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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, June 9th, 2021, 6:30 pm

Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:30 pm and was held via Zoom link. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Committee Chair.

Committee Members in Attendance: Chair, Hon. Karen Horry, Hon. Barbara Nelson, Hon. Terri Wisdom, Hon. Karen Dixon, Hon. Derek Perkinson,

Committee Members Absent: Hon. Tahanie Aboushi, Hon. Marcus Wilson and Hon. Nadine Pinkett

Committee Members Excused: Hon. Kevin Bitterman

Board Members Present: - Board Chair Hon. Cicely Harris, Hon. Donna Gill, Hon. Daniel Paterson, Hon. Dr. Maurice Franklin, Hon. Shamir Settle and Hon. Wilma Brown

District Office: District Manager Shatic Mitchell, Jasmin Heatley (Community Assistant)

Guests in Attendance: Steve Simon, Manhattan Chief Of Staff (NYC Parks), Robert McLean (Regional Manager, NYC Parks) Shena Kaufman (Parks Manager Districts 10 & 11, NYC Parks), Chad McNeil (NYC Parks), Jorge Prada (NYC Parks), Velma G., Jamie Baez, Marie Littlejohn (ACP, Jr. Blvd. Malls), Zakiya DeGraffe (Dir. Hansborough Rec. Ctr.- NYC Parks), Abena Smith (32nd Pct. Comm. Council), LeRoy Whethers (Honeys & Bears), Daniel Atha (Conservation Program Manager, NY Botanical Gardens), Azure, Gregory Baggett (APRSNA), Elijah Brooks, Ellexicon Ojo, Fred Sims (Harlem Little League), Ken Conyers, Rose Williams, Samisha Brimmage (Harlem Little League, Sharmaine Clause, Tracy's iPhone, Barbara Askins (125th Street BID) Owen Strong (NYRR) and Pharein Griffith

I. Welcome/Introductions

Message from the Committee Chair:

Fiscal years 20 and 21 became conjoined by the ravage of the COVID-19 pandemic as we scrambled to first meet by telephone conference and then to learn and function with the newly adapted digital platform ZOOM, working through the summer months. But, nevertheless, we prevailed; demonstrating our resiliency, as we sheltered in place, amidst the unfathomable loss of loved ones, friends and neighbors. We convened over a multitude of ZOOM meetings to vet issues in Committee with the Community and stakeholders to bring about letters of support and resolutions to bring to fruition the work to sustain and enhance our local area parks and recreation facilities. We even held a Committee Special Events Youth Forum; "Code Next - Powered by Google in Jackie Robinson Recreation Center in February 2020, at the outset of the pandemic. This journey has been unlike any other. Thank you to all of our dedicated Committee Members who voluntarily gave of their time and efforts. Team Work Truly Makes The Dream Work.

.....Thank you.

Welcome to all of our newly appointed Board Members. We know that you are shopping around at this point, however we hope you will consider Parks and Recreation as it is truly worthy work that can provide vitalization for our community residents across all ages.

II. Presentations.

a. Hansborough Recreation Center and Pool Update- Presenters: Chad McNeil (NYC Parks) and Jorge Prado (NYC Parks)

\$22.5 million project design plans have been revised to enhance the Original Project Goals:

- Make the Building Fully Code Compliant and Obtain a Certificate of Occupancy
- Upgrade Canopy and Signs at Building Entry
- Renovate the Lobby and Vestibule
- Renovate 4th Floor Fitness Room and Create Access to Running Track
- New Pool HVAC and Ductwork

New Enlarged Project Goals:

- New Pool in Existing Pool Opening to Permit Competitive Swimming
- New Pool Filtration Equipment
- Repair Exterior of Pool Building
- New Skylight
- New Boilers for the Recreation Center
- Replace building elevator

Completion by 2024. The Community is concerned about the lack of access to a premiere community facility. How can the project be expedited on design side phase of work while center remains open to public. Department of Buildings' process creating holdup. Feasibility study requested - structural issues more than anticipated - project has been moving forward - phased construction proposed. Pool-timing touch pad and digital timing system being proposed for management of water temperature. All new state of art mechanisms to manage water temperature fluctuations. Pool will be redesigned to accommodate competitive swim team racing - Current programming will remain in place post project completion. Honeys and Bears being referred to facility in Chelsea - Transportation w/ respect to Transportation - Steve will discuss transportation with companies that transport seniors. Marie Littlejohn suggested Accessoride - NYC Parks asked for a list of companies to be suggested that will be negotiated with for transport for Honeys and Bears to an alternate and comparable indoor pool site. Honeys and Bears to correspond with Hansborough Director to determine number of seniors requiring transport - Public Design Commission (PDC) has already approved alterations - Letter of Support Requested

