

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2012 AT THE BOARD OFFICE

PRESENT

Sergio Marquez
Maria Khury
Robert Press
Georgia Santiago
Laura Spalter
Robert Spalter
Tony Edwards
Andrew Sandler
Ana Kowrenic
Valerie Plesch

AFFILIATION

Cmte Chair, CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
Cmte. Vice Chair, CB8
Community Committee Member
rep. Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez
rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell
Columbia University Journalism School
Columbia University

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

The Chair announced that Effie Ardizzone, a Community Liaison from the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") will attend the next committee meeting scheduled for October 17, 2012.

A discussion took place and the following environmental issues were raised:

Georgia Santiago informed the committee that the storm drains from 230th Street on Broadway across from the post office - to 235th Street on Broadway - across from the Stop and Shop Supermarket - are closed. This problem has lead to the creation of numerous pools of water that are stagnant, have an awful odor and have attracted a rare mosquito population. She and others have attempted to correct this problem by calling 311 on numerous occasions, but DEP has not responded.

Andrew Sandler stated that this problem could have been caused by the road bed which is possibly depressed and needs to be leveled and either repaved or resurfaced. The Chair indicated that DEP cleans the storm drains once every three years in each borough. The committee wanted to know when was the last time the storm drains or catch basins in community board 8 were cleaned.

Tony Edwards noted that a tenant, in one of the Marble Hill Houses, is experiencing intermittent water back-ups in his 1st floor apartment. From his investigation, this is a problem, which DEP should resolve.

The above issues and other issues, e.g., global warming, the rising levels of our waterways and what water main projects are planned for Community Board 8 for 2012-2013 and which ones need Board approval, will form the basis of a question and answer session with Ms. Ardizzone.

The sanitation issues discussed were:

Tony Edwards indicated that a Clean Street Day will occur in Marble Hill in either April or May

2013. He said that this year's Clean Street Day did help the Marble Hill community, but some tenants of the Marble Hill Houses still refuse to place their garbage in the incinerator chutes but instead put their garbage on the street.

The Department of Sanitation has been removing garbage baskets from the corner of 238th Street and Greystone Avenue. Also, there is a need to have a presentation on the recycling program. Finally, what is going on with the clean-up of our vacant lots?

OLD BUSINESS

The Vice-Chair wanted to know what happen to the complaints made by the Netherland Gardens Cooperative against the Skyview Shopping Center and Braun Management. The Traffic and Transportation was seeking to resolve the majority of these complaints. The Chair will speak with Dan Padernacht, Chair of the Traffic and Transportation Committee, to get an update.

The Vice-Chair also wanted to know the status of the proposed legislation Intro 792, which makes it illegal to charge not-for-profit organizations for garbage removal. Andrew Sandler will look into this and report to the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Tony Edwards announced that Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez will hold a town hall discussion on "Quality of Life Improvements in Marble Hill". The meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 146 West 228th Street. Some of the issues that will be discussed are: neighborhood security, keeping a clean community, and transportation safety and traffic improvement. He left same flyers of the event at the Board.

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board's office.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sergio Marquez, Chair
Environment & Sanitation Committee