



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

October 11, 2023

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Carol Benovic-Bradley; Antonetta Binanti; Jessica Boiardi; Eric Butkiewicz; Michael Byc; Rachel Caracci; Robert Cermeli; Ethan Chan; Deepak Chaudhari; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Dorie Figliola; Fred T. Haller; Fred Hoeffler; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Diego Leclery; Edward Lettau; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Melissa Rebecca; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Lily Scarabino; Dennis Stephan; Katarzyna Syta; Patrick Trinchese; Jasmine Valle; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Bhubaneshor Adhikari; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Maritza Carmona; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Salvatore Crifasi; Patricia Crowley; Nickolas Cuttonaro; Daniel DeBrucker; Derek Evers; April Narsasian; Michael Porcelli; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Brandon Zwagerman

ELECTED OFFICIALS and STAFF

NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, 15th SD and Staff John D'Angelo
Kate Boehme – Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz
Clare Collins – Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Johnathan Betancourt – U.S. Representative Nydia Velazquez, 7th C.D.
Dolma Lama – NYS Assembly Member Steven Raga, 30th AD
Natalie Rajabian – NYS Assembly Member Juan Ardila, 37th AD
Vjola Isufaj – Chief of Staff - NYS Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, 38th AD
Daniel Kurzyna – Chief of Staff – 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

GUESTS

Derek Jasmin – NYC Dept. of City Planning – Queens Office

Vincent Arcuri, the Board Chairperson, welcomed everyone to tonight's Board Meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:35pm, following a Salute to the Flag. He said that this Meeting is also being livestreamed via YouTube, 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.

The Board Chairperson announced the first Order of Business as:

PUBLIC FORUM

Michael Mossa introduced himself as a candidate for Queens District Attorney on the Republican and Conservative lines in next month's election. He said that he's currently a practicing attorney in both civil and criminal cases. He stated his opposition to the package of bail reform laws that were enacted by the State Legislature. He said that under his leadership, quality of life crimes, such as shoplifting and fare beating, would be prosecuted as crimes by his office, instead of treating them as misdemeanors, regardless of how many times defendants are apprehended and arrested for committing these offenses. He asked for everyone's support for his candidacy on Election Day, November 7th.

Maryann Lattanzio, a Board Member and resident of Maspeth, said that work crews who recently milled 66 Street in Maspeth left several hazardous craters in the roadway, where at least three vehicles were seriously damaged while driving past them. She asked the Board to request these craters be filled immediately.

Carol Benovic Bradley, a Board Member, announced that the Friends of the Ridgewood Library, is holding their annual Book Sale at the Ridgewood Public Library, at 20-12 Madison Street, on Saturday, October 21st. In addition, she said that they plan to host a Halloween Party in the Library on Saturday, October 28th, beginning at 2:30pm. She also announced that everyone's welcome to attend the next meeting of the Friends of the Ridgewood Library on Thursday, October 19th at 6:30pm.

Charles Vavruska, a Maspeth resident, said that he opposes licensing any cannabis dispensaries in the Community Board 5 area. He said that school teachers in PS 49 in Middle Village have complained to him recently that school children are arriving to class wreaking of pot now. He said that the School Superintendent also told him that school children are coming into middle schools all over the district high on pot. He said that he'll do everything he can to stop them from coming here.

Chairperson's Report**Minutes**

The Board Chairperson asked Board members if they had received and reviewed the minutes from last month's Board Meeting that was conducted on September 13, 2023. On a motion from Paul Kerzner, that was seconded by Lee Rottenberg, the minutes were adopted, as submitted.

Liquor, Wine and Beer License and Renewal Applications

Mr. Arcuri requested that anyone who 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. He read aloud the list of Liquor License Applications and Renewals, which was distributed to all Board Members.

