

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MAY 16, 2012  
AT MANHATTANVILLE HEALTH CARE CENTER,  
311 WEST 231ST STREET**

*Board Members of the Committee present:*

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

*Community Members of the Committee present:*

Robert Spalter

*Board Member present:*

Dan Padernacht

*Also in attendance:*

Enzo Caltanissetta  
Dr. Eugene Zappi  
Mav Moorehead  
I-C Levinberg-Engel, BCEQ  
Andrew Sandler, Councilmember Koppell's office  
Miawling Lam, Riverdale Review  
Tony Edwards, Councilmember Ydanis Rodriquez's Office

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.  
The minutes of the April 18th meeting were approved.

Chair's Report

Skyview Shopping Center

The committee discussed a letter from Mr. Enzo Caltanissetta, Board President of Netherland Gardens, listing a series of concerns with the operation of the Skyview Shopping Center and the A & P store. The issue was on the Traffic & Transportation Committee meeting May 15th but no one showed up for the discussion. Both Dan Padernacht and Mr. Caltanissetta attended this E & S Committee meeting.

The following are the issues raised in Mr. Caltanissetta's letter and how the committee and Mr. Padernacht, as chair of the Traffic & Transportation Committee, decided to handle each:

1) The elimination of triple parking of trailers blocking the exit of their garage. A&P delivery trucks triple-park, and the road is a NYC public street, not their private street.

Dan Padernacht has formed a 3-member subcommittee on T& T to deal with these issues. The A & P manager will be invited to attend the next T & T meeting.

2) Management needs to establish an after-7 am or before-10 pm timetable for Kleen Sweep to clean the parking lot. Work is done at 2, 3, and 4 am on different days. The noise emanating from such powerful equipment can be heard up to the sixth floor of the Netherland Garden buildings.

In an e-mail, the district manager, reported that Michael Rothman, manager of Skyview, said he spoke with the cleaning company about the early morning cleanings and "the company will accommodate the complaint."

3) The trucks delivering milk, bread, newspapers etc. start at 3-4 am, park under the apartment windows, and leave their engines idling for an extended period of time.

The T & T subcommittee will handle and the A & P manager will be invited to attend the next T & T meeting.

4) Noise from an air conditioning unit on the A & P roof prevents residents from keeping their windows open during the summer. This has been discussed several times with their store manager. The solution is to either build a sound barrier or replace the unit.

This was a "311" call. The status will be checked. If there is no status, the committee agreed we would write to DEP for the status. (After the committee meeting, the board office informed the chair that DEP will need to measure the sound from within an apartment unit. Mr. Caltanissetta is finding an apartment for entry.)

5) The failure of a timely unloading of a delivery. In many instances delivered goods are stored overnight in trailers until the next day. Refrigeration units run throughout the night creating an ear-splitting, penetrating noise that does not allow sleep.

T & T's subcommittee will handle and the A & P manager will be invited to attend the next T & T meeting.

6) The failure to post signage prohibiting the idling of engines, and implementing a "no parking zone" underneath the residential windows.

T & T's subcommittee will deal with this and the A & P manager needs to attend next T & T meeting.

7) The request to stop NYC EMS services vehicles from parking in the lot overnight with their diesel engines idling under the windows.

The E & S Committee requests that the district manager bring this issue up at the next District Service Cabinet meeting. (After the committee meeting, the board office informed the chair that they e-mailed EMS about the issue. FDNY said they would remedy the situation.)

8) The lack of upkeep of the loading/unloading zone. This neglect has caused the back area of the supermarket to become infested with rats.

9) The former deli has left improperly-stored garbage in the back of the supermarket, adding to the area's rat problem.

Both # 8 & # 9 were "311" calls. The status of the request will be determined, and if there is none, the committee agreed to write to DEP asking for a report. In addition, the committee requests that the district manager raise this issue at the DSC meeting and request Sanitation Police to come to the site and if there are violations, to issue tickets. (After the committee meeting, the board office informed the chair that the district manager visited the site on April 27<sup>th</sup> and found the area clean and the garbage removed.)

