

## Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Environment and Sanitation and Housing Committee Meetings

June 17, 2021

Zoom

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

Housing Committee members present: T. Morris, J. Reyes, J. Townes, T. Pardo

Also in attendance:

L. Spalter, Bob Bender, CB8; Rodney McNeil, Superintendent MH Houses; Paula Frye, Property Manager MH Houses; Andrew Hoyles, Senior Manager, DSNY Organic Recycling; Effie Ardizzone, DEP Community Liaison; Ann Rauch, IC Levenberg, Jackie Fischer, Leah Rollhaus, V. Bughatti, V. Mendina-St. Andreas, Liz Manning, T. Pardo,

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

- I. Approval of E and S Minutes of April 8 were adopted.
- II. E and S Chair's Report
  - A. DSNY has resumed organic recycling curbside pickup. Mr. Andrew Hoyles on DSNY reports that federal funding has allowed the resumption of the program in 44 community districts. DSNY will resume service in October on the basis of community members' opt-in to the program. Sign-ups will begin in August online; DSNY can schedule community outreach events. Chair invites community members to reach out to DSNY for scheduling community outreach. CB8 will publicize on social media. Chair recommends liaison with CB to determine expedient routes once enrollment is completed.
  - B. DSNY is hiring outreach coordinators for organic recycling program.
  - C. CB is removing graffiti on Broadway in Marble Hill with support from CM Rodriguez. L. Spalter reports that 50<sup>th</sup> precinct also records graffiti sites. Chair asked community members to call in graffiti sites.
- III. Housing Chair Reports
  - A. Chair introduced Rodney McNeil, Superintendent MH Houses; Paula Frye, Property Manager MH Houses
  - B. MH Houses Community Center hosted two vaccination drives with the help of the MH
  - C. Chair thanked Mr. McNeil, Ms. Frye, and Mr. Edwards for stepping up rat abatement measures on MH Houses
- IV. Flooding and sewer conditions along Broadway and Marble Hill Housing
  - Superintendent McNeil of NYCHA reports improvement in Broadway flooding, near Building 9 and the Broadway bus stop. DEP has put teams to clean the catch basins. E. Ardizzone reports few 311 complaints of street flooding. High pedestrian areas lead to litter clogging catch basins. DSNY street cleaning will take debris off the top of the basin but DEP has made this area a priority.

Superintendent McNeil regularly cleans on-site catch basins on NYCHA and is seeking additional vendor. NYCHA does not get 311 calls.

Property Manager Frye of MH Houses reports that NYCHA is addressing basement flooding with private vendor.

Jackie Fischer's organization recruits MH residents to work on gardens on MH campus.

Composting is ongoing.

E and S Committee has made sewer cleaning a budget priority and supports MH residents community gardening and composting efforts.

D. Travis notes that MH is included in the city's 500 year flood plan and asks for NYCHA's plan for flooding and Harlem River waterfront access.

V. New Business

- A. Victor Mendina-St. Andreas asked for committee assistance with his efforts to clean up parkland in the Spytten Duyvil neighborhood.
- B. Vittorio . Bugatti reports litter along Johnson Avenue in Central Riverdale commercial strip. Tree pits are not maintained by business owners and are filled with garbage. Taxi cabs contribute to problem V. Bugatti has spoken to CM and requests additional DSNY pick ups in area. Committee recommend additional enforcement.
- C. Michelle Washington, professor of community design at FIT, has completed a student project of "biophilia design" based on the Marble Hill community's experience of flooding, litter, and green space. Committee invites Professor Washington and her students back to show their project.
- D. Local complaint about flooding on Irwin and Tibbett on 235<sup>th</sup> Street is due to downed tree. Water pools and undermines sidewalk. Chair recommends enhanced tree pit to replace downed tree with cooperation between DSNY and DPR. K. Argenti noted that flooding occurs in Tibbett's Brook pathway.
- E. Chair proposes "Green Broadway" inter-agency and E and S committee initiative that will engage citizens in anti-litter, anti-flooding, and green infrastructure projects and programs. K. Argenti recommends budget and policy priorities that incorporate flooding, floodplain zoning, CSO reduction and service basin.

VI. Old Business

- A. E and S Committee adopted "Community Statement of Needs" based on meeting agendas, service calls, and public hearing of March and will issue to Community Board for assistance with District Needs Statement.