Outcome : Motion passed to support issuing a letter in support of the revised renovations to the Hansborough Recreation Center and Pool: 6 Yes, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions, 0 Recusals. Letter will be drafted and sent out to Committee members for review and comment and then forwarded on to the EC.

b. Marathon Finish Line Marker in Central Park - Presenter: Owen Strong (Event Management and Technology- NY Road Runners)

Finish line is located near Tavern on the Green - Barbara: Plaque installation - who will be responsible for maintaining - NYRR will maintain the plaque. NYRR advised by manufacturer that selected site for plaque is most advisable for installation - Terri

Wisdom requested that presentation be posted on NY Road Runners website. Barbara Nelson suggested letter of support be amended to reflect that Road Runners will be responsible for maintenance of the plaque

Outcome: Motion passed to support issuing a letter in support of the revised renovations to the Marathon Finish Line Marker in Central Park: 6 Yes, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions, 0 Recusals. Letter will be drafted and sent out to Committee

c. NYC Parks Pollinator Garden Plan - Robert McLean NYC Parks Manhattan Regional Manager and Daniel Atha Conservation Program Manager, NY Botanical Gardens

Parks Regional Manager McLean and Mr. Atha (NY Botanical Gardens Conservation Program Manager) have identified plants which are specifically native to the area and that when planted will attract other native bird and insect species that are of benefit to the ecosystem. Native plants can significantly reduce water runoff and, consequently, flooding. ... Native plants provide shelter and food for wildlife and support pollinators. Native plants attract a variety of birds, butterflies, and other wildlife by providing diverse habitats and food sources. Mr. McLean and Mr. Atha will be working in collaboration with the Friends of The Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard Malls (ACP, Jr. Malls), headed by Ms. Marie Littlejohn. The all-volunteer Friends Group has planted on the malls since 1997. The 42 block stretch of the Malls runs from 125th St to 152nd St .

Outcome: Regional Director Robert McLean will schedule a meeting with Marie Littlejohn (ACP, Jr. Malls) to discuss long term planting goals for the malls.

III. Discussions

a. CB 10 Park Safety in COVID -19

- i. All Park workers must wear masks - vaccinated persons can opt not to wear masks if not in a crowded area. All other precautions remain in place. Event group capacity remains limited to 200 and may be increased to 500 in July.

b. CB 10 Parks - Updates -

- i. **Fred Samuels Playground** awaiting Con Ed - expected 6/18 or 6/22. Bid was received today 6/9 for comfort station.
- ii. **Ruckers** Greg Marius Basketball refurbishment is scheduled to begin in August 2021. Parks has been requested to follow-up with Christine Dabrow - Chief Marketing & Development Officer of NYC Parks to identify funding to upgrade the playground and little ball field. Ellexicon Ojo will send a synopsis of comments and suggestions
- iii. **Colonel Charles Young Playground** has received refurbishment upgrades through painting of swing area, playground and fitness equipment. Sprinkler area is operating without flooding issues. Three basketball courts bordering Harlem River Drive side of park are being completed. Backboards will be installed on 6/10. Work on the larger court located at 145th Street will begin next week. Games are scheduled in the front court with groups. The mini soccer pitch is almost completed. Parks will send out programming information as soon it is

made available. Sinkhole in park has been identified and is being caused by water. The situation is under repair. The misting system which was available in previous years is in disrepair and may be made available for this summer. Upgrade of ball field is still pending.

- iv. **William McCray Playground** work will begin to repair sinkhole in July when funds will become available. Assessment of the current condition of the sinkhole is still pending. Principal Dominic Fanelli of the St. Marks Evangelist School has been advised of the \$1.1 million allocation by Borough President Gale Brewer and the \$200,000 allocation by City Councilman Bill Perkins for FY'22 which will be available to begin the repairs in July 2021.
- v. **Fred Johnson Playground** - Contract to be awarded for bathroom reconstruction with relocation from back of park to front of park near the playground area.
- vi. **Harlem River Park** - Homeless encampments, open fires and sanitation issues - Suggestion to form a Friends Group for the park which can programming. Friends group formation can be facilitated with Partnerships 4 Parks
- vii. **Jackie Robinson Park** - The Committee had concerns about COVID-19 safety precautions at the April meeting and requested that more detail be provided on or before the May Parks and Recreation meeting. Ms. Joyce Adewumi agreed to provide the information as requested. A vote to give a letter of support was tabled until May. Ms. Adewumi did not return in May and provided Chair Harris a detailed written plan for COVID-19 Safety Precautions to be implemented during the event the day before it took place on Saturday June 5th as it was scheduled. Committee Chair Karen Horry was informed on Monday, June 7th, on a phone call from Ms. Adewumi, who is founder of the New York African Chorus Ensemble, the chairperson for the Arts and Culture Committee in Manhattan Community Board 9 and the vice president of the 30th Precinct Community Council. Ms. Adewumi advised that Ms. Jana LaSorte Administrator for Harlem Historical Parks sanctioned the go-ahead. Committee members expressed concern that the Community Board process was circumvented and that this should not be allowed to be set as a precedence.
Outcome: Board Chair Cicely Harris will follow-up by e-mail with Ms. Adewumi to express the Community Board's concerns and to emphasize the importance of adhering to Community Board 10 process.

