



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 Community Board 5 Public Meeting

May 10, 2023

Board Members Present

Bhubaneshor Adhikari; Carol Benovic-Bradley; Antonetta Binanti; Jessica Boiardi; Eric Butkiewicz; Rachel Caracci; Maritza Carmona; Robert Cermeli; Deepak Chaudhari; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Salvatore Crifasi; Daniel De Brucker; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Dorie Figliola; Fred T. Haller; Fred Hoefflerle; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Diego Leclery; Edward Lettau; Katherine Masi; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Melissa Rebecca; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Lily Scarabino; Dennis Stephan; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Patrick Trinchese; Jasmine Valle; Maryanna Zero; Brandon Zwagerman

Board Members Absent

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Michael Byc; Ethan Chan; Patricia Crowley; Nickolas Cuttonaro; Derek Evers; Eileen Moloney; April Narsasian; Katarzyna Syta

ELECTED OFFICIALS and STAFF

Johnathan Betancourt – US Representative Nydia Velazquez, 7th C.D.
John D'Angelo - NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, 15th SD
Maria Valdez – NYS Senator Julia Salazar, 18th SD
Jolly Patel – NYS Assembly Member Steven Raga, 30th AD
Kevin Jusino - NYS Assembly Member Juan Ardila, 37th AD
Vjola Isufaj - NYS Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, 38th AD
Craig Caruana – NYC Council Member Robert Holden, 30th CD
Juan Mayancela – NYC Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez, 34th CD

STAFF

Gary Giordano, District Manager-CB5Q
John Maier, CB5Q Staff

Walter Sanchez, the First Vice-Chair of the Board, announced that, in Chairperson Vincent Arcuri's absence, he will conduct tonight's Board Meeting. He called the meeting to order at 7:31pm, following a Salute to the Flag. He said that this meeting is also being livestreamed via Zoom where anyone can watch this meeting at their convenience, by clicking on the link that's posted on our CB5Q Homepage at www.nyc.gov/qnscb5.

Mr. Sanchez announced the first order of business as:

PUBLIC FORUM

Cynthia Stubbs, a resident of 60 Road in Maspeth, thanked Community Board 5 for conducting all public meetings in a professional manner. She said that she's observed many Board Meetings where all

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speakers who address this Community Board are treated with respect, particularly the staff of local politicians who report on new legislation and public events, etc. She said that, while watching the online video of another Queens Community Board's Meeting recently, she realized that not all Boards extend the same courtesy to speakers who are addressing their Board. She commended the work of Community Board 5 for conducting business in a courteous and professional manner.

Dorothy Werkmeister, a resident of 65 Lane in Middle Village, said that a Citi-Bike rack for 26 bicycles which was recently installed on her block, south of the corner of Metropolitan Avenue, poses a safety hazard. She questioned the need for it being installed on her residential block, because there's another 26-bike rack that was already installed nearby, on the sidewalk in front of the Metro Mall at 66-26 Metropolitan Avenue. She said that she's only seen one person take a bike from the bike station on her block, to ride it down her block. She asked that it be re-located to a commercial strip with more pedestrian traffic, where it could be more useful.

In closing, Ms. Werkmeister said that she has collected facts and figures about problems with Citi-Bike installations throughout the City. Mr. Sanchez referred the matter to the Transportation Services Committee for review and recommendation. As Transportation Committee Chair, Eric Butkiewicz said that Committee Members had surveyed many of the proposed locations for Citi-Bike stations in our Board area and succeeded in persuading the Department of Transportation to re-locate about half of them to other sites nearby. He invited her to attend the next Committee Meeting on Tuesday, May 30th, when this matter will be on their Agenda.

Frances Perez, another resident of 65 Lane in Middle Village, objected to the fact that the 26-bike rack for City-Bike was installed on April 7th, without prior notification or approval from homeowners on this block. She cautioned that it's been reported in the press that Citi-Bikes have been used by criminals to swipe earphones from pedestrians while they're walking down the street. She said that in her opinion, this bike rack does not serve the public good at its present location on their residential block and should be re-located to a commercial strip. Mr. Sanchez replied that a study of the Citi-Bike usage at the existing installations would be completed this year, and the Dept. of Transportation may decide to relocate some of them to other sites, pending the results of the study.

Edward Lettau, a Board Member and an employee of the NYC Board of Elections, announced that the Board of Elections will offer training sessions for Poll Workers who'd like to work for them during this year's Primary Elections on June 27th, and the General Election on November 7th, 2023. He encouraged any registered voters who live in the City of New York, if they're affiliated with any political party or an Independent, to apply for positions as Poll Workers or Interpreters for the upcoming elections. He reminded everyone that Ranked Choice Voting will be in effect during the Primary Elections. For more information about how to apply for a Poll Worker position, he advised everyone to visit their website at www.nyc.electiondayworkers.com and click on the Apply Online box to read the instructions. For updates on the upcoming elections, he said to go to <https://www.vote.nyc>.

