

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 27, 2008
AT THE COMMUNITY BOARD 8 OFFICE**

PRESENT

Robert Bender
Evelyn Tossas Tucker
Eileen Connolly
Ann Marie Garti
Nick Judd

AFFILIATION

CB #8 Committee Chair
CB #8
Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Jerome Park Conservancy
Riverdale Press

Minutes of the January committee meeting were approved.

Ann Marie Garti of the Jerome Park Conservancy gave a presentation on the proposed Jerome Park reservoir trail. She stated that the DEP is legally obligated to restore the land in Harris Park Annex, which is the area surrounding the reservoir west of Goulden Avenue. She also stated that the Jerome Park Conservancy (JPC) and the Parks Department and the DEP all agreed that there would be a running/walking trail inside the outer fence surrounding the reservoir.

In March 2007 a scoping meeting was held and it is Ms. Garti's expectation that the Parks Department will soon be presenting a design for the trail. DEP has said that it recommends that the trail be placed outside both fences for security purposes. Ms. Garti contends that this violates the prior agreement and that DEP can easily agree to a trail inside the outer security fence if it limits entry to the trail to people with ID and takes other security measures (e.g., checking backpacks).

Chair Bob Bender agreed to contact the Parks Department to find out when the design meeting will take place.

In response to a question about piles of wood chips that are stacked along Riverdale Park on Palisade Avenue and also just inside the park entrance from the Spaulding Lane parking lot, Eileen Connolly of the Parks Department said that these materials are being stored by the Parks Department for use in restoring areas of the park where there have been washouts from heavy rains. The Natural Resources Group of the Parks Dept is responsible for this work.

Chair Bob Bender reported that there would be a meeting on February 28 at the Borough President's office to discuss Sid Augarten Field and that he would report on the meeting at the next committee meeting, scheduled for March 26.

The committee reviewed the budget as distributed at the February Community Board meeting to see which Parks items had been funded. We will discuss which items to support at a future meeting.

In response to a question from the Chair, Eileen Connolly said that the forestry manager for our community board area had already met with Con Edison to discuss the street trees that lie along the route of the transmission line that will be installed in Riverdale and Kingsbridge. She said that the forestry manager will monitor the situation and that anyone who has concerns about street trees during the construction should call 311.

Submitted by,

Bob Bender
Chairman
Parks and Recreation Committee

BB:db (March 4th)