

Pending Approval
Bronx Community Board 8
Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee Meeting
Held November, 5, 2018 at the office of Community Board 8

Attendance

Committee Members: Laura Spalter, chair, Bob Fanuzzi, vice chair, Bob Bender, Margaret Della, Michael Frishman, Martin Gluck, Rob Spalter, community member

Community Board 8: Dan Padernacht

Absent: Karen Argenti, community member

Community: I-C Levenburg, BCEQ, May Ludemann, Riverdale Country School, Morgan Evers

Agenda

The meeting commenced at 7:30 PM.

The minutes of May 16 and October 17 were unanimously approved.

1. DEP Pumping Station at 235th and Palisade Avenue.

After discussion, the committee voted on the following resolution:

Whereas, on October 17th representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) presented their plan to reconstruct its pumping station located inside Riverdale Park at 235th Street and Palisade Avenue to the Environment and Sanitation committee (the committee); and

Whereas, the pumping station has the function of pumping sewage and waste water towards the Ward's Island Treatment Plant, and DEP states that replacing the antiquated infrastructure, above and below ground, is a critical environmental project; and

Whereas, DEP will seek approval from the Public Design Commission; and

Whereas, the committee approves the design of the new pumping station due to its attractive stone façade, wrought iron fence, and size which falls within the same footprint as the current building, but the committee has serious concerns regarding the staging plan; and

Whereas, the staging plan requires closing Palisade Avenue to vehicular traffic between 231 and 232nd for approximately one month, and Palisade Avenue between 232nd Street and Douglas Avenue for 18 to 20 months; and

Whereas, affected homeowners, pedestrians, bicyclists, and emergency vehicles will continue to have access via the eastern or northbound single lane of Palisade Avenue; and

Whereas, DEP has stated that they will assume responsibility for notifying the community of street closures which will commence in April of 2020; and

Whereas; it was confirmed by a Department of Parks and Recreation representative at the meeting that staging is not permitted on parkland; and

Whereas; DEP stated that the Department of Parks and Recreation and the NYC Department of Transportation have been involved in the planning and details of this project; and

Whereas, the committee recognizes the hardships created by closing Palisade Avenue to vehicular traffic for the community and local schools;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Environment and Sanitation committee conditionally approves DEP's plan to reconstruct the pumping station at 235th and Palisade Avenue contingent upon DEP and its agents giving their commitment to consult and cooperate with Bronx Community Board 8 and in particular the Traffic and Transportation committee, to review the staging and traffic plan for this project, and make modifications where recommended and possible.

Vote:

In favor: L. Spalter, B. Bender, S. Froot, M. Gluck, M. Della, M. Frishman, R. Spalter

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: B. Fanuzzi

2. Discussion of Long Term Control Plan (LTCP)- Bob Fanuzzi

Context: New York City is in violation of the Clean Water Act of 1972. As a result, DEP has been mandated by the state and federal government to submit a Long Term Control Plan for its Open Waters. These waters include the Harlem, Hudson, and East Rivers. Last February, Community Board 8 passed a resolution that advocated for what we want included in DEP's LTCP including Daylighting Tibbetts Brook and Green Infrastructure, among other things.

Update: Bob Fanuzzi reported that DEP has applied to the NYS Department of Conservation (DEC) for an extension in filing its LTCP. The committee approved that Bob Fanuzzi draft a letter to the DEP requesting the reason for the delay. We will include our resolution and request to be kept informed of any actions that they plan to implement.

3. Chair's Report:

- Good news! Councilman Cohen will employ Fedcap to begin cleaning and pruning the shoulders of the W. 238th Step Street (between Cannon and Orloff Avenues) before winter. The chair has requested the sites in Community Board 8 where Fedcap regularly cleans.
- Last month, the chair attended the Bronx borough-wide Budget Consultation meeting held with community boards and agencies. She spoke with DSNY and a Borough President representative about advocating for an educational anti-littering campaign using public service announcements.

- DEP reported at Budget Consultation that implementing the new anti noise laws passed last year has been difficult due to many construction inspectors retiring; they are in the process of hiring more inspectors.

4. Organizational Planning:

The committee expressed interest in pursuing Green Infrastructure to mitigate flooding and combined sewer overflow issues. We will focus on the Harlem River Watershed, which includes Jerome Park Reservoir and the area around the Amalgamated Cooperative. These were clearly defined in the Hilltop Green Infrastructure, Neighborhood Concept Plan brochure published by Riverkeeper, Bronx Council on Environmental Quality, and New York City Soil and Water Conservation District.

5. Old Business

Bob Bender reported that the catch basins located at the bottom of W. 254th Street have been cleaned. The complaint was raised with DEP at the October meeting.

6. New Business:

Bob Fanuzzi made note that our District Manager has worked diligently with DEP and DOB in dealing with the asbestos issues at 2395 Palisade Avenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by,

Laura Spalter, chair
Environment and Sanitation Committee