

Bronx Community Board 8
Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee Meeting
Held February 15, 2017 at Riverdale Neighborhood House, 5521 Mosholu Avenue

Attendance:

Committee members: Laura Spalter, Bob Bender, David Kornbluh, Rob Spalter

Committee members absent: Robert Fanuzzi, Steven Froot, Karen Pesce, Karen Argenti

Presenters: Korin Tangtrakul, NYC Soil and Water Conservation District
Jen Benson, Riverkeeper

Guests: Cristina Lang, representing Sen. Klein, Frederic Klein, representing Assemblyman Dinowitz, Joshua Stephenson representing Councilman Cohen, Christina Taylor, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, I.C.L. –Engel, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, Dan Eudene, Jennifer Klein, and David Bart, Riverdale Neighborhood House, Matt Turov, Debbi Dolan, and Suzanne Corber, Save the Putnam, Deirdre Burke, Broadway Community Alliance, Betty Klein, Deb Travis, community residents

Agenda:

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM.

The minutes of the January 18, 2017 meeting were approved as amended.

1. Presentation: Korin Tangtrakul from the NYC Soil and Water Conservation District and Jen Benson from Riverkeeper presented a Power Point and led discussion on local water issues. They stressed the need for green infrastructure to absorb storm water run off to mitigate the problems related to flooding and Combined Sewer Overflow. Their presentation is attached to this email as a pdf, and also available at the Board office.

2. Step Street Discussion: Joshua Stephenson

The Community Board and Councilman Cohen's office have received numerous complaints regarding garbage, weeds, weed trees and other maintenance issues. Step street problems were explored at last month's meeting with Ignazio (Iggy) Terranova, DSNY Community Affairs Officer. He advised that several agencies are involved.

- To foster an interagency plan, Joshua Stephenson from Councilman Cohen's office has invited representatives from the Department of Sanitation (DSNY), Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Department of Parks (DPR) to attend the March 15th Environment and Sanitation committee meeting to clarify the role that each agency plays in step street maintenance.
- The chair distributed a list of the 26 step streets located in Community Board 8. The committee approved moving forward on developing a one- page check-off list for committee members and other volunteers to monitor conditions related to trash, weeds, graffiti and safety.

3. Joint Meeting: The committee discussed agenda items for the joint Environment and Sanitation and Parks Committee meeting scheduled for April 26th. Discussion included maintenance issues around DEP property at Jerome Park Reservoir, the process for promoting Green Infrastructure, and daylighting of Tibbetts Brook inside and outside of Van Cortlandt Park.

4. Old Business:

- The committee thanked Karen Argenti and BCEQ for incorporating our committee's concerns into their timely submission of comments to the DEP regarding its proposed New Rules for Green Infrastructure before the February 15th deadline.
- **CSX and Putnam South:** The committee is committed to getting CSX to clean up their Right of Way located adjacent to the Major Deegan Expressway between Van Cortlandt Park South and W. 230th Streets. Additional pictures were sent to CSX Real Estate Manager Matthew Coffing. He replied to the chair that he has forwarded our emails and pictures to other divisions within CSX. The Chair will follow up. Special thanks to Eric Bell for his pictures and initiative,

5. New Business:

- The committee approved an initiative to partner with DEP on Saturday, May 6th to distribute rain barrels to private homeowners in CB 8. Special thanks to Christina Taylor, executive director of Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, for volunteering the site. Details to follow.
- The Committee approved participating in a Community Energy Fair sponsored by the Earth Ministry of Christ Church on Sunday, May 21st. We will reserve and man a table.
- Bob Bender suggested that the committee take a position on the issue of plastic bags on the environment in light of the city council bill that was blocked by Governor Cuomo and state legislators. Committee discussion will continue.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Submitted by,
Laura Spalter, Chair
Environment and Sanitation Committee