



Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale
61-23 Myrtle Avenue • Glendale, NY 11385
Tel (718) 366-1834 Fax (718) 417-5799
E-mail: qn05@cb.nyc.gov
www.NYC.gov/qnscb5



Vincent Arcuri, Jr.
Chairperson

Gary Giordano
District Manager

Minutes of Remote Community Board 5 Public Meeting April 13, 2022

Board Members Present

Bhubaneshor Adhikari; Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Antonetta Binanti; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Adam Bloom; Jessica Boiardi; Alyssa Bonilla; Eric Butkiewicz; Rachel Caracci; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr; Nickolas Cuttonaro; Patricia Crowley; Derek Evers; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Cecilia Guerra; Fred T. Haller; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Diego Leclery; Edward Lettau; Patricia Maltezos; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Marcin Nadgorski; April Narsasian; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Melissa Rebecca; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Dennis Stephan; Catherine Sumsky; Katarzyna Syta; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Jasmine Valle; Michaeline Von Drathen; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Maria de la Cruz; Brian Dooley; Fred Hoefflerle; Gyanal Thapa

STAFF

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

GUESTS

Katherine Zapata, Community Board 5 Liaison, Queens Borough President's Office

Before proceeding, at 7:37pm, 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/nsUkNZRmetw>, 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 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 statement from local residents, Marie Muscat and Neal Aissa, residents of Glendale:

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on April 13, 2022

"My daughter began attending PS/IS 119 this year. The traffic signs are totally inadequate on 78th Ave at 74th Street and 75th Street. There are only cross walks and yellow school crossing signs at these intersections. It's incomprehensible that there are no Stop signs and speed bumps at these intersections. Drivers speed through this block and ignore the crosswalks.

During drop off and dismissal, there is only one overwhelmed crossing guard at 74th Street, with 75th Street left unattended.

During afterschool pick up there is no crossing guard. Drivers do not observe the Crosswalk rules. There should be stop signs and speed bumps near this school. I see them around other schools throughout the city.

Just today, a driver did not stop while I tried to cross with my daughter. I told him through his window that he's supposed to stop for us. Driver just cursed me out. Drivers do not understand the yellow warning signs. Please bring this dangerous block, in front of a school, to DOT's attention.

Thank you, Marie Muscat and Neal Aissa"

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 asked 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 March 9, 2022. The Chairperson accepted a motion from Katherine Masi, 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 that were received at the Board office since last month's Board Meeting. Copies of this list were emailed to all Board members yesterday.

LIQUOR, WINE & BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS AND RENEWALS

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) **The Cage Restaurant** Inc, 60-59 Myrtle Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) Grand Jammer, LLC d/b/a **Windjammer** 552 Grandview Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) Grove Productions LLC d/b/a **Nowadays** 56-06 Cooper Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) Bush Brooklyn LLC d/b/a T/B/D 951 Wyckoff Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) DMI Inc. d/b/a **Knockdown Center** 52-19 Flushing Ave., Maspeth, NY 11378
- 5) BJ Maspeth Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a **Peggy Dempsey's** 64-14 Flushing Ave., Maspeth, NY 11378
- 6) Sandy Mouse LLC d/b/a **The Acre** 68-22 Forest Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385

New Wine, Beer & Cider Licenses

- 1) Regal Cinemas Inc. d/b/a **Regal Atlas Park Stadium 8** 80-28 Cooper Ave., Glendale, NY 11385
- 2) NYC Dynamic Squared LLC d/b/a **Lucy's Kitchen** 552 Onderdonk Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine, Beer & Cider Renewals

None Reported

***Temporary Retail Permit**

- 1) **1080 Kafe Corp.** 1080 Cypress Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Other Notifications

- 1) RTA Foods Inc. d/b/a **Burrito Blvd.** 72-64 Metropolitan Ave., Middle Village, NY 11379

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on April 13, 2022

(change from WB&C to LWB&C)

2) ****Julia's Beer and Wine Bar** LLC, 818 Woodward Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385 (LWB&C)***

* Information about the **Temporary Retail Permits** can be found on the SLA Website at <https://sla.ny.gov/node/13981>

** Currently has a full license pending with the SLA

*** Corporate Change

B&C = Beer & Cider; **WB&C** = Wine, Beer & Cider; **LWB&C** = Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

The Board Chairperson inquired if Regal Cinemas had already been issued a license.

