

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE HUDSON RIVER GREENWAY
DECEMBER 1, 2014
AT THE RIVERDALE YM/YWHA, 5625 Arlington Avenue

Attendees:

Committee members: Phillip Friedman (Chair), Bob Bender, Laura Spalter
CB 8 members: Robert Fanuzzi, Michael Heller, David Kornbluh, Robert Press,
Rita Pochter Lowe

Guests: Michael Blaustein (rep. Senator Klein), Nathan Arnostin (rep. Assemblyman Dinowitz), Andrew Sandler (rep. Councilman Cohen), Frank Anelante and Gary Klingsberg (Riverdale-Spuyten Duyvil Coalition) Tracy Shelton (Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corp), Sandy Shalleck (Riverdale Nature Preservancy), Jodie Colon (Friends of Spuyten Duyvil), Jack Lehnert, David Gellman and Cliff Stanton (Friends of the Hudson River Greenway, Jennifer Klein (Riverdale Community Coalition), Leslie Tugetman, Judy Gurland, Betty Klein, Herb Barret, Leah Rollhaus, Diane Meenagh, Rob Spalter, Richard Baldwin, Nortrand Wolf Spero, David Burg

Agenda:

The meeting began at 7:40 P.M. Chair Phil Friedman thanked the group for their input, and the large volume of greenway materials forwarded to him.

Summary of Efforts:

The chair gave a summary of the committee's fact finding and outreach efforts since the kick off meeting:

- Letters and follow up calls to elected officials to request assistance with an engineering and feasibility study of an all river route;
- Letters and follow up calls to each institution along the Hudson River whose property would be impacted by the Greenway;
- Letters and outreach to community organizations;
- Letters to private homeowners north of 254th Street directly impacted;
- Research of city maps to obtain block and lot information to determine ownership of each parcel of land along the Hudson River from Spuyten Duyvil to the City line;
- Outreach to Metro North officials;
- Updating the Community Board 8 web site (in progress);

Site visits:

The chair reported on two successful site visits at West 254th Street and the river. Over 50 people attended. He noted the difficulty in getting over the tracks and that east-west access to a greenway poses many challenges.

The next site visit will be held on **Saturday, December 13th**, between 11:00 and noon. Participants will meet at the Riverdale Metro North station located at 200 West 254th St. (assemble at 10:45).

Open Discussion:

Michael Blaustein, representing Senator Klein, said that the state cannot give funds to private consultants, only to government agencies.

Frank Anelante said to start small at 254th for the first stage.

The chair is concerned that one access point would not meet the community's needs.

Laura Spalter spoke about the new mixed use trail along the Hudson located at Fort Washington Park in Manhattan. It is linear and approximately one and quarter miles. It was built and is maintained by the Parks Department.

Cliff Stanton asked for feedback on the RBA proposal from the Friends of the Hudson Greenway. The chair stated that he has indicated to Paul Elston that he would give feedback and offer suggestions in his personal capacity as a consultant. Laura Spalter added that the committee did not have the opportunity to study the second proposal, but had some discussion on the first one. She noted that the community board is a governmental entity. Moving forward, the Board is in partnership with Metro North Railroad, and in the process of reviewing private ownership issues along the Hudson River in preparation for an engineering study.

David Gellman asked whether Track 6 could be moved, and if the roadbed could be shared if it is closed to the community for approximately 16 days?

The chair responded that based on many conversations with Metro North officials, moving track six and sharing the service road are not options. Metro North's post Sandy focus is stabilizing the shoreline against future surges, and railroad safety in the wake of last year's devastating train wreck. The chair noted that the Board would look for grants with Metro North that will serve their needs, as well as provide a recreational trail.

Bob Bender noted that it is in Metro North's best interest to work with us. Our goals are similar in that the Greenway will be of no use to us, if it gets washed out.

Michael Heller noted that the MTA is in dire financial straits with a 16 billion dollar shortfall, and that the highway trust fund has been depleted. However, there are federal monies related to storm preparation.

Jodie Colon advised that the Stevens Institute of Technology and the Hudson River Foundation provide a wealth of information and research on the Hudson River and adjacent shoreline, which would be helpful for securing grants.

Gary Klingsberg distributed to the committee a press release from Governor Cuomo regarding funding for Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects.

Next Steps:

- Continued Outreach to all stakeholders,
 - Continue review of historic documents,
 - Contact other city/state agencies with input/interest in implementation and operation of Greenway link,
 - Investigate funding opportunities,
 - Continue to solicit input and discussion from all stakeholders,
 - Site Visit #3 of City Park West of Metro North Station
 - Site Visit with Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct. For more information about the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail see: www.aqueduct.org
- Committee Action Items and Timeline through June 2015 are available on the Community Board website:
http://www.nyc.gov/html/bxcb8/downloads/pdf/greenway/greenway_timeline.pdf

Minutes of the October 30th meeting were approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Submitted by,

Laura Spalter