



## 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 Remote Community Board 5 Public Meeting January 12, 2022

#### Board Members Present

Bhubaneshor Adhikari; Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Antonetta Binanti; Alyssa Bonilla; Eric Butkiewicz; Rachel Caracci; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Patricia Crowley; Maria de la Cruz; Brian Dooley; Derek Evers; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Dr. Sukh Gurung; Fred T. Haller; Fred Hoefflerle; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Diego Leclery; Edward Lettau; Patricia Maltezos; Edgar Mantel; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Marcin Nadgorski; April Narsasian; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Dennis Stephan; Catherine Sumsy; Katarzyna Syta; Barbara Toscano; Michaeline Von Drathen; Maryanna Zero

#### Board Members Absent

Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Jessica Boiardi; Kinga Kurzyna; Kelvin Rodriguez; Gyanal Thapa; Patrick J. Trinchese

#### STAFF

Gary Giordano, District Manager-CB5Q  
John Maier, Community Associate-CB5Q

#### GUESTS

Joseph Nocerino – Office of the Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Before proceeding, the Board Chairperson welcomed everyone to join the meeting, at 7:35pm, and wished them a Happy New Year. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, our Monthly Board Meetings are being conducted remotely and livestreamed via Zoom. Board members, staff and guests were provided a link to participate. Members of the public can view this meeting livestream in progress, via YouTube, by clicking on this link: [https://youtu.be/tMwOKuwVo\\_4](https://youtu.be/tMwOKuwVo_4) which has been posted on our CB5Q Homepage at [www.nyc.gov/qnscb5](http://www.nyc.gov/qnscb5).

Anyone wishing to address the Board during the Public Forum portion of the meeting is asked to submit a typed statement, by email, to our Community Board 5 email address at [qn05@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:qn05@cb.nyc.gov) no later than 2pm today, so that it could be read into the record of our Board Meeting.

Following the Salute to the Flag led by Donald Passantino, the Board Chairperson announced the first item on the Board Agenda as:

#### PUBLIC FORUM

The District Manager Gary Giordano read aloud the following two statements from local not-for-profit organizations:

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**1) Statement from Maeve McGee, Stop 'N' Swap Coordinator for the Zero Waste Program of GrowNYC**

"Hello! I have an updated and approved message for you to share on our behalf at your community board meeting this week. Let me know if you have any questions! Additionally, a flyer is attached for you to share!

GrowNYC is an established environmental nonprofit organization that has been in operation for over 50 years. Our goal is to improve the lives of New Yorkers through local, sustainable, and equitable change. As a part of this mission we run **Stop 'N' Swap** events, through our Zero Waste Program, which is funded by the NYC Department of Sanitation. We will bring a **Stop 'N' Swap** event to every single community district in the city, and now we are coming to Queens CD5! This event will be Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, from 12pm-3pm, at the Shops at Atlas Park at 8000 Cooper Ave, Queens.

Stop 'N' Swaps are free community events where the public is invited to bring clean, reusable, portable items, such as, clothing, housewares, games, books, and toys that they no longer need, and take home something new-to-you, free! Participants don't have to bring something to take something.

The event works by simply dropping any items at our "drop-off" table where we'll weigh, sort, and put them out on our display tables. Items on the display tables are free on a first come, first served basis. We ask that attendees please do **NOT** bring: furniture, expired or opened food containers, unsealed personal care products, medicine, dirty or ripped clothing, incomplete toys and games, non-working electronics, magazines, or sharp objects.

Again, this event will be Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, from 12pm-3pm, at the Shops at Atlas Park at 8000 Cooper Ave, Queens. Proof of vaccination and a mask are required to attend the event.

We are so excited to share this resource with you and hope that you'll spread the word to those who need it. For more information about GrowNYC, please visit the website at:

<https://www.grownyc.org/about>."

**2) Statement from Alexandria La Flair, the Access-a-Ride Organizer and Transportation Advocate for The Center for the Independence of the Disabled of New York**

"Hello. I am Alexandria La Flair, the Access-a-Ride Organizer and transportation advocate for The Center for the Independence of the Disabled of New York. I just want to speak generally on how I can offer my services to New Yorkers, as I am trying to complete great outreach with consumers and all Community Boards in order to bring attention to how Access-a-Ride services have been operating, especially during the last two years with COVID19, and to create better contacts with the MTA to create more accessible and safe subway stations, buses and bus stops. Thank you for your time.