Gina Cano, another resident of 65 Lane in Middle Village, also raised objections to the site of the 26-bike Citi-Bike station on her block. She said that she agrees with all the previous objections that were made by her neighbors at tonight's meeting. She said that this bike station would only compound the problems they already have with vehicular traffic competing with pedestrians and cyclists at the corner of 65 Lane at Metropolitan Avenue.

Robert Mitchell, the Manager/Owner of Lotus Lounge at 66-48 Myrtle Avenue, in Glendale, introduced himself to everyone present by saying that his new restaurant has just opened 5 days a week, next to

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the Firehouse on Myrtle Avenue, between 66 Place and 67 Street. He said that he's hired 10 employees to work in his restaurant and he welcomed everyone to pay them a visit soon.

Richard Savino, a resident of 60 Road, between 60 Street and 60 Lane, in Maspeth, requested that a Speed Camera be installed at the west end of his block. He said that there's a Speed Bump near PS 153, which deters speeding at the beginning of his block. However, he said that once drivers get past the Speed Bump, they drive as fast as 40 to 50 MPH down the block past his house and through the intersection at 60 Street. He requested that a Speed Camera be installed at the 60th Street end of his block to deter speeding cars on this block, where many young school children live and play after-school in the schoolyard. Mr. Sanchez referred the matter to the Transportation Committee for review.

Mr. Sanchez thanked the speakers for their input at tonight's Board Meeting, and introduced the next Item on the Board Agenda as:

STATEMENTS from LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

On behalf of U.S. Representative Nydia Velazquez, Johnathan Betancourt reported that, last week, in honor of Small Business Week, the Congresswoman toured small businesses in the 7th Congressional District, including the Ridgewood ABCO Sheet Metal Company, a Union shop. He said that she also presented a check in the amount of \$750,000 to Evergreen, which is an organization that has provided technical assistance to over 4,000 small businesses in her district.

In addition, he said that last week, the Congresswoman met with Precinct Commanders in North Brooklyn to discuss community concerns with them. He said that she plans to meet with Queens Precinct Commanders in her district next, to review the police response to crimes that are committed in our Board area. He welcomed input from constituents regarding their concerns.

Regarding the large influx of Asylum Seekers into our country, who have arrived in New York recently, he said that the Congresswoman urges the federal government to deliver the additional aid and assistance that our local government needs to address their plight.

In closing, Mr. Betancourt welcomed everyone to attend the upcoming Community Resource Fair on Saturday, May 20th, that will be co-sponsored by Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez, from 12 Noon to 3PM, at IS 93 School located at 66-56 Forest Avenue, in Ridgewood. He said that representatives from local social service agencies, city, state and federal agencies, and staff members of local community organizations will be on hand to answer questions and provide information about free programs and services that are available to eligible residents. For more information, he advised everyone to call their office at (718) 599-3658.

On behalf of City Council Member Robert Holden, Craig Caruana said that the Council Member objects to the fact that the Dept. of Transportation did not complete traffic studies, prior to installing the new Citi-Bike stations at dozens of locations in our Board area. He said that most homeowners only found out about this project after it was posted on social media. He advised everyone to contact the Dept. of Transportation to report their objections to the Citi-Bike stations at specific locations. He said that the Council Member succeeded in having many of the proposed Citi-Bike stations relocated, based on his constituents' complaints.

Mr. Caruana also announced that their office serves as a Veterans' Resource Center twice a month. He welcomed Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and their family members to visit their office to find out what benefits they may be eligible for. In addition, he said that the Council Member has been advocating for the passage of legislation to mandate the formation of a Veterans Services Committee in every Community Board throughout the City.

Regarding other matters, Mr. Caruana reported that the Council Member has been working closely with the local Police Precinct to get derelict vehicles that have been parked on local streets for months towed

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away by the NYPD and/or Sanitation Department. He asked everyone to contact their office to report vehicles that are parked on the street for several weeks or months, with fake and/or missing license plates, to get them towed away as soon as possible.

In closing, he said that the Council Member is focused on addressing serious flooding conditions throughout his district. He welcomed calls for assistance to their office at (718) 366-3900.

On behalf of City Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez, Juan Mayancela welcomed everyone to attend a series of free Yoga Classes in Grover Cleveland Park in Ridgewood, from 10am to 11am on Saturday mornings this month, that are sponsored by the Council Member in partnership with the Greater Ridgewood Restoration Corporation.

Regarding the results of this year's Participatory Budgeting Process, he announced that PS 239Q on Weirfield Street in Ridgewood will receive upgrades to their School Auditorium, and additional street trees will be planted in Ridgewood this year.

He also announced that the Council Member will co-sponsor the Community Resource Fair that's scheduled for Saturday, May 20th, from 12 Noon to 3 PM, in IS 93Q School on Forest Avenue, in Ridgewood.

