

**Bronx Community Board No. 8**  
**Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee**  
**March 16, 2016 at the Riverdale Y**

**Attendees:**

Committee members: Laura Spalter, Vice Chair, Bob Fanuzzi, Bob Bender, Robert Press, David Kornbluh, Rob Spalter (community committee member)

Water Working Group: Karen Argenti, Deirdre Burke

Others: Julia Worcester and Jennifer Scarlott, Bronx Climate Justice North

**Absent:**

Demetrius McCord, Chair; James Rather, Committee member

The meeting commenced at 7:35 pm.

Chair McCord was not able to attend due to sudden illness of a family member.

**Resolution for daylighting of Tibbetts Brook**

The committee discussed the need to support the new advocacy campaign spearheaded by the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality and others to daylight Tibbetts Brook, both inside and outside of Van Cortlandt Park. Outside of the park is the area where Community Board 8 approved a ULURP action in 2010 that established an additional park in the area between Van Cortlandt Park South and West 230 Street running along the Major Deegan Expressway. It is owned by CSX and the city is currently in negotiations. Daylighting Tibbetts Brook, so that it flows openly on land instead of below ground, and not into our sewerage system will reduce pollution from Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) events in Community Board 8. The committee unanimously passed a resolution in support of daylighting Tibbetts Brook (see attached).

**Water Working Group update**

- Karen Argenti and Laura Spalter reported on the seminar held by Riverkeeper, the National Resource Defense Council (N.R.D.C.) and S.W.I.M. (Stormwater Infrastructure Matters) on February 26 at Pratt Institute. The purpose of the seminar was to inform advocates from all around the city on the issue of Combined Sewer Overflow and water quality goals. A presentation focused on the new agreements by DEC (state), and DEP (city), that are currently being negotiated. The Consent Order, if signed will be in effect for the next 25 years and put a cap on spending. Karen will send these documents to the board office.
- Karen Argenti reported on a DEP program that supports the efforts of private institutions to install green infrastructure on their property to absorb rainwater in order to alleviate flooding problems. She has met with Dan Eudene, executive director of the Riverdale Neighborhood House, who has expressed interest in the program. Karen will set up with a conference call with RNH and DEP.

### **Old Business**

Vice chair followed up with Councilman Cohen's office on complaints regarding the 238 Street step street (between Cannon Place and Ft. Independence Avenue). They are checking into the feasibility of additional maintenance through the FEDCAP program. The Summit Place step streets are in Councilman Cabrera's district and will also be put on the District Service Cabinet agenda. The main issues are crumbling steps, broken lights, and broken railings, all DOT responsibilities.

### **New Business**

- Bob Press raised the issue of gas leaks in Community Board No. 8, and asked that Con Edison be invited to a future meeting.
- David Kornbluh raised the need for a Community Board No. 8 master plan for growth and development to which all committees would contribute.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Spalter, Vice Chair