Alexandria La Flair, LMSW, AAR Community Organizer, [alaflair@cidny.org](mailto:alaflair@cidny.org) (929) 604-9852."

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Vincent Arcuri**

**MINUTES**

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's remote Board Meeting which was conducted on December 1, 2021. The Chairperson accepted a motion from Walter Clayton to amend the minutes to reflect that Adhikari Bhubaneshor was present at last month's Board Meeting. The motion to approve the minutes, amending the record of attendance at last month's Board Meeting, was seconded by Kathy Masi. The minutes were adopted by acclamation.

The Board Chairperson read aloud the following Liquor License notifications that were received at the Board office since last month's Board Meeting:

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## **Liquor, Wine & Beer License Applications and Renewals**

### **New Liquor Licenses**

- 1) Relax Café Inc. d/b/a **Relax Café Lounge**, 68-17 Forest Ave., Ridgewood NY 11385

### **Liquor License Renewals**

- 1) We are 138 LLC d/b/a **Sweet Jane's**, 64-02 68th Ave., Ridgewood NY 11385
- 2) **El Nuevo Jorge's Restaurant** Corp., 689 Seneca Ave., Ridgewood NY 11385
- 3) **Suad Sports Cafe** LLC, 70-20 60th Lane, Ridgewood NY 11385
- 4) Maspeth Public House LLC d/b/a **The Gibbons Home**, 54-12 69th St, Maspeth NY 11378
- 5) 1 New Farm Deli Inc. d/b/a **Las Margaritas Bar & Restaurant**, 67-12 Fresh Pond Rd, Ridgewood NY 11385
- 6) **London Lennie's** Inc., 63-88 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY 11374

### **New Wine, Beer & Cider Licenses**

None Received

### **Wine, Beer & Cider Renewals**

- 1) **El Fogo Restaurant** Inc. 17-01 Palmetto St., Ridgewood NY 11385
- 2) 71-08 Restaurant Corp. d/b/a **Glendale Diner** 71-08 Myrtle Ave, Glendale NY 11385

### **Beer & Cider Renewal**

- 1) **Guadalajara de dia** No. 2 Corp. 566 Seneca Ave., Ridgewood NY 11385

### **Other Notifications**

- 1) S. Jablonowski, Inc. d/b/a **The Village Saloon**, 82-11 Eliot Ave, Middle Village, NY 11379 plans to file a Corporate Change.

The Board Chairperson asked everyone to contact the Board 5 office about any questions or concerns they have about any of the above-mentioned locations.

He informed everyone that there are no **Demolition Notices** to report this month.

The Board Chairperson gave the floor to the District Manager Gary Giordano to read the following statements from local Elected Officials into the record:

### **Statement from NYS Attorney General Letitia James, submitted by Darryl White**

"New York Attorney General Letitia James today issued alerts in multiple languages, warning New Yorkers to be wary of scams and other deceptive practices related to the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF). HAF is a federally funded program designed to assist homeowners who are experiencing financial hardship due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. New York State has since received nearly \$540 million in HAF funding that is available for eligible New York homeowners. For more information, please read the Attorney General's Press Release that's posted on their website at: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/2022/attorney-general-james-warns-new-yorkers-beware-sham-charities-set-response-bronx>."

### **Statement from State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo submitted by John D'Angelo**

"My team and I wish a happy and healthy New Year to all the members of Community Board 5 and their families. Some of my bills signed into law include:

- **S1035A** - Allows individuals with disabilities to have an essential support person accompany them for the duration of their hospitalization.
- **S1463** - Provides continued revenue and operational flexibility to the NYS Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund.

