

Bronx Community Board No. 8
Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee
Held on Jun 21, 2017 at Riverdale Mental Health, 5676 Riverdale Avenue

Committee Members Present: Laura Spalter, chair, Steven Froot, Karen Argenti, community committee member, Rob Spalter, community committee member

Committee Members Absent: Bob Bender, Bob Fanuzzi

Guests: Ibrahim Abdul-Matin, Effie Ardizzoni, Robert Cuevas, and James Carlese, DEP, David Kornbluh, representing Senator Klein, Margot Perron, DPR, Christina Taylor, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, ICL-Engel, BCEQ, Debbie Travis, Margarita Eremeyev, Madyan Rosenfield

1. The meeting commenced at 7:40 pm. The minutes of May 17, 2017 were unanimously approved.
2. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) presented their plan to construct two 8' X 10' X 10' feet high Water Quality Monitoring Stations (WQMS) in Van Cortlandt Park located north of the Mosholu Golf Course near Shandler Field and at the entrance of the Croton Filtration Plant near Jerome Avenue. The WQMS are required to meet federal and state regulations regarding water quality entering the DEP's distribution system. DEP will present to the Public Design Commission and requests Community Board 8 feed back.

The following issues were raised:

- Margot Perron and Christina Taylor requested that DEP consider remodeling the existing Shaft 2 structure or building to make it as attractive as the proposed new stone buildings. DEP responded that they would look into that.
- DEP stated that DPR has approved the project. The chair requested confirmation.
- DEP identified the Shandler site as covered by an existing easement that they have with the Parks Department. Karen Argenti asked about alienation of parkland at the entrance of the Croton filtration plant, and the MOU between DPR and Parks regarding site maintenance. She will send DEP her information on history of the site.
- Will public access be limited in any way by the project? DEP responded that there would not be any change. Public access will continue.
- Karen Argenti requested information regarding the source of the water that serves Woodlawn, and the route from the monitoring station to Woodlawn and the other part of the East Bronx.
- Christina asked DEP to clarify their responsibility regarding maintenance of the cleaning chambers in Van Cortlandt Lake to prevent pollution. DEP responded that they have begun conversations with DPR regarding responsibilities.

The chair will email a list of these discussion points to Ibrahim Abdul-Matin at DEP to facilitate follow up.

After discussion the committee unanimously voted to approve the WQMS project contingent upon confirmation that the Parks Department approves the project.

NOTE: The chair has since been informed that we did not have a quorum in June. Therefore, there will be a second vote on this project at our September meeting following the chair's update on the issues above. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7th. Please note the date change due to the Jewish Holiday.

3. Old Business: Debbie Travis reported that there is improvement at the step street at W. 238th Street between Cannon Place and Orloff Avenue. Her concern is that with all the rain, the weeds are rapidly growing back on the shoulders between the cobblestones. Step street maintenance will be the topic of an upcoming interagency meeting in Councilman Cohen's office over the summer.

David Kornbluh reported on the recent conference call with CSX and the elected officials. CSX has accepted the city's protocol on the appraisal process. This is an important step towards the Parks Department acquiring the right of way for a greenway.

4. New Business: No new business

5. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by,
Laura Spalter, chair
Environment and Sanitation Committee