New Liquor License Applications

1) **Woody Woodward LLC** 392 Woodward Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385

[R]*

Liquor License Renewals

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- 1) **Cantina 33 Inc.** 55-33 Myrtle Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [R]**
- 2) Middle Village Eats Corp d/b/a **Tropical #3** 62-27 Fresh Pond Rd, Middle Village NY 11379 [R]
- 3) Ran NY Group LLC d/b/a **Joya Hall** 63-108 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY 11374 [CA]
- 4) Grove Productions LLC d/b/a **Nowadays** 56-06 Cooper Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [B/T]

New Wine, Beer and Cider License Applications

- 1) **Imperial Food & Drinks Corp.** 1020 Cypress Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [R]

Wine, Beer and Cider Renewals

- 1) **Phillies Pizzeria II Inc.** 74-02 Eliot Ave, Middle Village, NY 11379 [R]

* Also Seeking a Temporary Retail Permit -- Information about the Temporary Retail Permits can be found on the SLA Website here.

** Also notified us of a Method Of Operation change to add Live Music, DJ and Karaoke.

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

Demolition or Construction Notifications

Mr. Arcuri reported that since last month's Board Meeting, the Board Office received a notice to legalize the demolition of a 2-story house at 59-22 55 Street, in Maspeth.

Executive Committee Report

The Board Chairperson took attendance of Board Members who were present, and recognized both District Manager Gary Giordano, and Staff Member John Maier as present. He reported that the Executive Committee met to review and recommend the Board's Capital and Expense Budget Priorities at last night's Committee Meeting in the Board 5 Office. He said that copies of their lists of recommendations were distributed to all Board Members.

The Board Chairperson recognized representatives of local elected officials who were present and invited them to address the Board, as follows:

On behalf of **Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr**, Clare Collins informed everyone that in the aftermath of the heavy rainstorm at the end of September, the Borough President conducted a virtual Town Hall with residents, homeowners, community leaders, agency representatives and elected officials in Queens to discuss the extent of damage to their properties during that storm. She said that there was a follow up meeting with agency officials on Monday, to ensure that all of their concerns were being addressed, and their office distributed 50 water pumps and inflatable flood barriers to local residents where severe flooding was reported. She asked that anyone who experiences property damage due to flooding conditions, after a rain storm, to please report it to a 311 operator as soon as possible, because it's the best way to ensure that their community will receive funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to address severe flooding issues.

In closing, Ms. Collins also announced that the Borough President will host a virtual NY Voting Rights Town Hall on Thursday, October 19th. She welcomed everyone to participate by registering online on their website at www.queensbp.org/rsvp

On behalf of **Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez**, Johnathan Betancourt reported that last week, in recognition of his decades long service as a Board Member of CB5 Queens, Paul Kerzner was recognized in the Congressional Record, at the request of Congresswoman Velazquez. He said that the Congresswoman thanks him for his service and that his name will be entered into the Library of Congress for his efforts. There was a general round of applause.

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Mr. Betancourt informed everyone that the Congresswoman met with NYPD Commissioner Edward Caban recently to discuss the community's concerns about crime statistics in their neighborhoods. He also reported on legislation that the Congresswoman recently introduced regarding a ban on all neurotoxic organo-phosphates pesticides that are used on food crops. He said that recent studies have demonstrated that these compounds are poisonous to farm workers and cause neurological defects in humans, especially small children. In addition, he said that she recently introduced the Greater Accountability and Pay Act to address the growing discrepancy between a company CEO's pay and that of their staff.

In closing, he pointed out that there are flyers with information on resources that are available to constituents whose family members or friends may be stuck in Israel since last week, when Hamas launched an offensive against the civilian population there.

On behalf of **City Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez**, Juan Mayancela welcomed constituents in the 34th Council District to join in the Participatory Budget process again this year, which would allow them to decide on how to allocate \$1 Million of the City's Budget to fund local community improvements and services that are posted online. He said that, last year, Council District 34 had the largest number of people who participated in this annual Citywide Participatory Budget process.