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- **S2819A** - Prevents the sale of whipped cream chargers to anyone under the age of twenty-one.
- **S2928A** - Adds siblings to the definition of family member in relation to Paid Family Leave
- **S4549** - Establishes a health insurance program for thoroughbred trainers modeled upon the existing health insurance program that is currently offered to jockeys
- **S6258** - Allows those residing in Breezy Point to continue rebuilding their homes following the devastation of Hurricane Sandy.
- **S6352** - Makes corrections regarding tax rates imposed on para-mutual betting pools.
- **S6832** - Provides additional revenues to Vernon Downs Casino & Hotel for operating purposes.
- **S7102** - Allows the Department of Health to continue to conduct energy audits and/or disaster preparedness reviews of nursing homes.

An additional 10 of my bills were passed by the Senate, but not by the Assembly. I will work again to pass them this year. As our State Legislative session has just started, please give your input on matters the legislature considers.

Governor Hochul will be releasing her Executive Budget next week, which starts our budget process that is expected to be completed by the April 1st deadline.

A program that I have advocated for and worked on for 2 years, Mobile Sports Betting in New York, began this weekend. In just 2 days, it is estimated that our state witnessed tax revenue of approximately \$3.7 million. Mobile sports betting will not only bring in significant revenue but will greatly increase educational funding and provide \$6 million, and \$5 million guaranteed annually for gaming addiction and youth sports programs, respectively. There are roughly a dozen safety measures and protocols written into the mobile sports betting language to address and safeguard against problem gambling. One example of a local issue, which I frequently receive constituent feedback on and was addressed legislatively, affects the quality of life for many residents. Governor Hochul recently signed into law a piece of legislation that I co-sponsored in the Senate, to increase enforcement against motorists and repair shops that illegally modify mufflers and exhaust systems on motor vehicles and motorcycles, to make them excessively noisy.

I am also hopeful that Mayor Eric Adams will bring improved energy, vision, and leadership to appropriately address many local issues. I look forward to working with our new Mayor."

**Statement from State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, 38th AD, submitted by Vjola Isufaj**

"Dear Community Board 5, Happy New Year! I look forward to partnering with CB5 to make it a great 2022. I am currently working 24/7 to help our community weather the Omicron variant. Yesterday, I was proud to spearhead a massive free at-home COVID test kit giveaway at my office. Hundreds of people attended, and we gave away almost 1000 test kits. My office remains fully open as we help the community battle Omicron.

I was proud to host a Health Fair at my office, where doctors offered free health services like blood sugar testing, blood pressure screening, and general physician counseling. I also partnered with Mt. Sinai Health to host a breast cancer mammogram van at my office and am pleased to report that many women came for this potentially lifesaving screening. During the holidays, I hosted a holiday give-away for the community at my office, which included fresh food, brand new warm clothing, and stuffed animals for the children.

I also partnered with Santa Claus to sponsor a Christmas toy drive for the children.

I then received a New Year's Eve gift from the Governor when she signed 2 of my Bills into law that night. My groundbreaking legislative package writes over 300,000 domestic workers into the human rights law of our state and expands paid family leave benefits to these workers. This legislation gives domestic workers the basic support they need to succeed. This legislation is historic and its signage into

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law was celebrated nationally. It is a big win for both domestic workers and so many others who rely on their services.

The new legislative session started just this week and I was proud to introduce several more Bills for the benefit of our community. Three of my bills focus on the men and women who serve our country, by expanding public housing options for Veterans, granting Veterans easier access to college credits in City and State Universities, and ensuring public employees who are called to active military duty do not lose their benefits. I also introduced a Bill to help students with disabilities succeed in their post-high school education by expanding supports and services for these students.

Please note that our Veterans Breakfast scheduled for the Valentine's Day weekend is postponed due to Omicron. Stay tuned for the new date.

My office remains fully open and you can always reach me at 718-805-0950 or by email at

[rajkumari@nyassembly.gov](mailto:rajkumari@nyassembly.gov). It is an honor to serve you."

### **Statement from Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, 28<sup>th</sup> AD, submitted by Kevin Wisniewski**

"Good Evening, Happy New Year and hope everyone is remaining safe and well.

First and foremost Assemblyman Hevesi would like to thank Board leadership and each member for their continued service in 2021. We look forward to our continued work together in 2022.

