



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 March 9, 2022

Board Members Present

Bhubaneshor Adhikari; Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Antonetta Binanti; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Jessica Boiardi; Alyssa Bonilla; Eric Butkiewicz; Rachel Caracci; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Patricia Crowley; Brian Dooley; Derek Evers; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Fred T. Haller; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Kinga Kurzyna; Maryann Lattanzio; Diego Leclery; Edward Lettau; Patricia Maltezos; Edgar Mantel; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; 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; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Michaeline Von Drathen; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Maria de la Cruz; Dr. Sukh Gurung; Fred Hoeffler; Marcin Nadgorski; Kelvin Rodriguez

STAFF

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

GUESTS

Victoria Garvey, Director of the Queens Borough President's Office of Planning and Development

Before proceeding, at 7:35pm, the Board Chairperson welcomed everyone to join the meeting remotely. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, Monthly Board Meetings are being conducted remotely and live-streamed on the Zoom platform. Board members, staff and guests were provided a link to participate. Members of the public can view this meeting while in progress, via YouTube, by clicking on this link:

https://youtu.be/zLG_UA2lsdU which is posted on our CB5Q Homepage at 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 no later than 2pm today, so that it could be read into the record of our Board Meeting.

Following the Salute to the Flag, the Board Chairperson, Vincent Arcuri Jr., announced the first item on the Board Agenda as:

**PUBLIC HEARING RE: THE FY 2023 PRELIMINARY BUDGET OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK,
AS IT RELATES TO THE RIDGEWOOD, MASPETH, MIDDLE VILLAGE & GLENDALE COMMUNITIES**

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The District Manager, Gary Giordano, read aloud the following testimony submitted on behalf of the Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association by Margaret O’Kane:

“The Ridgewood Property Owners & Civic Association, Inc. (RPOCA) believes there is a need for sanitation improvements in the Community Board 5 area, as follows:

We need more crews or crew hours assigned to collections. As our population is increasing, the volume of material for pickup is also increasing. Therefore, collections cannot always be made as scheduled because trucks fill up more rapidly, necessitating either more crew hours or more crews. Either way, we need an increase.

We need more MLPs to clean up dump out sites throughout the area, since dumping has also increased. There is a site right across from my house where people regularly bring refuse that would be easily collected if left out where they live. I don’t understand their reasoning but, continuous monitoring and prompt removal is necessary as is increased surveillance of known dump out areas.

We also request an increase in curbside basket collections to seven days a week. Most curbside baskets accumulate accessory piles around them and must be cleaned up on a daily basis to ensure the cleanliness and good appearance of our streets.”

Luis Rodriguez, a Board Member and Vice President of the Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association, also submitted testimony to be read into the record by the District Manager:

“There’s been an increase of violent crime, robberies and auto theft over 25% Year-to-Date in the 104th Precinct, and an over 40% crime increase Citywide Year-to-Date. Since 1995, this precinct has lost more than 50 police officers, and that’s not counting Supervisors.

As a husband, father and neighbor concerned about safety, I believe we need at least 20 additional Police Officers, not counting Supervisors, to be assigned to the 104th Police Precinct. Please support Community Board 5 Queens Expense Budget Priority Number One, which is for an additional 20 Police Officers to be assigned to the 104th Police Precinct.”

As former President of the Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association, Paul Kerzner submitted testimony stating that he would like to see new comfort stations in some of our parks, especially the Benninger Park Playground on Madison Street in Ridgewood, the Vito J. Maranzano Playground in Glendale and, if possible, the Starr Playground in Ridgewood. There are no comfort stations in those parks currently and he would like to see a mini comfort station in each of those parks, or something similar.

His testimony also included a statement that he is pleased that the Borough Presidents of the City’s five Boroughs are looking to get 1 million street trees planted over the coming years. If his calculations are correct, that could mean as many as 800 trees in each CB5 neighborhood.

As no other budget testimony was submitted, the Public Hearing was closed.

