

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 15, 2012
AT THE COMMUNITY BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

Board Members of the Committee present:

Rosemary Ginty, Committee Chair
Laura Spalter, Vice-Chair
Sylvia Alexander
Robert Press
Pedro Reyes

Community Members of the Committee present:

Robert Spalter

Board Members present:

Georgia Santiago
Thomas Durham
Robert Fanuzzi

Also in attendance:

Eugene Zappi, Resident
Andrew Sandler, Council Member Oliver Koppell's Office
Miawling Lam, Riverdale Press

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

The minutes of the January 18th meeting were approved.

Public Guest

Mr. Zappi, a resident on Palisade Avenue, informed the committee of problems he is having with noise from an air-conditioning unit on the property of Hebrew Home for the Aged and from delivery and dumpster trucks at the institution. The air-conditioner noise is worse when the temperature rises. His family finds the truck noise especially disturbing after 10 pm and before 7 am. Mr. Zappi has called DEP and decibel levels were taken in his home. In addition he recently wrote to the institution detailing these facts and asking for a response. The committee asked Mr. Zappi to keep it informed when the institution responds to his letter.

DEP's Property Water Overflow Amendment (PWOA)

Thomas Durham described the proposed PWOA rule seeking to monitor the volume of water entering the sewer system. He expressed a concern that this rule may result in new and costly requirements especially for residential property

owners. The committee will request DEP to send a staff member to explain the rule, its purpose and extent.

Promenade Apartments

Thomas Durham described a clean-up issue under the Promenade Apartments in Marble Hill. There is considerable garbage and refuse under the apartment's platform, which is visible from the Metro North train and station. That property is owned by the MTA. Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez has requested MTA to clean the area up.

Chair's Report

- The Chair brought to the attention of the committee a new project in the East River. The US Federal Regulatory Commission awarded a license to Verdant Power, Inc. to install "tidal turbines" on the floor of the East River. The currents will be harnessed to produce electricity for Con Ed. Five turbines will be in place by 2013 and thirty by 2015. No local approvals were necessary.
- The Chair updated the committee on the issue of hydrofracking. The governor's budget does not include any new allocations for staff to review permit applications or any new revenues from hydrofracking, possibly indicating the length of time that will be needed to finalize the EIS.
- The Chair announced that DSNY will have their annual "Spring 2012 NYC SAFE Disposal Event for the Bronx on Saturday, May 12th from 10 am to 4 pm at the South Lot, Lehman College. Solvents, automotive products, flammable products, electronics and other harmful products will be accepted there.

Harlem River Working Group Report

Thailary Lim's report was laid over to the next meeting.

Community Day Clean-Up Event Update

The Chair described a meeting she and committee member Pedro Reyes had with Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez' staff about a community street clean up in Marble Hill in conjunction with DSNY for the spring or fall of 2012. The Councilmember's staff was supportive of such an effort. They suggested a meeting with community groups from the neighborhood such as the churches and the Marble Hill Tenants Association to elicit interest, support and suggestions.

The committee agreed with this suggestion and the chair and committee member Reyes will work to arrange such a meeting in March or April.

Discussion of Possible Budget Requests

The committee suggested that the city agencies (DEP and DSNY) be approached in the first instance for budgetary needs.

Other Business

- The next Croton Facility Monitoring Committee meeting held on February 16th.
- The next Environment & Sanitation Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21st, location to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Ginty

Chair,

Environment and Sanitation Committee