

(PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL)

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEES OF
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8**

December 15, 2021

7 pm

Zoom

Parks & Recreation committee members present: B. Bender, C. Dastis-Galvin, D. Gellman, R. Jablosky, R. Singh, D. Travis

Environment & Sanitation committee members present: K. Argenti, C. Dastis-Galvin, R. Fanuzzi, D. Travis, R. Spalter

Also in attendance: K. Ellis (DEP), Ardizzoe (DEP), T. Yilmaz (DEP), I. Rodriguez (DPR), M. Larsen (DPR), J. Greenfield (DPR), S. Erlich (DEP and VCPA), , L. Spalter (BxCB8), R. Ginty (BxCB8), D. Padernacht (BxCB8), D. O. Murray (BxCB8), S. Froot (BxCB8), D. Peters, E. Barbanel, J. Pilla, L. Cox, M. Ciarocchi, M. Geer, M. Loring, P. Ansaldi, R. Baron, Z. Youngerman, J. Greer, J. Colon, C. Taylor, D. Westphal, C. Young

- I. Acceptance of Minutes
 - A. With the recognition of a quorum, the minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee meeting of November 17, 2021 were approved unanimously by the committee
 - B. With the recognition of a quorum, the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting of October 27, 2021 were approved unanimously by the committee
- II. Joint DEP/DPR Presentation on Daylighting of Tibbetts Brook and Putnam Trail Greenway

Bronx CB8 has engaged with Daylighting and Putnam Greenway from its earliest phases. Milestones include CB8 leadership of Bronx Greenway Plans of 1993 and 2008; 197a plan of 2003; ULURP resolution of 2010 for acquisition of DPR Putnam South Greenway; CB8 support for 2014 VCP Master Plan including extension of Putnam Trail and Daylighting within VC Park; CB 8 resolution joining Daylighting Coalition in 2016; CB8 resolution of 2017 urging CSX to complete sale of property; CB8 resolution of 2018 supporting inclusion of Daylighting in DEP Long Term Control Plan.

T. Yilmaz, Project Manager of the Daylighting project for DEP, and M. Larson of Natural Resources Group of DPR made joint presentation on Daylighting and the Putnam South Greenway. DEP and DPR are jointly behind Daylighting and the construction of the Putnam South Greenway from VC Park to 230th street.

Before being diverted into Broadway sewer in the early 20th century, Tibbett's Brook ran from Van Cortlandt Lake to Tibbetts Avenue and Spuyten Duyvil and along Putnam Avenue to 237th. Combined wastewater and stormwater are now discharged from sewer at DEP Wards Island water treatment plant at 192nd street into the Harlem River. Daylighting will

divert 25% of the Combined Sewer Overflow volume from the Broadway sewer, increasing local sewer capacity and decreasing outfall during storms. 100% of the dry weather flow and 90% of the wet weather flow from VC Lake will be diverted.

Daylighting project includes shoreline stabilization of Van Cortlandt Lake, retrofit of the existing weir, and a new side weir that will direct Tibbett's Brook in an open channel alongside a newly extended Putnam Trail within VC Park. Daylighting runs 1600 feet within VC Park and 4000 feet within CSX property.

Tibbett's Brook is the first daylighting project for NYC, and part of Mayor's Office of Climate Resilience plan for non-coastal flooding mitigation. Daylighting could also include connection to JPR for water flow. Total cost to DEP is 97 million; total cost to DPR is 36 million; total cost of Daylighting and Greenway project is \$133,000, 000.

Project unfolds in 3 stages:

Within VC Park

M. Larson of DPR Natural Resource Group noted benefits of Putnam Greenway extension within VC Park to restoration of Tibbett's Wetland and riparian habitat. Tree impacts are anticipated for extension of Greenway and Daylighting. Pedestrian bridge and stairway at end of Putnam Trail within VC Park are conceived, crossing over daylighted Tibbetts Brook, to facilitate connection to Empire State Trail and to Putnam Trail South. New trail connections are also conceived existing wetlands boardwalks.

S. Erlich of VCPA and DPR addressed lasting impact of Daylighting and Putnam Trail extension on history of VC Park and plans for VC House.

South of Van Cortland Park to 230th Street:

DEP and DPR are meeting to discuss design on the CSX property. DCAS, DEP, and DPR are coordinating on purchase and sale agreements with CSX, with negotiations in "advanced stages." Commissioner Rodriguez shared that NYC law department and new administration are making CSX acquisition a priority.

230th Street to 225th Street

Because MTA owns the property and uses the railway, DEP must put Tibbett's Brook into a pipe for outfall at 192nd street/Wards Island 056. Pipe will be constructed above ground alongside railroad to 225th, and then go underground to the Harlem River outfall. DEP is currently undertaking surveys of property and seeking easement agreement with MTA.