District Manager Gary Giordano informed everyone that, later this month, he plans to submit our Community Board’s comments on the Mayor’s Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 to the Mayor’s Office of Management and Budget. He said that as part of the Annual Budget Process, he focuses his comments on our Board’s main Capital and Expense Budget Priorities. He read aloud our Board’s **Top Ten Capital Budget Priorities for FY 2023** that he plans to include in his response to the Mayor’s Preliminary Budget, as follows:

1. Redesign and Reconstruct the Sewer System in portions of the CB5Q area having the worst flooding problems, which is mainly Glendale at this point, from the Cooper Avenue Underpass

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area going east, especially along 77th Avenue, where there was terrible flooding once again on September 1st.

2. Provide Stormwater Runoff Mitigation, which to a large extent, involves what were called Bioswales and are now called Rain Gardens.
3. Reconstruct Wyckoff Avenue from Flushing Avenue to Cooper Avenue.
4. Replace the existing bridge on Grand Avenue, over the Newtown Creek in Maspeth, which is called the Grand Street Bridge on the Brooklyn side.
5. Reconstruct sidewalks, curbs and pedestrian ramps along Myrtle Avenue from Fresh Pond Road to Wyckoff Avenue in Ridgewood.
6. Reconstruct deteriorated catch basins and provide new catch basins in the Community Board 5 Queens area.
7. Rehabilitate the Ridgewood Reservoir – Phase II and the surrounding area, including portions of Highland Park.
8. Reconstruct Benninger Park Playground in Ridgewood.
9. Reconstruct Mafera Park, especially the turf field, which is located on the Ridgewood/Glendale border.
10. Replace the Synthetic Turf Field and the Running Track at the West End of Juniper Valley Park.

The District Manager also read aloud our Board's **Top 10 Expense Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2023**, which begins on July 1st of this year, including:

1. Assign additional Personnel to the 104th Police Precinct Patrol Force.
2. Provide field workers for the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations, mainly for catch basin repairs and sewer main repairs and sections of the sewer lines that are collapsed and need to be replaced.
3. Hire inspectors and plan examiners for the Dept. of Buildings, 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 collections, which is what one of our Board Members, Peggy O'Kane, testified about a little earlier tonight.
5. Provide funding for educational and recreational programs for children and teens, through the Department of Youth and Community Development.
6. Provide funding for Fire Department Services in order to maintain Engine and Ladder Companies at current staffing levels and provide adequate staffing for the excellent maintenance of Fire Department Apparatus and other vehicles.
7. Provide needed services for senior citizens, including congregate meals and programs for the frail elderly.
8. Provide more frequent garbage and recycling pick up for local schools and institutions.
9. Allocate funds for the operation and enhancement of the Division of Forestry in Queens, which is for pruning, removal of tree stumps and removal of dead trees.
10. Provide sufficient personnel for Traffic Safety Inspections, Sign Installations, Pavement Markings and Sign Manufacturing.

PUBLIC FORUM

The District Manager Gary Giordano read aloud the following statement from a local resident:

Statement from Lance Lovejoy re: Conditions inside Frank Principe Park in Maspeth

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"I would like Frank Principe Park to be looked at and fixed, and to be considered for funding. The rubber matting surrounding the children playground is coming up and has gaps that are dangerous and causing children to trip.

The pavers next to playground are sticking up causing the same issues. The wood chips that are surrounding the whole playground are nothing but a nuisance causing tripping and a mess everyday as they are all over the playground. The parks truck drives through there creating huge tire tracks and mud. The sprinkler system is out of date the water runs all day long till evening hours, even when it's pouring rain all day and no children are there, causing flooding and mud all over there not to mention the waste of thousands of gallons of water all summer every day. It needs to be upgraded to something like Juniper Valley Park has, where a button can be pushed and water comes on for a specific time and it shuts off automatically if no one is using it.

The basketball courts have tree stumps in the middle of the courts from trees cut down over 20 years ago. The main staircase is missing a railing that was knocked down and laying in the grass for months, which brings into question who works at the park? Why didn't the Parks Department personal working there report this? Why didn't they pick up the railing and have it in case they want to put it back because they aren't doing their job. They walked past it every day for months and it wasn't picked up until I put pictures of it on Facebook and Christine Wilkinson called it in to 311. Why is that?