Demolition Notice

Staff Member John Maier informed everyone that since last month's Board Meeting, the office received one notification of a demolition: a residential home and garage in **Middle Village**, located at **66-23 79 Street**, where the owner plans to build a new 1-family house on this lot at **Block: 3069; Lot:22**. 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.

The District Manager 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 **"Congress Member Grace Meng Introduces the Disability ID Act of 2022, H.R. 7217"**

Congress Member Meng introduced legislation to improve the relationship between people with disabilities and First-Responders:

- This Bill would establish a new grant program for states to facilitate the placement of a discrete and voluntary disability identifier symbol on Drivers' Licenses and other forms of state-issued identification.
- Disabilities can be misjudged or disregarded, leaving many people with disabilities worried that their interactions with first responders may escalate. That is why it is vital to give individuals with a disability the option to have a disability identifier symbol placed on their Driver's License or ID card.
- This Bill would also provide funding for training first responders to recognize the disability identifiers and interact appropriately with such individuals.

Congress Member Meng Continues to Standup for Ukraine

Congress Member Meng 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.

- As Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, Congress Member Meng continues to support robust funding for economic and security assistance to Ukraine, including the \$13.6 Billion Aid Package to Ukraine that she voted to pass in the House; President Biden signed that measure into law.
- Recently, Congress Member Meng co-led a bipartisan letter to Administrator Power of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, requesting that USAID ensure its efforts prevent and address gender-based violence in response to the crisis in Ukraine.

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on April 13, 2022

- With millions of Ukrainians fleeing their country, 86% being women and children, there has not been enough attention or resources dedicated to addressing the rising risk of gender-based violence.
- This letter urges the USAID to coordinate with the State Department, to prioritize the needs of women and girls in humanitarian funding and assistance strategies.
- Additionally, Congress Member Meng joined:
 - a Bill that calls for travel restrictions on Russian government employees and oligarchs.
 - a Resolution condemning Russia's war crimes & supporting international organizations helping refugees.
 - Congress Member Meng also joined an effort successfully calling on the Biden Administration to offer Temporary Protected Status to Ukrainians entering the United States.

Congress Member Grace Meng Helped Pass the Affordable Insulin Now Act, H.R. 6833

Congress Member Meng helped pass in the House of Representatives legislation that would limit the cost of a 30-day supply of insulin to \$35 for people with diabetes.

- There are over 37 million Americans with diabetes, and more than one in three are at high risk of developing it. Insulin, the lifesaving medicine required to treat diabetes, is outrageously expensive for consumers, with the average cost for a 40-day supply topping \$600.
- No one should have to pay such a high price to drug companies for a life-saving medicine that is cheap to produce.
- The Bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

Congress Member Grace Meng Co-Sponsored the Nonprofit Security Grant Program Improvement Act of 2022, H.R. 6825

Congress Member Meng co-sponsored legislation that would strengthen the Nonprofit Security Grant Program's capacity and infrastructure, to serve at-risk nonprofits hand-in-hand with bolstering its funding to \$500 Million, annually.

- Bolstering funding for this program, which provides funding for security enhancements at houses of worship and religious facilities at a high risk of a terrorist attack, comes at a crucial time.
- It was earlier this year that we watched in horror as Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, was taken hostage.
- This Bill would help facilities become more secure against attacks like this, assuring that every American can safely worship."

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

"Senator Addabbo introduced **Gas and Electric Rate Notification Legislation**, requiring gas and electric corporations to provide customers with 60 days notification prior to any rate or service delivery increase.

The Senator co-sponsored four pieces of legislation aimed at dealing with the increase of helicopters flying over local communities.

The Senator co-sponsored legislation designating March 13th as a Day of Commemoration to be known as "**K9 Veterans Day**". After passing the Senate, the bill was referred to the Assembly Governmental Operations Committee for consideration.

Senator Addabbo also co-sponsored a Bill to address foreclosed vacant dwellings. The Bill requires banks and financial institutions responsible for foreclosed properties to actively rehabilitate and maintain vacant dwellings or face maximum civil penalties. This Bill was approved by the NYS Senate and was submitted to the Assembly Housing Committee for consideration.

