



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

JEAN HILL, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE

Chair	Betty Arce
Meeting Date:	Tuesday, May 7, 2019
Meeting Time:	6:30pm
Meeting Location:	Bronx Community Board 7 229-A East 204 th Street Bronx, NY 10458
Members (Check Those In Attendance)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Betty Arce <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky <input type="checkbox"/> SM Shah Mahmood <input type="checkbox"/> Gloribel Vega <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alex Karman
Minutes Done By:	Betty Arce

Minutes:

- I. Introductions**
- II. Review of last month’s minutes**
- III. Follow-up from previous month**
- IV. New Business**
 - a. Richard Day - DSNY Organics Recycling
 - 1. Reviewed, and updated on the organics recycling program for residents of CB 7
 - 2. Clarified the collection schedule
 - b. ASEZ: World Mission Society Church of God - Victor Lozado came with a group of University students, and gave a PowerPoint presentation on ASEZ (stands for Save the Earth from A to Z) <https://wmscog.com/asez>
 - 1. ASEZ is a group of university student volunteers who act to address pressing needs in communities around the world. Students in the church attend Bronx area colleges such as Lehman, Monroe, and Bronx Community.
 - 2. SAVE - Social Service, Awareness Raising, Victim Relief, Environmental Protection
 - 3. Church of God members are active in carrying out numerous volunteer activities. Focus areas include blood drives, environmental protection, disaster relief, blood drives, social welfare and smile campaigns.
 - 4. Under Environmental Protection they conducted a clean up on Sunday, May 5th of a mile-long strip along Webster Avenue from Gunhill Road down to Mosholu Parkway North. This is the second year they have



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conducted this clean up. They collected over 60 bags of garbage, and an assortment of car fenders, refrigerators and furniture that was collected by the sanitation department.

5. The Church is interested in collaborating more closely with community groups and elected officials to improve the quality of life in the Bronx at various civic events and activities.
- c. Adriana Espinoza, League of Conservation Voters- NYLCV is a statewide non-partisan environmental organization in New York that fights for clean water, clean air, renewable energy and open space through political action <https://www.lcv.org/>
1. LCV potential partnerships with Community Boards on environmental matters affecting our neighborhoods
 - Mitigating Lead Exposure in NYC
 - Addressing the causes of climate change and that NYC is adapted and protected against the effects of climate change
 2. Emissions from buildings – NYC should move from dirty heating oils to natural gas in order to cut down on air pollution. 72% from emissions are from buildings (more than from cars, trucks,
 3. Commercial Waste Zones – reducing the number of waste haulers and making the process more energy efficient, reduce diesel pollution
 4. Mandatory organic waste recycling announced by Mayor
 - No new money in Mayor’s budget for DSNY to make this happen
 - LCV will be bringing to the attention of the City Council
 5. School bus emissions – school buses use diesel
 - Volkswagen Settlement allocated monies to states to mitigate diesel pollution
 - NYS received \$127M
 - LCV pushed Governor and Department of Environmental Conservation to use monies to prioritize school buses to transition school buses from diesel to electric. LCV was successful in getting 40% of the funds for this purpose.
 - School districts throughout the state will be able to apply for this money



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- NYC school bus companies (116) are being targeted but so far little interest
 - Vision Zero Design Guidelines – require NYC DOT in any major street redesign to look at list of pedestrian calming and environmental measures for consideration
 - Play Fair for Parks Campaign
 - i. Parks budget for maintenance and repairs
 - ii. Sanitation, gardeners, maintenance operations
6. NYC Council Environmental Score card
- Primary tool that evaluates each member on his/her environmental record.
 - They evaluate the performance of elected officials
 - Endorse candidates who care about the environment
 - Campaign for the passage of laws and candidates who espouse environmentally friendly agendas
- d. Karen Argenti, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality-
<http://www.bceq.org/>
1. Provided background information on the Brownfield Clean up application at West 192nd Street/Landing Road (formerly University Heights Yard).
 2. The site has been under the ownership of CSX Transportation, Inc. since 1999.
 - **What is the Brownfield Cleanup Program?**
New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) is designed to encourage private-sector cleanups of brownfields and to promote their redevelopment as a means to revitalize economically blighted communities. The BCP is an alternative to "greenfield" (land not previously developed or contaminated) development and is intended to remove some of the barriers to, and provide tax incentives for, the redevelopment of brownfields. Since its inception (2003), the BCP has catalyzed the cleanup of more than 300 contaminated sites statewide and incentivized redevelopment. There are more than 350 active sites in the BCP.



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3. BCEQ created a Brownfield Opportunity Area study for the Harlem River waterfront that included this site.

- BCEQ has requested to review the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) files in the office, as CB 7 is the site repository, in preparation for submitting comments to DEC.
- The site has been covered with discontinuous vegetation, asphalt, and soil of unknown origin, gravel, concrete and construction debris
- Based on previous investigations conducted, the primary contaminants of concern include volatile organic compounds and toxins (arsenic)
- The developer is CSX
- Priorities for CB 7:
 - i. Ensuring that the removal process of all contaminants is conducted with utmost care and consideration of area schools and residents. That proper barriers are in place to minimize any potential health hazards to area residents.
 - ii. Notification to CB 7, area school and residents of when removal will take place
 - iii. Relocation of contaminants
 - iv. Recommendation for a park and recreational boat access (dock)

4. BCEQ is encouraging CB 7 to support the clean up

e. **MOTION:** to submit comments to the Department of Environmental Conservation in support of the Brownfield Cleanup of the former University Heights Yard at West 192nd, St. by May 24th. Motion passed.

V. Discussion on next month's agenda

a. Christine Camilleri (DCP) Zoning for Coastal Flood Resiliency

VI. **Next month's meeting date:** Tuesday, June 4, 2019

VII. **Adjournment** – Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm