

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 18, 2014 AT THE BOARD'S OFFICE

PRESENT

Sergio Marquez
Laura Spalter
Robert Fanuzzi
Robert Press
Robert Spalter
Effie Ardizzone
Catherine O'Brien
John Young
Matthew Turov
Gary Axelbank
Klaren Argenti
Suzanne Corber

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair, CB8
Committee Vice Chair, CB8
CB8
CB8 committee member
Community committee member
DEP
Nature Group VCP
Nature Group VCP

BCEQ
SPT

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. The minutes of the May 21, 2014 meeting were approved with the following amendments.

The first sentence: The project seeks to restore Gatehouses 5 and 7 and tear down Gatehouses 2, 3, and 6.

The fifth sentence: The existing interior fence, which is similar to the one in Central Park, and is close to Gatehouse 6, will be removed and replaced with a four (4) foot black chain link fence.

The following three sentences will be added after the first sentence on page two (2):

The Committee expressed that there should be no new entrance onto the site during construction and no loss of parking spots. Also, Department of Environment Protection (DEP) did not reach an agreement regarding tree replacement at Jerome Park Reservoir (JPR). The project will tentatively start in 2016 and be completed in 2020.

A discussion took place whether DEP would need a letter of support from the Committee or a resolution for their CRO 521 project.

The Chair, was recently informed, that DEP would only need a letter of support.

DEP'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Committee decided that the construction of a Pedestrian Bridge over the Major Deegan to connect its eastern and western halves and connect the broken

Old Croton Aqueduct Trail would be extremely valuable for the community and its part of the Van Cortlandt Park Master Plan. The construction of this bridge would be a capital expense.

This year as well as last year, there has been a high volume of community complaints concerning clogged catch basins, which lead the Committee to re-request the need for more workers to routinely clear clogged catch basins. Effie Ardizzone, the DEP Bureau Communications & Intergovernmental Affairs Officer, concurred with this request since this is a citywide complaint and most community boards list this request as a budget item.

Ms. Ardizzone, informed the Committee that there will be a water rate increase of 3.35%, which will commence on July 1, 2014.

DEP'S CRO-521 PROJECT IN THE JPR

The following suggestions and comments were made concerning the CRO-521 project.

- The fence that will be placed around the JPR should be a wrought iron fence similar to the one in Central Park. Also, this fence should be straight, not obstruct visibility, not allow vines to grow through it and the color black for this fence is not objectionable.
- The structures of the sheds could be more appealing than DEP's original plan.
- The staging area should define before commencing the bidding for the construction contract of this project.
- A parking lot that is next to a wall that's being constructed should be used as a staging area and the residents on either side of the JPR should not be disturbed.
- No streets should be closed for construction purposes.
- There should also be a maintenance schedule to prevent the deterioration of the structures at JPR.
- No more than the existing entrances to JPR should be used for staging areas.
- No trees should be removed during the construction of this project and if any trees are removed, they should be replaced.
- When was it determined that this project was necessary?
- What is the cost for this project and how will it be funded?
- Will this project require the emptying of JPR?
- Need the engineering requirements for this project.
- That the project comply with the requirements set forth by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (SHPO).

NEW BUSINESS

Laura Spalter stated that this fall, there was a public hearing held by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) at Lehman College regarding the Parks Department Plan for the Putnam Trail. The Parks Department needs approval by DEC because the 1.5 mile trail goes through wet lands and is

adjacent to the Van Cortlandt Lake and Tibbetts Brook Creek.

As a user of the trail, I reached out to Senator Klein's office to request an update on the status of the project. DEC provided the following information:

1. DEC has made a formal decision that requires a permeable surface.
2. Timeline: Parks is working on a new design of the trail with a permeable surface. DEC will review it probably in the next couple of weeks.
3. DEC's Role: Regulatory in nature specific to permeability and the width of the trail versus tree loss.
4. Next step: For DEC, to review Parks' revised permeable plan, which may entail a new design?
5. A new environmental impact statement will not be required. The project has gone through CEQR, NYC issued a negative declaration.
6. Tibbetts Brook flows through the entire park. How will this affect other trails planned for renovation? The answer was: if there was another trail with a similar proximity to freshwater wetlands, DEC would likely require a permeable surface.

NEW BUSINESS II

A grant has been obtained for a draining project for Tibbetts Brook. This project will attempt to keep at a minimal the surge of another Hurricane similar to Sandy.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sergio Marquez, Chair
Environment & Sanitation
Committee