With help from Governor Hochul's office, Assemblyman Hevesi secured additional at-home COVID19 rapid tests for distribution in the 28th Assembly District. We will now be including rapid tests at our ongoing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) distributions, along with N95 masks and hand sanitizers. Our next distribution in the CB5 area will be at noon next Saturday, January 22nd, and will be held in tandem with Queens Borough President Richards and 104th NYPD Precinct Catalytic Converter Etching event at 74-10 88th Street, in Glendale.

I have shared a flyer with the Board, containing the information for this and the other upcoming distributions. You may also contact our office at (718) 263-5595 to reserve tests to pick up if you are unable to attend a distribution site.

As Children and Families Committee Chair, Assemblyman Hevesi is continuing in his efforts to push the Children and Families Reinvestment Act proposal in this year's budget negotiations. This program aims to reinvest resources into programs that have been historically cut and underfunded, create new funding streams for preventative services to stop trauma and address societal problems at the source, and fund Universal Childcare in New York, the importance of which we are now beginning to fully understand after nearly two years of the pandemic. We have been able to shore up support from legislators across the state and are in active talks with the Governor's office and legislature leadership. We're looking forward to a positive New York State Budget for this year.

After receiving concerns about compliance with face mask and safety regulations on public transit, Assemblyman Hevesi and Senator Addabbo penned a letter to express their concerns to the MTA and request enhanced enforcement. The MTA replied that they shared our concerns and said that compliance has been up recently and that they will continue to monitor this situation. If you see any issues that you think should be addressed, you can always contact our office and we will circle back with the agency.

With COVID19 spikes and variants remaining on the rise, we ask that you all continue to contact our office with any concerns about adequate testing, or with any other general inquiries. Thanks again and stay well. Kevin G. Wisniewski, Senior Advisor, NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi."

### **Statement from NYC Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez-CD 34, submitted by Juan Mayancela**

"My name is Juan Mayancela, and I am here representing Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez, District 34's new Council Member.



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Council Member Gutierrez started her term earlier this month and represents a part of Ridgewood along with Bushwick and Williamsburg, and she is looking forward to working with Community Board 5 to serve and assist Ridgewood constituents. In addition, Council Member Gutierrez is excited to deliver on her commitments to furthering environmental justice, securing resources for our schools, breaking down barriers to participation in government, and fighting to keep all residents in decent, affordable housing. We look forward to working with you over this term and beyond!

A couple of dates to remember: For all non-profits looking to apply to the Council's Discretionary Funding process, the application is live online now. The deadline to apply is on February 22nd by 11:59pm. The application can be found on the City Council's website at [www.council.nyc.gov](http://www.council.nyc.gov), under the Budget Tab.

Additionally, the Council Member is kicking off Participatory Budgeting for the 34th Council District, after being on hold since 2020. It will look a little different this year as we are observing Covid-19 protocols. All ideas can be submitted online until January 23, 2022 at: <https://www.participate.nyc.gov/processes/ccdistrict34/f/86/>.

We are currently working to secure more testing locations throughout the district. If anyone is having issues with a Covid-19 test site, and lag times to get your results, please email us as we have been mitigating issues as they come in.

Finally, the Council Member gave birth to her first baby at the end of November, and until she's back in the office, our team is here to assist in any way that we can. You can reach us by calling (718) 963-3141 or by email to us at [district34@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district34@council.nyc.gov). Best regards, Juan Mayancela – Constituent Services Representative"

**On behalf of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards**, Joe Nocerino wished everyone a Happy New Year. First and foremost, he welcomed everyone to attend the Catalytic Converter Vin-Etching event that the Borough President is co-sponsoring along with the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct's Crime Prevention Unit, at noon next Saturday, January 22nd, in the Yeshiva's parking lot at 74-10 88th Street, in Glendale. He reminded Board members that applications for new appointments to the Board, as well as Board Member reappointments, are posted online at the Borough President's website at [www.queensbp.org](http://www.queensbp.org), under the Community Board tab.

