

Bronx Community Board 8

Pending Committee Approval

Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee Meeting

Held May 18, 2016 at Riverdale Mental Health Association, 5676 Riverdale Avenue

Attendance:

Committee members: Laura Spalter, vice chair, Bob Bender, Bob Fanuzzi, Bob Press,

Community committee members: Rob Spalter and Karen Argenti

CB 8 member: Dan Padernacht

Absent: Demetrious McCord, Chair, David Kornbluh

Guest Presenter: Shree Dorestant, Department of Environmental Protection

Community: Christina Taylor, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, Debbie Dolan, SPT, Matthew Turov, SPT, Jane Sokolow, BCEQ, Glenn Fleischman, Eddie Seyad, Deirdre Burke, Catherine O'Brien, John Young, residents

Agenda:

The vice chair called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.

1. The minutes of April 20th were unanimously approved with one word addition regarding the second bullet under Old Business: Property Water Overflow Amendment... which pertains to water run off regulations in new developments or renovations over 5,000 (Insert the word) **square** feet.

2. Presentation by S. Shree Dorestant, DEP's Storm-water Management Program Coordinator, reporting on DEP's progress and timeline for implementing its new Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System or MS 4 Permit Program. The goal of the program is to improve water quality by reducing the amount of storm water run-off that causes pollution of our waterways. The Separate Storm Sewer system operates in 40% of NYC (the other 60% is a combined sanitary and sewer system). The MS 4 system is a network of drains, pipes, and ditches to collect storm-water runoff. This water contains road runoff and other pollutants, and discharges directly into local waterways without being treated in a treatment plant.

In 2015, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued NYC its first Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System or MS 4 permit as required under the Clean Water Act. This permit requires the city to implement measures such as mapping storm water outfalls, identifying the source of pollutants in storm water, finding and eliminating illegal storm water outfalls, reducing water pollution stemming from new construction and development, and regulating industrial sources of water pollution.

State DEC mandates that by 2018, DEP develop a comprehensive Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) for the city before this MS4 Permit expires.

The first task is that DEP must identify and map where the city's MS 4 system is located. The committee was surprised and disappointed to learn that Community Board 8 was not indicated on DEP's map. The Water Working Group questioned this, and Ms. Dorestant said that if the committee gave her a list of areas to look at ASAP, she would present it to DEP's mapping division for review. The committee agreed to send a list of locations and maps; Karen Argenti agreed to take the lead on drafting a report for DEP.

3. Budget priorities: After discussion the committee approved the capital and expense budget priorities for FY 2018 for DEP and DOS.

4. New Business:

- Tommy Agar, DOS District Superintendent for Bronx 08, requested that the bullet style recycling and refuse receptacles on 225th, 231st, and 238th Streets be replaced with traditional wire baskets. In his email he states, "on a daily basis none of the material is actually getting recycled because there is garbage being placed in all of them. They aren't being used the way they are intended." The number of receptacles will remain the same. After discussion the committee unanimously approved supporting his request with the caveat that we review it after a year. The vice chair will also check the proposed change with the BID.
- Eddie Seyad, a Kingsbridge resident, registered his complaint regarding incessant pigeon droppings at West 231st St. and Broadway. The pigeons roost in large numbers at the number one subway station. He has brought the problem to the attention of the MTA, health department, and 311. Vice chair will discuss with DM.
- Glenn Fleischman, a resident of Amalgamated Houses, expressed the need for DOS to expand the organic recycling program to his neighborhood. Presently, many volunteers deliver their organic refuse to compost sites. The committee advised that extending the organic recycling pick up program is included in our budget requests.

5. Old Business:

- Maintenance of bio-swale at 236th and Riverdale Avenue:

After last month's complaint about cleanliness at 236th St., DM Pat Manning reached out to the Parks Department and they cleaned it. Vice Chair reached out to DEP representative Effie Ardizzone, who informed her that the Parks Department is responsible for cleanliness and maintenance of that site and all green streets. However, she said that in 2018 when DEP institutes its Long Term Control Plan (LTCP), for CB 8 and constructs Green Infrastructure (bio-swales and green streets) to absorb rainwater, DEP would be responsible for maintaining them.

- The vice chair was also advised by Effie Ardizzone at DEP that they are not planning to add a catch basin in the vicinity of 252nd and Post Road. In 2014, Board 8 met with DEP reps and residents about flooding issues in the area.
- Christina Taylor, Executive Director FVCP, reported that the following new groups and officials have signed on to the Coalition for the Daylighting of Tibbetts Brook: Bronx Community Board 7, Councilman Andrew Cohen, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Congressman Eliot Engel, Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association, Senator Jeffrey Klein, New Yorkers for Parks, Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, Riverkeeper, Inc., and the Trust for Public Land. They joined the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park and Bronx Council for Environmental Quality. In April, Community Board 8 passed a resolution put forward by the E and S committee in support of daylighting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Submitted by,

Laura Spalter, Vice Chair