Regarding an abandoned building located at 614 Woodward Avenue, on the corner of Linden Street, in Ridgewood, he said that at 10 am this Friday, the Council Member will join with representatives from local city agencies and elected officials for a walk through around this site. He said that a scaffold was erected around the building some years ago and hasn't been adequately maintained. He said that at this on-site meeting, they'll discuss how to restore this site to habitability.

In closing, he asked that constituents report any problems that they're having with storm water flooding their streets and/or homes whenever it rains, to their office at (718) 963-3141.

On behalf of State Senator Addabbo, John D'Angelo announced that the annual State Budget was passed by the Legislature during the past week, with a \$229 Billion spending plan that fully funds public schools, sets the lowest middle-class personal income tax rate in over 70 years, and spurs economic development.

He also announced two public events that the Senator is sponsoring this month in Atlas Park on Cooper Avenue in Glendale: from 10am to 1pm, on Saturday, May 20th, a Community Health Fair; and from 9am to 3pm, on Tuesday, May 30th, a Blood Drive is scheduled.

For more information, he welcomed calls to their Middle Village office at (718) 497-1630.

On behalf of State Assembly Member Steven Raga, Jolly Patel introduced herself as the Director of Community Relations in the 30th Assembly District office, located at 55-19 69 Street, in Maspeth. She reported that the Legislature passed this year's annual State Budget, including \$34 Billion in school aid to better support public schools. In addition, she said that the Budget includes increased funding for the transit system to expand services, and \$165 Million to cover the cost of expanding Para-Transit Services, such as, Access-A-Ride in New York City. She said that the Legislature voted to increase New York City's Minimum Wage to \$17 hour this year.

Regarding service complaints, Ms. Patel said that they're working with the Dept. of Environmental Protection to address street flooding conditions on local streets, as well as on the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway. She asked constituents to please call their district office at (718) 651-3185 to report clogged catch basins, or streets that are flooded after a rainstorm. She welcomed everyone to participate in the upcoming free Paper Shredding Event and Rain Barrel Giveaway this Saturday, from 9:30am to 12:30pm in the parking lot of Maspeth Federal Savings Bank, on 69 Street at Grand Avenue, in Maspeth.

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On behalf of State Assembly Member Jennifer Rajkumar, Vjola Isufaj, her Chief of Staff, said that she was happy to report that the Legislature has passed the annual State Budget. She said that two of their main Budget priorities, the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit, were expanded this year. She said that the Assemblywoman recently co-sponsored with State Senator Addabbo an E-Waste and Paper Shredding Event on Sunday, May 14th, in the Forest Park Bandshell parking lot, as well as a webinar that was hosted by Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz regarding Scams and Frauds that target senior citizens in Queens. She said that both events were very well attended.

Ms. Isufaj welcomed everyone to attend the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month Celebration in Queens Borough Hall, from 6pm to 8pm, on Monday, May 22nd, which will be hosted by Queens Borough President Donovan Richards and co-sponsored by Assemblywoman Rajkumar. She said that, as part of this annual event, they will recognize some of the communities that make "The World's Borough" such a great place to live. She said that attendees must register first by visiting the website at www.queensbp.org/RSVP.

Ms. Isufaj also reported that, a few weeks ago, the State Assembly passed new legislation that the Assemblywoman sponsored, known as the Waste Bill – A04928, mandating that certain waste that is transported by rail be covered with hard tarping, to reduce the odor and air pollution caused by contaminants in debris that's hauled by rail through New York State. She said that this Bill is pending passage by the State Senate now.

In closing, she welcomed constituents to contact their office, located at 83-91 Woodhaven Blvd., by calling (718) 805-0950 for more information or assistance.

On behalf of State Assembly Member Juan Ardila, Kevin Jusino reported that the Legislature just passed the annual State Budget which includes funding for environmentally friendly initiatives, such as the local Renewables Act, the Electric Buildings Act, and the New York Climate Action Fund. In addition, he said that more funds were secured for NYC Transit, to cover the cost of a Pilot Program that will launch one free public bus service in each Borough of the City, as well as to increase service for the transit ridership. He also announced that additional funding has been allocated to both SUNY and CUNY higher education systems, in order to avert any hikes in the cost of student tuition at these institutions.

Mr. Jusino informed everyone that two events that were sponsored by Assemblyman Ardila in Ridgewood this past month were very successful: 1) A Community Clean Up in the vicinity of Forest Avenue, Putnam Avenue and Fairview Avenue, near the M Train station; and 2) A clothing distribution event where donated items of clothing were available for pick up by needy families in the District. In closing, Mr. Jusino welcomed calls for information or assistance at (718) 784-3194.

On behalf of State Senator Julia Salazar, Maria Valdez said that the State Senator is still up in Albany tonight and that she sends her best to everyone at tonight's Meeting. She invited everyone to attend her annual State of the District address that is scheduled to begin at 6PM on Thursday, June 15th, in PS 376K, located at 194 Harman Street, in Bushwick, when she'll speak about legislative issues, and be on hand to answer questions from the floor.