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on April 13, 2022

The Legislature passed the State Budget that included changes to the Bail Reform Laws aimed at increasing public safety, in response to the concerns expressed by residents. Senator Addabbo is working on a Budget Summary which will be mailed and distributed to his constituents.

Senator Addabbo is hosting a series of **Mobile Office Hours**, including Thursday, April 28th, 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM, at the Middle Village Library, 72-31 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village.

A **Paper Shredding** event, co-sponsored with Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar, will be held on

Saturday, May 21st, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, at the Shops at Atlas Park, 8000 Cooper Avenue, Glendale.

A **Veterans Information Fair** is being held on **Saturday, May 21st, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM**, at the Shops at Atlas Park, 8000 Cooper Avenue, Glendale.

A **Spring E-Waste Recycling** event, co-sponsored with Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar and Council Member Bob Holden, is being held on **Sunday, May 22nd, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**, at the Forest Park Bandshell Parking Lot, Woodhaven.

Senator Addabbo and his team send their wishes for a Happy and Blessed Easter and Passover."

Statement from Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD, submitted by Kevin Wisniewski

"Good evening CB5, I hope everyone is well.

Assemblyman Hevesi is back in the district after spending most of March and all of last week in Albany finalizing the budget. We will be sending out a summary outlining what was secured in this year's State Budget, but wanted to give a few items of note for now:

Firstly, Assemblyman Hevesi led the effort to secure \$7 Billion to expand childcare eligibility in New York. With the expanded eligibility, a family of four can now earn up to \$76,500 and have their childcare covered. Previously, the same family could only earn up to \$53,000 in order to receive subsidized childcare. This makes 400,000 more children eligible for childcare, and each eligible family will save an average of \$23,000 per year. Anyone who may be eligible for the subsidy can contact our office for help applying.

The Assembly also fought for:

\$224 Million to strengthen the Gun Violence Prevention efforts of Law Enforcement

\$41 Million for flooding repair assistance from Hurricane Ida

\$53 Million for children's mental health programs, and

\$20 Million for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Equity Fund which will increase public health resources, develop a K-12 AAPI curriculum, and fund AAPI organizations across New York State.

Locally, this weekend we partnered with the 102nd Precinct and 112th Precinct Crime Prevention Unit to clear graffiti from the Austin St Underpass, underneath the Jackie Robinson Parkway.

We have a **Rain Barrel Giveaway** planned with Senator Addabbo on **Saturday, May 7**, in front of the Yeshiva Gedolah d'Satmar in Glendale, located at 74-10 88 Street. And, we are continuing our ongoing **Parks Cleanup** series, where students are receiving service credit for helping maintain our communities. Email us at Hevesia@nyassembly.gov for more information on the Parks Cleanup series.

Finally, with the recent uptick in COVID, we're staying stocked on masks and at-home rapid tests. If anyone would like to arrange a pickup at no cost, they can contact us at (718) 263-5595 to schedule an appointment.

Thanks to everyone for your efforts, congratulations to the new members, happy holidays to all celebrating, and stay safe."

Statement from State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, 38th AD, submitted by Elliot Heisler, Counsel

"Dear Community Board 5, Thank you so much for your tireless work for our community.

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on April 13, 2022

I am proud to report that we passed a \$220 Billion State Budget over the weekend in Albany after an overnight session of debate that was 20 hours long. I am proud that several of the items I championed made it into the budget. In a historic achievement, the Division of Veterans Affairs will be elevated to a Cabinet Level Department, ensuring that our veterans have one place to go to access benefits and can cut through the bureaucratic red tape. The budget also contains major investments in CUNY and SUNY which will empower the youth of our city. Throughout the budget process, I fought tirelessly to ensure that funding will flow to our district. I am happy to report that I was successful in securing funding for the Glendale Civilian Observation Patrol (GCOP), as well as for our Veterans, seniors, and youth.

My office has continued its non-stop work in the district. Last week, I held a **COVID-19 Test Kit Giveaway** at my office. Many thanks to Teresa Donahue, Glendale Kiwanis President, for stopping by. Thanks as well to GCOP, Tamang Society and Himalayan Democratic Club for their assistance and for sponsoring the event. I also hosted our annual Paper Shredding and Recycling Event at Forest Park in partnership with Senator Joe Addabbo.