He said that all Board members who are up for renewal should already have received a notification via email from Maricela Cano, the Director of Community Boards in the Borough President's Office. He said that anyone who is not sure if they're up for renewal this year is welcome to contact him or Maricela at (718) 286-2900. Applications do not have to be notarized or approved by a council member this year, he said.

Mr. Nocerino also invited everyone to participate in a Webinar about **Aging in Place: Growing Older at Home** that will be hosted by the Borough President, representatives from the NYC Dept. for the Aging, the American Association of Retired Persons, and the Queens Public Library at 1pm tomorrow, Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. He said that topics will include opportunities for seniors and caregivers, and the impact of the Covid-19 on senior services and resources. For more information or to register, he said you can visit the Borough President's website at [www.queensbp.org](http://www.queensbp.org) and then click on the CALENDAR tab where the flyer is posted.

The Board Chairperson congratulated both newly elected City Council Members on their election to office in our district: Lynn Schulman, in the 29<sup>th</sup> C.D., and Jennifer Gutierrez, in the 34<sup>th</sup> C.D. He then directed John Maier, of the Board staff, to take the Board Members' attendance.

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As there were no other questions or comments regarding his report, he asked the District Manager to deliver his report.

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

#### **Gary Giordano**

The District Manager began by wishing everyone a healthy and Happy New Year. He urged everyone who hasn't already done so, to get vaccinated and then schedule an appointment to get a booster shot, if possible. He pointed out that there's been a huge surge in the number of COVID19 cases over the holidays that puts a strain on our hospital system.

Regarding the recent serious fire in a high-rise apartment building in the Bronx, he said that he's very concerned about the fact that it was caused by a faulty space heater. He said that, to his knowledge, a space heater in that building had been left on for 2 or 3 days. Whenever residents rely on space heaters to warm their home or apartment during the Winter, it's a very big problem, he said. He sought God's blessings on those who died in the fire and their families, as well as for all the first responders who went to their rescue, and the emergency personnel who helped to save so many lives.

On a different note, the District Manager informed everyone that the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for the City of New York is usually released to the public no later than January 15<sup>th</sup> each year and our Board generally conducts a Public Hearing on the Budget during the following month, in February. However, the release date for this year's Preliminary Budget is still uncertain, he said. He said that once the Mayor's Preliminary Budget is published, the Board has 30 days to submit comments on it. He said that he plans to prepare a written response to the Mayor's Preliminary Capital and Expense Budget for FY 2023, as it affects the Community Board 5 Queens area, within the 30-day comment period.

Regarding Sanitation collections, the District Manager reminded everyone that they should put their household garbage and recyclables out for collection after 4 pm, on the day before their regular collection day, to avoid missed collections on any routes that are collected overnight during the Snow Season, between Midnight and 8am, and from 4pm to 12 Midnight. He also pointed out that, due to COVID19, as many as 20 to 25 Q5 Sanitation workers have been out sick recently.

Regarding traffic related issues or concerns, he welcomed Board members to contact the Board office to report any unsafe roadway conditions to staff to be forwarded to the Transportation Committee for their consideration. He said that the Transportation Committee meets monthly to review traffic safety requests, in addition to monitoring the progress of capital projects that are planned or currently underway in our Board area. All too often, drivers just need to have respect, and there wouldn't be so many traffic accidents and fatalities in our Board area, he said.

Regarding the Reconstruction of the Running Track and Soft Surface Football/Soccer Field in Juniper Valley Park, he said that this project, which began in September, has been stalled because of drainage problems, including a large clog in the main sewer pipe that feeds into Lutheran Avenue, and a few other smaller pipes that collapsed. At this point, he said the contractor plans to hire a sub-contractor to replace a portion of the clogged sewer main and run drainage lines around the track. He said they'll have to dig very deep in order to connect with the sewer main that leads under the freight rail line on the west side of Lutheran Avenue.

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Regarding Governor Hochul's recent announcement about the MTA's plans to begin the environmental review process for the "Interborough Express," a new transit link between Brooklyn and Queens, he said that it's modeled on components of the Regional Plan Association's original proposal from 1996. An earlier MTA study had found that connecting LIRR passenger rail lines between Sunset Park in Brooklyn with existing rail lines in Western Queens is feasible. He said this new transit link would include 5 new stations in Queens, possibly including a new passenger rail station at Fresh Pond Road and Metropolitan Avenue, in Ridgewood.