Regarding upcoming events, he announced two special events that their office will sponsor on Saturday, October 21st:

1) A Mental Health First Aid Training Session in cooperation with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, from 9AM to 5PM, in the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council at 59-03 Summerfield Street, in Ridgewood. He said that upon completion of this session, participants will receive an Adult Mental Health First Aid Certificate. In order to attend this training, constituents are required to RSVP at: <https://District34Ridgewood.timetap.com>. He welcomed everyone to attend.

2) The Annual Electronic Waste Event at Maria Hernandez Park on Knickerbocker Avenue, between Suydam Street and Bleecker Street, from 10AM to 2PM. He said that constituents may discard E-waste trash, such as, TVs, VCRs, computers, monitors, tablets, printers, old cell phones, etc. In closing, he reminded constituents to report complaints to 311 about street flooding conditions after heavy rainstorms, as well as complaints about trash and/or rodent infestation, and then to call their office at 718-963-3141 so they can follow up.

On behalf of **NY State Senator Addabbo**, John D'Angelo, office manager in their Middle Village office, announced that this month, they've scheduled a Naloxone Training and Certification program on Tuesday, October 17th in Atlas Park, on Cooper Avenue in Glendale. He said that participants are required to RSVP to register by calling their main office phone number at (718) 738-1111. He said they've requested that the MetroCard Van to be stationed at the curb in front of their office at 66-35 73 Place, in Middle Village on Monday, October 30th from 10AM to 2PM. He said that this event is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

In addition, he announced that there's a limited number of rain barrels remaining from the Rain Barrel Giveaway that was held at the Glendale Community Garden, at 74-10 88 Street, last month. He advised constituents interested in picking up a free rain barrel to calling their office at (718) 497-1630 to make an appointment.

On behalf of **NY State Assemblyman Michael Gianaris**, Irene Stathatos thanked everyone who attended their Ridgewood and Maspeth Mobile Office events a few weeks ago. She informed everyone that in response to requests from community residents, they will look into acquiring Landmark status for the Maspeth Firehouse, located on the Westbound LIE Service Road, west of 69 Street.

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On behalf of **NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga**, Dolma Lama announced that they will co-host a workshop on Electronic Benefit Transaction skimming and theft this Friday, October 13th in their office, located at 55-19 69 Street, in Maspeth. She explained that there's been a spike in the number of these cases that have been reported to the Police recently. She welcomed calls for more information about this event at their office at (718) 651-3185.

In closing, she announced that on Tuesday, October 24th, their office will host a monthly Landlord and Tenant Legal Clinic between the hours of 9AM and 1PM.

On behalf of **NY State Assembly Member Juan Ardila**, Natalie Rajabian informed everyone that yesterday, at the Peter Cardella Senior Center in Ridgewood, their office staff partnered with Universal Services to help low income families and seniors to obtain a free digital device, or free cell phones, with free internet connections for the next 6 years. She said that this service is funded by grants from the Federal Communications Commission. She said that on Saturday, October 24th, they've scheduled a follow up event in Rosemary's Playground on Woodward Avenue, in Ridgewood, where they will help even more struggling families to obtain free digital devices under this program.

Next week, on Thursday, October 19th, she said that their office will sponsor a Clothing Drive, in cooperation with the faculty and students of IS 93, located at 66-56 Forest Avenue, in Ridgewood. She said that the clothing will be donated to a Safe Haven program for asylum seekers and migrants. She said that staff are currently working to improve pedestrian safety in their District, as well as to sponsor street and graffiti cleanups. She welcomed everyone to call their office to report sites that need to be addressed.

She gave an update on a piece of legislation that the Assemblyman sponsored this year that addresses Labor and Public Safety. She said that the Governor recently signed the bill into law, to allow businesses and employees to sign up for New York State's Public Safety Mass Notification System, which sends emergency alerts about severe weather warnings, hazardous material spills, and other Public Safety emergencies to all authorized personnel.