The hardball field is need of new paint and benches, and fences have not been painted in years. A fence over there as well was crashed into and bent from a car crash over the summer and still was never fixed or replaced.

This park is always dirty and they need to stop saying it's due to staff shortage because of Covid as an excuse because it was like this before. The bathrooms are disgusting and never cleaned. The doors are closed on them, making you think they are not open because the person working there doesn't want to clean them.

The bocci ball courts are just forgotten about, with weeds growing out of them. If the Parks Department is not going to maintain them or clean them, then maybe it's time to remove them and use that space in the park for other things, like more swings, or something.

Thank you for your time. Lance Lovejoy, Maspeth, NY"

As there were no other speakers, the Board Chairperson announced the next item on the Agenda as:

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri

The Board Chairperson introduced Victoria Garvey as the new Director of the Queens Borough President's Office of Planning and Development, and asked Ms. Garvey to address the Board on behalf of the Queens Borough President's Office.

Ms. Garvey informed everyone that a new person will be hired soon to serve as the Borough President's Community Liaison for Community Board 5 Queens.

On behalf of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards and the Department of City Planning, she announced that they plan to host a two-night training for all current Community Board members to learn about the basics of City Planning, Zoning, the Environmental Review Process, and the Citywide Statement of Needs Process. She said that flyers would be distributed to all Queens Community Boards. She explained that these two training sessions would be conducted remotely on two consecutive nights: Tuesday, March 29th, and Wednesday, March 30th. She said that these training sessions are for Community Board members only.

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The Board Chairperson said that if it's strictly for Board members, then the notice should be sent to the Board Office so that we can notify our Board members. John Maier, of the Board staff, said that the flyers were already emailed to all our Board members.

Walter Sanchez, First Vice-Chair and Chairperson of the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee, asked whether these training sessions are introductory, or advanced workshops. Ms. Garvey replied that they are introductory. She said that the first night of training might seem a bit redundant for Board members with a lot of experience in this area, but on the second night, they'll be discussing more specifics. She advised everyone that attendance in the first session is compulsory for anyone who wants to participate in the second session.

The Board Chairperson directed Staff Member John Maier to take the Board Members' attendance.

MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's remote Board Meeting which was conducted on February 9, 2022. The Chairperson accepted a motion from Margaret O'Kane, and seconded by Walter Clayton, to approve the minutes as submitted. The minutes were adopted by acclamation.

The Board Chairperson asked Staff Member John Maier to read aloud the following Liquor License notifications, which were received at the Board office since the last Board Meeting:

Liquor, Wine & Beer License Applications and Renewals

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) Marta Pawelic or Corporation to be formed d/b/a **Johnny's Cafe** 60-39 Fresh Pond Road, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 2) 6402 Barr LLC d/b/a **6402 Bar** 64-02 68th Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) Fumo Hookah Lounge Corp. d/b/a **Noir** 66-28 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) 582 Seneca Avenue LLC d/b/a **The Seneca** 582 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) Beer LLC d/b/a **The Avenue Restaurant Bar & Grill** 71-22 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 3) 6961 Juniper Blvd South Corp. d/b/a **Villa Erasmo** 69-61 Juniper Blvd., Middle Village, NY 11379
- 4) **Zum Stammtisch Inc.** 69-46 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 5) **Bushwick Taco Company Glendale Inc.** 71-24 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385

New Wine, Beer & Cider Licenses

None Reported

Wine, Beer & Cider Renewals

- 1) Woodward 652 LLC d/b/a **Aunt Ginny's** 652 Woodward Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

***Temporary Retail Permit**

- 1) ** SLR Management Group LLC d/b/a **Lotus Lounge & Grill** 66-48 Myrtle Ave., Glendale, NY 11385 (LWB&C)

Other Notifications

- 1)*** BJ Maspeth Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a **Peggy Dempsey's** 64-14 Flushing Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378 (LWB&C)

LWB&C = Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

* Information about the **Temporary Retail Permits** can be found on the SLA Website [here](#).

