



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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CICELY HARRIS
Chairperson

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, October 10th, 2018, 6:30pm

Hon. Karen Horry, Chair
Hon. Leever Holmes, Vice Chair

Meeting began at 6:35 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, Crystal Shipp, Leever Holmes and Eboni Mason

Board Chair: Hon. Cicely Harris

Board Member: Keith Taylor

Committee Members Excused: Henrietta Lyle and Seitu Jemel Hart

Committee Members Absent: Kevin Bitterman, Maurice Sessoms and Troy Gethers

Guests in attendance: Colleen Alderson (NYCDPR), Michael Portegies-Zwart (NYCDPR), Cindy Worley (Project Harmony, Inc.), Haja Worley (Project Harmony, Inc.), Ellen Belcher (Joseph Daniel Wilson Community Garden) John Reddick (Consultant-Central Park Conservancy), Regena Anderson (Williams Instructional), Rimma Aranoud (45 W. 110th Street HDFC), P.O. Grieve (28th Precinct NYPD), Abena Smith (Community), Jamil E. Phillips (NYC Parks Dept.), Zakiyah DeGraffe (NYC Parks Dept.), Susana Juniu (Community West 110th Street), Judynell Groce (St. Nicholas Houses), Marouh Hussein (Joseph Daniel Wilson Community Garden), Jamill Phillips (Hansborough Recreation Center), Leroy Whether (Hansborough Honeys and Bears), and Julienne Jack (45-53 West 110th Street HDFC).

PRESENTATIONS:

A. ULURP – NYC Parks Planning and Development – Site Selection and Acquisition of two lots (Block 1928, Lots 121 and 122) – The Proposed Lots To Be Acquired And Formally Added To The Adjacent Joseph Daniel Wilson Memorial Garden

Michael Portegies –Zwart - NYC Project Planner at NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR), and Colleen Alderson, Director of Parklands at DPR & Recreation presented the ULURP under joint application by DPR and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS). The application is seeking site selection and

acquisition approval for property to be acquired and formally added to the adjacent Joseph Daniel Wilson Memorial Garden.

Joseph Daniel Wilson Memorial Garden (JDWMG) is coordinated by Project Harmony and located at 223 West 122nd Street. The garden, founded in 1985 on vacant and unkempt lots on West 122nd Street and located between Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. and Frederick Douglas Boulevards is under threat of destruction. JDWMG is comprised of 4 lots, two of which are "permanent" garden under the Parks Department, per the 2002 Spitzer-Bloomberg agreement. The garden maintains that the issue at-hand, are the two privately owned lots, which are non-contiguous and intersecting with the park-licensed lots, thus sharing long-standing, deeply-rooted flora and fauna.

The 0.15 acre garden spans the following sites: Manhattan block 1928, lot 22 (223 West 122nd Street) - (public- NYC Parks- permanent garden), Manhattan block 1928, lot 23 (219-00 West 122 Street) - (public- NYC Parks – permanent garden), Manhattan block 1928, lot 121 (225 West 122nd Street) - (private), and Manhattan block 1928, lot 122 (West 122nd Street) - (private). The four lots have comprised the garden since its inception in 1985.

Borough President Gale Brewer wrote letters of support to Parks specifying the importance of the preservation of the garden in its entirety and allocated funding towards the acquisition of the Project Site (lots 121 and 122) in Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019.

The community has met extensively with CB 10; their concerns addressed as agenda items at Parks and Recreation Committee meetings on March 8th, April 12th and a Land Use Committee meeting on May 18th as well as a specially held CB 10 Community Forum on June 5th (hosted by the Parks and Recreation and Housing Committees) to express their extreme concerns and efforts to preserve the Joseph Daniel Wilson Memorial Garden. The Parks and Recreation Committee, under sanction of the CB 10 Executive Committee, issued a letter in support of the garden, under signature of CB 10 Chair and Subcommittee Chair, in July of 2017.

The ULURP was certified on September 24th. An initial presentation of the proposal of acquisition was made at the September 20th Land Use meeting and discussed at the September 26th Executive Committee meeting with Parks and Recreation providing background input. Land Use referred the ULURP to Parks and Recreation. The review and approval timeline is as follows: Community Board 10 (60 days), Borough President (30 days), City Planning (60 days), City Council (50 days) and Mayoral review (5 days).

Currently, the city is proposing the acquisition of the privately owned lots from the titular owner for \$1.3 million dollars, which has been allocated by the Borough President. The proposed acquisition is projected between July and October 2019.

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A very poignant and historically informative addendum was made by Professor Ellen Belcher which further elaborated on the vital significance of the treasured garden to the integrity of the community.

Outcome: The ULURP presentation was referred to return for a second time to the Land Use Committee to clear up any pending concerns that the committee may have. Parks and Recreation and Land Use Chairs have been in direct communication regarding the matter. The Committee's favorable sentiment will be conveyed to the Land Use and Executive Committees.