In closing, she welcomed calls for more information to their office at (718) 784-3194, Mondays to Thursdays, or via email directly to the Assemblyman at: ardilaj@nyassembly.gov.

On behalf of **NY State Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar**, Vjola Isufaj reminded everyone that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and she urged women over the age of 40, who don't have health insurance coverage, to call their office to find out when they can schedule an appointment for a free Mammogram. She said that their office sponsors free services each month.

She was happy to report that the Assemblywoman's Bill to require waste transported by rail to be covered, to end noxious waste fumes and dust from being emitting into the air was signed into law by the Governor this year.

In addition, she reported that their office continues to meet with NYPD Commissioner Edward Caban and other police officials on a regular basis to discuss concerns that are brought to their attention by local constituents. She welcomed calls from the public about public safety issues to their district office at (718)-805-0950.

She said that, yesterday, the Assemblywoman toured the commercial strip on Myrtle Avenue with the Small Business Services Commissioner Kevin Kim and Ted Renz, the Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District. She said that they met with several local business owners along the route to discuss any issues that were brought to their attention.

On behalf of **Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz**, Kate Boehme spoke briefly about the work of the Fraud Investigation Unit in the District Attorney's Office. She said that their Unit works to prosecute the

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perpetrators, and restore property to the rightful owners, in cases involving Deed Fraud and other schemes to defraud local homeowners. She advised everyone that one way to defend against this type of fraud is to sign up for alerts from the City's Property Registration System, known as ACRIS, by going to their website at: www.nyc.gov/acris. She said that registrants receive notifications from ACRIS whenever there's been any changes to deed holders, or the names of account holders on official City Records. She welcomed calls to their office for more information or assistance with cases involving fraudulent activities that involve the theft of personal property or identity. She was happy to point out that their office recently succeeded in returning the home of a disabled veteran to his family in Queens.

State Senator Joseph Addabbo informed everyone that he met recently with Sheriff Anthony Miranda in his office to discuss what can be done about illegal smoke shops that have opened overnight in his district. He said that he plans to introduce new legislation in Albany when the Legislature is back in session in January, that would give law enforcement more authority to enforce the law against these unlicensed premises.

Regarding the proliferation of illegal scooters in his district, he said that, over the past few years, he co-sponsored half a dozen pieces of legislation mandating that these electronic vehicles be licensed by the Dept. of Motor Vehicles, and that they be insured and inspected annually. But none of these measures were passed by the Legislature yet, he said. While the proposed legislation remains pending, he said that he plans to introduce additional legislation as soon as he arrives in Albany in January. At present, he said that local police only have limited authority to enforce the law. He said that his proposed legislation would put the onus on the vendor of an E-vehicle to safeguard the interests of public safety by requiring that they obtain proof from each prospective owner that they hold the legal title and are registered by the Dept. of Motor Vehicles as the owner of said E-vehicle.

The State Senator thanked CURES (Civics United for Railroad Environmental Solutions) for their advocacy for more stringent regulation of the freight railroad industry, which recently resulted in the passage of new legislation that he co-sponsored along with State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar to mandate that railroads install hard covers over all freight train cars that haul waste through the State of New York. He said that this Bill will have a long-lasting effect on residential communities far beyond his district.

In closing, the State Senator announced that he will sponsor this year's Annual Job Fair at Resorts World Casino on Friday, November 17th from 10 AM to 1 PM. He said that tables are free for any employers who are looking for workers. At present, 60 vendors have already registered for tables, he said, and they're looking to sign on 30 additional employers for this event. He thanked everyone for their service on the Community Board.

