

Bronx Community Board No. 8  
Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee  
Held on December 21, 2016 at Riverdale Mental Health, 5676 Riverdale Avenue

Present

Dan Padernacht, chair, Community Board No. 8

E and S Committee members: L. Spalter, chair, R. Fanuzzi, vice chair, B. Bender, S.Froot, D. Kornbluh

Community Committee members: K. Argenti, R. Spalter

Absent: A. Robateau, committee member

Guests:

I-C Levenberg, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, Gary Axelbank, Anne Marie Garti, Anthony Capote, Riverdale Press, Beth Torres

AGENDA

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. The minutes of the November 16, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. After discussion, the committee passed the following resolution to approve Phase 2 of the Jerome Park Reservoir and Aqueduct Rehabilitation Project:

**Resolution of the Environment and Sanitation Committee held on 12/21/16**

**Re: Jerome Park Reservoir and Aqueduct Rehabilitation Project**  
*(JRAQ-REH), The Jerome Park Reservoir Site 15PRO5283*

**Whereas**, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) appeared before the Environment and Sanitation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 in May 2014, and October 2014, to present Phase I of its plan to reconstruct Gatehouses 5 and 7, deconstruct Gatehouses 2, 3, and 6, and construct a shorter replacement inner fencing around the Jerome Park Reservoir; and,

**Whereas**, the DEP appeared before the Environment and Sanitation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 on November 16, 2016 to present Phase II of the project, which includes sealing the leaky Old Croton Aqueduct located in the eastern wall of the reservoir, as well as additional work described in the presentation; and,

**Whereas**, In a letter dated December 7, 2016 the DEP responded to community opposition and removed construction of the proposed overhead bird deterrent overhead wire system from this project; and,

**Whereas**, in a letter dated November 21, 2016 the DEP reversed its earlier position, and affirmed that the replacement four-foot inner fence will not prevent future public access to Jerome Park Reservoir; and,

**Whereas**, in letters dated October 11, 2016, October 9, 2015, and April 21, 2014 the New York

State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (SHPO) approved Phase I and Phase II on the basis that the project will not adversely affect the historical/ cultural resources of Jerome Park Reservoir as long as DEP adheres to specific standards which the agency has agreed to; and

**Whereas**, the DEP will seek preliminary and final approval from the Public Design Commission (PDC) in January 2017 for their design; and,

**Whereas**, this 4-year construction project will have major impacts on the many educational, cultural, and residential complexes located around the Jerome Park Reservoir; and,

**Whereas**, DEP has not presented Bronx Community Board 8 with any required environmental reviews for the project; and,

**Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that Bronx Community Board 8 approves DEP's application for preliminary PDC approval pursuant to stipulations set forth by SHPO (see letters attached), and with the condition that DEP, its contractors and agents work with Bronx Community Board 8 to mitigate issues including but not limited to traffic, construction, delivery of materials, construction staging, parking, noise, street closures, and concentration of concrete pouring trucks, and that DEP return to update the Board on a regular basis, and as requested by the Board during the 4-year construction period; and,

**Be It Further Resolved**, that DEP conduct any environmental reviews required by law.

In favor: L.Spalter, B. Bender, S. Froot, D. Kornbluh, K. Argenti, R. Spalter

Opposed: B. Fanuzzi

Abstention: None

The committee expressed concern about future DEP projects and their impacts on Jerome Park and Jerome Park Reservoir. The problem is that DEP presents projects in segments or phases. Consequently, the full environmental and other impacts may not be adequately assessed. Going forward, the committee agreed to advocate for a 10-year master plan for Jerome Park Reservoir. Bob Fanuzzi and Karen Argenti volunteered to apprise the committee about information and links regarding environmental reviews.

### 3. Chair's Report:

- At the DEP budget consultation representatives could not provide any timeline regarding planning and implementation of DEP's Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) for Community Board 8. The purpose of the LTCP is to design and construct green infrastructure in order to reduce flooding and Combined Sewer Overflow. The committee was told several years ago by DEP that planning for Community Board 8 would begin in 2017. The committee will continue to advocate for a LTCP.
- The chair and District Manager Pat Manning met with Morgan Kuhl, the new CB 8 Sanitation Supervisor, to discuss the Department of Sanitation's new snow plan and other sanitation issues. The Sanitation Department will be aided by new equipment, including plows designed for narrow streets.
- Patrick Genna from the NYCDOS is compiling a list of dumping spots in Community Board 8. It was suggested that the site across from the U Haul Company be added to the list.
- Local flooding--The committee noted the excellent documentation via pictures, movies, and 311 calls from Suzanne Corber and Jodie colon regarding seriously flooded areas due to heavy rainfall.

- MS 4 (Municipal Separate Storm Water Sewer System) - DEP responded to chair's request for clarification regarding inclusion in their MS 4 mapping process. Their response was that Community Board 8 has not been included in their MS 4 mapping effort.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Submitted by,  
Laura Spalter, Chair  
Environment and Sanitation Committee