Mark your calendars for **May 22nd**, when we will host an **Electronic Recycling Event** at Forest Park. I held several food distribution events throughout the district over the past month to help families struggling with food insecurity.

I also held my popular **"Jenifer on Your Block"** mobile office hours in Glendale, with several more on schedule in the coming weeks. Thank you for our wonderful CB5 Chair Vinny Arcuri for coming to "Jenifer on Your Block"! I had a wonderful time meeting so many of my friends and neighbors from Glendale during my mobile office hours. I am passionate about ensuring quality of life in our community.

I attend regular meetings on the Cooper Avenue Shelter to monitor the shelter's operations and ensure public safety in our neighborhood. It is a pleasure to also work with the Liberty Park Homeowners Association and the Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association.

I am working hard to ensure traffic safety for all, especially in light of the horrific traffic accident at the intersection of Cooper and Cypress Avenues. In February, in response to that horrible accident, I helped bring the NYC Dept. of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez to Glendale and DOT promptly initiated street safety improvements there. I have also co-sponsored a **Crash Victims Bill of Rights** in Albany and a Bill to require new drivers to learn about pedestrian safety before obtaining a Driver's Permit. I am proud to announce that a **Car Safety Bill** that I introduced recently passed the Assembly after I debated it on the Assembly Floor. My Bill requires Used Car Dealers to search for recalls and initiate repairs before selling cars. This Bill will save lives. It is good for consumers, drivers, and safety on the roads.

As the spring holidays approach, let me wish you all a Happy Easter and a Happy Passover. In these times of new beginnings, I wish you prosperity, peace, health, and love. 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, Jenifer Rajkumar, NYS Assembly District 38."

The Board Chairperson introduced Katherine Zapata as Queens Borough President Donovan Richards' representative assigned to cover our Community Board area. Ms. Zapata pointed out that she also serves as the Borough President's Assistant for Transportation and Parks. She informed everyone that she grew up in Maspeth and said that she looks forward to working with our Board and meeting Board members in person someday.

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

The District Manager wished everyone a Happy Passover and Happy Easter.

He reported that the contractor is back at work on the Reconstruction of the Running Track and Soft Surface Soccer/Football Field in Juniper Valley Park, where work includes replacing park drainage pipe that is clogged, about 26 feet deep at the west end of the park, close to Lutheran Avenue.

The District Manager also cautioned everyone that there have been ongoing problems with drivers speeding and not giving pedestrians the right-of-way at intersections in our Board area. He said that members of the Transportation Services Committee are requesting more and more traffic safety studies and traffic calming measures at their monthly meetings in the Board Office.

The District Manager announced that nominations from the floor will be accepted at next month's Board Meeting on May 11, for the election of Executive Committee Members. He said that nominations will be reopened during the following monthly Meeting, on June 8th, when the annual election of Board Officers will be conducted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks Committee

Steven Fiedler

Steven Fiedler reported that the Parks Committee met on site in Frank Principe Park this week, with Parks Department staff and community residents to address their concerns about park maintenance. He said that their meeting was very productive. He said he'll follow up with the Parks Department to address the list of maintenance issues that were raised by residents who attended their meeting.

On another note, Mr. Fiedler said that he was glad to see the contractor back on the job on the Reconstruction of the Running Track and Soft Surface Soccer/Football Field in Juniper Valley Park. He said that the project had been stalled due to drainage problems at the Lutheran Avenue end of the park. He also reported that another contractor is working under a separate contract to replace the water main that feeds both the Park House and the sprinkler system inside the Children's Playground area on the south side of Juniper Valley Park.

Mr. Fiedler also reported that work is going well on the new Myrtle Avenue Entrance and Pathway into Forest Park in Glendale. Fred Haller recommended that the height of the fence, between the Golf Course and the pedestrian pathway, be raised a couple of feet higher because he's witnessed a stray golf ball occasionally fly over that fence into the new pathway there.

