

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
MARCH 21, 2007
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

Board Members of the Committee present:

Saul Scheinbach, Committee Chairman
Bradford Trebach, Committee Vice Chairman
Laura Spalter

Other Board Members present:

none

Community Members of the Committee present:

Robert Spalter

Also in attendance:

Jamin Sewell (from Councilman Koppell's office)

And 1 community resident

The Committee met at 7:38: p.m. – S. Scheinbach in the Chair.

1. The Chairman noted that in the Minutes of the Committee's meeting of January, 17 2007 three attendees of the last meeting were listed as Board members, but not Committee members. He has already made the correction. It was agreed that the minutes be adopted as amended.
2. Update on the Facility Monitoring Committee for the Croton Water Filter Plant project.

The Chairman reported that he did not attend the February 15 meeting of the Facility Monitoring Committee (FMC), but he summarized the minutes of that meeting. He said Anne Marie Garti, Jerome Park Conservancy, discussed the design configuration for the running track at Jerome Park with DEP. She said that the Dept of Parks and Recreation will conduct a scoping meeting for the track on March 23rd.

He said that community leaders have been pressuring the DEP to provide more funding for pre-apprenticeship programs in order to get more Bronxites employed on the filtration project and were pleased to learn that Deputy Commissioner Anne Canty announced that the DEP would now fund 66 slots for Bronxites instead of the original 33 at Project HIRE, a pre-apprenticeship program. She said that DEP will also fund a program for 25 trainees, leading to apprenticeships in the Carpenter's Union.

The DEP also reported that through December 2006 \$26 million was spent on Bronx goods and services and that in December 2006, 30% of the contractor's workforce was comprised of Bronx residents, up from 29% in November.

There will be no March meeting. The complete minutes for this and prior FMC meetings can be found at the DEP website, <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/news/croton.html>.

3. Update on the Consolidated Edison high voltage transmission line.

The Chairman reported that on February 22nd, after hearing all the testimony from active parties, including the Joint Monitoring Committee representing Yonkers, the Bronx and Manhattan, the staff of the PSC presented an alternate route that would bypass Broadway in Manhattan. Rather than cross the Harlem River behind Kingsbridge Associates property, the power line would remain on the Bronx side, traveling about 100 feet south before it crosses under the railroad tracks. It would continue south along the west side of the tracks and on undeveloped land to cross the river about 300 feet south of the 207th Street Bridge. However, the route would remain the same as the Con Ed preferred route in Yonkers and the Bronx. The

M29 Joint Committee responded that the PSC Staff did not adequately consider the human environment. For its part, Con ED rejected this route

The Chairman reported on the evidentiary hearing held at 90 Church Street on March 19th. During cross-examination of the PSC Staff by the M29 Committee and the City of Yonkers it became clear that PSC were not knowledgeable about the route in Yonkers and the Bronx. For example, they did not consider school bus routes as part of human impact nor were they aware of the narrow corridor in front of the firehouse at West 246th Street and Riverdale Avenue or with traffic problems along Tuckahoe Road in Yonkers. Their “traffic study” of these streets consisted of personal observations, but they did have highway data to counter placing the line on I-87 as proposed by the M29 committee. However, under cross-examination the Thruway Authority stated that construction can and does occur along the highway during non-rush hours.

Although the Joint Committee agreed to mediation with Con Ed on the proposed route with the PSC as mediator, this was rejected by Con Ed.

Mr. Sewell added that briefs from all parties are due by April 24, 2007 and the Joint Committee plans to submit one.

3. Canine waste

The Vice-Chairman reported that on March. 16, 2007, he sent an e-mail complaint to the city Sanitation Department regarding lack of enforcement of the canine-waste law along Manhattan College Parkway between West 240th Street and Waldo Avenue. He is awaiting a reply.

4. Graffiti vandalism update

The Vice-Chairman reported that the Board Office has asked the city Department of Transportation to remove graffiti from the Manhattan College Parkway overpass of the Henry Hudson Parkway.

The Committee also discussed the persistent problem of spray-painted graffiti on the private fences along the southbound service road of the Henry Hudson Parkway between West 249th and West 252nd Streets.

5. Any other business

Chometz letter

The chairman reported that the Board has arranged with the Department of Sanitation to have dumpsters placed at two locations in Riverdale on the morning of April 2nd to help accommodate the end of the traditional chometz disposal that precedes the Jewish festival of Passover. He also stated that a public notice would be issued and a letter informing all local congregations would be mailed out.

Overflowing public litter baskets

The Vice-Chairman reported that on March 15, 2007, he sent an e-mail complaint to the city Parks Department about overflowing litter baskets in the MacLaughlin Playground on Greystone Avenue between West 238th and West 240th Streets

At 8:18 p.m., the Committee was adjourned to a day and time to be fixed by the Chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

Saul Scheinbach
Chairman,
Environment and Sanitation Committee