

**Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee
October 18, 2017 at the Board Office, 5676 Riverdale Avenue**

Attendees:

Committee members: Laura Spalter, chair, Bob Fanuzzi, vice chair, Bob Bender, Martin Gluck, Rob Spalter, community committee member

Committee members absent: Steve Froot, Karen Argenti (attending a water conference in Philadelphia and will report back to committee)

Community: Ann Rauch (Riverdale Nature Preservancy), Joshua Stephenson (Councilman Cohen's office), I-C L-Engel (BCEQ), Debbi Dolan, Matt Turov

Agenda:

The meeting commenced at 7:35. The minutes of September 7th were approved unanimously.

Report on Pesticide and Herbicide Use by committee member Dr. Martin Gluck MD, staff neurologist at Bronx Veterans Medical Center and PhD in Biochemistry from Rutgers Medical School/CUNY Graduate School. Following an overview of chemicals pesticides and their uses, there was discussion about pesticide use in parks, and alternatives.

Chair's Report:

- Data distributed at September's Budget Consultation indicates that in comparison to other Bronx boards, Community Board 8 has made fewer complaints, and has had fewer summonses issued for breaking the Pooper Scooper Law. The committee will endeavor to send in more complaints, and urges residents to call 311 to report infractions. To give tickets, sanitation enforcement must witness owners not picking up after their dogs and must see identification.
- The chair spoke with Department of Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia at Budget Consultation regarding EPA's recent approval of the use of dry ice to combat rat infestations in NYC. The commissioner was optimistic about its use, but said details need to be worked out.
- All were invited to attend the upcoming press conference with CSX on Thursday October 26th at 12:30 on Verveelen Place. The chair toured the CSX property with Bronx Parks Commissioner Iris Rosa- Rodriguez. She said her staff would reach out to private owners along the right of way regarding the graffiti problem.

Discussion of anti-litter initiative: There was consensus in the committee regarding the damage caused by litter to our city and its negative effect on our quality of life. These problems impact DEP, DPR, DOT, DOH, and MTA. The committee watched a video clip known as "The Crying Indian" that was produced under the auspice of the non-profit Keep America Beautiful for Earth Day in 1971. The chair made a motion to advocate for renewing public service announcements that would educate the public on the environmental destruction caused by people littering. The committee unanimously supported the motion. I-C L-Engel volunteered to work with sustainability coordinators on the anti-litter campaign.

Old Business:

- The committee's September resolution urging our city and state elected officials to ban disposable plastic bags in New York will not come before the Board until November, because it is in discussion by the Economic Development committee.
- West 238th Street Step between Cannon and Orloff: The chair wrote a thank you letter on behalf of the Board thanking Mr. Tony Alazab, owner of the adjacent Bronx Metro Superette, for his participation in the Department of Sanitation's Adopt a can program.
- Reminder: The Bronx Community Green Fair on Sunday, October 22nd taking place at the Church of the Mediator, 260 W. 231st Street between 1–5 pm.

New Business:

- Joshua Stephenson from Councilman Cohen's office agreed to brief the committee in November on 1346-2016 A, a new law that passed in the City Council on May 30, 2017. It concerns Water Pollution Control provisions regarding storm water management and discharge into sewers.
- A complaint regarding overflowing litter baskets along Johnson Avenue in the area of W. 235th and 236 Streets was referred to DSNY. The chair will approach the manager of Menchies about joining the Adopt a Basket program.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm. Our next meeting will be held on November 15th. Effie Ardizzone, Bronx Borough Coordinator from the Department of Environmental Protection will attend.

Laura Spalter, chair
Environment and Sanitation Committee