

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 17TH, 2012 AT THE BOARD OFFICE

PRESENT

Sergio Marquez
Maria Khury
Thailary Lim
Damian McShane
Robert Press
Georgia Santiago
Laura Spalter
Robert Spalter
Effie Ardizzone
Tom Durham
Andrew Sandler

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair, CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
Committee Vice Chair, CB8
Community Committee Member
Department of Environmental Protection

rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

The minutes of the September 19, 2012 meeting were approved.

Chair's Report

The garbage baskets that were removed from the corner of West 238th Street and Greystone Avenue were put back. The complaints made by the Netherland Gardens Cooperative against the Skyview Shopping Center and Braun Management were resolved, as per Nicole Stent, District Manager. Nicole will email me how those complaints were resolved.

Georgia Santiago informed the committee that there are no garbage baskets from 230th Street to 225th Streets on Broadway and around the perimeter of the Marble Hill Houses.

The Chair proposed to have a seminar on recycling for the Marble Hill Houses.

Maria Khury has a contact at the Senior Center at the Marble Hill Houses, which could be the site for this seminar.

Maria Khury also noted that there are these new garbage baskets that have a solar component, which are designed to breakdown garbage.

Presentation by Effie Ardizzone, Representative from the Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”)

Ms. Ardizzone gave an overview of what items DEP covers:

Water quality: Discolored water can either be called in to 311 or going online to the DEP website. Discolored water can be caused by construction in the area, bad pipes in the building or the boiler.

Grease: It is a big problem when it is dumped down the kitchen drain because it causes sewer blockage. Right now grease is being disposed with regular garbage, but DEP is looking into new ways of disposing it.

The cleaning of the catch basins in Community Board 8 will begin on April 1, 2013 and will be completed by July 31, 2013.

Georgia Santiago reiterated her complaint regarding the clogged storm drains from 230th Street to 235th Streets on Broadway. She showed Ms. Ardizzone's pictures of numerous stagnant pools of water that the clogged storm drains have caused. Ms. Ardizzone will look into this matter and report back to the Committee.

A New Project for 2013: Service Line Repair Program. DEP will fix the homeowner's water service line for a fee. This is, in effect, a pipe insurance plan.

Water Charges: Are now measured by automated meter readers. Can go online to view usage. DEP will provide the homeowner with a leak notification. Water bills that are not paid timely could lead to a lien being placed upon the property and possibly a shut-off of the water, but this is discretionary especially if seniors, sick or very young people live in the home. DEP usually refer senior citizens who are in financial distress and cannot pay their water bills to the Department of Housing Preservation and Development and Neighborhood Housing Services for no interest or low interest loans.

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board's office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sergio Marquez, Chair
Environment & Sanitation Committee