** Currently has a full Liquor License pending with the SLA

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*** Corporate Change

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

Mr. Maier informed everyone that there are two **Demolition and/or New Construction Notices** to report this month: **70-32 70th Street, in Glendale** – Garage (Block 3669, Lot:52), and **18-11A Menahan Street, in Ridgewood** – Legalization of a Garage (Block:3435, Lot:55)
The Board Chairperson urged Board Members to be extra vigilant and report any questionable construction activities to the staff by calling the Board office at (718) 366-1834.

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

Statement from U.S. Representative Grace Meng, 6th C.D. submitted by Stancy Saji

“Following the success of her Non-Profit Security Grant Program Workshop in February, Congress Member Grace Meng will continue to improve the safety of our community’s places of worship by hosting an active threat training. The program will feature experts from the Community Security Initiative, a joint program of the United Jewish Appeal (UJA)-Federation of New York and the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). The training will take place on Thursday, March 10th, from 7-9 PM at Congregation Ner Mordechai, 82-33 Lefferts Blvd, Kew Gardens, NY 11415. You can RSVP by emailing Meng.RSVP@mail.house.gov. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Congress Member Meng voted to pass the Honoring Our PACT Act, **H.R. 3967**, which would increase health care and disability benefits for Veterans who were exposed to burn pits while serving in the military during the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, when the US military used burning pits to burn waste. These burn pits exposed soldiers to harmful toxic substances with lasting consequences to their health. This Bill would also expand coverage for Vietnam Veterans who were exposed to the chemical Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. The bill now heads to the Senate for passage.

The Congress Member continues to stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people as they suffer an unprovoked and unjustified Russian invasion. This premeditated act of war and outrageous breach of international law is a direct violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty and autonomy and an attack on the Ukrainian people’s right to democracy and freedom.

Congress Member Meng commends the Biden Administration's decisive actions, along with our allies and partners, to impose crippling economic sanctions on Russia. Additionally, the Congress Member supports reinforcing our commitment to provide support and assistance to Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. As Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, she will continue to support robust funding for economic and security assistance to Ukraine, as well as measures to block assistance to any country that takes action to violate Ukraine’s territorial integrity or national sovereignty.

Congress Member Meng also joined with other Members of Congress to sponsor a Bill that calls for travel restrictions on Russian government employees and oligarchs. The Bill holds Russian leaders accountable for their involvement in the pre-meditated invasion. In addition, Congress Member Meng joined in an effort calling on Secretary of State Blinken and Secretary of Homeland Security Mayorkas to grant Temporary Protected Status and offer Special Student Relief to Ukrainians currently in the United States, as the warzone remains incredibly volatile. The Biden Administration has now extended Temporary Protected Status to Ukrainians in the United States for the next 18 months.

Congress Member Meng joined with colleagues in calling on Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to move through the Senate two major Gun Reform Bills, the Bipartisan **Background Checks Act, H.R. 8**, and the **Enhanced Background Checks Act, H.R. 1446**. These House-passed common-sense Bills would

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help reduce gun violence, but they have been blocked in the Senate for over a year. Passage of both Bills would help stem the rise of gun violence we see in communities across the country. The Congress Member hosted Maggie Cheng as her virtual guest for the State of the Union. Maggie Cheng is the daughter of a victim of anti-Asian hate crime in Flushing. Through Maggie's use of social media and with the help of the community of Queens, she found her mother's assailant and he was arrested."

Statement from State Senator Joseph Addabbo, 15th SD, submitted by John D'Angelo

"The Senator sends his regards from Albany to everyone at Community Board 5. His prayers continue to be with the people of Ukraine, their friends and family, including those in New York where the largest population of Ukrainians in the United States call home.

Legislation co-sponsored by the Senator to expand student safety and address parent concerns passed in the Senate. This legislation authorizes schools to have asthma rescue medications on campus for use during a medical emergency. Another bill co-sponsored by the Senator allows unlicensed personnel to administer seizure rescue medications. A third bill co-sponsored by the Senator requires nonpublic schools to follow the same rules and regulations as public schools regarding a student who suffers a concussion. After passing the Senate, the bills were delivered to the Assembly for consideration.