Mr. Fiedler asked the District Manager about the status of plans to reconstruct Benninger Park on Madison Street in Ridgewood. Mr. Giordano replied that the Capital Division of the Parks Department has prepared schematic drawings for the proposed renovations in Benninger Park and their staff would like to give a power point presentation to our Parks Committee within the next month or two.

Education Services and Youth Services Committees

Katherine Masi

Katherine Masi, co-chair of the Education Committee, reported that the Education Services and Youth Services Committees met jointly, on March 30th, over the Webex platform with Madelene Chan, the District Superintendent of Community School District 24, and her staff to discuss the Dept. of Education's proposed plans for the Temporary Re-siting of Bushwick Leaders High School for Academic Excellence and its Co-location with Joseph F. Quinn I.S. 77, beginning in the 2022-2023 School Year.

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on April 13, 2022

Ms. Masi reported that, according to the Dept. of Education's enrollment figures, IS 77 is at 49% capacity this year, with a total of 700 students in attendance there. She said that District Supt. Chan's staff gave a power point presentation that outlined the proposed plans to co-locate Bushwick Leaders High School for Academic Excellence with Joseph F. Quinn I.S. 77Q, located at 976 Seneca Avenue, in Ridgewood.

Supt. Chan informed the Committee members that under these proposed plans, 387 students who currently attend the Bushwick Leaders High School for Academic Excellence would instead attend IS 77, until extensive building renovations have been completed in their school building. The renovations are expected to be finished within the next 2 years.

Ms. Chan pointed out to Committee members that Bushwick Leaders High School for Academic Excellence is located just 1 ½ miles away from IS 77Q, which is the closest potential site for these students to be co-located and it's considered to be their best option. The Superintendent told Committee members that the students would be responsible for their own transportation to and from school each day.

The District Superintendent told the Committee members that when she met with school team leaders in both schools, she found that the school community in IS 77Q generally supports this plan and welcomes the incoming student population. Some parents have expressed concerns about their child's safety and plan to request safety transfers if the proposed plan is approved, she said.

Supt. Chan pointed out that overall enrollment at IS 77Q would be at 75% capacity, even with the additional 387 students from Bushwick Leaders High School in attendance at their school. She also pointed out that the students will use separate entrances and exits and occupy separate quarters within the building.

The Superintendent said that student safety is the primary concern of both parents and school staff. For this reason, the school facility will have two separate Building Councils to address any concerns that may arise.

In closing, the Superintendent informed Committee members that, in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-190, the Dept. of Education scheduled a Virtual Public Hearing on April 7th, regarding this proposal to temporarily co-locate Bushwick Leaders High School with IS 77Q for a period of two school years, 2022-2024, while the planned building renovations are underway.

Ms. Masi said that the Committee members also discussed the Quality of School Lunches at Public Schools with staff from the District's Food Services Division, Sonia Birchwood and Lucia Abernathy.

Ms. Masi said that there have been lots of comments about the Friday Vegan lunch menu. The staff members explained that while the school menus are the same for every school, not all cooks are alike. Even so, Ms. Abernathy said that the nutritional guidelines are planned for the week, depending on the age of the child who's getting a school lunch. And, she said that lots of fruit is always available at public schools. Nicole Scarangelo, from the Office of School Nutrition Services, informed Committee members that they have changed the name of 'Vegan Friday' to 'Plant Powered Friday' and they plan to offer veggie burgers instead of rice and beans, in order to meet Federal guidelines.

Ms. Masi thanked the District Superintendent and her staff for their very informative presentation. For more information on this subject, Ms. Masi suggested that people contact John Maier in the Board 5 Office to request a copy of the minutes from their meeting.

Transportation and Public Transit Services Committees

Vincent Arcuri

Toby Bloch, Co-Chair of the Transportation Services Committee, reported that the Committee met in person in the Board Office on March 22nd, as well as remotely with Andrew Lynch, a representative of the Queens Link Project who gave an extensive power point presentation about the possibility of

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on April 13, 2022

reactivating the Rockaway Branch of the Long Island Railroad passenger service line. He said that Mr. Lynch told the Committee that their aim is to explore how rail transport and recreational uses can co-exist along the old Rockaway Branch Rail line. Mr. Bloch said that the Queens Link Project is actively seeking letters of support for funding toward a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement. He said that the Committee agreed to take this matter under advisement while they gather more information about it.

