

Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee Meeting of Bronx Community Board 8

November 20, 2019

Mosaic Mental Health Center, 5676 Riverdale Avenue

Present: R. Fanuzzi, L. Spalter, R. Spalter, K. Argenti, B. Bender, M. Gluck, C. Tepelus, D. Travis; J. Cohen (Bronx Times), Guillermo Rodriguez (CM Cohen's Office), Lortasha White (FedCap), James Price (FedCap); A. Garti.

The meeting began at 7:05 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of October 16 were approved unanimously.

II. Chair's Report

- A. B. Bender agreed to serve as Vice Chair
- B. R. Spalter and K. Argenti were welcomed as Community Committee Members.
- C. R. Fanuzzi made request for citizens to call 311 to report leaf-clogged storm drains via Bronx CB 8 newsletter.
- D. DSNY Leaf Crunch at Brust Park on November 9 attracted over 100 people. Committee congratulates Stewards of Brust Park for their successful initiative and organizing.
- E. As of November 20, 2019, DEP reports a "closeout" of asbestos removal at 2395 Palisades. DM Gannon has been monitoring cleanup and DEP inspections and coordinating with R. Fanuzzi on a daily basis. Demolition of 2395 is immanent.

III. Department of 2019-20 Sanitation Snow Report

Agenda items laid over; DSNY did not appear

IV. FedCap Clean Up and Beautification in Council District 11

FedCap, a non-profit employment service, is funded by CM Andrew Cohen for clean up and beautification in Council District 11, which covers much of Community District 8. G. Rodriguez and L. White reported on the good work that Fedcap workers have done in our community, especially in scaffolded areas and step streets that attract garbage. L. White welcomed recommendations from committee to include in the Fedcap "route sheet" on a regular basis. Committee will forward recommendations, which will include step streets, to CM Cohen's office. C. Tepelus suggested that the committee commend Fedcap's work to the offices of CM Rodriguez and CM Cabrera so that they can learn of its benefits.

V. DEP Contractor Rate Abatement at Jerome Park Reservoir

Committee members discussed incidents of rat activity in neighborhoods contiguous to Jerome Park Reservoir. DOH presentation to Health and Hospitals Committee provided statistics on rat inspections in CD8; 93% of DOH inspections cluster in this area. R. Fanuzzi shared DOH rat abatement requirements for demolition and will look further into DDC

requirements for city contractors. Chair thanked L. Spalter, O. Murray and DM Gannon for their collaboration and Fort Independence community for its vigilance.

K. Argenti related DEP past practice and contractor requirements at JPR. Committee agreed to send letter to DEP asking the agency to require its contractors at JPR to include rat abatement.

K. Argenti noted emergency construction during school hours in the Fort Independence community and has reached out to DEP to stop it.

VI. DEP Long Term Control Plan/Daylighting Tibbett's Brook

R. Fanuzzi circulated DEP's answers to committee's questions about the agency's plans to daylight Tibbett's Brook along the CSX right of way south of Van Cortlandt Park. E and S Committee members supported the "Option 2" as described in the October 2, 2019 DEP Long Term Control Plan presentation, which calls for a stream with a natural bottom to reduce base flow into the Broadway sewer. Committee members also made recommendations for diverting water from the sewer at 230th Street, the planned terminus of the project, including recycling, reuse, and connection to the Harlem River.

DEP requires comments on its Long Term Control Plan by December 2. The E and S Committee will send its comments in letter form by that date.

VII. DEP Modified Negative Declaration for JRAQ-REH/Jerome Park Reservoir Aqueduct Rehabilitation

Committee members discussed the importance of the "Modified Negative Declaration" and its findings of "Non-Significance," issued by DEP on October 22, 2019, in connection to DEP's new policy for Jerome Park Reservoir. As announced at the June meeting of the E and S Committee, this policy will keep the north basin of Jerome Park Reservoir permanently empty as a "failsafe" measure for overflow into the Croton Filtration Plant. Bronx Community 8 resolution of June 2019 opposes this new policy and calls for DEP to return to Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee and Environment and Sanitation Committee to share all necessary alternative analyses and environmental impacts of this new policy. The Modified Negative Declaration declares that there is no impact if the north basin is kept empty.

Committee reviewed the Modified Negative Declaration document and letters of support for its findings of "no impact" from the New York State Office of Historic Preservation. Discussion focused on the connection of this new "failsafe" policy for the north basin to the actual project modifications described in the Modified Negative Declaration. These modifications include changes to design, materials, and plans for the east wall of JPR and the Croton Aqueduct. These changes are caused by deteriorating underlying conditions in the east wall. The Modified Negative Declaration notes that these modifications will now be "above the waterline", as per the new north basin "failsafe" policy for the Croton Filtration Plant.

Although the issuance of the document is required under CEQR, the Modified Negative Declaration removes the project from a formal CEQR comment period. Members of the E and S committee agreed to compile its questions and concerns about the Modified Negative Declaration and to invite DEP to its December meeting. In light of meeting conflict with the Board of Amalgamated Houses and importance of JPR construction to the Amalgamated community, committee will seek alternate meeting date for December meeting and meet in Vladek Hall.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Fanuzzi