The Board Chairperson thanked everyone for their input and introduced the next Item on the Agenda:

RE: THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 CAPITAL and EXPENSE BUDGET of the City of NEW YORK, as it concerns the Communities of DISTRICT 5, QUEENS

The Board Chairperson gave the floor to District Manager Gary Giordano to read aloud the list of our Board's Top 10 Capital Budget Priorities, as follows:

CB5 Queens FY 2025 Capital Projects Survey Results	
RANK	PROJECT REQUESTED
1	Redesign and Reconstruct Sewer System in Portions of CB5Q Area Having Worst Flooding Problems

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2	Provide Stormwater Runoff Mitigation
3	Correct Cooper Avenue Underpass Flooding, Reconstruct LIRR and 71st Avenue Bridge Abutments Above Cooper Avenue Underpass, and Paint the LIRR Bridge
4	Make Capital Improvements to Improve Pedestrian and Vehicle Safety on Grand Avenue at 69th Street, at Grand Avenue/LIE East Bound Service Road, and at the 69 Street/LIE Service Roads Intersections
5	Reconstruct Deteriorated Catch Basins and Provide New Catch Basins in the CB5Q Area
6	Reconstruct Palmetto Street from St. Nicholas Ave. to Seneca Ave., and from Onderdonk Ave to Forest Ave
7	Reconstruct Sidewalks, Curbs and Pedestrian Ramps along Myrtle Avenue, from Fresh Pond Road to Wyckoff Avenue
8	Reconstruct Wyckoff Avenue, from Flushing Avenue to Cooper Avenue
9	Replace Existing Bridge on Grand Ave over Newtown Creek in Maspeth
10	Rehabilitate Ridgewood Reservoir – Phase II, and the Surrounding Area, including Portions of Highland Park and Build Safe Multi-Use Paths to the Reservoir

The District Manager explained that, for more than a decade, the Number 1 Capital Budget Priority of this Community Board has been to mitigate the problems of sewer backups and street flooding conditions, that occur when rainwater runoff exceeds the current capacity of the City's sewer system. He said that the first big sewer project to be completed over 3 years ago was the installation of much larger sewer mains and catch basins on Calamus Avenue and a portion of 69 Street, in Maspeth, at a total cost of \$20 Million.

More recently, he said that another big sewer and water main project was completed in the area of 74 Street and Penelope Avenue in Middle Village. This past year, a big sewer and water main project in Ridgewood, on Troutman Street and Himrod Street, between Flushing Avenue, Grandview Avenue and St. Nicholas Avenue, was completed. At this point, he said that we're looking to get a sewer project along 77th Avenue in Glendale, from 80 Street to 88 Street, including some of the local side streets. He estimated that the overall cost of this project could be as high as \$80 Million.

He said that the Number 2 Priority calls for the installation of additional rain gardens, or bioswales, that are designed to keep storm water out of the sewer system so that it won't overload the sewage treatment plants throughout Queens.

The District Manager explained that the Number 3 Priority calls for capital improvements to: correct the flaws in the existing flood control equipment in the Cooper Avenue Underpass which too often floods during rainstorms, to reconstruct the 71st Avenue and LIRR Bridge Abutments above the Cooper Avenue Underpass, and to paint the LIRR Bridge.

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Mr. Giordano said that there are 34 Capital Budget Items in all on our Board's List of Capital Budget Priorities for FY 2025 which begins on July 1, 2024. He thanked everyone who participated in this budget process by filling out their budget surveys this year.

Paul Kerzner, a Board Member, asked how many of the projects on the overall list are expected to be completed by next year. The District Manager replied that it's impossible to predict at this time, in light of Mayor Adams recent Executive Order that calls for a 15% cut in all City Agency Budgets this year.