Regarding the painting of the elevated M Train structure in Ridgewood, Mr. Bloch reported that progress on this project has been seriously delayed, due to adverse weather conditions and staffing shortages due to COVID-19. He said that crews will be back at work soon to finish where they left off, painting the structure at Palmetto Street, between Onderdonk Avenue and Seneca Avenue, in Ridgewood. The project is slated for completion this year.

Regarding the proposed Queens Bus Network Redesign, Mr. Bloch reported that the MTA held a Kickoff Meeting at the end of March to present their revised plans for a more efficient Bus Network in Queens. He said that the revisions to local Bus routes, that they've incorporated into their new proposal, are designed to rebalance stops and spacing. In addition, the proposed Bus route revisions also break up some Bus routes and connect them to new Bus routes so that, for example, places like Queens College will be more accessible to a wider ridership. He said that, under the proposed Queens Bus Route Network, he is happy to see the headways of the Q54 Bus route will be shortened.

Regarding traffic safety requests, Mr. Bloch agreed with the District Manager's statement during his report about the increased volume of requests for traffic calming measures on local roadways. He said that there's been a pattern of increased aggressiveness and reckless driving on our streets. In closing, he urged everyone to be more careful while driving or walking on local streets.

Fred Haller, an Executive Committee member, commented that two-wheeled vehicles are driven recklessly, particularly through local streets in Ridgewood. He said that with so many bicyclists riding on the sidewalks, pedestrians must be very careful walking on the sidewalk, let alone crossing the street. Kathy Masi requested more information about the proposed expansion of CitiBike racks in the Board 5 area, especially Ridgewood and Maspeth.

Rich Huber, a Committee member, reported that he recently attended a meeting with representatives of the Dept. of Transportation to learn more about their plans to expand the number of bikes and racks in our Board area. He said that he's still waiting for a response to his question: how many curbside parking spaces will be eliminated by the proposed bike stations? He said that he'd prefer to see the installations on sidewalks, rather than in parking lanes.

The Board Chairperson thanked everyone for their input and said that the Committee will continue relaying their feedback to the Dept. of Transportation regarding the proposed expansion of CitiBike. Derek Evers, a Committee member, commented that cars kill many more people than guns do. He also said that, according to the results from a recent survey of citywide accident statistics, motor bikes account for less than 1% of fatalities and injuries each year, but cars account for the other 99% of them. He said that in the Community Board 5 area, there's nothing more dangerous than motor vehicles. Ken Rehberger, a Committee member, commented that there have been three traffic accidents in the past three weeks on the corner of 78 Avenue at 64 Place, in Glendale. He said that 78 Avenue has become a speedway.

On a point of clarification, Kathy Masi said that she doesn't object to the expansion of CitiBikes in our Board area. She said that she'd like to have input on where the Citibike stations are located. She asked if the Committee plans to follow up with the Dept. of Transportation on this issue.

Minutes of CB5Q Remote Board Meeting on April 13, 2022

In addition, she reminded Committee members about her objection to the fact that the Q54 Bus is still being driven by the Atlas Park shopping area, even though there isn't a single passenger on the Bus. Fred Haller agreed that eliminating parking spots on the street in a densely populated area is a quality of life issued.

Cecilia Guerra, a Maspeth resident and newly appointed Board member, said that she agreed with the previous speakers. She said that where she lives, there's very limited parking available on the residential streets of Maspeth because so many families own more than one car. She said that eliminating parking spots on residential blocks would create quality of life problems for the residents.

Cathie Sumsky, a Board member, said that any new CitiBike stations should be installed close to the M Train and subway stations in our Board area.

New Business

Fred Haller introduced Melissa Rebecca, who is a new Board member and recent graduate of St. John's University. He said that she'll be a great asset to our Community Board.

Old Business

Robert Cermeli, a Board member, asked if there was any final decision made about whether the structures that were built in the street in front of local restaurants during COVID-19 could remain in place. The Board Chairperson replied that he expects that these structures will remain in many cases.

As there were no further questions or comments from the floor, the Board Chairperson wished everyone a Good Passover, a Good Ramadan, or a Happy Easter, as the case may be. He adjourned the Board Meeting on a motion from the floor at 8:42pm.