

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
HELD NOVEMBER 24, 2010 AT BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

Attendees:

Community Board: Bob Bender (Chair), Rosemary Ginty

Committee Members and Others: Herb Barret, Don Tannen, Lawrence Moiatto (Memorial Grove); Lillian Tannen; Andrew Sandler (rep. Councilman Koppell's office)

DPR: Ray Acosta, Margot Perron

The meeting began at 7:05 PM. Minutes of the October meeting were approved.

A resolution was introduced regarding the "Vision 2020" comprehensive waterfront plan that is being assembled by the Department of City Planning. The resolution follows:

Whereas the Department of City Planning of the City of New York is preparing a plan for over 500 miles of New York City waterfront entitled "Vision 2020: NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan"; and

Whereas this plan is intended to guide land use decisions along New York City's shoreline, incorporating environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities; and

Whereas this plan contains no mention of the waterfront in the northwest Bronx north of the University Heights Bridge, meaning no part of Community Board 8's waterfront; and

Whereas there is an ongoing study by the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) to determine the best route for connecting the Hudson Valley Greenway from Manhattan to Yonkers, which connection will run entirely through Community Board 8 in the Bronx; and

Whereas Community Board 8 has endorsed the Greenway concept since 1996 and regards public access to the Hudson River as an important recreational goal;

Therefore, be it resolved that Community Board 8 urges the Department of City Planning to incorporate recognition of and advocacy for the Greenway in the northwest Bronx as an integral part of its "Vision 2020" report that is due to be completed by December 31, 2010.

The resolution passed unanimously.

In favor: B. Bender, R. Ginty, H. Barret, D. Tannen

Opposed: none

Abstained: none

There was discussion of recent reports of late-night noise and suspect activity in Seton Park. Captain Del Pozo complained that Seton, Wallenberg, and Riverdale Parks have conflicting closing times. Andrew Sandler said that Councilman Koppell asked DPR to change the closing time in Seton Park to an earlier hour.

Ray Acosta said that there is no conflict. All Bronx parks close at 10 pm unless posted otherwise. Playgrounds close at dusk. He stated that signs indicating the closing time in Seton Park had been removed, evidently in response to the ticketing that took place there. He said that these signs are checked weekly and had been in place during the week prior to the incident; they will be replaced. Andrew Sandler said that the DPR website does not reflect the

10 pm closing. Mr. Acosta said that he was aware of this and that he hoped the website would soon be corrected.

The Chair said that he would report this information to the Board office and to the Public Safety Committee.

Mr. Acosta reported that a group studying coyote dispersal in the northeast has asked for and received permission to place a camera trap in Riverdale Park. The installation has not yet taken place. We will be notified when this happens. Mr. Sandler asked that the information from the camera trap be shared with the community so we can monitor coyote movement in Riverdale. All agreed that this was a good suggestion.

Ray Acosta gave a brief report on the parks in CB8. He said that more complaints are received regarding Ewen Park than any other park. Graffiti and litter are the main complaints, mostly along the stairway and the basketball courts. The problem is believed to be caused by young people using the park after school. He would like to see more patrols in this park by the 50th Precinct.

Margot Perron gave a brief description of the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy. The VCPC began operations in January, 2009 and is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit. It is a public-private partnership modeled on the Central Park conservancy and the Prospect Park conservancy. Each conservancy operates in a different manner depending on the park and community it serves.

Rosemary Ginty and Ray Acosta reported on the steps taken to restore Spuyten Duyvil Park by the contractor responsible for the work on the HH Bridge, who damaged the park. Full restoration is promised. The committee thanked Mr. Acosta for holding the contractor accountable.

Andrew Sandler encouraged committee members to identify streets that could benefit from the Million Trees program. For example, Kingsbridge Ave between W. 232 and W. 234 St, W. 234 St. between Bailey and Broadway, etc.

A meeting is tentatively set for December 22 and will be confirmed or canceled one week prior.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Bob Bender
Chair
Parks & Recreation Committee