- c. **Central Park Conservancy Request to Extend Permit For Temporary Seneca Village Exhibit** - To Support Letter Of Support For Central Park Conservancy Request To Extend Permit For Temporary Seneca Village Exhibit In Central Park due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. CPC will return in September to present permanent commemoration.
- d. **Harlem Little League (HLL)** - Refurbished bathrooms at Marcus Garvey Park to open soon. June 26th is the end of the season. Safety Officers needed for park regulation enforcement at Jackie Robinson Park. Dogs off leashes are an ongoing concern in the park. Holes have been cut into the fences; people and dogs have been observed using the Park enforcement begins at noon. There is only one unit for north end. There are no dog park in Jackie Robinson and none in District at all. Residents advise that inviting policing can be problematic over-policing is not an alternative. Residents are complaining of dogs barking and there is a greater presence of younger dogs - signage is

suggested to manage dog behaviors. Benches proximal to the ball field need to be turned around and doubled in number to accommodate ball game viewers. Flood issues are still a problem impacting the field. Wrought iron fencing suggested.

Outcome: Parks will turn benches around and consider additional bench installation and continue to address flooding. Flooding will require a capital project.

- e. **Dirt Bike Riding in CB10 Parks - One Down, Five Up LLC & A I L Construction** - Group did not attend - will reschedule

IV. Voting:

a. Voting by Voice Vote

- i. Motion made by Hon. Barbara Nelson and seconded by Hon. Karen Dixon. (Hon. Derek Perkinson were not present for the vote) **Motion: To Support Letter Of Support For Central Park Conservancy Request To Extend Permit For Temporary Seneca Village Exhibit In Central Park**

Outcome: Quorum was present : Unanimous to support: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals (Voice Vote: Hon. Karen Horry - yes, Hon. Karen Dixon - yes, Hon. Terri Wisdom - yes, Hon. Barbara Nelson - yes and Board Chair Hon. Cicely Harris - yes)

Motion Passed

- ii. Motion made by Hon. Barbara Nelson and seconded by Hon. Karen Dixon. **Motion: To Support Letter of Support for Installation of the Marathon Finish Line Marker in Central Park With the Amendment That NY Road Runners will Be Responsible For Maintenance Of The Marker**

Outcome: Quorum was present : Unanimous to support: 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals (Voice Vote: Hon. Karen Horry - yes, Hon. Karen Dixon - yes, Hon. Terri Wisdom - yes, Hon. Derek Perkinson - yes, Hon. Barbara Nelson - yes and Board Chair Hon. Cicely Harris - yes)

Motion Passed

- iii. Motion made by Hon. Barbara Nelson and seconded by Hon. Karen Dixon. **Motion: To Support Draft Of Letter of Support for Revised Design Plans For Hansborough Recreation Center And Pool.**

Outcome: Quorum was present : Unanimous to support: 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals (Voice Vote: Hon. Karen Horry - yes, Hon. Karen Dixon - yes, Hon. Terri Wisdom - yes, Hon. Derek Perkinson - yes, Hon. Barbara Nelson - yes and Board Chair Hon. Cicely Harris - yes)

Motion Passed

I. Old Business

I. New Business - None

II. Announcements

- a. NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver (2014 to present) will be leaving in June 2021 and joining a civil engineering firm based in North Carolina. Commissioner Silver has lead the Parks Department since 2014 and oversaw more than 800 capital projects to-date during his tenure. Commissioner Silver is a dedicated public servant who continues to strengthen parks in Manhattan Community Board 10, demonstrating his commitment to ensuring that every New Yorker has beautiful outdoor spaces to enjoy. CB 10 wishes Commissioner Silver the very best in his new endeavors. We thank him for his exemplary service.

- a. The NYC Parks Urban Rangers will lead Ranger programming at the East River Esplanade (Harlem River Park) at 142ndst Street at 1:00 pm for Pop-Up programs on Thursdays, July 8th, 22nd, August 5th and 19th. Local area schools and youth programs can request The Natural Classroom school application for the Fall at <https://www.nycgovparks.org/programs/rangers/natural-classroom/apply>
To Be E-Blasted by District Office

- b. Discover Seneca Village. June 19th - 20th. For further information visit: <https://www.centralparknyc.org/celebrate-juneteenth-at-seneca-village>.
Advance registration is required for all tours.
To Be E-Blasted by District Office

III. Adjournment - Motion made to adjourn by Hon. Barbara Nelson and seconded by Hon. Dr. Maurice Franklin

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

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