**Bronx Community Board 8 Environment and Sanitation Community Needs Statement**

Environmental Justice areas of Bronx Community District 8 are the focus of needs shared by the entire district. These areas, which include Kingsbridge Heights, Kingsbridge, Marble Hill, and the border of North Riverdale with Yonkers. are delineated by fulfilling one of the two criteria adopted by the Mayor's Office of Climate Policy, based on NY State Department of Environmental Conservation data: 52.42% minority groups; or 22.82 % of the households are

below the federal poverty rate.(Source: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/public/911.html>) The Community District's Core Infrastructure:City Services, and Resiliency Needs, are magnified in these Environmental Justice (EJ) areas.

### **Enforcement**

Throughout the district, construction is having a negative impact on quality of life, measured by noise, commercial dumping, littering and asbestos related complaints. EJ areas have documented need for relief from construction related air and noise pollution, and illegal dumping. Construction complaints demand pro-active enforcement in addition to the current complaint driven system.

The Jerome Park Reservoir, and park and playgrounds along Bailey Avenue, Central Riverdale/Netherland Avenue business district have become a commercial dumping ground, with no agency accountable for cleanup. These areas have intense enforcement needs from district and borough-based DSNY teams.

### **Clean Air, Water & Green Spaces**

Poor water quality - Our EJ areas have water supply needs, with complaints about water taste from DEP reservoirs spiking in Kingsbridge Heights and Fort Independence.

Train & Highway Impacts - Kingsbridge and Marble Hill EJ neighborhoods suffer from subway and train track noise, air pollution created by the Major Deegan expressway, and illegal dumping along the Van Cortlandt? Park, highway and Metro North corridor. They also suffer from flooding caused by CSO overflow along the Broadway main sewer line.

### **Climate Change & Resiliency**

The heart of the district along the Broadway corridor from Van Cortlandt Park to the Harlem River is within the Tibbett's Brook watershed and vulnerable to coastal and stormwater flooding. The district is known for its green parkland and its absence of right-of-way green infrastructure to address flooding which is a frequent occurrence in Kingsbridge and Marble Hill.

Above ground electrical lines--aerial hardening is needed to make the district more resilient to the increase in intensity of storms.

#### **B. Budget Priorities**

Committee presented the following budget priorities to the CB:

FY23 Ranking	<b><u>Bronx CB8 FY2023 Initial Capital Budget Requests</u></b>	FY22 Ranking
	<b>E and S</b> DEP--Daylight Tibbetts Brook: Support expenditure of agency funds necessary to daylight the freshwater wetland known as Tibbetts Brook, which currently discharges into the Van Cortlandt Lake Weir and the Broadway sewer, and reconnect it to the Harlem River along the southern extension of the Putnam Trail to reduce combined sewer overflow. I	
	<b>E and S</b> DEP--Dickinson Avenue: Repave and realign DEP owned street to connect with Goulden Ave and enable bikelane connection to Van Cortlandt Park	
	<b>E and S</b> DEP--Spuyten Duyvil waterfront: Convert DEP-owned property on Spuyten Dyvil Creek/Canal to a Living Shoreline to promote clean water and shoreline resiliency	

FY23 Ranking	<b><u>Bronx CB8 FY2023 Initial Expense Budget Requests</u></b>	FY22 Ranking
	<b>E and S-</b> DSNY: Full restoration of all services required for clean streets in Bronx Community Board 8, especially in the Environmental Justice-designated areas Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Marble Hill and the Broadway commercial corridor	
	<b>E and S-</b> DEP: Maintain DEP property and upgrade maintenance contracts for areas around Jerome Park Reservoir to clean up illegal dumping	
	<b>E and S--</b> DSNY: Additional Enforcement Agents dedicated to illegal commercial dumping occurring along Bailey Avenue, Jerome Park Reservoir, and Metro North Railroad in Spuyten Duyvil	
	<b>E and S--</b> DSNY--Fund NYC Compost Project to enable compost education and community-based compost and organic drop-off sites	
	<b>E and S--</b> DEP: Additional Asbestos and Noise complaint enforcement to respond to increased construction violations and environmental impacts throughout district	
	<b>E and S-</b> DEP: Install Right-of-Way Green infrastructure along Broadway to alleviate flooding in commercial district and Marble Hill Houses area and in Kingsbridge Heights to prevent CSO runoff	
	<b>E and S-</b> DSNY: Restore curbside organic recycling in Bronx District 8	
	<b>E and S-</b> DSNY: Restore e-cycling program with community drop-off in Bronx District 8	

VII. Adjournement

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Fanuzzi,

Chair, Environment and Sanitation Committee