

BCEQ Board Meeting 9/9/09
Meeting Minutes, Dorothea Poggi's home in East Bronx

In attendance: Jane Sokolow, Karen Argenti, Anne-Marie Runfola, Christina Taylor, I.C. Levenberg-Engel, Dena, Robins, Joyce Hogi, Dorothea Poggi, Stephen Ritz, Dart Westphal, Ellen Pollan, Jorge Santiago

I. Executive Reports:

- President, IC Levenberg-Engel: Thank you to Dotti Poggi for hosting the meeting.
- VP1, Paul Mankiewicz: not present
- VP2, Joyce Hogi: Yankee Broken Promises – this separate organization is not working with BCEQ re. Yankee Stadium
- Rec. Secretary, Evan Camp: not present
- Corr. Secretary, Jorge Santiago: Concerned about interagency cooperation for DEP Projects
- Treasurer, Stephen Franciosa: excused

II. Committee Reports:

A. Water: Karen Argenti and Dart Westphal

- Croton Filtration Plant will not be completed on time, due to cost overruns.
- Design Commission Meeting, Jerome Park Reservoir Pathway, at City Hall, Oct. 5th. Time: TBA. Steve Ritz mentioned residents concerned about noise in the park. Wants police and CB8 to enforce parks closing at dusk, or some other measure to curb the noise, partying. CB8 has already debated this issue, but it's not resolved. Karen Argenti stated that if the park is closed, the police can not drive into patrol, and that there is another point of community concern.
- Bronx River Settlement Funds: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is administering these grants for Office of the Attorney General settlement funds. The list of grantees was just published. Future rounds may be available. The Bronx River Alliance has received two grants (rain barrel installation and Muskrat Cove pipe remediation and bank restoration) and BxRA staff are happy to share what they know about obtaining funding.
- DEP Long Term Control Plan: public comments due soon re. this plan. BCEQ letter almost ready and would like letters from other orgs. BxRA and SWIM are preparing letters if anyone wants to share content to coordinate efforts. One of the big concerns is that DEP is not working toward TMDLs (total maximum daily load) for the Bronx River, which may lower standards and goals for water quality. Dart suggests that the BCEQ letter demand that DEP implement at least one meaningful project in the sewershed. Dart motioned for letter to be approved. Unanimous approval.
- Harlem River Working Group: Application completed to the National Parks Service. Support from 45 stakeholder groups, including 2 US Senators and Gov's office. <http://bit.ly/171eQ5>
- NYState Water Conference in White Plains: 9/23, Dena Robins and Harry Bubbins will represent BCEQ.

B. Communications: Karen Argenti (acting)

- Gatefold Brochure: 2nd draft of text will be sent out for review. Give comments by Friday, 9/11/2009.
- Website Updates: updates have been made, please review at www.bceq.org
- Newsletter: **RESOLVED**: That the Board of Directors does accept **Contract #TM09003** in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00. Further, the Treasurer (presently Stephen Franciosa) is hereby authorized and directed to sign and enter into the agreement for the BCEQ newsletter, the **Environmental Focus**. Karen motioned to accept contract TM09003 – grant from Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz for \$3K for FY 2009-10 for newsletter. Jane seconded. IC to sign at meeting or Evan to sign @Dart's office.

C. Membership/Events/Outreach: ML Cipriano excused.

- Proposed new membership fee schedule. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD FEE	PROPOSED NEW FEE
---------	------------------

Individual - \$10	\$25
Small Group - \$25	\$75
Sponsors - \$100	\$200
Benefactors - \$300	\$500
Lifetime - \$100	\$1,000
Seniors/Students - \$?	Eliminate these categories and make decisions on case by case basis if someone can't afford to be a member

- Meet and Greet on November 4th: BCEQ Invited the BP and Congressman Engel to speak. We should ask Congressman Serrano. Budget for event: \$250 (\$100 for Friends of VCP liability). Help is needed from members for the event. Note: This is not the usual meeting date, i.e., put forward because of Veteran's Day observance.

D. Parks and Open Space Christina Taylor

- Friends of VCP are selling entertainment guides as a fundraiser
- See New Business – Yankees, below

E. Nominations – See New Business

F. Grants/Fundraising

- See Communications – resolution, above re. grant funds.
- Should BCEQ support other organizations? Consensus was that we should cross-promote other organizations, but not directly give them money due to conflicts of interest with board members, difficulty choosing from amongst all partners.

G. Education

- Education Committee has met twice, at DeWitt Clinton HS and at *Nos Quedamos*. Has 6 current members. Will work on bringing in student members this year.
- Helen C. Reel Env. Ed awards were given at the annual BBQ and also at the Bronx River Festival. Details and meeting minutes will be on the website.
- Created a mission statement and goals to help focus our activities. Identified some areas in which we think we can contribute.
- Will create a survey to find out what BCEQ can do to support existing efforts and where we might fill in gaps in EE in the Bronx.

III. Old Business

- Conflict of Interest Motion – tabled until Oct. 14th meeting. Pls make sure this is on Oct. agenda.
- Melrose line RR Tracks – tabled until Oct. Pls make sure this is on Oct. agenda.

IV. New Business

- Election of BCEQ Officers for '09 – '10 – Karen Argenti moved to nominate the existing slate of officers. Seconded by Joyce Hogi. Call for the vote found all those in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carries.
- BCEQ Position on Yankee Stadium Parks Replacement: As of now there exists a partially furnished rooftop park with ½ playing field and a running track. It's more like a plaza than a park. No BCEQ position yet – check website for updates.
- Kingsbridge Armory – no new news yet

Motion to adjourn meeting. Adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Next meeting is Oct. 14th, 2009 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne-Marie Runfola, Acting Secretary