

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 21, 2014 AT THE KINGSBRIDGE HEIGHTS REHAB & NURSING CARE CENTER, 3400-3426 CANNON PLACE

PRESENT

Sergio Marquez
Laura Spalter
Robert Fanuzzi
Robert Press
Anthony Brown
Shane Ojar
Spencer Salzberg
Ignazio Terranova
J. Sepulveda
Karen Argenti
Suzanne Corber
Kristin Hart
Margarita Eremeyer

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair, CB8
Committee Vice Chair, CB8
CB8
CB8 committee member
DEP
DEP
DEP
DSNY
DSNY
BCEQ
SPT
FIPNA

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. The minutes of the March 19, 2014 meeting were approved.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION'S (DEP) CRO-521 PROJECT IN THE JEROME PARK RESERVOIR (JPR)

The project seeks to renovate various gate houses (2, 3, 5, 6 and 7) surrounding JPR. These gatehouses were built in 1905 and are in poor shape since these structures have never been upgraded. The construction was approved by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (SHPO). The renovated gatehouses, however, have to be historically compatible to the original design of the gatehouses to comply with SHPO. An interior fence, guardrail and screens to windows, canopy and the grassy area surrounding the gatehouses will also be part of this project. The existing interior fence, which is close to gatehouse 6, will be removed and replaced with a four (4) foot black chain link fence. However, the color of the new fence is not fixed and DEP is open for suggestions from Community Board 8.

The project is in its planning stage and issues regarding how this project will interact with the Croton Filtration Plant, access to JPR, staging, and loss of parking spaces will be addressed at a later date.

On June 16, 2014, DEP will present this project to the Public Design Commission (PDC). DEP sought comments from this committee regarding the design elements (fence, doors, brickwork, and canopy) of the gatehouses to present to PDC. But the committee decided that it needed further details before rendering any comments and will discuss this project in its June meeting. The committee will decide whether the comments to this project will be in a letter to PDC or in a resolution.

DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION OF NEW YORK (DSNY)
BUDGET PROPOSALS

Ignazio Terranova, Citywide Community Affairs Officer DSNY, stated that four hundred and fifty (450) sanitation workers will be hired in July 2014. Also DSNY has plans to promote sanitation workers to officers. Mr. Terranova suggested, that as a budget request, the committee can ask for an increase in enforcement agents. Another possible budget request could be to expand the organic waste program in Community Board 8 by distributing waste bins throughout the district and add more pickup trucks.

NEW BUSINESS

Margarita Eremeyer, member of the Save the Putnam Trail Committee, mentioned that there is a very serious litter problem in Van Cortlandt Park. The litter could be anything from trash, waste, dead animals, tires that are dumped in the recreation areas and wetlands of the park. This problem has existed for a very long time and the Parks Department have not made any attempt to rectify it or allow a volunteer effort to do same. Margarita sought the committee involvement to attempt to correct this problem. She was informed to contact 311 and obtain a complaint number so that Community Board 8 could follow up and get the problem solved.

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Hugel continues to complain about underground water seeping into his home. The Riverdale Country School was contacted and a meeting with them is being arranged to determine if the water is coming from there. Nicole will follow up with Mr. Hugel's complaint at the District Managers' cabinet meeting and will speak with the relevant agencies regarding same.

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday June 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board's Office.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sergio Marquez, Chair
Environment & Sanitation
Committee