

## THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## BOROUGH OF THE BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT

YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON

KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

### **ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE**

Chair:	Betty Arce
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	November 6, 2023
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	6:30 pm
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center,
	3225 Reservoir Oval E, Bronx, NY 10467
Members	<u>✓</u> Betty Arce <u>✓</u> Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky <u>✓</u> Jean Hill
In Attendance:	✓ Rosalie Leslie Gwen Thomas-Steed (excused)
	✓ Lowell Green ✓ Hugo Gonzalez Kazi Noor
Minutes done by:	Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky

#### **Minutes:**

- I. Guidelines & Code of Conduct for the meeting
  - A. Guidelines were read
- II. Introductions/Attendance -
  - A. Attendance was taken and quorum was met. Gwen had an excuse absence
- III. Review of September 2023 Minutes
  - A. Minutes from 9/12/23 meeting were reviewed and approved with changes. Lowell Green abstained because she was not at the last meeting.
- IV. Follow-up from Previous Month (If applicable)
  - V. New Business
    - A. Dept. of Sanitation, DSNY Updates
      - 1. Waste (not Organic Composting) is available for buildings that have 10 or more apartments. Tenants can ask their building management to request it.
      - 2. Good news: Steve Caruso will be back in Community Affairs and available for meetings.



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3. Only schools are allowed to put out their recyclables, daily.

#### B. Dept. of Environmental Protection, Effie Ardizonne

#### 1. Effie visited and reported on water issues

- a) Water quality changes such as odor, taste or smell, should be reported to 311. Sometimes it is a change in the water source that is the cause.
- b) Check the DEP website to learn which reservoir is the source of your water.
- c) Always let the cold water run before using the water.
- d) If you have discolored water, report it and DEP will come out and flush out the problem.
- e) Call 311 for a free Lead test for your apartment/house.
- f) For Catch Basins that need to be cleaned, try to locate the unique number on the basin when you report it to 311.
- g) Free Flood Barriers are available to home owners. They are balloons that can be used near garage doors or basement windows. Contact your elected to receive one.
- h) Rain Barrels are available from DEP.
- i) DEP's focus is more "Green," less "Gray." They recommend removing concrete and adding plants instead.
- j) Homeowners are responsible for cleaning the drains on their property.
- k) Rain Gardens are available through DEP. Rain gardens are fenced areas around plantings, that have three sides and the street



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side is open and it empties into a drain. It was requested that we have them installed in CB7.

#### 2. Questions:

- a) A question came up about whether spraying for mosquitos can enter the water supply and should the community be concerned? The answer was no, the water is not contaminated, there is no open area for the spraying to get into the water supply.
- b) Who is responsible for ensuring that Legionnaires Disease is not present in a building with a water tower? It is not DEP, The Department of Health (DOH) or the Department of Buildings would be responsible. Building maintenance should be able to produce a report of when the tanks were inspected/serviced. Legionnaires thrive in hot water, so winter is not likely to be an issue for this disease.

### VI. Next Meeting Date:

A. The next meeting will be Tuesday, 1/2/24, at the Williamsbridge Oval, at 6:30PM

#### VII. Discussion on Next Agenda

A. A suggestion was made that in spring, the committee ride the #10 bus down Jerome Ave to Bedford Park, then to Paul Ave to Mosholu Parkway. To see the MTA facility by Scott Towers and the Water Pumping station and locate trash can deserts

#### VIII. Adjournment

A. The meeting was adjourned at 8PM. Jean Hill made a motion to end and Rosalee Leslie seconded the motion