The Senator also co-sponsored two Bills (**S.3098D and S.4110A**) to support business and create jobs. After passing the Senate, both Bills were delivered to the Assembly for consideration. The Senator is working towards improving public safety and is hopeful the State leaders will agree to address this issue during this Legislative Session. After monitoring Con Edison's pilot program for placing their utility wires underground in parts of Middle Village, the Senator is pleased the project is complete and now will evaluate the effects of the project. Additionally, he is looking to address Con Edison's recent service hike to customers, both legislatively and administratively.

Upcoming events include: 1) An **E-Waste Recycling Event** co-sponsored by Council Member Holden and the Lower East Side Ecology Center, on **SATURDAY, MARCH 26th**, from **10 AM to 2 PM** at **Rosemary's Playground** on Fairview Avenue between Woodbine and Madison Streets, in Ridgewood, and 2) **Spring Paper Shredding & Household Goods Donation**, co-sponsored by State Assembly Member Rajkumar, on **SUNDAY, APRIL 3rd, 10 AM to 2 PM**, in the **Forest Park Bandshell parking lot** area, on Veterans Memorial Drive."

Statement from Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, 38th AD, submitted by Vjola Isufaj

"Dear Community Board 5, Thank you so much for your tireless work for our community. It is a privilege for me to partner with you. Today, I have the esteemed honor of being one of only 6 Senior Advisors on Mayor Eric Adams' Transition Team. As we build a new administration to lead this city, I welcome any and all input on how City Hall can best serve you.

Already I have backed the Mayor's aggressive Blueprint to End Gun Violence and other plans to combat the rising crime in our city. I have also been working with the city to address the dangerous intersection of Cooper and Cypress Avenues, following the shocking pedestrian traffic accident last month. As I stated at my press conference at the intersection, this has to stop. No pedestrians should have to fear for their safety, and yet this intersection has witnessed 153 reported crashes over the last 8 years. I am working hand in hand with the Department of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez to end this traffic violence.

In Albany, I am championing 4 Bills that will make our roads safer, including a Crash Victims Bill of Rights and a Bill requiring new drivers to receive instruction about safely interacting with pedestrians. Besides these Bills, I have introduced several others to benefit our community. Three of my Bills focus on our Veterans by expanding public housing options, granting them easier access to college credits in our public universities, and ensuring public employees called to active military duty do not lose their

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benefits. I also introduced a bill to help students with disabilities succeed in their post-High School education by expanding support services.

It is now budget season in Albany. The Governor has proposed a \$216 Billion budget, and I am working every day to ensure the funding will flow to our institutions and civic groups in Glendale and Ridgewood, as well as to our Veterans, seniors, and youth. I welcome your input on any organizations you believe merit funding, as well as other budgetary priorities. I am also constantly fighting for the health and wellness of our community.

This past Saturday, I hosted a free Community Health Clinic at my office. We provided COVID-19 vaccinations and test kits, flu shots, face masks, and hand sanitizer. Two weeks ago, I hosted a Food Drive at my office, where we gave out food to more than 200 people. I will continue to keep you posted about future events at my office and throughout the community. Let me conclude by wishing you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day! I look forward to celebrating next week. My office remains fully open and you can always reach me at 718-805-0950 or by email at rajkumarj@nyassembly.gov.

It is an honor to serve you and to work with you. Very truly yours, Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, AD 38"

As there were no other questions or comments from the floor, he gave the floor to the District Manager to deliver his report.

District Manager's Report **Gary Giordano**

The District Manager reported that a new green infrastructure project will start this month in our Board area. He reminded everyone that our Board's #2 Capital Budget Priority is to provide Stormwater Runoff Mitigation and under this contract, new green infrastructure will be installed at 232 separate locations throughout our Board 5 area. He said that originally, what used to be called Bioswales were not maintained very well, if at all, and were primarily installed with the goal of preventing storm water from going into the combined sewer system. Now, he said that that the Dept. of Environmental Protection's goal is to install green infrastructure that will address street ponding conditions as well.