Chairperson's Report

Walter Sanchez, First Vice-Chairperson

Minutes

Mr. Sanchez asked Board members if they had received and reviewed the minutes from last month's Board Meeting that was conducted on April 12, 2023. Mr. Sanchez accepted a motion from Walter Clayton that was seconded by Dmytro Fedkowskyj to approve the minutes as written. The motion was adopted by acclamation.

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Mr. Sanchez reported that the Executive Committee met last night to review Committee assignments and recommended Committee assignments for newly-appointed Board Members, as well as to add Members to several Committees that don't have sufficient participation from Board Members. He said that their goal is to have at least 9 or 10 Board Members serving on every Committee. The notices about new Committee assignments will be emailed to Board Members by the end of this week, he said. He advised Board Members who'd prefer to serve on another Committee to contact him, or the Board Office, to discuss their preference. He read aloud the following list of our Board's Standing Committees: Education Services, Environmental Services, Health and Human Services, Homeless Services, Housing Services, Zoning and Land Use Review, Library Services, Liquor License and Cannabis Committee, Parks Services, Public Safety Services, Public Transit Services, Sanitation Services, Transportation Services, Youth Services, By-Laws Committee, and an Industrial Committee. He pointed out that members of the public are permitted to join any Committee, provided they've attended at least three Committee Meetings in a row.

Mr. Sanchez Introduced the next Item on the Board Agenda, and read aloud the following list of applications for alcoholic beverage licenses and renewals in the Board 5 area:

Liquor, Wine & Beer License and Renewal Applications

New Liquor License Applications

- 1) Sark Food Group LLC d/b/a **Gunther's** 487 Seneca Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [A] & [B] [R]
- 2) **La Catrina Queens Inc.** 52-75 65th Place, Maspeth, NY 11378 [A] [R]

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) Connbro Tavern Corp. d/b/a **Connolly's Corner** 71-15/17/19 Grand Ave., Maspeth, NY 11378 [R]
- 2) **Serbian Association of New York** 72-54 65th Place, Glendale, NY 11385 [CL]
- 3) Charlie Work LLC d/b/a **Evil Twin Brewing** 1612-1616 George St., Ridgewood, NY 11385 [B/T]
- 4) **Milan Sport Inc.** 73-11 Metropolitan Ave., Middle Village, NY 11379 [B/T]
- 5) Myrtle Dorado Restaurant Corp. d/b/a **El Dorado Restaurant** 54-55 Myrtle Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [R]
- 6) Poppers Locarno LLC d/b/a **Holo** 1563 Decatur St., Ridgewood, NY 11385 [B/T]

New Wine, Beer & Cider

- 1) Kanji Sushi Hibachi Ridgewood Inc. d/b/a **Kanji Sushi Hibachi** 64-19 Myrtle Ave, Glendale, NY 11385 [A] [R]

New Beer & Cider

None Reported

Wine, Beer & Cider Renewals

- 1) **La Canoa Inc.** 651 Onderdonk Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385 [R]

Other Notifications

1) **Cypress Café LLC**, 1702 Stanhope St., Ridgewood, NY 11385 is applying for a **Method of Operation** change to add live music, as well as a **Temporary Retail Permit** for **Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider** while they go through the application process for a **Class Change**, as announced at last month's meeting.

[A] = Also Seeking a **Temporary Retail Permit** -- Information about the Temporary Retail Permits can be found on the SLA Website at <https://sla.ny.gov/node/13981>.

[B] = Announced in April as a new **Wine, Beer & Cider** application, they have switched their request to a full **Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider** application.

[B/T] = Bar/Tavern, [CA] = Catering, [CL] = Club, [R] = Restaurant

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Mr. Sanchez said that if anyone has any concerns about any new or existing establishments, to report them to the Board Office so the information could be forwarded to the proper authorities, and members of the Liquor and Cannabis License Committee.

CONSTRUCTION and DEMOLITION NOTICES

Mr. Sanchez reported that the Board received two new construction notices since last month's Board Meeting at:

1) **56-37 Cooper Avenue, (Block: 3542; Lot: 57), in Ridgewood**, where a new 3-story manufacturing facility will be built; and

2) **62-45, 62-47, and 62-49 60 Street, (Block: 3493; Lots: 20, 21, and 22) in Ridgewood**, where three new 3-story residential buildings have been approved for construction.

In addition, he reported that a vacant 1-story Auto Repair Shop will be demolished at **61-03**

Metropolitan Avenue (Block: 2747; Lot: 109), in Ridgewood.