DISCUSSIONS:

I. Central Park Conservancy (CPC)– Harlem Meer Rink

Central Park's Lasker Pool and ice skating rink is set to undergo a major renovation that is expected to get underway sometime in 2020. The Lasker Pool revamp will be jointly funded by the city and the Central Park Conservancy, the organization that oversees the management of the park. The city will contribute \$50 million toward the upgrade, and the Conservancy will contribute \$100 million, which it plans to generate through fundraising—\$25 million have already been raised for this effort. The current facility blocks the North Woods from the Harlem Meer, and the Conservancy is hopeful that a new design will rectify this condition. The pool, which doubles up as an ice skating rink in the winter, is one of the most heavily trafficked facilities in the park.

The renovation is projected to begin by the end of 2020 and is expected to last from two to three years. The project will encompass extensive community engagement, design and engineering plan development, environmental reviews and plans for demolition for the existing facility. Interim relocation for existing programs will be arranged well in advance so as to not interrupt services.

The Community is invited to attend the first of a series of public sessions to discuss the project at the offices of Central Park Conservancy scheduled for Saturday, October 13th.

Outcome: The Central Park Conservancy presented to advise the Community of its intent and preliminary plans for the project. CPC will return to present the initial design plans.

II. 2020 District Needs Statement and Budget Priorities

The Committee is continuing to discuss and review the 2019 Parks and Recreation District Needs Draft to begin to assess needs for 2020. Approved and pending items for 2019 need to be determined. The Community has been asked to make suggestions on a feedback form provided during meetings – some individuals opted to return forms via e-mail. Community needs will be garnered from Community feedback as expressed in Parks and Recreation meetings and District Office communications.

Outcome: Committee members will continue to provide comments, revisions or concerns via e-mail. The Statement will be submitted to the District Office on October 31st as requested.

III. Voting

- a. **ULURP – NYC Parks Planning and Development – Site Selection and Acquisition of two lots (Block 1928, Lots 121 and 122)** - voted unanimously to approve: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions

IV. Old Business

- a. Updates
 - i. A. Philip Randolph Square and Fred Samuels Playground – To be presented as an agenda item at the October 17th District Service Cabinet to address homelessness.
 - ii. Harlem African Burial Ground – The Harlem African Burial Ground site is now on both the national and state register of historic places. This will provide additional protection to the sacred site.
 - iii. Harlem EatUp! – CB 9 is making progress with Harlem Eat Up (HEU) meeting with the group of entrepreneurs one on one over the summer and making it clear that a CB 9 letter of support is contingent on them finding a dedicated sponsor for the maintenance of the fields. HEU has agreed. CB 9 has also asked HEU to give preliminary design layouts of the event to identify areas where impact to the fields can be minimized wherever possible. CB 9's Arts & Culture committee has held separate meetings with HEU with regard to incorporating CB9 artists, performers, vendors, etc. CB 9 is also in discussion with HEU on working on some collaborative events with Celebrity Chef Cory who bakes cookies for November Children's Village.
 - iv. Parks:
 1. Jackie Robinson Park – located on West 145th Street through West 155th Street between Edgecombe and Bradhurst Avenues is a Parks Without Borders Project; Procurement phase completion

date is September 2018 with construction scheduled to begin October 22, 2018 and projected completion for January 2020. The \$4,441,000 mayoral funded project will reconstruct stairways, fencing, sidewalks, and entrances in Jackie Robinson Park.

2. Colonel Young Playground – located on West 143rd to West 145th Streets between Malcolm X Boulevard and the Harlem River Drive is a project which involves renovation of the existing ball field to a turf multi-sport field to accommodate football, soccer Lacrosse in addition to baseball. The project is still pending due to a determination of the channeling of funds.
- v. Byrd Classic Park Renaming - Still pending per NYC Parks
- vi. Seneca Village Task Force - First meeting scheduled for later this month to include members of Arts and Culture and Landmarks & Preservation Committees
- vii. Nelson Mandela Garden - Gardners fighting eviction in Court
- viii. (Amendment to Agenda)/Hansborough Recreation Center – Honeys and Bears - Honeys and Bears are working cooperatively with Hansborough management. Funds have been allocated by the Mayor’s office and Parks to install a new boiler - by 2020 and to address the needs of pool filtration. The pool has a cracked foundation and must be filled daily with 1 - 2 inches of water. This impacts on the maintenance of the temperature at 83 degrees. The water addition brings the temperature down to 80 - 81 degrees. A heat exchange mechanism is being used, however, water circulation remains problematic. Management is investigating alternate sites for Honeys and Bears programming so arrangements can be made for scheduling well in advance of the 2020 closure for the boiler installation and pool repair. Sessions for the Honeys and Bears and senior aerobics programming have been reinstated to their original time slots.

V. Announcements

- a. The Department of Mental Health and Hygiene is offering an ***Opioid Abuse Prevention Presentation*** to interested local area organizations.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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