On an unrelated matter, the District Manager spoke about the tragedy that's underway in Europe, with Russian troops invading the Ukraine and attacking and ransacking civilian areas there. He asked when, in the last hundred years or more, did the Russian people have a non-autocratic government. It's a disgrace, he said.

He reminded everyone to reset their clocks one hour ahead for Daylight Savings Time, which begins at 2 AM this Sunday morning. He said that we'll have more daylight every evening and it will stay darker later in the morning.

Walter Sanchez, First Vice-Chair, asked whether the new green infrastructure that's planned for our Board area will eliminate parking spaces on local streets. The District Manager replied that so far, they've identified 232 locations in our Board area where they might install green gardens. To his knowledge, most of them won't interfere with on-street parking spaces. Under this contract, he said that the green infrastructure will be different sizes, depending on the location that's chosen. Their intention is to plant shrubs and greenery in most locations, he said.

Mr. Sanchez said that in the past, he's seen crews install bioswales that have eliminated 3 parking spots on residential blocks. He hopes that they're not going to eliminate any more parking spots in residential areas. The District Manager replied that under this contract, the rain gardens should be installed in the

sidewalk, if the sidewalk is wide enough. Toby Sheppard, a Board member, said that the construction crews will dig at least 5 feet down underground to install the green infrastructure and replace the soil with gravel and top it off with a grating. It's basically just an underground container to store rainwater runoff, he said.

Ken Rehberger, a Board member, said that if they're designed as dry wells, as Toby just said, they'll be digging up the street too. If they dig up the ground five feet out into the street, they will take away parking spots, he said.

The Board Chairperson asked everyone to contact the Board office with questions about specific locations so that staff can ask for more details from the Resident Engineer on this project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation and Public Transit Committees

Toby Bloch

Toby Bloch, Co-Chair of the Transportation Services Committee, reported that the Committee met last month on Tuesday, February 23, in the Board Office to view a power presentation given by several representatives of the NYC Dept. of Transportation about the proposed plans to expand the number of Citi-Bike stations to more locations in our Community Board 5 area, not the entire Board area.

Mr. Bloch said that DOT has identified a bunch of potential sites for stations, with some locations on sidewalks and others on the street. If you go to www.nyc.gov/bikeshare, there's an interactive map where community members can share feedback on all of the proposed locations that DOT is contemplating for use as Citi-Bike stations.

He said that there will be a mix of mechanical and electric assist bikes, about 90 mechanical, and 10 electric assist bikes. We spoke with D.O.T about the horrific pedestrian crash at the intersection of Cooper Avenue with Cypress Avenue, and about the need to make changes to improve pedestrian safety at that intersection. He said that subsequently DOT's Queens Borough Commissioner and local elected officials held a press conference on-site, where they announced the implementation of a "barn dance" interval where traffic in all four directions stops to allow pedestrians to cross. There are no turning movements interfering with pedestrians trying to cross. Toby Bloch said he has heard since then that there are drivers who are trying to make right turns on red, so there's an ongoing need for enforcement at that intersection due to impatient motorists.

In addition, Mr. Bloch reported that the MTA has informed the Board that this Spring, they are going to reinstate the Bus Network Redesign Process in Queens. He said that we should expect to receive an announcement from them about it very soon.

He announced that the next Committee Meeting will be conducted on Tuesday, March 22nd at 7:30pm in the Board 5 Office on Myrtle Avenue in Glendale.

Dmytro Fedkowskyj, a Board member, spoke about the dangerous traffic conditions on 61 Street between Grand Avenue and Borden Avenue, on the south side of the Queens Midtown Expressway. He said that local residents told him that large 53 foot-long tractor trailers drive this route regularly, as a short cut to the eastbound Service Road of the Expressway. Very often, they hit parked cars and utility wires along the way, he said. He said that he's worried that a school child or pedestrian could be hit next. He pointed out that there are two parochial schools on 61 Street, and one high school a block away, whose students walk to and from school on 61 Street. He requested the Transportation Committee to request additional traffic signage and/or traffic enforcement at 61 Street and Grand

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Avenue to prohibit large tractor trailers from taking this short cut. The Chairperson referred the matter to the Transportation Committee for review and recommendation.