### Hydrofracking

The Chair reported on the status of Hydrofracking review by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The Commissioner of DEC has stated that the review of the 67,000 public comments in the environmental review is ongoing and would probably not be completed before the end of the summer. DEC further stated that any new rules would probably not be ready before February of 2013.

### Community Day Clean-Up Event

The chair explained the status of the Community Day Clean-Up Event. It will be held in Marble Hill, on a Saturday morning June 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 am in front of Water of Life Pentecostal Church, West 225<sup>th</sup> and Adrian Avenue. There will be five (5) teams with a minimum of 10 people in each, cleaning 5 routes. The event has support from the Marble Hill Tenants Association, Promenade Apartments, St Stephen's Methodist Church, Carolina Baptist Church and Water of Life Pentecostal Church, NYCHA, DSNY and many elected officials.

### Vice-Chair's Report

In the Mayor's FY 2013 budget there is a proposal to charge not-for-profit organizations and charities a fee for garbage removal. It remains a revenue line for \$17.2 million. To date, there are no details released about how this program will be implemented or how not-for-profits will be defined. The Bronx Community Board 8 resolution opposing the mayor's proposal and supporting Intro. No 792, has been sent to Mayor Bloomberg, Sanitation Commissioner Doherty, Council Speaker Quinn, and various council members and community boards. Jamin Sewell, legislative aide to Councilman Oliver Koppell, expressed hope that Intro. 792, which makes it illegal to charge not-for-profit organizations for garbage removal, will come to the full council for a vote. He also said it is possible to resolve this issue in budget negotiations between the council and the mayor.

### Other Business

#### Intro 794-2012 - Sale and Use of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

A community member requested that the committee review proposed City Council legislation that would ban the sale and use of gas-powered leaf blowers. He explained that the benefits would be noise abatement and cleaner air. Certain surrounding communities have regulated the use of leaf blowers by time of day, seasons and/or decibel levels. The proposed bill was introduced February 29<sup>th</sup> at the Council and has not been assigned to a specific committee for hearing.

Committee members asked about the effect this would have on the operations of the Parks Department. The chair reported that she referred the issue and proposed bill to Bob Bender as the chair of the Parks Committee for his committee's review also.

The item was for discussion only at this time and no action was taken.

#### Additional Expense Budget Request from the Environment & Sanitation Committee

The committee unanimously adopted the following expense budget request to be added to the budget requests previously adopted at the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Contribute partial funding of \$20,000 for "Woodland Pilot Programs" for high school students – For years Wave Hill has offered its Forest Project Summer Collaborative to Bronx high school students interested in environmental study. They conduct ecological restoration projects like invasive species removal, erosion control and trail maintenance. Three new environmental pilot projects are being designed by Wave Hill: Woodland Studies, Woodland Research and Woodland Restoration designed for high school students in after-school programs, community centers, environmental school groups and youth clubs.

Invasive species removal and erosion control are of serious environmental concern in Community Board # 8. The Wave Hill programs not only improve our local environment by actual restoration work on our public lands but also expose young people to important environmental issues and a possible course of future study.

#### Spectra Gas Pipeline

Ms. Mav Moorehead addressed the committee on the proposed Spectra gas line planned for New Jersey through Manhattan and into Westchester. She reported it is being planned without an environmental impact statement, only a permit from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The concern is over the high volume, high pressure of this gas line in and near the city and the potential of radon in the transmitted gas that would affect NYC residents. She also believes much of the transported gas is for export and not domestic use.

Ms. Moorehead said she will send us information and documents electronically including a resolution adopted by community board # 2 Manhattan concerning the gas pipeline.

#### Noise Issues on Palisade Avenue update

Dr. Eugene Zappi reported that noise issues remain from Hebrew Home specifically dumpsters at the moment. He said he met with the Director of the Home. We encouraged him to keep that communication open and to let us know of any new developments.

The next Environment & Sanitation Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Ginty  
*Chair,*  
Environment and Sanitation Committee