As there were no questions or comments about any of these sites, Mr. Sanchez announced the next Item on the Agenda as:

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

The District Manager reported that the Board received complaints about flooding problems in the street, as well as in the basements of residential homes, after heavy rains fell in our area a few weeks ago. Mainly in response to heavy flooding conditions that resulted from severe storms that have occurred in the past 20 years, the Board voted to give top priority to capital improvements to the sewer system in our Board 5 area. As a result, he said that several large-scale sewer and water replacement projects have been completed. They include the installation of a huge box sewer and adjacent water mains along Calamus Avenue, from 69 Street to 74 Street, in Maspeth, and a large areawide sewer and water installation project in Penelope Avenue and adjoining blocks, in Middle Village. He said that the next phase of the overall capital improvement project includes the installation of a large sewer main in 71 Street that would connect both sewer systems. He said that these projects should increase capacity in the system as well as the rate of flow to the water treatment plants.

The District Manager said that the Dept. of Environmental Protection has announced that a new sewer system in 77 Avenue between 80 Street and 88 Street is slated to be constructed, once the design phase of this project is completed.

The District Manager said that, in his opinion, the Environmental Protection Agency should be strong advocates for reduced consumption and increased conservation of water in our country. He pointed out that Paul Kerzner, a Board Member who lives in a private house and owns several others in Ridgewood, has installed solar panels on the rooftops of all his houses. Mr. Kerzner explained that he took advantage of federal, state and local tax incentives that are available to property owners to defray the cost of the solar system installations for his residential properties. He said that, as a result, his monthly electric bill for his entire house is 18 cents per month. He estimated that the initial investment to install a rooftop solar system pays for itself in 6 years.

Kathy Masi, a Board Member, cautioned that residents who live on Penelope Avenue in Middle Village are still experiencing problems with street flooding and stormwater overflowing into their properties. She asked that special attention be paid to resolve these issues, so they could be avoided when constructing a new sewer system in Glendale. The District Manager replied that the extent of street flooding has been reduced, but some flooding conditions may remain in the vicinity of Penelope Avenue in Middle Village.

Mr. Sanchez announced the next Item on the Agenda as:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks Services Committee

Steven Fiedler

Steven Fiedler reported that the Committee met at 7pm in Juniper Valley Park last Tuesday night to inspect the new turf soccer/football field and running track at the west end of the Park. He said that the facility is heavily utilized by local sports teams, schools, and residents, and it looks great.

Regarding the Rehabilitation of Starr Playground, located on Onderdonk Avenue in Ridgewood, he said that Phase 2 of this project, which involves the children's playground, is moving along nicely. He said that Phase 1 of this project, which was completed early last Summer, involved the Reconstruction of the basketball court and volleyball court area in the asphalt playground.

Mr. Fiedler reported that at their Meeting, the Committee also discussed plans for the Reconstruction of the Vito J. Maranzano Glendale Playground on Central Avenue at 70 Street. He welcomed input from residents regarding their ideas about what improvements should be made there.

In addition, he said that the Committee discussed the proposed Reconstruction of the Upper Ballfields in Juniper Valley Park, where the proposal includes one artificial turf infield and an outfield of grass. He said that the remaining two Upper Ballfields that are clay fields, will remain so for the time being.

In response to a question from the floor, Mr. Fiedler said that the Lower Ballfields inside the Park are not heavily utilized because of the ponding conditions that occur after rainstorms. He said that it's due to fact that these fields are made of clay soil, which doesn't absorb water. He said that, depending on the success of the installation of a new turf infield in the Upper Ballfield area, the Parks Department may consider using the same surface treatment for the infields in the Lower Ballfields, so they'll be more heavily utilized, especially during the Spring and Summer months.

Regarding the additional safety improvements in the vicinity of the new pathway into Forest Park, off Myrtle Avenue, in Glendale, Mr. Fiedler reported that the Parks Department should build a higher berm there, and they've installed safety barriers between pedestrians and any vehicles that are heading toward the Entrance Ramp of the Jackie Robinson Parkway. He said that they've also relocated the park benches in that area of Forest Park. The benches are now out of the path of any fast-moving vehicles, he said, and the pathway looks beautiful. He said that the Parks Department needs to reinforce the berm to make it a more substantial barrier to vehicular traffic.

Regarding the proposed Reconstruction of Frank Principe Park in Maspeth, Mr. Fiedler reported that the Parks Dept. plans to hold a scoping meeting for the play area inside the Park to receive community input during the design process. He welcomed input from area residents and permit holders regarding the proposed project.

Robert Cermeli, a Board Member, raised a complaint about the number of people who ride bikes and scooters around the new running track in Juniper Valley Park. He said that eventually they'll destroy it. Mr. Fiedler replied by saying that when people abuse Park facilities, it's a matter that should be addressed by Parks Enforcement. He said that he heard about one person, who complained to bike riders who were inside the running track and was assaulted by them as a result. He advised that these kinds of complaints be reported to the police and Parks Dept. to request enforcement.

Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee

Eric Butkiewicz

Eric Butkiewicz reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, April 25th in the Board Office, to review the recent traffic and pedestrian safety issues and requests that were reported to the Board, as well as follow up on issues raised by residents at last month's Meeting regarding excessive noise and other problems with freight rail operations in our Board area. He said that since railroads are governed by the federal government, these issues may have to be addressed at the federal level.

