



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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Parks Recreation & Transportation Committee Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 – 6:30 PM

Hon. Deborah Gilliard, Chair
Hon. Karen Horry, Acting Chair
Hon. Daniel Clark, Co-Chair

The meeting began at 6:50 pm due to inclement weather and was held in the 3rd floor conference room. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Acting Chair.

Committee Members in attendance: Melvin Christian, Daniel Clark and Troy Gethers. Stephane Howze and Deborah Gilliard, (Chair) were excused. Board Members Maria Garcia and Daniel Parcerisas were also in attendance.

Guests in attendance: Jonathan Riedel (227 Garden), Sue Tarlton, Louis Bailey (WEACT), Richard Toussaint (Friends of Harlem River Park Task Force), Daniel Brathwaite, Victoria Gander (CUNY School of Public Health), Darrin Price (227 Garden), L. Avila (227 Garden), Shamell Martin (Partnership for Parks), Deborah **Sechow** (Columbia Spectator), J.P. Partland, Kieishsha L. Garnes (Parks), Martin Baez, Frances Escano (Council Member Dickens), Julius Tajiddin (Preserve Harlem's Legacy)

I. NYC DOT Updates (representation from the agency was not provided).

a) **Mt. Morris Park West** – NYC DOT provided a chart listing community concerns (please see attached) and NYC DOT's responses pertaining to revisions to the street redesign current to February 12th, 2014. The document was reviewed as a whole group by the Committee and the Community.

Outcome: The Committee will reach out to respective community organizations in the Mount Morris Park West area to obtain their written feedback on NYC DOT responses and community impact.

b) **M60 Proposed SBS** – NYC DOT provided an extensive letter outlining the proposed SBS M60 (please see attached). The document was reviewed as a whole group by Committee and the Community. The letter did not address the issue of CB10's elderly or disabled population which has been an on-going concern. Deputy Commissioner Forgone responded by email:

“The response that we gave you on 1/10 would still be the response that DOT and the MTA would give concerning the senior/disabled populations.

Select Bus Service on 125th Street will bring faster and more reliable bus service for all transit users, with all four routes on 125th Street taking advantage of dedicated bus lanes and new curb regulations that will reduce double parking. Over the course of numerous meetings with community stakeholders, DOT and NYCT heard strong support for limited stops on the M60 route, complemented by M100, M101 and Bx15 bus routes stopping at all existing bus stops. When we begin SBS on any bus route, part of the plan consists of eliminating a number of bus stops along that route. In this regard, the implementation plan for the M60 is no different than any other SBS route. Bus customers of limited mobility who have destinations in Queens, will have to travel no more than one block to reach an M60 SBS stop on 125th Street. At this time, we are not planning to reconsider this stopping pattern, but we are always willing to continue the conversation with the Community Board about any specific issues that they may have.”

Representation was provided by NYC Council Member Inez Dickens’ office.

Outcome: The Committee will continue to seek the support of local elected officials and advocacy agencies for the elderly and disabled.

2. **Friends of Harlem River Park Task Force** – The presentation, made by Richard Toussaint, outlined a proposal to install an outboard (platform over the water that would accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists) as an extension to the developing Harlem River Park.

The group is requesting a letter of support of their request for an outboard to run from the Harlem River Park phase III to connect the rest of the greenway going north. The U.S. Coast Guard would have to provide permission to install an outboard. An assessment would have to be made as to how commercial vessels would be impacted such as the Circle Line, etc. Estimated cost for building and sustainment would be obtained from information pertaining to outboards currently on the west and east sides of Manhattan. The outboard at South Ferry/Governor’s Island was built at a cost of \$289 million. Mitigation costs would have to be included because of the area’s Zone 1 designation. Esplanade Gardens reportedly has concerns about traffic through their parking lot. Design would have to include entrance through 142nd Street in order to allow public access.

Outcome: Committee has requested documentation in support of the amended design.

3. **WEACT** – The organization is a participant in the 3rd Annual NYS Transportation Equity Conference. The one-day conference brings together advocates, practitioners, policy-makers, and transit riders from around the state to advocate for transportation equity issues including finance, the design of bike/pedestrian infrastructure, transit manufacturing and economic development, and equitable transit-oriented development.

The event is scheduled for March 19th, 2014 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and will be located at One Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY. The event is free and open to the public. Travel scholarships are available. RSVP by emailing info@NYSTEA.NET. Free bus transportation will be provided by WEACT for March 18th and 19th.

WEACT is advancing two campaigns: (1) "Fight the Fare Hike" – the goal is to roll back the \$0.25 fare hike proposed for 2015 and to get politicians to develop a comprehensive funding plan for public transit in New York State and (2) "Rider Representation Campaign" – the goal is to introduce and pass legislation at the State level to mandate that at least two voting rider representatives are on the board of the five largest transit authorities in New York State. Currently sitting board members are not transit-dependent per WEACT. WEACT is also advocating (1) procurement of funding for manufacture of buses (transit job creation) to enable employment downstate as opposed to exclusively upstate, (2) advancing bike and pedestrian infrastructure and (3) developing affordable housing near mass transit.

The Mother Clara Hale facility has been rescheduled to open in September 2014 instead of May 2014.

The Marine Transfer station located at 135th Street and the West Side Highway has been decommissioned. WEACT would like to obtain property for community use. The Parks Department has not yet taken the facility "off-line", awaiting the opening of the 91st Street Marine Transfer Station. WEACT meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Outcome: The Committee was informed of WEACT's activities and upcoming events.

- IV. **227 Garden** - The group is requesting support in their application for use of the space from the Parks Department for a proposed community garden located at 227 West 115th St. (Block 1831, Lot 16). The group has submitted an application for a grant from the Citizens' Committee of NYC and was planning to submit a Green Thumb application in March, have membership requirements and a list drawn up by the end of May, and begin working on beautifying the lot in June. An opening day is anticipated for mid to late summer.

The deed to the lot is currently held by Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), not HPD. The group advises that the space has been empty for 50 years and is used as a dumping ground for trash. DCAS has to transfer property to Parks Department. The group is requesting a letter of support from CB10 to submit for their application to Green Thumbs. The group has been working with 596 Acres to obtain access to property.

Structured gardening programs would be developed to provide engagement for diverse groups of community residents inclusive of school students, seniors, children and adults.

The Committee and Community made suggestions to the group to obtain letters of support from local community organizations; schools, businesses, seniors groups and to submit a petition signed by community residents. The group was encouraged to connect with resources such as the NY Restoration Project, Harlem Grown and Harlem Seeds, Inc.

Outcome: The Committee requested a packet of supporting documentation from the 227 Garden group verifying support from the community as well as authorization to access the site and the terms of its availability. The information, which the group will submit by March, will be reviewed by the Committee.

- V. **Parking Signage Survey** – A proposed survey designed to collect community input and assessment of current parking signage along the 145th Street corridor within CB10, was reviewed at the meeting. Overall the document was favored. A few suggestions were made with respect to comment on design and available forms of digital data collection. (Please see attached).

Outcome: Committee will make revisions to survey and obtain additional information on digital data collection. The format could be used as a resource in going forward with respect to community outreach.

There were no voting items.

Committee moved to hold Executive Session - Topic: 2015 District Needs Statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 pm.