As there were no further comments, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the Executive Committee's FY 2025 Capital Budget Priorities recommendations, which carried unanimously by a vote of - 35 – in favor; - 0 – opposed; -0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

Regarding the Executive Committee's recommendations for the Board's Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2025, the District Manager pointed out that the list of 25 Expense Budget Priorities remains the same as last year's list. He read aloud a list of the Top Ten Expense Budget Priorities, as recommended by the Executive Committee, as follows:

- 1 Assign Additional Personnel for the 104th Police Precinct Patrol Force
- 2 Provide Field Workers for Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations
- 3 Hire Inspectors and Plan Examiners, 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
- 5 Provide Funding for Educational and Recreational Programs, for Children and Teens
- 6 Provide Funding for Fire Department Services
- 7 Provide Needed Services for Senior Citizens
- 8 Provide More Frequent Garbage and Recycling Pick-up for Schools and Institutions
- 9 Allocate Funds for the Operation and Enhancement of the Division of Forestry in Queens
- 10 Provide Sufficient Personnel for Traffic Safety Inspections, Sign Installations, Pavement Markings and Sign Manufacturing

The Board Chairperson opened the floor to questions and comments.

Carol Benovic Bradley, a Board Member, pointed out that there's been a significant drop in the amount of crime that's reported in our Precinct since 1995. She said that the budget request for more police officers should not refer to having far fewer officers than the 104th Police Precinct had in 1995. The District Manager replied that he'd prefer to discuss his reasoning with her at some other time. The Board Chairperson reminded everyone that Board Members are free to vote against the Executive Committee's recommendations if they disagree with them.

As there was no further discussion on the matter, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the Executive Committee's Expense Budget recommendations for FY 2025, which carried by a vote of – 32- In favor; - 4 – opposed; -0 – abstentions; and – 0 – not voting.

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

The District Manager reported that the Dept. of Transportation began milling local streets last month and will return to resurface them soon. He said that so far, five streets have been milled by work crews. He said that every year, it takes too long for their work crews to resurface them once they've been milled. He said that, in the best case scenario, there's two weeks between milling and resurfacing a

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street. However, it's unavoidable that it takes longer in some cases where, for example, there's a sewer break in the middle of the roadway. He advised everyone to drive carefully on Myrtle Avenue, between Fresh Pond Road and Cooper Avenue, and on Fresh Pond Road from Metropolitan Avenue to 59 Drive, because there are many holes in those roadways after the roads were milled. He said that he expects the work crews to be resurfacing these streets soon.

The District Manager reported that the Board recently received several notifications about proposed locations where people intend to submit applications to open Adult Use Cannabis Dispensaries in our Board 5 area. He said that two of the proposed sites are located too close to St. Stan's School on Grand Avenue in Maspeth: one at 63-09 Flushing Avenue, and the other one at 64-01 Grand Avenue. In addition, he said that the Board Office also received 3 notifications of proposed plans to operate out of a storefront at 56-40 Myrtle Avenue, in Ridgewood, as well as 2 notifications from applicants who plan to open an Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary at 70-24 Myrtle Avenue, in Glendale. He said that he's requested 30-Day Extensions on the comment period from the Office of Cannabis Management, and so far they've been granted. He said that the Liquor License and Cannabis Committee will meet to discuss the proposed sites and make their recommendations to the full Board at next month's Board Meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez reported that the Committee met together in the Board 5 Office last night regarding the status of BSA Cal No. 716-82 BZ - **16-14 Weirfield Street, in Ridgewood**

Mr. Sanchez said that the application to the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals by Rothkrug, Rothkrug and Spector, LLP, is for an Extension of Term of a previously approved Variance (§72-21) which permitted the incorporation of a vacant building into an existing development (previously under Cal. No. 252-07 BZ), and the construction of a one story addition in the rear of the building, thereby creating a single building, to be utilized as a not for profit institution with sleeping accommodations, Use Group 3, which expired on February 11, 2023, in an M1-4D Zoning District.

He said that during the 1980's he served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Outreach House, but has since resigned due to his work responsibilities. He said that the reason they are seeking a Zoning Variance is because while their occupancy doesn't conflict with the overall character of their block, it doesn't comply with the zoning restrictions regarding occupancy of a building in a Manufacturing Zone. Mr. Sanchez said that after a careful review of the application, the Committee has no objection to the request for a variance, provided that the variance is limited to a 10-year term variance. After a general discussion of the matter, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the Committee recommendation which then carried by a unanimous vote of – 36 – in favor, - 0 – opposed, - 0 – abstentions, and – 0 – not voting.