He said that in our Board area, the proposed passenger rail service would run adjacent to the freight rail line that hauls freight into the Fresh Pond Yard in Glendale. He said that since most of the freight operation in the railyard takes place at night, residents in that area have complained about noise and air pollution caused by the equipment and work crews for years. However, he said that thanks to the efforts of our local elected officials, including Assemblymember Hevesi and Nolan and our State Senator Joe Addabbo, and the Citizens United for Railroad Environmental Solutions (CURES), State funding was secured to cut emissions from the freight engines by upgrading them from Tier 0 to Tier 4. But, he said, there is significant additional funding that has been secured, that has not been spent, because of LIRR Procurement issues.

Mr. Nocerino, Community Coordinator on the Queens Borough President's staff, interjected that both he and Borough President Donovan Richards met with MTA representatives two days ago to discuss the Interborough Express, and its potential impact on residents and businesses in Queens. He said that this new proposal will take years to complete. He also pointed out that by eliminating the Bronx from this proposal, the existing proposal is now limited to 14 miles of track, instead of 21 miles, to be reactivated, with 11 miles of track in Brooklyn and the remaining 3 miles located in Queens. He said that the MTA and the Queens Borough President's office will be reaching out to Community Board 5, as this proposal develops into a more comprehensive plan. In closing, he said that the Queens Borough President supports this concept to increase passenger rail service in Queens.

Theodore Renz, a Board member, commented that this proposal has been revised several times since its inception in the 1920s and 1930s. He said he thinks it's an interesting proposal and possibly includes a new rail station on Myrtle Avenue at Fresh Pond Road, in Ridgewood.

Lee Rottenberg, a Board member, said that he watched a news presentation on TV about this proposal with the M train station on Metropolitan Avenue in the background. He said that he had assumed that the Metropolitan Avenue station could be the terminus of this proposed passenger rail service in Queens.

The Board Chairperson said that it's too soon to say where the passenger rail stations will be located along the proposed new rail service. He said that the Transportation Committee will be following up with the MTA on their proposal to increase passenger rail service in Queens, and will report back to the Board with additional information on any new developments in this regard.

John Maier, Community Associate on the Board staff, said that he recently forwarded the most recent power point presentation about this proposal to all Board members.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Youth and Education Services Committee Report

**Eileen Moloney**

Eileen Moloney, Co-Chair of the Education Services Committee, reported that the combined meeting of the Youth Services and Education Services Committees was very well attended when they met remotely at 7:30pm on Monday, January 10, 2022. She said that the first item on their agenda was to discuss a proposal to mandate that the Dept. of Education provide a variety of food options, including Kosher and



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Halal Meals, during Breakfast and Lunch Programs at Public Schools, as outlined in NY State Senate Bill **S828**.

She said that Committee members decided that they would need more information about the proposed legislation before they could draft a resolution to support this request. She reported that Pat Crowley, Chair of the Youth Services Committee, said she would reach out to State Senator Addabbo, who is sponsoring this Bill, to find out why this Bill hasn't been voted out of Committee in the State Senate for the past 8 years; whether this Bill would be a statewide or a local mandate; and how it would be paid for.

Ms. Moloney said that the next item on the Committee's Agenda was about Programs for High School Students to Learn Construction Management Principles or Other Trades, similar to the Youth Construct Program. She said that Committee members discussed internship opportunities where students are exposed to various work experiences, such as, engineering, architecture, and trades. She said that Dennis Stephan, Vice-Chair of the Youth Services Committee, volunteered to reach out to local contractors to ask for their advice and support for expanding the range and number of student internships that would be available for either graduating Seniors or students in their Junior Year of High School in our Board area.

Ms. Moloney said that the third item on the Committee's Agenda was the discussion of Neighborhood Summer Program Options for Children in our Board area. She said that the main problem is that most Summer Programs in our Board area end two weeks before Labor Day, leaving working parents scrambling to find someone to care for their children before the school year begins again. She said that Jessica Boiardi, a Committee member, and the District Manager Gary Giordano agreed to do some outreach on this subject and report back to the Committee with their findings.

