



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7**



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE

Chair:	Betty Arce
Meeting Date:	Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Via Zoom Video/Teleconference
Members (Check Those In Attendance)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gwen Thomas Steed <input type="checkbox"/> Rosalie Leslie <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Alvarado <input type="checkbox"/> Denise Marlin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Hill
Minutes done by:	Betty Arce

Minutes:

- I) **Introductions**
 - a) **The meeting started at 6:40 PM**
 - b) **Attendance taken**
 - c) **Reading of Guidelines for ZOOM video/teleconference Meetings**
- II) **Review of previous minutes (If applicable)**
 - a) **Minutes approved**
- III) **Follow-up from previous month (If applicable)**
 - a) **An e-waste pop up event will require more work than the board can manage at this time. Will look into support from elected officials.**
 - b) **Expansion of organic drop-off sites.**
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/services/food-scrap-and-yard-waste-page/nyc-food-scrap-drop-off-locations>
 - c) **Cedar Ave. complaints about empty state-owned lot with trees that pose a danger to neighboring homes. Follow up with state assemblyman Victor Pichardo for assistance with State Dormitory Authority, which has jurisdiction.**



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d) Empty lot on Decatur Ave. – Private property. Work order has been submitted. Owner to be notified

IV) New Business

a) Effie Ardizzone | Bronx Borough Coordinator | NYC Environmental Protection, Bureau of Public Affairs & Communications

1) Provided Updates on DEP initiatives

- **2020 Water Quality Report -**

<https://youtu.be/vWYFhTU1BYY>

- **NYC launches the City Cleanup Corps a New Deal-inspired economic recovery program to directly create 10,000 jobs and make New York City the cleanest, greenest city in the United States.**

2) Concerns about water quality - Complaints about water at Fordham Hill & Bailey Houses were raised at general board meeting; however, no one from either of those residences was present at meeting to provide details. Follow up will be conducted to obtain more information to share with DEP.

3) Open Hydrants

- **Discussion about the negative aspects of the city’s policy on open hydrants: unnecessary for open hydrants when every park in CB 7 has a water feature, homes have fans and/or AC, waste of water, hydrants allowed to run at all hours, lack of proper supervision, unsafe for children to be on city streets, hydrants are often unattended, sprinklers are easy to obtain but no follow up by FDNY or DEP. Suggestions for regulating the program better include:**



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- Allowed only on closed play streets; shut off hydrants at sunset; ongoing site visits by FDNY and DEP; require a deposit for use of the sprinkler
- Ending the policy will require city council action. To be continued

- Effie shared what was done in CB 4 & 5 working with DEP – The Hydrant Education Action Team (HEAT)
 - Created by Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to educate community residents and stakeholders about the problems surrounding the illegal use of fire hydrants during the summer months. May be a model for other community boards to implement as a way to address the open hydrant problem.

- **Quality of Life issues**

- The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Police Department (NYPD) share the duties of enforcing the Noise Code. Call 311 to report a noise complaint from bars and restaurants.
- Complaints about issues like construction noise, discolored water, smog, running hydrants and clogged catch basins to 311 for immediate response. If it's an emergency, call 911

V) **Next meeting date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021**

VI) **Discussion on next agenda**

a) **DEP – Update**

b) **Open Hydrants**

VII) **Adjournment – Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.**