

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 21, 2011
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
Robert Press
Pedro Reyes
Damian McShane
Thailary Lim

Community Board Members present:

Andrew Cohen

Also in attendance:

Andrew Sandler, Council Member Oliver Koppell's Office
Jodie Colon, Friends of Spuyten Duyvil and NYC Compost Project, Bronx
Giovanni Puollo, Resident

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.
The minutes of the November 29th meeting were approved.

Chair's Report

- A series of letters were distributed concerning a resident's request that alternate side of the street parking be instituted on the west side of the Henry Hudson Parkway between West 239th Street and West 246th Street for street cleaning purposes. The issue will be heard at our next committee meeting on January 18th in the Riverdale Temple. The Chair wrote to the resident who requested the change about the date, time and place of the meeting. The existing parking regulations on the street were discussed. The number of cars regularly parked there are between 40 and 44.
- The Department of Sanitation has finalized a Snow Response Plan for every borough including the Bronx, as required by City Council legislation. The Council Committees on Public Safety and Sanitation held a joint oversight hearing on November 30. There are no significant changes from the Draft Plan, which is on-line.
- A NYS Electronics Recycling Law is going into effect on January 1, 2012 requiring businesses to recycle all electronic equipment – mobile phones, keyboards, monitors, mice, etc or face stiff fines. The Chair forwarded to information to the Chair of the Economic Development Committee.

Vice-Chair's Report

- On November 30th, the vice-chair attended the last NYS DEC public hearing on a Draft Supplemental Generic EIS concerning hydrofracking. Opponents focused on pollution of the water supply in the drilling areas. Proponents focused on jobs, less dependency on foreign oil sources and lessons learned in the Pennsylvania experiences. The comment period ends on January 11, 2012. The Governor will decide the issue.
- On December 6th, the vice-chair attended a forum coordinated by the New York League of Conservation Voters on solid waste disposal challenges for NYC. The city is operating under a 2006 Solid Waste Management Plan (“SWMP”). All waste is exported and as costs increase, new ways to handle waste are essential i.e. marine transfer stations, incineration and increased recycling were explored. Andrew Sandler said he would find out when the next SWMP would be presented to the City Council for a vote or if there are any plans to amend the 2006 SWMP.

Community Day Clean-Up Update

- Jodie Colon, a resident of Spuyten Duyvil, described her past efforts in conjunction with the American Littoral Society (“ALS”) to clean up the Harlem River waterfront at Metro North stations by joining in an environmental study of the amount and type of debris on the shoreline. ALS does an annual event in September. Mr. Sandler suggested asking Metro North to do a clean up themselves. The committee will pursue a community clean up as a future effort.
- The Chair described a meeting she and committee member Pedro Reyes had with Councilmember Cabrera and his COS about a community street clean up in conjunction with DSNY for the Spring 2012. The Councilmember supports the effort. Bailey Avenue was discussed as a possibility for April or May.
- Mr. Sandler also suggested Greystone Avenue from Waldo to Riverdale Avenues and Adrian Avenue and 225th Street as possibilities. The Chair and Pedro Reyes will reach out to Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez for the latter location.

Other Business

- Jodie Colon is involved in the NYC Compost Project, Bronx and described her efforts in composting and composting education. She supplied the committee with information on dates for various events showcasing composting. Bon Secours has a community garden and residents compost there. On January 11th they will host a talk on how to compost indoors.
- Ms. Colon also discussed the importance of recycling Christmas trees. They may be left curbside and between January 1st and 13th, DSNY will pick them up and have them mulched at Fresh Kills. A number of NYC parks are also drop off points for the trees.
- Robert Press asked the committee to request an environmental impact statement for the proposed ice skating rink to study noise, electric vaults, etc. The Chair explained that while environmental questions may be raised during public

discussion and consideration of the rink, the public action required is not considered a “discretionary act” that is necessary to trigger a formal environmental review.

The Chair thanked Ms. Colon for taking the time to share her experiences and work with the committee.

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18th at the Riverdale Temple, 4545 Independence Avenue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Ginty

Chair,

Environment and Sanitation Committee