



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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BRIAN A. BENJAMIN
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
District Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, April 12th, 2017, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:40 pm and was held in the 4th Floor Conference room. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Chair.

Committee Members in attendance: Chair Karen Horry, Troy Gethers, Crystal Shipp

Committee Members Excused: Maurice Sessoms, Kevin Bitterman, Derrick Graham and Leever Holmes

Committee Members Absent: Arian Punter, Mark Bones and Henrietta Lyle

Guests in attendance: Felicia Pullen (Let's Talk Safety, Inc.), Jeremy Del Rio (Thrive Collective), Judynell Johnson (131st Street Block Committee), Cindy Worley (JD Wilson), Rene Calvo (Mandela Garden), Shevann Horce (112th Street), Ricardo Hinkle (NYC Parks), G. Kobres (JD Wilson), Chantal Gailloux (Mandela Garden), Raymond Figueroa (President-NYCCGC), Kieishsha Y. Garnes (NYC Parks), Jean Sebastien Delorme (Mandela Garden), Chris Johnson (Pleasant Village Community Garden), Paul Crisci (Charie Properties LLC), Ena K. McPherson (Tranquility Farm – Bed Stuy), Robin E. Dickens (Mandela Garden) and Emily Parker (Mandela Garden)

PRESENTATIONS

a. RUCKER LEAGUE – Alan White

Group did not appear.

Outcome: Group rescheduled for May Committee meeting

DISCUSSIONS

a. MANDELA GARDEN - Rene Calvo

The active three year old garden consists of 3 HPD lots; block 1932, lot 5 (269-67 West 126th Street, block 1932, lot 7 (265 West 126th Street) and block 1932, lot 107 (263 West 126th Street). The address of the garden is listed as 265 West 126th Street. The HPD combined sites are 0.15 acres (6693 square feet in area).

The garden was slated by HPD in January for development by Lemor Realty, a MWBE. The proposed development will include 29 units of proposed affordable housing, a restaurant and space for a tech company. No paperwork has been officially filed to date.

The garden would like to be preserved and have a jurisdiction change from HPD to Parks. The Garden is requesting a Letter of Support and/or a resolution.

The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) is the largest municipal housing preservation and development agency in the nation. The agency promotes the construction and preservation of affordable, high quality housing for low- and moderate-income families in thriving and diverse neighborhoods in every borough by enforcing housing quality standards, financing affordable housing development and preservation, and ensuring sound management of the City's affordable housing stock.

Communities are central to developing solutions for the future of their neighborhoods. In understanding the goals, concerns, aspirations, values, priorities, and vision for a neighborhood, as articulated by the community, the City can more effectively engage with people to plan investments that meet community needs.

HPD's Office of Neighborhood Strategies and partner City agencies are working with communities throughout the city to plan for the preservation and development of affordable housing in a manner that fosters more equitable, diverse, and livable neighborhoods.

Whether it is planning at the neighborhood level, or for specific, City-owned properties, HPD's Community Visioning Workshops strive to ensure that publicly-supported development achieves community objectives to promote the most beneficial relationship between the uses of land and structures.

The gardeners expressed that community gardens in NYC provide a myriad of environmental, economic, and social benefits to the neighborhoods in which they thrive. They slow the flow of storm water into the water system as well as the sewage system, they provide habitat for migrating birds and various other biodiversity, and they remove organic waste from the waste stream through composting. They are beacons of green space within the city's vast expanses of asphalt and buildings, providing participants and visitors with the psychological and physical health benefits of nature. Gardeners use them to grow food, increasing the intake of healthy fruits and vegetables in their diets as well as

those of friends, families, and passersby. They also act as educational grounds, partnering with schools, community centers, and volunteer groups.

Outcome: Fact finding will be conducted by Land Use and Housing Committees to inform the perspectives of the two committees on the issue of the community gardens. The Chairs of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Housing will discuss joint concerns; Land Use: development of affordable housing and pre-agreed understanding by garden that land could be taken back at any time for development by HPD and Housing; concern for availability of affordable housing for the CB 10 residents. The three Chairs will present findings at the Executive Committee meeting.

The Committee has reached out to Miriam Gonzalez; HPD Liaison to 596 Acres to arrange for representation at a joint Community forum. Ms. Gonzalez has advised that she will forward to specialist for week of 5/1/17.

B. ST. NICHOLAS NORTH PLAYGROUND – PROPOSAL TO RE-NAME TO WILLIAM A. BYRD – Judynell Johnson

William Byrd was President of the 131st Street Block Association and an avid community activist during the 70's, '80's and 90's. Bennett presented six million signatures to Brooklyn Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and Detroit Congressman John Conyers. Chisholm and Conyers introduced a bill in Congress, which was finally passed in 1983. On November 2nd, 1983. President Ronald Reagan signed the law making January 15th a national holiday in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Since 1986, the holiday has been observed on the third Monday in January. Ms. Johnson is proposing a re-naming of the St. Nicholas North Playground to honor Mr. Byrd in memorial to his extensive contributions to the Community throughout decades of his residency in the area.

Outcome: The Committee advised that the proposed re-naming would need to be substantiated by Community support evidenced through petition signatures, letters of support from tenants' associations, community-based organizations and businesses in the vicinity of the park and elected officials. Ms. Johnson will collect and forward the documents.

C. MARCUS GARVEY MURAL – Felicia Pullen

"Safe in Harlem" is requesting a Letter of Support for a proposed mural for Marcus Garvey Park.

The design for the proposed mural, in Marcus Garvey Park, is built on the collective vision of Central Harlem teens. Its main theme is substance abuse prevention. The organization emphasized that the youth-generated artwork would not include any pictorial representation of drugs or alcohol; instead, it will

depict a drug-free Harlem, built on the principles of Marcus Garvey's vision of "One Love" (the working title of the piece). The mural will draw its inspiration from the lyrics of the famed song by the same name..."One love, one heart Let's get together and feel all right."

The Committee advised the group to exercise flexibility and to consider creation of a free-standing work as opposed to painted onto a park wall. The Committee also suggested that the organization reach out to Community Board 11 and the Marcus Garvey Park Alliance which has ongoing art programming in the park.

Outcome: The Committee requested substantiation of Community support.

D. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT

The Parks resource event will be scheduled for Saturday June 24th and will require permits for parks, sound and street closure for the Colonel Young Playground on the 143rd Street border of the park. The event will consist of tabling by various park resource groups, family-oriented activities and will focus on the need for community involvement in our local area CB10 parks in addition to raising the awareness of CB10 residents to the wealth of resources offered by the Parks Department to enhance quality of life and a positive neighborhood experience.

Outcome: Committee will submit budget to Chair and District Manager.

The Committee **did not have quorum**. Seven of the ten standing members were not present. The Committee strongly suggests that members attend to achieve quorum for all future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

~Respectfully submitted by Parks and Recreation Chair, Karen Horry~