

PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16 MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION COMMITTEE
OF BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

February 16, 2022

7 pm

Zoom

Committee members present: K. Argenti, C. Dastis-Galvin, R. Fanuzzi, R. Spalter, D. Travis

In attendance: S. Caruso (DSNY); L. Spalter, B. Bender (CB8), J. Colon, I. C. Levenberg, M-C. Vuille

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 19, 2022 were amended to include Myra Fraser in attendance and passed unanimously as amended by the committee.

II. Chair's Report

- A. Mayor Adams has appointed Rohit T. Aggarwala as chief climate officer and c Commissioner of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Vincent Sapienza as chief operations officer of DEP, and Kizzy Charles-Guzman as executive director of the new Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ), consolidating offices and reporting lines.
- B. DEP has completed its gatehouse reconstruction and de-constructions project around JPR. It includes new fencing around the reservoir. Work will begin on the reservoir's east wall.
- C. Chair met with Chair Spalter and DM Gannon with Joan Byrnes, Director of Bureau of Community Affairs for DSNY and stressed these trouble areas in CD8:
 - 1. Step street trash
 - 2. JPR trash—3 agencies with no lead; unacceptable conditions
 - 3. Illegal commercial dumping around JPR and on Bailey Avenue
 - 4. 242nd Street litter and garbage truck access

Upon learning of abandoned cars with plates around JPR, S. Caruso of DSNY will take steps to remove. Cars without plates are the job of NYPD. He also recommended use of cameras, which are funded by Councilmembers.

III. Budget Discussion

- A. The committee identified areas that are vulnerable to flooding and impacted by stormwater to focus and coordinate budget priorities. These include Broadway/Kingsbridge and Marble Hill: Van Cortlandt Village and Amalgamated; Fort Independence and Kingsbridge Heights; and Kappock/Palisades area in Riverdale. Committee will work with other committees to coordinate agency and responses to flooding hazard, runoff, and stormwater damage to roadways.
- B. S. Caruso identified DSNY needs:
 - 1. Curbside Organic Recycling Program, including outreach and education
 - 2. Additional litter basket collection and regular maintenance from property owners
 - 3. Support MLP Manual Litter Patrol (includes Illegal Dumping, Larger dump outs, electronics, etc.)
 - 4. Increase DSNY personnel
 - 5. Update DSNY facilities BX 8 Garage rehabilitate (215 and Bway, Manhattan)
 - 6. More hardware to keep operation going, communications related, such as outfit all vehicles with GPS, etc. numbers and items for DO - Desktop computers?
 - 7. Restore Community composting education and facility to previous levels (may be decreased, so check as per)
 - 8. Check into Street Sweeping. Check head counts 305 uni and 188 civilians
 - 9. DEP maintenance around the reservoir?
 - 10. Splinter Groups (units not in HH and Litter Baskets and MLB) to clean Vacant lots

The committee will present and vote upon budget priorities and vote at its April meeting.

IV. Old Business

- A. J. Colon asked for report on DEP repair of sewer line at Edsall Avenue and noted street repair.
- B. Chair reported on DEP response to question about the connection of JPR to the Daylighting project, as noted in the DEP presentation to joint meeting of E and S and Parks committees in December. According to DEP Project Manager Kristin Ricigliano:

“The JPR connection is part of the Tibbetts daylighting water resource project. Currently, the Bureau of Water Supply discharges JPR “blowoff” to the Wards Island Treatment Plant through the Broadway sewer (the same sewer that Tibbetts Brooks currently flows through) during dry weather only. The pipe that connects JPR to the Broadway sewer would intersect the open channel daylighted portion of Tibbetts Brook in VCP (see maps below). As

part of the overall plan, the city is proposing to build a chamber at the intersection of the open channel and pipe to allow for the clean water from Jerome Park Reservoir to flow into the channel during dry weather. The benefits of this chamber would prevent clean water from JPR going to the treatment plant (which increases capacity and reduces greenhouse gas emissions), allow for draw down operations to increase capacity (which can be especially helpful before a storm), and help with dry weather flow augmentation to Tibbetts. The clean water from JPR would supplement stream flows during dry weather periods and help support plants in the floodplain. Overall, this tie in is designed as a holistic water resource project to better the area.”

V. New Business

A. Mayor’s Preliminary 2023 Budget

J. Colon noted that the expansion of curbside organic pick up has been suspended through FY 2026; will remain in CD8 and as per S. Caruso, include new enrollees in local program. Community composting funding is reduced in half after partial restoration. 305 uniform positions and 188 civil service positions were eliminated in the recent PEG.

B. K. Argenti asked about the possible usage of MTA tracks in Marble Hill neighborhood by freight train operator for commercial trash and train car parking. She also noted the freight traffic of garbage through the district, especially in EJ communities. Chair noted role of E and S committee in protesting parking of diesel train cars in this neighborhood. Committee will seek answers about usage of tracks and put on agenda, if necessary, with special outreach to Marble Hill community.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Fanuzzi

Chair, Environment and Sanitation Committee