are many bus planning workshops you can attend, and if you have any changes you'd like seen, any concerns about loss in service you should make sure you participate and be heard. Mr. Maier said that the routes travelled by city buses are being reviewed, as are the distances between bus stops (about two city blocks right now). He said the workshops are running through June, about six are scheduled now, and more workshops are being considered. He urged Board Members to check the site for dates, and to advocate for bus service improvements.

He said that DOT also attended the meeting to discuss Myrtle Avenue. He gave the floor to Theodore Renz to elaborate on this issue. Mr. Renz reported that Myrtle Avenue is known as a Vision Zero priority street, because of 3 fatalities and a number of injuries that occurred on the Myrtle Avenue Commercial strip over the last 3-4 years. He mentioned the Safe Route to Schools Project at PS 239 on Weirfield Street, where they bumped out the Carl Clemens Triangle, as well as other intersections, resulting in the loss of some parking spaces. Mr. Renz stated that this new Myrtle Avenue proposal will provide further improvements at certain intersections, to include more bump outs and the loss of more parking spaces. He said the priority is pedestrian safety, considering that 70% of Myrtle Avenue shoppers arrive on mass transit or walk to shops. He said that these planned pedestrian crossing improvements are to improve pedestrian safety and flow, however, the Myrtle Avenue BID would like to minimize the loss of parking. He suggests that NYC DOT consider doing timing changes at some important traffic signal locations, pointing out that currently, when you are at the Myrtle Avenue/Centre Street/Onderdonk Avenue intersection, it's a free for all when the light turns green with motorists trying to enter Myrtle Avenue. He said that staggering the signal timing should improve pedestrian safety, traffic safety, and may result in saving 4 parking spaces. Mr. Maier said they were looking at safety improvements along Myrtle Avenue, from Wyckoff Avenue to Central Avenue.

John Maier finished up by reporting that Governor Cuomo announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> span of the Kosciuszko Bridge will be opening to traffic in September. He said that work was still to be performed to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, which Committee Members are still discussing with NYC DOT representatives. He stated that it will be the first time that pedestrians will be able to walk across the bridge since 1938.

He reiterated to get any recommendations for roadway resurfacing into the Board Office. The next meeting of the Transportation Services Committee is scheduled to take place May 22, 2019 at 7:30pm in the Board Office.

Chairperson Arcuri thanked the Governor on behalf of the Kosciuszko Bridge Stakeholders Advisory Committee, who have been voluntarily working on development, design and structure, for taking the credit for this bridge.

He asked that all Board Members please sit at the main table so they get recognized during the meeting.

### **Nomination of CB5Q Executive Committee Members**

The Board Chairperson announced that the annual election of Community Board 5 Executive Committee members will take place at next month's Board Meeting, on June 12th. The District Manager explained the process of elections, and the goal to have at least one representative from each of the communities of Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale serving on the Executive Committee. Kathy Masi recommended that all Executive Committee members introduce themselves, as there were many new Board Members present, and they did. The District Manager then conducted nominations from the floor. Rich Huber nominated Vincent Arcuri to serve as Chairperson, and he accepted. The District Manager asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Chairperson, and there were none.

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Kathy Masi nominated Walter Sanchez for the position of First Vice- Chairperson, and he accepted the nomination. The District Manager asked if there were any other nominations for this position, and there were none.

Lee Rottenberg nominated Dmytro Fedkowskyj for the position of Second Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Fedkowskyj was not present to accept the nomination. The District Manager asked if there were any other nominations for this position, and there were none.

Walter Clayton nominated Katherine Masi for the position of Treasurer, and she accepted. The District Manager asked if there were any other nominations for this position, and there were none.

Fred Haller nominated Margaret O’Kane for the position of Secretary, which she accepted. The District Manager asked if there were any other nominations for this position, and there were none.

The District Manager read aloud the names of the four Board members who currently serve as Members-at-Large on the Executive Committee, and opened the floor to nominations for the Member-at-Large positions. John Maier nominated Patricia Grayson, who accepted the nomination. Kathy Masi nominated Fred T. Haller, III, who accepted the nomination. Ted Renz nominated John Maier, who accepted the nomination. Toni Binanti nominated Ted Renz, who accepted the nomination. Ed Lettau nominated Walter Clayton, who accepted the nomination.

District Manager Gary Giordano reminded Board Members that, prior to the Election of Executive Committee Members at the June 12<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, nominations for Executive Committee Positions will be reopened.

### **Old and New Business**

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board Chairperson adjourned the public meeting of Community Board 5, Queens on a motion from the floor at 9:29 pm.