Parks Services Committee

Steven Fiedler

Steven Fiedler reported that the Committee met in the Board 5 Office on Thursday, October 26th to review the status of the Running Track and Football/Soccer Field in Juniper Valley Park. He said that the contractor recently completed repairs to the surface of the running track. Mr. Fiedler that he doesn't think the repairs will last, because the surface is already splintering this week. He said that in his opinion, the surface won't last more than 5 years. He said that the contractor painted new lines on the surface, and it looks good for now.

Regarding the Ridgewood Reservoir, Mr. Fiedler reported that he walked down into the basins inside the Reservoir with Portia Dyrenforth, the Parks Administrator, to see the progress that work crews are

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making in removing the invasive species that are prevalent there. He said that there's a tremendous amount of debris inside the Basins now, particularly dead trees that have fallen onto the ground. He said that the contractor is slated to complete the work of removing all the invasive species by 2025. He also reported that another contractor has begun working to stabilize the foundation of the pump house in Basin 2. Once the restoration project is finished, the pump house could be repurposed for another use, he said. He estimated the cost of the restoration project at \$5.5 Million.

Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee

Eric Butkiewicz

Eric Butkiewicz reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, September 26th in the Board Office, to review the proposed rate hikes on parking meters that are scheduled to go into effect on October 16th. He said that the new rate increases will vary from 25 cents more per hour to 50 cents more per hour, depending on where you decide to park your car.

Regarding the revised Queens Bus Route Redesign by the MTA-NYC Transit, he said that the Committee is waiting to see the proposed revisions to the Queens Bus Routes that is slated to be released soon.

Regarding street co-naming requests, Mr. Butkiewicz said that the Committee has developed uniform guidelines for considering all of these requests. He said that the guidelines will soon be posted on the Board's website at www.nyc.gov/qnscb5

Mr. Butkiewicz said that the Committee continues to review traffic calming requests, as well as traffic signals and All-Way Stop signs, and roadway markings, particularly in school speed zones. He asked everyone to please report hazardous roadway conditions and/or dangerous intersections, to the Board Office.

In closing, he welcomed anyone interested in attending the next Committee Meeting at 7:30pm on Tuesday, October 24th, to call the Board Office at (718) 366-1834 to inform the staff.

By-Laws Committee

Margaret O'Kane

Peggy O'Kane gave a brief update on the status of revisions to the Board's By-Laws, that the Committee has been working on for the past two years. She said that, this year, the Committee met several times with Allan Swisher, the Queens Borough President's Counsel, to amend sections of our By-Laws so that it would conform to a uniform set of By-Laws for all Community Boards in Queens.

She said that copies of the revised set of By-Laws will be sent to each Board Member for their review within the next few months, in preparation for a Board vote to accept them as amended.

New Business

Fred Haller announced that Sacred Heart School in Glendale is sponsoring a Fun Run in Forest Park this Saturday, come rain or come shine, starting at 8 AM at Woodhaven Blvd and Forest Park Drive. He also welcomed everyone to the Halloween Day Parade starting at 6pm on Myrtle Avenue in Glendale, sponsored by the Glendale Kiwanis Club.

Eric Butkiewicz requested an outline of the applicants' submissions for Adult Use Cannabis Dispensaries prior to next month's Board Meeting.

Maryann Lattanzio welcomed everyone to march in the Raggamuffin Parade on Grand Avenue on Halloween at 6pm, sponsored by the Maspeth Lions Club.

Dorie Figliola welcomed everyone to attend the Veterans Day Parade starting at 12 Noon at 80 Street on Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village on Sunday, November 12th, 2023.

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As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Arcuri adjourned the Board Meeting on a motion from the floor at 9:17pm.