

## **Minutes of the Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting of October 26, 2016**

**Horace Mann School, 246<sup>th</sup> Street & Tibbett Avenue, Faculty Dining Room**

### **Attendees:**

Committee: Bob Bender (chair), Eric Bell, Robert Fanuzzi, David Gellman, Marvin Goodman, Amy Joy Robateau, Laura Spalter (all CB8); Herb Barret, Christina Taylor (CCM)

Absent: Sylvia Alexander, David Kornbluh, Tao Moran

DPR: Margot Perron, Dennis Burton

Community: Drew Hubner, Debbi Dolan (Nature Group), Karen Argenti and I.C. L-Engel (BCEQ), Matthew Turov (Save the Putnam Trail), Joshua Stephenson (Councilman Cohen's office), M. Eremeyev

### **Agenda:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved unanimously.

#### **Chair's Report on Borough Budget Consultations**

The number of PEP officers in the Bronx has been doubled, and as discussed at our previous meeting, several officers have been assigned to the perimeter of the Parade Grounds on Broadway to address double- and triple-parking at events held there. DPR's Forestry representative said that information about tree inspections would be sent to community boards before inspections and tree trimming take place. In addition, locations such as playgrounds will be prioritized for tree inspections. Overall, the DPR response to questions from community board DM's and Parks Committee chairs was encouraging, in the opinion of the chair.

#### **Follow-up on Parks Inspections**

The chair will email committee members with the list of parks that remain to be inspected.

#### **Parks Legislative Update**

Discussion deferred to November meeting

#### **SWPPP Working Group Report**

The chair reported on a recent walk-through of the Putnam Trail by the members of the Working Group and DPR representatives. The walk-through clarified the location of the bioswales, which will be located on the west side of the trail, and the location of the concrete boardwalk, which will be mainly on the northern portion of the trail. DPR's Ilan Kutok reported that the width of the trail will be reduced from ten feet to eight feet. There was discussion of which parking lot to use as a staging area. That decision cannot be made without consultation with the concessionaire of the Van Cortlandt Golf Course, which will be undertaken. The lake will be inaccessible from the west shoreline during construction but the east shoreline will remain accessible.

Karen Argenti reported that she is trying to obtain SWPPP plans done for other DPR sites.

#### Update on Parks without Borders Scoping Meeting

There will be a community meeting to solicit ideas about the PWB location at W. 242 St. and Broadway in VCP. The meeting will take place on Thursday, Nov. 10, 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Horace Mann School, Fisher Hall. Suggestions were made about community outreach, among them, posting flyers with the information at the site itself, contacting permit-holders for VCP, and so forth.

#### Old Business

Laura Spalter reported that recent volunteer work done at Riverdale Park addressed erosion problems in the park and that volunteers also installed new signs in the park.

There has been improvement in the double-parking problem along Broadway adjacent to the Parage Grounds.

Marvin Goodman complained about the number of tree stumps in the community and the lag time in cutting trees, removing stumps, and replanting. Joshua Stephenson urged that community residents send information about specific locations to the Councilman's office. There is a schedule for replanting, which takes place twice a year, in spring and fall.

There was discussion about enhanced tree pits, but this subject was deferred to a planned joint meeting of the Parks & Recreation and Environment & Sanitation Committees later this year.

#### New Business

Vice-chair Robert Fanuzzi reported on parks capital and expense priorities as decided at the CB8 budget priorities meeting prior to the October board meeting. The chair thanked Mr. Fanuzzi for representing the committee while the chair was away on vacation.

Drew Hubner identified himself as a local resident and member of the South Riverdale Little League. He expressed concern about the condition of the artificial turf at Seton Park and also objected to plans to install new artificial turf on the infield of the baseball and softball fields at the park. The chair noted that this issue was discussed at length during a design presentation at the September 2015 committee meeting. Representatives of the little league and the Riverdale Soccer

Club approved the proposed design. Mr. Hubner acknowledged that he disagrees with the SROLL position on this matter and thinks that the artificial turf is a health hazard.

Christina Taylor reminded everyone about the Michelob contest in which Van Cortlandt Park's John Muir trail is one of the nominated projects. She also informed those in attendance of a photography show opening at Vladeck Hall on Nov. 18, 19, and 20 that will be a fundraiser for the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park.

Herb Barret reminded everyone of the annual Veterans' Day ceremony at the Memorial Grove in VCP, scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 6 at noon.

Joshua Stephenson said that Councilman Cohen is looking for community members who want to be Participatory Budgeting delegates. Those who wish to do so should contact the Councilman's office.

The November committee meeting will take place on Nov. 30 rather than the usual fourth Wednesday of the month.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.