

Bronx Community Board 8
Minutes of the Environment and Sanitation Committee Meeting
Held on January 20, 2016, at the Board Office, 5676 Riverdale Avenue
(Pending Committee Approval)

Present:

Committee Members: Laura Spalter, Robert Press, Robert Fanuzzi, Bob Bender

Absent Committee Members: Demetrius McCord, James Rather

Community Board Member: David Kornbluh

Community Committee Member: Rob Spalter

Guests: Joshua Stephenson, representing Councilman Cohen; Mario La Rosa, Manager of Operations, Fedcap; Karen Argenti, Bronx Council on Environmental Quality/Water Working Group; Deirdre Burke, Water Working Group/community resident

Van Cortland Park Nature Group: Catherine O'Brien, John Young, Matt Turov, Debbi Dolan

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm. As Chair Demetrius McCord was out of town, Vice Chair Laura Spalter chaired the meeting.

Vice Chair's report:

- Residents of the Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association (FIPNA) continue to call 311 to complaint about the Summit Place and 238 Street step streets between Cannon Place and Fort Independence Street. The condition of the step streets will be on the agenda of the next District Service Cabinet meeting.
- L. Spalter reviewed the Hansen Report, the monthly list of 311 complaints to DEP from September through December 2015. The highest number of complaints in community Board 8 revolved around running or leaking fire hydrants (185 complaints) and construction and other noise (88 complaints).

Presentation by FedCap:

Mario La Rosa, Manager of Operations for Fedcap briefed the committee on this new cleaning initiative funded by Councilman Cohen. Fedcap is a non-profit job training organization that employs a team of six individuals three days a week to pick up garbage, remove graffiti, and help with snow removal, largely in commercial areas. Current sites in Community Board 8 are Riverdale Avenue between West 236 and West 238 Streets, West 235 Street between Oxford Avenue and Netherland Avenue, Johnson Avenue between Oxford Avenue and Netherland Avenue, Broadway between West 238 Street and Manhattan College Parkway, Broadway between Mosholu Avenue and West 254 Street, and Riverdale Avenue between West 256 Street and West 259 Street. To make a site referral, call Councilman Cohen's office.

Water Working Group (WWG) Update: (see attached Interim Report, September – January)

- Karen Argenti reported that the WWG received 24 Storm Water Survey responses, and will continue community outreach to elicit more survey responses.
- BCEQ has mapped the responses using Graphic Informational System (GIS) technology. Data will be shared with DEP to quantify the need for Green Infrastructure to absorb

storm water in Community Board 8. The data will also frame the discussion re the federal mandate that DEP must establish a Long Term Control Plan for CB 8.

- The Water Working Group met with DEP on October 23, 2015 for briefing on new Citywide Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) to reduce flooding, water pollution, and Combined Sewer Overflow. On November 4, 2015, the WWG invited DEP officials for site visits to various flood areas in CB 8 and Van Cortlandt Park.
- Storm water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) are required by federal and state mandates in order to ascertain that projects will not harm the environment. The committee discussed the relevancy to our construction and park projects, institutional master plans, and land use issues. The Water Working Group will meet to address these SWPPP issues.

Old Business:

Last fall, the committee received complaints regarding DOS dumping large amounts of road salt at the following locations: West 255 Street between Mosholu Avenue and Fieldston Road, 240 Street between Bailey Avenue and Broadway, the intersection of Corlear Avenue and 240 Street, Irwin Avenue and 240 Street, and the bottom of the 238 Street step street. The concerns are for the effect on infrastructure and water quality. The committee will continue to monitor these complaints.

New Business:

- Bob Bender raised the problem of unsightly empty newspaper boxes that are being used as garbage cans and graffiti targets. One example is the defunct newspaper AM New York.
- At Bob Fanuzzi's suggestion the committee unanimously agreed to send a thank you letter to Councilman Cohen for his perseverance on the green street at 236 Street and Riverdale Avenue It has been designed to absorb storm water.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Laura Spalter, Vice Chair
Environment and Sanitation Committee