

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD NOVEMBER 28TH, 2012 AT THE BOARD OFFICE**

Attendees:

Committee members: Bob Bender (Chair), Laura Spalter (Vice Chair), Sylvia Alexander (CB8); Rosemary Ginty (CB8), Damian McShane (CB8), Robert Press (CB8), Herb Barret, Memorial Grove; Christina Taylor, Friends of VCP.

DPR: Margot Perron, Benjamin Kramer, VCP; Tannise Palmer

Others: Lawrence Moiatto, Memorial Grove; Miawling Lam, Riverdale Review

Business:

The meeting began at 7:05PM. Minutes of the October meeting were approved with a correction requested prior to the meeting by Marvin Goodman, clarifying that he was concerned about the condition of the trees in Phyllis Post Goodman park, not in the green area across the Henry Hudson Parkway East service road.

Tannise Palmer noted that Raoul Wallenberg park remains closed because of storm damage, but all other CB8 parks are open.

Margot Perron said that all areas in VCP are open but in the last few years the park has lost around 1000 or more trees to storm damage. The Million Trees project is planting new trees all over VCP. She also noted that as part of the VCP master plan process, a meeting will be held on Dec. 17 to focus on the stadium area. Various VCP users will be invited to share their ideas about recreational opportunities in the area.

Ms. Perron noted that groups are signing up for events at the new ice rink, which seems to be off to a good start. The ice rink management is requesting three parking spaces on the east side of Broadway for a pick-up/drop-off zone, especially for buses.

The status of the park headquarters/rest room building at 242 Street and Broadway is still uncertain. No date for a reopening has been scheduled.

The Chair commented favorably on the community board's support for Intro 948, the bill introduced by Councilman Koppell that will extend the time period for public comment on major franchises and concessions.

The Chair mentioned that minutes of the District Service Cabinet meeting noted the poor condition of Kelly and Caryl ball fields. Ben Kramer observed that Kelly field has a number of ruts and the topography of Caryl Field makes it difficult to use. It is unclear how the condition of Kelly Field might be improved. The committee will discuss this subject further in the future.

There was brief discussion of the Citizens Committee for NYC "Love Your Block" grant awards. The deadline for applications is Nov. 30.

There was more extensive discussion of the state of planning for the Friends of Vinmont Park. There has been outreach to Amy Moore at the PS81 PA, as well as to Neighborhood House and the Vinmont houses. Additional outreach to the co-op buildings on Riverdale Avenue is underway. Bob Bender and Laura Spalter are leading the effort and hope to have a meeting with constituent groups over the winter to plan for spring activity.

Tannise Palmer noted that there is a Friends of Ewen Park and offered to put the committee in touch with her contacts with this group.

The Chair initiated a discussion of the state of capital funding of the parks, observing that only one CB8 parks project appears to have been funded by mayoral funds – as opposed to Croton mitigation funds, Councilman funds, and Borough President funds – in the last five years. There was agreement that the committee should determine the amount of mayoral funding of parks capital projects in the Bronx and determine whether any other CB8 projects were funded from this source as the next step in our investigation.

There was also discussion of concessions revenue and agreement that we should try to determine the amount and source of concessions revenue in CB8 parks.

Damian McShane observed that the planned renovation of the Seton Park soccer field seems to have stalled and that the committee was going to investigate to see what is delaying this project. The Chair will discuss with Andrew Sandler of Councilman Koppell's office. The Councilman has funded this project.

Margot Perron said that the storefronts north of Manhattan College Parkway across Broadway from VCP look shabby and asked whether the board can do something about this. The Chair agreed to bring up for discussion at the proper board forum. She said that the sidewalk on Putnam Avenue south of VCP is being repaved, and she asked about repainting of the bridges over highways in VCP.

Christina Taylor said that the Bronx Parks Speak-Up will be held on Saturday, February, 23rd, 2012 at Lehman College.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM. There is no December meeting scheduled.

Submitted by,

Bob Bender
Chairman
Parks & Recreation

Committee