

Bronx Community Board No. 8
Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee Meeting
Held May 17, 2017 at the Board Office, 5676 Riverdale Avenue

Attendance

Committee Members: Laura Spalter, chair, Bob Bender, David Kornbluh, Steve Froot, community committee member, Rob Spalter

Absent: Bob Fanuzzi, vice chair, Karen Argenti,

Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 7:35.

The minutes of the joint Environment and Sanitation and Parks Committee meeting held April 26 were unanimously approved.

Budget Priorities: The committee discussed the FY 2019 capital and expense budget priorities for DSNY and DEP. Discussion included a review of agency responses to last year's budget requests and recent feedback from DEP and DSNY. The chair will send the committee our revised list.

The chair noted that last years DSNY expense budget request to increase funding for enforcement of the pooper-scooper law got a response that funding is not available. Yet the mayor has recently issued an announcement that the current state of dog owner abuse is unacceptable, and a crackdown will follow. The chair will send a letter to the mayor and Councilman Cohen regarding the budget.

Old Business

Step Streets: The chair reported on the status of the Step Street Conditions Initiative, and thanked everyone for their participation. Twenty-four forms have been collected. The chair will use the data to sort and summarize the worst, and forward to the Board and agencies. Joshua Stephenson from Councilman Cohen's office is setting up a meeting with DSNY, DOT, and DPR to discuss step street issues. Recently the DSNY, DOT, and Fedcap, a program sponsored by Councilman Cohen, completed a remarkable cleanup of the 238th Street steps between Cannon and Orloff.

Flooding Issues: The committee discussed recent flooding complaints. DOT has responded that 249th Street is a private street, which limits options. The chair will follow up the issues with the new district manager.

Rain Barrel Giveaway: The May 6 event was an outstanding success. DEP supplied 100 rain barrels and all were distributed. There were many more requests from homeowners than our supply.

Plastic Bag Recycling: After the state overturned the city's five cent plastic bag recycling bill, Gov. Cuomo announced the establishment of a statewide task force to

develop a unified plan, whereby fees will fund environmental programs, not go to stores. The chair checked with Senator Klein and Assemblyman Dinowitz, but there are no updates yet on the task force's progress. Bob Bender volunteered to draft a letter or resolution regarding the need for recycling plastic bags.

New Business:

Bob Bender corresponded with DPR and DEP regarding setting up a tour of Jerome Park Reservoir and Van Cortlandt Park to discuss common issues and responsibilities. The meetings came as a result of our April joint meeting of the Parks and Environment and Sanitation Committees.

Marble Hill Cleanup: The event, sponsored by the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center and the Marble Hill Tenants Association, is scheduled for Saturday, June 24th. Volunteers are needed. A planning session is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21 at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 146 West 228th St.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Laura Spalter, chair
Environment and Sanitation Committee