

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE **MEETING HELD ON JUNE 19, 2013 AT THE BOARD'S OFFICE**

PRESENT

Sergio Marquez
Robert Press
Laura Spalter
Robert Spalter

AFFILIATION

CB8 Committee Chair
CB8 Committee member
CB8 Committee Vice Chair
Community Committee member

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

The minutes of the May 29, 2013 meeting were approved.

Chairs Report

The Chair will work with the Marble Hill community this summer on the following concerns:

Help organize a civic organization which will keep the streets clean of trash and debris. To reach this goal the Chair will be contacting the churches in Marble Hill to arrange meetings with their members to discuss the possibility of forming such organization. Also, the elected officials that cover Marble Hill will be contacted for their support in this endeavor.

Once the civic organization is formed, grants can be sought to obtain cleaning supplies, e.g., Love Your Block grant provided by Citizens Committee of New York City.

The Chair will continue to work on getting a wooden area that runs along Teunissen Place cleaned up. The Department of Education, the Promenade Building and Department of Sanitation will be contacted in an effort to get this site cleaned up.

As for the rampant dog feces in Marble Hill, the President of the Promenade Tenant's Association, Donna James, pinpointed areas of Marble Hill where dog feces is most prevalent and provide a map of same. The Chair will turn over this information to Ignazio Terranova, Citywide Community Affairs Officer of DSNY and will follow-up with Ms. James to see if this concern is being addressed by DSNY.

Finally, the Chair will contact committee member, Georgina Santiago, to find out if the stench from the sewers on 230th Street on Broadway has been corrected.

Now, to the Jerome Park Reservoir and the concerns raised by Gary Axelbank, DEP had made all efforts to keep Goulden Avenue clean of construction debris. All of

the other concerns raised by Mr. Axelbank fall within the jurisdiction of the Croton FMC Project.

The Committee will be conducting an inspection of the perimeter of the Jerome Park Reservoir this summer to see the condition of same.

Robert Press stated that the problem with the Jerome Park Reservoir is that it is a dual agency site, i.e., Park Department covers the land around the Reservoir and DEP maintains the Reservoir. This duality leads to these agencies pointing their finger at each other when a sanitation concern arises.

Budget Requests from the Environment & Sanitation Committee

The Committee unanimously adopted the following capital and expense budget requests for DSNY and DEP.

DEP Expense Budget Requests

More Inspectors and Purchase more Decibel Meters for Enforcement of the City's Noisy Codes - The Hansen Reports issued monthly by the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") show a high number of community complaints concerning noise from: Alarms, Construction Before and After Hours, Construction Equipment, Air Conditioning and Ventilation Equipment, Jack Hammering and Other Sources.

More Workers to Routinely Clear Clogged Basins which Cause Flooding - The Hansen Reports from DEP show a high number of community complaints monthly, concerning clogged catch basins.

DSNY Capital Budget Request

Request for Dual-Bin Trucks for Recycling - A recent Independent Budget Office ("IBO") study showed that recycling collection is most cost-effective and productive when the City increased its use of dual-bin trucks, which eliminate the need for sending two trucks on a recycling route, one to pick up paper, the other metal, glass, and plastic. Community Board #8 was not listed as having this equipment.

DSNY Expense Budget Request

Request for Staffing Sufficient for Dual-Bin Recycling Trucks - A recent IBO study showed that recycling collection is most cost-effective and productive when the City increased its use of dual-bin trucks, which eliminate the need for sending two trucks on a recycling route, one to pick up paper, the other metal, glass and plastic. In addition to the Capital Budget request for this specialized equipment, we request staffing for this important recycling effort.

Request for Reinstatement or Promote or Hire of Sanitation District Officers for the Enforcement of Sanitation Laws - At a recent Environment & Sanitation Committee meeting Ignazio Terranova, Citywide Community Affairs officer, DSNY, recommended that this request be made and given high priority in order to increase enforcement of the city's sanitation laws especially littering, illegal dumping and "pooper scooper" laws.

Request to Reinstate the Manual Street Cleaning Crews to Remove Litter from the Streets - Ignazio Terranova, Citywide Community Affairs officer highly recommended this request, which in the past was a very good method of keeping the streets free of litter.

New Business

The Committee will be weighing in on the new DSNY program on food compost.

Finally, the Committee will invite the Manhattan College Environment and Sanitation Club to our September, 2013 meeting to explore what they do and to see how we can work together.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sergio Marquez, Chair
Environment & Sanitation Committee