

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 21, 2012
AT THE KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY, 291 WEST 231 STREET**

Board Members of the Committee present:

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

Community Members of the Committee present:

Robert Spalter

Board Members present:

Georgia Santiago
Thomas Durham

Also in attendance:

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 February 15th meeting were approved.

DEP's Property Water Overflow Amendment (PWOA)

The Chair introduced the issue that Thomas Durham described at the last committee meeting concerning 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. Ms Effie Ardizzone from DEP attended and brought a briefing document explaining the rule, its purpose and extent. It will take effect July 4th and affects lots larger than 5,000 with new construction or major renovations only.

The committee members asked Ms. Ardizzone if it covered uses other than residential, e.g. manufacturing, commercial and institutional. She was also asked if the agency had costs estimates for the required work and if there were any programs to assist in these extra costs. Ms. Ardizzone said she would get the answers and respond by e-mail to the board office. She also will send the link to the DEP briefing document by e-mail.

DSNY change in collection service

The Chair introduced the issue of a community member who complained to the community board office about not having general collections following a holiday. The staff investigated and found that the route had a loss of equipment and therefore a loss of service.

Mr. Pat Hickey from DSNY explained the change in service for this route was undoubtedly due to a holiday falling on a Monday, which most do. He explained that DSNY is able to make up for the lost day for 70% of the route. He is not aware of any loss of equipment on any CB # 8 routes.

Chair's Report

Hebrew Home for the Aged –The Chair reported that as a follow-up to the last committee meeting, a letter from the institution responding to Dr. Zappi was sent and received. Also the board office received a response from DEP concerning the noise complaints to the agency. These responses were forwarded to Dr. Zappi.

The Chair described a new DSNY Rule on Christmas tree disposal. In the past, DSNY required that all ornaments, tinsel, lights, etc. be removed from the trees before they are put out for pick up. The new rule will allow DSNY police to fine the building owner or manager \$100 for failing to do this.

Riverfest – The organizers of Riverfest have requested that the committee organize a table at the event with information concerning the work and issues before the committee. The committee suggested working with the Parks and Transportation Committees, which were also requested to participate, on this effort.

Vice-Chair's Report

There is a new proposal by the Department of Sanitation to charge not-for-profit organizations and charities a fee for their garbage removal. There is also a proposed bill introduced by 26 sponsors at the City Council (Intro 792) that would prohibit the city from charging these fees to not- for- profits.

The Vice Chair drafted a letter from the committee to the mayor in opposition to the proposed fee. The committee concurred and also suggested a resolution to the Speaker of the Council supporting the legislation, Intro 792. As this fee will impact churches, synagogues, community organizations, colleges, schools,

libraries in Community Board 8, the committee expressed the need for community outreach on this issue.

Note: The Chair recused herself from discussion and participation in this issue.

Other Business

Community Day Clean-Up Event – The Chair explained that a number of things have occurred to forward the goal of a Community Day Street Clean-Up event in the Marble Hill area. Board member Georgia Santiago has contacted the Marble Hill Tenants Association to solicit support. Mr. Tony Edwards from Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez's office is speaking with several churches in the area. The next meeting will be held at St Stephen's Church as an appropriate venue for community involvement. The goal is to solicit interest and support and input into the event and its timing.

The next Environment & Sanitation Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 18th at St. Stephen's Church.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Ginty
Chair,
Environment and Sanitation Committee

Laura Spalter
Vice Chair,
Environment and Sanitation Committee