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Mr. Butkiewicz said that the District Manager is in the process of compiling a new list of street repaving requests that's based on input from residents, businesses, and the Committee's own observations. He welcomed input from Board Members about unsafe conditions in local streets to be reported to the Board Office, so they could be given priority by the Dept. of Transportation. He said that requests should be emailed to the Board Office ahead of time, to give Committee Members enough time to investigate the locations prior to their Meeting so they'll be prepared to discuss them in a timely manner. In closing, he announced that the next Committee Meeting will be conducted in person at 7:30pm, on Tuesday, May 30th in the Board 5 Office.

Sanitation Services Committee

Paul Kerzner

Paul Kerzner reported that on Thursday, April 20th, the Committee met with District Supt. Matthew Barry in the Board Office to discuss several Sanitation issues. He said that the first Item on their Agenda was a discussion of four of the worst dumping locations in our Board area: the intersection of Onderdonk Avenue at Palmetto Street; along the RR embankment on St. Felix Avenue off Cypress Avenue; on Flushing Avenue in the Industrial area of Maspeth; and along Cypress Avenue between Cypress Hills Street and Vermont Place.

He said that the Committee also discussed a proposal to install camcorders on the front of mechanical brooms that are driven by street sweepers in conjunction with Alternate Side Parking regulations. He said that the cameras could identify vehicles that are parked illegally on city streets, particularly when they block the street sweeper from access to the curb when the Alternate Side Parking regulations are in effect. He said that, if this measure were to be adopted, it would be possible to adopt new legislation to allow drivers to park their cars on each block, after the street sweeper has completed sweeping the street. He said that he'd seek support for this proposal from our local Council Members.

Regarding the new Sanitation guidelines that require property owners to put household garbage out for collection after 8pm, if it's in a bag, and no earlier than 6pm, if it's in a can. Mr. Kerzner explained that this new regulation was adopted to reduce the amount of food waste that sits at curbside and acts as a source of food for rats in the street.

Theodore Renz, a Board Member, commented that these same regulations should also apply to schools, restaurants, supermarkets, and grocery stores, because tons of food scraps are discarded by them daily. Mr. Kerzner also reported that the Committee discussed measures that could be taken to expedite the removal of abandoned Outdoor Dining structures on the street and/or sidewalks that appear to be harboring rodents. He said that 7 wooden structures along the Myrtle Avenue Shopping Corridor have already been removed.

In addition, Mr. Kerzner advised that Section 131.1, Sub-Section C3, of the Sanitation Code requires that garbage receptacles be kept within the premises or in the rear of the premises. He said that the Committee will seek enforcement of this Section of the Code.

Public Safety Services Committee

Maryann Lattanzio

Maryann Lattanzio reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, March 14th with Officers Michael Berish and Bonilla, from the Community Affairs Unit of the 104th Precinct. She said that at their meeting, Officer Berish reported the following crime statistics:

Murders are up by 1 vs 0 year-to-date, with none reported during the past 28-day period in either year.

Rapes are down by 1 vs 4 year-to-date in 2023, as compared with 2022 statistics, while 2 were reported during the same 28-day period in both years, 2023 and 2022.

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Robberies are up by 10, with 41 in 2023 vs 31 in 2022 year-to-date, while 14 incidents were reported in the past 28-day period of 2023 vs 12 in the same time period last year.

Felony Assaults are up by 15, with 57 cases year-to-date in 2023 vs 42 cases in 2022, while 29 cases were reported during the past 28-day period in 2023 vs 14 during the same period last year.

Burglaries are down by 9 with 42 cases in 2023 year-to-date vs 51 cases year-to-date last year. There were 19 cases reported during the past 28-day period this year vs. 19 cases during the same time frame last year.

Grand Larcenies are down by 4, with 121 cases year-to-date in 2023 vs 125 cases year-to-date in 2022. There were 8 less cases reported during the past 28-day period than the same time frame last year, with 49 cases reported in 2023 vs 57 cases during the same time-period last year.

Grand Larceny Auto crimes are up by 17, with 59 cases reported year-to date this year vs 42 during the same time frame last year, and when comparing the past 28-day period this year with last year, there were 28 cases reported this year vs 17 cases last year in the same time frame. She said that Officer Berish informed the Committee that most of these cases occur where drivers have left the fob key in their cars after they pull into a parking spot on the street. He advised against doing that.

She said that Officer Berish told the Committee that there's been a significant increase in Robberies along the Ridgewood-Bushwick border. He said that Officers in the 104th Precinct took 7 guns off the street in a single weekend recently. Most of the guns were unregistered handguns, he said.

Ms. Lattanzio said that Officer Berish explained to the Committee that all guns seized by Police Officers in the 104th Precinct are delivered to State and Federal Law Enforcement officials.

Regarding staffing at the 104th Precinct, she reported that Officer Berish informed the Committee that there are 7 Lieutenants, 19 Sergeants, and 142 Police Officers. He said that the 104th Precinct has just been assigned 8 new Police Officers.