Regarding the proposal to install more CitiBike stations in our Board area, Richard Huber, a Board member, said he was concerned about how many additional parking spots would be eliminated by the new CitiBike stations. He said that one of the proposed locations is opposite Stop N Shop in Glendale where there's a row of 4-family homes. He said that he'd prefer to see these bike stations installed on the sidewalk instead.

Robert Cermeli, a Board member, asked if there's been any thought given to requiring anyone who rides a CitiBike to wear a helmet. If not, then there should be a sign posted to encourage people to wear a bike helmet when they're riding a bike on local streets, particularly electric assist bikes. The Board Chairperson replied that he thinks that it's been included in the new contract. He said that the Transportation Committee will look into it further.

Maryann Lattanzio, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, said that at their most recent Committee Meeting, they discussed the issue of trucks on 61 Street with both Community Affairs Officers Michael Berish and Dilsia Bonilla, who said that additional police patrols would be assigned to this detail, particularly at school dismissal times.

Public Safety Services Committee **Maryann Lattanzio**

Maryann Lattanzio reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, March 1st, to review crime statistics and precinct staffing levels, and

Ms. Lattanzio said that at their Committee Meeting, Police Officer Berish reported that the 104th Police Precinct was the only precinct in Queens Borough Patrol North to report a decrease in crime in 2021, but since the beginning of 2022, crime is up when compared to last year's statistics. He informed the Committee that in the last 28 Day period in the 104 Precinct, there was a 40% increase in crime, and Year-to-Date (YTD), crime is up 30% in the Precinct. He gave a breakdown in the crime statistics by Sector, in the last 28 Day period as follows:

In Sector A - Glendale: 18 more crimes were reported in the last 28 days than in the same time period last year, and YTD, the number of crimes reported is up 100%, especially robberies.

In Sector B - Ridgewood: 22 more crimes were reported in the last 28 days than in the same time period last year, and YTD, the number of crimes reported is up 43% over last year's statistics.

In Sector C - Maspeth: the number of crimes reported in the last 28 days is up 38% over the same time period last year, and YTD, crime is up 13% over last year's statistics.

In Sector D - Middle Village: the number of crimes dropped by 36% in the last 28 days, over the same time period last year, and YTD, crime dropped by 7.8%, compared to the same time period last year.

Officer Berish said that robberies are up citywide, and in the 104 Precinct. He said that one reason for the uptick in robberies is due to the increase in people meeting to buy and sell goods. He advised everyone to choose meeting places in public spaces that are crowded, and well-lit areas. Lastly, he said that Grand Larceny continues to be a problem in the 104th Precinct, particularly phone scams that involve imposters pretending to work for the IRS or Con Ed, to name a few.

Officer Berish stated that Officer Hyatt is the Crime Prevention Officer in the 104th Precinct. He said that she works the day shift and visits local senior centers to inform them of crime prevention tips.

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on March 9, 2022

Regarding the increase in shootings in both the 104th Precinct and Citywide, Officer Berish stated there are many more guns out on the street now, even in the 104 Precinct. He described a recent incident where there was no victim, but 2 shell casings were found after a report of shots fired. He also spoke about a recent shooting on Wyckoff Avenue, involving someone who had just walked out of a club there. Last week, he said that there were 2 gun arrests in a 48 hour period in the precinct with one of the arrests involving a domestic violence call.

Ms. Lattanzio said that when Committee members asked why crime is increasing so much, Officer Berish replied that it might be due to the recent bail reform laws, the need for more Police Officers and less respect for law enforcement, in general.

Regarding the incidents of crimes at the Glendale Homeless Shelter on Cooper Avenue, Ms. Lattanzio said that Committee members asked Officer Berish what kind of security is in place there. He replied that they have a security detail on-site and security cameras on each floor of the shelter. In response to a complaint about men often entering the shelter with backpacks full of beer, Dorie Figliola, a Committee member, advised everyone that they should inform the head of security in the shelter to report what they see, when they see it. She said that the President of G-COP was given his number to distribute to members of the civilian patrol. Officer Berish responded that 5 arrests were made at shelter so far this year, including 2 assaults. He said that since the beginning of this year, 86 calls for assistance were made to 911, including 32 for medical assistance at this location. Committee members requested additional patrols be assigned to that vicinity.

