

**Minutes of the May 2020 Meeting of the Environment and Sanitation Committee
of Bronx Community Board 8**

PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL

May 20, 2020

7:30 PM.

Via Zoom

Committee members present: B. Bender, M. Della, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, E. Garcia; M. Gluck; L. Spalter; R. Spalter; D. Travis

In attendance: D. Gellman (CB8); Arianna Miller-D’Alessandro; Maryellen Gibbs; Jodie Colon; Jessica Haller; I. C. Levenberg; Courtney Galvin

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm

- I. Meetings of April meeting were amended to include Jessica Haller in attendance. Minutes as amended were approved unanimously.
- II. Chair’s Report
 - A. R. Fanuzzi has queried DEP on future opportunities for Green Infrastructure investment, particularly via the Private Incentive Program for large institutions and properties; and the Public Retrofit program, for city-owned property. Committee members encourage outreach to community with sufficient details about qualification from DEP. R. Fanuzzi recommended a zone or area approach, such as the Broadway Central Business District corridor and the “Hilltop” project in Van Cortlandt Village/DeWitt Clinton School. Committee embraced both DEP water management and Local Law 97, requiring carbon emission reduction and energy saving, on agenda for public forum with CD8 cooperatives.
 - B. 3377 Sedgwick Avenue has been cited by DEP for unauthorized removal of asbestos. DEP inspectors arrived the same day as 311 call and have placed a stop work order on the project.
 - C. Environment and Sanitation Committee sent letter, co-signed by Chair R. Ginty, to Finance Committee and New York City Council as testimony the 2021 Executive Budget. Chair advised community members to support restoration of essential programs, especially those funded through direct city grants. Letter is being used as a template by community composting groups and non-profit organizations throughout the city advocating for the restoration of community composting budget cut.
 - D. Chair thanked committee members for attendance and engagement at committee meetings, particularly after COVID shutdown.
- III. “Grass Roots News and Views”

M. Della reports that Kingsbridge Heights Community Center has begun serving as food organic drop for compost bins in the KHCC.

J. Colon reports that NYC Compost Project will end after June 30 without restoration in 2021 budget and advised people to contact City Council members to support community composting. Many local composting sites and community gardens are supported by NYC Compost Project. J. Haller has collected 700 signatures in support of community composting.

M. Miller representing the environment committee of Amalgamated and many composting projects at the site, expressed concern about the end of NYC Compost Project. Amalgamated residents are sending letters of support for community composting.

IV. CORE Act Legislation

Councilmembers Keith Powers and Antonio Reynoso have introduced two bills composing CORE—Community Organic Recycling Empowerment in response to planned suspension of organic recycling curbside pickup and closure of electronic recycling/solvent/household waste drop off sites.

Intro. 1942 states

“The commissioner shall ensure that at least three drop off sites for food waste and yard waste are established and operational in each community district no later than June 1, 2021. Each such site shall have a minimum of 20 hours available per week for residents to drop off food waste and yard waste, and shall be located in a geographic area that is easily accessible, including for persons with disabilities, and in close proximity to public transportation. Notice of a site’s hours of operation shall be clearly displayed on such site and on the department’s website . . . The commissioner shall, beginning January 1, 2022 and every six months thereafter, submit a report to the mayor and the speaker of the council regarding the operation of the drop off sites established pursuant to this section. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, the following information for the prior six-month period, disaggregated by drop off site: (i) the amount of material collected at such site; (ii) the number of individuals utilizing such site; (iii) the number of full-time and part-time staff persons working at such site, if any; and (iv) where the food waste and yard waste collected at such site was sent. “

Intro. 1943 states:

“The commissioner shall ensure that at least three community recycling centers are established and operational in each community district by no later than June 1, 2021. Each such center shall have a minimum of 20 hours available per week for drop offs and be located in a geographic area that is easily accessible, including for persons with disabilities, and in close proximity to public transportation. Notice of a center’s hours of operation shall be clearly displayed on such center and on the department’s website. . . . Each community recycling center shall accept inorganic material that is not collected curbside but that can be recycled or reused. Any food waste or yard waste drop off or

collection site otherwise provided for by local law may also be co-located within such recycling centers. Each community recycling center shall also accept hazardous material, as practicable and as defined by the department, that should not be disposed of curbside waste.”

Budget cuts to community composting delivered by Grow NYC and NYC Compost project have also eliminated 170 organic drop-off sites through the city. Drop off sites supervised by Grow NYC and NYC Compost Project have collected 2068 tons of compost; DSNY curbside pick up has collected 468 tons. Cutting community composting subsidy is also cutting effective organic recycling. NYC is now consulting with municipalities, which were advised by NYC Compost Project, for help with addressing organic drop-off logistics required by intro. 1942.

The committee discussed proposed legislation and posed questions: Would the required drop off site include composting? Who will pick up and haul the food scraps if they will not be used for composting on-site? Is all organic waste compostable? Will organic waste be processed at the drop off site? Who will have the expertise to do so? Why will legislation begin in June 2021, when organic recycling will have tapered off? Is paid and/or volunteer assistance with organic processing sustainable without NYC Compost Project assistance? How will this replace curbside pick-up? How will building staff and community members transport organic waste to local drop-off sites?

Committee members believe that it will be difficult for people to fulfill new law, and understand that it has no provision for processing or removal of organic waste. Unlike community composting, organic waste drop-off does not deliver tangible value back to neighborhoods or close the loop of waste diversion. Committee will watch legislation carefully and advise Community Board.

IV. New Business

- A. Mayor’s Executive Budget for 2021 cuts a dedicated maintenance budget for maintenance, cleaning and repair for Jerome Park Reservoir. D. Travis expressed concern on behalf of community and asked whether maintenance and repair will be consolidated under a single contractor.
- B. DEP has made a budget commitment for FY 2021 to maintenance for the Mosholu golf course and driving range, situated on DPR property. Committee will investigate division of fiscal and operational responsibility. BCEQ has issued statement to Finance Committee asking for clarification.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Fanuzzi
Chair,

Environment and Sanitation Committee