Regarding complaints about double-parked cars at dismissal time at local schools, Officer Berish told the Committee that tickets have been issued at some schools, but most School Principals have agreed to stagger dismissal times to alleviate the traffic jams that would occur in front of local schools. Ms. Lattanzio said that Committee Members expressed concerns about school children crossing the street, between the double and triple parked cars that are in front of schools at dismissal time.

Officer Bonilla informed the Committee that there are between 15 and 19 Officers on patrol in the 104th Precinct per shift, with 10 Officers assigned to patrol the streets while others are assigned to Transit Stations in the confines of the 104th Precinct.

Ms. Lattanzio reported that Officer Berish told the Committee about some of the most troubling crimes that have occurred in the 104th Precinct this year, including a carjacking, a robbery at gunpoint on Metropolitan Avenue, and a shooting that occurred on Myrtle Avenue, near 88 Street in Glendale, where shots were fired from one vehicle into another.

Ms. Lattanzio reported that the Committee learned that 2 new NCO Unit Officers were recently assigned to cover Maspeth, and Sgt. Ricardo Roman is the new supervisor of the NCO Unit in the 104th Precinct.

Ms. Lattanzio requested a training session in administering Narcan to people at risk, and P.O. Berish replied that, if there are enough people who are registered for it, he could arrange for additional training sessions to be held in the 104th Precinct.

Regarding recent summoning activity in the 104th Precinct, she said that Officer Berish informed the Committee that, in 2022, there were over 11,000 Parking summonses issued, based on 311 complaints. According to Officer Berish, during the past 28-day period, there were 744 parking violations and 636 moving violations issued, while year-to-date, there were 2,204 parking violations and 1,676 moving violations issued in the 104th Precinct.

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At their Meeting, Officer Berish also informed the Committee that there were 100 summonses issued to E-bikes, and 40 confiscations of E-bikes, year-to-date this year. He explained that the E-bikes were confiscated for being either unregistered and/or uninsured.

When asked about locations where cannabis is reportedly being sold without a license, Officer Berish replied that a lot of these smoke shops are sites of robberies. He told the Committee that until recently, the Sheriff's Office has been enforcing the law against the unlicensed sale of cannabis products. He said that he believes that Police Officers in the 104th Precinct will play a more active role with enforcement against illegal smoke shops that have such a high turnover of cash, because they've become prime targets for robberies.

Liquor License and Cannabis Committee

Patrick Trinchese

Patrick Trinchese reported that the Committee met via ZOOM on Monday, May 8th, to review the most current list of applicants for new liquor, wine, and beer applications and renewals, as their first order of business.

He reported that personnel in the 104th Precinct, who are assigned to cover night-life issues, reported to the Committee that there are no issues with any of the locations on the listing that was announced earlier tonight as part of the Chairperson's Report.

He reported that the Committee reviewed the status of two establishments where questionable activities have been reported and complaints have been made to the 104th Precinct. He said that both sites are in Ridgewood: a bar at 465 Seneca Avenue, and a restaurant at 913 Wyckoff Avenue. He said that both establishments have had incidents that required police intervention multiple times for various reasons, including robbery, stabbing and slashing, in the past. Both establishments were subsequently shut down when the police conducted March Operations at both locations, he said.

Mr. Trinchese said that the applicant for a new liquor license to operate a bar at 465 Seneca Avenue, on the corner of Harman Street, is using the name of his partner or girlfriend, which appears to be a way to mislead any attempt to complete a thorough background check of the applicant's identity. He said that, for all the above-described reasons, the Committee recommends against granting a liquor license to permit a bar to open at 465 Seneca Avenue. He said that the Committee also recommends against granting a liquor license to operate a restaurant/bar at 913 Wyckoff Avenue, where the same personnel have been involved in operating the establishment and prior arrests have been made by the 104th Police Precinct there.

Mr. Sanchez requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee's recommendation to the State Liquor Authority to object to granting a liquor license to the applicant to operate a bar at 465 Seneca Avenue, or at 913 Wyckoff Avenue, in Ridgewood. As there was no further discussion of this matter, the Committee recommendation passed unanimously by a vote of -40- in favor; -0- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

Mr. Trinchese reported that the Committee also considered a matter that was tabled during a Board Meeting that was held on March 8th, 2023, namely, a Recommendation Regarding Cannabis Being Sold Illegally from Stores in Our City. He read aloud the Committee recommendation as follows:

There are too many business locations where cannabis is being sold without a license in New York City. Currently, only three licenses have been issued for legal cannabis sales in our City. More needs to be done to reduce the problem of these illegal cannabis sales, considering that:

- Cannabis is being sold illegally, which includes that which can be smoked and cannabis that is in candy or other consumable products, that can cause illness when an unregulated and untested product is being sold and consumed.

