

Environmental Committee
Community Board Ten
May 18, 2005

Present: Fran Vella-Marrone, Greg Ahl, Mary Nolan, Larry Stelter

Absent: Gloria Melnick, Stella Kokolis, Joanne Seminara, Judy Grimaldi

A quorum was not met.

Guests Present: Josephine Beckman (CB 10 District Manager), Steve Harrison (CB 10 Member), Eleanor Petty (CB 10 Member), Ron Gross (CB 10 Member), Bill Grander (DEP), Yatasha Harper (DEP), Eric Rouda (Senator Street Historic District), Residents in close proximity of the Owls Head Pollution Plant and Residents of Senator Street.

Meeting Location: Community Board Ten Office

The Meeting commenced at 7:15 PM and ended at 8:30 PM.

Representatives of the DEP were present to discuss the procedure for a project underway at the Owls Head Pollution Plant which entailed the cleaning of six digester tanks. Manger of the plant, Bill Grander, opened the discussion by stating that only one digester will be cleaned at present due to budget constraints. The remaining five will be included in the budget for the next fiscal year and cleaning will begin in September or October of 2005. Mr. Grander proceeded to give a presentation on how the digesters worked and on the procedure used for cleaning them and the disposal of the waste. The digesters need to be cleaned every five years and odor control vessels are used during the procedure. A discussion then turned to the plant in general regarding odor control and the plant's tanks. The tanks are open which contributes to the odor. These tanks had been covered at one time. However, the concrete covering eroded over time and went into disrepair. When the plant was modernized, the covering was removed and never replaced. It was noted that newer plants are being built with coverings and other plants have had coverings installed. The type of covering used today is made of modern material and design that will last. There was also discussion concerning air monitors that would monitor the odors emanating from the plant. In addition, the committee once again asked the DEP representatives present at the meeting to correct the problem with the 311 system regarding reporting of odors at the plant. It was the sense of the committee members present that the Community Board writes a letter to the DEP requesting the following:

- The enclosing of all of the tanks at the plant.
- Install remote air monitors to identify the odors emanating from the plant.
- Correct the reporting problem involving the 311 system. (This matter should also be directed to the agency responsible for the 311 system.)

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The second agenda item was to address the installation of communication antennae on the roofs of buildings within Community Board Ten. The Board was contacted by G.C. Environmental, Inc. (GCE) regarding this matter. GCE has been contracted by T.Mobile to perform a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Land Use Screening. As part of NEPA, any entity which needs to acquire a federal license or approval for a project must look into the potential environmental defects of the project before they can acquire that license or approval. For sites which solely involve the installation of antennae on an existing structure, where no ground disturbance is proposed, the only factor to review is effects to historic properties. In March of 2005, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Advisory Council on Historic preservation (ACHP) and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) executed the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for Review of Effects on Historic Properties for Certain Undertakings approved by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC), and set up a nationwide protocol for submittal of such projects to the various SHIPOs throughout the country. As part of the nationwide agreement, procedures have been set up to identify historic properties including contacting the local government and the public. Since GCE is dealing with a number of sites in NYC, they have decided that although the community boards are a government entity, contacting the local community board would be the best way to reach the general public in that area. We are being asked to provide any information we may have regarding historical properties in the area of the proposed project sites including parks or other significant areas or structures. The committee recommends the following information be submitted:

-Location: 6740 4th Avenue
Senator Street Historic District, High School (Built in 1912), Norwegian Monument in Leif Erickson Park, Leif Erickson Park, Bay Ridge United Methodist Church, Building located at 66th Street and 4th Avenue built in 1930 and designed by Raymond Hood.
If the antennae are approved for installation, we request that they be installed on the eastside of the building.

-Location: 6402 Fort Hamilton Parkway
Public Library located on 68th Street and Ft. Hamilton Parkway, Leif Erickson Park
If the antennae are approved for installation, we request that they be installed on the part of the roof not facing the identified sites.

-Location: 901 73rd Street
McKinley IS, McKinley Park, St. Ephrem Church, St. Ephrem School
If the antennae are approved for installation, we request that they be installed on the Northeastern corner of the building.

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In addition we request that Community Board Ten be a consulting party of the Section 106 review of the proposed project and of any other agencies/societies which may have information pertaining to historical resources in the area.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances T. Vella-Marrone
Environmental Committee Chair