On a point of information, the Board Chairperson said that for the past 25 years, the NY Building Congress has conducted the ACE Mentoring Program for students who want to learn about Construction Management and Construction Engineering. He said that this program involves volunteers from the major construction and development corporations serving as mentors to students during their internships.

In addition, the Board Chairperson said that there's a program that's been operating out of Astoria for years, that involves students who want to learn to become plumbers. He also pointed out that the NYC High School for Architecture and Construction in Ozone Park was established for this purpose some years ago.

### **Parks Services Committee**

#### **Steven Fiedler**

Steven Fiedler reported that, regarding the Reconstruction of the Turf Soccer/Football Field and Running Track in Juniper Valley Park, the contractor for this project is back on the job now. He said that their tractors are back on site. He said that, to his knowledge, all the revised diagrams for the proposed work were approved by the Parks Department. Now, they're just waiting for construction materials to be delivered, he said.

### **Nominations for At-Large Executive Committee Member**

The Board Chairperson gave the floor to the District Manager Gary Giordano to open nominations for candidates to fill the one vacant position for an At-Large Member on the Executive Committee. He reminded everyone that John Maier resigned his position on the Executive Committee, before he was hired to work on the staff in the Community Board 5 Office.

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The District Manager explained that, at last month's Board Meeting, three Board members were nominated to fill this position, Edgar Mantel, Walter Clayton, and Patricia Crowley. Ms. Crowley declined the nomination, while the other two candidates accepted their nominations.

The District Manager opened the floor to further nominations to elect a Board member to fill the vacant At-Large position on the Executive Committee. As there were none, he requested that Peggy O'Kane, the Board Secretary, close nominations from the floor. Ms. O'Kane closed the nominations.

The District Manager explained that, due to COVID19, this election will be conducted remotely. He informed Board members that the ballots with the names of both candidates, Edgar Mantel and Walter Clayton, printed on them, would be emailed to them tomorrow. He requested that each Board member write in the name of their choice on their ballot, sign it and date it, and return it to the Board Office within the next two weeks. Mr. Arcuri said that the Board requires that members submit a ballot with their original signature on it, for it to be considered valid in this election. He said Board members could either mail in their ballot or put it into the mailbox to the right of our front door at the Board Office, located at 61-23 Myrtle Avenue, in Glendale.

### Old Business

Walter Sanchez, First Vice-Chairperson of Community Board 5, requested that copies of the minutes of the prior Board Meeting be distributed to Board members well in advance of each Board Meeting. He said that he only received a copy of the minutes from last month's Board Meeting this afternoon.

### New Business

Ken Rehberger, a Board member, informed everyone that the proposed Redistricting Maps for local elected officials' districts throughout New York State have not been approved yet by the State Legislature. He said that they plan to work on drafting a new set of district lines in the coming month. He said that the public is invited to submit their comments and concerns about the proposed Election District Maps to their local elected officials prior to their adoption.

Edward Lettau, a Board member, said that the MTA work crews have been making slow progress painting the structure underneath the M Train tracks on Palmetto Street between Onderdonk Avenue and Cypress Avenue, in Ridgewood. He said that the work area has been screened off in order to protect the public from any falling debris or materials on the scaffold.

Kathy Masi, the Treasurer on the Executive Committee, said that attendance of the Board members could be automatically generated by Zoom Webinar.

In addition, she pointed out that the deadline to reapply for Community Board membership is fast approaching. She requested that the District Manager and staff reach out to all Board members who are up for reappointment this year, to remind them to reapply online before next month's deadline.

John Maier, a staff member of Community Board 5, replied that the Queens Borough President's Office has already sent notifications to Board members who are up for reappointment this year, and urged them to reapply before February 16<sup>th</sup> if they wish to continue to serve on our Community Board.

Joe Nocerino, of the Queens Borough President's Office, welcomed anyone with questions about their status on the Board to contact his office by calling (718) 286-2900, as soon as possible.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board Chairperson entertained a motion to adjourn at 8:48pm.