



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, January 11, 2017, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:45 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, Maurice Sessoms, Kevin Bitterman, Henrietta Lyle and Leevert Holmes

Committee Members Absent: Arian Punter, Mark Bones Derrick Graham and Crystal Shipp

Guests in attendance: Nick Sifuentes (Jackie Robinson Dog Owners Alliance), Jada Settle, Oneisha Ramsey, Daniel Garcia, Julian Weller (Jackie Robinson Dog Owners Alliance), Sophia Costanzi (Jackie Robinson Dog Owners Alliance), Maria Daddio (Jackie Robinson Dog Owners Alliance), Jimmy Simon (Frederick Douglass Academy I), Justin Colon (Frederick Douglass Academy I), Aboubaceameite (Frederick Douglass Academy I), Malik Chiverton (Frederick Douglass Academy I), Shevonn Howard (HDFC owner) and Katherine Nickson (V.A.C. – Mother Zion Church and Fred Samuels Club)

PRESENTATIONS

A. Jackie Robinson Dog Owners Alliance (JR DOA)

The JRDOA presented their proposal for the establishment of a dog park in Jackie Robinson Park. The group explained that there are currently no dog runs that are close by for area residents, the closest being Riverside Park and 142nd Street, St. Nicholas Park or Marcus Garvey Park. Disabled persons who are dog owners, persons with small children and people with senior dogs find it inconvenient to travel to these distal parks. The group expressed that having a dog park would encourage area residents to utilize the park more frequently and thereby add to park safety. The group has will collaborate the Barnard Dog Cognition Lab to educate community dog owners how to properly socialize their dogs in a dense urban area where interaction may be with other dogs, cats and people in promotion of public safety. JRDOA will also work with the ASPCA mobile units ASPCA to provide spaying and neutering services. The group explained that the dog park would provide the benefit of allowing park patrons comfort in utilizing the park amenities, i.e., pool, ball field, band shell, etc.,

without being interrupted by dogs. Jackie Robinson Park has a “no off-leash hours” policy.

JRDOA is proposing structured and on-going programming to provide for an efficient, safe and equitable public dog park facility and will identify additional funding sources to sustain the facility.

Outcome: The Committee sentiment is in favor of the project and would like to issue a letter of support, contingent upon receipt of the remainder of the 400 signature petition which was only partially submitted, photos and any other substantiation of community support documentation they would like to provide . The sentiment will be conveyed to the Executive Committee.

DISCUSSIONS

A. 2017 GOALS

The Committee discussed projected goals to achieve in 2017. They include:

- Requesting an increase of Park Enforcement Patrol Officers to a staff of 25 for Northern Manhattan with more regular assignments to CB 10 parks
- Hosting a Parks Resource Event – Tabling (Trees, PEP officers, Rules & Regulations of Parks, Million Trees Org, Partnership for Parks, Gardening, Harlem 369th Armory) – Spring Date Target – Entertainment & Refreshments- Permit needed
- Supporting the planting of the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. Malls

Outcome: The Committee will continue its work on the planning and implementation of a Spring Parks Resource Event as a community outreach initiative of the Parks and Recreation Committee for the month of February.

B. SOCCER INITIATIVE LETTER OF SUPPORT

The letter content was reviewed and the Committee and Community discussed the conversion from an under-utilized volley ball court, (which is currently used for school staff parking), to a soccer scrimmage court.

Outcome: Committee sentiment is in favor of the project and to issue a vetted letter of support.

The Committee **did have quorum**. Four of the now ten standing members were absent. The Committee strongly suggests that members attend to achieve quorum for all future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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