

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 29TH, 2015 AT THE RIVERDALE YM/YWHA

PRESENT

Robert Fanuzzi
Demetrius McCord
Robert Press
Laura Spalter
Bob Bender
Robert Spalter
N. K. Vasquez
I.C. Charles
Suzanne Corber
Ann Rauch

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair
CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
Community Committee Member
NYC Compost Project
Bronx Council on Environmental Quality
Bronx Climate Justice North
Bronx Climate Justice North

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of May 20, 2015 Environment and Sanitation Committee were approved by a vote of 4:0:0.

II. Chair's Report

- A. Chair thanked community organizations for attending committee meetings, organizing local environmental initiatives, and pursuing sustainable policy objectives. The engagement of local organizations was key to the committee's work and success for 2014-15. Organizations included CERT, local participants in NYC Compost and Bronx Green-Up programs, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx Climate Justice North, Riverdale Nature Preservancy, JFK Theater High School, Marble Hill NYCHA Green Team, Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, Dr. Paul Mankiewicz of the Gaia Institute. Special thanks to Water Committee of Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, co-chair Karen Argenti and VISTA researcher Phoebe Mankiewicz.
- B. Chair expressed regret that Green Infrastructure team of DEP was not available to attend meeting and comment on committee's yearlong research on Combined Sewer Overflow and high flow areas in Community Board 8. Chair noted for that absence of any DEP representative did not reflect well on agency's engagement with committee but related that DEP representatives will attend future meetings. In addition, Chair noted that DEP Green Infrastructure engineers are in receipt of and studying research provided by Environment and Sanitation Committee in advance of June 29 meeting and express gratitude for the committee's work.

III. Gardens and Compost sites

- A. Ian Christner of Bon Secour New York, operating out of Schervier Rehabilitation and Nursing Home, reported that the Bon Secour Healthy Communities community garden is open for residents and occupants of the facility. Barbara Denison is the local manager of the site. Chair expressed thanks to Mr.

Christner for BSNY's support of the Kingsbridge Heights gardens and Grown NYC Youth Market and of Marble Hill's Youth Market. BSNY Healthy Communities has been a steadfast partner of Bronx Community Board 8 for over six years and has been a boon to public health in the district.

- B. Ms. Vasquez of DSNY NYC Compost project reports that the new JFK High School Compost drop off site is open from 7-9:30 am on Saturdays and that the VC Park Compost site is open on Tuesdays from 2-6.

IV. Action Plan for Water Runoff and Combined Sewer Overflow

Vice Chair L. Spalter recommended that the E and S committee adopt an action plan to continue research and advocacy of water-runoff and water pollution issues, and that a Water working group of E and S committee members would report to the committee on a quarterly basis. Members of the committee voted unanimously to adopt the action plan. (See Appendix A).

V. Jerome Reservoir and DEP

Board member R. Press requested information from Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee Reservoir Access Working Group on planning for pilot access to interior path around Jerome Park Reservoir.

Concerns were raised about DEP's responsibility for refuse related to ongoing construction at JPR.

VI. Budget Priorities

Expense budget priorities were adopted by the committee for FY 2017. There were no capital requests. (See Appendix B)

VII. New Business

Community member Anne Rauch reported that Bronx Climate Justice North held its meeting on June 26 and that members expressed great interest in green infrastructure. BCJN is in conversation with the Welikia Project (the successor to the Mannahatta Project), beginning a partnership with a public forum perhaps in the winter or spring 2016 that will allow Welikia Project scientists and Bronx community and environmental/climate justice activists to explore green restoration projects they can work on in common.

Ms. Rauch also raised issue of engaging local building residents in environmental sustainability. The Green committee at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale is seeking residents in Riverdale co-op buildings who are willing to act as environmental stewards for their buildings, monitoring DSNY electronic recycling bins and proposing emerging conservation measures for multi-family dwellings. Chair suggested that Green Committee address Association of Riverdale Cooperatives with information on this initiative.

Chair R. Fanuzzi thanked Ms. Rauch for her organizing efforts and reiterated the importance of water runoff and its remedy, green infrastructure, to Bronx Board 8's approach to local development, land use, park projects and master planning, and to its ongoing SNAD review.

There being no old business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
R. Fanuzzi
Chair, Environment and Sanitation Committee

Appendix A

Bronx Community Board 8 Environment and Sanitation Committee

Storm Water Action Plan

The Environment and Sanitation Committee 2014-15 began identifying serious local water issues, its impact on the land, air and water, and potential solutions in Bronx Community Board 8.

The Problems

- the largest Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) discharge in NYC;
- sewer outfalls even in dry weather indicates a dysfunctional system;
- storm water runoff and flooding - broken catch basins, depressed street corners or torn up streets, floods in our basements.
- pollution of the Hudson and Harlem Rivers
- direct discharges at river's edge (referred to as MS4)

Committee Activities, 2014-2015 (See minutes for details)

- Communication: Letters, meetings, and phone calls with DEP representatives re Broadway Sewer and need for Green Infrastructure;
- Worked with environmental groups on a Graphic Information System (GIS) to research Green Infrastructure sites and estimate high flow/flooding in CB8

Goals and Next Steps

- Continue to document the need for Green Infrastructure (GI) in Bronx Community Board 8;
- Continue to work with organizations such as Bronx Council on Environmental Quality (BCEQ) and its Harlem River Working Group (HRWG), the Gaia Institute, the New York City Soil and Water Conservation District (NYCSWCD), Storm Water Infrastructure Matters (SWIM), and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to collect data/photos;
- Continue to advocate for timely inclusion into DEP's Long Term Control Plan which includes the Green Infrastructure Grant Program with appropriate agencies and elected officials;
- Establish a Water Working Group that will report quarterly on issues and progress to the Environment and Sanitation Committee on water issues.

Laura Spalter, Vice Chair
June 29, 2015

Appendix B

Environment and Sanitation Committee Budget Requests 2017

Environment and Sanitation Committee Meeting, June 29, 2015

Expense Request	Agency
Sustain and expand funding for NYC Compost Project to support compost program and composter education in CB8	DSNY
Sustain and expand funding for NYC Compost program to support interns in local community organizations, such as Friends of Van Cortlandt Park and Kingsbridge Heights Community Center	DSNY
Sustain funding for Organic Recycling Program in CB8	DSNY
Storm water barrels to capture rainwater from private hokes and multi-family dwellings	DEP
Increase level of sewer inspection resources to alleviate local flooding in “high-flow” areas	DEP
Recycling bins and waste baskets along Broadway at 225 th , 231 st . street, 238st. St. and 242 Street	DSNY
Recycling bins and waste baskets along Goulden and Sedgwick Avenues surrounding JPR	
Funding for the completion of the Tibbett Brooks Daylighting Research	DEP
Maintain funding for e-cycle and clothes recycling bins in multi-family dwellings	DSNY