

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION COMMITTEE
OF BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8**

Tuesday April 5, 2022

7 pm

Via Zoom

Committee members in attendance: K. Argenti, R. Fanuzzi, R. Spalter, D. Travis

Also present: L. Spalter, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, C. Tepus (CB8), J. Colon, A. Rauch

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

- I. Approval of Minutes
With recognition of quorum, committee passed minutes of E and S committee meeting of February 16
- II. Chair's Report
 - A. Committee discussed DEP rain barrel give-away and will not host the event this year. Chair will share event with community-based organizations.
 - B. NYC DSNY now requires new and renovated or altered residential buildings with units of over 150 units to file waste management plan that includes recycling and waste reduction with NYC DOB.
 - C. DEP has contracted with CUNY Advanced Science Research Center to research and install antennae and flood sensors throughout the five boroughs that will enable the agency to detect flooding and inform the city's flood map.
 - D. CB8 office has received complaints of sewer backup at 231st and Scenic Place, served by private sewers.
 - E. DEP is holding a virtual meeting of the Tibbett's Advisory Group open to the public on April 19 at 5:30. A conceptual plan of the Tibbett's Daylighting/Putnam South Greenway will be presented.
 - F. DEP and DPR are hosting a site tour of the planned route of the Putnam South Greenway on Thursday April 21 at 9 am, meeting at VC Park.
 - G. DEP and DPR are submitting a preliminary design of the Tibbett's Daylighting/Putnam South Greenway to the Public Design Committee on June 17 for its July 11 meeting. E and S will hold a joint meeting with Parks on May 25 to review and vote on the proposal. Bronx CB8 will seek clarification as to the inclusion of Bronx CB8 resolution/position on the preliminary design in the PDC deliberation of July 11. Chair will seek DEP/DPR presentation in advance of the May 25 meeting and submit questions in advance. CB will publicize Tibbett's Advisory Group virtual meeting and site visit.
 - H. Chair will not seek renomination and thanks the committee for their commitment and contributions.
- III. Water Working Group Report: K. Argenti

- A. DEP is building a green infrastructure installation on its property between Sedgwick Avenue and Dickinson Avenue along Mosholu Parkway to intercept street stormwater runoff. Installation will include irrigation for native plants. Future improvements are sought for the worn and eroded edge of the property along Dickinson Avenue.
- B. BCEQ and Van Cortlandt Park Alliance help two Water Summits that presented outfall maps in Van Cortlandt Park and information about watershed shared between Bronx and Westchester County and brought. 2/3 of the water in Van Cortlandt Park enters from streams, groundwater, and outfalls in Westchester, running downhill to city streets. Runoff from the Major Deegan Expressway also enters the park. BCEQ is seeking cooperation between NYC agencies, Westchester, and NYS DEC to manage the outfalls and stormwater in the larger Tibbett's Brook watershed.
- C. Putnam South Greenway halts and Tibbett's Brook goes into a pipe at 230. K. Argenti read the following text from the CPC approval of DPR acquisition of CSX right of way that identifies possible use of greenway south of 230th Street:
 "The MTA will continue to maintain and use these tracks until at least 2013, after which time DPR is planning to lease the ROW from the MTA for the purpose of creating another segment of greenway that will connect to the current [Putnam Greenway South] proposal. Eventually, the goal is to have greenway continue along the waterfront of the Harlem River, connecting to other existing and proposed greenways further to the south. . . . The affected agencies and utilities were polled on November 28, 2008. No agencies expressed any objections to the proposal."

Committee will bring clause to agencies at May 25 meeting and advocate for extension.
 R. Ginty noted that new ULURP would be required. Chair stressed the importance of open channel and Putnam South Greenway link to existing and planned Harlem River greenways, as stated by the CPC.

IV. FY 2024 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities

Committee discussed and prepared the following budget priorities. Focus of discussion was on policies and investments that will mitigate impacts of stormwater, reduce flooding, and prevent runoff, particularly in environmental justice and environmentally sensitive areas.

