

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 20, 2021 MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION COMMITTEE OF  
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8**

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

Also in attendance: CB8 members: D. Gellman, R. Ginty, R. Jablosky, D. Padernacht, R. Singh, L. Spalter; Council Member E. Dinowitz and L. Manzano; Z. Zill, A. Rauch, B. Armisted, C. Steffens, D. Hersch, J. Colon, L. Leah, R. McTeague, L. May-Landy, R. Weber

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

- I. Minutes of September 15, 2021 meeting of Environment and Sanitation committee were amended to note that the minutes of the June 16, 2021 Environment Committee were not approved because of the absence of a quorum at the September meeting. In the presence of a quorum, the minutes of June 16 were passed (yea: R. Fanuzzi, C. Dastis-Galvin D. Travis, R. Spalter; abstain, K. Argenti) and September 15 minutes were passed unanimously.
- II. Chair's Report
  - A. Members of the Committee introduced themselves.
  - B. Chad Jacobson is the new DSNY Superintendent for CD8
  - C. Con Ed is repairing gas links on Arlington Avenue and Palisade Avenue
  - D. Chair thanked CM Dinowitz and L. Manzano for their support of curbside organic composting
- III. Water Working Group Update: Daylighting

K. Argenti gave update on DEP Daylighting project, including information from Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (BCEQ) meeting with DEP. Daylighting is part of watershed management and green infrastructure planning for our district. R. Fanuzzi and K. Argenti are board members of BCEQ.

R. Ginty asked for joint meeting of Environment and Sanitation and Parks Committee to learn about plans for the Greenway south of Van Cortlandt Park, pursuant to 2011 Community Board ULURP resolution supporting DPR acquisition of CSX property. Chairs of E and S and Parks committee are seeking joint meeting with DPR and DEP on both Daylighting and Greenway. Discussion was held on vulnerability of VC Park, and flooding impacts from Westchester, highway, and Van Cortlandt Lake runoff. Daylighting would capture 1.6 billion gallons a year, alleviating impacts of stormwater flooding.
- IV. NYSERDA Renewable Energy Contracts

In response to Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act of 2019, the Public Service Commission enjoined the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to seek renewable energy facilities and transmission lines so that New York State could meet the laws emission reduction targets. NYSERDA awarded contracts to Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) and Clean Path NY. CHPE will be invited to future meeting to discuss renewable energy plans in the Bronx.

J. Colon noted that PSC approved converter station in Spuyten Dyvil without environmental review, eliciting community resistance and support of Environment and Sanitation committee.

Information about the NYSERDA awards can be found here:

<https://www.nysenda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Clean-Energy-Standard/Renewable-Generators-and-Developers/Tier-Four>  
<https://chpexpress.com/>

- V. Stormwater Management Resiliency Report and Hurricane Ida report
- Committee discussed the City-Council mandated Stormwater Management Report and “The New Normal,” the city’s response to Hurricane Ida. Chair noted absence of stakeholder and community engagement; inclusion of Daylighting as flood mitigation. Chair took issue with map of flooding from Hurricane Ida, attributed to lack of 311 calls to report flooding. CM Dinowitz, K. Argenti and J. Colon shared City Council hearing and reiterated need for 311 and photos from the community.

Reports are found here:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/orr/pdf/publications/stormwater-resiliency-plan.pdf>  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/orr/pdf/publications/WeatherReport.pdf>

Water Working Group has issued community survey of flooding in 2015 and will revisit.

- VI. Old Business
- Curbside Composting
- Councilmember Eric Dinowitz and L. Manzano reported extensive community outreach with local environmental organizations to recruit community member sign-pCM Dinowitz held numerous outreach events with DSNY and local environmental organizations and was successful in persuading DSNY to count total population rather than individual addresses. Program will begin in mid-November.

- VII. New Business
- A. CM Dinowitz sponsors legislation for DEP to offer financial support for backwater valves that can prevent basement flooding. CM Dinowitz supports “right of way”/street green infrastructure for the Bronx and asks 311 callers to also call his office.
- B. DSNY is asking for streets that need extra snow removal attentions. D. Travis noted step streets and J. Colon noted sidewalk under Kappock Street overpass. R. noted lack of second and third snow plough in North Riverdale. D. Gellman asked for DSNY guidance on how citizens can help snow removal.

- VIII. Adjournment
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:10
- Respectfully submitted,
- R. Fanuzzi, Chair