- The stores where cannabis is being sold illegally are a significant crime target, where the store can certainly be targeted by criminals who know that the store has a significant amount of cash and

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cannabis product on hand. Cannabis sales are overwhelmingly cash sales. Store owners are very unlikely to accept debit or credit card payments for cannabis since cannabis is not legal on a national level. We strongly recommend that more be done by the Mayor, the Police Department and other agencies in cooperation, to have store owners and others illegally selling cannabis products adequately fined and that their cannabis products be confiscated. The store should be closed by agencies of the City of New York, and the State of New York if compliance with the law is not met after a modest time period to comply, in Community District 5, Queens.

After a general discussion of the issue, Mr. Sanchez requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee recommendation which carried by a vote of -38- in favor; -1- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -1- not voting.

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez reported that, last night, the Committee met with a developer who intends to seek a zoning change that would permit the development of new housing units on two separate sites in Ridgewood, located on lots at 1086 and 1102 Cypress Avenue. He explained that the developer proposes to build new affordable housing units in an existing M1-4D Zoning District, which would not be permitted without a zoning change, or a zoning variance. Mr. Sanchez said that the Committee had originally met with this same developer prior to the onset of COVID19, when his proposal was to build housing on a much lower scale than his present design. In the interim, he's expanded the size and scope of the proposed development and asked for the Committee's feedback regarding the feasibility of a zoning change from an M1-4D Zoning District to an R7A Zoning District. Mr. Sanchez explained that the zoning change would permit greater use of the space with housing developments as high as 7 stories on each site. Mr. Sanchez also explained that, in an R7A Zoning District, the developer would be permitted to build from lot line to lot line, seven stories high. He said that the developer plans to build affordable housing units, in compliance with the City's Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Guidelines.

Dmytro Fedkowskyj, a Board Member, commented that the proposed plans include more parking accommodations than would be required to meet guidelines in the proposed R7A Zoning District. After a general discussion of the matter, Mr. Sanchez said that the Committee was very interested in the proposed plans and looks forward to meeting with his representatives again.

NOMINATIONS FOR CB5Q EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Mr. Sanchez gave the floor to the District Manager to conduct nominations for Executive Committee members in preparation for the elections, that are scheduled to take place during next month's Board Meeting on June 14th.

The District Manager opened the floor to nominations and asked if there were any nominations for the position of Chairperson which is currently filled by Vincent Arcuri. Paul Kerzner nominated Walter Sanchez, and Mr. Sanchez accepted his nomination. Fred Haller nominated Vincent Arcuri, who was not present at the meeting.

As there were no other nominations for this position, the District Manager asked if there were any nominations for the position of First Vice-Chairperson, which is currently filled by Walter Sanchez. Dmytro Fedkowskyj nominated Katherine Masi for the position of First Vice Chairperson, and she accepted.

As there were no other nominations for this position, the District Manager asked if there were any nominations for the position of Second Vice Chairperson, which is currently filled by Dmytro Fedkowskyj. Walter Sanchez nominated Mr. Fedkowskyj to serve as Second Vice Chairperson, and he accepted.

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As there were no further nominations for this position, the District Manager asked if there were any nominations for the position of Treasurer, which is currently filled by Kathy Masi. Dmytro Fedkowskyj nominated Eric Butkiewicz to serve as Treasurer, and he accepted.

As there were no other nominations for this position, the District Manager asked if there were any nominations for the position of Secretary, which is currently filled by Margaret O’Kane. Maryann Lattanzio nominated Ms. O’Kane for this position, and she accepted.

Regarding nominations for four At-Large Members of the Executive Committee, the District Manager named the current At-Large Members: Fred Haller, Paul Kerzner, Theodore Renz, and Maryann Lattanzio. Mr. Renz announced that he won’t accept a nomination to serve on the Executive Committee. He said that it’s been an honor and a privilege to have served as a Member of the Executive Committee for the past twenty years.

The District Manager opened nominations from the floor for At-Large Members of the Executive Committee. Theodore Renz nominated Paul Kerzner, Katherine Masi nominated Maryann Lattanzio. Dorie Figliola nominated Fred Haller, Edward Lettau nominated Walter Clayton, and Dmytro Fedkowskyj nominated Jasmine Valle. All the candidates accepted their nominations.

As there were no further nominations from the floor, the District Manager closed nominations, and announced that nominations from the floor would be reopened for all Executive Committee positions at next month’s Board Meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, when elections will be conducted.

New Business

Kathy Masi, a Board Member, suggested that the next Board Meeting be combined with a get-together so everyone could get to know our new Board Members, as well as get reacquainted with the rest of the Board Members. Her suggestion was received favorably.

Paul Kerzner, a Board Member, suggested that all Board Members wear name tags at Board Meetings with their names, neighborhood, and title if they serve as Committee Chairs.

Fred Haller asked that the tables and chairs be rearranged back into the U-shape format, so that Board Members who attend these Meetings could be more easily be identified.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Sanchez adjourned the Board Meeting on a motion from the floor at 9:15pm.