<u>FY24</u> <u>Ranking</u>	<u>Bronx CB8 FY2024 Initial Capital Budget Requests</u>	<u>FY23</u> <u>Rankin</u> <u>g</u>
1	E and S/Traffic and Trans- DEP/DOT: Design and build right-of-way green infrastructure and stormwater management plan for the Major Deegan Expressway corridor in areas impacted by Hurricane Ida, including Van Cortlandt Village, Kingsbridge Heights, and Kingsbridge, and on all step streets leading to Bailey Avenue	

2	E and S --DEP: Install Right-of-Way Green infrastructure along Bailey Avenue and Broadway to alleviate flooding and pooling in Kingsbridge and Marble Hill	13
3	<u>E and S/Parks/Traff and Trans:</u> Reconstruct Van Cortlandt Park South step street from Van Cortlandt Park South to Gale Place including integrating green infrastructure to capture storm water and creating a pedestrian plaza at Bailey Avenue entrance to Van Cortlandt Park	
4	<u>PARKS/PUBLIC SAFETY/E&S/TRAFF&TRANS - (DPR/NYPD/DEP/DOT) – Jerome Park Reservoir Pedestrian Safety Lighting:</u> Add park-style lighting around the pedestrian perimeter of the Jerome Park Reservoir along Reservoir Avenue between Sedgwick Avenue and Goulden Avenue and along Goulden Avenue between Sedgwick Avenue and Reservoir Avenue for pedestrian safety from crime, increase pedestrian visibility for cars and to reduce dumping	
5	<u>E&S/TRAFF&TRANS</u> – DEP/DOT –Study of safe pedestrian and bicycle connections to Putnam Greenway from Bailey Avenue and from Broadway/Broadway Bridge	
6	E and S -DSNY: Rehabilitate and update DSNY garage on 215th and Broadway used for vehicles servicing CD8	
7	E and S/Parks --DEP/DPR: Rehabilitate Shorefront Park edge to include a living shoreline to capture runoff, promote clean water, and increase shoreline shoreline resilience	

<u>FY24</u> <u>Ranking</u>	<u>Bronx CB8 FY2024 Initial Expense Budget Requests</u>	<u>FY23</u> <u>Ranking</u>
1	E and S/Parks -DEP: Daylight Tibbetts Brook: Fund continual maintenance for operation, efficiency, and good housekeeping of Daylighting Project in Van Cortlandt Park and along the Putnam South Greenway	

2	E and S -DSNY: Baseline NYC Compost Project funding to pre-Covid levels to enable compost education, community based composting sites, and organic refuse drop-off sites.	
3	E and S --DSNY: Implement universal curbside compost pick up for the Bronx	
4	E and S - DSNY: Increased funding for Manual Litter Patrol, particularly in the Environmental Justice-designated areas of Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Marble Hill in Bronx CD8	
5	E and S –DEP: Increase funding for maintenance contracts for Jerome Park Reservoir to pick up litter within DEP property	
6	E and S –DSNY: Full restoration of all street cleaning and pickup service required for clean streets, particularly in business districts of Marble Hill, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Spuyten Duyvil, and Riverdale.	
7	E and S -DSNY: Increase funding for “Splinter Groups” to pick up litter on vacant lots and around building sites in CD8	
8	E and S –DEP: Increase funding for catch basin inspection, cleaning, and maintenance in flood prone areas along Broadway and Bailey Avenue and on roadways in Kingsbridge Heights and Van Cortlandt Village	
9	E and S -DSNY: Fund e-cycling program to include community drop-off for buildings with less than 10 units in Bronx District 8	

V. Old Business

- A. Chair has contacted MTA to determine possible use of and plans for railroad tracks parallel to the Major Deegan from 230th to 225th. Committee is opposed to any leasing of tracks for garbage transportation or car idling. J. Colon noted impact of garbage transportation on Marble Hill and Spuyten Duyvil, communities ordering train tracks.

VI. New Business

- A. K. Argenti asked for committee members and residents to note good housekeeping of Jerome Park and JPR Reservoir in front of Lehman College. Lehman College facilities and buildings and grounds will be contacted.
- B. L. Spalter announced that Congressmember Espaillat has distributed a map that allows citizens to propose priorities and projects to be funded by the federal infrastructure spending bill.

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 9:02.

Respectfully submitted

Robert Fanuzzi

Chair, Environment and Sanitation Committee