

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY, March 28th, 2007
AT THE BOARD OFFICE
5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT

Nicole Stent
Robert Bender
Manny Grossman
James A. Donaldson
Neil Iodie
Charles Reich
Patricia Moss
Gloria Hildebrand
Ray Acosta
Tim Wenskis
Eileen Connolly
David Bush
Mohamed Alhamed
Mikey Dihz
L. Velez
Leon Fendley
Luis Fonseca

AFFILIATION

Committee Chairperson CB #8
CB #8
CB #8

Committee member

NYC Parks
NYC Parks
NYC Parks

NYC Parks

Van Cortlandt Park Stadium

As a result of local concern about the condition of the handball and paddle ball courts at the Van Cortlandt Stadium, CB8's invited the local paddle ball group to a CB8 Parks Committee meeting to voice their concerns and speak to the Parks department (Parks). The result is that Parks will use a requirements contract, beginning in May, 2007 to begin stripping, painting, resurfacing and repairing the courts. It will take 7 to 8 weeks for the work on 6 of the 8 handball courts in order to be prepared for repairs. Only 2 courts will be open during this time.

Members of the local paddle ball group asked about additional lights. The Parks department responded that the existing lights would be repaired but there is no budget for additional lights. There were numerous questions about the conditions of the bathrooms. The Parks department responded that there will be general repair and maintenance that would occur in the spring. However, no major repair or construction would occur because there is no funding.

The Parks Department stated that it is **actively** looking for funding for renovations of the stadium. The committee agreed that the stadium needs renovations and would support Parks and would begin looking at ways to secure funding.

Parade Grounds

The mitigation funding for the parade grounds was reviewed. These funds are limited to specific projects that have already been designated by the stakeholders that included community groups and elected officials. No funds are available for any other projects.

Old Business

- Jerome park reservoir. There was a scope meeting on the Jerome park reservoir. This area is under DEP control with only a few parts within the Parks departments' administration. The scope meeting minutes are available from the Parks department. In general, the Jerome Parks reservoir Conservancy is

concerned about the pathway around the reservoir. This issue will be discussed again with the community at a later date to be determined by DEP.

- North Riverdale Baseball League. Kelly and Caryl fields need an assessment to determine the conversion of the back field to baseball dimensions. The Parks department said it may be able to do an assessment if the CB8 Parks committee could formally request it.
- Putnam trail. The area will be addressed for repair and signage.
- Seton Park. The astro turf and clay have been set down. It is too wet to place the sod down at this time and Parks will need an additional 30 days to let the field dry before the sod can be placed. This repair was accomplished by elected officials finding. Any additional work such as addressing the drainage problem would require more funding. A question arose regarding whether astro turf is environmentally safe. The Parks department said it is and the turf has to meet Parks specifications.

The next meeting is schedule for Wednesday, May 31, 2007 at 7:30 PM in the Board office.

Nicole Stent
Chairperson
Parks & Recreation Committee

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