

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 19, 2010
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

Board Members of the Committee present:

Saul Scheinbach, Committee Chairman
Bradford Trebach, Committee Vice Chairman
Thomas Giallorenzi
Andrew Cohen
Laura Spalter

Other Board Members present:

none

Community Members of the Committee present:

Robert Spalter

Also in attendance:

Adam Sandler, Councilman Koppell's office
Bruno Iciano, Department of Sanitation, Community Affairs
Carl Wilson, Department of Sanitation, Reuse and Recycling

The Committee met at 7:30 p.m. – S. Scheinbach in the Chair.

1. It was agreed that the Minutes of the Committee's meeting of October 21, 2009 be adopted.

2. Recycling

Messrs. Iciano and Wilson provided literature and a brief description of the NYC recycling program, which was instituted in 1989. The program has two streams: one for paper, including newspaper, cardboard, magazines, typing paper and envelopes; the other for glass, metal and plastic, including aerosol cans, empty paint cans, and household metal objects. Any residence with three or more units must provide recycling bins. The recycling diversion rate for CB8 in 2009 was the highest in the Bronx at 17% of total tonnage. Other Bronx Boards were as low as 5% and the overall Bronx 2009 average was 11%, the lowest of any Borough. The other Borough 2009 rates were: Manhattan = 19%; Brooklyn = 15%; Queens = 17%; Staten Island = 18%. The 2009

citywide rate was 16%. A brief discussion ensued concerning relatively poor recycling compliance by many city schools and Housing Authority buildings due, in part, to the fact that one city agency cannot fine another.

3. Illegally posted signs.

The Chairman reported that illegal postings in CB8 had decreased in recent weeks. He said that vigorous action by the DOS as well as publicizing the issue at meetings and in the local newspapers was probably responsible for the decline. He noted that one egregious offender, who posted hundreds of signs in 2009 stopped after receiving an ECB judgment for 151 illegal postings, equaling a minimum fine of \$11,325. He said he realized that small businesses needed to find ways to advertise and he hoped Chairman Fanuzzi was successful in finding a legal venue. On a related issue Adam Sandler reported that Councilman Koppell had reintroduced a bill (Intro 701A) into city council that would make “open house” and other such signs placed on public spaces like crosswalks, sidewalks, medians, Greenstreets and park perimeters illegal.

4. Update on the Facility Monitoring Committee (FMC) for the Croton Water Filter Plant project.

The Chairman said that he expects CB8 Chairman McShane to be the next Chair of the FMC and there would be greater focus on issues concerning CB8 like public access to the Jerome Park reservoir. At the last meeting the DEP said the report on JPR public access would be delayed because the new Commissioner wanted to review the issue. In consideration of that the FMC requested that the Commissioner meet with them and the public to hear their concerns about Croton and about the public access report. The next FMC meeting will be in February.

5. Horizontal gas drilling

The Chairman said he was extremely pleased with the report by the DEP, which requested a ban on drilling in the NYC watershed. He said the report, by a consulting group, Hazen & Sawyer, did a fine job of detailing all the potential hazards related to drilling in the watershed. With this report and the opposition of many city and state officials, he doubted that the state would allow drilling as planned. He said the NYDEC came to its conclusion to allow drilling because it has a mixed mission “...the simultaneous pursuit of environmental quality, public health, economic prosperity and social well-being ...”

6. Graffiti vandalism

Laura Spalter reported that she emailed Assemblyman Dinowitz a list of 10 vandalized sites along Mosholu Avenue and vicinity. She said the sites were promptly cleaned. Subsequently they were “retagged” and cleaned again. The Chairman said that graffiti vandalism should also be reported to 311 so that the vandalism is logged by the city, including the police.

7. Any other business

none

At 8:37 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