

**Bronx Community Board 8**  
**Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee**  
**Held April 18<sup>th</sup> at Mosaic Mental Health Center, 5676 Riverdale Avenue**  
**Pending Approval**

**Attendance**

Committee members: Laura Spalter, chair, Bob Fanuzzi, vice chair, Bob Bender, Martin Gluck,  
Community Committee Members: Karen Argenti, Rob Spalter  
Absent: Steve Froot

Guests: Leanne Spaulding, DSNY Organic Outreach Specialist, Farrah Rubin, representing Senator Klein, Suzanne Corber, Fay Lieman, I.C.L-Engel, Faith Deveaux, Zak Kostro, Riverdale Press

**Agenda**

1. The meeting commenced at 7:40 PM. A quorum was present and the minutes of the February 21st meeting were approved (the March meeting was cancelled due to snow).
2. A power point presentation was given by DSNY organic outreach specialist Leanne Spaulding to promote DSNY's voluntary organic recycling program. She explained that collections are turned into compost to build healthy soil for city trees, and develop energy. She said that the organic containers are resistant to rodents and pests. Low rise and private homes have greater participation in the program; apartment buildings are signing up, but present greater challenges. She did not have statistics yet as to overall participation in Community Board 8. We discussed the organic program's needs; the committee agreed to add increased funding for education and outreach, as well as support for local organic drop off centers to our budget priorities. To learn more about enrolling in the program, go to [nyc.gov/organics](http://nyc.gov/organics).
3. Chair's Report:
  - The Rain Barrel Giveaway, sponsored by Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, Community Board 8, Senator Klein, Assemblyman Dinowitz, Councilman Cohen and DEP, will take place in Van Cortlandt Park on April 28<sup>th</sup> between 9:00 AM and noon.
  - The chair updated the committee on correspondence with DSNY regarding removal of trash baskets in Riverdale and Kingsbridge. DSNY responded that cans were removed either because there was not enough foot traffic, or the cans were being misused by individuals filling them with bags of household garbage. While some cans in the vicinity of West 238<sup>th</sup> Street have been restored, those in the vicinity of Cannon and Giles, and Henry Hudson Parkway have not. The committee will continue to monitor conditions in those and other areas. Chris Agazzi, Community Board 8 Sanitation

- Supervisor, agreed to notify the board in advance of any future removals planned by the agency.
- The chair toured the district with Supervisor Agazzi, and noted areas of unsightly overfilled trashcans, particularly in commercial areas. He advised that the maximum number of pick up days is limited to three times a week. The committee will advocate for increased pickups.
  - The Board has received several complaints regarding missing cans and litter conditions at Jerome Park Reservoir, particularly around Sedgwick Avenue. During the tour Supervisor Agazzi stated that the area is the responsibility of DPR and DEP, not DSNY. The issue has been put on the agenda for the next District Service Cabinet meeting, which includes representatives from DRP, DEP, and DSNY.
4. The committee discussed and voted to approve our budget priorities for FY 2020. The chair will refine the list and distribute to the committee shortly.
  5. Old Business: Karen Argenti, chair of E and S's Water Working Group, reported on a walking tour coordinated by BCEQ on March 2nd at Jerome Park Reservoir North, the area surrounding the Amalgamated Housing Cooperative. Despite the day's nor'easter, representatives from the Amalgamated board, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, Riverkeeper, Natural Resources Group, New York City Soil and Water Conservation District and others attended in order to explore areas in need of Green Infrastructure. The teeming rain offered a unique opportunity to observe storm water shooting out of Van Cortlandt Park and the obvious damage the runoff has caused. The group recommends that areas along Mosholu Parkway, the park's entrance, and the Gale Place/Orloff Avenue step street are prime sites that would benefit from rain gardens to capture storm water. Interagency cooperation from DPR, DOT, and DEP will be explored.
  6. New Business: None raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Submitted by,  
Laura Spalter, chair  
Environment and Sanitation Committee