

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2011
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

Committee Board Members present:

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

Community Board Members present:

Robert Abbot
Bob Bender

Community Committee Members present:

Robert Spalter

Also in attendance:

Andrew Sandler, Council Member Oliver Koppell's Office

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM, and the chair welcomed everyone.

The chair distributed the Department of Sanitation ratings for CB # 8's street and sidewalk cleanliness for the last quarter, and a list of 311 complaints to the Department of Environmental Protection for the month of August by category. The DEP report showed 158 calls for action, with HYDRANT RUNNING FULL as the # 1 complaint. The committee will invite representatives from DEP and DOS to address issues in these reports.

The sections for DOS and DEP of The Mayor's Management Report, issued in September was shared and discussed. These reports have statistics citywide, not by Community Board. The full Report can be found online at nyc.gov.

Other topics discussed were:

- (1) Intro 563, proposed City Council legislation to notify parents after a PCB inspection in their public school. Sylvia Alexander will follow the issue at the Education Committee;
- (2) The Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee meeting held September 15, 2011;
- (3) Public access to the Jerome Park Reservoir and DEP's proposal to design

improvements on the path surrounding JPR;
(4) Tree removal around JPR

Discussion continued on public access to the Jerome Park Reservoir. While there has been no decision, DEP is starting an in-house design of improvements such as new fencing, path and drainage repairs, and removal of poison ivy. Also discussed was the report done for DEP regarding tree removal atop the earthen dam, as requested by the state DEC. This report is not public. The Chair reported that CFMC members, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Board 8 Chair Bob Fanuzzi and Fr. Gorman, plan go to Albany to seek clarification from DEC on the tree removal issue.

The chair asked for ideas on what the committee wanted to accomplish this year and invited discussion. Issues which had been raised in past committee meetings were circulated and there was a consensus that local issues such as graffiti removal, illegal posters, clogged catch basins, canine waste should remain as agenda items. We will continue to monitor the status of hydrofracking and the watershed in New York State. The problem of invasive vines on local trees was discussed. The Chair and Bob Abbot, as Chair of the Libraries and Cultural Affairs committee, will ask Wave Hill to have a speaker from Wave Hill discuss the issue as it relates to CB8. The possibility of a speaker on the topic of Plan NYC was also discussed.

In addition, committee members want to on focus on community “Clean Up” projects. We will work with DOS to target sites. Projects areas could include the waterfront - clearing debris from the edges of Metro North’s right-of-way. The chair will reach out to Metro North. Andrew Sandler of Councilman Koppell's office suggested a garbage and graffiti clean-up on the West 238th Street step street. The committee noted the importance of partnering with schools and other community organizations to recruit volunteers.

Other business:

Holding meetings in other locations when appropriate to agenda items.

Working with the Traffic and Transportation committee regarding wheels on city snow plows to cut down on road damage.

School garbage put out for pick-up on the sidewalk of MS/HS 141 on West 236th Street and the possible need for a container for both MS/HS 141 and PS 24 was raised.

The chair thanks Robert Press for assisting with the minutes of the meeting.

The date of the next meeting needs to be changed due to the Jewish holiday of Shemini Atzeret, and no date was set as the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Ginty

Chair,

Environment and Sanitation Committee