

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
FEBRUARY 20, 2013 AT BOARD'S OFFICE**

**PRESENT**

Sergio Marquez  
Laura Spalter  
Robert Press  
Georgia Santiago  
Andrew Sandler  
Effie Ardizzone  
Margaret Dinato  
Robert Spalter  
Tom Durham

**AFFILIATION**

Committee Chair, CB8  
Committee Vice Chair, CB8  
CB8  
CB8  
rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell  
Department of Environmental Protection  
UFEC  
Community Committee member

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The minutes of the January 16, 2013 were approved.

**Chair's Report**

On February 15, 2013, a representative from the Metro North Railroad provided access to the site underneath the Promenade building where dumping has occurred. The site is a fenced dirt walkway that is parallel to the northbound tracks of the Metro North. Waste and debris covers the perimeter of the fenced walkway and there was some on the roadbed and on the tracks that are adjoining to this site. The Promenade also has access to this fenced walkway via their own gate. Old furniture and other items were found a few yards away from the entrance to the Promenade's gate.

The representative from Metro north stated that it would take between two to three months to clean the roadbed and the tracks adjoining the fenced walkway. Subsequently, I sent Metro North a letter requesting an expeditious cleanup. Also, the superintendent of the Promenade said that they would begin cleaning up the site. The Committee decided to revisit the fenced walkway underneath the Promenade in mid March, 2013 to check on the progress of the cleanup. It was suggested that Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez be made aware of this site so that he could put pressure on the Promenade to get it cleaned up.

After leaving the dumping site underneath the Promenade, another dumping site was discovered. That site is just up the street from the Promenade garage. It is a narrow wooden area between the sidewalk and the Metro North's right way.

The Committee needs to know who owns this property. If the site is City property, it was suggested that the Marble Hill community could take ownership of this property, clean it and possibly create a dog run. However, the Marble Hill community (probably the dog owners) would have to continue to maintain this property or else it will fall back into disarray.

**Presentation by Effie Ardizzone, Representative from The Department of Environmental Protection**

Ms. Ardizzone's presentation covered the Water and Sewer Line Protection program. This is an insurance program and only houses of one to three families are eligible. The purpose of this program is to cut the large costs of repairing breaks to water or sewer lines and to get these lines expeditiously repaired. The initial cost of this program is minimal but it will not remain the same since it is tied into the water and sewer rate increases. The insurer will only repair that portion of the service line that has the break and not the entire line, if it is not necessary. The majority of the service line breaks occur in the winter months due to the cold and these breaks are covered by this program. However, this program does not cover service line breaks done by third parties. There is a one year warranty on repairs.

**Budget Request Discussion**

Ms. Ardizzone recommended that we look at the Hansen Reports to determine which are the top community complaints and then figure out how would DEP respond to these complaints which would determine possible budget requests.

Also, it was suggested to find out if last year's DEP budget requests were met or are they still outstanding and if they are still outstanding, then those budget requests can be resubmitted this year.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board's office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sergio Marquez, Chair  
Environment & Sanitation  
Committee