

Bronx Community Board 8
Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee
May 16th at the Board Office, 5676 Riverdale Avenue

Attendance

Committee members: Laura Spalter, chair, Bob Fanuzzi, vice chair, Bob Bender, Steve Froot, Martin Gluck

Community Committee Member: Rob Spalter

Absent: Karen Argenti, community committee member

Guests: Laura Novich, DSNY, Jodie Colon, Deirdre Burke, Farrah Rubin, representing Senator Klein

Agenda

1. The meeting commenced at 7:35 PM. A quorum was present and the minutes of the April 18th meeting were approved.
2. DSNY Operations Manager Laura Novich presented a power point presentation to inform the committee about DSNY's DonateNYC Program. Organized through DSNY's Recycling and Sustainability Bureau, the program helps businesses and non-profits donate or find large quantities of gently used, second-hand and vintage goods by using donateNYC's online Directory and Mobile app. Ms. Novich compared the Exchange to how Craig's List operates. The program helps donors cut carting costs and recipients secure free or lower cost furniture, electronics, office supplies, equipment, and much more. To learn more about enrolling in the program, go to nyc.gov/donate/directory to download the donateNYC mobile app for iOS and Android. Then visit nyc.gov/donate/exchange to get started.
3. **Chair's Report:**
 - The Rain Barrel Giveaway, sponsored by Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, Community Board 8, Senator Klein, Assemblyman Dinowitz, Councilman Cohen and DEP on April 28th in Van Cortlandt Park was an outstanding success.
 - The chair will continue to address complaints regarding litter conditions at Jerome Park Reservoir at the District Service Cabinet meetings. The area is under the jurisdiction of DPR, DEP, and DSNY.
4. **Old Business:** None raised.

5. **New Business:** Community guests raised the issue of the inadequacies of the Hebrew Home's Environmental Assessment Statement and Conditional Negative Declaration (CND) determination issued by the NYC Department of City Planning for the Hebrew Home's Expansion Plan. The CDC states that the project will have no significant adverse effect on the environment in 19 categories including land use, zoning, transportation, water and sewer infrastructure, and neighborhood character. The sole condition placed on the Hebrew Home was that workers park off site and be shuttled back and forth by bus to the work site during the four years of construction. There was skepticism as to how this can be enforced.

Committee members raised concerns about storm water damage from run off both before and after construction, the lack of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, impact of shadows and pollution on the Hudson River, the impact of construction vehicles and traffic on W. 254th and 261 streets, air pollution, and construction noise.

After much discussion, the consensus of the committee was that the Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS), prepared by the Hebrew Home did not adequately study the conditions and impacts, and that an Environmental Impact Statement was called for. The chair will respond to the Department of City Planning by the comment deadline of May 31st.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Submitted by,
Laura Spalter, chair
Environment and Sanitation Committee