Ms. Lattanzio reported that regarding pedestrian safety, Officer Berish informed the Committee that there was a recent traffic accident involving a pedestrian at the intersection of Cypress and Cooper Avenues in Ridgewood. He said that a video shows a man who was walking across this intersection when he was hit and run over by a vehicle. The victim is still in the hospital, he said. Another serious accident took place at the intersection of Cooper Avenue and 88 Street recently, where 2 young people were riding on an electric bike and were struck by a vehicle there. One person is still in critical condition in the hospital, he said. Officer Berish said that the 104th Precinct Auxiliary Unit has been handing out flyers about pedestrian safety since these accidents have occurred.

Regarding summonsing in the 104th Precinct, Officer Berish told the Committee that 8 scooters/e-bikes were taken off the street in the 104th Precinct recently. In addition, he said that, in the last 28 days, there were 21 arrests made for DWI or unlicensed operator of a vehicle; and 550 summonses were issued for moving violations, including 112 summonses for speeding, 71 for driving thru a red light, 68 for texting while driving, 38 for talking on a cell phone while driving, and 50 for driving without buckling your seat belt. He said that another 767 summonses were issued for illegally parked cars. A total of 1,081 moving violations were issued to drivers YTD, including 66 scooters and e-bikes. Regarding the intersection of Cypress Avenue at Cooper Avenue, Officer Berish said that, in 2021, 14 collisions were reported there , and 80 summonses were issued to drivers at that location.

In addition, the Committee expressed their concerns about large tractor trailers driving up 61 Street from Grand Avenue to the Queens Midtown Expressway Eastbound Service Road on a regular basis, especially since there are two grade schools in that area.

Rich Huber reminded everyone that last year, our Community Board passed a resolution recommending our support for State legislation to regulate scooters and e-bikes.

Parks Services Committee

Steven Fiedler

Regarding the Reconstruction of the Running Track and Soft Surface Football/Soccer Field in Juniper Valley Park, Steven Fiedler said that this project, which began in September, has been stalled because of drainage problems. The construction equipment, drainage basins and drywall sewers have been delivered to this site but the contractor hasn't been working there on a regular basis as yet.

Regarding the baseball fields in Juniper Valley Park, Mr. Fiedler said that the fields are full of puddles and need work, the same as most of the other ballfields in parks throughout our Board do. He said that the only fields that are too often playable are the synthetic turf fields.

He announced that the Parks Committee plans to meet in person in Frank Principe Park at 6:30pm next Tuesday, March 15th to discuss parks maintenance issues.

Old Business

Derek Evers, a Board member, spoke about a chronic problem with cars that are parked on sidewalks in Ridgewood, and when they're called into 311, the complaint is often ignored. Some of the cars that he's reported have fake placards on them, instead of license plates. He asked if traffic enforcement agents could ticket these cars for having defaced plates, or plates with covers on them. The Board Chairperson replied that there's legislation pending in Albany that addresses the issue of fake, defaced or covered plates. He said that the Board staff will work with the Department of Transportation and Police Department to get enforcement. Regarding the cars that are parked on the sidewalk, he directed the Board staff to work with the 104th Police Precinct to resolve that issue.

Dmytro Fedkowskyj, a Board member, asked what Board members can do to advocate for better maintenance of the ballfields in Juniper Valley Park. The Board Chairperson replied that you can always call or write to your local elected official, who in this case is your City Council Member. He said that staff will contact the Parks Department to find out the status of the current contract.

Edward Lettau, a Board member, commented that anyone who is arrested for minor infractions within the confines of the 104th Police Precinct could be assigned to perform hours of community service, such as, clean up and maintenance of local parks.

New Business

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board Chairperson announced that our next Board Meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Wednesday, April 13th, and may be in person. He entertained a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.