

Bronx Community Board 8
Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee
Held February 21, 2018 at Mosaic Mental Health

Attendance

Committee Members: Laura Spalter, chair, Bob Fanuzzi, vice chair, Bob Bender, Steve Froot, Robert Spalter

Absent: Martin Gluck, Karen Argenti

Guests: Councilman Andy Cohen, Mikelle Adgate, DEP, Effie Ardizzone, DEP, Margot Perron, DPR, John-Paul Censer, DPR, Christina Taylor, FVCP, IC L-Engel, BCEQ, Kaysie Pineda, Elliot Rabin, Camelia Tepelus, Dan Johnson, Ann Rauch

Agenda

The meeting commenced at 7:35 PM.

The minutes of January 17th were approved.

Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). The chair introduced Mikelle Adgate, Director of DEP's Stormwater Management Outreach, and Effie Ardizzone, DEP Bronx Borough Coordinator. The purpose of the meeting was for the committee and Councilman Cohen to continue discussion of the Long Term Control Plan for the Hudson and Harlem Rivers that was presented by DEP on January 31, 2018.

There was discussion of the Board's February 13th resolution presented to DEP in advance of their January 31st meeting. The resolution emphasized the community's desire to daylight Tibbetts Brook inside Van Cortlandt Park, as well as the segment currently held by CSX to alleviate combined sewer overflow and resultant discharge of polluted water into our waterways. The resolution asked that daylighting be considered a huge green infrastructure project, and that DEP and DPR collaborate. We advocated that DEP contribute to funding the project.

Ms. Adgate advised the committee as follows:

- If the DEP includes the daylighting of Tibbetts Brook as part of their Long Term Control Plan, there will be a potential funding source for the project. If not, they don't have a line of funding. However, the possibility for DPR and DEP grants can be explored.
- The LTCP includes funding for land acquisition, which may apply to acquiring the CSX portion, Putnam South.
- DEP has never done a daylighting project, but will study all aspects.

- In 6-8 months, DEP will present a range of options with their cost estimates. The community board will have the opportunity to comment before a final plan is submitted to DEC.
- The DEP will reach out to Community Board 8 to promote their revised Green Infrastructure Grant Program for private property owners. DEP anticipates rolling it out later this year. It will apply to institutions with 50,000 square feet of land. The committee raised concerns about the Funding Agreement and Declaration of Restrictive Covenant that is currently required.

The committee suggested to DEP the following connections: south of Van Cortlandt Lake, west to where the weir ends, north of the Henry Hudson Parkway, and continue south along the CSX property from Van Cortlandt Park South to West 230th Street, where it may be piped into the Harlem River. In terms of aesthetics, the committee stressed that it did not want to see a concrete sluice box as a proposed or implemented design feature.

Chair's Report:

- The board received an unsatisfactory response from DSNY to the chair's letter regarding 4 litter baskets removed from the vicinity around W. 238th Street. Their vague response alluded to the possibility of "abuse by businesses or residents or lack of pedestrian traffic". This issue was also raised at February's District Service Cabinet meeting. We will continue to advocate for their return.
- The chair sent a letter to DSNY and DOT cosigned by chair Rosemary Ginty requesting clarification regarding agency responsibility for shared maintenance of step streets. Three residents whose private homes abut the West 238th Street step street (between Cannon and Orloff Place) received summons for an area that has always been the city's responsibility to maintain. The chair thanked Councilman Cohen for his office's intervention, resulting in DSNY rescinding the tickets.
- The chair discussed new DSNY regulations regarding mandatory organic recycling, which will affect many food businesses and restaurants in Community Board 8. It is a result of Local Law 146, which passed in 2013. The rules will take affect in August 2018. Enforcement will begin in February 2019.
- Time did not permit a discussion of Agency Responses and feedback to our committee's budget priority list. It will be discussed at our March meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by,
 Laura Spalter, chair
 Environment and Sanitation Committee