DEP and DPR will create stakeholder engagement schedule for projects in 2021-22; begin VC Lake restoration in 2023-4; and work on Daylighting within VC Park and Greenway from 2024-2029. CEQR review of project is in progress. Design for all 3 phases of project is anticipated to be completed in December 2022.

Discussion:

L. Spalter referred to 2010 ULURP and asked DPR if it maintained vision of multiple access points, economic development, and bicycle access. T. Yilmaz noted 2 presently planned access routes; a ramp from VC Park South to join Greenway; an exit near 230th Street, with additional points contemplated. In answer to question from D. Gellman on Greenway route within VCP, M. Larson confirmed that walkways and trail circulation within the wetlands are still being planned. D. Travis also explained need for new VC Park entrance at Bailey Avenue and need for capital budget priority. R. Ginty said that CB8 has not been recognized by agencies as a stakeholder; referred to ULURP making Putnam Greenway a DPR project with street level shared use ramps at 230th Street, 234th Street, and W 238th Street; and asked whether project is DEP Daylighting or DPR Greenway. B. Bender stressed need for DPR direction of project south of VC Park, community access routes, and particulars of parkland design.

T. Yilmaz said that DEP will engage CB8 as stakeholder and plan access points. M. Larson confirmed that DPR is essential part of project; will work closely on design; and that Daylighting and Greenway are inseparable.

R. Fanuzzi asked for design timeline and stakeholder engagement priorities. Advanced schematic design for VC Park is nearing completion; and schematic design for CSX property could be presented to CB 8 in Spring 2022. M. Larson said that DPR will have scoping meeting to discuss needs of site and requirements represented in 2010 ULURP.

N. Fazio stressed need for connection of joint project in CD8 to Harlem River Greenway along particular Mill Pond Park and Bronx Point at 145th Street. K. Argenti confirmed need for an alternative street route, possibly along Bailey Avenue, to continue Greenway after 230th Street and connect with planned development along Fordham Landing.

Committee members agreed Daylighting planning and outfall reduction should include plans for Major Deegan corridor flood control and engage NYS DOT with highway runoff mitigation; and that capacity calculations should include increased storms and pesticides and runoff from golf course.

R. Fanuzzi and R. Singh will follow up with DPR and DEP on major issues raised by presentation and discussion.

III. Chairperson Reports

A. Parks and Recreation

1. R. Singh thanked R. Fanuzzi and B. Bender for work planning meeting
2. DPR has cleaned up graffiti at request of committee at Seton Park
3. R. Singh thanked Herb Barrett for his longstanding leadership of the Memorial Grove in VCP.

- B. Environment and Sanitation
 - 1. NYC DEP has applied for a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit from NYS DEC for its Wards Island 056 outfall.
 - 2. DEP is pursuing a rule change within CEQR that will change some oversight from DEP to Office of Remediation.
 - 3. DEP is pursuing a rule change for asbestos reporting and regulation, with a public hearing on December 23, 2021.
 - 4. DEP is pursuing a new Unified Stormwater Management rule for new building in the City of New York. Committee will host a presentation on new rule at its January planning.
 - 5. DSNY is picking up leaves in addition to compost in CD8.

- IV. Old Business
 - A. Parks Committee
 - 1. DPR Department of Forestry will make presentation to committee on Jerome Park trees at its January meeting.
 - B. Environment and Sanitation
 - 1. Residents of Skyview brought longstanding complaint of odor from Ludlow Pollution plant. R Fanuzzi referred to past Environment and Sanitation meetings and help from former Congressman Engel's office. K. Argenti referred to NYS regulation for SPEDS permit at the site and elected officials support for odor control. J. Colon referred to Westchester county odor reporting. A. Rauch noted that NYS funding for research in impacts of toxicity on pediatric health.
 - 2. In response to Hurricane Ida and November meeting presentation from Mayor's Office of Climate Resiliency, committee will use flooding vulnerability and storm mitigation as a companion framework to racial equity for budgeting and planning priorities. R. Fanuzzi stressed that Daylighting alone will not solve district's vulnerability to flooding and storms.

- V. New Business
 - A. Environment and Sanitation
 - 1. CM Dinowitz reported that a City Council has passed three bills he sponsored: city buildings must now install sensors that turn off lights at night; city parking lots have to wire 40% for electric cars, with new parking lots including charging stations; new buildings, with some exceptions, will no longer have gas connections.

- VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Fanuzzi
Chair, Environment and Sanitation Committee
R. Singh

Chair, Parks and Recreation Committee