

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2006
AT THE BOARD OFFICE
5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT

Nicole Stent
Robert Bender
Manny Grossman
Maria Khury
James Plaza
Ray Acosta
Eileen Connolly
Bill Johnson

AFFILIATION

Committee Chairperson CB #8
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Van Cortlandt Parks Administrator
District 8 Parks Manager
Committee member

The first Parks Committee meeting welcomed the Parks Department staff: Bronx Borough Commissioner Hector Aponte, Ray Acosta, Van Cortlandt Parks administrator and Eileen Connolly, District 8 Parks manager.

The committee was updated on the administrative changes that were occurring in the Parks Department.

Parks Department Administrative Changes

For the first time, Van Cortlandt will have a dedicated park administrator and will have more dedicated attention.

Additionally, the district headquarters at West 242nd street will be renovated and discussions of concession stands contemplated.

The parks department mentioned that the Borough President was interested in winter activities and was looking into a site for a temporary skating rink. The committee suggested the golf course might be a viable sight.

Van Cortlandt Park

Renovations are planned for the parade grounds and a scope meeting will take place at a future date to determine the scope of the project, timeline and phasing of closures of parts of the parade grounds. Renovations will include determining synthetic or natural grass and the best use of the bathrooms.

Baseball leagues will be asked to share their space due to the closure of Yankee stadium.

North Riverdale Baseball league

The North Riverdale Baseball league submitted a copy of a letter sent to CB 8 with their requests for renovations of several fields and extension of existing permits.

One of their concerns was a renovation of the Caryle field. Renovations would include extending the fence and clean up of existing debris. The parks department suggested this location be used only for T-ball until funding could be found to make the renovations.

Additionally, the Sid Augerton field has drainage issues and needs upgrading and the installation of drains. The Parks Commissioner stated that these renovations were attempted through a requirements contract but the funding was not available at the time as the cost could be more than ¾ million dollars to renovate. However, he stated that the first step would be to do a feasibility study of the project.

The committee suggested possibly adding some of these baseball projects to the budget requests after further discussions.

Seton Park

Seton Park upgrading will commence soon and it has been determined that the infield will be synthetic with the outfield being natural grass. The field has drainage problems as it was previously a hospital site. Completion is slated for the spring.

The parks department explained that synthetic grass has an underlying drainage system that allows for better maintenance.

A community member requested that the Forest Management group and Wave Hill be asked to attend future meetings to report on any plans for the Riverdale Park and the Wallenberg woods.

Another member asked about the Putnam trail and if it could be checked for damages after the storms this past season. Also several light bulbs were out along the trail.

The parks department suggested that 311 was the number to call for light outages or other trail issues.

The next meeting is schedule for Wednesday, November 29th.

Submitted by,

Nicole Stent
Chairperson
Parks Committee

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